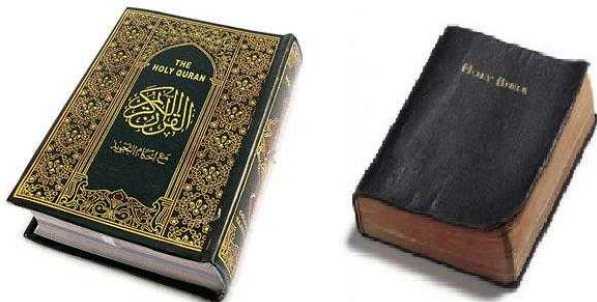


In the name of Allah The Most Gracious The Most Merciful



An Introduction to
The Bible and Qur'an
βιβλος, القرآن

Research By: Brigadier (R) Aftab Ahmad Khan,

No copy rights, Free reproduction, Distribution is permitted

Free Books by "Peace-Forum Network"

<http://goo.gl/efUozM>

<http://goo.gl/KYe6H>

<http://freebookpark.blogspot.com>

Published in "The Defence Journal" [since 2006], 2-C Zamzama
Boulevard, Pathfinder Foundation, Clifton, Karachi, Pakistan
www.defencejournal.com

Author:

Aftab Ahmad Khan is involved in research and writing on Religion, Ethics, Science, Spiritually & Peace. He holds Masters in Business Administration, Political Science, post graduated in Strategic Studies. He observed divergent cultures during his stay & world wide travels to North America, Europe, Middle East, China, Far East and Australia. As a freelance writer his articles are regularly published in journal, also compiled in the form of e-books & posts available at web links, blogs and social media, grouped under the title: "PEACE FORUM NETWORK".

Peace-Forum Network

Over all 600,000 visits and counting

- <http://Peace-Forum.blogspot.com>
- <http://FaithForum.Wordpress.Com>
- <http://aftabkhan.blog.com>
- <http://FreeBookpark.blogspot.com>
- <http://endeavour-peace.page.tl>
- <http://Quran-pedia.blogspot.com>
- <http://Bible-pedia.blogspot.com>
- <http://Womenfolks.blogspot.com>
- <http://Islamphobia.Wordpress.com>
- <http://Rejectionists.blogspot.com>
- <http://Takfiritaliban.blogspot.com>
- <http://Pakistan-posts.blogspot.com>
- http://Twitter.com/Peace_Forum
- <http://www.FaceBook.com/aftabkhaan>
- <http://www.Youtube.com/Abbujak>
- <https://flipboard.com/profile/aftabkhaan>
- <https://plus.google.com/s/Peace-Forum>
- <http://www.dailymotion.com/Peace-Forum>
- <https://plus.google.com/+AftabKhan-PeaceForum/posts>
- <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Peace-Forum/145301398882741>
- <https://plus.google.com/s/Peace-Forum>
- Free Books- <http://freebookpark.blogspot.com>

An Introduction to

The Bible and Qur'an

“O Prophet, surely We have revealed to you the Book with the truth, for the instruction of Mankind. He who follows the Right Way shall follow it for his own good; and he who goes astray shall do so at his own peril. You are not set up as a guardian over them.” (Qur'an;39:41) Then in the footsteps of those Prophets, We sent Jesus the son of Mary confirming whatever remained intact from the Torah in his time, and gave him the Injeel (Gospel) wherein was guidance and light, corroborating what was revealed in the Torah a guidance and an admonition to those who fear Allah. (Qur'an;5:46), “To you, O Muhammad, We have revealed this Book with the truth. It confirms whatever has remained intact in the scriptures which came before it and also to safeguard it”. (Qur'an;5:48)

Introduction:

The guidance to human is an important constituent of the process of creation by God, trial, justice and reward. God guides the humanity through different means. Firstly; much earlier than the creation of humanity, God first created all the spirits of humanity, which testified Him to be their Lord, this was the 1st Covenant, and then they were put to sleep. He brings the humankind into this world in succession, each at appointed time, spirit is breathed in to him, and true nature (*hanefa fitr'ah*) part of human conscious (the 1st Covenant) is part of human consciousness. This is the reason that even some of African tribes cut off from the civilized world worship One God without images. However

majority of human, under the influence of Satan, are caught in the webs of customs, superstitions, selfish desires, and false teachings, thus getting deflected from the true nature. Man is endowed with instincts, forms and faculties exactly suited to what is expected of him. Through these faculties and instincts man can know about existence of God by observing His signs, thus reverting to the true nature. Finally He gives guidance, through His messengers and scriptures, so that the people should have no excuse to plead against Allah for lack of guidance. The messengers convey the message, people are not coerced, they use their intellect for reason and exercise their will, such that may reach the higher destiny of man. Finally; the reward for those who made right choice and punishment for those who fell pray to evil.

God sent messengers to every community; some are mentioned by name in Bible and Qur'an. The message of all the messengers sent to different nations at different times had been same, to worship One God and follow His guidance for success in this life and hereafter. The messengers were required to convey the message only, they were not required to force the people: "*Obey Allah and obey His messenger; but if ye turn away, then the duty of Our messenger is only to convey (the message) plainly.*"(Qur'an;64:12). Among them Prophet Abraham, peace be upon him (flourished around 1800 B.C) the great patriarch asserted the strict monotheism,

God chose him as a leader of the mankind after success in trials, which was conditional to His obedience and not applicable to the evil doers among his progeny. His son Ishmael and Isaac were granted prophethood. After Abraham God continuously appointed messengers like Ishmael, Isaac his son Jacob (also known as Israel and his decedents as Israelites or Children of Israel), Joseph, Moses, Elisha, David, Solomon up to Prophet Jesus (peace be upon them all) being the last among Israelites.

The sacred writings of religions, comprising a large portion of the religious literature of the world. The sacred scriptures containing the message of guidance are available to the people after the messengers are gone. Allah says: “He has spelled out His revelations for people who want to understand.”(Qur’an;10:5). Scriptures vary in form, volume, age, and degree of sacredness. Nearly all scriptures were originally oral and were passed down as memorized texts through several generations before being put in writing except Qur’an, the sacred scripture of Islam, which beside being memorized was also written down at the time of revelation. Qur’an, the latest scripture mentions *Torah*, *Zabur* (Psalms) and *Injeel* (Gospel) by name, the scriptures revealed to Prophet Moses, David and Jesus Christ (peace be upon them all) respectively, however this does not preclude existence of other scriptures, like the one to Abraham (peace be upon him), now extinct.

Allah says: “We have sent thee (O’ Muhammad) inspiration as We sent it to Noah and the prophets after him; We sent inspiration to Abraham Ishmael Isaac Jacob and the Tribes to Jesus Job Jonah Aaron and Solomon and to David We gave the Psalms. Of some Messengers We have already told thee the story; of others We have not; and to Moses Allah spoke direct.”(Qur’an;4:163-164). None of the present books of the Bible have reached through the manuscript of its author. The available manuscripts date from several centuries after the original books were written. The books of New Testament lack conformity, there are more than 5000 manuscripts, written during different periods by different authors mostly unknown. Hence the Muslims, while believing in all the previous prophets and ‘original scriptures’ adhere to Qur’an, the final preserved revelations available for the guidance of humanity which abrogated all the previous scriptures.

Testament of Abraham:

Qur’an mentions that the law of righteousness and godliness is not a new law, the spiritual truths have been renewed and reiterated again and again in the previous scriptures from Abraham to Moses: “*And This is In the Books of the earliest (Revelation), The Books of Abraham and Moses.*”(Qur’an;87:18-19); “*Or has he not been notified about what was in the books of Moses and of Abraham who always kept his word:*”(Qur’an;53:36-37). There is a book in Greek,

which has been translated by Mr. G.H. Box, called the 'Testament of Abraham' (published by the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, London, 1927). It seems to be a Greek translation of a Hebrew original. The Greek Text was probably written in the second Christian century, in Egypt, but in its present form it probably goes back only to the 9th or 10th Century. It was popular among the Christians. Perhaps the Jewish Midrash also refers to a 'Testament of Abraham'.

The Bible:

The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) is the scripture of Judaism; the Bible (Old and New Testaments together) is the scripture of Christianity. Word 'Bible', is derived from Greek **βιβλος** *biblos* ("book") can be compared with *byblos* ("Papyrus": The writing material of ancient times and also the plant from which it was derived). In the fifth century after Christ, name 'Bible' began to be given to the entire collection of sacred books, the "Library of Divine Revelation." The name Bible was adopted by Wickliffe, and came gradually into use in the English language. Interestingly the word 'Bible' does not exist in the text of Bible. The order as well as the number of books differs between the Jewish Bible, the Protestant and Roman Catholic versions of the Bible. The sixty-six different books of the Bible were composed by many different writers, in three different languages, under different

circumstances; writers of almost every social rank, statesmen and peasants, kings, herdsman, fishermen, priests, tax-gatherers, tentmakers; educated and uneducated, Jews and Gentiles; most of them unknown to each other, and writing at various periods during the long period spread over 1600 years. No original manuscripts exist. There is probably not one book which survives in anything like its original form. There are hundreds of differences between the oldest manuscripts of any one book. These differences indicate that numerous additions and alterations were made to the originals by various copyists and editors. The earliest extant Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures from the original Hebrew is known as Septuagint. Presumably this translation was made for the use of the Jewish community in Egypt when Greek was the lingua franca. The Pentateuch was translated near the middle of the 3rd century BC; the rest of the Hebrew Scriptures were translated in the 2nd century BC. The name Septuagint was derived from a legend that 72 translators worked on the project. Its influence was far-reaching. The Septuagint rather than the original Hebrew Bible was the main basis for the Old Latin, Coptic, Ethiopic, Armenian, Georgian, Slavonic, and some Arabic translations of the Bible.

The Bible comprise of Old Testament and New Testament. The word, 'Testament' comes from the Latin 'testamentum', translating the Greek

διαθηκη '*diatheke*', the word chosen by Septuagint to translate the Hebrew word, 'berith', which strictly speaking means 'Covenant' or the covenant between human beings and God'. The Jewish Bible, which include the Hebrew scripture, the Pentateuch, the Prophets, and the Hagiographa, forming the covenant between God and the Jewish people that is the foundation and Bible of Judaism while for the Christians it constitute the Old Testament. The New Testament comprising the Gospels, Acts, Pauline and other Epistles, and the Book of Revelation, together viewed by Christians as forming the record of the new dispensation belonging to the Church. The authenticity, accuracy and originality of presently available Torah, Psalm, Gospel and other books as revealed scriptures is doubtful, which is also evident from the long history and complex process of compilation, transmission, revisions, translations and canonization.

The Old Testament, containing thirty-nine books, and the New Testament, contains twenty-seven books. There is a break of 400 years between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The sixty-six books of Bible which include 39 books of Old Testaments and 27 books of New Testaments were chosen, after a bit of haggling, by the Catholic Council of Carthage in 397 C.E; almost four hundred years after the time of Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him). The Bible of Protestants consists of total 66 books and the Bible of

Catholic has 73 books. The literature of the Bible has played a special role in the history and culture of the Western & Christian world.

Torah: Torah is often restricted to signify the first five books of the Old Testament, also called the 'Law' or the 'Pentateuch'. These are the books traditionally ascribed to Prophet Moses (peace be upon him), the recipient of the original revelation from God on Mount Sinai. Jewish, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant canons all agree on their order as: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The written Torah, in the restricted sense of the Pentateuch, is preserved in all Jewish synagogues on handwritten parchment scrolls that reside inside the ark of the Law. They are removed and returned to their place with special reverence. Readings from the Torah (Pentateuch) form an important part of Jewish liturgical services. The term Torah is also used to designate the entire Hebrew Bible. Since for some Jews the laws and customs passed down through oral traditions are part and parcel of God's revelation to Moses and constitute the "Oral Torah," Torah is also understood to include both the Oral Law and the Written Law. Rabbinic commentaries on and interpretations of both Oral and Written Law have been viewed by some as extensions of sacred oral tradition, thus broadening still further the meaning of Torah to designate the entire body of Jewish laws.

