

A Lesson to the Televangelists Attacking Islam

By

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Introduction

After the sad events of September 11, and until now, the America's leading evangelical Christians, particularly those called 'televangelists', have been thundering against Islam, both from the pulpit and on television.

Franklin Graham appeared on the NBC Nightly News, commenting on Islam. He allegedly said: "We're not attacking Islam but Islam has attacked us. The God of Islam is not the same God. He's not the son of God of the Christian or Judeo-Christian faith. It's a different God, and I believe it [Islam] is a very evil and wicked religion." This statement is confusing because he seems to imply that Jews believe that Jesus is the son of God — a belief that is contrary to historical Jewish belief. He continued: "I don't believe this is a wonderful, peaceful religion. When you read the Koran and you read the verses from the Koran, it instructs the killing of the infidel, for those that are non-Muslim." When asked by NBC News to clarify his statement, Graham repeated his charge that Islam, as a whole, is an evil. "It wasn't Methodists flying into those buildings, it wasn't Lutherans. It was an attack on this country by people of the Islamic faith."

In his book: "The Name", he wrote that: "Islam — unlike Christianity — has among its basic teachings a deep intolerance for those who follow other faiths."

During an interview with Beliefnet.com, he said that after the terrorist attacks: "there was this hoo-rah around Islam being a peaceful religion — but then you start having suicide bombers, and people start saying, 'Wait a minute, something doesn't add up here.' "

The most impudent words launched against Islam came from the televangelist Pat Robertson founder of the Christian coalition. He insolently stated that Muhammad was "an absolute wild-eyed fanatic - a robber and a brigand...a killer."; "Islam, at its core, teaches violence."; "Muslims want global domination"; "Muslims are crazed fanatics, they are motivated by demonic power." "Islam is not a religion of peace."; "Islam is a Christian heresy."; "Muslims want global domination."; "Islam is not a religion but a sect - a violent political system bent on the overthrow of the governments of the world, and world domination. And I think we should treat it as such, and treat its adherents as such, as we would members of the Communist Party, or members of some fascist group."; "Adolph Hitler was bad but what the Muslims want to do to the Jews is worse." ; "Islam is a monumental scam".

"I think Mohammed was a terrorist," said the deceased conservative preacher Jerry Falwell in a televised interview.

The Rev. Jerry Vines said at a Southern Baptist convention, "Islam was founded by Mohammed, a demon-possessed paedophile who had 12 wives, and his last one was a 9-year-old girl."

If anything can amaze me, then I should surely be amazed at Televangelist Jimmy Swaggart 's insults. The man whose life was characterized by a series of sex scandals said about Muhammad, the noblest of men, 'Muhammad is a sex deviant, pervert, and paedophile; the Koran is outright lies.' He also called for the 'expulsion of all foreign Muslim university students in the United States and for profiling of airline passengers with a diaper on their head and a fan-belt around their waist. Of American Muslims, Swaggart said: 'We ought to tell every other Muslim living in this nation that if you say one word, you're gone.'

Benny Hinn proclaimed to thousands of Christians at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, TX that "We are on God's side. This is not a war between Arabs and Jews. It's a war between God and the devil." Several conservative Christian ministers from the Dallas area, who shared the podium, clapped and nodded their approval. Later, a few of them said that the line between Christians and Muslims is the difference between good and evil.

J. Don George, senior pastor of Calvary temple in Irving, TX, accompanied Hinn on stage. He said, "Our faith is in Jesus Christ, and the Muslim community does not accept Jesus and God, and therefore we're at odds with Muslims...Any religion or ideology that refuses to acknowledge the lordship of Jesus Christ could be typified as a war against Satan."

Paul Mills, pastor of Arlington Faith Chapel, said that Muslims would find Hinn's statement inappropriate. However, their complaints would be irrelevant because Jesus is the only way to heaven. He said: "The religion of Islam is a false religion as far as we believe. From that standpoint, I believe that what Hinn said is in line with what the Scriptures say." He added, "Islam is a very destructive type of faith...They are a revengeful people...We as Christians do not despise the Muslims. We love them. We just don't like what they stand for."

Commentator Chuck Baldwin wrote (in part): "President Bush has repeatedly demonstrated colossal ignorance of Biblical truth. The latest example of this ineptness occurred just recently as Bush gushed over the Muslim religion during Ramadan."

"While worshiping at the Islamic Center of Washington, Bush remarked, 'Islam traces its origins back to God's call on Abraham. And Ramadan commemorates the revelation of God's word in the Holy Koran to the prophet Mohammed.' "

“Does Mr. Bush not realize that the Holy Bible, not the Koran, is the one and only written revelation of God to man? Is he that ignorant of Christian teaching? Or, was he deliberately denying Christian doctrine in order to curry favour with his Muslim host?” Chuck Baldwin remarked.

Let alone the lunatic pastor Terry Jones who burned the Koran after he found it guilty!

This is what we get from the conservative evangelists; we got nothing from them but ridicule, absurdity and insolence. All their detestable statements about Islam show clearly their ignorance about the religion and its principles.

Is that their sum of knowledge about Islam? They humiliate Allah their Creator, ridicule His religion, and slander His Prophet without fear. Do they laugh at the Koran and weep not? They had better bow down in adoration to Allah their Creator, prostrate their reason to His Omnipotence, and pay to Him reverence and adoration. They dispute with falsehood that they might rebut the truth. These demigod leaders in religion, these false prophets, play upon the blind emotions of the masses. They cover truth with falsehood and misguide their innocent followers by keeping them in the dark and out of light.

Do they know the consequences of standing against Islam - Allah's only religion? Do they know the consequences of disputing Allah's Message with opposing arguments? Do they think they will be left uncontrolled without being punished?

Their measures had been taken for fitting with exclusive attire; vestures made of fire, and on their heads, the seat of their thought will be poured hot water bubbling over in agitation, boiling water, which diffuses itself throughout to melt what is in their bellies and liquefy their skins. They will be restricted in solitary confinement with cells ribbed and vaulted with iron. As often as they seek relief, they try to get out from thence, only to be returned back therein and be told, 'Taste the torture of burning in the Fire.' And from this everlasting punishment they will never have any respite.

The Koran says:

These are two disputants who have disputed concerning their Lord. As for the unbelievers, for them garments of fire shall be cut, and there shall be poured over their heads boiling water whereby whatsoever is in their bellies and their skins shall be melted; for them await hooked iron rods; as often as they desire in their anguish to come forth from it, they shall be restored into it, and: 'taste the chastisement of the burning!' (Al-Hajj 19-22).

They think they are rightly guided, but in reality, they are sunk in depths of darkness, one above another.

These false prophets might be icons in their country, but to us, the moment they spoke in this detestable manner about Allah and His religion, we considered them disbelievers that had blasphemed against their Creator.

Do they think they will be left to roam at will? Their ugly words about Allah and Islam will not evaporate in the air, it will be laid to their charge. Allah has assigned for every man two angels to record his thoughts, words and actions. One sits on the right side and notes the good deeds, and the other on the left, and note the bad deeds.

