

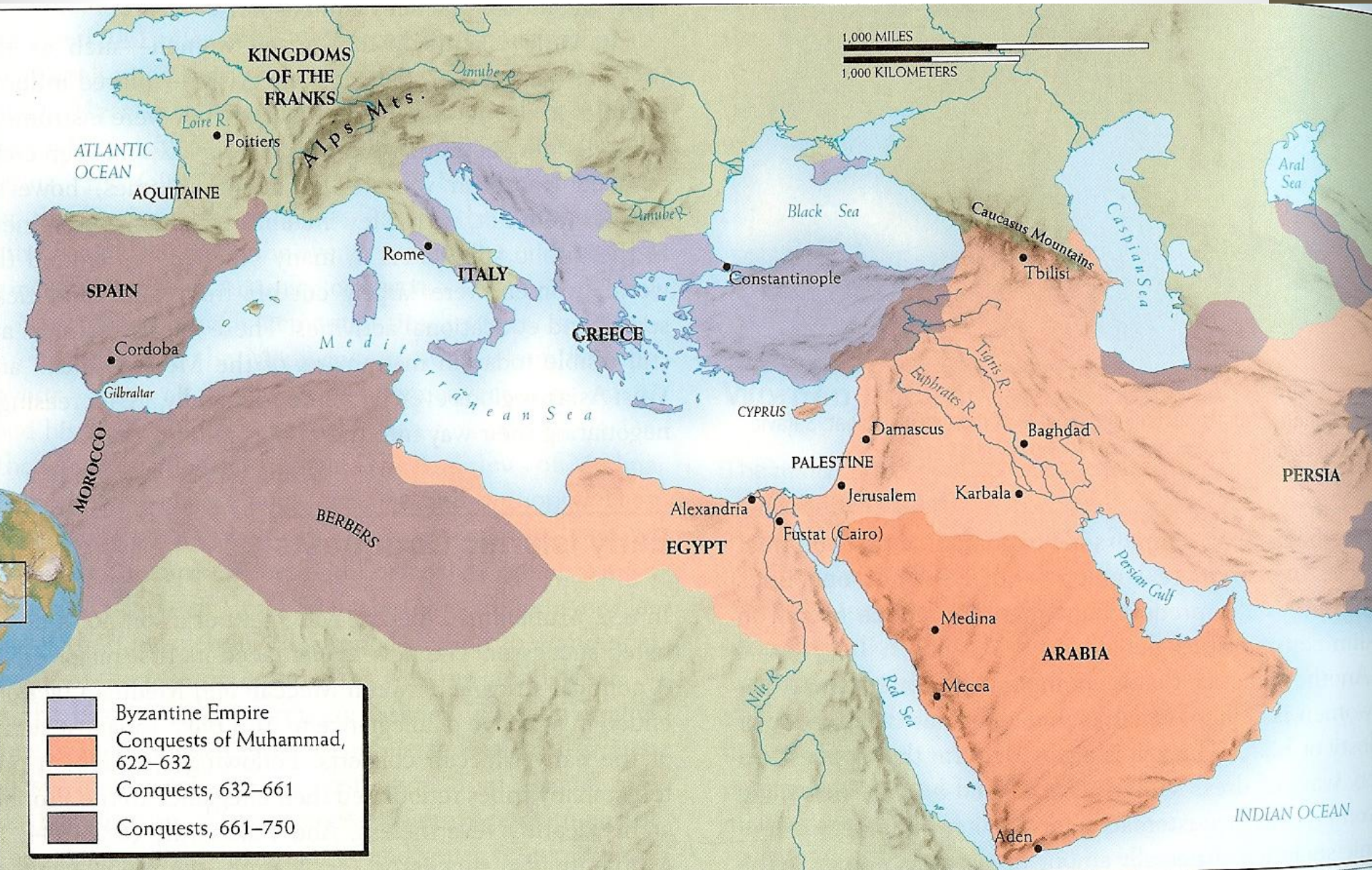
# Islam

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# Learning Objectives

- The relationship between Judaism, Christianity and Islam
- Life of the Prophet Muhammad
- The major tenets of Islam
  - Origins of the Qur'an
  - Five Pillars of Islam
- Women in Islam



