

MONOTHEISM

THE KEY TO SALVATION OF MANKIND



By
Ghulam Mohiuddin
B.E. (Mech.)

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

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THE KEY TO SALVATION OF MANKIND

**World's Religions
(Comparative Study)**

THE UNIVERSAL MESSAGE OF GOD TO MANKIND

"Serve Allah (God), and join not any partners with Him; and do good-to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, the needy, neighbour (kin or stranger), friends, and associates, the way-farer (you meet) and captives: for Allah (GOD) loves not the arrogant, the vainglorious." (The Quran's 4:36)

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PREFACE

The world today is in the grips of atheism, skepticism, restlessness and frustration. The religious prejudices and the barriers have divided mankind causing mutual hatred and bloodshed in the world. As a result they lost the way of God and salvation.

As the nature of man can hardly agree to believe that there can ever be an action without an actor, orderliness without a director, a plan without a planner, a building without a builder so the faith in God or the Creator exists in all religions from the earliest generations. In order to analyze the purpose of life on the earth, we have to acquire the knowledge of God. God says in one of the Scriptures, that there is but one road to it and that, to reflect over the phenomenal world of creation.

When a man thinks about the order of creation, he finds that everything in the universe is so designed that it is linked to every other under a single principle of life, and that everything is fitted into this scheme for special purpose and that nothing is created in vain.

So, everything in this world has a talent appropriate to its role in life and which in its manifestation has to provide a specific result. Hence, the life of man must have a purpose to serve or a goal to achieve. Otherwise it is rather unthinkable that man should be created just to live for a few years and then get completely annihilated forever.

Perhaps my book on Monotheism is neither the first nor the only one on the subject. But it is certainly comprehensive and systematic enough for a wake-up call to humanity. The basic sources of the book are the holy Scriptures of Judaism, Christianity and Islam to convey the message of God what the nations received from time to time from their prophets showing the intent of creation and the needed criteria for salvation.

Peace is a cherished hope of mankind (which originated from Adam & Eve) and a crying need of all ages. Man's need of peace whether for the individual or for the collective level is becoming more obvious than before in our modern time. Therefore, it is the duty of peace - loving individuals and organizations to work together to make peace an existing reality on our planet.

The underlying motive of my book is to lead the nations towards the unity of God, which is the key to the unity of mankind, thus achieving essential elements of salvation.

If there is any merit in the present work, I owe it to the Grace of God the Almighty and for all errors and omissions I seek His forgiveness.

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

Ghulam Mohiuddin
Retired engineer.

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MONOTHEISM
THE KEY TO
SALVATION OF MANKIND

1. DEFINITION AND THE CONCEPT OF
MONOTHEISM

Monotheism is the belief in oneness of God - The True God of all that exist.

Monotheism mainly has three aspects

1. The unity of the Lordship of God - That is to believe that there is only one Lord for all the universe it's Creator, Organizer, Planner, Sustainer and Provider of security etc.
2. Unity in the worship of God : That is to believe that none has the right to be worshipped (Ex : Praying, Invoking, Asking for help, Swearing, Slaughtering, Sacrifices, Charity, Fasting and Pilgrimage etc.), but God.
3. Unity in the names and Attributes of God.

2. THE CONCEPT OF GOD IN MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS

There are two categories of world religions

1) Semitic religions 2) Non-Semitic religions.

1. The Semitic religions : Basically originated among the Jews, the Arabs, The Assyrians and The Phonicians. Judaism, Christianity and Islam are the major Semitic religions. These religions are based on the concept of Monotheism, through prophetic revelations.

2. Non semitic religions :
The non - semitic religions are basically divided as Non - Aryan and Aryan religions. Confucianism, Taoism (Chinese origin), Shintoism (Japanese) are non - Aryan religions and referred as ethical systems, because they donot have the basic concept of God.

Non Vedic & Vedic religions :

Zoroastrianism is supposed to be the Aryan, non-semitic, non-Vedic religion and claims to be a prophetic religion (the belief that God sent prophets). Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism are also non-Vedic religions.

Hinduism is non -semitic, Aryan, Vedic religion : and said to be a misnomer for Brahmanism. Hinduism is the name given to the way of living of a Hindu.

- a) According to Encyclopedia of Religions and Ethics, New York 1965 : 699 the word Hindu was used for the first time by the Muslims after their advent in India.
- b) In Discovery of India, Jawaharlal Nehru (1983:74) says that the word Hindu at the earliest be traced back to an 8th century C.E. Tantrik book and that there it meant a people of a particular geographic region and not mere a religious term. Nehru (1983:37) further says that Hinduism..., is hardly possible to define it, or indeed to say definitely whether it is a religion or not, in the usual sense of the word.”
- c) According to The New Encyclopedia Britannica, (1935:581) “They were as they are, divided into thousands of communities and tribes, each having its own religious beliefs rituals..., the British writers gave them the word ‘Hinduism’ to be used as a common name for all their religions in about 1830.

Concept of God in Hinduism

According to Hindu scripture Bhagavad -Gita :

- 1) “Those whose intelligence has been stolen by material desires surrender unto demigods and follow the particular rules and regulations of worship according to their own natures.”
(Gita - 7:20)
- 2) “O Scion of Bharata, surrender unto Him utterly, by His grace you will attain transcendental peace and the supreme and eternal abode.
(Gita - 18:62)
- 3) “Na tasya pratima asti” “There is no image of Him
(Yajurveda 32:3)
- 4) “Shudhampoapvidham” “He is bodiless and pure”
(Yajurveda 40:8)
- 5) “Andhatama Pravishanti ye asambhuti mupaste” “They enter darkness, those who worship the natural elements” (Air, water, fire, etc) “they sink deeper in darkness, those who worship sambhuti” (Yajurveda 40:9). sambhuti means created things, for example table, chair, idol etc.
- 6) “Ekam evadvitiam” “He is only one without a second”.
(Chandogya upanishad 6:2:1)
- 7) “Na Casya Kascij janita na cadhipah” “Of Him there is neither parents nor lord”
(svetasvatara upanishad 6:9)
- 8) “Na Tasya Pratima Asti” “There is no likeness of Him”
(Svetasvatara upanishad 4:19)
- 9) “Dyava Bhumi Janayam Deva Ekah” “The Creator of the earth and the skies is the only one”
(Svetasvatara upanishad 3:3)

- 10) “Ekam Brahm, Dvitiya Naste Neh Naste Kinchan” “There is only one God, not a second: not at all, not in the least bit.”
(Brahma Sutra)
- 11) “Macid anyad vi sansata ma rishanyata” “O friend do not worship any body but Him, The Divine one praise Him alone”.
(Rigveda 8:1:1- iii)

Comment : Although the above mentioned verses of the Holy scriptures of Hinduism indicate monotheistic view of God, but according to Maulana Azad : In India probably from the beginning it was tacitly admitted that Hero - worship and the worship of demigods were indispensable for the masses, reserving the worship of God in His uniqueness or unity, for the elite only due to caste based system. For example Paramachariya a great Hindu sage born in May, 1894, travelled on foot for 87 years across India. In 1927, (on oct.15) Mahatma Gandhi, during his tour of south India called on Paramachariya who was camping at Nallicheri in Palkad. The sage of kanchi impressed upon Gandhi, that the faith and devotion to God, alone, decides the fate of all human activities.
(Ref. The Hindu, May 21, 2004 Madurai)

The qualities of God according to Dasatir in 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 a body or form
- f) Neither the eyes can behold Him, not the power of thinking conceive Him.
- g) He is above all that you can imagine
- h) He is nearer to you than your ownself

Sikhism : Sikhism is a religion of Ten Gurus, the first Guru being Guru Nanak and the tenth Guru being Guru Gobind singh. The sacred book of Sikhism is Sri Guru Granth or Adi Granth Sahib.

The Concept of God in Sikhism

In Sri Guru Granth Sahib, VoI 1 Japuji, the first verse says :

“There exists but one God, who is called the true, the Creator, free from fear and hate, Immortal, not begotten, Self-existent, Great and Compassionate. Sikhism enjoins its followers to practise strict Monotheism. It believes, in only one supreme God who is, in the unmanifest form, called “Ek Omkara” who has several attributes such as : Kartar (The Creator), Akal (Eternal), Sattanama (Holy Name), Sahib (Lord), pravardigar (Cherisher), Rahim (Merciful), Karim (Benevolent), Wahe Guru (one True God).