We read in the Koran:

We created man – We know the promptings of his soul, for We are nearer to him than his jugular vein – and the two recording angels are recording, sitting on the right and the left; each word he utters shall be noted down by a vigilant guardian (Qaf 16-18).

When death comes, they will realize that their ugly words against Allah and His Messenger, are the most heinous in the sight of Allah, and the things, which seemed to loom large in their eyes in this world were shadows that have fled.

What can be a greater sign of evil and rebellion than to reject Allah the Lord of creation, and sneeze at His religion, the punishment, then, is Fire in its fiercest intensity.

The Koran warns:

And for those who disbelieve in their Lord there awaits the chastisement of Hell – an evil homecoming! When they are cast into it, they will hear its roaring as it boils up as though bursting with rage. As often as a troop is cast unto it, its keepers ask them, ‘Came there no warner to you?’ They say, ‘Yes indeed, a warner came to us; but we cried lies saying, ‘Allah has not sent down anything; you are only in great error.’ They also say, ‘If we had only heard, or had understood, we would not have been of the inhabitants of the Blaze.’ So they confess their sins. Curse the inhabitants of the blaze (Al-Mulk 6-11).

On that Day Allah will ask Hell:

Upon the Day We shall say to Hell, ‘Are you now to the full?’ And it will answer, ‘Are there no more?’



They keep on describing Islam as an inherently violent religion. Judging Islam or any other religion according to the conduct of its adherents is wrong and inconsistent. In order to judge the religion of Islam, one should read the Koran, and not to rely on the response of Muslims towards the biased and double standard policy of the United States in the Muslim world. If we take the same parameter the televangelists are using to judge Islam, we will see that Christianity is the bloodiest religion that has ever appeared in human history. Muslims killed by the massacres committed by the inquisition in Spain, and the crusade in the Middle East amount to hundreds of thousands. The two Christians Napoleon and Hitler killed hundreds of millions in Europe. Muslims in hundreds of thousands suffered ethnic annihilation at the hands of Christian Serbs in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Herzegovina. Thousands of Muslims were killed by the American and British troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Millions of Iraqi babies and children died when the Americans put Iraq under sanction for ten years. Hundreds of thousands of men and particularly children died in Iraq when the Americans used depleted uranium munitions in its war against Iraq.

Millions of Japanese civilians were killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki with two Christian atomic bombs. Muslims were not behind such crimes, but only Christians. Does that mean that the religion of Jesus was a violent religion? Of course not, Jesus religion was the religion of love and peace, but its adherents forgot the peaceful nature of their religion and resorted to violence.

In the Koran, we find only 164 verses which directly spoke about Jihad. In the Bible however, we find 1315 violent verses. If these verses in the Bible are authentic and not corrupted, all we have to do is to submit to the Lord's Words and accept them willingly. Disputing Allah's verses with opposing arguments is blasphemous; when divine texts are concerned, it is our duty to follow them blindly without arguments.

The Koran states:

Those who dispute concerning the signs of Allah, without any authority come to them, very hateful is that in the sight of Allah and the believers; so Allah sets a seal on every heart proud, arrogant (Ghafir, 35).

And We have sent down unto thee signs, clear signs, and none disbelieves in them except the ungodly (Al-Baqarah, 99).

The claim that Islam is a violent religion because the Koran contains violent verses (164 violent verses) is rather silly because the Bible contains much more i.e. 1315 violent verses. Stating that the Koran is violent because of the violent verses, it contains show clearly that the attackers are so heedless of Allah's greatness. His divine greatness allows Him to deal with His creation the way He sees fit. Divine annihilation may be a cure for putting things right after the spreading of mischief in the land.

Muslims know Allah's greatness, they do not argue His commands, but rather submit willingly to them. Allah only needs to command a thing once; it does not need to be repeated or confirmed. When Allah wants a thing to happen, He only says to it: "Be!" once, and it is.

The Prophet said:

"Allah, may He be exalted, says: 'O My servants, all of you are sinners apart from those whom I protect from sin. Seek My forgiveness and I will forgive you. All of you are in need except for those whom I make independent. I am Most Generous, Majestic, and I do whatever I will. My giving is a word and My punishment is a word. When I want a thing to happen I merely say to it 'Be!' and it is."

Allah is controlling the affairs of all the kingdoms. He commands and prohibits, creates and gives provision, and gives death and gives life. He raises and lowers people's status, alternates night and day, gives days (good and not so good) to men by turns, and causes nations to rise and fall, so that one nation vanishes and another emerges. His command and decree are carried out throughout the heavens and on earth, above it and below it, in the oceans and in the air. He has knowledge of all things and knows the number of all things. He hears all voices, and does not mistake one for another; He hears them all, in all the different languages and with all their varied requests and pleas. No voice distracts Him from hearing another, He does not confuse their requests, and He never tires of hearing the pleas of those in need. He sees all that is visible, even the walk of a black ant across a solid rock in the darkest night.

When Allah commands His Prophets and the believers to fight back the disbelievers and to establish his Word in the land, this must not be considered as violence, but rather establishing the truth and peace in the land.

In our view, there are no violent verses in Allah's Scriptures whether in the Koran, or the Bible. Allah is All-Merciful to His servants if they obey His commandments, but if they disobey them, it is His right to be vengeful and severe in retribution.

In the Koran, Allah has 99 attributes, among these are: the Almighty, the All-Compelling, the Lordly, the Subduer, the Majestic, the Watchful, the Omnipotent, the Avenger. The Avenger means the One Who victoriously prevail over His enemies and punishes them for their sins. The Avenger also means that Allah is the One Who totally annihilate His enemies and wipe them out from the surface of the earth.

One of the attributes of Allah is also the 'enduring', meaning the One Who does not quickly punish the sinners, but give them respite until an appointed time. If they do not repent and follow the right path, He shall not allow them to go unpunished. Punishment in the present world or in Hell-Fire is related to divine justice, for it is a mercy to the victims and a due justice to the wrongdoers.

Because Allah is just, He will not punish the evildoers on the Day of Judgment until all the steps of a fair trial are complete. Records will be presented, witnesses will be called, even our eyes, ears and joints will give testimony. No one shall be wronged. While Allah through His mercy will reward in great abundance those that are righteous, He will not punish the wrongdoers except for their crimes and bad deeds.

In all Scriptures, Allah mentioned how He destroyed so many nations because of their transgression and for rejecting his signs. We read in Deuteronomy 8:20, "Like the nations the Lord destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the Lord your God."

The destruction of entire disobedient nations is a phenomenon that Allah Most High refers to often in the Koran:

How many a city We have destroyed! Our might came upon it at night, or while they took their ease in the noontide (Al-A'raf, 4).

Like Pharaoh's folk, and the people before him, who cried lies to the signs of their Lord, so We destroyed them because of their sins, and We drowned the folk of Pharaoh; and all were evildoers (Al-Anfal, 54).

