

Who is Allah?

Do Christians, Jews, and Muslims worship the same God? Confusion has arisen from the use of the name “Allah” for god in the Quran, and the Arabic translation of the name for God as “Allah” in the Christian Bible. This topic is very complex and elaborate, and as always, I encourage all to research further if needed.

Most of my knowledge comes from being raised in a Muslim country and educated in Muslim schools. In addition, my passion to understand and expose God’s truth has compelled me to thoroughly research the topic over my lifetime.

To clarify, Allah was known to the Arabs in Saudi Arabia before Islam existed, although originally known as Al-Lat. This god was identified as a moon god and was one of the 360 gods worshipped by the tribes in Mecca. Al-Lat was one of the main gods of the Quarish tribe that was located in Mecca. Muhammad was from this tribe, and when conceiving the religion of Islam, designated this god as the supreme god of Islam.

In order to maintain peace among his tribe when branching off into Islam, he adopted another of their gods, “the black stone”. This stone is now an important part of Islam as many travel to Mecca once a year to honor it. About 227 years after the death of Muhammad, Muslim scholars changed the name of the god of Islam from Al-Lat to Allah.

Allah in Arabic became the word for “god.” Years later, when the Bible was translated into Arabic, the translators used the name Allah for the God of the Bible because the name was already commonly known to the Arabs as God. It was not meant to be confused with the god of Islam. Today, many Arabic-speaking Christian scholars and converts (Muslims who have become Christians) are using Hebrew names for God from the Bible such as Arrab Al-Elah, which means “the Lord God,” Elohim and/or Yahweh to prevent further confusion.

The concept of “Allah” in Islam is different from “Allah” in the Bible. Although there are many differentiations, the most obvious is that Allah in Islam is a distant, non-relational god that is feared in a negative manner. Allah has 99 names in the Quran, however, the name “God is love” is not found as it is in the Christian Bible. The God of the Bible is loving and merciful, yet holy and just, deserving of our respect. His main desire is that all love Him and one another with a pure love.