

Let's pick up our study now. We're looking specifically tonight at the violent expressions of Islam in the world today. Of course, these have been ongoing for years.

Some of us have seen them at first hand, going back to the 1970s and into the 1980s and into the 1990s and now into this decade. There have been violent extremist attacks justified in the name of Islam in the Quran. So the question becomes, well, now are these people perverting a wonderful, peaceful, ironic little religion and turning it into an excuse to do bad things? Or is this part and parcel of the religion? Well, people will say that Christianity is a violent religion, and how do they justify that? If you say, "What makes you say that?" Well, look at the God of the Old Testament.

He told the Israelites to go in and slay the men, women, children, and babies in Canaan. What is the response? Is this a part of Judaism? Is this understood to be normative and definitive as a model of faith and practice for Jews of the Old Testament or for Christians? No, it is not. Has anybody ever said, "Look, Joshua went in and slew the Canaanites, so let's go slay somebody"? Is this in any way normative or characteristic of either Judaism or Christianity? It is not.

They are grasping at straws. It is a ridiculous argument. Where do you find Jews or Christians citing the Bible as an excuse to go slay the infidel and win the world for Christ with a sword? Or win the world for the one true God of Israel with a sword? It has historically never happened except in perverted cases.

One or two perverted cases. You have the Inquisition. You have the Crusades.

But it is manifestly political. It is not biblical. It isn't consistent down through the ages.

It is a perversion. Well, think about the context of the quotes that are used to try to justify the claim that, well, all religions are the same. They all call people to violence.

Any of them can be used as an excuse for violence. Compare what you know of the Bible and what it says about warfare and the times when God's people, as a nation in the Old Testament, were called to go in and do certain things. I want to just read you some quotes from the Quran.

This is directly from the Quran. Now, as I said during the break, Muslims do not believe anything is the Quran except the original Arabic words that are in the Quran. You can't explain the Quran in modern Arabic.

And believe me, the Arabic of 600 A.D. is a lot different. I mean, you think about Shakespeare's English. You think about Chaucer's English.

You think about Beowulf. That's 700–800 years ago when you get into Middle English. This is twice that long ago for their Arabic.

And trust me, Arabic is a different language now than it was in the days of Muhammad. But you can't change the original 620, 630, 650, 660, 670 versions. And so modern Arabic-speaking people can't understand the Quran in Arabic except in bits and pieces because it's obscure.

You have to go to an expert. Be like a Catholic having to go to the priest. Well, you don't need your own Bible.

If you want to see the Bible, we'll chain one to the pulpit up here. And we'll occasionally let you come up. Remember, they used to do that.

The Great Bible was chained to the pulpit, and people might get the chance to go up and look at one page, but they couldn't read anyway, so what's the difference? If you want to know what the Bible says, we'll tell you what the Bible says. Well, Islam has this same advantage. So what I'm reading you is technically not the Quran.

This is an English translation from people who have studied ancient Arabic and have rendered it into modern language. And this is not twisted. This is the way it is presented in Arabic countries.

And these numbers are the number of the surah first, which is kind of like a long chapter or a short book, and then the verse within that surah. So Surah 9-3 says this: "Announce painful punishment to those who disbelieve." Okay, well, Christians announce painful punishment to those who disbelieve.

You're all going to hell if you don't believe in Jesus. So, not a big problem with that single quote. Surah 8-65: "O prophet, urge the believers to war."

If there are twenty patient ones of you, they shall overcome two hundred." 8-55: "Surely the vilest of animals in Allah's sight are those who disbelieve." 9-29-30: "Fight those who do not believe in Allah. The Jews say Ezra is the son of God." Now remember, this is Uzair.

"The Jews say Ezra is the son of God, and the Christians say Christ is the son of God. These are the words of their mouths. They imitate the saying of those who disbelieved before. Allah's curse be on them. How they are turned away." 8-39: "Fight with them until there is no more persecution, and religion should be only for Allah."

9-5: "When the sacred months have passed away, then slay the idolaters wherever you find them, and take them captive, and besiege them, and lie in wait for them in every ambush. Then, if they repent and keep up prayer, and pay the poor rate, i.e. adopt the pillars, leave their way free to them." You can persecute them and slay them, and coerce them into Islam, and if they repent before you can kill them, why then you can let them go free.

