

ISLAM

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VIEW FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

# WORLDVIEW QUESTION 1

- What is the prime reality-the really real?
    - The fundamental reality of Islam is God (Allah), described as monotheistic, infinite, personal, transcendent, immanent, omniscient, sovereign and good. Of these attributes Islam emphasizes his oneness, transcendence and sovereignty. There has been debate as to what extent the Qur'an should be included in the category of fundamental reality. (246)
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# WORLDVIEW QUESTION 2

- What is the nature of external reality, that is, the world around us?
    - God (Allah) created the universe ex nihilo, and all creatures are responsible to him. However, the world is a closed system insofar as nothing happens in the world outside of his divine decrees. (255)
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# WORLDVIEW QUESTION 3

- What is a human being?
  - Human beings are the pinnacle of God's creation. They have been given abilities of which other creatures, such as angels and jinn, are not capable. However, their high standing also brings with it the responsibilities to live up to God's standards. (258)

# WORLDVIEW QUESTION 4

- What happens to a person at death?
  - Death is a time of transition between this life and our eternal state, which will consist of either paradise or hell. (260)

# WORLDVIEW QUESTION 5

- Why is it possible to know anything at all?
  - Allah has endowed human beings with the capability of knowledge by means of reason and the senses. Thereby, they can also know God's revelation. However, God's sovereign decrees limit human knowledge. (263)

# WORLDVIEW QUESTION 6

- How do we know what is right and wrong?
  - Right and wrong are based on the teachings of the Qur'an, as amplified by the Hadith and interpreted by the schools of law, the shari'a. (268)

# WORLDVIEW QUESTION 7

- What is the meaning of human history?
  - Human history has significance in demonstrating the absolute sovereignty of God but, even more so, as the opportunity for people to demonstrate their submission to him. (269)

# WORLDVIEW QUESTION 8

- What personal, life-orienting core commitments are consistent with this worldview?
  - A devout Muslim is grateful to Allah for providing the opportunity to serve him and will strive to follow the divine instructions in even the smallest part of life. (271)

## WORKS CITED

Sire, James W. *The Universe Next Door* 5<sup>th</sup> ed.  
International Varsity Press: Dowers Grove, 2009.