

The image shows the interior of the Palatine Chapel in Sicily, a masterpiece of Norman architecture. The walls are covered in intricate Byzantine mosaics depicting various religious scenes, including the Last Judgment and the Virgin Mary. The architecture features large, pointed arches with Saracenic (Islamic) influences, characterized by their decorative patterns and the use of gold leaf in the mosaics. The lighting is warm, highlighting the rich colors and textures of the artwork.

IMPACT OF ISLAM ON CHRISTIANITY

By Aftab Khan

Peace Forum Network

Saraceni (Muslim) arches and Byzantine mosaics complement each other within the Palatine Chapel, Sicily.

*In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful
There is no one worthy of worship except Allah and Muhammad is messenger of Allah*

“Abraham was not a Jew nor yet a Christian but He was true In Faith and bowed His will to God in Islam and He joined not gods with God Without doubt among men the nearest of kin to Abraham are those who follow him As are also This Messenger Muhammad and those who believe and God is the Protector of those who have Faith ” Qur’an : - “Jesus said unto them If you were Abraham’s children you would do the deeds works of Abraham” John : “Why don’t you judge for yourselves what is right ” Jesus Christ Luke 12:5

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Peace Forum Network

“Peace Forum Network”, is an informal, voluntary, e-Forum for ethical, spiritual & world peace, through conceptual insight to Abrahamic faiths [Islam, Christianity & Judaism] in the light of Holy Scriptures with emphasis on Abrahamic Monotheism, ethics, science, spiritually & peace. The Forum is open to all the rational people of any faith, gender or race. Collection of books and articles are freely available at blogs, websites & webpages for study & distribution:

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Foreword

Islam came in to contact with Christianity right from outset, influencing Christianity in almost every sphere including theology, philosophy, art, science & medicine. Muslim Spain played important role in evolution of renaissance. Many Christians came to question 'orthodox' Christian doctrine and to affirm beliefs of their own. These included; Unity or uni-personality of God, as opposed to the doctrine of the Trinity, humanity, as opposed to the deity, of Christ. The worth of human beings, as opposed to ideas of original sin, inherited guilt and innate depravity. Being of common origin through Prophet Abraham (pbuh), Muslims believing in all previous original scriptures and messengers from Abraham, Jacob, Moses to Jesus Christ, share many common aspects. Restoration of pure monotheism of Abraham brought many Christians closer to Islam.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica:

“The *Madaris* [Islamic education institutions] generally offered instruction in both the religious

sciences and other branches of knowledge. The contribution of these institutions to the advancement of knowledge was vast. Muslim scholars calculated the angle of the ecliptic; measured the size of the Earth; calculated the precession of the equinoxes; explained, in the field of optics and physics, such phenomena as refraction of light, gravity, capillary attraction, and twilight; and developed observatories for the empirical study of heavenly bodies. They made advances in the uses of drugs, herbs, and foods for medication; established hospitals with a system of interns and externs; discovered causes of certain diseases and developed correct diagnoses of them; proposed new concepts of hygiene; made use of anesthetics in surgery with newly innovated surgical tools; and introduced the science of dissection in anatomy. Muslims furthered the scientific breeding of horses and cattle; found new ways of grafting to produce new types of flowers and fruits; introduced new concepts of irrigation, fertilization, and soil cultivation; and improved

upon the science of navigation. In the area of chemistry, Muslim scholarship led to the discovery of such substances as potash, alcohol, nitrate of silver, nitric acid, sulfuric acid, and mercury chloride.

Muslims scientists also developed to a high degree of perfection the arts of textiles, ceramics, and metallurgy.”

The influence of Islamic learning on the West has been phenomenal; according to 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.”

“Most of the important Greek scientific texts were preserved in Arabic translations. Although the Muslims did not alter the foundations of Greek science, they made several important contributions within its general framework. When interest in Greek learning revived in Western Europe during the 12th and 13th centuries, scholars turned to Islamic Spain for the scientific texts. A spate of translations resulted in the revival of Greek science in the

West and coincided with the rise of the universities. Working within a predominantly Greek framework, scientists of the late Middle Ages reached high levels of sophistication and prepared the ground for the scientific revolution of the 16th and 17th centuries.” According to Will Durant, the Western scholar, “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”. This book endeavors to highlight various aspects of Muslim influence on West & Christianity. Common grounds can form basis for long lasting peaceful coexistence.

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INTRODUCTION

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are three closely related religions, because they draw their roots from Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him). He was the great monotheist and common spiritual father, of three faiths, also referred as Abrahamic religions. They all believe in the Hebrew prophets and scriptures mentioned in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). While Jews reject Jesus Christ altogether with blasphemy, the Muslims believe in Gospel and Jesus as Christ and the last Prophet of God among Hebrews. While Jews and Christians are granted special status as "The People of Scripture", Christians are shown tenderness: "--nearest in affection to the believers are those who say: "We are Christians."(Qur'an;5:82).

Despite clear prophecies about Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) which even now exist in the Bible [Old and New Testaments, details follow], the Jews and Christians decline to

believe in Qur'an and Muhammad (pbuh) as the prophet of God. Islam urges them to agree to common grounds of monotheism (Qur'an;3:64). However, the common roots and many points of similarities are no guarantee that they can get along, because of lack of will. Most of the serious religiously motivated conflicts (Crusaders), mass crimes against humanity like inquisition, genocides and forced expulsion [Spain] have been between Muslims and Christians. The Jews got their share from Christendom in the form of anti-Semitism, oppression and finally holocaust during last century. However they have been able to dominate the Christendom through control of world economy and shenanigan geopolitics despite fundamental religious doctrinal differences with Christianity. Though Jews were always treated well under Muslim rule, they have formed an unholy alliance with Christendom against Islam and Muslims by projecting it as a common threat: "they are only protecting friends of one another."

(Qur'an;5:51). The simmering Palestinian oppression, terrorist attacks on 911, followed by the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan are not simple but complex interrelated issues. Islam being the dominant faith for over a millennium has had a lasting impact upon Criminality and Judaism. Before discussing the impact of Islam upon Christianity, it is pertinent to briefly look in to the historic developments of evolution of monotheistic teachings of Jesus Christ to the polytheistic concept of Trinity, the core of Christianity.

CHAPTER-1: EVOLUTION OF CHRISTIANITY FROM MONOTHEISM TO TRINITY

Among the three great monotheistic religions, Christianity has a place apart, because of the Trinitarian creed of this religion in its classic forms, in contradistinction to the Unitarian creed of Judaism and Islam. According to Encyclopedia Britannica: **“The Christian Bible, including the New Testament, has no Trinitarian statements or speculations concerning a trinitary deity, only triadic liturgical formulas invoking God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit”**. The only verse in the whole of Bible [1John;5:7] which was interpreted to supports Trinity is not found in old manuscripts, hence in all the modern translations including the Revised Standard Version (RSV) this pious deceit has been unceremoniously expunged being interpolation.

Bible & Monotheism:

The Bible clearly preaches and supports monotheism: “And Jesus answered him. The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with mind, and with all thy strength; this is the first commandment” . . . And the scribe said unto him, well, Master, thou, hest said the truth: for there is ONE GOD and there is none other but He”.(Mark;12: 29-32). “Hear, therefore, O Israel, the LORD our God, is one LORD”.(Deuteronomy;6:4). “You are my witnesses, said the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he; before me, there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me”. I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no Saviour.” (Isaiah;43:11). “Our Lord, there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears”. (1Chronicles;17:20 & 2Samuel;7:22). “For thou art great, and doest

wondrous things: thou art God alone".(Psalms;86:10).“Thus saith the Lord ... I am the first, and I am the Last; and beside me there is no God” (Isaiah;44:6,41:4). “For thus said the Lord that created the heavens: God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited, I am the Lord; and there is none else.”(Isaiah;45:18). “For who in the heaven can be compared unto the Lord? who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the Lord.” (Psalms;89:6, also Isaiah;40:18, 45:5,6).“And the Lord shall be king all over the earth: in that day shall there be ONE LORD and his name one.”(Zecharia;14:9). “Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us?” (Malachi;25:6). “Father is greater than I”(John;14:29). “There is none other God but one.”(1Corinthians;8:4).“One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all”. (Ephesians;4:6). “For there is one God..”(1Timothy;2:5). Also, Genesis;28:13, Deuteronomy; 4:35-39, 32:39,

33:26, Exodus;15:11, 20:23, 8:10,
Psalms;83:18, Isaia;43:3, 44:8, 64:4
1Kings;8:22:23, Hosea;13:4 and John;14:44.

Islam believes in strict Abrahamic monotheism, individual responsibility and accountability, also preached by Jesus Christ and other prophets. The Israelites were chosen among the people of that time for blessings and leadership role of humanity being monotheists. But gradually they deviated from the true path, corrupting scripture and indulging in immoral activities. The religion was practically confined to rituals under domination of Rabbis and teachers of Law. God then sent Prophet Jesus Christ born miraculously without father, who performed miracles with blessings of God. The mission of Jesus Christ is summarized in Bible and 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 (Law); 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).

“Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill 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, also 5:3-12 ,6:9-13).

Jesus' emphasis on moral sincerity rather than relaxation in strict adherence to religious ritual incurred the enmity of

the Pharisees (Jewish dominant religious party of scholars and priests), who feared that his teachings might lead to disregard for the authority of the Law, or Torah. Others feared that Jesus' activities and followers might prejudice the Roman authorities against any restoration of the Davidic monarchy. Despite this growing opposition, Jesus' popularity increased, especially among social outcasts and the oppressed, which was taken as a threat to their domination and authority by the community of priests. They conspired to kill him for false accusation of blasphemy in 30 C.E but God failed their conspiracy: "That they said (in boast) "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary the Apostle of God"; but they killed him not nor crucified him but so it was made to appear to them and those who differ therein are full of doubts with no (certain) knowledge but only conjecture

to follow for of a surety they killed him not. Nay God raised him up unto Himself; and God is Exalted in Power Wise. (Qur'an;4:157-158). Jesus Christ will return before end of the world, as a Muslim (not new Prophet) to prove that he was only a messenger of God, nothing more. He will rule the world as just ruler and die natural death.

After Jesus Christ:

After ascent of Jesus Christ, the original followers of Jesus Christ continued to live as Jews and practiced what Jesus had taught them. It did not occur to any of them that they could ever be regarded as followers of a new religion. They were devout and practicing Jews and they were distinguished from their neighbors, only by their faith in the message of Jesus Christ. In the beginning they did not organize themselves as a separate sect and did not have a synagogue (Jewish worship place) of their own. There was nothing in the message

of Jesus, as understood by them, to necessitate a break with Judaism. However, they incurred the enmity of the vested interests among the Jewish higher echelon. The conflict between the Jews and the followers of Jesus was started by the Jews because they felt that the Christians would undermine their “authority”. The gulf progressively began to widen. During the siege of Jerusalem in 70 C.E, they left the city; and refused to take part in the Bar Coachaba rebellion in 132 C.E. These two events brought to the surface the difference between the followers of Jesus Christ and the Jews.

