

THE RATIONAL CHOICE



A. S. ALAM, M.D.

**The
Rational
Choice**

2010 Edition

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The Rational Choice

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PREFACE

All praise belongs to God, the Most Gracious and Most Merciful. There can be no good without His blessings and guidance. I sincerely seek His guidance and blessings. I seek His Mercy and Forgiveness for all my shortcomings.

I dedicate this book to the memory of my beloved parents. “Our Lord, bestow on them Thy Grace as they have cherished us in childhood.”

Life in the west is very fast. People are busy in acquiring worldly possessions and pleasures. They do not have much time for spiritual development. Clergies often avoid telling the whole truth for fear of losing members whose financial support is the backbone of the establishments. Attempt has been made to provide information from the Holy books without any alteration so that a rationally thinking individual will be able to know the truth. Life in this world is for a very short period of time. Life in the hereafter is for eternity. It cannot be left to chances. It is my sincere belief that this book will help the readers to find the truth. I have quoted from the Holy Scriptures, word for word, without any change. If there is any mistake in the book, the fault is mine and I ask forgiveness from God and from the readers. I Pray to God that He erases the mistakes from their memory. If there is anything good in this book may God be praised.

A. S. Alam, M.D.

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O' Mankind,

In the beginning was the truth

At the end, will be the truth.

So if you love truth, come

Let us find out some.

Let us find where the truth lies.

Do not get caught in falsehood and lies.

God has given us

The ability to think, reason and judge,

Between good and bad, right and wrong,

The freedom of choice,

And the sense of shame.

So seek for the truth and you will find it.

Choose wisely, and do not fail.

For, at the end only truth will prevail.

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.

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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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 (ought) 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) in 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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The Quran

After we are born we get guidance from our parent and relatives. As we grow up we get guidance from our neighbors, teachers, and the society etc. 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 knowledge of the future and the life hereafter. No one can say who will be the president of U.S.A. in 20 years time. If you do not know calculus you cannot teach calculus to others. Therefore, man's guidance for future and afterlife cannot be relied upon. Perfect guidance can only come from God who has perfect knowledge. Revealed scriptures are divine guidance to humanity. A scripture must meet certain criteria before it can be accepted as a Scripture revealed by God.

Criteria of revealed Scriptures:

Scriptures must be authentic. That means they must be reliable and valid.

- 1.** God reveals His guidance to man through His messengers, called Prophets. Therefore, those who present the guidance to us must meet the criteria of true Prophets of God.
- 2.** The Prophets must record the messages and verify their accuracy. The recordings of other people, not verified by the Prophet, will have errors and will not be reliable.
- 3.** God reveals his message to the Prophet in the language of the Prophet and his people. It must be recorded in the same language. In every language, words carry special meaning. Some scriptures, claimed to be revealed by God, were originally written in a foreign language. That means they are really translations and not the original scripture.
- 4.** No one must alter the revelations after they had been recorded and verified by the Prophets.
- 5.** Authentic old recordings in the language of the Prophet must be

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available for future verification. The above five criteria will make the scripture reliable.

6. Prophet must declare that the book has been revealed to him and God must confirm this in the scripture.

7. As God has perfect knowledge His revealed guidance must not have contradictions or discrepancies.

8. A revealed book from God must contain materials that can only come from Him and is outside the bounds of human knowledge and ability to produce them. The last three criteria will make the scripture valid that God has revealed it.

The true Prophets of God through whom the scriptures are revealed have certain characteristics.

Characteristics of true Prophets:

- Morally and intellectually, Prophets were the best of the people created by God. After receiving Prophet-hood and divine revelation, they were infallible.
- They clearly declared, without any ambiguity, that the message they were delivering, were from God and not from them (B* Exodus 4:28-30; B* John 14:24 and Ref. 6, p56).
- God in His revelation confirmed that they were His Prophets.
- Prophets confirmed the past revelations and informed what may come in future. (The last sermon of the Prophet, and B* John 16:12-14).
- They made prophecies that came 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).
- God gave them special powers to perform miracles in the fields in which the society excelled at that time. Only their powers were superior (Ref. 2, #3637 and #3576).

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- Prophets were warners to mankind about the consequences of disobeying God's commandments. They also gave glad tidings of God's kindness, mercy and forgiveness.
- Prophets had absolute trust in God even during the most trying periods of their life and God sustained them.
- Prophets received revelations from God or His angels in person, in visions and in dreams. (B* Numbers 12:6, Q* 53:3-4).
- Works of true Prophets endured.

The hearts and souls of Prophets were in tune with God and they were the only ones who knew what messages they had received from God. For us to know them correctly, the Prophets must have recorded the messages at the time of revelation and transmitted to us unaltered.

Authenticity of Quran:

There is **no authentic recording by earlier Prophets** in the languages of the Prophets. They were often transmitted by word of mouth, sometimes for hundreds of years, before being recorded. In later years they were **repeatedly altered by those seeking privilege** for political, social, and personal reasons (Ref. 3, p4). Consequently, many Scriptures have monumental errors. However, there is one that is an exception, The Quran. It is the collection of all messages revealed by God to Mohammad (P*). The Quran meets all the eight criteria of revealed Scriptures described above.

Recording: Mohammad (P*) was unlettered but he dictated all the revelations he had received and then checked their accuracy. The followers of prophet also recorded the number of each alphabet in each verse. This prevents any alteration of verses. Further, Quran always remained in the hands of the people, not in the hands of handful of priests. Therefore, it was not possible to alter the verses of the Quran.

Memorization: Muslims are required to recite some of the verses from the Quran during the prayer. Therefore, every Muslim memorizes a good number of verses. Thousands of people also memorized the entire Quran during the life of the Prophet. The (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

Quran is the only Scripture that is memorized in its entirety by millions of people even today. They are called Hafez. This also prevents any one to alter the Quran. God in the Quran assured that He would guard the Quran from corruption: “*We have, without doubt, sent down the Message; and we will assuredly guard it (from corruption)*” (Q* 15: 9). God surely has guarded the Quran. None has altered it, not even one word. Two centuries ago Sir William Muir, a critic of Islam, wrote: “*There is probably in the world no other book which has remained twelve centuries (now fourteen centuries) with so pure a text,*” Ref. 14, p18). Quran is the only authentic revealed scripture in the world that remains unaltered. Islam is the religion of this authentic unaltered scripture.

Collection: Within two years of Mohammad’s (P*) death, under order of Caliph Abu Bakr, Zaid bin Thabit, one of Prophet’s principal scribes, meticulously collected all the written pieces left by Mohammad (P*) as well as those in possession of his companions who used to write down the verses for their personal use. Then with the help of all those who memorized the entire Quran from the Prophet, he verified each and every verse, in public, and wrote them down in the exact order in which they were recited by the Prophet. The completed copy was called “The Mashaf”. Othman, the third Caliph, made many copies from this original, denoting correct recitation. He then sent the authenticated copies to the different regions of the countries under Muslim administration (Ref. 2, Vol. 6, p477-479). **Some of those original copies still exist, one in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and one in Topkapi museum, Istanbul, Turkey.** (Ref. 5, p35). Today’s Quran, word for word, is exact copy of the original (Ref. 17, p130-131). God says in the Quran: “*It is for us to collect it and to promulgate it*” (S. Qiyamat 75:17).

Divinity of Quranic revelations:

Quran contains materials that can only come from God. Those are outside the bounds of human knowledge and their ability to produce them. The following will testify to the **divinity of Quranic revelations.**

(1). God challenges humanity to reproduce a book similar to Quran or even a part of it.

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“This Quran is not such as can be produced by anyone other than God” (Q 10:37).*

“Say, If the whole of mankind ... were to get together to produce the like of this Quran, they could not produce the like there of...” (Q 17:88). **No Scripture like the Quran has ever been produced.***

“And if you are in doubt as to what We revealed from time to time to Our servant, then produce a “sura” (chapter) like there unto; ... But if you cannot - and of a surety you cannot - then fear the fire ... which is prepared for those who reject Faith” (Q. 2:23 - 24).* The Quran has 114 Suras. The smallest sura has only three verses containing ten words. **No “sura”, not even the smallest one, has ever been matched.**

(2). God has perfect knowledge of everything. His revealed guidance must not have contradictions or discrepancies, let alone innumerable “grave defects”. There is **no error or discrepancy in the Quran**. God says in the Quran: *“Do they not consider the Quran (with care)? Had it been from other than God, they would surely have found therein much discrepancy...” (Q* 4:82).* **Dr. Maurice Bucaille, a Christian physician and a scholar of religion from France, writes: “Whereas monumental errors are to be found in the Bible, I could not find a single error in the Quran.”** (Ref. 3, p120). In the preface of the ‘Bible’ (1988), it reads: *“Yet the King James Version has grave defects. ... that these defects are so many and so serious as to call for revision of the English translation.”* This means that they are either not revealed by God or later-on altered by man.

(3) The Quran is not a book of science but there are many verses in the Quran referring to different branches of science. The scientific information that were referred to, were not known to any human being in those days. None of the verses of the Quran contradict established science. A few examples are given below.

Modern scientists believe that initially the universe was composed of condensed gas, mainly Hydrogen and Helium. It later formed into a mass. In it, there developed an intense concentration of pure energy. Later there was a tremendous explosion in it (‘The

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Big Bang'), resulting in countless celestial bodies. Even today, the celestial bodies continue to rush away from each other at high speed, expanding the universe.

This is today's accepted 'Big Bang Creation of Universe'. Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson confirmed the 'Big Bang Creation of Universe' in 1964 and won the Nobel Prize in 1978.

In 1929, Edwin P. Hubble, an astronomer at Caltech, discovered that the universe is expanding. The Quran says: "Then turned He (God) to the heaven when it was smoke:" (Q* 41:11). Smoke is probably a better term for a layman than condensed gas.

God also says in the Quran: "Do not the unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were joined together (as one unit of creation), before we clove them asunder?" (Q* 21:30).

God further says in the Quran: "We have built the heaven with might, and it is We who make the vast (universe) extent (thereof)." (Q* 51:47).

(4). In ancient times, we believed that earth was the center of the universe and it was flat. In the 16th century Copernicus found out that the earth was neither flat nor was it the center of the universe, rather it was round and moved in an orbit. Galileo confirmed Copernicus' view but the Church forced him to recant it in 1633 A. D. One thousand years earlier, The Quran revealed: "(God is) the One who created the night, the day, the sun, and the moon. Each one is traveling in an orbit with its motion." (Q* 21:33).

(5). Professor Frank Press is the co-author of the book on geology 'The Earth'. He was the President of National Academy of Sciences of USA and Science advisor to President Jimmy Carter of U.S.A. He says in the book that mountain has deep underlying roots. Cailleux also confirms this in his book, 'Anatomy of the Earth'.

God says in the Quran: "Have We not made the earth as wide expanse, and the mountains as pegs?" (Q* 78:6-7)

Modern theory of Plate Tectonics holds that mountains work as stabilizers of the earth. It is like a small piece of metal that balances (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

the wheel of a car. God says in the Quran: “And He has set up on the earth mountains standing firm, lest it should shake with you,” (Q* 16:15)

How on earth was it possible for an unlettered person to reveal these scientific mysteries thousand years ahead when no man on earth had any knowledge of them, unless it was inspired by God?

Dr. Maurice Bucaille, a Christian physician and a scholar of religion from France, wrote: “The above observation makes the hypothesis advanced by those who see Muhammad as the author of Quran untenable. How could a man, from being illiterate, become the most important author, in terms of literary merits, in the whole of Arabic literature? How could he then pronounce truths of a scientific nature that no other human being could possibly have developed at that time, and all this without making the slightest error in his pronouncement on the subject?” (Ref. 17, p125).

(6) Jacque Cousteau of France, an oceanographer, found out that the composition of water of Mediterranean Sea and that of Atlantic Sea are different. He noticed that when the water of Mediterranean Sea enters into Atlantic Sea over the Gibraltar sill, they do not mix and remain separated for a long distance. He noticed the same thing when the river water enters into the seawater. The Quran says: “He has set free the two seas (bodies of flowing water), meeting together: between them is a barrier which they do not transgress.” (Q* 19-20). “It is He Who has let free the two bodies of flowing water: ones palatable and sweet, and the other salt and bitter; yet has He made a barrier between them, a partition that is forbidden to be passed.” (Q* 25:53)

(7). Professor Keith L. Moore is the professor of anatomy and Embryology of University of Toronto, Canada. He is the author of the book of embryology titled “The Developing Human” which received the award for the ‘Best Book of the Year by a single author’. He is also the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. He was surprised to learn the details of the embryonic human development described in the Quran. In 1981 he discussed the details of human embryonic development given in the Quran at an

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international conference. He then said that such detail description on human development within the mother's womb, during the period of Mohammad (P*), could only come from God.

There are hundreds of such verses in the Quran, which are related to science. Each one of them is correct. When all the verses mentioned above are taken together, there can be no doubt in a rational mind about the authenticity and divinity of the Quranic revelations.

Every soul yearns for truth. It is the truth and authenticity of the Quranic revelation that convinces hundreds of thousands of non-Muslims all over the world to embrace Islam every year.

What the non-Muslims say about the Quran

Edward Gibbon, famous English historian wrote: *“There is no book in the world in which God has been made such a theme of discourse as in the Quran. It is impossible to conceive aught holier, nobler, purer, more sublime, more perfect, more supreme and more worthy of the Godhead than the God whom Mohammad worshipped. The ideal cannot be improved upon: one attribute taken from it would mar its perfection, and not one could be added to it would not be superfluous. Such is the lofty conception of Mohammad's God as presented in the Quran. He has boldly and indelibly impressed the notion of the strictest monotheism upon the pages of history and towards this notion rational man cannot but drift surely if slowly.”* (Ref. 26, p76)

Dr. Steingass, prominent western thinker, wrote: *“If it (The Quran) spoke so powerfully and convincingly to the hearts of the hearers as to weld hitherto centrifugal and antagonistic elements into one compact and well organized body, animated by ideas far beyond those which had until now ruled the Arabian mind, then its eloquence was perfect, simply because it created a civilized nation out of savage tribes, and shot a fresh woof into the old warp of history.”* (Ref. 7, p25)

German playwright **Johann Wolfgang von Goethe wrote:**

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“However often we turn to it (The Quran) at first disgusting us each time afresh, it soon attracts, astounds, and at the end enforces our reverence ... Thus this book will go on exercising through all ages a most potent influence.” (Ref. 7, p24)

Writer and thinker Arthur J. Arberry wrote in ‘The Koran Interpreted’: *“I have been at pain to study the intricate and richly varied rhythms which - apart from the message itself - constitute the Koran’s undeniable claim to rank amongst the greatest literary masterpieces of mankind ... This very characteristic feature ‘that inimitable symphony’ as the believing Pickthall described his Holy Book, ‘the very sound of which move men to tears and ecstasy’ has been almost totally ignored by previous translators; it is therefore not surprising that what they have wrought sounds dull and flat indeed in comparison with the splendidly decorated original.”* (Ref. 7, p26)

Some Quranic verses:

The total number of verses in the Quran is 6,236. A few verses from the Quran are given below to help you understand the Quranic revelation.

- *“(This is) the revelation of the book in which there is no doubt, - from the Lord of the world”* (Q* 32:2).
- *“Say, God is witness between me and you; this Quran hath been revealed to me by inspiration, that I may warn you and all whom it reaches.”* (Q* 6:19).
- *“Had We sent down this Quran on a mountain, verily, thou woudst have seen it humble itself and cleave asunder for fear of God”* (Q* 59:21).
- *“Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from Error.”* (Q* 2:256).
- *“Say ye: ‘we believe in God, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and given to (all) Prophets from their Lord. (Q* 2:136).*

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The Rational Choice

The Quran

- *“Those who believe (in the Quran) and those who follow the Jewish (Scriptures) and the Christians and the Sabians and who believe in God and the last day and work righteousness shall have their reward with their Lord; on them shall be no fear nor shall they grieve.” (Q*-2:62)*
- *“Whoever submits his whole self to God and is a doer of good he will get his reward with his Lord; on such shall be no fear nor shall they grieve. (Q* 2:112).*
- *“Establish regular prayer, enjoin what is just, and forbid what is wrong:” (Q* 31:17).*
- *“God is never unjust in the least degree:” (Q* 4:40).*
- *“And when you judge between man and man that you judge with justice:” (Q* 4:58).*
- *“O you who believe! Stand out firmly for God, as witness to fair dealing, and let not the hatred of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice. Be just: that is next to piety.” (Q* 5:9).*
- *“O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to God, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor:” (Q* 4:135).*
- *“Verily the most honored of you in the sight of God is (he who is) the most righteous of you.” (Q* 49:13).*
- *“And cover not truth with falsehood, nor conceal the truth when you know (what it is).” (Q* 2:42).*
- *“Do ye enjoin right conduct on the people, and forget (to practice it) yourselves, and yet ye study the Scripture? Will ye not understand?” (Q* 2:44).*
- *“O ye who believe! The law of equality is prescribed to you...” (Q* 2:178).*
- *“You are forbidden to inherit women against their will.” (Q* 4:19).*

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- *“The recompense for an injury is an injury equal thereto (in degree): but if a person forgives and makes reconciliation, his reward is due from God.” (Q* 42:40).*
 - *“Whosoever killeth a human being for other than manslaughter or corruption in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whoso saveth the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind.” (Q* 5:32).*
 - *“Obey God, obey the Apostle, and those charged with authority among you.” (Q* 4:59).*
 - *“Thy Lord hath decreed that ye worship none but Him, and that ye be kind to parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in thy life, say not to them a word of contempt, nor repel them, but address them in terms of honor. And out of kindness lower to them the wing of humility, and say ‘ My Lord! bestow on them thy mercy even as they cherished me in childhood.” (Q* 17:23-24).*
 - *“When a (courteous) greeting is offered you, meet it with a greeting still more courteous, or (at least) of equal courtesy.” (Q* 4:86).*
 - *“Do not swell up with pride nor walk in insolence through the earth; for God does not love any arrogant boaster. (Q* 31:19)*
 - *“No bearer of burdens can bear the burden of another.” (Q* 6:164).*
 - *“Satan will say: ‘...I had no authority over you except to call you, but ye listened to me, then reproach not me, but reproach your own souls.’” (Q* 14:22).*
 - *“Verily, if any of you did evil in ignorance, and thereafter repented, and amended (his conduct), lo! He is Oft forgiving and Most Merciful.” (Q* 6:54).*
 - *“O my Servants who have transgressed against their souls! Despair not of the Mercy of God: for God forgives all sins: for He is Oft-forgiving and Most Merciful. Turn ye to your Lord (in repentance) and bow to His (will), before the penalty comes on*
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you: after that ye shall not be helped.” (Q 39:53-54).*

- *“If any one disputes ... say ‘come! Let us gather together, our sons and your sons, our women and your women, ourselves and yourselves: then let us earnestly pray, and invoke the curse of God on those who lie!” (Q* 3:61).*

Alleged copying from the Bible

There are many stories, which are common to the Bible and the Quran. Because of this, many Christians and Jews allege that Mohammad (P*) had copied them from their scriptures. The Muslims, the Christians and the Jews have the common ancestors, and therefore, the stories of the ancestors must be very similar.

Mohammad (P*) did not know how to read and write. The Torah and the Bible were not even translated into Arabic by that time. Jews and Christians were his declared enemies. Christian publications as well as the Bible admit that there are innumerable mistakes in the Bible (KJV Bible- preface page 1, and Jeremiah 8:8). How can one think that the Jews and Christians helped him to copy their scriptures for a period of 23 years to compile a scripture without any mistake? If they could do so why did they not correct the thousands of mistakes in their own scripture? Why did not Mohammad (P*) copy any of those mistakes or stories?

There are many stories of incest and adultery committed by the Prophets in the Bible. It is incredible to find that Prophets of God, who were role-models for the followers, committing incest and adultery. No such story is found in the Quran. A copy should reflect some of those incredible stories. If one wants to find what copying means compare 2 King chapter 19 with Isaiah chapter 37 of the Bible. It is copied word for word, coma for coma and period for period.

The highest honour of women is given in the Quran to Mary, mother of Jesus (P*). *“O Mary, God has chosen thee and purified thee, chosen thee above the women of all nations.” (Q*- 3:42).* There is also a chapter in the Quran named after Mary to honor (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

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her (chapter 19). If Mohammad (P*) would have been the author of Quran, he would have given this honour to his own mother.

Quran accepts all the Prophets mentioned in the earlier scriptures of Torah and Gospels. Quran is the only revealed scripture that accepts the miraculous birth of Jesus (P*). No other scripture accepts this. In the Jewish scripture of Talmud, Jesus (P*) is described as **“Jesus was a bastard born of adultery.”** (Yebamoth 49b, p.324). . May God forgive me for quoting this blasphemy from the Jewish Scripture.

It should be abundantly clear now to a rational mind that the Quran is God’s revelation and not copied from the Bible.

The Quran has no versions or editions, only translations. The Quran is the only revealed scripture on earth, which was dictated by the Prophet himself and remains unaltered. The whole of humanity could not produce a book similar to the Quran, nor even a chapter, when God in the Quran challenged the humanity. There is no discrepancy in it. God revealed scientific mysteries thousands of years ahead through an unlettered Prophet to prove that this book is from Him. God gave us the ability to think, reason and judge, and then choose. Jesus (P*) said: “seek, and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you.” (B* Luke 11:9).

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The Bible

Scriptures are the guidance from God to mankind revealed through His Prophets. The Bible is one of the great revealed books on the earth. The Old Testament (Hebrew or Jewish Scripture, Tanaka) has 39 books, and The New Testament (Greek or Christian Bible) has 27 books, a total of 66 books. Catholic Bible has seven extra books known as apocrypha (of doubtful authenticity).

The Bible contains the messages from many great Prophets of the past. Unfortunately, the Prophets did not record the messages at the time of revelation. They were passed on by oral transmission for generations before being written down (Ref. 3, p4-7). The Bible says: *“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”* (B* 1 Thessalonians 5:21). Let us analyze.

Authenticity of Bible:

A scripture worthy of being acceptable to the people as a book revealed by God **must be authentic, which means it must be reliable and valid**. The salvation of human race depends on it. Jesus (P*) did not write or dictate the New Testament, nor was it written during his lifetime so that he could approve or reject any of the statements or deed attributed to him. The four Gospels were written some 35 to 85 years after Jesus (P*) had left this earth. After so many years, it would be almost impossible to remember, ‘word for word’ all the sayings of Jesus (P*) (as are quoted in the Bible). Ecumenical translation of the Bible says: “...the evangelists ...have collected and recorded in writing the material given to them by the oral tradition” (Ref. 3, p56).

Authors of the Gospels:

All knowledgeable Bible scholars agree that the **true identities of the authors of the Gospels are not known** (Ref. 3, p60, 63, 67, & 69). No one knows their last names. Saint Luke admits that he is not the author of the gospel attributed to him. As he was commenting on the recordings to Theophilus, Saint Luke said: “They delivered them to us” (Luke 1:2 - 3). See the section of ‘The New Testament’.

Manuscripts:

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The original manuscripts of the Bible are **not available**. The earliest available recordings of New Testament, Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus, are from 4th century. They also have been altered (Ref. 3, p78). The Greeks claim to have 5000 manuscripts, but no two are alike. When a new edition comes up, the meaning of many verses are changed under the guise of “better language”.

The Gospels:

Jesus (P*) did not write down or dictate the messages he had received from God. The life and teaching of Jesus (P*) written by others are called Gospels. After Jesus (P*) had departed, **many gospels** were written. Four of them were chosen and gradually canonized over a period of time through the Council of Nicea (325 AD), Council of Rome (382 AD) and the Third Council of Carthage (397 AD). They were not chosen by God. They were not written in Aramaic, the language of Jesus (P*). The only gospel written in Aramaic was not canonized. What we have today are Greek translations of what Jesus (P*) spoke in Aramaic. It is very important to know the exact words that the Prophet had used. Words carry special meaning in every language. The expression of “he kicked the bucket” in American English has nothing to do with a kick or with a bucket. It simply means he died. In the Greek manuscript the word ‘Paracletos’ is used to refer to (1) Jesus (P*) (B* 1 John 2:1) and (2) the person to come after Jesus (P*) to guide the humanity (B* John 14:15-16). In the English translation, the first ‘Paracletos’ is translated as ‘Advocate’ and the second as ‘Holy Ghost’!

The Bible recognizes Barnabas, a companion of Jesus, to be “an apostle”, “a good man, full of Holy spirit and of faith” (B* Acts 14:14, & 11:24). He also wrote a gospel. Instead of including it 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. In Chapter XV he refers to the Glasian Decree of 496 C.E. where “Evangelium Barnabe” is included in the list of forbidden books. The Gospels of the Hebrews, and the Gospels of the Egyptians and Thomas’s Gospel are a few of the many Gospels deliberately destroyed (Ref. 3, p77).

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Inspired Book:

Church says that Gospels are inspired books and refers to the verse 2 Timothy 3:16 (“*All scripture is inspired by God*”). But this verse refers to the scripture that Timothy studied as a child, i.e. Old Testament (B* 2 Timothy 3:15). The New Testament did not exist at that time .It was gathered after about 300 years.

- None of the authors of the four Gospels claimed to have been inspired by God to write down the accounts. God also did not confirm in the Gospels that He inspired them.
- Paul admits that many of his words were not inspired: “*To the married I give charge, not I but the Lord* (B* 1 Corinthians 7:10), “*To the rest I say, not the Lord* (B* 1 Corinthians 7:12), “*I think ...*” (B* 1 Corinthians 7:26), “*Now I, Paul, say to you ...*” (Galatians 5:2).
- Luke says that the Gospel named after him was not inspired. He says: “*it seemed good to me also, ... to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus.*” (B* Luke 1:3).

The Council of Nicea (325 AD), Council of Rome (382 AD) and the Third Council of Carthage (397 AD) selected the books of the New Testament without any divine command.

Numerous Gross Mistakes and Contradictions:

There are verses in the Bible, which, when you read them, you will feel that they are from God, the Creator of the universe. For example:

- “*I am the first, and I am the last; and besides me there is no God.*” (B* Isaiah 44:6).
- “*I am the Lord; and besides me there is no savior.*” (B* Isaiah 43:11).
- “*God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should repent.*” (B* Numbers 23:19).
- “*The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked* (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

shall be upon him.” (B* Ezekiel 18:20).

There are also verses, which, when you read, you will feel certain that they cannot be from God. It is said that the authors of the scripture were inspired by God to write, word for word, what the Prophets had said earlier. God has perfect knowledge of everything. Therefore, His revealed guidance must not have contradictions or discrepancies, not to speak of innumerable “grave and serious defects”. Christian publications admit that the Bible has thousands of mistakes and contradictions. In the preface of the ‘Bible’ (1988 edition), it reads: “Yet the King James’ version has grave defects. ... that these defects are so many and so serious as to call for revision of the English translation.” A few examples are given.

The Earth:

The earth is geo-spherical and has no corners or edges. It has no support and it constantly moves. Yet Bible describes corners and edges of the earth (B* Isaiah 11:12, Rev. 7:1, and Job 38:13). The devil takes Jesus (P*) to a high mountain and shows him the entire world, which is impossible. Bible also says the earth is firmly fixed on pillars (B* Psalms 93:1, 96:10, 104:5, 1 Samuel 2:8, and Job 26:11).

Genealogy of Jesus (P*):

Ancestors of Jesus (P*), from David (P*) to him, are given in Matthew 1:1-17 (27 generations), and in Luke 3:23-38 (42 generations). God does not say in the genealogy, inspired by Him, that Jesus (P*) is His Son. Why is the genealogy so long? It should be Jesus --> Son of God. It does not even trace the genealogy of Mary. **Further, in Matthew, father of Joseph is given as Jacob, and in Luke, he is Heli. A man cannot have two fathers. See Appendix 1 at the end.**

Apostles of Jesus (P*):

The names of the twelve apostles of Jesus (P*) are given in Matthew 10:2-4, and Luke 6:14-16. The two lists differ. It is difficult to accept that God, Matthew and Luke could not remember the names of twelve apostles chosen by Jesus (P*). However, they

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quote, word for word, what Jesus (P*) had said years earlier. Giving different names would create confusion, and the Bible says: “*God is not the author of confusion*” (B* 1 Corinthians 14:33).

Sons of Michal:

When Michal, the daughter of Saul, died the Bible records that she left no children in one verse (B* 2 Samuel 6:23), and left five sons in another verse (B* 2 Samuel 21:8). In recent editions of the Bible, the name ‘Michal’ has been changed to Merab in 2 Samuel 21:8! (The Bible, American Bible Society, 1988, P284).

Baasha invades Judah 10 years after his death:

Baasha began his reign over Israel in the third year of reign of Asa, king of Judah and he died on the 26th year of reign of Asa (B* 1 King 15:33 and 16:8).

