



Pastor's Forum 4/3/16

Understanding Islam

Presented by Shekaiba Bennett and Dr. Shahrzad Mohammadi

ISLAM is a religion

MUSLIM is a person who follows the
religion of Islam

1.6 BILLION MUSLIMS IN THE WORLD

85% SUNNI



15% SHIA

Facts About Islam

Islam is not an ethnicity

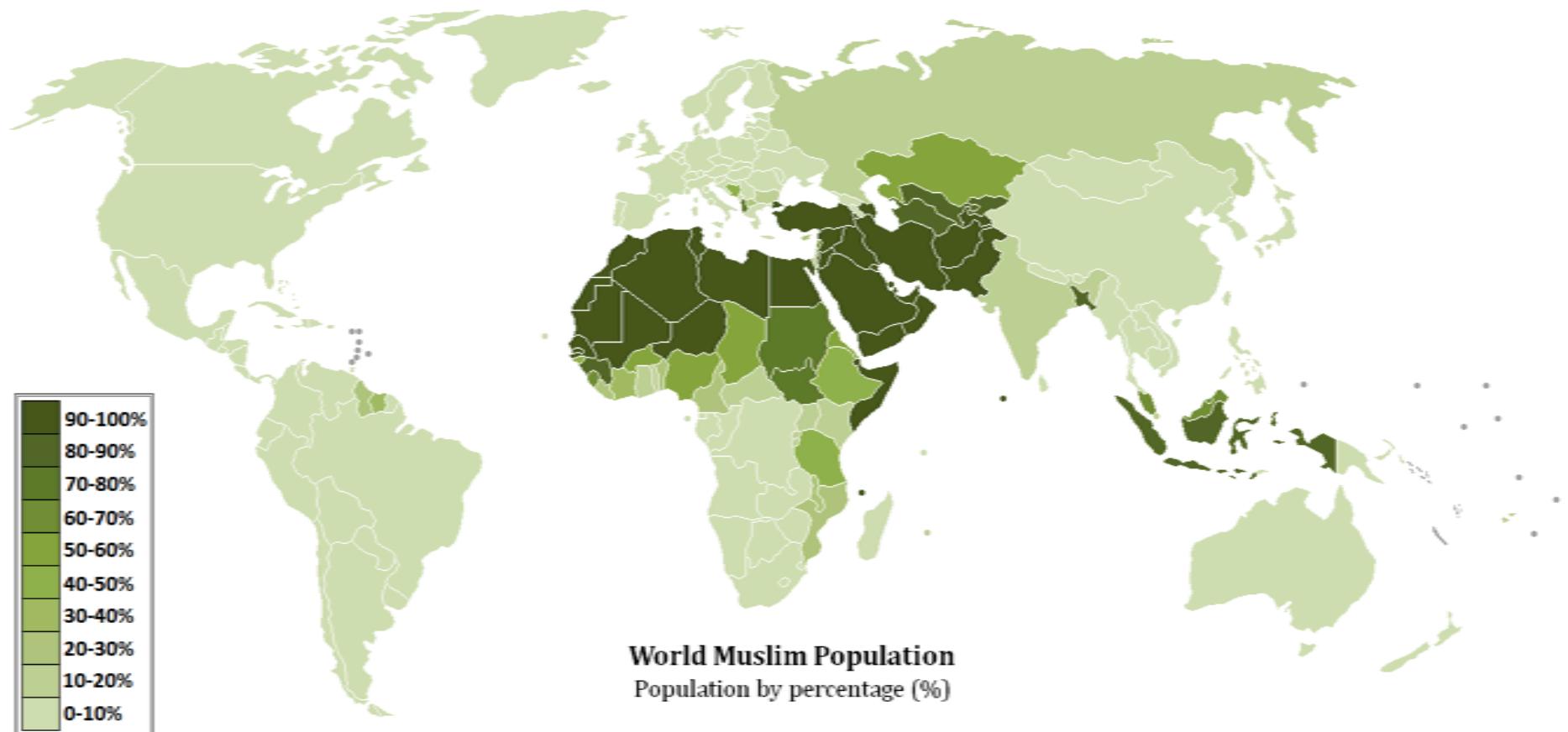
Muslims are from every race, ethnic group, and nationality

