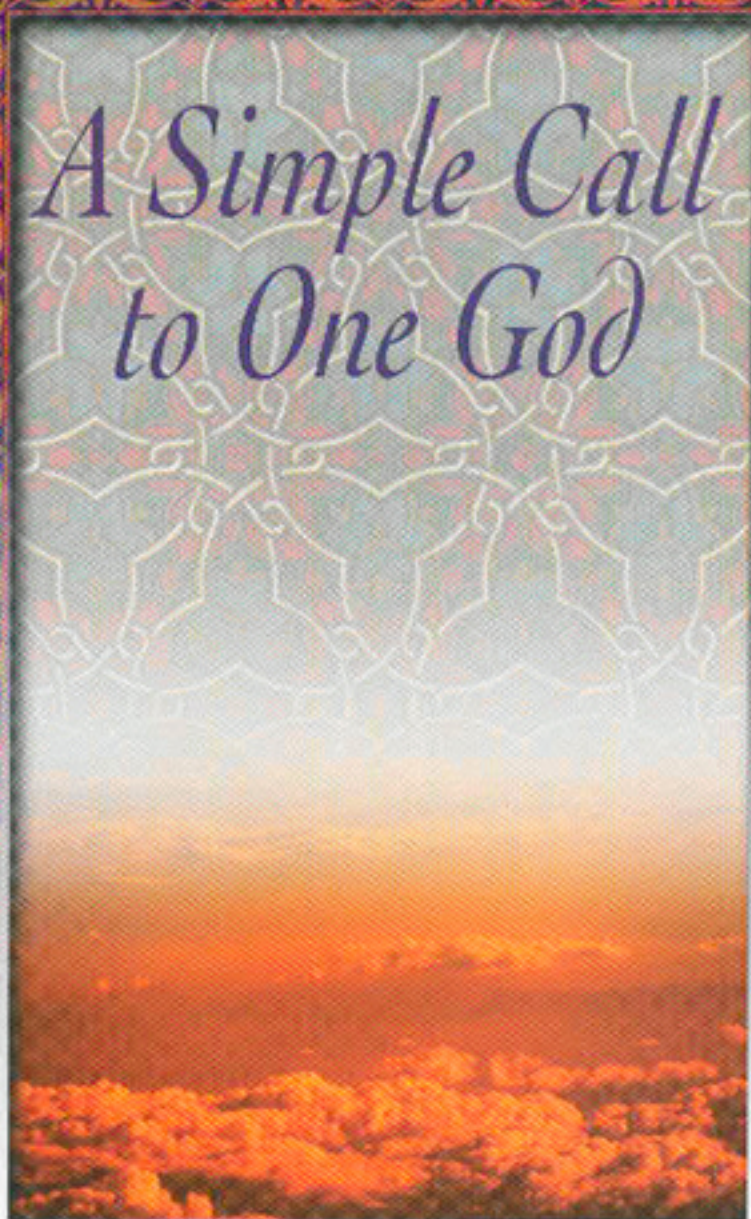




*A Simple Call
to One God*



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The Simple Call
to
ONE GOD

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Edited by Dr. A.A.B. Phillips

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CHAPTER ONE: SIGNS OF GOD

These days there is trend to belittle the concept of creator and creation. The most notorious of these endeavours is probably that Charles Darwin¹. His proposal that man is merely a “hairy biped”, who evolved through the ages by the process of natural selection, is considered to be the scientific basis for explaining the non-existence of God.

Belief in the theory conveniently does always with the more pro-found and pressing issues concerning the reason behind existence.

This question, which is one of the most fundamental yearnings for the truth, is answered very simply and clearly in the Qur’an. God says,

“I did not create the *jinn*’s² and humankind except to worship Me.”
[Qur’an (51) :56]

Islam teaches it is a part of human nature to acknowledge the existence of God. Even the self-professed atheist will cry out to God in times of extreme despair, though the realisation of this dependence on the Creator may not accompany the innate cry for help. The Qur’an addresses this phenomenon as follows:

1. Charles Robert Darwin ;(1809-82C.E.), proposed the theory of Evolution which conflicted with Christian teachings especially when applied to human beings. However evidence from fossil records is poor and the process of human beings development is not well understood. Most of the genetic research was carried out on the fruit fly, drosophila, which did not produce the expected results. Yet, despite the flaws and understood unresolved issues included in this theory, it is still taken by many to disprove creation of man and other living thing by God.

2. The *jinn*, in their original form, are invisible to humans, but they can influence humans. Satan is from among the *jinn* is not a fallen Archangel, as is taught by Christianity.

“When man is struck by trouble, he cries out to *Me*³, [in whatever state he may be], whether lying down on his side, sitting or standing. But when I remove his affliction, he carries as if he had never cried out to *Me* to save him from his affliction! In that way the actions of the sinful appear good to them.” [Qur’an (10):12]

Islam does not leave any room for confusion with regards to the purpose of creation. The main reason for human existence is to worship God. Consequently God asks those who consider that there is no purpose for life beyond eating, drinking and being merry, **“does man think he will be left aimless [without being called to account]?”** (75:36) For, in the Islamic view, God does not create anything without reason and purpose. God says:

“I did not create the heavens, the earth and all that is between them without purpose! That is what the disbelievers imagine.” [Qur’an (38):27]⁴

But Islam does not demand blind belief. The entire universe is filled with sign upon sign to remind us of the power, the beauty and the creativity of a creator. The Qur’an reflects this by instructing human kind to ponder over the creation and then come to the natural conclusion that all the diversity of the environment and of life is a sure proof of God’s existence. For example, in chapter 78, verses 6-7, God states:

“Have I not made the earth an expanse and the mountains stakes?”

The Arabic word for stakes (*awtaad*) implies that mountains are a source of anchorage similar to the way that stakes are driven into the earth to anchor a tent. Current knowledge of mountain formation by folding⁵

3. Literally, ‘Us’. The ‘royal We’ is barely used in the English language today, but it is a common feature of Arabic speech, used to indicate the importance of the speaker. Therefore, this ‘We’ will be translated as ‘I’ throughout the rest of the text, since the literal translation is frequent cause of confusion for English speakers. 4. See also [Qur’an (21):16]

5. Mountains are formed according to four processes; volcanic activity, faulting, doming and folding involves one or more of the other three methods. The Qur’anic verse describes the presence of “layers of rock thrust underneath the mountain” by using the word “stakes”.

Seems to agree with this ancient metaphor. When rocks are folded by lateral pressure that compresses that strata, other layers of the rock are usually thrust underneath the raised area. In cross-sections, the mountain looks like a peg driven into the earth's crust.

Rain, without which life is not viable, is also a sign from God.

“it is *Allah who sends the winds which raise the clouds and spreads them across the sky as He wills. Then He breaks them into fragments, until you see rain drops from them.” [Qur'an (30):38]

The other creatures that share the earth are further signs of God.

“Allah has created every living creature from the water.⁶ Some of them crawl on their bellies, some walk on two legs, and some walk on four. Allah creates what He wills. Indeed, Allah is able to do things.” [Qur'an (24):45]

Elsewhere in the Qur'an, human beings are instructed to reflect on the complexity of their own bodies and facilities:

“Do they not contemplate about their own selves?” [Qur'an (30):8]

“And among His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the differences in your languages and colours. Indeed, there are signs in them for people of sound knowledge. And among His signs is your sleep during the night and in the day, as well as your [ability to] seek from His bounties [your livelihood]. Indeed, there are signs in them for people who listen.”
[Qur'an (30):22-23]

The previous verse mentions sleep as a sign of God. The medical world is still unable to explain the precise reasons for sleep. A number of theories have been put forward, but none are totally convincing or conclusive. The above

Qur'anic verse points out that sleep can occur during both night and day. It is a true phenomenon taken for granted by most.

The most amazing changes in human life form are those connected to fetal development during gestation. Many verses in the Qur'an bring this sign to humankind's attention. For example the Qur'an asks:

“What is the matter with you, that you are not conscious of Allah’s majesty? Seeing that it is He who created you in diverse stages.” [Qur'an (71):13-14]

Regarding these stages the Qur'an elsewhere states:

“Indeed, I created humankind from a small quantity of mingled fluids.”
[Qur'an (72):2]

6. protoplasm, the material of which cells are composed and which has been described as the physical basis for life, is composed of about 75% water: Partly free and partly bound to proteins as structural component.”(*Text/atlas of histology*, Lesson, Leeson, Paparo, P.24)

* Allah is the preferred name used by God to describe Himself in the Arabic language (literally: The God). The words Allah and god are used interchangeable in the text.

