

Introduction

God has created the universe and everything in it. Among the animal creations, we, the human beings, consider ourselves to be the supreme of creation. God has given man a special combination of qualities, which He has not given to other animals. They are **(1) ability to think, (2) ability to reason and judge, (3) freedom of choice, and (4) sense of shame.** Man also has some undesirable qualities like greed and lust. Our desire for worldly possessions and pleasures of life makes us follow undesirable path. We need guidance.

Man needs guidance to be successful in this life and in the life hereafter. However, his knowledge and ability are very limited. He has no definite knowledge of the future and the life hereafter. Therefore, his guidance cannot be perfect. Perfect guidance can only come from God who has perfect knowledge of past, present, future and the life hereafter. The all loving and kind God has provided us with this guidance through special people, His Prophets.

We can divide religions into two main groups, **(1) philosophical religions** and **(2) revealed religions.** The philosophical religions are religions, developed by man, through his intellect. The founders of the philosophical religions were highly respectable and intelligent people of the society. They never claimed to be Prophets of God or to have received revelations from Him. They have used their intelligence for this purpose. When man does not have knowledge of the future and afterlife, how can he give guidance to others for future and afterlife? Therefore, guidance from philosophical religions cannot be perfect and are unsuitable for the human salvation.

The revealed religions are religions where the founders claimed to be Prophets of God. They declared, without any ambiguity, that the message they were giving us were from God. If the Prophets had recorded those messages properly at the time of revelation and no one had altered them thereafter, the future generations could have received unaltered divine guidance. Those recorded and preserved revelations would then be the perfect guidance from God for the whole humanity.

The Rational Choice

Introduction

There are many Prophets and many books of guidance. Many times the question is raised, why so many Prophets and so many books of guidance? In the beginning, the human society was simple and needed simple guidance. As the society grew, more and more social, economic, political and spiritual problems developed. Therefore, more elaborate guidance was then needed.

When we send our children to the school for the first time, the teacher does not teach them higher mathematics. They are taught A, B, C, D, 1, 2, 3, and 4. When they have learned them and developed the ability to receive more, further lessons are given. Similarly, the earlier human society was immature and did not have the ability to receive the elaborate and complex guidance from God. Therefore, the earlier guidance was simple but incomplete. Further, the earlier guidance was not recorded and preserved properly. Later it was mixed up with human guidance or got lost altogether. Because of all these, new Prophets with new books of guidance had to be sent to guide the human race.

We do not choose the family in which we are born. We are raised in the family of our birth and are given the belief that the religion of our family is the best. We believe it, follow it and die with it, not knowing much about other faiths. With thousands of faiths around it is quite possible that we were born in a family with a faith that we would not like to follow. There is nothing to be proud of one's religion by virtue of birth, nor anything to be ashamed of. We do not have to follow the religion of our parents, if it is not the right one. Prophet Abraham (P*) did not follow the religion of his parent. We should study, compare, use our God-given intelligence and sense of reasoning and then choose our own faith. This will be the rational choice.

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Friendship of Faith

There are thousands of religions on earth. Many of them have a book of guidance. Most of the religions believe that there is a God. He is the creator of the universe and is the ultimate supreme authority. He has sent guidance to man through special people known as Prophets. There had been many Prophets in the past and there are many books of guidance.

There cannot be more than one ultimate and supreme authority. If there is only one God and He has sent all these Prophets to guide the humanity, He must have given, basically, the same guidance to all the Prophets. A teacher of English grammar teaching at 4th, 8th, and 12th grades will not teach contradictory rules at different grades.

The world of today is full of religious conflicts. It is ironic to see that when the Prophets of God preached peace, love, and friendship; we, their supposed followers, are preaching hate and vengeance for political, economic, social and personal reasons.

If we go through the scriptures of revealed religions, we find that there are many things we have in common on which we can build a bridge of friendship between us. Some of the things that we have in common are discussed below.

