This subject is of vital importance to everyone - whether religious or not - and is of particular importance to Muslims.

Mecca or Makkah, is the historical and geographical epicenter of Islam. All practicing Muslims on earth prostrate themselves toward the Kaaba in Mecca five times a day. Every Muslim is obliged to travel to Mecca, and perform the Islamic ritual of the Hajj at least once in their lifetime, because it is the "fifth pillar" of Islam. Islamic tradition teaches that the Kaaba, around which Islam revolves, is located in the center of the world and was the first temple on earth. Tradition further suggests that it was built by Adam and later rebuilt by Abraham and Ishmael.

Unfortunately there is not a shred of historical or archaeological evidence, that suggests that Mecca ever existed before the 4th century A.D., when immigrants from Yemen settled it.

Please do not take our word for this. Google it for yourself. Try archaeology of mecca - or - historical and archaeological evidence mecca - or - ancient towns of Arabia.

Why not ask your Imam to direct you to some historical evidence? The archaeological record of Arabia is one of the most well preserved on earth because the relatively low rainfall mitigated degradation of the archaeological evidence. Many ancient towns such as Yemen, Qudar, Dedan, Tiema, Mada'in Saleh (Al-Hijr), Magan (Oman) and Dilmun are well attested in the historical and archaeological record, and even attest to each other. The historical record even notes towns from before the Christian era, that came and went within a few centuries, but Mecca remains conspicuously absent from those records.

This, even though Mecca was eventually settled on one of the most established trade routes in Arabia, about which historical record abounds, and in spite of the Islamic claims that Mecca had been the center of the religion of Islam for thousands of years before Mohammed.

Compare that with Jerusalem, the historical and geographical epicenter of Judaism and Christianity. Try archaeology of Jerusalem - or - historical and archaeological evidence jerusalem - or - temple jerusalem
One quickly learns that archaeology increasingly confirms the Bible as a reliable source of ancient historical record. One can hardly lift a shovel full of earth anywhere near the Holy Land without it containing ancient artifacts. Indeed there are over a million artifacts just on display!

Mecca being located 1,000 kilometers - across barren desert - away from the Holy Land, and the record of Abraham's journey as detailed in the Bible and confirmed by archaeology, preclude any notion of Abraham, Hagar or Ishmael ever having set foot in Mecca. Particularly since they lived almost a thousand years before the first caravan route was ever established along the Red Sea in Arabia. Indeed Abraham’s journey was largely in the opposite direction of Mecca.

If Mecca had been the epicenter of Islam since the time of Adam, it would follow that there would be increasingly more archaeological evidence, the closer one traveled to this focal point of Mohammed's 7th century religion. It also follows that there would be a greater pre-Mohammed historical record for Mecca than any other Arabian city - indeed perhaps than any other city on earth - but no such record exists. Again, compare that with Jerusalem where the closer one gets to this epicenter of Judaism and Christianity, the more abundant artifacts become.

It is important to note that the entirety of Islamic "tradition" was penned in the 7th and 8th centuries A.D. without reference to any historical record that preceded Mohammed. Historical record consists of that which is recorded by those that lived in or near the times that are accounted, not something that folks decide to sit down and pen thousands of years after the fact. Some folks will cite a historical misunderstanding or two, by 18th and 19th century authors, as if that substitutes for a
Mohammed eventually adopted. Early reporters recounted that prior to the construction of the Kaabah, a tent occupied the site.

Mohammed’s grandfather, Abdel Mutaleb, dug the well of Zamzam to establish a Hajj around Asaf and Naelah, the most venerated priest and priestess of the Arabian jinn-demon religion. Indeed some of Mohammed’s closest followers hated to run back and forth between Al-Safa and Al-Marwah because they knew it was a pagan ritual.

Bukhari, V2, B26 #710 (B2 #128) “Asem told us that he said to Uns bin Malek, a companion of Mohammed, “You were hating to encompass around the Safa and Marwa.” He answered, “Yes, because it was one of the pagan rites of Jahiliyah until Allah gave a verse that the Safa and Marwa are the rites of Allah. If one makes the Hajj to the Kaabah, he must encompass them. The person has no sin when he encompass them.”

Muslims had joined the pagans shoulder to shoulder in circumambulation of the Kaaba in their ritual of the Hajj, right up until the year before Mohammed’s last Hajj when the pagans were finally expelled from their own ritual.

Bukhari V2, B26, #689 (V1, B8, No 365): Narrated Abu Huraira: “In the year prior to the last Hajj of the Prophet when Allah’s Apostle made Abu Bakr the leader of the pilgrims, the latter (Abu Bakr) sent me in the company of a group of people to make a public announcement: ‘No pagan is allowed to perform Hajj after this year, and no naked person is allowed to perform Tawaf of the Kaba.’”

Considering the absence of historical and archaeological record of Mecca ever having existed before the 4th century A.D., could this be what the Saudi’s are trying to hide by making it illegal for all non-Muslims to set foot in Mecca?

No Mecca before the 4th century - no Kaaba before the 5th century - means no foundation whatsoever underpinning Islamic "tradition". That leaves Islam as Mohammed’s stand-alone 7th century invention. Since Abraham, Hagar and Ishmael lived over 1,000 km from where Mecca was eventually built, nearly 1,000 years before the first caravan ever traveled along the Red Sea in Arabia, the truth is apparent.

There are historical references to other temples, and even to a great temple "highly revered by all the Arabs", but Mohammed’s own tribe, the Quraish went on Hajj, or pilgrimage, twice a year long after the Kaaba in Mecca was built, indicating that the Kaaba in Mecca was a lesser temple than others.

Quran 106:1 For the covenants by the Quraish, 2 Their covenants journeys by winter and summer,- 3 Let them adore the Lord of this House,

To our Muslim friends, that are capable of critical thought, please research the history of Mecca for yourself. The preceding material is derived from the Religion Research Institute that you can visit online, and the book “Islam: in the Light of History”, penned by Dr. Rafat Amari after his 20 year full-time study.

For much more, please join us at BrotherPete.com