The Arabic word *nutfah* comes from the verb meaning “to dribble or trickle”, used to describe what remains in the bottom of a bucket after it has been emptied. Thus, the verse correctly implies only a very small volume of liquid performs fertilisation. The other word, *amshaaj* [mingled fluids], refer to the modern discovery that sperm is made up of various components.⁸ After describing a fertilising fluid composed of different components, the Qur’an goes on to explain that human progeny will be formed from something extracted from this liquid. This is the meaning of the following verse in chapter *as-sajadah*:

“Then He made [man’s] offspring from the essence of a despised fluid.”[Qur’an (23):8]

The Arabic word translated by the term “essence” is *sulaalah*, which means “something extracted; the best part of a thing”. It is single cells, spermatozoon, out over 50 million ejaculated by a man during sexual intercourse. Which actually penetrates the ovules.

Once the egg has been fertilised in the fallopian tube, it descends to lodge itself inside the uterus. Implantation of the egg is a result of the development of *villosities*, which, like roots in the soil, draw nourishments from the wall of the uterus and makes the egg literally cling to the womb. The process of implantation is appropriately described in several verses by the word ‘*alaqah*’, a leach-like clinging entity.”⁹

7. See also 16:79 in which birds are described as among God’s signs.

8. Spermatic fluid is formed by various secretions coming from the following glands: a) the testicles, b) the seminal vesicles, c) the prostate gland, and d) Coopers glands and Littres glands.

9. *The Qur’an and modern science*, pp 35-8.

“Then I made him a small drop of fluid (*nutfah*) and lodged it in a safe place. Then I fashioned the drop into a clinging entity (*‘alaqah*) and transformed it into a chewed lump of flesh (*mudghah*). Then I fashioned the chewed flesh into the bones and clothed the bones with flesh. Then I brought it out as another creation. So blessed be Allah, the best of Creator.” [Qur’an (23):14]

The Arabic word *mudghah* literally means a piece of chewed flesh. *Mudghah* is an accurate description of the somatic stage, wherein the developing embryo has indentations (somites and branchial arches) similar to teeth impressions.

The Qur’an then states that the *mudghah* develops into bones and then becomes covered by flesh. This describes the development of the skeletal system formed from sclerotome, which precedes the muscular system formed from the myotome as indicated by the verses.¹⁰ Finally the being is born into this world as a separate entity, if Allah decrees. Consequently, the verse states, **“And then I brought it out as another creation.”**

This understanding of the stages of development has been present amongst the Muslims since the verses were revealed to prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) one thousand four hundred years ago. However, the understanding in Christian Europe, until the invention of the microscope in the 17th century, was based on the views of the 4th century BC philosopher, Aristotle.¹¹ He held that the role of semen in reproduction was limited to that of a catalyst which coagulated the menstrual blood and that the formation and the creation of the child was from the menstrual blood itself.¹²

10. *Humans Development as Revealed in the Qur’an and hadith*, pp11-12.

11. Aristotle (384 B.C.-322 B.C) was a Greek philosopher whose influence extended for over thousand years. He studied under Plato and was a tutor to Alexander the Great.

12. This is the same erroneous idea that appears in the Sanskrit treatises on ancient Indian embryology called ‘Garbha Upanishad’-Keith L. Moore, *The Developing Human*, p. 7.

The renowned 14th century Muslim scholar, Ibn Hajar al-‘Asqalanee said: “Many anatomists claim that the semen of the male has no role in the baby’s creation. Its role, they claim, is limited to curdling menstrual blood from which man is born. However, this opinion is contradicted by the sayings of the Prophet (peace be upon him) which indicate that the semen of the male actually participates equally with that of the female in the formation of the embryo.” It was not until 1759 that the first non-Muslim embryologist¹³, Wolff¹⁴, put forward a similar doctrine, called epigenesis.¹⁵

Islam teaches that the existence of the whole universe surrounding humans is a proof of God’s existence, and all of the creation bears witness to this fact.

“The seven heavens, the earth and all that is in them glorify Him (Allah) and there is nothing that does not glorify his praise, but you do not understand their glorification. Truly He is Ever forbearing, Oft –forgiving” [Qur’an (17):44]

Most people, however, deny these signs and proofs of God, despite their self-evident clarity. The Qur’an says about such deniers:

“Indeed, it is the same for the disbelievers, whether you warn them or you do not warn them, they will not believe. Allah has put a seal on their hearts and their hearing and a covering on their eyes. They will not be in great torment.”

These verses explain that those who deliberately turn away from faith, will not respond to any form of warning. Consequently, to point out the signs of God to them is futile. Such people take the intricacy of creation and complexities of existence for granted. They do so to such a degree that their eyes, ears, and heart, which have been given the capability to see, hear and love the truth, have all become impervious to the signs of Allah, and these faculties are no longer of any human value. They become worse than animals in the God’s sight.

“Certainly the worst of living creatures in the sight of Allah are the deaf and the dumb; those who do not understand.” [Qur’an (8):22]

13. *Human Development as Revealed in the Qur’an and Hadith*, p 52.

14. In 1759 C.E., Wolff refuted both versions of the preformation theory. His ideas formed the basis of the theory of epigenesis—Keith L. Moore, *The Developing Human*, p. 9 (For more information about embryological references in the Qur’an, see Moore 1986)

15. Epigenesis is the generally accepted theory that the individual is developed by structural elaboration of the unstructured egg rather than by simple enlargement preformed entity.

CHAPTER TWO: UNITY

One God

If it is accepted that there is a Creator, it is necessary to understand who He expects of human beings. The Qur'an reveals much about the nature of God, and Muhammad (peace be upon him), the final messenger to mankind, has explained in the great details the qualities and attributes of God. But to have complete knowledge of God is beyond man's ability. Man is finite, and Allah is infinite, and Allah has revealed only a limited amount of knowledge about Himself. Created beings cannot comprehend the Creator. God states:

“They (humans) cannot encompass Him (Allah) with their knowledge.”

[Qur'an (20):10]

Islam teaches that humans should only refer to God in terms in which He has referred to Himself. There is no scope whatsoever for inventing new ideas about Him in a manner that suits our personal opinions. Humankind must adhere to the knowledge about God as conveyed in authentic revealed text, since innovation in such matters corrupts the purity of the knowledge and will likely impart to God attributes which are not His.

Divine Mercy

One of the most prominent qualities of God, mentioned time and time again in the Qur'an and by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in his oral traditions, is that of mercy. For example, God says:

“O my servants who have wronged your own souls.¹⁶ Do not despair of the Mercy of Allah; He is oft-forgiving, Most Merciful.”

[Qur'an (39):53]¹⁷

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was also quoted as saying,

*“Allah says: My mercy supercedes My wrath”*¹⁸

But will God shower His Mercy on every human beings on the Day of Judgement regardless of his/her deeds on earth? Much is mentioned in the Qur’an about that Day so that people can try to understand how terrible it will be. The following are a sampling of the descriptions:

“When the sky is torn apart in obedience to its Lord-as indeed it must be, the earth will be flattened, casting its content until it becomes empty in obedience to its Lord-as indeed it must be.” [Qur’an (84):1-5]

“When the sun is enveloped in darkness, the stars will fall and the mountains will vanish...” [Qur’an (81):1-3]

“When the seas are burst forth.” [Qur’an (82):3]

“When the earth is shaken with its [final] convulsion and it throws out its contents, man will cry out, “What is the matter with it?” [Qur’an (99):1-3]

On this day, all of humankind will resurrected as God said:

“When the graves are overturned,” [Qur’an (82):4] **“and the souls will be joined with their bodies.”** [Qur’an (81):7]

God will assemble all human beings who existed on the earth in the past, present and future:

“Remember the Day on which / will cause the mountains to vanish and you will see the earth flattened. / will gather them all together without any of them behind.” [Qur’an (18):47]

16. Because the harm of committing sins ultimately affects the sinner, God refers to it as wronging oneself.

17. See also 4:110

18. *Sahih Muslim*, vol. 4 no. 6627

God will then judge men and women for what they did in his life:

“I have fastened every human’s deed around his neck and on the Day of Resurrection I will bring out a book for him, which he will find wide open. He will be told, “Read your book. Today your own self is enough to hold to account.” [Qur’an (17):13-14]

Shirk [Idolatry]

On that day, only a few will receive God’s mercy. Most will not warrant God’s mercy and forgiveness because they indulged in the great sin of inventing lies against the Creator. The biggest of these lies against God is that of assigning Him partner who helped or helps Him create, govern, sustain, or judge His creatures. The severity of the assigning partners to God is so immense that it is the only unforgivable sin. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) explained.

