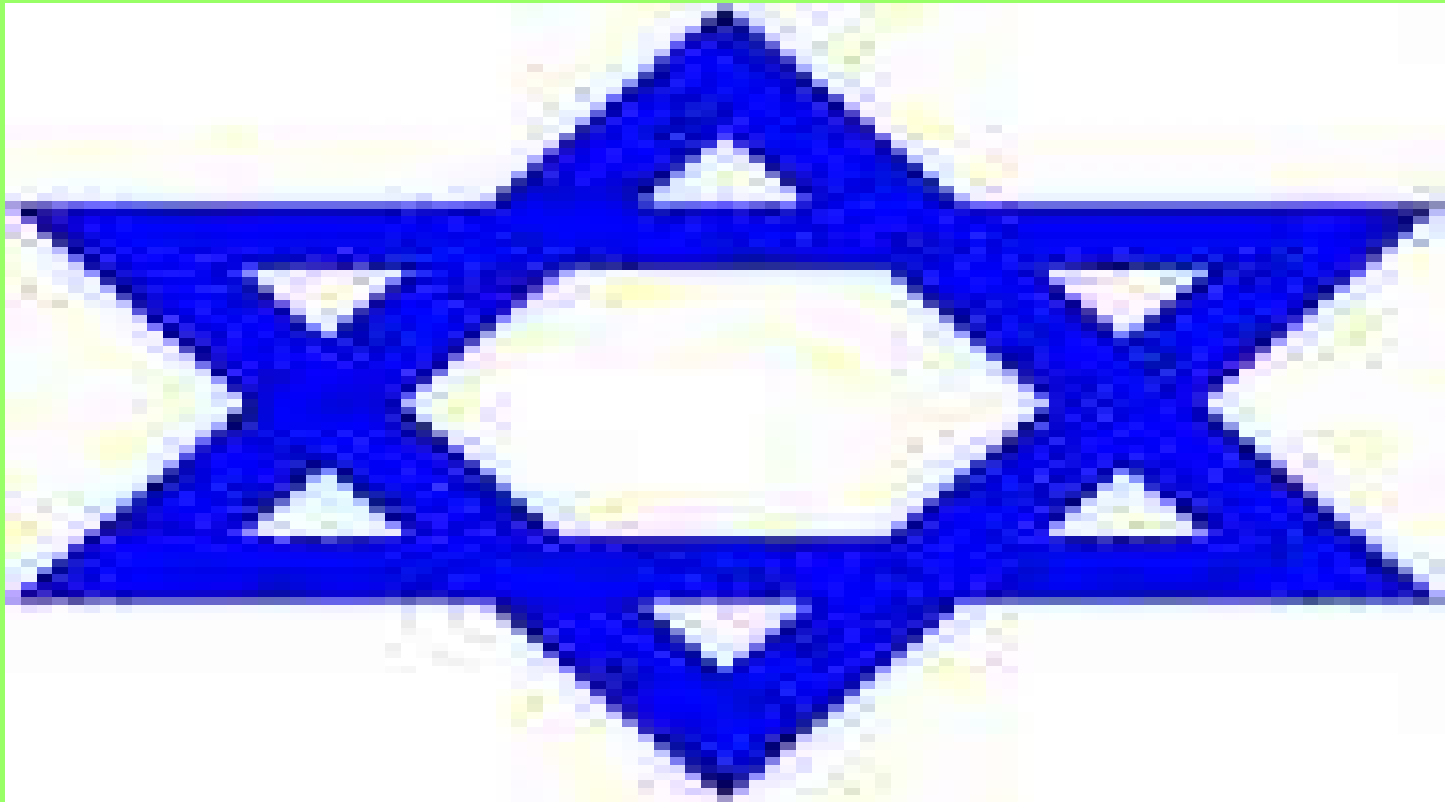


3 Abrahamic Religions

- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam
 - All originated in Southwest Asia
 - All are monotheistic
 - All recognize Abraham as their first prophet

Judaism



Judaism

- Oldest surviving of the monotheistic religions.
- Founded approx. 3900 years ago with a *covenant* between Abraham and God.