3. MANKIND - ONE FAMILY

“O mankind be conscious of your Lord Who created you from a single person and created out of it his mate and from them the two countless scattered men and women. Be conscious of God through Whom you demand your mutual rights...”

(The Qur’an 4:1)

4. PURPOSE OF SENDING PROPHETS

Ever since people innovated the dogma of joining false gods in worship along with true God; The Creator began sending Prophets and Messengers to His devotees in order to invite them to the worship of God and God alone, and prohibit ascribing partners unto Him and to bring them out of darkness of Polytheism into the light of Monotheism. Infact all Prophets preached Monotheism.

The concept of Monotheism originates from the advent of mankind on the Earth. 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,

(Ref : Torah, Genesis 1:27)

Initially Adam had two sons Caine and Abel. Both brothers presented their offerings to God. God accepted the offering of Abel and had no regards for Caine’s offering. So out of jealousy Caine murdered Abel. (Genesis 4:1-9). The civilization began from Cain and Seth (another son of Adam).

(Genesis 4:17)

5. PROPHETS NOAH, ABRAHAM AND LOT (PBUT) FOLLOWED MONOTHEISM

PROPHET NOAH (Peace be upon him) :

After Adam, Noah was the Prophet of God. How Noah used to worship God is given in Genesis 8:20 - “Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and every clean bird and presented burnt offerings on the altar”. Noah never claimed himself being God to be worshipped.

According to the Torah (Genesis chapter - 9), God blessed Noah and his sons the control and use of all the creatures on the Earth and said to them “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the Earth.”

In Genesis 9:3-4, God proclaimed to Noah that “Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; and just as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. Only you shall not eat blood.

PROPHETS ABRAHAM & LOT (PBUT) :

Later on after Noah Prophets Abraham and Lot came as Messengers of God. The stories of Abraham and Lot are given in the Torah

(Genesis chapter 12,13, 14& 15).

Chapter16 of Genesis (Torah) deals with the birth of Ishmael to whose progeny Muhammed (SAWS) the last Prophet and the Arab nation belong.

Birth of Ishmael :

It Appears from Genesis chapter 16, Prophet Abraham (PBUH) was having two wives, Sara (PBUH) and Hagar (PBUH). God said to Hagar (PBUH) : “Now you have conceived and shall bear a son : you shall call him Ishmael.” So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son Ishmael.

In chapter 17 of Genesis (Torah), The God Almighty said to Abram”And I will make My covenant between Me and you and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face, and God said to him “As for Me this is My covenant with you; You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram ; but your name shall be Abraham”. for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

This shows Abraham’s firm belief in Monotheism and he used to worship the only God who is the Creator of Heavens and Earth and everything in between.

Birth of Isaac :

In the Torah (Genesis 17:15), God gave the glad tiding to Abraham that Sara his wife also would bear him a son and he would name him Isaac; even at Abraham’s age of hundred while Sara was ninety years old, It was a big surprise for them. So the Prophet Isaac was born with the blessings of God for him as well as for his coming generation.

Similarly, Genesis 17:20 describes About Prophet Ishmael (PBUH). In god’s words “As for Ishmael, I have heard you; I will bless him and make him fruitfull and exceedingly numerous; he shall be the father of twelve princes and I will make him a great nation.”

It is to be noted that Prophet Muhammed (SAWS) belongs to the

progeny of Prophet Ismael, while Jesus belongs to the progeny of Isaac, Jacob, Joseph (may peace be upon them); and Moses (PBUH) was the Prophet of the Jews.

Prophet Abraham (PBUH) sent Hagar and Ishmael away to the wilderness of Beersheba as per Genesis 21:14.

The Genesis 21:15 - 19 describe the condition of Hagar & Ishmael as: “When water in the skin was gone she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him...,” for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hager from Heaven, and said to her : “What troubles you Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” Then God opened her eyes and she saw a spring of water. She went, and filled the sachel of skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

The Qur’an, which was revealed to Prophet Muhammed (SAWS), gives a similar but somewhat different story of Bibi Hajera (Hagar) and her son Ismail (Ishmael). When Prophet Abraham (Ibrahim) left Hajera and Ismail amidst the mountains of Makkah (Named as Safa and Merva) by the order of Allah (God). The boy became thirsty for water and Hajera (Hagar) moved swiftly on the hills of Safa and Merva in search of water and God created a fountain of water near Ismail (Ishmael) and they drank water. This fountain called “Zam Zam” is supplying water to millions of Muslim pilgrims to date in Mecca for the last 4000 years; and where the prophets Abraham & Ishmael (PBUT) first built the house of God, called “Kaba” that is the Masjid-Al-Haram (Holy Mosque) in Mecca (at present Saudi - Arabia).

6. GOD'S COMMAND TO ABRAHAM TO SACRIFICE HIS SON

The command to sacrifice Isaac given to Abraham in Genesis 22:9. Briefly when Abraham took the knife to kill his son on the altar; the angel of the Lord stopped Abraham from sacrificing his son and Abraham saw the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering to God.

But the Qur'an gave the story of God's command to Prophet Abraham in his dream to sacrifice Ismail (Ishmael) not Isaac as given in Torah, (indicating the only son). Logically Ishmael being an elder son of Abraham was a youth helping his father while Isaac might be not born; as the Bible mentions the births of Ishmael & Isaac occurred when Abraham was 86 & 100 years of age.

When the father Abraham told about his dream to his son Ismail (Ishmael) that God wants Ismail to be sacrificed the son Ismail readily consented, and offered to stand true to his promise, if his self sacrifice was really required as given in the Qur'an (37:102). The whole story of sacrifice given in the Qur'an (37:103 - 111), which is as follows :

103. So when they had both submitted (to Allah) God, and he had laid him (Ismail) Prostrate on his forehead (for sacrifice).
104. We called out to him "O Abraham !"
105. "Thou has already fulfilled the dream!" thus indeed do We reward those who do right.
106. For this was a clear trial.
107. And We ransomed him with a momentous sacrifice.
108. And We left for him among generations to come in later times.
109. "Peace and Salutation To Abraham !"
110. Thus indeed do We reward those who do right.
111. For he was one of Our believing servants.

This test of Prophet Abraham (PBUH) to sacrifice his own son Ismail and Ismail's (PUBH) consent for self sacrifice so appealed to God (Allah) that the sacrifice of animals like lamb, camel etc. became the part of Haj (Muslim Pilgrimage) every year in their commemoration . But no tradition of sacrifice is found among Jews and Christians. Both Prophets Abraham and Ishmael (PBUT) built 'Kaba' (The Holy Mosque) in Mecca (S.Arabia).

It is another proof of Abraham and his son having strong faith in Monotheism that is the worship of one God only and obey His orders and commandments.

7. PROPHETS JACOB, JOSEPH, ISAAC & ISHMAEL (PBUT) EXPONENTS OF MONOTHEISM

PROPHET JACOB (PBUH) :

Similarly Jacob the son of Isaac became the Messenger of God. The Torah, Genesis chapter 32 gives an account of Jacob. Its verses 32: 9-10 are as follows: And Jacob said "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Lord who said to me," "Return to your country and to your kindred and I will do you good." I am not worthy of the least of all the steadfast love..., that You have shown to Your servant....

Again it is an example of Monotheism to which the chain of prophets followed.

PROPHET JOSEPH (PBUH) :

Genesis chapter 37 to 50 give the story of another Prophet Joseph the son of Jacob; like Joseph's dream of greatness, Joseph is sold by his brothers, Joseph and Potiphar's wife in Egypt, Joseph in prison, the dreams of two prisoners, Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dream and rise to power, Reunion of Joseph's brothers and father etc.

The twelfth chapter of the Qur'an i.e. Surah Yusuf gives the complete story of Yusuf (Joseph). It is similar but not identical with Biblical story. But the atmosphere is completely different. The biblical story is like a folk tale in which morality has no place. Joseph is shown as buying up all the cattle and the land of the poor Egyptians for the state under the stress of famine condition, and making the Israelites "Rulers" over Pharaoh's cattle. The Qur'anic story, on the other hand, is less a narrative than a highly spiritual sermon or allegory explaining the seeming contradictions in life, the enduring nature of virtue and the marvelous working of Allah's eternal purpose in His plan as unfolded to mankind on the wide canvas of history.

It is to be noted that both the Scriptures i.e. the Torah (in Hebrew) and the Qur'an (in Arabic) which have a gap of 2100 years ; yet give details of Prophet Joseph (PBUH). It proves the existence of the belief in Creator.

