

HOME BIBLE SCHOOL
A Ministry of Good News Outreach

**STUDYING
THE WORLD'S
RELIGIONS**

ISLAM

HOME BIBLE SCHOOL
Internet Bible Education Program
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INTRODUCTION

A Study of the Religion of Islam

Usually, anytime anyone studies another religion, they either are wanting information or they are wanting to convert to that religion. Our purpose in this Home Bible School study booklet of the religion of Islam is to try and provide as much information about this world religion as is possible.

A problem we sometimes run into when studying another religion is that we don't get the facts straight. We are not Muslims, but there are many facts about this religion that are available for anyone to study. We must remember that when a person commits to a certain way of thought, that commitment is sometimes very prejudiced, so we will give our students as many facts as we can and then draw some conclusions. We think you'll enjoy this study, so let's get started.

THE KORAN

The holy book of Islam is the Koran or Qu'ran. In this study, we will use the "Koran" spelling. Also, Muslims call each chapter of the Koran a "Surah", but in this study we will simply quote "Koran 1:1" which means, "The Koran, chapter 1, verse 1. Islam believes that the angel Gabriel revealed the Koran.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT ISLAM

Fact 1: The word "Islam" means "submission" and those who practice the religion of Islam are often called "Muslims." "Muslim" is a word meaning "One who is in submission to the divine will."

Fact 2: Islam originated in the Arab world, but has spread to all parts of the world

Fact 3: The exact number of Muslims is hard to determine, but a conservative estimate is in the neighborhood of 1,000,000,000.

Fact 4: It is reported that about 50,000 inmates in United States prisons have converted to Islam or some form of Islam.

Fact 5: A distorted view of Islam was the philosophy behind the September 11, 2001, attacks on New York's trade centers and Washington, DC.

Fact 6: Islam has marched on the stage of human history for centuries, with both bad and beneficial results.

WHERE DID ISLAM COME FROM?

Islam was founded by a man named **Muhammad** (Mohammed) in the latter part of the sixth century AD, and the early years of the seventh century. Islam considers Muhammad to be not only a prophet, but the greatest prophet the world has ever seen. His writings are found in the Koran and the results of the religion he founded march across the stage of history for all to see.

Here is a brief time line for your information:

570 AD: Muhammad was born in **Mecca**. His father and mother died by the time he was 6 years old

595 AD: Muhammad married Khadijah, the first of some 15 wives, one wife being a 10 or 11 year old girl, who was the daughter of one of his main supporters

(606 AD: In the non-Arab world, Boniface III begins to wear the title “Universal Father” or Pope)

610 AD: Muhammad had a vision while in a cave on Mount Hira outside the city of Mecca, in which he was called on to preach the message given to him by God, whom he called “**Allah**.”

(He claimed further revelations came to him over the remaining years of his life and these revelations constitute the text of the **Koran (Qu’ran)**, which Muslims consider to be their Holy Book.)

620 AD Death of Muhammad’s wife, Khadijah

622 AD: The people of Mecca rejected Muhammad’s teachings, so he and about 70 followers moved to **Medina**, a city about 250 miles to the north of Mecca. This is called the **Hegira** and is generally considered to be the official date of the birth of Islam

630 AD, January: Muhammad and his army marched on Mecca and took the city with hardly any fighting. Muhammad believed that Abraham had built a shrine in Mecca, which is why Muslims pray towards Mecca.

632 AD, June 8: Muhammad dies of natural causes. and is succeeded by men who were called “**caliphs**”: Abu Bakr (632-634), Omar (634-644), Othman (644-656) and Ali (656-661)

NOTE: The two main branches of Islam are the **Sunnites** and the **Shiites**.

The **Sunnites** believe that these above mentioned caliphs are the legitimate successors to Muhammad.

The **Shiites** believe that only those in the family of Muhammad should be recognized. The Shiites also believe that the successors of Muhammad are called **Imams**, who were sinless men who possibly could perform miracles, who died as martyrs and are on an almost equal plane with Muhammad. There was much debate over the **Ayatollah Khomeini** and many believed he was an imam.

We understand that Saddam Hussein was a Sunni and Osama bin Ladin is a Shiite.

While we’re thinking about the two Muslim holy cities of Mecca and Medina, the writings of Muhammad are divided basically into two sections: The early writings from Mecca and the later writings from Medina.

During the time of Muhammad’s early writings from Mecca, he was trying to convince both Jews and Christians that his revelations from Allah were the final word from heaven. Therefore, a lot of these writings contain many Jewish and Christian teachings such as hospitality to the stranger, love for all men, avoidance of unnecessary bloodshed, the ban against killing women and children, etc.