Torah comprises of those commandments and instructions revealed to Moses starting with his appointment of Messengers-ship till his death, spread over forty years. Allah says: “We gave Moses the Holy Book (Torah) and the criterion of right and wrong so that you might be rightly guided”(Qur’an;2:53). It include the Ten Commandments given by God on the stone tablets, while Moses got the remaining commandments written, twelve copies were prepared and handed over to each of the twelve tribes. One copy was given in the protective custody to the Levite, which is called Torah. This was intact in the form of Book till the first destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C). The Levite’s copy of Torah along with stone tablets was kept in the box of covenant. It was so much ignored that during repairs of Temple the Hilki'ah, the chief priest found it and presented to king. It is due to this apathy that few copies of Torah lying in the Temple were lost for ever, during destruction of the Temple by Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon. After a captivity of many years, this restoration was begun (536 B.C.), Ezra (Prophet Uzair, peace be upon him) with the help of other notables arranged the entire history of Children of Israel which is now available in the form of first seventeen books of Old Testament.

In the broadest sense Torah (*Taurat*) is claimed to be the substance of divine revelation to Israel, the Jewish people: God's revealed teaching or guidance for

mankind. The actual Torah revealed to Moses is scattered in the books, which can be identified to begin with the phrases, where ever the writer writes; “the God said to Moses” or” Moses said, the Lord your Lord says” and ends with other events. Wherever the author gets in to his explanations and exegesis, it becomes difficult for normal reader to distinguish the Torah from the exegesis. However the experts of ‘revealed scriptures’ can distinguish the divine revelations with some accuracy. Qur’an considers these scattered phrases as Torah and verifies them. If these scattered phrases are compiled and compared with Qur’an, it may be found that apart from some differences in parts, there is no difference in their basic teachings. Allah says: “And, verily, (the essence of) this (revelation, i.e. Qur’an) is indeed found in the ancient books of divine wisdom (as well) (Qur’an;26:196,link 2:42, 61:6); “(O Children of Israel) Believe in My revelations, which are confirming your scriptures; do not be the first one to deny My revelations, and do not sell them for a petty price, fear Me and Me alone”(Qur’an;2:41). Hence it becomes evident that the original source of both the books is the same. Allah says: “We have sent thee inspiration as We sent it to Noah and the Messengers after him; We sent inspiration to Abraham Ishmael Isaac Jacob and the Tribes to Jesus Job Jonah Aaron and Solomon and to David We gave the Psalms.”(Qura’n;4:163).

Psalms: The book of Psalms in the Bible is widely known for the sacred song or poems. When the Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek (the Septuagint), in the original Hebrew text the book had no name, it was titled Psalterion, referring to a stringed instrument that would accompany such songs. The collection contains much devotional poetry of a high order. Its 150 psalms, ranging in subject from songs of joyous faith and thanksgiving to songs of bitter protest and lamentation, rank among the immortal poems of all time. They have had a profound influence on the liturgies of Judaism and Christianity. Their dating and authorship are highly problematic. The distinction of King and Prophet David (peace be upon him) was the Zabur (Psalms), some of which are still extant. Though their present form is different from the original and they do undoubtedly also include Psalms not written by David.

Talmud: Apart from Hebrew's Bible, Talmud (in Hebrew: Study, or Learning) is the intellectual work, it comprise the scholarly interpretations, systematic amplification and analysis of passages of the Mishna (Oldest authoritative collection of Jewish oral law, supplementing the written laws in the Hebrew Scriptures), the Gemara (commentary on Mishna), and other Oral Law, including the Tosefta (supplements to the Mishna, compiled around 300 C.E). The Talmud is, first and foremost, a legal compilation, although it deals with the matters of almost all areas of human interest.

Two types of Talmuds exist, which have been produced by two different groups of Jewish scholars: the Babylonian Talmud (600 C.E) and the Palestinian Talmud (400 C.E). The Babylonian Talmud is more extensive and thus more highly esteemed. Both Talmuds formulate their own hermeneutics to convey their theological system by defining the Torah and by demonstrating its perfection and comprehensive character. The Talmud remains a text of central importance, particularly in Orthodox Judaism. Intensive modern Talmudic scholarship is pursued in Israel and the U.S. The religious study of the Torah in search of the God who makes himself known in that work is called 'Talmud Torah'. It focuses on learning God's message for contemporary times through inquiry into the books of Hebrew scripture or those that record the original oral Torah of Sinai, the Mishna, Midrash (large collection of writings that examine the Hebrew Bible in the light of oral tradition), and Talmuds. Talmud Torah is also the name given to an elementary school under Jewish auspices that places special emphasis on religious education.

The New Testament:

The New Testament is the second, later, and smaller of the two major divisions of the Christian Bible, and the portion that is canonical (authoritative) only to Christianity. It recounts the life and ministry of Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) and interprets their meaning

for the early church, focusing especially on the new covenant created between God and the followers of Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him). Like the Old Testament it contains a variety of writing, there are 27 books in the New Testament: four Gospels, or stories of the life and teachings of Christ; the Acts of the Apostles, a historical narrative of the first years of the Christian church; 21 epistles, or letters of advice and instruction to early Christians; and the Book of Revelation, a description of the coming apocalypse: “I warn every one who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if any one adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if any one takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.”(Revelations;18-19). Most books were written in the later 1st century AD, though none can be dated precisely. Only two authors are known for certain: Paul, credited with 13 epistles (some make it 14); and Luke, writer of the third gospel and the Book of Acts. Attributions of other authors range from highly likely (for the other three gospels) to completely unknown (for the Epistle to the Hebrews). These documents circulated among the early churches and were used as preaching and teaching sources.

Saint Paul; (10-67 C.E), the alleged author of most of books of New Testament was the early Christian

missionary and theologian, known as the Apostle to the Gentiles. His original name was Saul, born as a Jew in Tarsus, Asia Minor. Like many of the Jews there he inherited Roman citizenship, probably granted by the Romans as a reward for mercenary service in the previous century. He used his Jewish name, Saul, within the Jewish community and his Roman surname, Paul, when speaking to Greeks. He was trained as a rabbi but earned his living as a tentmaker. He never met Prophet Jesus while in Jerusalem. A zealous Pharisee, (the ancient Jewish sect that emphasized strict interpretation and observance of the Mosaic law in both its oral and written form) he enthusiastically participated in the persecution and killing of the early Christians. When one of them, Stephen, was stoned to death, the murderers "laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul"(Acts;7:58). Later he converted to Christianity claiming to have experienced a vision of Prophet Jesus, while on the road to Damascus. Three years later he met St. Peter and James and was henceforth became to be known as the 13th Apostle. From his base in Antioch, he traveled widely, preaching to the Gentiles (non Jews). By asserting that non-Jewish Disciples of Christ did not have to observe Jewish law, he helped to establish Christianity as a separate religion rather than a Jewish sect. On a journey to Jerusalem, he aroused such hostility among the Jews that a mob gathered, and he was arrested and imprisoned for two years. The circumstances of his

death are unknown. Paul's ministry and religious views are known largely from his letters, or epistles, collected in the New Testament, which are the first Christian theological writing and the source of much Christian doctrine. Paul, all but totally obliterated the teachings of Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) based upon the authority of his alleged "visions". Paul's teachings were based more upon his personal philosophy and beliefs than any attempt to cite words or actions of Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) himself (e.g. Galatians 2). His followers slaughtered all Christians who would not forsake the teachings of the apostles for his teachings and he was later made the "majority author" of the New Testament (14 out of 27 books) and countless authentic gospels were burned and labeled apocrypha by his followers. It can be seen that the current religion of "Christianity" is based more on the doctrines and writings of Paul than anything else. The Gospels which are popularly believed to have been written first, were in actuality written long after the writings of Paul. It was due to Paul more than anyone else that Christianity became a world religion.

The Gospels:

The word 'gospel' is derived from the Anglo-Saxon term 'god-spell', meaning 'good story', a rendering of the Latin 'evangelium' and the Greek 'euangelion' **ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ** (Arabic; *Injil*), meaning 'good news'

or "good telling". The 73 or 66 books of New Testament, include four Gospels. The Gospel, is any of four biblical narratives covering the life, the person, death (according to Christian belief) and the teachings of Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him), as he was remembered by the Christian community. Traditionally their authorship (highly speculative) is attributed to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (the four evangelists), they are placed at the beginning of the New Testament and make up about half the total text. Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) conveyed orally to the people what God had originally revealed to him. His disciples, too, propagated it among the people by the spoken words in such a manner that they presented an admixture of their Prophet's life-story and the verses revealed to Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him). None of this material was put into writing during the lifetime of Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) or even in the period immediately following him. It fell to the lot of the Christians whose vernacular was Greek to transform the oral traditions into writing. It must be borne in mind that Christ's native tongue was Syriac or Aramaic and his disciples, too, spoke the same language. Most Greek-speaking authors heard these traditions in the Aramaic vernacular and committed them to writing in Greek. The oral traditions have been put into writing from Aramaic to Greek from 50-70 C.E.

Ever since the period of Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him), there have been people who tried to follow the message preached by Prophet Jesus i.e. To worship one God, adhere to the basic teachings of Moses and follow the law (Torah). They considered Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) as a human, Messenger of God, not God. These groups survived in good numbers up to 4th Century, after Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) till the Trinitarians got upper hand by winning over Emperor Constantine of Roman Empire in early 4th century C.E. The Council of Nicea (Iznik-Turkey) in 325 C.E, besides declaring these groups illegal, selected four Gospels out of a minimum of three hundred available and the rest, including the Gospel of Barnabas (most authentic), were ordered utterly destroyed. However amazingly some copies of Gospel of Barnabas survived, one recently discovered from a cave in Oloderay, a village of Turkey. A copy is also reported to have been found at the Vatican's library. It has been prohibited by the church, because it is against the doctrine of Christianity (in contradiction to the teachings of Prophet Jesus, peace be upon him) and the unambiguous prophecies mentioned in his Gospel regarding the advent of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). All Gospels written in Hebrew were also ordered to be destroyed. Council of Laodicea (364 C.E) added six books as believable, later in 397 C.E another conference at Carthage, added six more Books. Three more conferences were held after this in Trullo,

Florence and Trent (1545-63 C.E). They confirmed the decision of the Council of Carthage and included nearly all the previously doubtful books in the list of acknowledged books. The status of these books remained unchanged until the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century. The Protestants repudiated the decisions of the councils and declared that there are only 66 truly "inspired" books of God, and not 73 as claimed by the Catholics. If it is blasphemy to take even a word from the Bible, who is blaspheming? Those who added these seven books from the very beginning or those who expunged them.

Since the late 18th century the first three gospels (Matthew, Mark & Luke) have been called the Synoptic Gospels, because the texts, set side by side, show a similar treatment of the life of Prophet Jesus Christ (peace be upon him). The four New Testament Gospels compiled as a single narrative by Tatian about 150 C.E is called Diatessaron. It was the standard Gospel text in the Syrian Middle East until about 400 C.E, when it was replaced by the four separated Gospels. Quotations from the Diatessaron appear in ancient Syriac literature, but no ancient Syriac manuscript now exists. A 3rd-century Greek papyrus fragment was discovered in 1933 at Doura-Europus, northwest of Baghdad, Iraq. Whether the original writing was done in Greek or Syriac is unknown. There are also manuscripts in

Arabian and Persian and translations into European languages made during the Middle Ages.

