

message, ascension and return. And, for the modern person, the Quran contains many verses of a scientific nature speaking about cosmology, embryology and astronomy, just to name a few. These facts, which were not known to the human race when the Quran was revealed, have been discovered scientifically in our century independently of scripture. And as a book of faith, the Quran mandates belief in all of God's heroes of faith. "[O Muslims] Say: We believe in Allah and that which was revealed unto us and that which was revealed unto Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the tribes; and that which Moses and Jesus received, and that which the prophets received from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are submitters onto Him" (Quran 2:136).

## WHAT IS ISLAM?

Islam is an Abrahamic ethical monotheistic religion (Quran 6:151; 22:78), and it mandates surrendering to and worshipping the one and only God of Abraham. Worship is a blend of loving, trusting, adoring, cherishing, venerating, fearing, and being grateful to the one God, mankind's Creator, and Mercy-Giver. God does not force anyone to surrender to Him; rather, He woos people through love, mercy, and circumstances to make a willful decision to submit and surrender to Him. God wants us to love Him, because it is when we love Him, we surrender to Him. Loving God is the catalyst for surrendering to God. The servant of God is not only the one who loves God with all his heart, mind and soul, but also loves Him more than anything else. This love provides the long-term impetus for genuine worship; as well as for godly, ethical living.

(Endnotes)

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Bukhari, *Saheeh al-Bukhari*, 7553.

This brochure is intended to enlighten and inform with love, mercy, wisdom and respect.



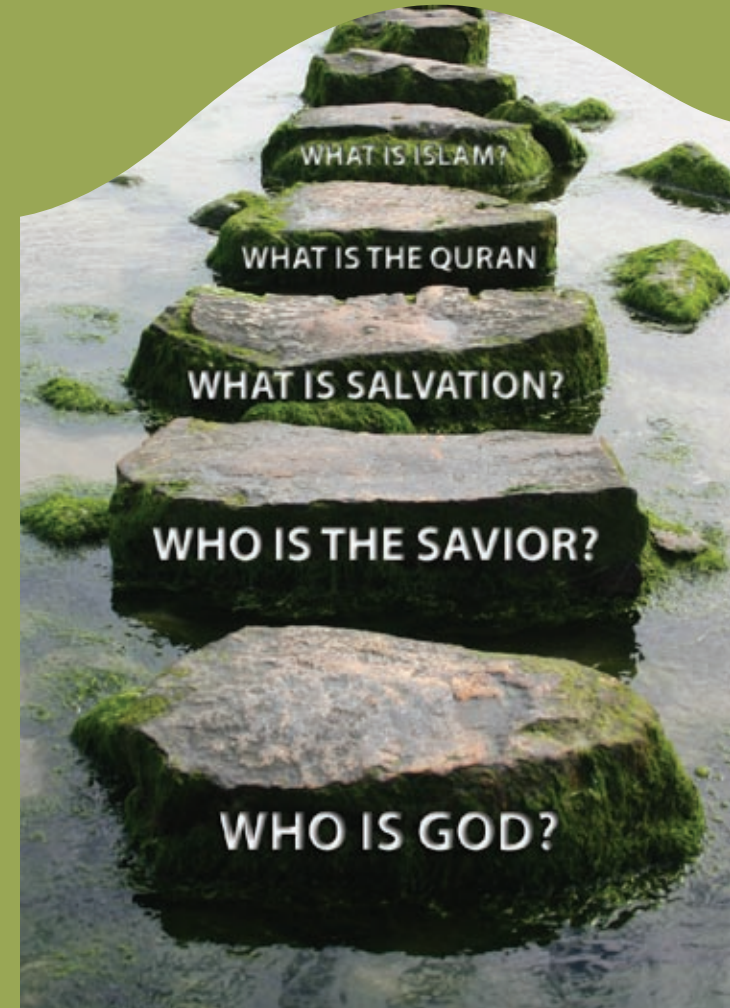
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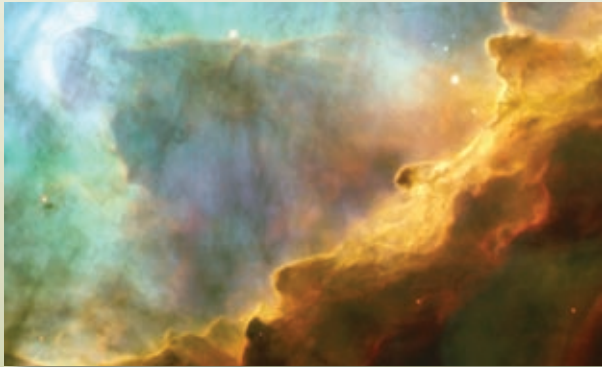


