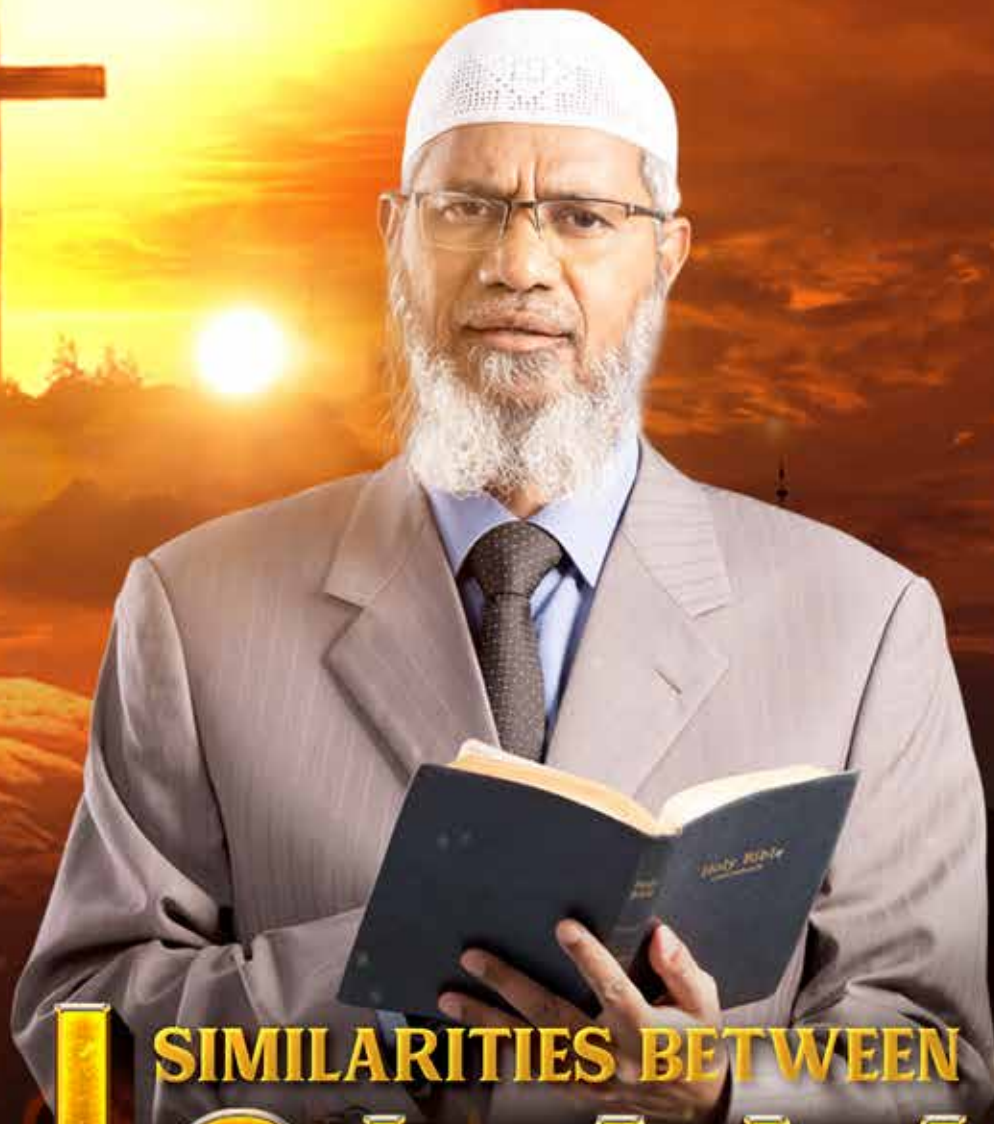


STUDY GUIDE



SIMILARITIES BETWEEN
ISLAM
&
CHRISTIANITY

Dr Zakir Naik



AL HIDAAYAH

The Guidance for Humanity

Based on the Glorious Qur'an and Authentic Hadith

From the series : Similarities between Islam and Christianity

COURSE OUTLINE



COURSE TOPICS

I INTRODUCTION

II ISLAM

1. Definition
2. Messengers in Islam
3. Revelations of God

III PILLARS OF ISLAM

1. Tawheed: monotheism
2. Salaah
3. Zakaah
4. Saum: fasting
5. Hajj

COURSE OUTLINE



IV ISLAM IS A COMPLETE WAY OF LIFE

1. Humans created to worship Allah
2. Obeying commandments of Allah is submitting your will to Allah

V CONCLUSION

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To know those similarities between Islam and Christianity, which are not followed by Muslims and Christians or any one of the two
2. To educate the Muslims that many teachings mentioned in the Qur'an and Hadith are also mentioned in the Bible
3. To educate the Christians that not only teachings mentioned in the Bible are part of the Qur'an and Hadith but also many teachings of Qur'an and Hadith are mentioned in the Bible which are not known to the Christians

COURSE OUTLINE



QUESTION & ANSWER BUCKET

TRANSCRIPTS

GRAPHIC POSTERS

ASSESSMENT

Multiple Choice Questions

Match the Columns

True or False

COURSE DURATION

Video – 2 hours 58 min

Study Guide – 1 hour 7 min

Graphic Posts – 1 hour

Assessment – 10 min

Total Duration – 5 hours 15 min



LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM



**SIMILARITIES
BETWEEN ISLAM
AND CHRISTIANITY**



I

INTRODUCTION





1

GREETING OF JESUS (PBUH) AND ISLAMIC GREETING MEAN THE SAME

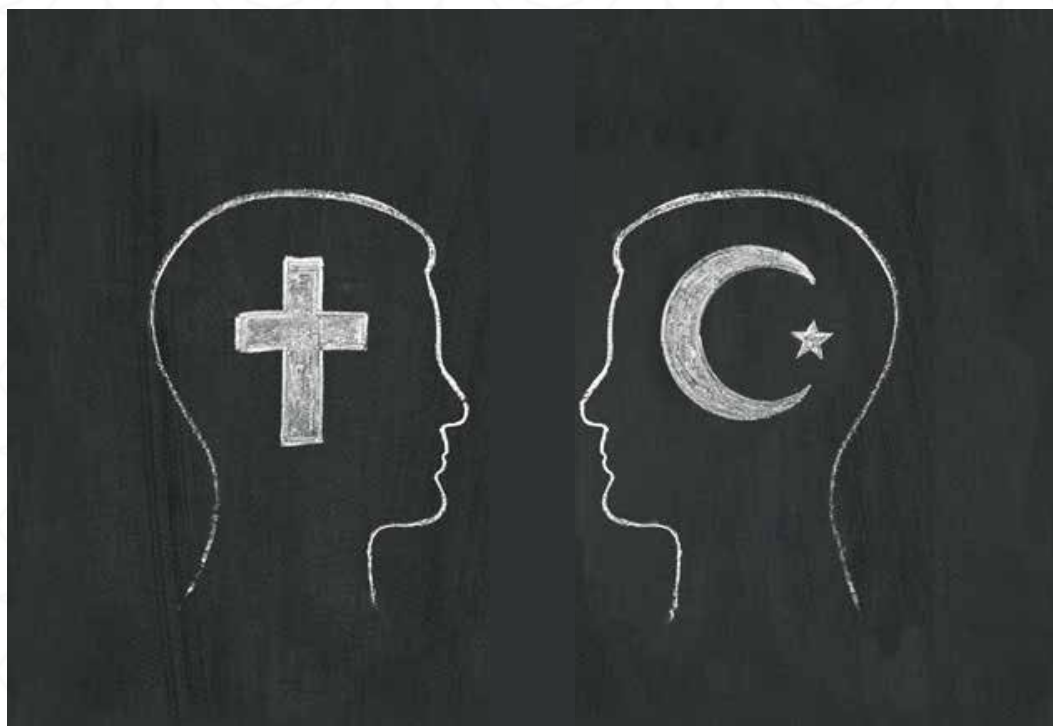
I greet you in the same manner as Jesus (pbuh) greeted in Hebrew, which is mentioned in Gospel of Luke 24:36, 'Shalom Aleichem' or Islamic greeting in Arabic, 'Assalaamu Alaikum' both meaning 'Peace be on you'.



2

SIMILARITIES ACKNOWLEDGED BY MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS ARE EXCLUDED

In this course, I will not discuss those similarities which are commonly known by the followers of both the religions. For example, we should always speak the truth and never tell a lie, we should not be cruel but always be kind towards others, we should not steal but earn our living honestly, etc. These are some of the similarities which the followers of both the religions already know about.





3

SIMILARITIES DISREGARDED BY BOTH OR BY EITHER OF THE TWO WILL BE DISCUSSED

In this course, I will discuss those similarities between the two religions, Islam and Christianity, which are not commonly known by the followers of both the religions. These similarities are also not followed by both or any one of the two followers of these religions.

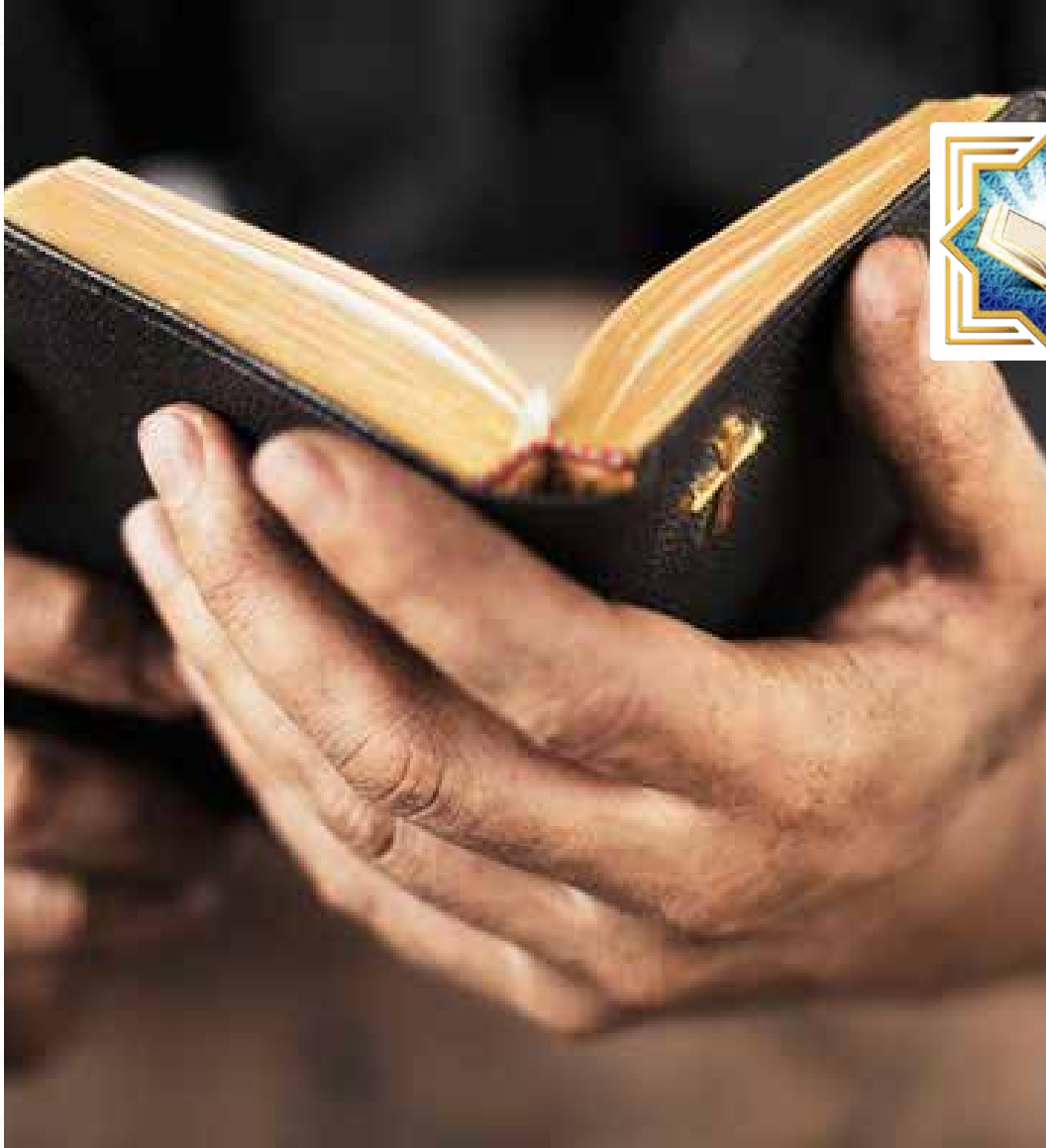


4

EDUCATE THE MUSLIMS THAT MANY TEACHINGS MENTIONED IN THE QUR'AN AND HADITH ARE ALSO MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE

In this course we will educate the Muslims that there are many teachings mentioned in the Qur'an and Hadith which are also mentioned in the Bible.





5

EDUCATE THE CHRISTIANS THAT MANY TEACHINGS OF QUR'AN AND HADITH ARE MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE BUT ARE NOT KNOWN TO THE CHRISTIANS

In this course we will enlighten the Christians on many teachings mentioned in the Bible and are also a part of the Qur'an and Hadith. This course will also be an eye-opener for the Christians to know that there are many teachings of Qur'an and Hadith mentioned in the Bible and are not known by the Christians but followed by the Muslims!



II

ISLAM





1

DEFINITION

A Meaning of Islam

- i Islam is derived from the word 'Salaam' meaning peace.
- ii It is also derived from the word 'Silm' meaning, submission to the Will of Allah (swt) i.e., Almighty God.

Islam in short means peace acquired by submitting your will to Almighty God.



B Meaning of 'Muslim'

Any person who submits his Will to Allah (swt) i.e., Almighty God, is called as a Muslim.



C Islam is not a new religion founded by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

Many people have a misconception that Islam is a new religion founded by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), and came into existence 1400 years ago. In fact, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is not the founder of this religion, but he is the last and final messenger of Islam. Islam did not come 1400 years ago, but it is there since time immemorial, since man first set foot on the earth.



2

MESSENGERS IN ISLAM

A Prophets and Messengers were sent in every age to every nation

i To every nation was sent a Guide or a Messenger

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَإِنْ مِنْ أُمَّةٍ إِلَّا خَلَا فِيهَا نَذِيرٌ



“And there never was a people, without a warner having lived among them (in the past).”

Al Qur'an 35:24





وَلِكُلِّ قَوْمٍ هَادٍ



“And to every people a guide.”

Al Qur'an 13:7



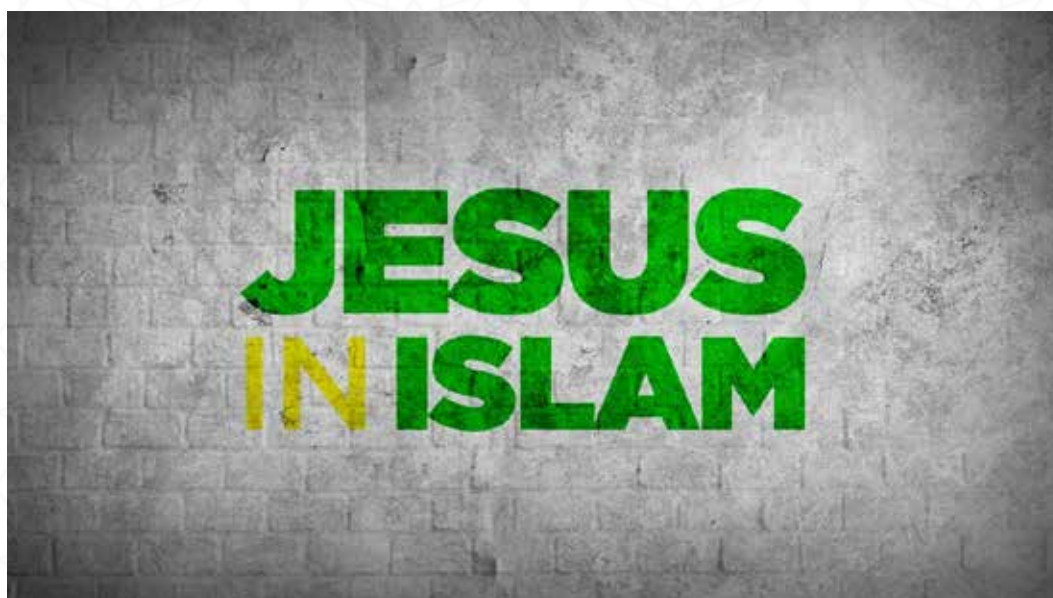
ii 25 Prophets mentioned by name in the Qur'an

By name, there are 25 messengers and prophets of Allah (swt) mentioned in the Qur'an, like, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad (pbut).



iii Jesus Christ (pbuh) in Islam

Islam is the only non-Christian faith which makes it an article of faith to believe in Jesus Christ (pbuh). No Muslim is a Muslim if he does not believe in Jesus Christ (pbuh). We believe that he was one of the mightiest messengers of Allah (swt). We believe that he was the Messiah, translated as Christ. We believe he gave life to the dead with God's permission. We believe that he was born miraculously without any male intervention, which many modern-day Christians do not believe. We believe that he gave life to the dead with God's permission. We believe that he healed those born blind and lepers with God's permission.





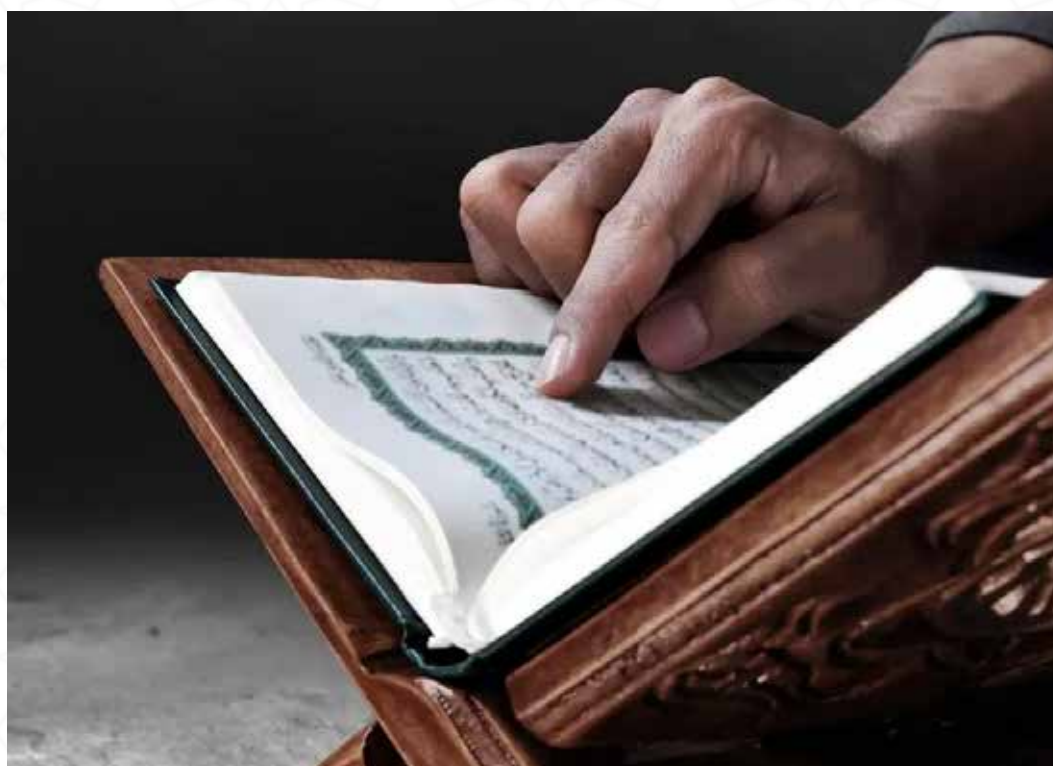
iv Stories of only some prophets are mentioned in the Qur'an

وَرُسُلًا قَدْ قَصَصْنَاهُمْ عَلَيْكَ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَرُسُلًا لَمْ نَقْصُصْهُمْ عَلَيْكَ



“Of some messengers We have already told you the story; of others We have not.”