The Christian scholars, with extensive research are uncovering extensive evidence that these Gospels were not even written by their claimed authors. Bultmann, Rudolf (1884-1976), a German Protestant theologian and New Testament scholar carried out the analysis of the Gospels in 'History of the Synoptic Tradition'(1921). He also examined the New Testament using historical criticism to demythologize it. He held that Christian faith should focus less on the historical Jesus and more on the transcendent Christ. John Biddle (1615-62 C.E), an English theologian was involved in English translation of Bible from Greek. His knowledge of the Greek text of the New Testament convinced him that the doctrine of the Trinity was not of scriptural origin, he published his Unitarian convictions in *Twelve Arguments Drawn out of Scripture . . .* (1647 C.E). He was repeatedly imprisoned and persecuted. Even the Popes themselves would sometimes recognize the falsehood about the dual nature of Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) and the fact that it was a later fabrication. One of these popes, Honorius I (Pope from 625 to 638 C.E), was officially cursed due to similar views forty eight years after his death by the Synod (council) which was held in Istanbul in 680 C.E.

The first English version of the Scriptures made by direct translation from the original Hebrew and Greek,

and the first to be printed, was the work of William Tyndale (1490-1536 C.E). He was of the view that the Bible alone should determine the practices and doctrines of the church and that every believer should be able to read the Bible in his own language. Fearing as an effort to undermine their monopoly and deceit, the church authorities in England prevented him from translating the Bible, he went to Germany. His New Testament translation was completed and printed in 1525, which was ordered to be burnt. He was finally betrayed into the hands of his enemies, and in October 1536, was publicly executed and burned at the stake. Yet Tyndale's work became the foundation of subsequent English translations, beginning with the King James Version of 1611. Ever since the Bible has been translated in almost all the languages of the world. Yet the King James Version has grave defects. By the middle of the nineteenth century, the development of Biblical studies and the discovery of many manuscripts more ancient than those upon which the King James Version was based, made it manifest that these defects are so many and so serious as to call for revision of the English translation. The task was undertaken, by authority of the Church of England, in 1870. The English Revised Version of the Bible was published in 1881-1885; and the American Standard Version, its variant embodying the preferences of the American scholars associated in the works was published in 1901. Thirty-two scholars have served as members of the

Committee charged with making the revision, and they have secured the review and counsel of an Advisory Board of fifty representatives of the co-operating denominations. If in the judgment of the Committee the meaning of a passage is quite uncertain or obscure, either because of corruption in the text or because of the inadequacy of present knowledge of the language, that fact is indicated by a note. It should not be assumed, however, that the Committee was entirely sure or unanimous concerning every rendering not so indicated. The Revised Standard Version Bible Committee is a continuing body, holding its meetings at regular intervals. It has become both ecumenical and international, with Protestant and Catholic active members, who come from Great Britain, Canada, and the United States. There are over forty different major versions of Bible, suitable to the doctrine of different followers, one claiming to be better and more accurate than other. The main versions are: The King James (Authorized) Version, The English Revised Version, The American Standard Version, The Revised Standard Version, Jewish Versions, The New English Bible and The Catholic Versions. Encyclopedia Britannica mentions that; There is no reliable evidence of any pre-Islamic Arabic translation of Bible. Only when large Jewish and Christian communities found themselves under Muslim rule after the Arab conquests of the 7th century did the need for an Arabic vernacular Scripture arise. The first and most important was that of Sa'adia ben Joseph

(892-942 C.E), made directly from Hebrew and written in Hebrew script, which became the standard version for all Jews in Muslim countries.

According to Islamic traditions, Injeel (Gospel) is the name given to those revealed discourses and sayings of Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) during the last two and half or three years as prophet of God for the Israelites. There is no authentic information available about their recording and compilation before his accession. The Gospels of Mathew, Mark, Luke and John are not actually Gospels but Gospel (Injeel) is the sayings and discourses of Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) recorded in these books in uncorrupted form. The only method to distinguish them from other narratives, comments and exegesis is that wherever the author writes, "Jesus said..." or "Jesus taught..." may help to extract part of Gospel i.e. "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."(Matthew;22:37); "Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. . . . Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these Commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven;" (Gospel-Mathew;5:17-20). Qur'an calls the original revelations (now almost extinct, distorted) of God to Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) as Injeel (Qur'an;5:46). Hence some parts of original Injeel (Gospel) may be retrieved through

critical comparison of selected sayings of Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) matching with the narratives in Qur'an on similar subject.

Inconsistencies, Violence and Obscenities:

Despite all the revisions, the Bible is still full of contradictions, violence, obscenities and interpolations; many volumes are required to explain them; only few are mentioned here; First; the doctrinal aspects: God dwells in light (1Timothy;6:16); God dwells in darkness (1Kings;8:12, Pslams;18:11).God is all powerful (Jeremiah;32:27,17, Mathew;19:26); God is not all powerful (Judges;1:19). God is not author of evil (Psalms;19:7-8, Deuteronomy;32:4); God is the author of evil (Ezekiel;20:25, Lamentations; 3:38, Jeremiah;18:11, Amos;3:6). God is peaceful (Romns;15:33, 1Corrintihans;14:33), God is warlike (Exodus;15:3, Isaiah;51:15). God cannot lie (Numbers;23:19, Hebrews;6:18), God lies (Jeremiah;4:10, 2 Thessalonians;2:11, 1Kings;22:23, Ezekiel;14:9). Heaven, no man hath ascended (John;3:13) contradicted by 2Kings;2:11, Elijah ascended, and Genesis;5:24 Enoch ascended. Judas (treacherous disciple of Jesus) hanged himself (Mathew;27:5), he did not hang himself but died other way (Acts;1:18). Mission of Jesus was to implement the Law of Moses (Mathew;5:17-19), Law superseded by Christian dispensations (Luke;16:16, Ephesians;2:15, Romans;7:6). Man is Not justified by faith alone

(James;2:21,24, Romans;2:13), man is justified by faith alone (Romans;3:20, Galatians;2:16, 3:11-12). Jesus lost "None" of his disciples (John;18:9) contradicted by, he lost only "One" (John;17:12). All are sinners (2Chronicles;6:36) contradicted by: "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin" (1John;3:9).

Secondly; the Biblical narrative of Creation is unscientific, replete with contradictions: On the first day, God created light, then separated light and darkness (Genesis;1:3-5) where as the sun (which separates night and day) wasn't created until the fourth day (Genesis;1:14-19); trees were created before man was created.(Genesis;1:11-12,26-27), Man was created before trees were created.(Genesis;2:4-9); birds were created before man was created.(Genesis;1:20-21, 26-27), man was created before birds were created.(Genesis;2:7, 19). God was pleased with his creation (Genesis;1:31), God was not pleased with his creation (Genesis;6:5-6).

Thirdly; Contradictions in the history and statistics, which are glaring: The story of flood at Genesis 6-9 contradicts with Genesis 7:2-3. The "Lord" tempted David (2Samuel;24:1) or "Satan provoked David (1Chronicles;21:1), David's fight with Goliath differs with one an other (1Samuel;17:56, 16:18-23 & 16:18-19). The number 700 or 7000? "Horsemen" or "Footmen"?(2 Samuel;10:18) viz (1Chronicles;19:18). Solomon had 2000 baths or 3000 baths?(1Kings;7-26

viz 2Chronicles;4:5). Solomon had 4000 stalls of horses or 40000? (2Chronicles;9:25 viz 1Kings;4:26). Did Saul enquire of the Lord or didn't he? (1Samuels;28:6 viz 1Chronicles;10:13-14).

Bible does not mince words for the violent, ruthless and indiscriminate wars of extermination: "Now therefore Kill every male among the little ones, and Kill every woman (female) that hath known man by lying (having sex) with him."But keep Alive for yourselves all the Girls and all the women who are Virgins."(Numbers;31:17-18); "Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass."(1Samel;15:3); "slay utterly the old man, the young man and the virgin, and little children and women; but come not near any man upon whom is the mark: and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the old men that were before the house."(Ezakhel;9:6); "and thirty-two thousand persons in all, women who had not known man by lying with him."(Numbers; 31:35). "But in the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God gives you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes,(Deuteronomy;20:16); 'And they Utterly Destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep, and Ass, with the edge of the sword"(Joshua;6:21);"He (Joshua) let None remain alive." (Joshua;10:28). "Let the high praises of

God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand; To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute upon them the judgment written: this honor have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD” (Psalm;149:6-9).

In the New Testament the Jesus Christ (peace be upon him) says: “But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them before me.”(Luke;19:27); “Think not that I came to send peace on the earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.”(Mathew;10:34), “I came to cast fire upon the earth; and what do I desire, if it is already kindled?” (Luke;12:49),“Do you think that I have come to give peace in the earth? I tell you, no, but rather division.”(Luke;12:51); “And, behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his SWORD, and struck a servant of the high priests, and cut off his ear.”(Mathew;26:51). Saint. Paul, in commending the worthy fruits of Faith, mentions the warriors of the Old Testament as his ideals: “And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.”

(Hebrews; 11: 32-34). The monkish morality of the Gospels in their present form has never been followed by any self-respecting Christian in the history. The Crusades (1095-1291 C.E), Spanish inquisition against Muslims, Jews and Church inquisitions against different Christian sects on the pretext of heresy resulted in the death and destruction of millions.

There are many obscene and blasphemous narratives in the Bible, some of the obscene narratives in Bible can not be narrated here due to the vulgarity; hence only references are mentioned: Judges;19;16:30, Genesis;9:20-27, 19:30-38, Genesis;19:8, Ezekiel; 23:1-4, 4:12-15, Isaiah;20:2-4, 2 Samuel; 6:20, 11:4, 11:6-25; 1Kings;11:4-7 & 11:9-11. Due to the contradictions, inaccuracies, interpolations, violence and obscenities one may then only accept the Bible as a faulty, inaccurate conglomeration of pseudo-historical and religious records that various chronicles have collated under the illusion of divine inspiration, which can not be taken as the authentic word of God to form basis of doctrines for a sound faith.

The corruption and non adherence to the Old and New Testaments by Jews and Christians respectively forms the basis of their replacement with the Final Testament. Allah says: “God accepted a Covenant from the Children of Israel and appointed twelve chieftains from among them and said: "I am with you; if you establish Prayers (Salah) pay Alms (Zakah), believe in My

Messengers, support them and give a generous loan to Allah (spend in charity), I will certainly forgive you your sins and admit you to gardens beneath which the rivers flow. However, if any one of you, after this, violates this Covenant, he will indeed go astray from the Right Way. Even after that, they broke their covenant; as a result, We laid on them Our curse and hardened their hearts. They tempered with words out of their context and neglected much of what they were enjoined. You will always find most of them deceitful except for a few of them. Yet forgive them and overlook their misdeeds. Allah loves those who are kind to others. Likewise We also made a Covenant with those who call themselves Christians, but they too have neglected much of what they were enjoined. As a result, We stirred among them enmity and hatred, which will last till the Day of Resurrection and soon God will inform them all of what they have done. O followers of Bible (People of the Book i.e. the Jews and Christians)! Now Our Messenger (Muhammad) has come to you to reveal much of what you have concealed from the Holy Books and to pass over much which is no longer necessary. There has come to you from God a new Light and a clear Book (Qur'an), with which God will guide to the ways of peace all those who seek His good pleasure and bring them out of the depth of darkness into the light of His grace and guide them to the Right Way.” (Qur'an;5:12-15).