1. Monotheism:

We believe in one true God. In the Jewish scripture God said: ***“I am the first, and I am the last; and besides me there is no God.”*** (B* Isaiah 44:6). In the Gospel of Mark Jesus (P*) said: ***“The Lord our God is one Lord;”*** (B* Mark 12:29). The Quran says: ***“He is God, The One and Only;”*** (Q* 112:1). The Quran also says ***“And nearest among them in love to the believers wilt thou find those who say ‘We are Christians’: because amongst these are men devoted to learning and men who have renounced the world, and they are not arrogant.”*** (Q* 5:85).

2. The Prophets:

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The Jews believe in all the prophets mentioned in their scriptures Tanaka (Old Testament). Christians believe in all the prophets mentioned in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. Muslims believe and accept all the Prophets mentioned in the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Quran (Q* 2:136). From the very early age, a Muslim child is taught to show the highest reverence to each Prophet of God. A Muslim must add, 'Peace and blessing of God be upon him' after pronouncing the name of every Prophet of God. He must not make distinction between the Prophets (Q* 2:136 & 2:285). Muslims show the highest reverence to Moses (P*) and Jesus (P*). Unfortunately, many of their followers have not been able to show respect to the Prophet of Islam.

3. Miraculous Birth Jesus (P*):

Muslims accept Jesus (P*) as one of the mightiest Prophets of God. **Besides Christianity, Islam is the only religion on earth, which accepts the miraculous birth of Jesus (P*) through its scripture, the Quran (Q* 19:20-22).**

When the angel informed Mary that she is going to have a son, the Quran presents the miraculous conception of Jesus (P*) as: "*She (Mary) said: 'O my Lord! How shall I have a son when no man hath touched me?' He (angel) said: 'Even so: God createth what He willeth: when He hath decreed a plan, He but saith to it, 'Be,' and it is!'"* (Q* 3:47). This creative word 'Be' is also found in the Bible: "*And God said, 'let there be light'; and there was light'"* (B* Genesis 1:3).

The Bible version is: "*And the angel answered and said unto her (Mary), the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee;"* (B* Luke 1:35).

4. Highest Honor of Women given to Mary:

In the Quran, the highest honor of women is given to Mary, the mother of Jesus (P*): "*Behold! the angels said: 'O Mary! God hath chosen thee and purified thee- chosen thee above the women of all nations. '"* (Q* 3:42).

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There is also a chapter in the Quran that has been named after Mary to honor her (chapter 19).

Muslims accept and observe many of the instructions found in the Bible. The followings are some of the examples:

5. Putting off of shoes from feet while praying:

God ordered Moses (P*): *“Moses, Moses, Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”* (B* Exodus 3:4-5). Bible also says: *“And the commander of the Lord’s army said to Joshua, ‘Put off your shoes from your feet; for the place where you stand is holy.’* (B* Joshua 5:15).

Muslims believe that mosques, churches, synagogues and places of prayer are sacred places of worship. Muslims take their shoes off when they pray or enter the mosques.

6. Ritual Washing and Purification:

Prophets and people used to purify before prayers: *“Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet; when they went into the tent of meeting, and when they approached the altar, they washed; as the Lord commanded Moses”* (B* Exodus 40:31-32). *“Then Saint Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself with them and went into the temple,”* (B* Acts 21:26). Muslims wash and purify themselves before every prayer, five times a day.

7. Bowing down to the ground while praying:

Prophets used to bow their heads to the ground and pray: *“And he (Jesus) said to his disciples, ‘Sit here, while I pray’. ... And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed,”* (B* Matthew 26:36-39). ‘Bowing down to the ground’ was also done by Abraham (P*) (B* Genesis 17:3), by Moses (P*) and Aaron (P*) (B* Numbers 20:6), by Joshua (B* Joshua 5:14), and by Elijah (P*) (B* 1 Kings 18:42). Muslims also bow their heads to the ground when they pray.

8. Observe Fasting:

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In the Bible, Prophets and people observed fasting (B* Acts 13:2-3; Joel 1:14; Jonah 3:5). Jesus (P*) fasted for forty days (B* Matthew 4:2). Muslims observe one month of fasting every year during the month of Ramadan, the ninth month of Islamic lunar calendar. The Quran says: “O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you that ye may (learn) self-restraint. (Q* 2:183).

