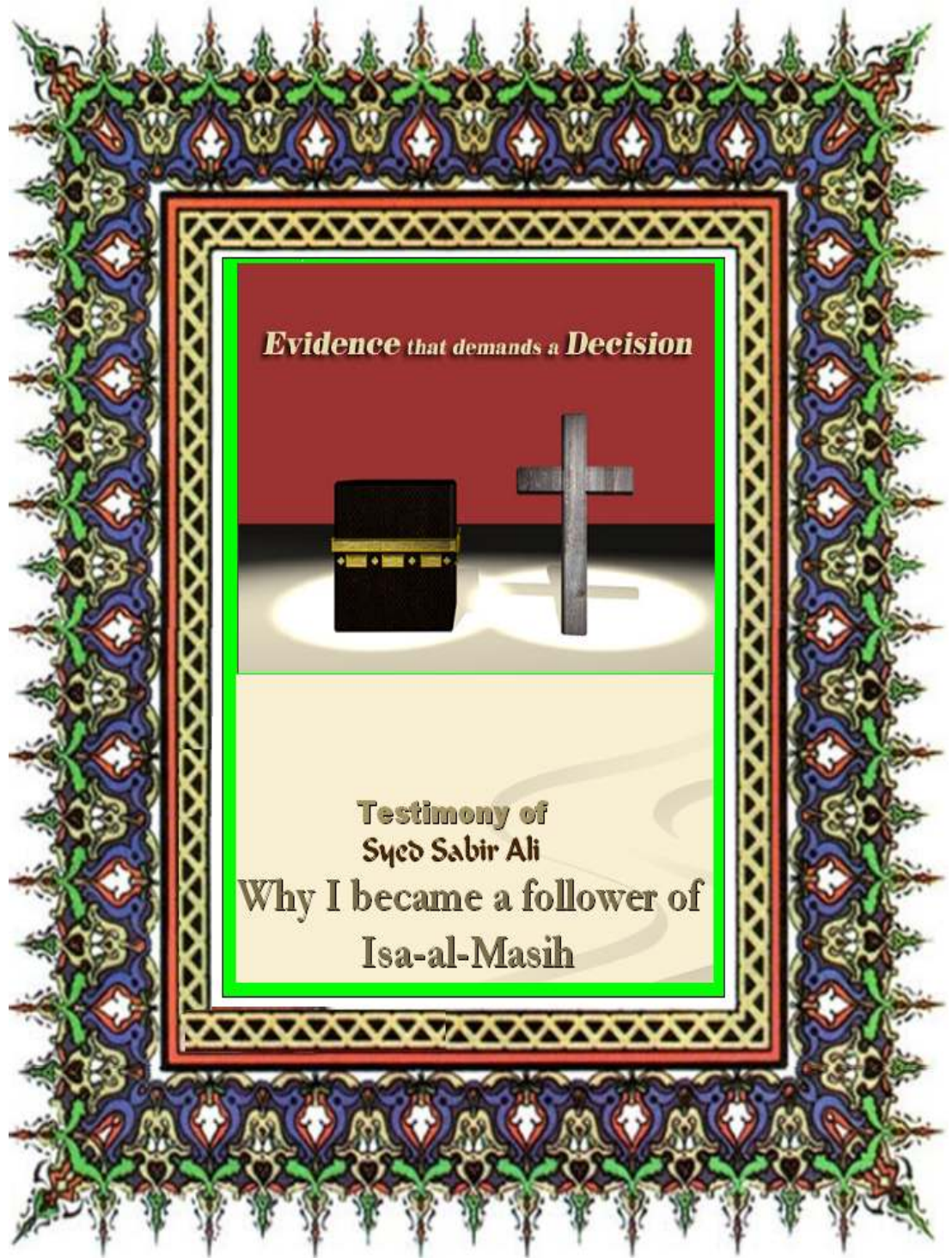


My Testimony: Syed Sabir Ali

Why I became a Follower of Isa-Al-Masih ?



Evidence that demands a Decision

Testimony of
Syed Sabir Ali
Why I became a follower of
Isa-al-Masih

دعا ئے اسلام
"اے اللہ ہمیں سیدھی اور سچی راہ دکھا"
(سورہ الفاتحہ آیت ۵)

I feel it is a great privilege to share my testimony with much prayer that it may help you to know the Lord Jesus (Isa-al Masih) who came to save us and set us free from all projections of Satan and tradition of our for- father 1 Peter 1:18

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, [as] silver and gold, from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers; V.19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot"

My Muslim Background:-

I born in a conservative Shiite (Shia) family in N.India, grew up with the heritage of Islam and a vision to serve Allah.

My Interest to Know about Christianity:-

From the youth I was actively involved in all Islamic religious practices. In my college time I determined to be an Islamic teacher and zeal to reach out non-Muslims with the message of Islam.

Since Christian faith was so fascinating to me and much has been spoken in the Quran and Islamic books. I dedicated my maximum time to find out their beliefs and practices in details before reaching them out with the message of Islam.

After few months of friendship with a local church (Brethren Assembly) I could get my admission for Bachelor Degree Course in Religion and Theology in a Seminary.

In 1995-1998 I went to a Seminary in Kerala. Within six months of my tedious study in Seminary I came to know the very **IMPORANT TRUTH** that really changed my whole perspective towards the Scripture Bible that ones I had no any respect for it. The TRUTH was that.....

' THE BIBLE HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE FOR MUSLIMS TO PROVE THEIR CLAIMS '

Bible has not been changed in any period of time. The historical facts regarding the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ can't be denied. And His claims to be ONLY Way, Truth and Life can't be ignored John 14:6

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"

جواب مسیح
"راہ، حق اور زندگی میں ہوں"
(انجیل شریف رومی حضرت یوحنا باب ۱۴ آیت ۶)

After knowing this great and wonderful amazing truth of the Bible and the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, I was led to His feet to accept Him as my personal Lord and savior of my life in 1995 month of December..

In my final year when I had to write a dissertation on my completion of Bachelor's Degree I took subject to deal all Muslim Objections very categorically.

Let me begin with my biggest dilemma that I had about the Bible. As being an ex-Muslim I can say that the most Muslim friends including me first stumble with

one Big Question that how could Jesus Christ be a Son Of God and to be called God.

To really understand the depth of this great truth in a very simple manner. One has to look into the Bible (*Bible means BOOKS consist of Torah, Zabur and Injeel*) and the very Gospel (Injeel) of Jesus Christ. So it is very hard to come to the clear understanding about Jesus Sonship unless we rely on the account of the Bible.

Crucial Question that the Original scripture have been corrupted.