We destroyed the generations before you when they did evil, and their Messengers came to them with the clear signs, but they would not believe; so We recompense the people of the sinners (Yunus, 13).

And how many a generation We destroyed before them! Can you find a single one of them or hear of them a whisper? (Maryam, 98).

Allah is All-Merciful and All-Enduring but He also gives severe punishment to those who deserve it.

We read in the Koran:

Tell My servants I am the All-Forgiving, the All-Compassionate, and that My chastisement is the painful chastisement (Al-Hijr 49, 50).

Does this mean that Allah is evil because he punishes the evildoers? Allah is just, and His justice necessitates that He reward those who obey and serve Him and punish those who disobey and rebel against Him. If Allah did not punish the sinful, wicked and evil people who deserve to be punished, it would not be justice. When punishment for wrongdoing is certain, it serves to deter potential offenders. In contrast, if Allah forgave everyone and punished no one, there would be no reason for legislation, ethics or even morality. Life on earth would be chaotic and nothing short of anarchy. True justice, with its true rewards and just penalties can only be found with Allah, and that is what He has promised in the Koran:

And We shall set up the just balances for the Resurrection Day, so that not one soul shall be wronged anything; even if it be the weight of one grain of mustard seed We will bring it, and sufficient are We for reckoners (Al-Anbiya', 47).

Based on the above, the Christian claim that Islam is a violent religion lacks sound reasoning. The Christians want to commit all the terrible sins and not to be punished! Their god, the one they invented (Jesus as God or the son of God) is most compassionate, and he sacrificed himself to atone for their sins. It is therefore enough for the Christians to commit the most evil sins, then go to the priest and confess their sins, the priest in turn will act as an intermediary between the sinners and the lord (Jesus); he will pray to Jesus in order to forgive the sinners!

The Christians want to escape personal responsibility, so they fabricated a religion that would fit their wishful thinking. They filled it with peculiar dogmas among which is the fictitious doctrine of vicarious atonement. They forgot that Allah - the Watcher - watches over all His servants and to Him is the final return, where every soul will receive its just recompense, whether good or bad.

Allah says in the Koran:

"And Allah is Ever a Watcher over all things." (Al-Ahzab, 52).

"And know that Allah knows what is in your minds, so fear Him." (Al-Baqarah, 235).

"And He is with you wherever you may be." (Al-Hadid, 4).

The belief that the Prophet Jesus died in order to expiate the sins of all Christians and that death lies at the remission of sins is a very mistaken belief. People's sin or merit is based on the actions they perform in this world. Everyone is responsible only for himself. Neither his parents nor his relatives nor the Prophet Jesus can assume responsibility for man's sins. Nobody will be held responsible for the deeds of another. When the moment of death comes, everyone, Christians included, will give account, all alone in the presence of Allah, for what he did in this world.

Allah has revealed this in the Koran:

None is there in the heavens and earth but he comes to the All-Merciful as a slave; He has indeed counted them, and He has numbered them exactly. Every one of them shall come to Him upon the Day of Resurrection all alone (Maryam 93-95).

No body whatsoever will assume the sins of another.

The Koran says:

...That no soul laden bears the load of another, and that a man shall have to his

account only as he has laboured, and that his labouring shall surely be seen, then he shall be recompensed for it with the fullest recompense, and that the final end is unto thy Lord (Al-Najm 38-42).

It is definitely inconsistent for Christianity to claim to be a religion of love and to espouse the idea that sin is cleansed with Jesus death! In other words, all Christians are responsible for their deeds, at every moment of their lives, and they will all be called to account in the presence of Allah. None of their sins has been redeemed. Nobody will be able to say, in the Presence of Allah, "my sins have been paid for already, and have been cleaned by the blood of the Prophet Jesus." Nobody in the Presence of Allah will be able to claim he is free of sin, and nobody will achieve salvation by saying, "I had faith."

Disputing the religion of Islam with void and silly arguments show clearly that these televangelists know nothing about Islam as a religion. None of them read the Koran or the teachings of the Prophet, and if they did, they read them with bad intention to refute the religion. Of course, they skipped the Koranic verses reminding them that the recompense of those who hurt Allah and His Prophet is but degradation in the present life and on the Day of Resurrection, they will return unto the most terrible chastisement.

Is it strange for them that Allah has sent His revelation to Muhammad to warn humankind of the torment in Hell if they deny Allah, and give good tidings to the believers in Allah's oneness that they shall have with their Lord the reward of their good deeds?

The Prophet of Islam came with a divine Message to teach and reclaim the world, and he is entitled to the respect of all, even for those who do not acknowledge his Message, for his mission works constantly like the forces of nature. Because Muhammad undertook such divine mission, Allah and His angels gave him full support.

Allah and His angels bless the Prophet, O believers, do you also bless him, and pray him peace (Al-Ahzab, 56).

To favour the Prophet of Islam is as good as favouring Allah and His angels, and to evade and hurt him amounts to evading and hurting Allah and His angels. Those who harass the Prophet forgot that they were actually dealing with a representative of Allah, and those who harass Allah's representative have rendered themselves accursed in the eyes of the Lord of the universe.

We read in the Koran:

Those who hurt Allah and His Messenger – them Allah has cursed in the present world and the world to come, and has prepared for them a humiliating chastisement (Al-Ahzab, 54).

The televangelists should have some sagacity to understand that the Koran they belie and execute is a universal Message that came to all. It came to the Arabs, the Jews, the Christians, the Buddhists, the Hindu, the Shinto, Sikh, Zoroastrians, Chinese, etc.

If they have really read the Koran, they would have known that Islam is not inherently violent as they falsely claim, but rather a universal religion for all humanity. Allah has chosen Islam as the only religion acceptable to Him. Islam is the best way of life for all. It serves as the best solution to all sorts of problems no matter how perplexing they may be. Islam is the absolute answer to those who seek a perfect religion and a complete way of life. It guides people to a well-balanced life, one that makes them happy and contented in this world and in the life hereafter. It is the way to attaining supreme success in the everlasting world to come. In short, Islam, as the complete way for all, is Allah's Mercy to the whole of mankind.

It is amazing to see that the televangelists, who are supposed to be men of God, are humiliating Allah their Creator, slandering the seal of His Prophets who came specifically for them, and belying and mocking at the Koran. A lunatic pastor even burned the Koran. Thus, it was made fair-seeming to them their evil deeds. Do they imagine they could escape Allah's punishment? How ill they judge. On the day of Resurrection they shall bear their own burdens, and the burdens of those they misguided. They shall be questioned about their false assertions. Woe for them for what they plot and utter against Islam. If they but knew the time when they will not be able to ward off the Fire from their faces, nor yet from their backs, and when no help can reach them!

These morons must understand that those who deny the Koran, and refuse to recognize Allah's signs shall be put to torture; Allah will expose them to the protracted and dreadful conflagration. As often as their skins are consumed, Allah replaces them with new skins so that they taste the merciless but just punishment.

We read in the Koran:

Surely those who disbelieve in Our signs – We shall certainly roast them at a Fire; as often as their skins are wholly burned, We shall give them in exchange other skins, that they may taste the chastisement. Surely Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise (al-Nisa', 56).

