

Summary of Chapter

In this chapter, Tennent starts off with an introduction to Hinduism's monotheism and transitions into the debate of the question of whether the God we worship and the God Muslims worship is the same. Tennent then goes into the etymology, the history, and the nature of the word "Allah." He continues to explore the differences of two questions: "Do Allah and God refer to the same God?" and "Is the Father of Jesus Christ the God of Muhammad?" To explain why he is hesitant to answer the latter of the questions, he points out three reasons. The conclusion is that the Father of Jesus Christ is not the God of Muhammad.

Key Learning/ Questions

The word "Allah" could have been used for a moon god, but it is also unlikely that this is how the word came to be. Tennent says that it is more likely that the word was related to "el," "eloah," or "elohim." I am noting that there are Arabic-speaking Christians and Jews that use the word "Allah" to refer to God, but not to refer to Yahweh, since Yahweh is a particular name of God. Something that always is interesting to see are the differences between Islam and Christianity and one of them is that we disagree on some names that Muslims refer to Allah. "Allah as the deceiver" as one who wills to lead some people astray. The word deceiving is used to describe demons and Satan in the bible, so to see them putting this word against God is shocking (for lack of a better word). Another thing that stuck out to me was that Allah and God may refer to the same God, but when the question changes and asks if the Father of Jesus is the same as the God of Muhammad, many Christians answer that the Father of Jesus is the God of Abraham. When Tennent goes into the predicates that Christians and Muslims believe about God/Allah, I became curious of other truths that overlap but also need clarifying.

Missional Implications

"How can that question be answered without some recognition that the Muslim does not *know* the Father of Jesus?" Whenever I explore the religion of Islam, I am forced to reflect on my lack of knowledge. Do I know the God that I say I love and worship with all of my heart, my soul, and strength? If I am one day face to face with a Muslim, could I be able to say to their face that what they believe about Allah is wrong and what I believe is right? To reach these lost sheep, if we are to approach in love, we would come not only with knowledge of our own God but theirs as well. Not to test them, but to challenge them to think differently. We do not go to teach, or force change, but to love them and lead them to Jesus Christ the Son of God.