

THIRTEEN LESSONS  
ON ISLAM

ISLAM 101

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# JIHAD

## Lesson 3

### SUMMARY

- Jihad was developed by Mohammed in Medina, where he turned to politics and war.
  - Jihad started as raids on the Meccans. It then progressed into open war. The nature of the Koran changed from religious to political. It became a basis for war against all kafirs.
  - Mohammed won his first battle at Badr and then lost his next battle. After that, he never lost. He entered Mecca by conquest ten years after he left.
  - The Koran says all Muslims are to take part in jihad, to the limit of their abilities. The Hadith is filled with the rules of jihad.
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Jihad was a unique invention by Mohammed. Islam was a failure until it started practicing jihad. The actual meaning of jihad is not war, but struggle. Harb is the Arabic word for war.

Another misunderstanding about jihad is that it strictly killing. Not so. Jihad is all of the struggle against the kafirs. Writing a letter to the editor about peaceful Islam is jihad. Claiming that the Declaration of Independence is based upon Islamic principles (yes, they do that) is jihad. Giving money to Islamic charities for jihadists is jihad. When a Muslim marries a kafir girl that is jihad, because all of the children must be raised as Muslims. All struggle against the kafirs is jihad.

Jihad is done with the tongue, the pen, money and the sword.

### A THUMBNAIL SKETCH OF MOHAMMED'S JIHAD

Jihad did not begin until Mohammed was in Medina for a year. After a year in Medina, the Muslims were poor. The Meccan trade caravans regularly passed near Medina. Here was a way to get money and take revenge on those who had run Mohammed out of Mecca.

Ishaq 425 Islam drew first blood against the Quraysh of Mecca. They attacked the unarmed caravan. Amr, the first man to be killed by jihad, was shot by an arrow. One man escaped, and they captured two others. The

Muslims took the enemies' camels with their goods and headed back to Medina and Mohammed. On the way they talked about how Mohammed would get one fifth of the stolen goods.

The Meccans got a small army and went to Medina to fight Mohammed. The Meccans and the Muslims met at the well of Badr. It was the morning of the battle:

Ishaq 440 As Mohammed saw the Quraysh march into the small valley, he said, "O Allah, here come the Quraysh, in their vanity and pride, contending with You and calling me a liar. O Allah, give me the help You promised. Destroy them this morning!"

Ishaq 445 It was time for the two armies to close ranks and move forward. Mohammed had said his warriors were not to start until he gave the order. Now he took a handful of pebbles and threw them at the Quraysh and said, "Curse those faces." The Muslims advanced. The battle had begun.

The Muslims were outnumbered but won the battle.

Ishaq 446 As the battle was ending and the prisoners were being rounded up, Mohammed saw a look of disgust on Saed's face. He said, "You seem to dislike what you see." Saed replied, "Yes, by Allah, this is our first defeat of the kafirs and we should slaughter them all to the last man."

*Koran 8:67 A prophet should not take prisoners of war until he has fought and slaughtered in the land. You desire the bounty of the world, but Allah desires the bounty for you of the world to come. Allah is mighty and wise.*

Ishaq 451 As the battle wound down, Mohammed issued orders for the fighters to be on the lookout for Abu Jahl, the enemy of Allah, among the slain. He was found still fighting in a thicket. When a Muslim fighter got to within striking distance of Abu Jahl, the Muslim made for him and cut off his lower leg and sent it flying. Another Muslim passed as Abu Jahl lay dying and put his foot on his neck. The Muslim said, "Has Allah put you to shame, enemy of Allah?" Abu Jahl gasped, "How has He shamed me? Am I any more remarkable than any other you have killed?" The Muslim cut off his head.

Ishaq 452 He took the head back to Mohammed and said, "Here is the head of the enemy of Allah," and threw it at Mohammed's feet. The prophet said, "Praise be to Allah."

Ishaq 454 The bodies of the Quraysh were thrown into a well. The Apostle of Allah leaned over the well and shouted at the bodies, "O people of the well, have you found what Allah promised to be true?" The Muslims were

puzzled by his question. "Are you speaking to dead people?" they asked. Mohammed explained that the dead could understand him.

The Koran is very clear. The Muslims won due the help of angels.

Ishaq 477 The Muslims had not fought by themselves. Allah had sent a thousand angels to help kill those who worshiped in the ancient ways and rituals. To resist Mohammed was a death sentence from Allah.

*Koran 8:12 Then your Lord spoke to His angels and said, "I will be with you. Give strength to the believers. I will send terror into the kafirs' hearts, cut off their heads and even the tips of their fingers!" This was because they opposed Allah and His messenger. Ones who oppose Allah and His messenger will be severely punished by Allah. We said, "This is for you! Taste it and know that the kafirs will receive the torment of the Fire."*

Ishaq 484 Mohammed was now a political force unlike any ever seen in history. The fusion of religion and politics with a universal mandate created a permanent force. The treasure of war, the spoils, will provide the wealth of Islam. The awe of Mohammed is the fear of Allah.