Woe that Day to those who denied the truth. On the Day they will be speechless, and they will be given no chance to offer any excuses. Take your enjoyment now and eat as cattle eat; and the Fire shall be your lodging.

These televangelists present silly arguments to nullify the Koran. But those arguments are nothing but false utterances. As deniers of truth, they take the Koranic verses out of their context to ridicule the truth and the Prophet of truth. They compound their rejection of truth with arrogance because of the prominence of their worldly position. But worldly position will be of no avail to anyone in the Hereafter.

This shameful conduct showed clearly that these televangelists are not only heedless of the Koran and the religion of Islam, but are also ignorant of their own religion – Christianity. If they were truly Christians, and follow the true teachings of Jesus, they would not have dared to attack the religion of Islam. No wonder, they are false prophets looking only after their own interests.

Every time I listen to the televangelists' fiery sermons, a certain question arises in my mind: Do these televangelists really know what Jesus exactly brought? The fictitious trifles they are stuffing the minds of their followers with, show clearly that they are far away from the true religion of Jesus. They follow only surmise, they follow blindly the corruption their ancestors made in Jesus religion without even thinking.

Know they not that the Prophet Muhammad, the one they slander and burn his Koran, came specifically for them? He came to them as a blessing and a mercy in order to show them for the last time, the right path of salvation, the path, which their forefathers obliterated with the falsehood they added to Jesus religion?

Instead of teaching their followers the true religion of Jesus, we see greedy televangelists begging for more money, telling people what they want to hear; promises of health, wealth, and prosperity in exchange for their money. Unfortunately, their innocent followers hungry for sincere guidance believe the lies they feed them with, such as prosperity gospel; Jesus blesses believers with riches; God will provide you with material wealth if you watch my television programmes and the adverts in between; God will shower you more with His blessings if you pay generously to the church. Unfortunately, their followers believe the falsehood they teach them and are deceived.

The present life deluded them. They love the hasty life, and leave behind them a heavy Day. A Day when mankind shall stand before the Lord of all Being?

Being completely unaccountable to any reputable organization within the Christian Church, they hoarded riches and accumulated fortunes and wealth from donations, adverts, selling merchandise to followers, and many other commercial activities under a tax-free umbrella.

Before establishing their churches or TV stations they were poor or normal people, now we see them living a life of luxury, having multi-million dollar homes, travel by

private jets and international 'crusades' at £2,000 a night. They love the hasty world, and leave be the Hereafter.

These televangelists pursue a course of selfishness and opportunism in life, and thus they fail to find the straight path to true salvation. They view religion not from a correct perspective, but from the standpoint of their own desires.

For years, they mobilized themselves to attack Islam. They considered us as enemies. They stretched their tongues to do us evil. If you look at them, you may think they are united, but in reality, their hearts are divided because they are a people devoid of reason.

They seek to deceive Allah and their people, but they only deceive themselves. In their hearts is a disease, which Allah has increased. By attacking Allah and His Message they make corruption in the land, and when they are told, 'Do not cause corruption in the land', they say, 'We are only promoters of peace,' but it is they who are causing corruption in the land. Haven't they spread dissension between Muslim and non-Muslim Americans? Haven't they stabbed the religion of Islam and instigated the people to do so?

The televangelists preach their followers a distorted version of Christianity, so I want to put them before their responsibilities. They should teach their followers the true religion of Jesus, but do they know the true religion of Jesus? I doubt that very much. The Koran clearly displayed, the truth about the religion of Jesus, which the televangelists should learn first, then teach it to their followers second.

In spite of the fact that parts of the original revelations sent down to Moses (Torah) and Jesus (Gospel) still exist in the Bible today, throughout history however, and out of their own invention, people wrote things, and claimed that it was from Allah. They then mixed their own writings with the original revelations (Torah and Gospel), removed, and added to them. This corruption in the original divine Books distorted the essence and core of Moses and Jesus teachings.

The televangelists misguide their people by preaching them such distortions. Thinking that they are rightly guided, their followers follow them blindly without thinking. Because Allah's guidance had been obliterated in His earlier Books, Muhammad had to come to restore the divine guidance to its original form. He came with one unified unchangeable Book, guarded by the Creator against corruption until the Day of Judgment – the Koran.

In this article, I will address the Jews and the Christians regarding the true religion of Moses and Jesus before the distortions occurred. Emphases will be made on the distortions the Jews and the Christians made in their religion, and finally the purpose of Muhammad's mission and the significance of his coming with the last Message to the world.

Let it be known that during the course of my explanation I will follow the golden Islamic rule: "There is no compulsion in religion". Based on the commandments of the Koran, it is not for Muhammad to enforce the truth upon anyone. Muhammad's role was only to proclaim the Message to the people, he is not a guard set over them, nor are we – his followers.

The Koran says:

Had Allah willed, they were not idolaters; and We have not appointed thee a watcher over them, neither art thou their guardian (Al-An'am, 107).

Muhammad did all he can to teach his Message to the world, but he cannot force men's wills. If men reject his teaching, the account of the rejecters is with Allah.

The Koran says:

Surely it is a Reminder to thee and to thy people; and assuredly you will be questioned (Az-Zukhruf, 44).

He who accepts the divine Message of Muhammad will have profited his own soul and he who deviated into falsehood will have hurt himself.

The Koran clearly states:

Surely We have sent down upon thee the Book for mankind with the truth. Whosoever is guided, is only guided to his own gain, and whosoever goes astray, it is only to his own loss; thou art not a guardian over them (Az-Zumar, 41).

My intention is to show those who think they are rightly guided, and that we Muslims are people astray, that the opposite is true. The true religion of Moses and Jesus will be explained, and the distortion the Jews and the Christians made in their religion by additions and curtailments to serve their own whims and worldly desires will be mentioned. The role of the Prophet of Islam in correcting the path of salvation, which the Jews and the Christians obliterated by additions and curtailments is emphasized.

Some principles the Jews and the Christians must understand

Man brings the consciousness of Allah along with him from his birth. In the soul of a human being, the consciousness of a Creator and Lord has been instilled so deeply that he never loses it. This awareness is embedded in his nature because at the beginning of creation Allah drew forth the progeny of the children of Adam from their loins their descendants, and made them testify concerning themselves.

The Koran says:

And when thy Lord took from the Children of Adam, from their loins, their seed, and made them testify touching themselves, 'Am I not your Lord?'

They said, 'Yes, we testify' – lest you should say on the Day of Resurrection, 'As for us, we were heedless of this (Al-A'raf, 172).

After the truth – the Oneness of Allah – had been embedded in man's soul from the very beginning, it was the will of Allah that man becomes free to either follow the voice of reason and worships Him alone, or worships Him the way he likes. If man worships Allah alone and follows the right path, the doors of heaven will be thrown open for him after death, whereas one who ignores the right path and worships other deities (Jesus as God or son of God, idol, stone, pope, priest, nature, animal, tree, fire, etc), the fire of Hell will be his abode for eternity.

