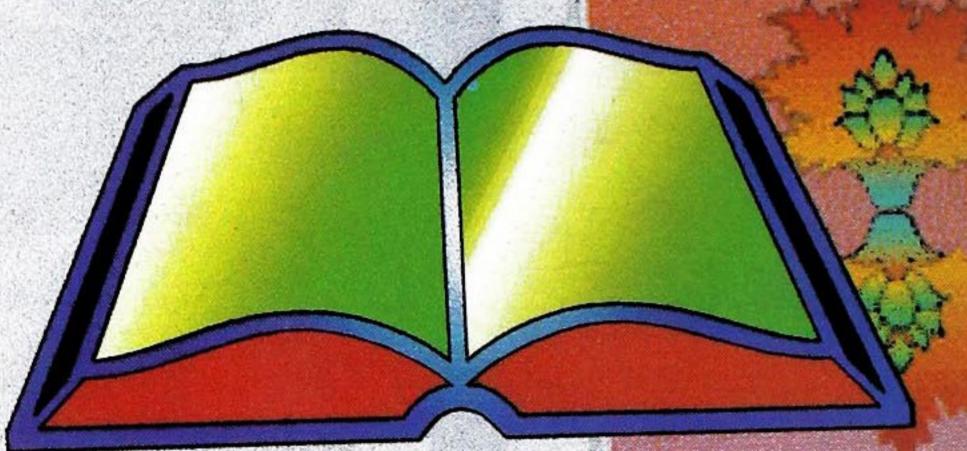
الإنجيل مو الذي قادني إلى الإسلام

# THE BUS LED ME TO



Abdul-Malik LeBlanc

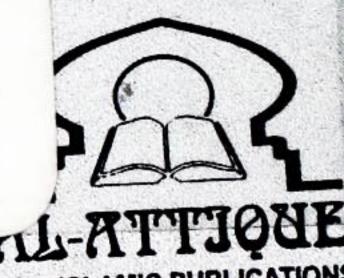
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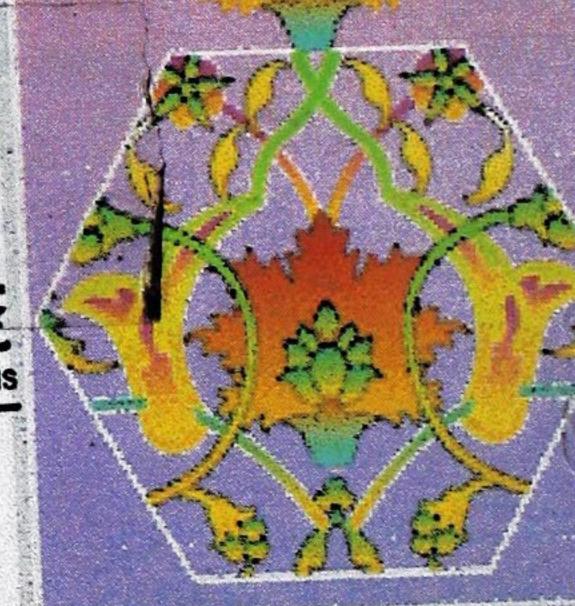
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## الإنجيل هو الذي فالدني إلى الإسلام

المالك عبد الملك) لبلاك

## The Bible Led Me to Išlam

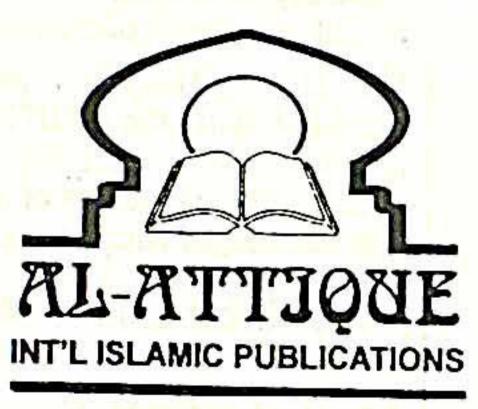
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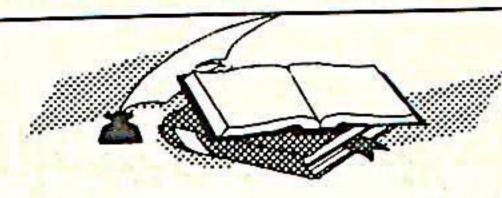
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#### DAR AL-HADYAN

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



Toronto Ont. Canada



## Publisher's Note

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. Most Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

All the cardinal doctrines of Christianity that are rejected by Islam and the controversy about the personality of Jesus Christ (may peace be upon him) is the major difference between Islam and Christianity. The trinity, the Divinity of Jesus, the Divine Sonship of Christ, Original Sin, and Atonement which these dogmas are the result of over-exhaling Jesus Christ above what Allah wants him to be.

The title: "The Bible led me to Islam" by brother M. J. LeBlanc, aims at presenting a true picture of these doctrines to a true truth-seeker. By reading this compiled research book corresponds to the conviction that the more scientific and biblical studies advance, the more the scholars and thinkers who are still within the fold of Christianity, will agree with Islam. This book should prove to be a very valuable asset to both Muslims and Christians, and will be an effective tool for Muslim propagators in our efforts to invite Christians to Islam, God Willing. Conversely, Christians should become more aware of what in fact the Bible says and what Jesus son of Mary (may peace be upon him) actually taught, as a result of studying this book.

We, Dar Al-Hadyan - as always its motto is to enlighten the insight of mankind with the LIGHT OF ALLAH and the light of the true FAITH, and we hope is that the Non-Muslim will accept the truth and bear witness to the Oneness of Allah and the Muhammad is His slave servant and Messenger (may peace and blessings be upon him).

Yours brother in Islam,

M. R. ATTIQUE 3 Publisher, Dar Al-Hadyan, Riyadh 22/05/1418 H - 23/09/1997 G.

#### RECENTED AND SERVING RECENTERS RECENTED AND SERVING RECENTED AND SERVING

I dedicate this book to my mother, father, brothers, sisters, daughter (Adrienne), x-wife and mother-in-law whom I hope will one day become Muslims. Also, I would like to share the success of this book with Ahmed Deedat, whom I had the pleasure of meeting in an angelic state, in 1996, when he was a patient at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

M.J. LeBlanc

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#### PREFACE

This effort is for all Christians who recognize their inner responsibility and yawning for guided worship of the One True God. Worship that is not based on social, secular or family norms, but because it is his/her birthright and duty to worship their (our) Creator.

This book is a compilation of excerpts from several books addressing Christianity that I had the pleasure of reading before and after I became a Muslim. After becoming a Muslim, I continued to read books about Christianity because the "skin" of Christianity was hard to cast off after 28 years in the religion; years that almost led me to becoming the minister of an African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) church in Great Falls, Montana.

I have attempted to select and arrange pertinent information from these resourceful books in a straight forward manner, so as to provide the kind of tailored and consolidated information I would have liked someone to give me during my Christian days. Nevertheless, the plan for me to

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embrace/revert back to Islam came as prescribed by Allah.

If there is any reservation I have concerning this book, it is to address Allah as God. At this stage in my life, I can not accept calling the All-Mighty Creator by a word/name that in its reserve order spells the word dog. But for the purpose of sharing this knowledge and attempting to see from the eyes and hearts of my Christian brothers and sisters, I have compromised my position. In that, if necessary, I seek Allah's forgiveness.

I encourage you to set aside your preconceived notions about Christianity and Islam, and have an open mind for what is presented. It is my hope (By Allah's Will) that this effort will open before you a spark of interest that enables you to continue to read beyond the Bible, and make an educated decision about the religion you wish to follow. A decision that is based on your choice and not the choice of your parents or the media. Once you have all the facts, you can then align yourself with the only purpose we were created, and that is to worship (Allah) God.

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#### PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

During my Christian days there were many verses in the Bible that made me question the religion I was following (Christianity). There was one particular verse, 1 Thessalonians 5:17 which says; "pray without ceasing," that lingered heavily in my mind. I often wondered how a person (Christian) was supposed to pray (be in a state of worship) without ceasing? Without any biblical or divine guidance, the only way I thought this to be possible was to always do good deeds and keep the remembrance of God on my tongue and in my heart. However, I found this to be impossible to do as a human being. But when I was introduced to Islam in 1987, and began to read and learn more about this way of life, I found that Islam provided divine guidance both from God (Allah) and Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) by which a person could pray (be in a state of worship) without ceasing, if it was the will of God.

