

ISLAM IN THE BALANCE

**Brother
Ata G. Mikhael**

1st. Edition 1986. Beirut, Lebanon
2nd. Edition 1989. Lansing, Michigan
3rd. Edition 2004. Detroit, Michigan

CONTENTS

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Introduction | 3 |
| 2. What This Book Is All About | 10 |
| 3. Historical Facts About the Bible | 15 |
| 4. About Translations | 19 |
| 5. About Perversion | 21 |
| 6. About Contradictions | 28 |
| 7. About the Impossibility of the Koran | 35 |
| 8. About Chronological Errors in the Koran | 43 |
| 9. About Christ | 52 |
| 10. The Koran and the Hadith Evidences of The Deity of Christ | 62 |
| 11. About the Unity of God | 68 |
| 12. About the Trinity | 74 |
| 13. About the Biography of Muhammad | 82 |
| 14. The Conclusion | 89 |

1

INTRODUCTION

Taha Hussein the famous Egyptian philosopher who, later in life, became a Christian, once said, *“If we are asked to summarize the Bible, we can find no better summary for it than the Koran”*.

Why is that? Because almost 90% of the Koran, from its stories to its teachings, is taken from the Bible and put into the archaic, eloquent style of the Arabic language.

The Koran is the Muslims’ holy book; it is the source of the Islamic religion which is a monotheistic religion founded in Arabia by Muhammad, the prophet of Islam (570-632 A.D.).

The Muslims are very proud to be called the followers of the religion of the **SWORD**. Through that means, the Muslims quickly spread Islam across Arabia; they overran the areas of present day Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. Palestine, Egypt, North Africa, and Spain.

All those conquests were achieved within one century of its inception. Today, it is estimated that Islam has a total of **ONE BILLION** followers, one-fifth of the world’s population.

Islam is the fastest growing religion on earth today. Many experts are saying that Islamic fundamentalism is the most influential ideology of our era at the very time other ideologies such as communism are wearing out and fading away. Since World War I, up to date (1990), Christianity increased by 47%, Buddhism increased by 65%, Hinduism increased by 125%, *Islam increased by 500%*.

For example, in 1910 there were 200 million Muslims in the world; in 1990 their number almost reached the one billion.

Despite the fact that Islam came from the heart of Arabia, most Muslims are not Arabs. People dominated by Islam can be found from the Straits of Gibraltar to the Great Wall of China. **Indonesia** boasts that it has the largest Muslim population of any country.

At the current growth rate, 35% of the former Soviet Union was composed of staunch Muslims. Half of the Soviet Army was made up of young Muslim men.

Indubitably, Islam is now moving towards the West as well. Over thirty million Muslims live in the Western world today as students, businessmen, and refugees.

Islam is on the move, and the Arab Muslim world is at the center of this tremendous movement. Islam is present everywhere and it cannot be ignored. Muslims have claimed that they have four followers for every Evangelical Christian in the world, and their target now is the Church itself.

The churches in Europe, North America and Australia have ignored reaching the Muslims for Christ, and now they see Muslims right on their doorsteps with a challenge and an aggressive attempt to compete with them.

England has more Muslims today than it has Methodists and Baptist combined! Thirty years ago there were only three mosques in England (Mosques are the Muslim worship centers). Today, there are over *five thousand* of them, along with about two thousand Islamic private schools, Islamic centers and associations.

Birmingham, the second largest British city, already follows the “*Shari’a*” (Which is the Islamic law). The largest mosque in the world today is no longer in Mecca but

in the heart of London. British Muslims are already asking for many seats in the British Parliament.

In France, there are more Muslims than Protestants. France has an Arabic-Muslim population as large as that of Lebanon and Jordan, and about ten times larger than that of Kuwait. Experts say that very soon one third of France is expected to be Muslim.

As for Australia, one of the largest Islamic conferences has decided that they will try to change the Australian system peacefully and democratically into an Islamic regime within ten years if possible. Over one million Muslims live in Australia today.

The Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran called the United States of America "*The Great Satan*". The Muslim calls the United States "*The # 1 enemy of Islam*". Khomeini once said: *The ultimate goal in Islam is to kill and be killed for Allah.*

In the United States, the number of Muslims has increased from 10,000, in 1910, to nearly *five million* American Muslim citizens in 1990, plus almost another five million black Muslims, students, businessmen and illegal immigrants.

There are already scores of mosques (Over 2000 of them) spread all over the United States. Many of those mosques used to be church buildings; not to mention the secret cells of the terrorist movements, which are already well organized and operating in Detroit, New York, Los Angeles, and many other major cities of the United States.

It is important to understand that every Muslim considers himself a missionary. Islam involves its adherents in missionary efforts that far surpass the propagation of any other religion in the world. Arab soldiers, seamen, traders,

businessmen and diplomats have taken Islam to every corner of Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia, and the Americas.

One university alone, the University of “*AL-AZHAR*” in Cairo, Egypt, sends hundreds of missionary zealots all over the world every year.

It is projected that by the year 2010, the population of the Arab countries will double from roughly 250 million to 500 million people. This means that if trends continue, by the year 2010 there will be more people in the Arab world than in Western Europe or North America.

Egypt’s population is growing so fast, that its every three-year increase is equivalent to the whole population of the state of Israel.

These countries have an amazingly great number of young people. But the big question is: Will they turn into militant or suicidal Muslims, or will they have the opportunity to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ?

The reader should know that Islam today is completely different than it used to be in the past. Muslims are duplicating the effective methods and approaches of the Christian missionaries.

For example, you see them distributing tracts and giving away Korans, which is already translated into about seven hundred languages and dialects.

They even went further in their imitation of Christian missionary efforts to the extent that one of the Koran’s editions distributed in the United States was titled: *The Good News Koran* copying the name from *The Good News Bible*.

All this is new in Islam. The original teaching of the Koran is embodied in its commandment to the Muslims to conquer the world by the force of the sword.

One of the fundamental teachings of the Koran is that no one should be allowed to touch it or read it unless he does that in Arabic. *Why?*

Because for the Muslims, it is supposed to be the language of Paradise. No matter what the tongue of the adherent is, the adherent is supposed to memorize it in Arabic, whether he understands it or not!

However, today, they have translated it into about seven hundred languages and dialects, simply because the Bible proved effective by being translated into more than 2000 languages and dialects.

They really are on the move now, and they know perfectly what they are doing. We believe that Christians are facing crucial times wherein it has become necessary for every Christian to become personally involved in giving the **REAL GOOD NEWS** of the Lord Jesus Christ to those people, to tell them that He loved them and He died for them on the Cross of Calvary.

This very book was written with that purpose in mind and also to spread the awareness of the great Islamic invasion to the West. This book is especially written for you Westerners in general and Christians in particular.

Christian literature dealing with Islamics has proven very valuable; therefore, it is recommended as “must-reading” materials to all Christians who might come in contact with Muslims.

Who are these people? *What do they want?* What do they believe? *How do Christians relate to them?* How to lead them to Christ? You will find the answers to all these questions, and more in this unique booklet.

ISLAM IN THE BALANCE is a Christian book on Islam, intended to provide Christians with the knowledge they need to face the new challenge that is coming to their

door steps right straight from Mecca, with the help of the **Petro-Dollar** of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

It is a book you can give to Muslims in which they can find answers to questions they have and to accusations their scholars might have raised.

The Koran is divided into one hundred and fourteen chapters called **Suras**. Every Sura has a title and discusses a certain subject. Every verse in the Sura is numbered, as Bible verses are numbered.

We know that the Bible is divided into the Old and New Testaments; so is the Koran divided into two sections. The first section includes the Suras that Muhammad wrote in **Medina**, and the second section includes the Suras that were written in **Mecca** after he defeated that city and took it by force.

As we will study the Koran, we will note the great number of contradictions that exist in it because of this historical switching. In order to cover up those contradictions, Muhammad and the Muslims came up with an innovative formula called: *The nullifying and the nullified (An Naasekh wal Mansoukh)*. This means that if a **Meccite** verse contradicts a **Madinite** verse, then the one that came later would be more valid.

The reader will realize how confusing such practice can be. To add more confusion for the Koran student, such a formula suggests that God was mistaken previously; then He rectified His mistake and changed His mind.

Alongside the Koran, the reader will find quotes attributed to Muhammad found in several books referred to as **Al-Hadith** or **Traditions**. The **Traditions** are as important to the Muslims as the Koran itself.

However, the difference between the **Koran** and the **Traditions** lies in the fact that the Muslims believe that the

Koran came down to Muhammad from heaven as is therefore, it cannot be changed.

But the *Traditions* were quotes inspired by the archangel Gabriel. Consequently, it might carry a reflectional meaning, which can be given different interpretations.

The reader will also find a number of references and books mentioned, but unfortunately, those books are only written in the Arabic language. My prayer is that this book will be a blessed tool for years to come, shining on those living in the darkness and in the shadow of death, and guiding their feet in the path of the peace of God.

The Lord has a purpose in all of this; so, He has been sending them here. Let us stop playing ostrich and take advantage of the opportunity layed before us, and not miss it.

As Christians, let us share the love of Christ with Muslims. The church is involved in a real spiritual battle, especially because Islam has made it its primary target. This might be the most dangerous time for the church.

Let us remember that if faith in Christ wasn't worth dying for, He isn't then worth living for. If Christ is worth living and dying for, then we have a Gospel that is of infinite value to our Muslim friends.

Brother Mike.

2

WHAT THIS BOOK IS ALL ABOUT

This book is not only a helpful book in which to look for the truth but also a daring one. In addition to that, it is characterized by strict harmony through which it neither asks a question nor provides an answer unless they are instruments for revealing the truth to those who seek it.

It also reveals ideas using texts chosen from many references dealing with traditions, history, theology and customs, as well as with the sciences of comparative laws and religion alongside logic and reason...

This book treats exceedingly important matters in the Islamic religion and Christianity. We have not chosen this subject to launch an attack against the Muslims or the Islamic religion, but our mere intention is to compare one thing with its equal, depending on thorough researches to find out which is more correct, and where the truth rests.

This book is a deep and compact research, which sails in an ocean of questions, accusations, disputes and condemnations, which need logical, convincing and true responses.

The Muslims say:

- The Bible, which the Christians use today, has been perverted.

- The Bible is full of contradictions. The Koran, because of its eloquence is a miracle from God, and must be adopted by Christians.
- The Bible prophesied about Muhammad, and Christians deny this fact.
- The life and biography of Muhammad prove that he was the last of the prophets and the master of all messengers; therefore, we must follow his example and believe in him and in his teachings.
- Christians and Jews are polytheists and infidels so consequently they must be beheaded.
- They also purport that the rapid spread of Islam in the world is a proof that God sent His final revelation in the Koran.

Now, let us briefly consider the rapid spread of Islam as a proof that the Koran is a direct revelation from God. If such a statement had validity, then what can we say about Karl Marx's communist atheistic principles? These principles, in less than a century invaded the whole world, bringing two-thirds of it under its control. Yet today the whole world saw few years ago the collapse of communism.

The rapid spread of any idea seems good for a time, but can it stand the test of time? Also, can't we question if such ideas that relate to God are spread by force or manipulation of the mind? You will be the judge.

The following verse of the Koran says: ***“Dispute not with the People of the Book (the Bible), save in the fairer manner”*** (The Spider 46).

In this verse, it is clear that no one should be able to argue with the people of the Book except in the fairer manner; one might ask. Do their arguments take place today in the way which the Koran prescribes?

The Bible, on the other hand, admonishes against disputing as stated by the apostle Paul, saying: ***“Do all things without murmurings and disputing that ye may be blameless and harmless”*** (II Timothy 2:23-24).

Everybody knows that the tendency to argue is something common among all people. Such disputing may lead to speculations, and the speculations tend to encourage negative responses or a reaction similar to that pointed out in the scientific realm by Newton: ***“Every action has an equal and opposite reaction....”***

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the apostle Paul foresaw that the concept of dispute is unacceptable, and we as well should not become involved with it at all. For in initiating disputes, we receive a reaction that produces no result. The pursuit of disputes, therefore, only leads to bitter confrontations.

On the other hand, Paul showed that he approved of examining things before accepting them when he said: ***“Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good”*** (I Thessalonians 5:21).

Taking this verse as a starting point, we would like to begin our research by digging out and examining facts in order to find the truth, if indeed we Christians are gone astray as the Muslim accuses us.

The reader must know that many striking scenes were acted on the stage of Islamic history generation after generation.

Before our eyes, terrible massacres were committed against Christians, including the nominal Christians who bear the name of Christ in an unworthy manner; for one very simple reason: because Christians are accused of following a supposedly false Book which had been perverted at an early point in its history.

In most countries of the Middle East, the Islamic Friday radio sermon (*The Khutbah*) combines materialistic and intellectual menaces, threats and terrorism against the Christians.

All of this is sent directly from the Mosque Pulpit and can be exemplified by the word of one Muslim fundamentalist preacher who said: ***“O God, make their women widows, their children orphans, their churches debris. Smash their crosses, and make them and theirs with their riches loot for Muslims.”***

But with the same spirit that David had when he answered Goliath, we come to answer our dear Muslim friends, and say to them: ***“You come to us with threats and menaces, but we come to you in the name of the Lord”.***

This then is our unique weapon which is stronger and more effective than any double-edged sword; we come to you with love which is the heart of God, for as John tells us: ***God is love***, and Paul observes that ***love never fails***.

Dear Reader,

After reading this book, you will find yourself obliged to choose one of two things: You will either have to believe that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world and follow Him, or you will reject Him as such and follow Muhammad.

This book is written for the benefit of both Muslims and Christians. If you are a Muslim, we would like to tell you that we love you, and we are concerned about you and your eternal destiny. We challenge you to read on and discover useful information found in the Bible as well as in the Koran.

