



# A Call to Four Incredible Days of Intercession

November 14 - 17

## Hajj Introduction

Young Muslim children passionately grow up hearing about the men and women who have gone on “Hajj” or “pilgrimage” to Mecca. Today on the web, young women are asking if the Hajj will cleanse them of sins, not only their small common sins, but also their big serious sins. These women want to be clean and they are told, “YES, the Hajj cleanses you from all sins.”\*

We are not condemning Muslims for going on the Hajj, we all desire to be clean of sin. We want to CALL on God to be merciful and intervene in their lives as only He can really do – just like Paul’s experience on the Damascus road\*\*.

## When and What is the Hajj

The Hajj, one of the five pillars of the Islamic religion, begins on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month of Dhul Hijjah of the Islamic calendar and because the calendar, is based on the moon’s cycle, the Hajj begins nine days earlier each consecutive year. This year, the Hajj will start on November the 14<sup>th</sup> and last for 3-4 days. During this time, Muslims from all over the world will flock to Mecca to perform the rituals and follow the steps of Mohammed, their prophet. Each day they will perform a different ritual:

- Day 1: The ritual of *IHRAM* (cleaning) #1
- Day 2: The ritual of *WUQOOF* (standing) #4
- Day 3: The ritual of Stoning and Sacrificing #6
- Day 4: The ritual of *Sa’y* (running between) #7

*Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.*

John 4:23



The following pages are designed to fuel Christ centered prayers during this Hajj.

### What does the Bible say?

\* The Bible does not state that we must go on a pilgrimage or a journey to be cleansed from sin. It talks about sins being cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Matthew 26:28, Acts 2:38, 1 John 1:7

\*\* Paul journeyed to Damascus wanting to persecute men and women that were following Jesus. Instead he met the resurrected Jesus (Acts 9).



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## Hajj Day 1 – November 14, 2010

### Ihram – Sacred Act #1

There are six different places to enter Mecca for Ihram (ritual cleansing), so it is at the Miqat, “a stated place,” where Muslims actually enter into the Hajj. After performing this ritual, the pilgrims will wear white cloths, wrapped around them, a sign showing that all pilgrims are equal in Islam, kings and servants are all dressed alike. More crucial than wearing the white clothing, Ihram is the state of sacred purity the Muslim faithful must enter before conducting the Hajj.

From the Miqat entry point, most pilgrims head to the Kaaba in the Grand Mosque. As they enter Mecca, they will shout the Talbiyah, a Muslim prayer: “*Here I am at Thy service O Lord, here I am. Here I am at Thy service and Thou hast no partners\*. Thine alone is All Praise and All Bounty, and Thine alone is The Sovereignty. Thou hast no partners\*.*”

After the Kaaba visit, the pilgrims will walk to a tent city called Mina, continuing to quote the Talbiyah prayer. They must spend the night in prayer and meditation.

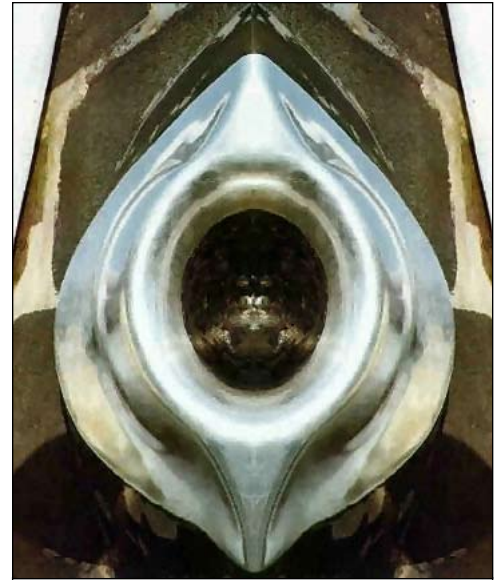
### Key Scriptures

*They will call on me, and I will answer them. I will say, you are my people and they will say, The Lord is our God. Zechariah 13:9b*

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

### Going before the Father

- Purification rituals may clean the body, but it doesn’t clean the heart. Only Jesus can clean our hearts and we can only do that through repentance. Pray that the Holy Spirit would issue a call to genuine repentance that seeking hearts hear and respond to.
- Thank Jesus that it is through His blood sins can be forgiven and pray that Muslims would understand that He is the only way to the Father. John 1:29, Hebrews 1:3, Acts 10:43
- Ask the Lord to bring to memory Scripture verses they may have heard over the TV or radio or internet about the white robes God provides for those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 7:9). Pray they may understand and desire to be clothed with Christ’s righteousness.
- Two to three million people come together from all over the world for the Hajj. Pray for physical safety (protection from stampedes and disease - like the “Mecca flu”).



