

# Misconceptions About Islam, Part 4

Among the many misunderstandings and misconceptions about Islam is that Muslims do not believe in any of the messengers.

Muslims’ faith will never be complete without believing in all prophets and messengers sent by God. Muslims believe in all the books that God has revealed. The Quran says, “*The Messenger (Muhammad SAW) believes in what has been sent down to him from his Lord, and (so do) the believers. Each one believes in Allah, His Angels, His Books, and His Messengers. They say, “We make no distinction between one another of His Messengers.” - and they say, “We hear, and we obey. (We seek) Your Forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the return (of all).*” “ [Quran 2: 285]. It is an essential element of the Islamic faith to believe in all messengers, prophets, and books revealed by God. A Muslim who does not believe in any of the prophets or messengers is not just a sinner; he (she) is not a Muslim. No other religion asks its followers to believe in other messengers or revealed books other than its messenger and book.

Last week, Muslims celebrated the day of Ashura, which falls on the 10th day of the first month of the Islamic Hijri calendar. When the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon

him) migrated from Mecca to Medina and established a new state, he discovered that the Jews in Medina honored and fasted on this day. The Prophet (pbuh) asked them why they observed this day with fasting, and they replied, “It is a great day! This is the day on which Allah saved Moses (pbuh) and his followers and drowned Pharaoh.” The Prophet (pbuh) responded, “I am closer to my brother Moses (pbuh)! Next year, I will also fast on this day.”

Not only did he fast on the day of Ashura, but he also instructed his followers to do the same. To encourage his followers to fast on the day, The Prophet (pbuh) said, “Fasting on the day of Ashura will expiate the sins of the previous year - as long as major sins were avoided.” [Major sins are murder, stealing, adultery, fornication, and some others].

The Prophet (pbuh) did not regard Moses (pbuh) as a stranger or his religion as distinct because Islam teaches that all prophets were given by God the same central message, that is to “Believe in God, the One and Only Who is Worthy of Worship.” However, their distinctive doctrines and customs were suited to each Prophet’s people, except the message of Islam, which is considered the last message from God. The Quran makes this very clear



Guest Column

HATIM HEGAB

when it says, “(130) *And who turns away from the religion of Ibrahim (Abraham) (i.e. Islamic Monotheism) except him who befools himself? Truly, We chose him in this world, and verily, in the Hereafter, he will be among the righteous. (131) When his Lord said to him, “Submit (i.e., be a Muslim)!” He said, “I have submitted myself (as a Muslim) to the Lord of the ‘Alamin (mankind, jinns and all that exists).” (132) And this (submission to Allah, Islam) was enjoined by Ibrahim (Abraham) upon his sons and by Ya’qub (Jacob), (saying), “O my sons! Allah has chosen for you the (true) religion, then die not except in the Faith of Islam - (as Muslims - Islamic Monotheism).” (133) Or were you witnesses when death approached Ya’qub (Jacob)? When he said unto his sons, “What will you worship after me?” They said, “We shall worship your Ilah (God - Allah), the Ilah (God) of your fathers, Ibrahim (Abraham), Isma’il (Ishmael), Ishaque (Isaac), One Ilah (God, or Allah), and to Him we*

*submit in Islam.” [Quran 2: 130-133].*

Another common misperception about Islam is that all Muslims are Arab. This is a widespread fallacy that some individuals use to limit their beliefs to a specific geographical place. While Islam originated in the Arabian Peninsula, Arabs account for just roughly 20% of all Muslims worldwide. The bulk of Muslims come from nations other than the Middle East, including large numbers in Indonesia, Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh. This mistake leads to another one: Islam uses the sword to propagate its message. To be sure, none of those above countries had ever encountered an Islamic army. Indonesia, which has the greatest Muslim population, has never seen a single Muslim soldier. Islam spread to these places via Muslim traders. Muslims’ good manners toward the people of these locations drew many indigenous people to adopt Islam. According to Dr. Roy Casagrande’s set of lectures on the subject, the Islamic empire demonstrated a level of tolerance unparalleled by any other empire. In fact, Muslims were a minority in many of the countries they governed, and it was natural to regard Islam as the third, and occasionally the fourth, religion in many regions that were already

under the Islamic empire.