The question of the origin of Jesus, his nature and relation to God, which later became so important, was not raised among these early disciples. The belief that Jesus was a man super-naturally endowed by God was accepted without question. Nothing in the words of Jesus or the events in his life led them to modify this view. According to Aristides, one of the earliest apologists, the worship of the early Christians was more purely monotheistic even than of the

Jews. **With the conversion of Paul** (4–64 C.E) the self appointed 13th disciple of Jesus, a new period opened in Christian Theology. Paul a Jew and an inhabitant of Tarsus, had spent a long time in Rome, he was a Roman citizen. He realized the strong hold which the Roman religion had on the masses. The intellectuals were under the influence of Plato and Aristotle. Paul seems to have felt that it would not be possible to convert the masses in the Roman Empire without making mutual adjustments. But his practical wisdom was not acceptable to those who had seen and heard Jesus. However, in spite of their difference, they decided to work together for the common cause. Paul introduced new doctrines involving deification of Jesus. **Instead of being a mere sect of Judaism, Christianity not only became independent of Judaism but also became independent of Jesus himself.** Paul added new doctrines and the worship of Jesus Christ to the spiritual message of Jesus. Paul never learned any thing from Jesus directly, but claimed to get the

revelation (Galatians;1:12), which no one could confirm or deny, he became the foremost proselytizer of the new religion of Christianity. Initially relaxation of law was agreed to facilitate gentile's (Non Jews, Romans, Greeks etc) conversion, not permanent abrogation in the Council of Jerusalem (50 C.E). There was rift, the monotheist disciples like Barnabas parted away. Pauline Christians grew in number and strength because Paul had compromised with Roman beliefs and legends. A stage was later reached when kings were used as pawns to further the ends of the Church. However Barnabas was able to record the original teachings of Jesus Christ which remains available to the truth seekers even now despite all the malicious efforts to obliterate them. Commandment of Jesus about Barnabas is: "If he (Barnabas) comes un to you, receive him"(Clossians;4:10)

After doctrinal differences with Paul, the original monotheists disciples like Barnabas did not sit idle but continued preaching the true message

of monotheism of Jesus Christ. The followers of Barnabas never developed a central organization. Yet due to the truthfulness of simple theology and devotion of their leaders, their number increased very fast. These Christians incurred the wrath of the Church and systematic effort was made to destroy them and to obliterate all traces of their existence including books and churches. The lesson of history, however, is that it is very difficult to destroy faith by force. Their lack of organization became a source of strength because it was not so easy to pick them up one by one. Later many doctrines and groups appeared inspired by the teachings of Barnabas; however they avoided mentioning name of Barnabas due to the fear of persecution. **After Jesus, the Romans rule over Palestine continued**, however after unsuccessful Jewish uprising, the Jewish temple was burnt in 70 C.E and Jews dispersed, all over the world mostly they were treated as lower class citizens:“We broke them up into sections on this earth. There are among them some that

are the righteous and some that are the opposite. We have tried them with both prosperity and adversity: in order that they might turn (to us).”(Qur’an;7:168). They were forced to live in ghettos. With the conversion of Constantine-I, to (monotheistic-Arian) Christianity in the beginning of 4th century, Palestine became fully Christianized however the monotheistic Christianity continues to survive in the form of sects till this day.

Monarchianism:

Monarchianism was a Christian dissent sect that developed during the 2nd and 3rd centuries C.E. It opposed the doctrine of an independent, personal subsistence of the Logos, affirmed the sole deity of God the Father, and thus represented the extreme monotheistic view. Though it regarded Christ as Redeemer, it clung to the numerical unity of the Deity. Two types of Monarchianism developed: the Dynamic (or Adoptionist) and the Modalistic (or Sabellian). The Dynamic Monarchianism held that Christ

was a mere man, miraculously conceived, but constituted the Son of God (servant of God, in Hebrew terminology) simply by the infinitely high degree in which he had been filled with divine wisdom and power. This view was taught at Rome about the end of the 2nd century by Theodotus. About 260 C.E it was again taught by Paul of Samosata. It is the belief of many modern Unitarians Christians. Modalistic Monarchianism took exception to the "subordinationism" of some of the Church Fathers.

Hypisistarians:

Modern research has brought to light odd facts about these Christians. They are like the crests of waves and looking at them one can visualize a whole body of ocean not yet visible. It is noticed that up to the 4th century C.E there existed a sect known as Hypisistarians who refused to worship God as father. They revered God as an All Mighty Ruler of the world, He was the Highest of all and no one was equal to Him.

Paul of Samosata:

A Monarchianist, Paul of Samosata was a Bishop of Antioch in 260 C.E, was of the view that Christ was not God but a man and a prophet, he was a man who was born of Mary, through whom God spoke his Word (Logos). He differed only in degree from prophets who came before him and that God could not have become man substantially.

Bishop Lucian of Antioch:

History come across another Bishop of Antioch; Lucian. As a Bishop his reputation for sanctity was not less than his fame as a scholar. He came down strongly against the belief of Trinity. He deleted all mention of Trinity from the Bible as he believed it to be a later interpolation not found in the earlier Gospels. He was martyred in 312 C.E by torture and starvation for refusing to eat meat ritually offered to the Roman gods.

ARIUS (250-336)– THE REMARKABLE UNITARIAN:

Arius (250-336 C.E) is the famous disciple of Lucian of Antioch. He was a Libyan by birth. Peter Bishop of Alexandria ordained him a Deacon but later excommunicated him. Achilles the successor of Peter again ordained Arius as priest. Alexander the next Bishop of Alexandria once again excommunicated him. Arius however had gathered such a large following that he became a headache for the Church. If kept out of Church he could be a great danger to her but he could not be accommodated within the Church as he wanted to establish the unity and simplicity of the Eternal God. He believed that how so ever much Christ may surpass other created beings he himself was not of the same substance as God. He was as human being as any other man. His teachings gave rise to a theological doctrine known as 'Arianism', which, in affirming the created, finite nature of Christ, was denounced by the early church as a major heresy. As an ascetical (renouncing material

comforts and leading a life of austere self-discipline, especially as an act of religious devotion.), moral leader of a Christian community in the area of Alexandria, Arius attracted a large following through a message, which accented the absolute oneness of the divinity as the highest perfection, with a literal, rationalist approach to the New Testament texts. This point of view was publicized about 323C.E through the poetic verse of his major work, Thalia ("Banquet"), was widely spread by popular songs written for labourers and travelers. **Hence the monotheistic teaching of Arius spread like wild fire** and shook the very foundation of the (Pauline) Church. The controversy that was simmering for three hundred years suddenly became a conflagration. No man dared to oppose the organized Church but Arius did, and remained a headache for her whether he was ordained a priest or was excommunicated. During this time some events changed the history of Europe.

Arianism- The Monotheistic Christianity:

Arianism may be summarized as; “The Christ is not truly divine but a created being. Arius' basic premise was the uniqueness of God, who is alone self-existent and immutable; the Son, who is not self-existent, cannot be God. Because the Godhead is unique, it cannot be shared or communicated, so the Son cannot be God. Because the Godhead is immutable, the Son, who is mutable, being represented in the Gospels as subject to growth and change, cannot be God. The Son must, therefore, be deemed a creature who has been called into existence out of nothing (through Word, Logos or Command) and has had a beginning. Moreover, the Son can have no direct knowledge of the Father since the Son is finite and of a different order of existence.”

How Trinitarians Became Dominant Group:

Emperor Constantine-I brought a greater part of Europe under his rule and secondly he began to support the Christians without accepting

Christianity. To the soldier prince the different creeds within the Christian faith were very confusing. In the Imperial Palace itself the controversy was raging not less fiercely. It appears that perhaps the Queen Mother was inclined towards Pauline Christianity while his sister Princess Constantina was a disciple of Arius. The Emperor was wavering between the two faiths. As an administrator he was interested only in uniting all the Christians within one Church. It was at this time that the conflict between Arius and Bishop Alexander became so widespread and so violent that it became a law and order problem. So the Emperor anxious to maintain peace in the newly unified Europe had to intervene.

Council of Nicea (325) & Doctrine of Trinity:

In 325 C.E a meeting of all denominations of Christianity was called at Nicea (Now Isnik, a village). Bishop Alexander was not able to attend the conference and he deputed his lieutenant Athanasius, who subsequently

succeeded Alexander as Bishop of Alexandria. The conference had many prolonged sessions. Emperor Constantine could not grasp the full implications of the ecclesiastical confrontation, but he was very clear in his mind that for maintaining peace in his realm the support and cooperation of the Church was necessary. Accordingly he threw his weight behind Athanasius and banished Arius from the realm. Thus the belief of Trinity became the official religion of the empire.

Arianism (Monotheism) as an Official Faith:

Fearful massacre of Christians (Arians) who did not believe in Trinity followed. It became a penal offence to possess a Bible not authorized by the Church and according to some estimates as many as 270 different versions of the Bible were burnt. Princess Constantina was not happy at the turn of events. The Emperor ultimately was persuaded to accept the faith of the men he killed. The result was that Arius was called back in 346 C.E. The day Arius was scheduled to visit

the Cathedral of Constantinople in triumph, he died suddenly. The Church called it a miracle. The Emperor knew it was a murder. He banished Athanasius and two other Bishops. The Emperor then formally accepted Christianity and was baptized by an Arian Bishop. Thus Monotheism became the official religion. Constantine died in 337 C.E followed by Emperor Constantianus, he also accepted the faith of Arius (monotheism).

MONOTHEISM ACCEPTED AS TRUE CHRISTIAN FAITH:

Conference of Antioch:

In 341 C.E. a Christian church council was held in Antioch (modern Antakya in southeastern Turkey) and Monotheism was accepted as a correct interpretation of Christian faith. This council was held on the occasion of the consecration of the emperor Constantine-I's Golden Church there. It was the first of several 4th-century councils that attempted to replace orthodox Nicene theology with a modified Arianism. Attended by the Eastern emperor

Constantius-II and about 100 bishops. The council developed four creeds as substitutes for the Nicene, all of them to some degree unorthodox and omitting or rejecting the Nicene statement that Christ was "of one substance" (homoousios) with the Father. The disciplinary 25 canons of Antioch are generally thought to have come from this council, but some scholars believe they were the work of an earlier council (330) at Antioch.