Each person is born in a circumstance, which is not of his own choosing. The religion of his family is thrust upon him from the very beginning of his existence in this world. By the time he reaches his teens, he is usually fully brain washed into believing that the beliefs of his society are the correct beliefs that everyone should have. However, when some people mature and are exposed to other systems of belief, they begin to question the validity of their own beliefs. The seekers of truth often reach a point of confusion upon realizing that each religion, sect, ideology and philosophy claims to be the one and only correct way for man. So, which one is right? They cannot all be right since each claims all others to be wrong. Then how do the seekers of truth choose the right way? Like every other religion or philosophy, Islam also claims to be the one and only true way to Allah. In this respect, it is no different from other systems (1).

The first thing that one should know and clearly understand about Islam is what the word "Islam" itself means. The meaning of the Arabic word "Islam" is submission or surrender of one's will to the only true God known in Arabic as "Allah". One who submits his will to Allah is termed in Arabic as "Muslim".

The religion of Islam is not named after a person, or people, nor was it decided by a later generation of man, as in the case of Christianity, which was named after Jesus Christ, Buddhism after Gautama Buddha, Confucianism after Confucius, Marxism after Karl Marx, Judaism after the tribe of Judah, and Hinduism after the Hindus.

Islam (submission to the will of Allah) is the religion, which was given to Adam, the first man and the first Prophet of Allah, and it was the religion of all the prophets sent by Allah to mankind. Further, its name was

chosen by Allah Himself and clearly mentioned in the final Scripture, which He revealed to man. In the final revelation, called the Koran in Arabic, Allah states the following:

Today I have perfected your religion, and I have completed my blessing upon you, and I have approved Islam for your religion (Al-Maidah, 5).

Religion with Allah since He created the heavens and the earth and until the Day of Resurrection is only Islam. Islam is the truth taught by all the inspired Books. Islam is the religion taught in its fundamentals by all the prophets. It is the religion of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad and all other prophets throughout the existence of human beings. Muhammad is the last Prophet of Islam. The Muslim position is therefore clear. He does not claim to have a religion peculiar to himself. Islam is not a sect or an ethnic religion. In its view, all religion is one, for the Truth is one.

In essence, Islam amounts to a consciousness of the will and plan of Allah and a joyful submission to that Will and Plan. If anyone wants a religion other than that, he is false to his own nature, and he is false to Allah's Will and Plan. Such a one cannot expect guidance, for he has deliberately renounced guidance (2).

Therefore, he who adopts a system of faith and worship other than Islam – or submission to Allah's blessed Will – simply bends on a system of faith and worship which does not have the standing upon the vantage ground of truth; such system of faith shall not be accepted from him, and he shall be a great loser Hereafter.

Allah, the Lord of creation states in the Koran:

Whoso desires another religion than Islam, it shall not be accepted of him; in the next world he shall be among the losers (Al-Imran, 85).

Islam is therefore the one and only true universal religion of Allah. In addition to the fact that Islam means voluntary submission to the will of Allah, it also means strict monotheism, i.e. Allah is One and must be worshipped alone without associating with Him any partners. The worship of the One and only God – Allah, must be accompanied with good deeds based on the principles mentioned in the divine Books and the teachings of the prophets.

Yet not until the people of the Book (Jews and Christians) had received divine discourse did they fall in dispute and set themselves at variance

through envy, selfish contumacy, obstinacy, sheer contrary mindless or desire to resist and rebel.

As we read in the Koran:

Allah bears witness that there is no deity save Him, as do the angels and those who possess knowledge. He is the upholder of justice. There is no deity save Him, the Mighty, the Wise One. The only true religion in Allah's sight is Islam, and those who were given the Book (Jews and Christians) disagreed out of rivalry, after knowledge had been given to them – he who denies Allah's signs should know that Allah is swift in His reckoning (Al-Imran 18, 19).

All the divine Books before the advent of Muhammad were lost or corrupted. The Jews and the Christians changed the texts of their divine Books to justify their selfish interests. Instead of changing themselves according to the true teachings of Moses and Jesus, they changed the Gospel, so that whatever it takes to give a religious aura to their religious lives may be shown to contain therein. The most heinous crime in the eyes of Allah is to attribute to Him something, which He has not said. They forgot that those who exchange Allah's words for a miserable price featured in the vanity of the fleeting world shall be denied Allah's grace Hereafter, nor shall Allah address them nor see to them, nor look at them on the Day of Resurrection, nor shall He bless them, and their awaits them a harsh punishment.

The Koran says about them:

Those that sell Allah's covenant, and their oaths, for a little price, there shall be no share for them in the world to come; Allah shall not speak to them neither look at them on the Resurrection Day, neither will He purify them; and for them awaits a painful chastisement (Al-Imran, 77).

Muhammad therefore had to come and be distinguished from all other prophets with a Book (the Koran) that will be guarded by Allah from corruption until the Day of Judgment. The Koran includes all the tidings and information that were included in all the corrupted divine Books. The Koran serves therefore as a reference and guidance for those who seek the truth. The Koran also includes a code of life that if followed would lead to an eternal life of bliss in Paradise. All of the world's major religions originated in the pure religion of Islam itself and only through the teachings being lost, forgotten or wilfully corrupted have these religions changed. For example, Judaism claims special status for the Jews as the chosen people - a status that cannot be acquired except through birth and

which makes a Jew superior to any non-Jew (goyim). Contemporary Christianity insists that one must believe in various strange doctrines in order to be saved, i.e. Jesus died to atone for the sins of Mankind (vicarious atonement), Allah is one in three or three in one (the concept of the Trinity) original sin, crucifixion, etc. These peculiar doctrines did not develop until several hundred years after Christ and so cannot possibly be applied to those before Jesus or to his early followers.

The Koran says about the Jews and the Christians:

"...And they say: "None shall enter paradise unless he is a Jew or a Christian." Those are their (vain) desires. Say: "Produce your proof if you are truthful." Nay whoever submits (in Islam) his whole self to Allah and is a doer of good, he will get his reward with his Lord; on such shall be no fear nor shall they grieve." (Al-Baqarah 111, 112).

Islam is known as not only a rational and moral way of life prescribed for all of humankind, it is known by the 'the natural religion'. Islam is the religion designed by the Creator of humankind for the benefit of humankind and therefore fits human nature perfectly. Being Muslim is living in harmony with human nature.

In the beginning, humankind were one nation worshipping the One and only God Allah, then they started to dispute, so Allah raised Prophets amongst them, as bearers of good tidings and warners; and He revealed to their Prophets the Scrolls of Abraham, the Psalms of David, the Torah of Moses and the gospel of Jesus. But the people of the Scriptures differed among themselves although they knew the truth mentioned in their divine Books. They differed only because of hatred of one another, even after clear proofs had come to them.

The Koran says:

The Jews say, 'The Christians stand not on anything'; the Christians say, 'The Jews stand not on anything'; yet they recite the Book. So too the ignorant say the like of them. Allah shall decide between them on the Day of Resurrection touching their differences (Al-Baqarah, 113.).