I was grew up with a common notion regarding the *Bible both Old Testament and New Testament original form have been corrupted.* Second *that Jesus never died on the cross.*

I knew that these things were accepted as being true, since the world of Islam teaches that these truths are written in the Koran. However, what really made me think was my having said that the Koran openly and clearly wrote these things. Up until that day, I had read the Koran many times, and even had a primary Maadrassa Koranic and Islamic education.

My relative and friends neighbors were good educated in Islam and they said the same things. I was very curious to know which verse of Quran supports such objections. But I was fully convinced that the Bible had been changed. No matter how many Muslims I met, they would all say the same thing. I was simply trying to look objectively at the Islamic books in order to be satisfied that my ideas on this subject were true.

After being sure of the information I had found in these books, I opened the Koran and began to read its ARABIC/URDU translation.

What Does Quran Say about the Bible?

- "Proclaim what is revealed to you in the Book of your Lord. None can change His words. You shall find no refuge besides Him." The Cave (Kehf) 27
- "He has revealed to you the Book with the truth, confirming the scriptures which preceded it; for He has already revealed the Torah and the Gospel

- for the guidance of men, and the distinction between right and wrong." The Imrans (Al-Imran) 3
- "... for none can change the decrees of Allah ..." Cattle (Al-An'am) 34
- "... None can change them ..." Cattle (Al-An'am) 115
- "... the word of Allah cannot be changed ..." Jonah (Yunis) 64
- "Falsehood cannot reach it from before or behind." Revelations Well Expounded (Fussilet) 42
- "... and you shall find that they remain unchanged." Victory (Al-Fath) 23
- "Say: 'Bring down from Allah a scripture that is a better guide than these and I will follow it, if what you say be true!'" The Story (Al Qasas) 49

- "There is guidance, and there is light, in the Torah which We have revealed. By it the prophets who surrendered themselves to Allah judged the Jews, and so did the rabbis and the divines; they gave judgement according to Allah's scriptures which had been committed to their keeping and to which they themselves were witnesses." The Table (Al-Ma'ida) 44

- "After those prophets We sent forth Jesus, the son of Mary, confirming the Torah already revealed, and gave him the Gospel, in which there is guidance and light, corroborating that which was revealed before it in the Torah, a guide and an admonition to the righteous." The Table (Al-Ma'ide) 46

These verses from the Koran showed that the Old and New Testament books were sound,

They showed that the prophet Jesus upheld the Old Testament and that the New Testament, in which is found the true way, came as a confirmation of the previous holy books.

And finally, that the Koran's purpose was to confirm and protect the Bible.

"Say: 'People of the Book, you shall not be guided until you observe the Torah and the Gospel and that which is revealed to you from your Lord.'" The Table (Al-Ma'ide) 68

The Koran said to obey and follow the Christian holy books.

It considered those who do not obey them to be sinners.

- "Therefore let the followers of the Gospel judge in accordance with what Allah has revealed there in. Evil-doers are those that do not base their judgements on Allah's revelations." The Table (Maide) 47
- "Believers, have faith in Allah and His apostle, in the Book He has revealed to His apostle, and in the Scriptures He formerly revealed. He that denies Allah, His angels, His Scriptures, His apostles, and the Last Day, has strayed far from the truth." Women (Al-Nisa) 136

The Koran clearly stated that one should follow the books contained in the Old and New Testaments and that these books were sound and trustworthy.

Moreover, the Koran commanded all believers to believe in the Koran and all the books that came before it, that is, the Old and New Testament books. Here the Old and New Testaments had a clear call to Muslims.

- "On those men We bestowed the Scriptures, wisdom, and prophethood. If this generation denies these, We will entrust them to others who truly believe in them. Those were the men whom Allah guided. Follow then their guidance and say: 'I demand of you no recompense for this. It is an admonition to all mankind.'" Cattle (Al-An'am) 89-90

I looked at other verses on the subject of the Bible having been changed

To see what different things would be said, but they were the same. There had to be a mistake here. The Koran actually was saying that the thought of the Old and New Testament having been changed, an idea prevalent in the Islamic world, was not true and that the opposite was true, that is that they could never be changed. If the world of Islam's teachings on this subject were true (that is, that the Bible had been corrupted), and given the fact that such a thing was always being taught in Islamic education, it must mean then that the Koran is wrong.

I wondered where this idea could have come from?" God said, "Nobody can ever change my words," but people said, "No, it was changed." This couldn't be possible. While many verses in the Koran say that the Christian holy books were sound and were protected by God, other verses said that these same books had been corrupted. Thus there was a clear contradiction. Verses that said it had been changed and verses that said it had not been changed were both present in the Koran. It was just not possible for God to make such a contradiction.

For example,

- "He has revealed to you the Book with the truth, confirming the scriptures which preceded it; for He has already revealed the Torah and the Gospel for the guidance of men, and the distinction between right and wrong." The Imrans (Al-Imran) 3
- "There is guidance, and there is light, in the Torah which We have revealed. By it the prophets who surrendered themselves to Allah judged the Jews, and so did the rabbis and the divines; they gave judgement according to Allah's scriptures which had been committed to their keeping and to which they themselves were witnesses." The Table (Al-Ma'ida) 44
- "After those prophets We sent forth Jesus, the son of Mary, confirming the Torah already revealed, and gave him the Gospel, in which there is guidance and light, corroborating that which was revealed before it in the Torah, a guide and an admonition to the righteous." The Table (Al-Ma'ide) 46
- "Do you then hope that they will believe in you, when some of them have already heard the Word of Allah and knowingly perverted it, although they understood its meaning?" The Cow (Al-Baqara) 75
- "Some Jews take words out of their context and say to the Apostle: 'We hear, but disobey. May you be bereft of hearing! Ra'ina!' - thus distorting the phrase with their tongues and reviling the true faith. But if they said: 'We hear and we obey; hear us and undhurna,` it would be better and more proper for them. Allah has cursed them in their unbelief. They have no faith, except a few of them.'" Women (Al-Nisa) 46

Verses like these really grabbed one's attention.

Did the Koran remove and replace the authority of the Old and New Testaments?

The verses that contradicted themselves really led to a dead end. Which one was I to believe? That it had been changed, or that it could never be changed?

After considering these verses, another question came to mind. "Did the Koran remove and replace the authority of the Old and New Testaments?" Once again, I looked to the Koran on this subject.

