
CONTENTS

Illustrations and Features	v	
Illustration Acknowledgments	viii	
Preface	ix	
Timeline of Traditional Chronology from the Birth of Muhammad to the Death of ‘Ali	xvii	
The Family Tree of the Prophet Muhammad according to the Traditional Biography	xxi	
PART I		
THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD AND THE RIGHTLY GUIDED CALIPHS	1	
INTRODUCTION TO PART 1: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW	3	
CHAPTER 1	MUHAMMAD IN MECCA	11
	Monotheism and Paganism in Muhammad’s Arabia	11
	Muhammad’s Early Life	17
	Muhammad’s Conflict with the Pagans of Mecca	19
	A Heavenly and an Earthly Journey	24
	Muhammad in Mecca and Historical Research	28
	<i>Study Questions</i>	29
CHAPTER 2	MUHAMMAD IN MEDINA	31
	The Fight for Islam	31
	Muhammad’s Relationships in Medina	39
	The Triumph of Islam	47
	<i>Study Questions</i>	57
CHAPTER 3	THE BIRTH OF AN EMPIRE	59
	The First Caliph and the First Imam	60
	The Early Islamic Conquests	65
	The Lives Of ‘Umar, ‘Uthman, and ‘Ali	70
	<i>Study Questions</i>	77
	CONCLUSION TO PART 1	79

PART 2	THE QUR'AN	83
	INTRODUCTION TO PART 2: HISTORY AND LITERATURE	85
CHAPTER 4	THE QUR'AN AND ITS MESSAGE	93
	The Nature of the Qur'anic Text	93
	The Traditional Account of the Qur'an's Development	96
	The Qur'an on Repentance and Belief	102
	The Qur'an on Divine Majesty	111
	<i>Study Questions</i>	119
CHAPTER 5	THE QUR'AN AND THE BIBLE	121
	Biblical Literature and Qur'anic Rhetoric	121
	The Qur'an's Conversation with Biblical Literature	128
	<i>Study Questions</i>	133
CHAPTER 6	RETHINKING THE BIOGRAPHY OF THE PROPHET	135
	The Biography of Muhammad and Exegesis of the Qur'an	135
	The Sectarian Milieu	145
	<i>Study Questions</i>	151
CHAPTER 7	THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE QUR'AN	153
	Qur'anic Evidence	153
	Islam and Theological Rivalries	162
	<i>Study Questions</i>	166
	CONCLUSION TO PART 2	167
PART 3	CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES	169
	INTRODUCTION TO PART 3: CLASSICAL TEXTS AND CONTEMPORARY RELIGION	171
CHAPTER 8	CONTEMPORARY MUSLIM NARRATIVES OF ISLAM'S EMERGENCE	173
	The Struggle for an Islamic Society Today	173
	Islam and Modernity	196
	<i>Study Questions</i>	204
	CONCLUSION	205
	Glossary of Proper Names and Technical Terms	209
	Bibliography and Further Reading	213
	Index	223