Baasha, king of Israel, invades Judah in the 36th year of the reign of Asa (B* 2 Chronicles 16:1). That means 10 years after his death!

Son older than the father:

King died at the age of 40 and his youngest son became the king. The son was reported to be 42 years old at that time(!): “He (Jehoram) died in great agony. He was thirty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. ... And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, his youngest son, king in his stead; ... Ahaziah was forty-two years old when he began to reign” (B* 2 Chronicles 21:19, 22:2).

Death of Judas:

Matthew says: “*And throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he (Judas) departed; and he went and hanged himself.*” (B* Matthew 27:5).

Luke says: “*Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.*” (B* Acts 1:18).

Sign of Jonah:

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Jesus (P*) is quoted to have said: “*For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale; so will the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*” (B* Matthew 12:40).

Jesus’ (P*) body was taken to the tomb on Friday evening and he was raised on Sunday morning, making it only one day and two nights. Mark contradicts Matthew. He writes that Jesus (P*) left the place without making this statement (B* Mark 8:12).

Ascension:

Saint Luke is given the credit of being the author of both ‘The Acts of apostles’ and ‘The gospel’ named after him. Ascension of Jesus (P*) is described to have taken place on Easter Day in the gospel (B* Luke 24:51), and forty days after resurrection in the Acts (B* Acts 1:3, 9).

Jesus’ (P*) testimony:

“*If I bear witness to myself, my testimony is not true.*” (John 5:31).

“*Even if I do bear witness to myself my testimony is true,*” (John 8:14).

Second coming of Jesus (P*):

Jesus (P*) is quoted to have said: “*And then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ... Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away before all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.*” (B* Mark 13:26, 30-31) The people of that generation are all dead now, but Jesus (P*) has not come back yet. If Jesus (P*) had made that statement it would make him a false prophet (B* Deuteronomy 18-22).

Who is John the Baptist?

Elias is John the Baptist (Matthew 11:13-14, 17:13).

Elias is not John the Baptist (John 1:21).

Who carries the Cross?

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Jesus (P*) carries the Cross (John 19:17).

Simon carries the Cross (Matthew 27:32, Luke 23:26, Mark 15:21).

Numbering of Israel:

“Again the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, ‘Go, number Israel and Judah’” (B* 2 Samuel 24:1).

“Satan stood up against Israel, and incited David to number Israel” (B* 1 Chronicle 21:1). This is a very serious discrepancy. In no religion, God and Satan are equal or interchangeable.

The early sons of God:

The Bible says: *“When men began to multiply on the face of the ground, and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were fair; and they took to wife such of them as they chose.”* (B* Genesis 6:1-2). They appear to be the real sons of God.

God’s First Begotten Son is David (P*):

God said to David (P*): *“Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.”* (B* Psalms 2:7). God also said to Jesus (P*): *“Thou art my son, today I have begotten thee”* (B* Hebrews 5:5).

St. John says: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son,”* (B* John 3:16). God says His first begotten son is David (P*). Therefore, Jesus (P*) cannot be the only begotten Son of God. Church may claim, if at all, Jesus (P*) to be the second begotten Son of God. But that would also not be correct (see the section on “Son of God”).

First-born sons of God:

“Thus says the Lord, Israel (Jacob) is my first-born son,” (B* Exodus 4:22).

“Ephraim is my first-born.” (B* Jeremiah 31:9).

Jacob and Ephraim were not twins.

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How many sons did Benjamin have?

- Three sons (1 Chronicles 7:6),
- Five sons (1 Chronicles 8:1),
- Ten sons (Genesis 46:21).

Human life span:

God limited human life span to 120 years (B* Genesis 6:3). But soon after, people live 950 to 127 years (B* Genesis 9:29 to Genesis 23:1). How can God not be able to keep His words?

Creation of the universe:

The Bible says that God created the universe in six days (B* Genesis 2:1). But our scientists claim that it took millions of years. If it is argued that “one day” means millions of years then there are other problems. God created light on the first day but He created the sun, the source of light, on the fourth day. Again He created the plants on the third day, earlier than the sun without which plants can not survive (B* Genesis 1:3-19).

The Bible says the earth is fixed in a place (B* Psalms 93:1, 10, 104:5), it sits upon pillars (B* 1 Samuel 2:8, Job 9:6) and the heaven has pillars (B* Job 26:11). The established scientific facts contradict these views.

Embryology:

The Bible says humans are created by pouring like milk and curdled like cheese and knit together with bones (B* Job 10:9-11). It also says that humans are born out of mothers bowels (B* Psalms 71:6 and Isaiah 49:1). None of the above is true.

Moses (P*) writes the account his own death and burial:

The book of Deuteronomy is attributed to Moses (P*). Moses (P*) writes: “So *Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord, and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no man knows the place of his burial to this day.*” (B* Deuteronomy

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34:5-6). Once you are dead, you are dead. You can no more write where you died and where you were buried or who attended your funeral, for that matter.

Additions, deletions and alterations:

Many verses, which were not present in the ancient manuscripts, were added to the Bible in later years. Some of those added verses were taken out of the Bible in the 1952 edition of 'The Bible' (King James Version) only to put them back in the later editions. Some examples are given below:

- **First eleven verses of chapter 8 of Gospel of John** were taken out. This includes the famous verse "*Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her*" (B* John 8:7). **Chapter 8 starts with verse number twelve!**
- Verses, **Mark 16:9 to 20**, were taken out.
- **Both the Verses related to ascension** of Jesus (P*) into heaven, were taken out (B* Luke 24:51, and Mark 16:19).
- **The basis of trinity taken out:** The verse often quoted as the basis of trinity is 1 John 5:7: "*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the word, and the Holy Spirit: and these three are one.*" It was taken out and replaced by "*And the Spirit is the witness, because the Spirit is the truth.*" (B* 1 John 5:7).
- God gave his '*only Begotten son*' changed to '*only son*' (B* John 3:16) although there are innumerable sons of God in the Bible.
- '*Behold a virgin shall conceive*' changed to '*a young woman shall conceive*' (B* Isaiah 7:14).
- In the 1950 edition of the Bible Jesus (P*) said: "*Dost thou believe on the **Son of God***"? (B* John 9:35). In 1988 edition it has been changed to: "*Do you believe in the **son of man***?" (B* John 9:35 1988 edition).

This means that in Gospel of John the original phrase 'son

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of man' was translated as 'son of God'. None of the innumerable clergies protested against this wrong translation. Jesus (P*) did not refer to himself as 'son of God' in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, even once (refer to the section 'Son of God').

God chooses wrong Prophets in the Bible:

Prophets were special people chosen by God. They represented God on earth. They were role models and gave guidance to the humanity. In the Bible we find:

- **Prophet Solomon (P*) worshipped false Gods** (B* 1 Kings 11:9-10).
- **Prophet David (P*) sent for Uriah's wife, Bathseba, and committed adultery with her** (B* 2 Samuel 11:2-5).
- **Prophet Judah, the father of Jewish race, committed incest with his daughter-in-law Tamar** (B* Genesis 38:15-18).
- **The two daughters of Prophet Lot committed incest with their father** (B* Genesis 19:30-36).
- **Absalom, David's (P*) son, committed incest with his father's concubines.** "*Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel*" (B* 2 Samuel 16:22).
- **Amnon, David's (P*) son, committed rape and incest with his half-sister, Tamar:** "*and being stronger than she (Tamar), he (Amnon) forced her, and lay with her*" (B* 2 Samuel 13:14).
- According to the Bible, **Prophet Noah got drunk** himself and lay naked. One of his sons, Ham, found it and told to his brothers who covered him up. Because of this, when Noah woke up, he **curse his innocent grandson Canaan to slavery** (B* Genesis 9:25). Canaan was not even there.

What moral lessons the Bible is giving to the followers with these examples?

Bible on Slavery:

"... you may buy male and female slaves from among the

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nations that are round about you” (B Leviticus 25:44) ... “You may bequeath them to your sons after you, to inherit as a possession for ever.” (B* Leviticus 25:46).*

“When you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve six years, and in the seventh he shall go out free, for nothing.” (B Exodus 21:2).*

Bible on Alcohol:

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

“Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.” (B Proverbs 31:6-7).*

“Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for your stomach’s sake and thine often infirmities.” (B 1 Timothy 5:23).*

If you fail in one point you are guilty of all of it:

“For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it” (B James 2:10).*

Punishment for gathering firewood on the Sabbath day:

A man was found to gather firewood on Sabbath day. “The Lord said to Moses ‘*The man shall be put to death’ ... And all congregation brought him outside the camp, and stoned him to death with stones” (B* Numbers 15:36).*

Discrimination against women:

- If a male child is born mother remains unclean for 40 days, but if a female child is born mother will remain unclean for 80 days (B* Leviticus 12:1-5).
- The Bible says that **the woman cannot be a teacher, or have authority over man. She is to keep silent** (B* 1 Timothy 2:12).
- **If a woman does not cover her head, her head needs to be**

shaved (B* 1 Corinthians 11:6).

- Woman is blamed for giving the fruit from the forbidden tree to Adam, whereby the human race lost the paradise. Her punishment for this is to deliver children in pain, and her husband is to rule over her (B* Genesis 3:16).

There are innumerable contradictions and errors in the Bible. The Bible itself recognized the lack of its reliability by this verse: “*How can you, say, ‘We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us’? But behold, the false pen of the scribes has made it into a lie.*” (B* Jeremiah 8:8). God has perfect knowledge of everything. Therefore, His revealed scripture cannot have innumerable contradictions or discrepancies.

Curse of God:

There is a dire warning of curse of plague to those who add to or take away anything from the Bible (B* Revelation 22:18-19; B* Deuteronomy. 12:32). Besides other changes, either the Catholics have added seven books to the Bible or the Protestants have deleted them from it. **Either way, the Bible condemns one half of Christians.**

Jesus (P*) said: “*He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much*” (B* Luke 16:10).

Mrs. Ellen G. White, a “Prophetess” of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, in her Bible Commentary Vol. 1 writes, “Truly, the Bible is the infallible Word of God.” “Yes, it is adulterated, but pure.” “It is human, yet divine.” This comment probably does not make much sense to a person who can use common sense.

Test of a believer in the Bible:

Confirmation / Falsification Test

Jesus (P*) said in the Bible: “*And these signs will accompany those that believe; in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents; and if they*

drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (B* Mark 16:17-18)

There are over a billion Christians in the world. Not a single person, including the Pope, the Cardinals, the Bishops, the Priests, the Pastors, and the Reverends, is willing to take this test and prove that they believe in Jesus (P*) and the Bible.

It should be abundantly clear by now that the Bible has been altered. It has innumerable contradictions and discrepancies. The learned writers of the preface of the Bible (1988 edition) writes that it “has grave defects ... that these defects are so many and so serious.” Accepting altered Revealed scripture will be like drinking pure milk contaminated with poison.

One day, after this worldly life, everyone will return to God. If a person follows the wrong scripture and God asks that person: “Why did you follow the Book that was not recorded by the Prophets, altered repeatedly, and contained innumerable errors and contradictions? I warned that ‘the scribes had made it into a lie’”. What would that person reply? If God further says: “why did you not follow the Quran, which I confirmed to be My Scripture? It was accurately recorded by the Prophet, and transmitted without alteration (as promised by Me). No one could produce a book or even a chapter like this revealed book when I challenged the humanity. You could not find any error in it. I revealed scientific mysteries thousands of years ahead through an unlettered Prophet, to prove that it was from Me. Why did you not follow it? Did I not give you the ability to think, to reason and judge, and then choose?” What would that person say at that time? Should we not all prepare ourselves to answer these questions? Take a few moments and ponder over it.

God has perfect knowledge.

His revealed Book cannot have

“Innumerable grave defects”.

**“Whereas monumental errors are to be found in the Bible,
I could not find a single error in the Quran”
(The Bible, The Quran And Science by
Dr. Maurice Bucaille).**

“Read in the name of thy Lord who created man.” (Q* 96:1)

God, the Creator

Everything that we see around us has been created by someone. The houses, cars, TV, radios, spacecrafts etc. did not come into existence by themselves. Although we do not know the individuals who assembled them, we know for sure that human hands are behind their existence.

If the aborigines of the deep Amazon forest, in the days when they did not come in contact with any one of the known civilized world, would see an airplane for the first time flying in the sky, they would probably be very amazed. However, if they see the same plane passing by, say once every week, they would probably think it to be a natural phenomenon, just the way we think of the Haley's comet.

If "beings of outer space" ever see our spacecrafts, they probably will marvel at the precise function of their intricate mechanical and electronic parts. If they observe the exact orbital path that these spacecrafts follow, will they think that these came into existence by themselves, having no hand behind their creation and function?

Many atheists demand a scientific proof for the existence of God. In general, logical arguments backed by science will convince the majority.

Theory of Probability

According to the 'Theory of probability' if a coin is tossed, your chance of guessing it correctly is 50% (1 out of 2). If tossed for the second time the chance of guessing it correctly both the times is 50% of 50% that means 25%. The chance of guessing it correctly for the third time also reduced to 12½%.

If a dice with six sides is tossed, your chance of guessing it correctly is 1 in 6. If tossed for the second time the chance of guessing it correctly both the times is one in (6X6) 36. The chance of guessing it correctly for the third time also reduced to 1 in 216, which means less than 0.5%.

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The Rational Choice
God The Creator

At the time when the Quran was revealed, people thought the world was flat. It could have been thought to be triangular, quadrangular, pentagonal, hexagonal, heptagonal, octagonal, spherical, oblong, pyramidal, etc. Let us assume that there could be 30 different shapes. Therefore, the chance of guessing it correctly is 1 in 30. To guess it correctly for the second time is 1 in 900.

The chance for a person to guess the coin, the dice and the earthly shape correctly once, is one in $(2 \times 6 \times 30)$ 360, and two times in a row will be one in $(4 \times 36 \times 900)$ 129,000.

One hundred balls, each one numbered, are put in a box and mixed together and you are asked to bring out ball # 1 with your eyes closed. If you bring out the balls one after another, the chance of bringing out ball # 1 is 1 in 100. However, if you are asked to bring out the balls in perfect series from one to hundred then what is the chance of you bringing them out of the box in perfect order even once? What about bringing them out correctly every time? Mathematicians say that the chance is zero.

We did not know how life started or what it is composed of. Was it oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, carbon, gold, silver, aluminum, copper etc or any of the hundreds of thousands of combination of them? Quran mentions that life originated from water. Our scientists also say the same thing. Who could have said it correctly, in the days when Quran was revealed, except by the creator of life Himself?

Each human cell performs thousands of complex chemical reactions every day for its proper function and exact reproduction. The chemical formula and the reactions of the components are so precise that even the slight alteration of the formula will result into a different product. All the tissues and organs in the body obey the biological laws set forth for them. The brain does not perform the function of heart and the heart does not perform the function of kidney, although they all started with two cells in the womb. How these two cells differentiate, at specific stages of development, into these organs, which are very different from each other? The complex and intimate relationships between the organs are precise and governed by fundamental laws. We may utilize these laws, already set forth for them, to our advantage, but in no way can we

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alter these fundamental laws. There are millions of species in this planet earth. Each one performs the function they are programmed to perform. Did all these came into existence and perform their functions by chance?

There are hundreds of scientific information in Quran, which were not known to man in those days. They were outside the bounds of human knowledge and beyond human ability to produce them. Each of them is correct. According to the theory of probability, it was impossible for any one to guess all of them correctly in those days.

When we buy a TV, radio, VCR or a printer, the manufacturer provides us with a booklet giving information about the machine, how it functions and how to operate it. If a new a machine, which no one in the world has ever seen or heard of before, is shown to the people and then a question is asked, “who is the first person to be able to provide detail information about this machine? The obvious answer will be the inventor, or the manufacturer or creator of the machine.

Our scientists say that initially the universe was composed of condensed gas, mainly Hydrogen and Helium. Later it was transformed into a solid mass. There was intense concentration of pure energy in the center of the mass, which later exploded and created countless celestial bodies of the universe. This is today’s accepted ‘Big Bang of Creation of Universe’. Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson confirmed the Big Bang Theory in 1964 and won the Nobel Prize in 1978.

In 1929, **Edwin P. Hubble**, an astronomer at Caltech, proved that the universe is expanding. He died unexpectedly in 1953 and did not win the Nobel Prize.

Quran says:

- *“Then turned He (God) to the heaven when it was smoke” (41:11).*
- *“Do not the unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were joined together (as one unit of creation), before We*

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clove them asunder?” (Q 21: 30).*

- *“We have built the heaven with might, and it is We who make the vast (universe) extent (thereof).” (Q* 51:47)*

In ancient times, we believed that earth was the center of the universe and it was flat. In the 16th century Copernicus found out that the earth was neither flat nor was it the center of the universe, rather it was round and moved in an orbit. **Galileo confirmed Copernicus’** view but the Church forced him to recant it in 1633 A. D. (Ref. 4, p158). One thousand years earlier, The Quran revealed: *“(God is) the One who created the night, the day, the sun, and the moon. Each one is traveling in an orbit with its motion” (Q* 21:33).*

Professor Keith L. Moore is the professor of anatomy and Embryology at the University of Toronto, Canada. He is the author of the book of embryology titled “The Developing Human” which received the ‘Best Book of the Year’ award by a single author. He was also the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. He was surprised to learn the details of the embryonic human development described in the Quran. In 1981, while giving a lecture at an international conference, he agreed that such detailed description on human development within the mother’s womb, during the period of Mohammad (P*), could only come from God, the creator of the universe. He then embraced Islam.

Professor Frank Press is the co-author of the book titled ‘The Earth’, which is a reference book on geology. He was the President of National Academy of Sciences of USA and the Science advisor to **President of U.S.A., Jimmy Carter**. He says in the book, ‘The Earth’, that mountain has deep underlying roots, which is 5 to 10 times deeper than its height. **Cailleux** also confirms this in the book ‘Anatomy of the Earth’. God says in the Quran:

“Have We not made the earth as wide expanse, and the mountains as pegs?” (Q* 78: 6-7). Pegs have small tops and very long shafts. It is a beautiful description for the common people to understand how the mountains stand on earth.

Modern theory of Plate Tectonics holds that mountains

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work as stabilizers of the earth. It is like a small piece of metal that we put in a car wheel to 'balance' it. An unbalanced wheel wobbles. God says in the Quran:

“And He has set up on the earth mountains standing firm, lest it should shake with you; and rivers and roads; that ye may guide yourselves.” (Q* 16:15)

Modern science has discovered that when the Mediterranean Sea water (warmer and more saline) enters into Atlantic sea over the Gibraltar sill, it remains separate from the colder and less saline Atlantic Sea water for a long distance. God says in the Quran:

“He has set free the two seas (bodies of flowing water), meeting together: between them is a barrier which they do not transgress.” (Q* 55:19-20)

The same thing occurs when the sweet water of the river enters into the salt water of the sea. God says in the Quran:

“It is He Who has let free the two bodies of flowing water: one palatable and sweet, and the other salty and bitter; yet has He made a barrier between them, a partition that is forbidden to be passed.” (Q* 25:53)

How was it possible for an unlettered person to reveal the scientific mysteries thousand years ahead when no man on earth had any knowledge of them, unless God revealed them to him?

Dr. Maurice Bucaille, a Christian physician and a scholar of religion from France, wrote: *“The above observation makes the hypothesis advanced by those who see Muhammad as the author of Qur’an untenable. How could a man, from being illiterate, become the most important author, in terms of literary merits, in the whole of Arabic literature? How could he then pronounce truths of a scientific nature that no other human being could possibly have developed at that time, and all this without making the slightest error in his pronouncement on the subject?”* (Ref. 4, p125).

God has perfect knowledge of everything. Therefore, His revealed guidance must not have contradictions or discrepancies.

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The Rational Choice
God The Creator

Quran says: *“Do they not consider the Quran (with care)? Had it been from other than God, they would surely have found therein much discrepancy...”* (Q* 4: 82).

Dr. Maurice Bucaille writes: *“Whereas monumental errors are to be found in the Bible, I could not find a single error in the Quran”* (Ref. 4, p120).

We see the apparent lifeless seeds grow into plants with life. Again, we see plants and animals, full with life, made into lifeless materials. We also observe the vast universe, its grand design, the superb organization, and its precise and flawless functions. According to the theory of probability, it was not possible for any human to tell all the scientific facts mentioned in the Quran without a single mistake in the days when Quran was revealed, unless the Creator revealed them. It is He who brought into existence each and everything around us and beyond and governs them by laws that are perfect. This is God, our Creator and the Creator of the universe.

God says in the Quran: *“Soon We will show them our signs in the (farthest) regions (of the earth), and in their own souls, until it becomes manifest to them that this is the Truth. Is it not enough that thy Lord doth witness all things?”* (Q* 41:53).

Francis Bacon, the famous philosopher, has rightly said that ‘a little knowledge of science makes man an atheist, but an in-depth study of science makes him a believer in God’.

When we want to perceive anything in our environment, we use our organs of perception, e.g. skin, eye, ear, nose, and tongue. We do not see the air but we can feel it and see its effect in the environment. Things that cannot be perceived by the organs of perception, we try to understand them by using our intellect. We discuss their characteristics. In the case of God, we understand Him by understanding His attributes.

Most of the scriptures of religions do not give correct and comprehensive definition of God. If you do not have correct definition of God you may end up with wrong gods. Suppose you pay a person handsome money and ask him to get you a lion, and (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

you give him a definition of lion as a wild animal which hunt and eat meat. If he now brings you a wild dog you will have to accept it. Because of incomplete definition, instead of getting lion you will end up getting a wild dog.

The definition of God is given in Quran in four small verses: “*Say he is God, the One and only; God, the Eternal, Absolute; He begetteth not, nor is He begotten; and there is none like unto Him.*” (Q* 112: 1-4). If you analyze these verses you cannot fit any one other than God in these verses.

Attributes of God:

All the attributes of God are unique and only belong to Him. Every of His attributes point towards oneness of God and maintains the unity of His Lordship. God must be worshipped as one, and not along with some one else, or in place of some one else, or through some one else. His attributes cannot be given to any one else and no one’s attribute can be given to Him. His attributes, if reversed, point only towards Him. For example, if we state that ‘God is The Creator of the universe’ and then ask, who is ‘The Creator of the universe’? It is God and no one else. But if we state that ‘John Gibson is a doctor’ and then ask ‘who is a doctor?’ There would be thousands of doctors beside John Gibson. God’s attributes are unique. No one other than God can have these unique attributes. His attributes are absolute, perfect, complete, unconditional, unlimited, independent, ultimate, and everlasting. There cannot be two authorities with absolute attributes.

The correct attributes of God cannot be combined with wrong attributes. One cannot say: (1) “God can heal all illness but when He went to Jerusalem, He could not heal the people because of their disbelief in Him” Or say (2) “God has perfect knowledge and ability but when He faces difficult problem in heaven he has to consult a human Rabbi”. God’s abilities do not depend on our belief or disbelief. Rabbi Menachen writes in his comments for the Fifth Book of Talmud (Jewish Scripture): “*Jehovah himself asks the opinions of earthly rabbis when there are difficult affairs in heaven.*”

God's attributes cannot be separated and given to different authorities, like one is the creator and another is the preserver or Sustainer. In that case there will be multiple incomplete Divine Authorities and will create confusion in the universe. One of them will either have no authority over the others, or if he has power over the others, then the others will have no independent authority. God is the Ultimate Authority of every affair. Multiple Divine Authorities will make incomplete, inadequate, and deficit gods. They will fight and kill each other trying to gain power over the others as we find with the gods of some religion.

God is One and Only:

- In the Bible God said: *“I am the first, and I am the last; and besides me there is no God”* (B* Isaiah 44:6).
- *“I am God, and there is none like me”* (B* Isaiah 46:9).
- *“You shall have no other gods besides me.”* (B* Exodus 20:3).
- Jesus (P*) said *“The first of all commandments is, ‘Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord’ “* (B* Mark 12:29, B* Deut 6:4).
- The Quran says: *“Say, He is God, The One and Only”* (Q* 112:1).
- Hindu scripture Rig Veda says: *“There is only one God, worship Him”* (Rig Veda, Vol. 6, Hymn 45, verse 16).

Every Prophet proclaimed unity of God. No Prophet ever proclaimed more than one God and no Prophet ever claimed to be God. Jesus (P*) did not teach Trinity nor did he say that he was a part of Trinity. For detail, refer to the section ‘The Holy Trinity’.

Islam believes that there is only one God, and no one else is divine (Q* 112:1).

God is The Creator of universe:

The scriptures confirm this. Creator is different from the created. The Creator God is eternal but all created are temporal. **Ability to** (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

create' being the most important attribute of God, it, therefore, follows that if one cannot create, one cannot be God. **Jesus (P*) said: "I can of mine own self do nothing"** (B* John 5:30).

God is Eternal and Absolute:

Being eternal, God has no beginning and no end. Nothing caused Him to come to existence and nothing outside Him causes Him to exist. Therefore, He is self-sustained. His attributes are also absolute and everlasting.

There cannot be two creators with absolute attributes. It also follows that anything that has a beginning or an end cannot be God.

God is Most Gracious, Most Merciful:

All religions agree to this. 113 chapters of the Quran (out of 114) begin with: "In the name of God, the most gracious and most merciful."

The Quran also reads: "***And He is oft-forgiving, full of loving kindness***" (Q* 85:14).

"On those who believe and work deeds of righteousness, will (God) Most Gracious bestow Love" (Q* 19:96).

In the Bible one gets a little confused when God says:

- *"When the land which you are entering to take possession ... and you defeat them; then you must utterly destroy them"* (B* Deuteronomy 7:2).
- *"You shall surely put the inhabitants of that city to the sword, destroying it utterly, all who are in it and the cattle, with the edge of the sword ... you shall save alive nothing that breathes"* (B* Deuteronomy 13:15; 20:16).
- *"Thus says the Lord of hosts, ... Now go and smite Am'alek, and utterly destroy all that they have; do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass."* (B* 1 Samuel 15:2-3). Similar order is also seen in Ezekiel 9:5-6.

- *“The Lord said: Because they have forsaken me ... and have burned incense in it unto other gods... I will make them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and everyone shall eat the flesh of their neighbor”* (B* Jeremiah 19:4, 9 & Leviticus 26:29).
- God wants the first born son to be sacrificed to Him: *“The first-born of your sons you shall give to me.”* (Exodus 22:29).

Therefore, when God orders innocent animals, little children; women and old people to be killed and makes parents eat the flesh of their sons and daughters; **God in the Bible does not appear to be a very kind, all loving and all forgiving God.** The Bible says that **God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son to redeem the sins of the world** (B* John 3:16).

God is Invisible:

- The Bible says: *“No man hath seen God at any time”* (B* John 1:18).
- *“Whom no man hath seen nor can see.”* (1 Timothy 6:16).
- Jesus (P*) said *“Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape”* (B* John 5:37).
- God said to Moses (P*) *“Thou canst see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live”* (B* Exodus 33:20).
- The Quran says: *“No vision can grasp Him”* (Q* 6:103).

The Bible and the Quran agree that God is invisible. Therefore, no one who is, or was, visible to the human eye, can be God. Jesus (P*) was visible to the human eyes and people heard his voice.

Confusion arises when one finds in the Bible that Jacob (P*) saw God and nothing happened to him. He said, *“For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved”* (B* Genesis 32:30)!

- Abraham (P*) also saw God face to face and fed Him (B* Genesis 18:1-8). Other examples are:
- *“Then went up Moses (P*), and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu,*

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and seventy of the elders of Israel: And they saw the God of Israel:” (Exodus 24:9)

- “And the Lord spake to Moses (P*) face to face, as a man speaketh to his friend.” (Exodus 33:11).
- “I saw the LORD standing upon the altar” (Amos 9:1).
- “And the LORD appeared unto him (Isaac P*)...” (Genesis 26:2).
- “And I will take away my hand, and thou shalt see my back parts.” (Exodus 33:23).

God is Just:

- 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).
- The Quran also says: “*God is never unjust in the least degree*” (Q* 4:40).
- “*O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to God, even as against yourselves*” (Q* 4:135).

As a just God, He cannot punish ‘A’ for the crime of ‘B’. Therefore, God cannot crucify innocent Jesus (P*) to redeem the guilty. Concept of redemption by crucifying Jesus (P*) is against the teaching of the Bible.

God does not incarnate:

In the Old Testament, there are many prophecies about future Prophets and events. There is no prophecy for God to incarnate. The Bible says: “*For God is not the author of confusion*” (B* 1 Corinthians 14:33).

The concept of incarnation and Trinity existed long before Christianity. It appears that Christianity has borrowed these doctrines from them, with some modification.