If you are a Christian, you may need to know more about Islam and the Muslims. You may need to love them. You may also need to know more about what and why you believe.

If you are neither, we challenge you to read it anyway, unless of course, you are not interested in finding the truth. However, the truth cannot be hidden forever.

One day, it will shine as bright as the sun... when everyone will know that they should not argue with the people of the Book, unless it is done in the fairer way, or better yet; not at all.

3

HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

Now, let us consider another historical point, namely, the collecting of the books of the Bible. Concerning the books of the Old Testament, the famous Jewish historian *Flavious Josephus* wrote in the year 90 A.D., “*For we, the Jews, have not an innumerable multitude of books amongst us, which disagree or contradict one another, but only twenty-two books, which contain the records of our past, which are justly believed to be divine.*”

It is worth mentioning here that the Torah (the Old Testament), which the Jews use today, is composed of the very same books of which Josephus had spoken.

In the same year (90 A.D.), the Council of Jamnia convened and presented a list of the books of the Old Testament for *canonization*.

The books of the New Testament used at the time the Koran was written, are the same as the ones used today. Long before the Koran came, there were some questions as to which books should be included in the New Testament, but by the time the Koran was written, those questions had already long been settled, and the books of the New Testament were clearly and definitely established.

Included in these books were the books of James and Revelation. Like the Pauline letters, those books were accepted by the church as the inspired Word of God by the fourth century.

After some inquires, accurate investigations and enough proofs that have been collected within the scope of inspiration, these books were made an integral part of the list of the twenty-seven, which constitute the New Testament.

To confirm the authenticity of our current New Testament, we must first consider the existence of the manuscripts written before the time of the Koran.

According to historians, we have a full Greek New Testament manuscript dating back to the death of Eusebius in the year 340 A.D.

These manuscripts have been invaluable in providing the necessary proofs that our current New Testament is the same as that of the 4th century New Testament.

The Council of Laodicea convened in the year 363 A.D., and it was reported to have issued the first list of books contained in the current New Testament. Eusebius said: ***“Some Christians did not recognize the epistle of James, the epistle of Jude, the second and third epistles of John and the Revelation.”***

But after much, precise and specific research, we found out that these books were altogether genuine and must be accepted along with the other books of the New Testament, because it was undoubtedly certain that they were inspired by God.”

Historically, the first accepted list of these current twenty-seven books was found in a letter written by ***Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria*** in the year 367 A.D.

In that same letter, Athanasius was quoted as saying: ***“May no one adds to them, or takes away from them”***. For fear of future canceling or altering of the Biblical New Testament documents, ***the Council of Carthage*** confirmed the canonical authority in the year 397 A.D.

That council confirmed the authority of all the books of the Bible that are used today in the Christian church. Many great Christian writers also investigated this matter in the *third and fourth* centuries including *Origen* who died in 253 A.D., and *Eusebius* who were contemporary with *Athanasius* who died in 373 A.D.

After a thorough inquiry by those men of God, they all agreed on the canonical authority of the books as described by the previous councils.

All those previously mentioned dates preceded the Koran and Islam by at least two centuries. Before the end of the 4th century, the canonical authority of the New Testament was accepted in Palestine, Syria, Cyprus, Asia Minor, Italy, and North Africa; each in its own language.

It seems quite unwise to doubt that the Bible we use today is not the same one used during Muhammad's time throughout the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

Consequently, these blessed New Testament books have been translated and assembled in the same order applied before. This reveals the wondrous harmony, which certainly proves that this precious Book has been protected by the hand of God Himself.

Isn't this a unique safekeeping of the Bible down through all the ages? It is crystal clear evidence that it is the Book of God! This precious providence, which was not bestowed to any other book, is a solid incentive for us to bind our hearts to it so that all the hands of the wicked would fail to separate us from it.

Moreover, the Lord Jesus said: "*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away*" (Matthew 24:35).

4

ABOUT TRANSLATIONS

The Bible is not important only to the Jews and the Christians, but to the Muslims as well. The Koran appeared in the seventh century after Christ.

So it is worth mentioning that during that time the Koran testified in favor of the Christians and it labeled them as the **“People of the Book”**, saying: *“Say, People of the Book, you stand on nothing, until you perform the Torah and the Gospel, and what has been sent down to thee from thy Lord”* (Table 68).

We find nowhere in the Koran that the Christians or the Jews had ever changed anything in the Scriptures. The Koran had never accused them of corrupting the Bible; but rather, it upheld the Bible and praised it.

So the Koran itself testified that the Bible, in both its Testaments, was in great circulation, and there was no possibility for anyone to change it. If this is the case, could it have been corrupted after the days of Muhammad?

The Bible today is the same as it was at the time of Muhammad, inspired and without the slightest alteration. It is certain that some ancient copies in various languages have been found in the Christian libraries and museums.

When we believe the Koran testimony concerning the accuracy and the validity of the Bible, we would be defending the Koran itself; and if the Muslims knew that by making unjust statements against the Bible they would be

blaspheming the Koran itself, they would refrain from committing such a folly.

Surely, the Word of God, the Bible, has neither been altered nor corrupted nor perverted; it remains protected and preserved in His care.

The Koran admits and guides its followers to the right path when it says: “***And We have sent down to thee the book with the truth confirming the Book that was before it, and a watcher over it***” (The Table 48).

Al-Baidhawi, a famous Muslim expositor, explained in his commentary the Koran expression “***a watcher over it***” saying: “*The Koran was an overseer over all the other books that appeared before it; and it was intended to protect those books from any change, testifying for their correctness, and helping to keep them from corruption or perversion in the ages to come.*”

After this assertion was made by some of the great Islamic interpreters, how can the Muslims insist on saying that the Bible is perverted?

However, if it had been altered, then pity be upon mankind for their bad fortune, because the Word of God which cannot be changed, as God’s prophets and also the Koran had testified, was changed anyway according to the Muslim accusation and became corrupt.

But regardless of this groundless accusation, the Bible could never have been tampered with and changed. Furthermore, with such an accusation, they are incriminating God of not being powerful enough to keep and preserve His Word.

Now, let us consider another historical point: ***The collecting of the books of the Bible.***

5

ABOUT PERVERSION

The Muslims say that the Bible used today by the Christians is not the same one that was inspired by God. They make the accusation that it was written long after the ascension of Christ.

Can one deny the authenticity of the Koran because it was gathered many years after Muhammad's death, as mentioned in many reliable Islamic history books?

Since the Word of God has been proven sound and authentic in the previous chapter, no sane man should deny it or ignore it, but rather he should study it, train himself by it, and apply it in his life.

Why then do the Muslims ignore the Bible and refuse to read it? Even though the Koran commands them to uphold it, they try to dispense with it by saying that it was not designated for their nation; but hear what the Koran emphasizes: ***“Say, People of the Book, you do not stand on anything until you perform the Torah and the Gospel, and what was sent down to you from your Lord”*** (The Table 68).

Yes, this is what the Koran advises; i.e., to uphold the Torah and the Gospel, and not to ignore them nor to claim that they do not suit their nation.

We as Christians believe that God is One and so is the way of knowing Him. For this reason, the Koran commands Muhammad to ask the People of the Book about the teachings contained in it, as we'll study later.

Here, the Muslims have to understand that today's Bible is the very same one that existed in the day of Muhammad and much earlier. The Koran referred to the Bible often and testified in its favor.

Consequently, everyone should diligently read the Bible, hoping that God the Merciful would enlighten his mind and open his heart to understand it and view it as the Koran described it: "*A guidance and light unto the world.*"

The Muslims say that because some erudite Jews had differences in their opinions and beliefs, they perverted a part of the Torah according to their own convenience and creed.

Furthermore, the Muslims also suggest that the Christians also perverted the Gospel and made it suit their claims; namely, that Jesus the son of Mary is God that the Jews crucified Him, and that by His death on the cross He washes away all the sins of those who believe in Him!

As the Koran emphasizes, if we believe that God is absolutely truthful, we cannot attribute to Him a corrupted, altered, and perverted book; especially when the Koran was supposed to oversee it and protect it from all changes; to testify for its correctness, and to keep it from corruption and perversion in every age.

Had the Bible not been true at the time of Muhammad, the Koran would have pointed out its errors. But it did not. One of the major claims of the Koran is that its purpose was to authenticate the Bible.

If so, on one hand the Koran confirms the Bible's inspiration by God as a guidance and light for the world. On the other hand, the Muslims contradict their own Koran by charging that the Bible had been changed.

If the Muslims are right, and the Bible had been changed, then the Koran contradicts itself on this subject. The Koran

testifies for the accuracy of the Bible saying: ***“For them is good tidings in the present life and in the world to come. There is no changing of the Word of God, that is the supreme triumph “ (Jonah 64).***

Yes, there is no changing of the Word of God, and that is the supreme triumph, and the great proof that God is able to keep His Word and protect it from wicked people.

The Koran refers to the Torah and the Gospel as ***“The Remembrance”*** and testifies that they are the Word of God, and He is their keeper.

The Koran proves to the Muslims that the Bible has not been perverted when it says: ***“We sent not any before thee, except men to whom We revealed; Ask the people of the Remembrance, if it should be that you do not know”*** (The Bee).

This verse uncovers an important fact to Muhammad and to the Muslims, telling them that their first and last authoritative reference should be the Remembrance. Because it is the inspired Word of God, the Muslims have been commanded in their Koran to go to the Christian for advice.

Would God call upon the Muslims and the world to obey a corrupted book (***the Remembrance***)? Would He command the Muslims to seek the instructions of a corrupt people, the followers of the Remembrance; namely, the Christians?

Unfortunately, in spite of all the truth that has been revealed, the Muslims still want to believe that the Bible, which the Christians use today, has been altered and perverted.

When they are asked at what point in history did this change occur? They can never agree on an answer. Some might say, before the days of Muhammad. Others say, after the time of Muhammad, and some others say, some

corruption took place before Muhammad and some after Muhammad.

If the Bible had been perverted **before** Muhammad, The Koran would not have given it any credibility or support, something the reader finds abundantly throughout the pages of the Koran. Therefore, that claim is totally groundless.

On the other hand, if the Bible had been corrupted **after** Muhammad, surely historians would have recorded the incident.

Most Arab-Muslim historians like *Ben Hisham, Ben Is-haq, Ben Khaldoon, Al- Masoudi, Al- Asfahani, Ben Saad* and many others, mentioned nothing about the perversion of the Bible.

The Muslims, furthermore, have no authentic copy of the Bible with which they can substantiate their claim of its perversion. Instead, in order to support their accusations, they refer to books written by real heretics and enemies of Christianity; like *Ahmad Didat*.

They search for any objection or slander without verifying its authenticity either logically or historically. Unfortunately, they purposely overlook the facts that those objections, which the heretics presented, had already been refuted.

Down through the ages, many heretic writers have dedicated themselves to writing books that would mislead people, corrupt the truth and plant the seed of disinformation. As it is true with most things, **All that glitters is not gold**. The contents of those books were mostly based on superstitions rather than facts.

For this reason, most learned people give little or no credence at all to their writings. Church scholars have examined their writings attempting to find any hidden truth

in them, but they found nothing other than libel against the faith, which was built on the foundation of the Bible.

Consequently, no one should pay any attention to their follies. Furthermore, the Koran does not only suggest that the Bible is authentic, but it also accuses those who refuse to live by it as evildoers, saying: ***“So let the people of the Gospel judge according to what God has sent down therein. Whosoever judges not according to what God has sent down-they are the evil-doers”*** (The Table 47).

If the Koran supports the Christians and their Gospel, why then do the Muslims blame them for upholding that which God had revealed in it?

How could it be fair on the Muslims’ side to shun the Christians and turn to the writings of heretics and atheists, and accept them?

Have they forgotten or ignored the advice that the Koran gave them, saying: ***“And thou wilt surely find the nearest of them in love to the believers are those who say, “We are Christians “ that, because some of them are priests and monks, and they wax not proud”*** (The Table 82).

Yes, the Koran testifies for the Bible and confirms that the Jews and the Christians are the people of the Book, and it never says that they perverted, altered, corrupted or changed it.

If the Gospel could have been corrupted, it would have been perverted by the time of Muhammad since it was written about six hundred years before Islam. Those six hundred years would have been the most suitable time for altering and changing it; but the Koran upheld it and supported it unconditionally. Consequently the Bible is as true today as it was during the time of Muhammad.

Throughout their history, the Jews committed the sin of worshipping idols, which the Bible strictly condemns; yet,

they could not alter or pervert the commandments, which pronounced judgment against idol worship and exposed their unfaithfulness to God and His Word.

The following is a living proof of the biblical truth: ***“I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. Thou shalt have none other gods before me. Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me. And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love and keep my commandments”*** (Duet. 5:6-10).

Even though God’s commandment was clear, the Jews foolishly worshipped idols, and although their action was against this biblical commandment, they did not attempt to delete this biblical testimony, which was against them.

Likewise, the teaching and actions of many Christians today are contrary to Bible teachings. This may range from the presence of icons and statues in churches, to forbidden sins of adultery and statues in churches, to forbidden sins of adultery and homosexuality practiced by many of the traditional Christians; yet, they did not dare to delete or alter the verses in the Bible that condemn their acts and their involvement therein.

All these points should be convincing evidence concerning the preserving and safeguarding of the Bible against the blemish of perversion of alteration, for it is protected by the omnipotent Creator who controls all things. Muhammad knew this fact quite well.

For that reason, he gave a true testimony when he said that the Jews and the Christians were the People of the Book.

He did not say what the Muslims say today, that the Bible has been perverted. Had he heard such an accusation, he would have rebuked the accusers and told them that the Bible is clear of any corruption or perversion.