Council of Sirmium (351 C.E):

This view was confirmed by another Council held in Sirmium in 351 C.E. As a result Arianism was accepted by an overwhelming majority of Christians. St. Jerome wrote in 359 C.E that 'the whole world groaned and marveled to find itself Arian'. Indeed, for more than 40 years after the death of Constantine, Arianism continued to be the official orthodoxy of the Eastern Empire.

Arians Declined in Numbers but Survived:

After Constantius' death (361 C.E), the orthodox Christian majority (Trinitarians) in the West consolidated its position. The persecution of orthodox Christians conducted by the Arian emperor Valens (364-378 C.E) in the East and the success of Basil the Great of Caesarea, Gregory of Nyssa, and Gregory of Nazianzus led the Homoiousian majority in the East to toe the line of the Nicene party. When the emperors Gratian (367-383 C.E) and Theodosius-I (379-395 C.E) took up to favour orthodoxy, Arianism had to recede. In 381 C.E the second ecumenical (concerned with establishing or promoting unity among churches or religions.) council met at Constantinople. Arianism was proscribed, and a statement of faith, the Nicene Creed, was approved. However the basic doctrines of Arianism continue to survive and expand with different forms & names within Christianity and beyond. The Christianity; after brutally suppressing the internal resistance by monotheists (Arianis) to the complex doctrine of

Trinity, expanded exponentially with the efforts of missionaries in Europe, Africa and later in Asia. The main reason was 'good marketing' by St.Paul, who 'designed the product' (Christianity) to make it attractive and acceptable for his initial clients (pagans) by blending the pagan doctrine with the monotheism preached by Jesus and his ancestor Abraham, applying the label of Christ. The Monotheists Christians like Arius despite initial successes were ultimately suppressed due to oppression and persecution. With emergence of Europeans as global colonial powers, Christianity got additional boost and it became a dominant religion of the world. With the revival of original true faith of Abraham (Islam) through the last Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in seventh century C.E, all the false concepts stand fully exposed: "Truth has come and Falsehood perished: for Falsehood by its nature is bound to perish."(Qur'an;17:81).

Khosrow II, king of Persia, launched an invasion; his troops captured Jerusalem in 614 C.E destroyed churches, and carried off the True Cross. In 628 the Byzantine emperor Hercules recovered Palestine, and he subsequently restored the True Cross to Jerusalem.

CHAPTER-2: CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP ROLE TO THE CHILDREN OF ISHMAEL:

God had made a Covenant with the prophets, specially mentioned are Moses and Jesus that: they (and by implication their followers) will believe and help the prophet to come (Muhammad, pbuh) whose signs were mentioned in their scriptures, which still exist in the Old Testament and New Testament [details mentioned here]. Due to their disobedience and continuous transgression, the Children of Israel proved them to be unworthy of leadership of mankind: "Remember that when Abraham was tested by his Lord with certain commands, he fulfilled them. God said: "Surely, I will make you the leader of mankind." "What about my offspring?" Asked Abraham. **"My Covenant," said God, "will not apply to the evil doers."**(Qur'an;2:124). God in His wisdom and in fulfillment of His covenant with Abraham, shifted the 'leadership of mankind' from the Children of Israel to the Children of Ishmael by appointing Muhammad (peace be upon him) as

His last Prophet (received first Revelation in 610 C.E, at cave Hira near Makkah) for the mankind till eternity. People with insight used their intellect to analyze the message. Jesus Christ had said: “Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right?”(Luke;12:57). They recognized the Prophet already prophesized in their scriptures, hence some Jews and Christians believed in him while others were misguided their priests. Such people not only violated the covenant but transgressed. They are at loss by not believing in the Last Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and the Last scripture, Qur'an.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) Prophesized in Bible:

It is well known that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was an Arab from the tribe of Quraish, the decedents of Prophet Ishmael (pbuh) the eldest son of Prophet Abraham (pbuh). Ishmael in infancy was left in the wilderness along with his mother Hager. They miraculously

survived and the place developed in to city of Makkah a religious and commercial centre. Later Abraham came to offer sacrifice of his only son Ishmael, but he was saved by God. Abraham built the first House of Worship of One God along with his son Ishmael, it is now known as Kaba (the direction of prayer for worship of One God (Allah) symbolizing the unity of Muslims). He also established the rites of Pilgrimage (Hajj). The advent of Muhammad has been prophesied in the Old Testament as well as in New Testament, some are mentioned below:

Old Testament:

1. **God Calls Abraham** :“I will make thee a great nation and I shall bless thee, and make thy name great and thou shall be a blessing, and I will bless them that bless thee and curse them that curseth thee; and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed”. (Genesis;12:2,3):

2. **God Said To Hagar:** “I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Behold thou art with child, and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Ishmael; because the Lord hath heard thy affliction.” (Genesis;17:10-12)

3. **God Said To Abraham about Ishmael:** “As for Ishmael, I have heard thee; Behold I have blessed him, and make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, I will make him a great nation.” (Genesis;17:20-21)

4. **Right of The First Born:** “If a man has two wives, one beloved another hated; and if the first born son be hers that was hated; then it shall be that when he maketh his sons to inherit that which he hath, that he may not make the son of the beloved first born, before the son of the hated which is indeed the first born, by giving him the double portion of all that he hath; for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of firstborn is his”. (Deuteronomy;21:15-17)

[Note.—Ishmael was 14 years old when Isaac was born.]

5. The Blessing of Moses: “And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran (Arabic: Faran) came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them. Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in your hand: and they sat down at your feet; everyone shall receive of your words. Moses commanded us a law, even the inheritance of the congregation of Jacob”. (Deuteronomy;33:2-4).

6. The Age of Peace: “And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days. Gather yourselves together, and hear, you sons of Jacob; and hearken unto Israel your father. Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: Unstable as water, you shall not excel; because you went up to your father's bed; then

you defiled it: he went up to my couch. Simeon and Levi are brothers; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations. O my soul, come not into their secret; unto their assembly, my spirit, be not united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their self-will they dug down a wall. Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel. Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise: your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, you are gone up: he stooped down, he crouched as a lion, and as a lioness; who shall rouse him up? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until SHILOH (Peace, Islam) comes; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be".(Genesis;49:1-10)

7. The Vision of Isaiah: "And he hath seen a chariot--a couple of horsemen, The rider of an ass, the rider of a camel, And he hath given

attention--He hath increased attention!"(Isaiah;21:7) [Young's Bible Literal Translation]. "He saw two riders one of them was a rider upon an ass, and the other rider was upon a camel, he harkened diligently with much heed."(Isaiah;21:7) [Vulgate Bible]

8. Jesus Was The Promised Rider Upon Ass:

"And Jesus, when he had found a young donkey, sat thereon; as it is written, Fear not, daughter of Zion: behold, your King comes, sitting on a donkey's colt. These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him".(John;12:14-16)

9. Another Version Supporting the Above:

"Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your King comes unto you, meek, and sitting upon a donkey, and a colt the foal of a donkey. And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, And brought the donkey, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they sat him

thereon. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and spread them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. And when he came into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this? And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.(Matthew;21:5-11)---**Who is the promised rider upon the camel? Obviously it refers to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)!**

10. The Chosen Servant: “Behold my servant, whom I uphold; my elect, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth justice to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth justice unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he has established

justice in the earth: and the coastlands shall wait for his law. Thus says God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which comes out of it; he that gives breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk in it: I the LORD have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand, and will keep you, and give you for a covenant to the people, for a light to the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house. I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images". (Isaiah;42:1-8)

11. Prevail Against Jealous Enemies: "Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar does inhabit: let the inhabitants of Sela sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the coastlands. The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man

of war: he shall cry, yea, shout aloud; he shall prevail against his enemies.”(Isaiah;42:11-13)

12. Brethren, Not Brothers; Prophecy of Moses: God speaks to Prophet Moses: "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and I will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not harken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him"(Deuteronomy; 18:18,19).

Relating this prophesy with Jesus is not correct as the analysis indicate that it is related with Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him): Among the prophets which followed Prophet Moses, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is most like Prophet Moses (peace be upon him) where as Jesus (peace be upon him) had nothing common with Prophet Moses (peace be upon him) except being a Jew and prophet, (In Christianity, Jesus is believed to be Son of God, one of the three persons of the Trinity). Moreover, being descendent of Prophet

Ishmael, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is among the brethren of Jews, who was like Moses.

13. Similarities: Moses & Muhammad (peace be upon them): Prophet Muhammad and Moses (peace be upon them) had a normal birth through father and a mother, while Jesus (peace be upon him) was miraculously born without any male intervention. (Mathew; 1:18 and Luke; 1:35 and also Qur'an;3:42-47). Both were married, had children and died natural deaths. Muhammad (peace be upon him) is from among the brethren of Prophet Moses (peace be upon him) being descendent of Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him) through his sons Ishmael and Isaac (peace be upon them) respectively. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was unlettered, hence in verbatim repeated the revelations conforming phrase; “Words in the mouth”. Prophet Moses & Muhammad (peace be upon them) brought new laws and new regulations for their people, besides, both were accepted as messengers of God by their people

in their lifetime. They ruled over their communities (as kings), they could inflict capital punishment where as Jesus (peace be upon them) said, "My kingdom is not of this world." (John; 18:36), Jesus was not accepted by most of his people in his life time: "He came unto his own, but his own received him not."(Gospel of John;1:11) and he (Jesus) did not bring any new laws, Jesus said; "Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them..;"(Mathew;5:17-18).

14. **Song of Solomon:** Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is mentioned by name in the Old Testament: "His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely (Muhammadim). This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem."(Song of Solomon; 5:16). : "Hikko Mamittakim we kullo Muhammadim Zehdoodeh wa Zehraee Bayna Jerusalem." In the Hebrew language 'im' is added for respect. Similarly 'im' is added after the name of Prophet Muhammad (peace be

upon him) to make it Muhammadim. In English translation they have even translated the name of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as "altogether lovely", but in the Old Testament in Hebrew **מִיָּמֹד**, the name of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is still present.

Prophecies in New Testament:

15. Change of Leadership from Jews: Jesus through parables said: "Therefore I say unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."(Matthew;21:43),"Salt is good: but if the salt has lost its taste, how shall it be restored? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dung hill; but men cast it out. He that has ears to hear, let him hear"(Luke;14:34-35, also Mathew;5:16, Mark;9:50). "What shall therefore the lord of the vineyard do? he will come and destroy the tenants, and will give the vineyard unto others."(Mark;12:9).This may also be linked with: "Open the gates, that the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in"(Isaiah;26:2).