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God is All-knowing:

- The Quran says: *“He knows what is in the havens and on earth; and He knows what you conceal and what you reveal: yes, God knows well the (secrets) of (all) hearts”* (Q* 64:4).

In certain verses of the Bible, God does not appear to be informed of the present or future events.

- God said to Prophet Abraham (P*): *“I will go down to see whether they (people of Sodom and Gomorrah) have done altogether according to the outcry which has come to me: and if not, I will know”* (B* Genesis 18:21).
- *“And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the sons of men had built”* (B* Genesis 11:5).
- God also regrets creating man and destroying every living creature in flood: (1) **“And the Lord was sorry that he made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the Lord said, I am sorry that I have made them”** (B* Genesis 6:6-7). (2) *“...the Lord said in his heart, ‘I will never again curse the ground because of man, ...neither will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done’”* (B* Genesis 8:21). Did He then make mistakes?

It appears that when God created man, He did not know in advance what man would be doing in future!

God has no limitation of ability:

The Quran says: *“For God hath power over all things.”* (Q* 2:184). *“Glory be to Him. When He determines a matter, He only says to it, ‘Be’, and it is”* (Q* 19:35).

- **In the Bible we find God got tired after creating the havens and the earth, and needed rest:** *“That in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed”* (B* Exodus 31:17).
- **God wrestled with Jacob at night in a tent but He did not prevail against Jacob.** *“Then he (God) said, ‘Let me go, for the*

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day is breaking'. But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me' ... Then he (God) said, 'your name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed'” (B Genesis 32:24, 25, 26, 28).*

- **God was with Judah but could not help him win.** “*And the LORD was with Judah; and he took possession of the hill country, but he could not drive out the inhabitants of the plain, because they had chariots of iron”.* (B* Judges 1:19)

God is the Savior:

In the Bible **God said: “*I am the Lord; and besides me there is no savior*”** (B* Isaiah 43:11 and Hosea 13:4). Therefore, one cannot take any one, beside God, as his or her savior.

God is Truth and Honesty:

In the Bible God tells people to be dishonest.

- Before the Exodus, God said to Moses (P*): “*when ye go, ye shall not go empty: but every woman shall borrow of her neighbor, and of her that sojourneth in her home, jewels of silver and jewels of Gold, and raiment: and you shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters: and you shall spoil the Egyptians”* (B* Exodus 3:22).
- **God says in Quran: “*And cover not truth with falsehood, nor conceal the truth when you know (what it is)*”** (Q* 2:42).

Sons of God:

Son of a human is a human, that of a lion is a lion, and son of God should be a God.

Sons and daughters of God, as mentioned in some Scriptures, are only metaphorical. In the Bible God said:

“*God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should repent*” (Numbers 23:19).

The Quran says: “*God begetteth not, nor is He begotten*” (Q* 112:3). It also says: “*It is not befitting to (the Majesty of) God that*

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He should beget a son. Glory be to Him. When He determines a matter, He only says to it, 'Be', and it is" (Q 19:35).*

In the Bible God has many sons, even two first-born sons who were not twins.

- *"Thus saith the Lord, Israel (Jacob P*) is my son, even my first-born" (B* Exodus 4:22).*
- *"and Ephraim is my first-born" (B* Jeremiah 31:9). Jacob (P*) and Ephraim were not twins.*
- God said to **David (P*)**: *"Thou art my son; this day have I begotten thee" (B* Psalms 2:7).*
- God also said to Jesus (P*): *"Thou art my son, today I have begotten thee" (B* Hebrews 5:5).*

This makes David (P*) the first begotten Son of God and Jesus (P*) the second begotten Son of God. In the Gospel, John contradicts God by saying: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son ..."* (B* John 3:16).

Some Bible verses are a little confusing. It appears that God truly has real sons. *"When men began to multiply on the face of the ground and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw the daughters of men were fair; and they took to wife such of them as they chose. Then the Lord said, 'My spirit shall not abide in man for ever, ...when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men that were of old, the men of renown" (B* Genesis 6:1-6).*

There are some other verses which are also a little confusing.

- God ate at Abraham's (P*) place (B* Genesis 18:8).
- God Sleeps (Psalms 78:65 and 44:23).
- When Adam and Eve were hiding among trees after eating fruits from the forbidden tree, God was looking for them and said: *"where are you?"* (B* Genesis 3:8-9). He did not know where they were.

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- God orders prophet Isaiah to go naked and barefooted for three years (B* Isaiah 20:2-3). It is difficult to imagine a Prophet, a role model, walking around naked for three years!

Personal Name of God:

Search for the Creator of the universe is as old as the history of mankind. Man has called his Creator by different names at different times. ‘God’ is one of such names.

God is a common noun. Although we all are men, each of us has a personal name. The personal name of God in Aramaic (the mother tongue of Jesus-P*) is ALAHA. In Hebrew, it is ALAH, ELAH, or ELOH. (Encyclopedia Britannica 1980, ‘On church doctrines’, & New and improved edition of the Bible, edited by Rev. C. I. Scofield). In Arabic it is Allah.

According to the Bible, when Jesus (P*) was being crucified, he cried out “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabach thani? which means, ‘My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?’*” (B* Mark 15:34).

In the Quran God says: “*Say (O’ Mohammed), He is Allah, the one and only*” (Q*. 112:1). Allah is from AL-ILAH, the one to be worshipped.

In the Arabic Bible, published by the church, the name of Creator is given as Allah. A name does not change with language. Mr. White does not change into Mr. Blanco when he travels to Mexico.

Moses, Jesus, and Mohammad (P*) all called our Creator by the same name. Should not we call Him by the same name?

Allah is a unique name. It has no plural, no gender, and it cannot be mutilated as we see with the word ‘God’ viz. God (greater God), god (lesser God), Gods, Godfather, Godmother, Godson, Goddaughter, Godchild, Godhead, Goddess, Godless, Godlike, Godly, Godsend, and even Goddamned.

From the above discussion it is clear that **the personal name of our Creator is Allah (Alaha/Alah/Elah/Eloh). Instead of using**

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a generic name for our Creator we all should use the personal name which our Prophets, Moses, Jesus and Mohammad (P*) used.

Concept of God in Hindu Scripture:

- *“There is only one God, worship Him”* (Rig Veda, Vol. 6, Hymn 45 vs. 16).
- *“Do not worship any one beside Him”* (Rig Veda Bk. 8, Hymn 1, Vs 1).
- *“God is only one, not a second”*- (Chandogya Upanishad Ch. 6, Section 2, verse 1).
- Brahma Sutra, main creed of Vedanta, reads: *“There is only one God, not a second one; not at all, not at all, not in the least of it.”* (In Hindi: -*“Bhagaban ek hi hai, dusra nehi hai, nehi hai, jera bhi nehi hai”*).
- *“Of Him there is no parent or Lord”* (Spretas patara Upanishad Ch 6 Verse 9).

Physical form of God:

- *“There is no image of Him”* (*“God is formless and bodiless.”*) (Yajur Veda, Chap. 32:3)
- *“God is bodiless and pure”* (Yajur Veda, Chap. 40:8)
- *“There is no likeness of Him.* (Spretas patara Upanishad Ch 4:19).
- *“His form can not be seen”* (Spretas patara Upanishad Ch 4:20).
- *“Of that God you cannot make any images”* (Yajur Veda, Chap. 3:32)

Worship of God:

- *“He is unborn and He should be worshipped.”* (Yajur Veda, Chap. 32:4)
- *“Do not worship any one beside Him”* (Rig Veda Bk. 8, Hymn 1, Vs 1)

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The Rational Choice
The Holy Trinity

- *“All those who worship the Asambhuti (things of nature like fire, air, water etc.) they are in darkness, and you will enter more into darkness if you worship Sambhuti (the created things like idols & statues).”* (Yajur Veda, Chap. 40:9).
- *“Those whose intelligence has been stolen by materialistic desires, they worship Demigods.”* (Bhagavad Gita 7:19-21).

After all the above discussions it may be a little difficult for many people, who are willing to use reason, to accept a God who

- (1) is ignorant of present and future events,
- (2) regrets for his past actions,
- (3) is unable to win a wrestling match with a man,
- (4) orders innocent women, children, elderly people, and animals to be put to sword, after their city has been occupied, and
- (5) advises people to be dishonest.

In Summary:

God is The Creator of the Universe.

He is One and Only. He is not a part of Trinity. There is no partner with Him in divinity.

He has no parent and no children. He does not beget, nor is He begotten.

He does not incarnate.

He has no beginning and no end. He is Eternal, Absolute and Everlasting.

He is the Most Gracious, Most Merciful, Most Forgiving and Most Loving God.

He is the Most Just. He does not punish the innocent to redeem the guilty.

He is Invisible but Omnipresent.

He is the Cherisher and Sustainer.

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He has no limitation of ability. He does not get tired and does not need rest or sleep.

He is the All-knowing. He is not ignorant of the future and does not regret.

He is the only Savior.

He is the Most Unique Pure Monotheistic God: Allah/ Alaha/ Alah/ Elah/Eloh.

**“You shall have no other gods besides me.”
(Bible, Exodus 20:3).**

**“God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man,
that he should repent.” (Bible, Numbers 23:19).**

**There is only one God. Seek for His Guidance, &
You will find it.**

The Holy Trinity

The cardinal doctrines of Christianity are the following:

1. The Holy Trinity
2. Divinity of Jesus (P*)
3. Divine sonship of Jesus (P*)
4. Crucifixion and Resurrection
5. Original sin and Blood Atonement.
6. Salvation by faith

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The Athanasian Creed of Christianity defines Trinity as:

- *“There is one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost. However, the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one; the Glory equal, the Majesty co-eternal. ... The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not three Gods, but one God”* (Ref. 24, p29).
- Encyclopedia Catholica says, *“The persons are co-equal and co-eternal”* (Ref. 25 -p71). This, it is said, means that God is one in essence but three in person, indivisible, and inseparable.

Triadic beliefs in religion existed long before Christianity.

- **Hindu Trinity** consists of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. Each of them is a God, but combined together they make one God.
- **Persian triad** of Ahura Mazda (Ohrmazd - ‘Wise Lord’), Ahriman (the ‘Destructive Spirit’), and Mithra. (Ref. 5, p74)
- **Babylonian triad** of Anu, Enlil, and Enki;
- **Egyptian triad** of Osiris, Isis, and Horus; and
- **Roman triad** of Jupiter, Juno, and Minerva;

To understand Trinity one needs to know the various mythological stories, believed by the people of the region, in the days when Jesus (P*) was born. These beliefs were deeply ingrained in their hearts. The following are a few examples.

Mithras was a Persian deity, and was a part of Persian Trinity which consists of (1). Ahura Mazda or Ohrmazd, (2). Mithras and (3). Ahriman (Ref. 5, p74). Ahura Mazda or Ohrmazd, is the supreme and wise ‘God of Heavenly Light’ Mithras is the ‘sun-god,’ the ‘light of the world. Ahriman is the “destructive spirit” and is the ‘lord of darkness.’ Mithras is regarded as the god of truth, righteousness, justice and bravery.’ He was born of a virgin mother, Anahita, on 25 December. His birthday used to be celebrated annually by millions of people of Middle East, India and Europe as Saturnalia. He was regarded as the ‘light of the world’ and ‘savior

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of mankind'. He was a mediator between heaven and earth. He had twelve close associates. He remained celibate throughout his life. After his earthly mission was accomplished, he took part in a 'Last Supper' with his companions before ascending to heaven, to forever protect the faithful from above. One of the seven sacraments of the followers was ritualistic purification of the faithful where the participant used bread and wine to symbolize the body and blood of their god, as we find it in Eucharistic supper (Ref. 26, p67).

Dionysius of Greece was born of a virgin mother and was regarded as the only begotten son of Jupiter. He was born on 25th of December. He called himself the Alpha and Omega and was regarded as the Redeemer and Savior. He was resurrected from the dead (Ref. 26, p66).

Adonis of Syria, believed to be the Savior of mankind, was born of a virgin mother. He died for the redemption of mankind and rose from the dead in spring (Easter) (Ref. 26, p66).

Attis of Turkey was also born of a virgin mother. He was regarded as the 'only begotten son and a savior'. He died and was then resurrected (Ref. 26 -p66).

Osiris of Egypt was also born of a virgin mother. He was slain but later rose from the dead (Ref. 26, p67).

Romulus of Italy was born of a virgin mother and was regarded as the son of Mars. After death, he returned to earth to meet his successors (Ref. 26, p15).

Trinity was unknown to the early Christians as one of their religious doctrines. Jesus (P*) did not teach it. The New Catholic Encyclopedia agrees that the Doctrine of Trinity was unknown to the early Christians: "*Among the Apostolic Fathers, there had been nothing even remotely approaching such a mentality or perspective.*" (The New Catholic Encyclopedia-1967. art. 'The Holy Trinity' -Vol. 14, p295) The people of the region had a deeply ingrained belief of virgin birth, begotten son, redemption, atonement, death and resurrection. This helped the early Christian leaders to develop Trinity as the principal doctrine of Christianity over a period of three hundred years.

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Tertullian (160-220 C.E.), was a lawyer and a Christian writer of great repute from Carthage, Africa. In 200 A. D., he introduced Trinity in Christianity as ‘Trinitas’ (Ref. 5, p15 & 77). In 325 A. D., at the Council of Nicea, Bishop Athanasius of Alexandria established Trinity, as the cardinal doctrine of Christianity, against strong opposition. In this conference, Jesus (P*) was declared to be “God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God.” (Hastings’ Encyclopedia of Ethics and Religion, vol. IV, p239).

The controversy over Trinity continued. In 451 A. D., the Council of Chalcedon made the Nicene Creed as authoritative. Thereafter no dissent was tolerated but suppressed brutally by mutilation and death.

Initially Trinity included God, Jesus (P*), and Mary, the Mother of Jesus (P*). **The General Council of Ephesus**, held in 431 A. D., gave a ruling to **also worship Mary as goddess**, as she was the ‘Mother of God Jesus (P*) (A short history of Christianity- G. M. Robertson, p148). Worshipping Mary as ‘Mother of God’, offended many believers and later on, she was replaced by the ‘Holy Ghost’ (Ref. 5, p80).

The Basis of Trinity is said to be the following verse:

- *“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one” (B* I John 5:7).*

The earliest Greek manuscripts of New Testament are **Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Vaticanus. They date back to fourth century. They do not contain this verse.** It is only found in the Greek manuscripts of 15th and 16th centuries, which means it has been added later (Ref. 5, p78).

Renowned historian Edward Gibbon calls the addition a “Pious Fraud” in his famous history book ‘Decline and Fall of Roman Empire’.

In the recent Bible, this verse has been replaced with “And the Spirit is the witness, because the Spirit is the truth” (B* 1 John

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5:7). What is the basis of Trinity now?

Jesus (P*) said; “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,” (Matthew 28:19). Church leaders say: does this not prove the ‘Doctrine of Trinity’?

Tom Harpur, author of several bestsellers and a former professor of New Testament, writes in his book **‘For Christ’s Sake’**; “All but the most conservative of scholars agree that at least the latter part of this command was inserted later”.

Jesus (P*) did not teach Trinity. Rather he proclaimed unity of God. He said: “*The first of all commandments is ‘Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord’*” (B* Mark 12:28-29).

God also confirmed it in the Bible. He said: “*I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god*” (B* Isaiah 44:6).

- **No Prophet ever uttered the word ‘Trinity’.**
- **No Prophet ever said that there is more than one God.**
- **No Prophet ever claimed to be God or equal to God.**
- **The word ‘Trinity’ is found neither in the Bible, nor in the Bible dictionary.**

According to Holy Trinity, **all the three in the Godhead are Gods, co-equal and co-eternal.** Therefore, the followers should equally worship God, Jesus (P*) and the Holy Ghost. However, they do not.

The Bible says that those who do not touch anything unclean are **‘children of God’** (B* 2 Corinthians 6:17-18). They **are not called ‘children of Holy Ghost’ or ‘children of Jesus (P*)’.**

Although the three Godheads are **co-equal**, only one of them, ‘God Jesus’ (P*), is seen to pray to ‘God the Father’ and not to ‘God the Holy Ghost’. The other two, ‘God the Father’ and ‘God the Holy Ghost’, do not pray at all. ‘God Jesus’ (P*) did not claim equality with ‘God the Father’. He said, “***Father is greater than I***” (not equal) (B* John 14:28). Jesus (P*) also said; “Truly, truly, I say

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to you, **a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.**” (John 13:16). Further, the Bible describes Jesus (P*) as the holy servant of God. *“For truly in this city there were gathered together against thy holy servant Jesus”* (B* Acts 4:27). A servant is not equal to the Master.

Godhead consists of three parts. According to Encyclopedia Catholica they are ‘indivisible, and inseparable’. As Mary is the mother of one part of the Godhead, then she must be the mother of all the three parts, the father, the son, and the Holy Ghost, because your mother cannot be the mother of only one part of you and not of the other parts. How then Mary can be mother of both the father and the son?

A clergy in the church explained Trinity to the faithful as like ‘a person, Mr. X, can be a father, and at the same time be a son and an uncle’. Similarly, God can be as God the Father, Jesus (P*) the son, and the Holy Ghost. In that case if you tell a secret to the Mr. X, the father, the son and the uncle also know it. Jesus (P*) said that only the Father knows about the final hour. Further, if you kill Mr. X, the father, then, Mr. X the son and the uncle will die too. The clergy failed to understand that in his example there is one person with three designations and in case of trinity there are three persons with one designation.

Gods in the Holy Trinity are also co-eternal. This means that existence or absence of one of them makes it mandatory for the existence or absence of the other two. Therefore, when one of them died on the cross the other two also should have died at the same time. Further, can human kill God?

God # 1 and God # 2

The first two component of the Holy Trinity are ‘God the Father’ (God # 1) and ‘God Jesus (P*)’ (God # 2). The following table will show that they are very different.

God # 1	God # 2
A true God, has no father or mother.	Has a father (a God) and a mother (a human), that means a demigod.

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The Rational Choice

Jesus (P*), the God

Has a begotten son	Has no begotten son
Used a woman vehicle (Mary) to beget His son.	Used no one to beget a son.
Has no life of a human.	Lived life of a human.
Did not live the life of a helpless infant-God and did not get the affection and care of a mom and a grandma.	Lived the life of a helpless infant-God and needed the affection and care of human mother and relatives to survive and grow to maturity.
Has no brothers, sisters, cousins etc.	Has brothers, sisters, cousins etc.
Did not pray to God # 2 and ask for his help.	Always prayed to God # 1 and asked for help. He even cried for help (B* Luke 22:44); also accused God # 1 for forsaking him (B* Mark 15:34).
No man can see God (#1) and live (B* Exodus 33:20).	Everyone saw God # 2 and no one died.
God # 1 did not say that He incarnated as God # 2. In Hinduism God is able and does incarnate anytime he so wishes. Therefore, Hinduism would probably be a better choice for one who would like his God to incarnate.	God # 2 did neither incarnate nor did he say that he would ever incarnate.
Did not die on the cross.	God #2 Died on the cross!
Did not do the duty of a father to protect His innocent son, although He was the most powerful in the universe.	God #2 fervently prayed to God # 1 to save him from crucifixion but received no protection.

It is now clear that God # 1 and God # 2 are not equal or co-equal. They are two very different Gods. The Bible says that Jesus (P*)

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and Holy Spirit are two different persons (B* Matthew 12:32). So if one brings the third component of Holy Trinity, the Holy Ghost, into consideration he will have three distinct Gods in Christianity.

The concept of three distinct and separate Divine Persons and each one them being co-equal and co-eternal God, is incompatible with the concept of unity of God. The church recognizes the impossibility of it and declared: **“The Most Holy Trinity is a mystery in the strictest sense of the word. ...it remains impossible for the human intellect to grasp.”** (Ref. 24, p30). This means that Christianity is a religion whose principal doctrine is impossible to be understood by human beings. How did any human grasp it to start with?

The Bible says: *“If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son, or your daughter, or the wife of your bosom, or your friend who is as your own soul, entices you secretly, saying, ‘Let us go and serve other **gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known**, ... you shall not yield to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him, nor shall you conceal him; but **you shall kill him**; your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people”* (B* Deuteronomy 13:6-9). The people at the time of Moses, Jesus (P*) or their forefathers never knew of any God who was also a man, or was a part of Trinity. Therefore it appears that the priests, bishops, Popes, or anyone who preaches a God who was also a man or was a part of Trinity, run a great risk from any one who truly believes in the above mentioned verses of the Bible!

The word ‘Trinity’ is not found in the Bible. It is found in the Quran. It says: *“O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: nor say of God aught but the truth. ... Say not ‘Trinity’: desist: It will be better for you: For God is one God: Glory be to him”* (Q. 4:171).

Some churches no longer believe in ‘Trinity’. They are moving away from unacceptable blind faith to a more acceptable reasonable faith.

It took them 2000 years to understand that the Trinity is

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The Rational Choice

Jesus (P*), the God

wrong. How long will it take them to understand that a man cannot be God?

‘Trinity’ is neither found in the Bible

Nor in Bible Dictionary.

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Jesus (P*), the God

Christian View:

Christians regard Jesus (P*) as divine. The most frequent reasons put forward for this belief can be grouped under the following headings:

(A) Sayings of Jesus (P*):

- 1) “*He who has seen me has seen the Father*” (B* John 14:9).
- 2) “*I and the Father are one*” (B* John 10:30).
- 3) “*I am in the Father and the Father in me*” (B* John 14:11).
- 4) “*Before Abraham was, I am*” (B* John 8:58).
- 5) “*I am the way*” (B* John 14:6).

(B) Sayings of other people

- 1) Jesus (P*) is ‘*Spirit made flesh*’ (B* John 1:14).
- 2) Jesus (P*) is the ‘*only Begotten Son of God*’ (B* John 3:16).
- 3) ‘Thomas answered him (*Jesus*), “*My Lord and my God!*”’ (B* John 20:28).
- 4) “*Our Savior Christ Jesus*” (B* 2 Timothy 1:10).
- 5) “*He is the image of the invisible God*” (B* Colossians 1:15).
- 6) “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*” (B* John 1:1).

(C) Evidence from the life, deed, and miracles of Jesus (P*):

- (1) Jesus (P*) forgave sin. Only God can forgive sin.
- (2) Jesus (P*) had miraculous birth and he performed miracles.
- (3) Jesus (P*) raised the dead to life.
- (4) Jesus (P*) was raised to Heaven physically.

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Non-Christian view:

Non-Christians do not regard Jesus (P*) to be divine. The non-Christian response to the Christian views is as follows:

(A) Sayings of Jesus (P*):

Jesus (P*) surely knew whether he was God or not. Therefore, what he claimed himself to be is extremely important. Let us examine them in the context of the Bible.

(1) “*He who has seen me has seen the Father*” (B* John 14:9):

Philip said to Jesus (P*): “*Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied.*” Jesus (P*) responded by saying: “*He who has seen me has seen the Father*” (B* John 14:9). Does this mean that Jesus (P*) is the Father? The immediate objection from the church is that Jesus (P*) is the son and not the Father. But the disciple wanted to see the Father, and not the son. Jesus (P*) did not respond by saying ‘I am the Father’, ‘I am He’ or ‘I am God’.

If Jesus (P*) would be God he would say, ‘I am He’, just as he said to the woman from Samaria, when she said that she knew that the Messiah would be coming. Jesus (P*) responded by saying: “*I who speak to you am he*” (B* John 4:25-26).

To understand the above-mentioned verse of John 14:9 and its context, one needs to start reading from verse John 14:7. It says that seeing does not mean visual seeing but knowing. Jesus (P*) said:

- “*If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him*” (B* John 14:7). Here Jesus (P*) is clearly telling that seeing God means knowing Him.

The Bible also says:

- “*No man hath seen God at any time*” (B* John 1:18).
- “*Whom no man hath seen, nor can see*” (B* I Timothy 6:16).
- **Jesus (P*) said:** “*Ye have neither heard his voice at any time,*

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nor seen his shape” (B John 5:37).*

- **God said: “Thou canst see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live” (B* Exodus 33:20).**

It was impossible for Jesus (P*) to show God to the apostles. Invisible things are appreciated by their effects. You understand God by knowing His attributes and His creations.

(2) “I and the Father are one” (B* John 10:30):

- For the context, begin reading from verse John 10:23: “*no one shall snatch them (the followers) out of my hand. ... and no one is able to snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.*” Here ‘one’ is in purpose to keep the followers in their hands and not one in identity, nature or divine essence.
- Jesus (P*) also said: “*Holy Father, keep them in thy name, which thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.*” (B* John 17:11).

(3) “I am in the Father and the Father in me” (B* John 14:11):

- Jesus (P*) also said: “*I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their words, that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us. ... I in them and thou in me, that they may become perfectly one*” (B* John 17:21, 23).

If this ‘**oneness with Father**’ makes Jesus (P*) God, then all disciples would also be Gods. This will include Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus (P*), (B* Matthew 26:47), and Thomas, who doubted Jesus (P*) (B* John 20:25).

(4) “Before Abraham was, I am.”

“*Jesus (P*) said unto them (the Jews), ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am’*” (B* John 8:58).

Here if Jesus (P*) had implied that he was created and was alive in haven before Abraham (P*) was created, it does not make Jesus (P*) God. God said that Prophet Jeremiah had pre-human existence (B* Jeremiah 1:5). This did not make him God.

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It is said, “I am” implies God because God also said, “I am” in Exodus 3:14: “*God said to Moses, ‘I am who I am.’ (ego emi ho ôn) And he said ‘Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I am has sent me to you’ (ho ôn apestalken me pros humas).’*” (B* Exodus 3:14, from Greek translation of Old Testament, Septuagint). ‘Ego emi’ means ‘I am’ and does not imply deity. ‘Ho ôn’ means ‘One who is’ or ‘One being’ and implies deity. So if properly translated it becomes “**I am one who is (God)**” and implies deity. The phrase “*before Abraham was, I am*” in the Greek Bible is “**prin Abraam genesthai ego emi**”. If Apostle John would like to imply divinity to Jesus (P*), he would have used “ho ôn”. Instead, he used “**ego emi**” which simply means, “I am” and implies no divinity.

(5) “I am the way” (B* John 14:6).

Prophets are special people created by God. They were sent to guide the humanity in this life and the life hereafter. Every Prophet was ‘the way’ during his time. The Prophet showed his people how to submit to God, how to pray, and how to lead the life in this world. They showed people the way that is acceptable to God. **Jesus (P) was the way during his time. So were Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Mohammad (P*) during their times.**

Prophet Jesus (P) did not give any scripture to his followers to follow. His way was that of the Old Testament. He said: “*Think not that I have come to abolish the law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished*” (B* Matthew 5:17-19).

In reply to a question how to get eternal life Jesus (P) said: “if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments” (B* Matthew 19:17).

Jesus’ ways were to submit to God and follow God’s commandments as given in the Old Testament. He worshipped God, bowed down to ground during prayer, and observed Sabbath on Saturdays. He visited the synagogue as Rabbi, have had circumcision done and did not eat pig meat. He neither observed birthdays nor brought home a conical tree from forest

to decorate it because it was a heathen custom (B* Jeremiah 10:2-5). Which of these ways of Jesus (P*) do his followers follow? Jesus (P*) did not worship to himself but worshiped to God the creator. God does not worship another god. Advising people to follow his ways does not make him God.

If Jesus (P*) was God he should have known that if he did not say it clearly, without any ambiguity, that he was God, it would create great confusion, even among his followers. The Bible says: “For God is not the author of confusion” (B* 1 Corinthians 14:33). When God speaks, He speaks clearly, distinctly, and without any ambiguity. For example: “I am God, and there is none like me” (B* Isaiah 46:9); “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god” (B* Isaiah 44:6).

Jesus (P*) also said, “*He who does not love me does not keep my words; and the words which you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me*” (B* John 14:24). This means ‘I am the way’ is from God and not from Jesus (P*). He was just a messenger. God gives His own commandments. God does not borrow or carry message from others.

In Matthew Jesus (P*) refers to the prophesy of prophet Isaiah that people would follow the doctrine of man and worship him: “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” (Matthew 15:9)

Further, the Bible also says: “*But in every nation he that feareth him (God), and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him (God)*” (Acts 10:35). This means that Jesus (P*) is not the only way.

(B) Sayings of other people:

What other people said about Jesus (P*) cannot serve as proof of divinity of Jesus (P*). If a thousand people or even a billion people come and say that you are God, it will not make you God. The followers of Rajnish in Oregon used to call him ‘Bhagaban Rajnish’, which means ‘God Rajnish’. Was he then God, the Creator? Let us now examine if the evidence of sayings of other people prove Jesus (P*) to be God.

