

# Islam Faith And History

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the theme of this volume was first presented as the lyman beecher lectures on preaching at the yale divinity school in 1945 some of the same lectures were given by arrangement under the warrack lectureship on preaching at the universities of glasgow and aberdeen in scotland in the winter of 1947 some of the chapters were used as the basis of lectures given under the olaf petri foundation of the university of uppsala in sweden i sought to develop various portions of a general theme in these various lectureships in this volume i have drawn these lectures into a more comprehensive study of the total problem of the relation of the christian faith to modern conceptions of history while the total work therefore bares little resemblance to the lectures it does contain consideration of the specific problems which were dealt with in the lectures i shall not seek to identify this material by chapters as i subjected the whole to reorganization two of these lectureships usually deal with the art of preaching though not a few of the actual lectures have been concerned with the preacher s message since i had no special competence in the art of homiletics i thought it wise to devote the lectures to a definition of the apologetic task of the christian pulpit in the unique spiritual climate of our day since several of

the beecher lecturers in the past half century sought to accommodate the christian message to the prevailing evolutionary optimism of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries i thought it might be particularly appropriate to consider the spiritual situation in a period in which this evolutionary optimism is in the process of decay this volume is written on the basis of the faith that the gospel of christ is true for men of every age and that jesus christ is the same yesterday today and forever it is nevertheless the task of the pulpit to relate the ageless gospel to the special problems of each age in doing so however there is always a temptation to capitulate to the characteristic prejudices of an age

beginning with the birth of jesus and tracing the religion established by his followers up to the present day the faith is a comprehensive exploration of the history of christianity judiciously covering all the signal moments without bogging down in minutia author brian moynahan s superbly written and generously illustrated book is of central importance to christians historians and anyone interested in a faith that shaped the modern world moynahan s research uses little known sources to tell a magnificent story encompassing everything from the early tremulous years after jesus death to the horrors of persecution by nero from the growth of monasteries to the bloody crusades from the building of the great cathedrals to the cataclysm of the reformation and the catholic counter reformation from the flight of pilgrims from europe in pursuit of religious freedom to the salem witch trials from the advent of a traveling pope to the rise of televangelists coming just in time for jubilee 2000 this ambitious book reveals and commemorates the significance of the christian faith

moynahan traces the extraordinary journey that christianity has made from its start as a small and vulnerable sect they were crucified or set on fire tacitus wrote of christians in nero s rome so that when darkness came they burned like torches in the night to the world s greatest congregation of almost two billion baptized souls the faith opens with the story of jesus himself the resurrection and the spreading of the gospels it shows how the young religion s growing power in the east the cradle of its early monks and philosophers was broken by the islamic conquests and how its energies were redirected westward into barbarian europe moynahan covers in lucid detail the intensity of the medieval faith with its titanic cathedrals its clashes between islam and christendom and its fracture into reformation catholic counter reformation and the religious dissent that drove settlers to seek religious freedom in the americas based on little known primary sources including early arabic writings and featuring more than one hundred photographs and illustrations this extraordinary history will be of interest to christians of all denominations to historians and to every reader who seeks a fuller understanding of a force that has shaped the modern world book jacket title summary field provided by blackwell north america inc all rights reserved

combining the scholarly with the personal this innovative introduction by an internationally renowned islamicist gives the reader an insight into the history traditions and beliefs of islam taking his own spiritual journey as starting point professor ayoub explores all aspects of islam from their an and islamic law to the epic poetry of the sufis from the spread of islam worldwide to reform movements in the us and europe

excerpt from faith and history a comparison of christian and modern views of history i should like to express my gratitude to dean luther a weigle and the faculty of

the yale divinity school for the invitation to this historic lectureship and to the faculty and the students of the school for their kindness to me during the course of the convocation at which the lectures were delivered i am also deeply indebted to many of my colleagues on the faculty of union theological seminary for helpful criticisms on various chapters of the book and especially to professor richard j kroner mr roger l shinn and professor john e smith of barnard college for a critical scrutiny of the entire manuscript my secretary mrs nola meade deserves special gratitude for painstaking work on the manuscript as does also mr langdon gilkey for preparing the index about the publisher forgotten books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books find more at [forgottenbooks.com](http://forgottenbooks.com) this book is a reproduction of an important historical work forgotten books uses state of the art technology to digitally reconstruct the work preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy in rare cases an imperfection in the original such as a blemish or missing page may be replicated in our edition we do however repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works

