

## **TRANSCRIPT OF THE VIDEO “LIFE OF MUHAMMAD AND BEGINNINGS OF ISLAM PART 1”**

00:00

I'm going to give an overview on the

00:01

beginning of Islam and regardless of

00:05

whether you are part of an Islamic

00:08

culture you are practicing Muslim or you

00:12

believe in the Islamic traditions it's

00:14

valuable to learn about the beginnings

00:16

of Islam because today nearly one-fourth

00:19

of the world's population either is a

00:21

practicing Muslim or has grown up in an

00:25

Islamic tradition now the beginnings of

00:28

Islam really are centered on the life

00:31

and the revelations of the Muslim

00:34

Prophet Muhammad now the term Islam

00:37

means surrender and as we'll see a lot

00:40

of the revelations of Muhammad are about

00:43

surrendering to God about the oneness of

00:45

God about not worshiping idols and to

00:48

put Muhammad in perspective on a

00:51

timeline I have other significant

00:53

biblical figures here and these are

00:56

important not just to get a reference

00:57

towards Christianity and Judaism but

01:00

because according to Islamic tradition

01:02

Islam is built on top of the teachings

01:05

of Abraham or the teachings of Moses and

01:09

the Torah and the teachings of Jesus

01:13

Muslims believe that the Quran is the

01:15

final Testament so to speak now get some

01:18

- get some context **Muhammad was born in**

**01:21**

**sixth century Arabia** and sixth century

01:25

Arabia was an interesting place in many

01:27

other videos we've talked about various

01:29

empires around the Mediterranean around

01:32

the Mesopotamia and Persia and even on

01:36

this map in the time of Muhammad you see

01:38

**significant empires the Byzantine Empire**

01:40

**the eastern Roman Empire**

01:41

**you have Sassanid Persia** but Arabia was

01:45

never really consolidated or ruled by a

01:48

formal or most of Arabia by a formal

01:51

government or a formal Empire the rule

01:55

of law in most of Arabia in the world in

01:57

which Muhammad was born into was a

01:59

tribal world where you protect you're

02:03

protected by your tribe and it was

02:06

really the laws of vendetta and revenge

02:08

that kept certain things in check but

02:11

also would lead to a lot of war

02:13

a lot of violence and it would in Arabia

02:17

there were many folks who are bed wins

02:20

who are **nomadic people** who traveled

02:22

through the the desert allowing their

02:24

livestock to graze on whatever a

02:27

suitable land they found but you also

02:29

had settled people in places like Mecca

02:31

you had played people who'd settled and

02:33

started agriculture around oases

02:35

remember most of the Arabian Peninsula

02:37

is really desert and Mohammed was born

02:41

into a fairly or a very prominent family

02:43

in Mecca he was born to the Quraysh

02:47

tribe and the Quraysh tribe was

02:49

essentially in control of Mecca and

02:52

**Mecca was a very powerful City to**

**02:55**

**control because it was a religious**

**02:57**

**center for the region** this is the Kaaba

03:00

which exists today and is the center of

03:03

Islamic worship and at the time it

03:07

housed hundreds of idols which were

03:09

important to the various tribes and

03:11

people of Arabia at the time and so you

03:14

can imagine as they did the **pilgrimage**

03:16

towards Mecca to worship their idols it

03:19

also benefitted the economy of Mecca in

03:22

a significant way and not only was

03:24

Muhammad born into this powerful tribe

03:26

he was born to one of the most powerful

03:27

clans within that tribe and within one

03:30

of the most powerful houses within that

03:32

clan but even though he was born into

03:35

this very powerful family clan and tribe

03:37

his early life was quite difficult

03:40

his father died right before he was born

03:44

his mother dies at the age of six years

03:47

old and then his grandfather who is who

03:51

then takes custody of him and by most is

03:55

by most accounts he doesn't get a lot of

03:58

privileges there's when you're a member

04:00

of a tribe but your source essentially

04:02

**orphaned** the tribe is doing essentially

04:04

just the base necessities to keep you

04:07

alive but then his grandfather dies when

04:09

he is 8 years old and he becomes he goes

04:12

under the custody of his uncle Abu Talib

04:15

now as he grows older he does learn a

04:19

skill he essentially becomes a **merchant**

04:22

he goes on trading journeys with his

04:25

uncle Abu Talib to places

04:27

like Syria and as he does that according

04:30

to Islamic tradition he gets a very

04:33

favorable reputation he gets these

04:36

titles like al-amin the trustworthy one

04:39

or al Siddiq the truthful now he

04:42

continues doing that until the age of 25

04:45

at 25 years old something very

04:48

interesting happens a very wealthy

04:50

widows arguably one of the wealthiest

04:53

people in all of Mecca who runs a

04:56

trading a vast trading enterprise

04:57

**Khadija who was 40 years old she employs**

**05:00**

**Mohammed** and apparently is so impressed

05:03

by his honesty by his his ability to be

05:07

trustworthy that she proposes to him and

05:11

he remembers she's 40 this would be her

05:14

third **marriage** and he is 25 and he

05:17

accepts the proposal now this is

05:20

significant because as we'll see on in

05:22

this video in the next cathedra is the

05:24

first one to follow Mohammed or believe

05:27

in Muhammad's revelations so he

05:30

continues to do to work with his life

05:33

arguably work for his wife and then in

05:37

610 he's now 40 years old he is praying

05:41

in a cave or on the outskirts of Mecca

05:45

and while he is praying he is purported

05:48

to get **his first revelation from God**

05:50

according to Islamic traditions and that

05:54

first revelation and this is the

05:58

mountain where it is purported to happen

06:00

**the mountain of Light Jabal al noor** this

06:02

is the cave cave hira the first

06:04

revelation is proclaim in the name of

06:07

thy lord and cherisher who created man

06:09

out of a clot of congealed blood

06:12

proclaim and thy Lord is most bountiful

06:15

who taught by the pen taught man that

06:17

which he knew not and so Muhammad

06:21

according to Islamic account he's kind

06:25

of very concerned by this he does not

06:27

view himself as a preacher he does not

06:29

view himself as as someone who should be

06:32

a prophet and he goes to Khadija and

06:34

he's worried and cathedra takes him to

06:37

her Christian cousin who reassures

06:39

Muhammad who tells Muhammad that

06:41

he believes that **he is a prophet in the**

**06:43**

**tradition of Abraham and Moses** and so

06:47

that to some degree makes Muhammad feel

06:49

a little bit better and he doesn't have

06:51

some revelations for a while and he

06:53

becomes concerned but then he eventually

06:56

starts to have many many revelations but

06:58

he keeps it to himself at first but

07:00

roughly three years later he starts to

07:02

publicly preach these revelations so

07:04

these revelations which really talk

07:07

about the oneness of God there's no god

07:10

but God it's very appealing especially

07:14

to some of the economically lower strata

07:17

but you could also imagine it's very

07:19

very threatening to the establishment of

07:22

Mecca you have to remember the

07:25

**establishment of Mecca it revolves**

**07:28**

**around the the worship of these idols**

07:31

and now you have this guy a member of

07:33

the Quraish tribe the tribe that that

07:36

worships who Baal the tribe that is in

07:38

charge of mecca that benefits from all

07:41

these people worshipping these various

07:42

idols he's now saying that idol worship

07:45

is a sin he's saying that there's no god

07:47

but God that all of these idols are

07:49

false idols and so the Quraish tribe

07:52

Muhammad's own tribe begins to

07:54

significantly persecute the early

07:56

Muslims so much so that many of the

08:00

**early Muslims have to migrate from Mecca.**