Al Qur'an 4:164





وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلًا مِّن قَبْلِكَ مِنْهُمْ مَّن قَصَصْنَا عَلَيْكَ وَمِنْهُمْ مَّن لَّمْ نَقْصُصْ عَلَيْكَ



“We did aforetime send messengers before you: of them there are some whose story We have related to you, and some whose story We have not related to you.”

Al Qur'an 40:78

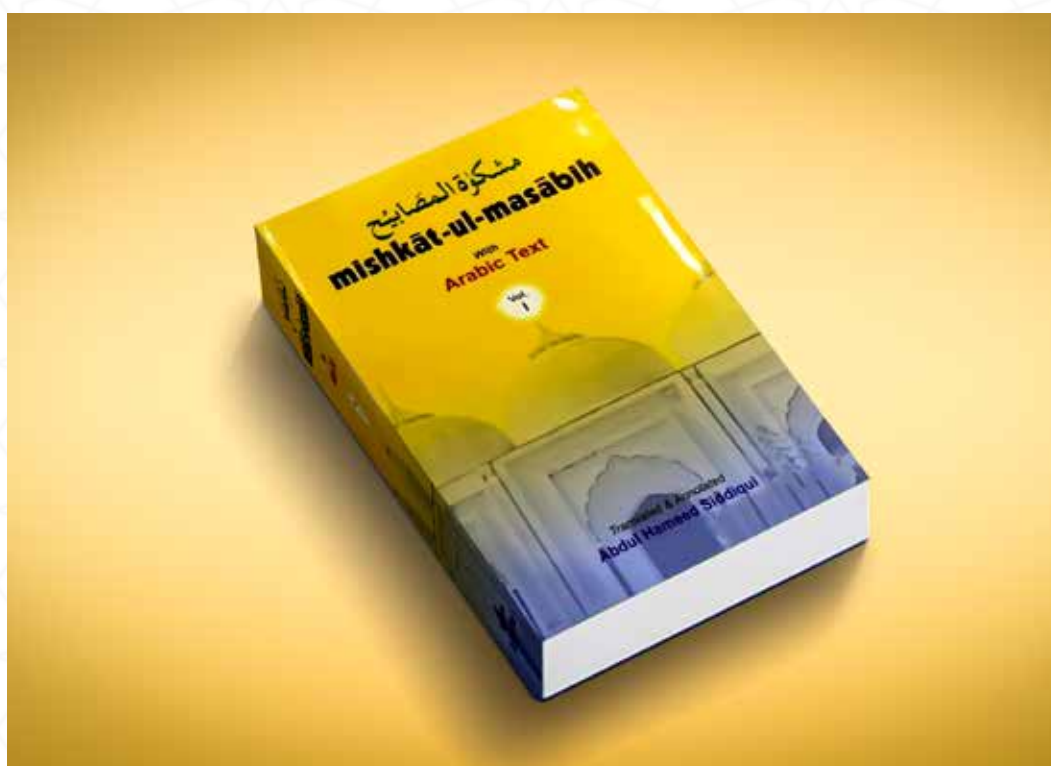




v More than 124,000 Prophets according to the Hadith

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is reported to have said that Allah (swt) sent 124,000 prophets on the face of the earth. But by name, only 25 prophets are mentioned in the Qur'an.

(Refer to: Mishkaat Al Masaabih, Vol. 3, Hadith No. 5737; Musnad Ahmad, Vol. 5, Page No. 265 and 266)





B Every Prophet was sent only to his people except Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

- i** Previous Messengers were only sent for their people and nation and their complete message was meant only for a particular time period.
- ii** Moses (pbuh) was only sent for the Jews.
- iii** Jesus (pbuh) was sent only for the Jews i.e., lost sheep of Israel.

وَرَسُولًا إِلَىٰ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ



“And (appointed him) a messenger to the Children of Israel.”

Al Qur'an 3:49





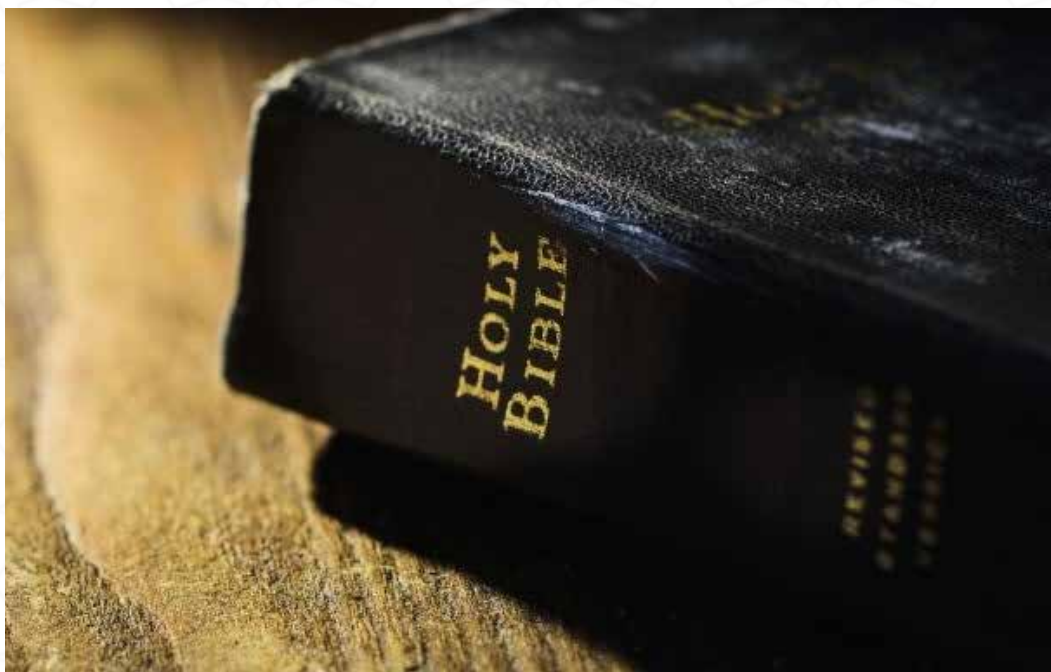
The same message is repeated in the Bible, where Jesus Christ (pbuh) says to his disciples,



“Go ye not into the way of the Gentiles. Into the city of the Samaritans, enter ye not, but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

The Bible – Matthew 10:5-6

Jesus Christ (pbuh) commanded his apostles that they should not go to the gentiles, the non-Jews. They should only go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, only to Bani Isra'eel, only to the Jews.





Jesus Christ (pbuh) further says,



“I have not been sent but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

The Bible – Matthew 15:24

From the Qur’an and from the Bible, we learn that Jesus Christ (pbuh) was only sent for the Jews. He was only sent for his people.





iv Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the Last and Final Messenger for the whole of Humankind

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ ۗ
وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا



“Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but (he is) the Messenger of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets: and Allah has full knowledge of all things.”

Al Qur'an 33:40





وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ



“We sent thee not, but as a Mercy for all creatures.”

Al Qur'an 21:107



وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ



“We have not sent thee but as a universal (Messenger) to men, giving them glad tidings, and warning them (against sin), but most men understand not.”

Al Qur'an 34:28



Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said:

“Every Prophet used to be sent to his nation exclusively but I have been sent to all mankind.”

Sahih Al Bukhari - Vol 1, Book of Salaah, Chapter 56, Hadith 438

Since Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the last and final messenger of Allah, he was not sent only for the Muslims or the Arabs, but he was sent for the whole of humanity. That's the reason Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is prophesied in the scriptures of all the major world religions.





LESSON 2

PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) IN THE BIBLE & REVELATIONS OF GOD



**SIMILARITIES
BETWEEN ISLAM
AND CHRISTIANITY**



**PROPHET
MUHAMMAD
(PBUH)
PROPHESED
IN THE BIBLE**





1

PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) IS MENTIONED BOTH IN THE TORAH AND THE GOSPEL

الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ الرَّسُولَ النَّبِيَّ الْأُمِّيَّ الَّذِي يَجِدُونَهُ مَكْتُوبًا
عِنْدَهُمْ فِي التَّوْرَةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ



“Those who follow the messenger, the unlettered Prophet, whom they find mentioned in their own (scriptures),- in the law and the Gospel.”

Al Qur'an 7:157



2

JESUS (PBUH) PROPHESED THE COMING OF MUHAMMAD (PBUH)

وَإِذْ قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ يَبْنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ
مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيَّ مِنَ التَّوْرَةِ وَمُبَشِّرًا بِرَسُولٍ يَأْتِي مِنْ
بَعْدِي اسْمُهُ أَحْمَدُ



And remember, Jesus, the son of Mary, said:

“O Children of Israel! I am the messenger of Allah (sent) to you, confirming the Law (which came) before me, and giving Glad Tidings of a Messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad.”

Al Qur'an 61:6

'Ahmad' is another name of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

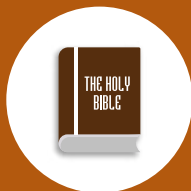




3

PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) PROPHESIED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

A 'Prophet' like Moses (pbuh)

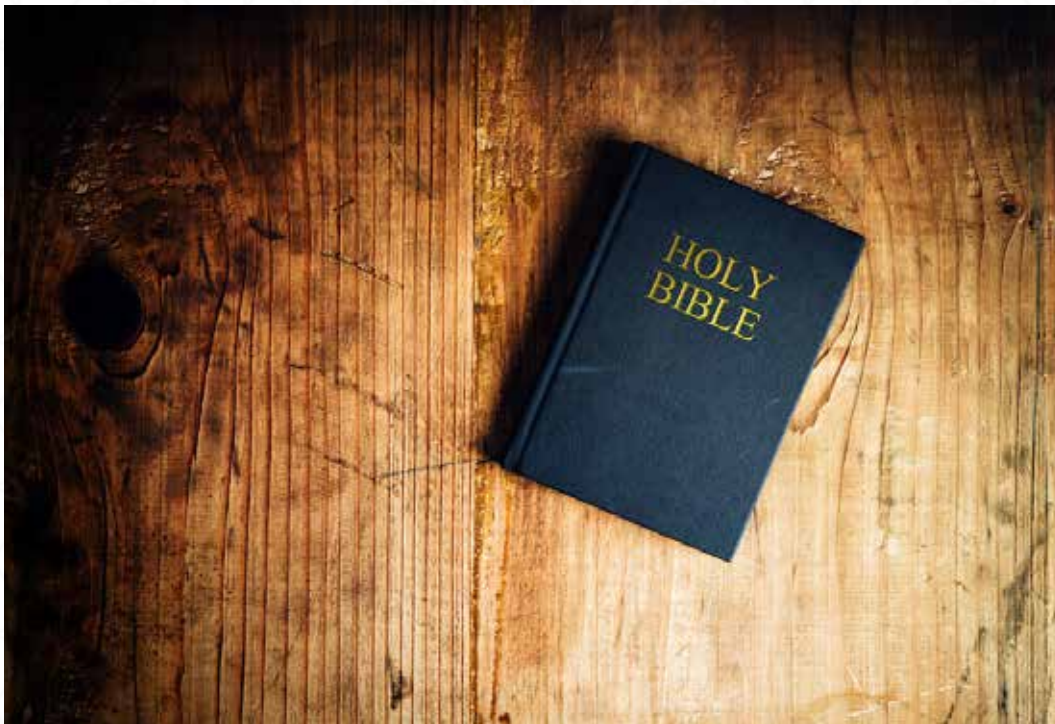


"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him."

The Bible –Deuteronomy 18:18



In the above verse, Almighty God is revealing to Moses (pbuh) that He shall raise up a prophet from among the brethren of Bani Isra'eel like unto Moses (pbuh). This prophecy refers to none but the last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).



i Christians claim that Deuteronomy 18:18 refers to Jesus (pbuh)

Unfortunately, the Christians say that this prophecy refers to Prophet Jesus (pbuh). If you ask them that the prophecy says that the prophet to come should be like Moses (pbuh), the Christians say, ***“Yes! Jesus was like Moses.”***



When we ask them how? They give two criteria.

- a** Jesus was a Jew, Moses was a Jew.
- b** Moses was a prophet of God; Jesus was a prophet of God.



ii Many Jewish Prophets between Moses and Jesus (pbut)

If these two are the only criteria for the fulfilment of the prophecy that the person should be a Jew and should be a prophet, then all the prophets mentioned in the Bible after Moses (pbuh) fulfil this prophecy.

For example, if you read the Bible, Solomon, Eze-kiel, Isaiah, Daniel, Joel, John the Baptist, all these were Jews, and they were prophets of God.



iii Muhammad (pbuh) was the brethren of the Jews

If you analyse this prophecy, it refers to none but the last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

We know that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was an Arab and the Arabs are the cousins of Jews. The prophecy says, "*I shall raise them up a prophet from among their brethren.*" Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was an Arab and he was the brethren of the Jews.





iv Muhammad (pbuh) is like Moses (pbuh)

The prophecy further says, *“I shall raise them up a prophet from among their brethren like unto thee,”* the prophet should be like Moses (pbuh).

a Natural birth of Prophet Moses and Muhammad (pbut)

We know that Moses and Muhammad (pbut) had a natural birth. Each had a mother and a father. But Jesus Christ (pbuh), according to the Qur’an as well as the Bible, was born miraculously without any male intervention. He had a mother, but he had no father.

So, Muhammad (pbuh) is like Moses (pbuh) and Jesus (pbuh) is unlike Moses (pbuh).





b Both Moses and Muhammad (pbuh) got married and had children

If you read the history of Moses and Muhammad (pbuh), both were married and both had children. Jesus (pbuh) according to the Bible was not married, and had no children.

Therefore, Muhammed (pbuh) is like Moses (pbuh) and Jesus (pbuh) is unlike Moses (pbuh).



c Both Moses and Muhammad (pbuh) had a natural death

We know that Moses and Muhammad (pbuh) both died naturally, but Jesus Christ (pbuh) did not have a natural death.

According to the Qur'an, Surah An Nisa, Chapter 4, Verses 157 and 158, Jesus (pbuh) was raised up alive. Even the Bible does not believe Jesus (pbuh) was crucified but the Church says so. Even if you agree with the Church that Jesus Christ (pbuh) was crucified, irrespective of whether it is right or wrong, all of us agree that Jesus Christ (pbuh) did not have a natural death.

Thus, Muhammad (pbuh) is like Moses (pbuh) and Jesus (pbuh) is unlike Moses (pbuh).



d Both Moses and Muhammad (pbuh) were kings and prophets of God

Moses and Muhammad (pbuh) besides being prophets of God were even worldly kings. Worldly king means they had the power to give punishment of life and death to the person who deserves it. But Jesus Christ (pbuh) was not a worldly king.

Jesus Christ (pbuh) says,



“My kingdom is not of this world.”

The Bible – John 18:36





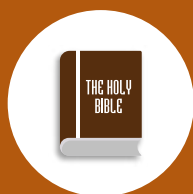
e Both Moses' and Muhammad's (pbuh) followers believed them to be Prophets

The followers of both Moses and Muhammad (pbuh) as a whole, believed that they were Prophets of God but that was not the case with Jesus (pbuh). The Bible has to say this about Jesus (pbuh):



“He went to his own and his own did not receive him.”

The Bible – John 1:11



“They all forsook him and fled.”

The Bible – Mark 14:50

As a whole, Jesus Christ (pbuh) was not accepted as a messenger of God by his people.

Therefore, Muhammad (pbuh) is like Moses (pbuh) and Jesus (pbuh) is unlike Moses (pbuh).

If we analyse all the arguments given above, we come to know that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) fulfills the prophecy of being like Moses (pbuh) and Jesus (pbuh) does not fulfil this prophecy.



B Words will be put into his mouth



“I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.”

The Bible – Deuteronomy 18:18

The prophecy further states that words will be put in this Prophet’s mouth. When the Qur’an was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), he repeated it verbatim as though the words were put into his mouth.

This prophecy befits none but the last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).





C God Almighty will take revenge against those who disbelieve in Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and the Qur'an



“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.”

The Bible – Deuteronomy 18:19

The above verse means that if you do not believe in this last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and the Qur'an which is revealed unto him, according to the Bible, the Old Testament, Almighty God will take revenge from you. Thus, it is compulsory for every believer of the Bible to believe in Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and the Qur'an, which was revealed to him.





D Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) prophesied in the Book of Isaiah



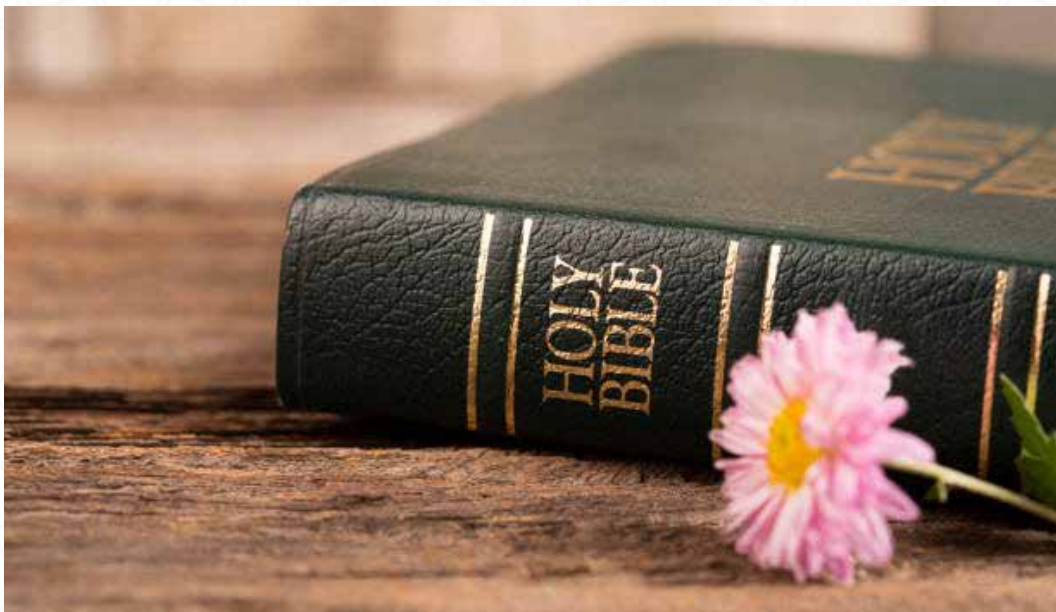
“And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.”

The Bible – Isaiah 29:12

Here the prophecy says that a book will be given to this prophet who is unlettered, and we know Muhammad (pbuh) was unlettered. And he will say, ***"I'm not learned."***

We know from history that when the first revelation came to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) through Archangel Gabriel, the first word to be revealed to him was 'Iqra', read, and the Prophet (pbuh) said, ***Ma Ana Bi-Qari***, I'm not learned, because he was unlettered.

This prophecy befits none, but the last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).





E Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is mentioned by name in the Bible



“Hikko Mamtaqqim Wekullo Muhammaddim Zehdoodi Wazehrei Bainowt Yerusalem.”