We also read in the Koran:

And they scattered not, those that were given the Book, excepting after the Clear Sign came to them. They were commanded only to serve Allah, making the religion His sincerely, men of pure faith, and to perform the prayer, and pay the alms – that is the right religion (Al-Bayinah 4, 5).

The people of the Book (Jews and Christians) blessed with divine Scriptures went astray. They disregarded the core of their Scriptures and hastened to embrace those parts, which were of purely local interest. This led to conflict, whenever they left the right path, infirmities became apparent. They started adopting a religion of their own imagining, casting aside their authentic religion. Dissatisfied with the clear divine commandments, they delved into them to find new points of contention. This opened the door to differences and sectarianism.

Sometimes to justify worldly desires, or to move with the times, they introduced new elements into religion, which were not really a part of it. In this way, different new editions of religion took place – some spiritual, some political, and so on. Around each one of them, like-minded persons start gathering and form in the end a sect. Succeeding generations start protecting this new version, treating it as if it were the heritage of their ancestors. A stage comes when it will clearly be perpetuated until Doomsday, because man tends to treat the past as sacred, and once something is sanctified by time and tradition, it takes the form of being eternal.

In case of earlier generations who believed in Allah's oneness and surrendered to Him completely, Allah blessed them with His bounties – special help and victory over opponents; domination on the earth; Allah's pardon and the promise of Paradise. However, in the case of later generations, the position changed. Whereas the earlier people enjoyed the blessings of Allah by virtue of their performance, the later generations assumed that they are entitled to the same blessings – whatever their actions – simply because they belong to a certain community or race. Then they started believing that they are the specially favoured people of Allah, and whatever they do, they will definitely receive Allah's bounties.

Wrapped in their imagination, the Jews and the Christians said, 'We are the sons of Allah and His beloved'. Allah commanded Muhammad to say to them, 'Why then does He punish you in requital for your evil deeds! Indeed, you are but human beings among those he has created. He forgives whom He will and torments whom He will and to Allah alone belong all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth and all that lies in between, and to Him is the end and the purpose for which all are destined.'

The Koran says in this respect:

The Jews and the Christians say, 'We are the children of Allah and His beloved ones'. Say: 'Then why does He punish you for your sins? You are merely human beings, part of His creation: He forgives whomever He will and punishes whomever He will. The Kingdom of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them, belong to Allah and all shall return to Him (Al-Maidah, 18).

Considering any community as a favourite community of Allah is a meaningless thought. Before Allah, the reckoning is on individual basis and not on community basis. Each person will get his reward before Allah according to his deeds. In Allah's sight, every man is a human being irrespective of his belonging to this community or that. Every man's future will be decided based on his performance in this world of test and trial. Paradise is not the native place of any community; nor is Hell a place for any particular community. It is the way of Allah that He, on His behalf, raises certain individuals to acquaint the people with the wisdom of creation and the realities of life; warn them of Hell and give them the good news of Paradise. It is only by supporting these warmers and bringers of good news, and cooperating with them that man finds Allah and not in any other way.

The people of the Book omitted some teachings from it by either misinterpretation or distortion. For instance, they made certain changes in their Book obviating the necessity to accept any further Prophet for their salvation. They also imposed upon themselves restrictions, which had not been ordained by Allah: for example, the petty rites of sacrifice, which were not commanded by their Prophets, but which did their scholars by means of their hair-splitting interpretations concoct.

The people of the Book changed the words of Allah when they took their great revered men to be mediators between them and Allah. They adopted the belief that whatever they did, their holy men would be their saviours before Allah.

The growth of Jewish superstition is shown in the Talmud, and Christian superstition in the doctrine of papal infallibility and the worship of saints. The mere idea of a separate order of priesthood to stand between Allah and man and be the exclusive repository of Allah's secrets is derogatory to the goodness and all-pervading grace of Allah.

The Koran says:

They have taken their rabbis and their monks as lords apart from Allah, and the Messiah, Mary's son – and they were commanded to serve but one God; there is no god but Him, above that they associate (Al-Tawbah, 31).

The people of the Book also believed that heaven or hell existed in the present world and that there was nothing beyond this world. Whatever they wanted from worldly pleasures they attributed to Allah, and wrote it in His Books.

In Deuteronomy 31:25-29 Moses predicted the corruption and tampering of the Law (Torah) after his death. The Jews corrupted the Bible and filled it with fabricated laws! They had so much corrupted the Bible that they had turned it into a lie!

The Book of Jeremiah, which came approximately 826 years after Moses, confirmed this corruption.

How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us'? But, behold, the false pen of the scribes has made it into a lie." (From the RSV Bible, Jeremiah 8:8).

Allah said in the Koran regarding those who corrupted His Holy Words:

Know they not that Allah knows what they keep secret and what they publish? And some there are of them that are illiterates not knowing the Book (the Bible), but only fancies and mere conjectures. So woe to those who write the Book with their hands, 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 the gain they make thereby (Al-Baqarah, 77-79).

The Prophet said:

'Why do you ask the people of the scripture about anything while your Book (the Koran)) which has been revealed to Allah's Apostle is newer and the latest? You read it pure, undistorted and unchanged, and Allah has told you that the people of the scripture (Jews and Christians) changed their scripture and distorted it, and wrote the scripture with their own hands and said, 'It is from Allah,' to sell it for a little gain. Does not the knowledge which has come to you prevent you from asking them about anything? No, by Allah, we have never seen any man from them asking you regarding what has been revealed to you!' (Translation of

Sahih Bukhari, Holding Fast to the Qur'an and Sunnah, Volume 9, Book 92, Number 461)".

In Islam, the Injil is the Arabic name for the original gospel of Jesus. Islam holds that over time, the authentic Gospel of Jesus became corrupt, and his teachings were lost and replaced with false teachings.

The Koran says in this connection:

And when Allah took compact with those who had been given the Book (Jews and Christians), 'You shall make it clear unto the people, and not conceal it.' But they rejected it behind their backs and sold it for a small price - how evil was that their selling! (Al-Imran, 187).

We also read in the Koran:

And with those who say 'We are Christians' We took compact; and they have forgotten a portion of that they were reminded of. So We have stirred up among them enmity and hatred, until the Day of Resurrection; and Allah will assuredly tell them of the things they wrought (Al-Maidah, 14).

The Jews and the Christians in their temples and churches incorporated with Allah other objects in worship, therefore Allah instructed His Messenger not to do the same. No place of worship whatever should be used for the worship of any other but Allah the only true God of the heavens and earth. Before Islam, the Ka'ba was full of idols and their votaries were usurpers. Worship should not be mixed up with vain objects, but should be reserved for the sincere service of Allah alone.

Allah says in the Koran:

The mosques are for Allah's worship – so do not invoke anyone else with Allah (Al-Jinn, 18).

The original teachings of the prophets were lost and only the Glorious Koran is the original Word of Allah. The Koran stood the test of time because Allah guarded it from corruption.