Is it not strange that at the time the Koran solemnly testifies for the accuracy and inerrancy of the Bible, the Muslims have prohibited themselves from searching for the reality and the truth of this testimony.

Since the accuracy of the Bible is attested by the Koran, why is it forbidden to distribute the Bible in most Islamic countries? Are the authorities of those countries afraid that their people would find the real truth? Why do they have to think for their own people, as if their people have no mind of their own to think and decide for themselves?

If the Koran denies that the Bible is perverted, why do the Muslims claim that it is in clear defiance of their own Koran?

What answer can they give to God on the Day of Judgment? Since they neither believed His Book, nor what is written in their Koran about the Bible?

6

ABOUT CONTRADICTIONS

The Muslims say: *“The Bible is full of contradictions”, and they have yet to introduce a valid one.*

By comparison, when tackling the problem of contradictions, we find many of them in the Koran. Some concern matters that are important to Islam, such as: *“Oh children of Israel, remember my grace upon you, and that I have preferred you from above all beings”* (The Cow 122).

Then, as though God found Himself mistaken by choosing the children of Israel from among all nations, the Koran portrays God as if He had changed His mind, saying: *“Thou wilt find the most hostile of men to the believers are the Jews”* (The Table 82).

Is God a God of confusions, contradictions and indecisiveness?

The Sunni Muslims know well that a group of the Shiite Muslims (both are the two major Muslim sects) had proven that *Omar Ben Al- Khattab and Uthman Ben Affan*, the **first** and **second** successors of Muhammad, respectively, had deliberately changed several verses in the Koran and deleted some, with the express purpose of hiding two important facts from the Muslims; namely,

1) The first was that *Muhammad* commanded that his cousin *Ali Ben Abi Talib* be his successor.

2) The second was that **Muhammad** reserved the caliphate (the leadership) for the *descendants of Ali*.

In the book entitled *AL-Fadael (Virtues)*, written in Arabic by **Shathan Ben Gibreel**, Muhammad spoke to **Jaber Ben Abd-Allah Al- Ansary**, one of his close followers.

According to that writer, Muhammad said: *“I asked the Messenger of God about the birth of Ali Ben Abi-Talib, and he answered: ‘Ah! Ah! You asked me in wonder, oh, Jaber, about the best man who was born next in line to me, who is according to the practice of Jesus Christ, God, may He come, created him a light out of my light, and created me a light out of his light, and we were both born from one light... He created us before He created the stretched sky, or the flat land, before the existence of length or width, darkness or light, the sea or air; He created us fifty thousand years before all these; then God, may he be honored and glorified, praised Himself, and we praised Him, He sanctified Himself and we sanctified Him; He glorified His might, and we glorified Him. So God thanked us for our deeds, and out of my praise He created the heaven and kept it. He created the earth and stretched it, and the seas and deepened them. Out of the praise of Ali, He created the Kin angels... O Jaber, God the Almighty molded us and sprung us through Adam where I settled in His right side whereas Ali in His left side”*

The above passage strongly supports the Shiites’ claim that **Ali Ben Abi-Talib** was supposed to have been Muhammad’s successor.

Another group claims that **Uthman Ben-Affan** deleted an entire Sura entitled *“Sura of al-Nourein”* (meaning, the Sura of the Two Lights) from the Koran. Such deletion produced grave consequences to the Muslims.

Some Islamic history writers confirm the fact that **Uthman Ben-Affan** collected all the copies of the Koran and

burnt them. Then he took the last copy of the original Koran, which was with **Hafsa**, the wife of Muhammad, and deleted everything in it that was in favor of **Ali Ben Abi-Talib** and his descendants, using the scribe **Zayd Ben Tabet**.

It is reported that some **Alawites** (a Muslim sect) have denied that the Koran, which is used today, is the same one that was sent down by God unto Muhammad. Furthermore, they insist that this current Koran was put together by **Uthman and Abu-Bakr**.

Plus, don't we have the right to ask why the Koran was confiscated from the hands of the people? Why it was taken in a malicious way from the hands of **Hafsa** (One of Muhammad's wife)? Why all the copies of the Koran were burned by **Uthman**? Why did **Zeyd Ben Tabet** rewrite a new Koran?

It seems that the historians of Islam have succeeded in laying a thick veil on the eyes of the Islamic masses causing them to be tripped and dispersed.

This then led to the several contradictions found in their history. For instance, in a book written in Arabic titled: **The Grandeur of Muhammad and His Noble Virtues**, Muhammad was quoted regarding Abu-Bakr: **"Abu-Bakr and I were on this matter like two race horses; I beat him and he followed me; and if he had beaten me, I would have followed him"**

Several serious questions can be raised here, such as:

a) Was not **Abu-Bakr** the first one among men to believe in Muhammad? A race should not have been mentioned at all in the case of prophet hood because it is God's calling, not men racing for it.

b) Wasn't **Abu-Bakr** the first successor who ruled the Arabs following Muhammad? Whose decision were the prophet hood and the succession: **God's or men's?**

c) How could the prophet hood be a target for which two men were racing? Was the prophet hood a matter of race between two men, or God's choice?

d) Let us suppose for a minute that Abu-Bakr had beaten Muhammad then what would the Muslims have called out at the time of prayer today? Would they have called out: ***“There is no God but God, and Abu-Bakr is the Messenger of God”*** instead of Muhammad?

It is no wonder that great confusion has resulted from studying those self-contradictory texts. With all those texts quoted, forming a wide variety of contradictory writings, no wonder the Muslims are at loss.

We have to realize that these historical contradictions are at the heart of the religion, touching the top leadership and the calling of the servant or the prophet of God. More contradictory texts in the Koran will be discussed in a later chapter.

On the other hand, if we examined all the texts, which some people consider contradictory in the Bible, we will find that their conclusion is the result of shallow studies of the Bible.

The reader will find nothing in the Bible that will mar its essence or purpose as a whole. But, rather, what may seem contradictory to a superficial student becomes a clear evidence to the in-depth student that the Bible is in total harmony, from its beginning to its end.

Moving more deeply into important matters in the Word of God, it becomes inevitable that one must refuse either the Koran or the Bible. The Muslims, in general, have made a choice not to accept the very same book of which their Koran spoke very highly.

They argued that if they accepted the Bible, they would have to accept the doctrines of the Trinity and the

redemption of sins of the vicarious work of Christ on the Cross of Calvary.

Their Imams have told them that such doctrines are in disagreement with their teachings and the Koran. They made it very clear that if you accept the Koran you should reject the Bible.

During the Gulf crisis, Saudi Arabia, who was protected by the Armed Forces of the United States, was audacious enough to tell its protectors that their Holy Bible was an offense to the Saudis. Could that be blind ignorance or vulgar ingratitude, or both?

Then which one should a person choose?

We should choose the Book of God, of course. The Bible is like a gigantic rocky mountain, immovable, that cannot be shaken by high waves of doubts or by the winds of complaints. Instead, the more those obstacles pile up, the more gloriously it glows.

Consider the fact that the Bible has been translated into more than 2000 languages and dialects, with millions of copies being printed and distributed annually.

Through the centuries, people have been curiously investigating the Bible for themselves, and they seem unable to resist such an irresistible drive. One must ask the question as to why this happens? Simply because it is the Word of God, and only by following its precepts, one can have peace of mind and conscience.

The Bible and the Bible alone is **the Book**, which declares unto us the acceptance and mercy of God's justice through Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

The Bible tells us that it is this same Jesus who bought us with His own precious blood which was shed on the cross of Calvary to give eternal life to all those who believed on Him.

Those who believe that the Koran is a word from God, a light and guidance to those people, should read it slowly, meditatively and with complete understanding of its meaning.

This is the least that a Muslim should do. One can receive no benefit from the Koran if he does not thoroughly comprehend its sayings and obey its orders and prohibitions.

Is this really the case of the Muslims today?

Many Muslim readers and listeners satisfy themselves only by the musical chanting of the Koran. You are supposed to read it only by chanting its verses. Worse yet, the reciter expect to earn God's merit for his recitation.

Moreover, since the Koran is only to be recited in Arabic, according to Koranic rules, it surely prevents the reader, especially the foreigners to the Arabic tongue, from understanding what it says.

Since only one-fifth of the Muslims speak and understand Arabic, this means that four-fifths of the Muslims have no idea what the Koran says.

It seems logical that no book should be treated in such a way, let alone a book claimed to be divine from God. The language of the reader should not be disregarded; such practice holds him in bondage to something he cannot even understand.

Any Muslim who truly believes in the Koran should not allow fanaticism to stand in his way of investigating the truth of the Bible, nor should he be forbidden from adopting it as his guide and light along the path in the darkness of this world.

He must also remember that the Koran says: ***“Lo! Those who wrangle concerning the revelation of God without a warrant having come unto them, there is naught in their***

breasts save pride, which they will never attain. So take thou refuge in God. Lo! He only, He is the Hearer and the Seer” (Believers 56).

If a Muslim seeks guidance through the Bible, he must read it carefully and beseech the Almighty to enlighten his mind. Then he can understand God’s will and be guided towards the right and straight path along which those who are chosen by God are walking.

7

ABOUT THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF THE KORAN

The Muslims say: “*The Koran is a miracle because it was written by an illiterate man. God revealed it to us and we should abide by its teachings*”.

We do not deny that the Koran is an eloquent and rhetorical book, but if writing a most eloquent and rhetorical book is considered a miracle, we should consider much of the Arabic poetry and literature as miracles, also; especially because they are equally eloquent and rhetorical, if not more than the Koran.

If eloquence and rhetorics are the basis of inspiration, what should we say then of Plato, Cicero, Dante and Shakespeare?

Moreover, how could the Koran be a miracle when most of its contents were taken from the Bible? Those contents were then molded into an archaic Arabic mold, alongside other stories that were added to fill its pages.

Al-Mutanabbi, meaning “*the prophetizer*”, so nicknamed because he claimed that he could write a better Koran than Muhammad’s, was killed because he did write a piece of literature that was more eloquent than Muhammad’s.

Taha Hussein, the famous Egyptian philosopher, who became a Christian, once said: “*If we were asked to*

summarize the Bible, we can find no better summary for it than the Koran”

If one wishes to make sure that what we say is right, he has only to read both books. If anyone accepts the Koran but rejects the Bible, he must then ask: *“How can the Bible be perverted if a large percentage of the Koran’s contents were taken from it?”* If we were to remove all the Bible quotations out of the Koran, the remainder would not be worth mentioning.

The Muslims claim that every prophet performed at least one miracle to prove that his message was of God, and their miracles differ according to the environment or the period in which they occur.

They went on to say that during the time of Moses, witchcraft reached its peak among the Egyptians, and Moses was given miracles, which seemed magical.

During the time of Jesus, medicine was widely prevalent, so His miracles reflected that aspect. During the time of Muhammad, eloquence prevailed among the Arabs, so the Koran stunned the people of Arabia, especially because it was assumed to have been written by someone who was illiterate.

The Koran challenged people to write a book as eloquent as it, saying: ***“And if you are in doubt concerning that which We have sent down on Our servant, then bring a Sura like it, and call your witnesses apart from God, if you are truthful”*** (The Night Journey 88).

The Muslims then claim that if the Christian say it is not a miracle, the fact that it was brought forth by an illiterate person is enough evidence to provide that it is a miracle. The question that comes to mind here is: *Was Muhammad actually illiterate?*

The concept that Muhammad was illiterate they believe is supported by the Koran when it says: ***“Those who follow the messenger, the unlettered prophet, believe in God and His messenger the prophet, believe in God and His messenger the prophet who can neither read nor write”*** (The Heights 157-158).

The expression ***unlettered*** and the prophet who can neither read nor write, in the original Arabic language of the Koran, is expressed in one word, ***Al-Ummiy***.

This word can have one of two meanings: Either ***unlettered*** or ***Gentile***. As defined by the Koran, the unlettered or the Gentiles, were all those who were not counted among the People of the Book (Christians and Jews).

In other words, all those who were not Christians or Jews, were considered unlettered, ***(Ummiy)***. The unlettered or Gentile, ***(Ummiy)***, was the description that the Koran gave to the people of Koreish or the Arabs of the Jahilah (the era that preceded Islam in the Arabian Peninsula).

It is suggested that in the English version of the Koran, the word and phrase was mistranslated to promote Islam and confirms the illiteracy of Muhammad.

Consequently, this description does not prove that Muhammad was illiterate, but it confirms that he came from a non-Jewish, non-Christian background.

Let us investigate this issue a little further. The Koran itself supports our interpretation of this situation by saying: ***“So if they disputed with thee, say: ‘I have surrendered my will to God, and whosoever follows me and say to those who have been given the Book and to the unlettered (Gentiles) have you surrendered?’”***

The expression ***common folk*** which is a translation of the word ***unlettered*** in Arabic is harmonized with the expression

used with it, the “*People of the Book*”, meaning the Christians and the Jews.

It becomes evident that it signifies the Gentiles and not literal illiteracy. It is not logical that all the people of Koreish could not read or write at the time of Muhammad, as it is equally illogical that all the People of the Book could read at that time.

Mind you, Koreish, and the Arabs of that era had a great civilization. The Koran proves that point of “*the Gentiles*”, saying: “*And some there are of them that are illiterate not knowing the Book, but only fancies and mere conjecture*” (The Cow 78).

The Arabs were labeled as the Arabs of *Jahiliyah*, meaning the *unlettered*, not because they could not read or write, but because they did not worship God. Simply, they were ignorant of His true identity.

When Muhammad revealed his message, he was not among the People of the Book, he was then called the *Ummy Prophet*, meaning the Gentile prophet; distinguishing him from the other prophets who came from Israel.