9. Observance of Ashura/Passover

Ashura is the 10th day of the month of Muharram of the Islamic lunar calendar. Sunni Muslims observe fasting on this day commemorating two events: (1) the day when God allowed Moses (P*) to cross the sea and (2) the day when Noah (P*) left the Ark after flood. **Passover** is the celebration by the Jews for the first event above and it lasts for seven days.

10. Everlasting Covenant of Circumcision:

God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham (P*) and his descendants: ***“Every male among you shall be circumcised. ... So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant.”*** (B* Genesis 17:10, 17: 13, also see in John 7:22, Acts 7:8, & Luke 2:21). Muslims still keep this covenant.

11. Pig Meat Forbidden:

God ordered Moses and Aaron (P*) to forbid Pork. ***“And the swine... Of their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch; they are unclean to you.”*** (B* Leviticus 11:7-8). Pork is also forbidden in the book of Deuteronomy (14:8) and Isaiah (65:4). Quran also forbids flesh of swine (Q* 2:173, 5:4, 6:145, 16:115).

12. Alcohol forbidden:

The Bible says: ***“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with spirit”*** (B* Ephesians 5:18).

The Quran says: ***“O ye who believe! intoxicants and gambling (dedication of) stones and (divination by) arrows are an***

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abomination of Satan's handiwork: eschew such (abomination) that ye may prosper.”(Q 5:90)*

13. Decoration of Trees Forbidden:

Bible says decoration of trees (as during Christmas) is a heathen custom and is forbidden in the Bible (B* Jeremiah 10:2-5). Muslims do not decorate trees as a religious event.

14. No inheritance of Sin:

The Bible says: ***“The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son;”*** (B* Ezekiel 18:20). This means sin cannot be inherited and there cannot be any original sin. Muslims also believe that sin cannot be transferred to, or inherited.

15. Individual Accountability:

The Bible says: ***“The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”*** (B* Ezekiel 18:20). ***“And every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.”*** (B* 1 Corinthians 3:8).

Muslims believe that every person will be accountable for his or her deeds. (Q* 2:281).

16. God is The Only Savior:

God said in the Bible: ***“I am the Lord; and besides me there is no savior.”*** (B* Isaiah 43:11, Hosea 13:4). God says in the Quran that He is the only savior (Q* 19:72).

17. “God is not a man or a son of man”

In the Bible God said: ***“God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should repent.”*** (B* Numbers 23:19, cf. Genesis 6:6-7). Muslims also believe that God is neither a human being nor a son of a human being.

18. No Alteration of Scripture:

The Bible says that no one should add anything to or take away anything from the scripture (B* Revelation 22:18-19 and (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

Deuteronomy 12:32).

The Muslims also believe that the scripture of God must not be altered (Q* 6:34, 10:64). Many scriptures have been repeatedly altered by man but **not a single word has been altered in the Quran**. God took upon himself the responsibility to guard the Quran (Q* 15:9). Sir William Muir, a critic of Islam, wrote two centuries ago: *“There is probably in the world no other book which has remained twelve centuries (now fourteen centuries) with so pure a text”* (Ref. 14, p10).

We are descendants of Adam and Eve and thereby brothers and sisters. God says in the Quran: *“O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes that ye may know each other. Verily the most honored of you in the sight of God is (he who is) the most righteous of you.”* (Q* 49:13). In the Quran God refers to Jews and Christians as *“People of the Book”*. This is an honor meaning that, in the past, God has given guidance to them through revealed scriptures. God also says in the Quran: *“And nearest among them in love to the believers (Muslims) wilt thou find those who say: “We are Christians”* (Q* 5:82).