These parables apply to the Jews. They had been the children of the kingdom, or under the reign of God; having his law, and acknowledging him as King. They had been his chosen and peculiar people. But he says that now this privilege should be taken away, and they cease to be the peculiar people of God; and the blessing should be given to a nation who would bring forth the fruits thereof, or be righteous. Keeping in view the Covenant with Abraham (Genesis;12:2,3, 17:10-12, 17:20-21), it obviously refers to the Children of Ishmael, to keep the leadership within the progeny of Abraham.

16. Spirit of Truth, Glorify Jesus: "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth (referring to Muhammad) is come, he will guide you unto all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me"(John; 16:12-14). [Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) spoke verbatim the

revelations received through angel Gabriel, (Qur'an), he also glorified Jesus Christ]

17. **Comforter:**

Paracletos; παρακλητος : "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter (παρακλητος Paracletos), that he may abide with you forever." (John; 14:16). [Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) delivered the message of God, (Qur'an), which is available to Christians and all the humanity in original uncorrupted form for their peace and comfort till eternity.]

18. **Witness to the Truthfulness of Jesus:**

"But when the Counselor comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness to me;" (John; 15:26). [Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), bore witness of truthfulness of Jesus as messenger of God, he also glorified Jesus Christ]

19. **The Comforter παρακλητος to Come after Jesus Christ:** "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto

you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.”(John;16:7). [Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), came six centuries after departure of Jesus Christ]

Referring these prophecies to ‘Holy Ghost’ is irrelevant, because as per Christian theology ‘Holy Ghost’ was already present (dove upon Jesus) and is considered as one of Trinity. Moreover what ‘new thing’ ‘Holy Ghost’ has brought after departure of Jesus Christ in last 2000 years? (‘Holy Ghost’ is believed to be guiding the Churches).

All these prophecies are clearly applicable to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). As explained earlier, Ahmed" or "Muhammad" meaning "the one who praises" or "the praised one" is almost the translation of the Greek word **παρακλητος** par-ak'-lay-tos; Periclytos. In the Gospel of John;14:16, 15:26, and 16:7, Jesus (peace be upon him) actually prophesized “Ahmed” by name, word 'Comforter' in Greek Paracletos, Periclytos refers to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Allah says in

Qur'an: "Those to whom We have given the Scripture (their scholars) recognize this (Muhammad) as they know their own sons. Those who have lost their own souls refuse therefore to believe."(Qur'an;6:20), "And remember, Jesus, the son of Mary, said, 'O Children of Israel! I am the messenger of Allah (sent) to you, confirming the Law (which came) before me and giving glad tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmed.' But when he came to them with clear signs, they said, 'This is evident sorcery!'"(Qur'an; 61:6). Ye People of the Book! Why do ye clothe truth with falsehood and conceal the truth while ye have knowledge?"(Qur'an;3:71).

20. Sharp Sword of Words :“And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword that with it he should smite nations”(Revelations;19:15).This means that the religion of the Final Prophet will be supported by the sword of words; it will be the ideological ascendancy of religion of submission to God which will vanquish nations;

the main strength of the last Prophet of God will be words which man utters rather than metals which are extracted from the earth. This is a great prophecy. It means that the followers of the Final Prophet will never be defenseless or empty-handed. They will, potentially, have supreme might at their command, even when they seem powerless. The secret of the strength of follower of last Prophet is the ascendancy of its thought and that is something which can never be taken away from it. This prophecy can not be applicable but Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The Word of God that was revealed to him had taken most of the known world by storm. Today also the power of the word of God can work wonders, on the condition that the followers convey it as he and his companions did.

Conclusions:

From above it may be deduced that the prophet after Jesus Christ would be:

1. Not from Children of Israel but from progeny of Ishmael.

2. A rider upon a camel, God's servant (Abduho), God's Elect (Mustafa).
3. Inhabitant of the villages of Prince Kedar, son of Ishmael.
4. His religion will be known as Shiloh (means; Peace-Islam).
5. His light will shine from Faran.
6. The scepter (A staff held by a sovereign as an emblem of authority or Ruling power or authority; sovereignty) of Judah will pass on to him.
7. God will put his words in his mouth, having power like sword.
8. He shall not fail and shall not break, he will have similarities with Moses.
9. He shall be known as Comforter, Ahmad, or Advocate παρακλητος.

One needs not to be a genius to deduce that; all above, points towards none but, The Last Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Byzantines invited to Islam:

Prior to his death Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), had **invited the rulers of neighboring powers to Islam** (Byzantine, Persians, and within Arabia) through epistles and emissaries but the response was negative. The world was much different from the present, wherein as per international law every human being is free to adopt and practice any faith, (at least in theory) but this was not the case at that time. The great Roman (Christian) and Persian (Zoroastrian) Empires were the biggest hindrances in conveying the message of Islam to their population. They were to be prevented from thrusting forcibly their disbelief upon their subjects and the future generations hence the conflict with them was inevitable. Due to death of Prophet (peace be upon him), this pending task was accomplished by his successors. Hence they were enjoined to subdue the non-Muslim powers to establish the sovereignty of the Islamic State. By the period of Caliph Omar bin Khattab (634-644 C.E), not only Arabia was

purged of non believers but other areas as far as Afghanistan and Egypt were also brought under the folds of Muslim rule. Within few years after death of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), his devout followers brought major parts of neighboring empires under their influence as far as up to southern France, through Spain, central Asia, India to the Atlantic Ocean. Islamic rule and political influence continued to expand, in the intervening centuries. Jerusalem fell to Muslims (638 C.E). In 691 C.E Muslims rebuilt a Mosque (Dome of the Rock). The Jews were allowed to return by Muslims after their expulsion over 500 years. It changed hands between Christians and Muslims during Crusades till final eviction by Salhud-din-Ayoubi [Saladin] in 1187 C.E, Jerusalem remained under Muslim rule till 1917 , after the retreat of the Turks it was ruled under the British Mandate till 1948, then made part of Jordan. Israel was created by ejecting the Palestinian from their lands with full support of Christendom. In 1967 war Israel captured

Jerusalem, later declared it as its indivisible capital against UN Resolutions. The Palestine have declared it as the capital of their state as and when it is established.

Renowned scholar Michael Hart, in his famous book, placed Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) at the top of the list of 100 most influential men in history of mankind. He comments that, Muhammad (peace be upon him) was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) preached and promulgated one of the world's great religion, and became an immensely effective political leader. The majority of influential men of history had the advantage of getting born and raised in centers of civilization, highly cultured or politically pivotal nations, while Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was born and raised at Mecca, the most remote and isolated corner of the world. He single-handedly accomplished the great mission with almost no means and resources. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was also an ideal leader who

lead from front and left the land marks for the Muslims in all secular and spiritual spheres. He is the ideal seeker of spiritual perfection. Philosophers and statesman find a role model of both as conqueror of hearts and just ruler in him. The ordinary Muslims can find a model of reflection of God's grace and salvation in him. He was an effective administrator, legislator, judge and military commander as well as teacher, preacher and prayer leader of the Muslim community.

ISLAM & CHRISTIANITY- COMPARISON

It is difficult to compare Christianity to any other religion, because there is such a wide range of beliefs and practices among various wings of Christianity: Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodox churches, the Anglican Communion and the tens of thousands of Protestant faith groups. Some commentators have suggested that Christianity consists of a number of different religions which share little more than the Bible and the name of their religion. Protestant Christianity is obviously divided into a least

liberal and conservative wings – divisions which hold few beliefs in common. Some of the descriptions below will thus necessarily be somewhat simplistic and lacking in precision but give an idea of commonalities and differences between Islam and Christianity.

Comparison:

Parameters	Christianity	Islam
Ancestor	Abraham	Abraham
Meaning of the name:	Believer in Christ (Messiah in Greek). Christ Worshipers	'Submission to the will of God', one word in Arabic is 'Islam'.
Name of a believer:	Christian.	Muslim.
Date of founding:	Circa 30 CE.	622 CE.
Name of founder(s):	Yeshua of Nazareth (Jesus Christ, pbuh) & Paul.	Most religious historians credit Muhammad (pbuh) as the founder. However, Muslims regard Islam as dating back to the time of creation of Adam
World's population as followers:	33%.	20%.
Growth rate /	2.3%	2.9%

year		
Growth rate: % of world's population:	About 0.0%.	Increase of about 0.6%/yr.
Estimate to be most popular religion % of U.S. population as followers:	Estimates 76%, declining about 0.8% a year.	2023 CE (if above numbers are valid) to beyond 2200 CE 2001 <i>ARIS</i> study estimates 0.5%; some Muslim groups estimate 6 million (2%).
Internal divisions:	Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, Protestant	Sunni, Shi'ite, Sufi, a mystical tradition.

Beliefs:

Concept of deity:	Most believe in Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit as one Godhead.	God (Allah) is one and indivisible. They believe in a strict monotheism.
Status of Jesus Christ (Yeshua of Nazareth):	Generally considered the Son of God, worshiped as God; part of the Trinity.	Very highly respected as the second-last prophet & Christ.
Birth of Jesus Christ (Yeshua of Nazareth)::	Virgin conception, Liberals: conventional birth	Virgin conception.

Death of Jesus Christ (Yeshua of Nazareth):

Christians believe: Executed by Roman Army circa 30 CE, through crucifixion.

Muslims Believe: Jesus was neither killed by crucifixion nor suffered death. It was made to appear as such, there is confusion and conjecture about his death. Muslims believe that he ascended alive into heaven.

Location of Jesus Christ	Ascended into Heaven	Ascended into Heaven
Identity of "another comforter" (John 14:16:)	Holy Spirit	Muhammad (pbuh)
Second coming of Jesus	Conservatives: expected near future. Liberals, varied.	Anticipate the second coming in the future before D of J.
Status of Adam:	Disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden.	A prophet, sin of disobedience was forgiven on repentance.
Main holy book:	Bible	Qur'an
Original languages:	Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek.	Arabic.
Status of the holy book:	Conservatives: inerrant Word of God. Liberals: historical spiritual document.	God's word, final revelation, dictated by angel Gabriel. Protected by God.
Additional guidance:	Writings of leaders of early Church. Roman Catholics: church tradition.	The Hadith -- sayings of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). <i>Ijtehad</i> by scholars.

Ethic Of Reciprocity (Golden Rule):

Christians: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."(Matthew;7:12)

Muslims: "Not one of you is a believer until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself." 4;Hadith,An-Nawawi;13

A Baby's Status At Birth

Christians: Various views. One is that a baby is born with a sin nature, separated from God. God needs to grant grace so that he may be saved.

Muslims: All babies are a born in a pure state of submission to Allah. However, as they mature they are often taught other beliefs by their parents and their culture.

