

- ❖ *born in 570 AD in the vicinity of Mecca (located in southwestern Saudi Arabia)*
- ❖ *indigenous Arabian religion a mixture of polytheism and animism.*
- ❖ *Jewish, Christian, and Zoroastrian merchants*
- ❖ *a strain of monotheism had also survived independently in Arabian culture*

- ❖ *In 610 AD while he was meditating, Muhammad fell into a trance.*
- ❖ *The angel Gabriel proclaimed "Recite!" (meaning 'read and proclaim') to him.*
- ❖ *This began Muhammad's career as a prophet in Mecca.*

- ❖ *His message encompassed two main points:*
  - ✓ *There is only one God to whose will we must submit;*
  - ✓ *There will be a Day of Judgment when all people will be judged on whether they obeyed God or not.*

- ❖ *Muhammad's followers referred to their belief as Islam, which means "submission to God."*
- ❖ *They came to be identified as Muslims, "those who submit to God."*

## ∞ The Hijira ∞

- ❖ *The name given to the flight of the Prophet Muhammad in Sept. 622 from his native city, Mecca (because of its hostility) to Yathrib (later renamed Medina).*
- ❖ *It is called the hijra or hegira or hejira [Arab. hijra,, = breaking off of relations; meaning "flight"]*





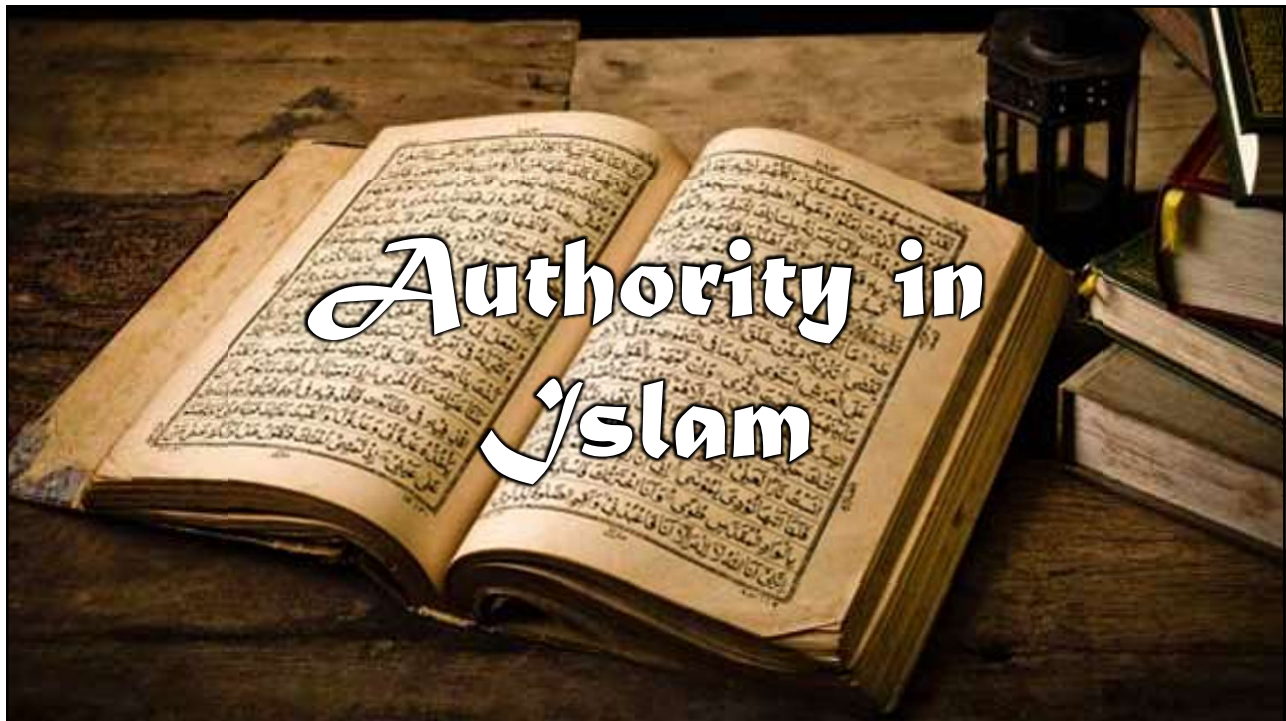
## 🌀 The Hijira 🌀

- ❖ *The Muslim era is dated from the first day of the lunar year in which the hegira took place.*
- ❖ *Islamic dates are reckoned A.H., "anno hegirae."*



<p>Ali husband of Muhammad's daughter, Fatima <i>Shi'ites</i> (the minority)</p>	<p>Abu Bakr Muhammad's father-in-law <i>Sunnites</i> (the majority)</p>
	<p>Umar in AD 634 (poisoned)</p>
	<p>Uthman in AD 644 (Umayyads tribe) collected all of Muhammad's revelations and issued the authoritative edition of the Qur'an (stabbed to death)</p>
<p>Ali (AD 656) (strife with another Umayyad named Mu'awiyah Ali ultimately killed by his own followers)</p>	

<p>Ali's two sons (Muhammad's grandsons)          Hasan and Husayn          Hasan died of an illness</p> <p>680 AD Husayn was killed in a desert          battle with Sunni Muslim</p>	<p>leadership now passed through generations          of Umayyads for approximately another          hundred years</p> <p>capital city was Damascus          the Islamic empire included all of the          middle east through Persia (Iran), as well          as Egypt, North Africa, and Spain</p>	
<p>line of spiritual and political leaders called          Imams</p>	<p>In AD 750 Umayyad leadership replaced          by Abbasids (named after Muhammad's          uncle) moved the capital to Baghdad</p>	
<p><i>Imamites</i></p>	<p><i>Zaidites</i></p>	<p><i>Ismailites</i></p>



- ❖ *The highest authority in Islam is the Qur'an.*
- ❖ *It is about the size of the New Testament.*
- ❖ *It is divided into 114 chapters, called suras, with each sura being divided into verses (ayat).*

- ❖ *The basic arrangement is not chronological, but roughly from longer suras to shorter ones.*
- ❖ *The Qur'an is considered to be the Qur'an only when it is in Arabic, the language in which it was revealed.*



## ∞ The Sunna and Hadiths ∞

- ❖ *For any issues which are left undefined by the Qur'an, the prophet's life and informal sayings are the ultimate authority.*
- ❖ *These traditions are called the hadiths, and they were vigorously collected and evaluated in the first generations of Islam.*

## ∞ The Shari'a ∞

- ❖ *Theoretically, the above sources are sufficient for all occasions.*
- ❖ *All that remains is to apply the information.*

## ∞ The Shari'a ∞

- ❖ *In practice, that means that the Qur'an and hadiths have to be interpreted correctly in order to maintain the correct application.*
- ❖ *Therefore the concept of shari'a, or "Islamic law" developed.*
- ❖ *Shi'ite Islam rejects many of the hadiths.*



## ∞ Sufism ∞

- ❖ *Similar to the mystical tradition of Cabala in Judaism and Gnosticism in Christianity, Islam also developed a mystical tradition in an attempt to find spiritual reality beyond laws and commandments.*