- "Keep your covenant, and I will be true to Mine." The Cow (Al-Baqara) 41
- "He has revealed to you the Book with the truth, confirming the scriptures which preceded it; for He has already revealed the Torah and the Gospel for the guidance of men, and the distinction between right and wrong." The Imrans (Al-Imran) 3
- "This Koran could not have been composed by any but Allah. It confirms what was revealed before it and fully explains the Scriptures. It is beyond doubt from the Lord of the Creation." Jonah (Yunis) 37

- "And to you We have revealed the Book with the truth. It confirms the Scriptures which came before it and stands as a guardian over them. Therefore give judgement among men in accordance with Allah's
- revelations and do not yield to their fancies or swerve from the truth that has been made known to you." The Table (Al-Ma'ida) 48
- "Say: 'People of the Book, you shall not be guided until you observe the Torah and the Gospel and that which is revealed to you from your Lord.'" The Table (Al-Ma'ida) 68
- "Say: 'Bring down from Allah a scripture that is a better guide than these and I will follow it, if what you say be true!'" The Story (Qasas) 49

After reading these verses, I saw that the Koran itself did not remove the authority of the Old and New Testaments that had come before it. I then began to look at the New Testament:

- "I, John, solemnly warn everyone who hears the prophetic words of this book: if anyone adds anything to them, God will add to his punishment the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes anything away from the prophetic words of this book, God will take away from him his share in the fruit of the tree of life and of the Holy City, which are described in this book." (Revelation 22:18-19)

The verses that spoke of the Old and New Testaments being changed were enumerated in light of the other verses speaking of it not being changed as follows:

- "Do you then hope that they will believe in you, when some of them have already heard the Word of Allah and knowingly perverted it, although they understood its meaning?" The Cow (Al-Baqara) 75
- "And there are some among them who twist their tongues when quoting the Scriptures, so that you may think that what they say is from the Scriptures, whereas it is not. They say: 'This is from Allah,' whereas it is not. Thus they knowingly ascribe a falsehood to Allah." The Imrans (Al-Imran) 78
- "Some Jews take words out of their context and say to the Apostle: 'We hear, but disobey. May you be bereft of hearing! Ra'ina!' thus distorting the phrase with their tongues and reviling the true faith. But if they said: 'We hear and obey: hear us and undhurna,' it would be better and more proper for them. Allah has cursed them in their unbelief. They have no faith, except a few of them." Women (Al-Nisa) 46

I could not stop thinking about these apparent contradictions. While the Koran in one of its verses said that these books had not been changed, in another verse it said that the writings were wrong.

- "If We abrogate any verse or cause it to be forgotten We will replace it by a better one or one similar." The Cow (Al-Baqara) 106
- "We know that they say: 'A mortal taught him.' But the man to whom they allude speaks a foreign tongue, while this is eloquent Arabic speech." The Bee (Al-Nahl) 103

According to these above verses, some verses from God were considered as still valid while the authority of other verses was removed, that is, no longer valid.

- "Allah confirms or abrogates what He pleases. His is the Eternal Book." Thunder (Al-Ra'd) 39

Thus, because the fundamental book was at God's side, he could change it as he willed.

Sometimes God left a verse as it is, and sometimes he erased it and threw it out. Thus, God was both the author and the one who could make himself known in a way that nullified what was written. But despite these verses,

- **Qaf in the 29th verse said "My word cannot be changed, nor am I unjust to my servants."**

Thus the exact opposite was being stated in this verse. Which one of these verses was true? I began to ask "Can the holy word be changed under the direction of God?"

The contradictions were increasing as I continued my search. Wherever I looked, on whatever topic, God always had two different perspectives, one positive and one negative. If God removed the authority of his word that was given before and put in it's place something new, the Koran was thus a book that could have its authority removed as well as give new authority.

About Trinity

The Koran says that true believers do not make partners out of God, that is, do not commit idolatry by making other things equal to God."

- "Be courteous when you argue with the People of the Book, except with those among them who do evil, Say: 'We believe in that which is revealed to us and which was revealed to you. Our God and your God is one.'" The Spider (Al-Ankabut) 46
- "There are among the People of the Book some upright men, who all night long recite the revelations of Allah and worship Him; who believe in Allah and the Last Day; who enjoin justice and forbid evil and vie with each other in good works. These are righteous men." The Imrans (Al-Imran) 113-114
- "These verses show that Christians believe only in one God. Christians believe in one God, they read the book which is in their hands and worship with respect."

"I cannot show you a verse in the Koran which would clearly explain the three personhoods of God as it is expressed in the Christian faith. But here is one of several verses on this topic that I can show you:"

- The Messiah, Jesus the son of Mary, was no more than Allah's apostle and His Word which He conveyed to Mary: a spirit from Him." Women (Al-Nisa) 171
- "In this verse we can see God's essence, God's word, and God's spirit. Let me explain this. With regard to the prophet Jesus' relationship to God's word:"

Holy Spirit

- "We gave Jesus the son of Mary veritable signs and strengthened him with the Holy Spirit." The Cow (Bakara) 253

Questions regarding Jesus dying on the cross.

Was he crucified? I was curious what the Koran had to say about this. These were verses I came across from the Koran regarding Jesus' dying on the cross:

- "He said: 'Jesus, I am about to cause you to die and lift you up to Me. I shall take you away from the unbelievers and exalt your followers above them till the Day of Resurrection. Then to Me you shall all return and I shall judge your disputes.'" The Imrans (Al-Imran) 55
- "Blessed was he on the day he was born and the day of his death; and may peace be on him when he is raised to life." Mary (Maryam) 15
- "Those that disagreed about him were in doubt concerning his death, for what they knew about it was sheer conjecture; they were not sure that they had slain him. Allah lifted him up to His presence; He is mighty and wise. There is none among the People of the Book but will believe in him before his death; and on the Day of Resurrection he will be a witness against them." Women (Al-Nisa) 157-158

Even if the Koran says that Jesus never died on the cross and was immediately taken up to heaven, you still have to deal with this verse:

- "Those that disagreed about him were in doubt concerning his death, for what they knew about it was sheer conjecture; they were not sure that they had slain him. Allah lifted him up to His presence; He is mighty and wise. There is none among the People of the Book but will believe in him before his death; and on the Day of Resurrection he will be a witness against them." Women (Al-Nisa) 157-158

And we can find verses with regard to the prophet Jesus truly having died:

- "He said: 'Jesus, I am about to cause you to die and lift you up to Me. I shall take you away from the unbelievers and exalt your followers above them till the Day of Resurrection. Then to Me you shall all return and I shall judge your disputes.'" The Imrans (Al-Imran 55)

Actually the Islamic scholars have varying opinions regarding Jesus being taken up into heaven. The word, "tawaffaytani" usually translated as, "the one who kills" was translated as, "to raise" by the Islamic scholar Razi. He states that this same word can also mean "to awaken"

The scholars fell into disagreement on this topic and ended up in two separate groups. The first group defends their belief that God would have Jesus pass through this event, that he would not allow them to kill him. That is, by raising Jesus to his side in heaven and drawing him into his presence with the angels, he would protect Jesus by not letting them kill him.