*“Allah says: The descendants of Adam tell lies against Me through they have no right to do so, and they abuse Me, though they have no right to do so. As for telling a lie against Me, it is their claim that I cannot re-create them as I created them before (on earth). And as for abusing Me, it is their claim that I have a son. No, Glorified be Me! I am far beyond taking a wife or a son..”*¹⁹
Giving Allah a partner is a derogation of His Magnificence.

The Qur’an appeals to human logic in its explanation of why Allah cannot have partners.

“Allah did not give birth to a son nor is there any God besides Him. [if there were], each god would have become an independent ruler over it creation and some would have tried to over-rule others! May Allah be exalted above all they attributes to Him.” [Qur’an (23):91]

19. Sahih Al-Bukhari, vol. 6, no.9.

If there were to be a partner with Him, then the power would be shared between them and neither would have complete authority. This in turn would lead to irresolvable disagreement and chaos. Such corruption is not fitting for the majesty of the Creator. Consequently, the Qur'an offers a further logical argument for the absolute unity of God.

“It is not fitting that Allah give birth to a son. May he be exalted above all they associate with Him. When He decides something, He only tells it, “Be” and it is” [Qur'an (19):35]

“(He is) the originator of the heavens and the earth. How could He have a son when He had no wife? He created everything and is aware of all things.” [Qur'an (6):101]

These and other similar verses²⁰ confirm the omnipotence of God. Whatever He wishes, He commands into existence. Its existence does not require the process of process of procreation as in the case of His creatures. Allah does not “beget” because He alone has the power to create from nothing. Whereas humans and animals beget-they cannot create themselves. The gravity of the insult of attributing a son or a partner of God is so immense that Allah describes it in the responses of the heavens, the earth, and the mountains.

“Indeed you made an evil claim almost causing the heavens to tear, the earth to crack and the mountains to fall in ruins. To claim that the Most Beneficent [Allah] has a son when it is not fitting that the Most Beneficent should have a son!” [Qur'an (19):89-92]

According to the teachings of Islam, God created Jesus, son of Mary, without a father. His was virgin birth, a miracle and a sign from God. But the Qur'an reminds humankind that Allah also created Adam without a father or mother.

“The example of Jesus, in Allah’s sight, is like that of Adam. He created him from dust, then told him, “Be!” and he was. This is the truth from your Lord, so do not be among the doubtful.” [Qur’an (3):59-60]

The Qur’an repeatedly refers to the vastness of Allah’s creation in order for humans to realise that if He can create all this splendour and diversity by a mere command, there should be no difficulty for Him to create a man without a father. The Qur’an emphasizes in great details the supreme and absolute unity of God because any compromise of that unity is the gravest of sins.

“Indeed, Allah does not forgive the worshipping of other besides Him, but He forgives sins less than that for whoever He wishes. And whoever worships others besides Allah has certainly invented a tremendous sin.”

[Qur’an (4):48]

By informing humankind about gravest sin and the reason for its gravity they are given a chance to rid themselves of this sin. They may invoke Allah’s mercy and carefully avoid the unforgivable crime of worshipping others besides Allah. If this is sincerely done, they become among those who deserve to receive God’s forgiveness on the Day of Judgement. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said,

“Allah says: “O son of Adam, as long as you call upon Me [alone] and ask of Me, I will forgive you of whatever you have done-regardless. O son of Adam, even if your sins reached the clouds and you and you met Me, I would forgive you .O son of Adam, if you came to Me with sins of nearly as great as the earth and you met Me without worshipping anyone besides Me, I would grant you forgiveness nearly as great as the earth.”²¹

The Day of Judgement

The other category of damned people are those who do not believe in the Day of Judgement.

“They say, ‘There is no other life besides our present life in this world and we will never be resurrected.’ ” [Qur’an (6):29]

These people mockingly question the belief of another life after death.

“They say, ‘What! We will be raised up after being reduced to bones and dust?’ ” [Qur’an (17):49]

The Qur’an answers their mockery with divine wisdom.

“The real losers are those who denied their meeting with Allah until the Hour suddenly catches them and they say, ‘It is too bad for us that we gave it no thought.’ They will bear burdens on their backs and burdens they will bear will certainly be evil.”[Qur’an (6):31]

Islam teaches that God allows everyone to see his signs so that they may contemplate and reflect, seek out the reason for existence, and then believe in Him. Despite self-evident divine mercies, most humans continue to reject them. May deny their meetings with God on the Day of Judgement and others ultimately deny existence of God Himself.

“I will show them My signs in the universe and in their own selves, until it becomes manifest to them that this is the truth. Is it not enough that your Lord witnesses all things! Indeed, they are doubt about the meeting with their Lord. It is He who surrounds everything.” [Qur’an (41):53-54]

20. See 2:117; 36:82; 40:68

21. At Tirmidhee, *An Nawawi’s Forty Hadith*, No.4

CHAPTER THREE: PROPHETS

The Prophet of God

Islam teaches that the message brought by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was the completion of the vast structure of guidance given to human kind by God. The Qur'an makes it abundantly clear that God appointed many prophets to convey His message before the advent of Muhammad (peace be upon him).

“Certainly, I have inspired you [O Muhammad] as I inspired Noah and the prophets after him. I also inspired Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Aaron and Solomon, and I gave David the Psalms. I have mentioned some messengers to you before and others I have not mentioned to you, and I spoke directly to Moses.” [Qur'an (4):163-164]

“Zachariah, John, Jesus and Elias were all among the righteous and I preferred Ishmael, Elisha, Jonah and Lot above the nations [of their time].” [Qur'an (6):85-86]

The Qur'anic verses explain that God sent prophets to instruct people how to live their lives in accordance with His commands. In doing so, they could become pious and sincerely worship Him, and thereby attain success in the next life. Some of the prophets have been mentioned by name in the Qur'an and others have not. But God has assured humankind that all people of all eras, prior to the mission of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), were not left neglected without guidance.

“Indeed, I have sent messenger to every nation [saying]: ‘worship Allah alone and avoid all false gods.’ Then Allah guided some of the people and some of them were deservedly sent astray. So travel through the earth and see the end of those who denied the truth.” [Qur'an (16):36]

The statement, **“...and of them were deservedly sent astray”** confirms that guidance is primarily in God's hands. It is also stated in many places in the Qur'an that God guides whoever He wishes²² and whoever He guides is saved and whoever He does not guide is lost. This might seem unjust as one could argue that those whom God does not guide could not be held responsible for

their actions. The phrases **“deservedly sent astray** “clarifies that those who God sends astray are those who deliberately turn away from God’s signs and prefer to live in ignorance or in deliberate rejection of His message. They make no attempt to seek His guidance and are content with their shallow and fickle lives, totally engrossed in the pleasures of this world. These people choose the path of error.

“I will turn away from My signs those who are wrongly arrogant on earth. Even if they see all the signs they will not believe in them. They will not take the right way if they see it, but if they see the wrong way they will take it because they have rejected My signs by ignoring them.” [Qur’an (7):146]

However, those who reject God’s signs and are astray turn to Him whenever they are faced with difficulty. God describes their lives of self-deceit as follows:

“When I grant favours to man, he withdraws and turns away, but when evil afflicts him, he makes long prayers.” [Qur’an (41):51]

So humankind has been assured that God has never left any nation or community of people without guidance. He has sent a prophet to each to deliver them a message of hope and guidance, and to instruct them how to follow the path of piety and discipline.

22. From the Qur’an: **“... he whom Allah guides is rightly guided, but he whom Allah sends astray-for him is no ‘wali’ (guiding friends) to lead him (to the right path).”** (18):17. However, Allah’s guidance is not arbitrary. He guides those possess faith in their hearts and does not guide those who are evil, corrupt and rebellious. For example, God says in the Qur’an, **“Indeed God does not guide the oppressive people.”** (6:144). Also see (9):37), (40):28, and (63):6. He also states **“He (Allah) guides those who turn to Him (in repentance).”** (42):13. Also see (5):16.