Life after death:	Either Heaven or Hell. Catholics believe in Purgatory as a third state.	Heaven or Hell.
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Basis of determining destination after death:

Christians: There is no consensus in Christianity. Different faith groups hold Various diverse beliefs: trusting Jesus as Lord and Savior, good works, church sacraments, baptism, avoiding certain actions.

Muslims: Once they reach puberty, account of deeds is opened, recorded. To attain paradise, at death, their faith and good deeds (helping others, testifying to the truth of God, leading a virtuous life) must outweigh their evil deeds.

Confessing sins:

Christians: Roman Catholic: to God or Jesus, either directly or through a priest; Others: to God or Jesus

Muslims : Direct to Allah (God)

Probably the Most Misunderstood Term:

Christians: 1)*Immaculate Conception:* Roman Catholics believe that the conception of the Virgin Mary, circa 20 BCE, was

without sin. Many incorrectly relate it to Yeshua's' conception. 2) Trinity 3) Original Sin

Islam: *Jihad*: internal, personal struggle towards the attainment of a noble goal for the cause of Allah. Many incorrectly equate it to "*holy war*" for power or political gains. The legitimate warfare declared by Islamic state, with self (person) or through possessions in self-defense or against tyranny, to help oppressed people of any faith for the cause of Allah is permitted with in strict ethical rules, including safety of civilians.

Practices:

Current Interpretation of the Holy Book:

Christians: Ranges from statements of the Pope in Roman Catholicism to resolutions at conventions among Protestants.

Islam: Learned scholars in various countries. There is no single spokesperson or authoritative group.

Name of worship center:	Church, cathedral.	Mosque, or any clean area
Main worship:	Sunday; Saturday for some.	Five times daily, special congregation on Friday, Eids.

Church and State:

Christians: Largely considered separate. Most Christian countries are democracies

Islam: Integrated, but not theocracy: The political authorities work within bounds of Islam. No institutionalized clergy like Pope. Islam is a way of life covering all aspects of religious, spiritual, political, social, economical & legal aspects.

Law	Generally restricted to legal matters.	Shari'a Covers moral, religious and legal matters. Hardly in real practice except few
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countries at present.

Legislation Prerogative of the people

Prerogative of God, main sources: Qur'an, Sunnah, *Ijmah* (consensus) and *Qayas* (logical reasoning).

Use of Common in some denominations

Absolutely forbidden. Considered a very serious form of idolatry.

Main Holy Days:

Christians: Most Christians celebrate at least Christmas, Easter, associated holy days

Islam: Eid al-Fitr; Eid al-Adha, Melawd; lunar month of Ramadan; Ashura

Status of Women:

Christians: Variable. Conservatives & liberals differ greatly

Islam: Maximum rights granted including right of divorce (*khula*) & inheritance. However strongly affected by cultural traditions. oppressed in some countries

Marriages Forbidden:

Christians: Inter-faith marriages, in the Eastern Orthodox church. Marriages between conservative Christians and others, within conservative Christianity.

Islam: A Muslim woman is not permitted to be married (or remained married) to a non-Muslim man. Muslim men may marry the pious Christian or Jewish women.

Racism:

Christians: Promoted by the LDS church until 1978. Still supported by Christian Identity, KKK, and other Christian fringe groups. Officially rejected by almost all other denominations. But remains widespread.

Islam: Racism is totally rejected in Islam; respect of humanity,

belief, deeds is criteria.

Reaction to Apostasy

Christians: Prior to 1792, the end of the “*burning times*,” execution was possible

Islam: Traditionally, death to the apostate, being rebellion against society, rarely practiced.

Historical treatment of Jewish people (Prior to World War 1):

Christians: Prolonged, widespread anti-Judaism, anti-Semitism, oppression, mass murder.

Islam: Taxation for state protection, exemption from military service and Zakah, General tolerance, in Muslim Spain, Ottoman Turkey enjoyed privileged status

Basis of Calendar:

Christians: Gregorian solar calendar.¹ CE occurred four to seven years after birth of Jesus.

Islamic lunar calendar. 1 AH occurred in 622 CE, the *year of the Hegira* when Muhammad (pbuh) migrated from Makkah to Medina.

Most Misunderstood Practice:

Christians: The sacrifice of the Mass, a Roman Catholic ritual. Some Native Americans and others interpreted it as a form of ritual cannibalism.

Islam: Female genital mutilation. Wrongly considered a religious requirement of Islam. Actually it is cultural tradition common in some countries of Northern Africa. It is unknown in many Muslim countries. **Polygamy:** Not obligatory, Islam fixed upper limit of unlimited Polygamy, conditional to equal, fair treatment to all wives. It helps the orphan, widows, divorced women to live respectable life, as generally there is shortage of men due to war and other reasons. Not much practiced now. Bible has laid no limit; the Hebrew prophets had many wives and concubines as per prevalent practice of that time.

Notes:

1. Most religious historians view Islam as having been founded in 622 CE. The origins of Islam date back to the creation of the world. 'Surrender to Will of God' in Arabic is 'Islam', monotheistic religions preached practiced by all Prophets, rituals varied in each time.

2. Muslims traditionally acknowledge respect for Prophet Muhammad, Jesus and other prophets by adding phrase (peace be upon them) or an abbreviation "(pbuh)" after their names.

3. The Christian church is normally considered to have begun at Pentecost, 50 days after Christians believe that Jesus was executed. Unfortunately, the year is unknown. The books included in the Bible differ among Christian faith groups. The Roman Catholic Church includes the Apocrypha; most other Christian denominations do not. Members of the approximately 100 faith groups in the LDS Restorationist movement, including The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons) add other holy books, including the Book of Mormon. Christian Scientists consider

Mary Baker Eddy's book "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" to be a major resource.

4. Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the literal word of God, as dictated to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) through angel Gabriel over a period of 23 years. It is the only book that is considered free of error (tahrif). They also believe in: 1) The Scrolls of Abraham (Suhuf-i-Ibrahim) which have been lost. 2) The Tawrat (Torah; the Pentateuch from the Hebrew Scriptures) which Muslims believe were altered by ancient Hebrews. 3) The Zabur which Muslims believe are the Psalms from the Hebrew Scriptures. 4) The Injil (the Gospels; the original revelations to Jesus). Muslims accept the contents of Gospels, which are not in conflict with Qur'anic narratives, since Gospels have been corrupted over time. They believe that all the previous scriptures were meant of for specific people and period, but Qur'an, being the Last Testament is valid to guide the humanity till end of time, it supersedes all of them. God has Himself taken responsibility for its protection, evident form last 14 centuries.

CHAPTER-3: THEOLOGICAL IMPACT

Islam is very close to Christianity; it's not an understatement. If Christianity is considered as the Faith practiced and preached by Prophet Jesus Christ (peace be upon him), then the Muslims are more Christians than those who call themselves Christians, because Muslims follow what Jesus Christ preached and practiced throughout his ministry, shrouded under mysterious teachings and doctrines of later times. Jesus Christ had urged the use of intellect to discern the truth from the falsehood: "Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right?"(Luke;12:57). Six centuries after Jesus Christ, Islam cleared the smog to reveal the original message of Jesus Christ and all the previous prophets in the original form. While many accepted the truth, others chose to cling to their perverted beliefs. However they could not remain aloof to the manifest reality. Impact of Islam on Christianity and Judaism has far reaching implications; some related with Christianity are being highlighted here.

Previous Scriptures and Prophets:

It is part of articles of faith of a Muslims to believe in all the previous messengers, prophets of God and the scriptures; in the original form in which they were revealed upon them. God 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); “And We verily sent Noah and Abraham and placed the Prophethood and the Scripture among their seed, and among them there is he who goes right, but many of them are evil-livers.”(Qur’an;57:26). “Lo! We inspire thee as We inspired Noah and the prophets after him, as We inspired Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the tribes, and Jesus and Job and Jonah and Aaron and Solomon, and

as we imparted unto David the Psalms;(Qur'an;4:163). "Surely, We sent down the Torah (to Moses), wherein is guidance and light; by its laws the Jews have been judged by the prophets who surrendered themselves to Allah, the rabbis and the doctors of law, because they were entrusted the protection of Allah's book and were witnesses thereto".(Qur'an;5:44). "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).

The scriptures revealed to the earlier prophets were meant for specific period and nation which, with the passage of

time got distorted, because the Rabbis and Doctors of Law, entrusted with the responsibility of their protection failed to do so. These scriptures underwent distortion, addition, and omission: "- - Some of the Jews pervert words from their meanings-" (Qur'an;4:46). "So woe to those who write the Book with their hands, and then say: 'This is from Allah,' that they may sell it for a little price. So woe to them for what their hands have written, and woe to them for their earnings"(Qur'an;2:79). "To you, O Muhammad, We have revealed this Book (Qur'an) with the truth. It confirms whatever has remained intact in the scriptures which came before it and determining what is true therein. Therefore, judge between people of earlier revelations according what Allah has bestowed from high, and do not follow their errant views, forsaking the truth has come unto thee. We have

ordained (different) law and Way of life for each of you. If Allah wanted He could have made all of you a single nation. But He willed otherwise in order to test you in what He has given you; therefore try to excel one another in good deeds. Ultimately you all shall return to Allah; then He will show you the truth of those matters in which you dispute.”(Qur’an;5:48).

All the divine revelations (scriptures) except Qur’an are extinct. The Bible; besides Torah, Psalm and Gospel also contain other scriptures, books and commentaries by mostly unknown scribes attributing to known messengers and personalities. The Torah, Psalm and Gospel as available in the Bible may contain the original revelations in some form which pass the test of Qur’an; the criterion to distinguish right from wrong: “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). "And say: "Truth has come and Falsehood perished: for Falsehood by its nature is bound to perish."(Qur'an;17:81). The authenticity, accuracy and originality of Torah, Psalm and Gospel as revealed scriptures is doubtful, which is also evident from the long history and complex process of compilation and canonization.

Initial Impact of Islam on Christianity:

The light of Islam (attainment of peace through submission to the Will of One God, preached by all messengers of God from Adam- Noah-Moses to Jesus) was illuminating the world from 610-632 C.E through Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), the descendent of Prophet Ishmael (eldest son of Abraham) as prophesied in the previous scriptures [Deuteronomy;18:18,19, Song of Solomon;5:16; John;16:12-14; 15:26; 16:7 also affirmed in Qur'an;6:20; 61:6; 3:71;

3:42-47. [details given above] He is also prophesied in the Zoroaster, Buddhist and Hindu Scriptures: 'Bhavishya Purana in the Prati Sarag Parv III Khand 3 Adhay 3 Shloka 5 to 8'; Bhavishya Purana in the Pratisarag Parv III Khand 3 Adhay 3 Shloka 10 to 27; Bhavishya Purana, Parv - III Khand 1 Adhay 3 Shloka 21-23; and Samveda Book II Hymn 6 verse 8.]