The Kaaba contains a black stone believed to have been given to Abraham by the angel Gabriel\*\*, according to some sources. Others say the stone was simply part of the original structure of the Kaaba.

In pre-Islamic times, the Kaaba was an object of pilgrimage, housing idols, jahiliyyah (the age of ignorance) and, according to Islamic tradition, was cleansed by Muhammad of idols and then dedicated to the worship of the one God.



Tent city Mina

### What does the Bible say?

\* It would be in statements like these that Muslims would not allow room for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 10:21-23, Galatians 4:6

\*\* There is nothing in the Bible about Abraham receiving this stone.





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## Hajj Day 2 – November 15, 2010

### Wuqoof – Standing at Arafat - Sacred Act #2

In the morning, after prayers, the pilgrims proceed to the Plain of Arafat where they perform the central ritual of the Hajj, the standing (wuqoof). In a shame and honor society (most Muslims come from this type of society), the seeking of the forgiveness of sins (shame) brings freedom. Abu Qataadah reported that Mohammed was said to say, “fasting on the Day of Arafat expiates (atone for guilt) the sins of the preceding year and the coming year.\*”

The pilgrims face Mecca and pray from noon to sundown. These prayers are done in a prescribed way: they should remember God, ask for forgiveness and pray other Islamic prayers. It is believed that Muhammad delivered his final sermon from a hill above this plain, called Mount Arafat, during his last pilgrimage. Muslims believe that they leave this day cleansed of sin.

As the sun sets, the people are not required to quote any prescribed prayers. During these sacred moments, pilgrims are to be alone with God. They should ask that their sins and lifelong shortcomings be forgiven.

At sunset, a cannon sounds. Pilgrims leave Arafat going to Muzdalifah, where they sleep or stay up all night under the stars. On the way, many will pick up stones and pebbles. For Muslims not on the Hajj, many will fast on this day of wuqoof.

### Key Scripture

*Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and all the people in your house. Acts 16:31*

### Going before the Father

- As the pilgrims head to Muzdalifah, may what happened to Paul in Romans 7:7-13 well up in them, that their sins would continue to overwhelm them. Pray for conviction of sin deep in their hearts and minds. Pray that God would reveal His heart - that He is grieved by our sin, but that He offers a way to receive His forgiveness. Jesus takes guilt and shame away which brings real freedom.
- Pray that God would reveal His heart of love for the people. He loves them so much. Pray that people will have encounters of God's love for them.
- Pray that God will speak to them in dreams and visions, as they spend the second night of Hajj praying for their shortcomings and needs. Ask God for an open heaven for many who are genuinely seeking an encounter with God.
- Muslims pray five times a day “*Show us the straight way, the way of those on whom Thou hast bestowed Thy Grace, those whose (portion) is not wrath, and who go not astray.*” Pray that God will answer their prayer in such a way that they can grasp God's grace through Jesus Christ.

### What does the Bible say?

\* The Bible talks about sins being cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Matthew 26:28, Acts 2:38, 1 John 1:7



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## Hajj Day 3 – November 16, 2010

### Stoning and Sacrifice - Sacred Act #3

As the pilgrims leave Muzdalifah, they pass through Mina again. They, then, go to three pillars, which represent Satan coming to Abraham three times\*, to tempt him to ignore the instructions of God concerning the sacrifice of Ishmael\*\*. Muslims believe that Abraham threw stones at Satan. Using the stones or pebbles, that they have collected, they throw them at the pillars, which represent Satan. In the stoning, pilgrims renounce evil and declare their willingness to sacrifice all they have to God.

After this victory over Satan, pilgrims will kill a sheep, a goat or maybe a camel in remembrance of God's provision of a sheep sacrificed instead of Abraham's son. This sacrifice ends the formal time of Hajj. It is on this day, as well, that Muslims all over the world will sacrifice a sheep or some other animal. This is the biggest Islamic feast of the year, called Eid el Kabir (lit. the Big Feast) or Eid el Adha (the Feast of Sacrifice).