Verse 2 of the Congregation Sura says: “It is He who sent among the unlettered folks a messenger from among them, to recite unto them His revelations and make them grow, and teach them the Scripture and wisdom, though heretofore, they were indeed in error manifest”

Here the words *common folks* should be changed to *Gentile*, because of the real meaning that the Koran signifies when it uses the term. From the context, it would seem that it refers to the people of Koreish and the Arabs of Jahilah. If this is so, can we say that all of the people of that era were unlettered?

The fact is that some of the best classics of the Arabic literature came from that era with big names such as *Umrou*

Al- Keis, Pastor Lukman Ben Saida Al- Ayadi, Antara Ben Shaddad, and others...

How could those famous writers and great poets be labeled illiterate or unlettered unless the word really means *non-Jewish/non-Christian*?

On the other hand, the Koran referred to the Christians and the Jews as the People of the Book; this should not mean that all those people had good command of the art of reading and writing.

To support our claim that Muhammad was not illiterate, we turn to the original language wherefrom we present our proofs. First, the word A'jami is used by Arabs to have two meanings.

It can mean a Persian or it could mean a non-Arab, excluding the inhabitants of the Arab countries. Originally, the meaning of this Arabic word was speechless, tongue-tied person.

In some Arabic books, *Hafez Al- Shirazi*, a noted Persian poet of highest caliber, was labeled as *A'jami*. There the word A'jami could not have meant tongue-tied, but simply non-Arab.

A further proof that the Muslims knew Muhammad's literacy is through the teachings of *Al- Bukhary* and *Imam Mouslim*, two famous Muslim expositors.

These two men referred in their Tradition books to the signing of the *Hadibia* treaty when Muhammad took a pen and signed his name on behalf of *Ali Ben Abi Talib*. Muhammad signed the treaty as follows: "*Ben Abd-Allah, the messenger of God.*"

Another famous Muslim expositor called *Ibn Hisham*, related to us a quotation attributed to Muhammad: "*In my sleep, Gabriel the angel came to me in a silk brocade and*

said: 'Read!' I asked: 'What should I read?' And it was for three times... Then I repeated: 'What do I have to read?' Then he said: 'Read in the name of thy Lord who created Man of a blood-clot; Read, And thy Lord is the Most Generous, who taught by the pen, taught man that which he knoweth not...' Then Muhammad said: 'I read it.' And Gabriel departed" (The Blood-clot 1-5).

If Muhammad could not read, he would not have asked, *"What should I read?"* He would have exclaimed, *"How could I read? I cannot read!"* But his statement is a clear rebuttal to the claim that the Muslims cling to about the Koran being written by an illiterate man; and let us leave our comment aside, and hear him say later, *"I READ IT."* Furthermore, how could Abu-Bakr Uthman, Ali and others have a good command of the Arabic language when Muhammad did not?

Likewise, in the book *The Grandeur of Muhammad and His Noble Merits* and also in the historical writing of *Ibn Saad and Ibn Al-Atheer*, we find interesting statements made by Muhammad.

He was quoted saying as he was dying: *"Fetch me an ink pot and a sheet of paper to write you a book that protects you from straying after I am gone."* This quotation clearly proves Muhammad's ability to write, especially because he did not ask for a transcriber. It stands to reason, therefore, that one can write can also read.

The Shiite Comment on this story is that *Omar Ben Al-Khattab* refused to give him the inkpot because Muhammad's pain was unbearable. They further claim that if he had written, Ali would have succeeded him.

Moreover, it is a historical fact that Muhammad was raised by his Uncle, Abi Talib whom he described as the most equitable and just man whom he ever knew.

The question rises here: *“How could a fair and just man like Abi Talib educate Ali, his son, and keep his nephew, Muhammad, whom he raised in his own house as his own son, in the darkness of illiteracy?”* That cannot make sense.

According to *Al-Seer (Tales)*, an Islamic history book, Muhammad had **26 transcribers**. One of those transcribers wrote differently than what Muhammad dictated; consequently, he ordered his beheading. How then could Muhammad have known that fact if he did not proof read the document?

Having reviewed these accounts of Muhammad’s ability to read and write, we must also examine the historical incidents of the Koran for its authenticity. We will look more closely at this in the coming chapters.

8

ABOUT CHRONOLOGICAL ERRORS FOUND IN THE KORAN

1. ALEXANDER THE GREAT

One day, some Jews of Kheiber came to test the knowledge of Muhammad. They asked him: “*What do you know about Alexander?*” (They meant Alexander the Great, 356-323 B.C., King of Macedonia, and conqueror of the Persian Empire).

The next day, Muhammad answered: “*Say, I shall recite unto you a remembrance of him. Lo, We establish him in the land, and we gave him a way to everything; and he followed a way. When he reached the setting place of the sun, he found it setting in a muddy spring, and found nearby a people. We said: O Dhool Karnein (the double-horned man), either punish them or show them mercy. He said, As for him who doeth wrong, we shall punish him and then he will be brought back unto his Lord who will punish him with awful punishment! But as for him who believeth and doeth right, good will be his reward, and we shall speak unto him a mild command. Then he followed a road. Till, when he found it rising on a people for whom we had appointed no shelter there from. So it was. And Knew all concerning him*” (The Cave 82-91).

By reading the above Koran passage, one can recognize that it must have slipped Muhammad’s mind that Alexander the Great was a die-hard pagan who burnt down the Phoenician city of Tyre because they were reluctant in

allowing him to offer sacrifices to his pagan gods in their own temple.

Their hesitation was prompted by their traditions that dictated the rights of their king only to offer sacrifices in that temple. The reader should understand that paganism dominated Alexander's life, background, and ancestry.

Instead of concealing this dreadful historical mistake, which is clearly displayed in the Koran, some Muslim writers defended it.

Omar Ben Al-Khattab said when he heard a man calling the name of Alexander the Great: ***“It is because you used all names of the prophets, that you have ascended to the names of angels?”***

Many other Muslim scholars, beside ***Omar*** have defended Alexander's sainthood, making him even equal to the angels. They have simply ignored Alexander's historical reality and bypassed a very well known historical fact, that Alexander was a pagan; and he destroyed the city of Tyre because they hesitated in allowing him to offer sacrifices for his pagan gods in their temple.

However, because Muhammad proclaimed his sainthood, they believe whatever he said, unquestionably and in disregard to historical realities. For them, Muhammad never errs regardless of the truth.

2. THE FLOOD

“But they denied him, so we saved him and those with him in the ship, and we drowned those who denied tokens... So we went against them the flood, and the locusts, and vermin, and the frogs, and the blood” (The Heights 64 & 133).

Verse 133 confuses the occurrence of the flood with Moses' plagues of locusts, lice, frogs, and blood. To prove that the above-mentioned flood was the great and unique flood of Genesis, Noah's flood, let us consider its usage in this Koran text.

The word ***flood*** in the Arabic text was preceded by the definite article ***the*** meaning the word used is a well-known event that had its own identity. In the Middle East, this event has always been known as Noah's flood.

In fact, the flood took place hundreds of years before the time of Moses. The Bible assures us that the only eight people who survived the flood were Noah, his wife, his three sons, ***Shem, Ham, Japheth***, and their three wives; eight persons in all.

Furthermore, if the flood took place in Moses' day, how many arks would have been needed to accommodate the Israelites? Consequently, the fact that the Egyptians came hundreds of years after the flood of Noah, forces us to wonder about the Koran's credibility and authenticity.

3. MERIAM, DAUGHTER OF IMRAN

Another big mistake occurred in the Koran when Mary (***Mary is the Anglicized word for the Hebrew name Merriam***), daughter of Imran, was mistaken for the Virgin Mary, Jesus' mother.

A real confusion mars the story as the Koran says: ***“When the wife of Imran said, My Lord, I have vowed unto thee that which is in my womb as a consecrated offering. Accept it from me; Thou only art the hearer, who knows”*** (The House of Imran 35).

“And Mary daughter of Imran whose body was chaste, therefore we breathed therein something of our Spirit; and

she put faith in the words of her Lord and His Book, and was one of those who obey” (The Banning 12).

The Bible tells us that Mary (Merriam), daughter of Imran, is the sister of Aaron and Moses, whose father was Imran, and Mother was Jochebed, daughter of Levi. (Num. 26:59).

However, the Bible tells us that Mary, Jesus’ mother, was the daughter of Hali (Luke 3:23). Although, these two names, Merriam and Mary, are the same name in Hebrew and Arabic, there was a period of **1500 years** between them. The mistake is so obvious. None of the Muslim scholars have tried to justify this obvious chronological mistake.

They pretend, to cover up that big mistake saying: Likewise Jesus in the Bible is called the son of David meaning that he is the descendant of David. So when the Koran says that Mary was Merriam the daughter of Imran, it means that she was the descendant of Merriam, forgetting that Jesus was the son of David, cause David was from the tribe of Judah, when Merriam the daughter of Imran was from the tribe of Levi!

4. MOSES

The Koran says that the woman who adopted Moses was Pharaoh’s wife, not Pharaoh’s daughter, saying: ***“And the wife of Pharaoh said, He will be a consolation for me and for thee. Kill him not peradventure he may be of use to us, or we may choose him for a son. And they perceived not”*** (The Story 9).

Who would know Moses’ guardian better than Moses himself? Could Muhammad be considered more knowledgeable than Moses concerning Moses’ affairs? Would the Koran be a better reference than the Torah, the files of Moses?

If Moses, himself, said that the woman who adopted him was the daughter of Pharaoh, should we not believe him? The Bible elaborates, saying: *“And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river’s side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. And when she had opened it, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, ‘This is one of the Hebrews’ children.’ Then said his sister to Pharaoh’s daughter, ‘Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?’ ‘Go; and the maid went and called the child’s mother.’ And Pharaoh’s daughter said unto her, ‘Take the child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee wages.’ And the woman took the child, and nursed it. And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses, and said, ‘Because I drew him out of the water”* (Ex. 2:5-10).

The expression, *Pharaoh’s daughter*, occurred five times in the above text, which was written by Moses himself. Although Muhammad had never doubted the authority of the Bible, his writings demonstrated and confirmed his lack of Bible knowledge.

5. ISAAC AND ISHMAEL

In one of the Traditions, *the Hadith books*, Muhammad was quoted as saying that Abraham offered Ishmael, not Isaac, as a sacrifice.

When some people attempted to correct his information, they were harshly shunned because he claimed that he had spoken on behalf of God; therefore he is never wrong, regardless, and no matter what he said.

Now let us consider what the Muslim writers have written concerning this subject. *Al-Massoudy* wrote that *Abd Allah Ben Abbas* and his master *Akrama* had a debate...

Akrama asked: *“Who was supposed to have been slain?”* Abd Allah answered: *“Ishmael”* ... *“Why?”* asked Akrama.

Ben Abbas answered: *“Because how can God pass the good news of Isaac’s birth to Abraham, then order that he be killed?”*

“I can bring you proof from the Koran that Isaac was supposed to have been slain,” said Akrama,

“Thus will thy Lord prefer thee and teach thee the interpretation of events, and perfect His grace upon thee and upon the household of Jacob as He perfected it upon thy forefathers, Abraham and Isaac. Lo! Thy Lord is All-knowing and All-wise.”

“God’s blessing to Abraham was by choosing him, and saving him,” said Akrama, *“and to Isaac by redeeming him from slaying”* (Joseph 6).

Indeed, Muhammad left behind a very difficult task for his followers to handle; that is, to prove that the one that was supposed to have been slain was Ishmael and not Isaac. For fourteen centuries, the Muslims have been trying to prove that point of view, but without success.

Even in the Koran, the promise was through Isaac and not through Ishmael, saying: *“So, when he had withdrawn from them and that which they were worshipping beside God, We gave him Isaac and Jacob; each of them we made a prophet “* (Mary 49).

Yes, Isaac, not Ishmael was the one who was supposed to be sacrificed and then redeemed. It was through Isaac’s descendants that the promise was to be received.

6. ABOUT MIRACLES

The Muslims say that Muhammad performed many *miracles (The Prophetic Biography, Volume 1, pages 37-140, written in Arabic)*. Their claims include:

1. He supposedly stretched his sword and split the moon in two; causing half to appear over *Abi Keis*, and the other half over *Keinakaa* (Two mountains in Arabia).

2. He raised his parents from the dead after a long period of being dead, so they could believe in him; then they died again.

3. He extracted water at a place called Al- Jaz.

4. He gave back life to the son of a woman among his companions.

5. He fed a large number of people with little food.

We regret to say that all the above stories are incorrect. They were not even mentioned in the Koran. Even the Muslims avoid mentioning them because they strongly doubted they ever happened.

The Koran says: *“Those who disbelieve say, if only a miracle were sent down upon him from his Lord! Say, God sendeth whom He will astray, and guideth unto Himself all who turn to Him. An verily We sent messengers before thee, and appointed for them wives and offspring, and it was not given to any messenger that he should bring a miracle save by God’s leave; for everything there is a time prescribed”* (The Thunder 17 & 50).

“Naught hindereth us from sending miracles save that the folk of old denied them” (The Night Journey 59).

In his *fourth* volume, *page 702, Al Baidhawi* commented on the last verse, saying: We ceased sending

miracles suggested by the people of Koreish, just to discredit the ancestors of the tribes such as *Aad and Thamud*.

If these miracles were sent, they would have disbelieved them just as their predecessors did, and deserved termination according to the law of the Koran. But we preferred to save them, because among them are those who would believe, and give birth to some who might believe.”

Can there be any clearer proof that Muhammad did not perform any miracle as God’s earlier prophets and messengers did?

7. THE LANGUAGE OF PARADISE

The Muslims suggest that the language of Koreish (Arabic dialect) used in the writing of the Koran, is the language of Paradise.

In fact, the language of Koreish is merely an Arabic dialect of the people of Mecca and a part of Arabia. Arabic is one of the old Semitic languages among the Syriac, Aramaic, Chaldean, Hebrew, and Assyrian; and they all are related.