## ∞ Sufism ∞

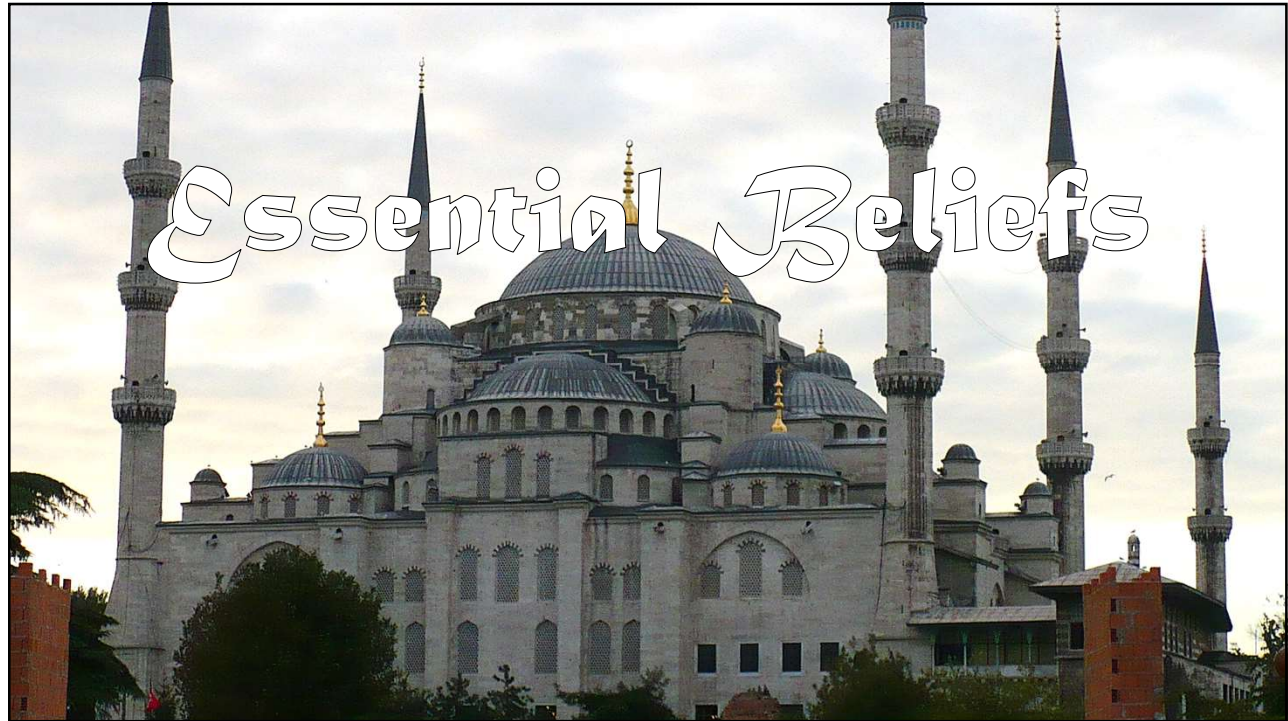
- ❖ *Islamic mystics have been called Sufis, a term which originally referred to the woolen garments worn by the mystic practitioners.*
- ❖ *Sufism arose as a recognizable movement in the eighth century and has continued as a spiritual force in Islam to this day.*

## ∞ Sufism ∞

- ❖ *At the heart of Sufi teaching is the mystical quest for a direct experience with Allah, possibly even to merge one's soul with him.*
- ❖ *Needless to say, these notions were viewed with suspicion and even hostility, particularly in the early stages.*

## ∞ Sufism ∞

- ❖ *Sufism also gave rise to numerous monastic orders, among whom the ecstasy-seeking "whirling dervishes" have attained notoriety in their own right.*



*The historic roots of Muhammad's understanding of Allah are from original monotheism, as preserved by Judaism, Christianity, and an Arabian vestige.*

*The question is often asked ...*

*Do Christians and Muslims worship the same God?*

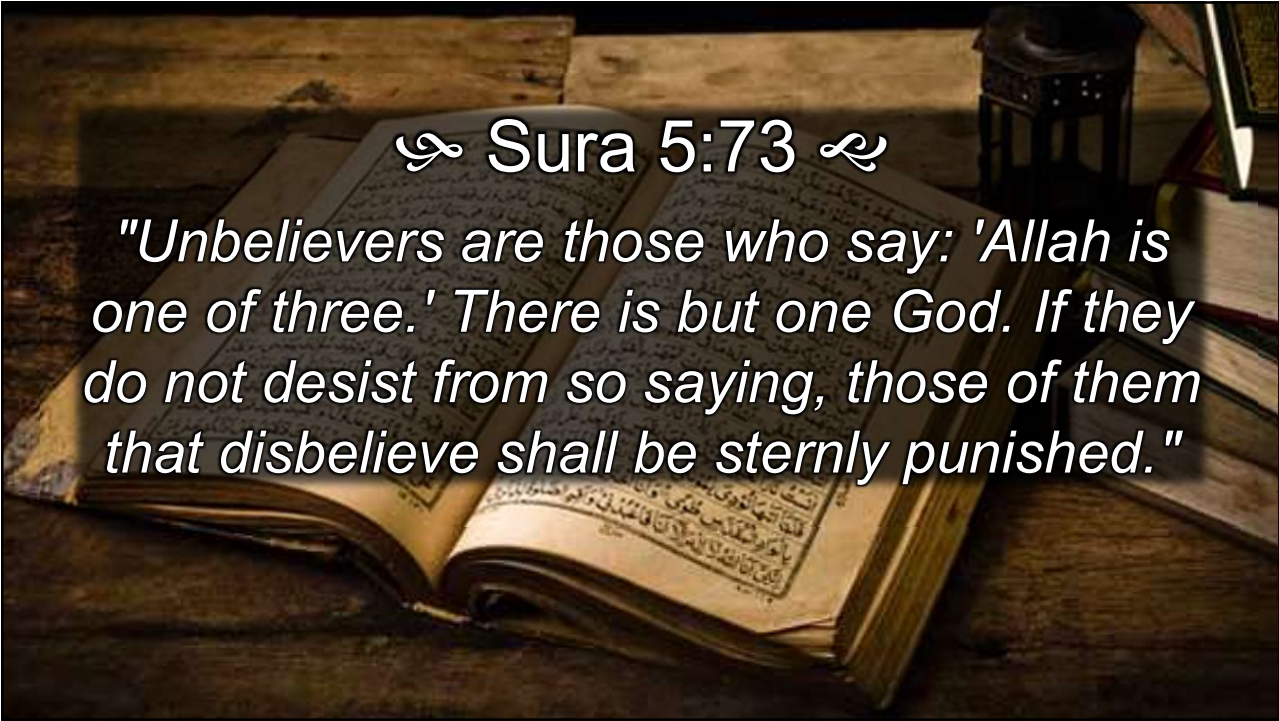
*According to Corduan, in terms of historical origin, the answer is clearly yes given that Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all trace their heritage back to Abraham.*

*However, (and more the point of the question), in terms of theological description, while there are many general points of similarity, when it comes down to specific details, the answer has to be no.*