All Prophets taught the same religion:

- (1). To recognize God, The Creator, as one and submit to Him.**
- (2). To obey His commandments.**
- (3). To worship Him and Him alone, and**
- (4). To lead a truthful, righteous and simple life of moral excellence.**

There are many things that we have in common between the Jews, the Christians and the Muslims. We have discussed some of them. God has created every human being. It is the duty of each one of us to promote friendship with one another. It is also our duty to propagate knowledge and dispel ignorance. We all should be willing to sit in open forums and discuss. Such meetings would educate the people, enrich and ennoble the society. Ignorance leads to misunderstanding and ‘suspicion of the unknown’. Let us all sit

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The Rational Choice

together and talk. **It is better to talk than to fight.**

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Prophecies in the Scriptures

Most of the religions of the world believe in the existence of God. If there is only one God, His guidance to all the Prophets should essentially be very similar. The scriptures are the constitutions of religions. In those Books, there are many prophecies about future Prophets and future events. The Christians claim that there are prophecies about Jesus (P*) in the (Old Testament). If the same God also sent Mohammad (P*), there should be some prophecy about him as well.

The Quran says: *“Those who follow the Apostle, the unlettered prophet, whom they find mentioned in their own (Scripture), in the Law (Torah) and the Gospel;”* (Q* 7:157). Let us examine.

In the Old Testament

1. Blessings of God:

Blessing of an individual by God, in biblical language, means Prophet will be born among his descendants. **God blessed Abraham (P*) and his descendants**, and made covenant with him **before any child was born** (B* Genesis 12:2). This means that Prophets will be born from the descendants of Abraham (P*). None of his children may be excluded from this blessing.

God confirmed it to Hagar (a Bedouin and not an Egyptian slave- Interpreters Bible Vol. 1, P604).as she was by the spring of water on the way to Shur, **when she was pregnant with Ishmael** (B* Genesis 16:7-12).

God reiterated His covenant after the birth of Ishmael and before the birth of Isaac (B* Genesis 17:7).

God specially blessed Ishmael, the first son of Abraham (P*), and his descendants, before the birth of Isaac (B* Genesis 17:20) and again after birth of Isaac (B* Genesis 21:13, 18). As a sign of entering into the everlasting covenant with God, both Abraham (P*) and Ishmael were circumcised the same day (B* Genesis 17:26).

The Bible says that the **rights of the first-born cannot be** (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

affected by the status of the mother (B* Deuteronomy 21:15-17).

2. First revelation:

Historical Facts: Mohammad (P*) was unlettered. While he was meditating in the cave of Heera at age 40, angel Gabriel appeared before him and delivered the first divine revelation saying: **“Read, in the name of thy Lord, who created, created man out of a (mere) clot of congealed blood:”** (Q* 96:1-2). He replied **“Maa ana beqaa ri’in”**—which means: **“I am not learned”** (Sahih Bukhari 1:1:003).

Old Testament Prophecy:

“And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee, and he saith, I am not learned.” (B* Isaiah 29:12).

3. A Prophet from Arabia:

Historical Facts: Abraham’s (P*) first son Ishmael had 12 sons. Their descendants settled in Arabia. Ishmael’s second son was **Kedar**, and the ninth son was **Tema**. The Arabs are often referred to as ‘the Kedars’ or ‘Kedarites’ (B* Genesis 25:13-16 & Ref. 2 - p589). During biblical times the oasis north to present day city of Medina used to be called Tema, after the ninth son of Ishmael who settled there (J. Hastings’ Dictionary of the Bible).

The people of city of Mecca severely persecuted the new Muslims but they did not leave Islam. Therefore, the Meccans decided to kill Mohammad (P*). Many converts migrated to Medina and Mohammad (P*) went into hiding in a cave. After 3 days, he went to Medina, and there he met his followers. The people of Medina received the immigrants warmly and gave them food and shelter.

Next year an army of **Meccans consisting of 1300 fighters, 1000 camels, 100 horsemen and 600 armors**, marched against the Muslims. About **300 poorly armed Muslims having only 70 camels, 2 horsemen, and 6 armors**, met the Meccan army at the ‘**Battle of Badr**’ (a place 80 miles outside Medina in Arabia) and gave them a crushing defeat. The pagan Arabs of Mecca lost their (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

honor.

