**Uncovering The Truth Behind Islam**

What do Muslims claim about Islam’s origins, and how credible are the sources? What does history reveal regarding Mecca’s existence? Who was Muhammad truly? This conference will answer these questions and more through a series of talks:

1. The Truth About Historical Sources of Islam: This talk will explore when and where the Islamic Traditions were written and examine the problems that arise when these claims are brought under scrutiny.

2. The Truth About Mecca’s Existence: Debunking False Claims: We will look at the true historical Mecca, debunking the assertions about the ancient city made by the Qur’an and Muslim scholars.

3. The Truth About Mecca’s Origins: Continuing to analyse the city of Mecca, we will confront its origins, investigate surrounding cities, and get behind the truth of the Kaaba’s ‘Black Stone.’

4. The Truth About Muhammad’s Existence: The Historical Evidence: In this talk, we will look at who Muslims claim Muhammad to be and compare it with historical evidence.

5. The Truth About Who Muhammad Really Was: After a thorough examination of Islam’s origins, we will discover the true Muhammad and how Islam came to be.

**Jay Smith**, the son of missionaries who were in India until their deaths, has been working with Muslims for over 40 years while serving with his wife, Judith, and until recently, spending 25 of those years in London, England. Jay currently spends most of his time travelling to numerous countries to research, write, and teach Christian/Muslim Apologetics and Polemics, much of which he learned from 25 years of weekly forays to the world-famous Speakers’ Corner in Hyde Park, London. He has been invited to many university campuses to teach classes, participate in panels, help numerous Christian Unions with training, and has also participated in over 100 formal debates with Muslim polemicists. Smith is the director of the Master of Arts in Apologetics and Polemics to Islam at the Veritas International University in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Jay uploads videos of his decades of research onto his “Pfanderfilms” YouTube site, which currently has over 100,000 subscribers, while over 17 million people have watched these videos.

1. **THE PROBLEM WITH THE SOURCES**
2. A Timeline of Islam’s Emergence (according to the “SIN”)
3. Sources for the ‘ISLAMIC TRADITIONS’ (SIN)
4. The problem of Distance & Direction
5. Christianity’s Emergence, according to our “Traditions”
6. Comparing Christianity vs Islam
7. Who then really created Muhammad’s story?
8. 21st Century Scholar’s Conclusions
9. The Scholar’s Concerns
10. **THE PROBLEM WITH MECCA**
11. Why is Mecca so important? Because it still exists, & thus can be researched
12. What Muslims Claim
13. Inferences to ‘Mecca’ in the Qur’an
14. References to Mecca in the 9th & 10th Century Islamic Traditions
15. Geographical Problems with Mecca
16. The Problem with Prophets who were buried in Mecca
17. When’s the earliest Historical record for Mecca?
18. When is Mecca first shown on an ancient map?
19. Even the Qiblas (the direction of prayers) are not towards Mecca, but towards Petra!
20. Was Mecca the center of trade (S.I.N.)?
21. Debunking Watt’s ‘Trade Route Theory’
22. Debunking Crone’s ‘Red Sea Route Theory’
23. Perhaps all the cities in central Arabia were likewise unknown?
24. What surrounding Civilizations knew about Mecca?
25. Why is there no History for Mecca…here’s a clue…water…
26. Debunking the ZamZam well supposition
27. The Stages of the Hajj are mostly borrowed
28. Even the Qur’an suggests Mecca is not where it was created
29. So, when was Mecca possibly constructed?
30. **THE PROBLEM WITH MUHAMMAD**
31. What Muslims Claim about Muhammad
32. Why are Coins important?
33. What problems do the Numismatists find?
34. Note where the 7th c. Mints are situated.
35. 632 AD – 661 AD = Coins in the Rushidun Period
36. 661 AD – 680 AD = Coins minted by Muawiya
37. 685 AD – 696 AD = Coins minted by Abd al-Malik
38. What can 7th century Arabic Rock Inscriptions tell us?
39. Observing Ilkka Lindstedt’s 100 dated Rock Inscriptions
40. What about the references to ‘Muhammad’ in the 7th century
41. Is Muhammad (the prophet) in the Qur’an?
42. Is Muhammad’s name on the ‘Dome of the Rock’?
43. Debunking the 5 references to the name ‘Muhammad’ in the 7th century
44. So, who was Muhammad?

***Suggested Reading:***

Robert Spencer, *Did Muhammad Exist* (Revised and Expanded), ‎ Bombardier Books; Expanded edition, 2021, ISBN 978-1642938531

Stephen Shoemaker, *Creating the Qur’an: A Historical-Critical Study*, University of California, 2022. ISBN 978-0520389038 (Available in PDF)

Daniel Alan Brubaker, *Corrections in Early Qur’an Manuscripts,* Think and Tell, 2019, ISBN 978-1949123036

Robert Hoyland, *Seeing Islam as Others Saw It*, Gorgias Press, 2019. ISBN 978-1463239268 (Available in PDF)

Dan Gibson, *Early Islamic Qiblas,* Independent Scholar's Press, 2017. ISBN 978-1927581223

Tom Holland, *In the Shadow of the Sword*, Anchor (Reprint Edition), 2013. ISBN: 978-0307473653

Karl Heinz Ohlig, *Early Islam,* Prometheus Books, 2013, ISBN: 978-1616148256

Dan Gibson, *Qur’anic Geography*, Independent Scholars Press, 2011, ISBN 978-0973364286 (Available in PDF)

Yehuda D. Neve & Judith Koren, *Crossroads to Islam,* Prometheus, 2003. ISBN 978-1591020837

Ibn Warraq, *In Quest of the Historical Muhammad*, Prometheus, 2000. ISBN 978-1573927871