

GLOBAL CHALLENGE TO THE GOSPEL

TWO KINDS OF CHRISTIANITY

- Cultural Christianity (In our context an American Christianity)
- Biblical Christianity

Areas of attack

1. The Bible
2. The identity of God
3. The Lord Jesus
4. Salvation
5. Security of the Believer
6. Sin
7. Hell
8. The Church
9. Worship
10. Eschatology (Prophecy)
11. Social Justice
12. False Teachers
13. Bible Translations
14. Chrislam
15. Prosperity Gospel

The Rise of False Prophets and teachers

How they effect Bible translations

2 PETER 2:1-3

“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.”

INTRODUCTION: 2 PETER 2:1-3

- Peter writes in the second and third chapters of his epistle about the unseen danger of false teachers who arise within the church.

- They are often unrecognized. Especially in their earliest forms, partly because they profess to share a “like precious faith.”
- Yet, they secretly introduce false teaching, which is destructive to themselves and to all who follow them.

Five signs to identify false teachers & prophets

1. Self promotion
2. Popularity
3. Disobedience
4. Signs and Wonders
5. Materialism

WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS (2 Pet. 2:1-3)

1. Peter strongly infers that we should regard anyone who claims to be a “prophet” as a false prophet.
2. Peter teaches us to expect false teachers to arise from within the church as well as from without.
3. The teaching of these false teachers is destructive to the church and to all who follow their teaching and practice.
4. False teachers bring reproach upon true saints and the church of our Lord Jesus Christ.
5. These false teachers are not always evident.
6. False teachers can be identified by their morals and their motives:
 - Lusts
 - Greed (vs.3)
 - Selfishness
 - Exploiting others (vs.3)
 - Sensual not spiritual (vs.2)
7. False teachers can be recognized by their methods.
 - The “way of truth” is maligned (vs. 2-3).
 - Their doctrines are heresies, which are “destructive,” (1:3).
 - They claim to teach the Word of God, but they actually twist and distort the Scriptures so their interpretations justify their lifestyle and their lusts.
8. These teachers go as far as to “deny the Master who bought them.”
9. Just how do they deny Him? Peter seems to imply they deny His authority & those in authority. (2 Peter 2:10-11; Jude 8)

10. They actively seek to undermine those in authority and to establish their own authority.

HOW DO FALSE TEACHER ARISE?

1. They distort the emphasis of Scripture.
2. False teachers can deny the Lord Jesus by narrowing the field of affliction for which the cross of Christ provides the solution.

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

DEFINITION OF ISLAM

What is Islam?

- By definition, Islam is to SUBMIT to the entire system of the Islamic religion, its Tenets, and Laws.
- It does not mean PEACE.
- Islam derived from the word Istislam meaning (Submission or death).

Islamic Bible

Trilogy:

- The Qur'an
- Hadith
- Muhammad's Bio (Sira)

Sources:

- ALLAH 14%
- MUHAMMAD 86%
- RELIGIOUS 40%
- POLITICAL 60%

True definition of Islam:

IT IS A SOCIO-POLITICAL SYSTEM THAT USES A DEITY TO ADVANCE ITS AGENDA

WHAT IS THE SPIRIT OF ISLAM?

- There is no spirit of truth in Islam as there is in the Gospel. (John 14:7; 15:26; 16:13)
- According to the Shari' a, lying is allowed in four cases:
 - Holy war
 - When two enemies have reconciled
 - By a man to his wives
 - By a wife to her husband
- This SPIRIT of DECEPTION and CUNNING comes into play especially when dealing with non-Muslims.
- We must learn to scrutinize the statements of Muslims, otherwise we will constantly be deceived. (1 Cor. 13:7); (Matt. 10:16)
- Islam is a post-Christian religion; and out of necessity has become an anti-Christian religion. (John 2:21-23; 1 John 4:1-4)

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. **Hereby** know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that **confesseth** that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that **confesseth not** that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that **spirit of antichrist**, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” 1 John 4:1-4

IF THE SPIRIT OF ISLAM IS AN ANTI-CHRIST SPIRIT, THEN ALL ISLAMIC TEACHINGS ARE ALSO ANTI-CHRIST TEACHINGS

The sufficiency of the Bible

The Bible is Sufficient for:

- Salvation
- Sanctification
- Evangelism
- Discipleship

How do false teachers effect Bible translations?

