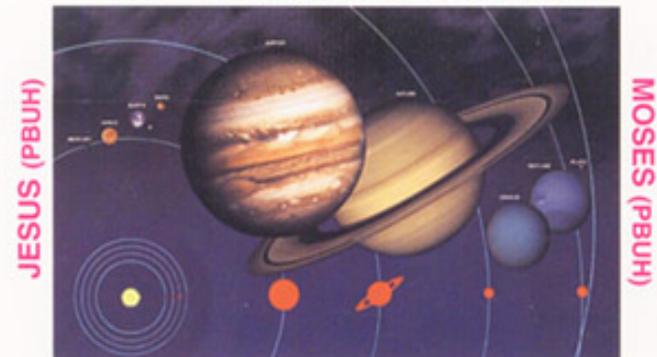


**IS QUR'AN COPIED FROM
THE HOLY BIBLE
OR THE WORD OF GOD?**

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY
OF
ALL TIME GREAT

ABRAHAM (peace be upon him)



PROPHET MUHAMMED (PBUH)

BY
Ghulam Mohiuddin
(Retd. Engineer)

Published by
Hyderabad Educational Foundation
(INDIA)

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or the Word of God?

Written by : GHULAM MOHIUDDIN
B.E. (Mech.)

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**IS QUR'AN COPIED FROM
THE HOLY BIBLE
OR THE WORD OF GOD?**

**Major Religions
(Comparative Study)
Book donated to University Library
As a Service to Intelligentsia**

**BY
Ghulam Mohiuddin
(Retd. Engineer)**

***Published by*
Hyderabad Educational Foundation
(INDIA)**

PREFACE

The topic chosen for this book is very challenging it requires vast knowledge of both the Holy Scriptures of Christianity and Islam as 70% of world's population belongs to these two major religions. Hence a scientific indepth analysis is needed to come to a conclusion:

The comparative study will be based on the following criteria :

1. Historical background
2. Comparison of honoured personalities of both Jesus and Prophet Muhammed (Peace be upon them)
3. Analysis of both Scriptures in terms of moral and social upliftment, the concept of life after death, the concept of heaven, hell and resurrection etc.
4. The Bible or Qur'an – which is closer to Modern Science?
5. Conclusion whether the Qur'an is Copied from the Bible or the Word of God (the Creator)?

Unless we purposefully study the Scriptures and Holy Books of other religions, we ourselves stand exposed to the dangers lurking ahead.

The various systems of ethics, philosophy and religion are in fact a record of the vast divergence of views on such vital questions such as :

Is there a God of the universe and, if so, is He the only One or are there many gods? What is the nature of the relationship between God and human being? Has He made any arrangements for guiding humanity or not? Is man answerable to God or not? Is there an ultimate aim for man's creation and should man keep it in view throughout his life for salvation? Though the concept of one Creator is common in all religions however most religions adopted Hero-worship or idol-worship as intermediary to which the

Creator is against to accept such worship as given in the Holy Bible, Deut. 12:2-4. showing God's ordinance to destroy completely all the pagan shrines to hew down the idols of their gods and blot out their names. As the Bible treats Old Testament as a record of God's covenant with mankind and the implications of the covenant on human life in society and God's expectation from humanity in response.

I therefore request my readers to come to their own conclusion after reading this book and find for themselves which way to follow to achieve salvation.

The life of man has a purpose to serve and a goal to achieve, this goal is the "Life Hereafter"(Eternal Life). For, it is unthinkable that man should be created just to live for a few years and then get completely annihilated like the animal world.

I pray to Allah (God Almighty) to bless my effort to convey His message to my fellow human beings in order to save them from hell fire as this would be my key to salvation. As Jesus Christ (Pbuh) said: "Love your God and Love your neighbour" and I feel my neighbour is the whole community of mankind.

Note : This book is dedicated as a service to humanity for unity and world peace by Hyderabad Educational Foundation (A Non-profit making organization) with a request to readers of all religions, kindly shed your conceived notions (if any) and approach this book with an open and objective mind.

Ghulam Mohiuddin
Retired Engineer.

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I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

According to Maulana Azad (Ex-Education Minister of India and scholar of Islam) the trouble with the message of Christ lies in the failure of his followers to understand its true purpose. Christ appeared during a period of history when the Jewish morality had reached its lowest ebb. The condition of neighboring nations – the Romans, the Egyptians and the Assyrians – was more or less the same. These people failed to appreciate that Christ’s message of love and forgiveness was really meant to arrest the prevailing tendency towards an evil life; enjoying the killings of helpless people, subjecting individuals accused of crime for variety of tortures, throwing human beings to ferocious animals, burning towns; treating all aliens as slaves with cruelty such were the features of the Roman culture, and pastimes of the Egyptians’ and Assyrians’ demigods.

Whenever Christ said “Love your enemy”, he meant - instead of taking it literally - that one should restrain one’s baser feelings of anger, hatred or revenge and in their place cultivate the virtuous feeling of pity and forgiveness. Likewise his another well known expression “Turn the other cheek also” was never meant to be taken literally either; but it exhorted one to develop the feelings of forgiveness and forbearance.

There is no doubt that religion and law prescribed punishment for wrong doing. This is necessary for safeguarding the society. The object of punishment from religious point of view is a measure of correction.

However the followers of the Law of Moses had limited this law into an instrument of punishment only. Christ (Pbuh) tried to bring home to them that the law was not meant to deal out punishment only, but also to point the way to salvation and that the way to salvation was by following the path of love and mercy.

It is an incontrovertible fact that the religion of Islam was born in the full blaze of history and that no historical personage has had his life and work subjected to such meticulous scrutiny as that of Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh). “In an essay on (Prophet) Muhammed and the origins of Islam;

Ernest Renan remarks, that; “unlike other religions which were cradled in mytery, Islam was born in the full light of history. the life of its founder is as well known to us as those of the reformers of the sixteenth century”.

Referring to the dreadful conditions the world was passing through at that time, the reputed Muslim scholar Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi remarks: “How could have any historian drawn a picture of that horrible situation when Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) appeared. Did the age of ignorance merely mean moral corruption of the Arabs or a few other nations? Did it merely pose the problem of idolatory, depravity and decadence or self-indulgence, inequity and exploitation of the poor, or, criminal behavior of the then stronger nations? Was it simply the question of the burial of innocent new born daughters by their heartless fathers? It was all this and much more. It was as though the mother earth wanted to swallow up its entire progeny.”

II JESUS CHRIST (Peace be upon Him)

Of the four Gospel writers, God “Inspired” only two of them to record genealogy of His “Son”. According to Matthew 1:6-16 only 26 ancestors given between David (Pbuh) and Jesus (Pbuh) whereas Luke 3:23-31 gathered thru inspiration 41 forefathers for Jesus and the only name common is Joseph and that too a “Supposed” father.

Miraculous Birth of Jesus (Pbuh)

The miraculous birth of Jesus is unique in the history of mankind.

According to Gospel of Luke (1:26) when Angel approached virgin Mary with Good News of conceiving a son named Jesus, Mary said to the Angel, “How can this be since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the most high will overshadow you....” (Luke 1:35)

There are instances in the Bible of persons who were given the gift of prophecy only. however they were not in a position to implement their directives. Some of these holy men of God who were helpless in the face

of stubborn rejection of their message were the Prophets Lot, Jonah, Daniel, Ezra and John The Baptist. Unfortunately Jesus Christ (Pbuh) also belonged to this category when he was dragged before the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate for charges of sedition; Jesus answered ‘My kingdom is not of this world’ i.e. Jesus claimed spiritual kingdom only (John 18:36). But he was given miracles of curing various diseases like Epilepsy, Paralysis, Leprosy, Blindness, pains and possession by demons etc. He was also famous for his miracles like feeding the four and five thousand, walking on the water etc.

Jesus Christ (Pbuh) being the Prophet of God is indicated in the following verses of the Bible

- a) **Mathew 5:17:** Do not think that I have come to abolish the law of the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil”.
- b) Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs which God did through him among you as ye yourselves know. (The Bible Acts 2:22) Matthew (12:17-18) & Matthew (14:23) indicate Jesus (Pbuh) as a servant of God and worshipper.

Jesus for Unity of God

1. Mark (12:32): “And the scribe said to him (Jesus), well master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God;and there is none other but He”
2. Mark (12:34) : When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

Jesus as the worshipper

Matthew (14:23): “And after he had dismissed the crowd, he (Jesus) went up the mountain by himself to pray.”

The Meaning of faith given in the Bible

It says by faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by ‘The Word of God’. So what is seen was made from things that are not visible. (Hebrew 11:1-3)

It means God the Creator has the power to create anything for example:

1. Despite Zechariah being old and his wife barren; a son (John The Baptist) was born to them by the Word of God; as described in the Bible Luke (1:13-20). The Qur’an also confirms the same i.e. birth of Yahya (John) in chapter 3:38-41.
2. Similarly Isaac was born to Prophet Abraham (Pbuh) when he was 100 years old, and his wife Sara was 90 years old as given in Genesis - 17:15. The Qur’an also confirms the birth of Isaac in chapter 11:71-73 by the Word of God.

Likewise Mary the mother of Jesus was unique, in that she gave birth to a son by a special miracle, without the intervention of customary physical means. After all she was a human being created by God and the birth of Jesus occurred by the Word of God as confirmed by the Qur’an in chapter 3, verses 45 and 47.

Ever since people innovated the dogma of joining false gods in worship along with true God Almighty. The Creator began sending Prophets and Messengers for guidance of mankind. So God Almighty bestowed the gift of miracles to these Prophets to make them distinct among their people; for example:

According to Qur’an when Prophet Abraham was thrown by his people into fire for breaking the idols of their gods, he came out of that fire unhurt by the divine order of God. Further more when Prophet Abraham was tested for the sacrifice of his only son by God’s Command, a ram was substituted in place of his son by divine order.

Similarly it was a miracle how Jonah remained alive for three days in the belly of the fish. (The Bible Jonah 1:17)

Moses the great prophet of God was given the miracle of turning his staff to snake and his hand becoming snow white for convincing Pharaoh for Israel’s deliverance from slavery. Likewise the creator gifted to Solomon the knowledge to understand the speech of birds and animals, even Jinns and devils work for him. According to the Qur’an Solomon could perform a journey of month in a day or night and wind was given under his control by God.