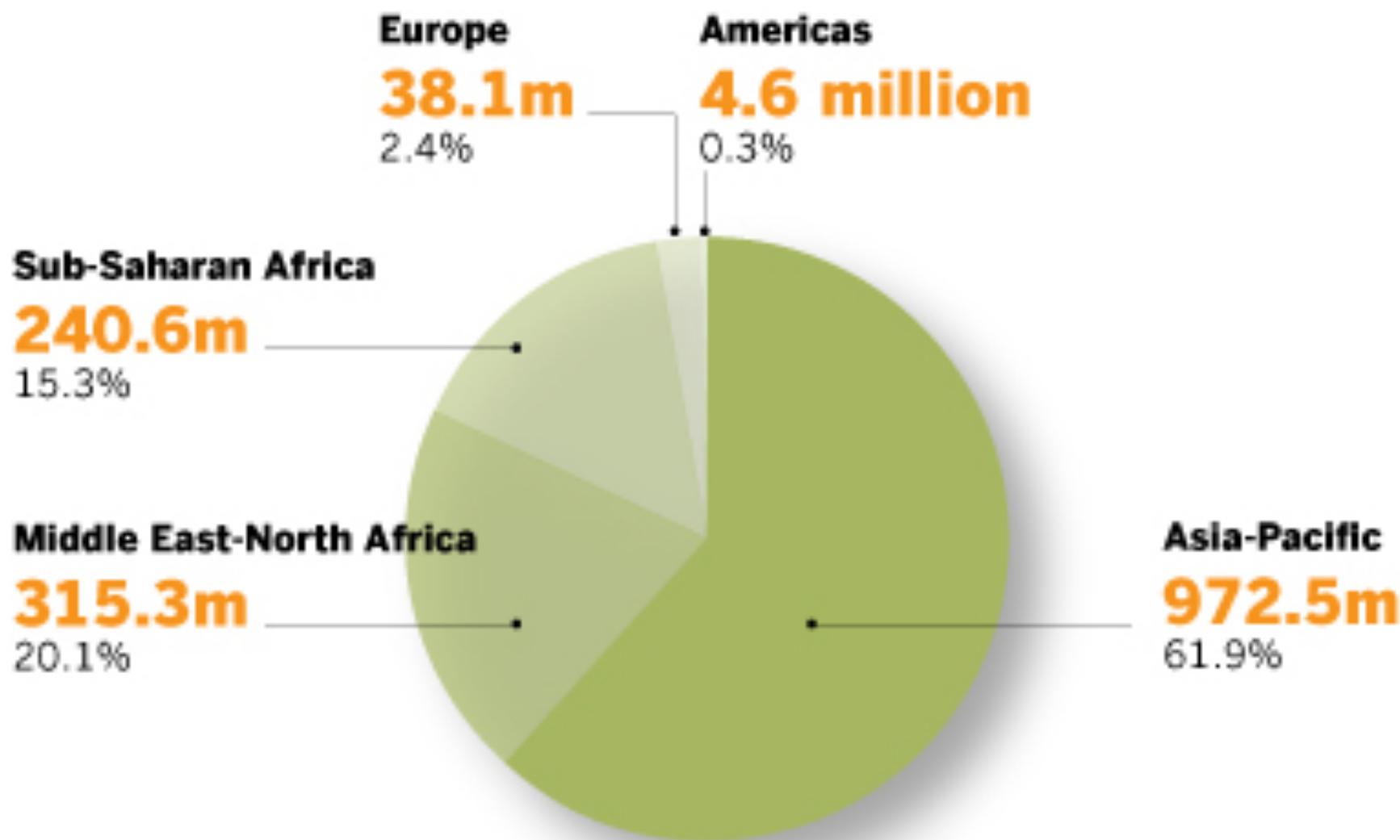
Islam is not a monolithic religion. It has many denominations, like Christianity

There is no Pope or central figure in Islam

There are many practices of the religion within every nationality and culture

Not every Muslim is religious or strictly observant





Countries with the largest Muslim population:

Indonesia 209 Million
Pakistan 167 Million
Bangladesh 134 Million
Nigeria 77 Million
Egypt 76 Million
Iran 73 Million
Turkey 71 Million
Algeria 34 Million
Morocco 31 Million

Large communities of Muslims in non-Muslim countries:

India 184 Million
China: 23 Million
Russia: 16 Million
The Balkans: 9 Million

Note: Only 20% of Muslims live in Arab Countries

EUROPE'S MUSLIMS

Muslims as a percentage of population:

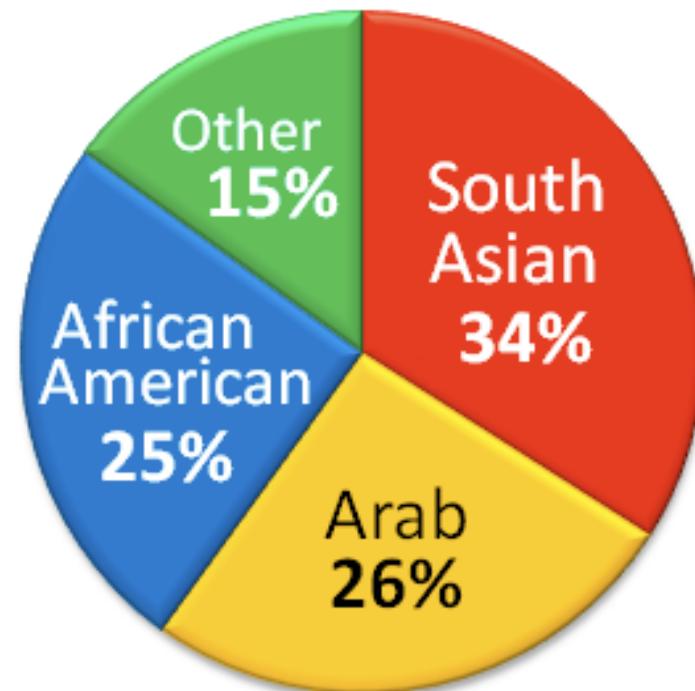


Muslim Population in America

The Pew Research Center estimates that there were about 3.3 million Muslims living in the United States in 2015. This means that Muslims made up about 1% of the total U.S. population.

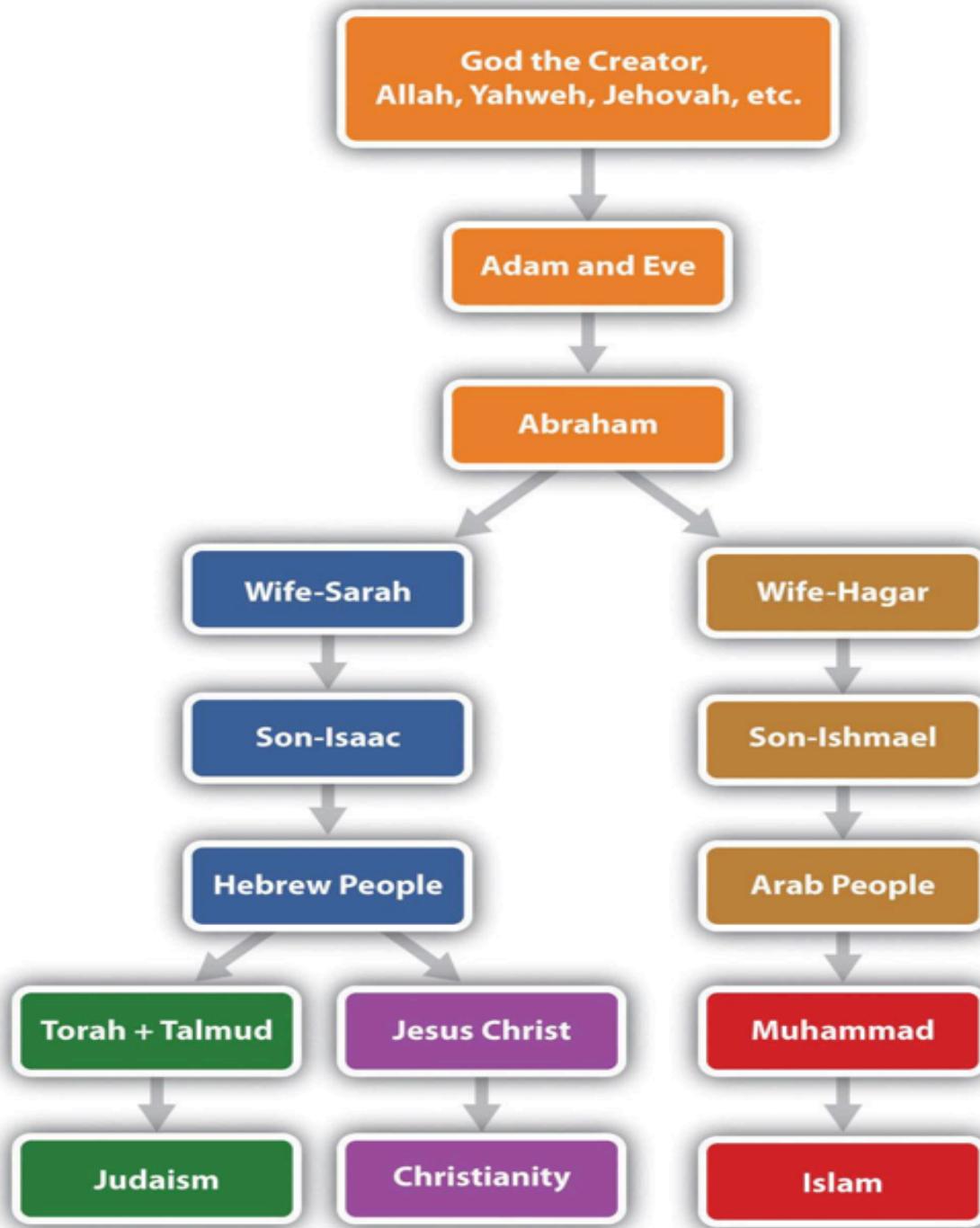
The number of Muslim immigrants currently represents about 10% of all legal immigrants arriving in the U.S.