The Religion of the Prophets

Jews, Christians and Muslims all agree that prophets (e.g. Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Lot, Moses etc.) all professed monotheistic faith. That is to say, they all believed in “One True God” and they all rejected any and every form of idolatry. Jews, Christians and Muslims believe that those who follow the teachings of the Prophet Moses were righteous people and adherents to the revelation of God. They further believe that those people will be successful on the Day of Judgement and their reward will be God’s forgiveness and a place in paradise.

Christians and Muslims also believe that those who follow the teachings of Prophet Jesus, like those who followed Prophet Moses, were righteous people and adherents to the revelation of God. They believe the true followers of Prophet Jesus will attain success on the Day of Judgement and their reward will also be forgiveness and paradise.

However, neither the Jewish scripture (Torah) nor the Gospels have identified the name of the religion brought by the prophets of God and their followers. The crux of the matter is that neither the term “Judaism” nor “Christianity” can be the name of the message brought by the prophets simply because these names were not known in the eras of all prophets. The name “Judaism” comes from the name of a region, Judea,²³ and “Christianity” comes from a translation of the title given to Jesus Christ.²⁴ Consequently, the name of the religion of the prophets since the time of Adam remains to be determined.

The only way to recognise this religion is to logically contemplate its essence and purpose.

It is certain that God sent all these prophets with basic the tenet:

23. Judea is the old name of the southern part of ancient Palestine. The Jews trace their origins to this region.

24. The word ‘Christ’ is not even a Hebrew word-it is derived from the Latin word ‘Christus’, from the Greek word ‘Khristos’, which means ‘the anointed (one)’.

“Worship the One True God.” Some of these prophets also received legislation containing commands and prohibitions that they instructed their people to adhere to. Anyone who accepted the doctrine of the “One True God” and revealed legislation submitted himself to God’s commands by following that prophet. Such a person would be a believer whose way of life would be accepted by God.

Consequently, it could be said that the religion revealed by God to the prophets is based on **obedience** to God’s legislation and it involves the fundamental principle that **only God be worshipped**. The Arabic word “Islam” means “total obedience or submission to God,” and the declaration of faith in *Islam* states: “I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship but Allah (the one true God).” It can, therefore, be reasonably said that the Arabic term *Islam* accurately describes the religion of Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Jesus, etc., since all these prophets preached the tenet of monotheism. These prophets also preached that humans should totally submit to their Creator by obeying the revealed commandments.

The Qur’an invites the Jews and Christians to reflect logically about the religion of the Prophet Abraham which they both claim was theirs.

“O people of the Scripture [Jews and Christians], why do you dispute about Abraham, when neither the Torah nor the Gospel were revealed until after his time? Do you have no sense?” [Qur’an (3):65]

The Qur’an then identifies the religion of Prophet Abraham saying:

“Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but a true Muslim who was not among those worshipping others besides Allah.” [Qur’an (3):67]

The reason why most people reject the fact that Islam was the message of the prophets is due to their misconception surrounding the word Islam. Many think that it is the name of Muhammad’s (peace be upon him) religion just as Buddhism is the name given to Buddha’s teachings and Marxism is the doctrine laid down by Karl Marx. In reality, Islam is the Heavenly message brought by the prophets, including Moses and Jesus. It is not a name

indicating a region of the world or a name referring to a person²⁵, but rather submission to God.

Similarly, the word Muslim does not mean “followers of Muhammad (peace be upon him), “but” one who submits to the will of God”. With this proper understanding of the words Islam and Muslim, it can then be correctly said that the followers of the prophets and the prophets themselves were Muslims, since they all submitted to God’s commands. Similarly, it can also be said that the name of the religion of these pious people was Islam; the religion of submission to God. The Qur’anic verses address this reality by declaring Islam to be the religion prescribed for humankind. **“The only religion accepted by Allah is Islam.”** [Qur’an (3):19] Therefore the only religion accepted by Allah is that based on total submission to His will worship of Him alone.

“Whoever submits his self to Allah while doing good has grasped the most trustworthy handhold, and to Allah all things will return.” [Qur’an (31):22]

Jesus Christ

Since the religion prescribed by God for humankind was Islam, Jesus must have also taught it. He would have instructed people to worship God and not himself, as people later claimed. The Qur’an quotes Jesus’ affirmation of monotheism saying:

“Jesus said, ‘Indeed Allah is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him (alone). That is the straight path.’ [Qur’an (19):36]

Jesus is also quoted in the Gospel according to Luke, 4:8, as reaffirming pure monotheism, *“It is written in the Scripture:”Worship the Lord*

Your God and serve Him Only.”

The Qur’an corrects the Christian claim that Jesus was the son of god and that he deserves human worship, by logical argument.

“The Messiah, son of Mary, was no more than a messenger, a number of [similar] messengers passed away before him. His mother was a truthful

woman and they both ate food. See how I clarified My signs, yet they remain deluded.” [Qur’an (5):75]

The statement **“they both ate food”** is the basis of the divine argument that despite the miraculous birth of Jesus and the many miracles which he performed during his life, he and his mother were human beings and not divine beings. Like all other human beings, the needed food and, consequently, had to answer the call of nature. God, on the other hand, is independent of all these needs. To attribute them to him is to debase god and insult our own intelligence.

In order to confirm to people that Jesus did not claim divinity for himself, the Qur’an states that God will question Jesus on the Day of Judgement so that the truth will be established from Jesus’ own lips.

“When Allah says, ‘O Jesus, son of Mary! Did you tell people: Worship me [Jesus] and my mother as gods besides Allah! He will say: Glory be to You! I could not say what I had no right [to say!] if I had said such a thing; You would certainly have known it. You know what is in my inner-self while I do not know what is in Yours. Truly you completely know the unseen.”
[Qur’an (5):116]

25. Many of the world’s religions are named after a founding figure e.g. Christianity, Buddhism; or they are named after a region e.g. Hinduism, Judaism.

CHAPTER FOUR: THE MESSAGE

The Message of Islam

This history of Prophet Jesus has been explained in details in the Qur'an, so that there may be no doubt or confusion left in the reader's mind as to who he was and for what purpose Jesus was sent. The Qur'an clarifies that Jesus Christ and all other prophets were Muslims teaching the same divine message of Islam to their respective people.

However, the message of Islam that the earlier prophets taught did not contain the exact same legislation of the Islam available today. That is to say, the details of the commands and injunctions present in the religion of Islam today, as written in the Qur'an and as expressed by Muhammad (peace be upon him), are different from those commands and ruling brought by the earlier prophets of God. But the point remains that the fundamental tenet of the religion brought by the earlier Prophets and that of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the same.

The message that the Prophets brought was clothed in the language and thought patterns of the people to whom it was addressed, so as to be clear and unambiguous. Thus, the details of the revelation differed from one prophet to the next, but the message brought by each prophet revolved around the same nucleus-the worship of One True God and submission to Him. This difference in detail can be exemplified by appreciating the fact that the immediate children of Adam and Eve would have had to cohabit with each other in order to procreate. This act was acceptable in their lives, but in subsequent generations incest became a very serious crime.

This fact has been misunderstood and ignored by two groups of people. The first group is comprised of non-Muslims ignorant of the Arabic language and the actual meaning of the word Islam. They use it only to describe the religion of the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). The second group

of people is the Muslims who fail to apply the word Islam in its boarder sense. Regardless of whether they are versed in Arabic or not, they do not really understand the meaning of Islam.

Islam is a state of mind and programme of action and not just the name of the religion brought by Muhammad (peace be upon him). This is implied in the following Qur'anic verse:

“O you who believe, fear Allah as He should be feared²⁶, and do not die except in a state of Islam.”[Qur'an (3):102]

Allah makes it explicitly clear that the final revelation to humankind, the Qur'an, brought by the final messenger, Muhammad (peace be upon him), is not an entirely new religion or message but the culmination of the previous messages and a correction of the errors that had crept into them over the centuries.

In the era of Prophet Moses the people were obligated to submit to God's will by obeying the legislation (the Torah) brought by the Moses. However, the original text brought by Prophet Moses no longer exists and whatever fragments of the message remain have been adulterated with additions and deletions made by the followers through the ages. Consequently, this altered message can no longer be reasonably considered as a viable source of divine guidance to attain success in the next life.

Likewise, in the era of Jesus, salvation lay in worshipping God alone and submitting to Him by obeying the legislation brought by His Prophet. But the original legislation brought by Jesus, the Gospel, no longer exists. Instead, all that remains are fabrications falsely credited to the teachings of this prophet. The true revelation of the Prophet Jesus, like that of Prophet Moses, is lost forever.