The Last and Final Testament- Qur'an:

Qur'an(Recitation), the sacred scripture of Islam, the infallible word of God, a perfect transcription of an eternal tablet preserved in Heaven and revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) during his 23 years of his apostolic mission (610-632 C.E) for the guidance of humanity (Qur'an;12:104, 25:1, 38:87, 68:52, 81:27, 73:19). Allah says: "Blessed is the One Who has revealed Al-Furqan (the criterion to distinguish right from wrong: The Qur'an) to His servant, that he may be a Warner to the worlds"(Qur'an;25:1); "O Prophet, surely We have revealed to you the Book with the truth, for the instruction of Mankind. He who follows the Right Way shall follow it for his own good; and he who goes astray shall do so at his own peril. You are not set up as a guardian over them."(Qur'an;39:41); "This is nothing but a reminder and a plain Qur'an to warn those who are alive (in heart) and to establish the charge against the disbelievers (on the Day of Judgment)" (Qur'an; 36:69-70). Qur'an is simple and straight message of God (Qur'an;69:40-3,6.153, 18:1-3). It is part of articles of faith of a Muslims to believe in all the previous messengers of God and the scriptures; in the original form in which they were revealed upon them. Allah says: " (Qur'an is a guide for those) who believe in this Revelation (The Qur'an) which is sent to you (O Muhammad) and the Revelations which were sent

before you (Torah, Psalms, Gospel...) and firmly believe in the Hereafter.”(Qur’an;2:4).

The revelations received by the earlier messengers, some available in the form of books in Bible (Torah, Psalms, Gospel etc) were meant for specific people for specific time, besides not being in the original revealed form, their authenticity can not be established due to variant versions. Allah says: “He has revealed to you this Book (Qur’an) with the Truth, confirming whatever there still remains of the scripture which preceded it, as He revealed the Torah and Gospel, aforetime as a guidance unto mankind, and it is He who has bestowed (upon man) the standard by which to discern the true from the false. Behold, as for those who are bent on denying God’s messages- grievous suffering awaits them: for God is almighty, an avenger of evil.”(Qur’an;3:3-4); "Truth has come and Falsehood perished: for Falsehood by its nature is bound to perish.”(Qur’an;17:81). Allah says: “And, verily, (the essence of) this (revelation, i.e. Qur’an) is indeed found in the ancient books of divine wisdom (as well) (Qur’an;26:196,link 2:42, 61:6) Qur’an was foretold in Bible, Deutronomy;18:15 &18. Hence to discern the true from the false the previous scriptures have been abrogated and replaced with the final revelation.(Qur’an; 2:106-107, 16:101, 5:48).

The Qur’an consists of 114 chapters (*sūrah*s) of varying length, revealed in Arabic language. The Qur’an,

comprising 6236 verses (*ayah*) is unrivalled in its recording and preservation. The Prophet (peace be upon him) not only orally passed the Qur'an to the people of Arabia, he also made elaborate arrangements to ensure that its contents are preserved. The companions of the Prophet (peace be upon him) participated in this preservation process in large numbers, through writing and memorizing the text and safely transferring to the next generation. The Qur'an is not like the writings of the New Testament, where as per Christian traditions, God inspired a scribe to write down the scripture; the idea and words were those of the scribe while God only supervised the scribe. In other cases, the Christians would like to say that the scribe was inspired by God and revealed a certain idea to him. The scribe then wrote it down in his own words. In case of the Qur'an, the words and ideas are both Divine. The words and verses of the Qur'an were preserved, through the oral as well as the written traditions, in the lifetime of Prophet (peace be upon him), as also evident from the internal evidence from Qur'an, which repeatedly mentions itself as **الكتاب** 'al- *kitaab*' (The Book) from the very beginning: "This (Qur'an) is the Book; in it is guidance sure without doubt to those who fear Allah."(Qur'an;2:2); "Recite from this Book (Qur'an) which has been revealed to you"(Qur'an;29:45); "And recite (and teach) what has been revealed to thee of the Book of thy Lord: none can change His Words and

none wilt thou find as a refuge other than Him.”(Qur’an;18:27). Allah says: “By no means (should it be so)! For it (Qur’an) is indeed a Message of instruction: Therefore let who will keep it in remembrance. It is written in scrolls, which are honored, exalted, purified, and which remain in the hands of scribes, who are noble and virtuous.”(Qur’an;80:11-16). Abdullah Yousaf Ali explains that: “At the time when this Sura Abasa (Chapter Number: 80) was revealed, at Makka; there were perhaps only about 42 or 45 Suras in the hands of the Muslims. But it was a sufficient body of Revelation of high spiritual value, to which the description given here could be applied. It was held in the highest honor; its place in the hearts of Muslims was more exalted than that of anything else; as Allah's Word, it was pure and sacred; and those who transcribed it were men who were honorable, just and pious. The legend that the early Suras were not carefully written down and preserved in books is a pure invention. The recessions made later in the time of the first and the third Caliph were merely to preserve the purity and safeguard the arrangement of the text at a time when the expansion of Islam among non-Arabic-speaking people made such precautions necessary”. The details of the process of compilation of the Holy Qur’an is found in the books of history and exegesis, a glimpse here provide the insight to the process of its preservation and dissemination. Initially (while at Mecca) Prophet Muhammad (peace

be upon him) used to read out the revealed passages to the small group of his followers who besides committing the revelation to their memory also used to write it down on available writing material. Subsequently, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) himself unlettered, constituted a committee of more than forty of his literate companions, who were assigned the task of writing the Holy Book. On receiving a verse or verses from Allah through revelation, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) used to call one of the members of the committee and dictated it. At this time, the Holy Prophet also used to instruct the Scribe as to where the newly revealed verse or verses were to be placed in the Holy Qur'an. The Holy Prophet thus not only used to dictate scattered verses but also give a divine order of arrangement of each verse. Zaid bin Thabit (one of scribes) reports that after having dictated the verse, the Prophet (peace be upon him) would ask the scribe to read it out. Errors if any were rectified and the final draft was approved. Although the Qur'an had been compiled in the lifetime of the Prophet (died 632 C.E), yet need of preparation of official copy was felt during the reign of Abu Bakar, the 1st Caliph (632-634 C.E), for preservation of standard text to meet the requirements of ever expanding global Muslim community. Abu Bakar constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Zaid bin Thabit. All the companions assisted him and the volume thus compiled was attested by hundreds of

companions. During the period of 3rd Caliph (644-656 C.E) Uthman, a large number of non-Arabs also embraced Islam, who were found to be reciting Qur'an in varied dialects. Uthman in consultation with all the companions, got the copies of Qur'an written in accordance with the dialects and calligraphic style of the Quraysh, and these copies were placed in the major cities of the Muslim Caliphate, the expert reciters (Qari) to elucidate and teach the correct recitation were also made available. These copies served as the master copies for all the Muslims and numerous copies were prepared and circulated. Two of the master copies prepared by Uthman are still available in museums at Tashkent, and Istanbul, which are identical to any copy of Qur'an found in Indonesia, China, America, Australia, Morocco, France, Nigeria or any other part of the world. Thus the contribution of Uthman is not that he compiled the Qur'an for the first time, as is generally misunderstood, he in fact united the Muslims on one standard recitation of the Qur'an. (Details are narrated in Sahih Al-Bukhari Hadith 4.709, Narrated by Anas and Hadith, 6.510 Narrated by Anas bin Malik).

The Qur'an is the central to the life of Muslims, which is recited to the new born and to the one breathing his last. The devout Muslims routinely recite part of Qur'an daily, some completing one recitation in a month. Those who can not read are content to listen quietly. Every year in the month of fasting (Ramadan),

recitation of complete Qur'an is completed by the prayer leaders (*Hafiz*) in (*taraweeh*) prayers. Every Muslim has to memorize some parts or chapters of Qur'an, as it is obligatory for every Muslim to recite some verses of Qur'an, in the original Arabic (not translation), in the five daily prayers at least seventeen times (in obligatory, *faradh*). Besides availability of written script, Muslims feel greatly honored all over the world to memorize the Qur'an word by word as a whole, they are called-Hafiz (Protector). At any one time there are Protectors (*Hufaz*) among all age groups in every village, town, city and country. Hence there are millions of Protectors (*Hufaz*) the world over, who are continuously being replaced by new one's as the elders die in natural process. This process of preservation of Qur'an in the memory and hearts of Muslims is in line with Allah's saying: "And We have indeed made the Qur'an easy to understand and remember: then is there any that will receive admonition?"(Qur'an;54:17); **"Surely We have revealed this reminder (Qur'an); and We will surely preserve it Our self".(Qur'an;15:9)**. This is how Qur'an is transferred from 'generation to generation' through the process of Historical Continuity (*Twater*) in its original form without any distortion. Hence amazingly this scripture has remained unchanged over the past fourteen hundred years.

The earliest *sūrah*s (revealed during initial 13 years, *Makkan* period) call for strict monotheism, worship and obedience to Allah (One God), the moral and religious obedience in light of the coming Day of Judgment; the ones revealed later (Madni-10 years) generally provide directives for the creation of a social structure that will support the moral life called for by God. The Qur'an also provides detailed accounts of the joys of paradise for pious believers and the terrors of hell for sinners and disbelievers. The God who conveyed the revelations to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), through archangel Gabriel, is the same God, worshiped by Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Jesus and all other prophets mentioned in Bible. The stern justice of God is emphasized in Qur'an along with frequent references to his mercy and compassion for the repentant believers. The Qur'an demands absolute submission (Islam) to God: "Surely Allah's religion is (Man's) self surrender to Him (Islam)." (Qur'an;3:19). Both Qur'an and Traditions (Sunnah) of Prophet (peace be upon him) serve as the primary source of Islamic law (Shari'a). Qur'an is immutable in both form and content; the translations are just paraphrases to facilitate understanding of the actual scripture, in no way substitute to the original Arabic script. Qur'an is eternal guide for those who ponder. Allah says: "This Book (Al-Qur'an) which We have sent down to you (O Muhammad) is highly blessed, so that they may ponder upon its verses and the men of

understanding may learn a lesson from it.”(Qur’an;38:29). Some Qur’anic verses, draw the attention of humanity towards scientific phenomena, as His signs, related with Astronomy, Physics, Geography, Geology, Oceanology, Biology, Botany, Zoology, Medicine, Physiology, Embryology as well as General Science, mostly un known to humanity fourteen centuries ago, discovered recently proving miraculous nature of Qur’an as word of God. The world's leading authority on orientalism and Middle East, Princeton Professor Philip K. Hitti, in his book ‘Islam, a Way of Life’, writes; “The Koran is dictated (by Allah). Any quotation from the Koran can be introduced with "saith Allah”. It is now for the mankind to make their own choice; weather to follow the distorted and corrupted ancient scriptures or the Last Testament, the message of divine guidance available in its pure form- The Qur’an! Backed up with practical demonstration of its application by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) available in the form of written and oral record of Traditions (Hadith and Sunnah).

Traditions – The Sunnah of the Prophet:

Qur’an provides the basic guide lines, the details of the way of living acceptable and pleasing to Allah are provided through the practical life of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was the role model, Allah says: “You have indeed, in the life of Messenger of God, the

'Best Model' for him whose hope is in God and the Day of the Hereafter, and who engages himself much in the remembrance of God.”(Qur’an;33:21). Allah says: “O ye who believe! obey Allah and obey the Messenger and make not vain your deeds!”(Qur’an;47:33); “We sent not a messenger, but to be obeyed, In accordance with the will of Allah...”.(Qur’an;4:64). Obedience of Messenger has been repeatedly emphasized in Qur’an; 3:31,32,132, 4:59, 5:92, 8:20, 9:71, 12:8, 24:52, 54, 33:21, 33:71, 47:33, 48:28, 64:12. The Messenger (peace be upon him) practically demonstrated to lead the life according to Qur’an, therefore Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is also referred as living Qur’an. Prophet (peace be upon him) had been entrusted with great responsibility; Allah says: “We sent those Messengers with clear signs and scriptures; and now We have sent down the reminder (Qur’an) to you (O Muhammad), so that you may explain clearly to mankind as to what was sent to them so that they may think about it”(Qur’an 16:44).