Other Nations

- Canaanites
- Hittites
- Philistines
- Phoenicians
- Moabites
- Ammonites
- Edomites
- Midianites



1st Diaspora

- Approx. 3800 years ago the Hebrews were forced to leave their land because of drought and famine.
- Migrated to Egypt
- Eventually enslaved by the Egyptians and forced to do hard labor.

2nd Covenant

- Approx. 450 years after God's covenant with Abraham, God made a covenant with Moses.
- Moses led the Jews out of slavery (the exodus) back to the land of Canaan.
- At the top of mount Sinai, Moses made a covenant with God producing the *10 Commandments*

Beliefs

- Strictly monotheistic
- God = Yahweh
- Torah: Jewish law
- Talmud: Collection of writings based on the Torah and traditions...began in 400s C.E.

Beliefs II

- Does not recognize Jesus Christ as the Messiah.
- Belief in an afterlife and judgment day.

Key Festivals

- Yom Kippur: The Day of Atonement, the last 10 days of penitence which marks the opening of the New Year.
- Hanukkah: An eight day festival which commemorates the re-dedication of the temple in Jerusalem

Key Festivals II

- Bar Mitzvah: Coming of age for boys aged 13. In liberal traditions, an equivalent ceremony (Bat Mitzvah) is carried out for girls

Holocaust

- Jews throughout Europe were rounded up and placed into concentration/labor camps by Nazi occupiers.
- Approx. 5.5 million Jews were murdered during the Holocaust.

Today

- Approx. 12 to 18 million Jews in the world
- 1 Israel (2009)[\[1\]](#) 5,636,000 75.5% 43%
- 2 United States (2007)[\[2\]](#) 5,275,000 1.7%
40.3%
- 3 France 492,000 0.9% 3.76%
- 4 Canada 373,500 1.2% 2.7%
- 5 United Kingdom 297,000 0.6% 2.4%

Holy City

- Jerusalem: Home of the “western wall”, the last remaining part of Solomon’s 2nd temple.



Christian symbols



Christianity

- World's largest religion 2.1 billion
- Over 38,000 different denominations of Christianity throughout the world.
- Two largest:
 - Catholicism (approx. 1.1 billion)
 - Protestantism (approx. 650 million)

Jesus Christ

- Christianity is the religion based on the life, death and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth,.
- He revealed himself to be the Son of God

Jesus Christ con't

- His assertion to be the son of God created both political and religious enemies
- Christ is crucified at the age of 34.
- Crucifixion:
 - Cruel form of death
 - Nailed to a cross through the wrists and ankles
 - Eventually die of suffocation

Beliefs

- Belief in original sin
- Belief in Baptism
- Christians believe that there is only one God

Beliefs con't

- Most Christians believe that God is a Trinity made up of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

Beliefs con't

- Christians believe in eternal life after death.
- Christians await the second coming of Christ.

