

HERMENEUTICAL KEY OUTLINE

Similarities (supposed): Monotheism, history, prophets, scriptures, Jesus, Sin & Salvation, moral teachings & volition

Differences: In reality, we have great differences. To best understand them, we need to go to the beginning, to **Genesis 3:8-**

<u>Criteria:</u>	<u>Islam</u>	<u>Christianity</u>
1) Garden of Eden:	1) Not on earth: (Suras 2:30-39; 7:19-25; 20:116-123). No relationship/man, except via the Spirit (Ruh), or Gabriel	1) On earth: Genesis 3:8-9 - God walks & talks with man = Limits Himself - Response expected - in <u>Relationship</u> with Mankind
2) God:	2) Distant , transcendent, is merciful to those who do his will, a master to be obeyed. Sura 66:12 = conditional love.	2) Personal , <i>Yahweh</i> , Kurios, <i>Abba</i> Relational & Sacrificial, Just & Righteous (Ps.77:13; 99:9; Hab.1:13), loves unconditionally, even His enemies
3) Trinity:	3) Tawhid , Allah is only one dimensional (Monad).	3) Plural Godhead (Gen.1:1, 26; 3:22; 11:7; Deut.6:4; Jn.8:58) explained by "God is Love"
4) Humanity	4) Master/Slave relation to Allah = <i>Taqwa</i> = fear of Allah, Muslim = one who obeys, born as Muslim, no choice. Apostasy = death (Suras 4:89; 9:74)	4) Father/Child , Made in God's Image (Gen. 1:27), as God's children, not born Christian, Freedom to choose.
5) Sin	5) No relationship , Adam's disobedience, was forgiven & banished to earth - Why? No relationship existed with Allah, so none lost. Sin = breaking Allah's law - no corruption, just weakness to Satan's seduction. Yet, 'imputed sin' & 'original sin' is found in Sura 7:24...but why?!	5) Lost relationship , Adam was sinless (perfect) = in relationship with God. He sinned -> (imperfect) knew right & wrong, broke trust, hid, evicted from Eden, lost relationship with God (Men & nature), God = pure & holy (Ps.77:13; 99:9) & no sin in His presence (Hab.1:13), Sin separates us (Is.59:1-2)
6) Atonement	6) The Just mustn't pay for the Unjust , Consequence of Sin = punishment alone, Shedding of blood doesn't bring forgiveness. Innocent cannot take place of the guilty = unjust (S.6:164; 53:38). Allah must not die, shows inadequacy of Allah. Why then Eid sacrifices?	6) Fulfilled by Christ , Consequences of sin = death, (Eze.18:20; Rom.6:23). Thus need Atonement (Lev.4:21, 26, 35). 79 times in OT, 1 in NT. Sin separates & atonement redeems. Atonement needs blood (Lev.17:11; Heb.9:22) Demanded by Abraham (Gen.22), fulfilled on cross (Heb.9:12,14,26-27; 10:10)
7) Incarnation:	7) No Pollution , Chasm between Allah/man, Jesus Christ -> God = <i>Shirk</i> (S.4:48, 5:75-76; 41:6) (S.27:8-9?) Confusion with Allah coming to earth in Sura 20:12-14, and the 'Ruh' on earth Sura 50:16	7) Emmanuel , Made in his image, so came as man (Gen.1:27) Best communication = <i>Emmanuel</i> = God with us; <i>Theophanies</i> (Phil.2:7-8) Jesus Christ came to eradicate sin & repair the lost relationship.
8) Revelation:	8) Qur'an = <i>Nazil</i> (perfect) = sent down, via <i>rasul</i> = prophets (the sent ones), inimitable (S.2:23, 10:37-38, 17:88); Bible is corrupted, many versions.	8) Progressive & authoritative -General Revelation = nature -Special Revelation = prophets -Personified Revelation = Jesus Christ -Ongoing Revelation = Holy Spirit (Heb.1:1-2; Jn.14:16-26; 16:7-15)
9) Predestination:	9) Insh'allah (S.9:51; 16:93-95), no personal choice, destiny (<i>Kismet</i>)	9) Foreknowledge (God woos, we respond), salvation = personal choice
10) Theocracy:	10) Khilafa , controlled by Caliph, <i>Ulema</i> , <i>Shari'ah</i> , <i>Jihad</i> = <i>Dar-al-Islam</i> ; state's role to do <i>Da'wah</i> , apostasy = treason.	10) Sojourners , Kingdom of God in our hearts, controlled by Holy Spirit, Church/state separation, Christian culture secondary, mission to convict humanity (Matt.28:19-20)
11) Spirit World:	11) Dualistic : Folk Islam, <i>Jinns</i>	11) Exists , controlled by the Holy Spirit
12) Prayer:	12) Verbatim & memorized , one-way communication. No response from Allah.	12) Communication with God , two-way, praise, request, and God responds!
13) Paradise:	13) Carnal Delights = Garden, river of wine, 'houris' (S.55:56; 56:35-36), Allah is absent.	13) God centred garden, Eden revisited, relationship with God realized eternally.