Emperor Heraclius Invited to Islam:

After successfully establishing the Islamic state at Medina Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) invited the rulers and people of neighboring areas, to Islam including Eastern Roman emperor Heraclius (610-641 C.E). The letter and details are recorded in Sahih Bukhari Hadith Number.6, Volume.1, narrated by Abdullah bin Abbas. According to this Tradition (Hadith) the letter addressed to Heraclius reads: "In the name of God the Beneficent, the Merciful (This letter is) from Muhammad the slave of Allah and His Apostle to Heraclius the ruler of Byzantine. Peace be upon him, who

follows the right path. Furthermore I invite you to Islam, and if you become a Muslim you will be safe, and God will double your reward, and if you reject this invitation of Islam you will be committing a sin by misguiding your Arisiyin (peasants). (And I recite to you Allah's Statement:) 'O people of the scripture! (Jews and Chritians) Come to a word common to you and us that we worship none but Allah and that we associate nothing in worship with Him, and that none of us shall take others as Lords beside God (Allah). Then, if they turn away, say: Bear witness that we are Muslims (those who have surrendered to God).' (Qur'an;3:64). Heaculius called for the visiting Arab taders, Abu Sufyan (uncle of the Propeht, then a nonbeliever and his enemy) was on a buisness trip, he was produced in the court of the Emperor. After asking many questions about the Propeht and his message, Heaculius was convinced that Muhmmmad (peace be upon him) was a true messenger of God. Heraclius then wrote a letter to his friend in Rome who

was as good as Heraclius in knowledge. Heraclius then left for Homs (a town in Syria) and stayed there till he received the reply of his letter from his friend (from Rome) who agreed with him in his opinion about the emergence of the Prophet and the fact that he was a Prophet.[Contemporary Pope Honorius I (Pope from 625 to 638 C.E) favoured Monothelism; a formula proposed by the Byzantine emperor Heraclius.]

Then Heraclius invited all the heads of the Byzantines to assemble in his palace at Homs. When they assembled, he ordered that all the doors of his palace be closed. Then he came out and said, 'O Byzantines! If success is your desire and if you seek right guidance and want your empire to remain then give a pledge of allegiance to this Prophet (i.e. embrace Islam).' (On hearing the views of Heraclius) the people ran towards the gates of the palace like onagers but found the doors closed. Heraclius realized their hatred towards Islam and when he lost the hope of their embracing Islam, he ordered that

they should be brought back in audience. (When they returned) he said, 'What already said was just to test the strength of your conviction and I have seen it.' The people prostrated before him and became pleased with him, and this was the end of Heraclius's story (in connection with his faith).”

However Hercules had sought in 638 C.E to placate Monophysite [adherent of doctrine that in the person of Jesus there was but a single, divine nature] by promulgating the doctrine of Monothelitism [a heresy maintaining that Christ had only one will]. The victorious Muslims granted religious freedom to the Christian community in Alexandria which fell to the Arab Muslims in 641 C.E. The Alexandrians quickly recalled their exiled Monophysite patriarch to rule over them, subject only to the ultimate political authority of the conquerors. In such a fashion the city persisted as religious community under Arab Muslim domination more welcome and more tolerant than that of Byzantium.

The Monotheist Pope Honorius (625-638):

The Doctrine of 'One Mind-One God':

Pope Honorius (pope 625-638 C.E) was contemporary of Prophet Mohammed (peace be on him, ministry, 610-632). He grasped the truthfulness of message of Islam [most likely through Emperor Heraclius] whose tenets he observed, were very much resembled those of Arius (monotheism preached by Jesus Christ). **Thus he found the linkage between Islam and Christianity. In his letters he began to support the doctrine of 'ONE MIND', because if God has three independent minds the result would be chaos. The logical conclusion pointed to the belief in the existence of 'ONE GOD'. This doctrine was not officially challenged for about half a century.** In October 638C.E Pope Honorius died. In 680 C.E, i.e. 42 years after his death, a council was held in Constantinople where Pope Honorius was anathematized (cursed, condemned). This event is unique in the history

of Papacy when a Pope was denounced by a succeeding Pope and the Church.

Emperor Leo Abolished Image-Worship (726 C.E):

The Byzantine Emperor Leo-III (717-741) surnamed Isauricus, undertook, in the face of so many difficulties, to purify the church of its detestable idols. Probably the creed of Islam and the success of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) greatly influenced Leo. **Besides, there was a very general feeling among Christians in the East, that it was the increasing idolatry of the church that had brought down upon them the chastisement of God by the invasion of Muslims.** The Christians were constantly hearing from both Jews and Muslims the odious name of idolaters. The great Iconoclastic Controversy evidently arose out of these circumstances.

L. F. M. Sozzini (1525-1565) Challenged Trinity:

The next two personalities of this faith that deserve mention were members of the same family. L. F. M. Sozzini (1525-1565 C.E) was native of Siena. In 1547 C.E. he came under the influence of Camillo a Sicilian mystic. His fame spread in Switzerland. He challenged Calvin [follower of_ salvation by grace rather than by works] on the doctrine of Trinity. He amplified the doctrine of Arius, denied the divinity of Christ and repudiated the doctrine of original sin and atonement. The object of adoration according to him could only be the one and only one God.

Racovian Catechism:

Monotheistic Christianity:

Sozzini was followed by his nephew F. P. Sozzini (1539-1604 C.E). In 1562 C.E he published a work on St. John's Gospel denying the divinity of Jesus. In 1578 C.E he went to Klausenburg in Transylvania whose ruler John Sigisumud, was against the doctrine of Trinity.

Here Bishop Francis David (1510-1579 C.E) was fiercely anti-Trinitarian. This led to the formation of a sect known as 'Racovian Catechism'. It derives its name from Racow in Poland. This city became the stronghold of the faith of Arius.

Socinians:

Central to Socinus' teaching was the attainment of eternal life through the study of divinely revealed Scripture. He saw Christ as a real man, though without sin, who by his suffering taught men how to bear their own sufferings. In his view, faith is more than the belief that the teaching of Christ is true; it also results in repentance for sins and in an obedience that leads to eternal life.

A rationalist Christian group was formed in the 16th century that embraced the thought of the Italian-born lay theologian Faustus Socinus hence named Socinian. The Socinians taught a rationalist interpretation of the Scriptures, and they accepted Jesus as God's revelation but a mere man, divine by office rather than by

nature; Socinians thus **rejected the doctrine of the Trinity**. One of the Socinians' central doctrines was that the soul dies with the body, but that the souls of those who have persevered in obeying Jesus' commandments will be resurrected. The Socinians also advocated the separation of church and state.

John Biddle (1615-62), an English Socinian, whose knowledge of the Greek text of the New Testament convinced him that the **doctrine of the Trinity was not of scriptural origin**, published his Unitarian convictions in *Twelve Arguments Drawn out of Scripture . . .* (1647) and other works; English readers, moreover, were exposed to Unitarian views through Socinian books published in the Netherlands.

Common Themes:

Theologian Earl Morse Wilbur (1866-1956) advanced the thesis, now widely accepted, that the history of Unitarianism in Poland, Transylvania, England, and America gains unity from certain common themes. These themes

are freedom of religious thought rather than required agreement with creeds or confessions, reliance not on tradition or external authority but on the use of reason in formulating religious beliefs, and tolerance of differing religious views and customs in worship and polity. Their teachings historically have included the unity of God, the humanity of Jesus, mankind's religious and ethical responsibility, and the possibility of attaining religious salvation through differing religious traditions. They emphasize the authority of the individual's religious conviction, the importance of religiously motivated action for social reform, democratic method in church governance, and reason and experience as appropriate bases for formulating religious beliefs.

Trinitarians however has maintained hold upon major population not due to ideological superiority but due to aggressive missionary activities coupled social welfare projects like education, health, charity, material benefits along with coercion and persecution wherever feasible.

CHAPTER-4: ISLAM CHRISTIANITY & JUDAISM: COMMON THEMES

Qur'an urges Muslims to invite the 'People of the Book' (Christians and Jews) towards the commonalities: "Say: "O people of the Book! LET US GET TOGETHER on what IS COMMON BETWEEN US AND YOU: that we shall WORSHIP NONE BUT GOD; that we shall not associate any partners with Him and that we shall not take human beings for our lords besides God;" If they turn away then tell them: "Bear witness that it is we who have surrendered ourselves un to Him (in Islam)."(Qur'an;3:64). The Jews, Christians and Muslims claim to be the followers of Abraham, who preached the pure monotheism. Moses and Jesus 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 & Mathew;19:17). Qur'an says: "Your God is one God; there is no one worthy of worship except Him, the Compassionate, the Merciful." (Qur'an;2:163). The focus on common aspects will help in

developing better understanding of each other and can become basis for dialogue. The faith in Islam is based upon belief in Allah (One God), His angels, His Scriptures (like Torah, Psalms, Gospel), His messengers, and Muhammad (peace be upon him) to be His Last Messenger, Resurrection after death, Destiny, Trial, Hell and Paradise. A Muslims should practice the five pillars of Islam (worship); the first two; Declaration & Prayers (Shahada & Salah) are daily, next two Charity & Fasting (Zakat & Saum) are annual while Hajj is once in life. These are based on Abrahamic traditions, also mentioned in Bible.

The Creation:

The narratives of creation of universe, Adam and humanity are quite similar. The guidance of humanity through messengers and prophets like Noah, Lut, Jonah, Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob, Moses, David, Solomon Jesus and scriptures has been mentioned in Bible and Qur'an. Muslims believe in miraculous birth of

Jesus without father, miracles performed by him, his accession to heaven and second coming before end of the world. Jesus (peace be upon him), the son of Mary was the Messenger of God: "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know."(Acts; 2:22). Jesus himself said: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Mathew; 10:5-6, 15:24 & Qur'an;3:49), "Think not that I (Jesus) 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;"(Mathew;5:17-20).

Individual Responsibility:

Qur'an and Bible are synonymous on the individual responsibility of man; (Qur'an;35:18, 17:15,6:164 and Bible; Ezekiel;18:20-21). The

advent of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) has been prophesized the Old Testament as well as in New Testament; (Deuteronomy; 18:18,19, Mathew; 1:18, Luke; 1:35, Qur'an; 3:42-47 linked with John;18:36, 1:11 & Mathew;5:17-18).