Although all the messages of the earlier prophets are inaccessible, human beings have not been left without guidance, at the mercy of their own desires. Salvation today can be found in worshipping the One True God, and submitting to His commands by adhering to the Message brought by the final messenger to mankind, Muhammad (peace be upon him).

“[O Muhammad,] I have only sent you to all humankind, giving them glad tidings, and warning the [against sin], but most people do not realise it.”[Qur’an (34):28]

26. To fear God is an act of piety. Man cannot truly be ‘conscious’ of God without experiencing a profound sense of awe resulting in a healthy fear of displeasing Him by breaking His commands.

CHAPTER FIVE: CHRISTIANITY

Christianity Today

The Qur'an mentions some of the earlier revealed texts given to some of the other earlier messenger. Prophet David was given the *Zaboor* (the psalms), Prophet Moses was given the *Tawraat* (the Torah), and Prophet Jesus was given the *Injeel* (the Gospel/Evangel). However, according to evidence gathered by Christian and Jewish Biblical scholars, none of these revealed texts have remained in their original form.

The common view among leading Christian scholars is that the origins of modern day Christianity is based upon the theosophy of Paul²⁷. *The Jesus Report* by Johannes Lehman, published in 1972, declares that Paul was “a corrupter of the Gospel of Jesus” and also describes him as “the second founder of Christianity.” The article also states that due to Paul, “the discontinuity between the historical Jesus and the Christ of the Church became so great that any unity between them is scarcely recognisable.”

The report further mentions that “the Pauline heresy [ultimately] became the foundation of Christian orthodoxy and the legitimate Church was disowned as heretical.”²⁸

Paul himself never met Jesus, and up until his conversion, he had been a bitter enemy of any whom accepted the teachings of Jesus. Paul (or Saul as he was known then) was at the forefront of the campaign directed against the followers of Jesus and was notorious for his persecution of them. During a journey to Damascus, Paul claimed to have had a vision of Christ. Paul states in Acts 27:16 that Christ said “*for I (Jesus) have appeared to you, to appoint you as servant and my witness. You are to tell the world about the experience and about the many other*

27. Paul of Tarsus (5-67 CE); his life and doctrines are set forth in the ‘Acts of the apostles’ and his epistles.

28. Quotes in *Jesus a Prophet of Islam*, p.74

Occasions when I shall appear to you.....” Thus Paul claimed to have unique access to Jesus via revelation, an honour which even the closest of the followers of Jesus, the disciples, were denied. After the famous conversion of Saul the Jew to Paul the Christian, Paul “straight away preached Christ in the synagogues, that he (Jesus) was the son of God.”²⁹

Paul then travelled to Jerusalem, Turkey, Greece and Rome, where he preached his ‘inspired message’ to the people of these lands. However, many challenged Paul’s apostleship and his teachings. Paul defended his stance by stating in his letter to the Greek Christians, 1 Corinthians 9:1-3: *“I am apostle, God’s messenger, responsible to no mere man...And your changed lives are the result of my hard work for him. If in the opinion of others, I am not an apostle, I certainly am to you, for you have been won to Christ through me. This is me answer to those who question my rights.”*

In his report, Lehman further comments that “many probably suspected that Paul was no more than a spy, posing as a follower of Jesus.”³⁰ Another theologian, Albert Schweitzer, in his book *Paul and His Interpreters*³¹ noted that “Paul never appealed to the sayings and commands of the Master.”

Paul changed what teachings of Jesus he did know, and he did not hesitate to make whatever adjustments were needed to make the teachings of Jesus more palatable to the common people of Greece, which was part of the Roman Empire at that time. Both the Greeks and the Romans were paganistic, they believed in a multitude of gods, who not only resembled human beings, but it was thought, also mixed freely with humans, copulated with them and generally took part in their every sphere of life. Thus, it is not difficult to see how, in Christian preaching, the idea of God being incarnate in the body of a man (Christ) or of God begetting a son, has evolved.

In order to accommodate the paganistic beliefs and customs of the

29. Acts 9:20

30. Jesus a Prophet of Islam, p.60

31. Ibid, p.62.

Romans, Paul altered and compromised³² the teaching of Jesus until the purity of the message was lost forever. The Christian community that followed the teachings of Paul became established, and organised themselves into the Pauline Church which was later to become known as the Roman Catholic Church. Even the simplest of commandments that Jesus adhered to have become obsolescent in the world of Christendom. For example, most Christians today do not adhere to any dietary regulations, even though Jesus was a Jew and therefore would not have eaten the flesh of swine or meat that was not slaughtered according to Jewish sacrificial methods. This is of particular significance when viewed in the light of statements attributed to Jesus in the Gospel according to Matthew, 5:17

“think not that I am come to destroy the Law (Torah) or the Prophets: I am come not to destroy but to fulfil.” And in 5:19: *“whosoever therefore shall break one of the least commandments and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven: but whosoever shall obey and teach them, the same shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.”* According to this verse, Jesus would have not broken the Jewish Law. Anyone who does so, in his estimation, was of a low rank in the sight of God.

Another example of the loss of basic commands among Christians is that of circumcision of the male infant. This command, according to the Bible, was given to the Prophet Abraham as part of his covenant and the circumcision of Jesus is mentioned in the Gospel according to Luke, 2:21: *“when eight days were accomplished for the circumcision of the child, his name was called Jesus...”* the tradition of circumcising the male child is part of Islamic Law, and must be implemented, Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: *“the natural³³ acts are: circumcision, removal of the hair around the private parts, trimming the moustache, cutting the nails and removing the hair under the armpits, brushing the teeth, cleaning the nose with water, washing the base of the fingers, washing the private parts with water after the call of nature and rinsing the mouth.”³⁴*

32. Pauls compromising attitude is even indicated in the Bible, where he states: *“...I try to please everyone in everything I do...”* And you should follow my examples, just as I follow Christ’s...” 1 Corinthians 10:33 & 11.

33. Fitrah

34. *Sahih Muslim*, vol 1, p.159, no.496 & no.502.

Thus, the pure teachings of Jesus were transformed by Paul's innovations and in his letter to the early Christian converts, Paul rationalised his behaviour by stating: *"All things are lawful unto me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."* (1 Corinthians 6:12) it is obvious from this statement that Paul began to act as a free agent in direct opposition to the previously quoted statement of Jesus that "whosoever therefore shall break one of the least commandments and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven." According to this statement, Paul would fall into the category of the least in the Kingdom of Heaven, since he not only broke the laws but paved the way for countless innovations that have led to the total distortion of the original teachings of Jesus. In defence of his changes, Paul wrote,

*"...when we try to gain God's blessings and salvation by keeping his laws, we always end up under his anger, for we always fail to keep them. The only way we can keep from breaking the laws, is **not to have** any to break."*(Romans 5:15) A clear example of Paul's innovations can be seen in the doctrine of Redemption through the sacrifice of Christ.³⁵ An example of breaking the "Law" can be seen in the popular representations of Christ (and other prominent figures in Christianity) through paintings and statues. This clearly contradicts the divine injunction in Exodus,20:4, *"Do not make for yourself images of anything in heaven or earth...Do not bow down to any idol."*

Despite the unambiguous phrasing of this prohibition, the ritual of placing an image of Christ above the altar and then encouraging the congregation to bow down or kneel before it is a central part of worship of most Christian denominations. The fact that God himself is often represented as human³⁶ in these art forms is further evidence of the Greek and Roman influence on Christianity. Greek and Roman gods were often depicted as men with a halo or nimbus placed above their heads to distinguish them from ordinary human beings. This symbol can be traced back to the representation of the pagan deity Apollo, who was often depicted with rays of the sun emanating from his head. It is interesting to note that often images of Christ, his mother and the angels also have this same symbol placed above their heads.

35. See Galatians 1:4; Romans 5:2, Corinthians 5:21.

The roots of Anglicanism clearly indicate that Christianity today is a man-made religion brought into existence and shaped by the desires of people, and not that of Jesus. King Henry the Eighth³⁷ broke with the Roman Catholic Church by abolishing Papal jurisdiction in order to secure a divorce from his first wife, and allow him to divorce at will. This adulterous murderer and father of countless illegitimate children was the founder of a major sect of Christianity that claims to be based on the example of Jesus.

It is pertinent to mention at this point that the Qur'an contains a number of references to the changes made in the religion brought by Jesus Christ.

