

Yahweh and Allah – Not the Same God

Modern society loves to fuse religions together. You cannot walk through the streets of Europe without hearing questions, or claims, about the ‘similarities’ between Islam and Christianity. Muslims will make statements of “Allah’s oneness” and there being only one god. Preconceived notions that we are all part of the same Abrahamic Tradition are believed by Christians, Muslims, and Secularists. Evangelistic teams ministering to Muslims grapple with notions of how, when, and if we should use Qur’anic and Islamic terms and practices to describe the God of salvation so clearly outlined in the Bible. More notably you may have come across missionaries, or Christian institutions, teaching a ‘same God’ theory of Yahweh and Allah. Yet to be relevant, effective Christians for our time, we need to find a clear path through all this confusion of who/what Islam’s god is, in light of Biblical teaching. Can we be sure if Allah is the same, or different? Why have so many missionaries and even theologians signed up to the ‘same god’ theory? Can we decipher what has its roots in myth and legend, what is Islamic innovation, and what is truly a sound Biblical way forward? This talk seeks to bring about some clarity amidst great confusion of whether Allah and Yahweh are the same, or not.

Beth Grove is the European Director of the Pfander Centre for Apologetics, a Christian research teaching ministry set up to equip Christians worldwide to confidently engage Islam. She has lived among Muslim immigrant communities in London for 19 years, enjoying friendship and theological discussions with close Muslim friends from many nations. She has obtained a master's degree in Islamics and currently teaches for the Pfander Centre. Pfander publicly engages Muslims on faith issues, asking probing questions of Islam’s history and developing Christian apologetics and polemics for the Muslim mind.

1) What do Muslims believe and why do Christians sign up to it?

- a. Understanding Muslim claims about God
- b. Grappling with the Qur’an’s emphasis on what/who God is not

2) Missiological controversies and theological confusion

- a. Anthropological missional stances
- b. Syncretistic missional stances
- c. Eisegesis as a root cause
 - i. Imposing on the Biblical texts
 - ii. Imposing on the Islamic texts

3) Theological confusion cleared up through comparisons

- a. Clarity on the differences between the Islamic and Christian views of God
 - i. Five areas of difference:
 - The theology of God
 - God's view of humanity
 - God's view of sin
 - God's view of salvation
 - God's view of eternity

4) Historical insights to dispel commonly-held beliefs

- a. Dispelling the myth of *three* Abrahamic faiths
 - i. Historical reasons
 - applying the historical critique to Islam's history
 - applying Source Criticism to the Qur'an
 - ii. Biblical reasons
 - Believing Biblical teaching: Hebrew 1:1-3
- b. Dispelling the myth of *similar* beliefs
 - The six beliefs of Islam: Judeo-Christian or pagan origins? (god, prophets, books, spirits, predestination, afterlife)

5) Confident evangelism among Muslims by understanding our differences

- a. A Biblical key to unlocking our differences
 - i. Genesis 3:8-9 – the God who walks and talks with us
- b. Love does not mean naivety
 - i. “*On every foundational truth of the gospel Islam teaches the opposite*” (a missionary from Islamic West Africa)
 - ii. “*Muhammad came to undermine and undo the work of Christ*” (a former hafiz & Islamic law teacher)
 - iii. *We critique Islam, because we love Muslims*
 - Allah and Yahweh – Not the same God