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(1) Jesus (P*) is Spirit made flesh:

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (B* John 1:14). However, the spirit did not become flesh. The Bible says that Mary was made pregnant by the Holy Spirit (B* Luke 1:35). When Jesus (P*) was born, he did not have the Holy Spirit in him. The Holy Spirit descended upon him only after he was baptized. Bible says: *“And when Jesus (P*) also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form, as a dove”* (B* Luke 3:21-22). If Jesus (P*) was ‘Spirit made flesh’ then he did not need the Holy Spirit to descend upon him.

Again if Jesus (P*) was ‘Spirit made flesh’ then one would expect him to be greater than one who was not ‘Spirit made flesh’, namely John the Baptist. Jesus (P*) said: *“Among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist”* (B* Matthew 11:11). Both Jesus (P*) and John the Baptist (P*) were born of women. Jesus (P*) says that John the Baptist (P*) was greater than him.

Spirit made flesh means ‘incarnation’. God never said that He would incarnate and Jesus (P*) never claimed that he was the incarnation of God. **He repeatedly said that God had sent him.**

“I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (B* Matthew 15:24, also 10:40, John 17:3).

“I came not of my own accord, but he (God) sent me.” (B* John 8:42). God does things on His own accord and not on other’s accord.

(2) Jesus (P*) is the only begotten Son of God (B* John 3:16). That equals God:

The word ‘begotten’ is not found in the original manuscript of the Bible. In the recent editions of Bible, ‘only begotten son’ has been replaced by ‘only son’!

Son ship and divinity are mutually exclusive. To be a son means one who has received life and to be divine means one who received life from no one. Therefore, to be a son is to be less than divine and (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

to be divine is to be no one's son.

Further, Jesus (P*) is not the only begotten Son of God in the Bible. God said to David (P*): *"Thou art my son; this day have I begotten thee"* (B* Psalms 2:7).

(3) Thomas addressed Jesus (P*) "My Lord and my God!" (B* John 20:28):

Note there is an exclamation mark (!) after God at the end. After examining the hands and sides of Jesus (P*) Thomas was baffled to see his mentor alive and made this exclamatory remark, as we sometimes say: 'O' my God!' If someone says "Ladies and gentleman, here is Gerald Ford, president and commander in chief of U.S.A." you will not put (!) at the end. In the next verse, Apostle John writes: *"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ..."* If Apostle John would recognize the above statement to be a testimony of deity of Jesus (P*), he would write *'that Jesus is the God'* instead of *'that Jesus is the Christ'* The word 'Lord' means a person having great power and authority, a ruler, master, head of a feudal estate. It is also used to show honor to noblemen of society, Judges (Lord Justice), Mayors (Lord Mayor) and others. It is also used for God. In the Bible Prophets have been called as Lord:

- *"Abraham, 'Hear us, my lord"* (B* Genesis 23:5-6).
- *"Is it you, my lord Elijah?"* (B* 1 Kings 18:7).
- Saint Paul said: **"as indeed there are many gods and lords - yet for us there is one God, the Father... and one Lord, Jesus (P*) Christ,"** (B* 1 Corinthians 8:5-6). Here it clearly shows that there is difference between God and Lord. Jesus (P*) is Lord but not God.

(4) Saint Paul said: "our Savior Jesus Christ" (B* 2 Timothy 1:10):

Christians claim that as Saint Paul said that Jesus (P*) is our savior, so Jesus (P*) is God. However, God said in the Bible: *"I am the Lord; and besides me there is no savior"*. (B* Isaiah 43:11
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and Hosea 13:4). There are also many other saviors in the Bible.

- *“Therefore the Lord gave Israel a savior, so that they escaped from the hands of Syrians;”* (B* 2 King 13:5).
- God said to Obadiah: *“Saviors shall go up to Mount Zion to rule Mount Esau”* (B* Obadiah 21).
- Ezra said to God: *“and according to thy great mercies thou didst give them saviors who saved them from the hands of their enemies”* (B* Nehemiah 9:27).

All these saviors are not Gods. In newer editions of some Bible the word ‘savior’ is **changed to ‘deliverer’** where it applies to people other than Jesus (P*)!

(5) “He is the image of the invisible God,” (B* Colossians 1:15).

If image of God makes a person God then every man becomes a God. The Bible says: *“So God created man in his own image,”* (B* Genesis 1:27).

(6) “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (B* John 1:1):

Christians say that in the above verse the ‘the Word’ means ‘Jesus (P*)’. Now if we substitute ‘the Word’ with ‘Jesus (P*)’ it will read: *“In the beginning was Jesus, and Jesus was with God, and Jesus was God.”* Does it make any sense now? How can Jesus (P*) be ‘with’ God and ‘was’ God as well, there being only one God?

The Greek word used for ‘the Word’ is ‘logos’ which means ‘a spoken word’ or ‘command’. The last part of the sentence ‘and the Word was God’ is translated in ‘New translation of the Bible’ (1922) by the famous Dr. James Moffatt, as “the Logos was Divine.” This is also found in “The Complete Bible - An American Translation” (Smith-Goodspeed), and “The Authentic New Testament” by Hugh J. Schonfield.

In Greek Scripture the word used for first word ‘God’ is **Hotheos**, which means **“The God”**, and the second word used

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for God is **Tontheos, which** means “a god” (**so called god**).

Further, neither God nor Jesus (P*) said that the “word was God.” It was John who said that the word was God.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus (P*) is said to have made many fantastic claims about himself: e.g.

- “I am the bread of life” (B* John 6:35).
- “I am the light of the world” (B* John 8:12).
- “I am the resurrection, and the life” (B* John 11:25).

These appear to be words of pride and boasting. True Prophets are never proud, nor do they boast. They are always very humble.

The Gospels Matthew, Mark and Luke do not mention any of these fantastic claims of Jesus (P*). The Christian scholar James Dunn writes in his book ‘The evidence for Jesus’: **“If they were part of original words of Jesus himself, how could it be that only John picked them up and none of the others?”**

Jesus (P*) also said to his disciples **“You are the light of the world”** (Matthew 5:14). Does this mean that all the disciples are also God? No one knows who the real author of Gospel of John is. Most knowledgeable Bible scholars agree that the disciple John Zebedee did not write this Gospel (Ref. 3, p69). This Gospel was written around 118 A. D. long, long after Jesus (P*) has left this earth.

Further, the Bible has been repeatedly altered (Ref. 8, p1739).

(C) Evidence from the life, deed, and miracles of Jesus (P*):

(1) Jesus (P*) forgave sin:

Jesus (P*) said to the paralytic man **“My son, your sins are forgiven.”** (B* Mark 2:5). Church says that here Jesus (P*) was claiming divinity for himself because no one can forgive sins except God.

Suppose there is criminal in a prison who can only be pardoned by the President. President pardons the inmate. The warden of the prison was informed of this pardon. The warden goes to the inmate

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and tells him “You are pardoned; you can go home.” Does this mean that the warden is the president having the authority to pardon?

Jesus (P*) said:

- **“For I have not spoken on my own authority; the Father who sent me has himself given me commandment what to say and what to speak”** (B* John 12:49).
- **“and the word which you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me”** (B* John 14:24).
- **“My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me:”** (B* John 7:16).

Jesus (P*) did not want to forgive his opponents. He said *“But as these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring here, and slay them before me”*. (B* Luke 19:27).

(2) Jesus (P*) had miraculous birth & he performed miracles:

Jesus (P*) did not have an earthly father. Adam and Melchisedec had neither father nor mother. Because of this, they are not regarded as divine.

The Bible says: *“God is able from these stones to raise up children of Abraham.”* (B* Matthew 3:9). Will they then become Gods?

All miracles performed by Jesus (P*) were also performed by others in the past. They were not Gods.

Jesus (P*) said: **“All power is given unto me”** (B* Matthew 28:18).

Bible also says: *“Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, **which God did by him in the midst of you**”* (B* Acts 2:22).

Before raising Lazarus to life, *“Jesus (P*) lifted up his eyes, and said, ‘Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. I knew that thou hearest me always, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that **thou didst send me**’*

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“ (B* John 11:41-42).

Jesus (P*) could not perform any miracle in his own hometown. **“And he (Jesus) did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief”** (B* Matthew 13:58). God’s ability does not depend on the belief or disbelief of others in Him.

Jesus (P*) said that **false Prophets could also perform miracles**. *“For false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect”* (B* Matthew 24:24).

Jesus (P*) also said that ordinary people can also perform miracles: **“And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover”** (B* Mark 16:17-18). People who believe in Jesus (P*) and the Bible, would probably not like to drink a cup of cyanide to prove that these verses of the Bible are the true statement of Jesus (P*).

(3) Jesus (P*) raised dead people to life.

Elijah, Elisha and Peter (P*) also raised the dead to life. Because of this, they are not considered as Gods.

- *“And the Lord hearkened to the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived”* (B* 1 Kings 17:22).
- *“Then he (Elisha) went up and lay upon the child, putting his mouth upon his mouth, his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands; and as he stretched himself upon him, the flesh of the child became warm”* (B* 2 Kings 4:34).
- *“In those days she (Tabitha) fell sick and died. ... Then turning to the body he (Peter) said, ‘Tabitha rise.’ And she opened her eyes”* (B* Acts 9:37, 40).

(4) Jesus (P*) was raised to Heaven physically.

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According to Bible Jesus (P*) died, rose from the dead and then raised to heaven physically. This cannot make him divine. Both Enoch and Elijah also were raised to heaven physically without even dying.

- “*Enoch walked with God; and he was not, God took him*” (B* Genesis 5:24).
- “*And as they (Elijah and Elisha) still went on and talked, behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven*” (B* 2 Kings 2:11).

(5) Jesus (P*) was Worshipped

Apostle Matthew records that Jesus (P*) was worshipped by Magi (2:11), the boat people (14:33), Mary Magdalene (28:9), and his disciples (28:17). The word used by Apostle Matthew in Greek is ‘**prosekunesan**’, which means ‘**bow, crouch, crawl, or kneel**’. The Greek word for ‘**worship**’ is ‘**sebomai**’, which Apostle Matthew used when Jesus (P*) said, “in vain do they worship me”. **To translate the word ‘prosekunesan’ as ‘worship’ is wrong.** In the ‘New English Bible’, translations of the above quoted verses read; ‘bowed to the ground’ (2:11); ‘fell at his feet’ (14:33); ‘falling prostrate before him’ (28:9), and ‘fell prostrate before him’ (28:17).

Jesus’ (P*) inability:

- Jesus (P*) said: “***I can of mine own self do nothing***” (B* John 5:30). God can do anything on His own.
- Jesus (P*) could not perform any miracle in his own hometown. “***And he (Jesus) did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief***” (B* Matthew 13:58). Divine ability does not depend upon the belief or disbelief of others.
- Jesus (P*) said: “***to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father***” (B* Matthew 20:23).
- **Jesus (P*) cried out loud for help** from God: - “***Eloi, Eloi, lama sabach thani?***” which means, ‘**My God, my God, why hast**

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thou forsaken me'?" (B* Mark 15:34). God does not cry out for help from any one. He does not need any help to save himself.

Unfulfilled Prophecy of Jesus (P*):

- Jesus (P) said: *“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give her light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory”* (B* Mark 13:24-26). ... *“Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away before all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away”* (B* Mark 13:30-31).

‘That generation’ has passed away and Jesus (P*) did not come in the clouds with great power and glory. God cannot say anything of future that will not come to pass. Further, if he had really made that statement, it would make him a false Prophet.

Jesus (P*) had a God and he prayed to Him:

Jesus (P*) said, *“I am ascending to my father and your father, to my God and your God”* (B* John 20:17).

The Bible says, *“But he (Jesus) withdrew to the wilderness and prayed”* (B* Luke 5:16). God does not pray to another god.

From the above discussion it clearly shows that there is no documentation anywhere in the Bible that Jesus (P*) explicitly claimed unqualified divinity. Nowhere in the Bible did Jesus (P*) claim equality with God. He said: *“the father is greater than I”* (B* John 14:28). Jesus (P*) also said; *“Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him”* (John 13:16). The evidence put forward as proof of divinity of Jesus (P*) must be conclusive because it involves the foundation of faith.

The evidences presented as proof of his deity are all implicit, i.e. require interpretations. The Christian interpretations are, insufficient, ambiguous or impossible. They create confusions. The Bible says: *“God is not the author of confusion”* (B* 1 Corinthians (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

The Rational Choice

Jesus (P*), the God

14:33). In the Bible God speaks directly, clearly, without any ambiguity and leaves no room for confusion. For example:

- *“I am the Lord Your God”* (B* Exodus 20:2)
- *“I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob”* (B* Exodus 3:6).
- *“Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior”* (B* Isaiah 43:10-11).
- *“I am the first, and I am the last; and besides me there is no God”* (B* Isaiah 44:6).
- *“God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should repent”* (B* Numbers 23:19).
- *“You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me”* (B* Exodus 20:3-5, & Deuteronomy 5:7-8).

In ancient times, people used to make graven images of god, bowed down to them and worshipped them. They were all false gods. Most of the churches have graven images of Jesus (P). This, on one hand, makes Jesus (P*) a false god and, on the other, makes the people disobedient to God.

God is holy and pure. The Bible says man is unclean. “How can he who is born of woman be clean?” (B* Job 25:4). Jesus (P*) was born of a woman. Can he then be God?

Jesus (P*) had all the characters of a human being and had none of the absolute attributes of God that would make him “The God”.

God must be worshipped. Jesus (P*) knew it and he worshipped God. If Jesus (P*) himself was God, he would say to his disciples

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The Rational Choice

Jesus (P*), the God

“I am God incarnate, worship me.” There is no reason why Jesus (P*) would say this in such an indirect way that it would take the Christians three hundred years to canonize it. Even now, most Christians do not understand it. “*God is not the author of confusion*” (B* 1 Corinthians 14:33).

If Jesus (P*) is God then there are other problems:

- For the Christians to explain, and
- For non-Christians to understand

If Jesus (P*) is God, then Mary becomes the mother of God. True God do not have parent. According to Trinity, God the Father, Jesus (P*) the son, and Holy Ghost, all are one, indivisible, and inseparable’. Therefore, Mary must be the mother of all of the three, because your mother is not the mother of only one part of you and not of the other parts.

In that case how can Mary be the mother to both the Father as well as the Son?

Further, being a son of a human being, Jesus (P*) was definitely a human being. If he is also divine then he becomes a ‘Demigod’. Webster’s dictionary says that ‘*the offspring of a human being and a god or goddess, or a person regarded as partly divine is ‘Demigod’*. God forbids worshipping any thing other than Him (B* Deuteronomy 5:7-8).

The truth is in the Bible:

- “*For there is one God, and one **mediator** between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus**” (B* 1 Timothy 2:5).*
- “*The woman (from Samaria) said to him (Jesus-), ‘I know that **Messiah is coming**; when he comes, he will show us all things. ‘Jesus said to her, ‘**I, who speak to you, am he**’” (B* John 4:25-26).*
- Jesus (P*) prayed: “*And this is eternal life, that they know **thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.**” (B* John 17:3).*

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The Rational Choice
Original sin & Atonement

- “***The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus ...***” (B* Acts 3:13)

In 1984 nineteen Anglican Bishops have found the truth in the Bible and changed their position from ‘Jesus (P*) being God’ to ‘Jesus (P*), God’s supreme agent (Ref. 9).

The Son of God

The ancient Greeks and Romans used to honor their powerful Kings, high priests, and great philosophers by calling them as “son of God”. Alexander, Julius Caesar, Plato, and Pythagoras, all were considered to have divine parentage and were called ‘son of God’.

This expression of “son of God” was used in the **metaphorical sense only**, and not in literal sense.

In the Bible, this expression is also seen frequently. The **first created man**, Adam, has been called as Son of God: “*Adam, the son of God*” (B* Luke 3:38).

Prophets have been called as ‘son of God’: “*Thus said the Lord: ‘I will be his (Solomon’s) father, and he shall be my son’*” (B* 2 Samuel 7:14).

Angels were called Sons of God. “*Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them*” (B* Job 1:6). Also found in B* Job 2:1 and 38:7.

Common people have also been called sons and daughters of God: “*God said... ‘touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters’*” (B* 2 Corinthians 6:18).

Jesus (P*) said: “*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God*” (B* Matthew 5:9).

“*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven*” (B* Matthew 5:45).

The Bible also says: “*For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God*” (B* Romans 8:14).

Some Bible verses are a little confusing:

God Himself gives the honor of ‘First-born son of God’ to two
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different Prophets, who were not twins.

- “*Thus says the Lord, Israel (Jacob) is my first-born son*” (B* Exodus 4:22).
- “*and Ephraim is my first-born*” (B* Jeremiah 31:9).

There are verses in the Bible, which give the impression that God truly has real sons:

“When men began to multiply on the face of the ground and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw the daughters of men were fair; and they took to wife such of them as they chose. Then the Lord said, ‘My spirit shall not abide in man for ever... when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men that were of old, the men of renown” (B* Genesis 6:1-4).

God also begets sons in the Bible:

God said to David (P*): “*Thou art my son; this day have I begotten thee*” (B* Psalms 2:7). This makes **David (P*) the first begotten Son of God.**

God also said to Jesus (P*): “*Thou art my son, today I have begotten thee*” (B* Hebrews 5:5).

Saint John contradicts God by saying: “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son”* (B* John 3:16).

In Webster’s New Universal Unabridged Dictionary the meaning of the word “**beget**” is given as: “**to procreate, as a father or sire, as, to beget a son.**” In The Bible God confirms this meaning of the word “beget”. In the book of Genesis (17:20), Ishmael begot sons through physical union with his wife. In Genesis chapter 5 alone one reads the word ‘begot’ 25 times, each time meaning physical union between male and female. Therefore, one must be very careful before using the phrase “begotten son of God”.

It becomes a little difficult to understand **when Bible calls so many people as son of God and God himself calls David (P*) is His begotten son, how can Saint John say that Jesus (P*) is**

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“the only begotten son of God”? Is God not telling the truth or Saint John knows more than God?

Son of a human being is a human being, that of a lion is a lion, and that of a bird is a bird. Therefore, the “son of God”, must be a God (if not said in metaphorical sense). He should be worshipped. God in the Bible said: ***“I am the first, and I am the last; and besides me there is no God”*** (B* Isaiah 44:6). He also said: ***“God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should repent.”*** (B* Numbers 23:19).

It is confusing to see that when God made the above statements about Himself, did He not know that if He begets a son, besides Him there will be another God? Is He then an ignorant God or ‘the begotten sons of God’ are human inventions?

In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus (P*) referred to himself as ‘son of man’ 70 times. Not a single time did Jesus (P*) refer to himself as ‘son of God’ in these three Gospels.

In the recent editions of the Bible, “the only begotten Son” has been **changed to ‘only Son’**.

For two thousand years, Jesus (P*) occupied the position of ‘the only begotten son of God’. Now he is being lowered to the position of ‘only son’, although there are many other sons of God in the Bible.

The Quran says: “It is not befitting to (the majesty of) God that He should beget a son. Glory be to Him! When He determines a matter, He only says to it, ‘Be’, and it is.” (Q* 19:35)

Jesus (P*) called himself son of man and refused to be called as Son of God: ***“And demons also came out of many, crying, ‘You are the Son of God!’ But he rebuked them, and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ (Messiah)”*** (B* Luke 4:41).

“And the high priest said to him, ‘I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.’ Jesus said to him ‘You have said so. But I tell you, hereafter you will see the son of man seated at the right hand of power, and coming on the

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clouds of heaven.’“(B* Matthew 26:63-64).

In describing the genealogy of Jesus (P*), Luke begins with “Jesus... being the son (*as was supposed*) of Joseph” (B* Luke 3:23), and then traces the family tree of Joseph all the way to Adam ending with “Adam, the son of God” (B* Luke 3:38). Why tracing the family tree of Joseph? He is not blood related to Jesus (P*). The above quotation within parenthesis, ‘(*as was supposed*)’, is the comment of the writer or the editor, and not a part of the inspired verse. If Jesus (P*) would be the true Son of God, why did not Saint Luke simply say “Jesus, son of God” in the genealogy? He was writing the genealogy of Jesus (P*) and not ‘genealogy of Joseph’. He did not even trace the genealogy of Mary. If you employ an investigator to trace your genealogy and he traces the family tree of your neighbor and at the end says ‘and you are his neighbor’, will it be your genealogy? Further, everyone knows that Adam did not have a father or a mother. Even then, it is interesting to note that, God inspires Luke to say that Adam is the ‘son of God’, where as, Jesus (P*) as the ‘son of Joseph’!

Mary, mother of Jesus (P*), was a human being. If Jesus (P*) is the true begotten Son of God and not in metaphoric sense, then Jesus (P*) becomes the offspring of a human being and God. **Webster’s dictionary says that ‘the offspring of a human being and a god or goddess, or a person regarded as partly divine is ‘Demigod’.** God forbids worshipping any thing other than God (B* Deuteronomy 5:7-8).

If you do not have a wife, you do not have a son. If you have a son outside marriage, he is illegitimate. God calls him ‘bastard’ in the Bible. He says: “*No bastard shall enter into the assembly of the Lord; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the Lord*” (B* Deuteronomy 23:2). Therefore, the expression ‘son of God’ in the Bible must be metaphorical, like the expression ‘son of a gun’.

Presentation of Jesus (P*) in the Bible:

Presented as a teacher:

- “*This man (Nicodemus) came to Jesus by night and said to* (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God'
(B* John 3:2, also Mark 10:17).

Presented as a Prophet:

Jesus (P*) is presented in the Gospels as a Prophet 14 times, 5 times by himself. A few examples are given below.

- Jesus (P*) said: “A **prophet** is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house” (B* Matthew 13:57, Mark 6:4, Luke 4:24, John 4:44).
- “This is the **prophet Jesus** from Nazareth of Galilee” (B* Matthew 21:11)
- “This is indeed the **prophet** who is to come into the world” (B* John 6:14).
- “This is really the **prophet**” (B* John 7:40).
- “And they said to him, concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a **prophet** mighty in deed and word before God and all the people” (B* Luke 24:19).
- “A great **prophet** has arisen among us” (B* Luke 7:16).

Presented as a servant of God:

(1) “The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified **his servant Jesus**, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him” (B* Acts 3:13). (2) “for truly in this city there were gathered together against **thy holy servant Jesus**, whom thou didst anoint” (B* Acts 4:27).

Presented as a Messiah:

Christ means **Messiah**, an anointed person (**Christos in Greek**). Jesus, David, Solomon, Aaron, Saul, Elijah, Elisha (P*), Cyrus the Persian king (a fire worshipper), and Jewish kings, all were anointed persons (Christs) in the Bible.

“The woman (from Samaria) said to him (Jesus), “I know that **Messiah is coming** (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he
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will show us all things.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I who speak to you am he’ “ (B* John 4:25-26).

Also anointed were alters, laver & tabernacle (Exodus 40:10-11), and king Cyrus, a fire worshipper (B* Isaiah 45:1). Therefore, they all were Christs.

Presented as Son of God

It was Saint Paul who preached Jesus (P*) to be the Son of God: “*And straightway he (Saint Paul) preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God*” (B* Acts 9:20).

Presented as Lord

Jesus (P*) was also described **as ‘Lord’**: “*for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord*” (B* Luke 2:11). Saint Paul said: “**as indeed there are many lords and gods- yet for us there is one God, the Father... and one Lord, Jesus (P*) Christ,**” (B* 1 Corinthians 8:5-6).

Presented as God

The supreme elevation of Jesus (P*) was to God. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**” (B* John 1:1).

Although Jesus (P*) described himself as a Prophet, a Messiah, and son of man, and refused to be called as ‘son of God’ in any unique sense, many Christians today accept him as God.

Sonship and divinity are mutually exclusive. To be a son means one who has received life, and to be divine means one who receives life from no one. To be a son is to be less than divine and to be divine is to be no one’s son. In the genealogy of Jesus (P*) in the Bible, God does not say that Jesus is His son.

Original sin & Atonement

The church teaches that Adam and Eve, the first created human beings and the first parent of human race, disobeyed the commandment of God by eating the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge and sinned. God cursed both Adam and Eve as follows:

- *“To the woman he said, ‘I will greatly multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you’”* (B* Genesis 3:16).
- *“And to Adam he said, ‘Because you have listened to the voice of your wife... cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life’”* (B* Genesis 3:17).

This is ‘**original sin**’ and is inherited by all the descendants of Adam and Eve. Therefore, all men are born sinful. 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. If sin cannot be inherited, how the “original sin” comes to us? We get our physical body from our parents who cannot transmit sin. Does this original sin then come to us through our soul? We get our soul from God. Can a just God put sin in the soul of an innocent new born? The Old Testament says: *“God created man in his own image”* (B* Genesis 1:27). It is difficult to understand how ‘God’s own image’ can be born with sin.

The Bible also says:

- *“As he (Jesus) passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him’ ”* (B* John 9:1-3).

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The church teaches that the justice of God requires that a price must be paid for every sin. God will not allow any sin to go unpunished. As the original sin, being directed against God, was of infinite proportion, it demanded infinite recompense. Jesus (P*) was infinite God and he alone could pay this infinite recompense. In the Bible Saint Paul says:

- *“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man’s obedience many will be righteous”* (B* Romans 5:19). God, through the crucifixion of His only begotten son Jesus (P*), expiated all the humanity.

Saint Paul also says:

- *“Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins”* (B* Hebrews 9:22).

Here Saint Paul is taking the shelter of law of the Old Testament to justify blood atonement. **Same Saint Paul said:**

- *“For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse”* (B* Galatians 3:10).

Saint Peter says in the Bible:

- *“You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot”* (B* First Epistle of Peter 1:18-19).

When the church is asked, ‘was it then the infinite God died when Jesus (P*) died on the cross?’ The immediate response of the church is that ‘it was man Jesus (P*) who died on the cross.’ Jesus (P*) was a human-being and born of a human mother, Mary. Therefore, he must be carrying the original sin too. Then it boils down to that sacrifice of a finite human-being with original sin provided the infinite recompense to cause the atonement. This also proves that God in Christianity accepts human sacrifice for forgiveness of sin.

Jesus (P*) taught people to pray like this: *“Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ... Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors”* (B* Matthew 6:9, -12). He did not say anything about shedding of sinless blood for forgiveness.

God had already done away with atonement by the shedding of blood in the Bible:

- *“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of rams, or of goats... your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evils of your doings from before your eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow”* (B* Isaiah 1:11-17).

God does not want sacrifice. He said:

- *“For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings”* (B* Hosea 6:6).

The Bible also 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).
- *“...every man shall be put to death for his own sin”* (Deuteronomy 24:16).

Therefore, as a just God, He cannot punish ‘A’ for the crime of ‘B’. God cannot shed the blood of innocent Jesus (P*) to redeem the sinners. **Concept of redemption is against the teaching of the Bible.**

M. Amir Ali Ph.D. in his brochure titled “The Historical Fallacy of Atonement” presents a scene in the court in which the judge says

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to the accused: *“You have been sentenced to death. If you take my son as your savior, I will execute him in your place and you can go free. Do you accept him as your savior?”* And the accused replies *“yes sir, you bet I accept”*.

- There is no mention of “original sin” anywhere in The Old Testament. The great Prophets of the past, including Noah, Abraham, Moses, Solomon, Jacob, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jesus, and Mohammad (P*), were blessed by God with great knowledge. They were not aware that they were inheriting the “original sin” from their parents at the time of birth and then transmitting it to their children.
- Jesus (P*) did not teach ‘original sin’.
- None of the Prophets ever said that only shedding of sinless blood of Son of God could redeem sin.
- All these doctrines were conceived, developed, nurtured, and then established by Saint Paul and his followers over a period of three hundred years after Jesus (P*) had left this earth.

It is time for every person who believes in “Original Sin and Vicarious Atonement through the shedding of innocent blood of Jesus (P) to reflect. Would he or she like to be executed so that the real perpetrator of a crime can go free?

**“The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father,
neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son”**

(Bible, Ezekiel 18:20).

No Prophet taught ‘Original Sin’

Miracles of Jesus (P*)

Miracles mean events or effects that apparently contradict known scientific laws, performances that supposedly could not ordinarily be performed or explained.

Many Prophets of the past, endowed with special powers from God, have performed miracles. In the Bible, many miraculous events and performances have been associated with Jesus (P*).

This is one of the reasons given by the church to accept Jesus (P*) as divine. He is the “divine Son of God”, an inseparable part of “Holy Trinity.” To most Christians he is “The God” who incarnated in this world to guide the humanity, and above all to redeem the sin of the faithful by willingly going to the cross and shedding his innocent blood.

Non-Christians view the miracles associated with Jesus (P*) a little differently.