No doubt the Koran was written in a rich and eloquent language; but linguists have proven that it contains many non-Arabic words, and those words have been taken from the Persian, Syriac, and Chaldean languages.

Even the word *Koran*, which means *reading a written text*, comes from the Aramaic tripartite verb, *Koroh-nikreh-koriono*.

The Koran, furthermore, contains hundreds of *linguistic and grammatical mistakes*, as we will discuss hereunder. If such mistakes occurred in any book, philologists would have surely considered it unforgivable, to say the least.

The great and highly acclaimed Lebanese Christian writer and poet, *Ibrahim Al Yazigi*, known for his sharp intelligence as the editor of the famous Egyptian daily newspaper, *Al-Ahram*, deliberately committed mistakes in his editorials. When he was confronted by learned Muslim Imams, he showed them that similar mistakes appear in the Koran.

It is suggested that the Koran contains not less than 50 unforgivable grammatical mistakes!

9

ABOUT CHRIST

Devout Muslims read the Koran over and over again, and many of them memorize it, word for word; yet, they never seem to realize the clear evidence it presents as to the supremacy of Jesus Christ over all the prophets and the messengers of God.

The Bible calls Christ the Son of God and the Word of God; on the other hand, the Koran calls Him *The Spirit of God*, and *His Word*. These expressions are so close in meaning that they seem to be the same, giving rise to several questions.

- Does God do anything unintentionally?
- What do these expressions mean?
- Which prophet in history had such words said about him?
- Why was Jesus Christ the only one given this divine name?

These questions are but sparkles that light up the mind, open the eyes and draw the attention of the intelligent. For it is only the person who seeks the truth who will consider the contests of the Bible regarding Jesus Christ.

Although there are some subtle differences in the expressions *Son of God*, *Spirit of God*, and *Word of God*, there is no doubt as to their similarity in relating Jesus as being a part of God.

God was pleased when He sent His Word in a bodily form into the world, to offer Himself as a sacrifice for the world. This was the unique way in which the pure and righteous judgment of God could be satisfied.

Since this fact is clearly stated in the Bible, who are we to defy the Word of God?

Is it our right to disregard His Book just because it does not suit our logic or our idea of the supremacy of God?

Is it possible to measure the wisdom of the Creator with a man-made measure?

Does anyone know the mind of God except God Himself?

What is the purpose of the Koran in describing Jesus the Messiah, when it said? ***“Jesus the Messiah, son of Mary, is the Word of God, and His Spirit, which He conveyed unto Mary”*** (The Women 171).

Were there any other prophets in the Koran described in this manner?

Was there any other man said to be born of a virgin?

Yes, Jesus is related to God in a very special way, being supremely good and performing miracles that had never been achieved before.

Yet, the Muslims still resist His divinity, His death in the flesh, His resurrection, and His wondrous work of redemption.

Also, they resist the fact that the Koran conveys, saying: ***“Oh Jesus. Lo! I am taking thee unto me, and raising thee unto me, and purifying thee of those who disbelieve; and I am setting those who follow thee above those who disbelieve until the Day of the Resurrection”*** (The House of Imran 55).

Yes, this is Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God who gave Himself to save the world, then rose from the dead according to Scriptures, and ascended to heaven in complete purity.

He is there now watching over the universe considering those who chose Him as their personal Savior, higher than those who disbelieve, even from now and until the Day of Resurrection. The fact is that we as Christians also believe in this above-state Koran's verse.

Though the testimony of the Koran coincides with that of the Bible, it is however like offering a cold drop of water to a thirsty person. Instead of quenching his thirst, he becomes even thirstier for the water of the incessant spring.

We owe much to the Koran because it points the thirsty among the Muslims to the spring, which is the book of God, the Bible, especially when it says:

“The Scripture was revealed only to the Jews and to the Christians” (The Cattle 156).

“We gave the Scripture unto Moses, complete for him who would do good” (The Cattle 154).

“And we caused Jesus son of Mary, to follow and gave Him the Gospel ” (The Iron 27).

The Holy Bible is the living, effective and blessed Word of God. It is also the inexhaustible spring; and Jesus Christ is the fresh water, which quenches the thirst of all who are thirsty for the Truth.

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman: ***“Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again, but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him, shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him in a well of water springing up into everlasting life”*** (John 4:13-14).

Jesus Christ is the center of things in the Bible and the Koran. The Koran places Jesus in a position that is above all prophets, even above that of Muhammad himself.

The Koran says: ***“When the angels said, O Mary, Lo, God giveth thee glad tidings of a Word from Him, whose name is the Messiah Jesus, son of Mary, illustrious in the world and the hereafter, and the one near set to God”*** (The House of Imran 45).

It is obvious that the phrase ***“give thee glad tidings of a Word from Him, whose name is the Messiah Jesus, son of Mary”*** demonstrates the personality and the self-existence of the Word.

The statement ***“a Word from Him”*** is a proof that the one born from Mary is a direct emanation from God. This naming which came in the Koran is the very same one which came in the Gospel about Jesus the Messiah and is found in ***(John 1:1 & 1:14 and in Rev. 19:13)***.

The purpose of all this is to reveal that the Word who became flesh through Mary is eternal and a person of the Godhead. When the Bible says that ***the Word was with God, and the Word was God*** (John 1:1), it establishes the relationship of Jesus to God as being a part of the same, showing two persons of the Trinity.

Now consider another Koran verse concerning Jesus: ***“The Messiah Jesus, Son of Mary, was a messenger of God, and His Word which He conveyed unto Mary, and a Spirit from Him”*** (The Women 171).

What other prophet mentioned in the Koran has been ascribed to in this way, or has been given the privileges that the Lord Jesus had when he was on earth? None.

The verse does not only mention that He was a prophet or messenger, but it also proves that He is ***The Word of God***.

To end any ambiguity in the phrase *the Word of God*, the Koran adds *a Spirit from Him*.

The purpose in this is to show that Jesus the Messiah was not an ordinary prophet; but rather, He was the Son of God, sent by His Father, to our world. This is the exact meaning of the Koran verse compared to the proven authentic Gospel; whether it was supposed to mean that or not.

Consequently, there is no difference between *an essence from the essence of God... a Spirit from Him... or a Spirit of God*". All these expressions are one, and add the assurance that His birth was against the course of nature and was unlike all other people's birth.

- Who among all men was born without the involvement of an earthly father and bears this relation to God, which is higher than that of all other prophets and messengers?

- Who is the person who was born of a woman without a father?

- Whose Son is He then?

- Can't He be called the Son of God as the Bible calls Him?

In spite of all this, the Muslims say that Christians have strayed from the right path because they believe that God became a man. Indeed, what a man He became!

Having been resented, despised, and finally killed by His own people, the Jews. He became the Savior of the world by His death and resurrection.

Can a man of logic accept these difficult facts, they asked? As a result, the Muslims further contend that the Bible was indeed sent to the Jews and the Christians by God, but they perverted it.

To them, this perversion is quite obvious as they approach God's Word with preconceived notions. Consequently, many seemingly religious people have strayed away from the truth.

One may ask: ***“Does God allow this to happen to godly people?”*** The answer is certainly not, because God chooses to lead devout souls to the Truth. This is achieved through the discovery of the cross of Jesus Christ, and then bearing it out in one's own life.

Jesus Himself said: ***“And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me is not worthy of me”*** (Matthew 10:38).

Taking up the cross is not an easy task; it can lead one down a difficult path. This narrow path is often entangled with suffering, persecution and deprivation. This is the main reason why the cross is commonly rejected, as well as the Holy One who was crucified on it.

After all, only thieves, robbers and murderers were crucified on a cross. The Bible warns us against the enmity of the cross of Jesus Christ, when Paul the apostle said: ***“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God”*** (1 Corinthians 1:18).

The Muslims also say that to believe in the incarnation of the Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, and to believe in His death in the flesh to redeem the world, is a matter beyond the credence or the imagination of any mind; and this belief is void of all truth.

Those who stand behind such objections conclude that what cannot be perceived by the mind must be incorrect. Such argument is absurd.

There is no doubt that the incarnation of the Son of God is a matter beyond the understanding of the human mind.

This is especially true when we say that God is One in Three Persons, and this Second Person of the Godhead became a man to save men.

It is quite reasonable to see that matters pertaining to God should exceed the understanding of men.

For example, when we view the issue of the resurrection, we find out that even Thomas, a close disciple of Jesus did not believe until he saw Him personally; for this reason He rebuked him saying: ***“Thomas, because thou hast seen me thou hast believed; blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed”*** (John 20:29).

- Is there truly any thing that pertains to God that does not exceed the understanding of our limited minds?

Another is the issue of salvation. ***What is salvation?*** Salvation is what God did for me, not what man does for God. Man is burdened with **SIN**, and ***“The wages of sin is death”***. (Romans 6:23).

The Bible tells us that no matter how hard we try; we can never overcome the smallest sin with our human efforts. Because God is so merciful, loving, caring and generous, He offered His salvation to mankind who is corrupt.

In a way, He might have said: ***“I will go down and save the miserable man.”*** So, He miraculously came down through the Virgin Mary, consequently, the Second Person of the Trinity came in the flesh, and became a man like us.

He felt with us: He cried, became hungry, was persecuted, beaten, spit upon, and despised. He ate, drank, had friends, visited people and rejoiced.

He spoke with understanding as one who truly knew our problems. He was tempted like us, but neither fell into temptation nor sinned. Then He gave himself to die on the

cross of Calvary, shedding His last precious drop of blood, to pay the price for our sins.

Hence He saved us from our sins: that is how redemption was attained. The Bible declares: ***“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men, and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore, God also hath exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things on the earth, and things under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”*** (Philippians 2:5-11).

Yes, this is the way the love of God was demonstrated on the cross of Calvary. He did not love us by words only, but He proved it by His work.

Such action was costly since He had to leave His heavenly glory and the praise of the angels to become a man. He lowered Himself to reach us and raise us, but only if we believed in His wondrous redeeming and saving work.

After everything that has been discussed here, we stand with all sadness before the crazy acts of the suicidal terrorists who are convinced, that by doing so, they are making a favor to their god by dying for him. Nevertheless, our blessed God came all the way from heaven to die for us. Praise and glory be to his name.

This is indeed a wonderful thing on God’s part. And if a patient does not understand how his physician performs his treatment, would he refuse to accept it?

The patient needs only to place himself in the hands of a good physician; and thus accept his medicine willingly, using it according to the given prescription.

In the same token, the best way for a man to enjoy peace of mind is to willfully accept what the Creator did for him and to thank Him for it. How much capacity does the human mind have to have in order to perceive the works of the eternal God and His heavenly wisdom and eternal power?

We therefore must submit to God and believe what He revealed to us in His precious Book. Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God; He is God, and He is man, also. He died in the flesh and rose again from the dead on the third day. He can live in us eternally if we invite Him into our hearts and our lives.

He is seated at the right-hand side of the throne of glory where He acts as an advocate for His own; namely, those who believed on Him. This marvelously unique Person was sent to set the captives of sin free, and to release the prisoners of the spiritual death into eternal life.

We should understand here that it is hard for a Muslim to conceive and accept this very humble plan of God; and because of his pride, it seems to him as foolishness. But let us remember what God tells us in the Bible concerning pride:

“Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord” (Proverbs 16:5).

“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18).

To comprehend these Biblical facts, the Muslims must search honestly for the revelation of God in His Book. A Muslim should also depend on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

He should seek to accept Jesus, obey the Creator, and depart from malicious desires and abide by the truth. It may be difficult at times to accept or understand all what the prophets wrote about Jesus.

To look for the right way of salvation requires great perseverance along the right path. Paul suggests that suffering along this path is inevitable when he says: ***“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake”*** (Philippians 1:29).

Although this fact may frighten many people, I am certain that God does not neglect those who depend on Him. God may however allow His children at times to undergo temptations, troubles or difficulties to test them and build up their faith. However, the end result is that ***“all things do work together for the good of those who love God”*** (Romans 8:28).

If we dare to agree that the Bible is void of any blemish, then we must believe what God revealed in it. For if a Muslim or anyone else denies the divinity of Christ, His crucifixion, death and resurrection, he would be denying the very heart of the Bible.

10

THE KORAN AND THE HADITH EVIDENCES OF THE DEITY OF CHRIST

Now, let us consider *five* proofs in the Koran that add validity to the fact that Jesus the Messiah, Son of Mary, is indeed God Himself, rather than just a messenger or prophet.

1) The Koran calls Jesus the Messiah, *the Word of God and A Spirit of Him*, saying: *“The Messiah Jesus, Son of Mary, was a messenger of God, and His Word which He conveyed unto Mary, and a Spirit of Him”* (The Women 171).

The Koran refers to Muhammad as only the messenger of God (*the Heights 157-158*). Consequently the sender has more authority than his messenger; the messenger merely carries the message from the source to a third party. But to be the Spirit of God, is to have the very essence of God.

2) The birth of Jesus was contrary to all natural laws; the Koran says: *“She (Mary) said, How can I have a son when on mortal hath ever touched me, neither have I been unchaste? Thy Lord saith, it is easy for me, and it will be that we make of Him a revelation for mankind, and a Mercy from us, and it is a thing ordained”* (Mary 20-21).

This matter should attract the attention of the wise man because of its break with nature. If Jesus had not been of exquisite honor and dignity, having a unique relationship with God, a virgin would not have conceived him. Besides,

He was a revelation, a miracle, a gift from God; and above everything else, He was the mercy of God to mankind.