III GREAT TRIBUTE TO MARY AND JESUS (Peace be upon them)

Islam recognise the greatness of Mary and Jesus (Pbut) and Moses (Pbuh) besides many other Prophets. One of the chapters of the Holy Qur'an is by the name of "Mary". It has 17 verses about her besides verses on John The Baptist, Prophet Zakariya, Moses, Aaron, Abraham, Ishmael (Peace be upon all of them) etc., and there are about 39 verses on Jesus Christ (Pbuh) in 11 different chapters of the Qur'an. The Qur'an also contains numerous verses about Moses (Pbuh) at several places.

The followers of Christianity and Judaism wonder why the Holy Book of Islam (i.e. Qur'an) gave recognition to Mary, Jesus, Moses and others (Peace be upon all of them)? The answer is simple:

To bring the followers of inspired religions on a single platform. That is why the Qur'an (which was revealed to Prophet Muhammed) recognised the Messengers of these religions with their teachings as divinely inspired by one common source from time to time throughout the history of mankind. And Allah (God) has made this belief the doctrinal principle of faith for the followers of Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) in Islam. The Qur'an says:

"Say; We believe in Allah (Creator) and in what has been revealed to us, and what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob and the tribes, and in (the Books) given to Moses, Jesus and the Prophets from their Lord : We make no distinction between one and another among them and to Allah (Creator) do we bow our will (in Islam)". (The Qur'an 3:84)

As a designer and manufacturer of a machine issues an instruction manual regarding how to operate and maintain the machine, similarly God need not come down personally for giving an instruction manual to men whom He created. Instead He chooses a man amongst men to deliver the message and communicates with him at a higher level through the medium of revelation. Such chosen men are called Messengers or Prophets of God. And they were sent to different nations at different times for their guidance.

IV PROPHET MUHAMMED (Peace be upon him)

The Prophet Muhammed was born in 571 A.D. in Mecca (Arabia) in a noble family of Quraish. He belonged to the progeny of Prophet Ishmael son of Prophet Abraham (Pbuh). He was chosen by God (Allah) as his Prophet and Messenger at the age of 40 years.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Siddiqui in his book on Prophethood in Islam (Delhi, 1974 P 52-53) rightly observes: One is amazed at his boldness and courage with which he laid open before the people not only his public but also his private life. Who can stand the ordeal of thus voluntarily offering himself as an object of observation for all twenty four hours throughout his life? Only a person of unusual integrity and honesty, possessing a high degree of self-confidence, self-control and determination could do it. It was (Prophet) Muhammed (Pbuh) alone who admirably stood this test. He not only permitted people to peep into the innermost chambers of his sacred life, but also exhorted them to broadcast its details to others, because even these facets were as divinely illuminated as his public career.

John Davenport in his book "An apology for Muhammad and the Koran" (Lahore 1944) p.1. Writing about (Prophet) Muhammad: The light of history illuminates every day, every month and every year of this period (571 A.D. to 632 A.D.) from his posthumous birth, to his youth, to his prophethood, to his being the master of the whole Arabia and finally right up to his death. No aspect, no phase of the sacred life has escaped the discerning eye of the historian. "It may be truly affirmed that of all known legislators and conquerors not one can be named, whose history of whole life has been written with greater authenticity and fuller detail than that of (Prophet) Muhammed".

The Hadith and its authenticity: According to Muslim scholars Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) defined his mission as a teacher of virtue and piety. He said "I have been sent only as a teacher. I have been sent only to perfect virtuous character". Actually aware of the importance of the divinely

ordained mission, he had given specific instructions to his followers that whatever they saw of him, saying or doing in public or in private, should be brought to the notice of others. So seventy of his followers lived close to his house in his mosque in order to record his sayings and actions. The Holy Prophet demonstrated the principle of virtue, in waging war and in making peace, in leading life in affluence and in poverty, in living married and unmarried, in communion with Allah (Creator) and in social relationships, in victory and in defeat, in anger and in forbearance, in loneliness and in companionship. Thus in every situation of life he became a role model to show the right path to his followers.

V. WHAT THE WORLD SCHOLARS SAY ABOUT MUHAMMED (PBUH)

1. If greatness of purpose, smallness of means and astounding results are the three criteria of human genius, who could dare to compare any great man in modern history with Muhammad? (**Lamartine**)

The renowned French historian Lamartine ends his lengthy segment of literary masterpiece with the following words:-
Philosopher, orator, Apostle, Legislator, Warrior, Conqueror of ideas, Restorer of rational dogmas of a cult without images: The founder of twenty terrestrial empires and of one spiritual empire that is Muhammed. As regards all standards by which human greatness may be measured, we may well ask, is there any man greater than he?
(**Lamartine, "Historie Dela Turquie, Paris 1854"**)

2. "I have studied him, the wonderful man and in my opinion far from being an Anti-Christ, he must be called the saviour of humanity."
(**George Bernard Shaw, The Genuine Islam", Vol.1, No. 81936**)
3. "By a fortune absolutely unique in history, Muhammed is a threefold founder of a nation, of an empire, and of a religion."
(**Rev. Bosworth Smith in "Mohammed and Mohammedanism" London 1874**)

4. "The more I study the more I discover that the strength of Islam does not lie in the sword. (**Mahatma Gandhi in "Young India"**)
5. "Mohammed was the most successful of all religious personalities."
(**Encyclopedia Britanica, 11th Edition.**)

Before coming to the main topic whether the Qur'an is the copy of Bible; first we have to analyse the Bible.

VI IS BIBLE THE WORD OF GOD?

With regards to this **Dr. W. Graham Scroggie** of the Moody Bible Institute Chicago, one of the most prestigious Christian Evangelical mission in the world while answering the question – "**Is the Bible the word of God? (Also the title of his book)**, under the heading : **It is Human, Yet Divine**, says on page 17:

"**Yes, the Bible is human**, though some, out of zeal which is not according to knowledge, have denied this. Those books have passed through the minds of men, and bear in their style the characteristics of men".

Another Christian scholar, Kenneth Cragg, the angelican Bishop of Jerusalem, says on page 277 of his book "The Call of Minaret".

"Not so the New Testament. . . . There is condensation and editing; there is choice, reproduction and witness. The gospels have come through the mind of the church behind the authors. They represent experience and history."

If we read the Bible there are three different kinds of witnessing recognizable without any need of specialized training. These are:

1. You will be able to recognize in the Bible what may be described as "**The word of God**".

2. You will also be able to discern what can be described as the “**Words of a Prophet of God**”.
3. And you will most readily observe that the bulk of the Bible is the records of eye witnesses or ear witnesses, or people writing from hearsay. As such they are the “**Words of a historian**”.

The first type (**The Word of God**):

- a) “I will raise them up a prophet... and I will put My words in ... and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him”.
(**Holy Bible, Deuteronomy 18:18**)
- b) “I, even I am the Lord, and besides me there is no saviour.”
(**Holy Bible, Isaiah 43:11**)

The second type (**The words of Jesus**):

- a) “And Jesus answered him, the first of all the commandments is, hear, O Israel: The lord our God is one Lord:” (**Holy Bible, Mark 12:29**)
- b) “Jesus said to him, why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.”
(**Holy Bible, Mark 10:18**)

The third type (The words of a historian):

“So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations”.
(**Holy Bible, Matthew 1:17**)

The Bible in human style :

“Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass that the Lord spake unto Joshua...” (Holy Bible, Joshua 1:1)

VII THE CONTRADICTIONS AND CONFUSIONS IN THE BIBLE

1. **Original Sin** : The Christian dogma that sin is inherited from Adam is against the explicit pronouncement of God:
“The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son (the progeny of Adam) shall not bear the iniquity of the father (Adam), neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son;
The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be his own.
But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he has committed, and keep all my statutes and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. (**The Holy Bible, Ezekiel 18:20-21**)
2. **The word Christianity**: does not occur in the Bible even once. The word Christian is used for the first time in Antioch according to Bible. The word Christian is used in the Bible at 3 places – Book of Acts (11:26 & 26:28) and 1st Peter – 4:16.
3. **Trinity** : The Christians consider Trinity to be the most fundamental doctrine of faith, but the word Trinity does not occur in the Bible anywhere. The closest verse in the Bible to the concept of Trinity was in 1st John – 5:7 and the verse was discarded by 32 eminent scholars of Christianity backed by 52 denominations. Therefore if we read unrevised King James version we find the verse in 1st John – 5:7 but on reading revised standard version we find that 1st John – 5:8 has replaced. 1st John – 5:7.
4. **Begotten son of God** : Similarly, if we read the Gospel of John – 3:16 we find Jesus referred to as “Begotten son of God” but the word ‘Begotten’ has been removed from the revised standard version.
5. **Who carried the cross?** Matthew 27:32 contradicts John 19:17
6. **What was crucifixion time?** Mark 15:25 contradicts John 19:14-16

7. Son of God or a man?

“Ye men of Israel (O Jews!) hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God (meaning a prophet) among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as you yourself also know”
(Acts 2:22)

8. Is God having the only son or many sons?

John 3:16 mentions god’s only son where as :

- a) Children of Israel sons of God – Hosea – 1:10
- b) Judges and Jurists sons of God – Psalms – Ch:82-6
- c) Those who receive Christ are sons of God – John 1:12
- d) Adam son of God – Luke 3:38.
- e) Israel (Jacob) son of God – First born – Exodus 4:22
- f) Sons and daughters of God – Deuteronomy 32:10
- g) Solomon son of God – 1st Chronicle – 22:10

The above verses from the Bible prove that Jesus Christ (Pbuh) is not the only son of God in the given sense.

Comment : In Islam any kind of relationship between man and God is not permitted except as a devotee to God. Moreover the Creator defines Himself in the Qur’an (112:1-4) as:

Say : He is Allah (God) the One
Allah (God) the Eternal, Absolute
He begetteth not, nor is He begotten
And there is none like unto Him.

9. If one wants to become Christian which Bible should he/she read?

King James Version with all its revisions – 66 books or Roman Catholic (73 books) or Good News : 81 books or 87 books.

10. It is surprising to note that Prophets or Messengers are supposed to be the chosen people of God then how come filthy stories about them are found in a so called Holy Scripture like :

- a) Genesis 19:33-35 about Apostle Lot and his daughters .