Jesus (P*) had a miraculous birth without any male intervention:

Both Adam and Eve had neither a father nor a mother. So also is Melchisedec:

- *“For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God... Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life” (B* Hebrews 7:1,3).*

Because of absence of parent, or eternal life of *Melchisedec*, they are not accepted as Divine.

Jesus (P*) healed lepers:

Elisha (P*) also healed lepers. He told leper Naaman: *“Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean. ... So he went down and dipped himself ... and he was clean” (B* 2 Kings 5:10, 14).*

Jesus (P*) cured the blind:

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- So did Elisha (P*): “*Then **Elisha prayed**, and said ‘O Lord, I pray thee, **open his eyes** that he may see.’ So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, **and he saw**” (B* 2 Kings 6:17).*

Elisha (P*) also made people blind:

- “*Elisha prayed to the Lord, ‘Strike this people, I pray thee, with blindness.’ So he struck them with blindness*” (B* 2 Kings 6:18).

Jesus (P*) raised the dead to life:

Elijah, Elisha and Peter (P*) also raised the dead to life.

- “*And the Lord hearkened to the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived*” (B* 1 Kings 17:22).
- “*Then he (Elisha) went up and lay upon the child, putting his mouth upon his mouth, his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands; and as he stretched himself upon him, the flesh of the child became warm*” (B* 2 Kings 4:34).
- “*In those days she (Tabitha) fell sick and died. ... Then turning to the body he (Peter) said, ‘Tabitha rise.’ And she opened her eyes*” (B* Acts 9:37, 40).

Even the dead bones of Elisha (P*) raised the dead:

- “*...as they were burying a man... and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet*” (B* 2 Kings 13:21).

Moses (P*) transformed the dead wooden rod (plant kingdom) into a live serpent (animal kingdom): “*so he (Moses) cast it (rod) on the ground, and it became a serpent*” (B* Exodus 4:3).

Jesus (P*) cast out devils:

Others, including false Prophets and false Christs, could cast out devils and show miracles. “*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and*

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wonders” (B* Matthew 24:24).

- Jesus (P*) said “*On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers’*” (B* Matthew 7:22-23).

Jesus (P*) fed the multitude with five loaves and two fishes:

Elisha (P*) also fed a hundred people with twenty barley loaves and full ears of corn (B* 2 Kings 4:44).

Jesus (P*) walked on water:

Moses (P*) parted the water and made the sea dry.

- “*And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the water being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left*” (B* Exodus 14:22).

Jesus (P*) was filled with Holy Spirit

Other people were also filled with Holy Spirit: “*and Elizabeth was filled with Holy Spirit*” (B* Luke 1:41).

“*For he (Barnabas) was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith*” (B* Acts 11:24).

The above examples from the Bible make it very clear that **all the miracles associated with Jesus (P*) were also associated with other people.**

Miracles are not essential for Prophet-hood of a person. John the Baptist (P*) did not perform any miracle. According to Jesus (P*), John the Baptist (P*) was the greatest of all people ever born of women (B* Matthew 11:11).

Performances of miracles do not attribute divinity to any person. In that case, all Prophets, genuine or false, and the devil’s followers who performed miracles, would all be Gods.

Inability of Jesus (P*) to perform any miracle

The Rational Choice
Miracles of Jesus (P*)

- “*And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief*” (B* Matthew 13:58). God’s ability does not depend on others’ belief or disbelief in Him.

Jesus (P*) said:

“*I can of mine own self do nothing*” (B* John 5:30)

“*All power is given unto me*” (B* Matthew 28:18);

“*I do as the Father has commanded me.*” (B* John 14:31).

“*I with the finger of God cast out devils*” (B* Luke 11:20).

Bible also said:

- “*Jesus (P*) of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you*” (B* Acts 2:22).

Many Christians now a days do not believe that Jesus (P*) is God. **Half of the Anglican bishops surveyed said that miracles in the New Testament were later additions to the story of Jesus (P*)** (Ref. 9).

There is a great thirst for knowledge and truth in the society today. Let us seek the truth and establish it.

In summary:

- * Jesus (P*) performed many miracles during his lifetime.
- * Others also performed these miracles in the past.
- * Performances of miracles do not attribute Prophet-hood or divinity to any person. If performances of miracles would attribute divinity to a person then there would be thousands of Gods.
- * Miracles attributed to Jesus (P*) were performed by God through him. Jesus (P*) could not perform any miracle when there was unbelief in him.

Jesus (P*) was one of the mightiest Prophets of God. Every person who believes in monotheism should revere him.

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Crucifixion & Resurrection

‘Crucify’ means “to put to death by suspending from a cross, with hands and feet nailed or bound to it”; and ‘resurrect’ means “to raise from the dead or the grave; to bring back to life” (Webster’s Dictionary p438 & p1545).

It is a known fact that the Jewish leaders did not like Jesus (P*), and, even today; do not recognize him as one of the Prophets. They wanted to discredit his Prophet-hood by portraying him as a false Prophet and maintained that they caused his death on the cross. In support of their belief and actions, they present the following quotations from their scripture, The Hebrew Bible (The Old Testament):

- (1). ***“The soul that sins shall die”*** (B* Ezekiel 18:4).
- (2). ***“But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die”*** (B* Deuteronomy 18:20).
- (3). ***“But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the Lord your God”*** (B* Deuteronomy 13:5).
- (4). ***“And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is accursed by God”*** (B* Deuteronomy 21:22-23).

The Christians need crucifixion for their redemption. They need resurrection for (1) the eternal life and divinity of Jesus (P*), and for (2) preaching. In support of their belief, the Christians present the following quotations from their scripture, The New Testament.

- (1). ***“Jesus said to her (Martha) ‘I am the resurrection and the life; ... whoever lives and believes in me shall never die’*** (B* John 11:25-26).
- (2). Saint Paul said, ***“For the wages of sin is death; but the***

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gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord” (B* Romans 6:23).

- **(3) “if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith in vain.”** (B* 1 Corinthians 15:14)

There are many verses in the Bible that clearly shows that Jesus (P*) did not die on the cross:

- Jesus (P*) said, “*Ask, and it will be given to you... Or what man of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?*” (B* Matthew 7:7-9)
- “*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*” (B* James 5:16).
- During the raising of Lazarus to life after his death, Jesus (P*) said: “*Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. **I knew that thou hearest me always**, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that thou didst send me*” (B* John 11:41-42).

The Bible describes the event before Jesus (P*) was betrayed to the Roman army as:

- “*And going a little farther he (Jesus) fell on his face and prayed, ‘My father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; ... and prayed for the third time, saying the same words’*” (B* Matthew 26:39, 44).
- “*And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground*” (B* Luke 22:44).
- “*And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him*” (B* Luke 22:43).

The above verses show that God always listened to the prayers of Jesus (P*). Jesus (P*) prayed to God in earnest to spare his life. God sent an angel to assure him.

Pilate did not want to kill Jesus (P*). He wanted to release him:

- “*Upon this Pilate sought to release him (Jesus P*)*” (B* John 19:12).

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- **“They (soldiers) did not break his (Jesus’) legs”** (B* John 19:33). They did not use the crurifragium on Jesus (P*), but they used it for the other two criminals who were crucified along with Jesus (P*).

When Joseph of Arimathea, a follower of Jesus (P*), went to Pilate to request the release of the body of Jesus (P*), **“Pilate wondered if he were already dead”** (B* Mark 15:44). Experience told him that a crucified man could not die so quickly. He asked a centurion if Jesus (P*) was dead. The centurion was sympathetic to Jesus (P*). Earlier he had said, **“Truly this man was the Son of God”** (B* Mark 15:39). **Doctors with years of training and experience sometimes cannot diagnose death.** Therefore, it is possible for a centurion to fail to diagnose the death of Jesus (P*), while he was still on the cross. The centurion did not examine Jesus (P*) for his ‘vital signs’. Jesus (P*) might have appeared dead to him.

The ‘Illustrated dictionary & Concordance of the Bible’ describes Crucifixion (page 252) as, **“A form of punishment probably first used by the Persians, later adopted by the Greeks and Romans.... Death, nevertheless, was very painful and very slow, rarely taking less than 36 hours. Sometimes death was hastened by breaking the legs... Some victims were known to survive after some days on the cross.”**

Jesus (P*) was put on the cross at the 3rd hour and ‘breathed his last’ at the 9th hour, making it only 6 hours (B* Mark 15:25, 34-37).

As Pilate was not interested to kill Jesus (P*) in the first place, **he granted an easy and quick permission to release the body.** Further, next day was the Sabbath day. Everybody wanted to go home early to prepare for the Sabbath. According to Jewish law and tradition, the dead body had to be buried before sun down (B* Deuteronomy 21:22-23).

Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus and Mary Magdalene took the body of Jesus (P*), wrapped it in linen and laid him in a nearby large tomb (5’ wide, 7’ high, 15’ deep) on Friday evening. On Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint Jesus (P*) with spice. She saw Jesus (P*) but could not recognize him because he looked like a gardener to her (B* John 20:15).

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However, when he called her by her name “Mary” she recognized him as Jesus (P*) and went to hold him. He said to her:

- *“Do not hold me, for I have **not yet ascended** to the father”* (B* John 20:17).

In Middle Eastern and oriental language, to ascend to God means to die; just as one says in U.S.A., “he kicked the bucket.” Here Jesus (P*) was telling that he had not died yet.

In the evening of that day Jesus (P*) went to the place where his eleven disciples had assembled. They were startled and frightened to see him, thinking him to be the spirit of Jesus (P*). He assured them by saying:

- *“See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have. ... They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them”* (B* Luke 24:39-43).

A resurrected body is a spiritual body: The Bible says:

- *“How are dead raised? With what kind of body do they come? ... It is sown a **physical body**, it is raised a **spiritual body**”* (B* 1 Corinthians 15:35, 44).
- Jesus (P*) also said that ‘a resurrected body is a spiritual body’, like the angel. The spiritual body does not have flesh and bones, and unlike the natural human body, there is no need for food or sex (B* Luke 20:35-36).

After Joseph of Arimathea had left the tomb, Mary Magdalene stayed on there for some time (B* Matthew 27:61). She came back on the third day to anoint him with spice. It was never the custom of the Jews or the Christians or the pagans to anoint a dead body on the third day. Earlier, on Friday evening, Mary must have had noticed some sign of life in Jesus (P*) and so came back to anoint him as soon as Sabbath was over.

If Jesus (P*) had died on the cross and then raised from the dead it would be resurrection. A resurrected body is a spiritual body. The stone at the door of the tomb need not be moved for the spiritual body of Jesus (P*) to come out of the tomb. Jesus (P*) would not

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need to disguise as a gardener (B* John 20:15) for fear of being caught by the Jews and re-crucified. A resurrected body cannot be crucified. A man is appointed to die only once (B* Hebrews 9:27). Jesus (P*) asked Mary not to touch him because he had a physical body and it was very painful from the ordeal he went through at the cross. Further **Jesus (P*) said that he had not died yet** (B* John 20:17).

The disciples were startled and frightened to see Jesus (P*), thinking him to be the spirit of Jesus (P*). When Jesus (P*) was seized by the Roman army, all the disciples fled (B* Mark 14:50). They heard that he had died. So Jesus (P*) said to them, “*See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have ... he (Jesus P*) said unto them, Have ye here any meat?... They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them*” (B* Luke 24:39-43). This proves that he had a physical body, which needed nutrition. He had not died and therefore there was no resurrection of the dead. **The Bible clearly and repeatedly says that Jesus (P*) did not die on the cross.**

The Bible says, “*In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death*” (not resurrect him after death) (B* Hebrews 5:7).

God can forgive anyone if He so wants. **He is a righteous God and does not punish the innocent to redeem the guilty.** The Bible says:

* “*The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son: 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).

God does not want sacrifice. He said:

* “*For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings*” (B* Hosea 6:6).

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God had already done away with blood atonement in the Bible: *“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of rams, or of goats. ... your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evils of your doings from before your eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow”* (B* Isaiah 1:11-17).

Therefore, redemption of the sins of humanity by the sacrifice of the sinless blood of Jesus (P*) on the cross is not God’s design. Resurrection of Jesus (P*) is the idea of Saint Paul. He admits it in 2 Timothy:

- ***“Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel”*** (B* 2 Timothy 2:8).

Christians consider Jesus (P) as God and their savior. When humans were crucifying God-Jesus (P*), he could not save himself. How can he be someone else’s savior? He could not even get any help when he cried aloud from the cross for help. Further, would it not be unfair on part of the God to have sent His son as a “Savior” of his followers thousands of years after Adam, depriving those born before the Christian era? God cannot be unfair. He is a Righteous God. **Tom Harpur, a former professor of New Testament and an Anglican Minister** writes in his book titled **‘For Christ’s Sake’**; *“Perhaps I am lacking in piety or some basic instinct, but I know I am not alone in finding the idea of Jesus’ death as atonement for the sins of all humanity on one level bewildering and on the other morally repugnant. Jesus never to my knowledge said anything to indicate that forgiveness from God could only be granted ‘after’ or ‘because of’ the cross.”* (For Christ’s Sake, p.75).

New Testament

From the beginning of human creation, God sent messages and guidance to humanity through His Prophets. The collections of these divine messages and guidance are known as the Scriptures. They are the foundation of religions.

The Bible, as we know today, has two parts, The Old and The New Testaments. The Old Testament is the Hebrew Bible (also called Tanaka) and has 39 books. They were originally written in Hebrew. The New Testament, originally written in Greek, has two main versions. The Protestant version has 27 books. Four of the books are known as gospels. Fourteen of the remaining 23 books are attributed to Apostle Saint Paul, four to Apostle John, two to Apostle Peter, one to each of James, Jude and Luke. The Catholic version has 34 books. The Protestants do not consider these extra 7 books to be authentic (Ref. 3, p101). All the books and letters that were included in the New Testament were selected by the councilors at the council of Nicea, in 325 A. D., without any divine command.

Authenticity:

Jesus (P*) did not write or dictate any part of the New Testament nor was it written during his lifetime so that he could approve or reject any of the statements or deed attributed to him. The four canonized Gospels were written between 35 to 80 years after Jesus (P*) had left this earth. After so many years, it is probably not possible to remember, word for word, what Jesus (P*) had said earlier. Over one hundred catholic and Protestant Bible scholars compiled the “Ecumenical Translation of the Bible”. They say: “*the evangelists ... have collected and recorded in writing the material given to them by the oral tradition*” (Ref. 3 -p56). The Bible itself recognized the lack of its authenticity by the following verse: “*How can you, say, ‘We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us?’ But behold, the false pen of the scribes has made it into a lie*” (B* Jeremiah 8:8).

Dr. Hugh J. Schonfield wrote in his book ‘**Those Incredible Christians?**’:

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1. *“Thus in the Fourth Gospel, as in the letters to the Seven Churches, it is not the real Jesus speaking, John the Elder who is speaking in his name” (Ref. 26, p38).*
2. *“It should be clear to us by now that there are several bogus books in the New Testament, and others which are purposefully misleading. Our own moral judgment must not be applied to the literary productions of antiquity, where it was not considered at all improper to forge, interpolate and slant documents in a good cause. John would certainly have believed that his design was righteous and God-guided” (Ref. 26, p39).*
3. *“Within the covers of the Bible we can meet with forgeries, manipulations and deliberate inventions just as much as outside it. Scholarship is well aware of this; but when a Biblical work, especially in the New Testament, is evidently not by the person claiming to be the author, everything is done to avoid the word forgery. The same is true of sayings attributed to Jesus and know not to be genuine. We speak of such books as by someone of the Pauline or Petrine school of thought, of changed or invented sayings as ‘secondary’. If we did not employ evasions it would appear that the Holy Spirit was an accessory to fraud” (Ref. 26, p52).*

Manuscripts:

The original manuscripts of the Gospels are not available. The earliest available recordings, Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus, are from 4th century. They also have been altered (Ref. 3, p78).

Gospels:

Gospel (means good news) represents the life and teaching of Jesus (P*). Jesus (P*) did not give any Scripture to his followers to follow. After he had left this earth, many people wrote Gospels. Four of them were canonized. The only Gospel written in Aramaic, the language that Jesus (P*) spoke, was not included in the Bible. The Bible recognizes Barnabas to be “an apostle”, “a good man, full of Holy spirit and of faith” (B* Acts 14:14, & 11:24). He also wrote a gospel. Instead of including it in the New Testament, the book was forbidden. Toland, in his “Miscellaneous Works” (published (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

posthumously in 1747), in Vol. I, page 380, mention that the Gospel of Barnabas was still extant. In Chapter XV he refers to the Glasian Decree of 496 C.E. where “Evangelium Barnabe” is included in the list of forbidden books. The Gospels of the Hebrews, and the Gospels of the Egyptians and Thomas’s Gospel are a few of the many Gospels deliberately destroyed (Ref. 3, p77).

Authors of the New Testament:

The canonical Gospels did not surface until after 140 A.D. (Ref. 3, p77). After subsequent analyses they were placed between 65 to 110 A.D. Knowledgeable Bible scholars agree that the **true identities of the authors of the Gospels are not known** (Ref. 3, p60, 67, & 69).

Apostle Matthew cannot be the author of the Gospel named after him. Instead of writing, “Jesus (P*) saw me and asked me to follow him”, it says: “*he (Jesus) saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, ‘Follow me’. And he rose and followed him*” (B* Matthew 9:9). Further, Matthew (compiled around 75 A. D.) heavily copied from Mark (compiled around 65 A. D.) who was not an eyewitness.

Saint Luke admits that he is not the author of the Gospel named after him. He wrote about the materials: “Even as they delivered them unto us” (B* Luke 1:2-3).

Ecumenical Translation of the Bible concluded that Apostle John is not the author of the Gospel, named after him. Instead, several other authors wrote the Gospel of John (Ref. 3, p69).

Inspired Book:

It is said that the authors of the Bible could write, word for word, what the Prophets had said years earlier, because God inspired them. None of the writers of the Gospels claimed to have been inspired by God to write the Gospels. God also did not confirm in the book that He inspired them.

The Bible has numerous gross mistakes and contradictions. **God has perfect knowledge. An inspired book should not have numerous gross mistakes and contradictions.** A Christian (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

publication (Ref. 10, p1) admits that the Bible has thousands of errors and contradictions. The King James version of Bible, 1988 edition, admits this in its preface as: *“Yet King James version has grave defects... that these defects are so many and so serious as to call for revision of the English translation.”* A few examples are given below:

Genealogy of Jesus (P*): Ancestors of Jesus (P*) are given in B* Matthew 1:1-17, and in B* Luke 3:23-38. In Matthew father of Joseph is given as Jacob, and in Luke, he is Heli. **A man cannot have two fathers.** Further, instead of tracing the genealogy of Jesus (P*) or his mother Mary, it traces the genealogy of Joseph, the husband of Mary! He is not blood related to Jesus (P*). See Appendix 1 at the end.

Apostles:

The names of the twelve apostles, given in B* Matthew (10:2-4), and B* Luke (6:14-16), differ. This creates confusion, and Bible says: *“God is not the author of confusion”* (B* 1 Corinthians 14:33). It is disturbing to note that Matthew and Luke could not remember the correct names of twelve apostles, chosen by Jesus (P*).

Sign of Jonah:

When the Pharisees asked Jesus (P*) to give them a sign from heaven, he was quoted to have said: *“An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign; but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was **three days and three nights** in the belly of the whale; so will the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth”* (B* Matthew 12:40). Jesus (P*) was taken to the tomb on Friday evening and on Sunday morning he spoke to Mary Magdalene, **making it only one day and two nights.** Mark writes that Jesus (P*) left the place without making this statement (Mark 8:12).

Ascension:

Matthew and John do not refer to Jesus’ (P*) ascension to heaven. It is unthinkable that such an auspicious event in the life of Jesus (P*) should not be mentioned in these two Gospels. Mark

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mentions it in verse 16:19, which are not found in original old manuscripts of Codex Vaticanus. They were added later (Ref., 3-p 65). Both the ‘Gospel according to Luke’ and ‘Acts of Apostles’, are attributed to Saint Luke. He describes Ascension **on Easter Day in the Gospel** (B* Luke- 24:51), and **forty days later in the Acts of the Apostles** (B* Acts 1:3, 9).

Earthquake:

Only Matthew mentions the disastrous earthquake that split the rocks, tore the curtain of the temple, opened the tombs and raised the bodies of the saints that marched into the holy city! (B* Matthew 27:51-53). It is an incredible event. How could Apostles John, Luke, and Mark, not mention such a colossal happening in the life of Jesus (P*) and in Jerusalem? None of them forgot to mention a small event like Jesus (P*) riding on a donkey on his way to Jerusalem.

Eucharist:

The Institution of Eucharist is not described in the Gospel of John. It is unthinkable that John should not mention an episode so basic to Christianity.

Jesus (P*) Mission:

John describes Jesus (P*) mission as lasting over a period of **two years** whereas Matthew, Mark and Luke place the duration as over a period of **one year** (Ref. 3, p71). Jesus (P*) said:

(1) ***“I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel”*** (B* Matthew 15:24).

(2) He also directed his disciples, ***“Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel”*** (B* Matthew 10:5-6).

(3) Jesus (P*) prayed to God: ***“I am praying for them (followers of Jesus); I am not praying for the world but for those whom thou hast given me, for they are thine”*** (B* John 17:9).

However, after his resurrection he is reported to have said,

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(1) “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (B* Matthew 28:19).

(2) “And he (Jesus-P*) said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation” (B* Mark 16:15). This verse is not found in the earliest available manuscripts.

How is it possible that Jesus (P*) did not know his mission while on earth?

Begotten sons of God:

Saint John said in the Bible: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son,” (B* John 3:16).

God also said to Jesus (P*): “***Thou art my son, today I have begotten thee***” (B* Hebrews 5:5).

However, God said that His first begotten son was David (P*): “*Thou (David) art my Son; this day have I begotten thee*” (B* Psalms 2:7). This makes Jesus (P*) the second begotten Son of God.

Additions and Deletions in the Bible:

There is a dire warning of the curse of plague to those who add to or take anything away from the Bible (B* Revelation 22:18-19 and Deuteronomy 12:32). Besides other changes, either the Catholics have added 7 books (Apocrypha) to the Bible or the Protestants have deleted them from it. Either way, the Bible condemns one half.

Many verses, not present in the ancient manuscripts, have been added to the Bible in later years. Some of those verses were taken out of the Bible in the 1952 edition of King James Bible only to put them back in the later editions. Examples of some of these alterations in the Bible are given below:

1. The first eleven verses of chapter 8 of the Gospel of John were taken out. This includes the famous verse: “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” **Chapter 8 starts**

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with verse number 12.

- 2. Verses Mark 16:9-20 were taken out.**
- 3. Both the Verses related to ascension of Jesus (P*) into heaven, were taken out (B* Luke 24:51, and Mark 16:19).**
- 4. The basis of trinity taken out:** The verse often quoted as the basis of trinity is: *“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the word, and the Holy Spirit: and these three are one.”* (B* 1 John 5:7) It was **taken out and replaced by** *“And the Spirit is the witness, because the Spirit is the truth.”* (B* 1 John 5:7)
- 5. “Begotten” removed:** “God gave his **only Begotten son**” changed to “God gave his **only son**” (B* John 3:16).
- 6. “Behold a virgin shall conceive” changed to “a young woman shall conceive” (B* Isaiah 7:14).**
- 7. Jesus (P*) is said to have referred to himself as ‘son of God’ in John 9:35 in older Bible: “Dost thou believe on the *Son of God*”? (B* John 9:35 1950 edition). It has been changed into ‘son of man’ in newer edition: “Do you believe in the *son of man*?” (B* John 9:35 1988 edition).**

This means that in Gospel of John the original phrase ‘son of man’ was translated as ‘son of God’. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus (P*) did not refer to himself as ‘son of God’ even once (refer to the chapter ‘Son of God’).

Saint Paul contradicts Jesus (P*):

When asked what a man must do to get eternal life, **Jesus (P*) advised him to follow the commandments of the Old Testament (B* Mark 10:19).**

Jesus (P*) also said, *“Think not that I have come to ‘the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven;*

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but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” (B* Matthew 5:17-19).

Once Apostle Saint Paul established his foot-hold among the disciples, he declared abolition of those laws:

1. *“For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse”* (B* Galatians 3:10).

2. *“you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace”* (B* Galatians 5:4).

3. *“Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience”* (B* 1 Corinthians 10:25).

Saint Paul admits that evil resides in him and he does evil things. He also admits to be crafty and hypocrite. He wrote:

1. *“For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do”* (B* Roman 7:18-19).

2. *“But be that as it may, I did not burden you myself; nevertheless, crafty fellow that I am, I took you in by deceit.”* (B* 2 Corinthian 12:16, New American Standard Bible- 1995).

3. *“To the Jews I become as a Jew, in order to win Jews; to those under the law I become as one under the law- though not being myself under the law- that I might win those under the law. ... To the weak I become weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. I do it for the sake of the Gospel, that I may share in its blessings”* (B* 1 Corinthians 9:20-23).

Webster’s Dictionary says *“one who feigns to be what he is not is a hypocrite.”*

Saint Paul directly contradicted what Jesus (P*) had said and practiced. He also admitted doing evil. Even then, 14 out of 27 books of the New Testament are attributed to Saint Paul. It is of interest to note that one of Saint Paul’s companions was Luke and Saint Paul was missing for a few years when Mark’s Gospel was written. Further Saint Paul *“was considered to be a traitor to Jesus*

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The Rational Choice
New Testament

(P) thoughts by the latter's family and by the Apostles who had stayed in Jerusalem" (Ref. 3, p 52 & p 67).*

Saint Paul, the Prophet

Saint Paul was born in a Jewish family in Tarsus, which is now in Turkey. His original name was Saul and he was a zealous Jewish Pharisee. By profession, he was a tentmaker. In his early years, he persecuted and tortured the followers of Jesus (P*). He was present at the stoning of the first Christian martyr St. Stephen (B* Acts 7:58-60).

After Jesus (P*) has left this earth, St. Paul claimed that, on his way to Damascus, he saw a vision of Jesus (P*) speaking to him in person (B* Acts 22:8).

The real founder of Christianity is Saint Paul. Out of the 27 books of New Testament, 14 are attributed to him.

Saint Paul denounced laws of Old Testament:

The teachings of Saint Paul directly contradicted those of Jesus (P*), his apostles and the Bible.

Jesus (P*) advised people to follow the commandments of the Old Testament to get eternal life (B* Mark 10:19). He further said, *“Think not that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. ... till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven”* (B* Matthew 5:17-19).

The Bible also says: *“The law of the Lord is perfect”* (B* Psalms 19:7).

Once Apostle Saint Paul established some foothold among the followers of Jesus (P*), he declared abolition of those laws, which Jesus (P*) came to fulfill:

- *“... you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace”* (B* Galatians 5:4).
- *“For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse”*

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(B* Galatians 3:10).

- “*For we hold that a man is justified by faith apart from works of law*” (B* Romans 3:28).

But the Bible says: “*You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.*” (B* James 2:24).

- St. Paul also wrote: “*Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience*” (B* 1 Corinthians 10:25).

Saint Paul also took the shelter of law:

Same Saint Paul took the shelter of law of the Old Testament to silence the women and to justify blood atonement for the expiation of original sin:

- “*the women should keep silence in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be subordinate, as even the law says*” (B* 1 Corinthians 14:34-35).
- He said: “*Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.*” (B* Hebrews 9:22).
- “*Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as an expiation by his blood, to be received by faith*” (B* Romans 3:25).

When Saint Paul was brought for trial he said to the governor: “*I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the law or written in the prophets*” (B* Acts 24:14).

Jesus (P*) taught people to pray like this: “*Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ... Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors*” (B* Matthew 6:9-12). He did not say anything about shedding of sinless blood of begotten Son of God for forgiveness.