Old Testament Prophecy: The highest form of prophecy possible is the one made by God Himself and is called Oracle. In the Bible God gives an oracle: *“The oracle concerning Arabia. In the thickets (shrubs) in Arabia you will lodge ... O inhabitants of the land of Tema, to the thirsty bring water, meet the fugitive with bread. For they have fled from the swords, from the drawn sword, from the bent bow, and from the press of battle ... Within a year, ... all the glory of Kedar will come to an end.”* (B* Isaiah 21:13-17). The only Prophet born in Arabia is Mohammad (P*) and this verse fits him exactly. You cannot fit any other Prophet in this verse.

4. A Prophet like Moses (P*):

In The Bible God said to Moses (P*): *“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren; and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.”* (B* Deuteronomy 18:18). The Christians claim that this verse refers to Jesus (P*). Let us examine.

“A prophet like you” (Moses-P*): Mohammad (P*) has much more similarity to Moses (P*) than Jesus (P*).

	Moses (P*)	Mohammad (P*)	Jesus (P*)
Birth	Normal	Normal	Miraculous
Father and mother	Yes	Yes	Only mother
Threat to life when very young	Yes	Yes	Yes
Family life	Yes	Yes	No
Literate	Yes	No	Yes
Performance of Miracles	Yes	Yes	Yes
Forced to flee	To Median	To Medina	No
Career	Prophet & Ruler	Prophet & Ruler	Prophet

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Prophecies in the Scriptures

Nature of teaching	Spiritual and legal	Spiritual and legal	Only Spiritual
Scripture	Torah	Quran	None
Enemy encounter	Battles	Battles	No Battles
Results of encounter	Moral and physical victory in life	Moral and physical victory in life	Moral victory after death
Acceptance by his people	Rejected and then accepted	Rejected and then accepted	Mostly rejected
Death	Natural	Natural	Crucified
Died for the sin of humanity	No	No	Yes
Buried	In this earth	In this earth	No
Went to hell for 3 days	No	No	Yes
Followers regard him	Prophet	Prophet	God & Son of God

Both Moses and Mohammad (P*) had usual birth, and were raised among idolaters. They had regular family life (wife and children), and were forced to migrate (Moses- P* to Median, and Mohammad- P* to Medina). They marched to battles against their enemies, and won physical and moral victories in their lifetime. They were virtually kings, gave laws and scriptures; first rejected by their people and then accepted at the end. They were human beings with no divinity attributed to them by their followers, died a natural death and were buried in this earth. Similarities between Moses (P*) and Jesus (P*) that are not found with Mohammad (P*) are that both were Jewish Prophets and they were literate. All of them performed miracles.

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“From among their brethren”: The Old Testament says that Ishmael and his descendants are brethren to Isaac and his descendants (B* Genesis 16:12 & 25:18).

“I will put my words in his mouth”: Angel Gabriel used to bring revelations from God to Mohammad (P*) and the angel made Mohammad (P*) to repeat the revelation to him. Thus God put His words in Mohammad’s (P*) mouth.

“He shall speak to them all that I shall command him. And whoever will not give heed to my words which he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.” God says in the Quran: *“He (Mohammad) does not speak (aught) of (his own) desire. It is no less than inspiration sent down to him.”* (Q* 53:3-4).

5. God’s chosen Prophet who gave laws:

Historical Facts: Mohammad (P*) was an extremely soft-spoken person. No one has ever recorded him to raise his voice. In spite of extreme persecution and physical assaults, he was not discouraged, or expressed despair. He prevailed against his enemies, and re-established the law of God on earth. The Quran repeatedly describes him as “the servant and messenger of God.”

Old Testament Prophecy: Bible gives a detailed profile of this future Prophet in Isaiah (P*) chapter 42; that he will be known as servant of God, His elect, and His messenger. **“Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him, he will bring forth justice to the nations, He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street... He will not fail or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.”** (B* Isaiah 42:1-4).

Jesus (P*) can not be the Prophet indicated in the above verses. He cried on the cross (B* Mark 15:34), raised his voice, and he called people names, - serpents, brood of vipers, evildoers etc. (B* Matthew 23:33). He got discouraged (B* Matthew 13:57), could not establish justice on earth. Rather he died at the hand of injustice. He did not give any law (B* Matthew 5:17-19). The only Prophet who came after this prophecy with complete and comprehensive code of laws was Prophet Mohammad (P*). Is there any other Prophet (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

who could fit in the above-mentioned prophecy?