The term Hadith derives from the Arabic root *Hdth*, meaning "to report," "to happen," and so, "to tell a happening," to speak of" or "to have, or give, as news." Hence the traditions are seen as narrative and record. From it comes Sunnah (literally, a "well-trodden path," i.e., taken as precedent and authority or directive), to which the faithful conform in submission to the sanction that Hadith possesses and that legalists, on that

ground, can enjoin. Tradition in Islam is thus both content and constraint, Hadith as the biographical ground of law and Sunnah as the system of obligation derived from it. The Sunnah (Traditions) of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is a broader term which include his sayings, actions, approvals and disapprovals. Even if some action was performed in the presence and knowledge of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and he kept quite; then it is considered as his approval, because he would not tolerate wrong. There are repeated commands in Qur'an, for the believers to offer Prayer and pay charity: "Therefore establish Salah (prayer), pay Charity (Zakah) and obey the messenger, so that you may be shown mercy." (Qur'an;24:56). But the detailed procedure to offer the Salah (prayer) and details for payment of obligatory Charity (Zakah) are not found in Qur'an; but in the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). He laid down exceptions as elaborations of Qur'anic injunctions; for example it is prohibited to eat dead animals (Qur'an;5:3); Prophet (peace be upon him) specified the exception of fish and locust. Prohibition of donkey meat is not mentioned in Qur'an, but in Sunnah it is found to be prohibited and zebra as permissible. Marriage with aunt of wife is not mentioned in Qur'an, but Sunnah prohibits it. It is normal to say Prayer Call (*Adhan*) for Salah, but in Sunnah it is found that there is no *Adhan* for Eid and some other types of prayers. The authentic (Sahih) Hadith do not conflict with Qur'an, any

apparent conflict could be due to misunderstanding by an individual, which will get reconciled if one goes in to the details and background. The Traditions (Hadith and Sunnah) have been protected from corruption through record of continuous chain of reliable authentic narrators. It is through Hadith, that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) has shaped and determined the behaviour patterns of the household of Islam by the posthumous leadership his personality exercised and will continue to exercise till eternity, Allah says in Qur'an: "It is He who has sent His Apostle with Guidance and the Religion of Truth to proclaim it over all religion: and enough is Allah for a Witness."(Qur'an;48:28).

While the Qur'an was being received, there had been reluctance and misgiving about recording the words and acts of the Prophet, lest they be confused with the uniquely constituted contents of the divine scripture. At times Prophet (peace be upon him) prohibited some thing, which was later permitted; like initially women were prohibited to visit graves, as they used to make a lot of hue and cry but with more maturity they were later allowed. Although there was no formal system of recording of Hadith like the one followed for Qur'an, there is no authentic prohibition: Abu Saed Khidhri was reportedly prohibited by the Prophet (peace be upon him) to write Hadith along with Qur'an, to keep Qur'an pure. This incidence appears to have been quoted out of

context, because some companions had been writing the sayings of Prophet (peace be upon him) in his lifetime with his permission; like Abdullah bin Umro bin Al As, Abu Rafi, Anas Bin Malik, Abu Hurairah; who had kept written record of Hadith in the form of many books, from which he used to teach many of his pupils. Humam bin Minbah being one of them, the book named after him; translated by Dr.Hamid Ullah. The 1st Caliph Abu Bakar wrote 500 Traditions on request of his daughter Aysha, but washed them fearing that some of them which he had listened from others might not be accurately narrated, he did not want to be accused. Aysha (the mother of believers) herself a great scholar, used to refer Traditions in her correspondence on theological matters. Umar, the 2nd Caliph discussed the writing of Traditions but discarded due to the fear, people mixing it up with or relegating Qur'an as done by the Jews and Christians with their scriptures. The 3rd Caliph Ali is reported to have asked the people to bring papers, then he dictated the Traditions. This is sufficient to establish that there was no prohibitions of writing of Traditions, which were transferred from father to son and from teacher to the pupils. The huge record of written letters and instructions of Prophet (peace be upon him) has been preserved in the books of history.

A tradition had to be sustained by an expert "Science of Attestation" able to satisfy rigorous formal criteria of their connection with the person of Prophet Muhammad

(peace be upon him) through his "companions," by an unbroken sequence of "reportage". This science became so meticulous that there was no possibility of any error. Pioneers in Hadīth in second century Hijra was historian Ibn Ishaq (died AH 150/C.E 767) and Malik ibn Anas, (died AH 179/C.E 795): The most revered of all traditionalists was Muhammad ibn Isma'il al-Bukhari (AH 194-256 /C.E 810-870), His Sahih occupied 16 years of editorial pains and scrutiny. He collected 300,000 *Ahadith*, and memorized 200,000 of which some were unreliable. He included approximately 7,275 traditions with full *isnad*. Allowing for repetitions, the net total was 2,230, for which there was no doubt about their authenticity. He arranged the whole into 97 books and 3,450 chapters or topics, repeating the traditions that bore on several themes. The others compilers of Hadith are Muslim ibn al-Hajjaj (AH 202-261/C.E 817-875), Abu Da`ud al-Sijistani (AH 202-275/C.E 817-889), Abu 'Isa Muhammad at- Tirmidhi (died AH 279/C.E 892), Abu' Abd ar-Rahman an-Nasa'i (AH 216-303 /C.E 830-915]) and Abu 'Abdallah ibn Maja (AH 210-273/C.E 824-886). Nor did they oust the earlier collection of Malik ibn Anas, but they formed the sources of later popular editions, intended to conflate material for didactic purposes. One such was the work of Abu Muhammad al-Baghawi (died AH 516/C.E 1122) called *Masabih as-Sunnah* ("The Lamps of the Sunnah"). Commentaries on all these classical *musannafat*, or

compilations, were many, and important in education and piety. The Shi'a collection of Traditions was prepared by Abū Ja'far Muḥammad al-Qulīnī (died AH 328/C.E 939) with the title of *Kafi fi 'Ilm ad-Din* (All You Need About the Science of Religious Practice).

There are special *Ahadith* attributed to Allah, called Hadith Qudsi, in which the Prophet says, "Allah says so and so". The meaning of these Hadith was revealed to the Prophet but he put them in his own words, unlike the Qur'an which is the word of Almighty Allah and the Prophet conveyed it exactly as it was revealed to him. The Prophet says the Allah says: "I am so self-sufficient that I am in no need of having an associate. Thus he who does an action for someone else's sake as well as Mine will have that action renounced by Me to him whom he associated with Me." (Hadith Qudsi 5). The status of Hadith Qudsi is next to Qur'an but they can not be recited in prayer (salah). Thus along with Qur'an, the Traditions (Hadith & Sunnah) of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) are the source of guidance for the humanity for ever. After Qur'an the authenticity of Hadith literature is doubtless, compared to any religious scripture, including the Bible, where even the names of authors are not known what to talk of the chain of transmission.

Conclusion:

The guidance made available in the form of sacred scriptures was meant for the specific people for specific time, hence God did not Himself took responsibility of their protection except Qur'an. The Israelites repeatedly disobeyed the commandments of God, altered the scriptures, and even killed the prophets. They did not believe in Prophet Jesus Christ (peace be upon him) and even tried to kill him, but Allah raised him to Himself. His followers deviated from the monotheism of Abraham, Jacob and Moses (peace be upon them all), invented a different religion known as Christianity based on the concepts of Original sin and Trinity, disregarding the Law. Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him) had settled his eldest son Ishmael at Makka, a deserted place which became a town on the main trade route. Prophet Ishmael (peace be upon him) became the ancestor of Arabs. His descendents also corrupted the original teachings of Abraham and Ishmael (peace be upon them), they became polytheists and Idolaters. For nearly over next 2000 years no messenger was sent to them. Due to the persistent disobedience and rebelliousness of the Children of Israel, and corruption of original message of God; He changed the leadership role from the Children of Israel to the Children of Ishmael (peace be upon them), by appointing Muhammad, peace be upon him (an Arab, from the progeny of Ishmael) as His last messenger in 610 C.E.

He revealed to him, Qur'an; the last book of guidance for the humanity and named the faith as Islam (surrender to will of Allah), the faith of all previous messengers. Allah Himself took the responsibility to protect His last scripture: "We have without doubt sent down the Message; and We will assuredly guard it (from corruption)".(Qur'an;15:9);"No falsehood can approach it from before or from behind. It is a revelation from the One Who is Wise and Praiseworthy."(Qur'an;41:42). Qur'an is the final and the Last Testament, which supersedes the Old and New Testament. Now it is obligatory for the humanity including Jews and Christians to follow the guidance of Qur'an. Many Jews and Christians have reverted to Islam while others decline. The message of truth was spread all over the world and now there are around 1.5 Billion Muslims in the world. Miraculously during last fourteen centuries, Qur'an is available in its original form and will continue to guide the humanity till eternity. Allah says: "Or do ye say that Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes were Jews or Christians? Say: Do ye know better than Allah? Ah! who is more unjust than those who conceal the testimony they have from Allah? But Allah is not unmindful of what ye do!"(Qur'an;2:140). While Jews and Christians claim to be heirs of Abraham, but only Muslims can strongly claim to be followers of the true legacy of Abraham, *Tawheed* (monotheism).

Practical implementation of Qur'anic teachings was demonstrated by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), which is also available in the form of the traditions of Prophet (Sunnah). The question arises that after Muhammad (peace be upon him) the last messenger, who is responsible for preaching of this Message to the mankind? Allah says: "We have given the Book (Qur'an) as an inheritance to those of Our servants (Muslims) whom We have chosen..."(Qur'an;35:32). At the end of his last sermon during last Hajj (632 C.E) the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "O' People, no Messengers or prophet will come after me and no new faith will be born. Reason well, therefore, O' People, and understand my words which I convey to you. I leave behind me two things, the Qur'an and my example, the Sunnah and if you follow these you will never go astray. All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others and those to others again; and may the last ones understand my words better than those who listen to me directly." The custodians of the Qur'an after the holy Prophet are the People of Islam. They are chosen for the Book, not in any narrow sense, but in the sense that the Book is given for their age and they are charged to believe, read, understand, obey, preserve and propagate it, so that all mankind should receive the Message. In this present era of high-tech communications and media, with the efforts of believers this guidance is available to the increasing numbers of people every day, who are

embracing Islam in great numbers. There is no doubt that this Message will remain available to the humanity till the Day of Judgment. The legacy of Prophet Abraham (peace be upon them) continues.

“Our Sustainer! Do not punish us if we forget or make a mistake.” (Qur’an:2:286)

***** ..

Qur’an: Translation & References

The Qur’an was revealed in Arabic, the language of Prophet, peace be upon him (and his clan *Quraish* of Makka). The translation (*Tarjama*) of the Qur’an means the expression of the meaning of its text in a language different from the language of the Qur’an, for understanding by those not familiar with Qur’anic Arabic. It is customary to quote the original Arabic Qur’anic text (*ayah*, verses) along with the translation, however this require special handling due to reverence of the sacred text, hence in this book for the convenience of handling by all categories of the readers, only the translation is given, which should also be handled with due respect. It is more appropriate for the reader to also consult the original Arabic Qur’an. Here mostly the translation of verses from Qur’an by Abdullah Yousaf Ali, M.Pickthall, Muhammad Asad and F.Malik have been given at various places. There is agreement among Muslim scholars that it is humanly impossible to transfer the meanings of original Qur’an

word by word in an identical mode into another language. This is due to several reasons: firstly the Qur'an itself is a miracle and cannot be imitated by man. As a consequence of this, THE TRANSLATION OF QUR'AN IS NOT CONSIDERED AS QUR'AN. The translations of the Qur'an; e.g. into English, French, German and Urdu, etc, in principle are regarded as paraphrases. These translations can not be used in place of original Arabic Qur'an for ritual purposes. Secondly the words of different languages do not express all the shades of meanings of their original Arabic word, though they may express specific concepts. Hence narrowing down the meaning of the Qur'an to specific concepts in a foreign language would mean missing out other important dimensions. While reading the translations of Qur'an these aspects must always be kept in view. The example of verse: "*wa- huwa 'alladhe khalaqa as- samaawaat wa- al- 'ard. fe sittah AYYAAM..*" (Qur'an;11:7) is considered here. The word AYYAAM in Arabic means; days or 'long periods' or 'eons' or 'epoch'. The four translations being given here differ in their understanding: "And it is He who has created the heavens and the earth in SIX EONS" (M.Asad); "He is the One Who created the heavens and the earth in SIX PERIODS" (F.Malik); "And He it is Who created the heavens and the earth in SIX DAYS" (Pickthall); "He it is Who created the heavens and the earth in SIX DAYS" (Yousaf Ali). The translation of AYYAAM as 'EONS' appears more scientific and accurate.

