



WHO IS ALLAH?

Is Islam the Only True Religion?

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Table of Contents

Course objectives	2
1. Well let's look at that question - Is there a God? If we were to examine ourselves alone we should know how can there not be?	3
1.1 <i>Let's look at how we were created</i>	3
1.2 <i>Let's reflect on point number # 2</i>	3
1.3 <i>What about the solar system?</i>	3
1.4 <i>The process of Birth.</i>	3
1.5 <i>Intelligence of Mankind.</i>	4
2. Why did Allah create us?	5
3. Who is Allah?	8
3.1 <i>Tawheed Ar- Ruboobiyyah</i>	10
3.2 <i>Tawheed Al-Asmaa' Was- Sifaat</i>	12
3.3 <i>Tawheed Al Uloohiyyah (The Tawheed of Lordship)</i>	14
4. Who is Allah?	26
5. About Allah: How to get to know Allah	29
6. Now that we know there is a God, which religion is the correct one?	31
7. Commonly asked questions about "Allah"	33
7.1 <i>How can you describe Him?</i>	33
7.2 <i>Can you define Him?</i>	33
7.3 <i>Can one ask: "What is He?"</i>	34
7.4 <i>Is He one or more?</i>	34
7.5 <i>Is He confined to any place?</i>	35
7.6 <i>When did He begin to exist?</i>	35
7.7 <i>Over what does He rule?</i>	36
7.8 <i>What is [the extent of] His knowledge?</i>	37
7.9 <i>What is His speech?</i>	38
7.10 <i>How is He?</i>	38
7.11 <i>What is His will?</i>	39
7.12 <i>Why is He the All-Knowing, the Omnipotent?</i>	40
7.13 <i>Does He have sons, daughters, parents, or any family members or relatives?!</i>	40
7.14 <i>Does He forgive?</i>	41
7.15 <i>What about His creation?</i>	41
7.16 <i>Can He be seen?</i>	42
7.17 <i>How does He command?</i>	42
8. How do we connect to Allah?	45
1. <i>Du'aa (Supplication)</i>	46
2. <i>Keep Away From Bad Company</i>	47
3. <i>Get to Know Your Creator by His Names and Attributes</i>	47
4. <i>Dhikr (Remembering Allah)</i>	47
5. <i>Follow the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ</i>	48
6. <i>Apply the Qur'aan to Your Life</i>	48
7. <i>Salaah</i>	48

Course objectives

In a world where there is so much technology and the world is moving at a speed of light, many people growing up don't get the knowledge they need to be ready for life. Especially the knowledge of the deen. Their parents may have learned some things and they believe in it; however, they don't have enough knowledge to explain it to their kids. So, what ends up happening is that many of the new generations growing up everywhere around the world, especially in the West, they are lost when it comes to religion.

They don't understand what the purpose of life is? Why we were created? Whose is right when it comes to Religion, because everyone claims to be correct? Is there even a God? How do we know He exists?

First most important question many people have: Is there a God? Many atheists will tell you NO. Some will say He doesn't exist because there is no scientific proof to it, while others will say **“We don't believe in Him because we can't see him.”**

A good way to understand this is that there are many different ways a case can be proven in court without witnesses. It's the evidences that helps us form our conclusion. Let's take the example of you driving up to College. You see cars on the campus, people with backpacks walking around, and you will assume school has started. Just because you can't see the teachers don't mean they aren't there. Most things in our lives are accepted due to evidence not proof.

Another great example is we accept our family members as our family members we don't ask for scientific proof from them. Also, when we see men and women outside we assume they are male or female. We don't ask to see their private parts to make sure.

1. Well let's look at that question - Is there a God? If we were to examine ourselves alone we should know how can there not be?

1.1 Let's look at how we were created

From our eyes which can see near and far. From our ears which can hear near and far. From our tongues in which we can taste sweet and sour and a bunch of other tastes. From our hands in which we can feel textures. From our nose where we can smell so many different types of smells. If our senses and how we were created are not enough to make one think that there must be a Creator who created us, I honestly don't know what is.