# Pre-Islamic Arab Religion

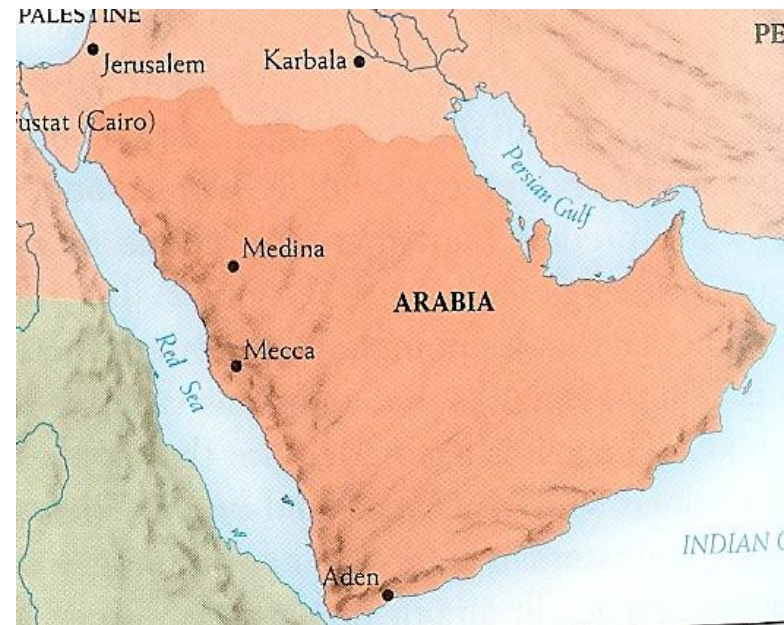
- Islam began among the Arabian desert people in the seventh century CE
- Most of these Arabs were animists
- Some were Jews or Christians or were influenced by Jews or Christians
- Several of the desert tribes were Jewish

# Native Religion of Arab People

- Recognized one Supreme High God – Allah
- Local and tribal gods revered the most
  - Images were cherished
  - Blood sacrifices
- Lesser divine creatures
  - Angels and fairies
  - Demonic creatures
- Animism – gods and spirits found in stones, trees, wells, and animals

# Mecca

- Holy site - animistic associations
  - Meteoric stone had fallen there - enclosed by the Ka'ba
  - Ka'ba gradually filled with images, relics and paintings
- Site of Pilgrimage
- Constant struggles for control



# Life of Muhammad

(c. 570 – 632 CE)

- Raised as an orphan in a commercial family
  - Tribe of Quraysh – controlled the Ka'ba in Mecca
  - No education – illiterate
- Opportunity to work and travel with caravans
- Married Khadija the owner of a caravan
- Had the means and time to contemplate God

# Muhammad

- Troubled by the idolatry, worldliness, and lack of social conscience
- Became concerned about the future of his people
- At age 40 felt himself called by God to “rise and warn” his fellow Arabs
- Revelation came through the angel Gabriel

# Influences on Muhammad

- Likely had contact with: Christians, Jews & possibly Zoroastrians
- Each religion had things in common
  - All believed in one God
  - All had a Scripture believed to be the word of God
  - Eschatology – world will end and the righteous rewarded/evil tormented in hell
- “Foreknowledge” - the prophets Abraham, Moses and Jesus – enabled Muhammad to understand and interpret his revelation

# Islam's Ties with Judaism and Christianity

- Muhammad – last in a long line of prophets (the Seal)
  - Considered himself a prophet
  - Not divine; died like any other person
  - Mission much like the classical Hebrew Prophets
- Qur'an - references /stories of Biblical figures
  - Old Testament – Abraham and Moses
  - New Testament – Mary, mother of Jesus
- Muhammad given the final iteration of God's message

# Transmission of the Final Message

## Qur'an "reciting"

- First Revelation – month of Ramadan in a cave on Mt. Hira in a vision of the angel Gabriel crying "Recite!"

