

# SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY

By Dr Zakir Naik

## LESSON 1 – INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

**Moderator:** *Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah.* We are going to go straight into our program. Before the presenter comes, I will give a brief introduction. A medical doctor by professional training, Dr Zakir Naik is a redound dynamic international orator on Islam and comparative religion. His public dialogue with Dr William Campbell of USA on the topic, *The Qur'an and the Bible: In the Light of Science*, held in Chicago, USA in April 2000 was a resounding success. His interfaith dialogue with prominent Hindu guru, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, on the topic, *The Concept of God in Hinduism and Islam in the Light of Sacred Scriptures*, held at Palace Grounds, Bangalore on 21st January 2006 was highly appreciated by people of both faiths.

Sheikh Ahmed Deedat, the world-famous orator on Islam and comparative religion, who had called Dr Zakir Naik Deedat Plus in 1994 presented a plaque in May 2000 with the engraving awarded to Dr Zakir Abdul Karim Naik for his achievement in the field of Da'wah and the study of comparative religion. "Son, what you have done in four years had taken me 40 years to accomplish. Alhamdulillah."

Dr Zakir Naik appears regularly on many international TV channels in more than 200 countries of the world. He is regularly invited for TV and radio interviews. More than 100 of his talks, dialogues, debates, and symposia are available on DVDs. He has authored many books on Islam and comparative religion. The ideologue and driving force behind Peace TV Network is Dr Zakir Naik. He launched Peace TV English in January 2006. It being the largest watched Islamic as well as any religious satellite TV channel presently in the world with over 100 million viewership of which 25% are non-Muslims.

In its footsteps, he launched Peace TV Urdu in 2008 June and Peace TV Bangalore in April 2011. My dear brothers and sisters, another accomplishment for Dr Zakir Naik is that this is the first lecture he is giving in Nigeria. My dear brothers, At-Takbir.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Moderator:** I introduce to you all, please give way for our Sheikh Dr Zakir Naik.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Alhamdulillah Was Salaatu Was Salaam Ala Rasoolillah Wa Ala Aalihi Wa Ashaabihi Ajma'een, Amma Ba'ad.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي، وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي، وَأَخْلِفْ عُقْدَةَ مِنَ لِسَانِي، يَفْقَهُوا قَوْلِي

My respected elders and my dear brothers and sisters, I welcome all of you with the Islamic greetings, *Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wabarakatuh*.

**Audience:** *Wa Alaikumusalaam Wa Rahmatullahi Wabarakatuh*.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** May peace, mercy, and blessings of *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* be on all of you. I'd also like to wish you the way Jesus Christ (pbuh) did. It's mentioned in the Bible, in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter number 24, Verse number 36, where Jesus Christ (pbuh) says in Hebrew, "Shalom aleichem," which means peace be on you.

The topic of this afternoon's talk of mine is "Similarities between Islam and Christianity." This is a very important topic, especially for this country, Nigeria, where I'm told the major two religions followed in this country are Islam and Christianity. Some say it is 50/50, some say it is 60/40. Whatever it is, these are the two major religions. Unless these two people do not understand each other, there will not be peace in this country.

I hope through this lecture of mine, Muslims and Christians will understand each other much better. Islam comes from the root word Salam, which means peace. It is derived also from the Arabic word Silm, which means to submit your will to Almighty God. Islam in short means peace acquired by submitting your will to Almighty God. Any person who submits his will to Almighty God, he's called as a Muslim.

Many people have a misconception that Islam is a new religion, which was founded by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and it 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 back, but it is there since time immemorial since man set foot on the earth.

The glorious Qur'an says in Surah Fatir, Chapter number 35, Verse number 24,

وَإِنْ مِنْ أُمَّةٍ إِلَّا خَلَا فِيهَا نَذِيرٌ

"There is not a nation or tribe to whom we have not sent a warner."

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Ar-Ra'd, Chapter number 13, Verse number 7,

وَلِكُلِّ قَوْمٍ هَادٍ

"And to every nation have we sent a guide."

By name, there are 25 messengers and prophets of *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*, of Almighty God mentioned in the Qur'an. Like Adam, Noah, Ibrahim, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, peace be upon them all. By name, 25 prophets are mentioned in the Qur'an.

The Qur'an also says in Surah An-Nisa, Chapter number 4, Verse number 164,

"We relate to you the story of some of the messengers, of the others we don't."

To Moses (pbuh), God spoke to him directly. The Qur'an repeats the message in Surah Ghafir, Chapter number 40, Verse number 78,

"We narrate to you the story of some of the messengers, of the others we don't."

Our beloved Prophet Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* said, it's mentioned in the Sahih Hadith of *Mishkat al-Masabih* Volume number 3, Hadith number 5737, which is also repeated in Ahmad ibn Hanbal, page number 265 and 266, where our beloved Prophet Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* said that *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* has sent 124,000 prophets on the face of the earth. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* says that Allah has sent 124,000 prophets on the face of the earth, but by name, only 25 prophets are mentioned in the Qur'an.

All the messengers that came before the last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), they were only sent for a particular group of people. The message which they brought was supposed to be followed till a particular time period only. For example, Moses (pbuh) was sent only for the Jews. The Qur'an says in Surah Al-Imran Chapter number 3, Verse number 49,

"And Jesus Christ (pbuh), we appointed as a messenger to the Bani Isra'il. As a messenger to the children of Israel."

The same message is repeated in the Bible in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter number 10, Verse number 5 to 6, where Jesus Christ (pbuh), says to his disciples,

"Go ye not into the way of the Gentiles."

Who are the Gentiles? The non-Jews, the Hindus. "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." So Jesus Christ (pbuh) he commanded his apostles that they should not go to the non-Jews. They should only go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, only to the Bani Isra'il, only to the Jews. Jesus Christ (pbuh) further says, it's mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter number 15, Verse number 24, Jesus Christ (pbuh), said,

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

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. Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Al-Ahzab, Chapter number 33, Verse number 40,

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

“Muhammad (pbuh), is not the father of any of you men, but is the messenger of Allah and he is the seal of the prophets. Allah is all-knowing, full of knowledge.”

Here the Qur’an says, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), is the last and final messenger sent on the face of the earth. Because Muhammad (pbuh), was the last and final messenger, he was not sent only for the Muslim or the Arabs. The Qur’an says in Surah Al-Anbya, Chapter number 21, Verse number 107,

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

“We have sent thee not, but as a mercy to all the creatures, as a mercy to whole of humanity, as a mercy to all the worlds.”

Because Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the last and final messenger. He was not sent only for the Muslim and the Arabs. He was sent for the whole of humanity.

This message is repeated in Surah Saba, Chapter number 34, Verse number 28. Where it says,

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

That we have sent thee not but as a universal messenger, giving glad tidings and warning them against sin but most of the human beings, they do not know.

Prophet Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam*, he says in a Sahih Hadith, it's mentioned in Sahih Al-Bukhari, Volume number 1, in the book of Salat, Chapter number 56, Hadith number 429. Prophet Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* says that,

“All the messenger that came before me were sent only for their people, but I am the last and final messenger sent for the whole of humanity.”

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

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## LESSON 2 – PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) IN THE BIBLE AND REVELATIONS OF GOD

**Dr Zakir Naik:** The Qur'an says in Surah Al-A'raf, Chapter number 7, Verse number 157,

"They follow the messenger, the unlettered prophet who is mentioned in the scriptures, the law and the gospel."

The Qur'an repeats the message in Surah As-Saff, Chapter number 61, Verse number 6, that Jesus Christ (pbuh) says that,

يٰۤاَيُّهَا اِسْرٰٓءٰٓئِيْلَ

"O children of Israel, I am a messenger sent to you by *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* confirming the law that came before me and giving glad tidings of a messenger to come, whose name shall be Ahmad."

Ahmad is another name of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Jesus Christ (pbuh) also says in the Qur'an that he's confirming the law that came before him, that the Torah, and also is giving glad tidings of a messenger to come whose name shall be Ahmad, which is another name for Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam*.

There are various prophecies of Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* not only mentioned in the Old Testament but also in the New Testament. Time will not permit us to discuss all the prophecies. We'll just mention a few.

It's mentioned in the Old Testament in the book of Deuteronomy, Chapter number 18, Verse number 18, God Almighty says that,

"I shall raise them up a prophet from among the brethren like unto thee, and he shall not speak of himself, all that he hear shall he speak."

Here the prophecy says in the book of Deuteronomy, Chapter number 18, Verse number 18. Almighty God is saying to Moses (pbuh),

"I shall raise them up a prophet from among their brethren like unto thee, and he shall not speak of himself, all that he hear shall he speak."

Now, this prophecy refers to no one but the last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Unfortunately, the Christians, they say that this prophecy refers to Prophet Jesus (pbuh). If you ask them that the other prophecy says that the person to come should be like Moses (pbuh). "I shall raise them up a prophet from among their brethren like unto thee." He should be like Moses (pbuh).

The Christians say, "Yes. Jesus was like Moses, peace be upon them." We ask them how. They give two criteria. Jesus was a Jew, Moses was a Jew, peace be upon them. Moses was a prophet of God. Jesus was a prophet of God. That is the reason Jesus is like Moses. 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), they fulfil this prophecy. For example, if you read the Bible, Solomon, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Daniel, Joel, John the Baptist, all these were Jew and there were prophets of God. If these two are the only criteria for the fulfilment of the prophecy, then all the prophets mentioned in the Bible after Moses (pbuh) fulfil these prophecies.

If you analyze this prophecy refers to no one but the last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The prophecy says, "I shall raise them up a prophet from among the brethren." We know that Prophet Muhammad 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 was an Arab and he was the brethren of the Jews. You are the brethren of Moses (pbuh). It further says, "I shall raise them up a prophet from among their brethren like unto thee," the prophet should be like Moses (pbuh).

Now, if we do a small analysis, we come to know between Moses (pbuh), Jesus (pbuh), Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam*, we know that Moses and Mohammad, peace be upon them, they had a natural birth. They had a mother and father, but Jesus Christ (pbuh), according to the Qur'an as well as according to the Bible, he 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).

Furthermore, if you read the history of all these prophets, Moses and Mohammad, peace be upon them, both were married and both had children. Jesus (pbuh) according to the Bible was not married, he had no children. Muhammad (pbuh) is like Moses (pbuh) and Jesus (pbuh) is unlike Moses (pbuh). Furthermore, we know that Moses and Muhammad, peace be upon them both of them died naturally, but Jesus Christ (pbuh) did not have a natural death.

According to the Qur'an, Surah An-Nisa, Chapter 4, Verse 150 and 158, he was raised up alive. Even the Bible does not believe he was crucified but the church says that. Even if you agree with the church that Jesus Christ (pbuh) was crucified, according to me, he was not. But even if you agree with the church that he was crucified, irrespective of whether is right or wrong, all of us agree that Jesus Christ (pbuh) did not have a natural death. That's the reason Muhammad (pbuh) is like Moses (pbuh) and Jesus (pbuh) is unlike Moses (pbuh).

Furthermore, Moses and Muhammad, peace be upon them besides being prophets of God, they 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) did not have that. Jesus Christ (pbuh) says in the gospel of John, Chapter number 18, Verse number 36,

"My kingdom is not of this world."

He was not a worldly king.

If we analyze Moses and Muhammad, peace be upon them, their followers as a whole, all of them as a whole, they agreed that these were prophets of God. The followers of Moses, the people of Moses and the people of Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* as a whole, majority believed that he was a messenger of God but that was not the case with Jesus, (pbuh). In fact, the Bible says in Gospel of John, Chapter number 1, Verse number 11,

"He went to his own and his own did not receive him."

The Bible also says, "They all forsook him and fled." As a whole, Jesus Christ (pbuh) was not accepted as a messenger of God by his people. That's the reason Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam*, Muhammad, (pbuh) is like Moses (pbuh) and Jesus (pbuh) is unlike Moses (pbuh). If we analyze from all these analyses, we come to know that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) befit the prophecy of being like Moses (pbuh) and Jesus (pbuh) does not fulfil this prophecy.

The prophecy continues.

"I shall raise them up a prophet from among their brethren like unto thee and I shall put my words into his mouth. He shall not speak for himself, all that he hear shall he speak."

Puts words into his mouth. We know that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), the Qur'an was revealed to him and whatever revelation he got, he repeated verbatim as the words were put into his mouth. This prophecy befits no one but the last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Further, if you read in the book of Deuteronomy, Chapter number 18, Verse number 19, it says,

"And anyone who does not hearken unto my words--"

Almighty God is saying in the book of Deuteronomy chapter number 18, verse number 19,

"And whosoever does not hearken unto my words, I will require it of him," I will take revenge.

That means if you do not believe in this last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), according to the Bible, according to the Old Testament, according to Deuteronomy, Chapter number 18, Verse number 19, Almighty God will take revenge from you. It's compulsory for every believer of the Bible to believe in Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Further, it's mentioned in the Old Testament, in the book of Isaiah, Chapter number 29, Verse number 12, it says,

"A book shall be given to thee, to one who's unlearned."

"A book shall be given to the prophet, to thee, who's unlearned and would be told, pray, read this and he'll say, I'm not learned."

Here the prophecy says that a books will be given to this prophet who's unlettered and we know Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* was unlettered and he will say, "I'm not learned."

We know from history that when the first revelation came to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), when Almighty God sent the revelation to Archangel Gabriel, the first word to be revealed to him was Iqra, read, and the prophet said, *Ma Ana Bi-Qari*, I'm not learned. Because Prophet Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* was unlettered. This is the fulfilment of the prophecy of the book of Isaiah, Chapter number 29, Verse number 12. It says,

"When the book shall be given to him, it will be said, read. He will say I'm not learned." – *Ma Ana Bi-Qari*.

This befits no one, but the last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is also mentioned by name in the Old Testament, in the Song of Solomon, Chapter number 5, Verse number 15 which says

*"Hikko Mamtaqqim Wekullo Muhamaddim Zehdoodi Wazehrei Bainowt Yerusalem."*

Which means,

"His mouth is most sweet. He's altogether lovely. He's my beloved. He's my friend or daughter of Jerusalem."

The word Muhammad, when we say in Semitic languages, for respect, we add "-im". To Muhammad, they added "-im" Muhammadim, but they translate into the Bible as altogether lovely. You cannot translate a proper name. They translate it as altogether lovely.

If you know Hebrew, "-im" is added for respect. So to Muhammad, they added "-im", Muhammadim. Like Elo means God, Elohim is respect for God. Similarly to Muhammad, they added "-im" so the word Muhammadim is mentioned by name in the Old Testament in the Song of Solomon, Chapter 5, Verse 16.

Let's analyze the prophecy of Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* mentioned in the New Testament. Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* is prophesied in several places in the New Testament. It's mentioned in the Gospel of John chapter 14 verse 16. Jesus Christ (pbuh) says that,

"I pray to my father to send you a Comforter who will abide with you forever."

Gospel of John, Chapter number 15, Verse 26 says,



"And when I go to my father, I will send you a Comforter and he will testify me."

Gospel of John, Chapter number 16, Verse number 7 says,

"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth."

Jesus Christ (pbuh) saying in the gospel of John, Chapter number 16, Verse number 7,

"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth, it is expedient for you that I go away. For if I go not away, the Comforter shall not come for if I depart, shall I send him?"

Here the Greek word used for the word Comforter is Paraclete but they have changed it to Parakletos and they call it Comforter.

Paraclete actually means the praiseworthy and praiseworthy is the exact translation of the Arabic word Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* but they have changed Paraclete to Parakletos which means a Comforter. Irrespective whether it's Paraclete, whether it's Parakletos, whether it's praiseworthy, whether it's Comforter, all these befit, no one, but the last and final messenger Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

There are some Christians who say that this prophecy refers to the Holy Spirit. The Comforter is the Holy Spirit. If you analyze the prophecy, it cannot refer to the Holy Spirit. Why? Because the prophecy of Gospel of John Chapter 16, Verse 7 says,

"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth, it is expedient for you that I go away. For if I go not away the Comforter shall not come. For if I depart shall I send him."

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

The clear prophecy is given in the gospel of John, Chapter number 16, Verse number 12 to 14, which says,

"I have many things to say unto you."

Jesus Christ (pbuh) is saying,

"I have many things to say unto you, but he cannot bear them now for he when the spirit of truth shall come, he shall guide unto all truth. He shall not speak of himself, all that he hear shall he speak. He shall glorify me. He shall testify me."

Now, this prophecy of gospel of John, Chapter 16, Verse 12 to 14 where Jesus Christ (pbuh) is saying,

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

That means Jesus Christ (pbuh) had many messages to give to his people but his people could not comprehend. So he says,

"I have many things to say unto you, but he cannot bear them now for he when the spirit of truth shall come." It is 'he' meaning a man.

"When he the spirit of truth shall come, he shall guide you unto all truth. He shall not speak of himself, all that he hear shall he speak. He shall glorify me. He shall testify me."

That means after Jesus Christ goes away, there'll be another person to come. This is Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). He shall not speak of himself, all that he hear shall he speak. We know that the revelation was given to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and whatever was revealed, he repeated verbatim as the words were put in his mouth. He did not speak of himself all what Almighty God said he spoke. All these prophecies in the Old Testament and the New Testament clearly testify the coming of the last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Ar-Ra'd, Chapter 13, Verse 38,

لِكُلِّ أَجَلٍ كِتَابٌ

"and in every age have we sent a revelation."

By name, there are four revelations given in the Qur'an, Torah, Zabur, Injil, and the Qur'an. Torah is the Wahy, the revelation given to Moses (pbuh). Zabur is the Wahy, the revelation given to David (pbuh) and Injil is the Wahy, the revelation given to Jesus Christ (pbuh). Qur'an the Al-Furqan is the last and final revelation given to the last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

There were many other revelations, for example, Suhuf Ibrahim, the book given to Ibrahim *Alayhi Salam* and many other revelations. By name, only four are mentioned in the Qur'an but there were many revelations sent on the face of the earth. In every age, Almighty God sent a revelation. All the revelations that came before the last and final revolution in the glorious Qur'an, there 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 till the next revelation came. But because Qur'an is the last and final revelation, it was not meant for a particular group of people nor it was meant for a particular time period. It was meant for the whole of humanity until the last day.