After he was driven out of Mecca and went to Medina, his latter writings changed in their nature. He began to write of holy wars, necessary bloodshed, hostility toward all religions contrary to Islam, etc.

Many people today who point to Muhammad’s writings about peace, love, respect for life, etc. are usually referring to the early Mecca writings.

WHAT DO MUSLIMS BELIEVE?

Muslims believe what their religion calls the “**Five Pillars**” and we can start our discussion of what they believe with these five pillars.

PILLAR 1: Faith

Muslims teach everyone must have faith in Allah and in his prophet Muhammad. All who want to be Muslim must make the statement, “There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.” Their faith in Allah and Muhammad is strong, very personal, but sometimes also very violent

PILLAR 2: Prayer

As a general rule, the faithful are called to ritual prayer five times a day with Friday being their holy day of the week when they are to be present in the places where they assemble for worship. These places are called “mosques.”

PILLAR 3: Fasting

In the Muslim calendar, there is a month called “Ramadan” and during this month, Muslims may not eat during the daylight hours. They may eat during the darkness hours, however.

PILLAR 4: Alms

The word “alms” refers to money, food or other items that are given to the poor. Muslims are required to give alms as part of their religion.

PILLAR 5: Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage is a journey made by religious people called “pilgrims.” As part of the religion of Islam, Muslims are required to travel to the holy city, Mecca, once during their lifetime. Many will remember the journey made by Malcolm X, a leader in the Black Muslim movement in the United States, which journey was a major turning point on his life.

ONE OTHER PILLAR ADDED BY SOME MUSLIMS

Some sects of the religion of Islam add what they call “**jihad**” or “**the holy war.**” In the name of Allah, they declare war on their enemies, which they call “**infidels**” and their goal is to totally exterminate all infidels.

A FEW INTERESTING DOCTRINES OF ISLAM

Allah is the one true God. They consider the Bible doctrine of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit, being one, to be sinful.

Allah has sent many prophets to guide men. The Koran (Qu’ran) mentions twenty-eight prophets, including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Moses, David, Jonah, John the Baptist and Jesus.

NOTE: Muslims teach that Jesus was a sinless prophet, but that Muhammad was still the greatest prophet who ever lived.

The Koran is considered to be inspired by God but Muslims also accept some other parts of the Bible as inspired. They call the first five books of the Old Testament the **Tauret**; they call the Psalms **Zabur** and they call the four gospel accounts of the life of Jesus the **Inji**.

Allah sends angels to speak to man, the chief one of which is Gabriel. They believe that there are fallen angels which they call **djinn** (demons) and the ruler of the djinn is **Iblis** or **Shaitan** (Satan). People or nations who disagree with Islam are called servants of Shaitan and the United States is often called **“The Great Shaitan.”**

There will be a day of **judgment**, a **resurrection**, a **heaven** and a **hell**. The Muslim heaven is called **“Paradise”**, which is a Persian word meaning **“Garden.”** When a Muslim dies and goes to Paradise, it is a place where all his sexual pleasures can be filled. Hell is for everyone who oppose Allah and Muhammad.

Many Muslims believe in a doctrine called **“Kismet”** and this word means **“fate.”** Often, Muslims use the phrase **...“Inshallah”** which translates roughly as... **‘If Allah wills it’** A marvelously useful term of complete fatalism and one which has no direct English equivalent ... If God wills it, nothing can be done about it. If God wills the destruction of a person, a people or a nation, there is nothing to do but do everything possible to destroy it.

WHAT DOES ISLAM TEACH ABOUT THE BIBLE?

As mentioned above, Muslims generally accept the first five books of the Old Testament, the Psalms and the four gospels of the life of Christ as inspired by Allah. The rest of the Bible, in their teaching, has been corrupted and did not come from Allah. When they speak of the rest of the Bible, they use the word **“hadith”** which means **“uninspired traditions.”**

However, the Koran does say some positive things about the Bible.

“It was he who sent down to thee (step by step) in truth, the Book, confirming what went before it; and he sent down Law (of Moses) and the Gospel (of Jesus) before this, as a guide to mankind...” (Koran 3:3)

“Say ye: ‘We believe in Allah and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Ismail (Ishmael), Isaac, Jacob and the tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus and that given to (all) prophets from their Lord; we make no difference between one and another of them...” (Koran 1:136)

However, in spite of these good statements about the Bible, Muslims teach:

“In the case of the gospel, the torah (the first five books of the Old Testament), and the psalms, none of these were written the same way the holy Koran was. They were written some years following the life of that particular prophet, and the people who wrote them could not simply write all the revelations accurately....we don’t know which part of the gospel is true and which part is not” (Hasim, MI).”