6. Prophet who came with ten thousands of saints:

Historical Facts: Eight years after being driven out of his hometown, Mohammad (P*) returned to Mecca with 10,000 devout followers, accepted the surrender of the city without a fight, and established the rule of law there.

Bible Prophecy: *“The Lord came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints; from his right hand went a fiery law for them.”* (B* Deuteronomy 33:2).

7. Pilgrims of the valley of Bacca:

Historical Facts: The second name of the city of Mecca is **Bacca**. Quran also refers Mecca by this name (Q* 3:96). Kaba, the house of God, and the **famous spring of Zamzam** is located here. Millions of pilgrims pass through the valley of Mecca each year. The valley of Mecca used to get flooded after rain. Once the Kaba was badly damaged by flood and needed repair.

Bible Prophecy: *“Blessed are the men whose strength is in thee ... As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.”* (B* Psalms 84:5-6).

8. Scripture to be revealed little by little:

Historical Facts: Starting in Mecca, Quran was **revealed piecemeal** over a period of 23 years. Subjects are scattered in the book, **here a little, there a little**. During revelations, Mohammad (P*) sometimes used to go into trance, his lips would quiver, and he would recite the verses **with stammering lips**.

Bible Prophecy: *“Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? ... For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; **line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.**”* (B* Isaiah 28:9-11).

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9. Prophecy by name:

The prophecy of the arrival of Mohammad (P*) was made in the Old Testament by name. In ‘Song of Solomon’, verse 5:16 reads: *“Heeko mame tah kim, ve kullo Mohamadim.”* This means, **“His speech is most sweet, and he is Mohammad.”** In the English Bible it is translated as *“His speech is most sweet, and he is altogether desirable.”* Many claim that ‘Mohamadim’ is not a name but a word, meaning ‘praised one’ or ‘desirable’. The word ‘white’ may mean color but ‘Mr. White’ mean a person. In Hebrew, ‘im’ is put after the name to show honor in plurality. For example ‘Eloh-im’, meaning ‘most revered God’. So ‘Mohamadim’ (Mohamad-im) is not just a word but a name, meaning revered Mohammad. A name cannot be translated.

10. A true Prophet:

One of the criteria of Prophet-hood in the Bible is that Prophecy made by a true Prophet, will come to pass. The Bible says: “When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously, you need not be afraid of him.” (B* Deuteronomy 18:22).

Prophet Mohammad (P*) made many prophecies that came to pass. Two examples are given below.

The Christian Roman Empire (Byzantine) was defeated by the pagan Persians. The pagan Arabs were very happy. God informed Mohammad (P*) through inspiration that soon the Romans would defeat the Persians (Q* 30:2-4).

Anaushirwan was a famous king of Persia, a ‘Just king’. His unworthy son, Hurmuz, was deposed and killed by his general, Bahram. Hurmuz’s son Khusrau Parwiz took refuge with the Byzantine Emperor Maurice who restored Khusrau Parwiz to Persian throne with Roman arms. Later on, Byzantine Emperor Maurice had a mutiny. An army centurion named Phocas killed Maurice and became the emperor. Persian emperor Khusrau Parwiz invaded the Byzantine Empire in 603 A.D. and conquered Aleppo, Antioch, Damascus and then Jerusalem in 615 A.D. Roman army (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

was badly defeated. Christians were massacred, churches were burnt, and the 'True Cross' of Jesus (P*) was carried away to Persia. The condition of the Romans was so bad that even the Romans were in doubt if they would be able to hold on to whatever of their empire was left in their hands. In this invasion, the Jews helped the pagan Persians to defeat the Christians. Sura Rum was revealed at that time (615 A.D.) in support of Christian Rome. It said: "The Roman Empire has been defeated in a land close by: but they, (even) after (this) defeat of theirs, will soon be victorious within a few years." (Q* 30:2-4). The Arabic word used for 'few years' (fi bidh yee sinin) implies 'between 3 to 9 years'. In 610 A.D. Heraclius, son of a Roman Governor in North Africa, deposed Phocas and became the emperor. Persian advance continued and ultimately they were at the gates of Constantinople. In 622 A.D., the year of Mohammad's (P*) migration to Medina (known as Hijra), Byzantine Emperor Hiraclius attacked the Persian army from rear and defeated them at Issus. The prophecy was fulfilled.

