

Islam 101

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by the picture
which the picture
shown the picture
worshiping the picture
Muslims will be
over the picture
everal, four, five
reverence is
Muslims speak

recorded in literature called the hadith. And
prophet. Sometimes, you only have one hadith that
you'll have hundreds, if not thousands, about the
speak or respond to a particular issue. Every

Oftentimes, those versions may vary in the detail
something may have different interests or different
attention in a way that they don't. Some of us
be focused on who else was present, whether that
whether this was something that was supposed to
that having a multiplicity of records does not mean
rather that you had many people in the audience
to their own experiences.

Muhammad is believed to be the last in a very long



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very popular people. Prophets were given a message from God, but oftentimes, people did not respond very positively to those messages. They chased them out of town or throw rocks at them or what have you. Only messengers were guaranteed the success of that message.

And there have only been five messengers according to Islamic teachings. First one was Noah. In Christianity, Noah isn't a prophet because he never really says anything, he just does whatever God tells him. But he does speak in the Qur'an. The other four are Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and, of course, Muhammad himself. Some of the other prophets who are shared in common between the Bible and the Qur'an include Aaron, Adam, David, Elijah, Elisha, Ezekiel, Job, John the Baptist, Jonah, Joseph, Lot, and Solomon. So many characters from the Old Testament and a few from the New Testament.

Muhammad was born in the year 570, according to tradition, and he lived until the year

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But they had heard about this guy,

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But Muhammad always said he did not always speak as a prophet. There were times when he simply spoke as a human being. So he tried to be clear about when he was receiving a revelation versus when he was offering his own opinion . And his companions learned to ask him, "Are you speaking as a prophet or are you speaking as a person? If you're speaking as a person, I think I have a better idea. Why don't we try something else?" And he was willing to listen to that kind of advice.

One final point that often comes up as a criticism of Muhammad is that he had multiple wives, and was clearly a sensual person. And that's often placed in contrast to Jesus who did not marry, did not have children, and was understood to be of a higher calling. Muslims point to Muhammad's role as a family man, somebody who was married and had children, as one of the things that helps to make him very relatable to them; that he was somebody who experienced the joys and the challenges of marriage and children. I have two teenagers; they can be very challenging at times. And so he understood this at a very practical level.