

Book Review: **Islam and the Bible: Why Two Faiths Collide**

Reviewed by John Haines

ISLAM AND THE BIBLE: Why Two Faiths Collide, David Goldmann, Moody Publishers, 2004, 174 pages.

Another book on Islam? one might say. How can we wade our way through to find material that is specific to our individual needs?

I would still like to heartily recommend *Islam and the Bible: Why Two Faiths Collide* by David Goldmann. First, the book is endorsed by Erwin Lutzer, pastor of Moody Church, and Warren Wiersbe. It is also published by Moody Press. This should assure it easy access to the person in the pew. (It is available from Wal-Mart for the lowest price, the author told me, and I discovered this to be true.)

Goldmann is a man with a long and varied experience of Muslim peoples. In fact, Dave was a friend and mentor to me when I was a young missionary learning French and Arabic in Casablanca in the mid-sixties. More importantly, I have seen how God has used him to befriend and encourage Moroccan believers and other MBBs. He has become close to Muslims, some in high places, through the gift of friendship the Lord has given him.

Islam and the Bible is very useful in that it lives up to its name. The author delves into both the Qur'an and the Hadith, and sets in parallel columns salient points such as unity and trinity,

and the Person of Jesus Christ. Even those well acquainted with the subject will find this useful, and a newcomer can discover more easily the thought of that Muslim the Lord brings across his or her path. Laid out side by side, we see clearly the poverty of Islam in relation to the revelation of the Word of God.

We find a summary of the task before us on page 35, with a quote from 'the Apostle to Islam', Samuel Zwemer:

Islam, instead of being a progressive and completed idea, goes to a lower level than the religion it claims to supplant. Muhammad teaches a God above us; Moses teaches a God above us and with us; Jesus Christ teaches God above us, God with us, and God in us. [Zwemer, *The Moslem Doctrine of God*, 76]

This helps us to not lose sight of the preciousness of our faith, amid the varying views of how to approach Muslims here and in their lands of origin.

Pages 60 to 71 discuss the subjects of prophets and holy books, the key issue in some parts of the Muslim world. I found his explanation of the thorny problem of abrogation in the Qur'an clear and helpful. When Muslim friends pressure us about our book, we can point out this serious issue to them, to say nothing of other issues, such as the compiling of the Qur'an under 'Othman.

The author deals with living out one's faith. In another chapter on reason in Islam, he widens our basic understanding of the issue: whether it is human reason or true revelation from a personal God.

His last chapter concerns the biblical basis for making disciples. Here he covers dos and don'ts and summarizes some poignant points to remember. Even those of us who have been working with Muslim peoples for years can come away challenged and refreshed. He shares some per-

sonal experiences from his years of ministry. My one regret is that he has not shared more. He and his wife also experienced reinsertion into Morocco as retirees for a time, with the blessing of the government.

I strongly recommend this book – not only to enlighten serious church members, but also to renew our own vision. It is relatively easy reading, with a clear and logical layout. At the same time, Goldmann displays deep compassion and clarity for the task before us.