"If they intend to act unfaithfully toward you, so indeed they acted unfaithfully toward Allah before, but He gave you mastery over them. Fight them. Allah will punish them by your hands, and bring them to disgrace, and assist you against them. Fight those who do not believe in Allah, nor in the latter day, nor do they prohibit what Allah and His Messenger have prohibited, nor follow the religion of truth, out of those who have been given the book"—this is the Christians and the Jews—"until they pay the tax, in acknowledgement of the superiority, and they are in a state of subjection."

Paying the tax is a euphemism for all of the pillars, until they work their way down to the pillar that says, pay one fortieth of your money to the poor. They are not a Muslim, and fight them. "O Prophet, strive hard against the unbelievers and the hypocrites, and be unyielding to them. Their abode is hell, and evil is their destination. O you who believe, fight those of the unbelievers who are near to you, and let them find in you hardness, and know that Allah is with those who guard against evil."

"I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. Therefore strike off their heads, and strike off every fingertip of them. This is because they acted adversely to Allah and His messenger, and whoever acts adversely to Allah and His messenger, then surely Allah is severe in requiting their evil. Taste it, and know that for unbelievers, this is the punishment of fire. O you who believe, when you meet those who disbelieve, marching for war, then turn not your backs to them. Whoever shall turn his back to them on that day, unless he turn aside for the sake of fighting, or withdraws to a company, then he indeed becomes deserving of Allah's wrath, and his abode is hell, and an evil destination shall it be."

You wonder why there is this vicious opposition to U.S. forces in a Muslim country? All they do is read, "When you meet those who disbelieve, marching for war, turn not your backs to them." If you're a good Quran-believing Muslim, and you're of the militant stripe, you're going to take this to heart and say, "Can't turn my back. I've got to fight them to the death." "So you did not slay them; it was Allah who slew them, and you did not smite when you smote the enemy, but it was Allah who smote, that He might confer upon the believers a good gift from Himself."

So when you kill the disbelievers, you're just at your Allah's hand, smiting them and dishing out the punishment. "Judge between them by what Allah has revealed, and do not follow their low desires. Be cautious of them, lest they seduce you from part of what Allah has revealed to you. If they turn back, know that Allah desires to afflict them on account of their faults. Most surely many of the people are transgressors. The judgment of the times of ignorance that they desire—who's better than Allah to judge a people who are sure? O you who believe, do not take the Jews and the Christians for friends. They are friends of each other, and whoever amongst you takes them for a friend, then surely he is one of them. Surely Allah does not guide these unjust people."

"The punishment of those who pit themselves against Allah and His messenger and strive to make mischief in the land is only this, that they should be murdered or crucified or their hands and their feet should be cut off on opposite sides or they should be imprisoned. This shall be as a disgrace for them in this world, and in the

hereafter they shall have a grievous chastisement, except those who repent before you have them in your power. Believe therefore in Allah and His apostles and say not three; desist, it is better for you.” This is anti-Trinitarianism.

Don't say there's three gods. There's no god but Allah, Muhammad is his prophet. “Do not say three; desist, it is better for you. Allah is only one god, far be it from His glory that He should have a son.”

“What is the matter with you then, that you have become two parties about the hypocrites while Allah has made them return to unbelief for what they have earned? Do you wish to guide him whom Allah has caused to err? Whomever Allah causes to err, you shall by no means find a way for him.” In other words, Christians and the Jews, it's Allah's will that they be in error. And who are you to try to turn them around? You should by no means find a way for him.

“They desire that you should disbelieve as they have disbelieved so that you might all be alike. Therefore, take not from among them friends until they fly their homes in Allah's way. But if they turn back, then seize them and kill them wherever you find them and take not from among them a friend or a helper. As for those who disbelieve in our communications, we shall make them enter fire. So oft as their skins are thoroughly burned, we will change them for other skins that they may taste the punishment.”

This is the eternal fire idea that Muhammad absorbed from Gnostic Christianic sources, Gnostic Judaistic sources, and so on. “Surely they who disbelieve in the communications of Allah, they shall have a severe punishment. Allah is Mighty, the Lord of Retribution.”

You can understand that if you are a faithful Muslim and you read the parts of the Quran that say you can be Allah's hand in dishing out punishment, and then you read all of these sections that say Allah is going to punish these disbelievers, you can say, “Well, hey, I've got the means, the motive, and the opportunity. I'll help Allah out here and punish these disbelievers.” “Allah's Apostle said, ‘I have been ordered to fight with the people till they say none has the right to be worshipped but Allah. And whoever says none has the right to be worshipped but Allah, his life and his property will be saved by me, except for Islamic law, and his accounts will be with Allah, either to punish him or to forgive him.’”