“But the monasticism which they invented for themselves, I did not prescribe for them.” [Qur'an (57):27]

Prophet Muhammad (peace is upon him) also addressed the role of human hands in the formation of Christianity and Judaism. On one occasion, when he recited the Qur'anic verse: **“They take their rabbis and monks as lords besides Allah,”** [Qur'an (9):31] his companion Adee ibn Hatim, a convert from Christianity, remarked that it was not the practice of these people to worship their religious leaders. The Prophet (peace be upon him) then asked him:

“Did they (monks and rabbis) not make forbidden things allowable, and make allowable things forbidden, and you (people) followed them?” When Adee ibn Hatim replied that this was so, the Prophet then explained, *“That was how you worshipped them.”*³⁸ In Islam, only God is lawgiver and man has no authority to interfere with His legislation.

36. Probably the most famous of these paintings is that of ‘The Creation’ (of Adam), painted by Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564), which adorns the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome. In this fresco, God is depicted as an old man with long white beard and only a piece of cloth around his waist. Christendom heralds this detestable scene as masterpiece.

37. Henry the Eighth, King of England (reign: 1509-1574), broke with Rome by the Act of Supremacy in 1536.

38. Collected by at-Tirmithe.

CHAPTER SIX: MUHAMMAD

The Comforter

It has been shown that all the Prophets were monotheists who directed their people to worship One God to obey His revealed laws. However, neither Judaism nor Christianity recognises Muhammad (peace be upon him) as a messenger of God. But the Bible, despite its fabrications and distortions, does throw some light on the issues of a prophet to come after Jesus. It is reported in the Gospel according to John, 14:15-6, that Jesus said:

“If you love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter that he may abide with you forever.”

It is clear from this statement that Jesus knew of someone like himself who would come after him. Regarding the phrase *“he may abide with you forever”*, it did not mean that this person would have eternal life, since everything living on earth must die. What the statement simply means is that the message brought by this person [there is no god worthy of worship but Allah] is an eternal message which will remain intact until the end of this world. It will not be subjected to the adulterations that the previous message suffered at the hands of people. In the Qur’an itself, God promises to protect it from any changes.

“Indeed, I have revealed this Qur’an and, indeed, I will preserve it.”
[Qur’an (15):9]

The previous quoted verse from the Gospel according to John refers to Jesus’ successor as the *comforter*. Before explaining the use of this particular word, there is a point that should be noted regarding the existing Gospels. When the Hebrew Gospels³⁹ were translated

39. it is generally held that the Gospels were originally written in Hebrew. The present day versions of the New Testament were probably taken from Hebrew manuscript dating back to one/two hundred years after Jesus. Scholars believe Jesus spoke Aramaic.

Into Greek, many of the idioms and connotation of the Hebrew verses were lost and these limitations in the Greek text were made permanent when all of the Gospels in Hebrew were destroyed or lost.

The original word in Greek, used for “comforter” is *paracleetos*.⁴⁰ This word is sometimes translated as the “Spirit of Truth” and at other times as the “Holy Spirit”. However, from the context of the verse (John 14:15-16), the “comforter” could not be the “Holy Spirit” since according to another passage in the Bible, the “Holy Spirit” was already present during the time of Jesus, helping him and guiding him. The Gospel according to Luke, 3:22 states: “*And the Holy Spirit descended...upon him (Jesus).*” Consequently, *paracleetos* could not be the “Holy Spirit”. If the word *paracleetos* is taken to mean “comforter”, then the awaiting one whose coming Jesus foretold, must be Muhammad (peace be upon him), since he is described as a “mercy” from God.

“I sent you [Muhammad] as a mercy for all creatures.” [Qur’an(21):107]

And he is also described as a mercy to those who believe:

“Indeed, a messenger from among yourselves has come to you who grieves over your suffering and is concerned about you and who is compassionate and merciful to the believers.”[Qur’an(9):128]

Mercy implies comfort. Humans find comfort in mercy shown to them on all occasions in their lives.

Some scholars have purposed that the word *paracleetos* was a corruption of *periclytos*, which means “the one who people praise exceedingly”. The literal translation of the Arabic name Muhammad, in English, is “the one who is much praised”.⁴¹

40. For more detail regarding the Greek word *paracleetos* see *Muhammad* in the Bible, p.3-5.

41. See translation of the Holy Qur’an by A.Y.Ali, footnote No. 5438

The Spirit of Truth

In the Gospel according to John, 1:12-14, Jesus is also reported to have said, *“I have yet many things to say unto you, but you cannot bear them now. How be it when, e, the Spirit of Truth is come, he will guide you into all truth for **he shall not speak of himself but whatsoever he shall hear, that he shall receive of mine and show in unto you.**”*

The statement “...he shall not speak of himself but whatsoever he shall hear, that he shall speak...” is very similar in meaning to the following Qur’anic verses: **“He [Muhammad] does not speak from his desires. Indeed, it is divinely revealed revelations.”** [Qur’an (53):3-4]

As the phrase “...he shall glorify me...”, it could refer to the fact that the Qur’an explains the life of Jesus in great detail and praises him as a leading prophet of God.

“His name will be the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, held in honour in this world and in the Hereafter, and he will among those near to Allah.”[Qur’an (3):45]

The Qur’an dedicates a chapter to Jesus’ mother and dispels the accusation of fornication levelled at her in Jewish Scripture. It also mentions the piety of Mary’s family and gives moving accounts of her childhood that was spent in worship of God.⁴²

“And remember when the angel said, ‘O Mary! Indeed, Allah chose you, purified you and preferred you above the women of the nations.’” [Maryam (3):42]

Regarding the statement: “...for he shall receive of mine and show it unto you”, it has already been shown in the previous chapter that the message brought by all the prophets was *Islam*-submission to God.

42. See Chapter 3, verse 37 of the Qur’an.

This was the message of the prophet Jesus which was revived by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and propagated to the world.

A Prophet like Moses

In Deuteronomy 18:18, it is written that God spoke to Moses that He would send another prophet from among the brethren of the Jews, who would be similar to Moses.

“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among the brethren; I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him...”

Christians have taken this prophecy to refer to Jesus, but the verse clearly states that the prophet to be sent would have to unique features:

1. He would be from among the brethren of the Jews.
2. He would be similar to Moses.

These two conditions rule out Prophet Jesus since Jesus was not from among the brethren of the Jews but was of Jewish origin himself. The Arabs and the Jews are nations that are both descended from Abraham. The Jews trace their lineage to him from his son Isaac and the Arabs are descendants of Abraham’s son Ishmael. Thus, despite the bitter enmity that exists between Jews and Arabs today, these two communities are in fact brother nations.

Muhammad peace be upon him, was an Arab, from the Hashimite branch of the Qurayshite tribe. He thus fulfils the first condition of the prophecy-that the prophet to be send would be from among the brothers of the Jews.

Regarding the second condition, the similarity between Moses and Muhammad peace be upon him, is clear as the differences between the pair of them and Jesus.

	Moses	Muhammad	Jesus
Born of two parents	✓	✓	
Not raised in parents' home	✓	✓	
Married	✓	✓	
Prophet / Statesman	✓	✓	
Mission lasted many years	✓	✓	
Migrated from homeland	✓	✓	
People accepted his mission	✓	✓	
Brought new laws	✓	✓	
Died a natural death	✓	✓	
Followed the Torah	✓		✓

Jesus was born without a father, was raised by his mother, did not marry and did not have children. His ministry only lasted three years during which he did not go into exile with his followers, and he did not die a natural death on earth.

Even from these very basic details, it can be seen that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is more similar to Moses than to Jesus. Consequently, it is Muhammad (peace be upon him) who fulfils the second condition, and not just Jesus as claimed by Christians.

Paran, Te'man and Kedar

Deuteronomy 33:1-2 speaks of revelation from God coming from Sinai, and rising from Seir (near Jerusalem) and 'shining forth' from Paran. Revelation from Sinai and Seir symbolise Moses and Jesus respectively. In the Book of Genesis, 21:21, Paran is identified as the place where Ishmael settled. Arabs are descendants of Abraham through his son Ishmael. Muhammad (peace be upon him) was an inhabitant of the city of Makkah, which is situated in Western Arabia. The relationship between the region of Paran and Muhammad (peace be upon him) is evident.

