

with great disability to those who were not Moslems and that the law of apostasy<sup>23/4</sup> meant that any Moslem who became a Christian was supposed to be killed and today that is the rule in most Muslimic countries, you will rarely find a living convert to Christianity. Now that is not in every place, there are exceptions, but on the whole that is the situation today and so it seals these countries off from Christian penetration and Christian missions. Now that is a very important , but the affect upon the Christian church perhaps affecting us more directly than that is the conquest of large areas that previously were great Christian centers like North Africa, and like Spain, even and, of course, Palestine and Egypt and Asia Minor, centers which had been great centers of great Christian life and Christian thought, were completely overrun by the Moslems in less than a century from the Hegira and they were regions in which Christianity was cut down to a very minimum and gradually extinct. It was not killed in the way that heathenism was. The Christians were not given a choice of Mohammed, the Koran or the sword, they were not given that choice, but they were put in the position where there were all sorts of disabilities upon them, all sorts of suspicions against them, occasional massacres, not so much in this early time, perhaps, as later on, but there was a situation which was one not calculated to destroy Christianity, but calculated tremendously to reduce it and once people were won away from Christianity it was almost impossible for their descendents to be won back to it again and so this region, a great center of Christian life, and Christian activity was sealed off from Christian penetration and Christianity in it was gradually cut down, but not extreme. There remained groups in these area, groups of very definitely holding to Christian teaching which remained all through up to this present time, varying in the different groups. And these groups maintained often a very high degree of Christian life and of Christian activities and of Christian writing up until the last 4 centuries when a new group, the Turkish control over Islam introduced a such as Islam had never had before and caused a decline in the life of all the