In one verse it even says,

أَوَلَمْ يَتَفَكَّرُوا فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ

"Do they not reflect in their own minds?" [Surah Ar-Rum, 30: 8]

Do you know what that scientists have said that if we were to try to recreate just one digestive system, we would need a huge lab to do it. Even then it would not even be close to how it operates the way it does.

1.2 Let's reflect on point number # 2

Who created the animals, insects, the food, the water, the landscape...?

1.3 What about the solar system?

The sun, moon, stars, and how they work with each other? Did you know if the sun was closer everything on earth would be burned? And if the sun was farther everything on earth would be frozen. Subhana'Allah. That exact distance is vital to our survival.

1.4 The process of Birth.

Subhana'Allah how can you explain birth, how the child gets in the womb of a woman and grows over the period of 9 months or 40 weeks.

NOW THAT WE KNOW ALHAMDULLILAH GOD EXISTS; LET'S GO TO THE NEXT BIG QUESTION:

I will discuss who God is after speaking about why we were created...

2. Why did Allah create us?

وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا لَاعِبِينَ
 مَا خَلَقْنَاهُمَا إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

“And We created not the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them, for mere play. We created them not except with truth (i.e. to examine and test those who are obedient and those who are disobedient and then reward the obedient ones and punish the disobedient ones), but most of them know not”

[Surah Ad-Dukhan, 44: 38-39]

The answer is: so that we would worship Him, thank Him and remember Him, and do that which He has commanded us. You know that among mankind there are disbelievers and there are Muslims. This is because Allah wants to test His slaves as to whether they will worship Him or worship others. That is after Allah has showed the way to everyone. Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا
 وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْعَفُورُ

“[He] Who has created death and life that He may test you which of you is best indeed.” [Surah Mulk, 67:2]

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

“And I (Allah) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (Alone).” [Ad-Dariyat, 51: 56]

I would like you to think for just a moment about why you would create something. Usually it would be to help you or someone else in one way or another. Cars were created so we can move faster from one location to the next without getting wet and getting stuck. Concrete was poured on the roads to make it efficient for us to travel on more sturdy roads. Airplanes save us so much time traveling across lands. So, when a human being can create for a purpose why can our Creator not create with a purpose?

He created us with Free will, and although He already knows what we will do, he's giving us the opportunity to do the right things and choose our reward at the end. However, if we choose to be disobedient and take the wrong path, then we can only blame ourselves in the unhappiness we have in this life and the punishment we will earn in the hereafter.

One of the greatest reasons for which Allah has created mankind – which is one of the greatest tests – is the command to affirm His Oneness (Tawheed) and to worship Him alone with no partner or associate. Allah has stated this reason for the creation of mankind, as He says (interpretation of the meaning):

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

“And I (Allah) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (Alone).”

[Ad-Dariyat, 51: 56]

Ibn Katheer (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

i.e., I have created them so that I may command them to worship Me, not because I have any need of them. ‘Ali ibn Abi Talhah said, narrating from Ibn ‘Abbaas: “except that they should worship Me (alone)” willingly or unwillingly. This is the view favored by Ibn Jarer. Ibn Jurayj said: i.e., except that they should know Me. Al-Rabee’ ibn Anas said: “Except that they should worship Me”, i.e., for the purpose of worship. Tafseer Ibn Katheer, 4/239

Shaykh ‘Abd al-Rahmaan al-Sa’di (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

Allah, may He be exalted, created mankind to worship Him and to know Him by His names and attributes, and to enjoin that upon them. Whoever submits to Him and does what is enjoined upon him will be one of those who are successful, but whoever turns away from that, they are the losers. He will inevitably gather them together in the Hereafter where He will reward or punish them for what He commanded and forbade them to do. Hence Allah mentions how the mushrikeen (polytheists) denied the reward or punishment, as He says (interpretation of the meaning):