- b) Genesis 35:22 about Apostle Jacob

- c) Genesis 38:15-18 about Judah

- d) 2 Samuel 16:22 Absalom against King David.

- e) 2 Samuel 12:11-12 concerning King David.

- f) Further filthy stories are given in Leviticus 18:8-18, 20:11-14 and 17:21

g) The Bible also gives reason why human beings become Lesbians and homosexuals in the following verses:

“Because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the creator... For this reason God gave them up to degrading passions. Their women pervert the natural use of sex by unnatural acts (Like Lesbianism).

“In the same way..., the men burn with passion for one another as sodomites and homosexuals (The Good News Bible, Romans 1:25-27)

In contrast to the above verses I failed to understand how my Christian brothers will get inspiration from these divine as well as filthy stories of human handiwork in the Holy Bible. Whereas Jesus Christ strictly warned his followers against adultery and unchaste behaviour thus:

“But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and..., it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell”. (Matthew 5:27-30)

11. Polygamy

- a) Solomon the wise had a thousand wives and concubines as mentioned in the Bible, 1 Kings 11:3

- (b) Abraham (Pbuh) had more than one wife and so had Israel (Jacob) and David the king.

There is not a single word of reproach in the Holy Bible against polygamous marriages.

12. Alcohol

- a) “Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for the stomach’s sake ... (I Timothy 5:23)
- b) Alcohol is the devil’s handi work says the... (Holy Qur’an 5:90)

13. 700 or 7000? ‘Horsemen’ or ‘Footmen’ ...?
(2 Samuel 10:18 Vs 1 Chronicle 19:18)

14. Solomon had 4000 stalls of horses (or) 40,000?
(2 Chr. 9:25 Vs 1 Kings 4:26)

15. Jesus (Pbuh) being engulfed into controversies:

- a) Jesus’ first miracle in the Holy Bible is: “To turn water into wine at the marriage feast at Cana”. (John 2:9)
- b) Jesus first miracle in the Holy Qur’an : In the Holy Qur’an the first miracle of Jesus was to defend his mother, as an infant, against the false accusations of his enemies. (The Qur’an 19:30 –33)
- c) While Jesus (Pbuh) is famous for his message of love and forgiveness like “Love your enemy” and “Turn the other cheek also.” However the Bible also quotes him as saying “ I came to set the earth on fire, and how I wish that it were already kindled”
“Do you suppose (think) that I came to bring peace to the world? No, not peace but division”. (Holy Bible Luke : 12:49 & 51)
- d) The Bible also projects Jesus (Pbuh) as God but powerless:
“I can of mine ownself do nothing ...” (John 5:30)

Also Jesus (Pbuh) had no knowledge of the hereafter:

“But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no not the angels which are in heaven, neither the son, but the father” (Mark 13:32).

- e) You can see yourself how the writers of the New Testament showed

Jesus (the great prophet of God) as a racist while showing the faith of Canaanite woman in the following verses:

“These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Jews only).” (Matthew 10:5-6)

He (Jesus) answered “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (to the Jews only).

“Then came she (the Canaanite woman) and knelt before him saying lord help me (to cure my daughter). But he answered, it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs (the non Jews).”

(Matthew 15:24-25)

On the other hand God the Almighty addressing his last Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) in the Holy Qur’an :-

“We have not sent thee (O Muhammed) but to the whole of mankind. As a giver of glad tidings and a warner, but most of mankind still do not know”. (The Holy Qur’an 34:28)

The famous Muslim scholar (on Christianity and Islam) Mr. Ahmad Deedat in his book ‘The choice Islam & Christianity’: part 3 P.152 describes the conditions which prevailed 14 centuries ago when the above mentioned Qur’anic verse was revealed to Prophet Muhammed. It posed a great challenge to him as there were no electronic gadgets of modern communication methods at his disposal; there were no teller and fax machines which he could exploit. What could he do? Being an ummi (unlettered), he called, the scribes and dictated to them five letters, one each to the emperor at Constantinople, the king of Egypt, the Negus of Abyssinia, the king of Yemen and to the emperor of Persia. He called forth five sahaaba (his holy companions) with five Arab steeds and set them out in five different directions inviting the nations of the world to the universal religion of God. Mr. Deedat claims he himself had seen one of those Holy Epistles, in the Topkapi museum in Istanbul (Old Constantinople), Turkey.

The letter begins thus, “From Muhammed the Messenger of God, to Heraclius the emperor of Constantinople: Accept Islam and be benefitted”. Followed by this verse of the Holy Qur’an: Say: “O people of the Book! Come to common terms as between us and you : That we worship none but God; that we associate no partner with him; That we erect not, from among ourselves lords and patrons other than God”. If then they turn back, say you: “Bear witness that we (atleast) are Muslims (Bowing to God’s will)” (The Qur’an 3:64).

Note : People of the Book means Jews & Christians

After the above Quranic insertion in the letter, it is concluded with a felicitation in the Prophet’s own words, ending with a seal on which is inscribed “There is no other object of worship but Allah, and Muhammed is His Messenger.”

The main problem with our Christian brethren in general is their misunderstanding of how the present Bible came to be, and how it was compiled. They think that it is the unerring “Word of God”, and as such there can be no mistakes in it. The history, research and a careful reading have proven that notion wrong.

Mr. Abolade Nkosi Tayo in his book “Contradictions in the Bible” (First edition 2004), New Delhi, India writes in Afterword : “I had an intense desire to spread those doctrines I was taught as a Christian, I even taught a class at a church, teaching doctrines such as the Trinity, salvation by blood of Christ, that every religion outside Christianity was the road to hell fire. But when I studied in depth I found the Bible especially the New Testament, was not put together until the 4th century (CE), and that too under very suspicious conditions. There were controversies, and many books formerly accepted by prominent church fathers were deleted, books that contradict the present form of Pauline Christianity, were rejected, “believers” in the truth were burned and martyred in horrendous ways, because they stood up for the truth as taught by Jesus (Pbuh) and these teachings all contradicted the Pauline concept of Christianity.

How could Paul a late comer have so many books included in the New Testament, when Barnabas was a more prominent, influential and knowledgeable elder than Paul, how could the book “Shepherd Of Hermas”, be excluded when the early believers, elders, apostles all accepted it, as inspired by God? Then there were many other books which were excluded notably “The Gospel of Barnabas”, written by someone who knew Jesus. Instead Gospels written by others who never knew Jesus were included. Why? For example Saint Paul has authored 14 out of 27 books of the New Testament and all of them in his self– professed inspiration according to (Holy Bible, 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

VIII THE HOLY QUR’AN

Now after describing the holy personalities of Jesus Christ and Prophet Muhammed Mustafa (Peace be upon both of them) together with a brief account of the Holy Bible, I am going to analyse the Holy Qur’an of Islam which was revealed to Prophet Muhammed about 1426 lunar years ago, during a period of 23 years of his Prophethood.

As the Holy Bible contains three kinds of witnessing in its chapters and verses like a) some verses appearing as the words of God). b) The words of a prophet of God and bulk of the Bible is the record of eye witnesses or ear witnesses or people writing from heresy as such (c) “The words of the historian”. But the followers of Islam are most fortunate in this since they have such different records in separate books:

One : The first kind – **The word of God** - is in a book called the **Holy Qur’an**

Two : The second kind – **the words of the Prophet of God** (Muhammed Pbuh) are recorded in the **books of Traditions called the Hadith.**

Three : Evidence of the third kind abounds in different volumes of
Islamic History

Al Qur'an unique in its recording

As per Muslim scholars, among all the extant religious literature of the world, the Holy Qur'an is absolutely unique. Its recording and preservation are miraculous! Because it stands out distinctly from ordinary human pattern of narration.

Every other religious book is set on the pattern of "Once upon a time..." "The fox and the grapes.. The wolf and the lamb", style of narration, for example:

- a) In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth..
Holy Bible Genesis 1:1
- b) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." (John 1:1).

Regarding idol worship in the Hindu Holy Book:

- c) "They enter darkness, those who worship the natural elements" (Air, Water, Fire Etc.). They sink deeper in darkness those who worship Sambhuti (Sambhuti means created things, for example Table, Chair, Idols, Statues etc).
(Hindu Scripture Yajurved 40:9)
- d) "The Creator of the earth and the skies is only one"
(Hindu Scripture Svetasvatara Upanishad 3:3)

While the Holy Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) piecemeal in the form of long and short fragments over a period of 23 years by Allah (The Creator) through Angel Gabriel. This is how the Book was revealed in the form of concisely addressed messages in answer to the questions asked by Pagan Arabs of Makkah after converting to Islam. For example Allah (God) commanded Prophet Muhammed Through revelations about Alcohol and Gambling:

They ask thee concerning wine and gambling:

Say : "In them is great sin, and some profit for men;
But the sin is greater than the profit".

And they ask thee how much they are to spend (in charity);

Say : "What is beyond your needs," Thus doth Allah (God) make clear to you His signs: in order that ye may consider. (The Qur'an 2:219)

Now compare the above words of God Almighty on the subject of wine (intoxicants) with the words of his chosen Messenger Muhammed Mustafa (Pbuh), not forgetting that the above verse 2:219 and what follows from the hadith below were heard from the lips of the Prophet (Pbuh) and recorded by his companions. Ibn Anas (Ra) reported that the Messenger of Allah (i.e. Muhammed Sas) cursed every one who was associated in any way with production and consumption of any kind of intoxicating beverages. He said:

1. Cursed is he who grows grapes for brewing.
2. Cursed is he who sells it.
3. Cursed is he who crushes it.
4. Cursed is he who bottles its and
5. Cursed is he who drinks it

(Ref. Book of Traditions)

In contrast to Qur'an about wine, the Bible shows the first miracle of Jesus Christ (Pbuh) converting water into wine as indicated in the verse of (John 2:7-10). Moreover Saint Paul the thirteenth self appointed disciple of Christ (Pbuh), the real founder of present day Christianity advises Timothy:

"No longer drink only water, but take a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments" (Holy Bible 1 Timothy 5:23)

That is why it seems the Christian world is addicted to beer and wine. It is true that there are some parallels between the Qur'an and the Bible. The similarities between the two signify a common source - that is one true God who is continuously revealing basic message of Monotheism. It may be noted that one may find similarities between the teachings of Christianity and Judaism too that does not mean the later prophets have plagiarized from previous prophets.