Hence if some contradictions appear, it is due to the limitations of translation, not of Qur'an.

The Qur'an comprises 114 chapters, called *Surahs*, of very unequal length and each *Surah* comprises number of verses. The translation of references from Qur'an are generally given within brackets "xyz" followed by reference of *Surah* and *Ayah* in bracket i.e. : "Praise be to Allah the Cherisher and Sustainer of the Worlds."(Qura'n;1:2). It implies that the translation is from *Surah* (chapter) Number 1 and verse number 2 of the same *Surah*. The name of Chapter (*Surahs*) can be found from the Appendix II . In this case the name of *Surah* Number 1 as given in *Surah* Index is *Al-Fatiha* meaning 'The Opening'. The names of Chapters (*Surahs*) in Qur'an, in most of the cases have no special relation to the subject of the *Surah* but has been used merely as a symbol to distinguish it from other *Surahs*. The name comprise of a word used some where in the *Surah*. Taking example of 2nd *Surah* *AL-BAQARAH* (the Cow), which has been so named from the story of the Cow occurring in this *Surah* (verse number 67-73). Although this *Surah* is an invitation to the Divine Guidance and all the stories, incidents etc. revolve round this central theme. As this *Surah* has particularly been addressed to the Jews, many historical events have been cited from their own traditions to admonish and advise them that their own good lies in accepting the Guidance revealed to the Holy Prophet. It has not,

however, been used as a title to indicate the subject of the *Surah*. It will, therefore, be as wrong to translate the name Al-Baqarah into “The Cow” or “The Heifer” as to translate any English name, say Baker, Rice, Wolf etc., into their equivalents in other languages or vice versa, because this would imply that the *Surah* dealt with the subject of “The Cow”. Many more chapters (*Surahs*) of the Qur’an have been named in the same way because no comprehensive words exist in Arabic (in spite of its richness) to denote the wide scope of the subject discussed in them. As a matter of fact all human languages suffer from the same limitation. However in some cases the name of Chapters (*Surahs*) indicate the subject matter i.e. the first *Surah Al-Fatihah*, which means ‘that which opens a subject or a book or any other thing’ or in other words, *Al-Fatihah* is a sort of ‘Preface’. Similarly *Surah ‘Al Yousaf’* (Joseph) *Surah* number 12, is related with the story of Prophet Joseph (pbuh).

Qur'an – Surah (Chapters) Index

<u>Surah /Chapter Name</u>			<u>Surah /Chapter Name</u>		
#	<u>Arabic</u>	<u>English</u>	#	<u>Arabic</u>	<u>English</u>
1	Al-Fatiha	The Opening	4	Muhamm	Muhammad
			7	ad	
2	Al-Baqara	The Cow	4	Al-Fat-h	The Victory
			8		
3	Al-i'Imran	The Family of Imram	4	Al-Hujurat	Private Apartments
			9		
4	An-Nisaa	The Woman	5	Qaf	Letter –‘ Q’
			0		
5	Al-Maida	Table Spread	5	Az-Zariyat	Winnowing Winds
			1		
6	Al-An'am	The Cattle	5	At-Tur	Tur
			2		
7	Al-A'raf	The Heights	5	An-Najm	The Star
			3		
8	Al-Anfal	The Spoils of War	5	Al-Qamar	The Moon
			4		
9	At-Tauba	The Repentance	5	Ar-Rahman	The Beneficent
			5		
10	Yunus	Jonah	5	Al-Waqi'a	The Event
			6		
11	Hud	Hood	5	Al-Hadid	The Iron
			7		
12	Yusuf	Joseph	5	Al-Mujadila	She that Disputes
			8		
13	Ar-Ra'd	Thunder	5	Al-Hashr	The Gathering
			9		
14	Ibrahim	Abraham	6	Al-Mumtahna	To be Examined
			0		
15	Al-Hijr	The Rocky Tract	6	As-Saff	The Ranks
			1		
16	An-Nahl	The Bee	6	Al-Jamu'a	Friday Congregation
			2		

1	Bani	Children of Israel/A	6	Al-	
7	Israel/Israa	scension	3	Munafiqu	The Hypocrites
1			6	n	
8	Al-Kahf	The Cave	4	At-	Mutual
1			6	Tagabun	Disillusion
9	Maryam	The Mary	5	At-Talaq	Divorce
2			6	At-	
0	Ta-ha	Ta-Ha	6	Tahrim	Banning
2			6	Al-Mulk	The
1	Al-	The Prophets	7		Sovereignty
2	Anbiyaa		6	Al-Qalam	The Pen
2			8		
2	Al-Hajj	The Pilgrimage	6	Al-Haqqa	The Reality
2			9		
3	Al-	The Believers	7	Al-	Ascending
2	Muminun		0	Ma'arij	Stairway
4			7	Nuh	Noah
2	An-Nur	The Light	1		
4			7	Al-Jinn	The Jinn
2	Al-	The Criterion	2		
5	Furqan		7	AlMuzzam	Enshrouded
2			3	mil	One
6	Ash-	The Poets	7	Al-	
7	Shu'araa		4	Muddathir	Cloaked One
2			7	Al-	Rising of the
7	An-Naml	The Ant	5	Qiyamat	Dead
2			7	Ad-Dahr	The Time
8	Al-Qasas	The Story	6		
2			7	Al-	The
9	Al-	The Spider	7	Mursalat	Emissaries
3	Ankabut		7		
0			8	An-Nabaa	The Tidings
3	Ar-Rum	The Romans	7	An-	Ones, Drag
3			9	Nazi'at	Forth
3	Luqman	Luqman, The	8		
1		Wise	0	Abasa	He Frowned
3					
2	As-Sajda	The Prostration			
3					
3	Al-	The Clans			
3	Ahزاب				
3					
4	Saba	Sheba			

3	Fatir	The Creator	8	At-	The
5			1	Takwir	Overthrowing
3	Ya-Sin	Ya S'in	8	Al-Infitar	The Cleaving
6			2		
3	As-Saffat	Who Set Ranks	8	Al-	
7			3	Mutaffifin	Defrauding
3	Sad	Word- 'S'	8	Al-	
8			4	Inshiqaq	The Sundering
3	Az-		8	Al-Buruj	Mansions of
9	Zumar	Troops	5		Stars
4	Al-		8	At-Tariq	The Morning
0	Mu'min	Believer	6		Star
4	HaMim	HaMim(letters	8	Al-A'la	The Most High
1		H,M)	7		
4	Ash-		8	Al-	The
2	Shura	The Counsel	8	Ghashiya	Overwhelming
4	Az-	Ornaments of	8	Al-Fajr	The Dawn
3	Zukhruf	Gold	9		
4	Ad-		9	Al-Balad	The City
4	Dukhan	The Smoke	0		
4	Al-		9	Ash-	
5	Jathiya	The	1	Shams	The Sun
4		Crouching	9		
4	Al-Ahqaf	The Sand	9	Al-Lail	The Night
6		Dunes	2		
9	Adh-		10	Al-	
3	Dhuha	Morning Hour	4	Humaza	The Traducer
9			10		
4	Al-Sharh	Solace	5	Al-Fil	The Elephant
9			10		
5	At-Tin	Fig	6	Quraish	The Tribe
9			6		Quraish
9	Al-Alaq	The Clot	10	Al-	Small
6			7	Ma'un	Kindness
9			10	Al-	
7	Al-Qadr	The Power	8	Kauthar	Abundance
9			10	Al-	
9	Al-	The Clear	10		The
8	Baiyina	Proof	9	Kafirun	Disbelievers

56

9	Al-	The	11	An-Nasr	Succor
9	Zalzalah	Earthquake	0		
1	Al-	The Courses	11	Al-Lahab	Palm Fiber
0	Adiyat		1		
1	Al-	The Calamity	11	Al-	The Unity
0	Qari'a		2	Ikhlāas	
1	AtTakathur	The Rivalry	11	Al-Falaq	The Daybreak
0			3		
2					
1	Al-Asr	The Declining Day	11	An-Nas	The Mankind
0			4		
3					

Bible: Sixty Six Books

OLD TESTAMENT –39 Books

TORAH

Genesis	1 Samuel	Isaiah	Obadiah	Psalms
Exodus	2 Samuel	Jeremiah	Jonah	Proverbs
Leviticus	1 Kings	Lamentations	Micah	Habakkuk
Numbers	2 Kings	Ezekiel	Nahum	Zephaniah
Deuteronomy	1 Chronicles	Daniel	Ezra	Haggai
Joshua	2 Chronicles	Hosea	Nehemiah	Zechariah
Judges	Ecclesiastes	Joe	Esther	Malachi
Ruth	Song of Solomon	Amos	Job	

NEW TESTAMENT – 27 Books

Gospels	1	2Thessalonians	1 Peter
According to:	Corinthians		
Matthew	2	1 Timothy	2 Peter
	Corinthians		

Mark	Galatians	2 Timothy	1 John
Luke	Ephesians	Titus	2 John
John	Philippians	Philemon	3 John
The Acts	Colossians	Hebrews	Jude
	1		
Romans	1Thessaloni ans	James	Revelatio n

Islam and Christianity

Introduction:

Islam has a special place for the Jews and Christians, who like Muslims are also linked with their common ancestor -Abraham, the true monotheist who had totally submitted to the obedience and worship of One God Alone. Hence Islam has given them honorary title of the "People of the Book". They are the fellow believers in the same One Supreme God: Moses (peace be upon him) said: "*Shama Israelu Adonai Ila Hayno Adna Ikhad*" ["Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord"] (Deuteronomy;6:4, Isaiah;43:11, 45:5,46:9). Jesus (peace be upon him)said: "*Shama Israelu Adonai Ila Hayno Adna Ikhad*" ["Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord"] (Mark;12:29) and Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was asked by God to say: "*qul huwa 'Allah 'ahad*" "Say, He is the One God" (Qura'n;112:1), "*wa- 'ilaah -kum 'ilaah waahid laa 'ilaah 'illaa huwa ar- Rahmaan ar- Rahem*"; "Your God is one God; there is no one worthy of worship except Him, the Compassionate, the Merciful.(Qur'an;2:163). The "People of the Book" are the recipients of scriptures from Him, the Torah and the Gospel to Prophet Moses and Jesus (peace be upon them) respectively. They share the belief in the line of prophethood, as the messengers and prophets mentioned in Bible are also the messengers and

prophets of Islam. A Muslim can not be called a Muslim unless he believes in all the messengers of God and His scriptures. The three religions share a common moral code. The Qur'an says: *"Say we believe in God, and the revelation given to us, and the revelation given to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob and the Tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to (all) the prophets from their Lord: We make no distinction between one and another of them, and to Him we are submitters."* (Qur'an;2:136). Hence a more appropriate description of common current civilization would have been "Judeo-Christian-Islamic" seeing that the three religions are rooted in the Abrahamic tradition and knowing that the civilization of the Islamic era furnished the foundation for the present civilization. It was the Islamic civilization where Muslims, Jews, and Christians, and others lived in safety and justice under a system based upon tolerance and cooperation.