St. Paul abolishes everlasting covenant of Abraham (P*):

God said: “*This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your descendants after you: Every male among*

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you shall be circumcised. ... So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant.” (B Genesis 17:10, 13).*

Jesus (P*) himself was circumcised: *“And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb” (B* Luke 2:21).*

Saint Paul prohibited this everlasting covenant: *“Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing” (B* Galatians 5:2-3).* Same Saint Paul had Timothy circumcised when he found it to his advantage: *“Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews that were in those places” (B* Acts 16:3).*

Saving of the followers:

Jesus (P*) said, *“Not every one who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven” (B* Mark 7:21).*

Saint Paul said: *“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; for `whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” (B* Roman 10:11-13).*

Saint Paul calls apostles of Jesus (P*) as false and deceitful:

- *“And what I do I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.” (B* 2 Corinthians 11:12-14).*

Claiming of Prophet-hood:

St. Paul claimed Prophet-hood, getting revelations from Jesus (P*). He wrote: *“the gospel which was preached by me is not man’s gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ... I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem*

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to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days” (B Galatians 1:11-12, 16-18).*

Many a people in the past had claimed to be Prophets. The Bible gives the criteria by which the true Prophet can be distinguished from the false Prophet. 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).*

Jesus (P*) also warned people of false Prophets. He said:

- *“False Christs and false prophets will arise and show signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect” (B* Mark 13:22).*
- *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. ... (B* Matthew 7:15).*
- *”Not every one who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, ... On that day many will say to me ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty work in your name? And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers.’ (B* Matthew 7:21-23).*

Prophecies of Saint Paul not fulfilled:

Although Saint Paul claimed to be a Prophet receiving revelations from Jesus (P*), his prophesy did not come to pass. He was so certain of the end of the world and return of Jesus (P*) within his lifetime that he declared it in no uncertain language:

- *“I think that in view of the present distress it is well for a person to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek marriage. But if you marry, you do not sin, and if a girl marries she does not sin. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. I mean, brethren, the appointed time has grown very short; from now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though*

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they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the form of this world is passing away.” (B* 1 Corinthians 7:26-31).

- He also said: *“For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord.”* (B* 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

Saint Paul is dead and the Lord did not return while he and his generation were alive. This makes Saint Paul a false Prophet and he did not receive any revelation from Jesus (P*).

God said in The Bible:

- ***“The prophets are prophesying lies in my name; I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless deviation, and the deceit of their own minds.”*** (B* Jeremiah 14:14)
- *“Thus says the Lord God, Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!”* (B* Ezekiel 13:3).

Hypocrisy of Saint Paul:

He said: *“To the Jews I become as a Jew, in order to win Jews; to those under the law I become as one under the law- though not being myself under the law- that I might win those under the law. ... To the weak I become weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. I do it for the sake of the Gospel, that I may share in its blessings”* (B* 1 Corinthians 9:20-23). Webster’s Dictionary says, *“one who feigns to be what he is not is a hypocrite.”*

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Saint Paul admits that he does evil things:

He says: *“For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do”* (B* Roman 7:18-19).

Saint Paul degrades Jesus (P*):

* Saint Paul says: “for a man to wear long hair is degrading to him” (B* 1 Corinthians 11:14). Every painting and statue of Jesus (P*) shows him wearing long hair.

Saint Paul also admitted indulging in falsehood:

- *“But if through my falsehood God’s truthfulness abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner?”* (B* Romans 3:7). God does not need falsehood to uphold His truth.

Jesus (P*) said: *“He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much”* (B* Luke 16:10).

Many years after proclaiming to be a follower of Jesus (P*) Saint Paul remained a confessed Pharisee. When arrested by the Roman soldier he said to the council:

- *“I am a Pharisee, a son of a Pharisee”* (B* Acts 23:6). He did not say ‘I was a Pharisee’.

Jesus (P*) said: *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, Hypocrites! ... You make him (proselyte) twice as much a child of hell as yourselves”* (B* Matthew 23:15).

Seventeen years after his claimed vision of Jesus (P*) when Saint Paul went to meet the apostles in Jerusalem, they charged him: *“You teach all Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or observe the customs. ... Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told*

*about you but **that you yourself live in observance of the law.** ... Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself with them and went into the temple, to give notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering presented for every one of them.” (B* Acts 21:26).*

This shows that apostles of Jesus (P*) did not accept Saint Paul as a Prophet or his teachings and punished him for deviating from Jesus’ (P*) teaching. Saint Paul accepted the punishment showing that he will live in observance of the law. However, he did not, as is expected of a hypocrite.

Saint Paul was able to change the apostles to give exemption from circumcision to the already converted Gentiles under the Noachide law, which governed Gentiles under Jewish administration. The apostles agreed to this as a temporary measure to heal the rift between the Gentiles and Jewish converts. Thus Saint Paul ‘lead astray the very elect’. Apostle Peter went to Antioch to discuss with Saint Paul about application of laws to Gentiles. Saint Paul noticed some weakness on the part of Apostle Peter in the observance of the laws and charged him: “*If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?*” (B* Galatians 2:14).

Saint Paul claimed to have had a vision of Jesus (P*) and thereafter got revelations from him. According to the criteria of the Bible, Saint Paul was a false Prophet, and according to his own admission, he was a hypocrite and indulged in falsehood. As Jesus (P*) had warned, Paul ‘wore the sheep’s clothing’ of a Prophet but ‘inwardly he was a ravenous wolf’ destroying the teaching of Jesus (P*) (B* Matthew 7:15). It is difficult to understand why Jesus (P*), after he left this earth, would choose a hypocrite and a liar to negate all that he taught and stood for when he was alive, instead of revealing them to his own selected apostles. Again, why would he teach or say wrong things in the first place when he was alive?

Suppose your father had divided his property among yourselves in a specific manner before he died. After his death, your neighbor comes and informs you that he had a vision of your father. Your father has now changed his mind and has given all the property to

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The Rational Choice

Saint Paul, the Prophet

him. Will you accept it and give your property to your neighbor?

Now it is for you the readers to reason, judge, and then decide whether to follow Saint Paul, a false Prophet, because the family and friends follow him or use God-given intelligence and seek for the truth.

Sacred Books on pork

God has forbidden pig meat in Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Islamic Research foundation of Mumbai, India gave some possible reasons why God, with all His wisdom, chose to forbid pig meat in all the three revealed religions. The content of this brochure was taken from a publication by Islamic Research Foundation of Mumbai.

1. Pork prohibited in the Bible:

God forbids the consumption of pig meat clearly and distinctly, without any ambiguity, in the books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

- ***“And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be cloven footed, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you”. “Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcass shall ye not touch, they are unclean to you” (B* Leviticus 11:7-8).***
- ***“And the swine, because it divideth the hoof, yet cheweth not the cud, it is unclean unto you. Ye shall not eat of their flesh, nor touch their dead carcass” (B* Deuteronomy 14:8).***

It is also found in Isaiah, chapter 65, verse 4. Here God speaks of *“a rebellious people ... who eat swine’s flesh.”*

2. Consumption of pork causes several diseases:

God’s command is sufficient for a religious person to abstain from prohibited things. Those who do not believe in revealed scriptures may join the religious people to be convinced through reason, logic and science. Eating of pork can cause no less than seventy different types of diseases. A person can get various types of helminthes like roundworm, pinworm, hookworm etc from pig meat. One of the most dangerous is Taenia Solium, which is also called tapeworm. It harbors in the intestine and is very long. Its ova i.e. eggs, enter the blood stream and can reach almost every organ of the body. If it enters the brain, it can cause memory loss. If it enters the heart, it can cause heart attack, if it enters the eye it can cause blindness, if it enters the liver it can cause liver damage.

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It can damage almost any the organ of the body.

Another dangerous helminthes is Trichura Tichurasis. A common misconception about pork is that if it is cooked, these ova die. In a research project undertaken in USA, it was found that out of twenty-four people suffering from Trichura Tichurasis, twenty-two had cooked the pork well before eating. This indicates that the ova present in the pork do not die under normal cooking conditions.

3. Pork has fat building material:

Pork has very little muscle building material and contains excess of fat. This fat is deposited in the blood vessels and can cause hypertension and heart attack. Over 50% of Americans suffer from hypertension.

4. Pig is one of the filthiest animals on earth:

The pig is one of the filthiest animals on earth. It lives and thrives on muck, faeces and dirt. It is the best scavenger that God has created. In India, the villagers do not have modern toilets and the villagers excrete in the open air. Very often, the excreta are cleared by pigs.

Some may argue that in advanced countries like USA & Australia, pigs are bred in very clean and hygienic conditions. Even in these hygienic conditions, the pigs are kept together. No matter how hard you try to keep them clean they are filthy by nature. They eat and enjoy their own as well as their neighbor's excreta.

5. Pig is the most shameless animal:

The pig is the most shameless animal on the earth. It is the only animal that invites others to have sex with its mate. In USA, most people consume pork. Many times, after dance parties, people have swapping of wives. If you eat pigs then you may behave like pigs. Indians look upon USA as a very advanced and sophisticated nation. Whatever they do, Indians tend to follow after a few years. According to an article in Island magazine, this practice of swapping wives has already started in the affluent circles of Mumbai (Bombay).

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Jesus (P*) advised people to follow the commandments of the Old Testament. He said: *“Think not that I have come to abolish the law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven”* (B* Matthew 5:17-19).

It was St. Paul who advised Christians to disobey God and eat pork. He said: *“You who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace”* (B* Galatians 5:4).

“Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience” (B* 1 Corinthians 10:25).

6. Quran also prohibits pork:

The Quran prohibits the consumption of pork in no less than four different places. It is prohibited in Quran- 2:173, 5:3, 6:145 and 16:115.

“Forbidden to you (for food) are: dead meat, blood, the flesh of swine, and that on which hath been invoked the name of other than God” (Q* 5:3).

The above verses of the Quran are sufficient for a Muslim to abstain from eating pork. Those who believe in Tanaka (Hebrew Bible), the Greek Bible (New Testament) or Quran should abstain from eating pig meat.

God has allowed us thousands and thousands of wholesome food to eat. He forbids us to eat pig meat. God is the Creator and all-wise. He can command whatever He considers right for us. If you eat pig meat you will willfully defy God’s command. Remember what happened to Adam and Eve for their un-willful disobedience. Your disobedience will be willful.

The Christmas

The birthday of Jesus (P*) is celebrated as 'Christmas Day' with great festivity. Houses and stores are beautifully decorated. Millions of trees are cut from forests. They are brought home, decorated with dazzling ornamental decorations, and illuminated with twinkling lights.

People purchase all kinds of gifts for their loved ones and place them under the Christmas tree. In fact, more than half of the retail sales of the year in U.S.A. take place during the Christmas season.

During Christmas, Churches offer special services to the faithful. Many people, who normally do not attend Church services, like to attend the Christmas service to get special blessings. People have special dinner and drinks.

In the western world, people observe their birthdays. People of the eastern world have also started to observe their birthdays. People feel very good when they cut a cake and the people around them sing 'Happy birth day to you'. Friends and relatives not only sing 'Happy birth day to you' but also wish them 'many a happy returns'.

Ladies over the age of 29 years are not very enthusiastic to have a large public birthday party. If at all, they want to have a small private party.

It is unthinkable for anyone to remind the person that he or she has already passed that many years of life and that much closer to meet his or her Creator. Whatever life is left (God only knows), if they have not earned enough good credits with the Lord for their afterlife, they should earnestly strive for it.

In the pagan systems people used to observe the birthday of their gods and sons of gods. During the time of Jesus (P), people of the region used to celebrate the birthday of their gods, especially Mithras and Dionysius.

Mithras was a Persian deity, and was a part of Persian Trinity

which consists of (1). Ahura Mazda or Ohrmazd, (2). Mithras and (3). Ahriman (Ref. 5 - p74). Ahura Mazda or Ohrmazd, is the supreme and wise 'God of Heavenly Light' Mithras is the 'sun-god,' the 'light of the world. Ahriman is the "destructive spirit" and is the 'lord of darkness.' Mithras is regarded as the god of truth, righteousness, justice and bravery.' He was born of a virgin mother, Anahita, on 25 December. His birthday used to be celebrated annually by millions of people of Middle East, India and Europe as Saturnalia. He was regarded as the 'light of the world' and 'savior of mankind'. He was a mediator between heaven and earth. He had twelve close associates. He remained celibate throughout his life. After his earthly mission was accomplished, he took part in a 'Last Supper' with his companions before ascending to heaven, to forever protect the faithful from above. One of the seven sacraments of the followers was ritualistic purification of the faithful where the participant used bread and wine to symbolize the body and blood of their god, as we find it in Eucharistic supper (Ref. 26, p67).

Dionysius of Greek mythology was also born of a virgin mother and was regarded as the only begotten son of Jupiter. He was born on 25 December. He called himself the Alpha and Omega and was regarded as the Redeemer and Savior of humanity. He was also resurrected from the dead. (Ref. 26, p66).

Adonis of Syrian mythology was born of a virgin mother and was believed to be the Savior of humanity. He died for the redemption of humanity and rose from the dead in spring (Easter) (Ref. 26, p66).

Attis of Turkish mythology was also born of a virgin mother. He was regarded as the only begotten son and a Savior. He died and then resurrected (Ref. 26, p66).

As we look into the scriptures of revealed religions, we do not find any Prophet or his immediate followers to celebrate the birthday of the Prophets. Jesus (P*) did not observe his birthday. His Apostles also did not celebrate his birthday after Jesus (P*) had left this earth.

Jesus (P*) was born in summer and his birthday was not known.

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The Rational Choice
The Christmas

The shepherds, who were grazing the sheep out in the fields at night, came to see infant Jesus (P*) (B* Luke 2:8). It is bitterly cold in winter in Bethlehem and the shepherds do not take their sheep out in the fields at nights in winter to graze them.

The heathens during the time of Jesus (P) used to celebrate 25 December as the birthday of their gods (Mithra, Dionysius etc.). The Church elders wanted to continue celebrating this pagan festival. This would encourage the heathens to join the Christians in their celebration. Some day they might join Christianity.

In 325 A.D. the Council of Nicea declared 25th December as the birthday of God-Jesus (P*) giving a reason to celebrate the pagan festival as Christmas. In this conference, Jesus (P*) was declared” *God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God.*” (Hastings’ Encyclopedia of Ethics and Religion, vol. IV, p239).

Decoration of Trees is Forbidden in Bible: Decoration of trees (as during Christmas) is a heathen custom and is forbidden in the Bible. *“Thus says the Lord: ‘Learn not the way of the nations, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the nations are dismayed at them, for the customs of the peoples are false. A tree from the forest is cut down, and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman. Men deck it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nail so that it cannot move. Their idols’ are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Be not afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good”* (B* Jeremiah 10:2-5).

December 25th was not Jesus’ Birthday.

He was born in summer.

Teaching and Practices of Jesus (P*)

Christianity is defined as a monotheistic religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth as presented in the New Testament. A Christian is one who follows the teaching and practices of Jesus (P*).

Jesus (P*) was born in a Jewish family. He was raised as a Jew. He practiced and preached Judaism as a Rabbi in the Synagogue. He observed Sabbath on Saturday. He never claimed to have introduced a new religion called Christianity or converted to it. Jesus (P*) clearly said that God had sent him only for the Jewish people of Israel: *“I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel”* (B* Matthew 15:24, 10:40, and John 17:3). Therefore if one is not born of the “lost sheep of the house of Israel,” Jesus is not for him/her. Further, one who follows Jesus (P*) cannot call him/her a Christian. Jesus (P*) was not a Christian.

Jesus (P*) worshipped God, the creator of the universe. During prayer he used to bow down to the ground in prostration. Bible says: *“And he (Jesus) said to his disciples, ‘Sit here, while I pray yonder.’ ...And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed,”* (B* Matthew 26:36, 39). The Christians worship (1) God, the creator, (2) Jesus (P*), a human being, and (3) a spirit, called Holy Ghost. During prayer, they do not bow down to the ground to God in prostration as Jesus (P*) did.

Jesus (P*) was circumcised on the 8th day: *“And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus”* (B* Luke 2:21). The Christians do not get circumcised. God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham (P*) and his descendants: *“This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your descendants after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ... So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant”* (B* Genesis 17:10, 17: 13).

Jesus (P*) did not eat pig meat. God said *“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). Christians eat pork and do not follow Jesus (P*). Jesus (P*) clearly said to his followers to follow every commandments of the Old Testament. He

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The Rational Choice
Teaching and Practices of Jesus (P*)

said: *“Think not that I have come to abolish the law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished”* (B* Matthew 5:17-19).

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). Christians, in general, do not fast.

Jesus (P*) followed a very moral and righteous life. He did not indulge in dating, adultery, or fornication. Leading immoral life, in general, is the norm of the Christian society today. More than 100,000 rapes are reported yearly in the United States alone. There are millions of illegitimate pregnancies, abortions and birth of illegitimate children each year.

Jesus (P*) said: *“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if any one would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well; and if any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.”* (B* Matthew 5:38-41) In general and in practice, one sees the opposite.

The Church elders knew very well that Jesus (P) was not born on 25th of December, not even in winter. Yet, they deliberately introduced a lie about him.

Jesus (P) said: *“He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much”* (B* Luke 16:10). Sure enough, the church elders not only introduced a lie about his birthday but also designated Jesus (P*), a human being, as God incarnate and worship him, in the same way the pagans used to worship their God-incarnates. There is not a single verse in the Bible where Jesus (P*) said to his followers that he was God and asked them to worship him.

Which of the above teachings and practices of Jesus (P*) do the Christians follow?

Many Christians are doing great humanitarian works around the world. They build hospitals, clinics, schools, shelters etc. Bible says that Jesus (P*) said to his followers: *“On that day many will say to me, ‘ Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and* (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

The Rational Choice
Teaching and Practices of Jesus (P*)

cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘ I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers” (B Matthew 7:22-23).*

Now why Jesus (P*) will not recognize his supposed followers who had done many mighty works in his name and call them ‘evildoers’?

1. The Christians do not follow the teachings and practices of Jesus (P*).
2. Jesus (P*) was sent for the lost sheep of the house of Israel. The Christians do not belong to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Jesus’ (P*) department is “For Jews only.” If you apply to the department of foreign affairs for driving license you will not get it.
3. Jesus (P*) taught his followers to worship God the Creator of the universe. The Christians made Jesus (P*) God-incarnate and worship him in the same way the pagans used to worship their God-incarnates.

The above discussed points may be the reasons why Jesus (P*) will not recognize them as his followers and will call them ‘evildoers’.

Islam

The Eternal Guidance, Universal Religion for Mankind

Man has been seeking for his Creator from the beginning of known human history. He has called his Creator by many different names, at different times and in different places. According to religion, the earliest created man and woman were aware of their Creator and prayed to Him. As time passed, their descendants did not transmit the knowledge of the Creator to their offspring properly. At some point in time, they lost this knowledge almost completely. Man has an innate nature to seek for his Creator. While seeking for his Creator, anything that was very powerful, enormous, or unusual, drew his attention and he worshipped them. He even worshipped fellow human beings who were gifted with special abilities by God, like performing miracles.

There are many different religions on earth. Religions, in general, are named after their founders. For example, Christianity named after Jesus (P*) Christ, Buddhism after Gautama Buddha, and Zoroastrianism after Zoroaster. Judaism was named after the tribe of Judah and the country of Judea. However, Islam was not named after any person, tribe, or country but after the principle for which it stands.

Religions can be divided into two broad groups, philosophical and revealed religions. The founders of the **philosophical religions** never claimed to be Prophets or to have received revelations from God. They have used their intelligence for this purpose. Knowledge of man is very limited and imperfect. He has no knowledge of the future and the hereafter. Therefore, all religions developed through human intellect are imperfect and are unsuitable for the salvation of humanity for the afterlife. The **revealed religions** are religions revealed by God through His Prophets. Only God has perfect knowledge of every thing. Therefore, His guidance can only be perfect.

Many people in the past had claimed to be Prophets. The

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Scriptures give us the criteria of Prophet-hood. The true Prophets have certain characteristics.

(1) Morally and intellectually they were among the best of the people created by God. After receiving Prophet-hood and God's message, they were infallible.

(2) They received revelations from God or His angels.

(3) They clearly stated that the message they were delivering were from God and not from them (B* Exodus 4:28-30, John 14:24 and Ref. 16, p56).

(4) They made prophecies that came to pass (Q* 30:3). 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).

(5). Prophets confirmed the past revelations and informed what may come in future. {The last sermon of the Prophet Mohammad (P*), B* Mark 10:19, and John 16:12-14}.

(6) God gave them special powers to perform miracles in the fields in which the society excelled at that time. Only their powers were much superior (Ref. 12, #3637 & #3576).

(7) Prophets were warners to people about the consequences of disobeying God's commandments. They also gave glad tidings of God's kindness, mercy and forgiveness.

(8) Prophet had absolute trust in God even during the most trying circumstances and God sustained them, and

(9) Works of the Prophets endured.

Prophet Mohammad (P*) meets all the above criteria and today many non-Muslim scholars recognize him as a Prophet. Prophets were special people who received revelations from God. If those revelations were recorded by the Prophets at the time of revelation and then transmitted to us unaltered, then

they would be the perfect guidance for mankind.

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Suppose a teacher is giving a course on a particular subject. We divide the students into three groups. The first group meticulously writes down every dictation given to them. The teacher checks their accuracy after every dictation. The second group starts to write them down, word for word, after 30 to 50 years of taking the course. The third group, instead of writing them down, tells their children about the course. After many generations, some of the descendants start to write down what the teacher had taught his great-great-grandfather. Which of the accounts would be most accurate and authentic? One can say without hesitation that it will be the account of the first group.

If we examine the scriptures of the revealed religions, **Mohammad (P*) is the only Prophet who dictated each and every revelation he had received and checked their accuracy.** Those were most meticulously compiled into a book, which is known as the Quran. No one has altered even one word in that book. **Today Quran is the only authentic revealed scripture in the world that remains unaltered.** Islam is the religion of this authentic unaltered scripture.

The word 'Islam' means willful submission to the will and laws of God. One who willingly submits is a Muslim. The other meaning of the word 'Islam' is peace. Therefore, Islam as a religion means 'Peace through willful submission to God'. The news media of the western world often write 'Islamic terrorists'. These two words are mutually contradictory. One who is peaceful cannot be a terrorist, and one who is a terrorist cannot be peaceful. It is like saying "a truthful liar." The same news media did not call Timothy McVeigh a Christian terrorist! There are bad people among the followers of every religion. They do not represent the religion. Most of the murderers and rapists in American prisons are Christians. Can Christianity be blamed for that?

Islam is the universal religion for all humanity. Every creation of universe submits to the laws of God. Every cell of our body was created according to the physical and chemical laws, laid down by God. As such, by definition, all were born as Muslims. After attaining maturity, when we use our intelligence to deny God's

existence or refuse to submit to His commandments, we become non-Muslims.

Torah was revealed for the guidance of the Jewish people. Jesus (P*) said that he was *'sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel'* (B* Matthew 15:24, also 10:40, John 17:3). The Quran was revealed for the whole of mankind: God says: *"Ramadan is the (month) in which was sent down The Quran, as a guide to mankind."* (Q* 2:185).

All the Prophets of the past willingly submitted to the will of God. Before Jesus (P*) was captured by the Roman soldiers, he fervently begged God to spare his life saying: *"Abba, Father, all things are possible to thee; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what thou wilt"* (B* Mark 14:35-36).

Islam is traditionally described under the headings of five pillars of Islam, but there are also other **essential pillars in Islam**. They are:

- **1. Iman or Faith,**
- **2. Salat or Prayer,**
- **3. Sawm or Fasting,**
- **4. Zakat or Poor due, and**
- **5. Hajj or Pilgrimage.**
- **6. Excellence in achievements and Moral conduct,**
- **7. Fulfilling one's duty,**
- **8. Enjoining good and forbidding evil,**
- **9. Establishment of Justice and equity; and eradication of injustice and oppression,**
- **10. Establishment of 'Justly Balanced Community',**
- **11. Refraining from falsehood**
- **12. Refraining from backbiting**

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- **13. Invite all to the way of God.**

1. Iman or Faith:

Iman or faith is the foundation of Islam. This pillar consists of a set of beliefs. The remaining pillars are actions and practices reflecting the beliefs.

Prophet Mohammad (P*) said: “Faith is that which resides firmly in the heart and which is proven by deeds.” Iman is the unshakable belief, without a shadow of doubt, arising out of knowledge and firm conviction, in:

- (1). the existence of one and only true God with all His attributes,
- (2). all the true Prophets of the past, Mohammad (P*) being the last Prophet,
- (3). all the revealed unaltered scriptures of God,
- (4). the angels of God and Jinns,
- (5). life after death & the Day of Judgment, and
- (6). destiny

(1) Faith in the existence of one and only true God with all His absolute attributes:

Faith begins with God. He is the Creator of the universe. He has no beginning and no end. He is Eternal, Absolute and Everlasting. He is all-powerful, All knowing, Self sufficient, and Self-sustaining. He shares His absolute attributes with no one. The only unforgivable sin is to associate anyone with God’s absolute attributes.

(2) Faith in all the true Prophets of the past, Mohammad (P*) being the last Prophet:

All the true Prophets of God are Prophets of Islam. They were special people chosen by God. They were protected by God and were sinless, truthful, and righteous. The guidance from a Prophet assures guarantee of its truth.

All Prophets taught the same religion: to recognize God as

the creator, to submit to His will, obey Him and lead a righteous truthful life of moral excellence. There will be a life after death. The Prophets differed only in their method of teaching and the extent of God given worldly laws, which depended on the social development and need at that time.

A Muslim must believe and accept all the Prophets of God. The Quran says that no one of them is to be distinguished above the rest (Q* 2:285). He must show respect to each and every Prophet of God. A Muslim must add, "Peace and Blessings of God be upon him" after pronouncing the name of every Prophet. You will not find a Muslim on the earth who will say one disrespectful word against Prophet Moses, Jesus (P*) or any other Prophet. Unfortunately, many of their followers have not been able to show respect to the Prophet of Islam. Besides Christianity, Islam is the only religion on earth, which accepts the miraculous birth of Prophet Jesus (P*) in its scripture, the Quran. Prophet Mohammad (P*) is the last of the Prophets and there will be no more Prophet until the Day of Judgment.

(3) Faith in all the revealed scriptures of God:

Scriptures of revealed religions are guidance from God to mankind. A Muslim must believe in all the revelations of God to the earlier Prophets. The earlier revelations were not recorded by the Prophets properly. In later years, they were mixed up with legends, false stories, pagan rituals, and man-made laws. Earlier revelations were addressed to a specific group of people of a specific period in time. The earlier scriptures did not have complete guidance for mankind. In addition, they were lost and then re-written from stories circulating in the communities. What we have today are not in the language of the Prophets. They all are translations. The exact words of the Prophets in his original language are extremely important. In most cases, the translated words do not carry the same meaning. The only exception is the Quran.

A Muslim is obliged to believe in the existence of scriptures revealed by God in the past. All commandments and stories that agree with the accurately recorded and unaltered scripture of Quran are acceptable to him. As the previous scriptures were not preserved

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properly, the accurately recorded and preserved scripture of Quran should be standard for determining the accuracy and authenticity of the contents of other revealed scriptures.

(4) Faith in the angels of God:

Angels are invisible creation of God, created from spirit. God conducts the affairs of the universe through them. They do not have any freedom of choice and are incapable of disobedience. In contrast to the angels, there is another invisible creation of God called Jinn. They are created from smokeless fire and have freedom of choice like the human. Satan belongs to the class of Jinn.

(5) Faith in life after death & the Day of Judgment:

A very firm and unshakable belief in life after death and the Day of Judgment is the single most important factor that determines the behavior of a person in this life.

There is always some extra effort and hardship on every person who wants to lead a righteous and just life on this earth. If a person is told that, on the “Day of Judgment”, he will not be accountable for any of his actions on this earth, will he care to undergo the hardship of a righteous and just life? If he is further told that someone else has already paid in advance for all his past and future crimes and sins, will there be any limit to his unjust and immoral behavior on this earth? If one looks at the life of people around him, who do not believe in the accountability on the “Day of Judgment”, one will notice how immoral life these people lead and how unjust their deeds are.

Many of the evils of the society stem from the belief that they will not be accountable for their deeds because they are the beloved of God or someone else has already paid in advance for all of their past and future sins.

Every person who has firm faith in (1) life after death, (2) the Day of Judgment, and (3) accountability for his or her deeds in this life, has to try to live a righteous and just life. He or she will always try his or her best to avoid evils and be fair to others. Every pious and righteous person wants to please God. Anything that pleases

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God is good.

One day the life of this world will end. There will be resurrection of the dead, followed by the Day of Judgment. People will be rewarded, forgiven or punished according to their deed during their life on this earth and will end up in heaven or hell in the after life. God only knows the precise time and date of the end of the world.

(6) Faith in Destiny:

A Muslim must believe that everything in the universe that has happened in the past and that will happen in the future is within the knowledge of God and with His permission. We have a freedom of choice. Many things will depend on our choice. Whatever we shall choose and the results, good or bad, are already within the knowledge of God and He permits it to happen.

2. Salat or Prayer:

Worship of God was ordained for all the Prophets and the peoples in the past. Islamic concept of worship is very wide. Any act with the intention of pleasing God is a form of worship. All things that please God are good. If you lead a truthful and righteous life according to the laws of God, help the poor, and feed the hungry without the intention of personal glory or worldly gain but with the intention of pleasing God, you are worshipping Him.