IX MUHAMMED'S PROPHETHOOD:

A CONFIRMATION OF THE HISTORICITY OF EARLIER PROPHETS

According to Muslim scholars; before Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh), history did not accurately document the lives of the prophets and as such from a strictly historical and academic point of view their prophethood had not been proved. It was the prophethood of Muhammed (Pbuh) which established a tradition confirming the historicity of the prophets. The most **reputed Rev. Bosworth Smith**, in a book, Muhammad and Muhammadanism (London 1874, PP 16-18, P67) quoted by Saiyed Sulaiman Nadwi, has concisely presented this historical truth in one of his lectures:

“We know less of Zoroaster and Confucius than we do of Solon and Socrates, less of Moses and Buddha than we do of Ambrose and Augustine. We know indeed some fragments of a fragment of Christ's life; but who can lift the veil of his thirty years that prepared the way for the three? What do we know of his mother (Mary), of his home life, of his early friends, of his relations with them, the gradual dawning, or, the sudden revelation of his divine mission? How many questions about him occur to each of us which must always remain questions? But in Muhammadanism everything is different; here instead of the shadowy and the mysterious we have history. We know as much of Muhammad as we do even of Luther and Milton. The mythical, the legendary, the supernatural is almost wanting in the original Arab authorities, or at all such events can be easily distinguished from the historical. Nobody here is the dupe of himself or others; there is full light of day upon all that.”

Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) is the final Messenger of Allah (God Almighty). He delivered the same eternal message like many who were sent since the beginning of mankind to guide humanity to the right path and to the worship of one true God (the Creator). Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) never claimed that he brought a 'new' religion. On the other hand he said that it was the religion of Prophet Abraham. The Holy Prophet had most eloquently expressed this truth in the following words :

“The Prophets are paternal brothers their mothers are different, but their religion is one.”

One of the cardinal principles of Islamic faith is belief in all the Prophets and all the revealed Books. The underlying idea of the belief is to make man realise that the entire humanity is one single community, for the fountain head of all divine revelation is only one God, Who raised the Prophets and Messengers in different nations, at different periods of history with one single message to preach to the people. Islam thus lays the foundation of a universal religion by making the belief in the Prophets of every nation, the basic principle of its faith. Can there be a better formula for world peace and harmony? That is what God the Creator orders in the Qur'an:

Say ye, ‘We believe in God, and the Revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob and the Tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to (all) prophets from their Lord: We make no difference between one and another of them and we bow to God (In Islam)’.”
(The Qur'an 2:136)

Jesus (Pbuh) confirms the same:

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil”.
(Holy Bible, Matthew 5:17)
Jesus Christ (Pbuh) further proclaimed when asked about the greatest commandment:

“You shall love the lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest first commandment; and the second is “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

According to Muslim scholars, in the divine scheme of revelation the Qur’an occupies a unique position as the last Testament of God preserving and confirming the truth of earlier Scriptures like a) Zaboor (named the Book of Psalms in the Bible) revealed to Prophet Dawood (David, Pbuh) b) Torah (the book of law -Pentateuch of Old Testament in Bible) revealed to Moosa (Moses, Pbuh.) c) Injeel (Gospel of Jesus now called by Christians as New Testament of the Bible) revealed to Eesa Masih (Jesus Christ) Pbuh. By name the Qur’an mentions only 25 Messengers like Adam, Nuh(Noah), Ibraheem (Abraham), Ismaeel (Ishmael), Ishaq (Isaac), Yousuf (Joseph), Moosa (Moses), Eesa Masih (Jesus Christ) etc and the last Prophet Muhammed – Peace be upon all of them.

The complete Qur’an containing 114 chapters was revealed to Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) in a period of 23 years, (610-633 C.E.).

The subjects in the Qur’an basically deal with:

1. The concept of only one true God as Creator, Sustainer and the only one worthy of worship recognized with the unique name Allah.
2. The concept of prophethood.
3. The concept of life after death.
4. The concept of heaven and hell.
5. The concept of a fixed day of judgement.
6. The concept of individual accountability and recompensation of all deeds in hereafter.
7. The concept of life on earth and then resurrection on the day of judgement.

8. The Qur’an also clears the distortions and interpolations introduced by man in earlier Scriptures and finally completing and perfecting the divine guidance for all times to come. God the Almighty confirms this by addressing to Prophet Muhammed as:

“To thee We sent the Scripture in truth, confirming the Scripture that came before it, and guarding it in safety; so judge between them by what Allah has revealed, and follow not their vain desires, diverging from the truth that has come to thee...” (the Qur’an 5:48)

X DID PROPHET MUHAMMED (PBH) COPY THE QUR’AN FROM THE BIBLE?

Many critics allege that Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) himself was not the author of the Qur’an but he learnt it and / or plagiarized (copied or adapted) it from other human sources or from earlier Scriptures; but this allegation is not true for the following reasons:

1. **Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) was an unlettered.** The theory that Muhammed (Pbuh) authored the Qur’an or copied from other sources can be disproved by the single historical fact that he could not read or write.

Allah (the Creator) testifies himself in the Holy Qur’an 29:48 __
“And thou was not (able) to recite a book before this (Book came), nor art thou (able) to transcribe it with thy right hand: In that case indeed would the talkers of vanities have doubted”.

Allah (the Creator) reconfirms in the Qur’an in Sura Araf 7:157: **“Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered Prophet, whom they find mentioned in their own (Scriptures) in the Torah and the Gospel...”** The prophecy of coming of the unlettered prophet (Pbuh) is also mentioned in the Bible in the book of Isaiah 29:12 “and the book is delivered to him that is not learned.”

2. **Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) in Jewish Scripture**

Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) prophesied in the book of Deuteronomy–
18:18: -

“I will raise up for them a prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and I will put My Words in the mouth; and he shall do all that I shall command him”.

In the above verse “Like unto thee” is interpreted by Muslim scholar to mean that “Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) is like Moses (Pbuh):-

- a) Both had a father and a mother.
- b) Both were married and had children
- c) Both were accepted as prophets by their people in their life time.
- d) Both besides being prophets also are chiefs of their people i.e. they could order capital punishment.
- e) Both brought divine laws and regulations for their people.
- f) Both died a natural death.
- g) Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) was from among the brethren of Moses (Pbuh)- as Arabs are the brethren of Jews. Abraham had two sons: Ishmael and Isaac. The Arabs are descendents of Ishmael (Pbuh) and the Jews are the descendents of Isaac (Pbuh).

Words in the mouth of the Prophet: Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) was unlettered and whatever revelations he received from God almighty, he repeated it verbatim.

3. **Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) is also prophesied in New Testament** in the Gospel of John where Jesus (Pbuh) says, “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to be with you for ever.” (John 14:16)

Comment : According to Muslim theologians another advocate is Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh). The last Messenger of Allah (God Almighty); and with you for ever means perpetuity of his inspired laws and way of life (Sharia) and the Book (Qur’an) the Last Testament which was revealed to him.

4. **Mr. Deedat (Renowned scholar)** gives another fact to prove that

the Qur’an is not copied from the Bible : The Arabic version of the Bible was not present at the time of Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh). The earliest Arabic version of the Old Testament is that of R. Saadias Gaon of 900 CE, that appeared more than 250 years after death of Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh). The oldest Arabic version of the New Testament was published by Erpenius in 1616 C.E. about a thousand years after the period of Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh).

5. **Logical ground to prove that the prophet did not learn Qur’an from Jews or Christians.**

- a) The day to day life of the Prophet was an open book for all to see. In fact a revelation came asking people to give the Prophet (Pbuh) privacy in his own home.
- b) The extremely prominent Quraish nobles who followed the Prophet and accepted Islam were wise and intelligent men who would have easily noticed anything suspicious about the way in which the Prophet brought the revelations to them during a long period of 23 years. The Prophet (Pbuh) was also under a close watch by his enemies in order to find fault with him.

6. **According to Muslim scholars today there are in the world over 1.25 Billion Muslims who unhesitatingly accept that the Holy Qur’an is the ‘Word of God’ and that it is a “Miracle”.**

XI THE BIBLE OR QUR’AN - WHICH IS CLOSER TO MODERN SCIENCE?

According to Muslim Scholars, the teachings of the Qur’an are rational and can be reasoned out by all those who are unbiased. It preaches a religion of free thought banishing all enslavement to myths, superstitions and priest craft. It does not condemn man as a sinful creature from birth to death, but portrays him as a noble, honourable and dignified being gifted with reason and intellect.

a) Six day creation of the universe:

Both the Bible and the Qur’an confirm creation of the universe in six days. But the Bible mentions six days of twenty four hours duration each

(Genesis Chapter one) whereas ayyaam (The Quran'ic term for days) have a dual meaning in Arabic either it could be a day or an epoch (long period of time). Since the creation of universe has taken billions of years it contradicts the concept presented in the Bible. Further more the earth was created on the third day (Gen. 1:9-13) and sun on fourth day (Gen 1:14-19) but according to scientific facts the earth and the moon emanated from sun. The concept of the Bible is also against the established fact about the formation of solar system. Further Gen. 1:11-13 shows vegetation was created on the third day and sun on the fourth day; since the vegetation cannot grow in the absence of sun light. In contrast with the contents of the Bible on this issue the Qur'an does not give any unscientific sequence of creation.

b) The sun and moon both emit light:

The Bible in the Book of Genesis, chapter 1 verse 16 says: "And God made the great lights, the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night".

In the above verse Bible regards sun and moon as the lights differing only in size but the Qur'an differentiates the two lights in pointing out the benevolent working of the planetary system:

"It is He Who hath appointed the sun for brightness and the moon for light, and hath ordained their stations that you may learn the numbering of years and the reckoning of time... He thus makes His signs clear to those who understand." (The Qur'an 10:5)

c) Big Bang Theory :

It is surprising to note that the Qur'an over 1400 years ago projects the concept of Big Bang Theory of creation as:

"Do not the unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were joined together (as one unit of creation), before We clove them asunder? We made from water every living thing. Will they not then believe?"

(The Qur'an 21:30)

The above verse also indicates the aquatic origin of all living creature. The Qur'an also describes the balancing effect of mountains provided to the earth and that heavenly bodies 'swim' in an orbit:

"It is He Who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon: all the (celestial bodies) swim along, each in its rounded course."