As for the other group of scholars, they say that the phrase "I am the one who will have you pass away" means "I am the one who will kill you." They say that according to what was put forth by Ibnu Abbas, Ibnu Ishak and Ham b. Ishak, the Jews, who were Jesus' enemies, were not going to be able to kill the Messiah. God honored him by raising him up into heaven.

Those scholars in this group fell into disagreement and in the end divided into three different opinions on this subject as follows:"

1. Muhammed b. Ishak: At the seventh hour the prophet Jesus died. Later God brought about his resurrection and raised him up into heaven.
2. Vehb: Jesus died at the third hour and later was raised up into heaven.
3. Rabi b. Enes: God killed him and then raised him up into heaven.

What the Old and New Testaments had to say?

With regard to the trustworthiness of the Old and New Testament I found:

- "I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered." (Psalm 89:34)
- "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." (Matthew 24:35)
- "If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came and the Scripture cannot be broken." (John 10:35)
- "I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book." (Revelation 22:18-19)

Some verses in the Old and New Testaments that speak of the Godhead:

- "Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." (Isaiah 64:8)
- "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." (Matthew 11:27)
- "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)
- "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)
- "For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords")" (I Corinthians 8:5)

Jesus' being crucified on the cross was the main subject of both the Old and New Testaments.

In which prophet salvation was found Mohammed or Jesus.

The verse that I found most striking:

- "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

At this point, the most important thing for me was to clearly understand in which prophet salvation was found. I began to think about each of the two prophets, both Mohammed and Jesus.

Both of them were offering a way. But which way led to the real truth? I began to look once again at the Koran on this subject.

- "There is not one of you who shall not pass through the confines of Hell: such is the absolute decree of your Lord." Mary (Maryam) 71

And again, in another verse concerning Mohammed:

- "Implore Him to forgive your sins," The Forgiving One (Ghafir) 55

This verse shocked me, because I had thought that Mohammed was sinless. In this verse, I saw that I was not the only one who was sinful, but that even Mohammed needed to repent of his sins. That no matter what I did, I could not avoid going to hell.

As for what the New Testament said about Jesus:

- "Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?" (John 8:46)
- "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." (1 Peter 2:22)
- "But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin." (1 John 3:5)

These verses showed that the prophet Jesus was sinless. And what did they say about me?

- "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men because all sinned." (Romans 5:12)

- "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Romans 3:23)

At the end of it all, the truth came out, namely that I too was sinful. God had also given a promise regarding salvation from sin. The penalty of people's sin was death.

- "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

Jesus Christ was the only way of salvation that God had provided to take away the sins of mankind. The prophet Abraham, because of his great love for God and His word, offered his only son. And God, in order to save all people from the burden of sin, gave His one and only Son Jesus Christ over to death for our salvation, as it was made known beforehand.

- "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)
- "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
- "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
- "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve." (1 Corinthians 15:3-5)
- "I am the way and the truth and the life." (John 14:6)
- "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Salvation was found only in Jesus Christ

After looking at these verses, I was convinced that the Bible is the word of God and it has never been changed and according to this Jesus the only way, truth, and life.

- "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Thus the only thing I needed to do was call on Him and believe, for Jesus had said this:

- "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)

After knowing this fact I prayed.... I repented my sins and invited Isa-Al-Masih (Jesus Christ the anointed one to come into my life as a personal Lord and Savior. I believe He died for my sins and rose again after three days from the death and now sitting at the right hand of our Father God the Almighty. One day He will come to take us home to be with Him our Triune God for ever.

For last fourteen years of my walk with My Lord Isa-Al-Masih I can say with confidence that He has been my guide and proved to be a Faithful friend in all my good and bad times of my life.

S.Sabir Ali (Evangelist)

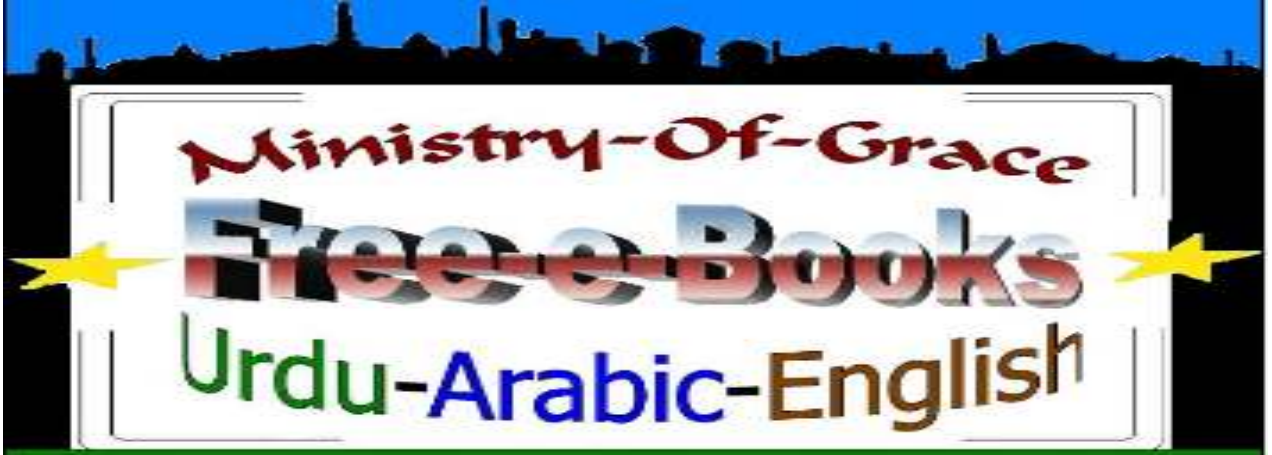


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A Letter to My Muslim Friends

Dear brother,

As-Salaamu 'Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh

The Bible is considered by Muslims to be an inspired book of Allah, the truth of which is confirmed and clarified by the Qur'an. The Qur'an differs from the Bible in many respects. It was revealed to one man over a short span of time (about 23 years). Besides being committed to oral memory upon revelation, it was being written down while Muhammad was still alive and its compilation was completed shortly after his death.

