

Dear Friends of the Rosary Hour. Praised be Jesus Christ!

For some time now we have been hearing about Muslims and their religion. Having this in mind, we have chosen as our topic:

MOHAMMED AND HIS RELIGION

Prophet Mohammed

Islam is one of the most aggressive world religions. The holy war against giaurom, that is, against the infidels, is for them is a sacrament and a sacred duty. Whoever gives up their life for this cause is considered a martyr and goes straight to heaven. The head of the Muslim community is called by the military title, "emir".

The creator of Islam, Mohammed, thought of himself as a prophet, sent by God to the people of Arabia at the age of forty. He became public to the world at the age of 52. It was the year 622, the year at which the Muslim era began. Mohammed was born in Mecca, a great trading center, located at the crossroads between Africa, Asia and Europe, and was a great religious center, which attracted numerous pilgrims.

Mohammed, a member of an aristocratic Arabic class, proudly declared himself as coming from Ishmael, son of Abraham. According to the bible, Mohammed, orphaned early in his boyhood years, was a shepherd. Until his death, he remained illiterate. However, he expanded the horizons of his knowledge due to the commercial ventures on which his uncle took him. He acquainted himself with the religions of the Jews and Christians. He was impressed with their belief in one God. He did not accept, however, neither the one nor the other. Judaism seemed to him too tight, closed, and racial. Christianity was shattered by the schism and heresy. He decided therefore to create a new religion. Later, through marriage with a rich cousin, Mohammed became a member of the richest class in Mecca.

Islam as an a mosaic of religions

Mecca, long before Mohammed came on the world scene, was a center of pagan worship. Arabs had seen a higher power in the trees, springs, and especially in stones. The greatest reverence was paid to the Black Stone in Mecca, the type of fetish. The rectangular building erected for its protection is called the Kaaba to this day. Near the Kaaba is the sacred spring of "Zamzam" for ritual ablutions.

Mohammed did not like the fact that his compatriots worshiped idols. In Mecca, they had as many as 360, one idol for each day. Above them all towered Allah. He was considered the greatest authority. They said: "Allah akbar" - "Allah is greatest."

Mohammed adopted some of the beliefs of Judaism, Christianity and ancient pagan religion, as part of the Arab religious mosaic. In his religion, he did not adopt anything of his own, nothing new. However, he gave it a semblance of the supernatural. He relied on an alleged divine revelation he received in Hira, in a grotto which lies near Mecca. Muslims called it "the Grotto

of the Light." He argued that miracles are unnecessary. Christ performed them, and people still did not believe him, and even killed him.

According to Mohammed, God revealed his will to Adam, Noah, Moses, Christ Himself ... whom he considered the greatest prophet, which closes the whole revelation of God.

Muslim Religion

Muslim religion is very simple and easy to adopt. It has no dogma, no priesthood, and no official liturgy. Simple moral law is based on the general commandment: do good and avoid evil. It requires fasting, daily prayers, and the making of a pilgrimage to Mecca once in their life. It demands serenity, hospitality, courtesy and service of communing with our neighbor. It does not prohibit much among other things - drinking alcoholic beverages. Islam accepts polygamy, but has a deep respect for family life.

The main pillar of the Muslim religion is the belief in one God. There is only one God - Allah. There is one Prophet - Mohammed. There is only one holy book - the Koran, and there is only one community blessed by God - the Muslim community. Add to this a very simple, quiet, uncomplicated way of life without secrets. "Koran", the holy book containing the teachings of Muhammad means "recitation, declamation." Every faithful, by the loud and constant repetition may learn it almost by heart. Since Mohammed was not a thinker and alien to him were all scientific inquiry, the Koran is vague. Reading it requires generally unpleasant and monotonous labor.

Mohammed demanded blind faith of the faithful, to submit to the will of God without reservation. The word "Islam" means the total "submission to the will of God." Devotees of Allah do not like it when they are called Mohammedans. They prefer "muslim", the Muslims, "which means" true believers ".

Jihad

Muhammad hoped that he could win over Jews and Christians, to his religion. He tried to persuade them that his own religion derives from theirs in original purity. His followers were ordered to turn toward Jerusalem in their own prayers, but when Jews and Christians did not let themselves be fooled, he saw that he must rely on the Arabs.

Mohammed wanted to unite the broken Arab tribes by using a new religion and a strong state organization. He failed in his hometown of Mecca, so he fled to Medina, where he quickly succeeded through diplomatic abilities. In Medina he built the first mosque. At the same time he sent out its missionaries to the Arab tribes, scattered throughout the area of Medina. If a tribe had proved to be deaf to their cries, the spokesman expressed his "holy war". He went to the territory and gave them a choice: accept a new faith or perish by the sword. When he finally felt strong enough, he moved headed a strong army in Mecca, and with it he smashed all the idols and in their place introduced Islam.

Then, Islam took hold of the idea of a holy war. Not one hundred years have passed since the creation of Mohammedanism, when victorious in their efforts, they have invaded Persia, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, all of northern Africa, destroying about 40 Christian centers, which have not regained ground. In turn, they stormed into Spain and France until Charles Martel just put an end of their conquests in the Battle of Poitiers (732 onwards). Nearly a thousand years later they began to invade Europe from the east, but were put to a stop John III Sobieski at Vienna (1683), inflicting a crushing defeat of the Muslim Turks.

A comparison of Mohammedanism with Christianity

Unfortunately, when it comes to Mohammed, he was presenting a distorted idea of Christianity. He drew his information about it from the heretical Nestorians and Jacobites. He did not understand the most essential doctrine of redemption of the world. Christ was just a prophet. In addition, Mohammed misinterpreted the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. He was convinced that Christians worship three gods. If he looked at Christianity with an educated eye, and if he knew how to read and took the actual Gospel to his hand, he would not have made the mistake. He would see the divine relationship of the Son to the Father. Hence in his belief in one God, Mohammed is raw, icy cold and stiff. There is no room on the belief that "God is love."

No wonder that Mohammed felt called upon to remedy the evil allegedly committed by Judaism and Christianity and to restore the original purity of their religion.

Mohammed did not appoint his successor. Apparently he did not expect to die so soon. In the year 623, he went to Mecca, presiding over the pilgrimage, and three months later he died in Medina of peritonitis, or as others maintain, as a result of poisoning. Successors of Mohammed wielded both religious and political power, and they called the Caliphs. Depending on the dynasty, which descended, the capitals of the caliphs were successively Medina in Arabia, Damascus in Syria, Iraq, Baghdad and Istanbul in Turkey. The Muslim Empire in the seventh century ranged from India to Spain.

In 1683 the Polish King Jan II Sobieski broke the military power of the Muslim once and for all, and in 1924 the Turkish Kemal Pasha (Ataturk) by the revolution, overthrew the Caliphate in Istanbul and they separated secular from spiritual authority. Since then, Islam has lost its religious and political boss, who combined the entire Muslim world. The wealth derived from oil gave the Muslim rulers of small states the importance and power. So many of them had broken dreams of unification of the Muslim world and perhaps in silence to restore the caliphate. But it could be done only by a call for all Muslims to "holy war". Since then, everywhere governments seek to make these two domains of life - religion and politics, separate. Islam, however, does not easily give up their ambitions. Therefore, they will for a long time be a source of anxiety for the whole world.