*"Recite: In the Name of thy Lord who created,  
created Man of a blood clot.*

*Recite: And thy Lord is the Most Generous,  
Who taught by the Pen,  
Taught Man that [which] he knew not" (Sura 96)*

# Qur'an Revealed to Muhammad

- Received revelations at frequent intervals
  - “Reciting” of God’s Word in “clear Arabic” for Arabs
  - Sometimes came as visions in his sleep
- Muhammad memorized the “recitations” and taught them to his companions

# Qur'an

- A recitation of an eternal Scripture, written in heaven and revealed to Muhammad
- Word of God: eternal, absolute, and irrevocable
- Muhammad acted only as a “stenographer” or “loudspeaker” for God
  - Zayd, Muhammad’s secretary, wrote them down
  - Collected after Muhammad’s death
- 114 chapter (*surahs*) of 6,000 verses (*ayas*)

# Qur'an's Message

- There is only one God called Allah by Arabs
- Prophet is to warn his people against the worship of false gods and all immorality
- Judgment Day – bodily resurrected to face judgment
- Way to paradise lies in gratitude to God
  - Social justice and obedient worship of the one Lord
  - Proper response is “submission” (*islam*) and becoming *Muslim* (“submissive” or “surrendering”)

# Nature of God

- Allah is revealed as the one God – Sovereign over the entire universe

“There is not God but Allah; Muhammad is his prophet

# One God, Complete, Eternal, and Undivided

*“Blessed be He who has sent down the Salvation upon His servant, that he may be a warner to all beings; to whom belongs the Kingdom of the heavens and the earth; and He has not taken to Him a son, and He has no associate in the Kingdom. Say: He is God, One, God, the Everlasting Refuge who has not begotten, and has not been begotten and equal to him is not anyone”*

(Qur’an 112)

# Day of Judgment

- Allah at the conclusion of time will judge humanity
- When a person dies, the body returns to the earth and the soul goes into a state of sleep
- On the day of judgment the angel of Allah will sound his trumpet, the earth will split and the bodies will rejoin their souls
- Allah keeps a record of our lives in a book

# Islamic Worldview

- Monotheistic – Allah (God)
- Muhammad - the ultimate and final prophet of Allah
- Qur'an – the Word of Allah delivered through Muhammad
- A Muslim is “one who submits”

# Muhammad's Ministry

- Islam – not a religion of the desert – began in a commercial urban center
- First converts his wife and family members
- Most followers – the young and poorer classes of Mecca
- Merchant class and aristocracy resisted
  - Pilgrimage to Mecca idol shrine – very lucrative
  - Meccans began to persecute Muhammad's followers

# Muhammad's Ministry

- Muhammad traveled to Yathrib (Medina) to arbitrate tribal disputes became ruler of the city
- Created a distinctive Islamic community called the *umma*
  - In Medina, the Muslims were established as a clan among other clans
  - His teaching not widely accepted
  - Medina Charter granted political authority to Muhammad – but gave freedom of religious beliefs

# Muhammad's Rise in Arabia

- Raided Meccan caravans
- Medina Arab Jews rejected his message – Muhammad killed or enslaved some of them
- 627 Meccans attacked Medina – failed
- 630 Muhammad conquered Mecca – destroyed the idols in the Ka'ba (black stone spared)
- 632 Muhammad died without naming a successor – Abu-Bakr became *caliph* (successor)
- Mecca surrendered – accepted into the *Umma*