*Bukhari 1,7,331 The Prophet said, "I have been given five things which were not given to anyone else before me.*

*1. Allah made me victorious by awe, by His frightening my enemies for a distance of one month's journey.*

*2. The earth has been made for me and for my followers a place for praying and to perform my rituals; therefore, anyone of my followers can pray whenever the time of a prayer is due.*

*3. The spoils of war have been made lawful for me yet they were not lawful for anyone else before me.*

*4. I have been given the right of intercession on the Day of Resurrection.*

*5. Every Prophet was sent to his nation but only I have been sent to all mankind."*

After a year in Medina there were 250 to 300 Muslims, up from the 150 in Mecca. After the Battle of Badr, a new Islam emerged. Mohammed rode out of Medina as a politician and a general. Islam became an armed political force with a religious motivation, jihad. After Badr, the Muslims were prosperous and they gained in power.

The next large battle was when the Meccans returned the next year and fought Islam at Uhud. The Muslims lost and Mohammed was wounded. This caused a crisis in Islam. Allah had sent a thousand angels to help defeat the kafirs at Badr. What happened?

Ishaq 595 The reason for the Muslim loss was that the archers did not hold their ground. When they saw that the Meccans were cut off from

their camp, they ran to get the treasure of war. Greed caused them to disobey Mohammed. They were told they should always obey Mohammed; he spoke for the Lord of all.

Ishaq 597 The reason Allah let the Meccans win was to test the Muslims. Now they truly knew themselves. Were they fair-weather friends of Mohammed, or could they see their faults? If they obeyed Mohammed, then they could become true Muslims. A true Muslim never lost his morale, never fell into despair.

*Koran 3:139 Therefore, do not lose heart or despair; if you are a true believer, you will be victorious.*

Ishaq 599 Jihad wasn't over. Soon Islam would bring terror to the kafirs. After death they would burn in Hell. Their destruction would come because they did not believe in the religion of Islam.

*Koran 3:151 We will strike terror into the hearts of the kafirs because they worship others besides Allah, which He gave them no permission to do. Their home will be the Fire, a terrible resting place for the evildoers.*

The next large conflict was called the Battle of the Ditch. The Meccans returned to Medina and were held off by the defensive measure of a trench or ditch. This was the first time this defensive measure had been used in Arabia. Militarily, the battle was a draw. Politically, it was a victory for Islam, because the Meccans had tried to crush Islam and failed.

Between all the big battles, Islam waged jihad against the nearest tribes. The jihadists took caravans, enslaved kafirs and killed those who resisted political Islam. For nine years Mohammed sent out fighters on the average of every six weeks.

Mohammed took a large number of people to go on a pilgrimage to Mecca. [Arabs had been going to Mecca for religious pilgrimages for many years before Mohammed. Mohammed incorporated most of the pagan practices into Islam.] The Meccans met him outside and forbade the Muslims entrance to Mecca. Mohammed signed a treaty with the Meccans. This treaty was a political victory for Mohammed.

Ishaq 750 Mohammed regarded the treaty with the Meccans as an oath to Allah and a victory for Islam. The government of Mecca had dealt with Mohammed as an independent political power. Many more Arabs were attracted to the religion of Islam now that it was rich and powerful.

The treaty at al Hdaybiya established Islam's attitudes about treaties to this day. Islam makes a treaty, if and only if, it is in a losing position. The treaty is good only as long as it is weak. When Islam is strong, jihad will start again.

*Koran 47:33 Believers! Obey Allah and the messenger, and do not let your effort be in vain. Those who do not believe and who prevent others from following Allah's path and then die as kafirs will not receive Allah's forgiveness. Therefore, do not be weak and offer the kafirs peace when you have the upper hand, for Allah is with you and will not begrudge you the reward of your deeds.*

About a year later, Mohammed found a reason to break the treaty of Hodaybiya. He had been making raids against kafir tribes, gaining wealth and converts. Islam was stronger than when he made the treaty. It was time and he marched against Mecca with an army of 10,000.

Mecca surrendered without a fight. Islam triumphed.

Ishaq 819 Mohammed had told his commanders to kill only those who resisted; otherwise they were not to bother anyone except for those who had spoken against Mohammed. He then issued death warrants for all of those in Mecca who had resisted Islam.

Ishaq 821 Mohammed went to the Kabah and rode around it seven times. Each time he went past the Black Stone<sup>1</sup>, he touched it with his stick. Then he called for the key to the Kabah and entered. Inside was a carved wooden dove that he picked up and broke and threw out the door. There were also ritual objects and art of the various Arab faiths. Mohammed had them all burned and destroyed.

Mohammed's second order of business after assuming power was to destroy all religious art. The perfect pattern of Islam, aesthetics, and art was established.

Mohammed fought two more large battles before his death.

## JIHAD

The political system of jihad is based upon ethical dualism. Jihad is defined in the Trilogy. In the Sira, jihad is war against the kafir. There is a second kind of jihad found in the Hadith called the greater jihad, which is inner, spiritual struggle. However, by actual count, only 3% of the jihad hadiths in Bukhari are about inner, spiritual struggle; 97% of the hadith refer to war against the kafir. In the Koran, jihad is called "struggle in the cause of Allah." And 100% of the "struggle in the cause of Allah" is devoted to killing, enslaving and berating the kafir until the kafir submits to Islam.