- When the Word of God is not the Supreme Authority, an **alternative** gospel message arises, insufficient to redeem mankind like the true Gospel.
- When traditions of Men **Nullify** Scripture, Christ alone is no longer sufficient

MIT: Muslim Idiom Translation

The rationale behind MIT can be found in David Owen's article, "A Jesus Movement Within Islam," under the subtitle, "A New Approach to Bible Translation":

"It is a necessary requirement that **Islamic-styled** Bible translations be produced in order for a Jesus movement in an Islamic context to ever get off the ground...Bible translators will play a foundational role in the initial stages of a Haraka Isawiyya [i.e. Jesus Movement]. In carrying out their task they will also take a consolidating step in the work of **re-theologizing the Christian message** within their [i.e. Muslims'] particular context"

- Since 1987, some professing evangelicals began publishing Islamized "Scripture" which continues to this day.
- Islamic terms, including phrases from the Qur'an, are often used in place of key, biblical terms.
- This practice is part of C5 or Insider Movements for Muslims (C5/IM).
- C5/IM claims that a Muslim can retain a Muslim identity while having saving faith in Jesus Christ and result in a "Jesus Movement" within Islam.

How does MIT help Muslims?

- Muslims have claimed that Jews and Christians changed the Bible in order to reject Muhammad as the final prophet.
- MIT now gives Muslims "proof" that "Christians" have changed the Bible.

Distinguishing Features

MIT is normally characterized by any one or more of the following:

- Non-literal renderings for Father and Son terminology
- Words and phrases from the Qur'an
- Islamic theological terms
- The omission of certain passages

Representative (Mis) renderings

- Matthew 28:19: "the name of the Protector, his Representative and the Holy Spirit" (instead of "the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit")
- James 2:19: "there is no god but Allah" (instead of "God is one"). This is the first part of the shahada, or Islamic creed. There is no linguistic nor theological justification for this.
- Galatians 2:20: "caliph of God" (instead of "Son of God"). This makes Jesus a religious and political successor of Muhammad.
- Omissions: Luke 15; Rom 8:1-9, 12-33, 35-36, 38-39; Gal 4:1-7

How is Son of Man rendered?

- This phrase is usually not literally translated.
- This feature eliminates the divinely-inspired parallel between "Son of God" and "Son of Man."
- This parallel is an essential biblical witness that Jesus is both divine and human.
- Some representative verses to verify are: Matthew 12:8; Mark 14:62; Luke 22:48; John 3:13-14; Acts 7:56; Rev 1:13

False Doctrine

In Danger From False Brethren

In most of the occurrences in which 'Son of God' is used for Jesus, the usage is Messianic, meaning the focus is on Jesus' **role** as Lord and Savior.

(Rick Brown-Wycliffe)

(Brown: 93) Explaining the Biblical Term 'Son(s) of God' in Muslim Contexts, Part I (IJFM 22:3 Fall 2005) http://ijfm.org/PDFs_IJFM/22_3_PDFs/91-96Brown_SOG.pdf

"No cardinal doctrines are at stake, only traditions about wording, and the wordings are just temporary, a bridge to the Bible."

"Rick Brown"

Rev. Adam Simnowitz

Shows samples of Wycliff Bible Translators' Muslim friendly Bible

WYCLIFFE	NASB	LUKE
CHRIST	“SON OF THE MOST HIGH” AND “SON OF GOD”	1:32-35
MESSIAH OF THE MOST HIGH GOD	SON OF GOD	4:3- 9
THE BELOVED MESSIAH	MY SON	9:35

WYCLIFFE	NASB	LUKE
GOD	YOUR FATHER; THE FATHER	6:36; 9:26
LORD OF THE WORLD	YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER	11:2
GOD THE PRAISED	MY FATHER	22:29
OH LORD	FATHER	22:42 23:34-46
GOD	MY FATHER	24:49

WYCLIFFE	NASB	MATTHEW
<p>And baptize them with water in the name of <u>God</u> and His <u>Messiah</u> and the Holy Spirit</p>	<p>baptizing them in the name of the <u>Father</u> and the <u>Son</u> and the Holy Spirit</p>	<p>28:19</p>