﴿ Sura 112:1-4 ﴾

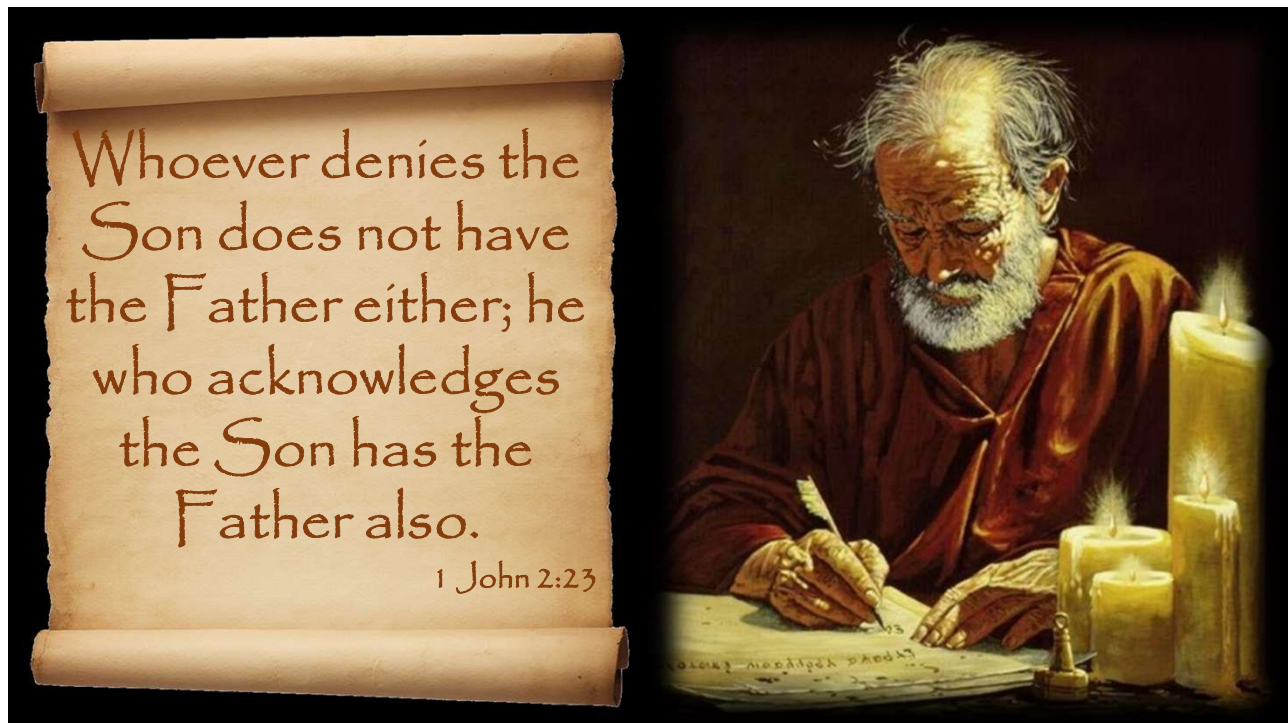
*"Say 'He is Allah, One. Allah-us-Samad (the Self-Sufficient Master). He begets not, nor was He begotten; And there is none co-equal or comparable unto Him.' "*



﴿ Sura 5:73 ﴾

*"Unbelievers are those who say: 'Allah is one of three.' There is but one God. If they do not desist from so saying, those of them that disbelieve shall be sternly punished."*





# Angels and Spirits

- ❖ *The reality of Allah does not exclude the reality of other spiritual beings.*
- ❖ *Remember that Muhammad had the Qur'an revealed to him by the angel Gabriel.*
- ❖ *Islam recognizes three further archangels and a large hosts of angels.*
- ❖ *In addition there are also many evil spirits (the jinn), [cf. Genie] who are led by the devil.*

# Prophets and their Scriptures

- ❖ *According to Islam, from time to time God has disclosed his will to the world by way of prophets.*
- ❖ *These prophets are human beings who have won victory in their struggle against sin; God has directed them by his inspiration.*
- ❖ *A prophet is also considered an apostle if he provides a book for his community to live by.*

- ❖ *All the prophets have the same basic message of submission to the one God and an impending judgment.*
- ❖ *The Qur'an provides no definitive list of prophets; in fact it makes it clear that there have been prophets who are not now remembered (90:78).*
- ❖ *Most of the twenty-five prophets mentioned in the Qur'an are biblical figures, including Adam, Noah, Abraham, David, and Jesus.*

### ❧ A KEY POINT ❧

*Islam teaches that all the prophets taught the identical message as Muhammad did, but that people subsequently tampered with the writings they left behind, and thus distorted the truth of the original message.*

# The Jesus of Islam

- ❖ *Muhammad saw Jesus as a prophet.*
- ❖ *The Qur'an teaches*
  - ✓ *Jesus' virgin birth (3:45-47)*
  - ✓ *Jesus' many miracles (3:49)*
  - ✓ *Jesus' ascension (4:158)*

*Islamic Non-negotiables  
Concerning Jesus:  
Jesus is not God.*

﴿ Sura 4:171 ﴾

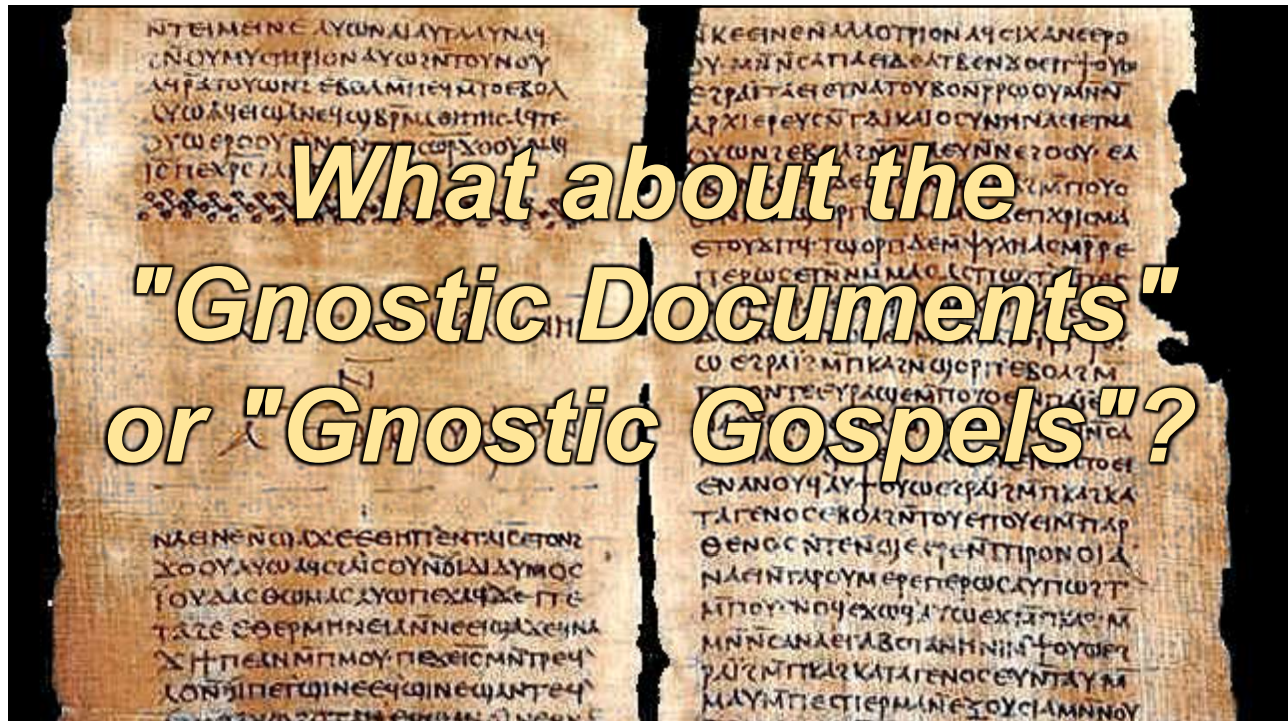
*"O ye people of the Book! do not exceed in your religion, nor say against God aught save the truth. The Messiah, Jesus the son of Mary, is but the apostle of God ...Allah forbid that He should have a son!"*