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

The Bible – Song of Solomon 5:16

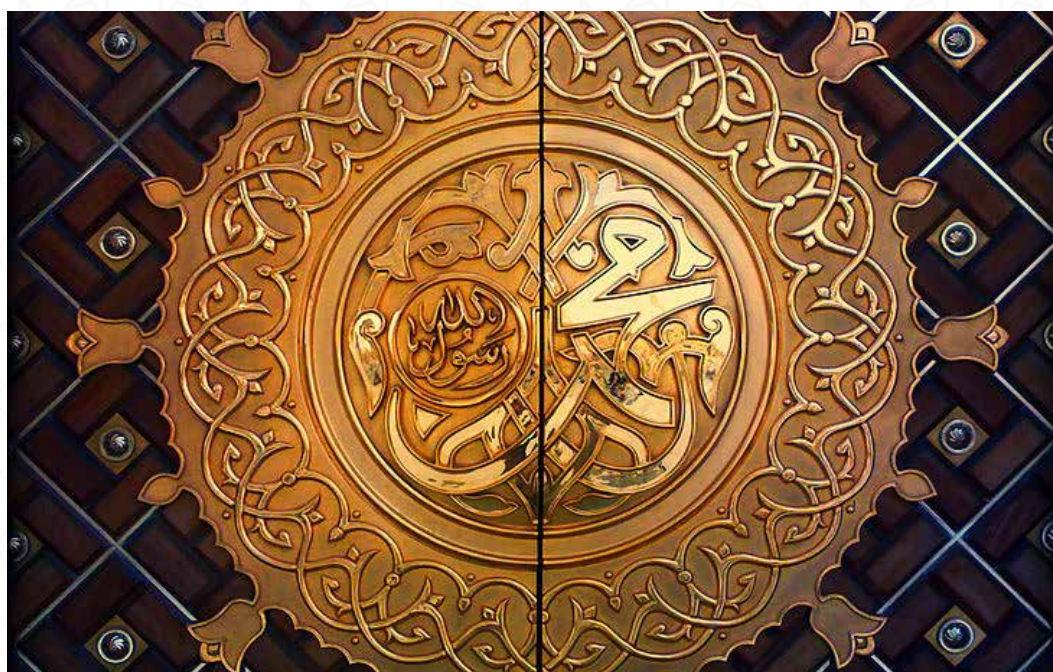




In Hebrew, the suffix "-im" is added to a word for respect. 'Elo' means God, Elohim is respect for God. When we say the word 'Muhammad' in Semitic languages, for respect, we add the suffix '-im' thus it becomes 'Muhammadim'.

The translation done for the word, 'Muhammadim' in the Bible is 'altogether lovely'. But the point to be noted is, in any translation one cannot translate a proper name. The proper name should remain the same in all languages.

Thus, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is mentioned by name in the Old Testament of the Bible.





4

PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) PROPHESED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

A The Old Testament prophecies about Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) also apply to the Christians

All the Old Testament prophecies regarding Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) besides applying to the Jews also hold good for the Christians.



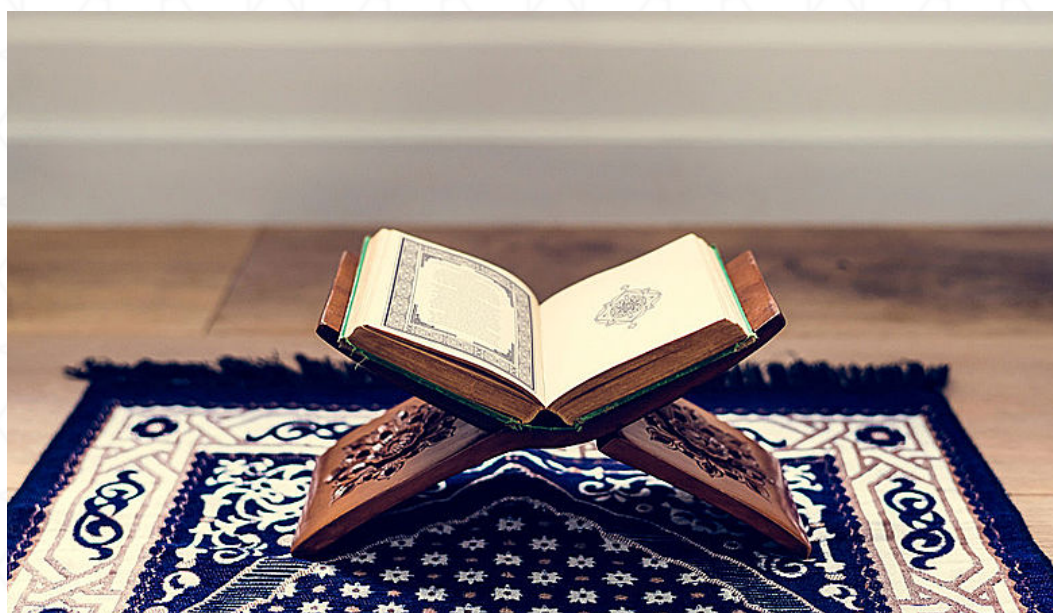
B The 'Comforter' prophesied by Jesus (pbuh)

i 'Comforter' will abide forever (by his teachings)



"And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever."

The Bible – John 14:16



ii 'Comforter' will testify for Jesus (pbuh)



"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me."

The Bible – John 15:26

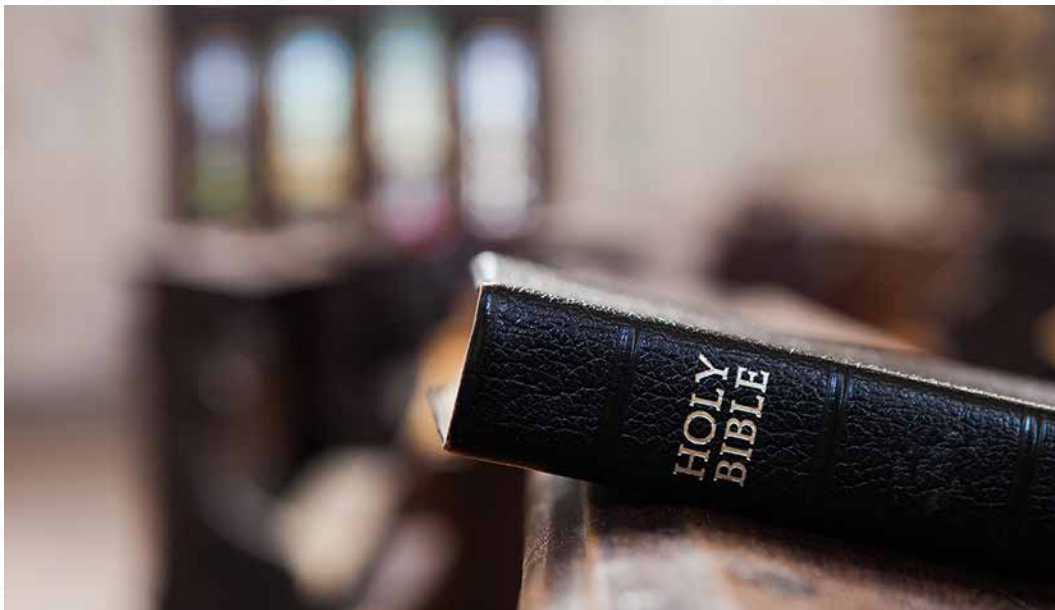


iii 'Comforter' will come after Jesus (pbuh) departs



“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.”

The Bible – John 16:7



iv 'Paraclete' refers to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

The Greek word used for the word 'Comforter' in the above verses is 'Paraclete', but the Christians changed it to 'Paracletos' and they called it as Comforter.

Paraclete means the 'Praiseworthy' and praiseworthy is the exact translation of the Arabic word 'Muhammad' (pbuh). But they changed Paraclete to Paracletos which means a Comforter. Irrespective of whether it's Paraclete or Paracletos, whether it's Praiseworthy or Comforter, all these befit none but the last and final messenger Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).



V 'Comforter' is not the Holy Spirit

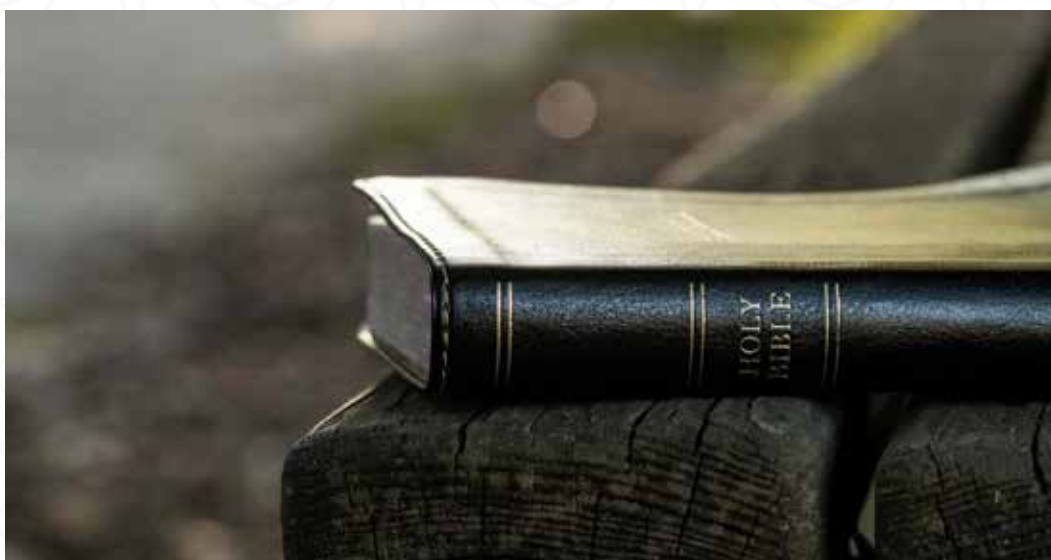
There are some Christians who say that this prophecy of 'Comforter' refers to the Holy Spirit. If you analyse the prophecy, it cannot refer to the Holy Spirit.



“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.”

The Bible – John 16:7

In the above verse, the criteria for the Comforter to come is that Jesus Christ (pbuh) should depart and only then will the Comforter come. But we know the Holy Spirit was there much before Jesus Christ (pbuh) came. The Holy Spirit was also there in the womb of Elizabeth. The Holy Spirit was there when Jesus Christ (pbuh) was being baptized. Surely this Comforter cannot refer to the Holy Spirit.





C 'Spirit of truth' refers to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)



"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

Howbeit when he, 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 shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."

The Bible – John 16:12-14

Jesus Christ (pbuh) had many messages to give to his people, but his people could not comprehend. We note that Jesus (pbuh) refers to the 'Spirit of truth' as 'he' means a man, not a spirit. After Jesus Christ (pbuh) goes away there'll be another person to come. This is Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

When the revelation was given to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) he repeated the revealed words verbatim as if the words were put into his mouth. He did not speak of himself but all what Almighty God said he spoke.

All these prophecies in the Old Testament and the New Testament clearly testify to the coming of the last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).



5

REVELATIONS OF GOD

A Several Revelations sent by Allah

لِكُلِّ أَجَلٍ كِتَابٌ



“For each period is a Book (revealed).”

Al Qur'an 13:38

Allah (swt) sent a revelation in every age. By name only four revelations are mentioned in the Qur'an.

- i Torah – the Wahy or the revelation given to Moses (pbuh)
- ii Zabur – the Wahy or the revelation given to David (pbuh)
- iii Injeel – the Wahy or the revelation given to Jesus Christ (pbuh)
- iv Qur'an – the Wahy or the revelation given to Muhammad (pbuh)

There were many other revelations sent on the face of the earth, for example, Suhuf Ibrahim, the scrolls given to Abraham (pbuh). But by name only four are mentioned in the Qur'an.



B Qur'an is the Last and Final Revelation sent by Allah

i Qur'an is the Furqan

Al Qur'an also called as 'Al Furqan', is the last and final revelation given to the last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

ii All previous Revelations before the Qur'an were only sent for a particular group of people and for a particular time period

All the revelations that came before the last and final revelation, the Glorious Qur'an, they were meant only for a particular group of people. The message that was given in that revelation was meant to be followed till a particular time period, until the next revelation came.





iii The Qur'an was Revealed for the whole of Mankind

Qur'an is the last and final revelation of Allah (swt). It was not meant for a particular group of people, nor was it meant for a particular time period. It is meant for the whole of humanity until the last day.

الرَّءِىَ كَتَبْنَا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ لِتُخْرِجَ النَّاسَ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ



“A. L. R. A Book which We have revealed unto you, in order that you might lead mankind out of the depths of darkness into light - by the leave of their Lord - to the Way of (Him) the Exalted in power, worthy of all praise!”

Al Qur'an 14:1





هَذَا بَلَّغٌ لِلنَّاسِ وَلِيُنذَرُوا بِهِ، وَيَعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا هُوَ إِلَهٌُ وَاحِدٌ وَلِيَذَّكَّرَ أُولُو
الْأَلْبَابِ



“Here is a Message for mankind: Let them take warning therefrom, and let them know that He is (no other than) One Allah: let men of understanding take heed.”

Al Qur'an 14:52





شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ
وَالْفُرْقَانِ



“Ramadhaan is the (month) in which was sent down the Qur'an, as a guide to mankind, also clear (Signs) for guidance and judgment (Between right and wrong).”

Al Qur'an 2:185





إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ لِطَّوَمَنِ أَهْتَدَىٰ فَلَئِنْ سِهِيءَ طَوَمَنِ ضَلَّ
فَإِنَّمَا يَضِلُّ عَلَيْهَا



“Verily We have revealed the Book to you in Truth, for (instructing) mankind. He, then, that receives guidance benefits his own soul: but he that strays injures his own soul.”

Al Qur'an 39:41





LESSON 3

**PILLARS
OF ISLAM –
TAWHEED**



**SIMILARITIES
BETWEEN ISLAM
AND CHRISTIANITY**



PILLARS OF ISLAM





لا إله إلا الله

There is no god but Allah

1

TAWHEED: MONOTHEISM

A

Laa ilaaha ill-Allah, Muhammad-ur-Rasoolullah

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said:

“Islam is based on five pillars:

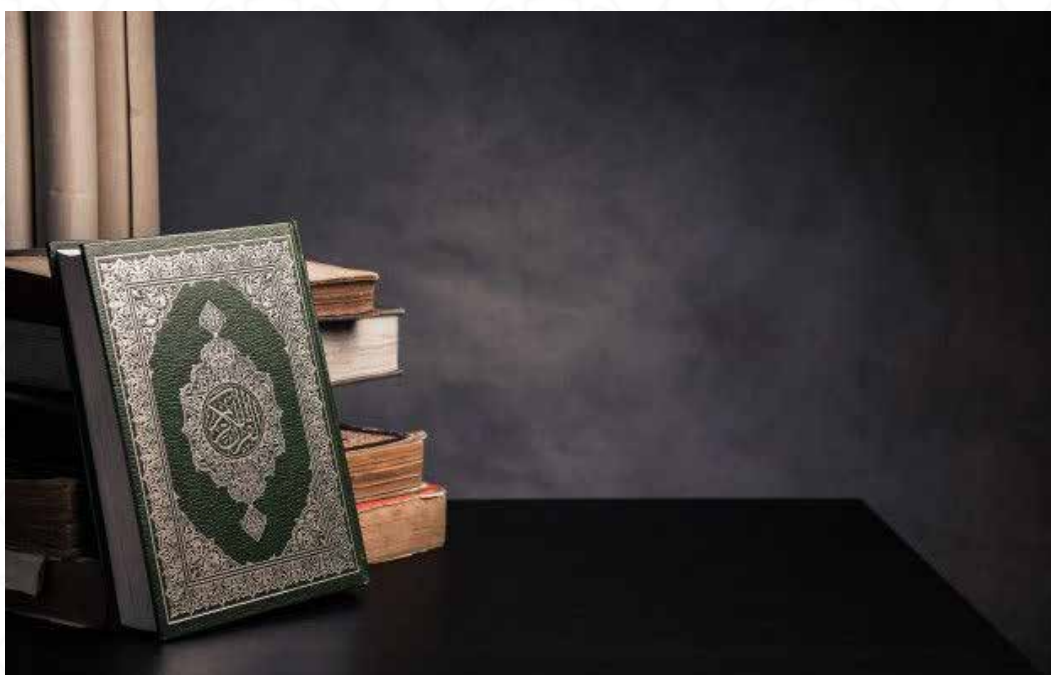
- i** To testify Laa ilaaha ill-Allah Muhammadur Rasoolullah – There is no god but Allah and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the messenger of Allah
- ii** To establish prayers
- iii** To give Zakaah
- iv** To perform Hajj
- v** To observe Saum, the fasting.



Sahih Al Bukhari – Vol 1, The Book of Faith, Chapter 2, Hadith 8



The religion of Islam is basically built upon five pillars. The most important pillar is the belief in Tawheed: monotheism.



B Believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels and the Book and the Messengers.

لَيْسَ الْبِرَّ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ قِبَلَ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ
مَنْ ءَامَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالْكِتَابِ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ



“It is not righteousness that you turn your faces Towards east or West; but it is righteousness- to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers.”

Al Qur'an 2:177



C Come to common terms – Worship of one God

قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ تَعَالَوْا إِلَى كَلِمَةٍ سَوَاءٍ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ أَلَّا نَعْبُدَ إِلَّا
اللَّهَ وَلَا نُشْرِكَ بِهِ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضًا أَرْبَابًا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ ۗ
فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَقُولُوا اشْهَدُوا بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ



Say: "O People of the Book! come to common terms as between us and you: That we worship none but Allah; that we associate no partners with him; that we erect not, from among ourselves, Lords and patrons other than Allah." If then they turn back, say ye: "Bear witness that we (at least) are Muslims (bowing to Allah's Will)."

Al Qur'an 3:64

This verse of the Qur'an is the master key for doing Da'wah. It invites people to come to common terms as between us and them. The first common term is that we worship none but Allah i.e., to believe in Tawheed and we associate no partners with Allah i.e., not commit Shirk.





D Concept of God

i Surah Al Ikhlaas: four-line definition of God

The best reply any Muslim can give you regarding the concept of God in Islam is quote to you Surah Al Ikhlaas, Chapter 112.

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ

Say: He is Allah, the One and Only;

اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ

Allah, the Eternal, Absolute;

لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ

He begets not, nor is He begotten;

وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ

And there is none like unto Him.

Al Qur'an 112:1-4



This is a four-line definition of Allah (swt), Almighty God, given in the Qur'an. Any person says so and so candidate is 'God', if that candidate fits in this four-line definition, we Muslims have got no objection accepting that candidate as God.



E Shirk – Biggest Sin

Shirk is the biggest sin in Islam. It is the only sin which Allah will never forgive if a person dies committing it without having repented.

i Shirk – Prohibited in the Qur'an

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ
وَمَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ افْتَرَىٰ إِثْمًا عَظِيمًا



“Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with Him; but He forgives anything else, to whom He pleases; to set up partners with Allah is to devise a sin Most heinous indeed.”

Al Qur'an 4:48





إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ ۗ وَمَنْ يُشْرِكْ
بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا



“Allah forgives not (The sin of) joining other gods with Him; but He forgives whom He pleases other sins than this: one who joins other gods with Allah, Has strayed far, far away (from the right).”

Al Qur'an 4:116





ii Shirk – Prohibited in the Bible



“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make unto thee any 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.

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God.”

The Bible – Exodus 20:3-5



“Thou shalt have none other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth:

Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God.”