A Christian might wonder, if we had the Bible, why was the Qur'an revealed? One reason is that the Arab peoples were unfamiliar with the Bible having been overlooked by the expansion of Christianity. They needed a message of clear guidance in their tongue:

And now We have revealed this Book truly blessed. Observe it and keep from evil, so that you may find mercy and not say: 'The Scriptures were revealed only to two communities before us; we have no knowledge of what they read' (6:155-156)

It is also explained that the Qur'an has been sent down so that no one might say that they had received no further instructions from Allah:

People of the Book! Our apostle has come to you with revelations after an interval during which there were no apostles, lest you say: 'No one has come to give us good news or to warn us.' Now someone has come to give you good news and to warn you. (5:19)

The People of the Book are criticized for not accepting this new revelation:

And now that a Book confirming their own has come to them from Allah, they deny it, although they know it to be the truth and have long prayed for help against the unbelievers. (2:89) Those to whom the Scriptures were given rejoice in what is revealed to you, while some factions deny a part of it. (13:36) People of the Book! Why do you deny Allah's revelations when you know that they are true? (3:70)

When they are told: 'Believe in what Allah has revealed,' they reply: 'We believe in what has been revealed to us.' But they deny what has since been revealed, although it is the truth, corroborating their own Scriptures. (2:91)

In the first centuries after Muhammad, the Bible was often studied alongside the Qur'an. Because of certain confusions which arose in the mind of the average believer, this practice fell into a disfavor from which it has never fully recovered. The idea arose that the Bible had been tampered with and distorted from the original. But does the Qur'an back up this assertion?

The Qur'an has much to say about the Bible. The Qur'an uses the same word, al-Kitab ("the Book"), to refer to both itself and the Bible. It maintains that the Book was revealed by Allah to the previous Prophets and Messengers (3:81/ 3:184), especially Moses (2:54/6:91) and Isa (3:48/5:110) and that the previous Scriptures form a portion of the entire Book revealed by Allah (3:23; 4:44; 4:51; 5:44). Allah instructs Muslims to believe in the previous Scriptures He revealed just as they believe the Qur'an:

Believers, have faith in Allah and His apostle, in the Book He has revealed to His apostle, and in the Scriptures He formerly revealed. (4:136)

Thus Allah instructs Muslims to believe in the former Scriptures, not merely to believe that they existed at one time but are now irretrievably lost or distorted. In verses 2:113

and 2:121, it is mentioned that the People of the Book recite the Book and should recite it truthfully. Yet how could they do so if they did not have an accurate book in their possession? How would they know which portions were accurate and which were not? The Qur'an itself poses the question to the Children of Israel, "Can you believe in one part of the Scriptures and deny another? (2:85) The Book given to Moses is called "a perfect code for the righteous with precepts about all things, a guide and a mercy" (6:154). How then could it be unreliable?

The Qur'an tells us that it was sent to confirm and explain the Scriptures that preceded it. It is but another witness to the Truth of Allah:

He has revealed to you the Book with the Truth, confirming the Scriptures which preceded it; for He has already revealed the Torah and the Gospel for the guidance of mankind, and the distinction between right and wrong (3:3-4)

And to you We have revealed the Book with the truth. It confirms the Scriptures which came before it and stands as a guardian over them. (5:48)

It confirms what was revealed before it and fully explains the Scriptures. It is beyond doubt from the Lord of the Universe. (10:38)

We must ask the question, how could the Qur'an be a confirmation of what came before if the original revelations had been lost or distorted? According to Yusuf Ali, the Arabic word used in verse 5:48 and translated "guardian" is muhaymin, which can be translated as "one who safeguards, watches over, stands witness, preserves, and upholds" (The Meaning of the Holy Qur'an, note 759, pg. 263). How could the Qur'an do all these things if the Bible was unreliable?

The following Qur'anic verse has been used to justify the view that the Scriptures of the People of the Book have been distorted:

Woe to those that write the scriptures with their own hands and then declare: 'This is from Allah,' in order to gain some paltry end. (2:79)

However we must consider the verse immediately preceding 2:79 which seems to be linked with it:

There are illiterate men among them who, ignorant of the Scriptures, know of nothing but wishful fancies and vague conjecture (2:78)

This seems to indicate that "those who write the scriptures with their own hands" are those who do not know the actual books but are merely guessing as to their contents, and thus does not refer to the actual Scriptures themselves. In the time of Muhammad, there were few copies of the Bible in circulation and those that were probably not written in the Arabic tongue. Thus it would be common for people to distort what they believed was written in that book if they had not actually read it.

Many early Islamic scholars did not hold to the current prevalent view that the previous Scriptures have been corrupted. According to the "Dictionary of Islam", the scholar al-Bokhari reported that Ibn Abbas said that "'the word tahrif (corruption) signifies to change a thing from its original nature; and that there is no man who could corrupt a single word of what proceeded from Allah, so that the Jews and Christians could corrupt only by misrepresenting the meaning of the words of Allah.' Ibn Mazar and Ibn Hatim state, in the commentary known as the Tafsir Durr-i-Mansur, that they have it on the authority of Ibn Muniyah that the Torah and the Gospel are in the same state of purity in which they were sent down from heaven, and that no alterations have been made in them, but that the Jews were wont to deceive the people by unsound arguments and by wresting the sense of Scripture" (DOI, article "Corruption of the Scriptures, pgs. 61-62). Thus while the previous Scriptures themselves may be generally accurate this does not mean that they are always interpreted correctly. This is confirmed by another Qur'anic passage mentions that some of the People of the Book deliberately distort the message of the Scriptures:

And there are some among them who twist their tongues when quoting the Scriptures, so that you may think that what they say is from the Scriptures, whereas it is not from the Scriptures. They say: 'This is from Allah,' whereas it is not from Allah. Thus they knowingly ascribe a falsehood to Allah. (3:78)

Some other relevant Qur'anic passages which speak of the Bible:

We have revealed the Torah, in which there is guidance and light. By it the prophets who surrendered themselves judged the Jews, and so did the rabbis and the divines, according to Allah's Book which had been committed to their keeping and to which they themselves were witnesses. (5:44)

To David we gave the Psalms. (17:55)

After them We sent forth Isa, the son of Mary, confirming the Torah already revealed, and gave him the Gospel, in which there is guidance and light, corroborating what was revealed before it in the Torah, a guide and admonition to the righteous. (5:46)

We gave Moses the Scriptures and knowledge of right and wrong, so that you might be rightly guided. (2:53) We gave the Book to Moses as a clear sign, a guide and a blessing for mankind, so that they might give thought. (28:43)

What the Qur'an says about the Gospel:

- 1) Like the Torah, it is a scripture that was revealed by Allah for the guidance of humanity (3:3)
- 2) In his message to Mary, the angel tells her that Allah will instruct Isa in the Scriptures, in the Torah and the Gospel (3:48)
- 3) Isa was given the Gospel that contains guidance and light and confirms the Torah which preceded it (5:46, 5:110, 57:27)
- 4) Those who follow the Gospel should judge by what is contained within it (5:47)
- 5) The People of the Book should observe the Gospel (5:66, 5:68)
- 6) The Gospel is compared with other books that contain the promises of Allah (9:111)

Wa Salaam,



1.. Is the Gospel a book, or four different books?