63% of American Muslims were born abroad





The Religions
of the god of
Abraham





- **Original Language**

- Judaism – Hebrew
- Christianity – Aramaic and Greek
- Islam – Arabic

- **Names of God**

- Judaism – Yahweh and Elohim
- Christianity – God, the Trinity
- Islam - Allah

PROPHETS OF ISLAM IN THE QURAN

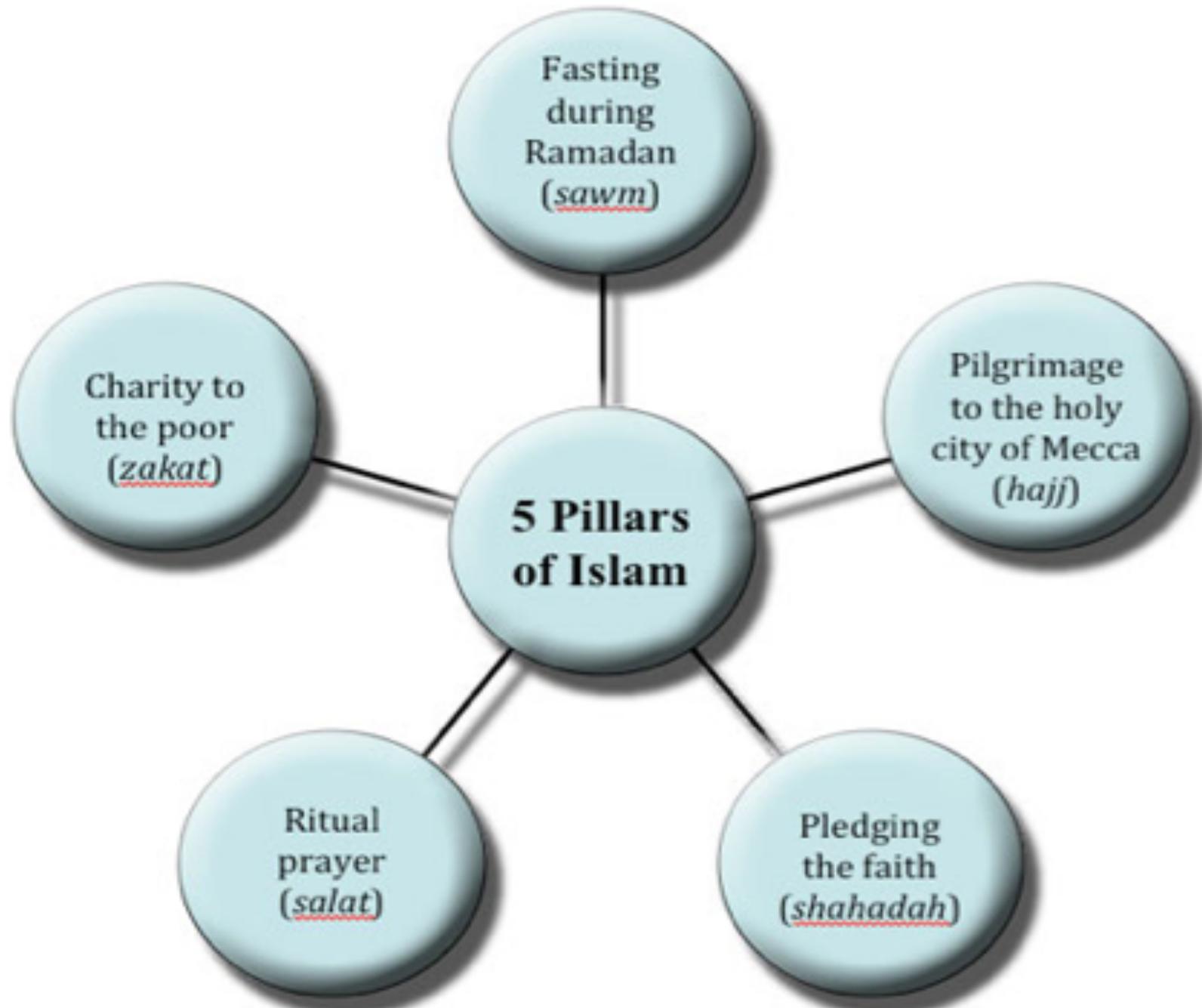
Adam
Idris (Enoch)
Nuh (Noah)
Hud (Heber)
Salih (Methusaleh)
Lut (Lot)
Ibrahim (Abraham)
Ismail (Ishmael)
Ishaq (Isaac)
Yaqub (Jacob)
Yusuf (Joseph)
Shu'aib (Jethro)
Ayyub (Job)
Dhulkifl (Ezekiel)
Musa (Moses)
Harun (Aaron)
Dawud (David)
Sulayman (Solomon)
Ilias (Elias)
Alyasa (Elisha)
Yunus (Jonah)
Zakariya (Zachariah)
Yahya (John the Baptist)
Isa (Jesus)
Muhammad
Ishaq (Isaac)
Yaqub (Jacob)
Yusuf (Joseph)
Dhulkifl (Ezekiel)
Musa (Moses)

