

## Reflection – Chapter 2

Is the father of Jesus the God of Muhammad. This is a good question. I said no when I first read this question and I continue to have this stance. I initially said no because of the word, Allah, but now have different reasoning. What I found interesting was that the word Allah is a word not only used by those of the Islam religion. This is something I did not know before this reading. Finding that Allah is being used in Bibles in other regions for God was new for me. Tennent informed us that Jews, Christians and Hanif's used Allah for God before the birth of Muhammad was born. Allah being a generic name for God and not a personal name, furthered my understanding of why different religions would use Allah to refer to their God. However, is the use of the word Allah the same in each religion. To further understand we have to ask what each religion is saying about God. Tennent builds on the question by giving the explanation of different scholars, from different religious and denominational backgrounds. The Jewish response is that although Christians and Muslims have things in common when viewing God, we cannot ignore the differences. The Roman Catholic response is that Allah as used by Muslims and Arabic speaking Christians is similar but the denial of Jesus severs the Christian and Muslim view of God. The Evangelical response is that when referring to the being of God, Christian and Muslim views are comparable. However, when it comes to understanding the character and actions of God, Christians and Muslims views are different. I didn't really see a stand for the mainline Protestant, but he does recognize that there is tension when this question is asked in the Eastern world. There could be responses of yes, no, I don't know or just silence. The Muslim response was that the God of Muslims and Christians is the

same.

It is important to be aware of the differences of what the Bible teaches and what the Quran teaches about God. One major difference is seeing God as the father of Jesus. Another difference is that Christians believe that God is one with three eternal distinctions. God reveals himself to his people. The Muslims believe that God is one but, and he is not to be known. God reveals his will not himself. These are a few differences that lead me to believe that the father of Jesus is not the God of Muhammad. Being aware of these and other differences will aid in us coming to the correct theological conclusion.