Muslims have the idea that "the Gospel" (Injil) is a book which God has been pleased to send down to Jesus. But to Jesus' first disciples, and to the Christian Church, "the Gospel" is not a book; it is above all "Good News"; it is the proclamation of God's wonderful intervention in the world of men, for our salvation.

"The Gospel" is that the Lord God wished to reveal Himself to us in Mercy and Love; He wishes to bind us to Himself in a relation of dependance, trust and loyalty. He wants us to know Him as Father, to be joyful in living lives that are pleasing to Him, to have hearts filled with His peace. He does not want us to tremble in fear like a slave before his master. He wants us to love Him, and to serve Him willingly and gladly because we like to please Him.

"The Gospel" is that Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus the Messiah came from God to reveal God's nature and to initiate this relationship between God and man. Jesus is the living testimony to the Love of God; He is the expression of God's love for man. "The Gospel" is in brief the proclamation of God's love revealed in Jesus the Messiah.

We also say that the New Testament contains four "gospels"; these are four narratives which tell the story of the Lord Jesus from different points of view. It is therefore necessary to distinguish between the Gospel (which is the good news of what Jesus means for mankind), and the gospels (which are books describing Jesus' life and teaching).

2.. What is the Bible?

Muslims are inclined to regard the Qur'an and the Bible as essentially similar books. The Muslim takes the Qur'an to be a book written directly by God, of which the original text exists eternally in heaven, and each word was transmitted by the angel to Muhammad. So he is led to expect that the Bible should be more or less the same thing to the Christians--a heavenly book similarly written by God and brought down to a prophet. Then he is surprised to learn that the Bible was written by so many different people over so long a period of time.

In fact, the Bible is a "library" made up of 66 different books, which have been gathered together over the centuries and only gradually came to form the one volume which we call the "Bible". These various writings are "inspired by God", not in the sense that an angel brought them down from heaven, not in the sense that the writers were necessarily speaking in a trance--but they are inspired in the sense that God directed the whole thought and experience of the writers, so that they might give a true revelation. And through all these writings there is one consistent theme--the revelation of how God cares for mankind.

Immediately after the creation God calls to Adam, "Where are you?", and from then on God continues to call us. The Bible tells how God reveals to us equally HIS LAW

(through the Ten Commandments, and other more temporary commands), HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS (in allowing His own people, the Children of Israel, to be beaten by their enemies and exiled, so that they might be led to repent of their sins), and HIS MERCY (in bringing them back from exile and forgiving their sins).....and above all the Bible tells how God gave to His people their last and greatest chance, in confronting them with His Love in Jesus Christ.

In the thought of the Bible, the supreme WORD OF GOD is Jesus Christ; but by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit every page of the Bible can "speak" to us, and become a "Word" which God addresses personally to us.

3.. How could Jesus be the Son of God? Can God Take a Wife?

The Bible never for one moment speaks of God taking a wife, and all Christian belief is based on the testimony of the Bible. In Christian preaching there is not the least suggestion of a sexual relationship between God and any one of His creatures. When the New Testament calls Jesus "the Son of God", this does not for a moment mean that God begot a child through a woman, as men beget their children.

The title must be understood along with all the other names given to Jesus in the Bible; Jesus is also called the servant of God, the Son of David, the Son of Man, the Lord, the Saviour, the new Adam, the Mediator, the High Priest, etc. We notice that Jesus did not normally make use of the title "Son of God" in His public preaching and teaching; it was rather in intimate conversation and in prayer that He revealed Himself as "the Son of God". Closely linked with this title are the many passages where Jesus referred to God as "my Father" and to Himself as "the Son" (e.g. Luke 23; 34 & 46; Matthew 11:27; Mark 13:32; John 5:19-24; 17:1).

The title indicates, above all, the extremely close relationship between Jesus and God. He is not merely someone "sent by God"; He has a unique knowledge of God, there is between Him and God an intimacy so profound that it becomes an actual identity of thought and action. Jesus completely and perfectly carries out the will of God, to the point where we must say that He has been endowed with absolute authority by God. Therefore, according to the New Testament, to obey Jesus is to obey the One who sent Him; to reject Jesus is to reject the One who sent Him; to believe in Jesus is not to believe in another Lord beside God--it is to believe in God through Jesus (John 5:23; and 12:44).

Further, according to the gospels, there can be no true knowledge of God outside of Jesus Christ; the unity of Jesus with God is such that one can say, metaphorically, "Jesus Christ is God's face turned towards mankind".

4.. According to the Qur'an Jesus did not die on the Cross. How is this?

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were written some 550 years before the time of Muhammad, and contain the testimony of men who were disciples of Jesus, who lived at His side, who actually saw and touched Him. Some of these disciples were present in person at His crucifixion; in view of this, it is virtually impossible to cast any doubt on the evidence of the gospels, when these are considered without prejudice. In contrast, in the time of Muhammad the Bible was only just being translated into Arabic, and it is probable that Muhammad could have had no direct acquaintance with it. Instead, he heard stories about Jesus and the prophets derived from legendary writings; and these legends were influenced by the theological prejudices of some heretical Christians of the time. For example, some heretics believed that Jesus was not really man, but a kind of spirit who could not suffer pain and death; and long before the time of Muhammad, this "prejudice" gave rise to the legend that it was someone else resembling Jesus who was crucified. But the story (like the different story of the Ahmadis) is purely imaginary, and has no historical basis. To satisfy yourself about the historical accuracy of the crucifixion and death of Jesus, you have only to study the text of the gospels, which give detailed eye-witness accounts of what happened.

5.. Why do you speak of three gods? Is not God One and Indivisible?

Before any explanation, the best thing is to quote some Bible texts which emphasise the Christian belief in One God. First, from the Old Testament:

--the first of the Ten Commandments, "I am the Lord your God...You shall have no other gods beside me"--Exodus 30: 2-3;

--through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord declares, "Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no saviour. I am God, and also henceforth I am He"--Isaiah 43:10-13;

--The Psalmist ends one of his prayers with the words, "Let them know that thou alone, whose name is the Lord, art the Most High over all the earth"--Psalm 83:18;

--and some verses from the New Testament; the Lord Jesus repeats and confirms words from the Old Testament, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is One"--Mark 12:29;

--the apostle Paul declares, "there is no god but One"--1 Corinthians 8:4;

--and in another letter he adds, "(there is) one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all, and in all"--Ephesians 4:5-6.

