

## **Muhammad [c. 570-632]**

His father died before his birth.

His mother died when he was 6.

Then he was cared for by his grandfather who died 2 years later, age 8.

Then he became a ward of his uncle who was the clan leader.

His clan, Hashim, a middle ranking clan, was part of the ruling Quraysh clan.

C. 595 he married Khadija, a wealthy widow 15 years his senior. Muhammad was dedicated to her and took no other wife while she lived.

She was supportive of him and was his first convert.

Fatima was their daughter, all their sons died before Muhammad.

Muhammad was disturbed by the pursuit of wealth and power and the ruthlessness of oppression of his society. He was searching for a sense of community and an end to tribal warfare. He started to feel that there was only one true god, Allah. He went to the caves in Mount Hira regularly for 15 years to meditate.

In c. 610, at age 40, the Night of Power, an angel in human form came to him and thrice embraced him and told him "proclaim!" The revelations from a divine voice continued for 23 years.

In 613 the divine voice told him to warn Meccans of the good news.

619 Khadija dies.

9-24-622 (beginning of the Islamic calendar) is the Hijra (migration). A delegation from Medina (then Yathrib) came and asked Muhammad to be their city's leader to unify its inner rivalries. Muhammad received a pledge from them to worship Allah only, then a sign from Allah to accept the request. Mecca tried to prevent the exodus of Muhammad and 70 families with threats on his life. Because of its large Jewish community, monotheism was not a strange concept in Medina. Muhammad converts grew in Medina, but he wasn't very successful in his arbitration between tribes.

God gave Muhammad permission to fight his enemies. Mecca was the main target. He conquered by destruction, expulsion, missionaries, demonstrations of military might, and economic incentives.

628, he consolidated authority in Medina, peace treaty with Mecca.

630, the treaty fell apart and he captured Mecca easily on 1-11-630.

632 was the first Hajj to Mecca for professed Muslims.

By 644 the Muslims had conquered Damascus, Jerusalem, Egypt, and Persia.

Muhammad's revelations were collected into the Qur'an, or Koran (which means "recitation") after his death.