“We declare ourselves to be clear of you and of what you serve besides Allah. Enmity and hatred have appeared between us and you forever until you believe in Allah alone.” That's Surah 60, 2-4.

Yes, the Jews and Muslims are both descendants of Abraham, but here is the attitude toward the descendants of Abraham through Isaac, i.e., the Jews. “If they find you, they will be your enemies. They will stretch forth toward you their hands and their tongues with evil, and they ardently desire that you may disbelieve. Your relationship would not profit you nor your children on the day of resurrection. He will decide between you, and Allah sees what you do. Indeed, there is for you a good example in Abraham and those with him when they said to their people, ‘Surely we are clear of you and of what you serve besides Allah.’”

Well, on and on and on. “The Prophet said the one who commits an illegal sexual act is not a believer at the time of committing that illegal act. And a thief is not a believer at the time of committing a theft. A drinker of alcoholic drink is not a believer at the time of drinking. Yet the gate of repentance is open thereafter.” You can do these things and then repent later.

Well, as you can see, in the life of Muhammad, there were these phases. There were these periods of time. He started out being in the peace and love and let's win everyone with our synthetic, syncretistic, get everybody on board mode.

Then he went on his pilgrimage. And then he ended up, after he got kicked out of Mecca, then he ended up over in Medina. And that's when he became militant.

And you can decide when and where jihad is appropriate. And when do you think Islam is under attack? Because the Quran manifestly says, in place after place, if the holy faith is under attack, you can defend it, kill the infidels ad infinitum. And so it's a matter of judgment.

So if you have a mullah or an ayatollah, or if you interpret the words of the caliph, that America is the great Satan, look how immoral, look how they're in the land, turn not your back, and so on. It's easy. Plus the fact that people can't really read the Quran, that you have to tell them what the Quran says.

And so you can have great sweeping hordes of militant Islamic fundamentalists who believe that they are acting on their holy book. And it chimes in with what they believe. Now, I want to make a couple of points from that.

One is, human nature is human nature. The world, the flesh, and the devil are available to everyone. And it is instructive to look at what has happened to people of the Islamic faith who choose to use their faith as an excuse to do what they really have in their heart anyway.

There's a lot of angry Palestinians who use their Islamic faith as an excuse. And they say, "These Jews, look at what Mohammed said about the Jews in the Quran. They're our enemy."

Let them not be the friend. We can't have a partition. We can't have a Palestinian state within Israel.

That's making friends with them. And Mohammed says several times, don't make friends with the Jews." Well, human nature is human nature.

And Christians can do this very same thing. And it's easy for us to look at the Muslims and say, "Look at you—in the first place, your faith is bogus—but then you take your faith and you pervert it to justify acts of terrorism, acts of violence, murder, and so on." There are other parts of the Quran that say you're not to take the life of civilians.

If you go to the universityofsoutherncalifornia.edu website and click on "Misconceptions About Islam," they talk about misconception number one. Islam is the religion of peace because the Arabic word Islam is derived from the Arabic word Al-Salam, which means peace. And they say actually this is a misconception because that's not the etymology of that word.

We've already talked about what Islam is. It means submission or surrender. And it's submission to Allah.

And so somebody tells you what Allah's will is, and you're submissive to it and you do it. This is why the imams and the mullahs and the ayatollahs can tell young men, "Go blow yourself up for Allah." You notice none of them are going blowing themselves up for Allah.

But, well, I've got to stick around and help everybody understand what the Quran says. But you, you don't know anything about the Quran, so why don't you make yourself a hero and get the 70 virgins and go blow yourself up? So this is the will of Allah, and this is what Islam is.

It's surrender. It's submission. And it's this blind obedience.

So as you read through these misconceptions and see they throw you these bones and they say, "Well, you can't justify it as the religion of peace because of its name. There are other reasons to justify it as a religion of peace." And they say, "Well, doesn't the Quran justify slavery?" And they've got a big explanation of how, oh no, the slavery under Islam is very different than the harsh conditions.

And in Islam, women are inferior to men, which is clear. Gracious sakes, read the Quran. I mean, women are just chattel in Islam.

And look at the results of the Taliban putting women in black bags and making them walk around in them. You know, there are many religions where women are to have their heads covered. You know, early Christianity, women should have their heads covered.