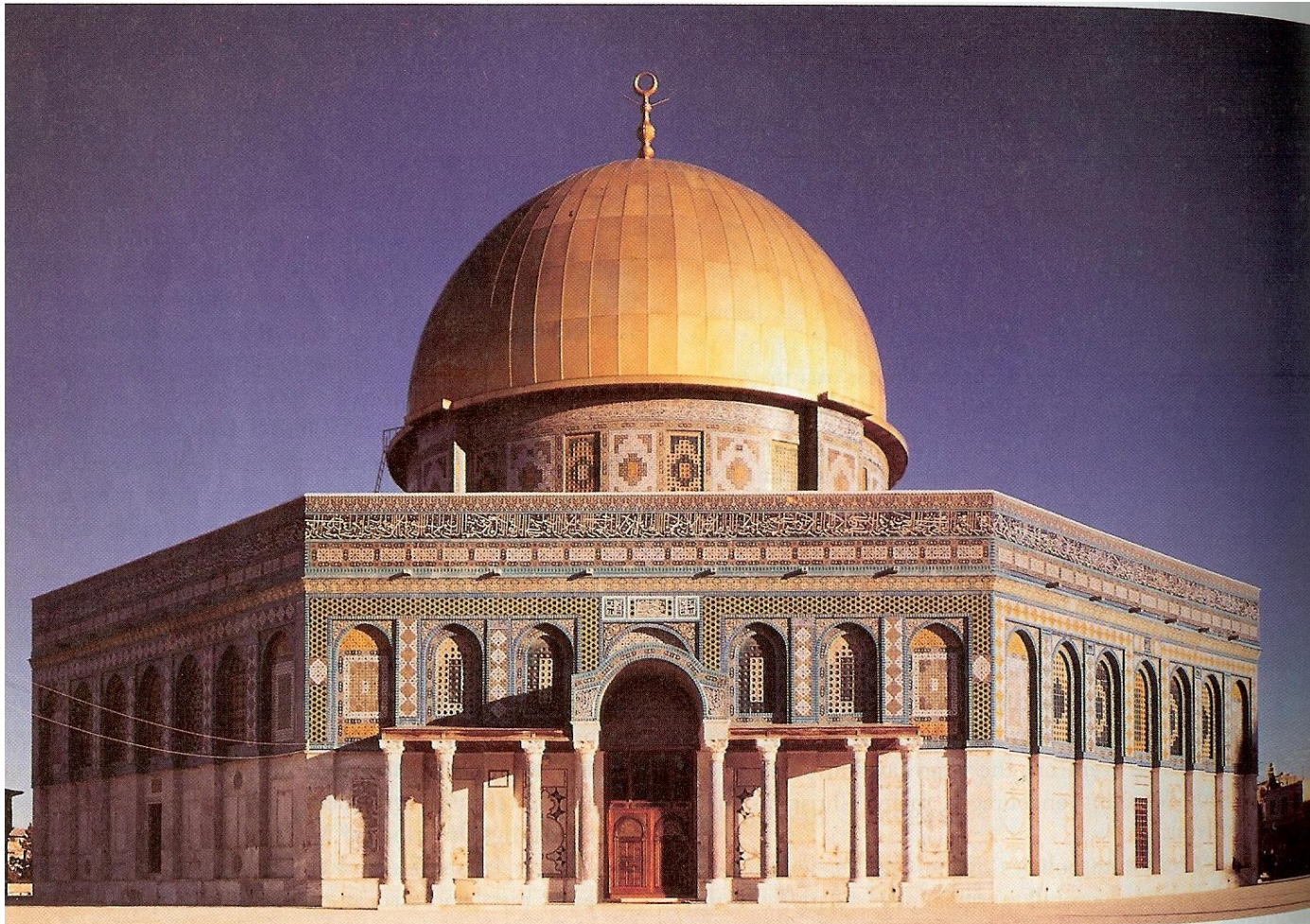
# Tolerance

- Communities that yielded were allowed to”
  - Keep its lands
  - Practice its faith
  - Receive protection
  - Had to pay a head tax
- Including Jews and Christians and other “People of Scripture” who accepted Islamic rule