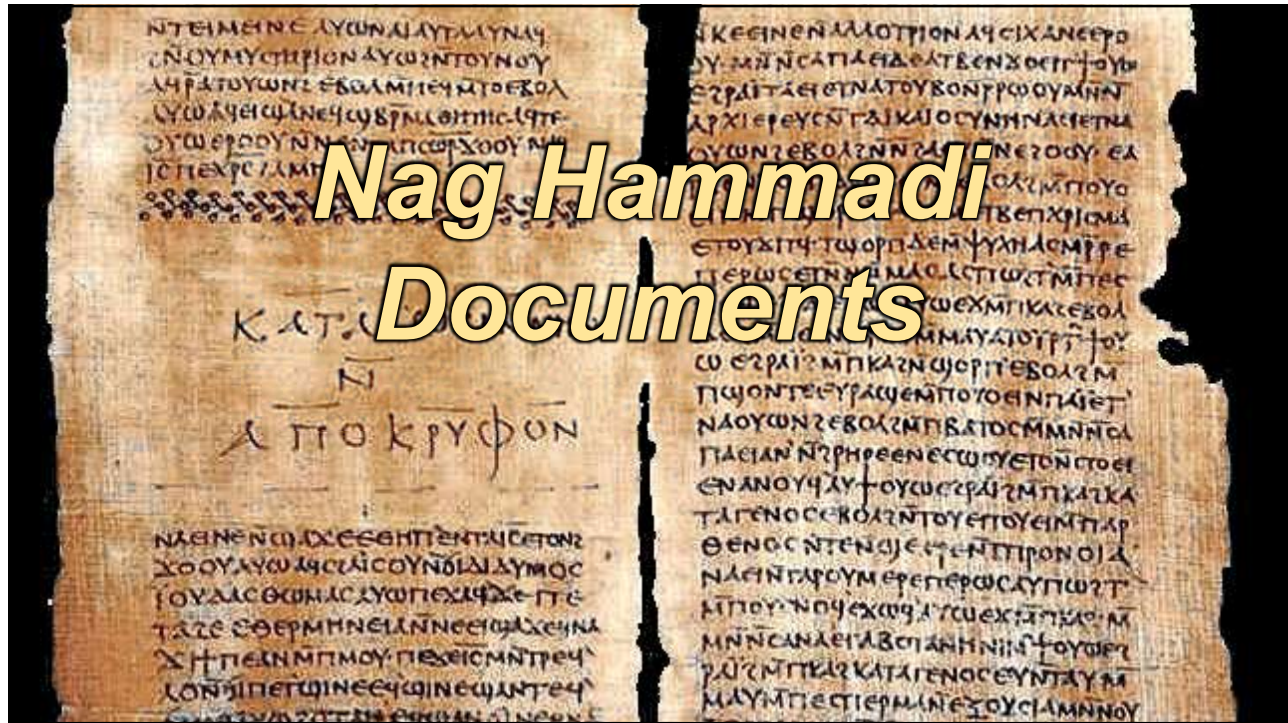
*Islamic Non-negotiables  
Concerning Jesus:  
Jesus did not die on the cross.*

## ☞ Sura 4:158 ☞

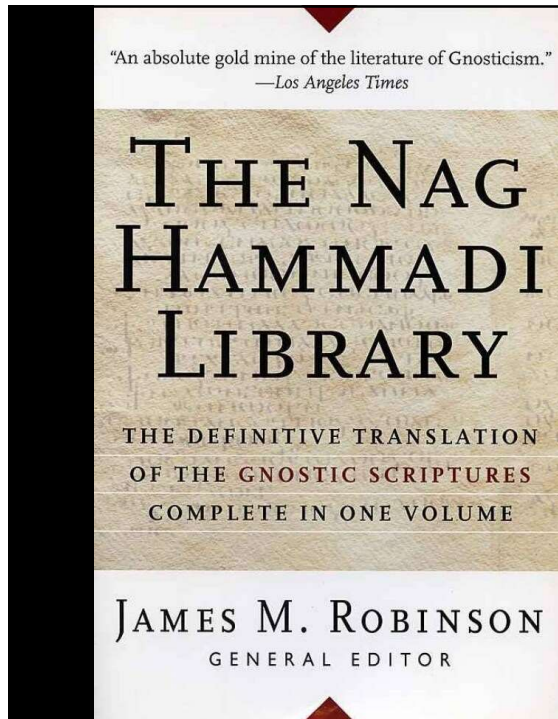
*"... but they did not kill him, and they did not crucify him, but a similitude was made for them. And verily, those who differ about him are in doubt concerning him; they have no knowledge concerning him, but only follow an opinion. They did not kill him, for sure! nay, God raised him up unto Himself; for God is mighty and wise!"*