8. THE MEANING OF FAITH ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE & THE QUR'AN

The meaning of faith according to the Bible :

According to the Bible (New Testament, Heb. 11:1-3:- "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for the conviction of THINGS NOT SEEN. Indeed by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the WORLDS WERE PREPARED BY THE WORD OF GOD, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

The meaning of faith according to the Qur'an :

After the Opening Chapter the Qur'an describes itself: "This is the Book; in it is guidance sure, without doubt, to those who fear Allah (God); Who believe in the UNSEEN, are steadfast in prayer, and spend out of what We have provided for them and who believe

in the revelation sent to you, and sent before your time and (in their hearts) have the assurance of the Hereafter.

(The Qur'an 2:2-4)

The articles of faith consist of :

1. The belief in the Prophet Muhammed (SAWS) for his Revelation.
2. Belief in one God (Allah)
3. His angels
4. His Books
5. Belief in His Messengers from Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, all other prophets including the last Prophet Muhammed (SAWS) without any distinction between these Messengers.
6. Worship of one God without joining any partners to Him.

9. PROPHET MOSES AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS THE STRONG ADVOCATES OF MONOTHEISM

PROPHET MOSES (PBUH) :

The Torah (Exodus) gives the details about the life of Moses (PBUH) to whom the Muslims believe as one of the prophets of (Allah) God with whom God had talked.

Moses (PBUH) was born at the time when the Israelites were being oppressed by the king of Egypt. The king's order was to kill every new born male child and let every baby girl born to live. In order to save newly born Moses, his mother put him in a safe basket and floated on the river which flows towards the Pharaoh's place. Pharaoh's daughter picked him up and got him nursed by a Hebrew woman who happened to be Moses own mother.

Exodus (Torah) Chapter - 3 gives an account of how Moses found God talking to him near the burning bush. Where he heard the voice of the invisible God saying "I am the God of your father,

the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and Jacob.” Then God further said Ex. 3:9-12 : “The cry of Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” On further conversation with Moses God assured him “I will be with you that it is I who sent you; when you have brought the people of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.”

This again shows how Moses was asked to follow Monotheism to worship Him alone with his followers. Moses and Aaron obey God’s command (Ex. 6:28)

God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses which is given in the Torah (Exodus 20:1-17) and Deut. 5:1-22 the details of the Ten Commandments are given as follows : -

Then God spoke all these words :

1. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
2. You shall have no other gods before Me.
3. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in the heaven above, or that is on the Earth beneath, or that is in water under the Earth.
4. You shall not bow down to them or worship them.....
5. But showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation who love Me and keep My commandments.
6. Not to misuse the name of God
7. Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.
8. (Note : Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death (Ex 31:12)
9. Honour your father and mother.
10. You shall not murder
11. You shall not commit adultery
12. You shall not steal.
13. No false witness of neighbour etc.

Moses was given all the social and religious laws from God to follow. The chapter Leviticus of the Torah gives the details of various offerings to God: like the burnt offering, grain offering, offering of well being, sin offering, instruction concerning sacrifices, clean and unclean foods, unclean animals, social laws and penalties for disobedience etc.,

10. 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 pulse, 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 mixing any demigods or idols with Him.

Another verse Deut. 12:31 gives warning against idolatry, which says:”You must not do the same for the Lord your God, because every abhorrent thing that the Lord hates, they have done for their gods. They would even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods.”

“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 (SAWS) in the Qur’an. Prophet Moses (PBUH) was born in 1526 B.C., and Prophet Muhammed (SAWS) was born in 571 A.D. and there is a span of 2100 years between them. However the Scriptures that they received convey similar message and guide mankind to the true path of salvation.

11. THE CONCEPT OF GOD IN MONOTHEISM AN ANALYSIS OF THE ORIGIN OF BELIEF IN THE UNITY OF GOD IN EARLY CIVILIZATIONS

The concept of God in Montheism is best defined in the Qur'an's 112:1-4; - God reveals these verses to Prophet Muhammed (SAWS):

In the name of Allah (God) the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

1. Say : He is Allah (God) the One
2. Allah (God) the Eternal, the Absolute
3. He Begetteth not, nor is He Begotten
4. And there is none like unto Him.

By the above verses humans are specially taught to avoid the pitfalls into which men and nations have fallen at different times in trying to understand Allah (God)

THE FIRST THING, we have to note is that His nature is so sublime, so far beyond our limited imagination, that the best way in which we can realize Him is to feel that He is a Personality, "He" is near us, He cares for us. We owe our existence to Him.

SECONDLY, He is the one and the only God; the only One to whom worship is due; all other things or beings that we can think of are His creatures; and in no way comparable to Him. Observing this wonderful universe and its belongings, you cannot think Him as a mere abstract imagination of philosophy.

THIRDLY, He is Eternal, without begining or the end, the Absolute not limited by time or place or circumstances, the Reality.

FOURTHLY, we must not think of Him as having a son or father, for that would be to import animal qualities into our imagination of Him.

FIFTHLY, He is not like any other person or things that we know or can imagine. His attributes and nature are unique

This is to negate the idea of Polytheism, a system in which people believe in many gods and many lords. The Absolute existence can only be predicated of Him while all other existence is temporal or conditional. Moreover God the Creator is not dependent on any person or thing but all are dependent on Him; this sums up the whole argument and warns us specially against Anthropomorphism, the tendency to conceive God after our own pattern. It is an insidious tendency that creeps in all the times and among all people.

According to the Qur'an Chapter 10, verse 19 God says :

1. Men were at first of one religion only :
Then fell to variance (The Qur'an 10:19)
2. Mankind were of one religion, and ALLAH (God) sent Prophets as comforters and warners and He sent Down with them the Word of Truth that it might decide the disputes of men (The Qur'an 2:213)

According to Maulana Azad (Late), the Ex-Education Minister of India : "The urge among the European scholars to treat Monotheism as the result of an evolutionary process, had its rise about the close of 8th century. But it was during the second half of 19th century that most of the theories upholding the idea were formulated.

Attempts were made to locate the origin of the belief in God. Severally in nature myths, fetish worship, worship of the ancestors, primitive animism, astral and nature mythology, necromancy etc. The idea, which the different theories nursed, was that even as every other phenomenon in life, Monotheism was the result of an evolutionary process. But the latest Semitic studies revealed that all the Semitic tribes orginally believed in an unseen Supreme Being.

In short, the 20th century investigations have all gone to establish that the earliest belief, which inspired man, was a belief in the unity of God.

Maulana Azad notices three distinct strains in the process, which dovetail, one into another, marking a move from Anthropomorphism and Anthropophuism to Transcendentalism, from Polytheism back to Monotheism, and from vision of a God of awe and terror to that of a God of love.

The question here arises: why was the initial concept of man in respect of God is one of awe & terror? The answer is clear. The constructive beauty of the universe lay concealed under the shroud of destructiveness. In the infant stage of his intellect, man could not catch the hidden beauty of nature. Thunder and lightning in the cloud, volcano eruptions, earthquakes, river floods and storms in the ocean - all these disturbing phenomena created awe and terror in him and he began to visualize his God as God of terror.

The early conditions in which man lived gave him the feeling of weakness and insecurity. The hosts of mosquitoes from marshes hovered around him; poisonous creepers met him at every turn and wild animals threatened him. The burning sun and the changing seasons looked to him, at first, as hostile to his well being. But as time passed by, a gradual change occurred in his thoughts and in his environment. His sense of despair was now mixed with sense of hope, so much so, that in his concept of God an equal place was given to the attributes of grace and beauty along with old concept of awe and terror.

The Greek mythology has no doubt a fascination of its own. But even there, the early entrants in the Greek Pantheon were the gods of terror. In India even till this day, the gods of destruction outnumber those of grace and benevolence.

Prior to the revelation of the Qur'an the highest that the human

intellect could achieve was to think of God without any symbolic aid. But in respect of the divine attributes, no concept anywhere could invest God with any attribute other than human. Even Judaic concept, which disallowed image worship, was not free from taint of similitude. Even Christ when he desired to speak of the universal mercy of God, was obliged perhaps to employ the similitude of relationship subsisting between father and son - A similitude which through an inept approach to the meaning and illustrative purpose of Christ went to stimulate eventually among his followers the urge to install him into the position of a veritable son of God, and indeed God himself. Christ never told his followers to worship him besides God. In fact he told: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil." (The Bible, Matt 5:17). Such a similitude is also given in David's Psalm 89:26: he shall cry to me, you are my father, my God and the rock of my salvation."