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Ibrahim, Chapter number 14, Verse number 1,

"We have revealed to thee, the Prophet Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* the book so that thou may leadeth the mankind from darkness to light."

It doesn't say that Prophet Muhammad will lead, peace upon him, the Muslims or the Arabs from darkness to light. It says he will lead the humankind from darkness to light.

Allah says in Surah Ibrahim, Chapter 14, Verse 52, that,

"Here is a Message for mankind. Let them take warning therefrom. Let them know there's one God. Let the men of understanding take heed."

It says that the Qur'an is for the whole of humankind. Qur'an says in Surah Al-Baqarah, Chapter 2, Verse 185,

"Ramadan was the month in which the Qur'an was revealed as the guidance to humankind as the criteria to judge right from wrong."

Qur'an says in Surah Az-Zumar, Chapter 39, Verse 41 that,

"We have given to thee the book, Prophet Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* so that you will instruct the humankind."

It does not say to instruct only the Muslims or the Arabs but to instruct the whole of humankind.

Qur'an, because it was the last and final revelation, it was not sent only for the Muslims or the Arabs, it was sent for the whole of humanity.

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## LESSON 3 – PILLARS OF ISLAM – TAWHEED

Our beloved Prophet Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* said, as mentioned in Sahih Al-Bukhari, Volume 1 in the book of Iman, Hadith 8, the prophet said,

"Islam is based on five pillars." The first is to testify *La ilaha illallah Muhammadur Rasulallah*. There's no God but Allah and Prophet Muhammad is the messenger of Allah. Number two is *Aqimu Salat*. To establish prayers. Number three is to give Zakat. Number four is to perform Hajj, and number five is to observe Saum, the fasting."

Basically, Islam is based on five pillars. The first is Tawhid. In believing that there's no God but Allah and prophet Muhammad is the messenger of Allah. Tawhid is very important. Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Al-Baqarah, Chapter 2, Verse 177, "It is not righteousness that you turn your face to the east or west. It is righteousness that you believe in Allah and the last day, and the angels and the books and the messengers."

I started my talk by quoting a verse of the glorious Qur'an from Surah Al-Imran, Chapter number 3, Verse number 64, which says,

قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ

"Say O people of the book,

تَعَالَوْا إِلَىٰ كَلِمَةٍ سَوَاءٍ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ

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

Which is the first term?

أَلَّا نَعْبُدَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ

"That we worship none but one Allah."

وَلَا نُشْرِكَ بِهِ شَيْئًا

"That we associate no partners with him."

وَلَا يَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضًا أَرْبَابًا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ ۗ

“That we erect not among ourselves, lords and patrons other than Allah.”

فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا

“If then they turn back,”

فَقُولُوا أَشْهَدُوا

“That you bear witness,

بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ

“That we are Muslims bowing only to *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*.”

This verse of the glorious Qur'an, I call it as the master key for doing Da'wah.

قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ

“Say O people of the book,

تَعَالَوْا إِلَىٰ كَلِمَةٍ سَوَاءٍ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ

“Come to common terms as between us and you.”

Which is the first term?

أَلَّا نَعْبُدَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ

“That we worship none but one Allah.”

وَلَا نُشْرِكَ بِهِ شَيْئًا

“That we associate no partners with him.”

وَلَا يَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضًا أَرْبَابًا مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ ۚ

“That we erect not among ourselves, lords and patrons other than Allah.”

فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا

“If then they turn back,”

فَقُولُوا أَشْهَدُوا

“That you bear witness,

بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ

“That we are Muslims bowing only to *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*.”

Let's analyze what do the Qur'an have to say about concept of God? The best reply any Muslim can give you regarding the concept of God in Islam is quote you Surah Al-Ikhlās, Chapter 112, Verse 1 to 4, which says,

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.

This is a four-line definition of *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*, of Almighty God given in the Qur'an. Any person says so and so candidate is God, if this candidate fits in this four-line definition, we Muslims have got no objection accepting that candidate as God. I discussed this point in great detail yesterday, so I won't spend much time on this.

A similar message about the concept of one God is even repeated in the Bible. If you read the Old Testament in the book of Deuteronomy, Chapter number 6, Verse number 4, Moses (pbuh), says,

Shama Israelu: "Adonai Ila Hayno Adonai Ikhad"

"Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord."

The same message is repeated when Jesus Christ (pbuh) was asked that which is the first of the commandments. He repeated the very bit of what was said by Moses (pbuh) earlier. It's mentioned in the gospel of Mark, Chapter number 12, Verse number 29. Jesus Christ (pbuh), says,

Shama Israelu: "Adonai Ila Hayno Adonai Ikhad"

"Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord."

The biggest sin in Islam is Shirk. Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah An-Nisa, Chapter number 4, Verse number 48, that if anyone associate partners with Allah-- Shirk means associating partners with God. Surah An-Nisa, Chapter 4, Verse number 48 says that

"Allah will not forgive anyone who associates partners with God. Any other sin, if he pleases, he will forgive, but the sin of Shirk, he'll never forgive. For this is the most heinous sin."

Allah repeats the message in Surah An-Nisa, Chapter number 4, Verse number 116.

“Allah will not forgive the sin of joining gods with Allah. Any other sin, if he pleases, he may forgive. For anyone who has joined gods with Allah has strayed away very far.”

Shirk is the biggest sin in Islam. Shirk is even prohibited-- Associating partners with God is even prohibited in the Bible. It's mentioned in the Bible in the book of Exodus, Chapter number 20, Verse number 3 to 5. God Almighty says,

"Thou shall have no other gods besides me. Thou shall not make unto thee any graven image of anything of any likeness in the heaven above, in the earth beneath, in the water beneath the earth. Thou shall not bow unto them, nor serve them, for I, thy God, thy Lord, is a jealous God."

The same message is repeated in the book of Deuteronomy, Chapter number 5, Verse number 7 to 9, where Almighty God says,

"Thou shall have no other gods beside me. Thou shall not make any graven image of anything, of any likeness in the heaven above, in the earth beneath, in the water beneath the earth. Thou shall not bow unto them, nor serve them, for I, thy God, thy Lord, is a jealous God."

If you read the Bible, you'll understand that Shirk, associating partners and making an image of God, is prohibited.

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 Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*. We believe that he was the Messiah, translated 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.

The Christians and the Muslims, we are going together. One may ask, then where is the parting of ways? The parting of ways is that most of the Christians, they believe that Jesus Christ (pbuh) he claimed divinity. Most of the Christians 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. If any Christian can point out anywhere from the Bible, any verse of the Bible, any unambiguous, any unequivocal statement from the Bible, where Jesus Christ (pbuh) himself says that I am God, or where he says worship me, I'm ready to accept Christianity.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** I'm not speaking on behalf of my other Muslim brothers and sisters. I'm ready to put my head on the guillotine. If any Christian can point out anywhere from the Bible, any verse of the Bible, any unambiguous, any unequivocal statement

from the Bible, where Jesus Christ (pbuh) himself says that I am God, or where he says worship me, I'm ready to accept Christianity.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** I'm not speaking on behalf of my other Muslim brothers and sisters. I'm ready to put my head on the guillotine. I'm a student of comparative religion. I've read the Bible. There is not a single unequivocal statement, 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, himself said-- It's mentioned in the Gospel of John, Chapter number 14, Verse number 28. Jesus Christ (pbuh) said,

"My Father is greater than I."

Gospel of John, Chapter number 10, Verse number 29,

"My Father is greater than all."

Gospel of Matthew, Chapter number 12, Verse number 28,

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

Gospel of Luke, Chapter number 11, Verse number 20,

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

Gospel of John, Chapter number 5, Verse number 30,

"I can of my own self do nothing. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just..."

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** ... for I seek not my will, but the will of my Father."

Anyone who says "I seek not my will but the will of Almighty God" is a Muslim. As I mentioned earlier in my talk, Muslim means a person who submits his will to God. Jesus Christ (pbuh) said in the gospel of John, Chapter 5, Verse number 30, "Not my will, but God's will be done." Jesus Christ (pbuh) was a Muslim. He never claimed divinity. He never said he was God.

In fact, he clearly mentioned in the gospel of Matthew, Chapter number 5, Verse number 17 to 20, Jesus Christ (pbuh) says,

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the Prophets; I have come not to destroy but to fulfil. And verily I say unto you, until the heaven and the earth pass away, not one jot or tittle shall pass away from the Law until all be fulfilled. And whosoever shall break one of the least commandments and teach men to do so shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven. And whosoever shall keep the commandments and teach the same will be called greater in the kingdom of heaven.



Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees, in no way shall you enter the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus Christ (pbuh) said, unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees, in no way shall you enter the kingdom of heaven. That means if you want to go to Jannah, if you want to go to heaven, you have to follow all the laws of the Old Testament, that God is one, God has got no images, everything. If you break one jot or a tittle from the Old Testament, from the law, you shall not enter Jannah.

It further mentions in the book of Acts, Chapter number 2, Verse number 22,

"Ye men of Israel, listen to this; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God amongst you by wonders and miracles and signs, which God did by him and you all witnessed to it."

"A man approved of God amongst you by wonders and miracles and signs, which God did by him and you all witnessed to it."

It's clearly mentioned that Jesus Christ (pbuh) was a man. He was a messenger of God. He was not God. It's this difference, this difference, if the Christians can read the Bible and understand correctly and interpret the Bible correctly, the Muslims and the Christians will be united, will become one. Only way is

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

Which is the first term?

أَلَّا نَعْبُدُ إِلَّا اللَّهَ

"That we worship none but one Allah."

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Al-Isra, Chapter number 17, Verse number 110,

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

Say, "Call upon Him by Allah, or by Rahman, by whatever name you call upon Him, to him belongs the most beautiful names."

You can call *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* by any name but it should be a correct name, the name given by himself. It should be a beautiful name. It should not conjure Him into picture.

There are no less than 99 names given to *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* in the Qur'an and the Sahih Hadith. Ar-Rahman, Ar-Raheem, Al-Hakeem, Most Merciful, Most Gracious, Most Wise. No less than 99. The crowning one is Allah. This message to Allah belongs the most beautiful names, besides Surah Al-Isra, Chapter 17, Verse number 110, it's also mentioned in Surah Al-A'raf, Chapter 7, Verse 180, in Surah Ta-ha, Chapter number 20, Verse number 8, as well as Surah Al-Hashr, Chapter 59,

Verse number 24, that to *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* belongs the most beautiful names.

We Muslims, we prefer calling Allah by the Arabic word Allah instead of the English word, God, because the Arabic word, Allah, is pure. A person can play mischief with the other words. For example, the English word God, if you add S to God, it becomes Gods, plural of God. There's nothing like plural of Allah. *Qul huwal laahu ahad*, Say, He is Allah, One and Only. If you add 'dess' to God, it becomes Goddess, meaning a female God. There's nothing like male Allah or female Allah in Islam. *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* has got no gender. If you add father to god, it becomes godfather. He's my godfather, he's my 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-Amami, Allah-mother in Islam.

That's the reason we Muslims, we prefer calling Allah by the Arabic word Allah instead of the English word, God. When a Muslim is speaking to the non-Muslims who may not be aware of the concept of *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*, and if he uses the English word God, I've got no problem. I like to remind them that God is not the appropriate translation of the Arabic word Allah.

This word, Allah, is mentioned in the scriptures of all the major world religions. It's even mentioned in the Bible. If you read the Bible, it's mentioned in the Bible in the gospel of Mark, Chapter number 15, Verse number 34, as well as gospel of Matthew, Chapter number 27, Verse 46. When Jesus Christ (pbuh) was put on the cross, he cried out,

"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?"

The translation is given, "O God, O God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

The original Hebrew word, the Aramaic language in which Jesus Christ (pbuh) spoke, *Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani* is present in all the translations of the Bible. Then they translate it into English, O God, O God, why hast thou forsaken me?

I'm asking you, does *Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani* sound like O God, O God, why hast thou forsaken me? Does *Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani* sound like Jehovah, Jehovah why hast thou forsaken me? If you translate it into Arabic, *Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani*, it is *Allah, Allah, lama tarkdhani*. You know Arabic and Aramaic, they're sister languages, Semitic languages. *Allah, Allah, lama tarkdhani* means *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*. If you refer to the Scofield dictionary or refer to the encyclopedia of the Bible, they will tell you Eli, it's spelled as Alah, A-L-A-H. Same, Allah, meaning God. We spell A-L-L-A-H, they spell A-L-A-H. It's the same. The word Allah is present even in the Bible. The Bible says Jesus Christ (pbuh), when he was put on the cross, he cried out *Alah, Alah, lama sabachthani*.

# SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY

By Dr Zakir Naik

## LESSON 4 – PILLARS OF ISLAM – SALAAH, ZAKAAH, SAUM AND HAJJ

The second pillar of Islam is *Aqimu Salaah*, to establish *Salaah*. In English, we normally translate *Salaah* as prayer. According to me, prayer is not the exact translation. To pray means to beseech, to ask honestly. If you refer to Oxford dictionary, it says to pray means to beseech, to ask honestly, like a person prays in the court of law. To pray means to ask for help. The other religions, they pray like, Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Or give us this day our daily bread. These are prayers.

What we do the Dua, that's called supplication. That is actually prayer. Prayer also means to supplicate. What we do Dua is actually prayer. In our *Salaah*, we don't only ask for help. Besides asking for help, we also thank Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala. We also praise him and we receive guidance from him. That is the reason I prefer calling prayer as programming towards righteousness. It's a sort of programming.

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Al-Ankabut, Chapter number 29, Verse number 45,

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

“Recite of what we have revealed to thee, my inspiration, and establish *Salaah*, for *Salaah* restrains you from shameful and unjust deeds.”

Qur'an says in Surah Al-Ankabut, Chapter 29, Verse 45, *Salaah* restrains you from shameful and unjust deeds. It is a sort of programming.

For example, if the Imam, after Surah Al-Fatiha, may recite Surah Al-Ma'idah, Chapter 5, Verse number 90, which says,

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا

“O you who believe.

إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ

Most certainly, intoxicants and gambling,

وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَمُ

Dedication of stone, divination by arrows,

رَجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ

These are satan's handiwork,

فَأَجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَفْلِحُونَ

Abstain from the handiwork that you may prosper.”

Here, we are being programmed that you should not have alcohol, that you should not gamble, you should do idol worship, you should not do fortune-telling. We are being programmed.

The Imam, after Surah Al-Fatiha, may recite Surah Al-Baqarah, Chapter 2, Verse 188, which says,

"Spend not your wealth on vanities, nor as bait for judges in order to eat other people's wealth."

That means bribing is Haram in Islam. You are getting programmed in your Salaah that do not bribe. We Muslims, we offer Salaah five times a day. There are various verses talking about that. Two verses are sufficient.

If you read Surah Al-Isra, Chapter number 17, Verse 78, it says that,

"Establish regular prayers at the decline of the sun, at the approach of the night, and in the morning."

It's also mentioned in Surah Ta-Ha, Chapter number 20, Verse 130 that,

"Praise thy God before the rising of the sun, before the setting of the sun, and in hours of night."

From these two verses, you can come to know a Muslim should minimum pray five times a day. *Fajr, Zuhr, Asr, Maghrib, and Isha*. Minimum five times a day.

The Bible says in the book of Daniel, Chapter number 6, Verse number 10 that you're supposed to pray three times a day. Jesus Christ (pbuh) said you have to pray unceasingly. It means whenever you want to pray, pray as much as possible.

When we Muslims enter the mosque, we take out our footwear. When we offer Salaah, we remove our footwear. This is a commandment given to Musa *Alayhi Salam*. It's mentioned in the Qur'an in Surah Ta-Ha, Chapter number 20, Verse number 11 and 12, that when Moses (pbuh) approaches the fire, he hears a voice,

"O Moses, I am your Lord. In my presence, put off thy shoes for thou art in the sacred valley of Tuwa."

A similar message is even given in the Bible. If you read the Bible, it's mentioned in the book of Exodus, Chapter number 3, Verse number 5. Almighty God is saying to Moses (pbuh),

"Draw not nigh hither, put off thy shoes from thy feet, for the place where thou standeth is holy ground."

The same message is repeated in the book of Acts, Chapter number 7, Verse number 33. Almighty God is saying to Moses,

"Put off thy shoes from thy feet for the place where thou standeth is holy ground."

Because this was a commandment given to Moses (pbuh), we Muslims, we take off our shoes before we offer Salaah.

Our beloved Prophet Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* also gave us permission to offer Salaah without footwear, as well as with footwear. It's mentioned in Sahih Hadith of Sunan Abu Dawood, Volume number 1, Book of Salaah, Chapter number 240, Hadith number 652. The beloved Prophet Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* said that,

"Do the opposite of what the Jews do. They always pray without the footwear."

That means the Prophet said you can pray with the footwear also.

In another Hadith, Sunan Abu Dawood, Volume number 1, Book of Salaah, Chapter number 240, Hadith number 653, Amr Ibn Shuaib, he said in the authority of his father, that his grandfather said, he saw the Prophet pray barefooted as well as with sandals and shoes. We Muslims, we can pray with our shoes on as well as without our footwear.

Qur'an says in Surah Al-Ma'idah, Chapter number 5, Verse number 6,

"*Yaaa aiyuhal lazeena aamanoo...*O you who believe, when you prepare yourself for Salaah, wash your face and your hands and arms up to the elbow. Rub your head with water and wash your feet up to the ankles."

Wudhu is compulsory for every Muslim before we offer Salaah. Doing ablution is compulsory for every Muslim before you offer Salaah.

This is also what is mentioned in the Bible. If you read the Bible in the book of Exodus, Chapter number 40, Verse number 31 and 32, it says,

"Moses and Aaron and his sons, they washed their hands and feet there at before they entered the temple of congregation. When they approached the altar, they washed as was commanded by their Lord."

It's mentioned in the book of Acts, Chapter number 21, Verse number 26.

"Paul, along with the other men, the next day, he purified himself and entered the temple as was commanded."