The verse describes the revelation from Paran. The Qur'an states that the message brought by Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him, will prevail over all other ideologies:

“It is He who sent the Messenger (Muhammad) with Guidance and the Religion of the Truth to make It victorious over all other religions even though the pagans hate it.”[Qur’an (61):9]

Isaiah, 42:1-13, speaks of the beloved of God, His elect messenger who will bring a law awaited in the isles among the descendant of Kedar. According to Genesis, 25:13 Kedar is the second son of Ishmael, and Ishmael is one of the ancestral grandfathers of Muhammad (peace be upon him). In Habakkuk, 3:3, mention is made of God’s help coming from Te’man. According to the *J. Hastings dictionary of the Bible*, Te’man is an oasis north of Medina (Medina is an oasis city situated north of the city of Makkah).

These verses and others describe Prophet Muhammad’s (peace be upon him), birth in Makkah (Paran) and his forced migration⁴³ to Medina (Te’man) where he was supported by the Muslim converts there. From there he spread the message of Islam among the inhabitants the Arabian Peninsula (keda).

Muhammadim

The rendering of the Bible into English has proved to be a great injustice to Christians, who have been left at the mercy of the translators. The English translations have alienated them from the original text and thus, some of the vital truths remaining in the Bible have been made inaccessible to the common people. One of the most glaring examples is the mention of Prophet Muhammad in the Bible as stated in the Qur’an.

“Those who follow the illiterate Prophetic Messenger who is mentioned in writing in the Torah and the Gospel which are with them...” [Qur’an (7):157]

43. this migration from Makkah is vividly detailed in Isaiah, 21:13-17, which also mentions a battle in which few, ill-armed faithful miraculously defeated the mighty men of Kedar, (i.e. the Arabs). This description aptly fits the first battle that the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) led against the powerful polytheistic Arabs of Makkah. This battle, documented in the Qur’an, is known as the Battle of Badr, and was fought by Muhammad (peace be upon him) with about three hundred of his followers. The pagan Arabs numbered one thousand, and despite the overwhelming enemy number, the Muslims achieved victory.

Previously mentioned references are implied and indirect. However, there exists a direct reference in the Old Testament of the Bible in which Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is mentioned by name. Prophet Solomon foretold of his coming. The Hebrew text of Song of Solomon, 5:16, in Roman script is as follows:

Hikko Mamittagim Kikullo Muhammadim Zeb dudi vezeh Rani Yarushalem

The English translation:

“His mouth is most sweet, yea he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved and this is my friend. O daughter of Jerusalem.”

When rendering this verse into English the translators of the Bible (Authorised version), translated [Kikullo] Muhammadim as “[he is] altogether lovely”. In this Revised Standard Version it became “[he is] altogether desirable.” Considering that the suffix *im* in **Muhammadim**, imparts the meaning of grandeur or majesty, a more appropriate translation would have been “he is Muhammad the great”.⁴⁴

The Father

In the Bible, Jesus is quoted as referring to God as ‘The Father’ and this seems to be the basis for assuming that Jesus was the Son of God. However according to the Bible, Jesus also called himself the ‘Son of Man’ (Mark 2:10)

It is incorrect to assume that because Jesus supposedly called God ‘The Father’ he was implying a paternal relationship, since God is referred to as ‘The Father’ with respect to other humans elsewhere in the Gospels. For example, in the Gospel according to Matthew, 5:45, Jesus is quoted as saying, “**That ye may be the Children of your fathers who is in Heaven.**” And the chapter 24, verse 36, “**And call no man your father upon the earth, for one id your Father which is in heaven.**”

44. Muhammad in the Bible, p.23, Islamic Mission, quoted in *The Study of Al-Qur'an*, Lesson 11, and p.5.

In the Gospel according to the John, 20:16, "*Jesus said unto her: Touch me not, for I am not yet ascended to my Father but go to my brethren and say unto them: I ascend unto **my Father** and **your Father** ad to **my God** and **your God**.*" It would seem from these and other similar references that the term 'Father' was used figuratively and not literally.

The Crucifixion

The New Testament is rife with contradictory statements and unresolved issues regarding Jesus' supposed crucifixion, death and resurrection. For example, none of the writers of the Gospels were eyewitnesses as it was stated in the Gospel according to Mark, 14:50,

*"All his disciples forsook **him** and fled."* Mary Magdalene testified that Jesus was alive after crucifixion, "

And they, when they heard that he was alive, and had been seen by her, they believed not." (Mark 16:11).

The disciples from Emmaus testified that he was alive, "*and it came to pass as he sat eating with them, he took bread and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to them.*" (Luke, 24:30).

Two men told the woman, "*Why seek ye the living among the dead?*" (Luke, 24:4-5).

Jesus said, "*For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so shall the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*" (Matthew, 12:40)

Jonah was alive in the whale's belly. Christians agree that Jesus was supposed to be in the tomb on Friday night⁴⁵, Saturday day and Saturday night. On Sunday morning Mary Magdalene found the tomb empty. Therefore, Jesus was only in the tomb for one day and one night.⁴⁶

On the other hand, the Qur'an explains in detail the events surrounding the life of Jesus so there may be no doubt or confusion concerning him.

“And the [Jews] claim: we killed the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah. However, they did not kill him nor did they crucify him. But it was made to seem that way to them. Those who differ concerning it are full of doubts with no certain knowledge. They only follow speculation. They certainly did not kill him. Instead, Allah raised him up to Himself. Allah is All-Powerful, All-Wise.” [Qur'an (4):157-158]

The Qur'an explicitly refutes the claim that Jesus, son of Mary, Was crucified. It stated that Allah, with whom all things are possible, raised Jesus up into the Heavens and those Jews who plotted to kill him were deluded into thinking that they had killed him. The Qur'an further informs people that when Allah decrees, Jesus will return to earth.

“Indeed, he will be a known sign for the coming of the Hour. So have no doubt about it” [Qur'an (43):61]

This Qur'anic verse refers to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ in the last days before the day of Judgement. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) informed his followers that when Jesus returns, he will destroy the false doctrines associated with him and prepare the way for the universal acceptance of Islam.⁴⁷

45. Easter begins “Good Friday”, the day on which Christ supposedly died for the sins of humans.

46. See *crucifixion* or *cruci-fiction* for a detailed explanation of the contradictions.

47. Sahih Al Bukhari, vol. 4, no. 657.

CHAPTER SEVEN: THE QUR'AN

There is no doubt that God revealed His word to a number of prophets in the form of scriptures. However, the books of revelation have not remained in their original form. In the last century, Jewish and Christian Bible scholars have extensively documented many of the changes that took place in the Bible over thousands of years since its original writings. The Qur'an addresses the issue of authentic scripture in its stern warnings to those who deliberately made changes to revealed texts. In doing so, it also warns the believer against relying on the existing text attributed to earlier prophets.

“Woe to those write the Book with their own hands and say: ‘This is from God!’” [Qur'an (2):79]

Regarding itself, the Qur'an reassures its readers that it is a reliable book of revealed guidance.

“This is the book in which no doubt exists. It is guidance for those who fear God...and believe in what was revealed to you [Muhammad] and revealed before you, and who are certain about the Hereafter.” [Qur'an (2):2,4-5]

One can be certain that the Qur'an has not suffered the fate of earlier revealed books because it was written down and memorized, from beginning to end, during the lifetime of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) himself. Within a year of his death, the first standard written was produced⁴⁸. And within 14 years of his death, authorised copies made from the standard codex⁴⁹ were sent to the capital of the Muslim state.⁵⁰

48. *Shorter Encyclopaedia of Islam*, p.278.

49. A had written book of ancient text (pl. codices)

50. *Shorter Encyclopaedia of Islam*, p.279. See also *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica*, vol.22, p.8.

Since the Prophet's death in 632, an increasing number of people in each successive generation have memorized the complete text of the Qur'an from beginning to end. Today there exists tens of thousands of people around the world who recite the whole text, from memory during the month of Ramadan every year, as well as on other occasions.

One of the leading orientalists, Kenneth Cragg, said the following regarding memorisation and preservation of the Qur'anic text: "This phenomenon of Qur'anic recital means that the text has traversed the centuries in an unbroken living sequence of devotion. It cannot, therefore, be handled as an antiquarian thing, nor as a historical document out of distant past."⁵¹ Another orientalist, John Burton, stated: "The method of transmitting the Qur'an from one generation to the next by having the young memorise the oral tradition of their elders had mitigated somewhat from the beginning the worst perils of relying on written records..."⁵²

The same principle of analysis which were applied to Bible manuscripts by Bible scholars and which exposed the many flaws and changes, have been applied to the Qur'anic manuscripts gathered from around the world. The results of all such studies confirm that there have not been any changes in the text from its original writing.⁵³

51. *The Mind of the Qur'an*, p.27.