The peculiarity of the Qur'an is that it lifts the veils of Anthropomorphic similitudes from across the vision God and allows us to take Transcendental view of Him in His attributes. The following verses of the Qur'an speak about God :

- 1. And there is none like unto Him (The Qur'an 112:4)**
- 2. No vision can grasp Him, but His grasp is over all vision ; He is subtle well aware (the Qur'an 6:103)**

Although the religious book of Hinduism like Rig Veda clearly mentions that the God is formless and imageless. But idol worship is prevalent among the masses. The same was the case in Greece. The Greek thinkers were certainly aware of the fact that the gods of Olympus had no reality about them. Still except Socrates, few had felt the need for interfering in the people's belief in demigods. The fear was that if that belief was not maintained, the socio-religious life of the people would disintegrate. Because the mind of man had not risen high enough to discard the veils of anthropomorphic similitudes and directly behold the splendour of divine attribute.

12. THE FOUNDER OF RELIGION TREATED AS GOD OR HIS INCARNATION

The aspect which calls for special attention is the status accorded to the founder of a religion. It is true that no teaching can acquire the reputation of greatness. But there is a limit to greatness of personality. It is here that many have stumbled, because they could not draw the boundary line for it. The result was that the founder or propagator of a religion or of a school of philosophy was hailed sometimes as an incarnation of God or God himself in that form; and where this was not possible, he was at any rate, offered the honour and devotion usually offered to God.

The Jews for instance, did not resort to idol -worship. They nevertheless did erect in the course of their history, statues over the remains of their Prophets and endowed them with a halo of holiness usually associated with the objects of worship.

There is absolutely no room for idol -worship in the teachings of Buddha. Infact, his last testament which reached the people was: "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 Buddah's ashes and relics, but also as means of propagation of his religion, installed his statues throughout the world. The fact is that a larger number of idols of Buddha exist today in the world than any other personality or deity. Likewise, the teachings of Christianity originally concentrated on the Unity of God. Yet within one hundred years of its advent, Christ himself was raised to the position of god and the Son of God. Whereas in the Bible (Matthew 14:23) "And after he had dismissed the crowd, he (Jesus) went up the mountain by himself to pray."

Comment : If Jesus (Peace be upon him) is God or part of God then why did he pray ? Infact prayer is always from the submitting, needy and the dependent one for the mercy of God.

On the other hand, the Qur'an laid so great emphasis on the Unity

of God both in His essence and attributes that it blocked forever all avenues of Polytheism and like aberrations. The Qur'an asserts 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. It says that it is He who answers the cry of man and fulfils his prayers. So, if you associate any other with Him in your prayers you simply associate that other in the divinity or attributes of God. That is why the Opening Chapter of the Qur'an sets the form of Prayer "Thee alone do we serve and from thee alone do we seek help." The emphasis is only on "Thee Alone". God puts such a great stress in Qur'an for His uniqueness in His Essence and in His Attributes that there is hardly a page in the whole Quran where the Truth of His Oneness is not pointedly brought out.

The stress becomes intelligible when we proceed to appraise the position assigned by God in the Qur'an to the Prophet of Islam. The very basic belief of Islam runs :

"I affirm that there is no God except Allah, And I affirm that Muhammed (SAWS) 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 as His incarnation, or invested with the attributes and honour exclusive to God.

Here the writer wants to quote more examples of Prophets and Messengers of God (From the Torah, The Bible and The Qur'an) who came from time to time to various nations to preach and deliver the common message of Monotheism to their followers, because that is the only way to God for salvation of mankind.

13. PROPHET DAVID AND HIS PSALMS IN PRAISE OF GOD, SHOWING STRONG FAITH IN MONOTHEISM FOR SALVATION

PROPHET DAVID (PBUH) :

Prophet David (PBUH) was another servant of God. According

to the Old Testament 2. SAM 5 : 12, David the anointed king of all Israel. “David then perceived that the Lord (God) had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people of Israel.”

David’s prayer (The Old Testament 1 CHR. 17. 16-27) Then king David went in and sat before the Lord and said : “Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house that you have brought me thus far...., “O Lord God! And what more can David say to You for honoring your servant?....., There is no one like you, O Lord, and there is no God besides You.....

The above verses show how king David had strong faith in the Unity of God. So he followed Monotheism as a result he was raised from a poor shepherd to the status of the king of Israel.

The whole story of David is compressed by the Qur’an from the narration point but its spiritual lessons are great. Mark how the Qur’an describes it :

When they (Talut i.e. saul with men) advanced to meet Jalut (Goliath) and his forces, they prayed; “Our Lord! pour out constancy on us and make our steps firm; help us against unbelievers.”
(The Qur’an 2:250)

By Allah’s (God’s) will they defeated them and Daud (David) Slew Jalut (Goliath); and Allah gave him power and wisdom and taught him whatever He willed....
(The Quran 2:251)

We have ..., And We gave to Daud (David) Zabur (PSALMS).
(The Qur’an 4:163)

The Bible mentions five books of Psalms containing 150 psalms, mostly in praise of God (the Creator). For His deliverance of Israel from enemies, thanksgiving for victory, plea for justice & righteousness; some of the Psalms are given below to facilitate the reader for a clear understanding of God.

Psalm 62 : 1: For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from Him comes my salvation.

2 : He alone is my rock and my salvation.

Psalm 65 : Thanks giving for the Earth’s bounty

11 : You crown the year with your bounty
Your wagon tracks overflow with richness

12 : The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
The hills gird themselves with joy

13 : The meadows cloth themselves with flocks
The valleys deck themselves with grain
They shout and sing together

Psalm 97 : This Psalm shows the glory of God’s reign.

6: The heavens proclaim His righteousness;
and all people behold his glory

7 : All worshippers of images are put to shame,
those who make their boast in worthless idols;
All gods bow down before Him

Psalm 104: **God the Creator and the Provider**

10: You make spring gush forth in the valleys they
flow between the hills

11: Giving drink to every wild animal

14: You cause the grass to grow for the cattle and
plants for people to use to bring forth food
from the Earth

24: O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In
wisdom you have made them all The Earth is
full of Your creatures

27: These all look to you to give them their food in due season

- Psalm 115:**
3. Our God is in heavens, He does whatever He pleases.
 4. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.
 5. They have mouth but do not speak; eyes but do not see.
 7. They have hands but do not feel, do not walk, no sound in their throat.
 8. Those who make them are like them....

David (PBUH) had the gift of song and sacred music as is manifested in his Psalms: all nature, hills birds sing and echo back the praises of God. The Qur'an also confirms the same :

- 1) Whatever is in the Heavens and on Earth declares the praises and glory of Allah (God)... (The Qur'an 57:1)
- 2) It was We that made the hills declare in unison with him (David) Our praises, at even tide and at break of day. And the birds gathered (in assemblies) : All with him (David) did turn to Allah (God). (The Qur'an 38: 18 -19)

The Qur'an also informs that God taught David to make defensive armour out of Iron. (The Qur'an 21:80)

14. THE APOSTLES SOLOMON, JOB, JONAH, ZECHARIAH AND JOHN THE BAPTIST WERE TRUE WORSHIPPERS OF ONE GOD

PROPHET SOLOMON (PBUH) :

Similarly King Solomon was one of the Prophets of God and the son of king David. Nine chapters of "2 Chronicles" in the Old Testament deal with the story of King Solomon, and the Qur'an

contains over 70 verses in (7) different chapters out of 114 chapters, which were revealed to Prophet Muhammed (SAWS) during the course of 23 years. The Old Testament 2CHR. 1:1: - Solomon son of David established himself in his kingdom. The Lord his God was with him and made him exceedingly great.

2 CHR 1:10 : - Solomon asked God: Give me wisdom and knowledge to go and rule the great people of yours. God replied in 2 Chr. 1:12: - Wisdom and knowledge are granted to you. I will also give you the riches; possessions and honour, such as none of the kings had or will have.

3 CHR. 6 : 12-17 : -Give the details about the entire Solomon's prayer of dedication to God in the presence of assembly of Israel suggesting his strong belief in Monotheism. According to the Qur'an Prophet Solomon (PBUH) was given the miracles like control over wind, Jinns, Devils and birds and the understanding of the languages of these creatures.

PROPHET JOB (PBUH) :

According to the Book of Job in the Old Testament (Bible), Job was a prosperous man with strong faith in God. He suffered from a number of calamities. His cattle were destroyed, his servants slain by sword, and his family crushed under the roof. But he held his faith in God.

The Old Testament Job1:20-21 : - when all these calamities occurred, "Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshipped. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away : blessed be the name of God."