Not only that but Islam’s tolerance and freedom of worship that Islam advocates lead to the preservation of many faiths. The Quran says, “*There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower.*” [Quran 2: 256]. For example, Moses ben Maimon [known to English-speaking audiences as Maimonides and Hebrew-speaking as Rambam] wrote his best books about Judaism in Salahuddin’s palace. Jews used to say, “Between Moses (the Prophet and the Messenger) and Moses (ben Maimon), there was none but Moses (ben Maimon) to tell how much his writings revived Judaism and its teachings.

Another example is the Coptic Church in Egypt, which follows the teachings of Mark (Morcus as they pronounce it). It has its Church and its Pope. The Egyptians, almost 30% Christians at the time, under the “Christian” Roman empire had witnessed their worst times ever when the Roman empire wanted to convert them to Catholicism (from Orthodoxism). Hundreds of thousands lost their lives by killing,

beheading, or throwing them alive to lions and other animals. The Coptic Christians remember this time as the “era of martyrs.” It is considered one of the most significant days in history.

The Egyptians were under oppression under the Roman Empire until Muslims conquered Egypt and freed the Egyptians. After Muslims took complete control of Egypt, they asked for Alexandira Pope to come (he spent ten years in hiding, fearing for his life) and receive his Church’s seat back and all its belongings. No ban was put on building, fixing, and rebuilding the churches the Romans demolished. Ironically, at this time, Muslims used to perform their prayers in the desert or open areas and only built their first mosque later.

To this date, Coptic church leaders mention this story to their followers, telling them that if it were not for Islam, the Coptic Church would have gone a long time ago.

Not only that but when the Egyptian Church was expelled from the World Council of Churches, it was Islam and Muslims who kept the Church and helped it to stand strong.

To contact the author: [hatim@gmx.us](mailto:hatim@gmx.us)

For more information: [icstillwater.org/islam](http://icstillwater.org/islam)

## Judge clears way for demolition of Texas church where 26 people were killed in 2017

FLORESVILLE, Texas — A judge on Monday cleared the way for the demolition of the small Texas church in Sutherland Springs where a gunman killed more than two dozen worshippers in 2017 in what remains the deadliest church shooting in U.S. history.

Following the shooting at First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, the church turned the sanctuary where the attack took place into a memorial. Members of First Baptist then voted in

2021 to tear down the building but church leaders have not publicly said when it would be razed.

A new church was completed for the congregation about a year and a half after the shooting.

State District Judge Jennifer Dillingham earlier this month granted a temporary restraining order sought by some families who wanted to stop the planned demolition. But on Monday, state District Judge Russell Wilson denied a request to extend that order, again raising the prospect

that the church could soon be torn down.

Attorneys for the church said during the hearing in Floresville that the church was within its rights to demolish the memorial, the San Antonio Express-News reported. “This is a question of church governance on how the church is going to proceed with its own property,” church attorney Matthew Swantner said.

Sam Fugate II, an attorney for the church attendees who sought the restraining order, has

said the goal of the lawsuit filed in May was to get a new vote on the fate of the building. In the lawsuit, the plaintiffs alleged that some church members were wrongfully removed from the church roster before it was taken.

Fugate told reporters after the hearing that without the temporary restraining order, they “no longer have an order preventing the church from being destroyed,” but they hope “the defendants will honor the suit and not take the church down

while we deal with some of these issues.”

Some who visited the memorial this month after news spread of the impending demolishment said it was a place that brought solace. But the church said in a court filing last week that the structure was a “constant and very painful reminder” and that church members voted in 2021 to build an open-air memorial there.

— AP

## Worship at the church of your choice this week

By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.



2 Peter 3:7

Stillwater Bible

Proclaiming Christ, Training Believers

JB Bond, Senior Pastor

Sundays

Worship Service ..... 8:30 a.m.