Even in the Bible, to do ablution before prayers is compulsory.

If following the teachings of Jesus Christ (pbuh) makes a person a Christian. If Christian means following the teachings of Jesus Christ (pbuh), I would like to tell

you that we Muslims are more Christian than the Christians themselves. The Christians don't do ablution before they pray. The Bible says that. Jesus Christ (pbuh) said you have to follow each and every law. We do ablution, we do Wudhu before Salaah, but the Christians don't do.

If Christian means following the teachings of Jesus Christ (pbuh) we Muslims are more Christian than the Christians themselves. 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), I'd like to tell you, we Muslims are more Christian than the Christians themselves.

Furthermore, it's mentioned in the Hadith of Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam*, the Hadith of Sahih Al-Bukhari, Volume number 1, Book of Adhan, Chapter 75, Hadith number 692, Hazrat Anas may Allah be pleased with him said that,

"When we stood for Salaah, the companions, our shoulders touch the shoulders of the other companion. Our feet tie the feet."

It's further mentioned in Sunan Abu Dawood, Volume number 1, in the Book of Salaah, Chapter number 245, Hadith number 666. The beloved Prophet said,

"Straighten your rows, stand shoulder to shoulder closing the gap, and do not leave any opening for the Shaitan, for the Satan, for the devil."

When we stand for Salaah, we Muslims, when we pray, we have to be shoulder to shoulder. It is the best example of universal brotherhood. Minimum five times a day. We Muslims don't only talk about universal brotherhood, but when we stand for Salaah, we practically demonstrate it minimum five times a day, irrespective whether you're king or a pauper, rich or poor. When you stand for Salaah, you stand shoulder to shoulder. Irrespective whether 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.

The best part of Salaah, it is the Sujood. Sujood is the best part of Salaah. The word Sajdah is mentioned in the Qur'an no less than 92 times and the Surah by the name of Surah As-Sajdah, Chapter number 32. Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Al-Imran, Chapter number 3, Verse 43,

يَمْرُؤِمَ أَفْتَى لِرَبِّكَ وَأَسْجُدِي وَأَرْكَعِي مَعَ الرَّاكِعِينَ

O Mary, worship thy Lord devotedly, prostrate thyself and bow down with those who bow down.

Allah repeats the message in Surah Al-Hajj, Chapter number 22, Verse number 77, that,

"*Yaaa ayyuhal lazeena aamanu...*O you who believe, bow down. Prostrate and adore your Lord so that you may prosper."

This best part of Salaah, Sajdah, is even mentioned in the Bible in several places. All the prophets of God, when they prayed, they did the Sujood. They did prostration. It's clearly mentioned in the Bible in the book of Genesis, Chapter number 17, Verse number 3,

"Ibrahim fell on his face and prayed to God." Peace be upon him.

It's mentioned in the book of Numbers, Chapter number 20, Verse number 6,

"Moses and Aaron, they fell on their face as they appeared in front of the Lord."

It's mentioned in the book of Joshua, Chapter number 5, Verse number 14, that

"Joshua (pbuh) fell on his face and prayed to God."

It's mentioned in the gospel of Matthew, Chapter number 26, Verse number 39. Jesus Christ (pbuh) in the Garden of Gethsemane, he took a few steps forward, he fell on his face and he prayed to God.

All the messengers. Now I'm asking you a question. Can any acrobat do better than the way we Muslims do fall on the face and pray to God?

The way we Muslims do Sajdah, there's no better way than falling on your face and praying to God. All the messengers, when they prayed, when they did their Salaah, they did Sujood. They prostrated. We Muslims, when we offer Salaah, we prostrate. It's the best part of Salaah. We don't see the Christians prostrating. If Christian means a person who follow the teachings of Jesus Christ (pbuh), I would like to say, we Muslims are more Christian than the Christians themselves.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** The third pillar of Islam, it is Zakat. It is compulsory for every rich Muslim who has a saving of more than Nisab level, of more than 85 grams of gold. He or she, every lunar year, once, he or she should give 2.5% of that excess wealth in charity every lunar year. It's called as Zakat. Zakat means to purify. It means to grow. Zakat is compulsory on every Muslim who has the saving of more than Nisab level, more than 85 grams of gold. If every rich human being in the world gives Zakat, poverty will be eradicated from this world. There will not be a single human being who will die of hunger.

The criteria who Zakat can be given is given in Surah At-Tawbah, Chapter number 9, Verse number 60, where it says, it can be given to the Fuqara', the poor. The Masakin, the needy. The Amilun, those who are collecting Zakat. Muallafat Al-Qulūb, those whose hearts are coming closer to Islam. Riqab, those who are in bondage. Freeing of slaves. Gharimin, debtor. It can be given to Ibnus-Sabil, the person who's a wayfarer, and Fisabilillah, in the way of Allah. These are eight categories where Zakat can be given.

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Al-Hashr, Chapter number 59, Verse number 7, the wealth does not circulate only amongst the rich. Zakat is compulsory in Islam so that there is equality and less of differences between the human beings.

The message of charity is also given in the Bible. If you read 1 Peter, Chapter 4, Verse number 8, it says,

"Give fervent charity for charity covers a multitude of sins."

Even in the Bible, giving charity is a requirement. It is compulsory.

The fourth pillar of Islam is Saum, fasting. Which is abstaining from food and drink from the beginning of dawn to sunset. It's called a fasting. Every Muslim who's healthy and who's adult should fast, abstain from drinking and eating from the dawn to the sunset for the complete lunar month, one full month, in the month of Ramadhaan every lunar year. Today the psychologists will tell us that if you can control your hunger, you can control almost all your desires.

Qur'an says in Surah Al-Baqarah, Chapter 2, Verse 183, that

"Fasting has been prescribed to you as it was prescribed to people who came before you so that you may learn self-restraint."

Qur'an says fasting has been prescribed to you as it was prescribed to people who came before you so that you may learn self-restraint, so that you may learn Taqwa. Today psychologists tell if you can control your hunger, you can control almost all your desire. Fasting is to increase your Taqwa, to increase your self-restraint.

There are various medical benefits of fasting. For example, by fasting you increase the intestinal absorption. By fasting, your cholesterol level is decreased. If you can abstain from smoking from dawn to sunset, you can very well abstain from smoking from the cradle to the grave. If you can abstain from having alcohol from dawn to sunset, very well you can abstain from having alcohol from the cradle to the grave. Fasting is also prescribed in the Bible. It's mentioned in the gospel of Matthew, Chapter number 17, Verse number 21, as well as gospel of Mark, Chapter number 9, Verse number 29, that fasting is prescribed.

The fifth pillar of Islam is Hajj. That's the pilgrimage. That every adult Muslim who has the means and has the health should perform Hajj at least once in his lifetime. Should perform the pilgrimage in the month of Hajj at least once in lifetime, going to Makkah. Hajj today is the biggest annual gathering of the world. Every year, more than 4 million people gather from different parts of the world, from USA, from Canada, from UK, from Malaysia, from Indonesia, from Pakistan, from India, from Bangladesh, from Nigeria, from South Africa, different parts of the world. More than 4 million people gather every year to perform Hajj.

The men, they're dressed up in two pieces of unsewn cloth, preferably white. You cannot make out the person standing next to you whether he's a king or a pauper, whether he's rich or poor. It is the best example of universal brotherhood, where people gather together with the call *Labbaik Allahumma Labbaik. Labbaik Allahumma Labbaik*. Here I am O my Lord at your service. Here I'm O my Lord at your service. It's the best example of universal brotherhood.

Going to Makkah is even mentioned in the Bible. If you read the book of Psalms, Chapter number 84, Verse number 4 to 7, it says,



"Blessed are those people who travel to the Valley of Baca."

Baca is another name for Makkah. The Bible says in the book of Psalms, Chapter number 84, Verse number 4 to 7, "Blessed are those people who travel to the Valley of Baca." This word is also mentioned in Surah Al-Imran, Chapter 3, Verse 96,

"the first house of worship is Baca, that is Makkah."

I'm asking you, do the Christians go to Makkah? The Muslims, we 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. If the pillars are strong, the structure will be strong, In Sha'Allah.

# SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY

By Dr Zakir Naik

## LESSON 5 – ISLAM IS A COMPLETE WAY OF LIFE

Ibadah comes from the root word Abd, which means to serve, which means slave. Ibadah means obedience. Ibadah doesn't mean only Salaah or Zakat or Hajj or Saum. Ibadah means when you obey the commandments of *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* you're doing Ibadah. If you follow the guidance given by *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* in the Qur'an, if you do all the things which has made it Fard to you, if you abstain from things which are prohibited, you are doing Ibadah. If you're following the commandments of Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam*, which is mentioned in Sahih Hadith, what he says Allah has told you, it's called as Ibadah.

Allah says in the Qur'an in Sural Ad-Dhariyat, Chapter 51, Verse 56,

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

“We have created the Jinns and the men not but to worship him.”

That means the Jinn and the men were created but to worship *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*. To do His Ibadah. Whatever commandment you follow given in the Qur'an and in the Sahih Hadith, it's called as Ibadah.

For example, Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Al-Ma'idah Chapter number 5, Verse number 90,

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا

“O you who believe.

إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ

Most certainly, intoxicants and gambling,

وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَامُ

Dedication of stone, divination by arrows,

رَجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ

These are satan's handiwork,

Abstain from the handiwork that you may prosper.”

Here, Allah is telling that you should not have alcohol, that you should not gamble, you should not do dedication of stones, should not do idol worship, that you should not do fortune telling. These are Satan's handiwork. Abstain from them that you may prosper. Alcohol is prohibited in the Qur'an.

Alcohol is even prohibited in the Bible. If you read the book of Proverbs, Chapter number 20, Verse number 1, it says,

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, whosoever is deceived is not wise."

It's mentioned in the book of Ephesians, Chapter number 5, Verse number 18.

“Do not be drunk with wine.”

If Christian means following the teachings of Jesus Christ (pbuh), the Bible says you have to follow each and every law of the Old testament. You should not drink alcohol. As a whole, most of the Christians have alcohol. As a whole, most of the 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.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** The Qur'an says in no less than four different places. In Surah Al-Baqarah, Chapter 2, Verse number 173, in Sural Al-Ma'idah Chapter 5 Verse number 3, in Surah Al-An'am, Chapter number 6, Verse number 145, and Surah An-Nahl, Chapter number 16, Verse number 115,

حُرِّمَتْ عَلَيْكُمُ الْمَيْتَةُ وَالْدَّمُ وَلَحْمُ الْخِنْزِيرِ وَمَا أُهْلَ لِغَيْرِ اللَّهِ بِهِ

“Forbidden for you for food are, dead meat, blood, the flesh of swine, and any food on which any name besides Allah's name is taken.”

حُرِّمَتْ عَلَيْكُمُ الْمَيْتَةُ وَالْدَّمُ وَلَحْمُ الْخِنْزِيرِ وَمَا أُهْلَ لِغَيْرِ اللَّهِ بِهِ

“Forbidden for you for food are, dead meat, blood, the flesh of swine, and any food on which any name besides Allah's name is taken.”

In these 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. If you read in the Bible, dead meat is prohibited in the Bible. It's mentioned in the book of Leviticus, Chapter number 17, Verse number 15, as well as the book of Deuteronomy, Chapter number 14, Verse number 21, that

“Eat not of the animal that dies of itself.”

Dead meat is prohibited.

Blood is prohibited in the Bible in no less than five different places.

In the book of Genesis, Chapter 9, Verse number 4, in the book of Leviticus, Chapter number 17, Verse number 14, 1 Samuel, Chapter number 14, Verse number 33, in the book of Deuteronomy Chapter number 12, Verse number 16, as well as the book of Acts Chapter number 15, Verse number 29.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** In no less than five places, it is mentioned that you should not have blood. Even pork is mentioned as prohibited in the Bible. It's mentioned in the book of Leviticus, Chapter number 11, Verse number 7 and 8 that

"The swine, though it divides its hoof and it's cloven-footed, it chews not its cud, it's unclean for you. That flesh, thou shall not eat. The carcass, thou shall not touch. It's unclean for you."

A similar message is repeated in the book of Deuteronomy, Chapter number 14, Verse number 8,

"That though the swine is cloven-footed, it chews not the cud. Thou shall not have its flesh nor touch its carcass, it's unclean for you."

Pork is also probably in the book of Isaiah, Chapter number 65, Verse number 2 to 5.

If Christian means following the teachings of Jesus Christ (pbuh), as a whole, most of the Christians they have pork. The relation, 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.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** The fourth thing which is prohibited that food on which any name besides Allah's name is taken. It's prohibited in the Bible in the book of Acts Chapter 15, Verse number 29, where it says,

"That thou shall not give any animal to the idols you shall not sacrifice nor do fornication."

It's also mentioned in the book of Revelation, Chapter number 2, Verse number 14, that having any food on which any name besides God's name is taken is prohibited.

If you follow the commandments of Almighty God, you're doing Ibadah. You're doing worship. If you're honest in your business, you are doing Ibadah. If you love your neighbour, you are doing Ibadah.

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Al-Ma'un, Chapter number 107, Verse number 1 to 7,

أَرَأَيْتَ الَّذِي يُكَذِّبُ بِآلَاتِنَا

فَذَلِكِ الَّذِي يَدْعُ الْيَتِيمَ  
وَلَا يَحِضُّ عَلَىٰ طَعَامِ الْمِسْكِينِ  
فَوَيْلٌ لِلْمُصَلِّينَ  
الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ  
الَّذِينَ هُمْ يُرَآءُونَ  
وَيَمْنَعُونَ الْمَاعُونَ

Which means that,

“Seest not thou, the one who denies the Judgment, who treats the orphan with harshness, who encourages not the feeding of the indigent, who is neglectful of the prayers, and prays only to be seen of men and woe to those who do not even provide neighbourly needs.”

The Qur’an says that woe to those people who do not help their neighbours. If you help your neighbours, you are doing Ibadah. You are serving *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala*.

Backbiting is prohibited. If you abstain from backbiting, you are doing Ibadah. Allah says in the Qur’an in Surah Al-Humazah, Chapter number 104, Verse number 1,

وَيْلٌ لِّكُلِّ هُمَزَةٍ لُّمَزَةٍ

“Woe to every kind of scandal-monger and backbiter.”

All says in Surah Al-Hujurat, Chapter number 49, Verse number 12, that

“if you speak ill about anyone behind the back, it is as though you're eating the flesh of your dead brother. Would you like to eat the flesh of your dead brother? Nay. You abhor it.”

Doing Ghibat, backbiting, is like eating the dead meat of your brother. It is double Haram. Eating dead meat is Haram, eating the meat of your brother, double Haram. If you abstain from backbiting, you are doing Ibadah.

If you serve your parents, you are doing Ibadah. Allah says in the Qur’an in Surah Al-Isra, Chapter number 17, Verse number 23 and 24,

“We have ordained for you that you worship none but Him and that you be kind to your parents. If one of them or both of them reach old age, don't say a word of contempt, but lower to them in the wing of humility and address them with honour and pray to the Lord that bless them as they cherished me in childhood.”

If you are kind to your parents and take care of your parents and not rude to them, you are doing Ibadah. You're worshiping *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala*.

Marrying is one of the requirements in Islam. If you marry, you are doing Ibadah. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam* said, it's mentioned in Sahih Al-Bukhari, Volume number 7 in the Book of Nikah, Chapter 3, Hadith 4, where the beloved Prophet said,

"O young people, whoever has the means to get married should get married."

The Prophet encouraged marriage. The Prophet also said,

"Anyone who does not marry is not of me."

If you're marrying, you're doing Ibadah, you're doing worship to *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*.

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah An-Nisa, Chapter 4, Verse number 19, that

"Treat your wives on a footing of equity and kindness even if you dislike her."

Treat your wife on a footing of equity and kindness even if you dislike her. Even if you don't like your wife, the Qur'an says you have to treat her kindly with justice. If you're kind to your wives, you are doing Ibadah. You're following the commandments of *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*. You're worshipping Him.

The Qur'an says in Surah Al-Isra, Chapter 17, Verse number 32,

"Come not close to adultery, for it is an evil opening other roads to evil."

Doing adultery is Haram. If you abstain from adultery, if you obtain from Zina, you are following the commandments of *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*. You are doing Ibadah. Being modest is Ibadah. Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah An-Nur, Chapter number 24, Verse number 30,

"Say to the believing man that he should lower his gaze and guard his modesty."

Whenever a man looks at a woman, any unashamed thought comes in his mind, he should lower his gaze.

The same message is given in the Bible. If you read the gospel of Matthew, Chapter number 5, verse number 27 to 28, Jesus Christ (pbuh) said,

"It has been said of the old times, thou shall not commit adultery. But I say unto you, whosoever looks upon woman to lust after her has already committed adultery in his heart."

Jesus Christ (pbuh) says that if you look at a woman to lust after her, you have already committed adult in your heart. That means staring at a girl, at a woman, at a non-Mahram is Haram in Islam. If you don't stare at a girl, if you lower your gaze while speaking to a woman, to a non-Mahram, then you're following the commandments of *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*. You're doing Ibadah.

Circumcision is one of the very important Sunah in Islam. Alhamdulillah, all the Muslim men are circumcised. The Bible also says circumcision is required. It's

mentioned in the book of Acts, Chapter number 7, Verse number 8, that you have to be circumcised and Abraham begot Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day.

It's mentioned in the Gospel of John, Chapter number 7, Verse number 22, that the law of circumcision was given to Moses.

It's mentioned in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter number 2, Verse number 21, that Jesus Christ (pbuh) was circumcised on the eighth day.

All the Muslim men are circumcised, but most of the Christians aren't circumcised. If Christian means following the teachings of Jesus Christ (pbuh) we Muslims are more Christian than the Christians themselves.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** That's the reason I say that we have to follow the law actually and practically. What Jesus Christ (pbuh) said in the gospel of Matthew, Chapter number 5, Verse number 17 to 20,

"Don't break one jot or tittle from the law. Even one jot or tittle if you break, you shall not enter heaven."