As a further calamity he was covered with loathsome sores from head to toe. As per the Old Testament Book of Job 2:9-10 :- Then his wife said to him "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God and die." But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God and not receive the bad?"

The Qur'an calls the Prophet Job (PBUH) of Bible as Prophet Ayyub (PBUH) and mentions about him at three places. God says in the following verses :

The Qur'an 6: 84 : - "We gave him (Abraham) Isaac and Jacob: All three We guided and before him, We guided Noah and among his progeny, David, Solomon, Job, Joseph, Moses and Aaron: Thus We reward those who do good."

The Qur'an 21:83: - And remember Job, when he cried to his Lord "Truly distress has seized me, but Thou art the most Merciful of those that are merciful."

The Qur'an 21:84:- So We listened to him : We removed the distress that was on him, and We restored his people, and doubled their number, as a grace from Ourselves, and a thing for commemoration, for all who serve Us.

PROPHET JONAH (PBUH) :

The Bible Old Testament, Jonah (1to 17) describe the story of Jonah, how he was swallowed by a large fish for his disobedience of God's order.

The Qur'an calls Jonah as Yunus (PBUH) and gives the details of Jonah in chapter (37:139 - 148). Explaining briefly these verses as :

"And (Yunus) Jonah was most surely of the Apostles. When he fled to a ship fully laden, he (agreed to) cast lots and he was (consequently) of those who are cast off. Then a fish drew him with its mouth, as he was worthy of blame. He would certainly have remained in its belly (devoured) till the Day of Resurrection. But We cast him on the naked shore in a state of sickness..., And when he got well, We sent him (on his mission) to a hundred thousand men or more and they believed. So We permitted Our bounty for a while."

Comment : The city of Nineveh with huge population as given in Jonah 3-3 was Jonah's mission.

PROPHET ZECHARIAH (PBUH) :

Both the Bible and the Qur'an mentioned Zechariah (PBUH) as prophet. God Sent message through Angel Gabriel to Zechariah for birth of John The Baptist in the following verses; Luke 1:13 - 15 : - But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah for your prayers have been heard. your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son and you will name him John...., he will be great in the sight of the Lord....

Luke 1: 16: - He (John) will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.

Luke 1:18: 20 : Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man and my wife getting on in years." The angel Gabriel replied." I am Gabriel sent by God with good news ..., You will become mute, unable to speak until the day these things occur."

Zechariah is also mentioned in the Qur'an in chapter 3 (Aal-e- Imran) briefly described as :

There did Zakariya pray to his Lord; Grant unto me from Thee a progeny that is pure..., prayer !

Then the angels called him as he stood praying in the sanctuary they said: Allah (God) gives thee the good news of Yahya (John) confirming the truth of a Word from Allah (God) and (be besides) noble, chaste, and a prophet...., righteous.

He (Zakariya) said : My Lord ! How shall there be a son born to me since old age has come upon me and my wife is barren? "Thus" was the answer "Doth Allah (God) accomplish what He willeth." He (Zakariya) said : "O my Lord ! give me a sign !" " Thy sign" was the answer, "shall be that thou shall speak to no man for three days, except by signs (signals)..., glorify Him in the evening and in the morning." (The Qur'an 3:39-41)

15 THE BIRTH, MIRACLES AND CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS AS GIVEN IN THE BIBLE AND THE QUR'AN

PROPHET JESUS (PBUH) :

According to Gospel of Matthew (1:17), Jesus belongs to 42nd generation of Abraham.

The birth of Jesus :

According to Matthew (1:20) an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in his dream and said. "Joseph, son of David; do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus."

The Qur'an (which was revealed to Prophet Muhammed of Islam) narrates in some detail the importance of Jesus, his immaculate birth, and his miracles bestowed by God, his mission and ultimately his Ascendance. These divine revelations of Jesus (Peace be upon him) in the Qur'an are indeed a living witness and a proof against Christianity.

As regards the birth of Jesus the Qur'an gives a different story as described in the following verses :

Behold ! the angels said, "O Mary !Allah (God) gives thee glad tidings of a Word from Him : his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held in honour, in this world and the Hereafter and of those nearest to Allah (God). (The Qur'an 3:45)

She said :” O My Lord ! How shall I have a son when no man has touched me ?” He said: “Even so : Allah (God) createth what He willeth: when He decreed a matter He but says to it, ‘Be’ and it is ! (The Qur'an : 3:47)

16. THE CREATION BY THE WORD OF GOD AND SIMILARITY IN BIRTH OF ADAM, ISAAC, JOHN THE BAPTIST AND JESUS

The meaning of faith according to 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 has the power to create anything for example :

1. Despite Zechariah being old and his wife barren; got a son (John the Baptist) by A WORD OF GOD ; which is described in the Bible Luke (1:13-20) and the Qur'an also confirms the same i.e. birth of Yahya (John) in chapter 3:38-41.
2. Similarly, Prophet Abraham (PBUH) got Isaac born at his age of hundred and while his wife Sara was 90 years old, even when Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "can a child be born to them at his old age? See the Torah, Genesis (17:15), and The Qur'an also confirms the birth of Isaac in chapter 11:72-73 by the Word of God.

In the same way birth of Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) occurred by the Word of God in the verses of the Qur'an 3:45 & 3:47. God also indicates resemblance with Adam (PBUH) in the following verse :

The Qur'an 3: 59 : - "The similitude of Jesus before Allah (God) is as that of Adam. He created him from dust, then said to him "Be" and he was".

Comment : After recognition of the high position which Jesus (PUBH) occupies as a Prophet in The Qur'an, we have a repudiation of the dogma that he was God or anything more than man. IF it is said that he was born without a human father, Adam (PUBH) was also so born. Indeed Adam was born without either a human father or mother.

Like wise Mary the mother of Jesus was unique, in that she gave birth to a son by a special miracle, without intervention of customary physical means. After all, she was a human created by God. She had as much need to pray to God as anyone else. The Christian dogma in all sects except the Unitarian holds that Jesus was God and the Son of God.

The worship of Mary became the practice in the Roman Catholic Church. So they turned from Monotheism to Polytheism. In fact if you study the Bible, Jesus never claimed to be the son of God or God and hence to be worshipped. On the other hand he declared himself as son of man as per Mark 2: 10 (Bible).

Biblical evidence of Jesus being a Prophet

I. Jesus being the Prophet of God is indicated in the following verses of the Bible :

a) Matthew 5: 17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or 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)

c) Matthew 19:16 : - 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.”

II. Jesus God’s chosen servant :

Matthew (12:17 -18) : 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.”

III. Jesus the worshipper :

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

Comment : If Jesus is God or a part of God then why did he pray? In fact, prayer is always from the submitting, needy and the dependent one for the mercy of God.

IV. Jesus for the 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.”

Comment : In the above verses Jesus (Peace be upon him) himself had testified that God is one and there is none other than Him and that whoever believes in his Oneness, he is near the kingdom of God. A study of Christian Scripture 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” on the contrary he preached :

3. ..., because the Father is greater than I.” (John 14-28).

4. “I can do nothing on 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)

5. But if it is by the spirit of God that I cast out demons (Matt 12:28)

6. Jesus said to her..., Go to my brothers and say to them. “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples....”.

(The Bible, John 20:17-18)

In the above mentioned verses of Bible, Jesus proclaimed the unity of God. Since the Creator of the heavens and earth and all in between is the only God Who is the Provider and Sustainer of these creatures so he perhaps used the term “Father” as a simile not only for him but for his disciples too.

V. Jesus using the term “Father” for God, perhaps a simile to highlight God’s attributes of Providence and Sustenance:

Jesus on numerous occasions used the term “Father” for God like

Matthew (5:45) : “So that you may be children of your Father in Heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good.....”

Matthew (5:48) : “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Matthew (6:1) : “Beware of ..., for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Matthew (7:21) : “Not everyone....., .. but only the one will enter the kingdom of heaven who does the will of father in heaven.

Luke (3:38) : Adam son of God

Matthew (5:9) : Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Hosea (1:10) : Children of Israel sons of God .

Comment : From above it appears, when Christ desired perhaps to speak the universal mercy of God he was obliged to employ the similitude of relationship subsisting between father and son - a similitude which through an inept approach to the meaning and illustrative purpose of Christ went to stimulate eventually among his followers the urge to install him into the position of veritable son of God.