Strangely enough, the Koran calls Bible believers **“people of the Book”**, but the Koran warns Muslims never to listen to followers of the Bible lest they leave Islam.

“O ye who believe! If ye listen to a faction among the People of the Book, they would (indeed) render you **apostates** after ye have believed! (Koran 3:100). The word “**apostate**” means “one who has left a certain kind of religious belief to cling to another king.”

A REMINDER: Remember that Islam accepts Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, all the 150 Psalms, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John as inspired. They do not accept any of the rest of the Bible as inspired and even teach that some of those books which they think are inspired have been corrupted.

At this point in our study, it would be a good thing to compare some of the Koran’s teachings to similar ones found in the Bible.

SOME COMPARISONS OF THE KORAN AND THE BIBLE

The Koran	The Bible
Noah and the ark came to rest on Mount Judi Koran 11:44	The ark came to rest on Mt Ararat Genesis 8:4
Abraham’s father was Azar, Koran 6:74	Abraham’s father was Terah, Genesis 11:26
Noah’s flood happened in the days of Moses Koran 28:8,9	Noah’s flood happened long before Moses Genesis 6,7
Mary gave birth to Jesus under a palm tree Koran 19;22	Mary gave birth to Jesus in a manger (stable) Luke 2:7
The Jews returned to Egypt after the Exodus Koran 2:56, 57, 61	The Jews never returned to Egypt after the Exodus
Zechariah, John the Baptists’s father, would be speechless for three days, Koran 3:41	Zechariah was speechless until John’s birth Luke 1:18-20
Abraham tried to sacrifice Ishmael Koran 37:110-112	Abraham tried to sacrifice Isaac Genesis 22:1-29
A Muslim can break his oath Koran 46:2; 2:224-225	Lying is a sin Matthew 5:37
There will be marriage in heaven Koran 4:57; 52:20	There will be no marriage in heaven Matthew 22:29
One of Noah’s sons drowned in the flood Koran 11:41-43	None of Noah’s sons were drowned in the flood, Genesis 7:7; 13,16
Abraham was cast out by his father Koran 19:43-46	Abraham left Haran after his father died Genesis 11:31-12:1
Jesus never really died on the cross, but it was Judas Iscariot who died, Koran 4:157	Jesus did die on the cross

There are other contradictions between the Koran and the Bible, but these are presented to show that contradictions do exist between the two books.

It is now time in our study to look at the teachings of Islam in a more detailed way. Check your Bible and see what it says about these subjects and remember Psalm 119:89, ***“For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.”***

The basic principle on which the Bible is written is found in Titus 1:2, ***“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.”*** God can never lie and if a person’s religious belief is found to have lies in it, he should give up that belief ***“in hope of eternal life.”***

THE NAME OF ALLAH

God talked to Moses in Exodus 6:3 and that’s an interesting scripture: ***“And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them.”*** The God of the Old Testament says his name is Jehovah. Where did the name “Allah” come from? We’ve just mentioned the name “Jehovah” as God’s name.

In the Hebrew language, the word ‘el’ is the generic name for god. The plural for ‘el’ is “**elohim**.” This is the name that appears in the very first verse of the Bible, ***“In the beginning God (elohim) created the heavens and the earth”*** (Genesis 1:1). God was in the beginning, the Holy Spirit was in the beginning (Genesis 1:2) and Jesus was also in the beginning (John 1:1, 14).

It is interesting to note that the Aramaic word “el”, which is the word for God in the language that Jesus spoke, is similar in sound to the word “Allah.” This also holds true for the various Hebrew words for God, which are “el” and “elah”, and the plural form “elohim”. The reason for these similarities is that Aramaic, Hebrew and Arabic are all Semitic languages with common origins. It should also be noted that in translating the Bible into English, the Hebrew word “el” is translated variously as “God”, “god.” The Arabic word “Allah” presents no such difficulty or ambiguity, since it is only used for Almighty God alone. Additionally, in English, the difference between “god”, meaning a false god, and “God”, meaning the One True God, is the capital “G”. In the Arabic alphabet, since it does not have capital letters, the word for God (i.e. Allah) is formed by adding the equivalent to the English word “the” (Al-) to the Arabic word for “god/God” (ilah). So the Arabic word “Allah” literally means “The God” - the “Al-” in Arabic basically serving the same function as the capital “G” in English. When Muhammad revealed the name for God, it was “Allah.” There are some who believe that Allah is the second name given to God by Muhammad.