Bible facts about "Father" and "Son"

- "Father" in reference to God occurs 260x in the Greek New Testament*
- "Father" in reference to God is the same word used of human fathers
- "Son" in reference to Jesus occurs 79x in the Greek New Testament*
- "Son of God" in reference to Jesus occurs 45x in the Greek New Testament*
- "Son" in reference to Jesus is the same word used of human sons
- "Father" and "Son" are not treated as metaphors but as an integral witness to God's eternal Triune nature of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt 28:19)
- "Father" is the source for all family. "Father" thus cannot be an analogy (i.e. metaphor) with human fathers (Eph 3:14-15).
- "Son" / "Son of God" is called God (Isa 7:14; 9:6; Heb 1:8; 1 John 5:20), described as the Creator (Pr 30:4; Col 1:13, 16; Heb 1:2), and is stated to be eternal (Isa 9:6; Mic 5:2; Col 1:13, 17; Heb 7:3). "Son" / "Son of God" thus cannot be an analogy (i.e. metaphor) with human sons.
- "Father" and "Son" have enjoyed shared glory and love from eternity as "Father" and "Son" (John 17:5, 24)
- "Father" and "Son" is the basis for believers in Jesus becoming children or sons of God (e.g. John 1:12; Rom 8:14-19, 29; Gal 4:4-7; Eph 1:3-5; 1 John 3:1-2)

“Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.” 1 Tim. 4:16

Final Thoughts:

- Muslims ought not to be deprived of the Gospel in the name of Bible translation!
- Christians should not be defrauded of their time and money by praying and funding something of which they would not approve!
- Christians should not be unwittingly distributing "Bible translations" that are anti-biblical!
- God should not be so impugned through the perversion of His Word! Proverbs 30:4-6; Jeremiah 8:8-9; 2 Corinthians 4:1-2; Revelation 22:18-19

For more information about this subject you can visit:
www.biblicalmissiology.org

THE BIBLE IS SUFFICIENT FOR EVANGELISM

Apostasy in the Church

CHRISLAM in American churches.

- Bible and Qur'an in the pews
- Imams invited to read the Qur'an and call for the Islamic prayer.
- Emergent churches fasted the month of Ramadan.

Contextualization

Unbiblical Methods:

- CAMEL
- JESUS IN THE QUR'AN SEMINAR (JIQ)
- INSIDER MOVEMENT (Common Ground Conference)

Unbiblical Methods

Their reasoning:

- Yahweh = Allah
- Biblical Jesus = Islamic Jesus (Isa)
- There is truths in the Qur'an; thus we can share the gospel from it
- Muhammad is a true prophet

Their Practices

- Missionaries call themselves Muslims
- Pray in the Mosque
- An Insider performs Salat (Prayer) in the Mosque, recites the Shahada (Islamic Confession of Faith).
- Fast the Month of Ramadan
- Telling Converts to call themselves Muslims followers of Isa (Islamic Jesus). Converts pray with Qur'an verses
- New converts remain in Mosque with no plan for withdrawal.
- The Insider can go to Hajj and participate in festivals and sacrifices.
- Christians can convert to Islam to join the Mosque.
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Insider Movements

- One must ask, what happens when modern western philosophy, theology, social sciences, and linguistics converge in inherently syncretistic religious environments?
- IM is a by-product of the Emergent church, seeker sensitive, liberal seminaries, and political correctness in the church.
- Common Insider Beliefs

Common Insider Beliefs

- Mosque practice and Muslim celebrations are helpful and encouraged.
- Muhammad is a prophet of some kind, and in some cases he is equated to the Old Testament prophets.
- There are four sacred books; most think Qur'an is the greatest.
- Visible church is not necessary; it will bring attention and persecution, and it is a western thing.
- Son of God is equal to Isa al-Masih. **(It is my conviction this by itself is blasphemy.)**

- The Insider is considered to be a kind of fulfilled Muslim, not a kind of Christian; this is being equated with fulfilled Jews when they accept the Messiah.
- Insiders sometimes call themselves as messianic Muslims, similar to the messianic Jews.
- Does it describe a type of Muslim, a type of non-Muslim, or something else?
- Is culture neutral and can it be separated from religion?
- Forced isolation of insider community from observation and accountability
- Questionable math, lack of visible communities, significant attrition
- Prejudiced, selective, and inaccurate use of Scripture
- Continuing financial assistance for leaders
- Controversial translation work