Whether waking up, eating, sleeping, putting on clothes, being in the presence of a woman, looking at a woman, going shopping, going to the bathroom, looking in the mirror, traveling, visiting

the sick, sitting in a non-religious meeting, taking a bath, having sexual intercourse with one's wife, yawning, cutting your nails, sneezing, greeting people, talking, hosting guests at home, walking, exercising, fighting, entering my house, praying and many other acts, Islam and the guidance therein of the Quran, and the acts and sayings of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), provided ways in which I could observe 1 Thessalonians 5:17. In addition, it allowed me to be at peace with myself, and in submission to the One True God - Allah.

This divine guidance of Islam taught me greatly about my duties, responsibilities and birthright to my Creator (Allah), and more about the religion of Christianity. Hence, having read and learned more about Christianity as a Muslim, I (By the Will of Allah) felt it necessary to share with you how the Bible led me to Islam.

#### CHRISTIANITY

Given the fact that there has never been in the history of the Torah (Old Testament) the religion of God to be named after a Prophet (i.e., Adamanity, Abrahamity, Mosanity, etc.), I hope to explain that Jesus did not preach the religion of Christianity, but a religion that gives all Praise and Worship to The One God.

One of the questions I asked myself as I took an objective (second) look at Christianity was; where did the word Christianity come from and was the word ever mentioned by Jesus? Well, I did not find the word Christianity in the Bible, not even in a Bible dictionary. Specifically, I did not find in the Bible where Jesus called himself a Christian.

The word Christian was <u>first</u> mentioned by a pagan to describe those who followed Jesus. It is mentioned one of three times in the New Testament by a <u>pagan</u> and <u>Jews</u> in Antioch about 43 A.D., (Acts 11:26, Acts 26:28 and 1 Peter 4:16) long after Jesus had left this earth. To accept the words (vomit) of pagans as having any value or association with divinity, Jesus or God is contrary to the teachings of all prophets.

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Jesus prophesied that people will worship him uselessly and believe in doctrines made by men (Matthew 15:9):

"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

This verse, Matthew 15:9, is further supported by these words of the Quran, 5: 116 - 117:

"And behold! Allah will say: 'O Jesus, son of Mary, didst thou say unto men, 'Take me and my mother for two gods beside Allah?" He (Jesus) will say: "Glory to Thee! Never could I say what I had no right. Had I said such a thing Thou wouldst indeed have known it. Thou knowst what is in my heart, though I know not what is in Thine. For Thou knowest in full all that is hidden. Never said I to aught except what Thou didst command me to say, to wit, "Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord': And I was a witness over them whilst I dwelt amongst them; when Thou didst take me up Thou wast the Watcher over them, and Thou art a witness to all things."

وَإِذْ قَالَ اللّهُ يَا عِيْسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ عَأَنْتَ قُلْتَ لِلنَّاسِ اتَّخِذُونِي وَأُمِّيَ إِلَٰهَيْنِ مِنْ دُوْنِ اللّهِ قَالَ سُبْحَانَكَ مَا يَكُونُ لِي أَنْ أَقُولَ مَا لَيْسَ لِلْهَيْنِ مِنْ دُوْنِ اللّهِ قَالَ سُبْحَانَكَ مَا يَكُونُ لِي أَنْ أَقُولَ مَا لَيْسَ لِلهَ إِلاَّ مَا لِي بِحَقِّ إِنْ كُنْتُ قُلْتُهُ فَقَدْ عَلِمْتَهُ تَعْلَمُ مَا فِي نَفْسِي وَلاَ أَعْلَمُ مَا فَيْ نَفْسِي وَلاَ أَعْلَمُ مَا فَيْ نَفْسِي وَلاَ أَنْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ شَهِيداً مَا أَمْرْتَنِي بِهِ أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللّهَ رَبِّي وَرَبَّكُمْ وَكُنْتُ عَلَيْهِمْ شَهِيداً مَا كُنْتَ أَنْتَ الرَّقِيْبَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَنْتَ عَلَى كُنْ اللّهِ مَا لَيْسِ مُ فَلَمًا تَوَفَيْتَنِي كُنْتَ أَنْتَ الرَّقِيْبَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَنْتَ عَلَى لَا مُنْ مِنْ مِ شَهِيدٌ (١١٧) « المائدة »

I found that Biblical verses like John 5:30, John 12:49, John 14:28, Isaiah 42:8 and Acts 2:22 support the above-mentioned verses of the Quran.

Before leaving the subject of Christianity, which will be discussed throughout this book, I should mention one small point of observation. If Christians are Christ-like, why are they not greeting each other with the words; Peace Be With You (Salamu Alaikum), as Jesus did in Luke 24:36. As you may be aware, the greeting from one Muslim to another Muslim is Assalamu Alaikum; a Christ-like saying.

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#### VARIOUS HOLY BIBLES

It is worth mentioning that the Bible references cited may not be exactly as the Bible you are using. There are many Bibles on the market that are used by different Christian sects and all of these sects say that their book, though different, is the word of God. Such Bibles are: The Revised Standard Version 1952 & 1971, New American Standard Bible, The Holy Bible: New International Version, The Living Bible, New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures used by Jehovah Witnesses, Roman Catholic Version and the King James Version. A special note: I have not found in any of these Bibles where the "New Testament" calls itself the "New Testament," and nowhere does the "Old Testament" calls itself the "Old Testament." Also, the word "Bible" is unknown within the pages of the Bible.10

In addition to the many different Christian sects and Bibles, I have learned that there are also different men, not prophets, who founded these sects and are using various interpretations of the Bible and/or man-made doctrines as their creed. The table on page 78 titled, Origin of Major

Denominations in the United States, depicts modern Christianity as having a strong influence by men founders and their man-made doctrines.

I would like to share with you some thoughts that you may not have read or known about the Bible being the Word of God. Briefly, let me mention that on 8 September 1957, the Jehovah's Witnesses in their "Awake" magazine carried this startling headline - 50,000 ERRORS IN THE BIBLE. If you ask a Jehovah's Witness about this headline, it may be said that today most of those errors have been eliminated. How many have been eliminated, 5,000? 500? 50? Even if 50 remain, would one attribute those errors to God? 10

Let me pose another question: If a "holy" book contained conflicting verses, do you still consider it to be holy? Most likely you will say of course not. Let me share with you some conflicting verses both in the Old and New Testaments:

II Samuel 8:4 (vs) I Chronicles 18:4

II Kings 8:26 II Chronicles 22:2

II Samuel 6:23 II Samuel 21:8

Genesis 6:3 Genesis 9:29

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John 5:37 John 5:31 John 14:9 John 3:14

Only two contradictions of the New Testament have been mentioned, but others will be referenced when the Trinity, Divinity of Jesus Christ, Divine Sonship of Jesus, Original Sin and Atonement are reviewed.

How could the "inspired words" of God get the genealogy of Jesus incorrect (See Matthew 1:6-16 where it states 26 forefathers up to prophet David, and Luke 3:23-31 says 41 in number). Or for that matter, give a genealogy to Jesus who had no father? See II Kings 19:1-37, now read Isaiah 37:1-38. Why is it that the words of these verses are identical? Yet they have been attributed to two different authors, one unknown and the other is Isaiah, who are centuries apart; and yet, the Christians have claimed these books to been inspired by God. <sup>10</sup> So God Almighty forgot that He had dictated the passage before so He had to dictate it again, word for word?

I looked up the word Easter in the Nelson Bible dictionary and learned that the word "Easter" (as mentioned in Acts 12:4) is a mistranslation of

"pascha," the ordinary Greek word for "Passover." As you know, Passover is a Jewish celebration not a Christian holiday. I think human hands, all too human, had played havoc with the Bible. 10

From the brief points mentioned above, and the fact that Biblical scholars themselves have recognized the human nature and human composition of the bible (Curt Kuhl, The Old Testament: Its Origin and Composition, pp 47, 51, 52), there should exist in the Christian's mind some acceptance to the fact that maybe every word of the Bible is not God's Word.

As a side note to this subject, let me mention that some Christians believe that the Bible was dictated to Prophet Mohammed by a Christian monk, and that is why some of the biblical accounts are in the Quran. After some research, I found that this could not have happen because there were no Arabic Bibles in existence in the 6th century of the Christian era when Mohammed lived and preached. Therefore, no Arab, not even Prophet Mohammed who was absolutely unlettered and unlearned, would have had the opportunity to examine the written text of the Bible in his own language.