# Pillars of Islam

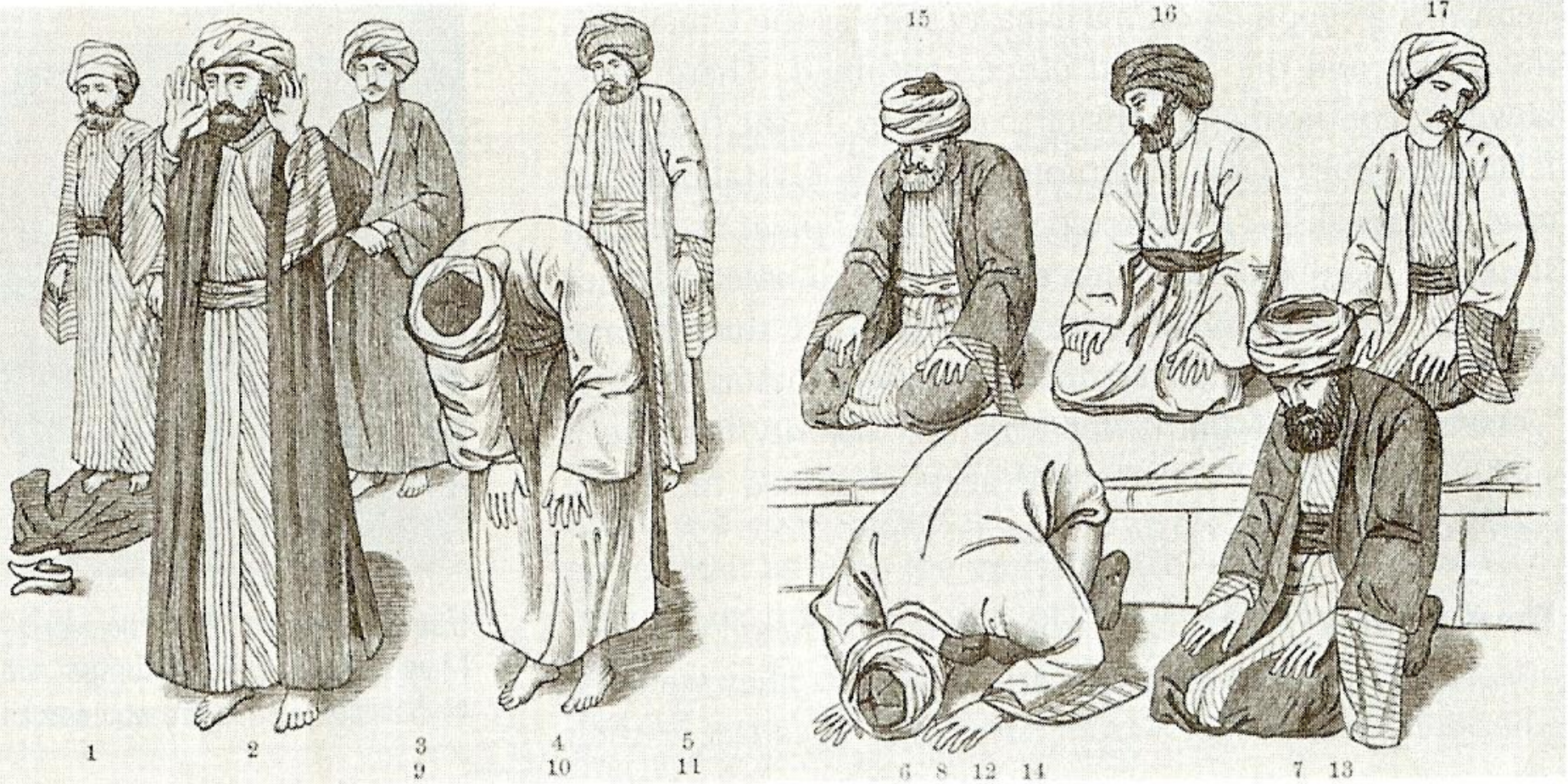
- ***Shahada*** – Muslim Creed “there is no God but God and Muhammad is God’s prophet”
- ***Salat*** – prayer – The Muslim is expected to pray five times daily.
- ***Sawm*** – fasting during Ramadan. Remembrance of the month when the Prophet first received his **revelation**.
- ***Zakat*** - Alms. Muslims are expected to share their possessions with the poor, widows, and orphans.
- ***Hajj*** – the pilgrimage – Every Muslim who can afford the trip should make the pilgrimage to Mecca once in his or her lifetime.