The Bible – Deuteronomy 5:7-9



F Jesus (pbuh) not God and he never claimed Divinity

i Qur'anic testimony

لَقَدْ كَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ ۗ وَقَالَ الْمَسِيحُ
يَبْنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَرَبَّكُمْ ۗ إِنَّهُ مَنِ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ
حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَأْوَاهُ النَّارُ ۗ وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ أَنْصَارٍ

They do blaspheme who say:

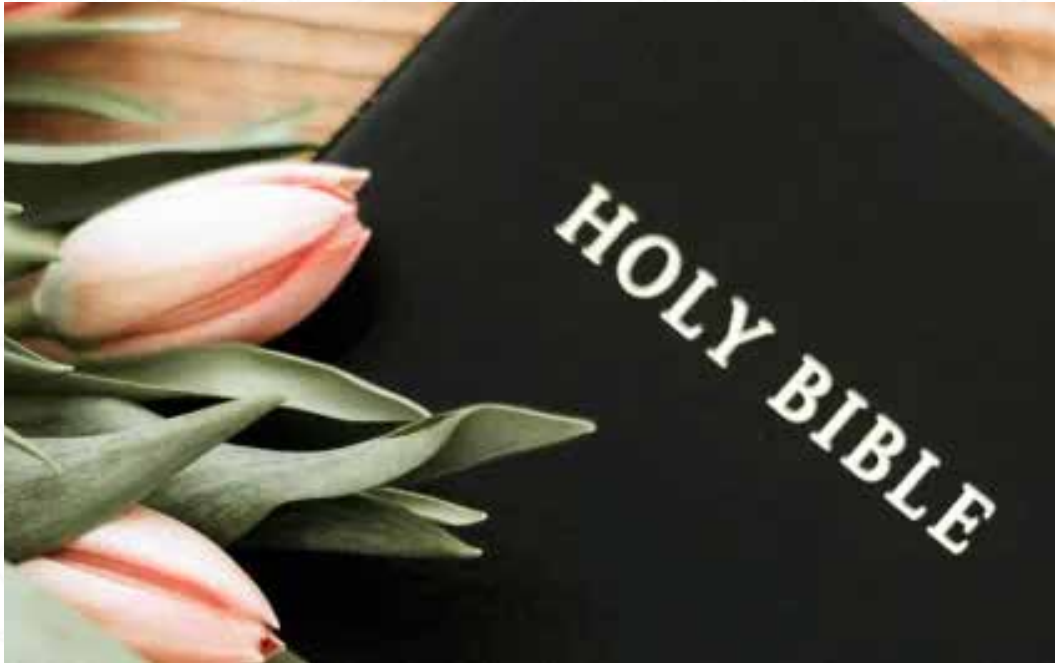
"Allah is Christ the son of Mary." But said Christ: "O Children of Israel! worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." Whoever joins other gods with Allah,- Allah will forbid him the garden, and the Fire will be his abode. There will for the wrong-doers be no one to help.

Al Qur'an 5:72





ii Biblical testimony



Most of the Christians believe that Jesus Christ (pbuh) claimed divinity. They believe that Jesus Christ (pbuh) was Almighty God. In fact, if you read the Bible, there is not a single unequivocal statement in the complete Bible, not a single unambiguous statement in the complete Bible, where Jesus Christ (pbuh) himself says that 'I am God', or where he says, 'worship me'.

In fact, if you read the Bible, Jesus Christ (pbuh) clearly mentions:



"My Father is greater than I."

The Bible – John 14:28



"My Father is greater than all."

The Bible – John 10:29



"I cast out devils by the Spirit of God."

The Bible – Matthew 12:28



"I with the finger of God cast out devils."

The Bible – Luke 11:20



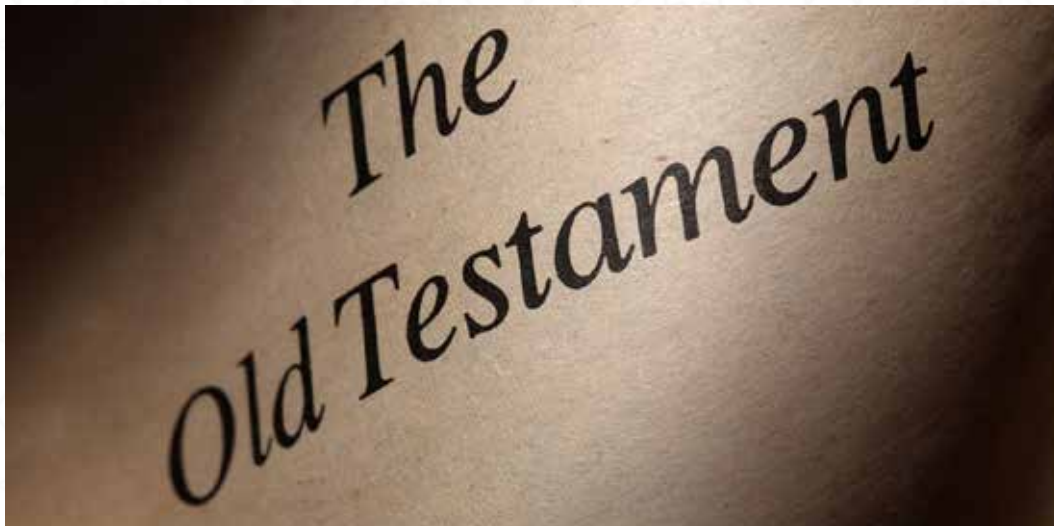
"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."

The Bible – John 5:30

Anyone who says **"I seek not my will, but the will of Almighty God"** is a Muslim. Muslim means a person who submits his will to God. Thus, Jesus Christ (pbuh) was a Muslim. He never claimed divinity. He never said he was God.



One must follow all the laws of Old Testament to enter Jannah



Jesus Christ (pbuh) says,



“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

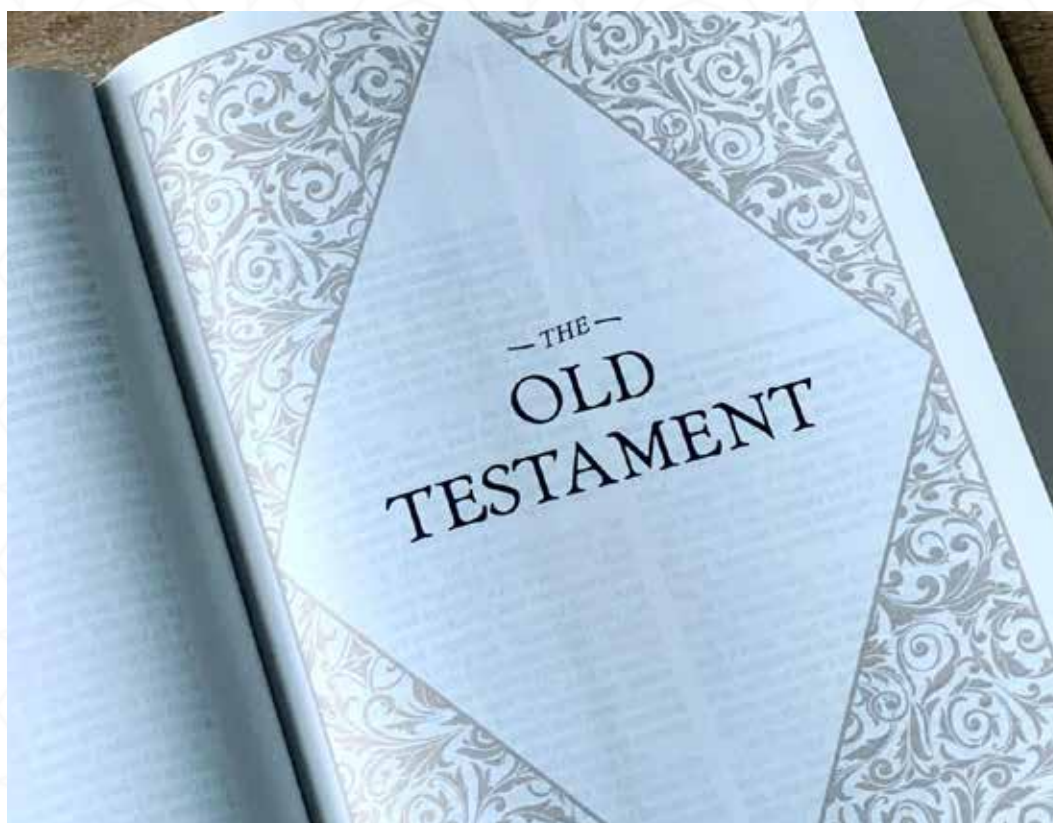
Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

The Bible – Matthew 5:17-20



From the above verse we can understand that Jesus Christ (pbuh) clearly mentioned that if you want to go to Jannah, you must follow all the laws of the Old Testament i.e., God is One, God has got no images, etc. If you break one jot or a tittle from the Old Testament, from the law, you shall not enter Jannah.





iv Jesus (pbuh) – A man approved of God and not 'God'

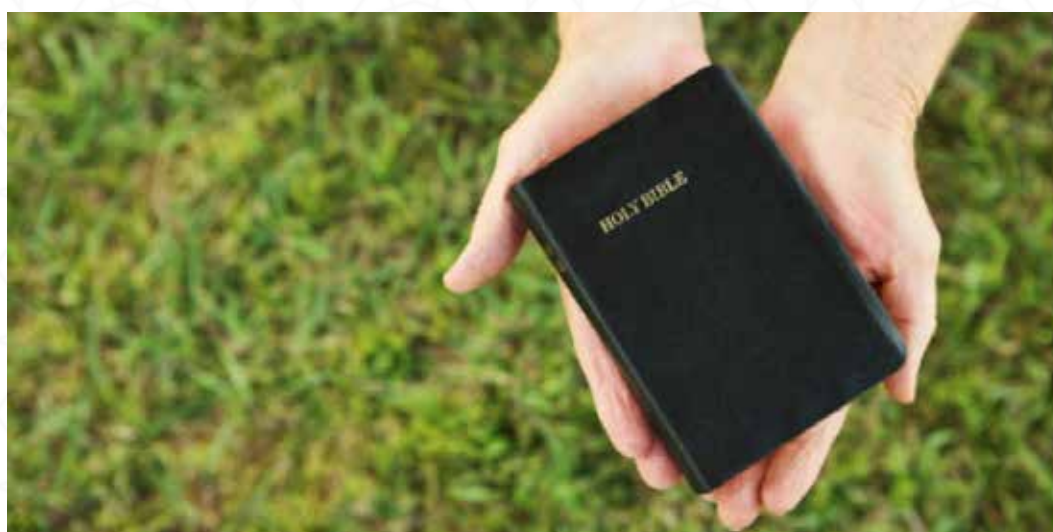


“Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know.”

The Bible – Acts 2:22

It's clearly mentioned in the above testimony of Peter, the disciple of Jesus (pbuh), that Jesus Christ (pbuh) was a man. He was a messenger of God. He was not God.

If the Christians understand and interpret the Bible correctly, the Muslims and the Christians will be united, we will become one.





The way to achieve this is what Allah says in the Qur'an,

تَعَالَوْا إِلَىٰ كَلِمَةٍ سَوَاءٍ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ

"Come to common terms as between us and you."

Which is the first term?

أَلَّا نَعْبُدَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ



"We worship none but Allah."

Al Qur'an 3:64





G 99 Names of Almighty God

قُلْ أَدْعُوا اللَّهَ أَوْ أَدْعُوا الرَّحْمَنَ ۗ أَيًّا مَا تَدْعُوا فَلَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ



Say: "Call upon Allah, or call upon Rahman: by whatever name you call upon Him, (it is well): for to Him belong the Most Beautiful Names."

Al Qur'an 17:110

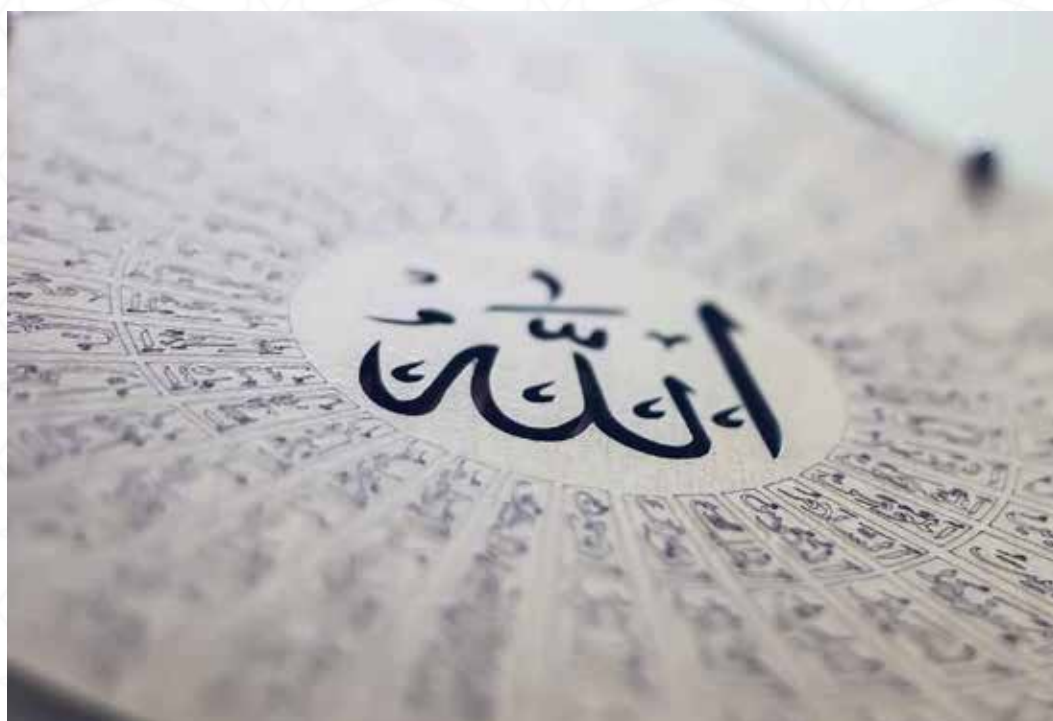


You can call Allah (swt) by any name, but it should be a beautiful name and the name given by Allah Himself. It should not conjure Him into picture.



There are no less than 99 names given to Allah (swt) in the Qur'an and the Sahih Hadith. For example, Ar Rahman, Ar Raheem, Al Hakeem – Most Merciful, Most Gracious, Most Wise. The crowning one is 'Allah'.

This message to Allah belongs the most beautiful names, besides Surah Al-Isra, Chapter 17, Verse number 110, it is also mentioned in Surah Al A'raf, Chapter number 7, Verse 180, in Surah TaHa, Chapter number 20, Verse number 8, as well as Surah Al Hashr, Chapter number 59, Verse number 24.





H Prefer using name 'Allah' rather than the word 'God' as the word 'God' can be played around with

We Muslims, we prefer calling Allah by the Arabic word 'Allah' instead of the English word, 'God', because the Arabic word 'Allah', is pure and cannot be played mischief with like the English word 'God'.

For example, the English word God, if you add 's' to God, it becomes 'Gods', plural of God. There is nothing like plural of Allah, "He is Allah, One and Only." If you add 'dess' to God, it becomes 'Goddess', meaning a female God. There is nothing like male Allah or female Allah in Islam. Allah (swt) has got no gender. If you add 'father' to God, it becomes 'Godfather', a guardian. There's nothing like 'Allah-father' or 'Allah Abba' in Islam. If you add 'mother' to God, it becomes 'Godmother'. There's nothing like 'Allah Ammi', 'Allah-mother' in Islam.

When a Muslim is speaking to the non-Muslims who may not be aware of the concept of Allah (swt) and if he uses the English word 'God', then it shouldn't be a problem. But I like to remind them that God is not the appropriate translation of the Arabic word 'Allah'.



I Allah in the Bible – Eloi, Eloi, Lama Sabachthani

The word 'Allah' is mentioned in the scriptures of all the major world religions. It's even mentioned in the Bible.



“And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

The Bible – Mark 15:34 & Matthew 27:46

According to the Bible, when Jesus Christ (pbuh) was put on the cross, he cried out, *“Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”*





Does Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani sound like, “O God, O God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Does Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani sound like “Jehovah, Jehovah why hast thou forsaken me?” If you translate Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani, into Arabic it is, *“Allah, Allah, Lama Taraktani.”* Arabic and Aramaic are sister languages, they are both Semitic languages.

If you refer to the Scofield dictionary or Encyclopedia of the Bible, ‘Eloi’ is spelled as ‘Alah’, A-L-A-H meaning God. We spell A-L-L-A-H, they spell A-L-A-H. Both are the same. Thus we can conclude that the word ‘Allah’ is present even in the Bible.



5 PILLARS OF ISLAM

profession
of faith

prayer

almsgiving

fasting

pilgrimage

LESSON 4

**PILLARS OF
ISLAM – SALAAH,
ZAKAAH, SAUM
AND HAJJ**



**SIMILARITIES
BETWEEN ISLAM
AND CHRISTIANITY**



2

SALAAH

A Not merely Prayers but Programming

The second pillar of Islam is to establish Salaah. In English, we normally translate Salaah as prayer. According to me, prayer is not the exact translation. If you refer to the Oxford dictionary, to pray means to beseech, to ask earnestly, like a person prays in the court of law. To pray also means to ask for help.

Prayers made by people of other religions, like, *"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name... Give us this day our daily bread,"* can be referred to as prayers. The Du'a that we Muslims make is called supplication. Prayer also means to supplicate. The Du'a that Muslims do is actually the prayer.



In our Salaah, we not only ask for help, besides asking for help, we also thank Allah (swt). We praise Allah (swt), and we receive guidance from Him. It is for this reason that I prefer calling prayer as programming towards righteousness. It's a sort of programming.

B Prayers restrain you from shameful and unjust deeds

أَتْلُ مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ ۖ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَىٰ عَنِ
الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ



“Recite what is sent of the Book by inspiration to you, and establish regular Prayer: for Prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds.”

Al Qur'an 29:45

In the above verse of the Qur'an, it mentions that Salaah restrains you from shameful and unjust deeds. It is a sort of programming.





i Intoxicants, gambling, idol worship and fortune-telling are prohibited

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَامُ رِجْسٌ
مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ



“O you who believe! Intoxicants and gambling, (dedication of) stones, and (divination by) arrows, are an abomination,- of Satan's handwork: eschew such (abomination), that you may prosper.”

Al Qur'an 5:90



When the Imam after reciting Surah Al Faatihah in Salaah recites the above verse of the Qur'an, we are being programmed that we should not have alcohol, we should not gamble, we should not do idol worship, we should not do fortune-telling. We are being programmed to stay away from these vices.



ii Bribing is prohibited

وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتُدْلُوا بِهَا إِلَى الْحُكَّامِ لِتَأْكُلُوا فَرِيقًا
مِّنْ أَمْوَالِ النَّاسِ بِالْإِثْمِ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ



“And do not eat up your property among yourselves for vanities, nor use it as bait for the judges, with intent that you may eat up wrongfully and knowingly a little of (other) people's property.”

Al Qur'an 2:188

When the Imam after reciting Surah Al Faatihah in the Salaah recites the above verse of the Qur'an, we are being programmed that bribing is Haraam and one should not bribe.





C Salaah timings – for healthy soul five times a day

i Daily Salaah timings in the Qur'an

أَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ لِدُلُوكِ الشَّمْسِ إِلَى غَسَقِ اللَّيْلِ وَقُرْآنَ الْفَجْرِ إِنَّ قُرْآنَ الْفَجْرِ كَانَ مَشْهُودًا



“Establish regular prayers - at the sun's decline till the darkness of the night, and the morning prayer and reading: for the prayer and reading in the morning carry their testimony.”

Al Qur'an 17:78





وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ قَبْلَ طُلُوعِ الشَّمْسِ وَقَبْلَ غُرُوبِهَا وَمِنْ آنَاءِ اللَّيْلِ فَسَبِّحْ وَأَطْرَافَ النَّهَارِ لَعَلَّكَ تَرْضَى



“...And celebrate (constantly) the praises of your Lord, before the rising of the sun, and before its setting; yea, celebrate them for part of the hours of the night, and at the sides of the day: that you may have (spiritual) joy.”

Al Qur'an 20:130

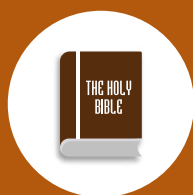


From the above two verses we can come to know that a Muslim should minimum pray five times a day – Fajr, Dhuhr, 'Asr, Maghrib, and 'Isha.

For a healthy body one is required to eat three times meal a day. Similarly, for a healthy soul we Muslims pray five times a day.



ii Daily prayers in the Bible



“...He kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did afore-time.”