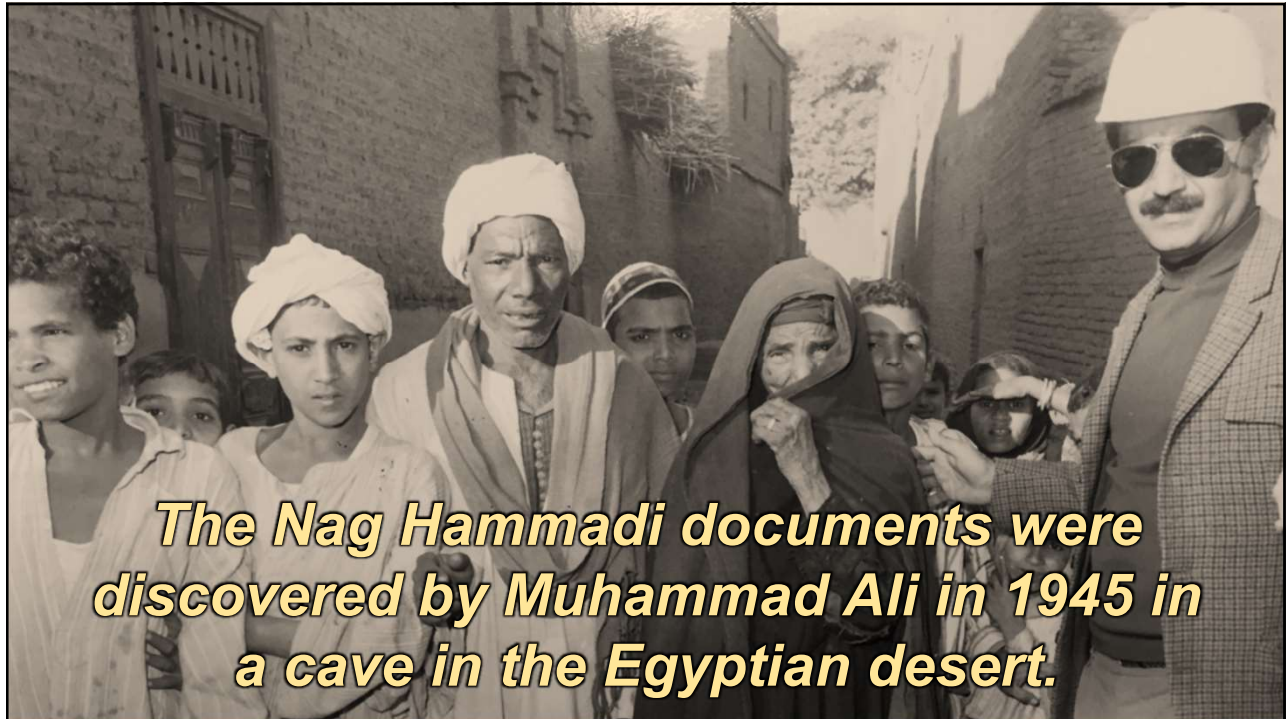






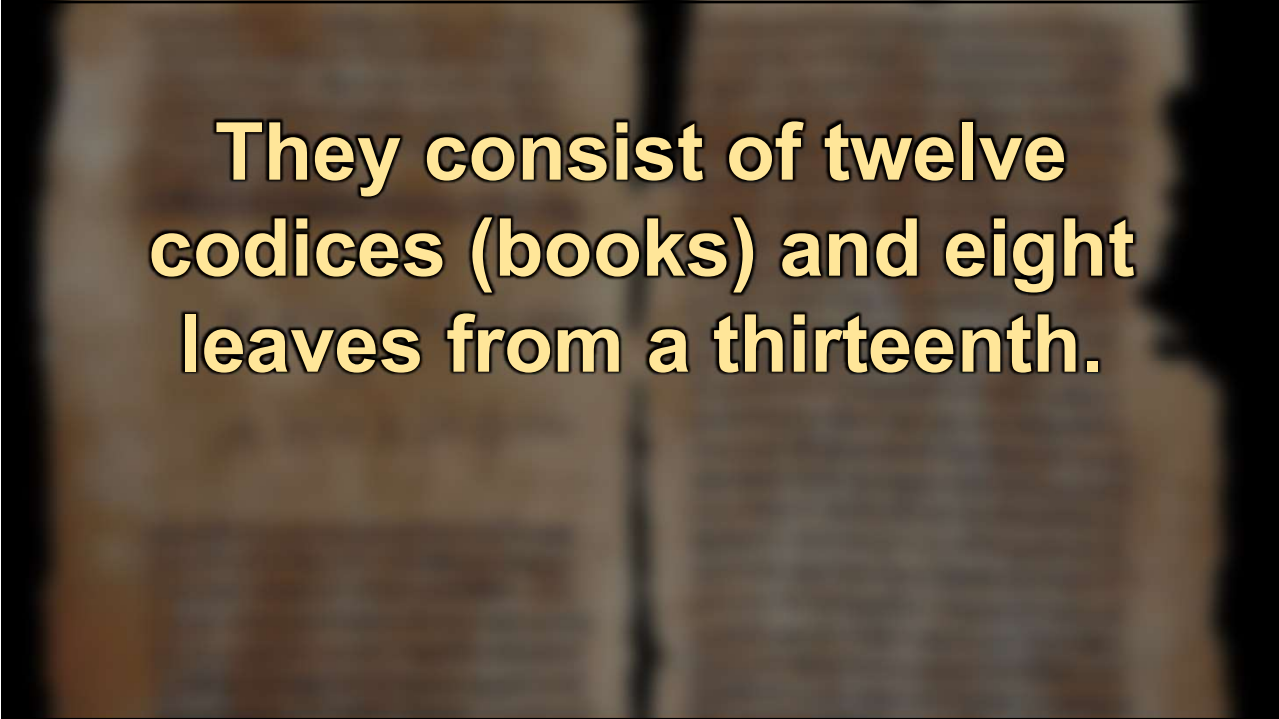
# Nag Hammadi Documents



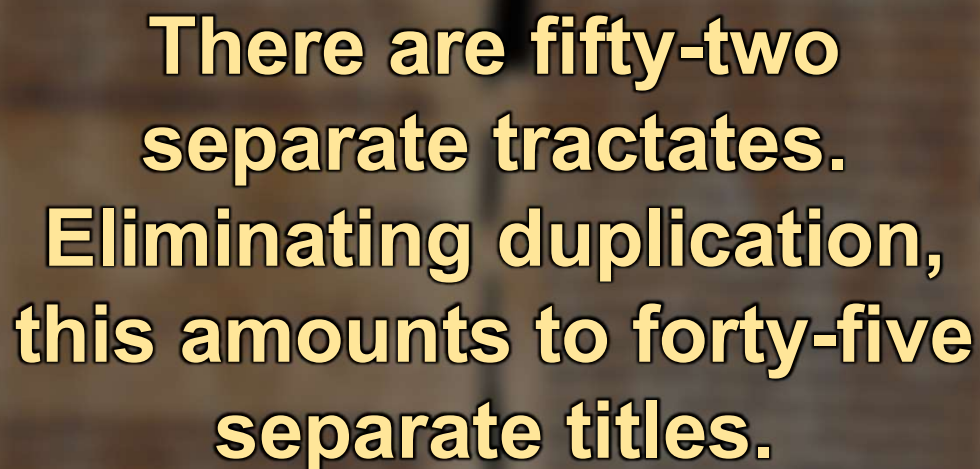


*The Nag Hammadi documents were discovered by Muhammad Ali in 1945 in a cave in the Egyptian desert.*

They are 8<sup>th</sup> Century **Coptic** translations of original Greek documents dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries.



**They consist of twelve  
codices (books) and eight  
leaves from a thirteenth.**



**There are fifty-two  
separate tractates.  
Eliminating duplication,  
this amounts to forty-five  
separate titles.**

## Codex I

- The Prayer of the Apostle Paul
- The Apocryphon of James
- The Gospel of Truth
- The Treatise on the Resurrection
- The Tripartite

## Codex II

- The Apocryphon of John
- **The Gospel of Thomas**
- **The Gospel of Philip**
- The Hypostasis of the Archons
- On the Origin of the World
- The Exegesis on the Soul
- The Book of Thomas the Contender

## **Codex III**

- **The Apocryphon of John**
- **The Gospel of the Egyptians**
- **Eugnostos the Blessed**
- **The Sophia of Jesus Christ**
- **The Dialogue of the Saviour**

## **Codex IV**

- **The Apocryphon of John**
- **The Gospel of the Egyptians**

## Codex V

- Eugnostos the Blessed
- The Apocalypse of Paul
- The First Apocalypse of James
- The Second Apocalypse of James
- The Apocalypse of Adam

## Codex VI

- The Acts of Peter and the Twelve Apostles
- The Thunder, Perfect Mind
- Authoritative Teaching
- The Concept of Our Great Power
- **Republic by Plato (588A - 589B)**
- The Discourse on the Eighth and Ninth
- The Prayer of Thanksgiving
- Asclepius 21-29

## **Codex VII**

- **The Paraphrase of Shem**
- **The Second Treatise of the Great Seth**
- **Gnostic Apocalypse of Peter**
- **The Teachings of Silvanus**
- **The Three Steles of Seth**

## **Codex VIII**

- **Zostrianos**
- **The Letter of Peter to Philip**

## Codex IX

- Melchizedek
- The Thought of Norea
- The Testimony of Truth

## Codex X

- Marsanes



## **Codex XI**

- **The Interpretation of Knowledge**
- **A Valentinian Exposition, On the Anointing, On Baptism (A and B) and On the Eucharist (A and B)**
- **Allogenes**
- **Hypsiphron**

## **Codex XII**

- **The Sentences of Sextus**
- **The Gospel of Truth**
- **Fragments**

## Codex XIII

- Trimorphic Protennoia
- On the Origin of the World

**Though they are sometimes called "secret" documents, the texts were no "secret." Their content has been known from the critical writings of the Church Fathers of the 2nd to 4th Centuries.**