#### THE GOSPELS

If you read Luke 1:2 - 3, you will learn, as I did, that Luke (who was not one of the 12 disciples and never met Jesus) said that he himself was not an eyewitness, and the knowledge he gathered was from eyewitnesses, and not as words inspired by God.<sup>8</sup> Incidentally, why does every "Gospel" begin with the introduction ACCORDING TO. Why "according to?" The reason for this is because not a single one of the gospels carries its original author's autograph! Even the internal evidence of Matthew 9:9 proves that Matthew was not the author of the first Gospel which bears his name:

"And as Jesus passed forth thence, HE (Jesus) saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and HE (Jesus) saith unto HIM (Matthew), follow ME (Jesus). And HE (Matthew) arose, and followed HIM (Jesus)."

Without any stretch of the imagination, one can see that the HE's and the HIM's of the above narration do not refer to Jesus or Matthew as its author, but a

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third person writing what he saw or heard - a hearsay account 10 and not words inspired by God.

It is worth noting, and well known throughout the religious world, that the choice of the present four "gospels" of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) were imposed in the Council of Nicea 325 C.E. for political purposes under the auspices of the pagan Emperor Constantine, and not by Jesus.

Constantine's mind had not been enlightened either by study or by inspiration. He was a pagan, a tyrant and criminal who murdered his son, his wife and thousands of innocent individuals because of his lust for political power. Constantine ratified other decisions in the Nicene creed such as the decision to call Christ "the Son of God, only begotten of the Father."<sup>13</sup>

Literally, hundreds of gospels and religious writings were hidden from the people. Some of those writings were written by Jesus' disciples, and many of them were eye-witness accounts of Jesus' actions. The Nicea Council decided to destroy all gospels written in Hebrew which resulted in the burning of nearly three hundred accounts. If these writings were not more authentic than the four

present gospels, they were of equal authenticity. Some of them are still available such as the Gospel of Barnabas and the Shepherd of Hermas which agree with the Quran. The Gospel of Barnabas, until now, is the only eyewitness account of the life and mission of Jesus. Even today, the whole of the Protestant world, Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventists and other sects and denominations condemn the Roman Catholic version of the Bible because it contains seven "extra" books. The Protestants have bravely expunged seven whole books from their Word of God. A few of the outcasts are the Books of Judith, Tobias, Baruch and Esther. Documents of the Books of Judith, Tobias, Baruch and Esther.

Concerning Jesus' teachings of the Gospel (Injeel), the Gospel writers frequently mentioned Jesus preaching the Gospel: Matthew 9:35, Mark 8:35 and Luke 20:1. The word "gospel" is recurrently used in the Bible. However, in the New Testament Greek edition the word evangelion is used in place of the word gospel, which is translated to mean good news. My question was: What Gospel did Jesus preach? Of the 27 books of the New Testament, only a small fraction can be accepted as the words of Jesus, and only 4 of the

27 books are known to be attributed as the Gospel of Jesus. The remaining 23 were supposedly written by Paul. Muslims do believe that Jesus was given God's "Good News." However, they do not recognize the present four Gospels as the utterances of Jesus.<sup>14</sup>

The earliest Gospel is that of Mark's which was written about 60-75 A.D. Mark was the son of Barnabas's sister. Matthew was a tax collector, a minor official who did not travel around with Jesus. Luke's Gospel was written much later, and in fact, drawn from the same sources as Mark's and Matthew's. Luke was Paul's physician, and like Paul, never met Jesus. By the way, did you know that the names Mark and Luke were not included in the 12 appointed disciples of Jesus as mentioned in Matthew 10:2-4?

Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called <u>Peter</u>, and <u>Andrew</u> his brother; <u>James</u> the son of Zebedee, and <u>John</u> his brother; <u>Philip</u>, and <u>Bartholomew</u>; <u>Thomas</u>, and <u>Matthew</u> the publican; <u>James</u> the son of Alphaeus, and <u>Lebbaeus</u>, whose surname was Thaddaeus; <u>Simon</u> the Canaanite, and <u>Judas</u> Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

John's Gospel is from a different source, and was written in about 100 A.D.<sup>7</sup> He (John) should not be confused with John, the disciple, who was beheaded by Agrippa I in the year 44 CE long before this gospel was written. It should be known that for two centuries it was hotly debated whether the Gospel of John should be accepted as a reliable account of the life of Jesus, and whether it should be included in the scriptures.<sup>7</sup>

Christians, as I once did, boast about the Gospels According to Matthew, According to Mark, According to Luke and According to John. However, if we think about it, there is not a single Gospel according to Jesus himself.<sup>10</sup> According to the preface of the KJV New Open Bible Study Edition, the word "Gospel" was added (see below) to the original titles, "According to John, According to Matthew, According to Luke and According to Mark."

At an early date this gospel was given the title Kata Matthaion, "According to Matthew." As this title suggests, other gospel accounts were known at that time (the word gospel was added later).

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The permission to call the "According to \_\_\_\_\_"
writings the Gospel was not given by Jesus nor by
any other divine guidance. These writings;
Matthew, Luke, Mark and John, were never
originally intended to be the Gospel. Therefore,
Mark 1:1 can not be a true statement that his
writing is the gospel of Jesus.

It should be mentioned that Muslims must believe in <u>all</u> Divine Scriptures in their original form, their Prophets and making no distinction between them: The Suhuf (Abraham); Torah (Moses); Psalms (David); Gospel - or the Injeel (Jesus); and, the Quran (Mohammed). It is clearly stated in the *Quran 3:3* that Allah sent down the Torah and the Gospel. However, none of these scriptures remains in its original form now, except the Quran, which was sent for all mankind everywhere and for all times.

In addition to other reasons why the Quran was sent to mankind, as mentioned in 18:4-5, it was sent to warn the Christians of a terrible punishment from God if they cease not in saying:

#### "Allah hath begotten a son."

وَيُنْذِرَ الَّذِيْنَ قَالُوا اتَّخَذَ اللَّهُ وَلَداً (٤) مَّالَهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمِ وَلَا لِآبَائِهِمْ كِبُرَتْ كَلِمَةً تَخْرُجُ مِنْ أَفْوَاهِهِمْ إِن يَقُولُونَ إِلَّا كِذِبًا (٥) « الكهف »

Muslims sincerely believe that everything Jesus (May the peace and blessing of God be upon him) preached was from God; the Gospel (Injeel): The "good news" and the guidance of God for the Children of Israel.<sup>10</sup> There is no place mentioned in the present four Gospels that Jesus wrote a single word of his Gospel, nor is it mentioned that Jesus instructed anyone to do so. What passes off as the "Gospels" today are the works of third party human hands. <sup>10</sup>

The Quran 2:79 says:

"And woe to those who write the book with their own hands and then say: "This is from Allah (God)." To traffic with it for a miserable price! So woe to them for what their hands do write, and woe to them for what they earn thereby!"

فَوَيْلٌ لِّلَّذِينَ يَكْتُبُونَ الْكِتَابَ بِأَيْدِيهِمْ ثُبُمَّ يَقُولُونَ هَٰذَا مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ لِيَشْتَرُوا بِهِ ثَمَناً قَلِيلاً فَوَيْلُ لَّهُمْ مِمَّا كَتَبَتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَوَيْلٌ لَّهُمْ مِمَّا يَكْسِبُونَ (٧٩) « البقرة »

#### GOSPEL - THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL

Many Christians believe that Jesus' message was for all people. When approached by a Canaanite woman who asked Jesus to heal her daughter, he at first refused, stating (Matthew 15:24):

"I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel..."

Also Matthew 1:21:

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins."

Jesus also instructed the 12 disciples to go preach repentance to the lost sheep of the house of Israel and not to the Gentiles or the Samaritans (Matthew 10:5-6). It is clear that Jesus and the 12 disciples were sent for the people of Israel and not to the world. So John 3:16; "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but

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have eternal life," should not make reference to "whoever" but to the children of Israel.

Another noteworthy saying of Jesus is Matthew 5:17-18:

"Think not that I come to destroy the law (Torah) or the prophets: (Adam, Abraham, Moses, Noah, David, etc.), I come not to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily, I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one title shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

In Matthew 8:4, Jesus instructed the cured leper to "go to the Priest" and offer that which was prescribed by Moses. Some Christian sects go against this verse and claim that the Old Testament is obsolete and has been replaced by the New Testament. As you may understand, Jesus did not do away with the Old Testament and its teachings. So why should some Christians?

Read Romans 13:8&9:

(Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou

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shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself).<sup>3</sup>

Paul has excused Christians from their obligation to worship God with all faculties of their body by basically saying, all that a person has to do to fulfill the Law (Torah/Old Testament) is to love one another as thyself. Jesus did not exclude our first and foremost obligation (which is one of the greatest commandments) to worship only One God; and secondly, to love our neighbor (Mark 12:29-31).