Besides these acts of worship, there are formal daily prayers performed five times a day during specific hours, according to the instructions given by Prophet Mohammad (P*). The various positions and postures during the prayers are external expressions of one's submission to God. Sincere prayers five times a day, keep one away from evil deeds. It also strengthens the foundation of faith. How many times can a person sincerely ask forgiveness from God for his or her evil thoughts and deeds, then after the prayer go and repeat them again only to ask forgiveness at the next prayer? Very soon, he or she will start feeling ashamed of his or her actions and will quit doing evil things. Islam is the religion where one and only true God is worshipped in the pure form. God belongs to no particular nation or tribe. Many religions claim worshipping one God, but in practice, many of them really worship God's creation, (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

in one form or the other.

3. Sawm or Fasting:

God has prescribed fasting. In the Quran God said: “*O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may learn self-restraint.*” (Q* 2:183). God said in the Bible: “*Yet even now, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning*” (B* Joel 2:12). Prophet Jesus (P*) advised people to fast not to be seen by others but to please God (B* Matthew 16:18). Moses and Jesus (P*) both fasted for forty days (B* Deuteronomy 9:9 and Matthew 4:2).

Fasting is obligatory for the Muslims during the month of Ramadan, the 9th month of the Islamic lunar calendar. This is a holy month. The divine revelations to Prophet Mohammad (P*) started in this month.

During fasting the Muslims refrain from eating, drinking, smoking and union with spouse from dawn to dusk. They refrain from these daily necessities solely to obey God. It is a test of one’s sincerity to God. This one-month of moral training develops God consciousness in them and brings people closer to God. It teaches them self control, discipline and patience.

For every good deed, God reserves a reward for every person. In the month of fasting, this reward is multiplied manifold. (Ref. 12, vol. 3, #118) Thus, everyone is encouraged to do as much good deed as possible in this month. After practicing good works for a month, it gets into one’s habit. It is, therefore, a training exercise for all.

While fasting, one feels the hunger pain. He or she then appreciates the sufferings that our less fortunate brothers and sisters go through, when they have to go without the daily necessities. It also makes one realize that it is the duty of those who have, to share their fortune with those who do not have enough.

Fasting develops a keen sense of brotherhood among the people who fast. It also cleanses our soul.

4. Zakat or Poor due:

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Every Muslim is obliged to pay annually 2.5 % of his savings to his less fortunate fellow human beings. This is also known as ‘a purification-of-wealth tax’. This money is to be spent for the financial benefits of the needy, especially those who hesitate to ask for help. Your poor close relatives get the first consideration. Thereafter the poor in your neighborhood, then those in the society, the unemployed, the stranded traveler, the new converts abandoned by their relatives, and those who ask for help. This is to be done very honorably and without any expectation of worldly gain or glory. Such willful spending of one’s personal wealth to obey God for the benefit of the needy, broadens one’s heart and gets rid of miserly selfish attitudes. One day when the call for greater sacrifice in the path of God comes, they come forward without hesitation.

5. Hajj or Pilgrimage:

Hajj is pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia for the worship of one true God at Kaba and nearby Arafat. Kaba is the first ‘House of God’, built by Prophet Abraham (P*), for the worship of one true God. Hajj is an obligation for a Muslim, once in a lifetime, provided the person is financially and physically able to do so. It is a great spiritual journey. It demands absolute sincerity, intense devotion and control of passion. He or she has to refrain from bloodshed and everything evil. It is obligatory to lead a very pious and righteous life of moral excellence. **Every male, king or peasant, rich or poor, black or white, wears two pieces of white un-stitched clothes to cover their body.** They all stand, side-by-side, shoulder-to-shoulder, and perform all the rituals. People from all walks of life and from all regions of the world take this spiritual journey to Mecca in the true spirit of Islamic brotherhood. Nowhere on earth, have so many people gathered together every year for the worship of one true God. This leaves a very deep and lasting spiritual impression on the heart and soul of every person who performs the Hajj.

6. Excellence in moral conduct and achievements:

God said in the Quran that among the animal creation He created mankind in the best of the moulds (Q*. 95:4). Among the human beings, He raised the Muslims as the best community for the whole of humanity: *“You are the best of the peoples, evolved*

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for mankind” (Q*. 3:110). Therefore every Muslim must exert his utmost to achieve the maximum of his potential and conduct himself in such a way that he is a role model for others. There is no place for mediocrity in Islam.

7. Fulfilling one’s duty:

The primary duty of every human being is to his Creator, God and His last messenger. He must obey them willingly and without any hesitation. His next duty is to his parents. This is followed by duty to others. People have right on us. It is our duty to give people their rights. Allah says in the Quran:

- *“Obey God, obey the Apostle, and those charged with authority among you”* (Q* 4:59).
- *“Establish regular prayer, enjoin what is just, and forbid what is wrong”* (Q* 31:17).
- *“Thy Lord hath decreed that ye worship none but Him, and that ye be kind to parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in thy life, say not to them a word of contempt, nor repel them, but address them in terms of honor. And out of kindness lower to them the wing of humility, and say ‘ My Lord! bestow on them thy mercy even as they cherished me in childhood”* (Q* 17:23-24).

8. Enjoining right and forbidding wrong:

It is the duty of every Muslim to enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong. God ordains it in the Quran:

- *“You are the best of the peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong and believing in God”* (Q* 3:110).

9. Establishment of Justice and eradication of injustice and oppression:

God says in the Quran:

- *“God is never unjust in the least degree”* (Q*. 4:40). He commands Muslims to do justice: *“And when you judge*

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between man and man, that you judge with justice.” (4:58).

- He further says: *“O you who believe! stand out firmly for God, as witness to fair dealing, and let not the hatred of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice. Be just: that is next to piety.” (Q*. 5:9).*
- *“O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to God, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor” (Q*. 4:135).*

10. Establishment of Justly Balanced Model Community:

Extremes of behavior or actions on either side are detrimental to the well being of the community and the society. Islam prefers middle of the ground course.

- *“Thus have We made of you a community justly balanced, that you might be witnesses over the nations and the Apostle a witness over yourselves” (Q* 2:143).*

11. Refraining from falsehood

- God said in the Quran, *“Cover not the truth with falsehood, nor conceal the truth when you know (what it is) (Q* 2:42).*

12. Refraining from backbiting:

In Islam scandal mongering and backbiting are condemned in the strongest terms.

- *“Woe to every (kind of) scandal-monger and backbiter (Q* 104:1).*
- *“O ye who believe, avoid suspicion as much (as possible): for suspicion in some cases is a sin; and spy not on each other, nor speak ill of each other behind their backs” (Q* 49:12).*

Abdullah Yusuf Ali writes in his Quran commentary: *“Scandal-mongering, talking or suggesting evil of men or women by word or innuendo, or behavior, or mimicry, or sarcasm, or insult; detracting from their character behind their backs, even if the things suggested are true, where motive is evil.”*

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13. Invite all to the way of God:

God orders Muslims to invite the mankind to the way of God without any force and coercion.

- *“Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from Error” (Q*. 2:256).*
- *“Invite (all) to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious: For thy Lord knows best, who has strayed from his path, and who receive guidance” (16:125).*
- *“Let there arise out of you a band of people, inviting to all that is good, and enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong: They are the ones to attain felicity” (Q*. 3:104).*

Festivals:

There are two major festivals in Islam, namely Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha. Eid-ul-Fitr is celebrated after the completion of fasting in the month of Ramadan. Eid-ul-Adha is celebrated two months and ten days later. This marks the occasion when Prophet Abraham (P*) was willing to sacrifice his only son to please God. Prophet Abraham (P*) is highly respected by the followers of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Jihad:

Because of frequent publicity in the western media, a little clarification of the word ‘Jihad’ is needed. **Jihad means an extra effort in the path of God.** When one wants to lead a righteous and virtuous life, there is constant struggle against the evil desires within oneself. When one wants to raise a family in a less than desirable environment, he or she has to exert extra efforts constantly against the evil influence of the environment and the society. One often exerts extra efforts to please or obey God. All these are acts of Jihad.

If war is waged against a people, God permits them to fight. God says in the Quran *“To those against whom war is made, permission is given (to fight), because they are wronged; and verily, God is*

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Most Powerful for their aid.” (Q* 22:39). So if an Islamic state is attacked from outside, it is the duty of all Muslims to exert their utmost to repulse the attack.

If people are oppressed or persecuted and they ask for help, it is the duty of Muslims to help them and rescue them from tyranny and oppression. One must not oppress others nor allow oppression by others. God says in Quran: “*And why should ye not fight in the cause of God and of those who, being weak, are ill-treated (and oppressed)? Men, women, and children, whose cry is ‘Our Lord! Rescue us from this town, whose people are oppressors; and raise for us from Thee one who will protect; and raise for us from Thee one who will help.*” (Q* 4:75). These are also acts of Jihad.

Ethics during war and in peace:

Islam forbids killing of any human being without due process of law or in self-defense. It forbids killing of women, children, and elderly people even in battlefields. The first Caliph of Islam, Abu Bakr, gave orders to the troops: “*Be just, die rather than yield; be merciful, slay neither old men, nor children, nor women. Destroy neither fruit trees, grain, nor cattle. Keep your words even to your enemies.*” (Ref. 27, p53) There is no room for killing innocent people for not being able to remedy the injustice that is being done to them. There is also no room for killing innocent people by bombing cities by warplanes and then saying ‘Ah, it is collateral damage’. All these are murders. People responsible for these must be made accountable for their actions and brought to justice. In Islam life is sacred. One is not even allowed to commit suicide and kill oneself. Suicide bombers may have their own reasons that compelled them to take the extreme measures to blow themselves up and kill others with them. But Islam does not condone killing of innocent people.

The Quran says “... *Whosoever killeth a human being for other than manslaughter or corruption in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whoso saveth the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind.*” (Q* 5:32).

The western governments champion themselves as ‘the defenders of the oppressed; promoters and defenders of democracy

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and human rights'. In practice, they are the ones who support, protect and promote the undemocratic, autocratic, oppressive and tyrannical governments and systems in Asia and Africa. In the name 'War on terror' they kill hundreds of thousands of innocent people. They even did not accept democratically elected governments in Algeria and Palestine and did not give democracy to Kuwait after liberation from occupation. These are the governments that established, promote and perpetuate the establishment of the undemocratic institution of the Security Council where permanent seat and veto power of a few is the norm. In reality, these governments are the true perpetual oppressors of humanity, the axis of evil.

There is **deliberate misinterpretation of the word Jihad in the western media**. Those who misinterpret the word 'Jihad' are not ignorant people. They are hypocrites and tell lies. Because of the constant and deliberate misinterpretation in the western media, the word Jihad brings a panic reaction among the non-Muslims. It should be very clear to every one that **an unjust effort or war cannot be called Jihad. War of Jihad can only be declared by the head of state of an Islamic government.**

Often times it is said that Islam spread by the power of sword. This is not true and is a statement of the ignorant. God says in the Quran: *"Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from error"* (Q* 2:256). Quran bases its authority on truth. Human beings have a natural tendency to accept the truth, unless he or she makes worldly gains from falsehood.

In the early years of Islam, Muslims conquered many territories in response to their defense, to relieve oppression, to remove tyrants from power and to establish rule of justice. However, people were not forced to accept Islam. It is against the principle of Islam. People accepted Islam in great numbers because of the truth it holds and the complete code of life it presents for the salvation of humanity. No Muslim army ever went to Indonesia. Only a few traders visited that land. Within a short period, the whole nation embraced Islam.

There is no Muslim army occupying any country in the western world today. Not a single TV or Radio station, or a national newspaper is owned or controlled by the Muslims in U.S.A.

Billions-of-dollars-of-worth media constantly air negative programs and publish write-ups against Islam and Muslims. There are no organized Islamic missionary institutions in U.S.A. Still Islam is the most acceptable religion of the righteous people, not only in U.S.A. and Europe, but also in the whole world. The western media admits that Islam is the fastest growing religion in the west. Every soul yearns for truth. It is the truth and authenticity of the Quranic revelations that convinces hundreds of thousands of non-Muslims all over the world to embrace Islam every year. The new Muslims include priests, pastors, Bishops, doctors, engineers, professors, professionals and common people. It is the light of truth that guides these people to the path of salvation.

Historian **De Lacy O’Leary** wrote: *“History makes it clear however, that the legend of fanatical Muslims sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of sword upon conquered races is one of the most fantastically absurd myths that historians have ever repeated.”* (Islam at the Crossroads- p8, and Ref. 7, p43).

There is a brochure titled ‘Jihad Explained’ published by Dr. Amir Ali Ph.D. of The Institute of Islamic Information and Education. It is very informative. He quotes from a study on the spread of Islam by a Christian missionary named **T. W. Arnold**. It reads: *“... of any organized attempt to force the acceptance of Islam on the non-Muslim population, or of any systematic persecution intended to stamp out the Christian religion, we hear nothing. Had the caliphs chose to adopt either course of action, they might have swept away Christianity as easily as Ferdinand and Isabella drove Islam out of Spain, or Louis XIV made Protestantism penal in France, or the Jews kept out of England for 350 years. The Eastern Churches in Asia were entirely cut off from communion with the rest of Christendom throughout which no one would have been found to lift a finger on their behalf, as heretical communions. So that the very survival of these Churches to the present day is a strong proof of the generally tolerant attitude of the Mohammedan (sic) governments towards them.”* (Ref. 8, p80)

A detailed study of Islam will show that Islam is a complete and practical code of life. It provides practical cure for all the ills of

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the society. In Islam, all men are created equal. No one is superior to any other by virtue of race, color, social or economic status or claim of chosen people. The Quran says: “*O ye who believe! The law of equality is prescribed to you...*” (Q* 2:178), “***Verily the most honored of you in the sight of God is (he who is) the most righteous of you.***” (Q* 49:13).

“Whosoever killeth a human being for other than manslaughter or corruption in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whoso saveth the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind.” (Quran 5:32).

Women's Rights

Women comprise a little more than half the population of the world. However, their rights and honour have not always been respected by the civilized society. To understand the status of woman in Islam one has to know the position woman held in the society in pre-Islamic days. Before the arrival of Islam woman had, practically, little or no rights. In Arabia men used to marry as many women as they liked and leave them whenever they wished. Women were looked down upon so much that people were ashamed of having infant girls. Some of the tribes used to bury their infant girls alive!

Roman law did not allow woman to be a teacher, a surety, or a witness. She could not make any will or contracts. Anything a woman owned became the property of the husband after her marriage, including herself. In India, the principle of 'Manu' was in practice. Manu said to hold the woman in a state of dependence by her protector, day and night (Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th ed., vol. 28, p782). The position of women in Greece and Britain was no better.

Only recently, "equal right" was given to women but on papers only. Women are used mostly for physical pleasures and promotion of business. In the name of progress, equal rights and women's liberation, the society has dragged down the women from the lofty and respectable position given by God, to the most disrespectful position of "object of pleasure and lust". They have been made to discard their graceful and honorable robes for something that is sometimes almost nonexistent. They have been humiliated and made to undress in public by the offer of money. In one pretext or another, they have been lured out from the protection of their homes to the open field, infested with hungry wolves, which start devouring them at the earliest opportunity and continue to do so till their usefulness last.

Christianity and Islam are the two largest religions in the world with a combined following of over two billions of people. Let us see the position of women in these religions.

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Status of Women:

The Bible says:

- *”There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (B* Galatians 3:28).*
- *“For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man” (B* 1 Corinthians 11:8-9).*
- *“Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for woman to speak in the church” (B* 1 Corinthians 14:34-35).*
- *“I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over men; she is to keep silent. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.” (B* 1 Timothy 2:12-14).*

The Quran says:

- *“And women shall have rights similar to the rights against them, according to what is equitable; but men have a degree (of advantage) over them”. (Q* 2:228).* Such “a degree above” is maintenance and protection of woman by men. It implies no superiority or advantage before the law.
- *“Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because God has given the one more (strength) than the other” (Q* 4:34 & Ref. 19 -p17).* Financial responsibility for the maintenance of his wife, and children, and needy relatives, especially women, rests on the men (Ref. 19, p23).

In Islam woman can ask questions, even in the mosque. During the caliphate of Omar, a woman argued with him in the mosque, proved her point and caused him to declare in the congregation: “The woman is right and Omar is wrong” (Ref. 19, p24).

Mohammad (P*) was employed by a woman named Khadiza.

In the Bible God said to Eve after she gave forbidden fruit to Adam: "*I will greatly multiply your pain in childbearing ... and he (husband) shall rule over you*" (B* Genesis 3:16).

In Islam, the blame for eating the forbidden fruit is put to both Adam and Eve. God later forgave them (Q* 2:37). In fact, in one verse, Adam was specifically blamed (Q* 20:121).

The Bible says: "*but any woman who prays or prophesies with her head unveiled dishonors her head ... For if a woman will not veil herself, then she should cut off her hair; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her wear a veil.*" (B* 1 Corinthians 11:5-6).

The Quran does not order women's head to be shaved for not wearing head cover. It says: "*that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what (must ordinarily) appear thereof; that they should draw their veils over their bosoms and not display their beauty*" (Q* 24:30-31).

To the western society, the long dress and the head cover that the nuns wear, represents purity, modesty, dignity, and command of respect. However, when a Muslim woman wears long dress and covers her head, to the same society, it represents Muslim oppression of their women!

Status of Mother:

The Bible says: "*Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.*" (B* Colossians 3:20).

Same Bible reports that Jesus (P*) addressed his mother as 'woman': "*When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine'. And Jesus said to her, O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come*" (B* John 2:3-4).

The Bible also reports: "*And a crowd was sitting about him (Jesus); and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers are outside, asking for you.'* And he replied, '*Who are my mother and my brothers?*' And looking around on those who sat about him, he (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

said, *'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brothers, and sister, and mother.'*" (B* Mark 3:32-35).

In Islam, kindness to parents is considered next to worship of God: *"your lord has decreed that you worship none save Him, and that you be kind to your parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in thy life say not to them a word of contempt nor repel them but address them in terms of honor. And out of kindness lower to them the wing of humility and say: My Lord, bestow on them Thy Mercy even as they cherished me in childhood."* (Q* 17:23-24).

Mohammad (P*) also said: *"Paradise is at the feet of mother"* (Nisai Ref. 24, p80).

Marriage:

In the Mosaic Law, the wife was betrothed: *"To betroth a wife to oneself meant simply to acquire possession of her by payment of the purchase money; the betrothed is a girl for whom the purchase money has been paid"* (Encyclopedia Biblica 1902, Vol. 3 - p2942).

The consent of the girl was not necessary for the validation of the marriage: *"The woman being man's property, his right to divorce her follows as a matter of course."* In the Mosaic Law, divorce was a privilege of the husband only (Encyclopedia Biblica 11th Edition, p782).

If a man rapes a girl he will pay some money to her father, she will be his wife and *"he may not put her away all his days."* (Deuteronomy 22:28-29).

In Islam, women cannot be forced to marry anyone without their consent: *"You are forbidden to inherit women against their will"* (Q* 4:19). The Quran orders husbands: *"Live with them (wives) on a footing of kindness and equity"* (Q* 4:19).

Marriage gift:

Woman has the full right to her 'Mahr', a marriage gift, and its ownership does not transfer to her husband or father. Her marriage gift is hers to keep, even if there is a divorce.

Divorce:

In Islam both men and women have equal right to seek an end to an unsuccessful marriage. To protect from hasty decision out of temporary emotional outburst or stress, certain steps and waiting periods are observed (Ref. 9 -p19). If divorced, she may also get alimony from her ex-husband.

Bible forbids divorce: *“Every one who divorces his wife and marries commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.”* (B* Luke 16:18).

Property rights:

According to English common law: *“All real property which a wife held at the time of marriage became a possession of the husband”* (Encyclopedia America Intl. Edition V29, p108).

Married woman's property act of England was passed in 1870 (Ref. 19, p8). France made woman eligible to make contract in 1938, however the wife was still required to secure her husband's permission before she could dispose her private property (Ref. 19, p 21).

Islamic law recognizes women's right to her money, real estate, or other properties. She has full rights to buy, sell, mortgage or lease any or all her properties (Ref. 19, -p 21).

Inheritance:

The Quran says *“From what is left by parents and those nearest related, there is a share for men and a share for women, whether the property be small or large, - a determined share.”* (Q* 4:7). In general, her share is 1/2 that of man, but she is relieved of all financial responsibility. This way she is much better off. If a woman gets \$50, it is all hers to keep. When a man gets \$100 he is to maintain his wife, children, parents, and all dependent relatives, particularly widows. (Ref. 19, P22-23). In reality, he is worse off.

Equal rewards:

God said: *“Never will I suffer to be lost the work of any of you,*

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be he male or female;” (Q 3:195).*

In Islam, the blame for eating from the forbidden tree is put on both Adam and Eve. God later forgave both of them (Q* 2:37). In fact, in one verse, Adam was specifically blamed (Q* 20:121).

Employment:

In Islam no law forbids employment of women.

Polygamy:

All revealed religions allow polygamy. The Bible did not prohibit it. Many of the Prophets of Bible were polygamous. Prophet Abraham (P*) had three wives. Prophet David (P*) had many wives and concubines (1 Chronicles 3:1-9). Prophet Solomon (P*) had 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:3). Later regulations fixed the number of wives at 18 for kings and four for an ordinary man (Dictionary of the Bible, James Hasting, Charles Scribner's Sons, N.Y., 1963, p624).

The practice of polygyny among Jewish people continued until Rabbi Gershom Ben Yehudah (960 C.E to 1030 C.E) issued an edict against it. However, the Jewish Sephardic communities, living in Muslim countries, continued the practice polygamy until 1950, when an Act of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel extended the ban to all Jews.

In the past, Christians had more than one wife. Martin Luther himself approved it. In 1531 the Anabaptists of Munster preached that true Christian must have several wives (History of Human Marriage, Edward Westermarck vol. III, p50-51). Christians continued to practice polygamy as late as 17th century. Even today, Church of Jesus Christ of the Later Day Saints allows and practice polygamy.

Although the churches do not allow polygamy now, most of the Christians are not monogamous. Because of the absence this safety-valve mechanism, most of the surplus women in post world-war 2 in Germany, indulged in adultery and fornication producing countless illegitimate children. Even today, innumerable illegitimate children are produced in the western world. The Bible says: “No (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

bastard shall enter into the assembly of the Lord; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the Lord" (B* Deuteronomy 23:2). So, if one can trace a bastard in his/her preceding ten generations he/she is destined for hell.

Polygamy is allowed in Islam but under special circumstances and with strict conditions. Although Islam allows man to marry up to four wives Quran advises Muslims to marry only one. God says in The Quran: "*But if you fear that you shall not be able to deal justly (with them) then (marry) only one.*" (Q* 4:3). It is almost impossible to treat two wives equally. Quran also says: "*You are never able to be fair and just as between women, even if it is your ardent desire*" (Q* 4:129). That is why almost all the Muslims one meets are monogamous. It is interesting to note that although polygamy is allowed in Islam, Muslims are, in general, strictly monogamous, whereas the Christians, although preach monogamy, openly indulge in polygamy!

Views of Canonized saints of Christianity on woman:

"Woman is a daughter of falsehood, a sentinel of Hell, the enemy of peace; through her Adam lost paradise." (St. John Damascene Ref. 24, p79).

"Woman is the instrument which the Devil uses to gain possession of our souls" (St. Cyprian Ref. 24, p79).

"Woman is the fountain of the arm of the Devil; her voice is the hissing of the serpent" (St. Anthony Ref. 24, p79).

"Woman has the poison of an asp, the malice of a dragon" (St. Gregory the Great Ref. 24, p79).

The Bible did not give the present status of women in Christian countries. It was achieved through long struggle and sacrifice on the part of women and when the society needed her contribution and work, more especially during the two world wars (Ref. 19, p26). In Christianity, women have to discard the Bible to gain their rights whereas in Islam women get their rights when they accept Quran. When one looks into the positions of women in business and political offices, their salary, the sexual harassment, and the

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exploitation of women by the society for physical pleasure and promotion of business, nowhere equal rights of women are seen.

Her service is purchased. She is induced to do things to satisfy the evil desires of the society and then sold to the adulterous world, all in the name of advancement of civilization, social progress, women's rights, economic freedom, women's liberation, commercial progress, and personal life style.

Special status and responsibility of women in Islam:

Women are exempted from obligatory daily prayers during their monthly periods and forty days after childbirth. Friday congregational prayer is obligatory for men but optional for woman. They are also exempted from fasting during pregnancy and nursing of her baby if there is any threat to her health or her baby. However, they will have to make up for the missed fasting days at a later time.

Woman has the full right to her 'Mahr', a marriage gift, and its ownership does not transfer to her husband or father. The marriage gift symbolizes man's respect, love and affection for the woman he is going to marry (Ref. 19, p17). The Quran says: "*When you divorce a woman, do not take back anything that you have given her (however great it may be)*" (Q* 4:20).

Islam emphasizes the importance of taking counsel and mutual agreement in family decisions: "*If they (husband and wife) decide ... by mutual consent and (after) due consultation, there is no blame on them*" (Q* 2:233).

Prophet Mohammad said: "***Paradise lies at the feet of your mother***" (Ref. 9 Al Nisai).

The Quran says: "*Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty: that will make for greater purity for them: ... And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what (must ordinarily) appear thereof; that they should draw veils over their bosom and not display their beauty except to their husbands, ...*" (Q* 24:30-31).

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Protection of woman's honor:

The Quran says: *“And those who launch a charge against chaste women, and not produce four witnesses, flog them with eighty stripes and reject their evidence ever after”* (Q* 24:4). When a wife is accused and no witness is presented, the witness of the woman to defend her honor and chastity is greater than the witness of the male accuser (Q* 24:6-9).

Advise of Prophet Mohammad (P*):

- *“It is the generous who is good to women, and it is the wicked who insults them”* (Ref. 19, p21).
- *“Best of you are those who are best with your wives”* (Ref. 19, p18).
- *“You have certain rights over your women, but they also have rights over you. ... Do treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers”* (Prophet Mohammed's last sermon).

Under Islamic law:

- Women are far more secure financially: Women's personal property does not get transferred to husband or father.
- Her marriage gift is hers to keep, even if she is divorced.
- She bears no obligation to spend from her property or Mehr on her family.
- She can seek employment and bears no financial responsibility to maintain her children.
- If divorced, she may also get alimony from her ex-husband.

The Dress of the Modest

God created Adam and Eve who were living in the garden of paradise. After being deceived by Satan, they ate from the forbidden tree. Immediately they became aware of their physical features and developed the sense of shame. They started to sew the leaves of trees together into a form of dress and covered them up (B*-Gen. 3:7 & Q* 2:121). Although there was no other human being around, it was the sense of shame that dictated the earliest human ancestors to cover themselves. It is the same sense of shame that prevents us from participating in many evil activities of society. Sense of shame is a human quality. Animals do not have the sense of shame. When they have a desire and the opportunity is available, they perform.

Males and females have different physical features, which are extremely attractive to each other. These features are meant to attract the opposite sex to culminate in physical union, so that the species can propagate.

The physical features, by themselves, are objects of pleasure and lust. When they are not manifest and not the primary object of interest, the individual becomes a person. Everyone deserves the dignity and respect of a human being, irrespective of the nature of their physical features.

Human beings are conditioned by the society in which they live. When you see a woman scantily dressed and partially revealing her physical features, waiting at the roadside in the early evening for someone to approach her for physical favors, what is the first impression that will come to your mind? Will it be that this woman is a very religious, pious, and God fearing woman, seeking the blessings of God?

Again, when you see a nun, modestly dressed in long robe, covering her head, and not revealing any of her physical features, what impression will come to your mind? Will it be that this woman is a sex symbol, waiting for someone to hire her, or to date her, or to invite her to a dinner and then take her home? Certainly not. This

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dress represents her modesty, dignity and. Purity. Through this, she commands the respect of the society.

When a man with desire in heart meets a woman who is scantily dressed, or with deep V-cut blouse showing part of her adornments, or in a tight dress that reveals the shape of her physical features, his eyes and mind start relishing them. To him this is just a sample of something more delicious waiting to be explored. To him this woman is giving a signal that she may be available if the time, place, and the price are right.

When one person helps another person in committing a crime, the first person is also guilty. If a person reveals his/her physical features to arouse evil thoughts and desires in another person, he/she is also guilty.

Society abounds with evil people. In the name of advancement of civilization, social progress, women's rights, economic freedom, women's liberation, commercial progress, and personnel life style, these evil people make slight, subtle and almost imperceptible changes in the norm of moral and ethical codes of the society to further their lustful desires. When society gets used to these changes, they make further changes. Ultimately, one day, one finds that hardly any moral code is left.

Modern society uses women mostly for physical pleasures and promotion of business. They have been made to discard their graceful and honorable garments for something that is sometimes almost nonexistent. In one pretext or another, women have been lured out, from the protection of their homes, to the open field, infested with hungry wolves, who start devouring them at the earliest opportunity and continue till their usefulness last.