3) The Messiah performed miracles, which were not executed by any former or latter prophet or messenger. The Koran says: *“When God said, O Jesus, Son of Mary, remember My favor unto thee and unto thy mother; how I strengthened thee with the Holy Spirit, so that thou spakest unto mankind in the cradle, as in maturity; and how I taught thee the scripture and wisdom, and the Torah and the Gospel; and how thou didst create of clay as it were the likeness of a bird by my permission, and didst breathe upon it, and it became a bird by My permission, and thou didst heal him who was born blind, and the leper by My permission, and how thou didst raise the dead by My permission”* (The Table 110).

Beside Christ performing miracles in the Koran, the Muslims know perfectly that the only one that can create and raise the dead is God only.

4) The Koran tells of God’s forgiving the sins of the great Patriarchs, prophets, and messengers; but it has never mentioned that God needed to forgive Jesus, because He was without sin.

As for Adam, for example, the Koran says: *“And We said, Adam, dwell thou and thy wife in the garden, and eat ye freely of the fruits thereof, where ye will; but come not nigh this tree lest ye become wrong-doers. But Satan caused them to deflect there from and be expelled from the happy state in which they were; and we said, Fall down, one of you a foe unto the other. There shall be for you on earth a habitation and provision for a time, then Adam received from his Lord words of revelation, and He relented towards him. Lo! He is the relenting and the Merciful”* (The Cow 35-37).

The Koran mentions that Muhammad too needed to be forgiven for past iniquities and for ones to come; he needed to be absolved of his burdens that bent his back; the Koran says:

“That God may forgive thee (O Muhammad) of thy sin which is past, and that which is to come, and may perfect His favor unto thee, and may guide thee on the right path”
(The Victory 2).

“Have we not caused thy bosom to dilate, and eased thee of the burden which weighed down thy back”
(The Solace 2).

“So know, O Muhammad, that there is no God save Allah, and ask forgiveness for thy sin, and for believing men and the believing women; God knoweth both your place of turmoil and your place of rest” (Muhammad 19).

But the Koran never mentions that Jesus the Messiah needed to ask God for any kind of forgiveness, or that God had to forgive Him anything; simply because Jesus was without sin.

The Bible clearly testifies of Jesus the Messiah as being without any sin, and so does the Koran, saying: ***“And when she was delivered, she said*** (Mary’s mother is supposed to have been speaking in the Koran), ***My Lord, I am delivered of a female, God knew best of what she was delivered, the male is not as the female, and I have named her Mary, and I have craved thy protection for her, and for her offsprings, from Satan the outcast, and her Lord accepted her with full acceptance”*** (The House of Imran 36-37).

These two verses prove that the Koran testifies of the infallibility of Mary and of her offspring, the Messiah. This is in fact more than what the Christians themselves believe, because the Christians believe in the infallibility of the Lord Jesus Christ only.

Jesus Himself once asked the crowd: *Which of you convicteth me of sin?*” (John 8:46). No one could answer Him. These things then emphasize the fact that Jesus the Messiah is above all the other prophets and messengers, in a unique and perfect personality.

5) If any Muslim is to be asked this question: *Who is the watcher over men?* He will automatically answer *God*.

But the Koran says: *“And when God said, O Jesus, Son of Mary, didst thou say unto men take me and my mother as gods apart from God? He said, To Thee be the glory; it is not mine to say except what Thou didst command me to say; serve God my Lord and your Lord, and I was The Watcher over them, while I remained among them, but when Thou didst take me to Thyself, Thou wast Thyself the Watcher over them”* (The Table 116-117).

Accordingly, these two Koran verses, as you see, show that the watcher over men was once the Lord Jesus Christ, and once God. If the Koran says that Jesus the Messiah was the *watcher over men*, then the Muslims ought to admit that Jesus has the same status as God, *for He is God*.

Now, let us consider the three proofs from the Traditions; i.e., *the Hadith*.

THE HADITH PROOFS

Before considering the three *Tradition*'s proofs, one may well say that God did not inspire the Hadith. However, the Muslim expositors have had a different point of view about this point.

In the book titled: *Manhal Al- Waridein, the Exposition of Riad Al Salihin*, by *Dr. Subhi Al- Saleh* (in Arabic), said:

“The Hadith is an inspiration which Gabriel the angel revealed to Muhammad as the Koran was also revealed to

him, and taught him both alike. Consequently, the Koran and the Hadith meet in being a message from God, but differ in that the Koran unlike the Hadith is revealed to show its wondrous nature and to be used as a means of challenge. The terminology of the Koran is written on the Preserved Tablets in heaven; neither Gabriel nor the Messenger had the authority to change it. Whereas the part of the Hadith revealed by Gabriel might carry a reflectional meaning which colors the expressions.”

Now consider this approach based on what one of the well-respected Muslim expositors who was killed in the *Lebanese Civil War*; let us look more closely to the *Hadith* for more proof pertaining to Jesus Christ, being the very God.

1) In the book, *Al Hadith of Imam Muslim*, (Volume V, page 126, in Arabic), the writer says: *“Once Muhammad said to his wife Ayisha, daughter of Abi Bakr, Every child descending from Adam was pricked by the devil to cry after his birth, except for Jesus the Messiah, the Son of Mary.”*

Thus, the devil prodded all the descendent of Adam including all the prophets and the messengers even Muhammad, at the time of their birth, with only one single exception; namely, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The devil could not touch him. This should be a clear and solid evidence as to why Jesus was totally different than other prophets, and why He should be considered superior to all of them.

2) In the book, *Hadith of Imam Al Ghazzali*, (Volume III, page 38, in Arabic), he writes: *“When Jesus the Messiah, Son of Mary, peace be on Him, was born, the devils came to Satan and said, The idols have nodded their heads; Satan answered, An incident occurred somewhere. Then he flew and roamed the earth to find nothing. At the end, he found Jesus, peace be upon Him. He flew back and*

told them, a prophet was born yesterday; no woman has given birth to a child in my absence except this one.”

3) In his book, *News About Mecca and Its Traditions*, (Arabic), Al Azraki says: *“When the Koreish people rebuilt the Ka`ba in Mecca, after its destruction, they raised the pictures of the prophets, the pictures of trees, and the pictures of the angels, on its pillars. There was the picture of Jesus and His mother, and a picture of some angels. On the day Mecca was conquered, Muhammad entered the Ka`ba and sent Al Fadl Ben Abd Al Muttaleb, to fetch some water from the Zemzem well. Later, he asked for a robe, which he dipped in water, and blotted out those pictures and said, blot out all except the picture under my hands. He took away his hands, and there was the picture of Jesus, Son of Mary.”*

These texts from the Islamic Traditions provide incentive to raise the appreciation of the Messiah in their hearts and place it above all the other prophets.

They should also direct their thoughts to contemplate the unique privilege given to no other but the Messiah, the Son of Mary. Furthermore, these writings should leave one with a few thought-provoking questions:

-Why did they specify the Son of Mary with these wonderful privileges?

-What is the secret behind calling Him the Word and the Spirit of God?

-Why was He born of no earthly father, with the escort of an army of angels to protect Him against Satan?

-Why was He infallible, unlike all other people?

-Why was there a divine kinship between Jesus and God?

11

ABOUT THE UNITY OF GOD

If a man seeks God, then it is extremely important that he does not reject an inspiration given by God. For this reason, if we supposed that God revealed the Koran, then the learned Christians should study it thoroughly and apply it to their lives.

However, what if these things thought to have been inspired by God were found in a document dated back at least four centuries before the writing of the Koran? In this case, we should go back to the source to learn more about God.

As we stated in previous chapters, the books included in the Bible came under careful scrutiny by the church fathers to make sure that they were indeed inspired by God. The Apostle Paul wrote: *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness”* (II Timothy 3.16).

It is a dangerous thing to refuse a divine inspiration by claiming that it was perverted, distorted and full of contradictions, or that it exclusively belongs to a certain nation rather than another. Is God a collection of religions spread among His creation? God is one, so is His message.

No doubt that many of the teachings that are found in the Koran are useful, notably the texts concerning the unity of God. More than this, we also find a fountain of living water flowing out of the Koran, representing the writing of the prophets and the apostles quoted in the Koran, recurrently

testified for in it. If we look more closely we find interesting testimonies on behalf of the Bible when the Koran says:

“And we caused Jesus, Son of Mary, to follow in their footsteps, confirming that which was revealed before Him in the Torah, and we bestowed upon Him the Gospel wherein is guidance and light, confirming that which was revealed before it in the Torah, a guidance, and admonition unto those who ward off evil” (The Table 46).

This testimony for the Bible is totally disregarded by the Muslims, or cast into oblivion, or left aside in the neglected corners of their minds. Yet, this is a foundational, fundamental teaching of the Koran.

The Koran also calls people to believe in One God; it further teaches to shun polytheism and idolatry. It warns people concerning the Day of Resurrection when rewards and punishment will be given to men in accordance to their actions on earth. It promises Paradise for the righteous, and suffering in eternal fires for the wicked.

The Koran also forbade some actions and permits other. For example, it prohibits theft and perjury, and commands that alms be given to the poor. Every body commends such teachings of the Koran and admits that they are good.

No one can deny that God is the cause of every good thing, whether it comes in a book, written by a prophet, or exists in a righteous mind, or by other means. Consequently, before we accept Muhammad’s calling as a prophet or messenger, we must do some research to answer two questions:

- 1) Was Muhammad the first to teach the Unity of God?
- 2) Was Muhammad’s teaching in this or other respects, more elaborate and loftier than what the earlier prophets wrote in the Bible?

It seems logical that if God had thought that some new revelations were needed, He would have sent a new messenger with new facts, rather than sending a messenger to repeat what was already well known.

Therefore, it follows that the new book probably is not some new inspiration but may be instead a testimony to that which came before it, where these facts, which were mentioned in the Koran, had already been stated there, in the Bible.

These facts, which had been found in the Bible, had already been preached to the whole world centuries before they were written in the Koran.

The Bible describes the outcome of such preaching when it says: ***“They have turned the whole world up-side down”*** (Acts 17.6). Yes, they have turned the whole world up side down with all these divine teachings among which the unity of God was pre-eminent.

Even the Middle Eastern countries had their share in knowing about the unity of God, and the grandeur of His attributes long before the days of Muhammad.

The doctrine of the unity of God is the foundation of faith for the Jews and the Christians as we can see in the Bible when it cites this command: ***“Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, The Lord is one”*** (Deuteronomy 6.4).

If Muhammad were the first to announce the oneness of God, we would have undoubtedly believed him; but it is obvious that many before Him declared this same unity.

For instance, before Muhammad was born, the Arabs believed in one great God, called Allah (The word Allah is the singular of the Hebrew name of God, Elohim).

Along with this, the *Ka`ba* in Mecca was called *The House of Allah*. If the word *god* is preceded by the definite article *the*, in Arabic, it means the one and only God.

The same is true in the English for the use of both, minuscule *god*, and majuscule *God*. In the case of the Arabs, they mention the word *god* with the definite article *the* to mean *God*.

Even Muhammad's father, who died before the birth of his son, was called *Abd Allah*, meaning *the servant of God*. Since the word *God* is used here, that was automatically understood that believing in the unity of God was asserted here.

We cannot imagine that the Arab pagans had ever told Muhammad about the unity of God, but he would surely have heard enough from the Christians and the Jews who had sizable communities in the Arab peninsula, including Mecca itself.

Islamic history tells that Muhammad traveled to Syria at least twice, if not more often there, he traded with its people who, in majority, were Christians, before he claimed his prophet hood. He went on his first journey when he was nine; his second journey took place when he was twenty-five.

The book titled *The Grandeur of Muhammad and His Noble Merits* (Arabic), the writer stated: "*At the age of twenty-five, he (Muhammad) went to Damascus on a trade business accompanied by Khadijah, daughter of Khweiled, his first wife, and her servant Maysara, as a helper. When they arrived at the market of Basra, they stayed at the house of a Nestorian monk called Sergios of Bahira.*"

This same book points out that the hermitage where the monk *Sergios of Bahira* lived was the same one occupied by all Nestorian monks.

Undoubtedly, those monks had copies of the Holy Scriptures, or at least parts of it; and they used them to practice their faith and communicate their doctrines to Muhammad.

Muhammad had further contacts with the Scriptures through many of his friends and relative who happened to be Jews or Christians living in Mecca at the time.

One example is *Pastor Waraka Ben Nawfal*, a Christian preacher who was a translator of the Bible and a teacher of Muhammad and Ali Ben Abi Taleb, his cousin. What basic books or principles and theology did this Christian Pastor teach them, for nearly forty years, as mentioned in their history? Would it not be the same principles that are found in the Books of the Holy Bible?

It is well known that *Pastor Waraka Ben Nawfal* officiated at the wedding of *Khadijah daughter of Khweiled and Muhammad*. What does it mean when a Christian pastor officiates at a wedding, giving the blessing to those who are getting married?

Was it not true that Muhammad was married to Khadijah in accordance with Christian practices? Another question may be raised: Why didn't the books on the life of Muhammad mention anything about Khadijah's religion and faith?

It is well known that *Khadijah* was the daughter of *Khweiled* the son of *Assad Ben Abd Al- Aza*, a well-known Christian in Koreish. All those events took place before Muhammad claimed his calling, and expounded upon in a book titled *A Pastor and a Prophet*, written in Arabic by *Abou Moussa Al- Hariri*.

Besides, *Uthman Ben Howereth* who became a Christian while working at Caesar's palace in Constantinople, was a cousin of Khadijah, according to the

family tree written by *Ben Hisham*, a Hadith writer, who expounded on the genealogy of Muhammad.

Likewise, another of the wives of Muhammad had a direct link with Christianity; namely, *Um Habiba*. Before marrying Muhammad, she was married to *Obeid-Allah Ben Jahsh*. After *Obeid-Allah* became a Muslim, he moved to Ethiopia where he was converted back to Christianity.