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

Let me tell you one thing. This word, Christian, was never heard by Jesus Christ (pbuh) ever in his life. Do you know that? This word, Christian, was never heard by Jesus Christ (pbuh) in his complete life. If you read the Bible, the word Christian only occurs once in the Bible in the book of Acts where the people of Antioch, they label the followers of Jesus Christ (pbuh) after his death as Christians. Christian is a nickname given by the people of Antioch for the followers of Jesus (pbuh) after his death. If Christian means a person who follows the teachings of Jesus Christ (pbuh), we Muslims are more Christian than the Christians themselves.

What is the meaning of Muslim? A Muslim is a person who submits his will to God. As Jesus Christ (pbuh) said, in the gospel of John, Chapter 5, Verse number 30, that not my will, but the will of my Father. Not my will but the will of Almighty God. So Jesus Christ (pbuh) said he was a Muslim. You don't have to follow your will. You have to follow the will of God. In this way, Jesus Christ (pbuh) was a Muslim, and we Muslims are more Christian than the Christians themselves. I would like to end my talk with the quotation of the glorious Qur'an from Surah Al-Ma'idah, Chapter number 5, Verse number 82, which says that

"Closest to the believers are those people who say we are Christians."

Wa Akhiru Da'wana. Alhamdulillah Rabbil Alameen.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Moderator:** Takbir. **Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

# SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY

By Dr Zakir Naik

## LESSON 6 – QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION – PART 1

**Moderator:** Masha'Allah. Now we'll be going into question and answer session. Now to analyze the topic, similarities between Islam and Christianity adequately for all present here today, in the limited time available, we would like the following requirements and guidelines to be followed, if possible. The first of them is that the questions asked should be on the topic that Dr Zakir Naik has given. The second is that the questions must be relevant to the topic. Any general question on religion will not be allowed. It must be relevant to the topic that the Sheikh or Dr Zakir has given. For our non-Muslim brothers and sisters, they can ask any question they like.

The third, kindly state your question briefly and to the point. The fourth, only one question will be taken at a time. After the first question is taken, you have asked your first question, you want to take a second one, you have to go to the back of the line and start from there. The fifth, non-Muslim brothers and sisters will be given first preference to ask the questions. The sixth, there are three microphones that we have in the hall. One here by my left for the brothers, one by the right for the sisters, and one in the middle, also for the brothers. The seventh and final condition, please, we would like you to kindly state your name and profession before you put your questions forth.

May we have the first question, please, by the left? We are going to go in an anti-clockwise direction from here to the sisters and then back. Can we have the first non-Muslim brother, please, to give the question to Dr Zakir Naik? You will state your name clearly and your profession. While asking your question, please do not stand too close to the microphone. Stand at a bit of a distance so we can hear you properly. Please, before we start and Bifadhlihi Ya Sheikh, or with your honour, there is someone that is here that wants to take *Kalimatu Shahada*.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Moderator:** We would like the Sheikh to be the one to give this person the means to take the *Kalimatu Shahada*. Can we have the person come forth, please? Is the person here now? Okay. Please, can you state your name? All right. Listen to Dr Zakir, please.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Sister, please may I know your name?

**Joy:** My name is Joy.



**Dr Zakir Naik:** Joy. Sister, do you believe that there is one God?

**Joy:** Yes.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Jesus is God (pbuh)?

**Joy:** No.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Jesus Christ (pbuh) is the messenger of God?

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Jesus Christ (pbuh) is the messenger of God?

**Joy:** Yes.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Prophet Muhammad is the messenger of God (pbuh)?

**Joy:** Yes.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Is anyone forcing you to accept Islam?

**Joy:** No.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Is anyone putting any pressure on you?

**Joy:** No.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** You are accepting Islam out of your free will?

**Joy:** Yes.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Okay, sister. I'll just say in Arabic and you repeat it.

**Joy:** Okay.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Ashadu.

**Joy:** Ashadu.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Allah.

**Joy:** Allah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Ilaha.

**Joy:** Ilaha.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Illallah.

**Joy:** Illallah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Wa Ashhadu.

**Joy:** Wa Ashhadu.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Anna.

**Joy:** Anna.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Muhammadan.

**Joy:** Muhammadan.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Abduhu.

**Joy:** Abduhu.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Wa Rasuluhu.

**Joy:** Wa Rasuluhu.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** I bear witness. I bear witness. Repeat the translation, sister. I bear witness.

**Joy:** I bear witness.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** That.

**Joy:** That.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** There is no God.

**Joy:** There is no God.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** But Allah.

**Joy:** But Allah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** And.

**Joy:** And.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Prophet Muhammad.

**Joy:** Prophet Muhammad.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Is.

**Joy:** Is.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** The messenger.

**Joy:** The messenger.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** And servant of God.

**Joy:** And servant of God.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Masha'Allah, sister. You have become a Muslim. I pray to *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* that may He grant you Jannah.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** You have just entered the family of more than 1.6 billion Muslims in the world. I welcome you, sister, and I pray to *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* that may He grant you Jannah, and through you, may He let other people also come to Islam. Thank you, sister.

**Joy:** Hadiza.

**Female Attendant:** She said her new name is Hadiza.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Masha'Allah. That's a very good name. That was the wife of Prophet Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam*.

**Moderator:** Can we have the second sister, please?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Yes, sister. Most welcome. What's your name, sister?

**Eunice:** My name is Eunice.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Eunice. Sister, do you believe there is one God?

**Eunice:** Yes.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Jesus is God?

**Eunice:** No.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe that Jesus is the messenger of God?

**Eunice:** Yes.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Prophet Muhammad is a messenger of God?

**Eunice:** Yes.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Is anyone forcing you to accept Islam?

**Eunice:** No.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Are you accepting Islam out of your own free will, sister?

**Eunice:** Yes.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** I'll just say in Arabic and you repeat it, sister.

**Eunice:** Okay.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Ashadu.

**Eunice:** Ashadu.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Allah.

**Eunice:** Allah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Ilaha.

**Eunice:** Ilaha.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Illallah.

**Eunice:** Illallah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Wa Ashhadu.

**Eunice:** Wa Ashhadu.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Anna.

**Eunice:** Anna.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Muhammadan.

**Eunice:** Muhammadan.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Abduhu.

**Eunice:** Abduhu.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Wa Rasuluhu.

**Eunice:** Wa Rasuluhu.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** I bear witness. I bear witness.

**Eunice:** I bear witness.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** That.

**Eunice:** That.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** There is no God.

**Eunice:** There is no God.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** But Allah.

**Eunice:** But Allah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** And.

**Eunice:** And.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Prophet Muhammad.

**Eunice:** Prophet Muhammad.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Is the messenger.

**Eunice:** Is the messenger.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** And servant of Allah.

**Eunice:** And a servant of God.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Masha'Allah. Masha'Allah.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** May *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* grant you Jannah, sister. Now, In sha'Allah, we'll start the question-answer session. Is there any non-Muslim on the microphone on my left? Yes, brother. Most welcome.

**Innocent:** My name is Mr Innocent Ngobwehe. I'm an ICT consultant. I specialize in information security. My question is this, and I'm making reference to the main portion of the Bible you read, which was from John, Chapter 14, and I'm specifically hitting on Verse 26. It says, "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." My question is, in your lecture, you were making reference that this Comforter, which Jesus Christ said will come after him, is Muhammad.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Correct.

**Innocent.** In this particular version of the Bible, it was specific that the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost. I'm at variance and probably I might want some clarifications from you. Thank you, sir.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Brother has asked the question, he's quoting gospel of John, Chapter number 14, Verse number 26, that the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, he will show you things to come. Here, if you analyze, if you go ahead and read in gospel of John, Chapter number 16, go ahead. Gospel of John, Chapter number 16, Verse number 7. It says, "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth, it is expedient for you that I go away. For if I go not away, the Comforter shall not come. For if I depart shall I send him."

The criteria for the Comforter to come, this Comforter, what he's talking about, is that he should depart. Holy Ghost is there. We aren't disagreeing with that, but this thing, what I'm talking about in gospel of John, Chapter 14, Verse number 16 and gospel of John, Chapter 15, Verse number 26, and gospel of John, Chapter number 16, Verse number 7, "For nevertheless, I tell you the truth, it is expedient for you that I go away. For if I go not away, the Comforter shall not come." The criteria for the comforter to come is that Jesus Christ (pbuh) should depart. Only if he departs can he send him.

This Holy Ghost was already present at the time of Jesus (pbuh). He was present before Jesus Christ (pbuh) was born. He was there in the womb of Elizabeth. He was there when Jesus Christ (pbuh) was being baptized. Surely, this Comforter cannot mean that Holy Ghost we're talking about. It is someone who's going to come in future. It is not the Holy Spirit you're talking about. It cannot be that. It will be a contradiction.

That is the reason Jesus Christ (pbuh) is saying "Futhermore--" in the gospel of John, Chapter number 16, Verse number 12 to 14, "I have many things to say unto you but you cannot bear them now. For, He, when the Spirit of truth shall come..." not has come. Future, shall come. When He, when the Spirit of truth-- He. He is again for a man. He. He you don't call for Holy Ghost. He is for a man. He, when the Spirit of truth shall come, He shall show you things to come. He shall glorify me. He, he, he, he. Surely, it is a-

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** That's a reason to say that the Holy Ghost is the Comforter not to understand the Bible correctly. I'm giving you references. You have it in your hand. I don't have it in my hand. I'm giving you references. Based on this, what we say, this Comforter, the Paraclete which is mentioned in the Bible, refers to no one but the last and final messenger Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). I hope you're convinced, brother. There is a contradiction. It is saying, after I depart, he will come.

**Innocent:** True.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Holy Ghost was already present. Was Holy Ghost present at the time of Jesus Christ (pbuh)? Yes or no. Was he there or not? Do you know your Bible?

**Innocent:** Yes, I do.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** He was there. Here, it says only after he goes will he come.

**Innocent:** Can I ask one more question? I'm still trying to place it in perspective. Could the Bible be contradicting itself?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Yes. There are many contradictions in the Bible. I know that. I know that Bible there are many contradictions. According to *Awake Magazine*, Jehovah's Witnesses, there are more than 50,000 errors in the Bible. How many? 50,000. Who says that? *Awake*, a Christian magazine. 50,000. You call it the word of God. I don't call Bible the word of God. I don't call Bible the word of God. For me, the Qur'an is the word of God.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** I challenge you to take out a single contradiction in the Qur'an. Qur'an says in Surah An-Nisa, Chapter 4, Verse number 82,

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

“Do they not consider Qur'an with care? Had it been from anyone besides Allah, there would have been contradictions.”

The Qur'an doesn't have a single contradiction. The Qur'an doesn't have any mistakes. I've given a talk.

**Innocent:** Okay, sir. For me, I quite understand you.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** If there is a contradiction, you have to leave the Bible and follow the pure book.

**Moderator:** Sorry. There's another person to take.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** If Bible has got contradiction, you leave the Bible and follow a book which is 100% pure. For example, if in a glass of water, pure water, I add one drop of urine, will you drink it?

**Innocent:** No.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** If you don't know, you may drink it. If I hide it and stir it, you won't come to know. Correct?

**Innocent:** True.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** If you know, will you drink it? If I add in front of you.

**Innocent:** I wouldn't.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Now when you have come to know Bible has got mistakes, do you still believe in the Bible?

**Innocent:** I believe in the Bible.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Why do you believe and there are so many contradictions? Can God make a mistake?

**Innocent:** I want to believe that maybe our understanding might be different.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Yet in the Bible, there are remnants of truth. There are certain things which are truth. Jesus Christ (pbuh) said, "I have many things to say unto you but you cannot bear them now. For He, when the Spirit of truth shall come, he shall guide you unto all truth." He was talking about Prophet Muhammad. You follow Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), follow the Qur'an, and you'll be a very good true Christian.

**Innocent:** Okay. Thank you very much. I want to believe that I understand you clearly-

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Masha'Allah. Very good.

**Innocent:** -but for me, I do not believe there is any contraction in the Bible. I believe the Bible is the word of God that is meant to bring men unto understanding. If we do not have that perfect understanding of the Bible, we might be derailed. Most of your teachings, which I quite see, shows that there is probably some derail in humanity because God is God.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** There is what? There is?

**Innocent:** God is God. We humans, we are not God. We're only trying to be what God has made us to--

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Brother, the Bible was revealed for God or for human beings?

**Innocent:** I didn't get you, sir.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** The Bible was revealed for God or for human beings?

**Innocent:** The Bible was given to human beings.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** For human beings. If you mean we can't understand, what's the use of this Bible then? There are many mistakes. For example, if you read Genesis. If you read the book of Genesis, Chapter number 1, Verse number 16 to 19, it says that Almighty God made two lights, the greater light, the sun, to rule the day, and the lesser light, the moon, to rule the night. I'm asking the question, Bible says the moon has its own light. I'm asking, does the moon have its own light?

**Innocent:** I'm sorry. I didn't get that.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Is the light of the moon its own light or reflected light?

**Innocent:** To my own understanding, I want to believe the moon takes light from the sun.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Correct. It's not its own light. Correct?

**Innocent:** That's scientific.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** That is scientific. That is what Qur'an says. Qur'an says in Surah Al-Furqan, Chapter 25, Verse number 61, the light of the moon is not its own light. If you read Genesis, Chapter number 1, Verse number 16 to 19, it says the light of the moon is its own light. How comes the mistake is there? I've given a talk, Qur'an and Bible in the Light of Science and I've pointed out hundreds of scientific errors. Time does not permit me now, and neither do I want to do this here in public. You'll see my video cassette and then you--

**Innocent:** Sir?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** You'll see my video cassette.

**Innocent:** No, sir.



**Dr Zakir Naik:** I'm asking you to see it. Go on the YouTube, google it. It's a debate between myself and Dr William Campbell. Qur'an and Bible in the Light of Science. You'll get more enlightened, In sha'Allah.

**Innocent:** Thank you very much, sir.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** You're welcome.

**Moderator:** We are going back to the right here for another sister. You can state your name and your profession and then pose what you want to pose.

**Yemisi:** My name is Yemisi Timothy.

**Moderator:** You were here yesterday, I believe.

**Yemisi:** Yes.

**Moderator:** All right.

**Yemisi:** I came here and I asked a question and I was convinced with what the doctor said yesterday. On getting home, I asked some of my guardians about it. I was like, okay, there are some portions of the Bible that state-- In short, from Genesis to Revelation of the Bible, the way the women dress, everything about them was perfect with the way the Islam women dress also.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Yemisi:** I now concluded in my mind that if the Muslims should truly-- If the women are following the perspective of the Bible, why then the Christians are not doing it? I'm convinced with that, that if they're doing so, then why am I also in Christianity, since they're not following what the Bible stated?

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Yemisi:** What I was now scared of that yesterday, I was like, sir, if I should convert to Muslim, the fact is that I'm a novice in it, I don't know anything about it, where will I start from? They now made me to understand that that is not a problem if I should convert. I've decided to convert to an Islam.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** May Allah reward you, sister, and may Allah bless you that you asked so many questions yesterday and now you have got convinced about Islam and about the dress code of the women. Masha'Allah. Sister, do you believe there is one God?

**Yemisi:** Yes, I do.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Jesus is God?

**Yemisi:** No.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Jesus is the messenger of God?

**Yemisi:** Yes, I do.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Prophet Muhammad is the messenger of God?

**Yemisi:** Yes, I do.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Is anyone forcing you to accept Islam?

**Yemisi:** Sir?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Is anyone forcing you to accept Islam?

**Yemisi:** No, no, no.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Are you doing out of your own free will?

**Yemisi:** Yes. I'm doing it really from my heart.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Okay, sister. I will say in Arabic and you repeat it.

**Yemisi:** Sir?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** I will say it in Arabic and you repeat it.

**Yemisi:** Okay.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Ashadu.

**Yemisi:** Ashadu.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Allah.

**Yemisi:** Allah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Ilaha.

**Yemisi:** Ilaha.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Illallah.

**Yemisi:** Illallah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Wa Ashhadu.

**Yemisi:** Wa Ashhadu.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Anna.

**Yemisi:** Anna.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Muhammadan.

**Yemisi:** Muhammadan.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Abduhu.

**Yemisi:** Abduhu.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Wa Rasuluhu.

**Yemisi:** Rusu--

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Luhu.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** I bear witness.

**Yemisi:** I bear witness.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** That.

**Yemisi:** That.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** There is no God.

**Yemisi:** There is no God.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** But Allah.

**Yemisi:** But Allah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** And.

**Yemisi:** And.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Prophet Muhammad.

**Yemisi:** Prophet Muhammad.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Is.

**Yemisi:** Is.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** The messenger.

**Yemisi:** The messenger.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** And servant.

**Yemisi:** And servant.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Of Allah.

**Yemisi:** Of Allah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Masha'Allah, sister. You have become a Muslim.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** May Allah grant you Jannah. The sister rightly said, due to shortage of time, I did mention about Hijab. I did mention about modesty for the man, but due to shortage of time, I skipped the modesty for the women. If you read the Qur'an, the Qur'an mentions in Surah An-Nur, Chapter number 24, Verse number 31, "Say to the believing woman that she should lower her gaze and guard her modesty, and display not her beauty, except what appears ordinarily off, and to draw her veil over the bosom."

There are basically six criteria for Hijab. The first is the extent. For the man, it's from the navel to the knee. For the woman, the complete body should be covered. The only part that can be seen are the face and the hands up to the wrist. The remaining five criteria are the same for the man and the woman. The clothes they wear, it should not be tight so that it reveals the figure. Third, it should not be transparent or translucent so that you can see through. Fourth, it should not be so glamorous so that it attracts the opposite sex. Fifth, it should not resemble that of the unbeliever. Sixth, it should not resemble that of the opposite sex.