When the Muslims were a handful, Mohammad (P*) professed that the Muslims would soon conquer the two superpowers of the time, the Persian and Byzantine (Roman) empires. It was unthinkable that nomadic Arab tribes could conquer the two established super powers of the time. It would be like telling that Granada would defeat U.S.A. and China. The Muslims did defeat the Byzantine army at the battle of Yarmukh in 636 A.D. They defeated the Persians and occupied their capital Ctesiphon (Madain) in 637 A.D.

In the New Testament

Prophecy by Jesus (P*):

In Gospel of John, Jesus (P*) foretold about Mohammad (P*). He said: "*If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he will give you **another counselor**, to be with you forever.*" (B* John 14:15-16). The word used for counselor in Greek is 'paraclete'.

The words 'another counselor' mean that there must be **at least two counselors (paraclete)**. **Jesus (P*)** has been referred to

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as a **Paraclete** in the Bible: *“But if any one does sin, we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”* (B* 1 John 2:1). The word used in Greek for ‘advocate’ is also ‘paraclete’. So another counselor will be a human being like Jesus (P*).

As Jesus (P*) continued, he said: *“But the counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”* (B* John 14:26). Jesus (P*) also said, *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is to your advantage that I go away, **for if I do not go away, the counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.** And when he comes, he will convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.”* (B* John 16:7-8). Paraclete cannot be the Holy Ghost. In that case, Jesus (P*), a Paraclete, becomes another Holy Ghost.

Jesus (P*) further said, *“**I have yet many things to say to you, but you can not bear them now.** When the Spirit of truth comes, **he** will guide you into all truth; for **he** will not speak on his own authority, whatever **he** hears, **he** will speak, and **he** will declare to you the things that are to come. **He** will glorify me, for **he** will take what is mine and declare it to you.”* (B* John 16:12-14).

Greek word for spirit is ‘pneuma’ (neutral gender). The pronoun for pneuma is ‘it’, not ‘he’. Therefore, the word ‘paraclete’ (counselor) cannot be translated into Holy Ghost or Spirit. Further, Holy Spirit was already present on earth when Jesus (P*) was alive on earth. All the disciples of Jesus, John the Baptist (P*), Zechariah (P*), Elizabeth, Simeon, and Barnabas, were filled with Holy Spirit (B* John 20:22, Luke 1:15, 41, 67, & Acts 11:24). Counselor’s arrival was conditioned to departure of Jesus (P*). Therefore, it does not make any sense for Jesus (P*) to say that if he does not go, the Holy Ghost would not come and that when he goes he would send the Holy Ghost (The Holy Ghost was already there). Further, the Spirit of truth would not speak on his own authority. According to Trinity, **the Holy Spirit is God. God does not need any authority form anybody to speak.** So the counselor, who will not speak on his own authority and will speak whatever he will hear, cannot be Holy Ghost and must be a man. So it is obvious that the above

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underlined phrase “the Holy Spirit or Ghost” is an interpolation in the Bible.

Further, **Jesus’ (P*) message was incomplete.** Another Prophet was needed to guide the humanity unto all truth.

Most of the Popes, Bishops, Cardinals, Priests, Pastors, and Reverends claim to be filled with Holy Spirit. History tells us that the Holy Spirit could not prevent many of these holy people from following the evil and immoral ways. Can we then expect that the same Holy Spirit, which could not even guide the ‘holy ones’, could guide the ordinary man?