The Bible – Daniel 6:10

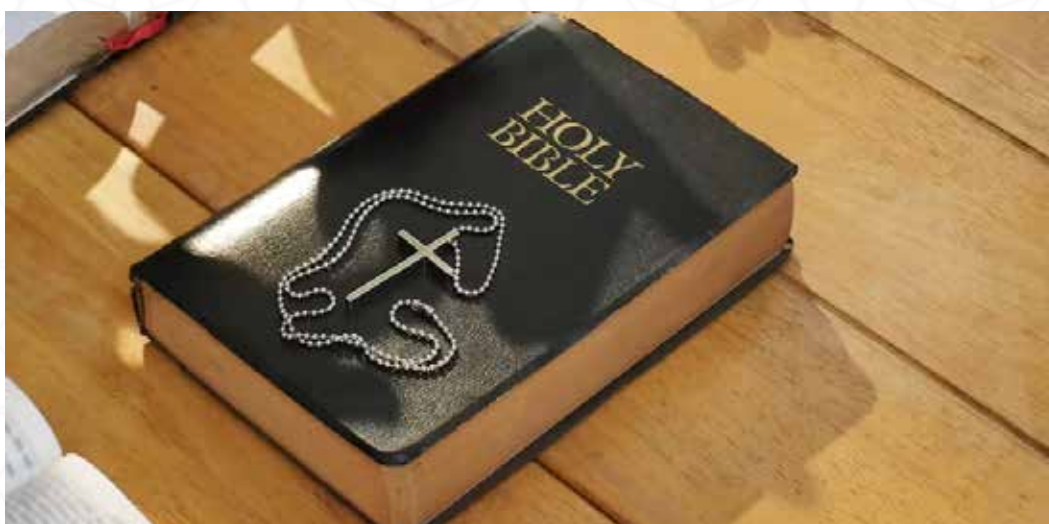
According to the above verse of the Bible, one is supposed to pray three times a day.



“Pray without ceasing.”

The Bible – 1Thessalonians 5:17

According to Paul one needs to pray unceasingly. It means whenever you want to pray, pray as much as possible.





D Take off shoes before entering mosque

i Commandment of Allah to Moses (pbuh)

فَلَمَّا أَتَاهَا نُودِيَ يَمْوَسَىٰ إِنِّي أَنَا رَبُّكَ فَاخْلَعْ نَعْلَيْكَ ۖ إِنَّكَ بِالْوَادِ
الْمُقَدَّسِ طَوًى



But when he came to the fire, a voice was heard:

“O Moses! Verily I am your Lord! therefore (in My presence) put off your shoes: you are in the sacred valley Tuwa.”

Al Qur'an 20:11-12



When we Muslims enter the mosque, we take out our footwear. When we offer Salaah, we remove our footwear.



A similar message is even given in the Bible.



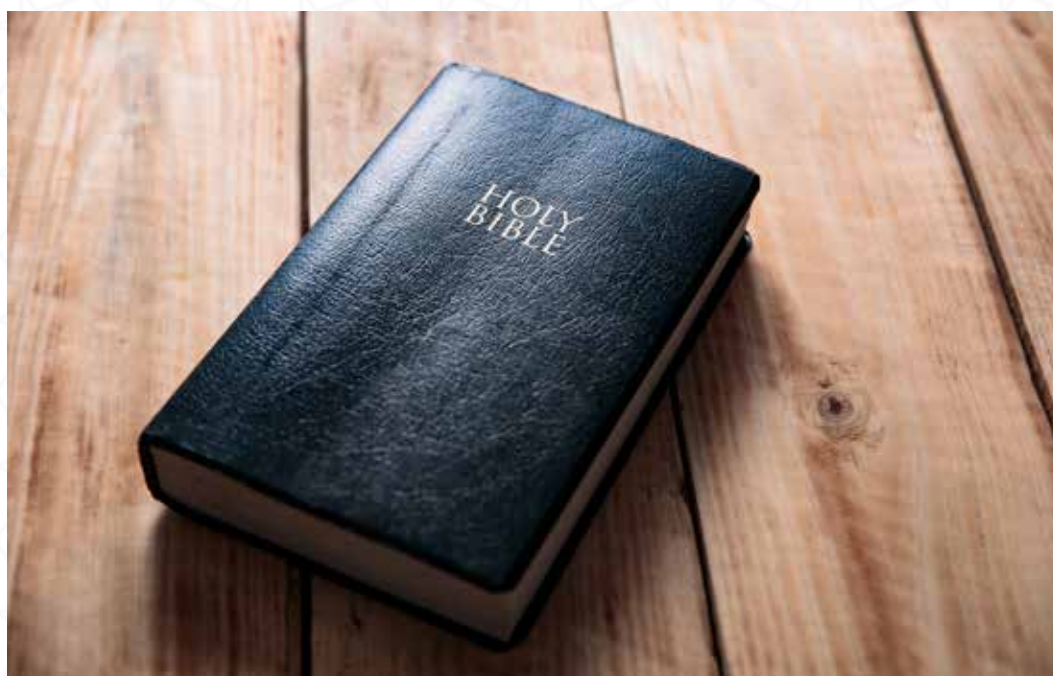
“And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.”

The Bible – Exodus 3:5



“Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground.”

The Bible – Acts 7:33





ii Can Pray with Shoes

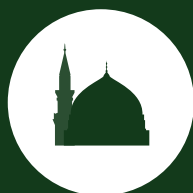
Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) also gave us the permission to offer Salaah with or without footwear.



Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said:

“Act differently from the Jews, for they do not pray in their sandals or their shoes.”

Sunan Abu Dawood - Vol 1, Book of Salaah, Chapter 88, Hadith 652



Narrated Abdullah ibn Amr ibn Al 'Aas (ra):

“I saw the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) praying both barefooted and wearing sandals.”

Sunan Abu Dawood - Vol 1, Book of Salaah, Chapter 88, Hadith 653





E Ablution

i Commandment from God

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِذَا قُمْتُمْ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ فَاغْسِلُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ
وَأَيْدِيَكُمْ إِلَى الْمَرَافِقِ وَامْسَحُوا بِرُءُوسِكُمْ وَأَرْجُلَكُمْ إِلَى الْكَعْبَيْنِ



“O you who believe! when you prepare for prayer, wash your faces, and your hands (and arms) to the elbows; Rub your heads (with water); and (wash) your feet to the ankles.”

Al Qur'an 5:6





A similar message is even given in the Bible.



“Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple...”

The Bible – Book of Acts 21:26



“And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet thereat:

When they went into the tent of the congregation, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as the Lord commanded Moses.”

The Bible – Exodus 40:31-32

Even according to the Bible, ablution before prayers is compulsory. But we don't find the Christians doing ablution before they pray. We Muslims do the ablution, Wudhu before Salaah, but the Christians don't.

Similarly, when the Christians enter the church, they don't take out their footwear. We Muslims, as a whole, we take out our footwear when we go to the mosque.

If Christian means following the teachings of Jesus Christ (pbuh) we Muslims are more Christian than the Christians themselves.



ii Hygienic

One of the reasons why Muslims wash themselves before Salaah is to maintain physical cleanliness and hygiene. In Islam, cleanliness is a part of person's faith in God.



iii Mental Preparation

Besides physical cleanliness, doing Wudhu or ablution is also a form of mental preparation before standing for Salaah in front of Allah (swt).



F Stand shoulder to shoulder, while praying



Anas (ra) narrated:

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said:

“Straighten your rows for I see you from behind my back.” Anas (ra) added, “Every one of us used to put his shoulder with the shoulder of his companion and his foot with the foot of his companion.”

Sahih Al Bukhari – Vol 1, Book of Adhaan, Chapter 76, Hadith 725



Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said:

“Set the rows in order, stand shoulder to shoulder, close the gaps, be pliant in the hands of your brethren, and do not leave openings for the devil. If anyone joins up a row, Allah will join him up, but if anyone breaks a row, Allah will cut him off.”

Sunan Abu Dawood – Vol 1, Book of Salaah, Chapter 93, Hadith 666



When we Muslims stand for Salaah, we have to stand shoulder to shoulder. It is the best example of universal brotherhood practically demonstrated minimum five times a day. Irrespective whether you are a king or a pauper, rich or poor, black or white, yellow or brown, when you stand for Salaah, you stand shoulder to shoulder. This is the universal brotherhood that we are taught in the religion of Islam.





G Sujood – Prostration

i To humble your mind, humble your body

The best part of Salaah is the Sujood, prostration. We Muslims put the highest part of the body i.e., the forehead on the ground and with all humility say, *“Subhana Rabbi Al ‘Aala”* - Glory be to Allah the Most High.

According to science the human body is controlled by the mind, but the mind is not directly under the body’s control. By doing Sujood, it helps us to humble both our mind and body.





ii 'Sujood' mentioned 92 times in the Qur'an

The word 'Sujood' is mentioned in the Qur'an no less than 92 times and there is a complete Surah in the Qur'an by the name As Sajdah – The Prostration, Chapter number 32.

يَمْزِيْمٍ أَقْنِي لِرَبِّكِ وَاسْجُدِي وَارْكَعِي مَعَ الرَّاكِعِيْنَ



“O Mary! worship your Lord devoutly: Prostrate yourself, and bow down (in prayer) with those who bow down.”

Al Qur'an 3:43

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا ارْكَعُوا وَاسْجُدُوا وَاعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمْ وَافْعَلُوا الْخَيْرَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ



“O you who believe! bow down, prostrate yourselves, and adore your Lord; and do good; that you may prosper.”

Al Qur'an 22:77





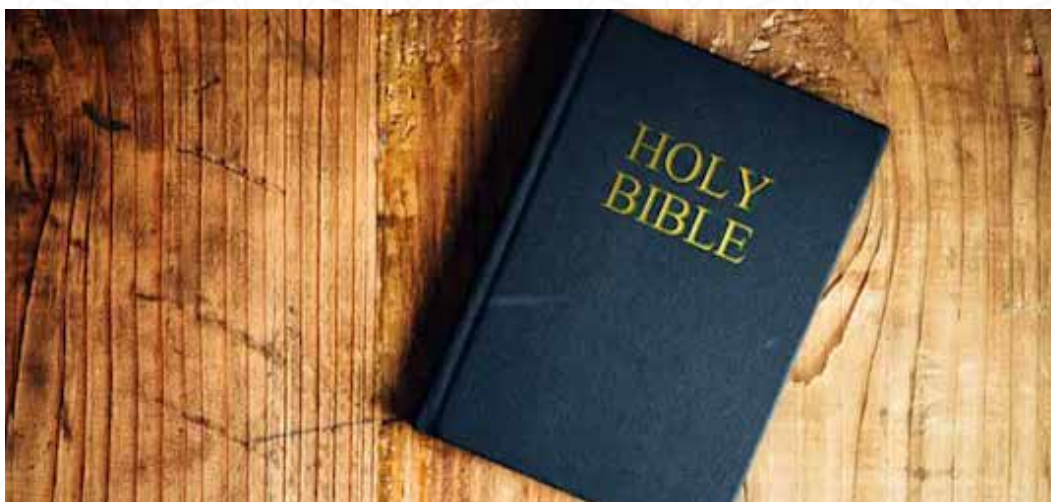
iii Prostration in the Bible

a Abraham (pbuh) prostrated and prayed to God

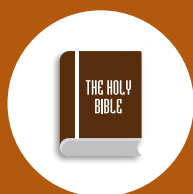


“And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him...”

The Bible – Genesis 17:3



b Moses and Aaron (pbut) prostrated and prayed to God



“And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the Lord appeared unto them.”

The Bible – Numbers 20:6

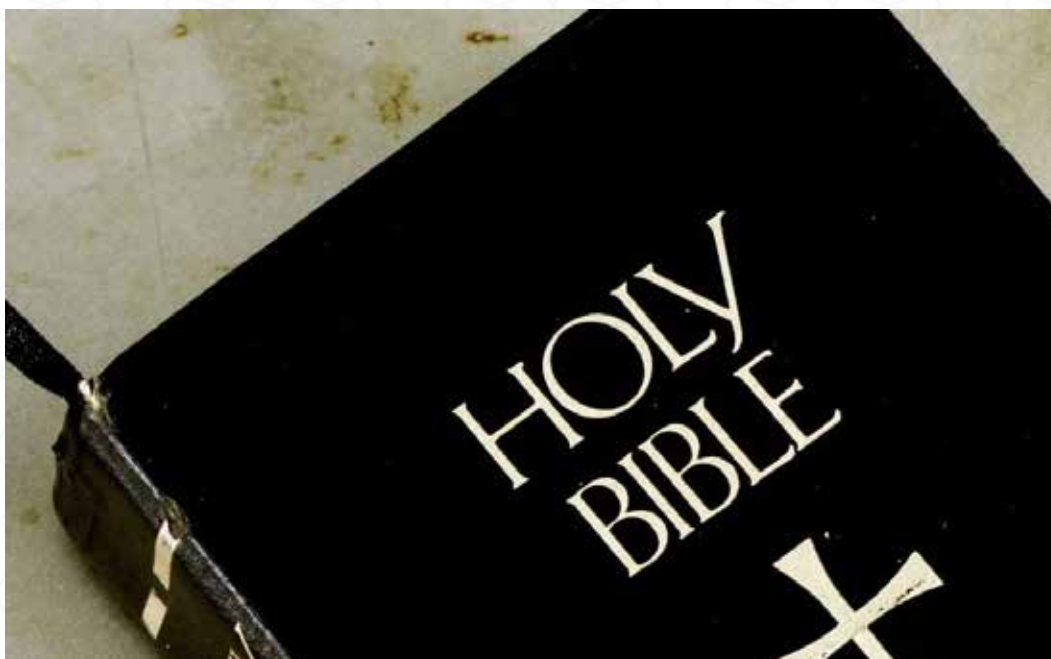


c Joshua prostrated and prayed to God



“...And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship...”

The Bible – Joshua 5:14



d Jesus (pbuh) prostrated and prayed to God



“And he (Jesus) went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed...”

The Bible – Matthew 26:39



All the messengers of God when they prayed, did Sujood, they prostrated. We Muslims, when we offer Salaah, we prostrate. It's the best part of Salaah. But we don't see the Christians prostrating while praying.

If Christian means a person who follows the teachings of Jesus Christ (pbuh), then we Muslims are more Christian than the Christians themselves.





3

ZAKAAH

A Meaning: Purification and Growth

The third pillar of Islam is Zakaah. Zakaah means to purify. It also means to grow.

B Description: 2.5% of saving every lunar year in charity

It is compulsory for every rich Muslim who has a saving of more than the Nisaab level i.e., more than 85 grams of gold then he or she should give 2.5% of that excess wealth in charity every lunar year.



C If every human being gives Zakaah, not a single person will die of hunger

If every rich human being in the world gives Zakaah, poverty will be eradicated from this world. There will not be a single human being who will die of hunger.

Following are the categories of people to whom Zakaah can be given:

إِنَّمَا الصَّدَقَتُ لِلْفُقَرَاءِ وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَالْعَمِلِينَ عَلَيْهَا وَالْمُؤَلَّفَةِ قُلُوبِهِمْ وَفِي الرِّقَابِ وَالْغَرَمِينَ وَفِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَأَبْنِ السَّبِيلِ ۗ فَرِيضَةً مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ



“Alms are for the poor and the needy, and those employed to administer the (funds); for those whose hearts have been (recently) reconciled (to Truth); for those in bondage and in debt; in the cause of Allah; and for the wayfarer: (thus is it) ordained by Allah, and Allah is full of knowledge and wisdom.”

Al Qur'an 9:60



D “Wealth does not circulate only amongst the wealthy and the rich.”

لَا يَكُونُ دَوْلَةٌ بَيْنَ الْأَغْنِيَاءِ مِنْكُمْ



“In order that it may not (merely) make a circuit between the wealthy among you.”

Al Qur'an 59:7

Zakaah is compulsory in Islam so that there is equality and less of differences in wealth between the human beings.





E Charity in the Bible



“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.”

The Bible – 1 Peter 4:8





4

SAUM – FASTING

A Description

The fourth pillar of Islam is Saum, fasting.

Every Muslim who is an adult and healthy should fast i.e., abstain from food, drinks, and sex from dawn till sunset during the month of Ramadhan every lunar year.



B Benefits of fasting

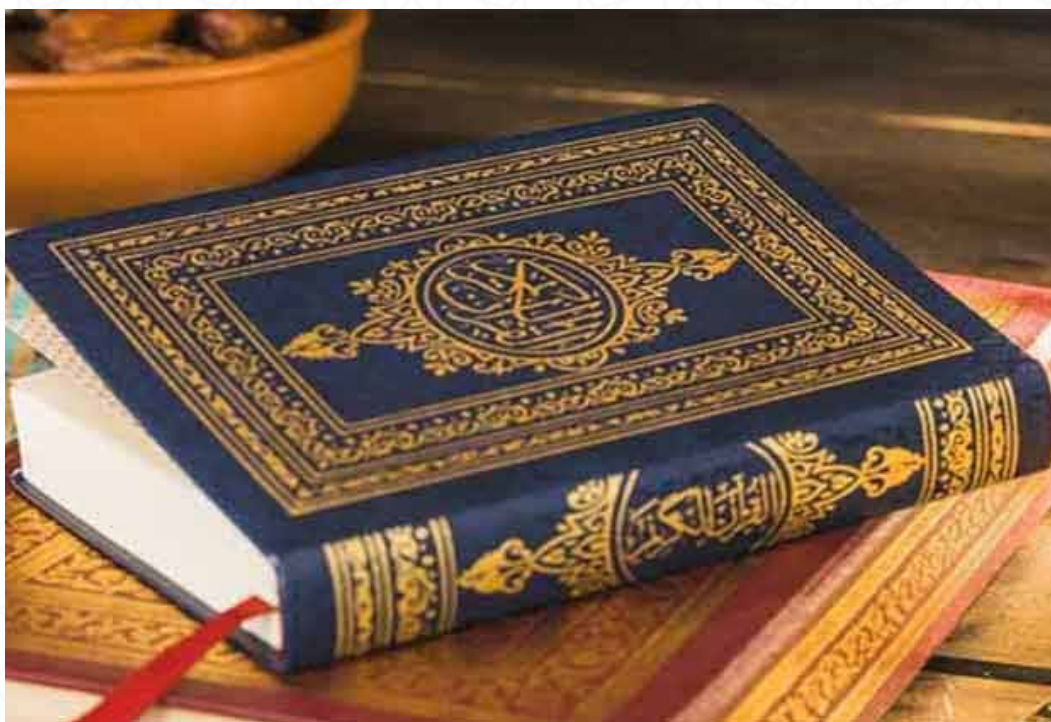
Today the psychologists tell us that if you can control your hunger, you can control almost all your desires. One can learn self-restraint. It also enhances spiritual awareness.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ



“O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may (learn) self-restraint.”

Al Qur'an 2:183





C Medical Benefits

Besides the psychological and spiritual benefits of fasting there are various medical benefits too like,

- i** Increases absorption capacity of intestines
- ii** Lowers cholesterol *and many others*



D Discourages smoking, alcoholism and other addictions

If you can abstain from smoking from dawn to sunset while fasting, you can very well abstain from smoking from the cradle to the grave. If you can abstain from having alcohol from dawn to sunset while fasting, very well you can abstain from having alcohol from the cradle to the grave.



E Bible prescribes Fasting



“Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.”

The Bible – Matthew 17:21



“And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.”

The Bible – Mark 9:29





5 HAJJ

A Description

The fifth pillar of Islam is Hajj i.e., the pilgrimage. Every adult Muslim who has the means and has the health should perform Hajj at least once in his lifetime.

B Universal Brotherhood

Islam is a religion which promotes universal brotherhood. It preaches equality of human beings irrespective of their caste, colour, sex, or language.



يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۗ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَىٰكُمْ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ



“O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other (not that you may despise (each other)). Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things).”