# A LITTLE ISLAMIC CATECHISM



## WHO IS GOD?

God is the singular Supreme Being who is perfect in power, wisdom, knowledge and goodness. Prior to the existence of time and space and before anything else ever was, God always has been. He needs neither time nor space within which to exist. He is eternal, uncaused, un-originated and not restricted by any physical limitations. He neither acquires His existence from any source nor depends on anything to sustain His existence. Rather, He is the ever-living, sustaining God who neither dies nor ever sleeps. He is omnipotent, omniscient, and knows not only the past, the present and the future, but also knows everything about everything and everyone.



The first encounter with God on the pages of the Bible happens at Gen.1:1, *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* God here according to the Old Testament Hebrew Lexicon is Elohim. In the Aramaic language that Jesus spoke, *Alaha* is the name of God. Likewise, *Allah* is the quranic and Arabic name of God. It is easy to recognize the three pronunciations as similar dialectal variants of the same Deity. Unfortunately, some people, attempt to demonize the name *Allah*, thinking it refers to a false god. That is very wrong. Just as *Jehovah*, *Yahweh* and *Elohim* are some of the biblical names of the LORD of the universe, so, too, *Allah* is the quranic and Arabic name of the LORD of the universe. The Bible says about God, *“You alone are the LORD; (Thou art Jehovah ASV) you made the skies and the heavens and all the stars. You made the*

*earth and the seas and everything in them. You preserve and give life to everything, and all the angels of heaven worship you”* (Nehemiah 9:6 NLT). Muslims worship this same God who also said *“Your Lord indeed is Allah who created the heavens and the earth in six days, then He ascended over the throne”* (Quran 7:54).

## WHO IS THE SAVIOR?

The Savior is the Creator who totally refuses to share with others the worship, adoration and homage that are due to Him alone, for others contributed neither to the creation, provision nor to the salvation of human beings. The Bible tells us, *“I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am Jehovah; and besides me there is no savior”* (Isaiah 43:10-11 ASV). Throughout the history of humanity, God worked out His redemptive plan through the Hebrew prophets and *“commissioned in every nation a messenger proclaiming: Worship Allah and shun false gods”* (Quran16:36). In the final stage of God’s redemptive plan, He commissioned Muhammad, *“as a mercy to the worlds”* (Quran 21:107). Through the advent of Muhammad, God fulfilled His promise to Abraham to bless all the nations through his descendants.

## WHAT IS SALVATION?

Salvation means to be saved from damnation caused by rejecting God. Salvation is a matter of relationship to the single universal Deity, identified variously as Elohim, Alaha and Allah— that is to the God of Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad. Everyone who is saved is saved through the mercy of this one Deity, Allah, who said, *“Indeed, My mercy exceeds My wrath.”* This means He needs neither a cross to propitiate Himself nor a mediator to mend estranged relationships. Thus, salvation is the product of God’s mercy applied to the faith and good deeds of a person who has a believing relationship with God.

## WHAT IS THE QURAN?

The Quran is not human in origin; rather it is an oral communication from God to mankind addressing three main topics: the identity of God, godly living, and the temporal and eternal consequences for embracing or rejecting God. God, the author of the Quran, spoke the Quran, and angel Gabriel conveyed God’s words to Muhammad in installments over a period of 23 years. Muhammad memorized the 114 quranic chapters, and taught them to his disciples who memorized them, committed them to writing and then passed them on to generation after generation.



The Quran is a book of guidance, mercy and healing. Allah announces, *“O mankind, there has come unto you an exhortation from your Lord, and healing to that which is in the chests, and guidance and mercy to the believers. Say: In the bounty of Allah and in His mercy therein let them rejoice”* (Quran 10:58-57). Quranic healing is the antidote to the illness of evil desires and negative attitudes such as jealousy, envy, hatred, resentment and vindictiveness. Furthermore, the Quran prophesied many events that have been fulfilled; and it spoke extensively about Jesus’ birth, mission,