WAS MUHAMMAD A PROPHET?

There are a couple of things we must remember about prophets in the Bible.

Muslims do accept the book of Numbers and in 12:6, God says, ***“Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.”*** Thinking along these lines, the Muslims also accept the book of Deuteronomy and 13:1-3 says, ***“If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them, thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”***

Again in the book of Deuteronomy, we find in 18:22, *“When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.”*

When a human being calls himself a prophet, he also takes on the responsibility that, if he is a true prophet of God, everything he predicts will come to pass without fail.

Christ is our prophet as we are taught in Acts 3:22,23, *“For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.”* This is a quote from Deuteronomy 18:18, a book which Muslims accept as inspired.

THE COVENANT

Remember, a covenant is an agreement between two people, two nations, two families, etc. When the Bible uses the word “**covenant**” it means the agreement God has made with people. Jehovah did make a covenant with the children of Abraham through Isaac, the promised son, and this is called the Old Testament. The second covenant was made through his only begotten son, Jesus, and was made for the entire world.

Islam claims Ishmael, the first son of Abraham, as their ancestor. When we read Genesis 17:20,21, we find:

*“And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. **But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.**”*

Abraham loved Ishmael very much, but God made his covenant with Isaac through whom the nations of the earth would be blessed (Galatians 3:16).

These facts from Genesis make us doubt if the religion of Islam is really based on a covenant with God.

THE PRIESTHOOD

When you study the Old Testament, you’ll find that the Jews’ priesthood was through Aaron, the brother of Moses. Both Moses and Aaron were of the tribe of Levi and that tribe was given the rights and responsibilities of priesthood under the law of Moses.

The priests under the law of Moses were to know what the law said and be very careful to put it into practice among the people of the covenant.

But, the priesthood of Jesus is not from Aaron, but from a man in Genesis 14:18 named **Melchizedek** who was the **king** and **priest** of “**Salem**”, which was the old name of the city of **Jerusalem**. This man blessed Abraham and Abraham gave him one tenth of the spoils of the war Abraham had just ended.

Melchizedek next appears in Psalm 110:4, *“The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”* This is a prophecy about the work of Jesus, which would be as a **king** and **priest** just like Melchizedek was a king and a priest.

The point is that Christians are all kings and priests as we are told in Revelation 1:5,6, *“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”* When a sinner is baptized (washed in his blood, Romans 6:3,4), he not only becomes a Christian, but he also becomes a “king and priest.”

Peter also says, *“But ye are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood**, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light, which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”* Muslims accept the four gospel accounts of Jesus’ life, Peter heard Jesus teach, so these statements must have come from Jesus.

NOTE: Sinners who have been washed in the blood of Jesus are not only Christians, kings and priests, but are also “the people of God.” Jesus is the only person who has ever lived who gave his life for the salvation of anyone’s sins.

From these facts about the priesthood, we can only conclude that without a priesthood, there can be no religion and Muslims do not have a priesthood, at least one recognized by Bible books their religion accepts.

WHAT ARE SOME GOOD THINGS ABOUT ISLAM?

We’re very familiar with the bloody terrorist wars now being fought all over the world. We have seen the delight of some Muslims’ faces when “the great Satan (America)” was attacked. We are amazed that such hatred can exist in the name of God, even if he is called Allah, when we have been taught that God loves all men. However, there are some good things about the religion of Islam that we are bound to notice.

THE MOORS

In the early 700's, there was a group of people from North Africa called “**Moors**” who became fanatical followers of Islam and easily conquered the southern part of Spain in 711. They advanced northward toward France until they were defeated in 732 by Charles Martel, the grandfather of Charlemagne the Great. The Moors had a controlling grip over parts of Spain for the next 700 years until they were defeated by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella in 1492, the same year Columbus set foot in America.

The Moors, though their aspect of Islam was bloody, contributed many worthwhile things to Western civilization.

While European doctors practiced medicine in barbaric ways, the Moors’ **medical practices** were far superior and many medical discoveries pioneered by the Moors are still used today.

The Moors were **mathematical geniuses**. They (as well as other Arabs) introduced the concept of zero, which was not present in Western civilization mathematics. We still use many of their math teachings today, especially zero, without which math cannot be adequately understood.

The Moors were also geniuses when it came to **architecture**. They produced some of the most beautiful buildings in the old world, some of which survive even until today.

