



## Who Is the god of Islam?

*“OK, so their god and our God seem like they are one in the same. The news talks about Muslims a lot, especially with the war going on. From what I’ve heard it seems like there are a lot of similarities in what we believe. Do we worship the same thing? I just don’t know the truth. I want to know, who is the god of Islam?”*

It’s true that right now, more than ever, Islam is at the center of attention in our world. Our media has bombarded us with information about Islam and it has become a central topic of discussion. It’s time that we become educated and join the conversation. The more we understand about Islam, the better equipped we will be to address the emerging issues in our culture.

The Muslim religion was founded by a man named Muhammad, in 610 A.D. Muhammad believed he had encounters with Allah; the god of Islam. Allah means “the only god,” but don’t be confused. The character of Allah and the character of the God of the Bible are not the same. Muhammad’s life, not Jesus of Nazareth’s, is the standard for embodiment of perfect behavior for Muslims today.

According to Islam, Allah is a god that is unknowable and uninterested in the daily lives of Muslims. He is a god that is all powerful, and can do good and evil. Allah is a law giver and a punisher. Muslims dedicate their whole lives to worshiping and honoring Allah, but on judgment day, Allah has the ability to change his mind and send even the most devout Muslim to hell. Salvation is entirely dependent on good deeds, but even Allah can ignore those if he chooses.

Islam has five basic pillars of faith. These pillars include reciting a profession of faith, daily prayer practices, fasting, giving of alms, and a pilgrimage to Mecca or Medina. Amongst extreme groups of Muslims is an additional pillar called Al-Jihad. Many of us have heard of Jihad in the news. Basically, Jihad is a term given to Holy War, and is a practice of implementing the Islamic faith through force.

According to Muhammad, dying in Jihad makes you a special martyr and guarantees one a spot in heaven (Sura 9:111, 9:5, 5:33). Because Allah is a god that functions on his own prerogative and can change his mind about letting a Muslim into heaven, Jihad is a very attractive option for Muslims because it results in a place in heaven, regardless of Allah’s power.

Unlike Allah, our God is a personal, loving and intimate God, who is interested in every happening of our lives. Our God is perfect, good and merciful ALL the time. Our God is Holy and without error. Salvation is a guaranteed gift from our God when we enter into a relationship with Him and resign to His will.

It is important for us to understand who this god of Islam is and what it means to be Muslim. The rise in Jihad alone shows us that Muslims are hungry to be in union with God, and in turn, Truth. Sadly, Muslims are misdirected to worship a false god, not knowing the truth of salvation that is promised for all those who believe in the God of the Bible.

*Matthew 7:22-23 “Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”*