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1 The Kabah in Mecca is made of stone. In one corner there is a black stone that is held sacred to Islam because of Mohammed.

Jihad is a political method with political goals. The goal of jihad is to make the kafir submit to Islam. The only reason that Mohammed ever attacked anyone was purely based upon the fact that they had not submitted to his god, Allah.

Muslims kill other Muslims, but that is never jihad. Jihad is reserved for the kafir. The subtext of kafir is that the kafir has offended Allah by rejecting Him. Hence, all jihad is defensive. Jihad is always caused by the offense of unbelief. Jihad is pure political dualism.

#### A NOTE

A careful study of the Koran shows its sources are the Old Testament, Jewish folk tales, unorthodox Christianity, and pagan Arabic religions. The new element was jihad. It was jihad that made Islam powerful under Mohammed and it was jihad that created the Islamic empire. It is jihad today that makes Islam powerful.

The Sira is a strategic manual of jihad. The Hadith is a tactical manual of jihad.

#### JIHAD AND THE HADITH

To be a real Muslim, one must aspire to be a jihadist.

Muslim 020,4696 *Mohammed: "The man who dies without participating in jihad, who never desired to wage holy war, dies the death of a hypocrite."*

Here is Allah's contract with all Islam: to die in jihad is the sure way to go to Paradise. If the jihadist does not die, then he can keep what wealth he takes with violence from the enemy, the non-Muslim.

Bukhari 4,52,46 *Mohammed: "A Muslim holy warrior, fighting for Allah's cause is like a person who does nothing but fast and pray. Allah promises that anyone killed while fighting for His cause will be admitted without question into Paradise. If such a holy warrior survives the battles, he can return home with the captured property and possessions of the defeated."*

A Muslim should support jihadists in every way. This includes financing the fighters and supporting their families. Today this is done through Islamic charities.

Bukhari 4,52,96 *Mohammed: "Anyone who arms a jihadist is rewarded just as a fighter would be; anyone who gives proper care*

*to a holy warrior's dependents is rewarded just as a fighter would be."*

Allah rewards those who give to jihad and curses those who do not.

Bukhari 2,24,522 *Mohammed: "Two angels descend from Paradise each day. One says, 'O, Allah! Reward those who contribute to jihad,' and the other says, 'O, Allah! Kill those who refuse to support jihad.'"*

Muslim 020,4649 *Mohammed: "Except debt, all sins of a martyr are forgiven."*

Mohammed often used money to influence others about Islam and keep new converts.

Bukhari 4,53,374 *Mohammed: "I give money to the Quraysh to tempt them into remaining true to Islam, because they are new to the faith and their lives of ignorance are a short distance away."*

To die in jihad is the best life.

Bukhari 5,59,377 *During the battle of Uhud, a man asked Mohammed, "Where will I go if I am killed in battle?" Mohammed said, "Paradise." The man then threw away the meal that he was carrying, joined the battle, and fought until he was killed.*

Rape of the female captives of jihad was standard practice for Mohammed and his companions. Attractive female captives became slaves used for sex, and Mohammed had his choice of the most attractive new slaves. This is the ideal pattern of Islam.

Bukhari 3,34,431 *One of the captives was a beautiful Jewess, Safiyya. Dihya had her first, but she was given to Mohammed next.*

Mohammed accepted jihadists raping on kafir women.

Bukhari 3,34,432 *While sitting with Mohammed, I [Abu Said Al-Khudri] asked, "Mohammed, sometimes we receive female slaves as our share of the spoils. Naturally, we are concerned about their retaining their value [the slaves were worth less money if they were pregnant when sold]. How do you feel about coitus interruptus?" Mohammed asked, "Do you do that? It is better not to do that. It is Allah's will whether or not a child is born."*

Some of the Jews of Medina were date farmers. One of the tactics of jihad is to attack economic assets. [The goal of September 11, 2001 attack was against the World Trade Center, a financial center.]

Bukhari 3,39,519 *Mohammed destroyed the date orchards of the Jews and Hassan wrote this poetic verse: "The chiefs of Bani LuAi enjoyed watching the Jew's trees consumed by fire."*

The poetry of this hadith is the most elegant expression of jihad.

Bukhari 4,52,73 *Mohammed: "Be aware that Paradise lies under the shadow of swords."*

#### QUESTIONS

What are the different kinds of jihad?

What is the difference between war (harb) and jihad?

Why is the battle of Badr one of the most important battles of all history?

What were the five things that Mohammed was given? Which of them are political? Religious?

Today a jihadist is never discouraged when they fail. What battle of Mohammed do they draw lessons from?

If Islam offers to make a treaty, what does that mean about them? What will happen later?

Muslims say the the real jihad is the inner struggle. What does the life of Mohammed teach us about jihad?

What is every Muslim's obligation to jihad?

Examine the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Towers. How were the attacks pure jihad?