### Key Scripture

*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him. John said, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."* John 1:29

### Going before the Father

- As in Ephesians 6, "*Our battle is not against flesh and blood but against the forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*" Muslims understand there is a spiritual battle caused by Satan. Throwing rocks at Satan during the day of stoning is meaningless apart from the Cross and Resurrection which defeated Satan. Pray that they would see that only Jesus defeated sin, Satan, and death. May they know that, in Christ, we have mighty weapons "*for the tearing down of strongholds.*" (2 Corinthians 10:4)
- Thank the Lord that Muslims see the importance of sacrificing an animal. In the Old Testament, it meant forgiveness of sins. After Jesus died on the cross, animals no longer were sacrificed, for His death covered all of our sins. Pray that they will understand the meaning behind it.
- Ask that God would overwhelm people with the truth and reality of Jesus' death on the cross. Ask that the Holy Spirit move in people's hearts so that they can receive this as truth.
- Ask God to give Muslims understanding that Christ has overcome all the powers of Satan on the cross and pray that they will experience the reality of that victory in their lives through spontaneous healings and deliveries by calling on Jesus' name.



Stoning one of the pillars

### What does the Bible say?

\* The Bible does not talk about Satan visiting Abraham, nor stones (Genesis 22).

\*\* The Quran does not actually say which son of Abraham it was. It is Islamic tradition that says Ishmael. The Bible says that it was Isaac, Genesis 22.



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## Hajj Day 4 – November 17, 2010

### Sa'y - Running between - Sacred Act #4

Lastly, the pilgrims go to the Grand Mosque in Mecca. Inside, the pilgrims walk around the Kaaba seven times and point to the stone or kiss it. Then they pray in the “Place of Abraham,” the spot within the Grand Mosque where Muslims believe the patriarch prayed\*. After this prayer time, pilgrims reenact the running between the hills of Safa and Marwa, and drink from the well of Zamzam\*\*. This reenactment is the Islamic version of Hagar’s (Abraham’s second wife) desperate search for water for her son, Ishmael. They say she repeatedly ran between the hills of Safa and Marwah, climbing them to get a better view of the landscape, attempting to find someone who had water. Upon her return to her son after one of her runs, she discovered that a spring had miraculously sprouted near the infant. Muslims believe the Zamzam Well is this source of water and millions of Muslims still drink from it. Muslims claim their commitment to God, on this day.

### Key Scripture

*But God shows his great love for us in this way, Christ died for us while we were still sinners.* Romans 5:8

*Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live.* Isaiah 55:2-3

### Going before the Father

- As Muslims circle the Kaaba and run through the hills, ask that they will see the futility of these acts. They can have peace with God and a commitment to Him, but it is through what Christ did for them. Pray that they will hear this good news and believe.
- In John 4, Jesus is interacting with the woman at the well. He says to her that He will give her this living water if she asks. Pray that Muslims across the world desire the living water that only Jesus can give.
- Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6). As the pilgrims leave after all these spiritual experiences and the exercises they have done, may they still feel extreme emptiness and a lack of peace until they know the Redeemer of their souls, Jesus.
- Pray that they may learn the meaning of ‘drinking for free’ and that they can meet God wherever they live, without having to save up money in order to make the pilgrimage.
- “*God is opposed to the proud and gives grace to the humble*” (James 4:6). As Muslims head home, some take great pride in being referred to by the title “Haj/ Haji.” Pray that they will learn that God opposes the proud. Pray that they will see that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.



For the pilgrim, there is a heart’s deep longing for living water to cleanse, revive and bring life. People literally run around the hot desert, searching for water. They buy liters of Zamzam water to carry home with them, giving it to eager relatives. How desperate is the need! The Living Water is right there, willing to give them all of Himself. He give Water to cleanse them of sins, Water to revive the thirsty soul and Water which brings abundant life. Pray that pilgrims will “bathe and soak” in these promises.

### What does the Bible say?

\* There is no reference in the Bible that Abraham was ever in Mecca.

\*\* The story of Hagar and Ishmael is found in Genesis 21:8-20, but it does not talk about this “running between” and talks about this being in the desert of Beersheba, probably in the Negev desert of today.