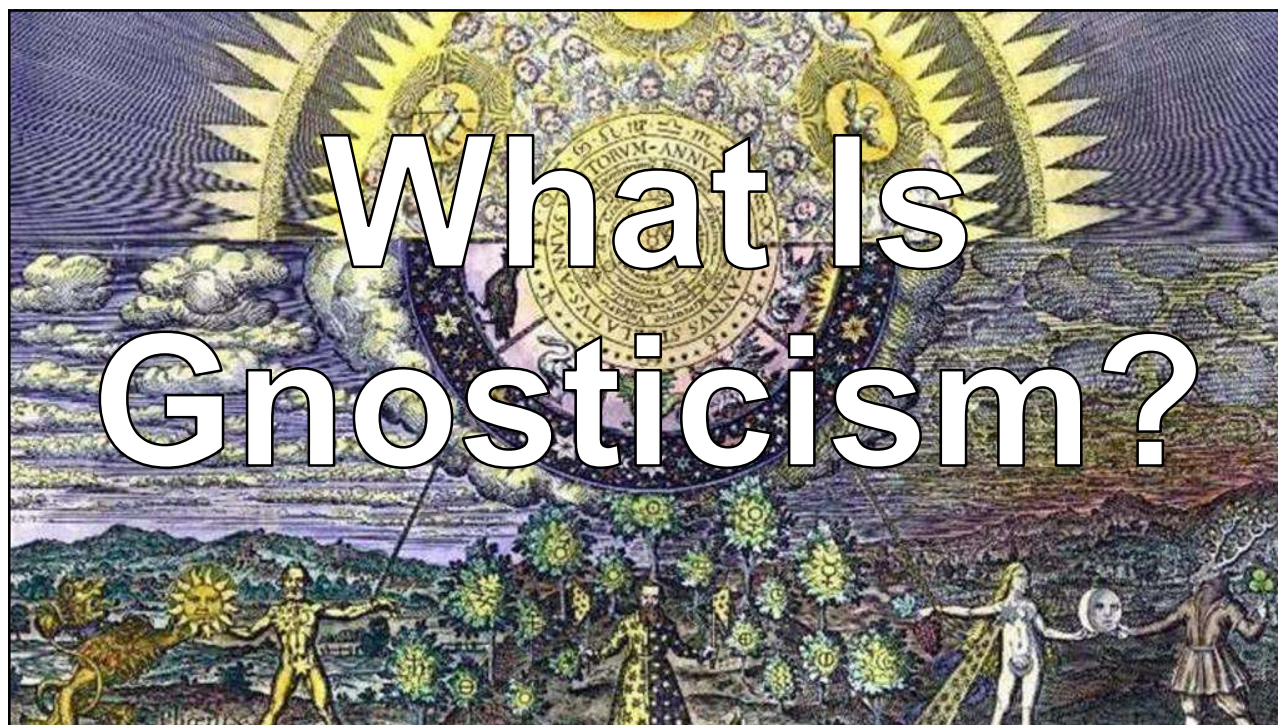
**Nevertheless, the find does let us hear the views set forth by those who held it.**

**The teachings of the documents are a combination of Christian themes and Gnosticism.**

**For this reason, they are often referred to as the Gnostic Gospels or Gnostic writings.**

**However, only five of the forty-five works are in any sense of the term 'gospels.'**

**Other Coptic Gnostic documents have also been found apart from the Nag Hammadi documents that are sometimes grouped together with them in translations (e.g., The Gospel of Mary; discovered in 1896.)**



*The term 'gnosticism' comes from the Greek word γνῶσις" (gnōsis) meaning 'knowledge.'*

*It refers to a religious movement which began to flourish toward the end of or soon after the apostolic era.*

*The movement taught that one is saved, not because of any atoning work of a Savior, but through a secret knowledge.*

*Some Tenets of  
Gnosticism*

- ❖ *The True God is a pure, immaterial fullness of light, removed from the creation.*
- ❖ *The material world is evil and is not a subject of ultimate redemption in the end.*

- ❖ *A substitute, not Jesus, was the one who suffered on the cross.*
- ❖ *All of this is "secret"—a mystery.*
- ❖ *Knowledge is self-knowledge, not knowledge centering in Jesus.*



"I saw him apparently being seized by them. And I said, 'What am I seeing, O Lord? Is it really you whom they take? And are you holding on to me? And are they hammering the feet and hands of another? Who is this one above the cross, who is glad and laughing?' The Savior said to me, 'He whom you saw being glad and laughing above the cross is the Living Jesus. But he into whose hands and feet they are driving the nails is his fleshly part, which is the substitute.'"

(Apocalypse of Peter 81:4-21)



"It was another ... who drank the gall and the vinegar; it was not I. They struck me with the reed; it was another, Simon, who bore the cross on his shoulder. It was another upon whom they placed the crown of thorns. But I was rejoicing in the height ... over their error ... And I was laughing at their ignorance."

(Second Treatise of the Great Seth 56:6-19)

## Sura 4:158

*... but they did not kill him, and they did not crucify him, but a similitude was made for them. And verily, those who differ about him are in doubt concerning him; they have no knowledge concerning him, but only follow an opinion. They did not kill him, for sure! nay, God raised him up unto Himself; for God is mighty and wise!*



# Judgment

*The basis of judgment  
is a sincere submission  
to Allah's will.*

*Did the person recognize God alone, and did he or she endeavor to live by Allah's commands?*

*Making a profession of Islam per se is not enough; in fact, some of the severest punishments are reserved for hypocrites.*

*Conversely, a Christian or a Jew who sincerely lived by all the right obligations may enter heaven.*

# *The Decree of God*

*The core belief on the infallible decree of God is that Allah is sovereign. All that he wills comes to pass. Whatever he does not will, will not come happen. All that has happened must have been willed by Allah.*

*Despite the appearance of determinism human beings still carry the responsibility for their choices, and they will be judged on that basis.*

# The Five Pillars of Islam

1. Confession (Shahada)
2. Prayer (salat)
3. Fasting (sawm)
4. Almsgiving (zakat)
5. Pilgrimage (hajj)



THEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES	
Islam	Christianity

## The Bible

### Islam

Though the Qur'an gives the Bible such notable titles as "the Book of God," "the word of God," and "a light and a guidance to all mankind," Muslims regard the current Bible to have been corrupted in its transmission through history. Only the Qur'an has been preserved from error.

### Christianity

The Bible alone is the inspired Word of God (2 Pet. 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:16). The science of textual criticism proves that the integrity of the Scriptures has been maintained throughout its transmission in history down to us today.

## God

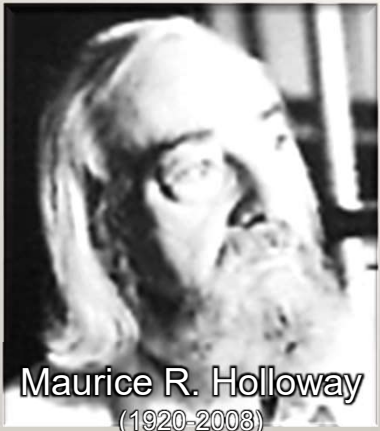
### Islam

God is a unity and not a Trinity. He is eternal, transcendent, creator and sustainer of the universe. He is thought of most as functional, rather than someone with whom mankind can have a personal relationship.

