

JIHAD AND THE MUSLIM'S FAITHFULNESS

To introduce this lesson, consider an excerpt from study titled, "The Muslim's Worship" (lesson 9):

Based on Islamic doctrine, the comprehensive definition of worship "is everything one says or does for the pleasure of Allah" (Wamy Series on Islam, #8 (*Concept of Worship in Islam*) as quoted by Rieber, *A Resource for the Study of Islam*, 51). For a Muslim to truly worship Allah, he must be an activist in all that he does in life (Rieber, *A Resource for the Study of Islam*, 51). It is from this concept of worship that the word "Islam" (submission) and "Jihad" (struggle, fighting, holy war) meet.

Now, the topic of Jihad will be studied given the reminder of the Islamic concept of worship.

The Muslim's life is devoted to continual worship to Allah, and in the Quran, the word "Islam" is used to define that way of life. The word "Islam" means "submission" and the word Muslim therefore means "one who submits/surrenders" (Miller, *The Quran Unveiled*, v, 46). The religion is then propelled and defined by this meaning; hence, the Islamic (submissive) religion.

The following verses in the Quran show the use of the word "Islam".

Reading the verses using the word "Islam" or "Submission" in place of "Islam" will render the same meaning:

Nor canst thou be a guide to the blind, (to prevent them) from straying: only those wilt thou get to listen who believe in Our Signs, and they will bow in Islam. (Surah 27:81)

...or me, I have been commanded to serve the Lord of this city, Him Who has sanctified it and to Whom (belong) all things: and I am commanded to be of those who bow in Islam to Allah's Will (Surah 27:91)

The Religion before Allah is islam (submission to His Will): Nor did the People of the Book dissent therefrom except through envy of each other, after knowledge had come to them. But if any deny the Signs of Allah, Allah is swift in calling to account. (Surah 3:19)

Jihad is considered to be one of the pillars (the 6th) of Islam; however, it is not viewed as an act of ritualistic worship, but is rather a way of life and mindset (Harrub, *Islam: Behind the Veil*, DVD; Miller, *The Quran Unveiled*, 48). "[J]ihad refers to the totality of effort and vigilance exerted to do the will of Allah" and is said to include "the war within men's souls in their efforts to bring themselves under submission" (Miller, *The Quran Unveiled*, 48). However, it "would certainly encompass the struggle to protect Islam and its borders" which is why

"fighting" or "holy war" is one of the ways that a Muslim's fulfills his jihadic worship (Miller, *The Quran Unveiled*, 48).

The following verses within the Quran authorize the Muslim to fight, command the Muslim to fight, or rebuke the Muslim who will not fight.

The Muslim is authorized to fight in retaliation:

To those against whom war is made, permission is given (to fight), because they are wronged;- and verily, Allah is most powerful for their aid; (Surah 22:39)

Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you, but do not transgress limits; for Allah loveth not transgressors. And slay them wherever ye catch them, and turn them out from where they have Turned you out; for tumult and oppression are worse than slaughter; but fight them not at the Sacred Mosque, unless they (first) fight you there; but if they fight you, slay them. Such is the reward of those who suppress faith. But if they cease, Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful. And fight them on until there is no more Tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah. but if they cease, Let there be no hostility except to those who practise oppression. The prohibited month for the prohibited month,- and so for all things prohibited,- there is the law of equality. If then any one transgresses the prohibition against you, Transgress ye likewise against him. But fear Allah, and know that Allah is with those who restrain themselves. (Surah 2:190-194)

The Quran commands the Muslim to fight:

But when the forbidden months are past, then fight and slay the Pagans wherever ye find them, an seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem (of war); but if they repent, and establish regular prayers and practise regular charity, then open the way for them: for Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful (Surah 9:5)

Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, (even if they are) of the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued. The Jews call 'Uzair a son of Allah, and the Christians call Christ the son of Allah. That is a saying from their mouth; (in this) they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. Allah's curse be on them: how they are deluded away from the Truth! They take their priests and their anchorites to be their lords in derogation of Allah, and (they take as their Lord) Christ the son of Mary; yet they were commanded to worship but One Allah. there is no god but He. Praise and glory to Him: (Far is He) from having the partners they associate (with Him). (Surah 9:29-31)*

*The translator Yusuf Ali comments: "Jizya = the root meaning is compensation. The derived meaning, which became the technical meaning, was a poll tax levied from those who did

not accept Islam, but were willing to live under the protection of Islam, and were thus tacitly willing to submit to its ideals being enforced in the Muslim State, saving only their personal liberty of conscience as regarded themselves ... It was an acknowledgment that those whose religion was tolerated would in their turn not interfere with the preaching and progress of Islam" (as quoted by Bailey, <http://www.answering-islam.org/Bailey/jihad.html>).