This last verse is of special importance; it shows that God is not infinitely far off, like some great king living shut up in his palace, uninterested in the daily life and experience of the common people. The God of the Bible is a living God, full of sympathy for the least of His creatures, calling to them and coming to meet them. This God is "above all, through (or among) all, and in all"; He is the Holy One, the Creator--God, above all, the Father; He comes to mankind to demonstrate His justice and His forgiveness--God, among all, in Jesus Christ; He is at work in the hearts of men, in the Church and in the world--God, in all, by the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle Paul writes frequently of God the Father, of the Lord Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit (e.g. Romans 15:15-16 and 30; 2 Corinthians 1: 21-22 and 13:14)--in each case, equally, he is indicating the reality of the One Living God, without whose mercy no man could stand!

To illustrate these three ways in which God exists and acts, consider a certain Abraham Mgoki, who is a mechanic at Garousa; he is also the husband of Madame Mgoki, and again he is a member of the Evangelical Church. He may be in the workshop repairing cars, he may be at home with his wife, he may be at prayer in the church--he is always one and the same Mr. Abraham Mgoki. He is at once mechanic, father of his family and member of his church, yet always the same man.

That is of course a very simple illustration, which must not be applied literally, and which does not claim to explain the mystery of the thrice Holy God.

6.. What is the purpose of religious pictures and images in Christianity? Are they supposed to represent God? Is it possible to make a picture of God?

No picture can represent God; no man has ever seen God, for no created being could look upon his Creator and survive. However, there are drawings and printed pictures which help us to understand the Gospel, and to realize what Jesus Christ taught and revealed to us; such pictures are especially useful in telling the story of Jesus to those who cannot read. You will see, for example, representations of the Virgin Mary, Jesus as a child, or Jesus with His disciples, or Jesus going up to Golgotha to be crucified--all these are merely pictures to help us imagine and understand the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

Such images can never for a single moment be regarded by the Christian as objects of worship--which would be idolatry. Yet we must realise that the introduction of images or pictures into Christian Churches is often a stumbling-block to the muslim, and we should take great care not to give any impression that we are worshipping them.

7..Is Christianity a religion of the Europeans?

Jesus of Nazareth was a Jew; that is, He belonged to an Asian tribe closely related to the Syrians and the Arabs. It was not until some 15 years after Jesus' death that the Gospel first reached Europe; and long before Christianity was established in Northern Europe there were already large and important Christian communities in North Africa. Church history tells of many first-rate Christian thinkers who were Africans. At the present time there are millions of Christians all round the world who are not white men. We should therefore oppose vigorously this false impression that Christianity belongs to the Europeans.

8.. Who killed Jesus?

At first sight the gospels seem to say that it was the Jewish authorities of the time who caused Jesus to be arrested and killed, with the agreement of the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. In fact however a careful reading of the gospels will show that these Jews acted as each one of us would have acted in their place; they represented us. If we had been there we should have applauded and willingly helped in the Crucifixion of Jesus! It is the sin of each one of us which killed Jesus. In a thousand ways we violate God's gracious will; we cannot bear to have this Man of perfect obedience showing up our disobedience. Who killed Jesus? You did, and I did, each one of us!

9.. What do you mean by saying "Jesus Christ died for us ?

The expression means that all men are sinners, condemned by God's righteous judgement; that Jesus Christ was made like us in every respect, except that He never sinned; and He took our place in the judgement. He took our place on the Cross, He died for us so that by His death we might receive forgiveness and grace; so that we who deserved to be condemned to death might rather enter on a new life, adopted as children of God. (cf. Q. 80).

10 What can man know of God's forgiveness? Isn't it only at the Last Day that God will forgive?

According to Islam, it is indeed only at the Last Day that God will reveal His judgement, and will reward everyone according to his works. But according to the New Testament, God has already revealed His judgement and His forgiveness in Jesus Christ. God reveals His judgement in that Jesus, dying on the Cross, brings to light man's sinfulness. Every man, by his sin, deserves death and utter disgrace. But God ordained that Christ, in dying, should die in the place of sinful men. Therefore the Gospel according to John declares that Jesus takes away the sin of the world. He has taken man's sin upon Himself, so as to deliver man from eternal condemnation. God reveals His forgiveness in Jesus Christ, in that if any man believes in Jesus, trusts Him as Saviour, and acknowledges himself a sinner for whom Christ died, such a man receives the forgiveness of God. When is this forgiveness received?--now, or only at the last day? God has been offering forgiveness in this way ever since the coming of Jesus Christ, but each man receives this gift at the moment when he trustingly accepts Jesus Christ into his heart as Saviour and Lord of his life. God's forgiveness is therefore a present reality which a man can receive today, so that from now on he can live in the peace of God and dedicated to God's service. Let us emphasise: God's forgiveness has been given to us, once for all, in Jesus Christ who was lifted up on the Cross, in this world, in the year 33 A.D.

11.. What is the Christian faith?

The faith of a Christian may be summarised in these words: "Jesus Christ is Lord". He whom God sent, to die for my sin and to bring me new life and hope by His resurrection, He is henceforth and forever the Lord of my life. Today, and at the day of my death, He alone is my support, my hope, the source of my job. He is my Lord!

12.. What does Prayer mean to the Christian?

Christian prayer is something distinct and different from other conceptions of prayer. It is distinct in that it is offered in the name of Jesus Christ; that is, the believer dares to approach God because God has first approached him in Jesus Christ, revealing in Jesus His love and His mercy. Man speaks to God because he knows that God loves him personally and seeks his good. We do not pray in order to "make use of God"; we pray in order that God may make use of us!--and that He may make us useful to our fellow-men.

So the Christian does not think of prayer as a matter of "reciting prayers", he thinks of it rather as a conversation with God. We hear God's word in the Bible, and we reply by our prayer and our everyday obedience. We do not think it essential to memorise a set form of words in a special language—our prayer is more like a child speaking to his father. Of course we must come to our Father with all reverence; as created beings, weak and sinful, we come humbly before our Creator, and dare simply to open our hearts and speak! In our prayer we express:

--**our gratitude** (our "thank you") for everything that each day brings, for all God's gifts--of health and material blessings as well as the love of friends;
--**our penitence** (our "forgive me") for all evil thoughts, for all actions which may have harmed someone;
--and **our intercession** (our "please") spreading out our wants before our Lord, as a child tells his father how he is and what he needs for his life and work.

13.. Are we all worshipping the same God?

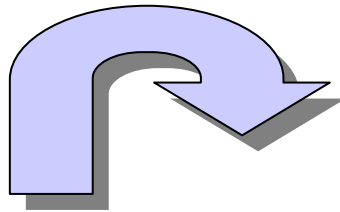
The Muslim takes it for granted that "we are all worshipping the same God", and he isn't aware of any problem about it. Muhammad said repeatedly that he was proclaiming the same God who had sent Adam, Abraham, Moses and Jesus. But for followers of Jesus Christ, the question is much more complicated. The whole of the New Testament bears witness that the revelation of God in Jesus Christ is unique and final. Jesus declared, "**No one comes to the Father but by me**"; "**no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him**"; "**I am the Way, and the truth, and the life**". Also the apostles, speaking of the name of Jesus of Nazareth, declared,

"there is no other name under heaven given among men, by which we must be saved".