# Dome of the Rock Jerusalem



... It is built

# Prayer Positions



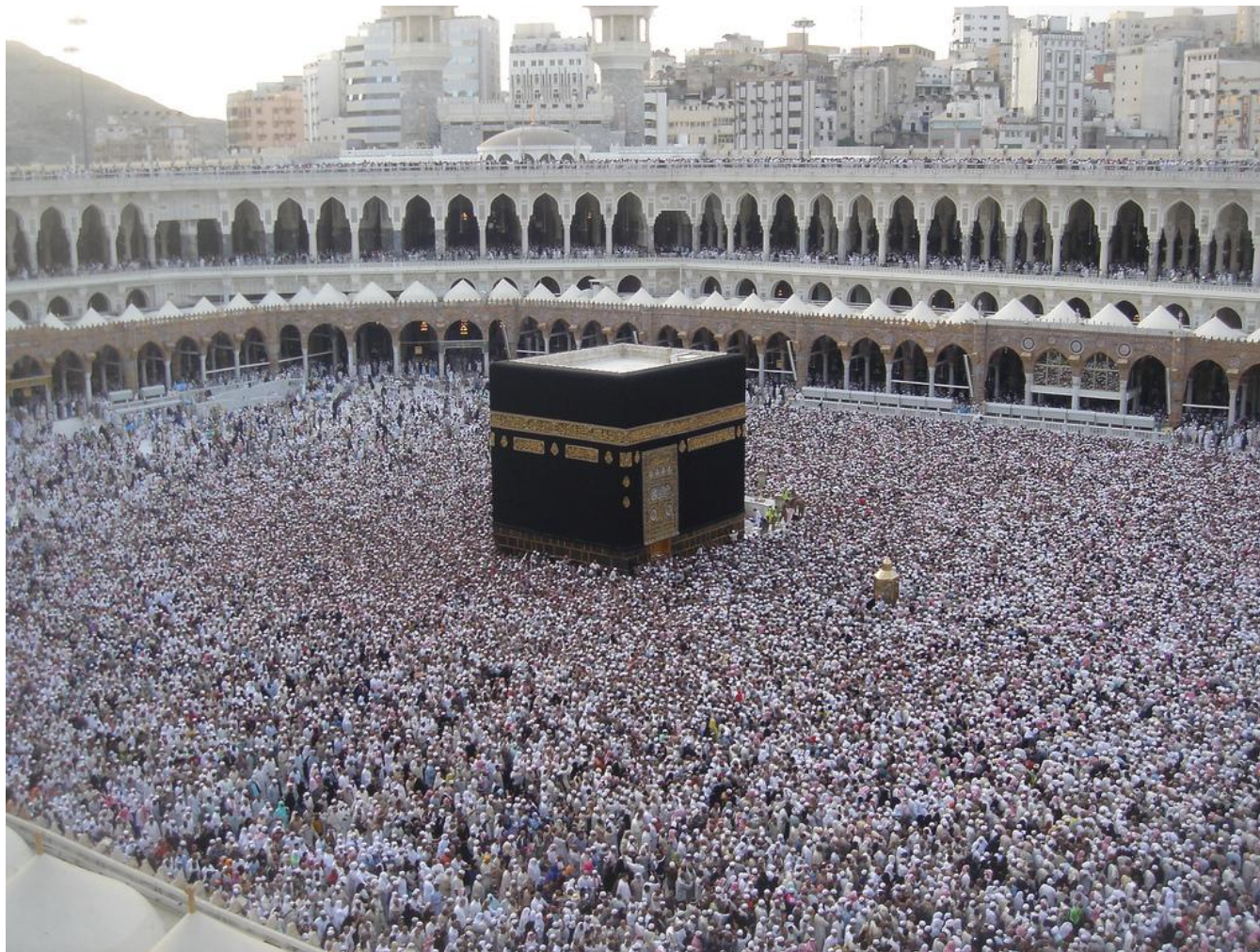
# Hajj

- ▣ Should be taken in the month of Dhu al-Hijah.
- Must walk into the city of Mecca.
- Must be clad in simple pilgrims' garments – so rich and poor cannot be distinguished
- Visit the Zamzam well, believed to have been established by Hagar and Ishmael

# Hajj

- Seven trips around the Ka'ba and kiss the sacred black stone
- Offer a sacrifice of a sheep or goat on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the hajj to commemorate Abraham's willingness to sacrifice even his own son to obey God's command.
- May visit Medina to pay respect to the grave of the Prophet Muhammad and to visit his mosque
- Pilgrims who complete the trip may have the title haji attached to their names