God made women pure, most dignified, and respectable. They are precious. When you have a precious gem, you do not leave it in the front or back yard to be trodden by others. Rather you keep it in the best possible safe and protected place. Because women are pure and precious, they should protect themselves from everything that is evil. Unfortunately, women, in general, have allowed the evil society to exploit them. They have made themselves cheap and

easily available. They have exposed themselves to the lustful eyes of the society without much hesitation. They have lost much of their self-esteem. In Islam, the women are precious and Muslims will go a long way to defend the honour and chastity of their women.

The consequence of exposing physical features can be very serious and far reaching, both for this world and for the hereafter. A look at the western society will reveal some of the consequences (the eastern societies are also catching up fast). There is rampant adultery, uncountable rapes, millions of illegitimate pregnancies, millions of abortions, and millions of illegitimate children without responsible fathers to care for them. Many of them will end up as “street children”, joining the gangs and adding to the ever-increasing violence in the society, which has already reached epidemic proportion.

From the above discussion, it becomes obvious that both men and women need to cover themselves properly. The main purpose of covering the body is to cover the shame and other physical features so that they remain out of sight of others, will not draw undue attraction, and will not excite evil desires in others. Both men and women, therefore, must dress modestly.

Extent of cover:

In medical science, there is a saying that “an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure”. God has blessed women with more physical adornments than men. Almost every part of the female body is attractive to a male. Keeping this in mind, the nuns have taken the preventive measure of wearing a veil and covering their whole body, except the face and hands.

- The Bible also says: “*but any woman who prays or prophesies with her head unveiled dishonors her head ... For if a woman will not veil herself, then she should cut off her hair; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her wear a veil*” (1 Corinthians 11:6). Islam advises the women to cover their head and body except the face and the hands.
- God says in The Quran: “*O ye children of Adam, We have bestowed raiment upon you to cover your shame*” (Q* 7:26).

(P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

- *“Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty: that will make for greater purity for them: ... And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what (must ordinarily) appear thereof; that they should draw their veils over their bosoms and not display their beauty”* (Q* 24:30-31).
- The Bible says: *“Women should adorn themselves modestly and sensibly in seemly apparel, not with braided hair or gold or pearl or costly attire”* (B* 1 Timothy, 2:9). It should not be glamorous to cause undue attraction of opposite sex.
- Mohammad (P*) said: *“If the woman reaches the age of puberty, No (part of her body) should be seen but this- and he pointed to the face and hands”* (Ref. 21, p6).

The thickness of materials:

The material that we cover our bodies with is also important. It should be of such thickness that no part of the body becomes visible through it. It must be thick enough not to reveal what it is supposed to conceal.

The fitting:

If the cloth, covering the body, sits on it in such a way that it describes the shape of the body or the adornments, it will excite evil desires in the mind of others. Therefore, it must be loose enough not to reveal the detail of shape of the body.

It is noteworthy that when a nun wears long dress and covers her head, this dress represents purity, modesty, dignity, and with it, she commands the respect of the society. However, when a Muslim woman wears the same long dress and covers her head with a veil, to the same society, it represents Muslim oppression of their women!

Other requirements:

There are people who move around with pride and vanity. They also want to display their wealth through their dresses. There should not be anything in a person to be proud of. Very often, proud

people are humbled by God right before our eyes. When people want recognition through their dress, they themselves probably are not worth much. Mohammad (P*) said: *“Whoever drags his clothes (on the ground) out of pride and arrogance, Allah will not look at him on the Day of Resurrection”* (Ref. 12, Vol. 7, # 683).

As the physical adornments of men are much less as compared to women, the dress code for men is less restrictive. However, they must also dress modestly, revealing no physical features that excite evil desires in others.

Jewelry is for women. Mohammad (P*) forbade gold, silver, and silk for men (Ref. 12, Vol. 7, # 722).

Men should not imitate women and women should not imitate men.

- *The Bible says: “A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman’s garment; for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God.”* (B* Deuteronomy 22:5).
- Ibn Abbas narrated that: *“Mohammad (P*) cursed the men who act like women and the women who act like men”* (Ref. 12, Vol. 7, # 773).

Union between people of same sex is forbidden both in the Quran and in the Bible. With His infinite wisdom, God created Adam and Eve of opposite sex. If He would like physical union between people of the same sex, He would have created Adam and Steve. Instead, He created Adam and Eve. Jesus (P*) said:

- *“You will know them by their fruits ... the bad tree bears evil fruit”* (B* Matthew 7:15 - 17).

If we look at the modern civilized society, we see the fruits of not obeying God’s commandments. We notice the deep moral degradation of the people. Millions of bastards are being produced every year. The Bible says:

- *“No bastard shall enter into the assembly of the Lord; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the*

assembly of the Lord” (B* Deuteronomy 23:2).

People with the responsibility of developing and leading the society, whether they are politicians, civic leaders, religious leaders, movie makers, media program developers, are actually developing and promoting an evil society. Which of these people will be willing to accept responsibility for sending billions of people to hell as indicated in the Bible?

In summary:

- Every civilized person must dress properly.
- Because of difference in physical features and adornments between men and women, dress codes must be different.
- God has laid down the injunctions in the Scriptures to prevent social and moral degradation. Mohammad (P*) explained them in the Hadith.
- If one fails to obey these injunctions; he or she will be participating in promoting evil activities in this world and will be accountable in the hereafter. If you do not dress properly you will willfully defy God’s command. Remember what happened to Adam and Eve for their un-willful disobedience. Your disobedience will be willful.

The Rational Choice

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, and in general, without knowing much about other faiths. There is nothing to be proud or ashamed of one's religion by virtue of birth. There are thousands of religions. It is quite possible that we were born in families with a belief that we would not like to follow ourselves. When we attain maturity we should study and compare our family faith with that of others and then make a rational choice. We do not have to follow the religion of our parents, if it is not the right one. Prophet Abraham (P*) did not follow his parent's religion. If we do not choose our religion rationally by using our God-given sense of reasoning, judgment and freedom of choice, we probably will be in great trouble when we will face our creator on the "Day of Judgment."

Human beings are the most intelligent in the animal world but still our knowledge is very limited. We do not have any knowledge of the future and the life after death. Man needs guidance to be successful in this life and in the life hereafter. Because of the limitation of human knowledge, guidance from another human cannot be perfect. Therefore, the philosophical religions, which are but products of human intelligence, cannot be the right guidance for the humanity in this life and the life hereafter. Perfect guidance can only come from God who has perfect knowledge. Revealed scriptures are the guidance from God to mankind, revealed through His Prophets.

Prophets were special people chosen by God. They were the only people who knew what messages they had received from God. The Prophets must record these messages at the time of revelation and none should alter them there after.

The Scripture is the foundation of the religion it represents. It must be authentic, which means reliable and valid. The Hebrew Bible (The Old Testament) is the Scripture of the Jews and Christians, and the Greek Bible (The New Testament) is the (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

Scripture of the Christians. Quran is the Scripture of the Muslims. Christianity and Islam are two of the major religions of the world, each with a following of over a billion people. Let us now compare the Scriptures of these two religions.

Authenticity (reliability and validity):

The Bible (B*): The Prophets did not record Bible at the time of revelation. Other people recorded them many years after the Prophets had left the earth. (Ref. 3, p 4-7). After so many years, it is not possible for any one to remember, 'word for word' (as recorded in the Bible) what the Prophets had said earlier.

The Quran (Q*): Prophet Mohammed (P*), although unlettered, dictated to the scribes at the time of revelation, each revelation he had received from God and then checked their accuracy.

B*: All knowledgeable Bible scholars agree that the true identities of the authors of the gospels are not known (Ref. 3, p60-69).

Q*: The author of Quran is God, revealed to Mohammad (P*), through angel Gabriel.

B*: The authors of the books in the Bible do not claim that the contents of their books were revealed to them by God and God also does not confirm this in the Bible.

Q*: Prophet Mohammad claimed that the contents of the Quran were revealed to him by God and God repeatedly confirmed this in the Quran.

B*: The Old Testament was lost when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took the Jews into slavery in 598 B.C. Emperor Cyrus of Persia conquered Babylon in 538 B.C. and released them from captivity. (Ref. 2, p150). In 458 B.C, Ezra rewrote the Old Testament from the stories circulating in the community.

Q*: The Quran was never lost. Rather the whole of Quran was memorized by thousands of people during the life of Mohammad (P*). Millions of people still do.

B*: The Bible was repeatedly altered. (Compare King James Bible

of 1952 with present Bibles.} The available oldest manuscript (Codex Vaticanus) is from fourth century.

Q*: No one has altered the Quran. All the recorded revelations were meticulously collected into a book form within two years of Mohammad's (P*) death. Copies of original still exist in Tashkent (Uzbekistan), and Istanbul (Turkey). Today's Quran, word for word, is an exact copy of the original (Ref. 3, p130-131).

B*: The Bible says that man has changed the Bible into a lie: *"How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us'? But behold the false pen of the scribes has made it into a lie"* (B* Jeremiah 8:8).

Q*: God says in the Quran *"We have, without doubt, sent down the Message; and we will assuredly guard it (from corruption)"* (Q* 15:9).

B*: The Bible contains numerous errors and contradictions. In the first page of the preface of King James Bible, American Bible Society, 1988, it reads: *"Yet King James Version has grave defects ... that these defects are so many and so serious as to call for revision of the English translation."*

Q*: The Quran says: *"Do they not consider the Quran (with care)? Had it been from other than God, they would surely have found therein much discrepancy"* (Q*, 4:82) There is no error or discrepancies in Quran. Dr. Maurice Bucaille, a Christian physician and a scholar of religion from France, writes: *"Whereas monumental errors are to be found in the Bible, I could not find a single error in the Quran"* (Ref. 3, p120).

Attributes of God:

B*: The Bible proclaims unity of God. God said: *"I am the first, and I am the last; and besides me there is no God"* (B* Isaiah 44:6). Jesus (P*) also said: *"The Lord our God is one Lord"* (B* Mark 12:29).

Q*: The Quran also proclaims unity of God. *"He is God, The One and Only"* (Q. 112:1).

B*: In the Bible God is presented as ignorant. God said to Abraham (P*): *“I will go down to see whether they (people of Sodom and Gomorrah) have done altogether according to the outcry which has come to me: and if not, I will know”* (B* Genesis 18:21). God also regrets: *“And the Lord was sorry that he made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the Lord said, I am sorry that I have made them”* (B* Genesis 6:6-7).

Q*: The Quran says: *“He knows what is in the havens and on earth; and He knows what you conceal and what you reveal: yes, God knows well the (secrets) of (all) hearts”* (Q* 64:4). God does not regret in Quran.

B*: In the Bible, God is presented with limited ability. God wrestled with Jacob at night in a tent but He could not prevail against Jacob and in the morning God cried out: *“Let me go, for the day is breaking”* (B* Genesis 32:24-26, 28). God also got tired after six days of work and needed rest on the seventh day (B* Exodus 31:17).

Q*: There is no limitation of God in Quran: *“Glory be to Him. When He determines a matter, He only says to it, “Be,” and it is”* (Q* 19:35).

B*: In the Bible, God ordered to kill all innocent animals, little children; women, and old people of defeated cities (B* Deuteronomy 7:2, 13:15, 20:16 & Ezekiel 9:5-6); and made parents to eat the flesh of their sons and daughters (B* Jeremiah 19:4, 9 & Leviticus 26:29).

Q*: In Quran God never ordered the death of innocent animals, children, and old people after their defeat, and never forced parents to eat the flesh of their children. God says in the Quran: *“Whosoever killeth a human being for other than manslaughter or corruption in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whoso saveth the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind.”* (Q* 5:32).

B*: In the Bible God gives confusing statements. God said: *“Israel is my first-born son”* (B* Exodus, 4:22). He also said: *“and Ephraim is my first-born”* (B* Jeremiah, 31:9). Israel and Ephraim were not twins.

Q*: In the Quran, all the statements of God are true.

Prophets of God:

B*: In the Bible, God chose wrong Prophets. (1) Prophet Solomon (P*) worshipped false Gods (B* 1 Kings 11:9-10); (2) Prophet David (P*) sent for Uriah's wife, Bathseba, and committed adultery with her (B* 2 Samuel 11:3-5); (3) Prophet Judah, committed incest with his daughter-in-law, Tamar (B* Genesis 38:15-18). (4) The two daughters of Prophet Lot, committed incest with their father (B* Genesis 19:32-36). (5) God said that He killed Prophet Moses because he broke faith with God and he did not revere God as holy (B* Deuteronomy 32:50-51).

Q*: In the Quran Prophets are role models for all humanity. They are pious and righteous people of highest morality. They neither committed incest or adultery nor did they worshiped false gods or got drunk.

Holy Trinity:

B*: The cardinal doctrine of Christianity is Holy Trinity. Jesus (P*) did not teach it. No Prophet ever uttered the word 'Trinity'. No Prophet ever said that there is more than one God. No Prophet ever claimed to be God or equal to God. The word Trinity is found neither in the Bible nor in the Bible Dictionary. It was developed by Apostle Paul and his followers over the period of hundreds of years. Finally, it was adopted as the cardinal doctrine of Christianity at the Council of Nicea in 325 C.E.

Q*: The Quran says: *"O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: nor say of God aught but the truth. ... Say not 'Trinity': desist: It will be better for you: For God is one God: Glory be to him: (far Exalted is He) above having a son"* (Q* 4:171)

Divinity of Quranic revelations:

The following verses will testify to the divinity of Quranic revelations.

"This Quran is not such as can be produced by anyone other than God." (Q* 10:37)

“Say, If the whole of mankind ... were to get together to produce the like of this Quran, they could not produce the like there of...” (Q* - 17:88). No Scripture like The Quran has ever been produced.

“And if you are in doubt ... then produce a “sura” (chapter) like there unto; ... But if you cannot - and of a surety you cannot then fear the fire ... which is prepared for those who reject Faith” (Q* 2:23 - 24). No “sura” has ever been matched.

There is no error or discrepancy in the Quran. God says in the Quran: *“Do they not consider the Quran (with care)? Had it been from other than God, they would surely have found therein much discrepancy...”* (Q* - 4:82).

Dr. Maurice Bucaille, a Christian physician and a scholar of religion from France, writes: **“Whereas monumental errors are to be found in the Bible, I could not find a single error in the Quran”** (Ref. 3, p120).

“We have, without doubt, sent down the Message; and we will assuredly guard it (from corruption).” (Q* - 15:9)

God surely has guarded the Quran. No one has altered it.

Sir William Muir, a critic of Islam, wrote: - *“There is probably in the world no other book which has remained twelve centuries (now fourteen centuries) with so pure a text,”* (Life of Mohammad, Haykal, 1976, p18).

Many scientific facts, unknown to man in those days, were revealed in the Quran. They are proved to be correct. A few examples are given below.

“Do not the unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were joined together (as one unit of creation), before we clove them asunder?” (Q* 21:30).

This is today’s accepted ‘Big Bang’ Creation of Universe. **Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson confirmed the Big Bang Creation of Universe in 1964 and won the Nobel Prize in 1978.**

In 1929, **Edwin P. Hubble**, an astronomer at Caltech,

discovered that the universe is expanding. He did not win the Nobel Prize because he died unexpectedly, in 1953.

The Quran says: “*We have built the heaven with might, and it is We who make the vast (universe) extent (thereof).*” (Q* 51:47)

In ancient times, we believed that earth was the center of the universe and it was flat. In the 16th century Copernicus found out that the earth was neither flat nor was it the center of the universe, rather it was round and moved in an orbit. **Galileo confirmed Copernicus’** view but the Church forced him to recant it in 1633 A. D. One thousand years earlier, The Quran revealed: “*(God is) the One who created the night, the day, the sun, and the moon. Each one is traveling in an orbit with its motion*” (Q* - 21:33 & Ref. 17, p158).

(7). Doctors learned about human embryonic development within the mother’s womb, only during the last 150 years. One thousand years ago The Quran described how the embryo developed within the mother’s womb. The description is very accurate.

Professor Keith L. Moore is the professor of anatomy and Embryology of University of Toronto, Canada. He is the author of the book of embryology titled “The Developing Human” which received the ‘Best Book of the Year’ award by a single author. He was also the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. He was surprised to learn the details of the embryonic human development described in the Quran. In 1981, while giving a lecture at an international conference, he agreed that such detail description on human development within the mother’s womb, during the period of Mohammad (P*), could only come from God. He then embraced Islam.

Professor Frank Press is the co-author of the book ‘The Earth’, which is a reference book on geology. He was the President of National Academy of Sciences of USA and the **Science advisor to President of U.S.A., Jimmy Carter**. He says in the book ‘The Earth’ that mountain has deep underlying roots. Cailleux also confirms this in the book ‘Anatomy of the Earth’. God says in the Quran:

“Have We not made the earth as wide expanse, and the mountains as pegs?” (Q* 78:6-7). Pegs have small tops and very long shafts. It is a beautiful description for the common people to understand.

Modern theory of Plate Tectonics holds that mountains work as stabilizers of the earth. It is like a small piece of metal that we put in a car wheel to ‘balance’ it so that the wheel would not wobble. God says in the Quran:

“And He has set up on the earth mountains standing firm, lest it should shake with you” (Q* 16:15).

How on earth was it possible for an unlettered person to reveal the scientific mysteries thousand years ahead when no man on earth had any knowledge of them, unless they were revealed by God?

Modern science has discovered that when the Mediterranean Sea water (warmer and more saline) enters into Atlantic sea over the Gibraltar sill, it remains separate from the colder and less saline Atlantic Sea water for a long distance. God says in the Quran:

“He has set free the two seas (bodies of flowing water), meeting together: between them is a barrier which they do not transgress.” (Q* 55:19-20)

Dr. Maurice Bucaille, a Christian physician and a scholar of religion from France, wrote:

- *“How could a man, from being illiterate, become the most important author, in terms of literary merits, in the whole of Arabic literature? How could he then pronounce truths of a scientific nature that no other human being could possibly have developed at that time, and all this without making the slightest error in his pronouncement on the subject?”* (Ref. 17, p125).

There are hundreds of such verses in the Quran, which are scientific in nature. Each one of them is correct.

If a person is given a glass of pure milk, he will not hesitate to drink it. However, if he is told that the glass contains 99% pure milk and only 1% cyanide, will he drink it? Certainly not. By drinking

this contaminated milk, one will loose some years of life in this world, but by following a contaminated scripture, one will loose the eternal life of heaven, and go to hell. Which one is preferable?

If a person has the freedom of choice and is given the opportunity to choose between

- (1) a scripture dictated by the Prophet himself who received the revelations, contains information that can only come from God, has no discrepancy and remains unaltered, and
- (2) a scripture authored by unknown writers, written long after the Prophets had left this earth, thereafter repeatedly altered by man, and contain innumerable contradictions and errors. Which of the Books should he or she choose?

Many a times the non-Muslim clergies say to their congregation not to read Islamic literature because they will get confused. Some time they even advice them not to discuss religion with Muslims. However, the Muslims say: “read as many religions as possible, including Islam. You will find the truth in the Quran.”

Every person is influenced by his or her family, the relatives, friends and the society in which he or she is raised or lives. Our family members and the society wash our brains since our childhood. It is difficult to leave the religion of the family for the sake of God and truth.

Non-Muslims often say that Islam spread by the force of sword. Nothing can be further from the truth. Record shows that when people want to change their religion, Islam is the most acceptable religion of the righteous people all over the world today. The new Muslims include priests, pastors, Bishops, doctors, engineers, professors, professionals and common people. There is no Muslim army occupying U.S.A. or Europe. When people come across with Islam and see the truth and beauty in it they become pleasantly surprised. Their time-old bias against Islam and Muslims, created and nurtured by the people of vested interest and the media, become shattered. They start reading about religions. Very soon, they find out that truth lies in the Quran. It is the force of truth that convinces people to accept Islam.

One day we all will die and return to God. On the Day of Judgment God will not ask us about the faith of other people. He will ask every one of us about our own faith.

When we return to God, if He asks the person who followed the wrong scripture “Why did you follow the scripture that was not recorded by the Prophets and was repeatedly altered by man? It contained innumerable errors and contradictions. I also warned that the “scribes had made it into a lie.” If God further says, “why did you not follow the scripture, which I said to be a revelation from Me? Prophet himself dictated it and checked its accuracy. No one altered the book after it was recorded. It contained no errors or contradictions. No one could produce a book or even a chapter similar to this revealed book when I challenged the humanity to do so. In that scripture, I revealed scientific mysteries thousands of years ahead, through an unlettered Prophet, to prove that it was from Me. Did I not give you the ability to think, reason, judge, and then to choose?” what would that person say at that time? Should we not all prepare ourselves to answer these questions?

Many people can recognize the truth in Islam. However, they are hesitant to accept Islam because of their family and friends. One day the hearts and souls of some of them suddenly wake up and understand that the one who commits the crime serves the time, not his family members or his friends. They start to realize the meaning of the verse in the Bible: “*the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him*” (B*, Ezekiel 18:20); and that “*every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.*” (1st Corinthians 3:8). They then realize that one day they will have to face their creator and pay very dearly if they continue to follow the altered scripture of their family and friends. They are the ones who quickly turn to Islam.

It is now time to do some serious thinking. It is time to reflect on our past, the time that many of us mostly wasted. It is time to look beyond our present life and prepare in earnest for the life in the hereafter. It is time to chose wisely now and prevent

great regrets later.

IT IS TIME FOR RATIONAL CHOICE

If you are a non-Muslim, I would like to invite you to talk to a new Muslim. You will be pleasantly surprised to find why he or she has embraced Islam. You may even wonder why you did not meet one earlier.

**“Let there be no compulsion in religion,
Truth stands clear from error.” (Q* 2:256).**

In the beginning was the truth

At the end will be the truth.

So seek for the truth, do not fail.

For, at the end, only truth will prevail.

Dr. Saroopji Maharaj, Ph.D., D.D. Embraces Islam

(This section was originally translated and adapted by Iqbal Husain Ansari from Yaqeen International, dated December 7, 1987. This is an abridged article from that publication.)

A prominent Hindu personality of India, Dr. Saroopji Maharaj, embraced Islam in 1986. His new name is Dr. Islamul Haq. He entered the fold of Islam along with his wife and daughter. He was a highly educated personality and was well off in material wealth.

His full name was Achariya Mahant Dr. Shri Shakti Saroopji Maharaj Adasin Dharmachariya Odai Shakti. He was born on February 3, 1936, in the town of Brindaban in District Mathura, in U.P., India. His lineage belonged to the Vedi Wanash of Baba Nanak.

He received his elementary education in the Ashram (Hindu religious institute). He obtained his Master's degree in Orientalism from the Allahabad University (India) and the degree of Achariya (in Sanskrit) from Gurukul Kangri (India). He obtained two Doctorate degrees from the Oxford university of United Kingdom. One of them is D. D. (Doctor of Divinity) in the comparative study of the religions of the world. The second is Ph. D. in Orientalism. He knew some twelve languages, namely, Hindi, English, Sanskrit, Greek, Dipro, Prakirit, Pali, Gurmukhi, Marhathi, Gujrati, Urdu, and Arabic.

His hereditary profession was Hindu priesthood. As such, he served several Hindu religious institutions, the most important of them being the Ban Khand Ashram in Brindaban in Mathura. He also served at the Ashram in Wawanas. This is an Institute of International repute. His duty was to preach religion and to enlist and train disciples.

Once he visited the Vatican City at the invitation of Pope Saint Paul VI. He was asked to speak on seven different topics. People at the Vatican were greatly impressed by the knowledge and

performance of Dr. Saroopji Moharaj. Pope Paul personally offered him to accept Christianity. Great pressure was exerted on him to accept Christianity. He politely declined. The Pope then conferred on him the honorary title of O.F.M.C.A.P. and the citizenship of the City of Vatican.

However, Christianity did not appeal Dr. Saroopji. He was a scholar of comparative religion. He went back to India where he was elevated to the office of Mahant. His contemporaries have been Hindu Shankar Achariyas and other great world-teachers. They included Rama Gopal, Mahanand Maheswar, Swami Akhanda Nandji, Guru Gowalkar Baba Sahib Deshmukh, and Vinoba Bhave. In early 1981, Achariya Vinoba Bhave invited Saroopji to his Ashram, Param Dham, to deliver lectures. Among the great Hindu Mahants present on the occasion, was Dada Dharam Adhikari. He asked Dr. Saroopji:

- “Swami Ji, you have studied many religions of the world. Which one do you find the best for man?” Dr. Saroopji replied: “Islam”.
- Dada Dharam Adhikari was greatly surprised. He reacted saying: “But Islam is a very tied-up religion.”
- Dr. Saroopji replied: “The very one that is ‘tied-up’ also grants freedom, while the one that is considered free, ties down man to continual slavery. Man is in need of a religion that has remained ‘tied-up’, a religion that keeps man under restraints in this worldly life but sets him free in the hereafter. In my opinion, it is Islam alone that qualifies to be the best religion.”

Dr. Saroopji had studied ten great religions of the world in their original forms. He was therefore already convinced of the truth and divinity of Islam. According to him “Islam’s greatness lies in the fact that it liberates man from the shackles of color, feature, race, clan, language, land, riches, class, rank, and status.” On May 10, 1986, with the appearance of the moon of the Month of Ramadan, Dr. Saroopji, together his wife and young daughter embraced Islam.

Many people, especially priests, were greatly upset. Dr Saroopji

started to receive threats to his life. He sought protection from the government of India but failed to get any. He moved to Bangladesh. However, the government of Bangladesh got a request not to give shelter to Dr Saroopji. To keep good neighborly relationship with the government of India, Dr Saroopji was told to leave Bangladesh. He then moved to Malaysia where he later died.

The followings are some of Dr. Saroopji Maharaj's comments:

- *“While I was groping in the darkness of the world of disbelief, I was regarded as ‘Bhagwan’ (God). Then when I came to the fold of Islam, I attained my rightful status of ‘man’.”*
- *“I myself am a living proof against the allegation that Islam spread by the sword and exercise of force. However, it is a fact that not only the common people but even the educated Hindus are still sticking to this false notion.”*
- *“With the exception of Buddhism and Jainism, all religious literature contains the name of Allah and Mohammad or Ahmad (P*). These names are very clear in the Vedas. The word ‘Ala’ occurs in chapter 1 of the Rig Veda, which is the first of the four. Later on, this word takes the name of Allah. Similarly, ‘Moha-mmahd’ and Ah-mahd’ occur for Mohammad and Ahmad (P*) respectively. The word ‘Kurdha-noo’ has been used in the Rig Veda for the Quran.”*

Appendix

GENEALOGY OF JESUS (P*)

GOD DOES NOT SAY THAT JESUS (P*) IS HIS SON.

**According to
Matthew (1:6-16)**

**According to Luke
(3: 23 - 38)**

DAVID

1. SOLOMON
2. ROBOAM
3. ABIA
4. ASA
5. JOSAPHAT
6. JORAM
7. OZIAS
8. JOATHAM
9. ACHAZ
10. EZEKIAS
12. AMON
13. JOSIAS
14. JECHONIAS
15. SALATHIEL
16. ZOROBABEL
17. ABIUD
18. ELIAKIM
19. AZOR
20. SADOC
21. ACHIM
22. ELIUD
23. ELEAZAR
24. MATTHAN
- 25. JACOB**
- 26. JOSEPH**
27. JESUS

DAVID

1. NATHAN
 2. MATTATHA
 3. MENAN
 4. MELEA
 5. ELIAKIM
 6. JONAN
 7. JOSEPH
 8. JUDA
 9. SIMEON
 10. LEVI
 12. JORIM
 13. ELIEZER
 14. JOSE
 15. ER
 16. ELMODAM
 17. COSAM
 18. ADDI
 19. MELCHI
 20. NERI
 21. SALATHIEL
 22. ZOROBABEL
 23. RHESA
 24. JOANNA
 25. JUDA
 26. JOSEPH
 27. SEMEI
28. MATTATHIAS
 29. MAATH
 30. MAGGE
 31. ESLI
 32. NAUM
 33. AMOS
 34. MATTATHIAS
 35. JOSEPH
 36. JANNA
 37. MELCHI
 38. LEVI
 39. MATTHAT
 - 40. HELI**
 - 41. JOSEPH**
 42. JESUS

God does not say in the genealogy, inspired by Him, that Jesus (P*)

is His Son. Why is the genealogy so long? It should be Jesus --> Son of God. It does not even trace the genealogy of Mary.

Moreover, Joseph, husband of Mary, has two biological fathers, Joseph and Heli!

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Abbreviations

As* - Answer

B* - The Bible

Q* - The Quran.

Qs* - Question

P* - Peace of God be upon him / them.

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