The Misconceptions:

Many misconceptions exist in the West (representing Christianity) about Islam and Muslims, which were deliberately created by their clergy and medieval rulers to disguise the true message of Islam to justify their hostility towards Islam. *"Surely the only (true) religion in the sight of God is (man's) self surrender unto Him (Islam): Those who (formerly) received the Scripture differed only after knowledge came unto them, through transgression among themselves. They should know that*

God is swift in calling to account those who deny His revelations.”(Qur’an;3:19). W. Montgomery Watt, a Western scholar observed : ‘Among the world’s major religions it is certainly Islam that the West has the most difficulty in approaching objectively. The reason for this are rooted in past history. Because of the crusades in the 12th and 13th centuries many people in the West wanted the religion of Islam to be better known. But the image they portrayed of Islam can quite accurately be qualified as ‘distorted’. Western opinion about Islam and Muslims was based for centuries on the distorted image’. The major misconceptions created in the minds of westerners against Islam and Muslims may be summed up as: (1) The God of Islam is different to the God of Jews and Christians, (2) He is a ruthless God, urging Muslims to kill any one not believing in their faith; (3) Muslims are pagans who worship a black cubical structure at Makkah, (4) The Prophet of Islam was a warrior and conqueror who did not believe in the human rights and preached violence; (5) Islam was spread with the sword; (6) The scripture of Islam is based on the Old and New Testaments; (7) The women are treated as subhuman by the Muslims; polygamy and veil are to exploit the women, they have no human rights; (8) The Islamic Law (Shari’a) is very harsh, is based on strict punishment without meeting the requirements of justice; it awards flogging, cutting of hand and stoning to death, all primitive laws of ancient times. (9) Muslims hate the Western values, considering

them as thereat, hence they have resorted to terrorism as a means to undermine and destroy Western values so that they can enforce their values on the West.

Causes of Growth of Delusions: The events which contributed towards growth of these delusions are numerous, however most prominent are: (1) The fall of territories of Christendom around Arabia, (2) The Crusaders; (3) The fall of remnants of Byzantine Empire at the hand of Muslims; (4) The conquest of Spain and Muslim rule for eight centuries; (5) The westward expansion of Ottoman Empire, (6) The besiege of Vienna twice; (7) Colonization of most of Muslim world by the Western powers and resistance by Muslims to gain independence; (8) The resurgence of Islam, specially the militancy against Western negative attitude, unjust creation and support of Israel, oppression of Muslims at Chechnya, Kashmir, Palestine, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Muslims with in their societies and other countries. (9) To control the large natural resources specially oil, gas and strategically important centers of population, zones and trade routes held by Muslims, a bogy has to be created to subdue them. (10) The materialism has eroded Western values, the Islamic values and culture based on the eternal truth is attracting the Westerns in great numbers, hence Islam is perceived as a threat. (11) After demise of communism with the help of Muslims, Western gigantic military industrial complex need an

enemy and market for their military hardware, so a new battle ground have been created against Muslims. The old spirit of snobbery and prejudice, the hatred of Islam, displays it self in writings, in electronic and print media attacks, internet chat rooms, private conversations and in public speeches. The spirit of persecution is not dead in Christianity, after lying dormant for some time it is out fully ablaze.

Islam & Christianity: Islam is the only faith other than Christianity which regards Jesus and Mary in very high esteem. One is astounded to find the notable Christian intellectuals, politicians, scholars and most painfully, the Christian clergy portraying Islam and Muslims as the enemies of Christ, infidels and pagans. Conversely, many uninformed and misinformed Christians are astonished when they are told about the respect and love Muslims have for Jesus and Mary despite the doctrinal differences. The Qur'an mentions "Jesus" by name twenty five times, as the "Messiah" eleven times. He is also addresses as Jesus the son of Mary: "And We made the son of Mary and his mother a sign for mankind,.."(Qur'an;23:50). Chapter number nineteen in Qur'an has been named after 'Mary', where as it is not the case in the New Testament. Qur'an grants special status by considering Christians nearest in affection to the Muslims: "You will find the most violent in enmity to the believers are the Jews and the idolaters (pagan Arabs); and nearest in affection to the

believers are those who say: "We are Christians." That is because among them there are men that are priests and monks, who do not behave arrogantly."(Qur'an;5:82).

Doctrinal Differences:

Islam believes in strict Abrahamic monotheism, individual responsibility and accountability, where the concept of Original Sin, Son of God and Trinity does not fit in strict Islamic monotheism (*Tawhid*), which is even refuted by many Christians thought out its history. The history of attempts to define the mysterious concept of Trinity has been traced by Encyclopedia Britannica: By the 3rd century it was already apparent that all attempts to systematize the mystery of the divine Trinity with the theories of Neoplatonic hypostases metaphysics were unsatisfying and led to a constant series of new conflicts. The high point, upon which the basic difficulties underwent their most forceful theological and ecclesiastically political actualization, was the so-called Arian controversy. Arius belonged to the Antiochene school of theology, which placed strong emphasis upon the historicity of the man Jesus Christ. In his theological interpretation of the idea of God, Arius was interested in maintaining a formal understanding of the oneness of God. In defense of the oneness of God, he was obliged to dispute the sameness of essence of the Son and the Holy Spirit with God the Father, as stressed by the theologians of the

Neoplatonically influenced Alexandrian school. From the outset, the controversy between both parties took place upon the common basis of the Neoplatonic concept of substance, which was foreign to the New Testament itself. It is no wonder that the continuation of the dispute on the basis of the metaphysics of substance likewise led to concepts that have no foundation in the New Testament--such as the question of the sameness of essence (*homoousia*) or similarity of essence (*homoiousia*) of the divine persons.

The basic concern of Arius was and remained disputing the oneness of essence of the Son and the Holy Spirit with God the Father, in order to preserve the oneness of God. The Son, thus, became a "second God, under God the Father" *i.e.*, he is God only in a figurative sense, for he belongs on the side of the creatures, even if at their highest summit. Here Arius joined an older tradition of Christology, which had already played a role in Rome in the early 2nd century--namely, the so-called angel-Christology. The descent of the Son to Earth was understood as the descent to Earth of the highest prince of the angels, who became man in Jesus Christ; he is to some extent identified with the angel prince Michael. In the old angel-Christology the concern is already expressed to preserve the oneness of God, the inviolable distinguishing mark of the Jewish and Christian faiths over against all paganism. The Son is not himself God, but as the highest of the created spiritual beings he is

moved as close as possible to God. Arius joined this tradition with the same aim--*i.e.*, defending the idea of the oneness of the Christian concept of God against all reproaches that Christianity introduces a new, more sublime form of polytheism.

This attempt to save the oneness of God led, however, to an awkward consequence. For Jesus Christ, as the divine Logos become human, moves thereby to the side of the creatures--*i.e.*, to the side of the created world that needs redemption. How, then, should such a Christ, himself a part of the creation, be able to achieve the redemption of the world? On the whole, the Christian Church rejected, as an unhappy attack upon the reality of redemption, such a formal attempt at saving the oneness of God as was undertaken by Arius. The main speaker for church orthodoxy was Athanasius of Alexandria, for whom the point of departure was not a philosophical-speculative principle but rather the reality of redemption, the certainty of salvation. The redemption of humanity from sin and death is only then guaranteed if Christ is total God and total human being, if the complete essence of God penetrates human nature right into the deepest layer of its carnal corporeality. Only if God in the full meaning of divine essence became human in Jesus Christ is deification of man in terms of overcoming sin and death guaranteed as the resurrection of the flesh.

Augustine, of decisive importance for the Western development of the Trinitarian doctrine in theology and metaphysics, coupled the doctrine of the Trinity with anthropology. Proceeding from the idea that humans are created by God according to the divine image, he attempted to explain the mystery of the Trinity by uncovering traces of the Trinity in the human personality. He went from analysis of the Trinitarian structure of the simple act of cognition to ascertainment of the Trinitarian structure both of human self-consciousness and of the act of religious contemplation in which people recognize themselves as the image of God.

A second model of Trinitarian doctrine - suspected of heresy from the outset - which had effects not only in theology but also in the social metaphysics of the West as well, emanated from Joachim of Fiore. He understood the course of the history of salvation as the successive realization of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in three consecutive periods of salvation. This interpretation of the Trinity became effective as a "theology of revolution," inasmuch as it was regarded as the theological justification of the endeavour to accelerate the arrival of the third state of the Holy Spirit through revolutionary initiative. The final dogmatic formulation of the Trinitarian doctrine in the so-called Athanasian Creed (c. 500), *una substantia--tres personae* ("one substance--three persons"), reached

back to the formulation of Tertullian. In practical terms it meant a compromise in that it held fast to both basic ideas of Christian revelation--the oneness of God and divine self-revelation in the figures of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit--without rationalizing the mystery itself. In the final analysis the point of view thereby remained definitive that the fundamental assumptions of the reality of salvation and redemption are to be retained and not sacrificed to the concern of a rational monotheism.

Characteristically, in all periods of the later history of Christendom in which a rationalistic philosophy was achieved and the history of salvation aspect of the Trinitarian question receded, anti-Trinitarian currents returned. Many, to some extent, consciously rejoined ties with Arius: the humanist Enlightenment of the 16th century and the so-called anti-Trinitarians of the Italian Renaissance. A direct connection exists between anti-Trinitarianism and 18th-century research into the life of Jesus. The oldest life of Jesus researchers in the 18th century, such as Hermann Reimarus and Karl Bahrdt, who portrayed Jesus as the agent of a secret enlightenment order that had set itself the goal of spreading the religion of reason in the world, were at the same time anti-Trinitarians and pioneers of the radical rationalistic criticism of dogma. The Kantian critique of the proofs of God contributed further to a devaluation of Trinitarian doctrine. In the philosophy of

German Idealism, Hegel, in the framework of his attempt to raise Christian dogma into the sphere of the conceptual, took the Christian Trinitarian doctrine as the basis for his system of philosophy and, above all, for his interpretation of history as the absolute spirit's becoming self-conscious. In more recent theology, at least in the accusations of some of its critics, the school of dialectical theology in Europe and the United States tended to reduce the doctrine of the Trinity and supplant it with a Mono-Christism.

In a brief but well-publicized episode in the mid-1960s in the United States, a number of celebrated Protestant theologians engaged in cultural criticism observed or announced "THE DEATH OF GOD." The theology of the death of God downplayed any notion of divine transcendence and invested its whole claim to be Christian in its accent on Jesus of Nazareth. Christian dogma was reinterpreted and reduced to norms of human sociality and freedom. Before long, however, the majority of theologians confronted this small school with the demands of classic Christian dogma, which insisted on confronting divine transcendence in any assertions about Jesus Christ.

The transcendence of God has been rediscovered by science and sociology; theology in the closing decades of the 20th century endeavoured to overcome the purely anthropological interpretation of religion and once more to discover anew its transcendent ground. Theology has

consequently been confronted with the problem of Trinity in a new form, which, in view of the Christian experience of God as an experience of the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, cannot be eliminated.

Hence like many Christians, Muslims also do not subscribe to the concept of Trinity being against Monotheism (*Tawhid*). Allah says in Qur'an: "O Followers of the Gospel! Do not overstep the bounds (of the truth) in your religious beliefs, and do not say of God anything but the truth. The Christ Jesus, son of Mary, was but God's Apostle- (the fulfillment of) His promise which He had conveyed to Mary- and a soul created by Him. Believe, then in God and His apostles, and do not say," (God) is a trinity". Desist (from this assertion) for your own good. God is but one God; utterly remote is HE, in His glory, from having a son: unto him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth; and none is as worthy of trust as God" (Qur'an;4:171); "Well, they may have a little enjoyment in this world, but eventually they have to return to Us and then We will make them taste the severest punishment for their unbelief."(Qur'an;10:70). The idea of vicarious sacrifice is therefore alien to Islam, and the claim that Jesus, or anyone else, had to be slain in atonement of human sins is refuted. God's forgiveness, in Islam, is to be sought through sincere repentance and doing righteousness, without need for bloodshed. Salvation is granted by the grace of God.).