Now, what Jesus teaches about God, about His mercy, His patience, His forgiveness--can it really be compared with the teaching of the Qur'an? The Christian is called to live

as a child of God, with a deep inward confidence and trust in the Heavenly Father, and rejoicing in God's gift of forgiveness--is this quite similar to what the Muslim feels in the presence of his God? Certainly there is only one God, the Creator of us all--but the important thing is not merely to agree that one God exists, but to know what He is like, and how He deals with us; it is for that purpose that He has drawn near to us in Jesus Christ and, through the Cross, drawn us to Himself. Certainly there is very much that we must respect in the Muslim faith, and there is no doubt that Muhammad was a man of courage, a great leader who turned millions from idolatry, one who had some knowledge of God. But it is hard for a Christian to go much further than this in his estimate of Islam. God's offer of salvation in Christ is so different from the idea of God in Islam. In the presence of the Living God revealed in Jesus Christ, humbly, we pray for our Muslim brothers, and for ourselves, asking our Lord to grant that both may walk in the light. "I am the light of the world", says Jesus, "he who follows me will not walk in darkness".

A Series of "A&Q" in a PDF book is uploaded on following sites.



<http://Engaging-With-Islam.Co.Nr>

Links

Here are some links for your Study and Information's on Islam and Christianity and Mission to Muslims World.

Study sites for Christians:

[Arab Bible](#) - Powerful software tool.

<http://www.arabbible.com/>

[Answering Islam](#) - Christian - Muslim Dialog.

<http://answering-islam.org/>

[Christian Answers Network](#) - Biblical answers to contemporary questions. <http://www.christiananswers.net/>

[CreateInternational.com](#) - Videos on Muslim UPGs (unreached).

<http://www.createinternational.com/>

[Dreams and Visions](#) - Testimonies of people saved.

<http://www.dreamsandvisions.com/>

[Every People Network](#) and ramadan.everypeople.net.

<http://www.everypeople.net/>

[Islamic-Western Calendar Converter](#).

http://www.phys.uu.nl/~vgent/islam/islam_tabcal.htm

[Middle East Media Research Institute \[MEMRI TV\]](#) Arab TV into English, an eye-opener! <http://www.memritv.org/default.asp>

[Middle East Info.org](#) controversial info about the Middle East. <http://www.middle-east-info.org/>

[Understanding Islam](#) - From Belief Network.

http://www.beliefnet.com/index/index_40118.html

[Understanding Islam](#) - From Christian Broadcasters Network (CBN).

<http://www.cbn.com/SpiritualLife/understandingislam/>

[What is Islam?](#) - From Strategic Network

<http://www.strategicnetwork.org/index.php?loc=kb&view=b&fto=3966>

Study sites for Muslims:

[Agape Jordan](http://www.agape-jordan.com/) - About Isa (Jesus) and links around Jordan.
<http://www.agape-jordan.com/>

[Al-Kitab Scripture Research Institute](http://al-kitab.org/) - Study courses for Muslims.
<http://al-kitab.org/>

[Ennour](http://www.ennour.net/nafarabic/default.htm) - A general arabic evangelistic site.
<http://www.ennour.net/nafarabic/default.htm>

[Good News for You.](http://www.injil.org/)
<http://www.injil.org/>

[Heart of the problem](http://members.aol.com/alnour/index2.html) - Bible studies for Muslims.
<http://members.aol.com/alnour/index2.html>

[Isa al Masih Network](http://www.isaalmasih.net/) - Explaining Jesus.
<http://www.isaalmasih.net/>

[Maarifa \(Arabic Site\)](http://www.maarifa.org/) - Music, devotions, sermons.
<http://www.maarifa.org/>

Resources/ Information / Missions Helps

[Mission to the Himalayas.](http://www.buildinternational.org/)
<http://www.buildinternational.org/>

[Caleb Project.org.](http://www.calebproject.org/)
<http://www.calebproject.org/>

[Christliches Zentrum Herborn](http://www.cz-herborn.de/) - (Islam in Deutschland.)
<http://www.cz-herborn.de/>

[Federacion Misionera Evangelica Costarricense \(FEDEMEC\).](http://www.cz-herborn.de/)
<http://www.cz-herborn.de/>

[Global Recordings Network](http://www.globalrecordings.net/) - ... 580 languages.
<http://www.globalrecordings.net/>

[Jesus Film in Arabic.](http://www.jesusfilm.org/languages/20538/index.html)
<http://www.jesusfilm.org/languages/20538/index.html>

[Jubilee World Missions](http://www.jubileeworldmissions.org/) - Save the children.
<http://www.jubileeworldmissions.org/>

[Mid East Outreach.](http://www.mideastoutreach.com/)
<http://www.mideastoutreach.com/>

[Persecuted Church.](http://www.persecution.com/)

<http://www.persecution.com/>

[SIM International](http://www.sim.org/) - Serving in Mission.

<http://www.sim.org/>

[Understanding the Lord's Supper.](http://www.thelordssupper.org/)

<http://www.thelordssupper.org/>

[Uyghur New Testament.](http://www.injil.net/kitablar.htm)

<http://www.injil.net/kitablar.htm>

[Voice of the Martyrs.](http://www.vom.com.au/)

<http://www.vom.com.au/>

[Ramadan Blog.](http://ramadanprayer.blogspot.com/)

<http://ramadanprayer.blogspot.com/>

[Western Sahara online.](http://www.wsahara.net/)

<http://www.wsahara.net/>

[Who Is God](http://godwhoisgod.com/) is a gospel tract in Arabic, Urdu, Hindi and many more languages for evangelism to Muslims.

<http://godwhoisgod.com/>

[Zanskar Enclave, Himalayas.](http://library.thinkquest.org/10131/zanskar_people.html)

http://library.thinkquest.org/10131/zanskar_people.html

[Zwemer Center for Muslim Studies at Columbia Int'l University](http://www.zwemercenter.com) www.zwemercenter.com

THANK YOU.

Hope this Testimony must have been helpful to you knowing the great Truth of the Bible and saving Work of Isa-Al-Masih for our Sins.

If You have accepted Jesus Christ (Isa-Al-Masih) as your Lord and Savior. I would love to hear and pray for you in my daily devotion. Or if you are still need of any help to know Christ more please do write me at

info.ministryofgrace@yahoo.co.in

God Bless you.

Sabir Ali

www.Ministry-Of-Grace.Org