Belief in Prophets:

The Holy Qur'an invites the Muslims not only to believe in Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) but also in the prophets who had come prior to his advent. Muslims, are interested not only in the Revelation that was given to humanity through Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), but also in the Revelations which were given to prophets previous to him. Among the prophets who had appeared before Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Exalted Status of Jesus Christ:

The Qur'an has emphasized the importance to the Muslims of Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him). Jesus was no doubt was sent with a direct

mission to the Israelites; he was also a universal sign. In Qur'an (21:107) the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) has been termed as a Mercy unto Humanity (Rahmatun lil Alamin), in the same Chapter (21:91) Mary and Jesus have been termed as a "Sign to Humanity" (Ayatun lil Alamin) due to miraculous birth of Jesus to virgin Mary. It is important that though many prophets are mentioned in the Qur'an the word Alamin (universe or humanity) has been used "only for Prophet Jesus and Mohammed (peace be upon them). In addition to his mission to the Israelites Jesus was commissioned with the task of heralding to the world the advent of the Last and the greatest Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Incidentally it is only Prophet Jesus and Mohammed (peace be upon them) who have the largest following in the world today. Over half of the total human population consists of the Christians who claim to be associated with Jesus, while the Muslims believe in both, i.e. Prophet Jesus and Mohammed (peace be upon

them). The Qur'an also underlines the closeness of relationship between the Muslims and Christians (Qur'an;5:81-85). It is only through understanding and cooperation between the Christians and Muslims, through which the rising tides of atheism and materialism can be confronted and world made peaceful place for the humanity.

The Law and Commandments:

The instructions analogous to the Commandments have also been mentioned in Qur'an and made applicable to Muslims except Sabbath, the stringent restriction from which Muslims have been relieved, it was not the tradition of Abraham. The tradition of circumcision is linked with Abraham (Genesis;17:10-12, Acts;7:8, John;7:22) accordingly Jesus was also circumcised (Luke;2:21), while Christians have abandoned this tradition, Muslims being the faithful true followers of Abraham, strictly adhere to this practice. Moses is revered as a messenger of

God with scripture, mentioned in Qur'an at numerous verses; 17:2, 4:154, 7:145 & 7:154.

Status of Women:

Islam places women at respectable and dignified position. Taking 'Interest' is prohibited in Bible at Leviticus;25:37. Riba (literally 'usury' or 'interest') is also prohibited by Qur'an at 2:278-279, 2:275, 2:276 & 30:39. The dietary prohibitions of Old Testament are almost similarly applicable to Muslims with some relaxations. The pork (pig meat) and alcohol are also prohibited for Muslims. Muslims are also allowed to consume permissible (Halal) food from the People of the Book. The punishments through retaliation; like Life for a Life, Eye for Eye are mentioned in Bible and Qur'an. In Eschatology; Resurrection on the Day of Judgment, reward and punishment after trial, paradise and hell, bear some similarities. Humanitarian obligations have been emphasized in Bible and Qur'an.

Declaration of the Second Vatican Council:

It is heartening to see that there is a reorientation in the Christian world in its attitude to Muslims. The Declaration of the Second Vatican Council on "Religious Freedom," issued in 1965, said: **"Upon the Muslims the Church looks with esteem. They adore One God, Living and Enduring, Merciful and All-powerful, Maker of heaven and earth, and Speaker to man. They strive to submit wholeheartedly even to his inscrutable decrees,"**

Fairness and Justice for World Peace: The extreme oppression of Muslims, the world over has resulted in violence. Islam does not advocate killing of innocent or suicide. The human life is valued greatly. The acts of few desperate ignorant people does not represent the real Islam, which is the religion of peace and obedience to God. It is important that for the sake of world peace and freedom of humanity, the Christian world and Zionists should treat the Muslims with fairness, justice, respect and

dignity which they deserve and stop oppression and exploitation of their people, land and resources. The common roots, to believe and worship 'One God' as 'Children of Abraham' should form the basis of friendship and dialogue not confrontation.

CHAPTER-5: MUSLIM CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEDICINE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:

Europe owes its awakening from the dark ages to the Renaissance and Enlightenment by the transfer of enhanced knowledge including lost Greek heritage through the Muslim scholars and centers of learning at Spain and their contact with the Muslim world through Crusades. As long as Muslims continued the pursuit of all branches of useful worldly knowledge of physical science, technology along with the religious sciences, the Islamic Civilization was at its zenith

Islam is the faith based upon knowledge, reason and wisdom, for it is ultimately knowledge of the Oneness of God combined with faith that saves man in this world and hereafter. The Qur'an is full of verses urging man to use his intellect, to deliberate, to think and to know, for the objective of human life is to ascertain the Truth, which could be achieved by recognizing and exploring the signs of God all around. Hence it becomes obligatory for all the Muslims both men and

women to acquire the knowledge of all sciences including the religious sciences to understand the signs of God and to harness the powers of nature.

The great tragedy of Muslim history occurred over five centuries ago, when the study of Islamic sciences was separated from the other branches of knowledge in the Islamic learning institutions, considering it be evil and against the spirit of Islam. The women were discouraged to acquire knowledge. The Ottomans and Mughal empires also ignored to concentrate on acquisition of scientific knowledge. Islam is a faith based on the Reality and rational thought not on unscientific myths. Islam advocates to maintain balance between the life of this world and struggle for the reward in hereafter, thus asceticism and monasticism is not part of Islam. In sharp contrast to present pathetic state of knowledge and learning, the contributions in the advancement of knowledge by the traditional Islamic institutions of learning (Madrasahs, Maktab, Halqa & Dar-ul-Aloom) are enormous.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica:

“The Madrasahs [Islamic education institutions] generally offered instruction in both the religious sciences and other branches of knowledge. The contribution of these institutions to the advancement of knowledge was vast. Muslim scholars calculated the angle of the ecliptic; measured the size of the Earth; calculated the precession of the equinoxes; explained, in the field of optics and physics, such phenomena as refraction of light, gravity, capillary attraction, and twilight; and developed observatories for the empirical study of heavenly bodies. They made advances in the uses of drugs, herbs, and foods for medication; established hospitals with a system of interns and externs; discovered causes of certain diseases and developed correct diagnoses of them; proposed new concepts of hygiene; made use of anesthetics in surgery with newly innovated surgical tools; and introduced the science of dissection in anatomy. Muslims furthered the scientific breeding of horses and cattle; found new ways of grafting to

produce new types of flowers and fruits; introduced new concepts of irrigation, fertilization, and soil cultivation; and improved upon the science of navigation. In the area of chemistry, Muslim scholarship led to the discovery of such substances as potash, alcohol, nitrate of silver, nitric acid, sulfuric acid, and mercury chloride.

Muslims scientists also developed to a high degree of perfection the arts of textiles, ceramics, and metallurgy.” According to a US study published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science in its Journal on 21 February 2007; ‘Designs on surface tiles in the Islamic world during the Middle Ages revealed their maker’s understanding of mathematical concepts not grasped in the West until 500 years later. Many Medieval Islamic buildings walls have ornate geometric star and polygon or ‘girih’, patterns, which are often overlaid with a swirling network of lines - This girih tile method was more efficient and precise than the previous approach, allowing for an important

breakthrough in Islamic mathematics and design.’

Muslims Scholars of Science & Theology:

According to the famous scientist Albert Einstein; “Science without religion is lame. Religion without science is blind.” Francis Bacon, the famous philosopher, has rightly said that a little knowledge of science makes you an atheist, but an in-depth study of science makes you a believer in God. A critical analysis reveals that most of Muslim scientists and scholars of medieval period were also eminent scholars of Islam and theology. The earlier Muslim scientific investigations were based on the inherent link between the physical and the spiritual spheres, but they were informed by a process of careful observation and reflection that investigated the physical universe.

Influence of Qur’an on Muslims Scientists:

The worldview of the Muslims scientists was inspired by the Qur’an and they knew that:

“Surely, In the creation of the heavens and the earth; in the alternation of the night and the day, in the sailing of the ships through the ocean for the profit of mankind; in the rain which Allah sends down from the skies, with which He revives the earth after its death and spreads in it all kinds of animals, in the change of the winds and the clouds between the sky and the earth that are made subservient, there are signs for rational people.”(Qur’an;2:164). “Indeed in the alternation of the night and the day and what Allah has created in the heavens and the earth, there are signs for those who are God fearing.”(Qur’an;10:6). They were aware that there was much more to be discovered. They did not have the precise details of the solar and lunar orbits but they knew that there was something extremely meaningful behind the alternation of the day and the night and in the precise movements of the sun and the moon as mentioned in Qur’an: One can still verify that those who designed the dome and the minaret, knew how to transform space and silence into a

chanting remembrance that renews the nexus between God and those who respond to His urgent invitation.

Famous Muslim Scientists and Scholars:

The traditional Islamic institutions of learning produced numerous great theologians, philosophers, scholars and scientists. Their contributions in various fields of knowledge indicate the level of scholarship base developed among the Muslims one thousand years ago. Only few are being mentioned here:

Chemistry:

Jabir ibn Hayyan, Abu Musa (721-815), alchemist known as the "father of chemistry." He studied most branches of learning, including medicine. After the 'Abbasids defeated the Umayyads, Jabir became a court physician to the 'Abbasid caliph Harun ar-Rashid. Jabir was a close friend of the sixth Shi'ite imam, Ja'far ibn Muhammad, whom he gave credit for many of his scientific ideas.

Mathematics, Algebra, Astronomy & Geography:

Al-Khwarizmi (Algorizm) (770–840 C.E) was a researcher of mathematics, algorithm, algebra, calculus, astronomy & geography. He compiled astronomical tables, introduced Indian numerals (which became Arabic numerals), formulated the oldest known trigonometric tables, and prepared a geographic encyclopaedia in cooperation with 69 other scholars.

Physics, Philosophy, Medicine:

Ibn Ishaq Al-Kindi :

(Alkindus) (800–873 C.E) was an intellectual of philosophy, physics, optics, medicine, mathematics & metallurgy. Ali Ibn Rabban Al-Tabari (838–870 C.E) was a scholar in medicine, mathematics, calligraphy & literature. Al-Razi (Rhazes, 864– 930 C.E), a physical and scientist of medicine, ophthalmology, smallpox, chemistry & astronomy.

Ar-Razi's:

His two most significant medical works are the Kitab al-Mansuri, which became well known in the West in Gerard of Cremona's 12th-century Latin translation; and 'Kitab al-hawi', the "Comprehensive Book". Among his numerous minor medical treatises is the famed Treatise on the Small Pox and Measles, which was translated into Latin, Byzantine Greek, and various modern languages.

Al-Farabi:

Al-Pharabius (870- 950 C.E) excelled in sociology, logic, philosophy, political science & music. Abu Al-Qasim Al-Zahravi (Albucasis; 936 -1013 C.E) was an expert in surgery & medicine known as the father of modern surgery.