G.R.O.W. Groups ..... 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service ..... 11:00 a.m.

Kids' Church ..... 11:20 a.m.

Tuesdays

Cornerstone @ The Union (RM 297) ..... 7:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Stillwater Bible Institute ..... 6:30 p.m.

Impact Youth ..... 6:30 p.m.

Bible Kids ..... 6:30 p.m.

7617 W. 6th Ave.

Stillwaterbible.org (405) 564-5794

Crosspointe

CHURCH

Sunday School - 9:30

Sunday AM Worship - 10:30

Sunday PM Family Service - 6:00

Wed PM Bible Study - 7:00

1807 N. Jardot

[gocrosspointe.com](http://gocrosspointe.com)

FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH

701 S. DUNCAN • 405-372-5212

SUNDAY

Bible Study • 9:30am

Worship Service • 11:00am

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Begin at 6:00pm

Watch our worship service on Facebook

[www.fbcstillwater.org](http://www.fbcstillwater.org)

FIRST UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

[www.fumcstw.org](http://www.fumcstw.org)

400 W. 7th • 372-5854

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship ..... 8:30am & 11:10am

Sunday School ..... 10:00am

Closer Walk ..... 10 am Family Life Center

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

BAPTIST CHURCH

4th & Knoblock • 372-2744

Sunday School

9 am

Worship Service

8 am & 10:30 am

GRACE BAPTIST

CHURCH

Independent Baptist

Expository Preaching

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday ..... 10:30am

Thursday ..... 7:30pm

723 E. 17th

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

524 S. Duncan • 405-372-5580

[www.stillwaterfpc.org](http://www.stillwaterfpc.org)

Sunday Worship

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - in person, online

On KSPI radio AM 780 & FM 94.3

and the Stillwater FPC Facebook page

Sunnybrook

Christian Church

421 E. Richmond Rd • 377.0923

[www.sunnybrookccc.org](http://www.sunnybrookccc.org)

SUNDAY SERVICE      SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 am                      8:30 am

11:15 am                      9:45 am

KIDS CHURCH 9:45 & 11:15 am

GO • GATHER • GROW

Stillwater

Church of Christ

[stillwatercoc.org](http://stillwatercoc.org)

Your place for

"Faith, Family and Friends"

SUNDAY

Meeting Times

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM

Worship ..... 10:30 AM

Bible Study ..... 5:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible study ..... 7:00 PM

821 N. DUCK • 372-7439

Southside Baptist

Church of Stillwater

1223 S. Perkins Rd.

Perfectly • Purposely • Placed

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 AM + 6 PM

WEDNESDAY

YOUTH & ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6:30

Paul Hinchison - Pastor

Address - 1223 S. Perkins. Rd.

Phone: 408-372-2411

Email: [southsidesillwater@gmail.com](mailto:southsidesillwater@gmail.com)

The Islamic

Society of Stillwater

616 N. Washington St.

Friday (Weekly) Prayers

1:40 PM - 2:10 PM

For Daily Prayer Times

[www.icstillwater.org](http://www.icstillwater.org)

St. Francis Xavier

Catholic Church

711 N. Country Club Rd.

Sunday Mass                      Friday Mass

8:30 | 11:15 a.m.                      12:10 p.m.

1 p.m. (en español)                      Saturday Mass

Tue & Thu Mass                      9 a.m. | 5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

12:10 p.m.                      Confessions

Wednesday Mass                      Tues-Fri | 11:30-12 p.m.

12:10 p.m.                      Wednesday | 5 p.m.

6 p.m. (en español)                      Saturday | 9:45-11 a.m.

405-372-6886      [www.sfxstillwater.org](http://www.sfxstillwater.org)

Zion Lutheran

Church - LCMS

Sunday - 8:00, 10:30 AM

[www.zionlutheranstw.org](http://www.zionlutheranstw.org)

John E. Wackler, Pastor

504 S. Knoblock • 372-3703