(The Qur'an 21:33)

Whereas the Bible is silent on the above noted sciences.

d) **BOTANY :** The Qur'an also contains scientific truth relating to the duality in the sex of plants like: "He Who has made for you the earth... with it have We produced diverse pairs of plants each separate from the others."

(The Qur'an 20:53).

e) **EMBRYOLOGY:** there was no one during Prophet Muhammed's (Pbuh) time who understood the successive stages by which a drop of sperm becomes a human infant and yet the Qur'an describes the evolution of the embryo in mother's womb, as accurately as it is in modern science:

"Then We made the sperm into a clot of congealed blood; then of the clot We made a (Foetus) lump; then We made out of that lump bones and clothed the bones with flesh; then We developed out of it another creature. So blessed be Allah (God), the Best to create!

(The Qur'an 23:14).

A few years back, a group of men in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia had invited **Dr. Keith Moore**, professor of Embryology from University of Toronto and showed him all the verses of the Holy Qur'an dealing with growth of human being including the above verse. During one of his television interview, he mentioned that some of the things that the Qur'an states about the growth of humans were not known until thirty years ago. Infact Qur'an's description of human being as a leach-like clot (alaqah) at one state was new to him but while he checked on it, he found it... and so added to his book; Dr. Moore was so amazed by the accurate description that he joked: May be 14 centuries ago some one secretly had a microscope and did this research making no mistake in the Qur'an's description. No such information is available about Embryology in the Bible.

f) Forensic Science

There is yet another stunning proof of the authenticity of the Holy Qur'an as the Word of God. The study of finger prints is a recent development of Forensic Science and yet I find a reference to this in the Qur'an in sura Qiyama: Does man think that We cannot assemble his bones? Nay, We are able to put together in perfect order the very tips of his fingers." (The Qur'an 75:3-4)

Comments : The 'tips of finger' refers to various patterns of finger prints. Recent research has proved no two person's finger prints are identical.

XII IS THE QUR'AN THE WORD OF GOD ALMIGHTY?

The above scientific facts in the Qur'an proves that the Holy Qur'an is a divine book revealed to Prophet Muhammed. Infact the Qur'an is replete with statements concerning the world of nature which totally conform to modern scientific discovery. For example the Holy Qur'an having has a very decisive evidence of the theory of evolution indicated by the following verse addressed to Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh):

Say : "Of your 'partners', can any originate creation and repeat it?"

Say : "It is Allah (the Creator) Who originates creation and repeats it:
Then how are ye deluded away (from the truth)?" (The Qur'an 10:34)

The above verse negates the idea of Polytheism, a system in which people believe in many gods and many lords as partners to help God Almighty (the Creator) in creation or help running this world.

Refuting the age old western notion that Prophet Muhammed (Peace be upon him) was himself the author of the Qur'an and had copied the general outline of the Bible, **the eminent French medical scientist Dr. Maurice Bucaille remarks:**

"How could a man (i.e. Prophet Muhammed), from being illiterate, become the most important author, in terms of literary merits, in the whole of Arabic

literature? How could he then pronounce truths of a scientific nature that the other human beings could not possibly have developed at that time and all this without once making the slightest error in his pronouncement on the subject". (**Maurice Bucaille, the Bible, the Qur'an and Science, American Trust Publication 1978, P.25**)

Quranic language of Arabic a living language:

Even after a lapse of fourteen long centuries, the Qur'an remains the highest literary composition in Arabic. While the languages in which all the ancient Scriptures were revealed have now become dead languages locked in the archives of history, Arabic the language of the Qur'an is a living language. The Qur'an as described by **Marmaduke Pickthall** is "that inimitable symphony the very sounds of which move men to tears and ecstasy." (**Marmaduke Pickthall, The meaning of the Glorious Koran, George Allen & Unwin Ltd. London 1969 PVII**)

In the words of Harry Gaylord Dorman: The Qur'an is a literal revelation of God, dictated to Muhammed by Gabriel, perfect in every letter. It is an ever present miracle witnessing to itself and to Muhammed, the Prophet of God. Its miraculous quality resides partly in its style, so perfect and lofty that neither men nor Jinn could produce a single chapter to compare with its briefest chapter, and partly in its content of teachings, prophesies about the future and amazingly accurate information such as the unlettered Muhammed could never have gathered of his own accord. (**H.G. Dorman, Towards Understandings Islam, New York 1948 P.3**)

The Qur'an is thus the living Miracle bestowed by God to Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh). As the Prophet himself said:
Every Prophet was given miracles because of which people believed, but what I have been given, is divine inspiration which Allah has revealed to me. So I hope that my followers will out number the followers of other prophets on the day of resurrection.

(**Sahih Al-Bukhari, Trans. Dr. M. Mohsin Khan Vol. 6, Pg 74**)

Al-Qur'an : The living Miracle

It is incredible that Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) who was unlettered and

who had no knowledge of the ancient Scriptures could have himself written a book so sublime and perfect in form and content. **Suzanne Haneef in his book ‘Islam and Muslims’ (Taj Co, Delhi, p31) points out:**

Amongst the various attempts to deride the Qur’an, one of the most powerful charges was that of the Epilepsy “But has there ever been, in all of human history an instance of a person in the grip of Epileptic seizures, insanity or any other form of mental aberration producing anything so consistent and coherent, of such profound depth and wisdom, something which was beyond the knowledge of any human being and which was beyond the capacity of the sanest and wisest men to produce.”

The pagans of Makkah devoted all their energy to disprove the authenticity of the Qur’an, tried in vain to charge that Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) must be in the grip of poetic frenzy or he must be a soothsayer or one possessed by the evil spirit. The Holy Qur’an categorically repudiates all such allegations that the Prophet is a poet, a soothsayer or one possessed: Allah says in the Qur’an: “We have not instructed (the Prophet) in poetry nor is it meet for him: this is no less than a Message and a Qur’an making things clear”.

(The Qur’an 36:69)

“Nor is it the word of a soothsayer....”

(The Qur’an 69:42)

“And (O people!) your companion is not one possessed;”

(The Qur’an 81:22)

“Nor is it the word of an evil spirit accursed”

(The Qur’an 81:25)

“Verily this is no less than a Message to (all) the worlds”

(The Qur’an 81:27)

Important story of Mary and Jesus (Pbut) in the Qur’an

In a ‘shock survey of Anglican Bishops’ in June 1984 it was revealed that 31 out of their 39 bishops thought that “Christ’s miracles, the virgin birth and the resurrection might not have happened exactly as described in the Bible.”

The Daily News of Durban, Tuesday, May 22, 1990 London: Direct reference to the virgin birth has been omitted from the church of Scotland’s new publication, A Statement Of Faith, to “Avoid potential division among the church members”.

According to a Muslim scholar, the western hostility towards Islam took its shape from Crusades which lasted for more than four centuries. Islam was attacked militarily, culturally, economically but the most formidable of attacks was in the field of religion. Here it is worth mentioning that the belief in the prophethood of Jesus (Pbuh) and the Virginity of Mary form one of the basic tenets of the Islamic faith. Christians, on the contrary, have always considered Islam to be their arch enemy, rather than an ally or friend who can defend them against the entire world in their belief in the virgin birth of Prophet Jesus (Pbuh).

In sura Maryam (Mary), chapter 19 of the Holy Qur’an, Jesus (Pbuh) is mentioned in this book of God no less than 25 times, whereas the name of the Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) is mentioned only 5 times. Reason? Are Jesus and his mother more important than Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) in Islam? “No not at all” Then why this extensive coverage? Simply because the integrity of Jesus and his mother (Pbut) was at stake (The choice, Islam and Christianity by Ahmed Deedat, May 1994 Yalj- KSA)

I invite my Christian readers to read the Holy Qur’an translated in their own language and know true Words of God about Mary and Jesus (Pbut) in the following verses:

Behold! The Angels said : “O Mary! Allah hath chosen thee and purified thee – chose thee above the women of all nations” (The Qur’an 3:42)

O Mary! Worship thy Lord devoutly: Prostrate thyself, and bow down (in prayer) with those who bow down.” (The Qur’an 3:43)

When the Angels gave Mary glad tidings of Jesus: She said: “O my Lord! How shall I have son when no man hath touched me?” He said: “Even so: Allah createth what He willeth: When He hath decreed a plan, he but saith to it, ;BE’ and it is ! (The Qur’an 3:47)

“And Allah will teach him the Book and Wisdom, The Torah and the Gospel, (The Qur’an 3:48)

‘And (Appoint him) a Messenger to the children of Israel . . . , if ye did believe”. (The Qur’an 3:49)

“The similitude of Jesus before Allah (the Creator) is as that of Adam. He created him from dust, then said to him ‘BE’ and he was.”

(The Qur’an 3:59)

Comment : When the worlds themselves were prepared by the Word of God according to (Hebrew 11:1-3) why was there the need of intervention of Holy Ghost for conception of Jesus through Mary (Pbut)? as given in (Luke 1:35)

And why the intervention of the Lord Himself for the conception of Isaac to Sarah in (Genesis 21:1-2)

Here may I ask my Christian brothers where is the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Pbuh) given to him by God (The Creator) as mentioned in the above given verse of the Holy Qur’an? refer (The Qur’an 3:48)

Because what I find in the Bible is :The Gospel according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John” thus it reminds me the answer given by Dr. W. Graham Scroggie of Moody Bible Institute of Chicago regarding the Bible **“Yes it is Human but Divine”**. That is why the Bible contains so many contradictions and confusions due to human interpolation and distortion. It is an article of faith for every Muslim to believe in all the Prophets of God and all scriptures of God. Like zaboora (Psalms) Torah, Bible and the Qur’an .

Mankind one family

“O mankind! fear your Guardian Lord, Who created you from a single person and created out of it, his mate and from them the twain scattered (like seeds) countless men and women:- Fear Allah, through Whom ye demand your mutual rights...” (The Qur’an 4:1)

According to the Torah, the Bible and the Qur’an humans belong to one family and the generation of humankind began from Adam and Eve, who were created by God in His own image. (Torah, Genesis 1:27)

Purpose of sending Prophets & Messengers

Ever since people innovated the dogma of joining false gods in worship along with the true God; the Creator began sending Prophets and Messengers to his devotees in order to invite them to the worship of one and only true God and to prohibit ascribing partners unto him and to bring them out of darkness of Polytheism into the light of Monotheism. In fact all Prophets preached Monotheism.