But it's a metaphor, I mean, for crying out loud. God says, "Bind my word on your head and on your hand." And the Jews took it literally and bound a little piece of the Scripture on their head and on their hand.

And that's not what it means. And the same thing when Paul said women should have their heads covered, he's talking about the authority of the husband, the authority of the father. There is a protective authority and a beneficial authority that is designed to nurture those who are going to nurture the next generation.

You nurture them so that they can nurture the children. And it's a great system. It has nothing to do with actually pinning something onto your head.

But, of course, you start out with veils. And then in Islam, depending on which branch of it you're in, they have everything from these little short head coverings and these kind of draped things over the head to the full bag that they have in Afghanistan. But it's all justified with the same Koran.

And so, misconception number three: In Islam, women are inferior to men because a man can marry up to four wives, a woman can marry only one man, and a man's share of inheritance is bigger than a woman's. And a man can marry a non-Muslim, a woman cannot. A woman must wear the veil.

They say this widely held misconception does not remotely follow from the reasons given. And then they go into this big—and it's all nonsense. I mean, it's just squirting ink and disappearing behind it.

That's exactly what Islam is. And what's amazing to me is where else are you going to find a secular university defending the concepts of a religion? I mean, well, you know, Southern California is a great place to look.

But any religion but Christianity. You know, here's Islam being defended by a secular university and being propped up as a great thing. Can you imagine if somebody put a version of Christianity up here and explained the criticisms and attacks on the Bible and on Christ and on Christianity in this fashion?

They would be hooted out of the state. They would be hooted off the internet. It's just extraordinary.

But there is a— a couple of years ago, there was a lawsuit in Southern California because there was a— they were pushing Islam to 7th graders. Let me see if I can find my notes on this. They had to file a complaint.

Mary Habeck, associate professor of Yale University, presented a talk that C-SPAN covered back in August of 2004 called “Jihadist Ideology.” Now, this is a gal from Yale. She's a military historian.

And she said, “This is the Jihadist ideology.” Listen to these points that she made, because you'll hear a little bit of review of what we've talked about. The military strategies are based on Islam's holy books: the Koran, the Hadith, and the Sira.

According to Habeck, the Sira is not well known in the West but is very widely known in the Islamic world, defining the method of Muhammad. Remember the things that are drawn from his life? Habeck says that in the Sira, Muhammad is the perfect man believed to have the perfect method for applying Islam. Jihadis believe that his successes were so miraculous they could only have been supported by Allah, and if they want to experience the same success, they have to follow in Muhammad's footsteps exactly.

She explained how Muhammad began in Mecca, which persecuted early Muslims and was at first hostile to his message. Remember that? 360 other people, and they were persecuting him because he was the little minority guy. Muhammad began the Dawah, D-A-W-A, the call to Islam.

There was no violence allowed at this stage, and he created a very small group which was clandestine, met in secret for fear of persecution. Muhammad slowly inculcated in them Islam as a way of life. It became a small spearhead.

It was a group and had a leader. In the second stage of Muhammad's life, you have the Hejira, H-E-J-I-R-A, the immigration away from Mecca, which was an unbelieving place. They didn't accept his message.

Once again, shades of Jesus coming to the Jews, being rejected, going to another audience. So he goes to Medina, a place more accepting and more open to the message of Islam. Once Muslims get a foothold, get that vanguard, they are to migrate away from the unbelieving society to some place where there is already an Islamic society or they can create a new one, because that's what Muhammad was forced to do.

Using that small vanguard, he created the perfect Islamic society. So the argument is, Muslims must do exactly the same thing: migrate away from an unbelieving society under a guise of peace, with small cells of true believers, to some place that's even more open to Muslim ideas so they can become stronger.

The third stage in Muhammad's life is Medina, which is the Islamic state Muhammad created once he arrived. Several people believe you must create an Islamic state before you can proceed to the next stage in Medina, which is the stage of Jihad, where Muhammad slaughtered six to nine hundred Jews who rejected him as prophet. So first of all, you have Mecca.

Then you have the Hegira, where under the guise of peace, you migrate to a place where you are not persecuted so that you can foment and grow. Then at Medina you have the third stage, where you are allowed to take part in violence for the sake of Islam. This is what happened in Muhammad's life, and that's what's happening in America today.