This is exactly what the Bible says. The sister rightly said, if you read the book of Deuteronomy, Chapter number 22, Verse number 5, it says, "The woman shall not wear clothes that which pertaineth to a man, and neither should the man wear clothes of the woman. Anyone who do that are doing an abomination." It's mentioned in the 1 Timothy, Chapter number 2, Verse number 9, "The woman should be dressed up with modesty, with shamefacedness and sobriety. They should not be dressed up with costly array, with gold, with pearls, and with braided hair." It's further mentioned in the 1 Corinthians, Chapter number 11, Verse number 5 to 6, "The woman who prays and uncovers the hair, she dishonours the head."

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Sister, I'm quoting the Bible. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians, Chapter number 11, Verse number 6 to 7, "The woman that prays and uncovers the head, she dishonours the head. Her head should be shaved off." According to the Bible, if a woman that does not cover her head and she prays, her head should be shaved off. That means Bible is more strict even than the Qur'an where her head been covered. That is the reason if you see the photograph of Mother Mary, you see the photograph of Mother Mary, she's dressed up just like a Muslimah. Her complete body is covered. The only parts that are seen are the face and the hands up to the wrist. JazakAllah, sister, and may Allah reward you and may Allah grant you Jannah, sister.

**Moderator:** Please, sister, before you leave the stage, your name, we knew you as Yamisi. What is the name you have chosen now?

**Yemisi:** Aisha.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Masha'Allah. Aisha, may Allah be pleased with her, Aisha is also the name of one of the wives of the Prophet. May Allah grant sister Aisha Jannah and may she be the path to get other people to Jannah, In sha'Allah.

**Moderator:** In sha'Allah. Please, women in Da'wah, we would like you to handle the sisters. We want to take another question from the brothers here before we continue. Please tell us your name and your profession.

**Ayo Adikola:** My name is Ayo Adikola. I'm a Christian. At the same time, I'm a student. My question is, is there any place stated in the Qur'an that Muslims should not eat meat that is slaughtered by a Christian?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Brother asked the question that is there anywhere mentioned in the Qur'an that Muslims should not have meat slaughtered by the Christian? There's no verse in the Qur'an which says Muslims should not have meat slaughtered by the Christian. It says, have the meat on which Allah's name is taken. If you slaughter according to the Bible-- As I mentioned in my lecture, having blood is Haram in the Bible. It's forbidden. If you'd see the Jews, the Orthodox Jews, when they do *Kosher*, they do it in the correct manner. Same as the Muslims do. They cut the jugular vein, they take the name of Almighty God.

If you slaughter according to the Jewish method, the Kosher method, that is Halal. If you do it the *Jhatka*, just by slaughtering without cutting the jugular vein, not taking the name of Almighty God, it is prohibited. Whether a Christian does it, whether a Hindu does it, whether a Muslim does it. Even if Muslim slaughters against the style mentioned in the Qur'an and in the Hadith, it is Haram. Even if a Muslim give *Jhatka* just by electrocution or just by cutting by one chop, it is prohibited. You have to cut in the way it is prescribed in the Qur'an and the Sahih Hadith. I hope that answers the question, brother.

**Moderator:** Can we go back to the sister there? State your name, your profession, and if you have a question for Sheikh, please go ahead.

**Rose:** My name is Rose. I'm a businesswoman. I want to be converted.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Sister, did you ask a question yesterday?

**Rose:** No, sir.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe there is one God?

**Rose:** Yes, sir.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Jesus is God?

**Rose:** No.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Jesus is the messenger of God?

**Rose:** He's the messenger of God.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Prophet Muhammad to be the messenger of God?

**Rose:** Prophet Muhammad is the messenger of God.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Is anyone forcing you to accept Islam?

**Rose:** No, sir.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Are you doing out of your own free will?

**Rose:** Yes, sir.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Okay, *Inshallah*. I will say in Arabic and you can repeat it, sister.  
*Ashadu.*

**Rose:** *Ashadu.*

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Allah.

**Rose:** Allah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Ilaha.*

**Rose:** *Ilaha.*

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Illallah.*

**Rose:** *Illallah.*

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Wa Ashhadu.*

**Rose:** *Wa Ashhadu.*

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Anna.*

**Rose:** *Anna.*

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Muhammadan.*

**Rose:** *Muhammadan.*

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Abduhu.*

**Rose:** *Abduhu.*

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Wa Rasuluh.*

**Rose:** *Wa Rasuluh.*

**Audience:** [applause]

**Dr Zakir Naik:** I bear witness.

**Rose:** I bear witness.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** That.

**Rose:** That.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** There is no God.

**Rose:** There is no other God.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** But Allah.

**Rose:** But Allah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** And Prophet Muhammad.

**Rose:** And Prophet Muhammad.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Is.

**Rose:** Is.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** The messenger.

**Rose:** Is the messenger.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** And servant of Allah.

**Rose:** And a servant of Allah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Mashallah*, sister. You've become a Muslim. May Allah *Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* grant you *Jannah* and may He, through you, let other people come to the fold of Islam also. *Jazakallah*, sister. May Allah reward you.

**Moderator:** Sorry. *Salaam Alaikum*. We have known your name before as Rose. Can you tell us your new name from today that we will all know you as?

**Rose:** Zaynab.

**Audience:** [applause]

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Mashallah*. The name is Zaynab. I think all the sisters are choosing the names of the wives of the Prophet. Khadijah was the name of the wife of the Prophet, Aisha was the name of the wife of the Prophet, Zaynab was the name of the wife of the Prophet. *Mashallah*. May Allah guide them and make them closer to the lifestyle Ummahaatul Mu'mineen. *In sha Allah*.

# SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY

By Dr Zakir Naik

## LESSON 7 – QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION – PART 2

**Moderator:** Let's take a question. Please, can you state your name and profession?

**Manasseh Adaka:** My name is Manasseh Adaka. I'm a student. My question is, I've seen good Christians and I've seen good Muslims. A good Christian believes after leaving this contemporary world, he is going to rest with God in heaven. I want to know, if a good Muslim dies, is he also believing to go and rest with God in heaven? I've seen a lot of similarities in the Bible and Qur'an. We, Christians, we believe after leaving this contemporary world, we're going to heaven. I want to know where a good Muslim is going to rest. Is it in heaven or [crosstalk]?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** The brother asked a very good question. He said that if a good Christian dies, in the hereafter, he'll go to heaven and meet God. What will happen to a good Muslim? A good Muslim, if he dies, he'll go to heaven and he will meet God. 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 virtue of *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*. We would be eager to see the face of Almighty God. If good Christian, as I mentioned, following the teachings of Jesus Christ (pbuh) not to do *Shirk*, not to believe in other god, then he'll go to heaven. If he says that Jesus is God, according to Islam, he will not go to heaven. Do you believe Jesus is God?

**Manasseh:** I believe in Jesus.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** That means you're going against the teachings of Jesus (pbuh). You should not go to heaven. Jesus Christ (pbuh) said in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 5, verse number 20, "Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes then the Pharisees, you shall never enter the kingdom of heaven." If you want to go to heaven, you cannot believe Jesus is God. If you believe Jesus is God, you cannot go to heaven according to the Bible.

Do you believe Jesus is God? Where did Jesus say he's God? Peace be upon him. Where did he say? Can you point out to me a single verse in the Bible where Jesus Christ (pbuh) himself says that he's God or he says worship me? One unequivocal statement.

**Manasseh:** He don't say he's God. He says he's the Son of God.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** A son of God means a godly person. God has got sons by the tons. If you read the Bible, Adam was son of God, Ephraim was son of God, Israel was son



of God. According to the book of Romans chapter 8 verse number 14, "As many are led by the Spirit of God, they're sons of God." If you follow the Godly commandment, you are called son of God. If I follow the Godly commandment, I'm called son of God. In that way, I've got no problem. In believing that he's a godly person, I believe. Even you're son of God, even I'm son of God, but not the begotten son, not the begotten. Do you believe Jesus is the begotten son of God?

**Manasseh:** Sir, I believe in what I read, sir.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** What do you read?

**Manasseh:** I read the Bible and I understand the Bible.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** I'm quoting from the Bible. Nowhere in the Bible did Jesus Christ (pbuh) says he's God. Son of God means godly person. Then anyone who follows the commandment of God is called son of God. We have got no problem in that. If you say the begotten son, there is a statement in the old version of the Bible. If you read King James Version and the other older versions of the Bible, gospel of John chapter 3 verse number 16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, whosoever believe in him shall not die but have everlasting life."

According to the Revised Standard Version, revised by 32 Christian scholars of the highest eminence, backed by 50 different corporate and Christian denominations, they say this word, 'begotten', was an interpolation, was a fabrication, was a concoction. They've removed it from the Bible. If you read the Revised Standard Version, revised by 32 scholars, Christian scholars of the highest eminence, backed by 50 different corporate denominations. Today, Revised Standard Version is the bestseller in the world. That Bible says that the word begotten was an interpolation, was a fabrication, was a concoction, and they removed it from the Bible.

Now it's not there in the Bible. How come you believe in it? If you say, as far the teachings of Romans chapter 8 verse number 14, "As many as are led by the spirit of God, they're sons of God" in that way, no problem. If you follow commandment of God, if I follow commandment of God, we are called sons of God in the language of the Bible. No problem, but not the begotten son. We believe you are the messenger of God. There's a difference between begotten son and messenger. Do you believe Jesus was the messenger or begotten son?

**Manasseh:** Sir, because there's a place, I read in the Bible that says nobody come to the Father except through Jesus.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Correct. Brother is quoting his gospel of John chapter number 14, verse number 6.

**Audience:** [applause]

**Dr Zakir Naik:** "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but through me." This is the verbatim quotation of gospel of John chapter number 14, verse number 6. "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but through me." To know the context, you have to start from verse number 1.

Gospel of John chapter 14 verse number 1 says that "If your heart is troubled, be not troubled. If you believe in God, believe in me also."

Jesus Christ is saying. "If your heart is troubled, if you believe in God, believe in me also. For in my father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I wouldn't have told you. I'm going there to prepare a place for you. When I go, I will call you. You know where I go." Then Thomas says, "No, we don't know the way." Then Jesus Christ (pbuh) says, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but through me." That means at every given time, whoever was the messenger of God, he was the way, the truth and the life. No man came unto Almighty God, but through the messenger.

At the time of Moses, Moses (pbuh), was the way, the truth, and the life. No man came unto Almighty God but through Moses (pbuh). At the time of Jesus (pbuh), verily, he was the messenger of God at that time. He was the way, the truth, and the life. No man came unto Almighty God but through Jesus (pbuh). Jesus also said in gospel of John, chapter number 16, verse number 12-14, "I have many things to say unto you, but he cannot bear them now. For He, when the Spirit of truth shall come, He shall guide you unto all truth."

Jesus Christ (pbuh) said, there's another messenger going to come. Today, the last and final messenger is Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Today, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), is the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto Almighty God but through the way of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Brother, do you believe Prophet Muhammad is the messenger of God? Jesus Christ said you have to believe in him. If you don't believe in him, that means you're not following Jesus Christ (pbuh).

**Manasseh:** Sir, I've not read the Qur'an before. I've not even read a Qur'an before. I've just been invited by my friend to witness this occasion.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Correct.

**Manasseh:** I can only understand what I've read before. Maybe if I've taken my time now to read the Qur'an, I'll be able to believe.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Please, brother, read the Qur'an. Like the sister yesterday, she asked me many questions. She did not believe. When she went home, she found out what I was saying was the truth, and she today came and she accepted Islam. Even today brother, go back home, read the translation of the Qur'an. I'd request the organizers to give you a copy of the English translation of the Qur'an. Read it, understand it. When your doubts are clear, please feel free to accept Islam. I hope that answers the question, brother.

**Moderator:** Thank you. Now we'll go back to the sister over here. Please, can you state your name, your profession, and you can pose your question or what you have to say.

**Endurance Jackson:** Sir mentioned that when God called Moses, he told him that, "Moses, Moses, this place you're standing is a holy ground, so you should pull off your shoes." My question is, was Moses praying when God called him? According to Genesis chapter 24, from 1 down, we were made to understand that Moses was

trying to run away because of the affliction of his people that were being afflicted in the land of Egypt. On his way, God called him. Moses saw a bush burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. When he went closer, that was when the voice came.

We were made to understand that Moses was not praying. He went closer. That was when God told him to pull off his shoes because where he's standing is a holy ground. My question, I still repeat, was Moses praying when God called him?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Sister has asked a very good question. She asked the question, when Almighty God spoke to him, quoting the book of Exodus chapter number 3, verse number 5, and the book of Acts chapter number 7, verse number 33-- I'm giving you the references, sister. That was Moses praying when God spoke? No. When God spoke, no. At that time, Moses (pbuh), was scared. He was running away. He was even scared of the fire. Then when the voice came, he realized that this is a voice from God.

It said Almighty God spoke to Moses that "Draw not nigh hither." Draw not nigh hither means come not close. "Put off thy shoes from thy feet, for the place where thou standest is holy ground." That means now Almighty God is telling him, don't get scared. Don't come close. Remove your shoes. Then you'll be standing in the place which is holy ground. Moses first was scared. When Almighty God spoke, he realized, "Oh, now I need not get scared. This is Almighty God who's speaking to me." Then he tells him to remove the shoes.

That's the reason the Jews, whenever the Jews pray, the Jews always remove the footwear when they pray. Why? Because they follow the commandment what was given by Almighty God to Moses. Muslims do the same. That's the reason after this time, whenever the Jews prayed, they always removed their footwear. The Christians, unfortunately, don't follow the Old Testament. Why? I don't know. That's the reason after Moses came to know that this was Almighty God speaking, all the time, whenever he prayed after that, he always removed his footwear and he always did ablution like what is mentioned in the Bible, like what the Jews do, like what the Muslims do. I hope that answers the question.

**Endurance:** I'm still not convinced, sir. Sir, I asked--

**Dr Zakir Naik:** You asked me the question, was Moses praying? I said no. At that time, he was not praying. You asked me, was he praying? I said no. What's there to be convinced about it? After that, I told you, when he came to know it was God's voice, then he removed his footwear. After that, whenever he prayed, he removed his footwear. That's what the Jews did. At that time, he was not aware. That's the reason he was scared. When he got convinced that this is God speaking, whenever he prayed after that, he did the *Sujood*, he prostrated. He also took off his footwear. He also did ablution, same like the Jews take of their footwear, same like the Muslims do.

**Moderator:** Do we have any non-Muslim brother? Okay, then we go back to the non-Muslim sister there. Please, you can pose your question. Your second question.

**Endurance:** My second question goes like this-- My name still remains sister Endurance Jackson. It is stated in the Bible that in the beginning, God created Adam and Eve. He created one man, one woman. Why is it allowed in Islam that they should marry more than one wife, when in the beginning, God creates only a man and a woman?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Sister asked the question, in the beginning, God created one man and one woman, Adam and Eve. Then why in Islam a Muslim can have more than one wife? Sister, if you read the Qur'an, Qur'an is the only religious book on the face of the earth which says marry only one. There is no other religious book on the face of the earth which says marry only one besides the Qur'an. If you read the Bible, if you read the *Vedas*, the Hindu scriptures, the Bhagavad Gita, the Jewish scriptures, nowhere does it say marry only one except the Qur'an.

If you read the Hindu scriptures, if you read Ramayan, King Dasharatha was father of Shiram, he had more than one wife. If you read Mahabharata, Sri Krishna, he had 16,108 wives. If you read the Bible, Solomon had 700 wives. How many? 700 wives, according to the Bible. Abraham had three wives, according to the Bible. It is later on, the church, church has put a restriction that Christians should marry only one. It is the Jewish Rabbi Gershom ben Judah passed a law that Jews should marry only one. According to the Bible, you can marry as many as you want. There is no upper limit. 10, 100, 500, 700, no problem.

In Islam, there's a restriction. Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah An-Nisa chapter 4, verse number 3, marry a woman of your choice in twos, threes, or fours, but if you can't do justice, marry only one. Marry a woman of your choice in twos, threes, or fours, but if you can't do justice, marry only one. Why has *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* in Islam given permission for some men to have more than one wife? The reason is that by nature, if you analyse, male and female are born in equal proportion.

If you ask any paediatrician, any doctor of the children, he will tell you that the female child is a stronger sex as compared to the male child. The female child can fight the germs and diseases much better than the male child. In the paediatric age itself, in the childhood itself, there are more deaths among the male children as compared to female children. As life goes on, there are deaths due to accidents, due to wars, due to alcoholism, due to drug addiction. There are more males dying as compared to females. Today in the world, there are more females as compared to males. The female longevity, the female lifespan, is much more than the male lifespan.

Today, in few countries, maybe in China or India, in few countries, the female population is less than the male population. The reason is because of female infanticide and female feticide. In India, according to a BBC report, every year, more than 1 million foetus are being aborted after they identify that they're females. Out of every 10 females born in Tamil Nadu government hospitals, the report says 4 are put to death. If this evil practice of killing girls, female infants, and female foetuses is stopped, even in India and China, the population of females will become more than the male population.

Today in New York alone, there are 1 million females more than males. In USA alone, there are 5 million females more than males. In Germany alone, there are 1.5

million females more than males. In UK alone, there are 1 million females more than males. In Russia alone, there are 10.3 million females more than males. God alone knows how many millions of females are more than males throughout the world. If I agree with you, sister, that one man should only marry one woman, at the time of Adam and Eve, there was one man and one woman. Today it's not the case. Today, there are more females than males.

If I agree with you that one man should marry only one woman and suppose your sister, or suppose you happen to live in America, or my sister happens to live in America, and if the market is saturated, every man has found a woman for himself, yet there'll be 5 million females in USA who will not find husband. The only option remaining for them is that they either marry a man who already has a wife or become public property.

Who's a public property? Such a hash word. This is the most sophisticated word I can use, sister. There's no better word I can use. The only option is that you either marry a man who already has a wife or become public property. Any modest woman should prefer marrying a husband who already has a wife than become public property. I hope that answers the question, sister.

**Moderator:** Please, brother, you will state your name, your profession, and you can pose your question before the doctor.