Allah Says:

It is We who have sent down the Remembrance (the Koran), and We watch over it (Al-Hijr, 15).

Allah wished to perfect His light and make it shine all the brighter in the eyes of men. Out of Allah's mercy, Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam, was

sent to re-establish for the last time the oneness of Allah on earth. Allah sent the seal of the Prophets to rid Allah's religion of all fabricated impurities and to present it again in its original form. Muhammad came to restore Allah's only religion – Islam - and to re-establish it on earth for the last time and forever.

We read in the Koran:

They want to extinguish Allah's light with their mouths, but Allah refuses but to perfect His light, though the unbelievers be averse. It is He who has sent His Messenger with the guidance and the religion of truth, that He may uplift it above every religion, though the unbelievers be averse (Al-Tawbah 33, 34).

In this verse, the words: "He may uplift it above every religion" means that in term of intellectual supremacy, all non-monotheistic beliefs about Allah and religion in the world were to be demolished and monotheistic belief was to be promoted as the dominant belief.

The Koranic verses above show clearly that Allah has announced His firm resolve to keep His religion completely safe until Doomsday.

By descending the Koran on Muhammad Allah wished to restore His original words in the Torah and the Gospel, which the Jews and the Christians either corrupted or concealed parts of it. This is why Muhammad came to the Jews and the Christians to warn them of a terrible chastisement if they do not revert to the right path. He also came to show them the correct teachings of Moses and Jesus, which they concealed or obliterated.

As we read in the Koran:

People of the Book, now there has come to you Our Messenger, making clear to you many things you have been concealing of the Book, upon an interval between the Messengers lest you should say, 'There has not come to us any bearer of good tidings, neither any warner.' Indeed, there has come to you a bearer of good tidings and a warner; Allah is powerful over everything (Al-Maidah, 15).

The Koran was descended on the Prophet clear and plain, a Book for everyone to understand and read without the intervention of Rabbis or priests. It is a shining light to distinguish the true from the false. With it, Allah guides all who seek His good pleasure and straight path.

The Koran says:

Whereby Allah guides whosoever follows His good pleasure in the ways of peace, and brings them forth from the shadows into the light by His leave; and He guides them to a straight path (Al-Maiah, 16).

The Koran mentions in detail the true words of Moses and Jesus to their followers – the Children of Israel.

The Christians corrupted their Gospel and concealed parts of it. For example, they concealed what Jesus really said to his disciples, and which the disciples accepted, to welcome Muhammad and follow him when they reach his time.

We read in the Koran:

And when Jesus son of Mary said, 'Children of Israel, I am indeed the Messenger of Allah to you, confirming the Torah that was before me, and giving good tidings of a Messenger who shall come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad (another name of Muhammad).' Then when he (Muhammad) brought them the clear signs (the Koran), they said, 'This is a manifest sorcery. And who does greater evil than he who forges against Allah falsehood, when he is being called unto Islam? And Allah guides never the people of the evildoers (As-Saff 6, 7).

The Jews and the Christians were ordered in their Books to follow Muhammad and his universal Message if they reach his time. There exists in the Torah and the Gospel, even after the original texts have been distorted, clear prophecies indicating the advent of Muhammad, e.g. Deut. 18: 18, 21; psalm, 118: 22-23; Isa. 42: 1-13; hab. 3: 3-4; Matt. 21: 42-43; Jn. 14: 12-17, 26-28, 16: 1-14.

The Koran confirmed these prophecies during the citation of the events of the calf – worship. When the Jews worshipped the calf in the absence of Moses and were overwhelmed with Allah's wrath, Moses chose seventy of his people and went to Mount Sinai to ask for Allah's forgiveness. When they were seized with violent quaking, Moses prayed, Thou art our Protector, so forgive us and gave us Thy mercy...'

Allah's answer was:

Said He, 'My chastisement – I chastise with it whom I will; and My mercy embraces all things, and I shall prescribe it for those who are god-fearing and pay the alms, and those who indeed believe in Our signs, those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered prophet, whom they find written

down with them in the Torah and the Gospel, bidding them to honour, and forbidding them dishonour, making lawful for them the good things, and making unlawful for them the corrupt things, and relieving them of their loads, and the fetters that were upon them. Those who believe in him and succour him and help him, and follow the light that has been sent down with him – they are the prosperous (Al-a'raf, 156).

The Koran came to filter out the truth from falsehood in the Torah and the Gospel. Anything that agrees with Islam is valid, and anything that disagrees with the Koran is rejected.

The Koran came to restore Allah's oneness, which the Jews and particularly the Christians had distorted.

We read in the Koran:

Say (O Muhammad): 'O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians): Come to a word that is just between us and you, that we worship none but Allah, and that we associate no partners with Him, and that none of us shall take others as lords besides Allah.' Then, if they turn away, say: "Bear witness that we are Muslims" (Al-Imran, 64).

The Jews killed some of their Prophets and do not believe in Jesus and his Message to them. They believe only in the Prophets who came from their own race. Furthermore, they denied Muhammad as a prophet, and the Koran as a divine Book. The Christians also believe in all the previous Prophets, but not in Muhammad and the Koran he brought.

Believing in some Prophets and Books and disbelieving in some others, thus discriminating one Messenger from another, is considered in the sight of Allah as clear blasphemy.

Unbelief takes various forms: denial of Allah and His revelation to mankind through inspired men; a sort of nominal belief in Allah and His Prophets, but one which is partial, and mixed up with racial pride, which does not allow for the recognition of any Prophets beyond those of a particular race (the Jews); a nominal belief in universal revelation, but so hedged around with peculiar doctrines of exclusive salvation. That it practically approaches to a denial of Allah's universal love and care (2).

The Koran says in this connection:

Those who disbelieve in Allah and His Messengers and desire to make division between Allah and His Messengers, and say, 'We believe in part, and disbelieve in part,' desiring to take between this and that a way –

those in truth are the unbelievers; and We have prepared for the unbelievers a humbling chastisement (Al-Nisa' 150, 151).

The Jews and the Christians accepted the Prophets of the past, but none of them accepted Muhammad, the seal of the Prophets. The truth of the matter is that the prophet-hood of the past is an established fact. It is so accepted that it became a part of one's thinking process right from the time of one's birth. Believing in the last of the Prophets, however, necessitates a complete change of mind-set. The seeker of truth has to undertake a new intellectual journey to find Allah again at the level of awareness.

Believing in the prophets of the past entails only a belief in one's own heritage, following in the footsteps of one's ancestors. The faith here is not by choice, but by birth. They had not made a conscious discovery of Allah. So, belief in the Prophets of the past is only pursuing blindly and without thinking the old traditional ways of the forefathers, while belief in the seal of the Prophets who came to correct the falsehoods that were added to Allah's old religions, means a conscious acceptance of faith. What is of importance in Allah's eyes is the faith adopted by choice and not by birth (3).