VI. CONFUSION & CONTRADICTIONS :

After extensive study of the Holy Bible one may find difficulty to get answers for the following genuine questions:

1) Where does the Bible claim “Bible is the word of God? The Qur’an confirms that Holy INJEEL was revealed to Jesus (Peace be upon him). But if Injeel means Gospel of Jesus where it is mentioned in the Bible “The Gospel of Jesus?”

(2) Not even a single verse of Bible indicates that Jesus (PBUH) claimed being God himself or any statement of Jesus showing “Worship me”?

(3) Where the word Trinity mentioned in the Bible ?

(4) Where Jesus (PBUH) gave an statement that Father is the first person of trinity. and Jesus the 2nd person of trinity and holy spirit is the third person of trinity ?

(5) If most of the prophets called themselves as servant of God in Bible how could Jesus used even simili of father son relationship of God with men ? For example in Old Testament Gen. 32 : 9-10, Jacob addressing God saying: “ I am not worthy of the least of all the steadfast love.., that you have shown to your servant...” While in Genesis chapter 22, Prophet Abraham being a servant of God tried to sacrifice his own son in obedience to God’s command. Another example of king David in Old Testament (1 Chr. 17:16 - 27) saying “ O Lord God ! and what more can David say to you honouring your servant ?

Despite of all the calamities occurred on him : “Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head and fell on ground and worshipped God” as a humble servant while Prophet Jonah was swallowed by a large fish for his disobedience of God’s order.

Yet another example of king solomon’s Prayer for wisdom in the Bible (1 Kings 3: 7), Solomon addressing God: “And now O Lord my God you have made your servant king in place of my father David”.

Similarly the song of Moses in Deut. 32 : 36 : “Indeed the Lord will vindicate his people have compassion on his servants”. Again Deut 6:13 which says: “The Lord your God you shall fear Him, you shall serve and by his name alone you shall swear and donot follow other gods.” The Qur’an also confirms the same view as God says in Surah Al-maida (51:56) :”I created Jinns and men only for my worship” so all humans are servant of God and not as sons and daughters of God as the followers of Christianity believe.

The Gospel Writers often Mention jesus going about and preaching the Gospel during his last three years of his age of 33 and tha too in Jewish Temples (synagogues) throughout Galilee as given in the Holy Bible (Matt.4-23) which gospel was that? According to American historical Researcher Micheal Hart, St. Paul is the founder of Christantity and the Church system.

VII. Mankind (Including Messengers & Prophets) as servants of God, Given in the Qur’an Too

- a) Allah (God) says in the Qur’an : “When my servants ask you 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)
- b) We have sent to you inspiration, as We sent it to Noah and the Messengers after him: We sent inspiration to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob and the tribes, to Jesus, Job, Jonah Aaron and solomon, and to David We gave the Psalms.
(The Qur’an 4:163)
- c) Their Messengers said to them : “True , we are human like yourselves, but Allah (God) doth grant his grace to such of His servants as He pleases. It is not for us to bring you an authority except as Allah permits. And on Allah let all men of faith put their trust.
(The Qur’an 14 :11)

COMMENT :

By comparative study of all such Scriptures it is concluded that similitude of any kind of relationship between man and God (except as a devotee) is undesirable or treating God in any human form is not permissible.

Some people argue that if God can do everything, then what stops Him from becoming a human being ? If God wishes he can become a human being. If God takes human form, he ceases to be God and will possess all the qualities of a human like we can not imagine God telling a lie, being unjust, making a mistake, forgetting things, require nourishment to sustain life along with rest or sleep etc.

As the 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 the instruction manual to men to whom He created. Instead He chooses a man amongst men to deliver the message and communicates with him at a higher level through medium of revelation such chosen men are called messengers or prophet of God and were sent to different nations for the guidance of mankind.

(6) If one wants to become a Christian which Bible he /She has to follow ?

1. King James version with all its 5 revisions and corrected edition of 66 Books.
(or)
2. Roman Catholic - 73 Books
(or)
3. Good News 81 Books the one with 87 books on the other hand the Qur’an claims to be the word of Allah (God) revealed to Prophet Muhammed (SAWS) and remained without any alteration or revision for the last 1400 years.

The basic belief in Islam runs as : “I affirm that there is no god except Allah and I affirm that Muhammed (SAWS) is His servant & His message bearer.” According to the Qur’an the Prophets, were the chosen people of Allah (God) and were sent to different nations from time to time in order to invite men to worship God Almighty (the Creator) alone without ascribing any partners to Him.

Biblical prophecy on the advent of Prophet Muhammed (SAWS) is given in the Bible (New Testament):

John 14:15-16 : - JESUS (PBUH) says :

“If you love me, keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to be with you for ever.”

Comment : Muslim theologians have said that “another advocate” is Prophet Muhammed (SAWS), the last Messenger of Allah (God); and with you forever means perpetuity of his inspired laws and way of life (Sharia) and the Book (Qur’an) which was revealed to him.

Facts about Crucifixion according to the Qur’an :

God says in the Qur’an revealed to Prophet Muhammed (SAWS), 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 (God) raised him up unto Himself;

and Allah (god) 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 (Peace be upon him) as being one of the favorite Prophets of God not just a helpless person to be crucified without the consent of God.

As God says :

(1) And verily, it is We Who give life, and who give death : it is He who remain inheritors. (The Qur’an 15:23)

(2) O you who believe ! be not like the unbelievers, who say of there 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)

17. PROPHET MUHAMMED (SAWS), THE LAST PROPHET AND THE QUR’AN

PROPHET MUHAMMED (SAWS) :

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

According to theologians, the record of Muhammed’s (SAWS) life (before prophethood) sheds light on his conduct as an orphan child, as an affectionate husband, as a loving father, faithful friend, a good neighbour, as an honest merchant and after prophethood, as a persecuted person, as a brave warrior, an able army commander, conqueror, an impartial judge, as a successful statesman, as a discerning law giver and above all a devout servant of God he was all, an exemplification of the holy book of The Qur’an as revealed to him.

The concentration of all the sterling qualities in Prophet Muhammed (SAWS) is one of the strongest evidences demonstrating the fact that he was chosen and prepared by God to perform the stupendous task of prophethood. The renowned French Historian Lamartine describes Muhammed as : 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 ? (Ref Lamartine, Histoire, De La Turquoise, Paris 1854, PP276-277)

Similarly, an American author Michael Hart said: “My choice of Muhammed to lead the list of world’s most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in the history who was supremely successful on both the religious and the secular levels.” (Ref : “The 100, A ranking of the most influential persons in history” by Michael Hart, N Y 1978, PP 33).

The inspiration which was revealed by Allah (God) to the last Prophet Muhammed (SAWS) is the Qur’an, which is described, in the following verse.

I. The Qur’an revealed to Prophet Muhammed (SAWS) :

It is (Qur’an) which we have divided (into parts from time to time), in order that you (Muhammed) recite it to men at intervals: We have revealed it by stages. (The Qur’an 17:106)

Comment : It is to be noted that the Qur’an was not a planned production it was delivered piece-meal during the course of 23 years as warranted by changing circumstances of the Prophet’s (SAWS) mission. The marvel is that these parts revealed at different times and in different circumstances, should fit together so closely and consistently as they do. All Revelation is progressive.

Over 600 years after Jesus, Prophet Muhammed (SAWS) got similar message from God like all other prophets through angel Gebriel in the Qur’an. God says in the Qur’an.

“I have created Jinns and Men only for my worship”,
(The Qur’an 51:56)

“And make not another an object of worship with Allah (God): I am from Him a Warner to you, clear and open”
(The Qur’an 51:51)

II. The Qur’an giving message to all mankind:

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 : Allah’s (God’s) revelation through Prophet Muhammed (SAWS), was not meant for one family or tribe or race. It was meant for all mankind, to whom, if they turn to Allah (God), it is a message of glad tidings of His mercy, and if they do not turn to Him, it is a warning against sin and the inevitable punishment.

III. God’s message for unity of mankind :

“To you (Muhammed) has He presented the faith which He commended to Noah and which We have revealed to thee and which We commended to Abraham and Moses and Jesus, saying: Observe this faith and be not divided into sects....
(The Qur’an 42:13)

IV. Exclusive Submission to the Creator :

“If any one desires a religion other than Islam (Submission to Creator alone) never will it be accepted of Him : and in the Hereafter he will be in the ranks of those who have lost.”
(The Qur’an 3: 85)

Comment : Islam is not a sect or ethnic religion. In its view religion is one, as the Truth is one. It was the religion preached by all the earlier Prophets with their inspired books and commandments.