### Christianity


God is *ipsum esse subsistens*—subsistent existence itself: living, eternal, infinite, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, good, loving, merciful, and just. He exists in three persons—the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Mathew 3:13-17; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

George Klubertanz, Maurice R. Holloway

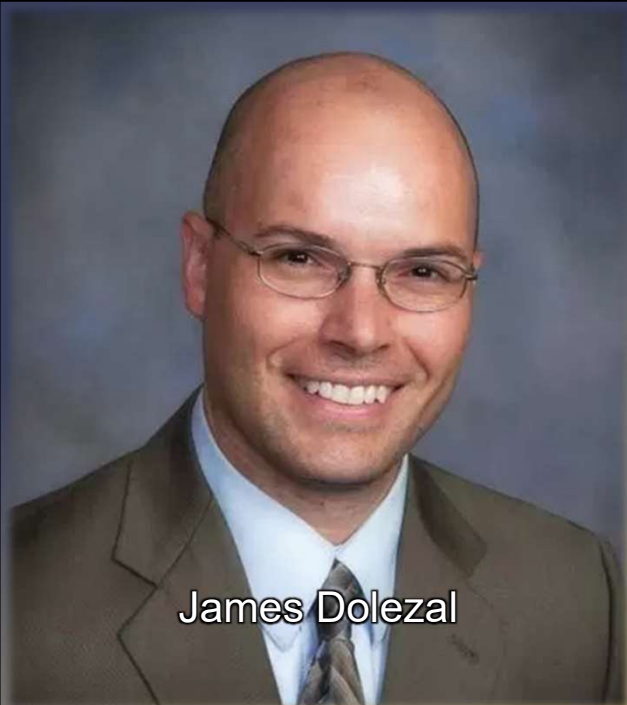



**Maurice R. Holloway**  
(1920-2008)

**Being and God**  
An Introduction to the Philosophy of Being and to  
Natural Theology




**George P. Klubertanz**  
(1925-1993)



**James Dolezal**

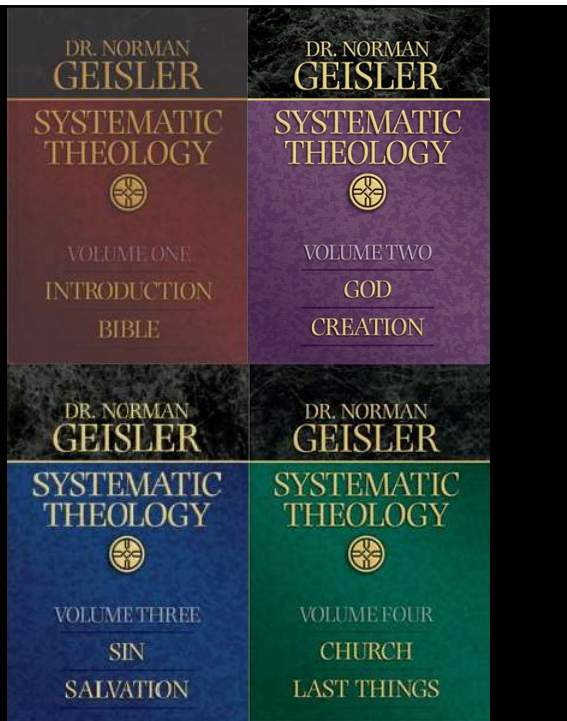
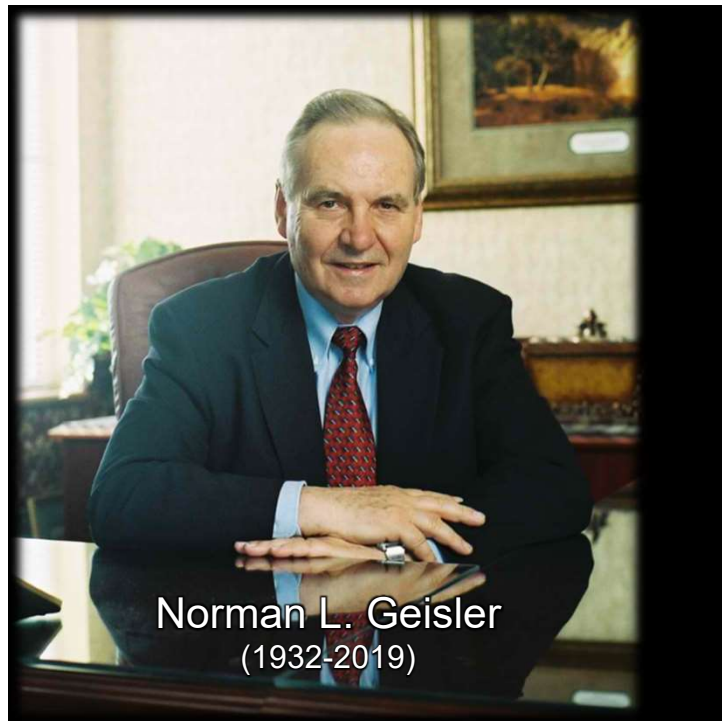
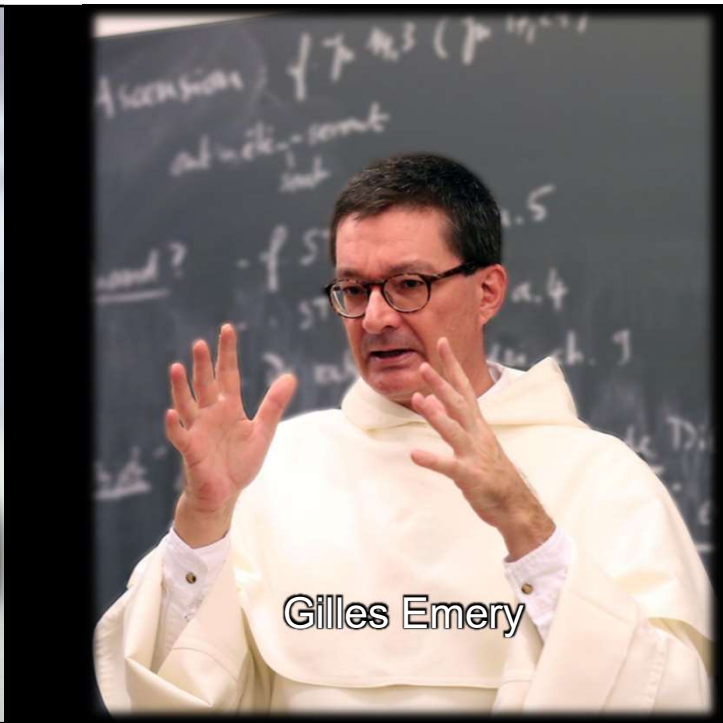
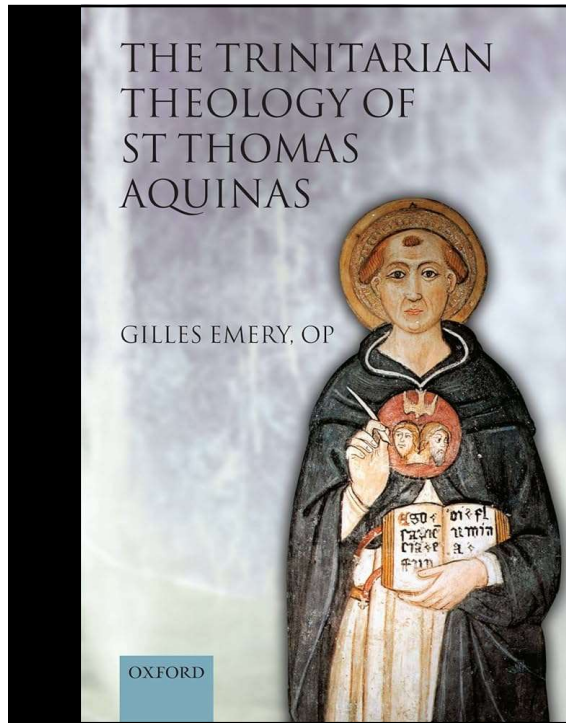
**JAMES E. DOLEZAL**