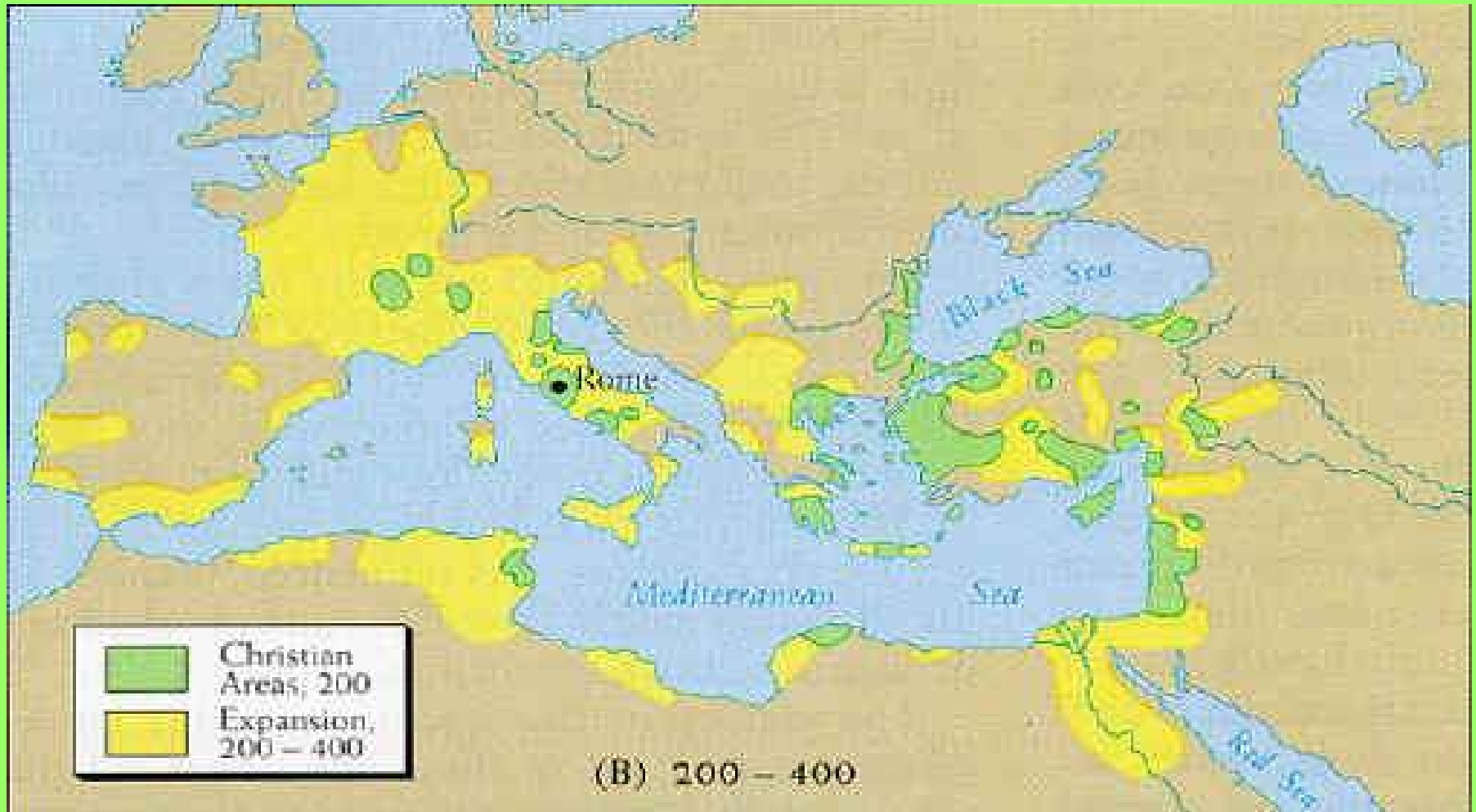
Festivals/Celebrations

- *Christmas* (December 25): The celebration of Jesus' birth

Holy Cities

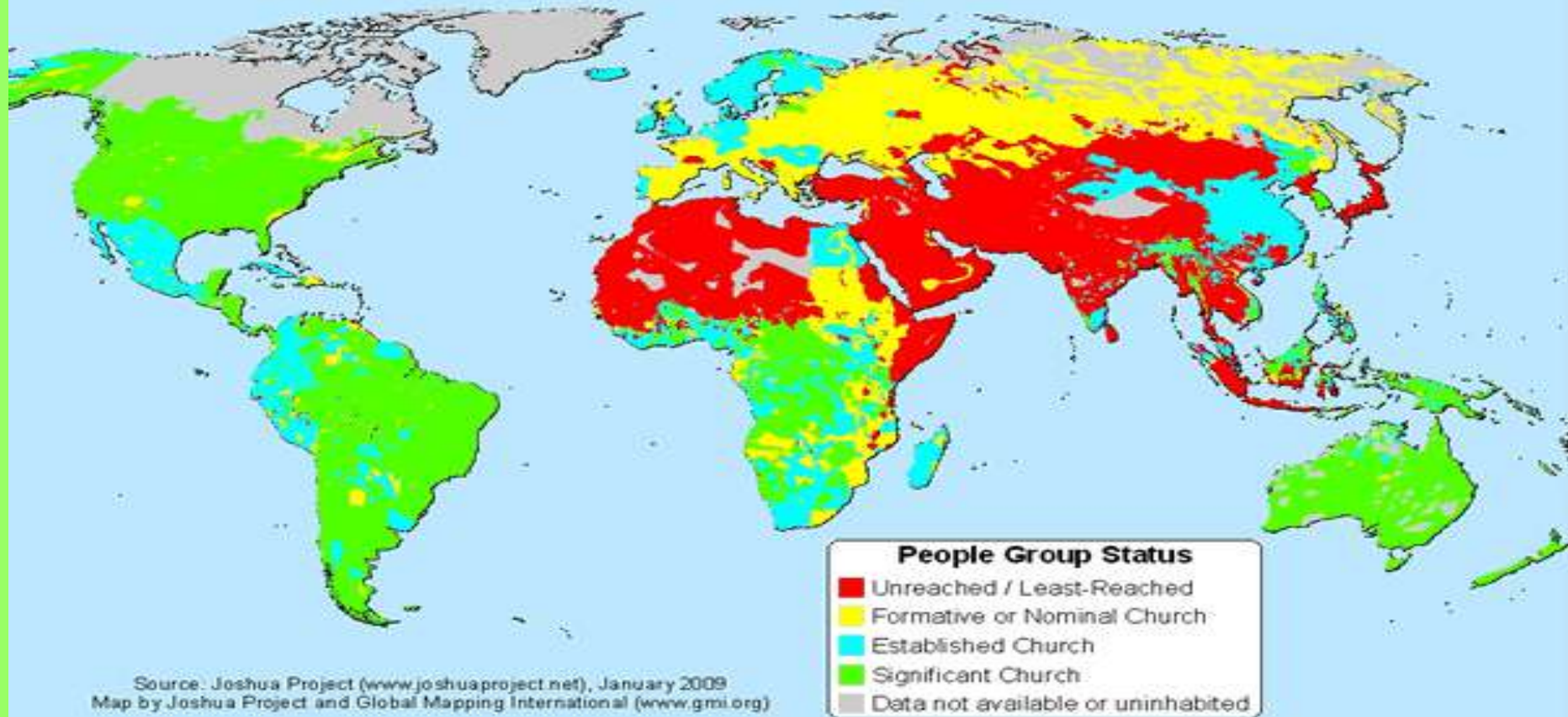
- Jerusalem: Where the early church was started.
- Bethlehem: Birth place of Jesus
- Nazareth: Where Jesus lived and began ministry.

Early Christianity Expansion



Spread of Christianity 2009

Progress of the Gospel by People Group
Based on the Joshua Project Progress Scale



Symbol of Islam



Islam

- Islam has several translated meanings including “peace and submission”
- Allah = God
- Muslims believe that the God mentioned in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are the same

Origins of Islam

- Prophet Muhammad 570-632 CE
- Approx. 610 CE the angel Gabriel orders Muhammad to speak to his people and deliver to them the word of God.

Islam

- The Koran or Qu'ran is believed to be the literal word of God
- Koran = recitation
- Koran is divided into 114 suras (chapters)

1st sura of the Koran



Beliefs

- 5 Pillars
- Belief in a Final Judgment led by the Islamic savior known as “al-Mahdi” who will restore the Kingdom of God
- Belief in an afterlife
- Believe Moses and Jesus to be important prophets
- Muhammad final and greatest prophet

1) Shahada:

- The declaration, “I testify that there is none worthy of worship except God and I testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of God.”

2) Salat: Prayer

- **General Features of Islamic Prayer**
- Five prayer times each day:
- early morning
- noon
- mid-afternoon
- sunset
- evening



Salat Con't

- Adhan = Islamic call to prayer led by a muezzin
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLFYMkQPakE&feature=related>

3) Zakat: Giving charity

- Originally a free-will donation
- Now largely compulsory
- General rate: 2 1/2% of income annually.
- Given only to needy Muslims, or for religious purposes, etc.

4) Sawm: Fast

- In memory of the revelation of the *Koran*
- During month of **Ramadan**, daylight hours.