After reading Galatians 5:2; "Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing," I learned that Paul abolished circumcision which is included in the law (Torah). As a matter of fact, Jesus and John the Baptist were both circumcised. This abolishment of Paul's is a contradiction to Jesus' and Abraham's teachings. For all Muslims and Christians are from the seed of Abraham, and circumcision is an obligatory act. In fact, Abraham

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was neither a Jew or a Christian, and his religion, which should be followed, is the worship of no god but the One True God.

With Matthew 5:17-18 in mind, let me identify another inconsistency in the New Testament. In Mark 16:15 it is mentioned that Jesus said:

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

This contradicts Matthew 1:21, 10:5-6, 15:24, and 28:19. Depending upon which Bible you are using, Matthew 28:19 could read "all nations" or as "all the nations," which should mean the twelve tribes of Israel as Jesus said in Matthew 15:24.

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#### TRINITY

The Trinity, which I came to know, is not biblical. The word trinity is not even in the Bible, nor the Bible dictionaries. The trinity was never taught by Jesus and was never specifically

mentioned by Jesus.8

The formulation of the trinity was presented by Athenasius, an Egyptian deacon from Alexandria, and was also accepted by the Council of Nicea more than three centuries after Jesus had departed the earth.8 Other such man-made decisions of the Council contributed to the declaration of the Roman Sunday as the Christian Sabbath 13 and the establishment of December 25 as Jesus' birthday. This was done in order to have a celebration that occurred on the same day as the birthdays of pagan gods such as Nimrod (Babylon god), Krishna (Hindus god), Mithra (Greek/Roman god), and Dionysius (or Bacchus of Greece) who is named the only begotten son of Jupiter and was born of a virgin mother named Demeter on December 25th. Clearly, the Bible predicted and forbade the decoration of (Christmas) trees in Jeremiah 10:2-

Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.<sup>3</sup>

Furthermore, if you research the season that Jesus was born, you will find out that he was not born in the winter, but in the autumn when the dates are fresh from the tree.

Verses like Matthew 28:19, John 14:11 and 1 John 5:7 & 8 may be used by Christians to confirm the Trinity. The Trinitarian dogma was merely deduced from 1 John 5:7 which states:

"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."

This verse has long been exposed as spurious, an unauthorized addition to the Greek text of the New Testament. Christian scholars of the Bible later

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found that this dogma was an interpolation in the King James version. In fact, no less than a group of 32 Christian scholars of highest eminence, advised by a board of 50 representatives of various denominations came up in 1949 with a revised standard version of the New Testament, and of the whole Bible in 1952, discarding the foregoing passage.13

The New Testament refers many times to Jesus as God's servant (see Matthew. 12:18 for

example). Now read Acts 2:22:

"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know."

How then could Jesus be God's servant and God at the same time? Read John 17:21 (That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.), and you will deduce that if God, Jesus and the Holy Ghost form one unity of the Trinity, then with the disciples included they should form a God unity of fifteen (15).8 But according to John 14:9, Jesus is God;

"...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

Now let's read John 4:24: "God is a Spirit..." and John 5:37: "...ye have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His shape." And 1 Timothy 6:16: "...whom no man hath seen nor can see...."

As indicated in Exodus 33:20, human sight cannot bear to look upon the glory of God and live, so how can human flesh bear to have this Glory wrapped up in it?<sup>14</sup> What the disciples saw was Jesus, the Prophet, and not God. John 5:37:

"...ye have neither heard His (God) voice at any time, nor seen His shape," also contradicts Matthew 3:17 in which it is said that God was heard saying "this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

It is unclear to determine whether it is the holy ghost, holy spirit, spirit of truth, spirit of God

or spirit in general that supposedly make up the "trinity." For the Nelson Bible dictionary indicates that the Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit are the same, which is a contradiction to the belief of some Christian sects. However, there are various verses in the bible that depicts different actions of the various spirits:

Verses	Spirits
And the angel answered and said unto her, the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee. Luke 1:35	Holy Ghost - Performing miracles by God's command
Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelth in you? 1	Spirit of God - Dwelling within a person
Even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive John 14:17	Spirit of Truth - Whom the world cannot receive
Give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him. Luke 11:13	Holy Spirit - Given to those that ask. Dwelling within
But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of	Comforter (Holy Ghost) - To come after Jesus left the earth.
Truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me. John 15:26	Spirit of Truth - That which comes from the Father.
In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom	Holy Spirit - The spirit that was promised.

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also after that ye believed ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. Ephasians 1:13	
Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.  John 3:5	Spirit (In general) - Could be interrupted as anyone of the above-mentioned spirits/ghost.
And the Angel Gabriel was sent from God unto Luke 1:26	Angel Gabriel - (Specifically mentioned)

At this point let me mention what the Quran (5:73) says about the Trinity:

"They disbelieve who say: Allah is one of three (In a Trinity) for there is no god except One God. If they desist not from their word (of blasphemy), verily a grievous chastisement will befall the disbelievers among them."

لَقَدْ كَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُـوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ ثَالِثُ ثَلَاثَةٍ وَمَا مِنْ إِلَٰهِ إِلَّا إِلَٰهُ وَاحِدٌ وَإِن لَيْمَسَّنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْهُمْ وَاحِدٌ وَإِن لَمْ يَنْتَهُوا عَمَّا يَقُولُونَ لَيَمَسَّنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ (٧٣) « المائدة »

Is this not what is mentioned in the law (Torah/Old Testament) of Moses within the meaning of the first

commandment - The Oneness of God, which Jesus came not to destroy but to fulfill, as conveyed strongly in John 5:46-47:

"For had you believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if you believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?"

Moses spoke of no Trinity, neither did Jesus! So why should Christians?

#### JESUS AS GOD

It is common knowledge that the divinity of Jesus was introduced by Paul, who never met Jesus or his followers, and was established on the dead bodies of millions of Christians through history which evoked Castillo's well-known remark "To burn a man is not to prove a doctrine." As the doctrine of the divinity of Jesus Christ is presented, keep in mind these two very important verses:

(Matthew 5:17 & 18): "Think not that I come to destroy the law or the prophets, I come not to destroy but to fulfill..."

Is Jesus God? Some Christians would say; yes, and use John 1:1; In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, as their support. But remember, as stated earlier in John 5:37, no man has seen or heard God. So using John 1:1 in support that Jesus is God would mean that there are at least two Gods (God and Jesus). Let me point out other disagreements to John 1:1 from Deuteronomy 4:39, Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaac 43:10-11, Isaac

44:6 and Isaac 45:18. For Isaac 43:10-11 states that there is no savior but God, and Isaac 45:18 concludes that God alone was the Creator and no one else, not even Jesus, participated in the creation. Other verses that support the oneness of God, as do the entire Quran, can be found in Deuteronomy 4:35, Exodus 8:10, II Samuel 7:22, I Kings 8:23, I Chronicles 17:20, Psalms 86:8, 89:6 and 113:5, Hosea 13:4 and Zachariah 14:9.

In the New Testament, Jesus specifically said he came not to destroy the law, and he confirms that in relationship to the oneness of God in Mark 12:29:

"And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord."

And 1 Corinthians 8:4:

"...none other God but one."

Now, is John 1:1 right and are all these other verses wrong, or the reverse? It is plain to see that Jesus was still trying to teach (the Children of

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Israel) the first commandment of the Old Testament (Mark 12:29-30, Exodus 20:2-5) and that repentance of sins was necessary for the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 4:17 & Mark 1:15). Lastly, Matthew 19:16-17, also conveys the Oneness of God and gives the guidance based on the commandments of the Old Testament for entering into eternal life:

"And behold one came and said to him (Jesus), Good teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life? So he said to him, Why do you call me good? - No one is good but One, this is, God. But if you want to enter into eternal life, keep the commandments."

Another way to further clarify John 1:1 is to introduce to you what the Quran says about Jesus and the Word. In Chapter 3:45:

Behold! the angels said: "O Mary! Allah giveth thee glad tidings of <u>a Word</u> from Him: his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held in honor in this world and the Hereafter, and of (the company of) those nearest to Allah."

إِذْ قَالَتِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ يَامَرْيَمُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُبَشِّرُكِ بِكَلِمَةٍ مِّنْهُ اسْمُهُ اللَّهِ اللَّهُ يُبَشِّرُكِ بِكَلِمَةٍ مِّنْهُ اسْمُهُ الْمُسِيخُ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ وَجِيهًا فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَمِنَ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ (٤٥) و آل عمران ،

This verse and verse 3:39 of the Quran pronounce Jesus as a word from Allah as do 1 Corinthians 3:32:

"And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's."