In Gospel of Barnabas:

The Bible recognizes Barnabas to be “an apostle”, “a good man, full of Holy spirit and of faith” (B* Acts 14:14, & 11:24). Bible also says: “if he comes to you, receive him.” (Colossians 4:10). He also wrote a gospel. Instead of including this gospel in the New Testament, the book was forbidden. Toland, in his “Miscellaneous Works” (published posthumously in 1747), in Vol. I, page 380, mentions that the Gospel of Barnabas was still extant (*still existing*). In Chapter XV he refers to the Glasian Decree of 496 C.E. where “Evangelium Barnabe” is included in the list of forbidden books. One wonders why a Gospel written by an Apostle filled with Holy Spirit and faith was not included in the New Testament but forbidden!

The following is quoted from the Gospel of Barnabas that is now available: “*The priest answered: ‘In the book of Moses it is written that our God must send us the Messiah ... art thou the Messiah of God whom we expect?’ Jesus answered: ‘It is true that God hath so promised, but indeed I am not he for he is made before me, and shall come after me.’ ... Then said the priest: ‘How shall the Messiah be called, and what sign shall reveal his coming?’ Jesus answered: ‘The name of the Messiah is admirable, for God himself gave him the name when he had created his soul, and placed it in a celestial splendour ... Mohammad is his blessed name.’” (Chapter 96/ p121 and 97/ p123).*

In Hindu Scriptures

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Veda, Vedanta, Upanishad, and Purana are the ancient Scriptures of Hinduism. In Vabhisya Purana - Prati Sarg, Parba (Section) 3, Khanda (part) 3, Adhyaya (chapter) 3, Sloka (Verse) 5-8 one finds:

“Etasminnastare mlessa acharjeno samannita...” The translation is: *“Just at that time a malecha (belonging to a foreign country and speaking foreign language) spiritual teacher will appear with his companions. **His name will be Mahamad. Raja (Bhoj) after giving this Mahadev (holy man of angelic disposition) from the desert country a bath in the ‘Panchgavya’ and the Ganges water, (i.e. purging him of all sins) offered him the presents of his sincere devotion and showing him all reverence said: ‘O Ye! the pride of mankind, O lord of the desert, I make obeisance to thee. Ye have collected a great force to kill the Devil and you yourself have been protected from the malecha opponents (idol worshipers, pagans).’ ‘O Ye! the image of the Most Pious God the biggest Lord, I am a slave to thee, take me as one lying by thy feet.’**”* (Compiled by Maharishi Vyasa and translated by Dr. Vidyarthi- Ref. 22, p26).

In Zend Avesta and Dasateer

Zend Avesta and Dasateer are the Scriptures of Zoroastrianism. Zend Avesta part 1, page 260, as translated by Max Muller, reads: *“O Spetame Zarathustra, I proclaim that pious Ahmad will surely arrive. You will receive from him holy words, pious thoughts, righteous deeds, and pure religion.”* (Ref. 22, p29). In the Quran, the second name of Mohammad (P*) is given as Ahmad (Q* 61:6).

One finds in page 47 of Dasateer, as translated by A. H. Vidyarthi: *“When the people of Persia will forget their religion and will plunge into extreme moral degradation, a great pious man will arrive in the Arab land. His followers will defeat the Persians. Instead of worshipping ‘Fire’ in their temples, they will then pray facing the temple built by Abraham (P*). The followers of that great pious man will be like blessings to the people of the world.”* (Ref. 22, p29). Soon after the death of Mohammad (P*), his followers did defeat the Persians in 637 A.D. The Persians accepted Islam in great numbers and started to pray facing the House of God in Mecca, Kaba, built by Abraham (P*).

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The Rational Choice
Prophecies in the Scriptures

Acharya Mohant Dr. Saroopji Moharaj, Ph.D., D.D. studied 'religions of the world' at the Oxford University. He said that 'the scriptures' of the great religions of the world, except Jainism and Buddhism, have the names of Allah and Mohammad (P*) in them.'

When all the verses, mentioned above, are taken together, no Prophet other than Mohammad (P*) can fit in them. There are many more prophecies about him in the scriptures. Those who believe in these scriptures, cannot but believe in Mohammad (P*) and the Quran. And those who do not want to believe, God has a warning for them in the Bible: ***“And whoever will not give heed to my words which he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.”*** (B* Deuteronomy 18:19).

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