**Moses Arak:** I'm Moses Arak. Evangelist Moses. I'm into horticulture and also, I'm a missionary. I want to ask two questions. Number one question is, is Muslim really practice forgiveness? If they practice forgiveness, how can a Muslim will marry a woman and then divorce her, marry another one, divorce her, marry the third one, and they will still have one problem or the other. Is that religion really a true one? I want to know whether they really practice forgiveness.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Brother Moses asked a very good question. He asked the question that, do Muslims practice forgiveness? If they practice forgiveness, how can a Muslim brother marry a woman, then divorce her, then marry another woman, then divorce her, then marry another woman? How can he? In most of the religions, divorce is not permitted, but in the Bible, Jesus Christ (pbuh) said-- it's mentioned in the gospel of Matthew chapter number 5, verse number 31-32. It says that "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."

Gospel of Matthew chapter number 5, verse number 31-32, "It has been said of the old times that thou shall give a beloved divorce, but I say unto you, you shall not divorce your wife until she commits fornication." It means in the Jewish law, 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 the Bible, according to Jesus Christ (pbuh) you can give divorce if you find out that your wife has committed fornication. The rules keep on changing.

In Islam, divorce is permitted. It's not compulsory. It's not encouraged. It's discouraged. Amongst one of the things which God almighty hates is a divorce. It is as the last resort. If a Muslim is divorcing a woman because she's not good or she does not give him his rights, or does fornication, et cetera, according to the Bible, it is

right. According to Qur'an also it is right. If the woman is good, and yet if the man divorces, then it is wrong on his part. If both are good and both 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 from one side. It can either be only from the husband's side, it can be mutually from both the parties, or it can be only from the wife's side. Divorce is not a stigma.

Maybe there are possibilities, both of them can be good. Both the husband and wife can be good, but they may not be compatible. If they're not compatible and if the life part is not good, they can part and they can find new partners. She finds a new husband; he finds a new wife. What is wrong in this? If a person, just to ill-treat the woman, purposefully divorces and marries someone else, and divorces just to ill-treat her, then he's wrong. He's not following the Qur'an. He's not following Islam.

**Moderator:** Thank you. Can we go to the next brother here, please? You ask your question.

**Innocent Gobwehe:** My names are Innocent Gobwehe. I'm an ICT consultant. I specialize in information security. I wanted to know what is the genesis of the Qur'an? How did it really come about? That is one. Then secondly, what is the place of *Jihad* in Islam linking to this belief that once you die fighting *Jihad*, he gets seven virgins? Maybe you could help throw more light on those two questions. Thank you.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** The first question brother asked is that what is the genesis of the Qur'an? How did the Qur'an come about? Qur'an is the last and final revelation of *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*, which was revealed to the last and final prophet, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The Qur'an was first revealed to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). What was revealed to him, he repeated it and the scribes wrote it down.

What was revealed, he repeated it, he memorized it, he told his companions to write it down. This is the compilation. It is the word of God. God revealed it to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Whatever was revealed to him, he memorized it, he repeated it, he told his companions to write it down, they wrote it down, and then this is how the book form came. It is the last and final revelation of Almighty God revealed to the last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Regarding the second question, what is the concept of *Jihad*, and in *Jihad*, if someone dies, he gets seven women? *Jihad* in Arabic means to struggle to strive. The most misunderstood word in Islam today is *Jihad*. It's not only misunderstood among the non-Muslims, it's even misunderstood among the Muslims. Most of the Muslims and non-Muslims think any war fought by any Muslim for any reason, it's called a *Jihad*. *Jihad* does not mean any war fought by any Muslim for any reason, whether it be for personal gain, whether it be for wealth, whether it be for land.

*Jihad* means to strive and struggle. In Islamic context, *Jihad* means to strive and struggle against one own evil inclination. *Jihad* also means to strive and struggle to make the society better. *Jihad* also means to strive and struggle against oppression.

*Jihad* also means to strive and struggle in the battlefield in self-defence. *Jihad* basically means to strive and struggle.

Regarding your main question, that what does it mean that if you die in *Jihad* you get seven brides or seven women? There's nothing like if you die in *Jihad*, you'll get-- If you die, you go to *Jannah*, if you are striving and struggling, for anything. What I'm doing's also *Jihad*. I'm striving and struggling to convey the message of Allah to the people. Even I'm doing *Jihad*. What I'm doing, I'm struggling, I'm sweating. Coming all the way thousands of miles from India, trying to convey the message of Allah to you, I'm doing *Jihad*. If Allah accepts my *Jihad*, then I will go to *Jannah*, *In sha'Allah*. If He accepts. If He accepts.

Now, one of the ways that while you are struggling and fighting in the battlefield and that time also you die, that time also you go to *Jannah*. It is not only while fighting. Even today, if I strive and struggle to convey the message and if Allah accepts it, I'll go to *Jannah*. When you go to *Jannah*, there are many things. You'll have good things, you'll have good food, you'll have all the luxury. Besides that, you'll even get women there.

That is a concept even in the Bible. All the good things you'll get in heaven when you go. Even the women will get good things. Not only the men. Like the question that was asked to Hazrat Aisha, may Allah's peace be with her, a woman asked her, that if the men, when they get *Hur*-- the Arabic word is *Hur*. If the men get *Hur* in *Jannah*, what will the women get? She replied, women will get that what the heart hasn't desired. The women will get that what the heart hasn't desired, what the eye hasn't seen, what the ear hasn't heard. That means they'll get something really good.

In short, when you go to *Jannah*, you get many good things. For example, Qur'an says you'll get pomegranates, you'll get dates, you'll get rivers of milk flowing. The dates are not the same dates what you get in this world. The pomegranate is not the same pomegranate what you get here. Even the women that you find here, the beautiful women, there you'll get much more beautiful women. That is *Jannah*.

Even the pomegranates the Qur'an talks about is not the pomegranates that you and I can buy from the market. It's not the dates that you and I can buy from the market. It is something exclusive, something different, something superb. Even the women that will get something superb and even the women what they get, what the heart hasn't desired, even they will enjoy life. As long as you follow the commandment of Allah in the Qur'an and the sayings of the Prophet, you'll go to *Jannah* and get all the good things in *Jannah*. I hope that answers the question.

**Moderator:** Thank you.

**Innocent:** Sorry sir. One more. Sorry. Please, just for the last time, please. For the last time. For the last time, please.

**Moderator:** No, let's go-- This sister has been standing there for long. Please, we would like to have a question from that sister over there. Thank you.

**Questioner 1:** My final question. According to sir, he said that when Jesus Christ was speaking about the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit was already in the earth where

Jesus Christ was. I want to ask, where was the Holy Spirit? According to the Bible, we are made to understand, when Jesus Christ was speaking, he said, "I will go and I'll send you a comforter. That that comforter will come to teach you the right way." I want to ask, where was the Holy Spirit then?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Sister has asked a very good question, that when Jesus Christ (pbuh) said that I will send you another comforter, where was Holy Spirit? Holy Spirit was there in the world that time. That's what I told you. Holy Spirit was there before Jesus Christ (pbuh) was born. The Bible says the Holy Spirit was there in the womb of Elizabeth before Jesus Christ (pbuh). It was there when Jesus Christ (pbuh) was baptized. It was there in many places.

Surely, this comforter, what Jesus Christ (pbuh) is speaking about in the gospel of John chapter number 16, verse number 7 and gospel of John chapter number 16, verse number 12-14, refers to no one but the last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). It says, "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth, it is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not over, the comforter shall not come. If I depart, he'll send him."

Again, it's mentioned in the gospel of John chapter number 16, verse number 12 to 14, "I have many things to say unto you, but you cannot bear them now, for He, when the Spirit of truth shall come, He shall guide you on towards truth. He shall glorify me. He shall show you things to come." He, he, he. It's a man. The Holy Spirit was already there. That's the reason this comforter in no way can refer to the Holy Spirit. It's a misunderstanding. This comforter, what Jesus Christ (pbuh) is talking about, is no one but the last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). I hope that answers the question.

**Moderator:** Thank you.

**Questioner 1:** Please, I want to be clarified.

**Moderator:** Can we have another question?

**Questioner 1:** Is the Holy Spirit, the comforter we are talking about, has he come or is he yet to come?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Sister, the Holy Spirit, according to the Bible, was already there before Jesus Christ (pbuh) came. Was already there. The comforter has already come. What Jesus Christ (pbuh) is talking is about the comforter will come, that comforter is Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). He came about 1,400 years back.

As I told you, Islam is the only non-Christian faith which makes an article of faith to believe in Jesus Christ (pbuh). The only messenger that praise Jesus Christ (pbuh) is Prophet Muhammad *Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam*. He's mentioned by name in the Qur'an no less 25 times. There's a full chapter called as Surah Maryam, named only on the mother of Jesus (pbuh). This comforter to come is Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

**Moderator:** Thank you.



# SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY

By Dr Zakir Naik

## LESSON 8 – QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION – PART 3

**Moderator:** We would like to go to the next question here or the next brother here. Mr. Innocent, can you ask your question?

**Innocent:** Sir, in the context of *Jihad* being defined as a strive and struggle, did the Qur'an specifically state modus operandi, that in defining *Jihad*, if you go beyond this point, you are no longer doing *Jihad*. That is one. Then secondly, is there anywhere in Qur'an where it is defined in heaven that there is sex, male and female? If there is, I would like to know the specific sections of the Qur'an. Thank you.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Brother asked the question, is there any specific verse in the Qur'an which says that beyond there, there is no *Jihad*? There are many verses. Many. For example, the Qur'an says that strive and struggle until there is no oppression and transgression. If the oppression is gone and yet you keep on fighting, it is wrong. In *Jihad*, you cannot cut down trees, you cannot harm women, you cannot kill old men that did not come for the war. All these are rules laid down. If you kill a woman in *Jihad* who has not come to the battlefield.

Many a times, you go and you fight and you win the war and you kill the women, kill the children, kill the old men, that *Haram* in Islam. You cannot break down temples, you cannot break down monasteries. There are many rules and regulations. It is called *Qital*. *Qital* means fighting. *Qital* is one of the forms of *Jihad*. *Jihad* means to strive and struggle. *Qital* is one of the types of *Jihad* that is called as fighting. There are many rules and regulations. If they ask for peace, then you have to make peace.

Like Qur'an says in Surah At-Tawbah chapter 9 verse number 5, in the battlefield, when the non-Muslims come, when the enemies come, fight them. Verse number 6 of Surah At-Tawbah chapter 9 say, but if they want peace, give it to them. Escort them place of security. If the enemies in the battlefield want peace, don't just let them go. Escort them to a place of security so that they may hear the word of Allah. If they want peace and yet you fight, it is wrong.

Regarding does the Qur'an say that you'll have sex in the heaven? In the heaven, the life will be different. The same question was asked to Jesus Christ (pbuh) in the Bible. When a woman marries a man, the husband dies. Again, she marries again. Again, husband dies. Again, she marries. She had seven husbands. Someone asked Jesus Christ (pbuh) "Who will have her in heaven?" Jesus Christ said it will not be the same. Sex is there but not the same as what we know. It'll be something better, something different.

Bible also says that, Qur'an also says that. It will not be the same as you and I think. What you and I think of the maiden, the maiden in the heaven it'll be much more better. I hope that answers the question.

**Questioner:** Thank you very much. May God bless you, sir.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Are there any non-Muslim sisters and brothers who'd like to ask a question?

**Female Speaker:** No.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Any non-Muslim brothers or sisters from the audience who'd like to ask a question? This is the opportunity. Please come and ask. You're most welcome to ask any questions on the topic, outside the topic. By the time you're coming to the microphone, as promised, we'll give chance to the reverts. Those who have converted, we'll give them a chance.

**Moderator:** We have a brother here.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Yes, brother.

**Moderator:** Isa Albert. You can ask your question. You can state your profession since we all know your name, what do you do, and then ask your question. Thank you.

**Isa Albert:** I'm a consultant in the oil and gas sector. Then my question goes as, if I am talking to my friends and associates who are Christians, they always ask me one question. If you go down, according to the gospel of Genesis chapter 1, verse 26, it says, "And God said, 'Let us make man in our own image'." It says, "And God said, 'Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea'." That's the part A.

Now, my question is, "Let us make man in our own image." That was in the creation of Adam and Eve according to the Bible. If God say, "Let us make man in our own image", it then means that God was not alone. How many are they? It has to do with the divinity. That's where I'm confused. Thank you.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Brother asked the question that when the Bible says, let us, when God uses the word us, let us make man in his image, us means there was more than one God. Brother, in many languages, there are two types of plural. Plural of numbers and plural of respect. In English, when we speak, there's plural of number and plural of respect. Plural of numbers would be that many people are there, so we say "we." If there's more than one, 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 royal plural.

Same thing in Hindi. When in Hindi we say my, my means singular, [Hindi language] is for plural number also is royal plural. When Rajiv Gandhi used to speak, he used to say [Hindi language]. We want to see. Same thing in English. There are two types of plural. One is plural of number, one is plural of respect or royal plural. Same thing Qur'an says, [Arabic language]. We have revealed the Qur'an. 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. Royal plural. Same thing when in the Bible they say, God, when he says, we, it is royal plural. It is not plural of number. I hope that answers the question.

**Moderator:** Thank you. We move to the next brother.

**Isa:** Sir, I want to understand what the divinity means. The question say--

**Moderator:** Sorry, brother. You've asked one. Let's come to this brother here. He has also been waiting.

**Isa:** He's not answering the question.

**Moderator:** Can you ask your question, brother?

**Muhammad Sabastian Igwe:** My name is Muhammad Sabastian Igwe. I was an evangelist, but I was reverted to the faith one month ago. What I wanted to ask is, since my lifetime, I've never seen a Muslim preach. In fact, my area, if it's not that God has programmed that I would be part of the Islam world, I wouldn't have been part of it because I stay for two months thinking on what to do because so many problems in Christianity.

What I wanted to ask is, the way Christians do preach the gospel everywhere, is it allowed in the Muslim world? That is number one. Number two, in my area, it's only the Hausas that are there. The communication part of it is difficult. How do we reconcile this so our people can be able to embrace the truth?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** The brother asked the question that he was a Christian missionary, and he knows many Christian missionaries preaching the gospel and the Bible. In Islam, is it allowed for us to preach? Not allowed. It is compulsory. One of the furth of Islam is that you should convey the message to those who are unaware of it. If you take it as a profession, it is the best profession in the world.

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Fussilat chapter 41, verse number 33,

وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ قَوْلًا مِّمَّنْ دَعَا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا وَقَالَ إِنَّنِي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ

"Who is better in speech than one who invites to the way of the Lord, invokes righteousness and then says I'm a Muslim."

The best profession, brother, is to preach.

I was a medical doctor. Today, in the world, doctor is supposed to be the best profession, next to God. It is good, *Alhamdulillah*, but according to the Qur'an, according Allah, the best profession is profession of *Dai*. When I came to know, I changed from a doctor of body to doctor of soul. Now, *Mashallah*, once even, I used to go and preach, go to churches, speak with priests, go knock at the door and talk. Now, *Mashallah*, Allah has blessed. Now we do on a bigger level. We do in public, we do on the satellite.

Brother, regarding your question, can you go, yes, you should go. It's compulsory to be at least a part-time *Dai*. If you want to be a full-time *Dai*, it is the best job. Best

profession is to keep on preaching the Qur'an and preaching Allah's message. You said in the language of Hausa, correct? Hausa. Hausa is maybe the local language of this country. What I would say that you take the translation of the Qur'an in your local language, in the Nigerian language, in Hausa. I'm sure there'll be a translation. You preach that because we require preachers in local languages.

I speak English, I speak Urdu, I speak Hindi, but not Hausa. I would request you that you become a full-time *Dai*. Previously, you used to preach the wrong faith. Now you preach the right faith. *Inshallah*, Allah will bless you and make things easy for you, and may Allah get more people come toward Islam through your hands, *Inshallah*.

**Moderator:** We are going back to the right here for another sister. You can state your name and your profession and then pose what you want to pose.

**Yemi Sitimoti:** My name is Yemi Sitimoti.

**Moderator:** You were here yesterday, I believe.

**Yemi:** Yes.

**Moderator:** All right.

**Yemi:** I came here and I asked a question and I was convinced with what the doctor said yesterday. On getting home, I asked some of my guardians about it. I was like, okay, there are some portions of the Bible that state-- In short, from Genesis to Revelation of the Bible, the way the women dress, everything about them was perfect with the way the Islam women dress also.

**Audience:** [applause]

**Yemi:** I now concluded in my mind that if the Islam is should truly-- If the women are following the perspective of the Bible, why then the Christians are not doing it? I'm convinced with that, that if they're doing so, then why am I also in Christianity, since they're not following what the Bible stated?

**Audience:** [applause]

**Yemi:** What I was now scared of that yesterday, I was like, sir, if I should convert to Muslim, the fact is that I'm a novice in it. I don't know anything about it. Where will I start from? They now made me to understand that that is not a problem if I should convert. I've decided to convert to an Islam.

**Audience:** [applause]

**Dr Zakir Naik:** May Allah reward you, sister, and may Allah bless you that you asked so many questions yesterday, and now you have got convinced about Islam and about the dress code of the women. *Mashallah*. Sister, do you believe there is one God?

**Yemi:** Yes, I do.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Jesus is God?

**Yemi:** No.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Jesus is the messenger of God?

**Yemi:** Yes, I do.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Prophet Muhammad is the messenger of God?

**Yemi:** Yes, I do.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Is anyone forcing you to accept Islam?

**Yemi:** Sir?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Is anyone forcing you to accept Islam?

**Yemi:** No, no, no.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Are you doing out of your own free will?

**Yemi:** Yes. I'm doing it willingly from my heart.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Okay, sister. I will say in Arabic and you repeat it.

**Yemi:** Sir?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** I will say it in Arabic and you repeat it.

**Yemi:** Okay.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Ashadu.*

**Yemi:** *Ashadu.*

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Allah.

**Yemi:** Allah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Ilaha.*

**Yemi:** *Ilaha.*

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Illallah.*

**Yemi:** *Illallah.*

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Wa Ashhadu.*

**Yemi:** *Wa Ashhadu.*

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Anna.*

**Yemi:** *Anna.*

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Muhammadan.