christian historians offer reflections on various historical events and figures in light of passages from scripture encouraging lay engagement with the past through the lens of religious devotion

these essays only two of which have appeared previously in english reflect troeltsch s vast knowledge and deep insight into modernity which led him to discern the radical implications of historicity for religion and theology his thought remains a resource a guide and a prod in an ongoing theological quest

ernest renan was one of the most renowned european intellectuals of the second half of the nineteenth century yet the impact of his most popular work *life of jesus* has been underestimated when not altogether ignored while commonplace now the idea that jesus was merely human was at one time a novelty with significant socio political cultural and religious implications a case study in the russian encounter with modernity orthodoxy modernity and authenticity the reception of ernest renan s *life of jesus in russia* demonstrates that renan s book has had long lasting and broad appeal in russia because it presents an alternative to a strictly materialist worldview on the one hand and an orthodox worldview on the other renan offered his readers the possibility to accept the tenets of modernity while still retaining both an admiration for the importance of religion in history and a sense of religious feeling or even belief in a higher religious ideal assessments of renan s alternative belief system whether positive negative or mixed were often simultaneously evaluations of the moral socio political and spiritual condition of european society in general and russian society in particular the interpretive history of renan s *life of jesus in russia* reveals a persistent disillusionment with a strictly materialist interpretation of history and of life

a basic christian claim is that god is active in human history to accomplish his purpose which he will do in the end this book considers some of the implications of this far reaching claim christian faith is bound up with our personal history but beyond that stretches far into the past faith is not identical with historical knowledge for example with knowledge of the facts about jesus facts which must be established historically that involves using the historian s methods of investigation what does god reveals himself in history mean christians claim to find an ultimate meaning in history but how can that be how is it possible to find an overall meaning in history

theistic or otherwise since christians appeal to the new testament in making the claim that god revealed himself in jesus we must go beyond that book to the christian community which existed before there was a new testament and out of whose midst its writings came to understand those books we must interpret so where do our principles of interpretation come from and how valid are they this is the question of tradition this small book is an introduction to these interesting topics hopefully it will help to clarify important issues and lead the reader to investigate such central matters further

a scholar s critical examination and comparison of the teachings of some of the world s major religions primarily christianity and buddhism to a lesser extent islam and judaism the author s thesis is that no religion can claim to be the only true religion without involving human society either in bitter conflict or in merciless persecution an eminent scholar s critical examination and comparison of the teachings of some of the world s major religions primarily christianity and buddhism to a lesser extent islam and judaism the author s main thesis is

the story of jesus of nazareth as recounted in the new testament has always been understood by the church to be historically true it is an account of the life death and resurrection of a real person whose links with history are firmly signalled in the creeds of the early church which affirm that jesus suffered under pontius pilate contemporary historical scholarship has however called into question the reliability of the church s version of this story and thereby raised the question as to whether ordinary people can know its historical truth this book argues that the historicity of the story still matters and that its religious significance cannot be captured by the category of non historical myth the commonly drawn distinction between the christ of faith and jesus of history cannot be maintained the christ who is the object of faith must be seen as historical the jesus who is reconstructed by historical scholarship is always shaped by commitments of faith a reconsideration of the enlightenment epistemologies that underlie much historical scholarship shows that historical knowledge of this story is still possible such knowledge can be inferential based on historical evidence a careful look at contemporary new testament studies and the philosophical and literary assumptions upon which it rests shows that this scholarship should not undermine the confidence of lay people who believe that they can know that the church s story about jesus is true

renowned theologian heinrich fries offers what is both a traditionally structured treatment of the basic issues of fundamental theology as they have been modified by vatican ii and a study of the major ethical religious and cultural issues of the late twentieth century

thsi respected well known comprehensive resource has established itself as a classic on church history cairns looks for the glory of god in the total process conveying the issues that have divided the church and also affirming that the church of jesus christ is basically one copyright libri gmbh all rights reserved

this book arises out of the need which has been felt for what might be called a primer of christianity it is especially for those who are conscious of the great importance today of the scientific outlook and want to know how christian faith and christian theology can claim to be true when measured by scientific standards richardson shows that there can be and does exist a real science of theology working on the data provided by the historical facts concerning christ and the church and

that it has reached real and important results he outlines what these are and shows how they point the way to the next step which can only be taken by each person for himself personal faith

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