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ وَكَانَ عَرْشُهُ عَلَى الْمَاءِ لِيَبْلُوكُمْ
 أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ۗ وَلَئِن قُلْتِ إِنَّكُمْ مَبْعُوثُونَ مِنْ بَعْدِ الْمَوْتِ لَيَقُولَنَّ
 الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِنْ هَذَا إِلَّا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ

“But if you were to say to them: ‘You shall indeed be raised up after death,’ those who disbelieve would be sure to say, ‘This is nothing but obvious magic’”

[Surah Hood 11: 7]

i.e., if you were to speak to these people and tell them about the Resurrection after death, they would not believe you, rather they would reject your words vehemently and deny the message you brought, and they would say, 'This is nothing but obvious magic,' but in fact it is obvious truth. [Tafseer al-Sa'di, p. 333]

Allah does not need us to worship Him, by worshipping Him; we live a life of peace and happiness. Because we are obeying His laws, and His laws are in accordance to what will make this life easy. For example, when we stay away from gambling it helps us live in a more peaceful life as we don't lose all we have and become addicted to money and materialism. If we stay away from fornication, we keep ourselves from many diseases out there that not only can be painful but also can kill us.

I would like to share some examples now with you of questions that I have read on. Did Allah predestine Jennifer to Hell while He predestined Maria to Jannah?

Allah didn't predestine Jennifer or Maria any other person to hell or heaven. He knows in His vast knowledge that Jennifer, who has a free will, will commit actions that will send her to hell. He doesn't dictate. He is not forcing Jennifer to do bad deeds. His knowledge is so vast that He knows well in advance what Jennifer is going to do, and what Maria is going to do.

Here's another example. Say Mike is your friend. He is walking down the street and runs into you. You both chat for a while. Then you ask Mike where he is going. He tells you that he is going to the other side of town. You tell him that the road he's taking is blocked, there's a fight between two gangs and he will surely not be able to make it to the other side of town and will get hurt or- even worse- die. If he listens to you and trust you, he will change his mind. If he doesn't and continue the path you believe is dangerous, he will get hurt. Now do you think you were being unjust to your friend Mike. Do you think you were being tricky? Or was it more like Mike's own foolishness that sent him the path you both clearly knew was dangerous.

It's the same with our deeds. Allah (Subhaanahoo wa ta'aalaa) clearly tells us not to do certain things. To believe in him and always seek His forgiveness. But still we go our own way. We do what we think is right. And then when bad things happen to us or when we are punished for what we have done, we blame Allah (Subhaanahoo wa ta'aalaa) for it? I seek refuge in Allah from the evil out there.

3. Who is Allah?

Now that we believe there is a God that exists, the next question comes to who is He? What are His attributes? How do we get to know Him?

Every messenger of God called the people to Tawheed. This was the 1st thing they told the people about. So, what does Tawheed mean?

Tawheed means the belief in the Oneness of Allah. Simple right? “Tawheed literally means “unification” (making something one) or “asserting oneness”, and it comes from the Arabic verb ‘wahhada’ which itself means to unite, unify. However when the term tawheed is used in reference to Allah, it means the realizing and maintaining of Allah’s unity in all of man’s actions which directly or indirectly relate to Him. It is the belief that Allah is One, without partner in His dominion and His actions (Ruboobeeyah), One without similitude in His essence and attributes (Asmaa was sifaat), and One without rival in His divinity and in worship (Ulooheeyah/Ibaadah)...”

TAWHEED HAS BEEN CATEGORIZED INTO 3 PARTS TO MAKE IT EASY FOR THE BELIEVERS TO UNDERSTAND

1. Tawheed Ar-Ruboobeeyah (Is about the Oneness of Allah)
2. Tawheed Al-Asmaa Was Sifat (Is about Allah’s Names and Attributes)
3. Tawheed Al-Ibaadah (Is about how we are to worship Allah)