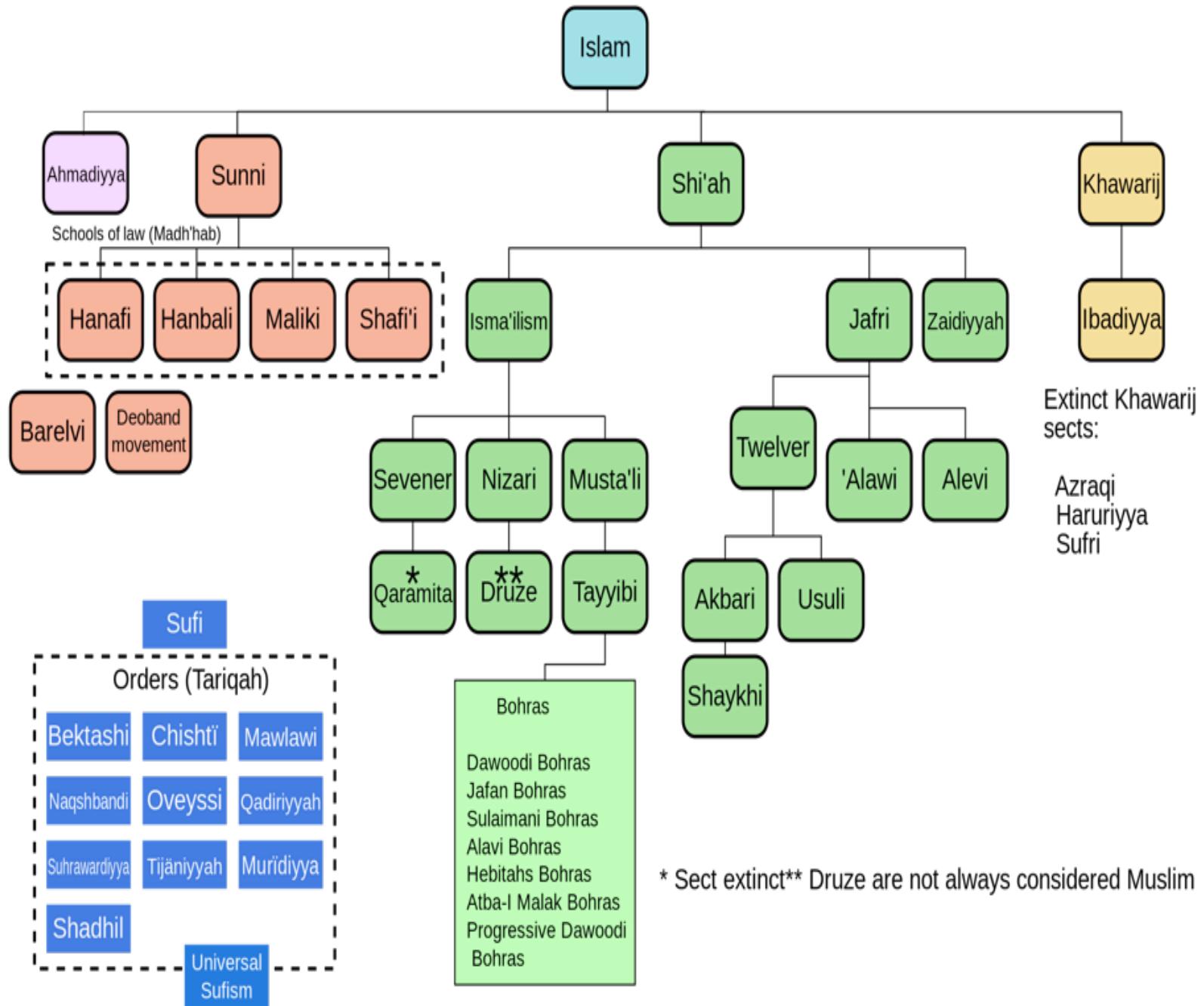


**God
is One**

"Say: 'We believe in God , and in what has been revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and in (the Books) given to Moses, Jesus, and the Prophets, from their Lord: we make no distinction between one and another among them, and to God do we bow our will (in Islam).' "

(Holy Quran - 3 : 84)





Sunni

Believe that after Prophet Muhammad, the first rightful leader of the Muslim community was Abu Bakr, Muhammad's trusted advisor and father-in-law.

The word "Sunni" comes from the term *Sunnah* in Arabic, which refers to "people of the tradition of Muhammad and Ummah (community)".

Sunni Islam is the world's largest religious denomination, followed by Roman Catholicism.

Shia

Believe that after Prophet Muhammad, the first rightful leader of the Muslim community was Ali Talib, his cousin and son-in-law. Ali was married to Muhammad's daughter Fatima.

The name "Shia" comes from Shi'atu Ali which mean "followers of Ali" or "party of Ali".

Shia

Only descendants of Muhammad can be caliphs.

Sunni

Caliphs do not have to be descendants of Muhammad.

Both

1. There is only one God, Allah.
2. The Quran is the holy book of Islam.
3. Practice the Five Pillars.



Muslim Culture

There is Arab culture, Turkish culture, Indian culture, Persian culture, etc. There is no such thing as "Muslim culture"

The four major events on the Islamic liturgical calendar are:

Ramadan: Fasting from dawn until sunset for a month and refrain from sinful activities

Laylat al Qadr: The Night of Power, considered the holiest night of the year. This is the night in which Muslims believe the first revelation of the Quran was sent down to Muhammad by angel Gabriel

Eid al Fitr: Festival of breaking the fast. A three day celebration at the end of Ramadan

Eid al Adha: Feast of the Sacrifice. It honors the willingness of Abraham (Ibrahim) to sacrifice his promised son, Ishmael

****Mawlid**: birthday of the prophet Muhammad. The Ottomans declared it an official holiday in 1588. Mawlid is not observed by all Muslims. It is celebrated in a carnival like manner, large street processions are held and homes or mosques are decorated. Charity and food is distributed, and stories about the life of Muhammad are narrated.

Islam and Christianity

- Respect for the people of the book: Jews and Christians
- Mary in the Quran - chapter 8, Surah 19
- Jesus in Islam
- Our shared values of charity: feeding the poor, helping the needy and orphans

Status of Women in Islam

Pre-Islamic Period

Pre-Islamic Arabia

Islam changed the world:

- No original sin
- Created equal
- Rights

Condition in Muslim countries

Shariah: Islamic Law

- Definition
- Components
- Goals
- Interpretation/implementation in contemporary world

Q & A from the audience

Prayer for peace by Dr. Shahrzad Mohammadi