# Ka'ab Mecca

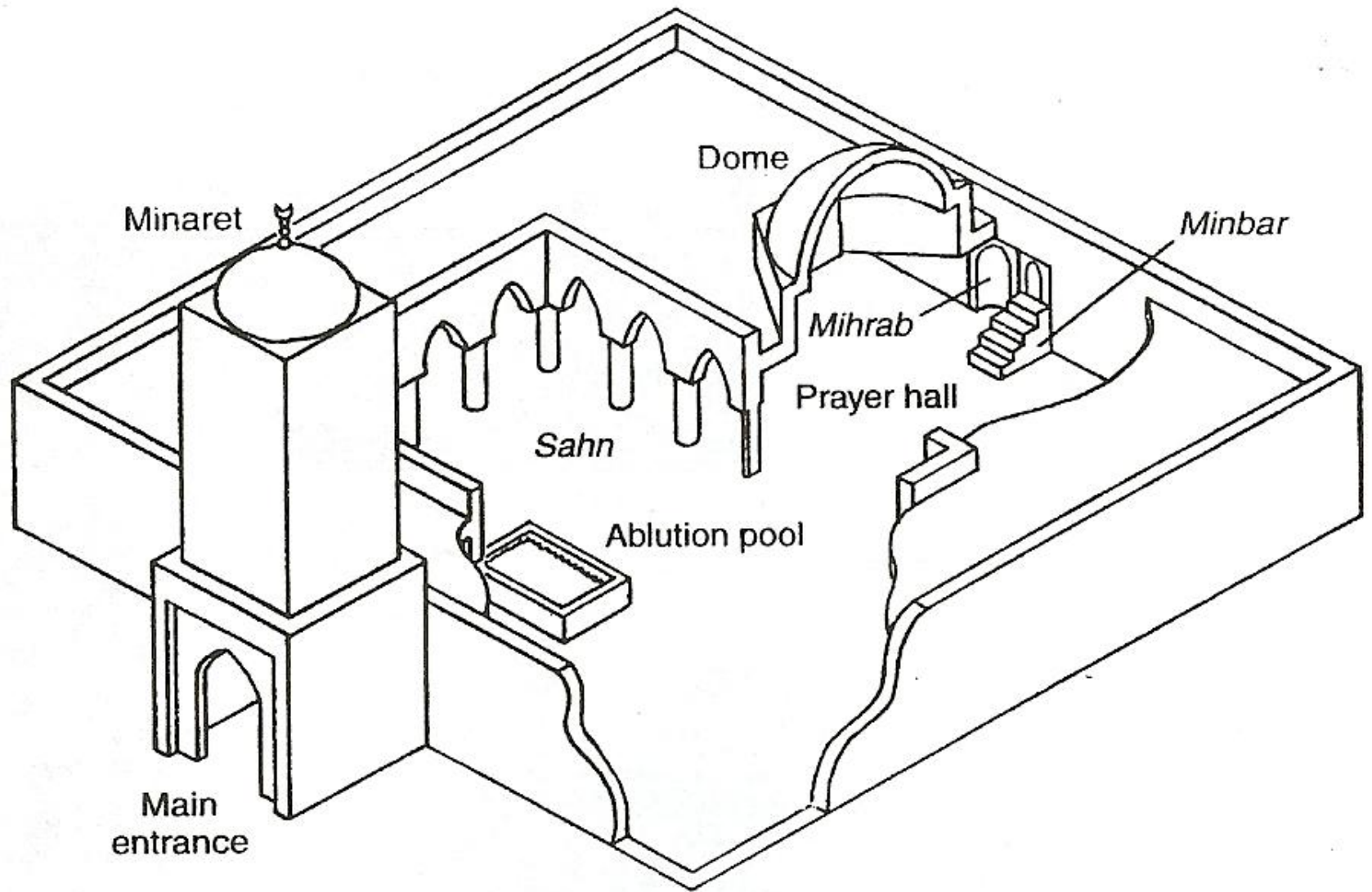


# Mosque

- Islam not a temple-oriented religion
- Originally nomadic people – needed to be free to worship Allah everyday, anywhere
- Friday is the special day of Muslim worship
  - Not a day of rest
  - Only day of the week a Muslim must pray at a mosque with fellow Muslims
- Prayers led by an *Iman*

# Mosques

- Also served as schools and libraries
  - Mosques of Mecca and Medina were among the most important centers of Islamic learning.
- In time educational institutions known as *madrasha* developed alongside large urban mosques
  - Qur'an recitation and interpretation
  - *Hadith* scholarship, theology, law and in many cases mystical knowledge and practice



# Women In Islam

- Drastically improved the status of women.
  - Prohibited female infanticide
  - Woman's right to contract her own marriage and receive the dowry
  - Guaranteed the right to inherit, own, and manage property

# Women in Islam

- Qur'an does not assume the full gender equality
  - Law stipulates that the father or the senior male controls and guides the family unit.
  - Males receives a larger share in inheritance
- Qur'an did not outlaw customs that practically and symbolically prevented women from full equality
  - Polygamy – a man is allowed four wives as long as he treats all of the equally and fairly
  - Monogamy is the predominant marital practice

# Veiling

- Qur'an does not specifically stipulate veiling.
  - Original intention of the veil was to protect women and their honor
  - Women now turning to the Qur'an to interpret these verses anew.
- Early in Islamic history, many women – such as the wives of Muhammad (Khadija and A'isha) played influential roles in the development of Islam.

# Summary

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