I would like to invite my Christian brothers to study their own Bible and distinguish themselves chapters and verses which appear to be ‘Words of God’ from the words uttered by ‘Prophets of God’ instead of depending on priests and bishops in weekly Sunday congregations, then they will find all the Prophets of Old Testament including Jesus (Pbuh) in new Testament were the followers of Monotheism.

The concept of Monotheism originates from the advent of mankind on the earth that is when Adam and Eve were sent down to earth from Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:23)

- a) Cain murdered Abel as Abel’s offering was accepted by God. (The Bible, Genesis 4:4-8)
- b) After Adam how Noah (Pbuh) used to worship God alone given in the Book of Genesis (The Bible, Genesis 8:20).
- c) How Prophet Abraham (Pbuh) was commanded by God to sacrifice his son. This shows his firm belief in Monotheism (Gen. 22:9)
- d) Similarly Prophet Isaac and Prophet Ishmael were the worshippers of the God Almighty
- e) Prophets Jacob and Joseph also preached Monotheism.(Gen. 32:9-10)
- f) Prophet David (Pbuh) and his Psalms in praise of God show strong faith in the Unity of God for salvation. (I CHR 17:16-27)

- g) 2 CHR 6:12-17 gives the details about the entire Solomon's prayer of dedication to God in the presence of an assembly of Israel.
- h) Prophet Job had strong faith in God despite his sufferings from a number of calamities. (Job 2:9-10)
- i) Jonah 2:1-10 show how prophet Jonah prayed to God, from the belly of the fish and got rescued.
- g) Luke 1:13-15 show how Zechariah's prayer was accepted by God for a son John The Baptist.

XIII THE TEACHINGS OF MOSES STRICTLY AGAINST POLYTHEISM

It is mentioned in the Bible: "You must demolish completely all the places where the nations whom you are about to dispossess served their gods, on the mountain heights, on the hills, and under every leafy tree. Break down their altars smash their pillars, burn their sacred poles, and hew down the idols of their gods and thus blot out their name from their places. You shall not worship the Lord your God in such ways". (Deut. 12:2-4)

The above verses show how the Creator (God) hates Polytheism. God wants mankind to worship Him alone without sharing any demigods or idols with Him.

"I am the Lord and besides Me there is no God....,"

"I am God and there is no one like Me" (Isaiah 45:5 & 46:9)

Similar stories of Prophet Moses and Aaron (Pbut) were revealed to Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) in the Qur'an. Prophet Moses (Pbuh) was born in 1526 B.C. and Prophet Muhammed was born in 571 A.D. and there is a span of about 2100 years between them. However the Scriptures they received convey the same message that God alone is worthy of worship. If you turn to any other in devotion, you cease to be a believer in the Unity of God.

That is why the opening chapter of the Qur'an sets the form of prayer to Allah (The Creator):

"Thee alone do we serve and from Thee alone do we seek help".

The emphasis is only on "Thee alone". The stress becomes intelligible when we proceed to appraise the position assigned by God Almighty to the Prophet (Pbuh) of Islam.

The very basic declaration of Islam Runs:

"I affirm that there is no God except Allah, and I affirm that Muhammed (Pbuh) is His servant and His message bearer".

Why was this declaration made the basic doctrine of Islam? It was done simply to prevent the Prophet of Islam from ever being hailed as God or His incarnation, or invested with the attributes and honour exclusive to God.

The Qur'an mentions that Torah was revealed to Moses (Pbuh), Zaboor (Psalms) to David (Pbuh). and Injeel was revealed to Jesus (Pbuh).

Injeel means the "Gospel" or "Good News" which Jesus preached during his short ministry. **The gospel writers often mention Jesus going about and preaching the gospel (The Injeel) : So where is this original Gospel Now?**

a) Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their Synagogues (Jewish) and proclaiming the 'Good News' (i.e. Gospel)... (Mat. 4-23)

b) "But whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the Gospel's the same shall save it." (Holy Bible Mark 8:35) the 'Gospel is a frequently used word but **what Gospel did Jesus preach?**

In Trinity: The father is God, The son is God and the holy ghost is God, and yet there are not three gods but one God". Again this term trinity it is hard to find in the Bible except in the first letter of John 5:7.

Mr. Deedat a scholar of Bible and Christianity unfolds the folly of 'Trinitarian theory of oneness in God'. Why did Jesus cry for his Life? (Matthew 26:37-39), was he not aware that he had to die for the sins of mankind to redeem them? It ought not to be like that, if he had, had a prior knowledge "for being prepared for this vicarious sacrifice before the foundation of the world", since he being the one among the Trinity.

Mr. Deedat lamented if this was God's plan for a vicarious atonement to redeem mankind, then obviously He had chosen a wrong "substitute" (Since God Himself was being reluctant to die for mankind'). This candidate was most reluctant to die, since he was wailing! sweating! crying! complaining! as given in Bible verses like Matt. 26:37-39, Luke 22:35-36, Luke 22:44 etc.

Mr. Deedat referred to an **American historical researcher and mathematician, Michael H. Hart** who put Prophet Muhammed as the first and St. Paul as the second and Jesus Christ, as third most successful religious leader in his book "The 100, a ranking of 100 most influential persons in history." Mr. Hart also explained the reason for everybody's positions in the list. He gave preference to St. Paul over Jesus since he was the real founder of modern day Christianity.

The Christian dogma of man's inheritance of the original sin of Adam is completely contradicted in the Bible, Izekiel 18:20-21 as is given under the earlier heading "The contradictions and confusion in the Bible".

Regarding Trinity Allah (The Creator) says in the Qur'an:

They do blaspheme who say: God is one of three in a Trinity: For there is no God except one God. If they desist not from their word (of blasphemy) verily a grievous chastisement will befall the disbelievers among them."
(The Qur'an 5:73).

The following comment of **Major Yeats Brown** is worth reading:

"No heathen tribe has conceived so grotesque an idea, involving as it does the assumption, that man was born with a hereditary stain upon him, and this stain for which he was not personally responsible was to be atoned for, and that the Creator of all things had to sacrifice his only begotten son to neutralise this mysterious curse". That Jesus (Pbuh) himself regarded children as innocent and pure, and not born in sin, is clear from his reported saying:

".. Let the little children come to me; donot stop them; for it is such as these that the kingdom of God belongs".
(John 10:14).

In Islam the notion of original sin is regarded as inconsistent with justice of Allah (God). How could a just and loving God make an innocent child

responsible for, or atleast bear the guilt for the sins of a distant ancestor?
(**Steve A. Johnson**)

Facts about Crucifixion according to the Qur'an

Allah (The Creator) says in the Qur'an revealed to Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) that they said (in boast) "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah", but they killed him not, nor crucified him. Only a likeness of that was shown to them. And those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge. But only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not:
(The Qur'an 4:157)

"Nay, Allah (The Creator) raised him up unto Himself; and Allah (God Almighty) is Exalted in Power, Wise;"
(the Qur'an 4:158).

Comment : In my opinion the Qur'an actually enhanced the image and prestige of Jesus (Pbuh) as being one of the favorite prophets of God not just a helpless person to be crucified without the consent of God.

As God proclaims:

- 1) And verily, it is We Who give life, and Who give death; it is We Who remain inheritors....
(The Qur'an 15:23)
- 2) O ye who believe! Be not like the unbelievers who say of their brethren ... , "If they had stayed with us they would not have died or been slain... , "it is Allah (God) that gives life and death, and Allah sees well all that you do.
(The Qur'an 3:156)

Belief in Monotheism is common in Old Testament and the Qur'an. The faith in the Unity of God is to believe that there is only one lord for all the universe its Creator, Organizer, Planner, Sustainer and Provider of security etc. The unity in the worship of God alone is also given at several places in the Old Testament.

The Qur'an also asserts that God alone is worthy of worship. The Creator puts such a great stress in the Qur'an for his Uniqueness in His essence and in His Attributes that there is hardly a page in the whole Qur'an where the truth of his Oneness is not pointedly brought out.

There are several verses of Old Testament in the Bible which strongly support Monotheism, like Deut. 8:19:- "Never forget the Lord your God or turn to other gods to worship and serve them, if you do then I warn you

today that you will certainly be destroyed.”

“People of Israel, you are my witnesses; I chose you to be my servant, so that you would know Me and believe in Me and understand that I am the only God. Besides Me there is no other god; there never was and never will be.” (Isaiah 43:10)

Similarly Deut. 7:9-10, Deut. 28:15-45 describe punishment for disobedience of God’s covenants. See how Jesus (Pbuh) censures the people of Israel: “Jerusalem, Jerusalem! you kill the Prophets and stone the Messengers of God has sent you!... And so your temple will be abandoned and empty.” (Matt. 23:37-8)

Sinful example of idol worship and ridiculing God’s Messenger is given in 2 CHR 36:14-16.

The Qur’an also confirms similar instances such as: “Mocked were (many) Messengers before thee: But I granted respite to the Unbelievers, and finally I punished them: Then how (terrible) was My requital!

(The Qur’an 13:32)

“...”Say: “There came to you Messengers before me, with clear signs and even with what ye ask for: why then did you slay them, if ye speak the truth?” (The Qur’an 3:183)

There is not a single statement in the entire Bible where Jesus himself says “I am God” or son of God or where he says “Worship me”. On the contrary he preached:

1. “..., Because the father is greater than I.” (John 14:28).
2. I can do nothing of my own. As I hear, I judge and my judgement is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of Him Who sent me”, (John 5:30)
3. But it is by the spirit of God that I cast out demons... (Matt. 12:28)
4. “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill”. (Matt. 5:17)

5. “And after he had dismissed the crowd (Jesus) went up the mountain by himself to pray”. (Matt. 14:23).

6. “And the scribe said to him (Jesus) well master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but He.” (Mark 12:32)

7. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the Prophet Isaiah: “Here is My servant, whom I have chosen My beloved, with whom My soul is well pleased. I will put My spirit upon him and he will proclaim justice to the gentiles”. (Matt. 12:17-18).