Insider Issues

- Affirmation of Muhammad
- Terminology- Insider/outsider
- No role for the historical/traditional church
- No connections to the visible church
- Primacy of anthropology/sociology over theology
- Ethics issues concerned with deception
- Mosque influence: Salt & light?
- Confused identity
- A disregard for the plain reading and interpretation of the Bible, esp. the Gospels
- Dependence on extra-Biblical writings (i.e. non-inspired)
- Use of flawed premises and incorrect assertions about Scripture
- Accommodation to Muslim sentiment

Action points:

- When the essentials of faith are in question, we need to take time and respond.
- Our silence and inaction are part of several reasons as to why we are even having this discussion.
- Write letters to these and other organizations, including the missions boards of evangelical denominations

God is jealous!

Exodus 20:5; Deuteronomy 5:9; Exodus 34:14; Song of Solomon 8:6;
James 4:4-5

Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear
thy name. Ps. 86:11

- **Biblical Missiology**

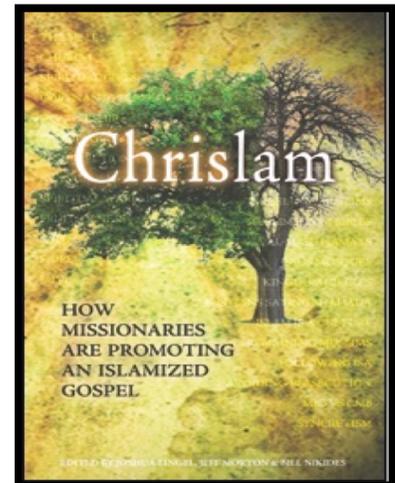
Biblical Missiology exists to promote Biblical Methods of Missions and to counter and expose unbiblical ones.

- It exists to educate the church to this danger and teach sound biblical theology and missiology.
- Holds agencies accountable by dialog, meetings, articles, website, and online petitions.