Those who will not fight are rebuked:

Fighting is prescribed for you, and ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you, and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But Allah knoweth, and ye know not. They ask thee concerning fighting in the Prohibited Month. Say: "Fighting therein is a grave (offence); but graver is it in the sight of Allah to prevent access to the path of Allah, to deny Him, to prevent access to the Sacred Mosque, and drive out its members." Tumult and oppression are worse than slaughter. Nor will they cease fighting you until they turn you back from your faith if they can. And if any of you Turn back from their faith and die in unbelief, their works will bear no fruit in this life and in the Hereafter; they will be companions of the Fire and will abide therein. (Surah 2:216-217)

O ye who believe! what is the matter with you, that, when ye are asked to go forth in the cause of Allah, ye cling heavily to the earth? Do ye prefer the life of this world to the Hereafter? But little is the comfort of this life, as compared with the Hereafter. Unless ye go forth, He will punish you with a grievous penalty, and put others in your place; but Him ye would not harm in the least. For Allah hath power over all things. Go ye forth, (whether equipped) lightly or heavily, and strive [jihad, OHP] and struggle, with your goods and your persons, in the cause of Allah. That is best for you, if ye (but) knew. (Surah 9:38-39, 41)

A Muslim is taught that his life is to be defined by submission to Allah. He is also taught that proper worship includes a life and state of mind that is devoted to his submission. Inclusive then within his submission is the pillar of jihad. There is no denying that jihad is a pillar and core part of the Muslim's worship and submission to Allah as over 100 surah's are devoted to emphasizing its importance.

Why is Jihad Commanded and What is Its Purpose?

Why would Jihad be commanded? As this question baffles many, the answers can be found in the authoritative documents of Islam. Both the Qur'an and Hadiths explain the reasoning behind Jihad. Allah loves those who fight because he wants Islam to conquer and prevail over all other religions; therefore, those who fight are not only obeying Allah's will to do so, but are also furthering his purpose of defeating all other religious peoples through the forcing of submission to his will. The purpose of Jihad is to bring about the purpose of Islam: bringing the world into forced submission to the will of Allah. Therefore, fighting is to take place until the world bows in Islam (submission) at which point then "peace" occurs. Hence, the claims that Islam is a religion of "peace"- except the peace part doesn't come until everyone bows in Islam.

The following are verses from the Qur'an and Hadiths that explain why Jihad is commanded and what its purpose is.

Qur'an:

Truly Allah loves those who fight in His Cause in battle array, as if they were a solid cemented structure. (Surah 61:4)

He it is who hath sent His messenger with the guidance and the Religion of Truth, that He may cause it to prevail over all religion, however much the idolaters may be averse. (Surah 9:33 Picktall)

He it is who hath sent His messenger with the guidance and the religion of truth, that He may make it conqueror of all religion however much idolaters may be averse. (Surah 61:9 Picktall)

He it is Who hath sent His messenger with the guidance and the religion of truth, that He may cause it to prevail over all religion. And Allah sufficeth as a witness. (Surah 48:28 Picktall)

Hadiths:

Allah's Messenger [Muhammad] said: I have been ordered (by Allah) to fight against people till they say . . . (none has the right to worshiped but Allah), and whoever said [this] he saved his life and property from me except for Islamic law, and his accounts will be with Allah (Bukhari, Jihad, no. 2946, cf. no. 25 and 1399)

"He who fights that Allah's word (i.e. Allah's religion of Islamic monotheism) be superior is in Allah's cause" (Bukhari, Jihad, no. 2810, in Muhammad Muhsin Khan's translation and edition, Riyadh: Darussallam, 1997; this edition of Bukhari is used throughout this section).

Are there other Benefits to Committing Jihad?

What if someone dies in his efforts to commit Jihad? If while attacking those who refuse to submit to Allah, death occurs, what is the fate of the Muslim? According to the Qur'an and Hadiths, Allah offers a bargain and grants a garden of Paradise with women. This Paradise is so desirable, that the only reason the Muslim who died committing Jihad would want to come back to earth was if he could come back to fight for Allah and die again. There are even specific grades of Paradise, reserved in the highest parts, for those who died in Jihad.

The following are verses from the Qur'an and Hadiths that explain why Jihad is commanded and what its purpose is.

Qur'an:

O ye who believe! Shall I lead you to a bargain that will save you from a grievous Penalty?- (Surah 61:10)

Allah hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs (in return) is the garden (of Paradise): they fight in His cause, and slay and are slain: a promise binding on Him in truth, through the Law, the Gospel, and the Qur'an: and who is more faithful to his covenant than Allah. then rejoice in the bargain which ye have concluded: that is the achievement supreme. (Surah 9:111)

Hadiths:

They are called so [fair or light females with dark eyes] as one's eyesight is perplexed while looking at them, and also because of the intense blackness of their irises and intense whiteness of the sclerotic coat of their eyes (Bukhari, Jihad, Chapter 6)

. . . The prophet said, "Paradise has one hundred grades which Allah has reserved for the Mujahidun who fight in Allah's Cause, and the distance between each of two grades is like the distance between heaven and the earth. So when you ask Allah (for something), ask for the Al-Firdaus which is the middle (best) and the highest part of Paradise. (Bukhari, Jihad, no. 2790)

The Prophet said: "Nobody who dies and finds good from Allah (in the Hereafter) would wish to come back to this world, even if he were given the whole world and whatever is in it, except the martyr who, on seeing the superiority of martyrdom, would like to come back to the world and get killed again in Allah's cause." (Bukhari, Jihad, nos. 2795, 2797; cf. nos. 36, 97, 2795, and 2817).