To obtain salvation, a person must combine faith and action, belief and practice according to Qur'an: "As to those who believe and work righteousness verily We shall not suffer to perish the reward of any who do a (single) righteous deed.(Qur'an;18:30). "Then those whose balance (of good deeds) is heavy they will attain salvation" (Qur'an;23:102).

Muslims Believe in Jesus Christ and his Mission :

Muslims believe in the apostolic mission of Jesus; summed up in Qur'an: "And We caused Jesus, the son of Mary, to follow in the footsteps of those (earlier prophets), confirming the truth of what ever there still remained of the Torah; and We bestowed on him the Gospel wherein there was guidance and a light, confirming the truth of whatever there still remained of the Torah, and as a guidance and admonition unto the God conscious." (Qur'an; 5:46). "Surely, have sent to every nation a messenger (saying): 'Worship Allah and avoid false gods.'"(Qur'an; 16:36). Jesus (peace be upon him) clearly announced the nature of his mission that he was sent by God to confirm the previous Judaic law. This is clearly evident in the statements attributed to Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) in the Gospel of Mathew: "Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes

one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”(Mathew;5:17-20).

The Bible mentions the prophetic nature of Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) task: "... and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me." (John;14:24). "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Prophet Jesus Christ, whom thou has sent." (John;17:3). Thus the essence of the message of Jesus was that only God deserves to be worshipped and that the worship of anyone or anything besides God or along with God is false. Jesus said: 'It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'"(Luke; 3:8). Jesus not only called people to this message but he also practically demonstrated it for them by bowing down in prayer and worshipping God himself. In Mark;14:32, it is stated: "And they went to a place which was called Gethsemane; and he (Jesus) said to his disciples, 'Sit here, while I pray.' " And in Luke; 5:16, "But he withdrew to the wilderness and prayed." However, Paul, who claimed to be a disciple of Jesus, systematically cancelled the laws. In his letter to the Romans, he stated, "But now we are discharged from

the law, dead to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.” (Romans; 7:6). Gospel and Qur’an are unanimous on the apostolic mission of Jesus (peace be upon him): "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know."(Acts;2:22). The Allah says in Qur’an: “The Messiah, son of Mary, was no other than a messenger, messengers (the like of whom) had passed away before him. And his mother was a saintly woman. And they both used to eat (earthly) food. See how we make the revelations clear for them, and see how they are turned away!”(Qur’an;5:75). “He was no more than a servant: We granted Our favor to him (miracles, wonders and signs) and We made him an example to the Children of Israel.” (Qur’an;43:59). Hence Muslims are very close to Jesus (peace be upon him) and revere him as one of the mightiest messenger of God.

Contribution of Islamic Civilization in Development of West :

The Influence of Islamic Learning on the Western Civilization: The phenomenal influence of Islamic learning on the West has been summarized in Encyclopedia Britannica: “The decline of Muslim scholarship coincided with the early phases of the European intellectual awakening that these translations

were partly instrumental in bringing about. The translation into Latin of most Islamic works during the 12th and 13th centuries had a great impact upon the European Renaissance. As Islam was declining in scholarship and Europe was absorbing the fruits of Islam's centuries of creative productivity, signs of Latin Christian awakening were evident throughout the European continent. The 12th century was one of intensified traffic of Muslim learning into the Western world through many hundreds of translations of Muslim works, which helped Europe seize the initiative from Islam when political conditions in Islam brought about a decline in Muslim scholarship. By 1300 C.E. when all that was worthwhile in Muslim scientific, philosophical, and social learning had been transmitted to European schoolmen through Latin translations, European scholars stood once again on the solid ground of Hellenistic thought, enriched or modified through Muslim and Byzantine efforts." Quotations of some Western scholars further highlight the contribution of Islam, Will Durant states; "For five centuries, from 700 to 1200 (C.E), Islam led the world in power, order and extent of government, in refinement of manners, scholarship and philosophy". According to Professor Gibb, "No other society has such a record of success in uniting in equality of status f opportunity and of enduring so many and o various races of humanity."

Contribution Towards Enlightenment and Renaissance: The Christians outnumber followers of any single faith, they are around two Billion, predominantly developed Western Civilization controlling the world. It is not due to superiority of their faith, (Church was separated from the state, faith is now considered as a personnel matter) but on account of advancement in science and technology as well as social sciences through 'Enlightenment': The philosophical movement of the 18th century that emphasized the use of reason to scrutinize previously accepted doctrines and traditions. The roots of 'Enlightenment' are also linked with the Muslim Spain (Moorish) through Renaissance. Europe was plunged in the dark at medieval time (476 to 1453 C.E) while Knowledge in science and technology, social sciences, philosophy and medicine was at its zenith in the Islamic world including the Muslim Spain. Thus Europe got the basic modern scientific, philosophical and sociological treasure of knowledge through Muslims scholar and universities of Spain(which also included the lost knowledge of Greek philosophers & scholars), contact with the Muslim world during Crusades (1095-1291 C.E) and thereafter. According to Encyclopedia Britannica; "The entire structure of European society changed during the 12th and 13th centuries, and there was a time when this change was attributed largely to the Crusades. Historians now, however, tend to view the Crusades as only one, albeit a significant, factor in

Europe's development. The sectors acquired by burgeoning Italian cities in the crusader states enabled them to extend their trade with the Muslim world and led to the establishment of trade depots beyond the Crusade frontiers, some of which lasted well beyond 1291.” Keeping in view the social and economic benefits, the Crusades brought to the West, the scars of war and antagonism against Muslims also came in.

Protection and Fair Treatment:

Islam, while upholding balanced views in general, enjoins the most solicitous care for the weak and oppressed. The minorities, specially ‘The People of The Book’ are to be treated with justice in every way-in rights of property, in social rights, and in the right to opportunities of development. The non-Muslim living under the protection of a Muslim state is referred as *Dhimmi*, a free non-Muslim subject. They are exempt from duties of Islam like military service and *zakat*, instead they are required to pay *jizyah* (poll-tax). Historically some Islamic governments paid this poll tax for poor non-Muslim subjects or reduced it to mere symbolic tax. If the State cannot protect those who paid *jizyah*, then the amount they paid is returned to them. Islam guarantees full protection and security of the State including freedom of religion to all. The killing of innocent people is strictly prohibited, according to Qur’an: “..if anyone slew a person unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land it would be

as if he slew the life of all mankind: and if anyone saved a life it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind. Then although there came to them Our apostles with clear Signs yet even after that many of them continued to commit excesses in the land.”(Qur’an;5:32). Narrated Abdullah bin Amr : The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "Whoever killed a *Mu'ahid* (a person who is granted the pledge of protection by the Muslims) shall not smell the fragrance of Paradise though its fragrance can be smelt at a distance of forty years (of traveling)."(Sahih Al-Bukhari Hadith:9.49).

CONCLUSION:

Islam has a special place for the Juedo-Christian civilisations, due to common ancestor –Abraham. In the Islamic world the Jews, and Christians, and others lived in safety and justice under a system based upon tolerance and cooperation. The misconceptions about Islam have been created to justify their hostility towards Islam. Islam is not a threat to the West, which owes its renaissance and scientific developments to the Islamic scholarship, gained through Muslim Spain. However the Muslim world feel threatened by the West, who want to control their natural resources. Historically, the relation between Muslims and Jews had its fluctuations but not that Islam harbored animosity to Judaism as a faith but in their failure to practice the commandments of God in true spirit under the notion of their racial

superiority as a chosen race, the honour God ultimately shifted to the Children of Ishmael by appointing Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as the last messenger for the humanity. The Advent of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) has been prophesied in the Bible, but they concealed it. They are commanded to believe in the last scripture Qur'an and the last Prophet. The confrontation between Judaism and Islam, as that with Christianity, was colored by political and social considerations both before and after Islam spread from Arabia to build a world wide community of its followers. In 1492, the Jews along with Muslims were expelled from Spain, they were welcomed and settled in the Ottoman empire. Jewish have gained power and influence through USA and the West, which they are using to oppress the Palestinians, the main cause of conflict and threat to peace. Islam is the only faith other than Christianity which regards Jesus in very high esteem. Muslims believe in Jesus and his Mission as he himself attributed to have declared in Mathew;5:17-20. Islamic civilization has significant contribution in the development of West through the Influence of Islamic learning. Keeping the commonalities in Abrahamic faith worshipping same one God, a dialogue can bring them closer for world peace. In the words of Duncan Greenless, the renowned Western scholar, “The nobility and broad minded tolerance of this creed (Islam) which accepted as God

inspire all the real religions of the world will always s
be glorious heritage of mankind”.

.....

A REMINDER- WHAT ISLAM EXPECTS FROM THE MUSLIMS?

- To inhere in their best civilization and matchless culture in a manner that they surpass all the civilized nations of the world.
- They should be the most prosperous of all as far as the different branches of knowledge are concerned. Invite the humanity towards Islam, by conveying the message with wisdom, peacefully, in a logical and convincing way. They should argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious.
- Not to kill the innocent people of any faith (including own self, through suicide) except by law, they don't have to create mischief on earth by creating anarchy or disturbing the peaceful coexistence.
- Warfare against injustice and oppression and self defence is permissible, to be declared by the Islamic State but the rules lay down for its conduct by Shari'a (Islamic Law) be strictly adhered to. Those who surrender or do not fight or remain neutral are not to be disturbed. The prisoners are to protected and provided peace and security.

- To use the right of retaliation to any injustice or oppression with equality, not exceeding the limits forgiveness and patience is however preferable.
- To fulfill all bilateral and international accords (like UN Charter) for peace and stability of humanity. To treat all members of society with equality fairness and justice.
- Non Muslims in the Islamic society enjoy complete protections and freedom to practice their faith. The places of worship of other religions are to be protected.

What is NOT demanded by Islam!

- Islam does not demand from a Muslim to give up the world altogether.
- Islam does not expect Muslims to be ignorant, lacking in knowledge of their faith and other branches of knowledge.
- Nor does it require one to make the mosque a permanent abode, never to leave it.
- Islam also does not insist that one should live in a cave and spend his whole life there ---- Not at all.

Peace Forum Network

Humanity, Religion, Culture, Ethics, Science & Spiritually for Peace
Over all 600,000 visits and counting

- <http://Peace-forum.blogspot.com>
- <http://FaithForum.Wordpress.Com>
- <http://freebookpark.blogspot.com>
- <http://endeavour-peace.page.tl>
- <http://Quran-pedia.blogspot.com>
- <http://Bible-pedia.blogspot.com>
- <http://womenfolks.blogspot.com>
- <http://Islamphobia.Wordpress.com>
- <http://rejectionists.blogspot.com>
- <http://Takfiritaliban.blogspot.com>
- <http://Pakistan-posts.blogspot.com>
- http://twitter.com/Peace_Forum
- <http://www.facebook.com/aftabkhaan>
- <http://www.youtube.com/Abbukajak>
- <http://aftabkhan.blog.com>
- <https://flipboard.com/profile/aftabkhaan>
- <https://plus.google.com/s/Peace-Forum>
- <http://www.dailymotion.com/Peace-Forum>
- <https://plus.google.com/+AftabKhan-PeaceForum/posts>
- <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Peace-Forum/145301398882741>
- <https://plus.google.com/s/Peace-Forum>

Free Books- <http://freebookpark.blogspot.com>

Free Books by “Peace-Forum Network”

<http://goo.gl/2xpiv>

<http://goo.gl/efUozM>

<http://freebookpark.blogspot.com>