Next was *Abd Allah Ben Salam* who used to be a respected Jewish Rabbi before following Muhammad. *Al-Abbasi or Abou Al-Abbas* and *Al-Jalalan* have suggested that he was the one cited in the Wind-Curved Sandhills Sura in the Koran as follows: “*And a witness of the children of Israel hath already testified to the like thereof and hath believed*” (The Sandhills 10).

Finally, consider *Zayd*, Muhammad’s adopted son, who was born and brought up in Syria. This implied that his son was most probably associated with Christianity before following Muhammad, because Syria was in majority a Christian country at that time.

THE CONCLUSION:

If we take into consideration all of those facts, we must conclude that the doctrines such as the unity of God could not be ascribed first to Muhammad; but rather, it should be ascribed to the original source; i.e., the Bible, and then to Muhammad through the help of his Christian and Jewish connections.

It is not the goal here to pass judgment on Muhammad for using these doctrines and quoting them out of the Bible; to the contrary, we commend him for reminding his people of God’s greatness.

12

ABOUT THE TRINITY

The Muslims state that God is the Eternal Person and therefore they ask:

- How do the Christians say that God is three; i.e., the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit?

- How can we reconcile reproduction with the unity of God or with His Oneness?

- Where did God declare that He was One in Three, or Three in One?

- Would the All wise, all merciful declare to man that which exceeds his limit of understanding?

There is nothing in the doctrine of Unity and Trinity that exceeds man's understanding. Furthermore, it is not a strange thing that God whose thoughts stretch much further beyond our minds, is One in three Persons.

If our limited knowledge does not fathom the fact of having one in three and three in One, this truth will not be rendered neither invalid nor impossible for the Omnipotent God.

The majority of those who claim they are Christians confirm their belief in the doctrine of the Trinity. Some minor sects, who are branded as heretics by the Christians, believe otherwise.

One example is the Jehovah's Witnesses who appeared in the middle of the eighteenth century. They are far removed from Christianity, and they have one single goal:

They aim to deny the glorious Trinity, thereby, undermining the position of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Second Person of the Trinity; therefore, denying His deity and vicarious work on the cross of Calvary.

It is no wonder that Turkey, a fanatic Islamic country, allowed the cult of the Jehovah's Witnesses to operate legally and freely within its jurisdiction. You are welcome to operate in Islamic countries as long as you deny the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The teaching of such cults is not a new issue. Such teachings appeared in the early church, during the life of the apostle John, when he said: "***For many deceivers are entered into the world, which confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (God becoming flesh), this is a deceiver and an antichrist***" (II John 7).

Let us now consider the concept of ***the Trinity***....

In God's creation we find objects that explain or illustrate this divine fact, and made it easy for us to understand it. ***The sun*** for example, has three elements, making up its total existence. ***1) Its mass that we can see in the sky; 2) Its light that brightens our planet; and, 3) Its heat that warms us up.***

However, these three do not make three suns, but a composite one. One element cannot be separated from the other, yet each has its own characteristics.

A man can also be three in one: ***a soul, a body and a spirit***... He can speak about his soul, his body or his spirit with the term ***I***, yet he is only ***one person***. These three parts are distinct, the spirit is not the soul and neither of them are the body.

Consequently, it is wrong to call each of these a different man, but all of them are in one person, even though there are three different entities.

Even though this fact is true and we live with it daily all our lives, we cannot fully understand it nor can we comprehend how it was from Ed. How can we expect to fully understand the nature of the Almighty God, the eternal creator of heavens and earth?

In the natural sense, having a father and a son indicates the process of birth; but the divine relation between the Father and the Son differs entirely from the natural birth and knowledge of man in this matter.

Nor is it like saying *Zayd* , adopted son of Muhammad, since it has nothing to do with adoption. When we say in our limited human expression that Christ was born before the ages, we do not mean that the incident actually took place at a certain point in time.

Instead, we mean the eternity of the Son is the same as the eternity of the Father. This is similar to our saying: ***“Heat is created or generated from the sun!”***

Truly, if I were a Muslim, I would find it necessary to ask questions after being informed about the Trinity. It seems that the vast majority of them ignore this issue, as if taking an indifferent attitude is the answer to these questions.

Because most Muslims do not understand the doctrine of the Trinity in Christianity, they consider it contradictory to the doctrine of the Unity. The actual truth is that this is just not so.

Teaching the doctrine of the unity of God is one of the essential bases upon which the doctrine of Trinity is built. Christians do not believe in three gods, but in one, in three Persons.

A part of the reason for the Muslims’ misunderstanding of the true Christian doctrine is a result of what is said in the Koran: ***“O People of the Book! Do not exaggerate in your religion, nor utter aught concerning God save the truth;***

the Messiah Jesus Son of Mary was a messenger of God, and His Word, which He conveyed unto Mary, and a Spirit from Him. So believe in God and His messenger, and say not three” (The Woman 171).

The explanation of the above verses given by Muslim expositors gives the impression that these expositors thought the Christians believe that the Trinity meant three gods. In the above verse, the impression was given as if Mary was considered as one of three gods.

During Muhammad’s days, many so-called Christians exalted the Virgin Mary to the point of worshipping her, along with some other saints. This has been done despite the fact that the Bible and Christian leaders have warned against such practice.

Although Christians are divided into many denominations, none of them say that there are three gods. Instead, all of them acknowledge ***the Creed of Faith*** that was written by ***the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D.***, which begins as follows: ***“We believe in One God...”***

When Jesus Christ sent His disciples to preach the Gospel, he commanded them, saying: ***“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”*** (Matthew 28:19).

This verse confirms the reality of the Unity, and proves the Trinity to be the essence of the One composite God. The verse begins with ***In the Name***. Signifying a singularity, not plurality even though it mentioned the three persons of the Godhead individually.

Hence this expression leads us to understand that the Son and the Holy Spirit could not have been created. This is true because they are both related to the same name of the Father as One person.

Since it is unacceptable to consider the name of God the Father equal to what is created, we cannot say that the Son of God and the Holy Spirit were the works of creation.

This fact becomes clearer to those who meditate on spiritual matters. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; make a composite oneness of the Godhead. Each of the three Persons of God has His own character, which is shared by neither of the other two.

For example, the Father is not the Son; however, each Person is inseparably united with the other two, from eternity to eternity. They are God. Each Person is equal to the other two in self and glory.

Each person has His own complete work: The Father as the sender; The Son as the Savior; and the Holy Spirit as the comforter. In as much as these three Persons are one in self, they also are so in will, purpose, authority, eternal nature, and other divine attributes.

God has numerous attributes and as the Muslims say: He is the collector and source of the good and the perfect attributes.

These attributes include: God the Merciful, the Wise, the Mighty, the King, the just, the Holy, etc... Having so many attributes does not invalidate the Unity of God.

Equally, the Trinity or the Three Persons of the Godhead does not invalidate the unity of the divine essence either. One name commonly used by Muslims for God is: *Loving*.

This name is used by the apostle John when he said: "***God is love.***" Since God is love, eternal and never changing, then He must have had someone to love since the beginning, in eternity.

Who could be that one who enjoyed the love of God in eternity before time? Only in the doctrine of the Trinity is

there an answer to this question. The divine Person of the Father is the Loving, while the divine Person of the Son is the object of the Father's love.

We find a splendid address regarding this subject when the Lord Jesus was praying to God the Father, saying: "***For Thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world***" (John 17:24).

We cannot believe that God is love since the beginning unless we believe that the Trinity was also there in the beginning with the Father.

To believe otherwise is to suggest that God is changing, since He could only have begun to be loving when His beloved, being angels or humans, were created at a later point in the eternity of God. However, the Bible tells us that God is unchanging when it says: "***For I am the Lord, I change not***" (Malachi 3:6).

In one of his conversations addressing God, Muhammad said: "***We never know you as you really are***". The Muslims also admit that God is so great and noble that no prophet, messenger or man can perceive His identity.

They follow in the same path as Muhammad, and they will never know just who God truly is with such an attitude. Thus God should be at least known by His Word and Spirit. If we accept this argument, it becomes impossible to consider that Jesus the Messiah, Son of Mary, as the Word of God or of His Spirit, as the Koran identifies Him. That is the reason why Christ knows God; and no one else knows Him as He does.

This fact demonstrates that He is a divine Person and therefore would suggest that the doctrine of the Trinity is no longer a hindrance to accepting the calling of Jesus the Son of God and the only Savior.

For the Muslims, to refuse the doctrine of the Trinity is to refuse the Godhead of Christ. The more the Muslims search for God, the further they get away from Him, because of their blind fanaticism, which leads them to accuse the Christians falsely. Instead, they should look for the truth and try not to be a hindrance to the honest seeker for the truth.

A Christian believes in the one complete God who strengthens our love and knowledge of Him. He loved us first although we were sinners, and He sent His only begotten Son to die on the cross for us, to redeem us with His own precious blood.

A Christian also believes that the Holy Spirit dwells in the hearts of the real Christians, renewing them, (having been born again), and guiding them to a deeper knowledge of God.

That is how reconciliation can be achieved between God and the sinner. Such reconciliation allows a Christian to enjoy the privileges of being a child of God, rather than living in fear of a dreadful God.

The Bible teaches us that God proclaims Himself to be the Loving and Holy Father, who loathes sin. His love and mercy urged Him to arrange the matter of salvation for all who accept Him.

He declared through His Word that His Son is the only One who can lead man to know God the Father. The Son of God came in the flesh, carried our sorrows and worries, died for our sins, and arose from the dead to justify us.

To help man accept His salvation, God sent His Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity to convict man for his sins, and to show him how badly he needs a savior. This same person, the spirit of God, also enlightens man's mind so he can know the riches of the Gospel and thereby be entitled to eternal life.

THE CONCLUSION

We should not forget that as much as we could give proof for the authenticity of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, we also could give the same to prove the truth of the doctrine about life after death, the resurrection, and other equally important doctrines.

When we accept an unacceptable doctrine for the basic reason that it is based on the Word of God, we should also accept other doctrines supported by the same Word.

Why do Muslims then accept the doctrine of the resurrection and refuse the doctrine of the Trinity, which is much less complicated than the former?

Why do Muslims accept the virgin birth of Christ, which is totally against man's perception, and refuse the doctrine of the Trinity?

Here I find nothing that Islam can fight the Bible with except saying that the Bible has been changed. As seen thus far, some matters taken by the Muslims as proof that the Bible has been changed, prove that it is not.

13

ABOUT THE BIOGRAPHY OF MUHAMMAD

Was Muhammad an ideal example in his behavior and life style for people to follow? For the sake of our Muslim friends, we find ourselves obliged to show all respect and politeness in dealing with the answer to this question.

Therefore, we will not quote any Christian writers, but we will solely depend upon the writings of famous Muslim scholars. The verses will be quoted directly from the Koran with their interpretation as given by the great Muslim expositors, lest we should be accused of misinterpreting their meanings.

The reader will judge for himself whether Muhammad was as the Muslims think of him and try to project! The final judgment in this matter falls with each of you rather than with us.

We will have a closer look at one aspect of the life of Muhammad; namely, his marriages, intending to omit anything we think to be an exaggeration. The whole Islamic world tends to agree with the texts that we will be quoting hereunder. We intend only to display the things that will enlighten the minds concerning the conduct of Muhammad.

1. Zainab Daughter of Jahsh

This woman was the wife of Muhammad's adopted son, Zayd Ben Haritha. The Koran describes the situation as follows: "*And when thou saidst unto him on whom Allah*

hath conferred favor and thou hast conferred favor, keep thy wife to thyself, and fear Allah. And thou didst hide in thy mind that which Allah was to bring to light, and thou didst fear mankind whereas Allah hath a better right that thou shouldst fear Him. So when Zayd had performed the necessary formality of divorce from her, we gave her unto thee in marriage, so that henceforth there may be no sin for believers in respect of wives of their adopted sons, when the latter have performed the necessary formality of release from them. The commandment of Allah must be fulfilled... There is no reproach against the prophet in that which Allah maketh his due. This was Allah's way with those who passed away of old and commandment of Allah is certain destiny” (The Clans 37-38).

Here is a summary of what *Al-Jalalan* said of this passage in his book: *“Muhammad gave in marriage his adopted son Zayd to Zainab; after a while Muhammad was keen on her, but Zayd hated her. Zayd said to the prophet, I want to separate from her. The prophet answered, keep your wife. But Zayd gave her a divorce, and the prophet entered onto her without permission. However, he satisfied the Muslims with meat and bread at a big ceremony.”*

Al-Baidhawi, in his commentary, analyzed this same verse saying: *“The prophet saw her after he gave her to his son; he liked her and he said when he saw her, ‘Praise be to God who changes the hearts’*. Zainab heard this and told Zayd what she heard. Ever since, Zayd hated to be with her.

Consequently, he came to the Prophet and said, *“I want to leave my wife”*. The Prophet said, *“Do you have doubts about her?”* Zayd answered, *“No, actually I see but good things from her; except she mocks me”*.

The Prophet said, *“keep your wife”*. When Zayd had performed the necessary formality of her divorce, and

became bored with Zainab, and needed her no more, he divorced her and was finished with her.

The verse says: ***“We gave her unto thee in marriage”*** meaning that the order of marriage was given without a marriage ceremony. This fact supported by her saying to the other wives, ***“God arranged my marriage with the prophet, and you let your fathers take care of that for you”***.

This is a strong proof that Zayd showed strong faith after the inspiration by agreeing to divorce Zainab, and giving her in marriage to the Prophet. Then the Prophet said: ***“She only trusts you, go to her and engage her to me”***.

Zayd went and fulfilled what the prophet had asked him to do, although he loathed that shameful deed.