Al Qur'an 49:13

Hajj today is the biggest annual gathering of the world. Every year, more than 4 million people gather from different parts of the world to perform Hajj.

All men are dressed up in two pieces of unsewn cloth, preferably white. You cannot differentiate between Rich and Poor, King, and Pauper. It is the best example of universal brotherhood, where people gather together with the call, **Labbaik Allahumma Labbaik. Labbaik Allahumma Labbaik** – Here I'm O my Lord at your service. Here I'm O my Lord at your service.



C Significance of Ka'bah – Muslims don't worship it

Ka'bah is the Qiblah i.e., the direction the Muslims face during their prayers. It is important to note that though the Muslims face the Ka'bah during their prayers, they do not worship the Ka'bah. Muslims bow and worship to none but Allah.





D Going to Makkah for pilgrimage in the Bible

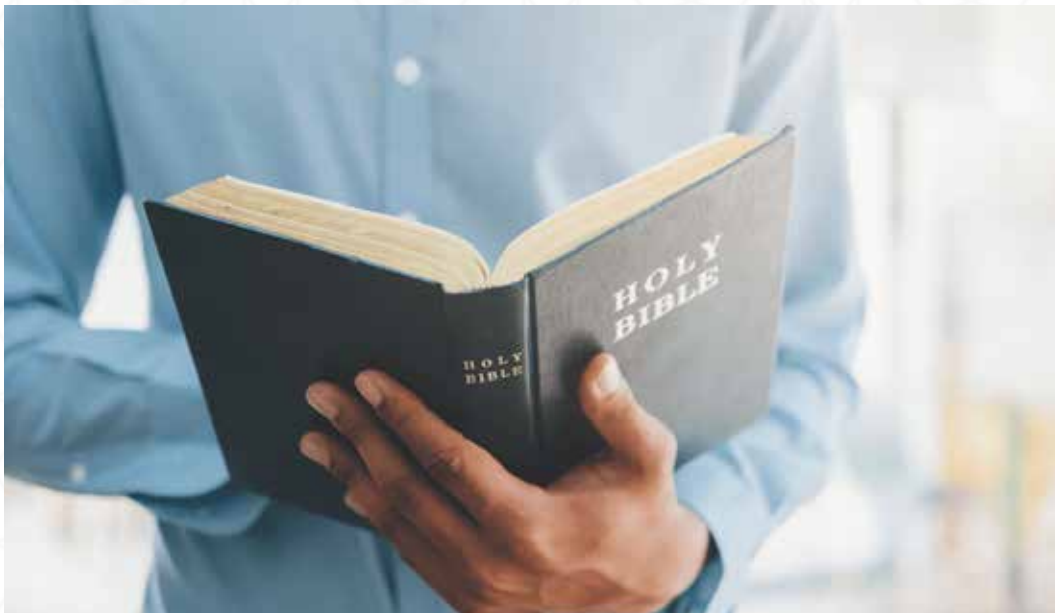


“Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah. Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools. They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.”

The Bible – Psalms 84:4-7

The word ‘Baca’ is also mentioned in the Qur’an as the first house of worship, Bakka i.e., Makkah.

إِنَّ أَوَّلَ بَيْتٍ وُضِعَ لِلنَّاسِ لَلَّذِي بِبَكَّةَ مُبَارَكًا وَهُدًى لِّلْعَالَمِينَ





“The first House (of worship) appointed for men was that at Bakka: Full of blessing and of guidance for all kinds of beings.”

Al Qur'an 3:96

If we notice, the Christians don't go to Makkah for pilgrimage. On the other hand, the Muslims are following the Bible, we travel to the Valley of Baca.



If Christian means a person who follows the teachings of Jesus Christ (pbuh), we Muslims are more Christian than the Christians themselves.

These were, in short, the five pillars of Islam. These five pillars do not constitute everything in the religion, but if the pillars are strong, the structure will be strong, In Sha Allah.

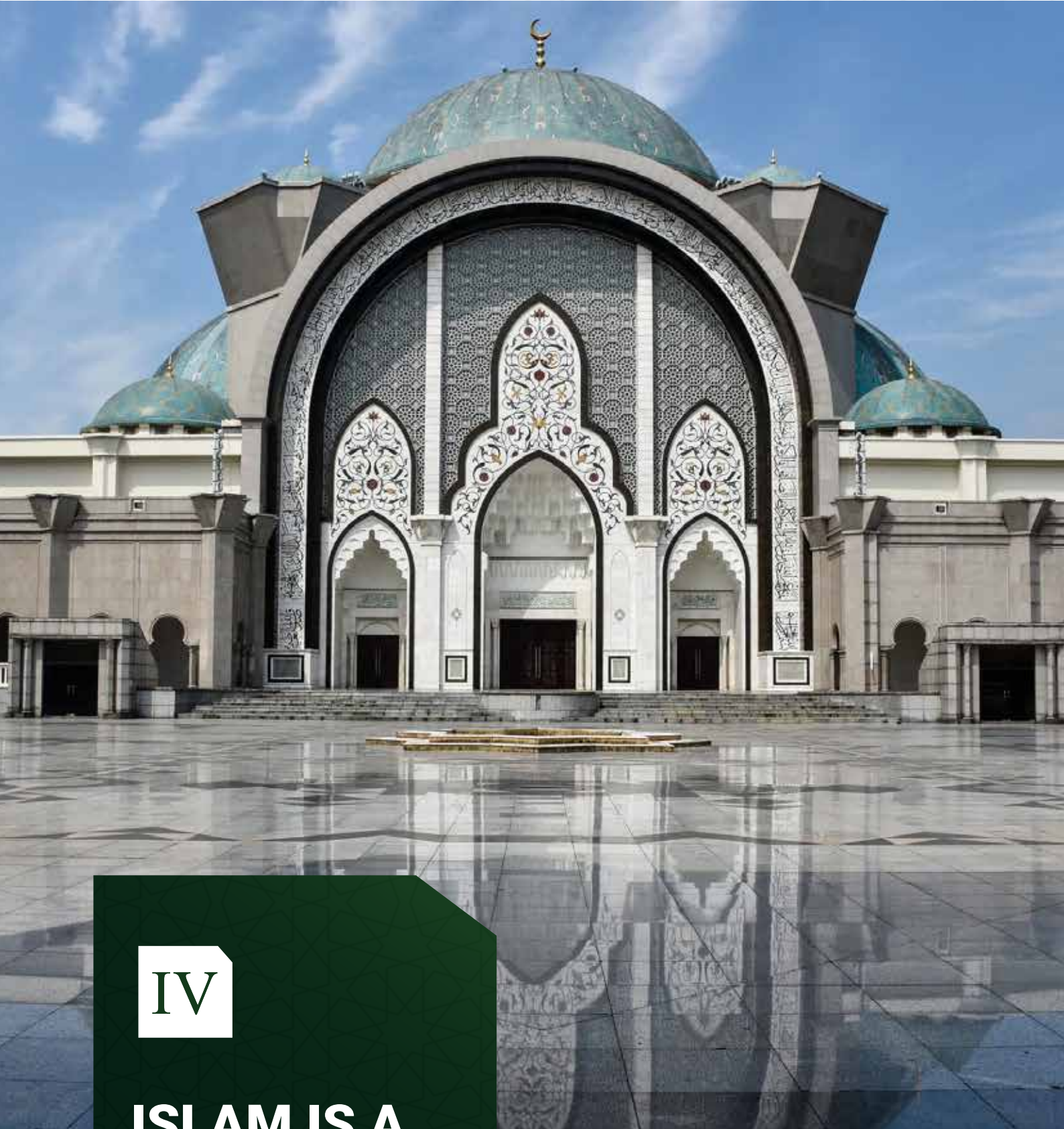


LESSON 5

ISLAM IS A COMPLETE WAY OF LIFE



SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY



IV

**ISLAM IS A
COMPLETE
WAY OF LIFE**





1

HUMANS CREATED TO WORSHIP ALLAH

A

Jinn and Men created for worship
of Allah

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ



“I have created not the Jinn and
the men except to worship Me.”

Al Qur'an 51:56



B Meaning of Ibaadah – root word ‘Abd’ meaning ‘slave’

Ibaadah comes from the root word ‘Abd’ which means slave. Ibaadah means obedience. Ibaadah doesn't only mean performing Salaah or giving Zakaah or performing Hajj or keeping Saum, rather whenever you obey the commandments of Allah (swt) you are doing Ibaadah. If you follow the guidance given by Allah (swt) in the Qur’an, if you do all the things which has been made Fardh upon you and if you abstain from things which are prohibited for you, then you are doing Ibaadah. If you are following the commandments of Muhammad (pbuh) which are mentioned in the Sahih Hadith, you are doing Ibaadah.





2

OBEYING COMMANDMENTS OF ALLAH IS SUBMITTING YOUR WILL TO ALLAH

A Abstaining from alcohol

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَامُ
رِجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ



“O you who believe! Intoxicants and gambling, (dedication of) stones, and (divination by) arrows, are an abomination,- of Satan's handwork: eschew such (abomination), that you may prosper.”

Al Qur'an 5:90



In the above Qur'anic verse Allah has prohibited alcohol. If one abstains from consuming alcohol, then you have obeyed the commandment of Allah (swt) and thus submitted your will to Allah (swt).

Alcohol is even prohibited in the Bible.



“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”

The Bible – Proverbs 20:1



“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”

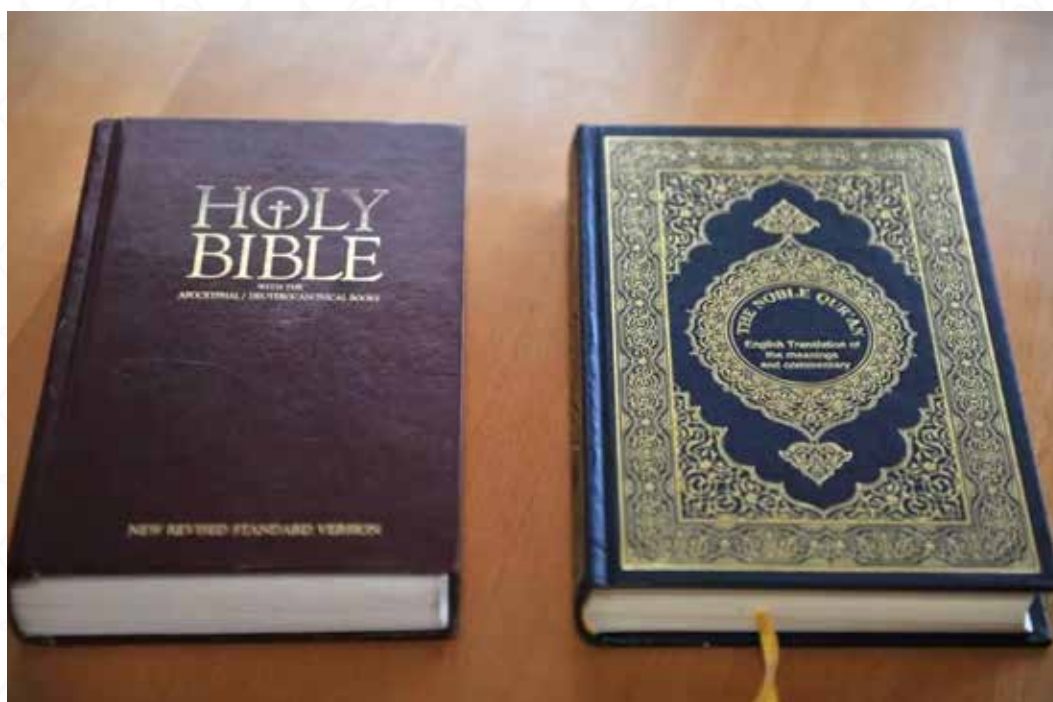
The Bible – Ephesians 5:18





If Christian means following the teachings of Jesus Christ (pbuh) or the Bible, you should not drink alcohol. Most of the Christians have alcohol, whereas as a whole, Muslims don't have alcohol.

If Christian means a person who follows the teachings of Jesus Christ (pbuh), we Muslims are more Christian than the Christians themselves.





B Abstaining from prohibited food

حُرِّمَتْ عَلَيْكُمْ أَلْمَيْتَةُ وَالْدَّمُ وَلَحْمُ الْخِنْزِيرِ وَمَا أُهْلَ لِغَيْرِ اللَّهِ بِهِ



“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 Allah.”

Al Qur'an 5:3

A similar message is given in the Qur'an in 2:173, 6:145 and 16:115.

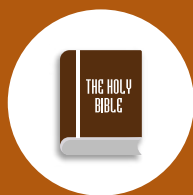
In the above four verses of the Qur'an, four things are prohibited – dead meat, blood, pork, and any food on which any name besides Allah's name is taken.

These four things are even prohibited in the Bible.





i Dead meat prohibited in the Bible



“And every soul that eateth that which died of itself, or that which was torn with beasts, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger, he shall both wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even: then shall he be clean.”

The Bible – Leviticus 17:15



“Ye shall not eat of anything that dieth of itself...”

The Bible – Deuteronomy 14:21





ii Blood prohibited in the Bible



“But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.”

The Bible – Genesis 9:4



“For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off.”

The Bible – Leviticus 17:14





“Only ye shall not eat the blood; ye shall pour it upon the earth as water.”

The Bible – Deuteronomy 12:16



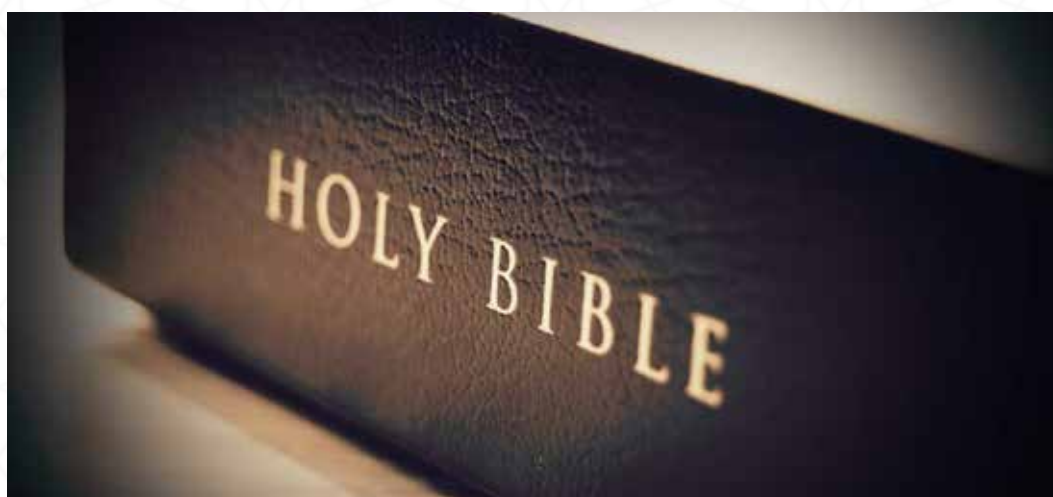
“Then they told Saul, saying, Behold, the people sin against the Lord, in that they eat with the blood. And he said, Ye have transgressed: roll a great stone unto me this day.”

The Bible – I Samuel 14:33



“That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.”

The Bible – Acts 15:29





iii Pork prohibited in the Bible



“And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you.

Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; they are unclean to you.”

The Bible – 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 carcase.”

The Bible – Deuteronomy 14:8





“I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;

A people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face; that sacrificeth in gardens, and burneth incense upon altars of brick;

Which remain among the graves, and lodge in the monuments, which eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable things is in their vessels;

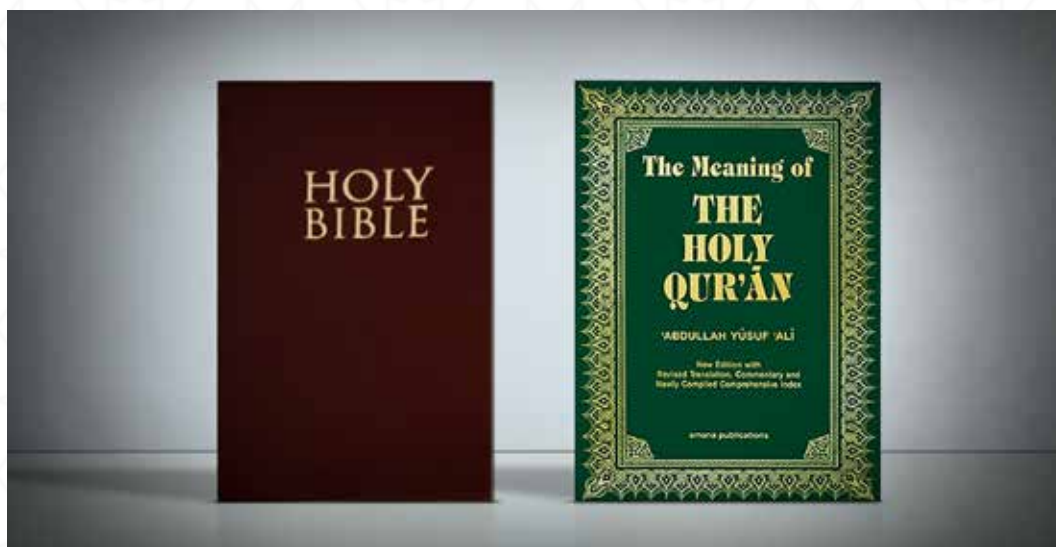
Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day.”

The Bible – Isaiah 65:2-5



We find that most of the Christians have pork, in relation to them the Muslims don't have pork.

If Christian means following the teachings of Jesus Christ (pbuh), we Muslims are more Christian than the Christians themselves.



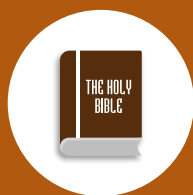


iv Food on which names beside Allah have been invoked is prohibited in the Bible



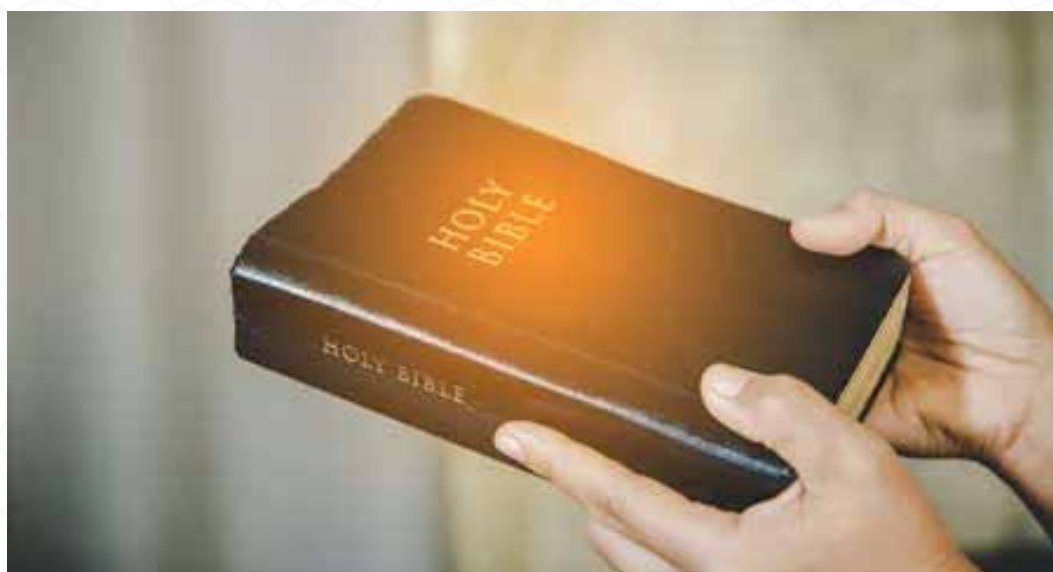
“That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.”

The Bible – Acts 15:29



“But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.”