8. Then someone came to him and said “Teacher what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” and he (Jesus) said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments”. (Matt. 19:16)

Allah (the Creator) confirms in the Qur’an : “They do blaspheme who say: “Allah is Christ the son of Mary”. But said Christ: “O children of Israel! Worship Allah my Lord and your Lord. “Whoever joins other gods with Allah (The Creator) Allah will forbid him the Garden and the Fire will be his abode. There will for the wrong – doers be no one to help.” (Al-Qur’an 5:72).

XIV WHAT RELIGION PROPHET ABRAHAM FOLLOWED?

Here it is very important to point out that one thing common to all of them was the respect and recognition which they all paid to the memory of Abraham (Pbuh) as the common ancestor of the Jews, the Christians and the Arabs of the day. If the exclusiveness of each of their groups was identical with truth, then one can ask to what group did the common ancestor belong. In Abraham’s time neither Judaism nor Christianity existed. What then was the way or the religion Abraham (Pbuh) followed? The Qur’an gives the answer:

- 1) O people of the Book! Why do you dispute about Abraham, when the Torah and the Gospel were not revealed till after him? Do you not understand?” (The Qur’an 3:65)

2) They say : “Become Jews or Christians you would be guided (to salvation) Say: Nay, (we follow) the religion of Abraham the upright one and he joined not gods with Allah”. (The Qur’an 2:135)

Prophet Abraham (Pbuh) was a strong believer in the unity of God. One day he entered into a temple and broke to pieces all the idols keeping the big idol intact to convince idolaters to abandon idol worship. But the idolaters prepared a big fire and threw Prophet Abraham (Pbuh) into the fire as a punishment for breaking the idols of their gods but the fire could not burn Abraham by the order of God and he was saved. The whole story is given in the Qur’an (21:57 to 72). His struggle to recognize the Creator is mentioned in several chapters of the Qur’an.

The message which Prophet Abraham (Pbuh) and every other Prophet delivered was that mankind were in reality one people or one community and that there is one God who is the Creator for all of them and hence on that account they should worship together and live as members of but one family as given in the Qur’an : “Mankind was but one nation, but differed (later)...” (The Qur’an 10:19).

Therefore the Qur’an reminds the path to which all the prophets have invited: “Verily We have revealed to thee (Muhammed) as We revealed to Noah and the Prophets after him: And We sent inspiration to Abraham and Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, to Jesus, Job, Jonah, Aaron and Solomon; and to David We gave the Psalms. Of some Messengers We have told thee the story: Of others We have not;..., spoke direct. Messengers who gave good news as well as warning, that mankind after (the coming) of the Messengers, should have no plea against Allah (God): For Allah (God) is Exalted in Power, Wise”. (The Qur’an 4:163-165).

XV SALVATION OF MANKIND IN THE BIBLE AND THE QUR’AN

Regarding salvation of mankind the Bible presents conflicting views:

The words of Saint Paul contradict both Jesus Christ (Pbuh) and James. For example more than half of the Book of Acts is devoted to ministry of Paul and his travels to preach the good news.

Act 16:31 : and they said, believe on the lord Jesus, Christ, and thou shalt be saved and thy house.

Romans 10:9&10 : In both verses faith in Jesus is the criteria for salvation. In contrast to above verses faith and work, both are a must for salvation as given below:

James 2:26 :- For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without work is dead also.

James 2:14 –What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he has faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?

The message of Jesus (Pbuh) is same as of James when Jesus was asked: Matthew 19:16-21 : Then someone came to him and said, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life”? And he said to him “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good (i.e. God). If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” He said to him “which ones?” and Jesus said “You shall not murder; you shall not commit adultery; you should not steal; you shall not bear false witness. . . ., Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give the money to poor; and you will have treasures in heaven.

Mr. Deedat, (a Bible Scholar) asserts that whatever differences persist between a Muslim and a Christian on the grounds of dogma, belief, ethics or morality then the cause of such conflict could be traced to utterances of Paul found in his books of Corinthians, Philippians, Galatians, and Thessalonians etc in the Bible as St. Paul being the real founder of Christianity.

As against the teaching of master (Jesus) that salvation only comes through keeping of the commandments (as mentioned Matthew 19:16-17) Paul uttered “if Christ be not risen from the dead, then our preaching is vain, and your faith is also vain” (1 Corinthians 15:14).

Mankind including Prophets and Messengers as servants of God is given in the Bible as well as in the Qur’an.

Most of the Prophets called themselves as servant of God in the Bible like: Jacob calls himself Servent of God in Genesis 32:9-10, while King David the Honoured Servant of God in 1 Chr. 17:16-27, Solomon in verse 1 King 3:78, the Lord Himself said My servant Job in Job 2:3 and

Moses in Deut. 9:27 reminds God about his servants Abraham, Issac and Jacob who paid no attention to stubbornness of the people.

Similarly Allah (God) says in the Qur'an: When my Servents ask you (Muhammed) concerning Me, I am indeed close (to them): I respond to the prayer of every suppliant when he calls on Me... (The Qur'an 2:186) So all humans are servants of God and not sons and daughters of God as projected by St. Paul's dogma of Christianity.

Qur'anic view for unity and Salvation of Mankind

The Qur'anic message of God (The Creator) made faith and deed the sole means of salvation and not affiliation to any particular group. It asserted that the religion revealed by God was but one for all mankind and that every deviation from it was a negation of religion. It emphasized that real religion was direct worship of but one God, without any meditating agency and that this was the main teaching of all the Prophets and Messengers as given earlier under the heading : Purpose of sending Prophets / Messengers(P-32) God the Creator laid down the salient principles of salvation for mankind in the following verse of the Qur'an:

“Serve Allah (God), and join not any partners with him; And do good to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, needy neighbour (kin or strangers), friends and associates, the way-farer (you meet) and captives : For Allah (God) loves not the arrogant, the vainglorious.” (The Qur'an 4:36).

Man is given free will by God in the Qur'an

Man is given a choice either to believe in God or reject Him according to the Qur'an (18:29&31) : God directs to Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) to address mankind thus :

Say, “The truth is from your Lord”, let him who will believe, and let him who will reject it: For the wrong-doers We have prepared a fire... , to recline on. For the righteous will be gardens of eternity... , to recline on.”

Hence the acceptance of this principle of choice and self responsibility for salvation opens the door of salvation to every human being without the

distinction of cast, creed, colour, race etc., and without affiliation to any particular deity.

The history of Arabia shows that there were neither Jews or Christians living nor were there traces of any church in Mecca at the time of **Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh)**; yet he recieved a revelation of the Qur'anic verse from God in Mecca which says: “Then..., We sent after them Jesus the son of Mary, and bestowed on him the Gospel; and We ordained in the hearts of those who followed him, compassion and mercy. But the Monasticism which they invented for themselves, We did not prescribe for them.... (The Qur'an 57:27).

Comment : The above verse shows that during ‘The reign of Jesus (Pbuh) there was neither concept of a church where Mary and Jesus were worshipped nor of Monasticism. It was St. Paul who authored more than half of the books and epistles of New Testament and became the real founder or inventor of Christian church and Monastery which is against the Gospel of Jesus given to him by God to preach in Jewish Synagogues.

XVI THE CONCEPT OF GOD IN WORLD RELIGIONS

1. The concept of God in Hinduism:

- a) “Na Tasya Pratima Asti” There is no image of Him” (Yajurveda 32:3)
- b) “Shudhampoapvidham” “He is bodiless and pure” (Yajurveda 40:8)
- c) “Ekam Evadvitiam” “He is only one without a second”

(Chandogya Upanishad 6:2:1)

- d) “Of Him there is neither parents nor lord” (Svetasvatara Upanishad 6:9)
- e) “The Creator of the earth and the skies is the only one”

(Svetasvatara Upanishad 3:3)

- f) “O friend do not worship any body but Him, the divine one praise Him alone”.

(Rigveda 8:1:i-iii)

Comment : Although the above mentioned verses of the holy scriptures of Hinduism indicate monotheistic view of God, but according to Mulana Azad (Ex-Education Minister of India): In India probably from the beginning itself was tacitly admitted that hero-worship and the worship of

demigods were indispensable for the masses, while reserving the worship of Creator for elite only due to caste based system. In 1927 when Mahatma Gandhi visited Paramachariya, **this sage of Kanchi impressed upon Gandhi, that the faith and devotion to the Creator, alone, decides the fate of all human activities.** (Ref. The Hindu, May 21, 2004 Madurai)

2) The concept of God according to Dasatirin Zoroastrianism:

- a) God is one b) Nothing resembles Him
- c) He is without an origin or end
- d) He has no father or mother, wife or son
- e) He is without body or form
- f) He is nearer to you than your own self.
- g) Neither the eyes can behold Him, nor the power of thinking conceive Him.

3) The concept of God in sikhism: According to Sri Guru Granth Sahib Sikhism believes in only one supreme God, who is in the unmanifest form, called “Ek Omkara” having several attributes such as : Kartar (The Creator) Akal (Eternal), Sahib(Lord), Cherisher, Merciful, Benevolent one true God.

4) The concept of God in Judaism:

The Ten Commandments given in Torah to Moses (Pbuh) in Exodus 20:2-17, and some of them are:

- a) I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out..., slavery.
- b) You shall have no other gods before Me.
- c) You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything..., earth.
- d) You shall not bow down to them or worship them....
- e) Show steadfast love to the thousandth generation who love Me and keep My commandments.

5) The concept of God in Buddhism

Buddha was silent about the existence or non-existence of God. It may be that since India was sunk so deep in Idol worship of so many demi gods, Buddha chose to remain silent on the issue of God. According to Maulana Azad “there is absolutely no room for idol worship in the teachings of Buddha. In fact, his last testament which reached the people: “See that you do not worship my ashes. If you do, the path of salvation will be

closed to you.” But what his followers actually did is all before us. They not only erected places of worship over Buddha’s ashes and relics, but also as means of propagation of his religion, installed his statues throughout the world.

6) The concept of God in Christianity :

The teachings of Christianity originally concentrated on the unity of God. Yet within one hundred years of its advent, Christ (Pbuh) himself was raised to the position of God and the son of God. A study of Bible reveals that Jesus (Pbuh) never claimed divinity. In fact there is not a single statement in the entire Bible where Jesus himself says “I am God” or where he says “Worship me” or Worship Mary.