It was at Medina that Muhammad was allowed to use violence against unbelievers, those who had been oppressing him, and gradually he was allowed to carry out this warfare and it spread to most of the unbelievers in the Arab peninsula. After Muhammad overtook Medina, he returned to Mecca and was able to take that city without a fight. Jihadists believe that once they succeed in other countries, Islam will be similarly welcomed all around the world.

This explains why the Quran has both peaceful verses and verses recited by terrorists as they commit violence. Together with the Sira, the duplicitous methods of Muhammad, Islamist terrorism is symbiotic. Habeck acknowledges that Jihadists are a small number.

Even the 9-11 Commission has postulated that the percentage of fundamentalists is a fraction of the Muslim population. But these small spearheads of Islam are exactly the belief of Islam played out, the method of Muhammad. The 9-11 Commission's recognition of Islamic Jihad is clear.

When confronted with descriptions of Islam as faith based upon love, not hate, the Commission wrote—remember the 9-11 Commission report that came out? This is verbatim from that report—“Yet, as political, social, and economic problems created flammable societies, Bin Laden used Islam's most extreme fundamentalist traditions as his match. All these elements, including religion, combined in an explosive compound.”

So he's taking advantage of these extreme things to set off this thing. Bin Laden did not hijack Islam; he is just taking it seriously. Well, there's a lot of it going on in the Middle East. There's a lot of it going on in the far reaches of the world, but there is also the inroads coming into the United States.

I'm still trying to find my lawsuit in Southern California, where they were pushing this. As you can see in the USC website, well, this had worked its way all the way down to the 7th grade, and parents got irate and said, “Wait a minute.” What they were doing is, they were simulating conversion to Islam, and said, “Okay, all you 7th graders, we want you to recite the stuff.”

You remember how they just caught these guys who were terrorists, and they said, “Well, these guys have committed themselves to Al-Qaeda, and they recited their pledge of loyalty to Al-Qaeda, but they were really talking to an FBI guy.” Well, they were doing the equivalent in the 7th grade, and saying, “Well, now this is what happens when someone converts to Islam. Repeat after me,” and then they read this big long thing: “There is no God but Allah, Muhammad is his prophet, here are the pillars of Islam.” Isn't this a wonderful religion?

Now, where is the outrage from the ACLU, and all of the people who are opposing intelligent design and all the rest of it in the classroom? Oh no, you can't have the God of the Bible in the classroom, but in Southern California you can have Allah, and it took a minority of parents going in and pushing this thing into court to try to get it stopped. And there is this quiet migration that the lady talked about, Ms. Habeck talked about, where Muhammad migrated, and went to a place that wasn't opposing him, and wasn't persecuting him, and grew the thing.

Look at the history of Europe. Look at the countries around the world. Look at Indonesia. They had enough problems with the communists back in the '60s, and no sooner had they gotten rid of the communists than Islam came in, and there wasn't any way to oppose it, and it has just taken over.

And now Christians are being actively persecuted in that whole region, in Java and all the different parts of Indonesia, in Asia and in Vietnam, Cambodia, and all that, where even the Buddhists and the Hindus, the Muslims are just sweeping the world, and they are following the method of Muhammad.

So, this is why we see what we see. This is why violence and self-destruction is justified in their minds. They can find places in the Koran to justify it, and it's not some wild perversion, like you find David Koresh or somebody down here with the Branch Davidians, totally twisting and perverting Scripture. This is plain, bald-faced Koran, and because it's so self-contradictory, you can find whatever you want in there.

Well, it's important to understand that the same kinds of perversion can take place, not to the same extent. We're not going to have Christians going and blowing themselves up, but it's important to be people who truly are of the book, and we let Scripture define our life. It is biblical Christianity. It is scriptural Christianity, not cultural, not political, not as an excuse to do something we secretly wanted to do anyway.

This is what has perverted, to a large extent, whatever is peaceful about Islam, and it's what has perverted Christianity historically. And all of us have that tendency. All of us have that trend.

We can shun someone, we can sin against someone, and try to justify it biblically. It's human nature. But we have God the Holy Spirit. We have the power of God's Word.

And if we are asking, and seeking, and knocking, we will never fall into that kind of trap. But a godless religion, a perverse religion, has no such stops, and it will be carried to its satanic extreme. And that's what we see in the world today.

Let's close here in a word of prayer. Father, thank you for the truth of your Word and the illumination we receive from your Spirit. We pray that He will find our hearts teachable, will impress these truths in our hearts. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.