2. Maria Al Kobtiah

The Koran says: ***“O Prophet! Why bannest thou that which Allah hath made lawful for thee, seeking to please thy wives? And Allah is forgiving and merciful... Allah hath made lawful for you Muslims’ absolution from your oaths of such kind, and Allah is your protector; He is All-knowing, All wise”*** (Forbidding 1-2).

Al-Baidhawi presented two interpretations for these two verses in his book. The following is the one that is most accepted by other expositors: ***“Once Muhammad was found with Maria Al- Kobtiah, in Hafsa’s bed (one of his wives), when Hafsa found out, she rebuked him. The Prophet banned Maria, and the verse descended on him.”***

These tales are elaborately found in the books ***Rawdat Al-Safa, by Ibn Hisham & Ibn Al-Atheer and Rawdat Al-Ahbab***. We have chosen this abridged exposition so as to avoid the language used by the Muslim exposition, which we

cannot use in this book... The expositors' complete story elaborates on the unsavory behavior of Muhammad.

Following the death of Muhammad's wife, *Khadijah*, he married *twenty-two women in seven years*, averaging *one woman every four months*.

Imagine that a short time after the death of Khadijah, he was engaged to *Ayisha, daughter of Abi Bakr*, when she was *six years old* (under today's laws, he would have been arrested and tried for child molestation).

But he knew her as a wife when she was *nine* and he was *fifty-four*. Had it not been for his flight from Mecca to Medina, he would have known her when he married her.

But how much difference could that have made, between *six, eight, or nine years old*? Besides, it is a well-known fact that at the time of his death, he had *nine living wives*, in addition to at least *two concubines, Maria and Rihana*.

3. His Relationship to Women

The Koran continues: "*O Prophet, We have made lawful unto thee thy wives for whom thou hast paid their dowries, and those whom thy right hand possesseth of those whom God had given thee as spoils of war, and the daughters of thine aunts on thy father's side, and the daughters of thine uncles on thy father's side; and the daughters of thine aunts on thy mother's side, and the daughters of thine uncles on thy mother's side, who emigrated with thee, and a believing woman if she gave herself unto the Prophet, and the Prophet desire to ask her in marriage; a privilege for thee only not for the rest of the believers. We are aware of that which we enjoined upon them concerning their wives and those whom their hands possess that thou mayest be free from blame, for God is ever forgiving, merciful*" (The Clans 50).

Concerning the expression that says: *“Those whom thy right hand possesseth”* Al-Baidhawi says in his book: *“This part of the verse allows having concubines under God’s permission and allows polygamy to all Muslims at all times.”*

As for the verse: *“A privilege for thee only, not for the rest of the believers”*. Al-Baidhawi continued saying: *“The Prophet was treated uniquely in honor of his prophet hood which deserves due respect. The word only implies that this privilege was specifically granted to Muhammad”*.

In the book, *The Grandeur of Muhammad and His Noble Merits*, the writer says: *“In the year 6 A.H., after the invasion of Al-Hadibia, some women came to Muhammad to pay homage to him under the tree that Omar Ben Al-Khattab later cut down, so the Muslims wouldn’t worship it. A woman called O’mayma, daughter of Rakika, said to the Prophet: O Messenger of God, stretch your hand and we shall shake it with ours (paying homage)... The Prophet said, I do not shake hands with women, but I shall accept you”!*

In *Al-Maghazi*, written in Arabic by *Ibn Is’haq*, the writer told the same story with more details. *Abban Ben Saleh* said: *“The Messenger of God used to dip his hand in a vessel of water first, and then the women dipped theirs later in the same water, instead of shaking hands with him”!*

Just imagine how pure and chaste Muhammad was! He sat under the Hadibia tree, making deals with the women, and calling them unto himself, saying that God and His messenger are more merciful to us than we to ourselves. He sanctimoniously refrained from shaking hands with the women because he never did that.

We could have quoted more of these stories that were told by Muslim expositors about the life of Muhammad. We

could also have mentioned his treatment of his enemies, which revealed the spirit that prevailed among the founders of Islam.

This immature spirit has survived even today, reflecting the ways that they used to make people adopt their faith and their religion. Did they attract people to adopt Islam through their good treatment?

Does the behavior of Muhammad demonstrate the necessary proof that his message was of God? Can it prove that he was the last of the prophets, or that he was God's prophet at all?

Finally, are we obliged to believe in his call, despite all that we knew about him after he claimed his prophet hood? You are the judge, and the judgment is yours. Make it wisely.

14

THE CONCLUSION

Dear Reader,

We have briefly studied evidence proving the authenticity of the Holy Bible and showing that it was clear of any blemish or perversion.

We have also discussed Muhammad's claim of being the master of messengers and the last of the prophets. Now it is up to you to judge for yourself whether such claims are true or false.

We leave you in the hands of the Almighty God, hoping you allow Him to guide you at this time of your decision-making.

In accordance with the light of this research, you have to choose between the Lord Jesus Christ, The Word and the Spirit of God, and Muhammad Ben Abd Allah.

You must also judge as to which calling is true. Here, the choice is not only between the one who loved and prayed for His killers, and the one who commanded the death of his opposition; here, your choice rests between the One that can give you eternal life, and the one that cannot.

The life and the glorious resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is the strongest proof of His deity. You have already read what the Muslim expositors wrote in contrast about the life and behavior of their own prophet, Muhammad.

Now, we prayerfully ask you to make your choice, and we recommend that you choose eternal life by choosing the One who died on the cross of Calvary for your sins.

We have shown that the Holy Bible is the Word of God, which, according to the prophecies, teaches us that Jesus Christ gave His precious life to die on the cross, to save sinners and to redeem them from their sins.

On the other hand, Muhammad died of old age, in sickness; and he could not claim that he died for anyone. You know that Jesus rose from the dead, according to the prophecies, and according to His promises; confirmed by His disciples who were ready to go through the most horrendous persecution and meet a certain cruel death for that claim. Even the Koran speaks of the resurrection of Christ. In contrast, Muhammad is still in his grave.

The characteristics discussed in this book, entitle the Lord Jesus Christ to his true claim and proves that He is the Savior of the world and the judge of all people. He alone has those qualifications.

On the other hand, Muhammad himself confessed truly that he could save no one, not even his own daughter, Fatima.

In a conversation with her, recorded in the *Honorable Traditions, the Hadith*, Muhammad was quoted saying: ***“O Fatima, daughter of Muhammad, do not say my father is Muhammad; for I can be of no benefit to you in the eyes of Allah. You have to achieve your own credit.”***

If Muhammad was unable to save his own only daughter, or to be a mediator between her and God, then he surely can save no one at all.

But the Lord Jesus Christ can; His life, death and resurrection supports the claim that He made, saying: ***“Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath (NOW) everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death (NOW) unto life”*** (John 5.24).

The Muslims say that in *Medina*, between Muhammad's *tomb* and that of Abi Bakr, there is *a third empty grave* that belongs to Jesus, the Son of Mary. Should that empty grave not remind the Muslim pilgrims that Jesus Christ is different than Muhammad, Abi Bakr or anybody else? that He is *ALIVE*, when Muhammad is dead?

Who is the one that is able to help us then: the one who is *dead* or the One who is eternally *ALIVE*. The Muslims are waiting for the second coming of Christ with fear. This is due in part to their belief that He will judge the world including all the Muslims.

Those who have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior wait for His return anxiously, happily, and with much yielding, because He will save them from this evil world.

Not only that, but He will also take them to be with Him in His eternal heavenly kingdom forever. Do you have this same blessed hope? If not, you can, and you should.

In fact, following the Lord Jesus may have high costs. Jesus predicted that we might undergo trials before entering the Kingdom of heaven. Jesus Himself was persecuted. Since the early days of its foundation, the church has been persecuted.

We should not wonder why this happens; instead, we should hold to our faith steadfastly. To those who truly know Jesus, any suffering will be counted as honor, considering how much He suffered for us.

Dear Muslim Reader,

Beside providing the authenticity of the Christian Scriptures as being inspired by God, we pointed out that the

Islamic religion followed the way of peace at the beginning of its calling, avoiding violence and killing.

The following Koran verses prove this conclusion, saying: ***“And we have sent thee [Muhammad] as naught else save a bearer of good tidings and a warner”*** (The Night Journey 105).

“And as for those who choose protecting friends beside Him, Allah is warden over them and thou art in no wise a guardian over them” (Counsel 6).

“Thine is but conveyance of the message, ours the reckoning” (Thunder 40).

“There is no compulsion in religion” (The Cow 256).

“And if thy Lord willed all who are in the earth would have believed together; wouldst thou compel men until they are believers” (Jonah 99).

The above quoted verses prove that there should be no compulsion in religion, and a messenger’s task is but to deliver the message not to impose it by the power of the sword upon the general public.

God holds man’s destiny; therefore, let each person choose his faith. If you choose to refuse the faith Christ is offering you, in spite of all the evidence that is presented to you in this book, please remember that the evidence and the verses are quoted from the Koran with the support of the Muslim scholars and expositors.

We hope that those verses would leave a good impression in your heart about Christianity and the Christians who are personally concerned about your eternity.

It’s time to recognize that we are living in a civilized world where the power of the convincing word should overcome and replace the power of blind fanaticism, threats, hatred and violence.

With faith, and the cause for our upholding it; whereas, with the other hand, you still hold on to one unfounded argument based upon watching the life of nominal Christians, who themselves are in need to be saved as sinners. You must understand that their behavior and style of life are not based upon the true Christian faith.

Dear Christian Reader,

Why are you a Christian? ***Gandhi*** the Indian leader, once said that he was about to become a Christian, had it not been for the Un-Christian behavior of some Christians.

Are you a Christian only because you were born in a Christian home? Are you a Christian because of your fanaticism to Christianity? If you are a Christian because of any of the above, then you are a misled, and possibly nominal Christian who is in need of the Lord's salvation.

Come to Him, confessing your sins, and receive Him as your personal Savior.

Dear Friend,

We leave you here in the hands of our faithful Creator, whom we beseech to enlighten your mind and guide you to the One who can save us all.

The One who emptied Himself, took on the form of a bond-slave, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even the death on the cross.

Great is this revealed mystery: God came down to earth as a man, was born of a virgin, and was crucified; He died

and was buried, but on the third day He arose from the grave and is forever ALIVE.

It is a wonderful thing, and it is true because the Bible says so, and the history of the church has proven it. However, all this has been done for your salvation that you may have everlasting life.

Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ is alive, and He works as advocate before God, only for those who call upon Him sincerely and truly.

All this can be yours! Think about the fact that the Creator of the heavens and earth became like a man to serve you. Not only this, but He also came to save you from judgment of sin and hell and to give you eternal life.

This is what true Christianity is all about. Do you refuse this offer? Do you reject the One who gave Himself in your behalf? Do you wish to keep on clutching to your worthless inherited customs and traditions that may lead you straight to a dark eternity?

Are those things worth it that may be causing you to lose your eternal life, which is, in God's sight, the most precious thing that you may own? Do not lose this opportunity.

God achieved His goal by sending His unique Son to die on the cross and redeem sinners who accept Him as personal Savior. Anyone who asks forgiveness for their sins will get the grace of salvation from eternal judgment, become a born-again Christian, and receive the promised helper and comforter, the Holy Spirit of God, because of what Christ Jesus did for us on the Cross of Calvary, and because He is a mediator for us before the Father. All you need is to ask Him.

The real miracle is when God changes your life from a real sinner, into a new person redeemed and washed by the

pure blood of Christ. You can be victorious with Jesus or a loser without Him.

As a sinner, destined for destruction, you can inherit eternal life instead if you accept Jesus' redeeming work on the cross. Just believe in Him!

Come to Jesus and enjoy all the privileges and promises given to you in the Bible. Just as Paul, having been inspired by God, said: ***“Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature .Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation”*** (II Corinthians 5:17-18).

Yes, a vessel overflows with only what it contains. If Christ is in you, the fragrant aroma of Christ will spread, and the opposite is also true.

As Christians, we are supposed to be the cause of blessing not cursing; otherwise, people will blaspheme the good name that is called upon us. We must be like a little yeast in a world of dough. Let us ask ourselves, have we been as such?

Finally, are you worried about your future, which might be shaken by persecution, if you become a real Christian? Listen to what the Lord has promised: ***“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body...For I am with you always”*** (Matthew 10.28).

Especially if you are a Muslim, the most dangerous attack Satan can launch against you is the fear for your life with which he may intimidate you.

Don't forget that the grace of God is sufficient and that eternal life is what really counts. Furthermore, His protection and His will for the life of His children should not be disregarded.

Come to the Bible; it is undoubtedly the living Word of God. This Word alone can lead you along the way of truth in Jesus Christ our Lord, the Savior and Redeemer of the world. All Praise is to His name... Amen.

And God bless you.

Write to us :
INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH MINISTRY, Inc.

Brother Ata G. Mikhael

P. O. Box 445

Hazel Park, MI. 48030

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*. Josh McDowell, Here's Life Publishers.
2. *The New Testament Documents Are They Reliable?* F.F. Bruce, IVP 1943, revised 1960.
3. *The Work of Flavious Josephus*. Translated by William Whiston, A.M., International Press, John C. Winston Co., Phil., Pa.
4. *The Ancestry of Our English Bible*. Ira Maurice Price, Harper & Brothers, New York, 1949.
5. *History of Christianity*. Kenneth Scott Latourette, Harper & Brother, New York, 1953.
6. *The Inspiration and Canonicity of the Bible*. Zondervan, 1969.
7. *The Canon of the Scripture*. F.F. Bruce, IVP 1988.
8. *Creeds, Councils and Christ*. Bray Gerald, IVP 1984.
9. *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*. Craig Blomberg, IVP, 1987.
10. *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*. B.B. Warfield, PRPC 1951.

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH MINISTRY, Inc.

Brother Mike

P. O. Box 445

Hazel Park, MI. 48030