The concept of God in Islam

The concept of God (Allah) in Islam is based on Tauheed (Monotheism) The Christians from Najran around Yemen came to Madeena to discuss with Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) about Islam. During the discussion they posed the question, “Now tell us O Muhammed! What is your concept of God?” The prophet (Pbuh) was thoughtful for a moment as if asking, “O my lord! What shall I say?” there upon came the answer Say : (O Muhammed) He is Allah the One, Allah the Eternal, the Absolute; He Begets not nor is He Begotten, and there is none like unto Him. (The Qur’an 112:1-4)

Before Prophet Muhammed’s (Pbuh) preaching of Monotheism, the pagan Arabs of Arabia were having 360 idols of gods in Mecca. They enquired from Muhammed (Pbuh), the concept and knowledge about Allah (The Creator) so the same four line definition of Allah was given by Allah through the mouth of Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) as mentioned above in the Qur’an 112:1-4.

Later on when the Prophet (Pbuh) conquered Mecca without any bloodshed and proclaimed general amnesty, he demolished those idols and removed them from Kaba (the house of Allah). This demolishing of idols reminds one the teachings of Moses in Bible Deut. 12:2-4) against Polytheism.

Hence above mentioned four line definition of Allah (God Almighty) is an acid test to verify who the true God is?

XVII THE PURPOSE OF LIFE ON THE EARTH AND KEY TO SALVATION

In order to analyse the purpose of life, first we have to seek knowledge of God. God says in the Qur'an that there is but one road to it. And that one should reflect over the phenomenal world of creation.

“Those who bear God in mind, standing, sitting, reclining and contemplate the wonders of creation in the heavens and the earth, they will say “Our Lord! Thou has not created all this in vain., Fire.” (The Qur'an 3:191).

The mystery of the universe with its countless stars and the planets obeying the laws of motion and the sun and the moon influencing temperature and climates of the earth from thousands or millions of miles illustrate the order and perfection which the Creator God has given to His creation.

In this material world - from a tiny needle to a supersonic jet - every thing is made and invented to serve a certain purpose, then how come the most superior, intelligent species like a human being could be a product of evolution without any purpose and that too evolved from Apes? Just imagine! it is food for thought! The creation of universe is so great that it includes our Solar System- which is a tiny chip of it even a great scientist like Isaac Newton was compelled to say : “I did not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the sea shore, diverting myself finding smoother pebble or prettier shell, while the great ocean of the truth lay all undiscovered before me?”

All the excellence that man acquires is the gift of Allah. And the Creator has bestowed on human being a high destiny if he fulfils the purpose of creation. As a recognition to the existence of the Creator, Ronald Reagan (Ex-President USA) once said: “Sometime when I am faced with an atheist; I am tempted to invite him to the greatest gourmet dinner that one could ever serve, and when we have finished eating that magnificent dinner, to ask him if he believes there is a cook?”

Everything in this world has a talent appropriate to its role in life and which in its manifestation has to produce a specific result. So the life of man has a purpose to serve or a goal to achieve. This goal is the “Life Hereafter” (Eternal life). For, it is unthinkable that man should be created just to live for a few years and then get completely annihilated.” That is why the Creator asks in the Qur'an:

“Have they not considered within themselves that God, hath not created the heavens and the earth and all that is in between them but for a serious end and for a fixed term? But truly most men believe not that they shall meet their Lord.”` (The Qur'an 30:8)

It is important to note that almost all the Messengers and Prophets whose names are mentioned in Torah, Bible and the Qur'an were sent individually to particular nations in specific sequential periods of human history but the last Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) was sent for all mankind. **Allah (The Creator) reveals through angel Gabriel addressing Muhammed “We have not sent thee but as a (Messenger) to all mankind, giving them glad tidings, and warning them (against sin), but most men know not.” (The Qur'an 34:28)**

Comment : So the Holy Qur'an revealed to Prophet Muhammed is not limited to one family or tribe or race but for all mankind. That is why the opening statement of second chapter of the Qur'an vouchsafes this fact:

“This is the Book; in it is guidance sure, without doubt to those who fear God” (The Qur'an 2:1)

The teachings of the Qur'an are universal, addressed to the whole of humanity, transcending all barriers of time, place and race. It contains guidance for all phases and aspects of life and lays down rules for the head of the state as well as a commoner; for spiritual well-being as well as material prosperity, for peace as well as war. It also offers solutions to problems of man's life on earth like the relationship between man and society, the complex relationship between man and woman, marriage, inheritance, penal laws and code of conduct. The Qur'anic injunction

aims at moderation, at harmony between the spiritual and the temporal, the divine and the human, the individual and the collective. The Qur'anic teaching does not torture the body nor does it neglect the soul but strikes an equilibrium coordinating the demands of the body with the demands of the spirit and making it full and righteous. It contains all that is essential for living in accordance with God's will. It calls for truth in thought and word, for piety in action and for goodwill in intent, so that every activity of life becomes purposeful and attains the sanctity of worship. **Professor Muthaharunisa Umer of Chennai says:** it is because of its all pervasiveness that the Holy Qur'an has had such a wide, deep and tremendous impact on man's thought, deeds culture and way of life and the transformation caused by it is unparalleled in the history of mankind. It brought about a miraculous change in the lives of Arabs within a short span of 23 years of prophethood of (Prophet) Muhammed (Pbuh). The unenlightened, credulous, idolatrous, ruthless, immoral and cruel Arabs were converted into harbingers of peace and knowledge burning with zeal to enact the best and noblest deed in the service of humanity. The Arabs in turn transformed peoples of other nations around the globe. The wording of the existing Qur'anic text has remained, word for word, precisely as it was revealed to Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh). Its words, its verses, its sections are in exact order as he had arranged them under divine guidance. The arrangement of the Qur'an was a part of divine scheme and God himself had guaranteed its exact preservation in its original form as a proof of its authenticity and its divine origin as proclaimed by God: "We have, without, doubt, sent down the Message; and We will assuredly guard it (from corruption)." (The Qur'an 15:9)

Did Islam Spread by Sword?

Dr. Zakir Naik (An expert of world religions of international fame) during one of his telecast speeches to a huge gathering of non-Muslim intelligentsia, one of the non-Muslims among his audience asked Dr. Naik: "How can Islam be called the religion of peace when it was spread by sword?" Dr. Naik replied with the following points which will make it clear, that far from being spread by the sword, it was its inherent force of truth, reason and logic that was responsible for the rapid spread of Islam.

- 1. Islam means peace:** Islam comes from the root word 'Salam', which means peace. It also means submitting one's will to Allah (The Creator).
- 2. Opinion of historian De lacy O' Leary :** De Lacy O' Leary in his book "Islam at the cross Road" (Page 8): "History makes it clear however, that the legend of fanatical Muslims sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of the sword upon conquered races is one of the most fantastically absurd myths that historians have ever repeated".
- 3. Muslims ruled Spain for 800 years. They never used sword to force the people to convert**
- 4. 14 million Arabs are Coptic Christians:** Muslims were lord of Arabia for 1400 years except for few years of British and French rule. Yet today there are 14 million Arabs who are Christians since generations; in itself a proof that sword was not used.
- 5. There are more than 80% Non-Muslims in India:** The Muslims ruled India for about a thousand years. If they wanted, they had the power of converting each and every Non-Muslim of India to Islam. Today 80% of Non-Muslim population of India bear witness that Islam did not spread by Sword.
- 6. Indonesia and Malaysia :** Indonesia is a country that has the maximum number of Muslims in the world. The majority of people in Malaysia are Muslim. May one ask, "which Muslim army went to Indonesia and Malaysia?"
- 7. No compulsion in Islam :** The sword cannot be used as the Qur'an says in Chapter 2, verse 256 "Let there be no compulsion in religion : Truth stands out clear from error".
- 8. Sword of Intellect : It is the sword of intellect. The sword that conquered the hearts and minds of people.** The Qur'an says in chapter 16, Verse 125: "Invite (all) to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching, and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious".
- 9. World religions comparison from 1934 to 1984:** An article in Readers Digest 'Almanac', year book 1986, gave the statistics of percentage increase of major world religions in half a century from 1934 to 1984. This article also appeared in 'The Plain Truth' magazine. At the top was Islam, which increased by 235% and Christianity had increased

by only 47%. May one ask which war took place in this century, which reverted millions of people to Islam? According to recent research, Islam is the fastest growing religion in America and Europe.

10. Dr. Joseph Adam Pearson rightly says, “People who worry that nuclear weaponry will one day fall in the hands of the Arabs, fail to realize that the Islamic bomb has been dropped already, it fell the day (Prophet) Muhammed (Pbuh) was born”.

Apostasy in Christianity Vs in Islam: In contrast to the message of love and mercy by Jesus Christ (Pbuh), the founders of Christianity introduced stone to death punishment for Apostasy as mentioned in the Bible (Deut. 17:2-5). Christianity does not accept back the apostate, even if one repents and wishes to rejoin the fold according to the Bible.

(Heb. 6:4-6)

It was Pope Innocent III (1198-1216) who had commissioned his own inquisitors who had declared, “Anyone who attempted to construe a personal view of God which conflicted with the church dogma must be burned without pity”. (The Dark Side of Christian History by Helen Ellerbe): In the words of Historian Will Durant (The story of civilization): “Making every allowance required by a historian and permitted to a Christian, we must rank the Inquisition along with the wars and persecutions of our time, as among the darkest blots on the record of mankind, revealing a ferocity unknown in any beast.” In 1814 the Spanish inquisition was reintroduced by Ferdinand VII and approved by Pope Pius VII. It was in 1965 that Pope Paul VI reorganized and renamed “Congregation of the doctrine of faith”. And in 1993 the church “officially” pardoned Galileo for his belief that planets revolve around the sun, not the earth.

On the contrary in the entire history of Islam, there haven't been perhaps more than 15-20 who were condemned to death for Apostasy. The rule is there to prevent the occurrence but not to nullify the main rule revealed by God in the Qur'an:

“Let there be no compulsion in religion : Truth stands out clear from Error.....”
(The Qur'an 2:256)

So Islam accepts back the Apostates if one repents and declares his return into Islam. He can be pardoned his execution for the crime of Apostasy even at the last stage.

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