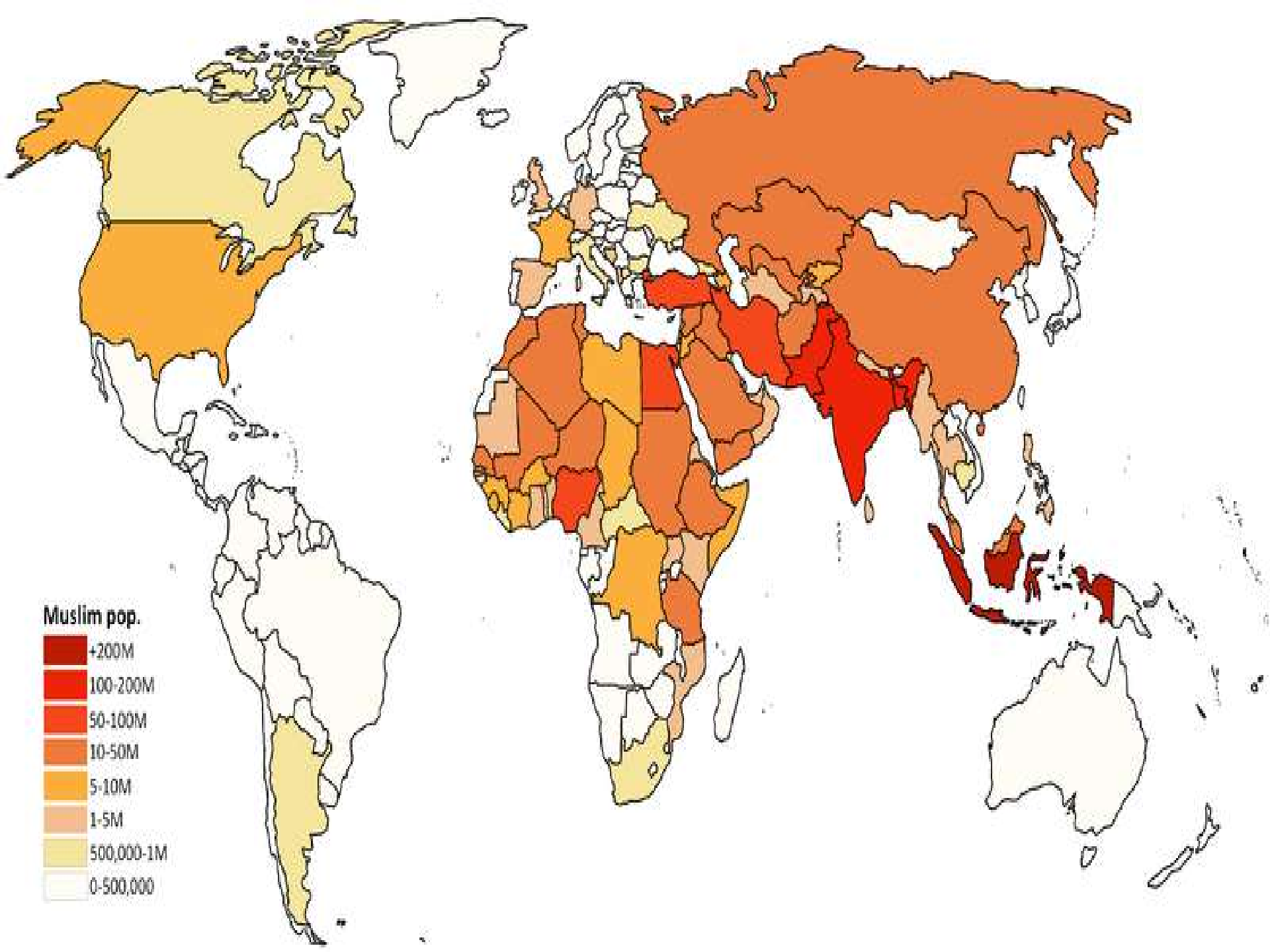
5) Hajj: Pilgrimage

- Every Muslim man and woman (if physically and economically able) should try to make the pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their life-time.



Statistical breakdown

- Sunni: 90% of all Muslims
- Shiite/Shi'a: 10% of all Muslims
- 1.55 billion Muslims in the world.
- 20% of Muslims are Arab



Muhammad's Succession

- 632- Muhammad dies, leaving no confirmed successor
- Disagreement among clans on who will lead the faith- bloodline or the one most capable
- The Ummah (the Islamic community) elects Muhammad's father-in-law Abu Bakr to lead the faith. He becomes the first Caliph - the leader of the Ummah.

Holy Places

- Mecca: Muhammad's birthplace
- Jerusalem: Dome of the Rock, place where Abraham is believed to have attempted human sacrifice of his son and where Muhammad ascended into heaven to receive commandments from God.