Maybe John 1:1 should have been written as "...and the Word was God's." There are other verses of the Bible that support that the Word was God's: John 5:30-31, John 8:40, John 12:49, and John 17:3.

It is clear that Jesus never claimed divinity to God:

"I do nothing of myself," (John 8:28); "My Father is greater that I," (John 14:28); "The Lord our God is one Lord," (Mark 12:29); "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

(Mark 15:34); and, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit," (Luke 23:46).8

Further, Luke 4:1-13 tell us that Jesus was tempted by Satan for forty days. In James 1:13, it says:

# "...for God cannot be tempted with evil..."

Finally, the New Testament refer many times to Jesus as "God's servant" (see Matthew 12:18 for example). How then could Jesus be God's servant and God at the same time?<sup>14</sup>

Before closing this subject, let me present one more thought. In Luke 5:16, when Jesus withdrew himself into the wilderness to pray, who did he pray to? Himself or God? Read Luke 11:2-4:

And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And

lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Is there anywhere in this prayer that Jesus said to say, "in Jesus name" when you pray? For this prayer was the answer to the question; how should we pray? Everything a God fearing person could ever need or ask of God is in this prayer. Most importantly, the forgiveness of our trespasses (sins). This prayer supports the good news of Jesus that sins are forgiven by God only if a person repents and stop their wrong doings. This message was the beginning of Jesus' ministry as stated in Matthew 4:17:

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Jesus prophesied that people will worship him uselessly and will believe in doctrines not made by God but by men (Matthew 15:9):

"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandment of men."

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This verse is speaking of the Christians. For there is no other religion that worships Jesus except Christianity.

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#### JESUS AS THE SON OF GOD

Is Jesus the Son of God? Matthew 3:17, which was shown earlier, as a contradiction concerning hearing God's voice could be used by some Christians to support the divine sonship of Jesus. If Matthew 3:17; "And lo a voice for heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased," is used to support divine sonship, then there should be no other verse that contradicts or gives equal divine sonship to another person or persons in the Old or New Testament. However, many references were found in the Old and New Testaments that mentioned someone other than Jesus as having a divine sonship to God. See Exodus 4:22:

"Israel is my son, even my firstborn." II Samuel 7:14/I Chronicles 22:10: "...and he shall be my son [Solomon]." Jeremiah 31:9: "...and Ephraim is my firstborn." Also, Psalm 2:7.

The word "Son" must not be accepted literally because God addresses many of his chosen servants as son and sons. The Jews have also

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Claimed Ezra to be the Son of God. The New Testament Greek words used for "son" (pias and paida, which mean servant, or son in the sense of servant) are translated as son in reference to Jesus and as servant in reference to others in some translations of the Bible. Further, the term "Father" as used by Jesus corresponds more closely to the term Rabb, i.e., one who nourishes and sustains, so that in Jesus' doctrine God is "Father" - Nourisher and Sustainer - of all men. The New Testament also interprets "son of God" to be allegorical: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Romans 8:14). This allegorical suggestion is further supported with Jesus being called the only begotten Son of God.

In Psalm 2:7, the Lord said to David:

"...Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee."

Does this mean that God had two sons? Jesus also said that God is not only his Father but also your Father (Matthew 5:45,48). Luke 3:38 says:

"...Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the Son of God."

Who is mentioned in Hebrews 7:3 as like unto the Son of God? It is Melchisedec, King of Salem, as mentioned in Hebrews 7:1. He [Melchisedec] is more unique than Jesus or Adam. Why is he not preferred to be the Son of God? Moreover, Adam did not have a mother or father, but was the first human being created by God and in the likeness of God to exist in the Garden of Eden and on earth. Wouldn't this give more rights to Adam to be called the son of God in its truest meaning?

I would like to share with you an obvious contradiction between John 3:16, Luke 10:25-28 and Matthew 19:16-17. John 3:16 reads:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Now let's read Luke 10:25-28:

And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to

inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

These verses tell us that the inheritance of eternal life is for anyone who believes and worships no other God, but the One True God. Luke 10:25-28 agrees with Matthew 19:16-17 which says;

"And behold, one came and said to him (Jesus), Good teacher, what good things shall I do that I may have eternal life? So he (Jesus) said to him, 'Why do you call me good? - No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into eternal life, keep the commandments."

There is no commandment that says to worship Jesus, but there is one that tells us to worship God alone.

In Luke 4:41, Jesus refused to be called the Son of God by demons. Do you think that Jesus would rebuke the demons, or anyone else for that matter, for telling the truth? Unquestionably, no! Jesus rebuked the demons because they were saying something false by calling him the Son of God. Also, if the demons knew that Jesus was the Christ, for Jesus to shut them up because they called him the Christ is a contradiction to Jesus' mission.

In Luke 9:20 & 21, Jesus said unto his disciples:

"But who say ye that I am? Peter answered saying, "The Christ of God, and Jesus straightly charged them and commanded them to tell no man that thing."

Furthermore, verses like John 3:2, John 6:14, John 7:40, Matthew 21:11, Luke 7:16 and 24:19 confirm that Jesus accepted the title of teacher, prophet and called himself the son of man in Matthew 8:20, 12:40, 17:9 & 12, 26:24, Luke 9:26, 22:48, 22:69, and 24:7. The most conclusive verse that says Jesus is the son (servant) of man is

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Mark 14:62 where Jesus is mentioning the Day of Reckoning. Jesus specifically said we would see the son of man, not the son of God, sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

The act of begetting is a physical act and such act is against God's nature. The Quran 19:35 says:

"It is not befitting to [the majesty of] Allah that He should beget a son. Glory be to Him! When He determines a matter He only says to it "Be," and it is."

مَا كَانَ لِلّٰهِ أَن يَتَّخِذَ مِن وَلَدٍ سُبْحَانَهُ إِذَا قَضَىٰ أَمْرًا فَإِنَّمَا يَقُولُ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ (٣٥) « مريم »

The teachings of Jesus as the Son of God was not preached by Jesus nor accepted by Jesus, but was taught by Paul as supported in Acts 9:20:

"And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God."

Did Jesus ever claim to be God or say, "Here am I, your God, worship me? The answer is no. For there is no single, unequivocal statement in the Bible whereby Jesus himself declares, "I am God, therefore worship me." Virtually all of the more than two thousand verses of the epistles of Paul are his own fabrications to include Romans 9:5 that says, depending upon which Bible you read:

"... Christ came, who is overall, the eternally blessed God."13

Christians should know that Paul himself mentions his own gospel, not Jesus', in his epistle to the Romans when he says in Romans 2:16:

"In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel."

In fact, the Pauline epistle to the Romans serves as the foundation of today's Christianity.<sup>13</sup> Thus, it is the Christians whose efforts will be wasted in this life as they think they were acquiring good by their works when they attribute partners to God, as stated in Chapter 18:103-106 of the Quran:

"Say: Shall we tell you of those who lost most in respect of their deeds? Those whose efforts have been wasted in this life, while they thought that they were acquiring good by their works?" They are those who deny the Signs of their Lord and the fact of their having to meet Him (in the Hereafter): vain will be their works, nor shall We, on the Day of Judgment, give them any weight. That is their reward, Hell; because they rejected Faith, and took My Signs and My Messengers by way of jest.

قُلْ هَلْ نُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِالْأَخْسَرِينَ أَعْمَالاً (١٠٣) الَّذِينَ ضَلَّ سَعْيُهُمْ فِي الْحُيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَهُمْ يَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّهُمْ يُحْسِنُونَ صُنْعًا (١٠٤) أُولِئِكَ الْحُيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَهُمْ يَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّهُمْ يُحْسِنُونَ صُنْعًا (١٠٤) أُولِئِكَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ وَلِقَائِهِ فَحَبِطَتْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ فَلَا نُقِيمُ لَهُمْ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ وَلِقَائِهِ فَحَبِطَتْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ فَلَا نُقِيمُ لَهُمْ اللَّهِمْ وَلِقَائِهِ مَحْرَاؤُهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ بِمَا كَفَرُوا وَاتَّخَذُوا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَزْناً (١٠٠) ذَلِكَ جَزَاؤُهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ بِمَا كَفَرُوا وَاتَّخَذُوا آيَاتِي وَرُسُلِي هُزُوا (١٠٠) « الكهف »

Indeed, it is so strange and ironic, knowing that none of Paul's epistle to the Romans, more than 430 verses, were ever formulated by Jesus. Paul should have made direct reference to the

