

Greetings church,

We're moving on to chapter 6 in The Search for Truth About Islam: A Christian Pastor Separates Fact from Fiction by Ben Daniel.

I want to re-iterate that the author is not writing an academic thesis nor is he writing a persuasive essay or argumentative paper attempting to win someone over to his cause. He is writing about a personal journey he has been on and inviting us into that journey. That is to say that this book is *very* readable and I strongly encourage everyone to not just read my reflections on each chapter but to **read the book for themselves** and to put your thoughts, questions, and reflections into conversation with mine.

The author uses chapter 6 to give a cursory overview of the history of Islam in Cordoba, Spain. He does this as a corrective for misinformation disseminated by the likes of right-wing conspiracy theorist Pamela Geller and former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich. As such, there is once again not much for me to comment on as regards this particular chapter because I would mostly be quoting the author himself. Thus, I reiterate my encouragement that *you*, dear reader, take the time and resources to purchase the book for yourself and read along.

The author's work in the last two chapters, that is to say the communication of the true and proper history of Islam as a whole, is of vital importance. Understanding history and its proper context can offer a vital corrective to assumptions and misinformation which is intended to spark an emotional response. In recent history, much discussion about Islam and its Muslim adherents has been intended to spark an emotional response and outright neglected informed, reasonable, understanding and proper context. Now is the time for nuance, not more extremism. A thorough look through history, from all angles including those which do not cast a charitable light on the subject at hand, help us to be *both* more charitable where appropriate and more circumspect where appropriate. Not every religion is all good or all bad. Not every adherent of any given religion is all good or all bad. Human beings are complex and it is past time that the collective humanity accepts this truth about ourselves. Until we collectively decide to accept our complexity and nuance, both corporately and individually, we'll continue to be in conflict and continue to be divisive and divided. However, books like this one can help alleviate the divisiveness some. I strongly encourage you to pick up your own copy and read it.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Eddie