**Yemi:** Muhammadan.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Abduhu.*

**Yemi:** *Abduhu.*

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Wa Rasuluh.*

**Yemi:** Rusu-

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Luh.*

**Audience:** [applause]

**Dr Zakir Naik:** I bear witness.

**Yemi:** I bear witness.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** That.

**Yemi:** That.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** There is no God.

**Yemi:** There is no God.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** But Allah.

**Yemi:** But Allah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** And.

**Yemi:** And.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Prophet Muhammad.

**Yemi:** Prophet Muhammad.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Is.

**Yemi:** Is.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** The messenger.

**Yemi:** The messenger.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** And servant.

**Yemi:** And servant.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Of Allah.

**Yemi:** Of Allah. [02:19:55]

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Mashallah*, sister. You have become a Muslim. May Allah grant you *Jannah*. The sister rightly said, due to shortage of time, I did mention about hijab. I did mention about modesty for the man, but due to shortage of time, I skipped the modesty for the woman. If you read the Qur'an, the Qur'an mentions in Surah Nur 24:31, say to the believing woman that she should lower her gaze and guard her modesty and display not the beauty, except what appears ordinarily of, and to draw her veil over the bosom.

There are basically six criteria for hijab. The first is the extent. For the man, it's from the navel to the knee. For the woman, the complete body should be covered. The only part that can be seen are the face and the hands up to the wrist. The remaining five criteria are the same for the man and the woman. The clothes they wear, it should not be tight so that it reveals the figure. Third, it should not be transparent or translucent so that you can see through. Fourth, it should not be so glamorous so that it attracts the opposite sex. Fifth, it should not resemble that of the unbeliever. Sixth, it should not resemble that of the opposite sex.

This is exactly what the Bible says. The sister rightly said, if you read the book of Deuteronomy chapter 22:5, it says, the woman shall not wear clothes that which pertaineth to a man, and neither should the man wear clothes of the woman. Anyone who do that are doing an abomination. It's mentioned in the 1 Timothy 2:9, "The woman should be dressed up with modesty, with shame-facedness and sobriety. They should not be dressed up with costly array, with gold, with pearls, and with braided hair." It's further mentioned in the 1 Corinthians 11:5-6, "The woman who prays and uncovers the hair, she dishonours the head."

[applause]

Sister, I'm quoting the Bible. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 11:6-7, "The woman that prays and uncovers the head, she dishonours the head. Her head should be shaved off." According to the Bible, if a woman that does not cover her head and she prays, her head should be shaved off. That means Bible is more strict even than the Qur'an where her head been covered. That is the reason if you see the photograph of Mother Mary, you see the photograph of Mother Mary, she's dressed up just like a Muslimah. Her complete body is covered. The only parts that are seen are the face and the hands up to the wrist. JazakAllah, sister, and may Allah reward you and may Allah grant you *Jannah*, sister.

**Moderator:** Please, sister, before you leave the stage, your name, we knew you as Yamisi. What is the name you have chosen now?

**Aisha:** Aisha.

[applause]

**Dr Zakir Naik:** *Maashaa* Allah. Aisha is also, may Allah be pleased with her. Aisha is also the name of one of the wives of the Prophet. May Allah grant sister Aisha *Jannah* and she be the path to get other people to *Jannah*, In Shaa Allah.

**Moderator:** In Shaa Allah. Please, women in Da‘wah, we would like you to handle the sisters. We want to take another question from the brothers here before we continue. Please tell us your name and your profession.

**Ayo:** My name is Ayo Adikola. I'm a Christian. At the same time, I'm a student. My question is, is there any place stated in the Qur'an that Muslims should not eat meat that is slaughtered by a Christian?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Brother asked the question that is there anywhere mentioned in the Qur'an that Muslims should not have meat slaughtered by the Christian? There's no verse in the Qur'an which says Muslims should not have meat slaughtered by the Christian. It says, have the meat on which Allah's name is taken. If you slaughter according to the Bible, as I mentioned in my lecture, having blood is Haram in the Bible. It's forbidden. If you'd see the Jews, the Orthodox Jew, when they do Kosher, they do it in the correct manner. Same as the Muslims do. They cut the jugular vein, they take the name of Almighty God.

If you slaughter according to the Jewish method, the Kosher method, that is Halal. If you do it the *Jhatka*, just by slaughtering without cutting the jugular vein, not taking the name of Almighty God, it is prohibited. Whether a Christian does it, whether a Hindu does it, whether a Muslim does it. Even Muslim slaughters against the style mentioned in the Qur'an and in the Hadith, it is Haram. Even a Muslim give *Jhatka* just by electrocution or just by cutting by one chop, it is prohibited. You have to cut in the way it is prescribed in the Qur'an and the Sahih Hadith. I hope that answers the question, brother.

**Moderator:** Can we go back to the sister there? State your name, your profession, and if you have a question for Sheikh, please go ahead.

**Rose:** My name is Rose. I'm a businesswoman. I want to be converted.

[applause]

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Sister, did you ask a question yesterday?

**Rose:** No, sir.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe there is one God?

**Rose:** Yes, sir.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Jesus is God?

**Rose:** No.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Jesus is the messenger of God?

**Rose:** He's the messenger of God.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Prophet Muhammad to be the messenger of God?

**Rose:** Prophet Muhammad is a messenger of God.



**Dr Zakir Naik:** Is anyone forcing you to accept Islam?

**Rose:** No, sir.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Are you doing out of your own free will?

**Rose:** Yes, sir.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Okay, In Shaa Allah. I will say in Arabic and you can repeat it, sister. Ash-hadu.

**Rose:** Ashadu.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** An Laa.

**Rose:** An Laa.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Ilaaha.

**Rose:** Ilaaha.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Illallah.

**Rose:** Illallah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Wa Ash-hadu.

**Rose:** Wa Ash-hadu.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Anna.

**Rose:** Anna.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Muhammadan.

**Rose:** Muhammadan.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Abduhu.

**Rose:** Abduhu.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Wa Rasuluh.

**Rose:** Wa Rasuluh.

**Audience:** [applause]

**Dr Zakir Naik:** I bear witness.

**Rose:** I bear witness.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** That.

**Rose:** That.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** There is no God.

**Rose:** There is no other God.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** But Allah.

**Rose:** But Allah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** And Prophet Muhammad.

**Rose:** And Prophet Muhammad.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Is.

**Rose:** Is.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** The messenger.

**Rose:** Is the messenger.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** And servant of Allah.

**Rose:** And a servant of Allah.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Maashaa Allah, sister. You've become a Muslim. May Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala grant you Jannah and may He, through you, let other people come to the fold of Islam also. Jazakallah, sister. May Allah reward you.

**Moderator:** Sorry. Assalaamu Alaikum. We have known your name before as Rose. Can you tell us your new name from today that we will all know you as?

**Rose:** Zaynab.

**Audience:** [Takbeer]

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Maashaa Allah. The name is Zaynab. I think all the sisters are choosing the names of the wives of the Prophet. Khadijah was the name of the wife of the Prophet, Aisha was the name of the wife of the Prophet, Zaynab was the name of the wife of the Prophet. Maashaa Allah. May Allah guide them and make them closer to the lifestyle of the Ummahaatul Mu'mineen. In Shaa Allah.

**Moderator:** Can we have the next sister there? We understand we have a non-Muslim sister that would like to ask a question. Can you state your name and your profession, please?

**Hope:** Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Hope and I'm a student. My question is, where is it written in the Bible about the coming of Prophet Muhammad just like it is written in the Qur'an about the coming of Jesus Christ?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Sister asked the question where it is written in the Bible about coming of Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam like it is mentioned in the Qur'an about

Jesus Christ (pbuh). There are several verses that I give and I shall repeat it for your benefit. There are various places. I'll just give the references. In the Old Testament, it's mentioned the book of Deuteronomy chapter 18:18, in the book of Deuteronomy 18:19, in the book of Isaiah 29:12, in the Songs of Solomon 5:16.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), is even prophesied in the New Testament. In the gospel of John 14:16, in the gospel of John 15:26, in the gospel of John 16:7, gospel of John 16:12-14. For more details, you can refer to my tape. I've written even articles on Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam in the Bible and Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam in the various religious scriptures, which will give you more details. Sister, do you believe in Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)?

**Hope:** Sorry?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Prophet Muhammad is the messenger of God?

**Hope:** Yes, he's a messenger of God.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Jesus is messenger or Jesus is God.

**Hope:** Messenger of God.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Messenger of God. Do you believe that God is one?

**Hope:** Yes, I believe that God is one.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do you believe Jesus is God?

**Hope:** Son of God.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Is he messenger of God or is he God?

**Hope:** The both.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Both?

**Hope:** Yes.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** If you read the Bible, sister, nowhere in the Bible Jesus ever said (pbuh), "I am God" or he says, "Worship me." In my lecture, I explicitly pointed out Jesus never claimed divinity. It is a misunderstanding of the Christians. He never claimed to be God. He was only messenger of God, sister. I would request you to go back and read your Bible and hear my videocassettes. It's clearly mentioned Jesus is not God, but only the messenger of God, sister. I hope that answers the question.

**Hope:** Please, one last question. Is Prophet Muhammad Ishmael in the Bible?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** The sister has asked a question, is Prophet Ishmael mentioned? Yes, he's mentioned. If you read the Bible, the name of Prophet Ishmael is there. He was the son of Abraham Alaihi Salaam. I hope that answers the question.

**Moderator:** Thank you. Can we go to the next person here, please. The next brother. You state your name, your profession, and then you pose your question.

**Sule:** My name is [unintelligible 02:29:05] Sule. I'm a Muslim. I'm a teacher by profession. My question goes, is it allowed for a Muslim woman to preach in Islam? Is it accepted, in the public, sir?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Brother asked the question, can a Muslim woman preach in Islam? Not can. She should preach. As I told you, it's compulsory for every Muslim to preach and propagate the religion. They should preach to those people who are not aware. It's compulsory. Women preach with women and gents with gents. Women should do Da'wah. They should do *Da'wah* with the non-Muslim women and get them closer to Islam. It's compulsory. It is the best profession. I hope it answers the question.

**Moderator:** Thank you. Do we have our next brother here, please? State your name, profession, and then the question.

**Mukhtar:** *Assalaamu Alaikum.* My name is Mukhtar. I'm a civil servant. There's Christians who are made to believe that Jesus Christ, may peace be upon him, that he gave his life in order to save the humanity. According to them, that every human being has inherited an original sin from Adam and Eve. On the basis of that, I'm asking a question, what is the precise Islamic position on the concept of original sin? Thank you.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Brother asked the question that what is the view of Islam on the concept of original sin in Christianity. The original sin, if you read in the Bible, it is different. The concept of what the church preaches is different. 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. That is their teaching. This is totally wrong. The Bible says no bearer of burden can bear the burden of others.

The Bible further says in the book of Ezekiel 18:20, that the soul that sinneth shall die. The soul that sinneth shall die, and they put a full stop. They put a full stop where there is no full stop. The complete verse says that the soul that sinneth shall die. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him, but if the wicked turns, he shall not die. They are quoting only half of the words. Ezekiel 18:20, the soul that sinneth shall die, the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him, the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, but if the wicked turns, he shall not die.

Even according to the Bible, the original sin doesn't mean that every human being is born in sin. 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 on, he gets influenced by his parents, by his teachers. He may start doing idol worship, he may start doing fire worship. That's the reason our beloved Prophet 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 go to hell. If he does good, he'll go to heaven. I hope that answers the question.

**Moderator:** Thank you. Can we go to the next person, the sister over there? Please, you can pose your question now.

**Asia:** Assalaamu Alaikum. My name is Asia. I'm a civil servant. My question is from Surah Al-Imran 199, and I quote. "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." I'm asking, is it that even among the non-Muslims, there are people that Allah will still give paradise?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Sister asks the question that various verses she's quote, and there are many other verses, even Surah Al-Baqarah 2:262 and Surah Maidah where it says that if you believe in Allah and do righteous deeds, you shall go to Jannah. She's asking the question, does it mean that non-Muslims will go to Jannah? All these questions, sister, this was a question asked to Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam, that if the non-Muslim, whatever bad they were doing, whatever 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 you say a person is a non-Muslim and doesn't accept Islam, will he go to Jannah? No. If he's a non-Muslim and doesn't accept Islam, doesn't believe in one God, doesn't believe in Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam, he shall not go to Jannah. For him to go to Jannah, he has to believe in one God, he has to believe in Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam, he has to believe in the Qur'an. He may do sin. As long as he doesn't do Shirk and he believes in the Prophet, his sins can be forgiven. He can be a bad Muslim, yet go to Jannah. If he's a non-Muslim who does Shirk and does not believe in Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam, he shall not go to Jannah. I hope that answers the question.

# SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY

By Dr Zakir Naik

## LESSON 9 – QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION – PART 4

**Moderator:** Can we take the next brother here, please? State your name, your profession, and your question.

**Bashir:** My name is Bashir Belo. I'm a student of comparative religion stories. If I'm trying to convince a Christian about-- They used to quote John 1:1, Genesis 1:26, and the first epistle of John 5:7 as their evidences. Sometimes I used to convince them about the two question. Genesis 1:26 and first epistle of John 5:7, but John 1:1, in the beginning, there was the word, and the word was with God and the word was God, I find it very difficult to convince them.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Brother asked the question that when the Christian missionaries try to convince that Jesus is God, they quote many verses. One which he could not really reply to was John 1:1. What the brother is saying is that Christian missionaries quote the gospel of John 1:1, which says,

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

With this verse, they're trying to prove that Jesus Christ (pbuh) is God.

**Bashir:** Yes.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** In the beginning was the word, the word was with God, and the word was God. Jesus Christ (pbuh) is also called as the word. They say in the beginning was the word, the word was with God, and the word was God. If you say the word was God, and wherever the word is there, you replace with God, it'll mean in the beginning was the word, in the beginning was God, and the word was with God, God was with God. What does it mean? If you say word is God, in the beginning was the word, in the beginning was God. The word was with God, which means God was with God. Was it two God? The answer is no.

If you replace word with God and again read the verse, in the beginning was the word, in the beginning was God, word was with God, God was with God. It makes no meaning. This is one way to convince.

The second way is, if you analyse and you know the original, the first time the word God is used, it is Hotheos, meaning The God. The second time the word God is used, it is tontheos, meaning a god, meaning a messenger. In the beginning was the word, the word was with God, the original God, Hotheos, The God. In the beginning was the word, the word was with God, no problem, and the word was God. Tontheos means a god. It means a messenger.

In the beginning was the word, no problem, word was with God, God Almighty, and the word was god, tontheos, meaning a messenger. We have no problem. This was first said by a Jew, by the name Philos. In these two ways, you can convince that Jesus is not God, but Jesus is a messenger of God. I hope that answers the question.

**Bahsir:** May Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala reward you abundantly.

**Moderator:** Thank you, brother. Ameen. Please, can you ask your question? You'll state your name, your profession, and ask your question.

**Alihu:** Assalaam Alaikum. My name is Alihu MuhammadBin Sava. I'm from Bida in Niger State. I'm student. My question is, we bow down to respect our elders in my tradition. I want to have the proof to prove to them that bowing is not acceptable in Islam.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Brother ask the question that in our culture we bow on our head. He wants to ask that is-

**Alihu:** Not head. Assalaam Alaikum. Not head. We bow down like this.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Bowing? Completely?

**Alihu:** Yes, sir.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Prostrating?

**Alihu:** No. We bow.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Bow down. Prostrating? Prostrate?

**Alihu:** Squatting.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Bow is like that. Only squatting? Only sitting down?

**Alihu:** Yes.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Only sitting down is no problem. Bowing means doing Rukū, or prostrating doing Sujud is Haram in Islam. You only bow down and do Sujud to Allah and no one else. Bowing down means Rukū, it means putting head 90 degrees. Sujud means prostrating completely down, putting your forehead on the ground. Both these are Haram. You can only do it to Allah and no one else. Sitting down is not Haram, but a person he wants to show he's superior and wants to degrade and you sit down and he stand, that is not good in Islam. It's not good but it's not Haram.

**Alihu:** Okay, sir.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** A person who thinks he's superior, he's the leader, and he says other people should sit on the floor, I will sit on the chair, this is against the Islamic culture. In Islam, all human beings are equal. Only where you're higher is by Taqwa. Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Al-Hujuraat 49:13,

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

“O humankind, we have created you from a single pair of male and female and have divided you into nations and tribes so that you shall recognise each other. Not that you shall despise each other. The most honoured in the sight of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala is the person who has Taqwa.”

The only criteria that one person can become superior to the other, it's not sex, it's not colour, it's not wealth, it's not cast, but it is Taqwa. It is righteousness. It is God consciousness. Hope that answers the question.

**Moderator:** There's a non-Muslim sister I saw that wanted to ask the question. Oh, that's the sister that will ask. Okay, please go ahead. Go ahead, sister. State your name, your profession, and then your question.

**Questioner:** My question is argumentative way of Da'wah in Islam, I found out that some people condemn it. I like the way you do your Da'wah and it's very beneficial to the society as well, but I didn't find a proof from the Hadith or Qur'an to back up my point. Assalaam Alaikum.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Sister asked the question that some people do not agree with the arguments and debating side of Da'wah. She likes it a lot. Can I give proof from the Qur'an? The Qur'an says in Surah An-Nahl chapter 16:125,

أَدْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ ۗ وَجَادِلْهُمْ بَالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ

“Invite all to the way of the Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching and argue with them and reason with them in the ways that are best and most gracious.”

Arguing is one type of Da'wah, but argue in the ways that are best and most gracious. You should do it with Hikma and with Husna, with beautiful preaching. There are different styles of Da'wah, some with love, some you have to be tough, some you have to use debating style like Sheikh Deedat. There are different styles. One of the style is argumentative, which is mentioned in Surah An-Nahl 16:125, but that should be done with Hikma and with Husna. Hope that answers the question.

**Moderator:** Thank you very much. Please, can we take one brother again from here? State your name and then your profession and ask your question, brief and straight to the point. Just one question, brief and straight to the point. Thank you.