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pristine teachings of Jesus, if only the former claim for apostleship by divine inspiration was indeed true. Instead, large parts of his epistles' biblical quotations (notably those in the Epistle to the Romans) were taken from the Old Testament - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Hosea. His epistles were, indeed, a product of tedious efforts, but that does not make Paul far better than any of the other men who authored the Bible, nor does it make him a prophet.<sup>13</sup>

Other practices that were adopted under Paul included the following: the Roman Sun-day as the Christian Sabbath; the traditional birthday of the Sun-god as the birthday of Jesus; the emblem of the Sun-god (the cross of light) to be the emblem of Christians; and, the incorporation of all the ceremonies which were performed at the Sun-god's birthday celebrations.<sup>7</sup>

As I come to a close concerning the position of Christ, I would like to ask my Christian reader bow down and pray earnestly to God and ask Him to invoke His curse on you, your wife, your sons, and your daughters if what you believe about Christ (Christ is God, Son of God or part of a trinity of

God) are false. Likewise, I have learned that if you asked a Muslim to earnestly pray to God to invoke His curse on him, his wife, his sons, and his daughters if what he is saying about Christ (Prophet, Messenger of God, A Word from God) are false, the Muslim will not hesitate to bow down and pray. Muslims are firm in their faith knowing that Christ is not God, nor the Son of God and not part of a trinity of God. This exercise of asking God to invoke His curse on you and your family may sound a bit cruel, but it would prove two points: (1) you would know that you are on the wrong path; and, (2) it would put you on the right path.

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### THE CRUCIFIXION AND ATONEMENT

A very significant event in the Christian doctrine is the crucifixion of Jesus. Before talking about the many controversies surrounding the crucifixion, it should be mentioned that it was a gospel of Paul's which professed the crucifixion/resurrection of Jesus (II Timothy 2:8):

"Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel."8

In addition, the gospel of the resurrection in Mark 16:9-20 was already removed from the text by gospel writers in the 1952 edition of the Revised Standard Version and then, for some reasons, restored in the 1971 edition. In many Bibles, if not removed, it is printed in small print or between two brackets and with commentary (See the Revised Standard Version, New American Bible and New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures).8

The traditional biblical account of Jesus' crucifixion is that he was arrested and crucified by the orders and plans of the chief priest and Jewish

elders. This account was denied in the 1960's by the highest Catholic Christian authority, the Pope. He issued a statement in which he said the Jews had nothing to do with Jesus' crucifixion.<sup>5</sup>

Did any one of the disciples or the writers of the Gospel see the crucifixion or the resurrection? No! In Mark 14:50, it says the disciples forsook Jesus and fled. Even Peter forsook Jesus after the cock crowed three times as Jesus foretold:

(Matthew 26:75) And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

The most likely persons whom may have witnessed this moment in Jesus' life were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, the mother of Zebedee's children, and other women (Matthew 27:55-56). However, there is no statement or account in the Gospels from these women as to what they saw or heard.

The disciple(s) found the sepulchre where Jesus was laid down, empty, and made the conclusion that he was resurrected because the

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disciples and other witnesses saw him alive after the alleged crucifixion. Nobody saw the moment he was resurrected. Jesus himself stated that he did not die on the cross in Luke 24:36-41, as explained in the following paragraphs.

Early Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene went to the sepulchre, which was empty. She saw somebody standing who looked like a gardener. She recognized him after a conversation to be Jesus and wanted to touch him. Jesus said (John 20:17):

"Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father..."

Now read Luke 24:36-41:

"And as they [disciples] thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are you troubled? And why so thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he

had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of boiled fish and of a honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them."

Does a spiritual or dead body have a need to eat food? Jesus eating of food was to prove to the disciples that he was not a spirit, but rather, he was still alive and not dead.

Jesus being alive and not dead is further supported in his own prophecy (Matthew 12:40):

"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

Did Jesus fulfill this miracle? Christians would say "yes," because Jesus died and rose three days later according to Luke 24:26 and Matthew 20:19, to name a few verses. However, in line with the miracle of Jonas and according to the Bible, Jesus only spent one day and two nights<sup>12</sup> in the

sepulchre, and not three days and three nights as he prophesied.

Jesus was put in the sepulchre just before sunset on Friday (Good Friday) and was found missing before sunrise on Sunday (Easter). If we were to s-t-r-e-t-c-h the time frame a bit, one may say that Jesus spent three days in the earth, but there is no way and I repeat, no way, that Jesus spent three nights in the earth. We must not forget that the Gospels are explicit in telling us that it was "before sunrise" on Sunday morning that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty.<sup>12</sup>

Consequently, there are some inconsistencies as to whether Jesus fulfilled his own prophecy. Whether he was actually crucified, or if the day (Good Friday) of his alleged crucifixion is wrong. Another significant point to mention is that Jonas was alive in the belly of the whale. The Christians say, Jesus was dead in the belly of the earth/tomb, and this contradict Jesus' own prophecy. Jesus said (Luke 11:30):

"As Jonah was... so shall the Son of man be."

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If Jonas was alive, so was Jesus.

One critical event that took place before the alleged crucifixion was the prayer of Jesus to God for help. Luke 22:42:

"Saying, Father if thou be willing, remove this cup (of death) from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine be done."

Jesus' prayer not to die on the cross was accepted by God according to Luke 22:43 and Hebrews 5:7.8 Therefore, if all of Jesus' prayers were accepted by God, including not to die on the cross, how could he have died on the cross?

In Matthew 27:46, it states that while Jesus was on the cross he said:

"Eli, Eli, lama sabachtani (My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?).

If Jesus said these words, it represents a blatant declaration of disbelief according to all theological authorities. This is a great insult as such words could only come from an unbeliever in God. Further, it is incredible that such words should

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come from a Prophet of God, because God never breaks His promise and His Prophets never complained against His promise, especially when the Prophet's mission is understood. It could be said that whoever relates that this statement was said by a Prophet [Jesus], is a disbeliever.

Muslims believe, as the Quran states, Jesus was not crucified. It was the intention of his enemies to put him to death on the cross, but Allah saved him from their plot. 13 Quran 4:157:

"That they [Jews] said boasting, "We killed Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah," but they [Jews] killed him not, nor crucified him..."

وَقَوْلِهِمْ إِنَّا قَتَلْنَا الْمَسِيحَ عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولَ اللهِ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ وَمَا صَلَبُوهُ وَلَكِن شُبُّهُ لَهُمْ وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ لَفِي شَكَّ مِّنْهُ مَا صَلَبُوهُ وَلَكِن شُبُّهُ لَهُمْ وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ لَفِي شَكَّ مِّنْهُ مَا لَهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِلَّا اتِّبَاعَ الظَّنِّ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ يَقِينًا (١٥٧) « النساء » لَهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِلَّا اتِّبَاعَ الظَّنِّ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ يَقِينًا (١٥٧) « النساء »

## THE RESURRECTION

Before discussing the resurrection, it should be mentioned that the holiday of Easter, the supposedly day of Jesus' resurrection was originally a pagan festival honoring Eostre, a Teutonic (Germanic) goddess of light and spring. At the time of the vernal equinox (the day in the spring when the sun crosses the equator and day and night are of equal length), sacrifices were offered in her honor. As early as the eighth century, the name "Easter" was used to designate the annual celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Again, the Christians have taking the ignorance of paganism and associated it with Jesus.

So where do Christians get the belief of the resurrection from? They got it from the teachings of Paul (Acts 17:18). Paul, who said he was an appointed apostle by Jesus according to his own vision. He never saw Jesus, declared Jesus as the Son of God (Acts 9:20), and admitted that the resurrection was his gospel (II Timothy 2:8). So Christianity in its present belief that the crucifixion/resurrection is necessary for the redemption of sin is not a teaching of Jesus.8 The

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sins of people were being forgiven before the alleged crucifixion or resurrection as shown in Mark 2:5:

And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven," and Luke 7:48: And he said unto her, "Thy sins are forgiven."

Further, knowing that Jesus forgave sins before the crucifixion or resurrection contradicts the belief that the blood of Jesus as washing away sins. For according to **Deuteronomy 24:16:** 

"The father shall not be put to death for the children, nor shall the children be put to death for the fathers; every man shall be put to death for his own sins."