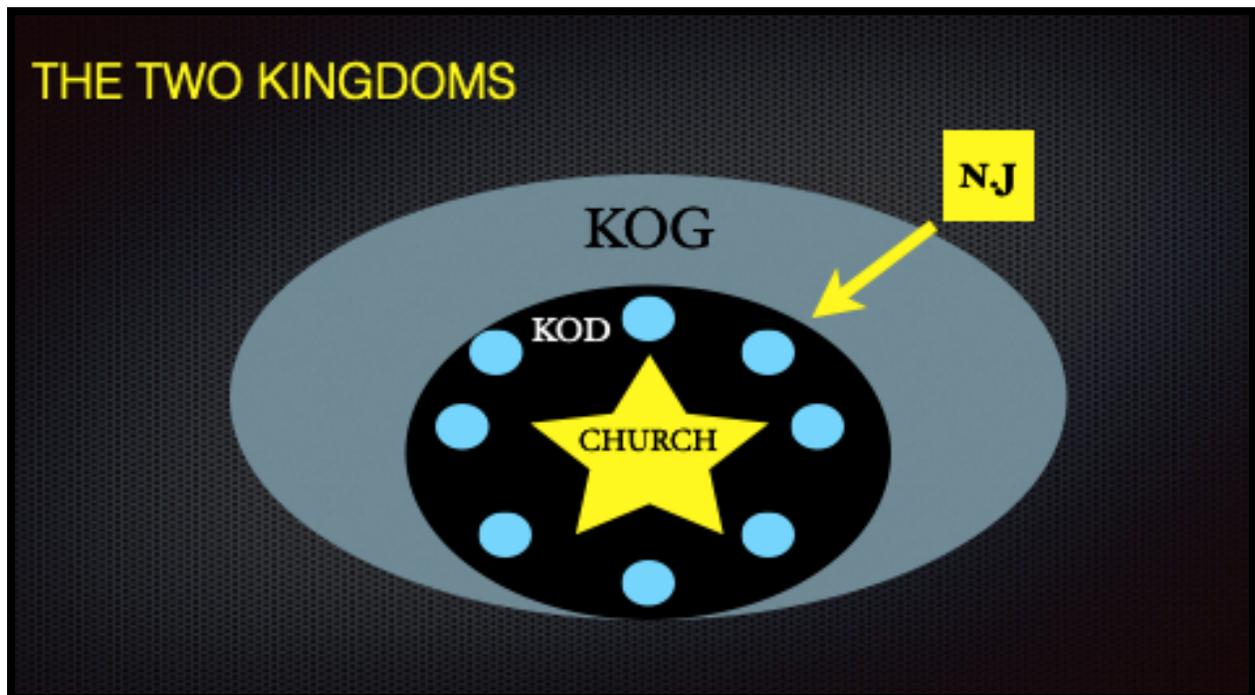
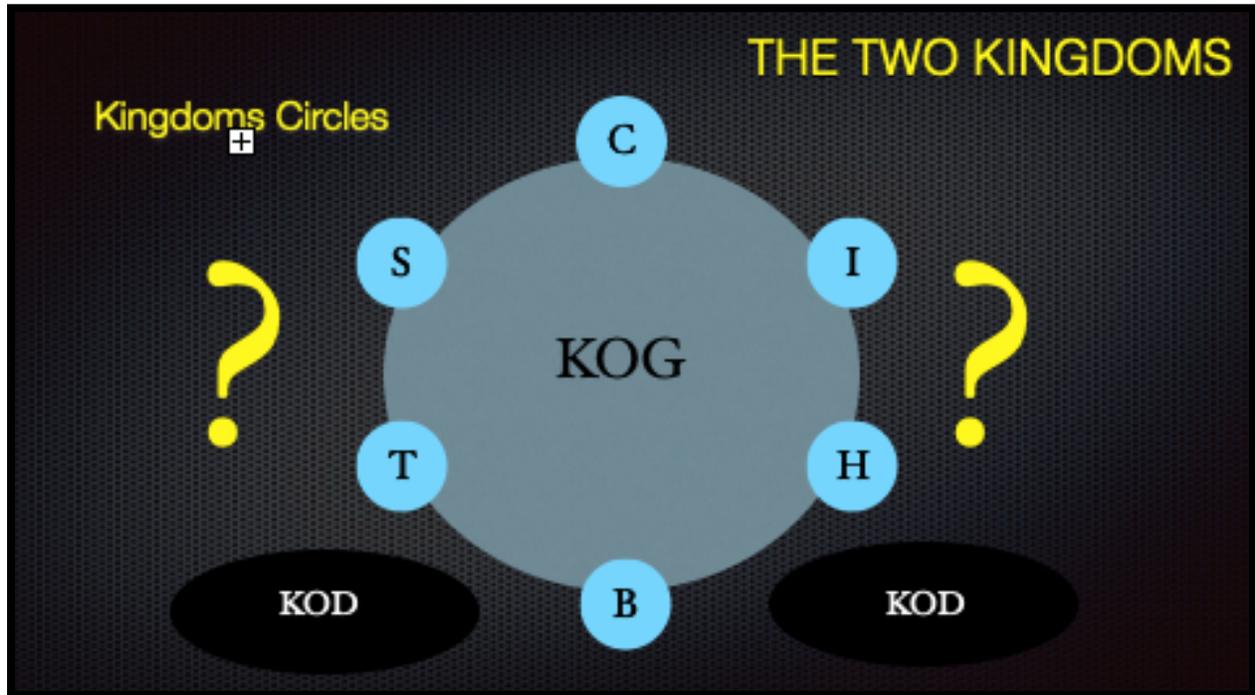
www.biblicalmissiology.org

Chrislam: How Missionaries Are Promoting Islamized Gospel.

www.i2ministries.org



THE TWO KINGDOM DOCTRINES



Galatians 1:6-9

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Muslims and non-believers ought not to be deprived of the Gospel in the name of Bible translation!
- Christians should not be defrauded of their time and money by praying and funding something of which they would not approve!
- Christians should not be unwittingly distributing "Bible translations" that are anti-biblical!
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Proverbs 30:4-6; Jeremiah 8:8-9; 2 Corinthians 4:1-2; Revelation 22:18-19

THANK YOU