**Muhammad Salih Swahabi:** Asalaamu Alaikum, my name is Muhammad Salih Swahabi. I'm a student course in history Islamic study. My question here is that did the people of Prophet 'Isa Alaihi Salaam peace be upon him, did they ask him that are you truly a God?

**Dr. Zakir Maik:** Brother is asking the question, did any time anyone ask Jesus, are you truly the God? Even yesterday, I said, this is in context if you read Gospel of John, 10:23 onwards, when Jesus Christ (pbuh) enters the temple of Solomon's



porch, all the Jews surround him and ask him, "If, thou are the Christ, tell us plainly."  
Jesus Christ replies, verse number 25, that,

"I told you, but you believe not. The work that I do in my father's name, bear record of me. You are not my sheep therefore you don't know me and don't follow me."

Verse number 27,

"My sheep know me and they follow me."

Verse No. 28,

"No man can pluck them out of my hand."

Verse No. 29,

"My father who giveth to me is greater than all. No man can pluck them out of my father's hand."

Verse number 30,

"I and my father are one."

This is in context of the statement when Christians claim that Jesus claimed divinity by saying, "I and my father are one." It is in context. It means one in purpose.

Verse number 27 and 28 says that

"My sheep follow me. No man can pluck them out of my hand."

Verse number 29, "My father who giveth to me is greater than all. No man can pluck them out my father's hand." "I and my father are one."

Verse number 30. It means one in purpose, doesn't mean one as entity. I'm a doctor. My father is a doctor. I and my father are one in purpose. It doesn't mean one joined. This is in context.

If the Christians just say, "No, no, it means one God only," If you go ahead, in Gospel of John 17:21, Jesus Christ (pbuh) said,

"My Father is in me and I am thee."

He's telling the apostles, "My father is in me, I am thee, and we are one." That means father, the Almighty God, Jesus Christ, and 12 apostles, 14 Gods. Furthermore, in Gospel of John, 17:23, Jesus Christ says that, "I in you and you and me, we are one," telling the apostles. Does it mean there are 13 gods? No. One means one in purpose. This was in context to the statement made by Christians when they try and prove that Jesus is God. Hope that answers the question.

**Moderator:** Brother, your name, your profession, and then you ask your question.

**Abdullahi Hassan:** Assalaamu Alaikum, my name is Abdullahi Hassan, and I'm a physicist. My question is, the Christians believe that Jesus Christ (pbuh) was

crucified and then he died to save the humanity. He was raised up and he's coming back on earth. Likewise, Muslim has their own perspective that Jesus Christ (pbuh), he's still coming back. My question is, when Jesus Christ (pbuh) comes back to earth, is he coming as a messenger to fulfil his prophecy or as an ordinary man? Also, is he coming to the people of the Israel, or to the Christians, or to the whole humanity? That's my question.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Brother asked the question that Muslim and Christians both believe that Jesus Christ (pbuh) will come again. When he comes back in the second coming, will come as a messenger or will he come as a human being? Will he come only for the Jews and Christians or for the whole of humanity? The reason that Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'ala has raised him up alive. Allah says in the Qur'an, in Surah Nisa, 4:157,

وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ وَمَا صَلَبُوهُ

"They killed him not, nor neither they crucified him."

وَلَكِنْ شُبِّهَ لَهُمْ ؕ

"It was only made to appear so."

Verse number 150 says,

"And Allah raised him up alive."

In Islam, according to the Qur'an, he was not killed, he was not crucified, he was raised up alive. Even according to the Bible, it is the church which say that he was killed on the cross.

If you see my cassette, *Was Jesus Crucified?* I've proved there that he was not killed on the cross, but even the Christians believe that he will come again, even Muslims believe. In the Gospel of Matthew, it says, "When Jesus Christ will come when the people will say, o master, o master, did we not do wonders and miracles in your name?" He will say, "Depart from here. I don't even know you." In his second coming, he will not recognise them. Same thing even in the Qur'an. Why did Allah raised him up alive? Because Jesus Christ (pbuh) is the only messenger amongst all the messengers of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'ala whose followers mistook him to be God.

All the other messengers, they fulfil the mission, but Jesus Christ (pbuh), as a whole, his followers misunderstood that he claimed divinity. In his second coming, he'll be coming, Allah has kept alive so that he will prove to them he never claimed divinity. That's what Allah says. If you read in the Qur'an, in Surah Maida 5:116, he'll say, "Oh my God," Jesus Christ will say, "If you testify, I never told them to worship me, but I said, "U'budul laaha," "Worship Allah," "Rabbee wa Rabbakum," "My lord and your Lord," so he'll come down as a human being.

Messengership has ended. Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam was the last and final messenger. In the second coming, he will come as Ummat of Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam. He will come as a follower of Muhammad Sallallahu

Alaihi Wasallam. Messengership has ended. Muhammad Sallallaahu Alaihi Wasallam is last and final messenger. After him, there is no more messenger. He will come again to testify to the Christian and to the whole world. He never claimed divinity. He's a messenger of God and he will come at the time of Mahdi Alaihi Salaam, and he will break the cross, and he will kill the pigs also. Hope that answers the question.

**Abdullahi:** Thank you very much.

**Moderator:** Sister, over there, you can state your name and profession and then your question.

**Hawa:** Assalaamu Alaikum, my name is Hawa Shafiu Idris and I'm a student. My question is, in Nigeria, we have different sects like we have the Shia, the Sunni, and the Tareeqa and what have you. My question here to the sheikh is what do you have to say about it? Because this is one of the major areas where the non-Muslims attack us in this country. They say, "If Islam is one, why do you have so many sects or Islamic groups?"

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Sister has asked the question, she asked the question out of the topic. The topic is not on sects, but since it is the first question, I'll reply. Sister has asked the question that we have Shia, we have Sunni, we have Tareeqa, why are there so many sects? How do you reply to the non-Muslim? There's only one religion, and the only right religion is Islam, and the only way is the way of Prophet.

If you read the Qur'an, there is no Shia, Sunni mentioned in the Qur'an. There's no Tareeqa in the Qur'an. Qur'an says, "Qaala Innanii minal muslimeen." "Say that you're a Muslim." Allah says in the Qur'an, in Surah Al-Imran 3:103,

وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا

"Hold to the rope of Allah strongly and be not divided."

The rope of Allah is the glorious Qur'an. You hold to the glorious Qur'an and the Sahih Hadith of Prophet Muhammad Sallallaahu Alaihi Wasallam and be not divided.

Allah clearly says in the Qur'an, in Surah Al-Anam 6:159, that,

"Do not make sects in the region of Islam. O Prophet, anyone who makes sects have nothing to do with him."

Making sects in the region of Islam is haram. It is prohibited. What was the beloved Prophet? Was he Shia? Was he Sunni? Was he Tareeqa? He was a Muslim, and I started my talk by quoting the verse of the Qur'an from Surah Al-Imran 3:64, which ends by saying that, "Qaala innanii minal muslimeen." "Say that I'm a Muslim." It doesn't say I'm a Shia or say I'm a Sunni. "Say, I'm a Muslim." What you have to follow is the Qur'an and the Sahih Hadith. Anything matches with the Qur'an and the authentic Hadith of Muhammad Sallallaahu Alaihi Wasallam you follow it. Whatever goes against you, you reject it. You have to call yourself Muslim, first a Muslim, and last a Muslim.

Hope that answers the question.

**Moderator:** Sister, you can take your question now.

**Hawa:** My next question is, you made mention that Da'wah is the best profession. Why won't you build maybe a branch of your school here in Nigeria so that-- a lot of parents will be willing to enrol their kids in that kind of institution?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Sister has asked the question that if Da'wah is the best profession, why don't I start a branch in Nigeria? Sister, we have got requests from hundreds of different cities throughout the world, including Nigeria to start a branch, but it's difficult for one man to do everything. What we request, that people should come there, see the model and emulate it here. For us to be present physically, it's not possible. I'm only one man.

We have a school, Islamic International School in Mumbai. We have in Chennai. We have planned the opening in some parts of the world, but to open everywhere is difficult, so those people who are very well versed with education here, should come there and should observe what we are doing and try and emulate it and give it to the people of Nigeria. Hope that answers the question.

**Hawa:** Thank you.

**Moderator:** Brother, you come up, you are going to be the last person, In Shaa Allah, so state your name, your profession, and then your question.

**Ilya Jeffrey:** My name is Jeffrey Ilya, Ilya Jeffrey, a Christian. Well, I want to greet the Doctor. The revelations here are mind-boggling. My question goes this way, in the Christian point of view, Jesus Christ was killed on the cross, buried and raised up on the third day. I don't know the Islamic point of view. Does the Qur'an stated that Jesus Christ was killed? If he's not killed, what happened to him? How did he left the earth? Is he dead? Where is his grave? How does he come back? That's just my question.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Brother has the question that according to the Christian Bible, according to him, Jesus Christ was killed on the cross, and he was buried, and what's according to Islam? Was he killed? If not killed, where is he? Where is his grave? For all, the complete answer you can refer to my lecture, *Was Christ Crucified?* I'll answer you in brief. As far as the Islamic point of view, it's mentioned in the Qur'an, in Surah An-Nisa 4:157. It says,

وَقَوْلِهِمْ

They said in boast,

إِنَّا قَتَلْنَا الْمَسِيحَ عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ

"We killed Jesus, the Son of Mary."

وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ وَمَا صَلَبُوهُ وَلَكِنْ شُبِّهَ لَهُمْ ۚ

"They killed him not, neither did they crucify him. it was only made to appear so."

وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ اٰخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ لَفِي شَكٍّ مِّنْهُ ۗ مَا لَهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ

"All those who differ are full of doubts."

اِلَّا اتَّبَاعَ الظَّنِّ ۗ

"With only conjecture to follow."

وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ يَقِيْنًا

"they killed him not."

Qur'an is very clear, they killed him not, neither did they crucify him. He was not killed. The next verse says, Surah An-Nisa chapter 4:158, Allah raised him up. Allah is to himself. Where is he? He is with Allah.

**Ilya:** That is to say-

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Let me complete. I have not completed yet. According to the Qur'an, he was not killed, he was not crucified. Allah raised him up. I told in the earlier answer, because people misunderstood he claimed divinity, he will say he never claimed divinity. Coming to the Bible, according to the church, the church says that Jesus Christ (pbuh) was crucified. The Bible doesn't say that. The Bible says he was put on the cross. Nowhere does the Bible say he died on the cross. Crucifixion means, C-R-U-C-I-F-I-X-I-O-N, to put a person the cross and he dies on the cross. If he does not die on the cross, he is not crucified.

There are many ways I can prove. I have to give a lecture. From the Bible, I can prove Jesus Christ (pbuh) was not crucified. In short, I only prove it to you in one way. If you read the gospel of Matthew 12:38, when people come to Jesus Christ (pbuh) tell him, "O master, O master, show us some wonders and miracles." Jesus Christ (pbuh) replied in gospel of Matthew 12:39, "Ye men of iniquity seeketh after a sign. No sign shall be given to you except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the fish, so shall the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

Brother, do you know the story of Jonah? Do you know the story of Jonah? Jesus Christ (pbuh) is putting all his eggs in one basket. When people ask him show us sign, fly in the air, give life to the dead, he say, no. No sign shall be given to you except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the fish, so shall the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. Jesus Christ (pbuh) is putting all the eggs in one basket. You asked me for a sign? I'll only give you the sign of Jonah.

For sign of Jonah, we have to go to the Book of Jonah. Book of Jonah is only one page, less than two sides, in the Bible. Every Christian who goes to Sunday school knows about this. In the Book of Jonah, you read that Almighty God asked Jonah to go to Nineveh to give the message. Prophet Jonah (pbuh), gets scared and he goes to Joppa. He catches a ship, a boat that goes to Joppa. At that time, a storm comes.

There was a superstition at that time that anyone who disobeyed the master, because of that disobedience, a storm comes.

The moment the storm comes, Jonah being a prophet of God, he accepts, I have disobeyed my Lord. Instead of going to Nineveh, I'm going to Joppa. There was superstition that if they throw the man overboard, the storm will subside. Jonah does not argue. "I'm the one who had disobeyed my master. I don't mind you throwing me overboard." The people catch him and they throw him overboard. Brother, I want to ask you the question. When Jonah was thrown overboard into the sea, was Jonah dead or alive?

**Ilya:** In the belly of the fish?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** No. When he was thrown overboard into the sea, was he dead or alive?

**Ilya:** He was thrown alive.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Alive. Correct. Normally, when a person is thrown, he's alive. Good. Now there is a storm in the sea. In the sea, in the storm, a normal human being ought to die. When he's in the sea, was he dead or alive, in the sea?

**Ilya:** Actually, the account I read is that he was in the belly of the fish.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** That's afterwards. First, he's thrown in the water. In the water, was he dead or alive? In the water, he was dead or alive?

**Ilya:** In the belly of the fish.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** In the water.

**Moderator:** Sorry. Brother, let me explain to you.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Wait. In the water, was he dead or alive?

**Questioner:** Pardon, sir. In the belly of the fish inside the water?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** He's thrown in the water. The fish comes later on. Correct?

**Ilya:** He was alive.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** When he was thrown in the water, was he dead or alive?

**Ilya:** Alive.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Alive. A fish comes and gobbles him up. Correct? In the belly of the fish, was he dead or alive? In the belly of the fish, now I'm asking you, was he dead-

**Ilya:** The account I read is that he stays there for three days, three nights.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Correct.

**Ilya:** I don't know whether he's live or-- I don't know.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** No. In the belly of the fish, was he dead or alive?

**Ilya:** I can't answer it, but I only read that he was-

**Dr Zakir Naik:** He prays from the belly. Yes or no?

**Ilya:** Pardon, sir.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** From the belly of the fish, he prays to God, correct? He prays to God.

**Ilya:** In the account?

**Dr Zakir Naik:** In the account. In the Bible.

**Ilya:** Yes.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Do dead men pray or live men pray? Do dead men pray or live men pray?

**Ilya:** No.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Was he dead or alive?

**Ilya:** He's alive there.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Alive, correct. When he was thrown overboard, he was alive. In the storm, he was alive. In the belly of the fish, he was alive. Three days and three nights, the fish takes him around the sea. With suffocation, a man ought to die. He's yet alive, correct? The fish vomits him out on the shore. Was Jonah dead or alive?

**Ilya:** Alive.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Alive. Alive, alive, alive, alive. Miracle of a miracle of a miracle of a miracle. Normally a man when he's thrown in the storm, he had to die. He's alive. A fish comes and gobbles, he ought to die. He's alive. Three days and three nights in the belly of the fish, he ought to die. He's alive. Fish vomits him out. He ought to die. He's alive. Alive, alive, alive, alive. Miracle of a miracle of a miracle of a miracle.

Now my question to you is, Jesus Christ (pbuh) said, as Jonah was, three days and three nights in the belly of the fish, so shall the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. When Jesus Christ (pbuh) was taken from the cross, he was put in the sepulcher, correct? In the sepulcher, a big room, grave.

**Ilya:** Sepulcher, yes.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Jonah was alive, correct? Was Jesus dead or alive in the sepulcher?

**Ilya:** The account in the Bible is that Jesus was dead for three days-

**Dr Zakir Naik:** No. Bible does not say. You are saying that. Where does the Bible say he was dead? Where does the Bible say? Show me.

**Ilya:** Actually, we read the account-

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Bible does not say that. You are saying that.

**Ilya:** Actually I have the Bible. Maybe I should have read it.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** He was put in the sepulcher. Jesus Christ (pbuh) said to fulfil the prophecy, "As Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the fish, so shall the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." When Jonah was alive, and if Jesus Christ (pbuh) has to fulfil the prophecy, should he be dead or alive? If he has to fulfil the prophecy, should he be dead or alive?

**Ilya:** He should be dead, because I read that he's dead, is what I read.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** If he's dead, he's not fulfilling the prophecy. Jesus told a lie Inna Audhu Billah.

**Ilya:** Okay, sir.

**Dr Zakir Naik:** If he's dead, that means Jesus Christ has told a lie. He said, as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the fish, so shall the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. If Jonah was alive, Jesus Christ (pbuh) has to be alive. If you say he's dead, that means he's lying. I don't consider Jesus Christ to be a liar (pbuh). He's a truthful person. Was Jesus Christ truthful or liar? Was Jesus Christ a truthful person or liar?

**Ilya:** Jesus is not a liar. He's truthful. [crosstalk]

**Dr Zakir Naik:** Not a liar. If Jonah was alive, even he has to be alive. Based on this prophecy, on this sign, gospel of Matthew 12:39, we prove from the Bible that Jesus Christ (pbuh) did not die on the cross. He was removed from the cross, he was put in the sepulchre, and he was alive. As Jonah was alive so was Jesus Christ (pbuh) was alive. That's the reason from the Bible you can prove that Jesus Christ (pbuh) was not crucified.

It is not crucifixion, C-R-U-C-I-F-I-X-I-O-N. It's not crucifixion, it is crucifiction. C-R-U-C-I-F-I-C-T-I-O-N. It's a fiction. Jesus Christ (pbuh) was alive. Even according to the Bible, he was alive, according to the Qur'an, he was alive. He's raised up and he'll come in the second coming to testify to the people he never claimed divinity but he was a message of God.

Wa Akhiru Da'waana Alhamdulillah Rabbil Aalameen.

**Moderator:** Takbir.

**Audience:** Allahu Akbar.

**Moderator:** My dear brothers and sisters, everyone would want to remain here for as long as we wanted, but we have to come-- This is the end of the programme. We want everyone to remain seated and the Sheikh will be taking his leave. We want to give a vote of thanks to, first of all, Allah, who made this possible, to all the organisations that were involved, and especially to each and every one of you that is gathered here. You have been wonderful, you have been patient. May Allah bless us all. May Allah take us all to our homes safely. Please, we ask the women in Da'wah



to look after the sisters that came into Islam and take proper care of them and give them proper Da'wah.

*"Subhanaka Allahumma Wa bihamdika, Nashhadu An Laa ilaaha illa Anta,  
Nastaghfiruka Wa Natubu Ilaika"*