Jihad has become a sensitive topic and is something on which a multiplicity of scholars have opined. However, when examining the sources of authority, one thing is clear: fighting is commanded and there are great benefits for doing such and dying while trying to bring non-Muslims into subjection. It ought to be no surprise then when Jihad is committed and the faithful Islamic community applauds such.

How does the life of Muhammad and Jihad Compare to the Teachings of the Bible?

The act of holy war, striving, or fighting is one that Mohammad lived by during portions of his life and it continues to be viewed as essential to every Muslim based upon the teachings of the Qur'an. However, Christ instructs Christians to handle conflict and evangelize in a much different way. Consider the following verses:

“But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” (Matthew 5:44)

(Christ's response to Peter after he attempts to physically fight in order to defend Him)
 “Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.” (Matthew 26:52)

(Christ's prescription of evangelism) “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:15-16)

Throughout this study, one thing has been emphasized over and over: the Bible and the Qur'an are in contradiction with one another. Once again, when considering the topic of Jihad, the same is true. Jihad is preached, promoted, and pleasing according to Islamic sources, but the Bible makes the opposite case. Not only does the Bible forbid fighting for the cause of Christianity, but even when others provoke fighting because of Christianity, love, prayer and good is to be granted to those doing such, not retaliation.

Review Questions

Question 1) How does worship and Jihad relate?

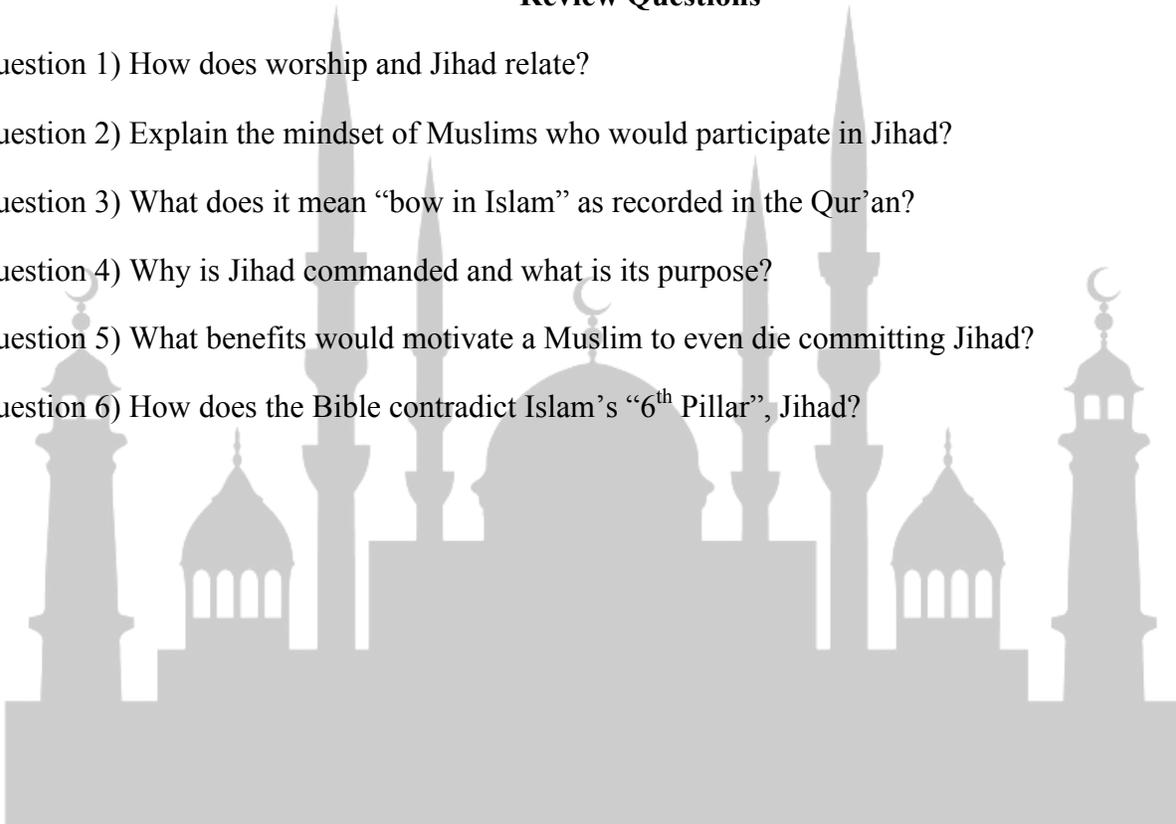
Question 2) Explain the mindset of Muslims who would participate in Jihad?

Question 3) What does it mean “bow in Islam” as recorded in the Qur'an?

Question 4) Why is Jihad commanded and what is its purpose?

Question 5) What benefits would motivate a Muslim to even die committing Jihad?

Question 6) How does the Bible contradict Islam's “6th Pillar”, Jihad?



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