Ibn Al-Haitham:

Alhazen(965-1040 C.E); was the mathematician and physicist who made the first significant contributions to optical theory since the time of Ptolemy (flourished 2nd century). In his treatise

on optics, translated into Latin in 1270 as *Opticae thesaurus Alhazeni libri vii*, Alhazen published theories on refraction, reflection, binocular vision, focusing with lenses, the rainbow, parabolic and spherical mirrors, spherical aberration, atmospheric refraction, and the apparent increase in size of planetary bodies near the Earth's horizon. He was first to give an accurate account of vision, correctly stating that light comes from the object seen to the eye.

Abu Raihan Al-Biruni (973-1048 C.E):

He was a Persian scholar and scientist, one of the most learned men of his age and an outstanding intellectual figure. Al-Biruni's most famous works are *Athar al-baqiyah* (Chronology of Ancient Nations); *at-Tafhim* ("Elements of Astrology"); *al-Qanun al-Mas'udi* ("The Mas'udi Canon"), a major work on astronomy, which he dedicated to Sultan Mas'ud of Ghazna; *Ta'rikh al-Hind* ("A History of India"); and *Kitab as-Saydah*, a treatise on drugs used in medicine.

In his works on astronomy, he discussed with approval the theory of the Earth's rotation on its axis and made accurate calculations of latitude and longitude. He was the first one to determine the circumference earth. In the field of physics, he explained natural springs by the laws of hydrostatics and determined with remarkable accuracy the specific weight of 18 precious stones and metals. In his works on geography, he advanced the daring view that the valley of the Indus had once been a sea basin.

Ibn Sina:

Avicenna, (981–1037 C.E); was a scientist of medicine, philosophy, mathematics & astronomy. He was particularly noted for his contributions in the fields of Aristotelian philosophy and medicine. He composed the Kitab ash-shifa` ("Book of Healing"), a vast philosophical and scientific encyclopedia, and the Canon of Medicine, which is among the most famous books in the history of medicine.

Ibn Hazm, (994-1064 C.E):

He was a Muslim litterateur, historian, jurist, and theologian of Islamic Spain. One of the leading exponents of the Zahiri (literalist) school of jurisprudence, he produced some 400 works, covering jurisprudence, logic, history, ethics, comparative religion, and theology, and *The Ring of the Dove*, on the art of love.

Al-Zarqali:

Arzachel (1028-1087 C.E); an astronomer who invented astrolabe (an instrument used to make astronomical measurements). **Al-Ghazali** (Algazel) (1058-1111 C.E); was a scholar of sociology, theology & philosophy.

Ibn Zuhr (Avenzoar) (1091-1161 C.E); was a scientist and expert in surgery & medicine.

Ibn Rushd (Averroes) (1128- 1198 C.E); excelled in philosophy, law, medicine, astronomy & theology.

Nasir Al-Din Al-Tusi (1201-1274 C.E); was the scholar of astronomy and Non-Euclidean geometry.

Geber:

He flourished in 14th century Spain, author of several books that were among the most influential works on alchemy and metallurgy during the 14th and 15th centuries. A number of Arabic scientific works credited to Jabir were translated into Latin during the 11th to 13th centuries. Thus, when an author who was probably a practicing Spanish alchemist began to write in about 1310. Four works by Geber are known: *Summa perfectionis magisterii* (The Sum of Perfection or the Perfect Magistry, 1678), *Liber fornacum* (Book of Furnaces, 1678), *De investigatione perfectionis* (The Investigation of Perfection, 1678), and *De inventione veritatis* (The Invention of Verity, 1678).

They are the clearest expression of alchemical theory and the most important set of laboratory

directions to appear before the 16th century. Accordingly, they were widely read and extremely influential in a field where mysticism, secrecy, and obscurity were the usual rule. Geber's rational approach, however, did much to give alchemy a firm and respectable position in Europe. His practical directions for laboratory procedures were so clear that it is obvious he was familiar with many chemical operations. He described the purification of chemical compounds, the preparation of acids (such as nitric and sulfuric), and the construction and use of laboratory apparatus, especially furnaces. Geber's works on chemistry were not equaled in their field until the 16th century with the appearance of the writings of the Italian chemist Vannoccio Biringuccio, the German mineralogist Georgius Agricola, & German alchemist Lazarus Ercker.

Muhammad Ibn Abdullah (Ibn Battuta) (1304-1369 C.E); was a world traveler, he traveled 75,000 mile voyage from Morocco to China and back. Ibn Khaldun(1332-1395 C.E) was an

expert on sociology, philosophy of history and political science.

Tipu, Sultan of Mysore (1783-1799 C.E) in the south of India, was the innovator of the world's first war rocket. Two of his rockets, captured by the British at Srirangapatana, are displayed in the Woolwich Museum of Artillery in London. The rocket motor casing was made of steel with multiple nozzles. The rocket, 50mm in diameter and 250mm long, had a range performance of 900 meters to 1.5 km.

Turkish scientist Hazarfen Ahmet Celebi took off from Galata tower and flew over the Bosphorus, two hundred years before a comparable development elsewhere. Fifty years later Logari Hasan Celebi, another member of the Celebi family, sent the first manned rocket into upper atmosphere, using 150 okka (about 300 pounds) of gunpowder as the firing fuel.

Influence of Islamic Learning in Reviving Western Civilization:

While Muslims were excelling in the field of knowledge and learning of science and technology, the conditions of Christendom at this period was deplorable. Under Constantine and his orthodox successors the Aesclepiions were closed for ever, the public libraries established by liberality of the pagan emperors were dispersed or destroyed. Learning was branded as magic and punished as treason, philosophy and science were exterminated. The ecclesiastical hatred against human learning had found expression in the patristic maxims; "Ignorance is the mother of devotion" and Pope Gregory the Great the founder of the doctrine of 'supremacy of religious authority'; gave effect to this obscurantist dogma by expelling from Rome all scientific studies and burning the Palatine Library founded by Augustus Caesar. He forbade the study of ancient writers of Greece and Rome. He introduced and sanctified the mythological Christianity which continued for

centuries as the predominating creed of Europe with its worship of relics and the remains of saints. Science and literature were placed under the ban by orthodox Christianity and they succeeded in emancipating themselves only when Free Thought had broken down the barriers raised by orthodoxy against the progress of the human mind.

Exceptional influence of Islamic learning on the West:

The influence of Islamic learning on the West has been phenomenal; an extract from Encyclopedia Britannica is an eye opener for the Muslims:

“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.”

“Most of the important Greek scientific texts were preserved in Arabic translations. Although the Muslims did not alter the foundations of Greek science, they made several important contributions within its general framework. When interest in Greek learning revived in

Western Europe during the 12th and 13th centuries, scholars turned to Islamic Spain for the scientific texts. A spate of translations resulted in the revival of Greek science in the West and coincided with the rise of the universities. Working within a predominantly Greek framework, scientists of the late Middle Ages reached high levels of sophistication and prepared the ground for the scientific revolution of the 16th and 17th centuries.” According to Will Durant, the Western scholar, “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”.

CONCLUSION:

Islam influenced Christianity in theology, from Trinity to original monotheism preached and practiced by prophets from Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Jesus to Muhammad (pbut). Muslim Spain played important role in evolution of renaissance. The roots of the Unitarian movement lie principally in the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century. At that time, people in many countries across Europe began to claim:

- The right to read and interpret the Bible for themselves.
- The right to seek a direct relationship with God, without the mediation of priest or church.
- The right to set their own conscience against the claims of religious institutions.

Many came to question 'orthodox' Christian doctrine and to affirm beliefs of their own. These included:

- The Unity or uni-personality of God, as opposed to the doctrine of the Trinity - hence the name 'Unitarian'.
- The humanity, as opposed to the deity, of Christ.
- the worth of human beings, as opposed to ideas of original sin, inherited guilt and innate depravity.
- The universal salvation of all souls, as opposed to the doctrine that most of humanity is predestined to damnation.

The earliest organized Unitarian movements were founded in the 16th century in Poland and Transylvania, after first 3 centuries till Arius. In Britain, a number of early radical reformers professed Unitarian beliefs in the 16th and 17th centuries, some suffering imprisonment and martyrdom. An organized Unitarian movement did not emerge in Britain until the late 18th century. The first avowedly Unitarian church in Britain was opened in Essex Street, London, in 1774. Denominational structures were developed during the 19th century, finally uniting

in the present General Assembly in 1928. Today Unitarian movements exist in a number of countries around the world. Most originated independently by processes of spiritual evolution similar to that which occurred in Britain.

Christian monotheists (also called Biblical Unitarians) aims at: 'Calling Christians Worldwide to Return to the Creed of Jesus: a proud member of the radical reformation of the 21st century': "Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength".(Mark 12.29-30). The Christian monotheism [Christianmonotheism.com] exists in order to promote the fearless pursuit of truth concerning God and Jesus from a biblical and historical perspective. They believe that Jesus must be taken seriously when he says that his Father is the only true God (John;17:3). Pursuing truth begins with intellectual humility recognizing that

one might be wrong about his or her current beliefs. Truth should not be feared but rather embraced even if it causes distress. We must be open on matters of faith and willing to hear the other side of the argument. Furthermore, since each of us is capable of making mistakes, we believe it is best to work out our theology in community where others can critique and contribute. Questing for truth is exciting and worthwhile because, as Jesus said, "the truth will set you free" (John 8.32), "Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right?"(Luke;12:57). In the end it will be of interest to quote Athanasius the champion of Trinity. He says that: "Whenever he forced his understanding to meditate on the divinity of Jesus his toilsome and unavailing efforts recoil on themselves, that the more he wrote the less capable was he of expressing his thoughts". At another place he pronounces his creed as: **"There is NOT THREE but ONE GOD"**

Among the present-day Christians a large number of men and women still believe in one

God. They are not always vocal. Due to the crushing power of the Churches they cannot express themselves and there is not much communication between them. However with the advancement in communication specially the cyber world, such groups have started to vent their views. There are many Christian sects in existence even now who deny Trinity, worship One God and believe in Jesus to be a human and the Prophet of God. These groups are closest to the faith of Abraham, the common ancestor of Jews, Christians and Muslims. The moment they believe in Muhammad (pbuh) to be the prophet of God, the differences disappear: “Jesus said unto them, If you were Abraham's children, you would do the (deeds) works of Abraham”(John;8:39), “Abraham was not a Jew nor yet a Christian; but He was true In Faith, and bowed His will to God (Islam), and He joined not gods with God. Without doubt, among men, the nearest of kin to Abraham, are those who follow him, As are also This Messenger (Muhammad) and those who

believe: and God is the Protector of those who have Faith.”(Qur’an;3:67-68). Apart from theology Islam also contributed greatly in the transfer of knowledge, source of scientific & technological development of Europe.

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