

Greetings church,

We're moving on to chapter 5 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 5 to give a cursory overview of the history of Islam. As such, there is 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.

I will note that the author quotes the Quran throughout the chapter and every passage cited resonated with the Bible. This makes sense as previous chapters have covered how Islam is an Abrahamic religion, like Judaism and Christianity, and how the prophet Muhammed greatly respected *both* the Jewish and Christian faiths and their prophets; namely Moses and Jesus. While the history of Islam is far from perfect, those who accept the truth, as opposed to a white washed version, will accept that so too is the history of Christianity and the history of Judaism far from perfect. Extremists, unfortunately, abound in all three religions. But the vast *majority* of faithful adherents to all three faiths are people just like you; immigrant sports fans trying to make a living while staying below the radar. And that does seem to be a recurrent theme for the author; when all else fails and you fear politics or religion are going to lead to trouble, fall back on sports. Consuming sports does seem to be as American as proverbial apple pie. Christians, Muslims, atheists, Republicans, Democrats, MAGA all have the common ground of fandom from which to launch. If religion cannot be the great unifier, admittedly due to loaded histories for all of them, perhaps sports fandom can.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Eddie