The Bible – Revelation 2:14





C Other forms of Ibaadah

i Being Honest in your Business

If you follow any of the commandments of Almighty God, you are doing Ibaadah, worship of God.

If you are honest in your business, you are doing Ibaadah.



ii Helping Neighbours

If you love and help your neighbours, you are doing Ibaadah.

أَرَأَيْتَ الَّذِي يُكَذِّبُ بِالْإِيمَانِ

Seest thou one who denies the Judgment (to come)?

فَذَلِكَ الَّذِي يَدْعُ الْيَتِيمَ



Then such is the (man) who repulses the orphan
(with harshness),

وَلَا يَحُضُّ عَلَىٰ طَعَامِ الْمِسْكِينِ

And encourages not the feeding of the indigent.

فَوَيْلٌ لِلْمُصَلِّينَ

So woe to the worshippers

الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ

Who are neglectful of their prayers,

الَّذِينَ هُمْ يُرَاءُونَ

Those who (want but) to be seen (of men),

وَيَمْنَعُونَ الْمَاعُونَ

But refuse (to supply) (even) neighbourly needs.

Al Qur'an 107:1-7

The Qur'an says that woe is upon those people who do not help their neighbours. If you help your neighbours, you are doing Ibaadah, worshipping Allah (swt).



iii Abstaining from Backbiting

وَيْلٌ لِّكُلِّ هُمَزَةٍ لُّمَزَةٍ

Woe to every (kind of) scandal-monger and-backbiter,

الَّذِي جَمَعَ مَالًا وَعَدَّدَهُ،

Who piles up wealth and lays it by,

يَحْسَبُ أَنَّ مَالَهُ أَخْلَدَهُ،

Thinking that his wealth would make him last for ever!

Al Qur'an 104:1-3





يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا يَسْخَرْ قَوْمٌ مِّن قَوْمٍ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُونُوا خَيْرًا مِّنْهُمْ وَلَا
نِسَاءٌ مِّن نِّسَاءٍ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُنَّ خَيْرًا مِّنْهُنَّ وَلَا تَلْمِزُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَلَا تَنَابَرُوا
بِالْأَلْقَابِ بِئْسَ الِاسْمُ الْفُسُوقُ بَعْدَ الْإِيمَانِ ۚ وَمَن لَّمْ يَتُبْ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُم
الظَّالِمُونَ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اجْتَنِبُوا كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الظَّنِّ إِنَّ بَعْضَ الظَّنِّ إِثْمٌ وَلَا
تَجَسَّسُوا وَلَا يَغْتَب بَّعْضُكُم بَعْضًا ۚ أَيُّحِبُّ أَحَدُكُمْ أَن يَأْكُلَ لَحْمَ أَخِيهِ مَيْتًا
فَكَرِهْتُمُوهُ ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَّابٌ رَّحِيمٌ

O you who believe! Let not some men among you laugh at others: It may be that the (latter) are better than the (former): Nor let some women laugh at others: It may be that the (latter) are better than the (former): Nor defame nor be sarcastic to each other, nor call each other by (offensive) nicknames: Ill-seeming is a name connoting wickedness, (to be used of one) after he has believed: And those who do not desist are (indeed) doing wrong.

O you who believe! Avoid suspicion as much (as possible): for suspicion in some cases is a sin: And spy not on each other behind their backs. Would any of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? Nay, you would abhor it... But fear Allah: For Allah is Oft-Returning, Most Merciful.

Al Qur'an 49:11-12



Backbiting is like eating the dead meat of your brother. Eating dead meat is Haraam, eating the meat of your dead brother is double Haraam. If you abstain from backbiting, you are doing Ibaadah.



iv Obeying and Respecting Parents

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا ۚ إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ
الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا أُفٌ وَلَا تَنْهَرُهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا
كَرِيمًا

وَآخِضْ لَهُمَا جَنَاحَ الذُّلِّ مِنَ الرَّحْمَةِ وَقُلْ رَبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيَانِي
صَغِيرًا



Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and that you be kind to parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of contempt, nor repel them, but address them in terms of honour.

And, out of kindness, lower to them the wing of humility, and say:

"My Lord! bestow on them your Mercy even as they cherished me in childhood."

Al Qur'an 17:23-24

If you are kind to your parents and take care of them, without being rude to them, you are doing Ibaadah, worshiping Allah (swt).



V Celibacy or Monasticism is prohibited in Islam

Marrying is one of the requirements in Islam. If you marry, you are doing Ibaadah.



Narrated Abdullah (ra):

We were with the Prophet (ﷺ) while we were young and had no wealth. So Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said, "O young people! Whoever among you can marry, should marry, because it helps him lower his gaze and guard his modesty (i.e., his private parts from committing illegal sexual intercourse etc.), and whoever is not able to marry, should fast, as fasting diminishes his sexual power."

Sahih Al Bukhari – Vol 7 Book of Nikaah, Chapter 3, Hadith 5066

Celibacy





vi Loving, being Kind and Just to your Wife

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا يَحِلُّ لَكُمْ أَنْ تَرِثُوا النِّسَاءَ كَرْهًا وَلَا تَعْضُلُوهُنَّ
لِتَذْهَبُوا بِبَعْضِ مَآءَاتِيْتُمُوهُنَّ إِلَّا أَنْ يَأْتِيَنَّ بِفَاحِشَةٍ مُّبَيِّنَةٍ ۗ
وَعَاشِرُوهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ ۗ فَإِنْ كَرِهْتُمُوهُنَّ فَعَسَىٰ أَنْ تَكْرَهُوا شَيْئًا
وَيَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ فِيهِ خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا



“O you who believe! You are forbidden to inherit women against their will. Nor should you treat them with harshness, that you may Take away part of the dower you have given them, except where they have been guilty of open lewdness; on the contrary live with them on a footing of kindness and equity. If you take a dislike to them it may be that you dislike a thing, and Allah brings about through it a great deal of good.”

Al Qur'an 4:19





Even if you don't like your wife, the Qur'an says you must treat her with kindness and justice. If you are kind to your wives, you are doing Ibaadah. You are following the commandments of Allah (swt) and thus worshipping Him.





vii Abstaining from Adultery

وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا الزَّيْنَىٰ إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَحِشَةً وَسَاءَ سَبِيلًا



“Nor come nigh to adultery: for it is a shameful (deed) and an evil, opening the road (to other evils).”

Al Qur'an 17:32

Committing adultery is Haraam in Islam. If you abstain from adultery, Zina, you are following the commandments of Allah (swt), thereby doing Ibaadah.





D Dressing Modestly

i Hijaab for men

قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَغُضُّوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ وَيَحْفَظُوا فُرُوجَهُمْ ۗ ذَٰلِكَ أَزْكَىٰ لَهُمْ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا يَصْنَعُونَ



“Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty: that will make for greater purity for them: And Allah is well acquainted with all that they do.”

Al Qur'an 24:30

Whenever a man looks at a woman, any unashamed thought comes to his mind, he should lower his gaze. Staring at a non-Mahram girl or a woman is Haraam in Islam. If you don't stare at a girl, if you lower your gaze while speaking to a non-Mahram woman, then you are following the commandments of Allah (swt) and doing Ibaadah.





The same message is given in the Bible.



“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”

The Bible – Matthew 5:27-28

Jesus Christ (pbuh) says that if you look at a woman to lust after her, you have already committed adultery in your heart.





ii Hijaab for women

وَقُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنَاتِ يَغْضُضْنَ مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِنَّ وَيَحْفَظْنَ فُرُوجَهُنَّ وَلَا يُبْدِينَ زِينَتَهُنَّ إِلَّا مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَلَا يَضْرِبْنَ بِخُمُرِهِنَّ عَلَى جُيُوبِهِنَّ وَلَا يُبْدِينَ زِينَتَهُنَّ إِلَّا لِبُعُولَتِهِنَّ أَوْ آبَائِهِنَّ أَوْ آبَاءِ بُعُولَتِهِنَّ أَوْ أَبْنَائِهِنَّ أَوْ أَبْنَاءِ بُعُولَتِهِنَّ أَوْ إِخْوَانِهِنَّ أَوْ بَنِي إِخْوَانِهِنَّ أَوْ نِسَائِهِنَّ أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُهُنَّ أَوِ التَّابِعِينَ غَيْرِ أُولِي الْإِرْبَةِ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ أَوِ الطِّفْلِ الَّذِينَ لَمْ يَظْهَرُوا عَلَى عَوْرَتِ النِّسَاءِ وَلَا يَضْرِبْنَ بِأَرْجُلِهِنَّ لِيُعْلَمَ مَا يُخْفِينَ مِنْ زِينَتِهِنَّ ۗ وَتَوْبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا أَيُّهُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ



“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 except to their husbands, their fathers, their husband's fathers, their sons, their husbands' sons, their brothers or their brothers' sons, or their sisters' sons, or their women, or the slaves whom their right hands possess, or male servants free of physical needs, or small children who have no sense of the shame of sex; and that they should not strike their feet in order to draw attention to their hidden ornaments. And O you Believers! turn you all together towards Allah, that you may attain Bliss.”

Al Qur'an 24:31



iii Six Criteria for Hijaab in Islam

There are basically six criteria for Hijaab in Islam for both men and women. Except the first criterion all the other five criteria are the same for both men and the women.

- a **Extent:** For the men it is from the navel to the knee. For the women it is the complete body cover except for the face and the hands up to the wrists.
- b The clothes worn should not be so tight fitting that it reveals the figure.
- c The clothes worn should not be translucent that one can see through the body.
- d The clothes worn should not resemble that of the opposite gender.
- e The clothes worn should not resemble the dress specifically worn by the disbelievers.
- f The clothes worn should not be so glamorous that it attracts the opposite gender.





iv Hijaab prescribed in the Bible



“The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.”

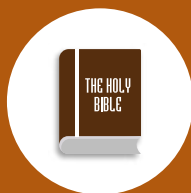
The Bible – Deuteronomy 22:5



“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.”

The Bible – I Timothy 2:9



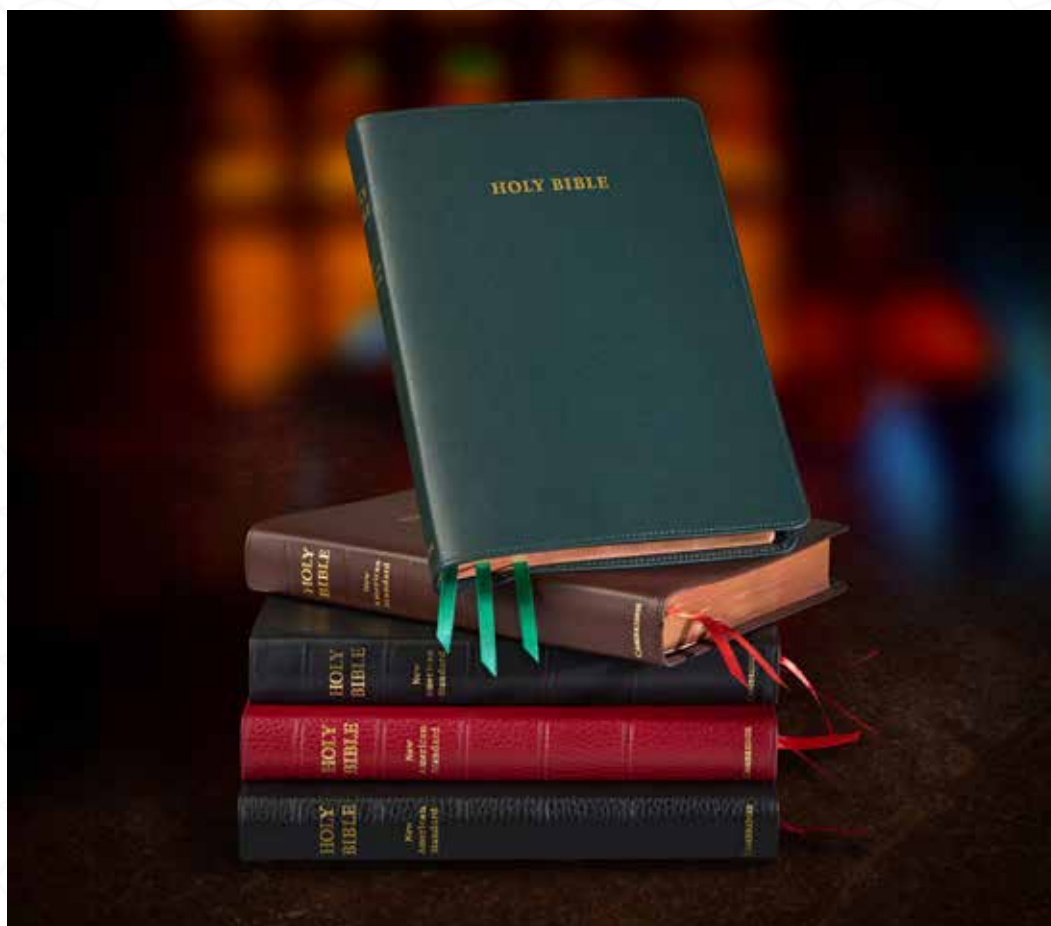


“But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.”

The Bible – I Corinthians 11:5-6

Mary (pbuh) is the best example for the clothing prescribed for the women in the Bible.





E Circumcision

Circumcision is one of the very important Sunnah in Islam. Alhamdulillah, all the Muslim men are circumcised.

The Bible also says circumcision is required.



“And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day...”

The Bible – Acts 7:8



“Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man.”

The Bible – John 7:22



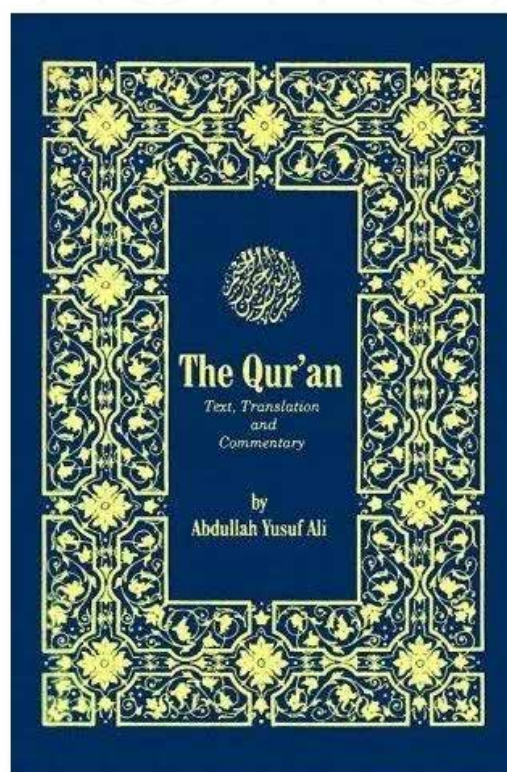
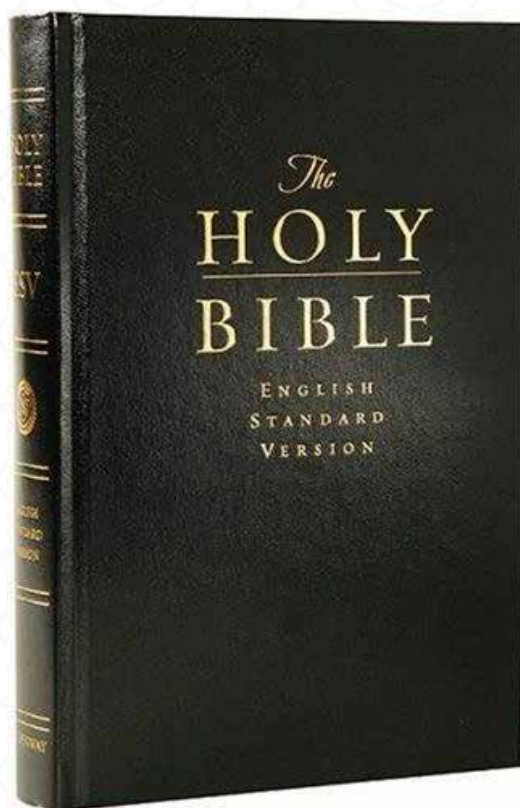


“And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called Jesus...”

The Bible – Luke 2:21

All the Muslim men are circumcised, but most of the Christian men are not circumcised.

If Christian means following the teachings of Jesus Christ (pbuh) we Muslims are more Christian than the Christians themselves.





F In short, every Muslim should follow all the Commandments of Allah (swt) and His Messenger Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and abstain from the things they have prohibited.



Conclusion



CONCLUSION





1

MUSLIMS ARE MORE CHRISTIAN THAN THE CHRISTIANS THEMSELVES

If Christian is a person who follows the teachings of Christ (pbuh) and not one who worships Christ (pbuh) then according to me, Muslims are more Christian than the Christians themselves.

Jesus (pbuh) never preached Christianity. The word 'Christianity' doesn't exist in the Bible. 'Christian' was a nickname given by the people of Antioch to the followers of Jesus Christ (pbuh) in the Book of Acts Chapter 11 Verse 26.



2

MUSLIM IS A PERSON WHO SUBMITS HIS WILL TO ALLAH

Jesus (pbuh) said,



“I seek not my will but the will of
my father” i.e., Muslim.

Gospel of John 5:30





3

CHRISTIANS ARE THE NEAREST IN LOVE TO THE MUSLIMS

وَلَتَجِدَنَّ أَقْرَبَهُمْ مَّوَدَّةَ لِلِّدِينِ ءَامَنُوا الَّذِيْنَ قَالُوا إِنَّا نَصْرِيْ ء
ذٰلِكَ بِأَنَّ مِنْهُمْ قٰسِيْنَ وِرْهٰبَانًا وَاَتَمَّهُمْ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُوْنَ



“...And nearest among them in love to the believers will you 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.”

Al Qur'an 5:82



QUESTION & ANSWER BUCKET



**SIMILARITIES
BETWEEN ISLAM
AND CHRISTIANITY**



1

It is mentioned in Gospel of John, Chapter 14, Verse 26, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

In your lecture, you were referring that this 'Comforter', which Jesus Christ said will come after him, is Muhammad. But in the version of the Bible, I am reading from now, it is specific that "the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost." I'm at variance with you and want a clarification.

ANSWER:

It is mentioned in Gospel of John, Chapter number 14, Verse number 26, that the 'Comforter' prophesied by Jesus (pbuh) is the Holy Ghost and not Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

If you analyse and read a little further in the same Gospel of John, Jesus (pbuh) says,



"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."

The Bible – John 16:7



The criterion for this 'Comforter' to come is that Jesus (pbuh) should depart. Only if he departs can he send him. But if we analyse, the 'Holy Ghost' was already present at the time of Jesus (pbuh). It was present before Jesus Christ (pbuh) was born, in the womb of Elizabeth. It was there when Jesus Christ (pbuh) was being baptized. Surely, this 'Comforter' cannot mean that Holy Ghost. It is someone who is going to come in the future. It is not the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit as is being referred. It cannot be that. If it is, then it will be a contradiction.

Jesus (pbuh) said:

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, 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 shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."

The Bible – John 16:12-14

Jesus (pbuh) is talking in the future tense when he said, "when he, the Spirit of truth, is come" and not "when he, the Spirit of truth has come".

Moreover, when referring to the Spirit of truth, Jesus (pbuh) uses the pronoun, 'he', "*When he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you...*" 'He' is for a man. You don't refer to Holy Ghost as 'he'.



'He' when the Spirit of truth shall come. 'He' shall show you things to come. 'He' shall glorify me. Four times 'he'. Surely, this cannot refer to the Holy Ghost.

Based on the references I quoted above, to say that the Holy Ghost is the Comforter is an incorrect understanding of the Bible. This Comforter, the Paraclete, which is mentioned in the Bible, refers to only the last and final messenger Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).



2

Could the Bible be contradicting itself?