This belief of the present day Christians is of Paul's. Paul justified his doctrine with the use of Romans 7:1-4:

Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law) how that the

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law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath a husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then; if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but, if her husband be dead, she is free from the law, so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

The above-mentioned verses clearly show that Paul made a distinction between Jesus and Christ. According to his reasoning, the law which had bound Jesus and his followers was no longer necessary since Jesus had died. Now they were no longer "married" to Jesus but to Christ, who had brought another law in a direct revelation to him

(Paul). It was, therefore, necessary to follow Christ and not Jesus. Thus, anyone who held to Jesus' teaching had gone astray. It was the use of this reasoning that Paul assembled his doctrine of redemption and atonement. A theory which Jesus had certainly never taught. It was a great success, since, in so many words, it preached that a man could do what he wanted and not face the inevitable consequences of his actions, provided that, at the end of the day, he said: "I believe in Christ." However, the basic premise on which Paul's reasoning was based is false, since Jesus was neither crucified nor resurrected. His doctrines of redemption and atonement are fallacious."

Do you know that the doctrine of atonement was accepted by the church three to four centuries after Jesus left the earth? Read Deuteronomy 24:16, Jeremiah 31:30 and Ezekiel 18:20 and you will see that this doctrine of atonement contradicts the Bible. Now read Matthew 7:1 & 2, and 1 Corinthians 3:8. There is no reason for atonement of "original sin" for Matthew 19:14 clearly states that everybody (as children) are born without sin and belong to the kingdom of Heaven. This notion

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of "belonging to the kingdom of Heaven" is in line with the Islamic belief that:

"Every newborn child is born in complete submission to Allah (as a Muslim). Then his parents change him/her into Judaism, Christianity or Magianism."

Further, Jesus states in Mark 11:25-26 and Luke 11:1-4 that trespasses (sins) are forgiven by God. So, there is no reason for Jesus' atonement of sins.

#### Mark 11:25-26

"And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."

#### Luke 11:1-4

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. And he said unto them, "When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil."

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Once again, Jesus came not to destroy the law. It was Paul who abolished the [Mosaic] law. Read Acts 13:39:

"And by him that believes are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."

The "authority" that Paul amassed allowed him to claim that the blessings of the Gospel were not limited to the Jews, but to all who believed. This also is an absolute contradiction to the mission, purpose and teachings of Jesus. Jesus' true message was the law. The same law that guided Adam, Abraham, Moses, Noah and all the other prophets, to include the prophet of Islam - Mohammed, who is prophesied in the Bible as mentioned in the Quran.

## MOHAMMED IN THE BIBLE

The prophecies of Prophet Mohammed (Peace Be Upon Him) can be found in the Old and New Testaments as mentioned in the Holy Quran (7:157):

"Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered Prophet, whom they find mentioned in their own (Scriptures), in the Law and the Gospel; for he commands them what is just and forbids them what is evil; he allows them as lawful what is good and prohibits them from what is bad: He releases them from their heavy burdens and from the yokes that are upon them. So it is those who believe in him, honor him, help him, and follow the Light which is sent down with him, it is they who will prosper."

الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ الرَّسُولَ النَّبِيَّ الأُمِّيَّ الَّذِي يَجِدُونَهُ مَكْتُوبًا عِنْدَهُمْ فِي اللَّوْرَاةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ يَأْمُرُهُمْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهُهُمْ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُحِلُّ فِي التَّوْرَاةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ يَأْمُرُهُمْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهُمْ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُحِلُّ لَهُمُ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَيُحَرِّمُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْخَبَائِثَ وَيَضَعُ عَنْهُمْ إِصْرَهُمْ لَهُمُ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَيُحَرِّمُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْخَبَائِثَ وَيَضَعُ عَنْهُمْ إِصْرَهُمُ وَالْأَغْلُلُ الَّذِي كَانَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ فَالَّذِينَ أَمَنُوا بِهِ وَعَزَّرُوهُ وَنَصَرُوهُ وَالْمَوْهُ وَالْمُوهُ وَالْمَوْهُ وَالْمَوْهُ وَالْمَوْهُ وَالْمَوْهُ وَالْمُوهُ وَالْمُوهُ وَالْمُوا لِهُ وَعَزَّرُوهُ وَنَصَرُوهُ وَالْمَوْمُ وَالْمُوهُ وَالْمَوْهُ وَالْمَوْمُ وَالْمُوا لِهُ وَعَزَّرُوهُ وَالْمُوا وَلَا اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهِ وَالْمُؤْلُولُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ الْمُؤْلِقُهُمْ الْمُؤْلُولُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ الْمُؤْلِقُولُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ عَلَى اللَّهُ عَلَمُ اللَّهُ اللّهُ الللّهُ اللّهِ اللّهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ

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# وَاتَّبَعُوا النُّورَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ مَعَهُ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ (١٥٧) « الأعراف»

I will reference and support two prophecies in the Bible that apply to none except Prophet Mohammed.

1. Old Testament - This prophecy which was addressed to Moses said that God will send among the "brethren" of the Israelites a prophet like Moses who will be a founder, a leader, and an exemplar of a community of believers.<sup>5</sup> Read **Deuteronomy** 18:18-20:

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not give heed to My Words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him."

Christians will surely say that this prophecy is referring to Jesus. No, it was Prophet Mohammed, not Jesus, who <u>like Moses</u> was born from ordinary parents, got married, founded a faithful community, established a great law and

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died a natural death.<sup>5</sup> The brethren of the Israelites (descendants of Abraham through Isaac) are Ishmaelities (descendants of Abraham through Ishmael). Jesus is excluded from this prophecy because he is an Israelite; otherwise the verse would read, "a Prophet from among themselves."

Let's compare a few crucial characteristics of Moses, Mohammed and Jesus which may clarify the identity of that prophet "like you (Moses)" who was to come which was taken from Christian-Muslim Dialogue, 1984, page 40:

	Moses	Mohammed	Jesus
Birth	Usual	Usual	Unusual
Family Life	Married Children	Married Children	No Marriage No Children
Death	Usual	Usual	Unusual
Writing down of revelation	Torah (During Life)	Quran (During Life)	None (After Him)
Nature of teachings	Spiritual Legal	Spiritual Legal	Spiritual No Legal
Acceptance of leadership	Rejected (Then Accepted)	Rejected (Then Accepted)	Rejected

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2. Now the prophecy in the New Testament that refers to Prophet Mohammed. Read John 14:16:

"And I will pray to the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever."

This verse clearly states that another, a different one, an additional one, but of the same kind, yet distinctly different from the first would be sent based on the prayer of Jesus. The million dollars question is, who is the first Comforter?"

The Christian world would unanimously say that this Comforter (or Helper, which is now being added) is the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost, depending upon which Bible you read, and is <u>only</u> supported by **John 14:26** which says:

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name..."

However, John 14:26 and John 14:16 contradict each other; in that, if 14:16 says another Comforter would be sent, then 14:26 is saying that the other

one to be sent is the Holy Spirit/Ghost. This would mean that a total of two (2) Holy Spirits/Ghosts would have been sent. The usage of the word another in John 14:16 means that one already existed.

Concerning another Holy Ghost to be sent, some Christians would defend this by saying the Holy Ghost was not on earth yet. Well, there are numerous instances in the Bible about the coming and going of the Holy Ghost before the birth and departure of the Messiah: Luke 1:15 (John the Baptist), Luke 1:41 (Elizabeth), Luke 1:67 (Zachariah), Luke 2:26 (Simeon), Luke 3:22 (Jesus).<sup>11</sup>

The Holy Ghost was helping Jesus in his ministry and helping his disciples on their missions of preaching and healing. If there is still any doubt about the workings of the Holy Ghost, then please read John 20:21-22:

"... as my Father hath sent me even so I send you, And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said unto them, receive ye the Holy Ghost."

Remember, at this time Jesus had not departed the earth yet. So in order for the Comforter to come, Jesus said he would have to go away as stated in John 16:7:

"nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you; But if I depart, I will send him to you."

Moreover, John 14:26 contradict other explicit predictions of Jesus on the subject of the Comforter. Note, there are no other verses in the Bible, other than John 14:26, where it is mentioned that Jesus called the Holy Spirit/Ghost "he." In all other verses of the Bible, the Holy Spirit/Ghost is called or identified as simple the Holy Spirit/Ghost. If we read John 14:26 carefully, we can see that by inserting the words "which is the Holy Ghost," the writer is leading the reader to a conclusion, as done in John 14:22:

Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, "Lord, how is it that thou will...the world," by inserting the words "not Iscariot."

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To further support that the word "comforter" is not referring to the Holy Ghost, did you know that the word "comforter" is the English translation of the Greek word "periclytos" which is almost a literal translation of the Aramaic or Hebrew word "Mauhamana" used by Jesus himself, and which correlates with the name Mohammed, the last Prophet to come before the second coming of Jesus? Also, in New Testament Greek version, the word "spirit" has also been applied to an inspired person, "the possessor of a spiritual communication" or revelation. The one who becomes overwhelmed with a divine revelation is himself termed a "spirit". 14

Other verses that mentions the Comforter are John 15:26:

"But when the Comforter comes, who I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father, he will testify of me,"

and, John 16:12-14 which is the most comprehensive picture of Prophet Mohammed and Islam:

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when he, the Spirit of Truth (the Comforter) comes, he will guide you into all truth; for he will not speak on his authority, but whatever he hears, he will speak; and he will tell you things to come. He will glorify me for he will take of what is mine and declare it to you."

