

Weigh In

Weighing the facts
about Iraq

1.

Iraq lies in an ancient region known as “the Cradle of Civilization” – the area where human societies originally began – and is the projected location of the Garden of Eden.

2.

Iraq’s history is marked by repeated wars, causing deep instability, fear and hardship for its people across generations.

3.

Islam is Iraq’s official religion. Christians, who comprise about one percent of the population, have increasingly relocated to northern Iraq due to social and political pressures.

4.

The brutal violence of ISIS in recent years has sparked a spiritual revival in Iraq, leading many to place their hope in Christ.

Corresponding Question Points:

(1) If it’s true that Iraq is the birthplace of civilization, what can this connection between history and the Bible tell us about where humans come from?

(2) What are the consequences of war on civilians? How does it impact their daily lives, sense of safety and future? Consider the effects on life, infrastructure and emotional health.

(3) How might Jesus’ teachings in Matthew 5:13-16 about being the “salt of the earth” and “light of the world” inspire some believers to remain in challenging environments to share the Gospel, despite the risks? Does this motivate some to stay?

(4) In what ways might God use times of intense suffering – such as the violence in Iraq – to draw people closer to Him? Can you see parallels in your own life? Have seasons of hardship ever deepened your relationship with God?

One Way

Religious Comparison: Compare & Contrast What the Bible Says

Shared Roots, Diverging Futures: Did you know that both Islam and Christianity recognize Adam and Eve as the first humans? Each religion acknowledges God as the Creator and the Garden of Eden as the place where human life was first formed. But beyond these similarities, their theologies diverge significantly, leading to major differences. Follow the paths below to see how.

CHRISTIANITY

Humanity is **uniquely made in the image of God**, reflecting His moral attributes.



Adam and Eve's **disobedience** in the Garden of Eden **introduced sin** into the world, breaking the perfect relationship between humanity and God.



Because of this fallen nature, humanity stands **in need of redemption** – a Saviour to **restore** the broken relationship with God.



Jesus Christ died on the cross for the sins of all humanity, offering the only path to reconciliation with God.



True change begins in the heart.



Salvation is a gift from God and assured the moment an individual believes. It's **not earned by works** but received through **faith** when a person **accepts Jesus** as Lord and Saviour of their life.



Through salvation, humanity is restored to its original relationship with God – redeemed as sons and daughters, and made coheirs with Christ.

ISLAM

Humans are not made in the image of God; however, they are endowed by God with knowledge, will and the power to act. God doesn't share His attributes with anyone.



Adam and Eve made **a mistake** in the Garden of Eden. However, they were **quickly forgiven**, demonstrating God's mercy.



Their choice revealed that human beings have the **capacity to disobey God**. From that point on, every person is **expected to avoid rebellion** and strive to live in **obedience to God**.



Every person is born in a natural state of submission to God. Life becomes **a journey of striving** to remain in submission by **perfectly** following God's rules.



Submission is yielding actions, not a transformed heart.



No one knows if their actions are enough until Judgement Day.



On Judgement Day, those whose good deeds outweigh the bad enter Paradise, where they serve God with gratitude in a slave/master relationship.

Sources:

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/iraq/>
<https://www.factretriever.com/iraq-facts>

<https://vomcanada.com/iraq.htm>

Understanding the Times – A Survey of Competing Worldviews by Dr. Jeff Myers and Dr. David A. Noebel.