CONCLUSION

These things are written to give our students as many facts as possible about Islam. The purpose of the church is to teach the gospel in all the world (Mark 16:15,16) and sometimes we have to know what different kinds of other teachings we will run up against, just like the first century church had to know about the pagan religions that were in the Roman world. And that's our purpose with this study booklet – to learn the facts about this very prominent and dominant world religion.

Please go on to the test questions section, answer the questions, clip them out and mail them back to us in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

There are other Bible study opportunities with Home Bible School and we will be glad to send them to you.

Beginning Bible Studies
The Life of Jesus, the Christ
The book of Acts
The book of Romans
The books of 1 and 2 Corinthians
The book of Revelation
Survey of the Old Testament
Making Sense of the Bible
A curriculum for Home Bible Study

Other courses are being written and when they are available, we will let you know.

“The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:29-31).”



PLEASE COMPLETE THE TEST QUESTIONS AND SEND THEM IN FOR GRADING

HOME BIBLE SCHOOL
Internet Bible Education Program
4314 Dasher Rd.
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YOUR NAME:

YOUR ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE/ZIP

WHERE DO YOU GO TO CHURCH?

TEST QUESTIONS
A Study of the Religion of Islam

Fill in the blanks

The five "pillars" of Islam are:

The one other pillar some Muslims add is _____ or _____

The word "Islam" means _____ and the word "Muslim" means
"_____."

Another way to spell "Koran", Islam's holy book, is _____.

The prophet of Islam is named _____ whose name also could be
spelled _____.

Deuteronomy 18:22: "If a _____ speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing
follow _____, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath
_____ spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously..."

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

1. Muslims who came from north Africa to Spain in the early 700's were called **A** Moors **B** Christians **C** Infidels
2. The two main branches of Islam are **A** Muslims and Islams **B** Sunnites and Shiites **C** Jews and Christians
3. The two "holy cities" of Islam are **A** Rome and Jerusalem **B** Constantinople and Antioch **C** Mecca and Medina
4. From the Bible, Muslims accept **A** All the Bible as inspired **B** Only the first five books, Psalms and the gospels are inspired **C** None of the Bible is inspired
5. The chief angel of Islam is **A** Lucifer **B** Gabriel **C** Michael
6. The Arabic word "Inshallah" means **A** Fate **B** Kismet **C** If Allah wills it

7. Muslims claim which son of Abraham as their ancestor **A** Isaac **B** Ishmael
8. In Genesis 17:20,21, God said he would establish his covenant with **A** Isaac **B** Paul **C** Ishmael
9. Muslims call demons **A** Angels **B** Guardians **C** Djinn
10. The word "Muslim" means **A** One who submits **B** Kismet **C** Cousin

Compare the Koran with the Bible

The Koran teaches that _____ was Abraham's father; the Bible teaches _____ was Abraham's father

The Koran teaches that Abraham tried to sacrifice _____; the Bible teaches Abraham tried to sacrifice _____.

The Koran teaches that a Muslim can break his _____; the Bible teaches that _____ is a sin.

The Koran teaches that _____ died on the cross; the Bible teaches that _____ died on the cross.

The Koran teaches Mary gave birth to Jesus under a _____; the Bible teaches Mary gave birth to Jesus in a _____.

The Koran teaches that the Jews returned to _____ after the Exodus; the Bible teaches the Jews _____ to Egypt after the Exodus.

True false (check the correct answer)

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. The priesthood of Jesus is after the order of Levi | T _____ F _____ |
| 2. Muhammad was born in Mecca | T _____ F _____ |
| 3. Saddam Hussein is a Sunnite Muslim | T _____ F _____ |
| 4. The Muslim month of Ramadan is their time for giving alms | T _____ F _____ |
| 5. Muslims think Jews and Christians are infidels | T _____ F _____ |
| 6. Muslims think Jews and Christians are okay in God's sight | T _____ F _____ |
| 7. Muslims call Jews and Christians "people of the book" | T _____ F _____ |
| 8. Islam teaches Jesus was a sinless prophet | T _____ F _____ |
| 9. Islam teaches that Muhammad was the greatest prophet who ever lived | T _____ F _____ |
| 10. Muslims pray only once on every Sunday | T _____ F _____ |
| 11. Islam is an all bad religion | T _____ F _____ |
| 12. Islam has had many good contributions to make to the world | T _____ F _____ |
| 13. The Bible is Islam's main holy book | T _____ F _____ |
| 14. Muhammad had only one wife | T _____ F _____ |
| 15. Muhammad was killed in battle with Christians | T _____ F _____ |

A REMINDER
Please return the test questions
Keep the lesson material
for further study