ANSWER:

Yes, there are many contradictions in the Bible. According to Awake Magazine of Jehovah's Witnesses, there are more than 50,000 errors in the Bible. Awake, a Christian magazine, says that there are more than 50,000 errors in the Bible, and you call it to be the 'Word of God'! I don't call Bible the 'Word of God' but the Qur'an is the 'Word of God'.

I challenge anyone to take out a single contradiction in the Qur'an.

أَفَلَا يَتَذَكَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ ۚ وَلَوْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا فِيهِ اخْتِلَافًا
كَثِيرًا



"Do they not consider the Qur'an (with care)? Had it been from other Than Allah, they would surely have found therein Much discrepancy."

Al Qur'an 4:82

The Qur'an does not have a single discrepancy or a contradiction. The Qur'an does not have any mistakes.



If there is a contradiction in the Bible, you must leave the Bible and follow the 100% pure book, Al Qur'an.

For example, if in a glass of pure water, if I add one drop of urine right in front of you, will you drink it? Of course, you will not!

Now, when you have come to know that the Bible has got mistakes, would you still believe in the Bible?

Yet in the Bible, there are remnants of truth. There are certain things which are true.



Jesus Christ (pbuh) said,

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth."

The Bible – John 16:12-13

In the above verses, Jesus (pbuh) was talking about following Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), following the Qur'an, and you will be a very good 'true Christian'.



3

Is there any place stated in the Qur'an that Muslims should not eat the meat that is slaughtered by a Christian?

ANSWER:

There is no verse in the Qur'an which says Muslims should not have meat slaughtered by the Christians. It says, have the meat on which Allah's name is taken.

If you slaughter an animal according to the Biblical teachings, which the Orthodox Jews practice it till date, called Kosher, they do it in the correct manner, same as the Muslims do. They cut the jugular vein and they take the name of Almighty God.

If you slaughter according to the Jewish method, the Kosher method, that meat is Halaal. If you do it by the Jhatka method, slaughtering by the neck, without cutting the jugular vein and not taking the name of Almighty God, then it is prohibited. It is prohibited whether a Christian or a Hindu or a Muslim does it by this method.

Even if a Muslim slaughters an animal against the method mentioned in the Qur'an and in the Hadith, it is Haraam to eat the meat of that animal.



4

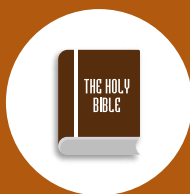
A good Christian believes that after leaving this contemporary world, he is going to rest with God in heaven. If a good Muslim dies, does he also believe that he goes and rests with God in heaven?

ANSWER:

A good Muslim, if he dies, he will go to heaven and he will meet God, In Sha Allah. In heaven, we get all the luxury, but we will want to see the face of Almighty God. The Hadith says, people would like to see the 'Wajh' of Allah (swt). We would be eager to see the face of Almighty God.

If a 'Good Christian' who follows the teachings of Jesus Christ (pbuh): does not do Shirk, does not believe in other gods, then he will go to heaven, In Sha Allah. But if he says that 'Jesus is God', according to Islam, he will not go to heaven.

Jesus Christ (pbuh) said:



"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

The Bible – Matthew 5:20



If you want to go to heaven, you cannot believe Jesus (pbuh) is God. If you believe Jesus (pbuh) is God, you cannot go to heaven according to the Bible.

In fact, there is not a single statement in the Bible where Jesus Christ (pbuh) himself says, “I am God” or says, “Worship me”.



5

Jesus (pbuh) is referred in the Bible as the Son of God. Does this not make him God too?

ANSWER:

In the Bible God has sons by the tons. Consider the following verses from the Bible.

Gospel of Luke Chapter 3 Verse 38:

“...Adam, which was the son of God.”

Genesis Chapter 6 Verse 2:

“That the son of God saw the daughters of men, that they were fair...”

Exodus Chapter 4 Verse 22:

“...Israel is my son, even my firstborn.”

Jeremiah Chapter 31 Verse 9:

“...for I (God) am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.”

Psalms Chapter 2 Verse 7:

“...the Lord hath said unto me, thou art my son, this day have I begotten thee.”

Romans Chapter 8 Verse 14:

“For as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”



According to the Bible every righteous person who follows the commandment of God is referred to as the son of God.

6

Is it not mentioned in the Bible that Jesus (pbuh) is the 'Begotten son' of God, thus making him God?

ANSWER:

1

JESUS (PBUH) IS THE BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD

The Christian agrees with the reasoning that in the Bible God has got many sons but says that "Jesus was not like that", Adam was made by God, every living thing was made by God, but Jesus (pbuh) was the begotten son of God. Begotten not made.

And the Christian quotes from the Bible:



"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The Bible – John 3:16



2 MEANING OF THE WORD BEGOTTEN

When asked the meaning of the word 'begotten' the Christian will rarely be able to explain. Begotten means to beget i.e., to procreate. Begetting is an animal act belonging to the lower animal function of sex, how can we attribute such a lowly capacity to God.

3 THE WORD 'BEGOTTEN' IS AN INTERPOLATION

The word 'begotten' mentioned in the Gospel of John Chapter 3 Verse 16 has been thrown out of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible as an Interpolation, as a Fabrication. The Revised Standard Version has been revised by 32 Christian Scholars of the highest eminence backed by 50 different Cooperating denominations. These Scholars have removed this blasphemous word without any ceremony as an interpolation, concoction, fabrication, and adulteration.

4 QUR'AN SAYS ALLAH DOES NOT BEGET

a The Qur'an mentions in Surah Maryam Chapter 19 Verses 88 to 92



وَقَالُوا اتَّخَذَ الرَّحْمَنُ وَلَدًا

They say: "(Allah) Most Gracious has begotten a son!"

قَدْ جِئْتُمْ شَيْئًا إِدًّا

Indeed, you have put forth a thing most monstrous!

تَكَادُ السَّمَوَاتُ يَتَفَطَّرْنَ مِنْهُ وَتَنْشَقُّ الْأَرْضُ وَتَخِرُّ الْجِبَالُ هَدًّا

As if the skies are ready to burst, the earth to split asunder, and the mountains to fall down in utter ruin,

أَنْ دَعَوْا لِلرَّحْمَنِ وَلَدًا

That they should invoke a son for (Allah) Most Gracious.

وَمَا يَنْبَغِي لِلرَّحْمَنِ أَنْ يَتَّخِذَ وَلَدًا

For it is not consonant with the majesty of (Allah) Most Gracious that He should beget a son.

Al Qur'an 19:88-92



b The Qur'an mentions in Surah Al Ikhlāas Chapter 112 Verse 3

لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ



“He begets not, nor is He begotten.”

Al-Qur'an 112:3



7

Jesus (pbuh) indicated that he was God when he said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the father, but by me."

ANSWER:

1 GOSPEL OF JOHN CHAPTER 14 VERSE 1 TO 6

In the Gospel of John Chapter 14 Verse 6, Jesus (pbuh) said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the father, but by me."

To understand the verse better we should read the context i.e., Gospel of John Chapter 14 Verses 1 to 6:

- 1 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.
- 2 In my father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
- 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also.
- 4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know
- 5 Thomas, saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?
- 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the father, but by me.



2

EVERY PROPHET IN HIS TIME IS THE WAY TO GOD

Jesus (pbuh) being a Prophet of God, rightly said that he was the way to God. Every Prophet of God during his time is the way, the truth and the life and no man comes to God but through him.

Moses (pbuh) during his time was the way, the truth and the life, no man could come to God but through Moses (pbuh). Every Prophet of God in his time is the ultimate path and guidance to God.

Today the last and final messenger of God is Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) who is the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto God but through the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).



8

Do Muslims really practice forgiveness? If yes, how can a Muslim man marry a woman and then divorce her, marry another one, divorce her, marry the third one and so on, and thus creating many family problems.

ANSWER:

In most of the religions, divorce is not permitted, but in the Bible, Jesus Christ (pbuh) said,



"It has been said of the old times that thou shall give a beloved divorce, but I say unto you, unless the person does fornication, thou shall not give divorce."

The Bible – Matthew 5:31-32

It means in the Jewish law before Jesus (pbuh), you could give a beloved a divorce, if you wanted. Jesus Christ (pbuh) said, you cannot give divorce unless she commits fornication. That means, according to Jesus Christ (pbuh) you can give divorce if you find out that your wife has committed fornication. Thus, the rules kept changing.

In Islam, divorce is permitted. It is not compulsory nor is it encouraged. In fact, it is discouraged. Amongst one of the things which God Almighty hates is a divorce. It is to be exercised only as the last resort.



If a Muslim is divorcing a woman because she is not good or she does not give him his rights, or does fornication, etc., according to the Bible and the Qur'an, it is right. But if the woman is good, and yet if the man divorces, then it is wrong on his part to do so. If both are good but are not compatible, yet they can divorce.

Divorce is not a curse. A divorced woman is not cursed. If he divorces her, she can marry another man. There can be a possibility that the woman wants to part. If the woman does not like the man, even she can take divorce. She can take Khula'. Divorce is not only one sided, but it can also be only from the husband's side, it can be mutually from both the parties, and it can be only from the wife's side.

Divorce is not a stigma. Both the husband and wife can be good, but they may not be compatible. If they are not compatible, they can part and they can find new partners. She finds a new husband; he finds a new wife. There is nothing wrong in this.

If a person, just to ill-treat the woman, purposefully divorces and marries someone else, and divorces again just to ill-treat her, then he is wrong. He is not following the Qur'an or teachings of Islam.



9

Did the Qur'an specifically state the modus operandi of Jihaad, that if you go **beyond this point, you are no longer doing Jihaad?**

ANSWER:

There are many verses in the Qur'an which define the limitations of doing Jihaad. For example, the Qur'an says that strive and struggle until there is no oppression and transgression.

وَقَاتِلُوهُمْ حَتَّى لَا تَكُونَ فِتْنَةٌ وَيَكُونَ لِلَّهِ ٱلدِّينُ ۗ إِنِ ٱنتَهُوا فَلَا عُدُوْنَ إِلَّا
عَلَى الظَّالِمِينَ



“And fight them on until there is no more Tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah; but if they cease, Let there be no hostility except to those who practise oppression.”

Al Qur'an 2:193

If the oppression is gone and yet you keep on fighting, it is wrong.

In Jihaad, you cannot cut down trees, you cannot kill old men or women that do not fight you on the battlefield. Many a time, when nations win the war, they kill the women, children, old men, that is Haraam in Islam.



You cannot break down temples, churches, or monasteries. There are many rules and regulations related to Qitaal. Qitaal means fighting, which is one of the forms of Jihaad. Jihaad means to strive and struggle.

Also if the enemies in the battlefield ask for peace, then you must make peace.

وَإِنْ أَحَدٌ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ اسْتَجَارَكَ فَأَجِرْهُ حَتَّى يَسْمَعَ كَلِمَ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ أَبْلِغْهُ
مَأْمَنَهُ ۗ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ قَوْمٌ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ



“If one amongst the Pagans ask you for asylum, grant it to him, so that he may hear the word of Allah; and then escort him to where he can be secure. That is because they are men without knowledge.”

Al Qur'an 9:5

The Qur'an says, if the enemies want peace don't just grant it to them but escort them to a place of security so that they can learn about Islam!



10

According to the Book of Genesis, chapter 1, verse 26, it says, "And God said, 'Let us make man in our own image'." Does that mean that God was not alone because God refers to Himself as 'Us' and not 'I'?

ANSWER:

In many languages, there are two types of plurals. Plural of numbers and plural of respect. In English, there is plural of number and plural of respect. Plural of numbers would be when many people are addressed, so we say 'we'. If there is more than one person, we say 'we.' Secondly, if the Queen of England, when she speaks, instead of saying, "I said that" she will say, "We said that." That is the second type of plural called the royal plural.

Same thing is to be found in the Arabic language as the Qur'an uses 'Nahnu' which means 'We' referring to Allah. When the Qur'an says 'We', in Arabic, Nahnu, it does not mean more than one God. It means one God, but that is plural for respect, the royal plural. Similarly, when the Bible refers to God as 'We' or 'Us', it is the royal plural. It is not plural of number.



11

What is the precise Islamic position on the concept of Original Sin?

ANSWER:

Firstly, if we analyse, the concept of Original Sin given in the Bible is different from the concept what the Church preaches. The Church believes that every human being is born in sin, and until you do not believe that Jesus Christ (pbuh) died for your sins, you shall not enter Jannah, heaven. This is totally wrong according to the Bible.



“The soul that sinneth, it shall die. 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 shall be upon him.”

The Bible – Ezekiel 18:20

Even according to the Bible, the Original Sin does not mean that every human being is born in sin, but it is the teaching of the Church.



In Islam, we believe that human beings are born sinless. Every human being is born Ma'soom. Later, the child gets influenced by his parents, by his teachers and may start doing idol worship, or doing fire worship. That's the reason our beloved Prophet (pbuh) said every child is born as a Muslim. A Muslim is a person who submits his will to God. Every child is born sinless. After that, if he does sin, he will be punished in Hell and if he does good, he will be rewarded in Paradise.



12

Surah Aali Imraan, verse 199 says, "And there are certainly among the people of the scripture, Jewish and the Christians, those who believe in Allah and in that which has been revealed to you and to them, humbling themselves before Allah. They do not sell the verses of Allah for a little price. For them, it's a reward with their Lord."

Based on this verse, are there people among the non-Muslims that Allah will still give Paradise?

ANSWER:

There are many verses in the Qur'an besides Surah Aali Imraan 3:199, like Surah Al Baqarah 2:62 and Surah Al Ma'idah 5:69, where it says that if you believe in Allah and do righteous deeds, you shall go to Jannah. Does that mean that non-Muslims will go to Jannah?

This was also a question asked to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), that if the non-Muslims with the Shirk they were doing, whatever evil they were doing, if they accept Islam now, will they go to Jannah? The answer is, Yes. The non-Muslims, whatever wrong they were doing, if they accept Islam, all their sins are washed away.



If a non-Muslim does not accept Islam, will he go to Jannah? The answer is, No. If he is a non-Muslim and does not accept Islam, does not believe in one God, does not believe in Muhammad (pbuh), he shall not go to Jannah. For him to go to Jannah, he must believe in one God, believe in Muhammad (pbuh), and must believe in the Qur'an.

After accepting Islam, a person might do a sin, but as long as he does not do Shirk and believes in Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), his sins can be forgiven. He can be a bad Muslim yet go to Jannah. But if he is a non-Muslim who does Shirk and does not believe in Muhammad (pbuh), he shall not go to Jannah.



13

It is mentioned in the Gospel of John that, “In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God”, proving without doubt that Jesus (pbuh) is God?

ANSWER:

1 GOSPEL OF JOHN CHAPTER 1 VERSE 1



“In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God”?

The Bible – John 1:1

These words are not the words of Jesus (pbuh), but of St. John (or whoever is the author of this Gospel). Christian scholars say that these were the words of a Jew, Philo of Alexandria who wrote them before Jesus (pbuh) and John were born and claimed no divine inspiration for them.

2 SUBSTITUTE ‘WORD’ WITH ‘GOD’

If we substitute the word ‘word’ with the word ‘God’ then it will be, *“In the beginning was the God, and the God was with God, and God was God.”*

Does this mean there were two Gods?



3 'HOTHEOS' – THE GOD; 'TONTHEOS' – A GOD

The New Testament is written in Greek. The Greek word used for 'God' when it occurs for the first time in the quotation is 'Hotheos' which literally means 'the God' i.e., "and the word was with God". But the second time when God appears in the quotation, the Greek word used is 'Tontheos', which means 'a god' i.e., "and the word was god".

In Hebrew there is nothing like capital 'G' and small 'g' like in the English language. Thus 'Hotheos' is 'the God' with capital 'G' and Tontheos is 'a god' with small 'g'

4 II CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 4 VERSE 4

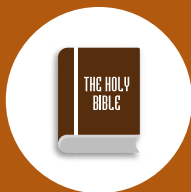
The Biblical scholars have reversed their system while translating the verse of II Corinthians Chapter 4 Verse 4:

"(and the devil is) the god of this world."

Here 'Hotheos' has been wrongly translated as 'the god', instead of 'the God'.



5 EXODUS CHAPTER 7 VERSE 1



“And the Lord said unto Moses, see, I have made thee god to Pharoah”

The Bible – Exodus 7:1

Why is a small ‘g’ used for God instead of Capital ‘G’?



14

Thomas called Jesus, “My Lord and my God.” Doesn’t this prove that his disciples considered him to be God?

ANSWER:

1 GOSPEL OF JOHN CHAPTER 20 VERSE 28



“And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.”

The Bible – John 20:28

To understand what Thomas meant when he said to Jesus (pbuh), “*My Lord and my God*”, we have to read the context.

2 CONTEXT IS GOSPEL OF JOHN CHAPTER 20 VERSES 24 TO 29

It is mentioned in Gospel of John Chapter 20 Verses 24 to 29:

24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Did’y-mus, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, we have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.



- 26** And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: Then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.
- 27** Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.
- 28** And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.
- 29** Jesus saith unto him, Thomas because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

3 'MY GOD' IS A STATEMENT OF EXCLAMATION AND SURPRISE

From the context it is clear that when Thomas said to Jesus (pbuh), 'My Lord and my God, it was a statement of exclamation and surprise. Thomas did not believe other disciples when they said that Jesus (pbuh) was seen alive. Thomas says, until he does not see the print of the nails of Jesus (pbuh) hand and put his finger into the prints and thrust his hand into his sides, he will not believe that Jesus (pbuh) is alive, when Jesus (pbuh) appears and asks him to do the same, Thomas answers, 'My Lord and my God'.

This is the statement of shock and surprise and he could not believe it. 'My Lord and my God' does not signify that Jesus (pbuh) was called 'Lord' and 'God' by Thomas.



For instance, if I am speaking with my friend for a very long time without realizing it, and I suddenly see my watch and say, “My God, it is so late” or “My God” it does not indicate that I am calling my friend ‘My God’.

15

Jesus (pbuh) was raised up alive according to the Qur’an. What is the reason for his second coming?

ANSWER:

1

Jesus Christ (pbuh) was raised up alive because his followers as a whole mistook him to be God

Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was the only Prophet who was raised up alive because he was the only Prophet amongst all the Prophets of Allah (swt) whose followers as a whole mistook him that he claimed divinity. Almighty God Allah (swt) raised Jesus Christ (pbuh) alive so that in his second coming he would testify to the Christians that he never claimed Divinity.

2

In his second coming Jesus Christ (pbuh) will not bring any new message

In his second coming Jesus Christ (pbuh) will not bring any new message because he will not come as a Messenger of Allah but as a follower of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).



3 Jesus Christ (pbuh) testifies to Almighty God that he never told his followers to worship him

Later in the Hereafter, Jesus Christ (pbuh) would testify to Almighty God that he never told his followers to worship him.

وَإِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَعْيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ ءَأَنْتَ قُلْتَ لِلنَّاسِ اتَّخِذُونِي وَأُمِّي
إِلَهَيْنِ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ ۗ قَالَ سُبْحَانَكَ مَا يَكُونُ لِي أَنْ أَقُولَ مَا لَيْسَ
لِي بِحَقِّ ۗ إِنْ كُنْتُ قُلْتُهُ ۗ فَقَدْ عَلِمْتَهُ ۗ تَعْلَمُ مَا فِي نَفْسِي وَلَا أَعْلَمُ مَا فِي
نَفْسِكَ ۗ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ عَلَّامُ الْغُيُوبِ



And behold! Allah will say:

"O Jesus the son of Mary! Did you say unto men, worship me and my mother as gods in derogation of Allah?" He will say: "Glory to You! never could I say what I had no right (to say). Had I said such a thing, You would indeed have known it. You know what is in my heart, I know not what is in Yours. For You know in full all that is hidden."

Al Qur'an 5:116





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