V. Mankind created from single pair :

“O mankind ! fear your Guardian Lord, Who created you from single person. Created out of it, his mate, and from them twain scattered (like Seeds) countless men and women ..., for Allah (God) ever watches over you”. (The Qur’an 4:1)

VI. Man is given free will by God :

Man is given a choice either to believe in God or reject Him as per Qur’an (18:29&31) : God Says to Muhammed (SAWS) addressing to mankind : 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.

18. QUR’ANIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS UNITY AND SALVATION OF MANKIND :

The Qur’anic message of God 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 mediating agency and that this was the main teaching of all Prophets as mentioned above.

Will they wrangle with you then in the presence of their lord? Is the admonition which the Qur’an deals out to all those who had divided themselves into exclusive religious groups in the name of God.

Belief in one God, if entertained in sincerity, most in the field of action, express itself in the unity of man. That was the cry of the Qur’an, its call to the Jews, the Christians and the Arab polytheists of Prophet Muhammed’s time. The essential mission of the Qur’an revealed to the Prophet was to unite them in common bond once again and pave the way a wider unity of mankind for salvation.

WHAT RELIGION PROPHET ABRAHAM FOLLOWED ?

The one thing common to them all 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 this common ancestor belong. In Abraham’s time neither Judaism nor Christianity prevailed. What then was the way or the religion he (Abraham) 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 Quran 2: 135)

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 was one God the Creator for all of them and that on that account they should worship Him together and live as member of but one family.

Therefore the Quran 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 as 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).

As part of the plan of God to bring the followers of Judaism, Christianity and Islam on a single platform, the Quran recognized the founders of all these religions as divinely inspired and endorsed their teaching. “ To those who believe in Allah (God)and His Messengers, and make no distinction between any of the messengers, We shall soon give their (due) rewards for Allah (God) is Oft - Forgiving Most Merciful,” (The Qur’an 4:152)

From the above verse it is clear that there are only two ways open to mankind. One is the way of recognition of them all. The other is that of rejection. There is no third. The rejection of even one Prophet means the rejection of every other as well.

Those who deny Allah (God) and His Messengers and wish to separate between God and His messengers saying: “We believe in some but reject others”: and wish to take a course midway, - they are in truth unbelievers and we have prepared for unbelievers a humiliating punishment. (The Qur’an 4: 150-151)

Hence the straight path to salvation of mankind lies in complete devotion and worship of that one Supreme Being (The Creator) without attaching any partner to Him and righteous living. It is the same message delivered by all Messengers in the form of Psalms, Torah, The Bible, and the Qur’an etc.,

Here the question arises why then was their any opposition to the Qur’an revealed to Prophet Muhammed (SAWS) 1400 years ago? The pagan Arabs of Mecca did not like it because it expressed itself against idolatry.

At the time of Prophet Muhammed (SAWS), the followers of each faith desired that the Qur’an should declare the faith of their rivals as false. And since the Qur’an could not do it no one was pleased with it. Of course, the Jews rejoiced to see that the Qur’an endorsed recognition to their Prophet Moses. But since the Qur’an at the same time accorded recognition to Christ the Jews would

necessarily oppose it. The Christians in their turn were happy to know from the Qur’an that it upheld the purity of the life of Mary, as the Qur’an contains one complete chapter by her name and sheds light on the life & miracles of Jesus in various chapters along with other Prophets. But they were angry at it when the Qur’an rested salvation on faith and the worship of one God (The Creator)and righteous action of individuals and not on baptism or the atonement of Christ on the cross for the sins of mankind. That was too much for Christians to bear. Similarly, the pagan Arabs of Mecca were happy to know that the Qur’an held in high esteem Prophet, Abraham and Ishamel (PBUT) who belonged to their race. But they felt uncomfortable whenever the Qur’an at the same time eulogized the Jewish and Christian Prophets.

In short, there were three distinct principles of the Holy Qur’an, which displeased the followers of the prevailing faiths of that time in Arabia.

FIRSTLY , the Qur’an was opposed to groupism. It proclaimed the unity of religion. If this were conceded it would knock the bottom out of every form of groupism which emphasized that salvation truly lay with one’s own group and with no other.

SECONDLY, the Qur’anic assertion was that salvation was the result of devotion to God and righteous living, and did not rest on any racial or group affiliation or on the observance of any particular ceremony. The acceptance of this principle of self -responsibility for salvation would have opened the door of salvation to every human being without the distinction of cast, creed, color, race etc. To this the followers of the faiths of that time would not concede.

THIRDLY, the Qur’an asserted that religion lay in direct devotion to God without any mediating agency. But the followers of the other faiths had in one form or the other developed the institution of idolatry in the name of devotion to God with various intermediary personalities to play their roles in recommending devotees to the

God's favour. In short the claim of every religious group was not merely that it alone was the bearer of truth, but that the religion of every other group was false. The natural result of such an attitude was hatred of others and mutual warfare and bloodshed in the name of God. So the last Scripture i.e. the Qur'an came forward to present to the world at large the principle of unity in religion. It advanced the view that even as the laws of nature regulated and sustained the machinery of the universe, even so, there was spiritual law of life to govern the life of man, and that this law was one and the same for all human beings. The primary aim of this spiritual law of life or the way of God, was to keep mankind united. The greatest tragedy of man was that he turned an instrument of unity, viz., religion into a weapon of disunity.

19. THE WORLD UNDER THE GRIP OF ANARCHY AND HATRED

Prophethood is a common heritage as well as a special blessing of God on mankind. It is unfortunate that men did not take advantage of the Blessings of their message.

According to Maulana Azad : "The trouble with the great message of Christ lies in the failure of his followers to understand its true purpose. Those people failed to appreciate that Christ's message of love and forgiveness was really meant to arrest the prevailing tendency towards evil life like : To enjoy the killing of helpless people inventing variety of tortures for the accused, to throw human being to ferocious animals, burning towns, treating all aliens as slaves with cruel treatment, were the prevailing features of Roman culture, and pastimes of the Egyptian and Assyrian demi gods. At present the world again is engulfed with the similar symptoms. In my opinion Christ stressed the need for purification of the heart and did not attempt to lay down a law, for the law of Moses was there and he did not choose to alter it. For example regarding adultery given in the Ten Commandments of Moses, Jesus further commented " You have heard that it was said you shall not commit adultery." 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 to sin, tear it out..., As it is better for you to loose one of your member than for your whole body to go into hell. (The Bible, Matthew 5: 27-30)

But contrary to the teachings of Christ the world is indulged into a culture of free sex, prostitution, homo and heterosexuality, leading to incurable Aids and venereal diseases. Similarly, God's revelation to Prophet Muhammed (SAWS), after revealing the story of adam's son killing his own brother given in the Qur'an as : "On that account: We ordained for the children of Israel that if any one slew a person - unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land - It would be as if he slew the whole mankind : and if any one save a life. It would be as if he saved the life of the whole mankind...." (The Qur'an 5:32)

Although the above commandment of God apply equally to Judaism, Christianity and Islam yet the Human History of last and current century have shown great wars, tragic holocaust, terrorist acts of atrocities and bloodshed etc.

20. THE PURPOSE OF LIFE ON THE EARTH AND THE KEY TO SALVATION

Purpose of Life on the Earth :

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

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

Just visualize for your self what his first impression will be when an earnest seeker of truth reflects over the working of the universe? He will notice that his very being and all that is at work outside of him are the handicraft of a Consummate Artist, and that the touch of His Grace and Tender Providence is clearly felt in every particle of the universe. Naturally his mind will be filled with wonder and admiration for the Creator. When a man thinks over the order of creation, he will find that everything in the universe is so designed that it is linked to every other under a single principle of life, and that every thing is fitted into this scheme for a special purpose and that nothing is created invain. “We created not the Heavens, the Earth and all in between merely in sport : We have not created them but for a serious end : but most of them know not.”

(The Qur’an 44:38-39)

At another place the Qur’an points 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 ye 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)

Everything in this world has a talent appropriate to its role in life and which in its manifestation has to produce a specific result. These talents or characteristics and the results, which flow from them, are immutable.

The life of man which has a purpose to serve or a goal to achieve. This goal is the “Life Hereafter”. For, it is unthinkable that man should be created just to live for a few years and then get completely annihilated.