52. *An Introduction to Hadith*, p.27.

53. *The true Message of Jesus Christ*, pp.31-4

One of the signs that revelation has been tampered with by human is the existence of numerous contradictions. The fact that the Qur'an is free from any contradictions is among the evidences that it is from God.

“Will they not reflect on the Qur'an? If it were from other than Allah, they would certainly have found in it many contradictions” [Qur'an (4):82]

As further proof that the Qur'an is from God, readers are challenged to reproduce even a single chapter like one of its chapters. Of course this challenge refers to producing an Arabic chapter of its like, since this was the language in which it was revealed.

“If you doubt what I have revealed to my slave, then produce a chapter like it and call your supporters besides Allah, if you are truthful. But, if you do not do it, and you can never do it, then fear the fire whose fuel is men and stones, prepared for the disbelievers.” [Quran (2):23-24]

During the life of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), the pagans were unable to meet this challenge, despite their well-known mastery of the Arabic language and ability to produce the most eloquent poetry.

There are many people who believe (out of ignorance or otherwise) that the Qur'an was authored by Muhammad (peace be upon him) just as the Bible was compiled by humans. This accusation is indignantly refuted in the Qur'an itself.

“Or do they say that he has forged it? Say: Produce a single chapter like it and call to your aid whosoever you can besides Allah, if you are truthful.” [Qur'an (10):37-38]

What these verses explain, is that if Muhammad (peace be upon him) wrote the Qur'an, then any human could write a book similar to it. Allah did not retract His challenge. It still stands but none have met it. Besides this, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was known to be illiterate. He was taught the Qur'an by revelation from God, brought by Angel Gabriel.

The Qur'an refers to Muslims as:

“Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered Prophet, whom they find mentioned in their own scriptures, in the Torah and Gospel...” [Qur'an (2):157]

Consequently, the Qur'an should not be considered a discourse that was written by Muhammad (peace be upon him). Furthermore, if the linguistic style of the Qur'an is compared with the language used by Muhammad (peace be upon him) in his explanations and teachings of the revelation, the difference in quality between the two is enormous. The beauty and the subtlety of the Qur'anic verses cannot be matched by Muhammad (peace be upon him) or any other man.

The Qur'an is of a calibre such that Allah Himself says about it:

“And if there had been a Qur'an with which mountains could be moved, the earth could be split or the dead could be made to speak [it would have been none other than this Qur'an].” [Qur'an (13):31]

But at the same time, the Qur'an should not be viewed merely as a literary classic of a fiction novel. The purpose of its revelation is clearly stated in the Qur'an itself.

“I have not instructed the Prophet in poetry, nor is it suitable for him. This Qur'an is no less than a message and a recitation making things clear.” [Qur'an (36):69]

However, those who reject the Qur'an as one of God's sign are unable to benefit from the wisdom and clarity of its message. This rejection of the Qur'an applies as much to people today as it did in the era of Muhammad (peace be upon him).

“When you [Muhammad] recite the Qur'an, I put between you and those who disbelieve in the hereafter an invisible screen. And I have put a covering over their hearts and deafness in their ears so they cannot understand it. And when you mention your Lord alone in the Qur'an, they turn away and flee in extreme dislike.” [Qur'an (17):45-6]

But to those who believe in God, and wish to submit their lives to Him, this Qur'an is a gift and a blessing from Allah, freeing them from the oppression of their own desires and ignorance.

“And it [the Qur'an] is a guide and mercy to those who believe.”

[Qur'an (27):77]

“I gradually revealed the Qur'an [verses of] healing and mercy for the believers. But for the unjust, they only cause continual loss.”

[Qur'an (17):82]

CHAPTER EIGHT: CONCLUSION

Can all this existence, with its beauty and complexity, be the product of chance and be continued by the blind principle of survival of the fittest?? The answer is a resounding “no”! The remarkable organisation of the creation and the miracle of human experience are proof of God’s existence.

This life on earth is the only opportunity given to man by God to seek out the truth and then act on it. The faculties with which man has been endowed can, and should, all be used to aid him in this quest. This one and only chance is lost upon the arrival of the inevitable event-death.

“Indeed those acquire disbelief at the price of faith will not harm Allah in the slightest. They will have a painful punishment.”

“O human beings, it is you who are in need of Allah, for Allah is without need and worthy of all praise.” [Qur’an (35):15]

The above – mentioned verses emphasise that God is not in need of human acts or worship. By worshipping God, man does not make Him any greater. Allah is totally independent of His creation, not resembling it in any way. Whether His existence is acknowledged or denied, the fact remains that He always existed and will always exist.

Man, one of His creatures, has been given limited free-will so that he may be tested, unlike the other creatures such as the animals, who follow only the law of their species as decreed by Allah. Thus, man wrecks his own self by choosing the path error.

“Truly Allah wrongs not mankind in aught, but mankind wrong themselves.” [Qur’an (35):15]

To reject Islam, despite the multitude of its clear proofs, is the greatest injustice man can do to himself.

“...so whoever accepts the Guidance, does it only for his own self, and whosoever goes astray, he goes astray only for his own loss...” [Qur’an (39):41]

There is no possibility of escaping Allah’s grasp, and each one of us will be held accountable for our lives.

“And fear a Day (of Judgement) when no person shall avail another, nor shall compensation be accepted from him, nor shall intercession be of use to him, nor shall they be helped.” [Qur’an (2):123]

Regarding our disobedience to Allah, our own selves will testify to this arrogant behaviour:

“On the Day when their tongues, their hands, their feet will bear witness against them, as to their actions.” [Qur’an (24):24]

This life is not a game, and the creation is surely more than mere entertainment. Thus it becomes incumbent on each and every one of us to seek out this Message before our only opportunity is lost.

“And whosoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him and in the Hereafter, he will be one of the losers.”

Muslims believe that the message brought by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the final revelation of God to humankind. It has remained unchanged since the time of its revelation until now. Furthermore, it corrects all the distortions and alterations that have occurred in the preceding revelation.

However, there are still remnants of prophetic teaching that can be found in present day scriptures which are, in many cases, identical to those found in the final revelation. For instance some of the dietary laws in Judaism are similar to those in Islam (e.g. prohibition of pork) and the method of slaughtering animals for eating, according to Jewish law, is virtually identical

to those legislated is Islam. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) instructed Muslims to greet each other by saying *salaam alaykum* (Sunan Abu Dawud, vol3, no. 5181.) i.e. “peace be upon you.” It is reported in the Bible that Prophet Jesus greeted his companions using the same phrase. In Luke, 24:36, “and he [Jesus] said unto them [the disciples]: “Peace be unto you” it is also well known that Jesus fasted for 40 days (Matthew, 4:2) and so did Prophet Moses (Exodus, 34:28). Muslims still continue to fast rigorously for 30days annually as an act of worship directed to God.

Regarding the details of formal prescribed worship, it can be ruled out completely that Jesus worshipped God by singing hymns to the sound of a church organ on Sunday. Even though there is no precise description of how Prophet Jesus worshipped, the Bible shed some light on this issue. It is stated in the Gospel according to Matthew, 26:39, “And he [Jesus]... fell flat on his face and prayed.” Muslims today continue to prostrate using this same act of humility and devotion to God in their five daily compulsory prayers.

Certain beliefs found in the earlier scriptures have also remained unchanged. For example, the precise timing of the Day of Judgement has not been made known to anyone. The Qur’an states:

“Verily knowledge of the final hour is with Allah alone.” [Qur’an (31):34]

In the Gospel according to Matthew, 24:36, Prophet Jesus is quoted as saying, “But of that day and Hour, knoweth no man, not the angel of heaven, nor the son but my Father only.” (foot note- The phrase “nor the son” does not appear in the ancient manuscripts- The Living Bible, Paraphrased, The New Testament, p.23.)

Consequently, there are to be found a number of common elements between the religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. However, despite the fact that both Judaism and Christianity are based upon revelations from God, the current followers of these religions can no longer be regarded as Muslims. That is, they can no longer be considered as people who have

submitted themselves to God, since both these religions today only contain adulterated fragments of the revelation originally given to Moses and Jesus- may God's peace be upon them. Only the final revelation of Islam brought by Muhammad (peace be upon him) remains a pure source of guidance and salvation for humanity.*

* For more information on Islam, please visit the following website:

www.Islam-guide.com

www.islaam.net