These characteristics of the Comforter are applicable only to Prophet Mohammed, as the following observations will show:

1. The Quran mentions the name Jesus twenty (20) more times than the name of Prophet Mohammed.<sup>11</sup> The Jews called Jesus an impostor and accused his mother of immorality. They even tried to crucify him.<sup>5</sup> Prophet Mohammed considered Jesus as a great Prophet, and the Quran calls him "a word of God." The Quran attribute to Jesus a miracle that is not mentioned in the Bible. The miracle occurred when Jesus spoke as a baby from the cradle. However, if you view the Jesus of Nazareth story that is shown

during the Christmas and Easter holidays, you will hear this miracle mentioned in the story. Where did they get this miracle from? This miracle is only mentioned in the Quran when Mary's chastity was questioned:

"But she (Mary) pointed to the babe. They said, "How can we talk to one who is a child in the cradle? He (Baby Jesus) said, "I am indeed a servant of God: He hath given me revelation and made me a prophet: And He hath made me blessed wheresoever I be, and hath enjoined on me prayer and zakat as long as I live; (He hath made me) kind to my mother, and not overbearing or unblest; So Peace is on me the day I was born, the day that I die, and the day that I shall be raised up to life (again)"!(Quran 19:29-33).

فَأَشَارَتْ إِلَيْهِ قَالُوا كَيْفَ نُكَلِّمُ مَنْ كَانَ فِي الْمَهْدِ صَبِيًّا (٢٩) قَالَ إِنِّي عَبْدُاللَّهِ ءَاتَانِيَ الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلَنِي نَبِيًّا (٣٠) وَجَعَلَنِي مُبَارَكاً إِنِّي عَبْدُاللَّهِ ءَاتَانِيَ الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلَنِي نَبِيًّا (٣٠) وَجَعَلَنِي مُبَارَكاً أَيْنَ مَا كُنْتُ وَأَوْصَانِي بَالصَّلُوةِ وَالزَّكَاةِ مَا دُمْتُ حَيًّا (٣١)

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وَبِرًا، بِوَالِدَتِي وَلَمْ يَجْعَلْنِي جَبَّارًا شَقِيًّا (٣٢) وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيَّ يَوْمَ وُلِدتُ وَيَوْمَ أَمُوتُ وَيَوْمَ أَبْعَثُ حَيًّا (٣٣) ، مريم ه

Also, in Islam, Mary the mother of Jesus is considered the most chaste woman and the best of all women in paradise. Thus did Mohammed really glorify Jesus.<sup>5</sup> In addition, there is even a chapter (Sura) in the Quran named after Mary (Maryam), and her name is mentioned 14 more times in the Quran than in the Bible (32/18).<sup>11</sup>

The Quran was revealed to Prophet Mohammed through the angel Gabriel. When the angel Gabriel finished reciting parts of the Quran, Prophet Mohammed used to convey verbatim to his companions what he heard from the angel without adding, changing or forgetting anything.<sup>5</sup> (Note: The angel Gabriel visited Prophet Mohammed once a year during the Holy month of Ramadan (Fasting), and twice during the last year of his life to confirm the text of the

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Quran.) The Quran also describes Prophet Mohammed by saying:

"Nor does he say (aught) of (his own) Desire. It is no less than Inspiration sent down to him." (Quran 53:3-4).

If we compare verses 53:3-4 of the Quran with John 16:13; "He will not speak on his own authority," you will see the similarity between this characteristic of the Comforter and that of Prophet Mohammed.

3. Prophet Mohammed was the only messenger that came after Jesus. There was a period of six centuries between them. Jesus' mission was limited to the "lost sheep of the children of Israel," but Mohammed's message was a universal message for all people (Gentiles and Samaritans included). Only Prophet Mohammed's message was intended by God to be a universal and an everlasting message.

#### CONCLUSION

My Christian brothers and sisters, given the information contained in this booklet, I hope you have begun to realize that the pillars of Christianity: Jesus is the Son of God; The Trinity; and, Jesus died on the cross for our sins, are all built on a weak, suspect and doubtful foundation. A foundation that is built upon following elements:

- 1. Present gospels were ratified by a murderer three hundred (300) years after Jesus left the earth.
- 2. Three hundred other gospels were destroyed.
- 3. The words, "Son of God, only begotten of the Father," ratified by a murderer.
- The word "Gospel" was added to the titles of the writings: According to; <u>Matthew</u>, <u>Mark</u>, <u>Luke</u> & <u>John</u>.
- 5. So called "Gospels" written 60-100 A.D.
- "Gospels" written in the third person and not by disciples.

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- 7. Verses (Trinity doctrine) removed from the Bible and then put back.
- 8. Trinity accepted 3 centuries after Jesus' left the earth.
- 9. The word Christian was first mentioned by a pagan.
- 10. Present Christian holidays taken from pagan rituals.
- 11. Mistranslation and injection of words to deceive reader.
- 12. No disciple or gospel writer actually saw Jesus die on the cross.
- 13. Present day Christianity is from man-made doctrines.

It would be illogical to accept any one of the pillars of Christianity as having validity considering its very origin and foundation. The Bible tells us of the consequences that a man will incur if he builds his house without a foundation; total destruction. This man-made foundation that the present-day Christianity is built upon should lead you, if it's not too late, to continue to search for the way of life that is most acceptable to our Creator. A way of life that will provide you success

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in this world, and in the Hereafter, and save you from the torment of the Hell Fire.

Before closing, let me add a very serious comment: From this day forward you can not say you never heard the message of Islam, Prophet Mohammed, or what the Quran says about associating partners with Allah. For you will be questioned on the Day of Judgment as to why you did not beed the religion of Islam.

Please read and think about this verse of the Quran (18:110) that Prophet Mohammed was told by the Angel Gabriel to tell all mankind:

Say: "I am but a man like yourselves, (but) the inspiration has come to me, that your God is One God: Whoever expects to meet his Lord, let him work righteousness, and, in the worship of his Lord, admit no one as (His) partner."

قُـلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا بَشَرٌ مُثْلُكُمْ يُولحى إِلَى أَنَّمَا إِلَهُكُمْ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ فَمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُوا لِقَآءَ رَبِّهِ فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلاً صَالِحًا وَلَا يُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ أَحَدًا (١١٠) ( الكهف )

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Prophet Mohammed clarified verse 18:110 when he said:

"By Him in whose hand my life is, whoever among the Christians and the Jews hears about me but does not believe in what has been given to me will be among the inmates of Hell."

My Christian brother/sister I invite you to set aside the religion of your parents and take that step toward researching, learning and then choosing the religion of divine guidance and wisdom. Become a Muslim today by sincerely believing and repeating aloud the following words; "I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and I bear witness that Mohammed is Allah's messenger," and begin to follow the original and authentic teachings of all the Prophets. For if you are a true believer, the Bible will lead you to the way (Deen) of Islam (Allah Willing), as it did for me and many others.

Assalamu Alaikum

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## Origin of Major Denominations in the United States

<u>Name</u>	<u>Founder</u>
Baptists	John Smyth in England in 1609 and Rogert
Methodist Church	Williams in Rhode Island in 1638 Reverend John Wesley - Began evangelistic preaching within the Church of England in 1738; the Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in the United States in 1784.
Lutheran Church	Martin Luther - The first Lutheran congregation in North America was founded in 1638 in Wilmington, Delaware.
Mormons	Joseph Smith - Found golden tablets in 1820.
Pentecostal Church	Grew out of the "holiness movement" in the first decade of the twentieth century
Presbyterian Church	John Knox - Founded the first Presbyterian church in Scotland in 1557.
Episcopal Church	U.S. offshoot of the Church of England
United Church of Christ	Formed in 1957 by the union of General Council of Congregational Christians with the Evangelical and Reformed Churches
Church of Christ	Organized by Presbyterians in Kentucky in 1804 and in Pennsylvania in 1809.
Jehovah's Witnesses	Charles T. Russell in the U.S. in the late nineteenth century.
Seventh-Day Adventist Church	Grew out of the teachings of William Miller in the 1840s; formally founded in North America in 1863.

Source: The New York Public Library Desk Reference, Second Edition

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