“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 the most followers of their respective religions do not study their own Scriptures and blindly follow the rituals of their forefathers and undoubtedly trust their priest , guru and religious leader for example Hindu Scriptures of Bhagavad Gita , Rigveda, yajurveda Upanishades , Brhama sutara mention that the creator only to be worshipped without attaching any partners with Him. I have lot of sympathy for the masses of my Hindu Brothers who were duped by Aryan Brahmans who created the caste system in India and put them to worship all kinds of idols of Devi and Devatas and kept the authority for themselves the exclusive worship of the one and only Creator God. They also introduced the multiple cycles of rebirths to get into higher cast and finally to be absorbed in Brahmma. According to Agni Purana a person who loses Human birth passes through 8,000,000 birth among inferior creatures like insects, worms , birds and beasts etc. before appearing as a human being on earth and then one has to go- through 400,000 lives for the lower cast to reach the upper cast Hindus.

The so-called Dalits (untouchables) are the most pitiable victims of pernicious cast system. The treatment accorded to Dalits is simply inhuman. According to Manu Smriti if the shadow of Dalit falls on a Brahman he becomes polluted, to purify him holy water of Ganges is needed. According to M.C . Raja one may drink urine of cow and swallow cow-dung to expiate his sins, but he should not approached an Adi Dravida. The Killing for ‘Cast Honour ‘ is a common phenomenon in Haryana, Rajasthan, New Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and even in Tamil Nadu. An estimated 100 young men and women are killed every year by the order of villages Panchayat Raj for couples who opted for inter –cast marriages

QUR’ANIC RATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC NATURE

The Qur’an 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.

It talks about scientific facts about the making of universe, the aquatic origin of all living creatures, the balancing effect of mountaines, provided to the earth and that heavenly bodies “Swim” in an orbit :

It is surprising to note that the Qur'an 1400 years ago describes 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)

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)

Quran also contains the scientific truths relating to the duality in the sex of plants and other creatures. The Qur'an also describes the evolution of embryo in the mother's womb, as accurately as it is found in modern science.

“Then We made the sperm in to a clot of congealed blood; then of that 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 God, the best to create !

(The Qur'an 23: 14)

There is yet another stunning proof of the authenticity of the Qur'an as the Word of God. The study of finger prints is a recent development of forensic science and yet we find a reference in this Holy Scripture which says :

“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)

KEY TO SALVATION :

There are many verses of The Qur'an in which God shows straight path of salvation to mankind, which is based on Monotheism and righteous living, that means worship of one God and do good to your fellow creatures. This is wider and more comprehensive than “love God and love your neighbour.

God laid down the salient principles of salvation for mankind, in the following verse of The Qur'an :

Look how the Qur'an indicates the notion of God : “Serve Allah (God), and join not any partners with Him; and do good - to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, the 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)

So God sent Messengers (for the benefit of mankind) to preach, guide, instruct and show the way, - not to drive people to good.

That is not God's plan, which trains the human will; hence key to salvation is one's own choice with its consequence. The promise of God for salvation to the righteous is given in the Qur'an as follows.

(1) Say : Is that best, or the eternal Garden, promised to the righteous ? For them that is the reward as well as final abode.

(The Qur'an 25 : 15)

(2) As a bounty from thy Lord !

that will be the supreme achievement. (The Qur'an 44: 57)

(3) But those who believe (in God), and do deeds of righteousness, We shall soon admit them to Gardens, with rivers flowing beneath, to dwell therein for ever. Allah's (God's) promise is the truth and whose word can be truer than Allah's ?

(The Qur'an 4: 122)

This is our idea of salvation of mankind : The negative avoidance of all the consequences of evil, and the positive attainment of all and more than all - that our hearts could possibly desire. As Allah's (God's) bounty outstrips anything that our eyes have seen, or our ears have heard of, or our imagination can conceive.

Faith & religion flourishing in this world should combine their efforts to save the world from being consumed by the flames of mutual hatred and intolerance.

Most religions stress on common rules of righteous living; some of them also prescribed in Islam or Ten Commandments of Moses or the ethics of Christianity etc. For example, according to Jesus Christ, The Greatest Commandments in the law are :

- (1) You shall love your Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.
- (2) You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the Prophets.

(The Bible, MT. 22 : 37-40)

The same message was revealed in The Qur'an that the Adherence to the principle and practice of Monotheism and offering service to mankind is the only way to reach the destiny of salvation for mankind.

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Polytheism and Atheism are the great sins leading to man's eternal life in Hell Fire

The concept of one God the Creator of our Universe is to be worshipped alone without any partners is given in all the major world religions including Hinduism as covered in my book. According to Judaism , Christianity and Islam, The Humans belong to one family and generation of mankind began from a single pair of Adam and Eve who were created by God of our Universe(Ref: Torah/Bible 1:27, the Qur'an 4:1); that means we have ancestral brotherhood as human being without the distinction of cast, color, creed & race etc.

It is a great tragedy that more than hundred Crores of our Hindu brothers & sisters have nothing common in their religious affairs. Hindu scholars sometimes call Sanatan Dharma or Vedic Dharma for their religion but they do not imply anything precise for all the people called Hindu. In the words of S.D Theertha :” The Hindu social order is simply a menace to freedom, unity and peace. More than three thousand casts have divided Hindus and nearly 95% of Hindu in perpetual disgrace and permanently condemned to an inferior social status” (IBID, P.209). According to Wilkins in Hinduism, the Brahman is the deity on earth by his divine status; they possess spiritual superiority by birth. (Theertha P. 37).

THE VEDAS: According to F.M. Sandeela in his book on “Islam, Christianity and Hinduism (P.4-5 Delhi 1990) writes about Vedas as : The Vedas mostly contain hymns addressed to Hindu deities and texts for sacrificial rites etc. There is practically nothing in them to provide guidance in the matter of ordinary life and society.” The origin of Vedas not known. There are 21 versions of Rig Veda, 42 of Yajur Veda and 12 each of Sama Veda and Atherva Veda. The Aryan Hindu Brahmins are the only people to read & listen Vedas.

THE UPPANISHADES: (200 in number) opened the way for intellectual freedom but they could not purify Hinduism from paganism & Idolatry.

THE MAHABHARATA : It contains the story of great battle between five sons of Pandu and sons of Pandu's brother. The saint injured by Pandu, cursed Pandu that he would die if he had intercourse with a woman. The fear of death kept Pandu away from his wives. As he wanted to have sons so he allowed his two wives to sleep with other men to have three and two sons from his two wives Kunti & Madri. (Ref. Mahabharata by Rajshekar Basu, Calcutta).

THE BHAGAVAD GITA : Is in the form of long dialogue between Arjun and Krishna. The Gita strongly supported caste system, which is grossly discriminatory. DR. AMBETKAR was of the view that the Brahmans had written this book to exploit the untouchable (Dalits) and non-Brahmans. It justified the cast system with concept of “Karma”. It is full of contradictions. It legalized killing, theft, lies, immoral life and addiction to alcohol.(Shankarananad shastri by Ambedkar pp 78-80).

THE RAMAYANA: Presents the story of Rama and wife Sita and brother Lakshmana. Dr. Ambedkar observes, there is nothing in the story of Ramayana to make Rama the object of worship. He is only Adutiful son, his birth was miraculous(Dr. Ambedkar, P.7).

THE PURANAS: Were written in praise of three Hindu gods, Brahma, Vishnu and Siva. Hindus generally believe in 330 million deities and hardly 400 in Scriptures. Hence belief in the existence of many deities makes all the religious efforts of a Hindu futile, as he never satisfy all of them, he is always afraid that those who did not receive his adoration may harm him.

ATHEISM: Atheism is the foundation stone of modern civilization. It literally means disbelief in the existence of God which is a great sin. They believe that the universe has come into being by itself

Similarly Jesus Christ never categorically declared that he is God and hence to be worshipped in the whole Bible. But millions of our Christian brothers & sisters blindly follow Christianity and Church system introduced by Saint Paul and adopted idol worship of Jesus(Peace be upon him) in Trinity. Yet such concept of Idol worship is strongly condemned by the Creator (in Bible, Deut. 12: 2-4).

The Quranic Message of God(The Creator) made worship of God alone and good deeds the sole means of salvation for mankind without any affiliation to a particular group or deity. It is therefore my sincere advice to millions of my fellow human beings to study the various world religions with vital questions such as : Is there a God of the vast Universe? What is the nature of relationship between God and man? Has he made an arrangement for guiding humanity or not? Is man answerable to God or not for all his actions in his temporary life on earth? Therefore the temporary life of man has a purpose to serve and a goal to achieve, this goal is the “Life hereafter” i.s. Eternal life in Heaven or Hell fire depending upon what he chooses by his way of worship of the Creator God alone or with partners? And serving humanity with his good or bad deeds.