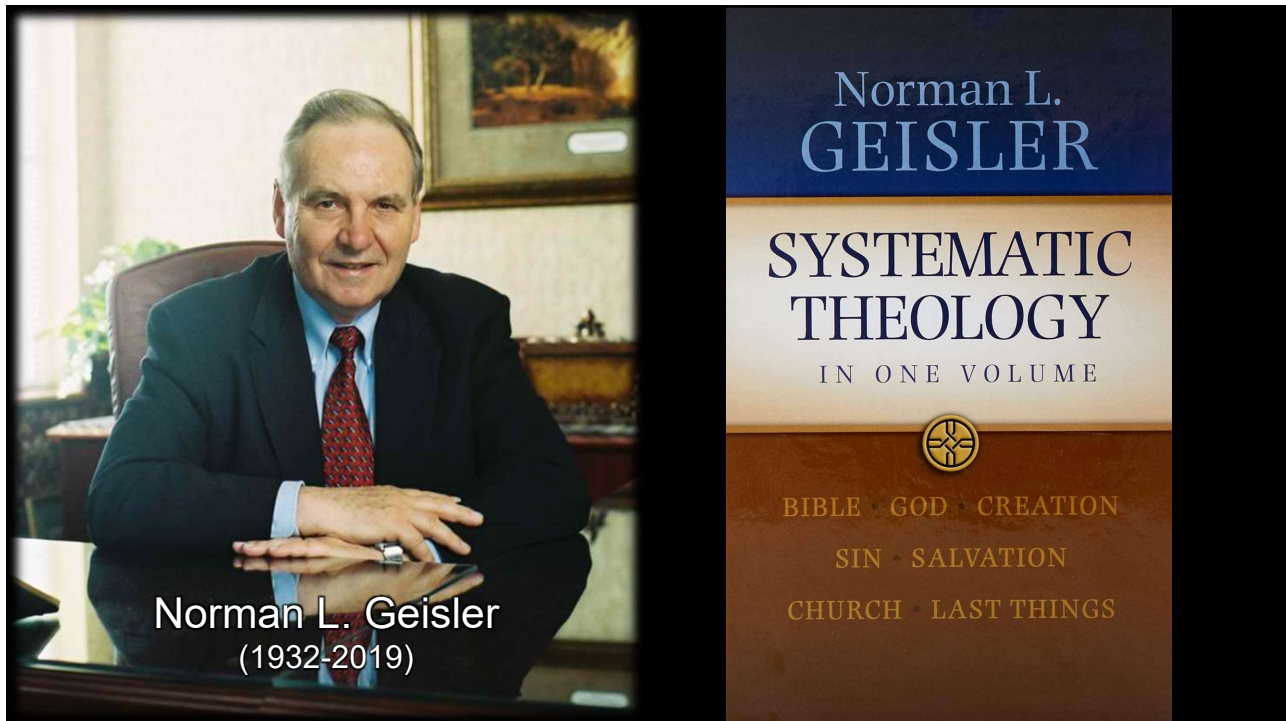
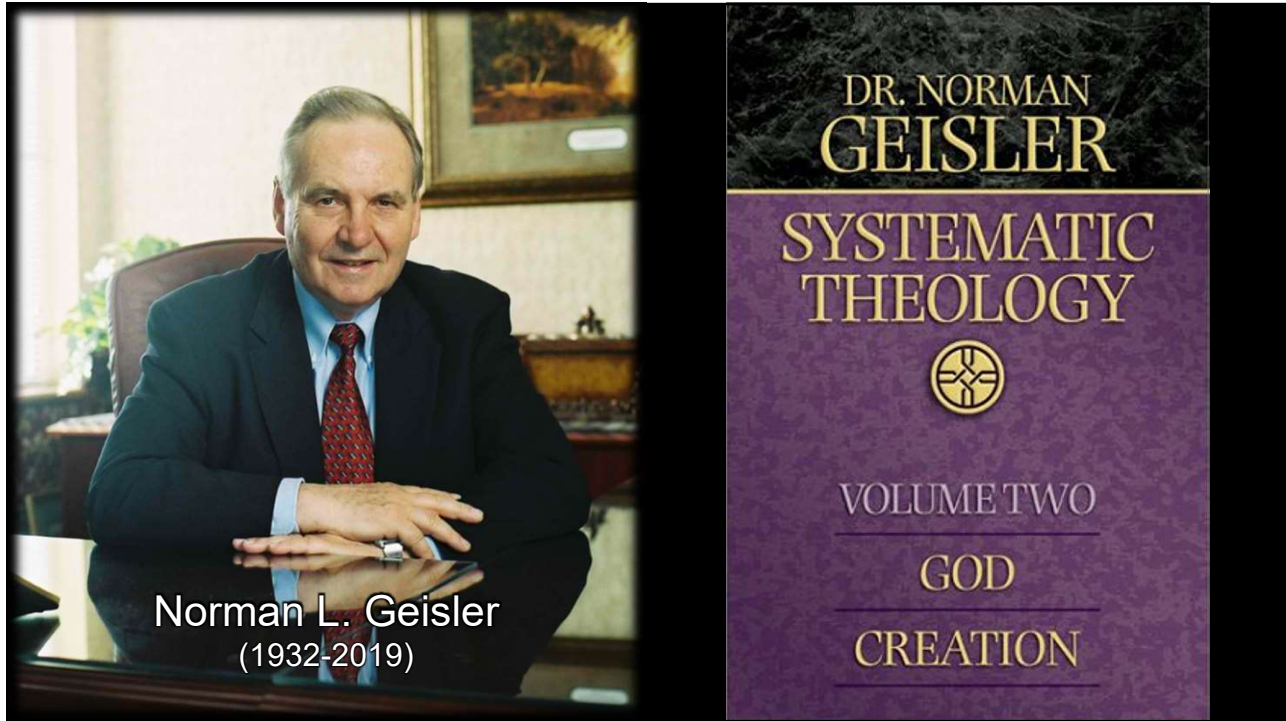


**ALL THAT  
IS IN GOD**

*Evangelical Theology and the  
Challenge of Classical Christian Theism*







## Jesus

### Islam

Jesus was one of God's prophets, but was not the Son of God (4:171; 5:117). He did not die on the cross at all, much less die for the sins of mankind (4:157-8).

### Christianity

Scripture teaches that Jesus rose from the dead in the same physical body in which He died. Though there were some significant changes in the body of Jesus, these changes do not lessen its physical nature.

## Salvation

### Islam

Salvation is only for those whose good works and intentions outweigh their bad in the scales of judgment (18:49; 23:102-103).

### Christianity

Salvation is a free gift offered to everyone, based on the work of Jesus Christ in dying for the sins of mankind. Whoever believes in Jesus has eternal life. Good works are the outcome of a healthy Christian growth and are the basis for rewards, but are not considered in determining the eternal destiny of believers.

## Resurrection

### Islam

The Qur'an teaches that everyone will be raised from the dead (69:13-16).

### Christianity

Scripture teaches that all will be raised from the dead, both righteous and unrighteous. The resurrection from the dead is physical.

## Heaven

### Islam

Heaven is an eternal abode of bliss for all who successfully cross the bridge over hell (sirat) (36:66; 37:23-24).

### Christianity

Heaven is the eternal abode for all believers in Jesus Christ. Its pleasures are constituted by a complete communion with God free from all sin (Rev. 21:4; 22:5).

## Hell

### Islam

Traditional Islam holds that hell is an eternal place of torment for all who do not successfully cross the bridge over hell. Some references in the Qur'an (78:23; 11:107; 6:128) have lead some Muslims to hold that for certain ones, the fires of hell are not forever.

### Christianity

There is eternal punishment for sin (Mathew 5:22; 8:11, 12; 13:42, 50; 22:13; Luke 13:24-28; 2 Peter 2:17; Jude 13; Revelation 14:9-11).