After corrupting their Books and incorporating inventions of their own making in their religion, Allah had firmly invited the Jews and the Christians to Islam. He ordered them to give credence to the Koran which He had revealed to Muhammad, the Book which corroborates and authoritatively validate the authentic Torah, and the Gospel, before He efface faces and wipe out their features beyond recognition, and turn them hind wards or curse them as He cursed those who broke the Sabbath.

You who have been given the Book, believe in what We have sent down, confirming what is with you, before We obliterate faces, and turn them upon their backs, or curse them as We cursed the Sabbath-men, and Allah's command is done (Al-Nisa', 47).

Literally, "before We obliterate faces" is an Arabic idiom. The face is the main expression of a man's own real essence; it is also the index of his fame and estimation. The people of the Book had been specially favoured by Allah with spiritual revelations. If they proved themselves unworthy, they lost their 'face'. Their eminence would, owing to their own conduct, be turned to degradation. Others would take their place. The first shall be last and the last shall be first: Matt. 19:30 (2).

“Before we obliterate faces” was also explained by Wahiddudin Khan. If people of the Book refuse to believe in Muhammad and his Koran, this would be as the features of their faces had been obliterated and they are seeing and listening with the back of their heads where there are neither eyes nor ears. Such blindness and deafness to the truth and reality indicate that Allah had deprived these persons of His blessings due to their constant negligence of truth and reality. Allah provided them with ears, but they could not listen; Allah had given them eyes, but they failed to observe. Allah, therefore, made them the same as what they had actually turned themselves into. This extreme stage of insensitivity to the truth takes the form of a metamorphosis from a superior state to an inferior state; man, the most superior form of creature, is degraded to the level of the beasts (3).

The above-mentioned verse (Al-Nisa', 47) is a severe warning to the Jews and the Christians, and an absolute obligation that they must believe in Allah's Messenger Muhammad and his Message of Islamic monotheism and his Koran, the last testament to the entire world.

In other words, Allah has given the Prophet of Islam the Koran to keep Allah in mind and to ponder His marvels, and he who rejects it will have reject Allah's mercy and he shall carry a heavy burden on the Day of Judgment. If people are so immersed in the evanescent falsehoods of this life to turn away from the truth, which Allah had descended on His Prophet, they will have a rude awakening when the Judgment comes. The very things that they thought so enjoyable here – taking advantage of others, material self-indulgence, nursing grievances instead of doing good, etc. - will be a grievous burden to them that day, which they will not be able to escape or lighten.

The Koran says:

We have given you a Koran from Us. Whosoever turns away from it, upon the Day of Resurrection, he shall bear a heavy burden, therein abiding forever; how evil upon the Day of Resurrection that burden for them! (Taha, 99-101).

Because religion with Allah is only Islam since He first created the universe and until the Day of Resurrection, the entire world was commanded to follow Islam, and believe in the Koran the unchangeable Book.

The Koran says:

And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter, he will be one of the losers (Al-Imran, 85).

The true believers in the sight of Allah are those who recognize truth in all situations, whether the call of truth comes through an Israelite Prophet or an Ishmaelite Prophet. But those who live their lives on the level of community-oriented thinking can recognize the truth only when it comes to them from a member of their own community. If Allah selects as His Messenger someone from outside their community, then the Message he brings does not lodge in their minds, not even when their own hearts bear witness to the veracity of that Message. Even if such people regard themselves as true believers, they will find their names deleted from the list of believers in the Hereafter. This is because they recognized the truth only in relation to their community rather than in relation to Allah. Not acknowledging a Message of truth, which has been testified to by their own hearts, is the worst crime in the eyes of Allah. Such people will be condemned in the Hereafter and all people following suit will join in this condemnation.

The Koran states in this respect:

How shall Allah guide a people who have disbelieved after they believed, and bore witness that the Messenger is true, and the clear signs came to them? Allah guides not the people of the evildoers. Those – their recompense is that they shall rest on them the curse of Allah and the angels and of men, altogether, therein dwelling forever; the chastisement shall not be lightened for them; no respite shall be given them (Al-Imran 86-88).

It is obligatory then to believe in the messenger-ship of Prophet Muhammad. It is reported that the Prophet said:

“By Him (Allah) in whose Hand Muhammad’s soul is, there is none from amongst the Jews and the Christians (of these present nations) who hears about me and then dies without believing in the Message with which I have been sent (i.e. Islamic monotheism), but he will be from the dwellers of the Fire.” (Sahih Muslim, the Book of Faith, Vol. 1, Hadith No. 240).

All nature adores Allah, and Islam asks for nothing peculiar or sectarian; it asks that we follow our nature and make our will conformable to Allah’s will. Islam’s Message is universal.

What, do they desire another religion than Allah's and to Him has surrendered whoso in the heavens and the earth, willingly and unwillingly, and to Him they shall be returned? (Al-Imran, 83).

The religion of Islam does not claim to be a religion peculiar to it. Islam is not a sect or an ethnic religion. In its view, all religion is one, for the truth is one. It was the religion preached by all the inspired Books.

The Koran says:

Say [Muhammad], 'We [Muslims] believe in Allah (God) and in what has been sent down to us (the Koran) and to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob and the Tribes. We believe in what has been given to Moses, Jesus and the Prophets from their Lord. We do not make any distinction between any of them (Al-Imran, 84).

In essence, Islam, amounts to a consciousness of the will and plan of Allah and a joyful submission to that Will and Plan. If anyone wants a religion other than that, he is false to his own nature, as he is false to Allah's Will and Plan. Such a one cannot expect guidance, for he has deliberately renounced guidance (2).

Muslims identify the prophets of Islam as those humans who were assigned a special mission by Allah to guide humans. Every prophet was given a belief to worship Allah and their respective followers believed it as well. Each prophet preached the same main belief: the Oneness of the Divine Creator, worshiping of that One God (Allah), avoidance of idolatry and sin, and the belief in the Day of Resurrection (Islam). Each Prophet came to preach Islam at different times in history and some were told of the coming of the final Prophet and Messenger of God, who would be named "Ahmad" commonly known as Muhammad. Each prophet directed a Message to a different group of people, and thus would preach Islam in accordance with the times. Although many Western scholars and writers hold the view that Islam began with Muhammad in Mecca, this contradicts the Koran, which says that Muhammad simply was the last prophet who preached the same faith that Adam and all the succeeding prophets preached to their people.

Muslims believe that in order for faith to be complete and accepted by Allah from his servants, it is obligatory to believe in all the Messengers and Prophets who came before Muhammad because they have conveyed the same Message of Muhammad – Islam. They are all Prophets of Islam and Muhammad is the last Prophet of Islam. It is obligatory to respect all of them, and not to discriminate or differentiate between any of them.

Allah, the only God of creation, finally sent Muhammad to transmit the Message of the Koran, which is universal in its Message. The Koran is universal and is protected by Allah against corruption until the Day of Judgment. In addition to the fact that all previous divine Books were lost or corrupted, were for a particular time and community. Muhammad, the seal of the Prophets, had yet still to come to tell the people of what was correct in the remaining scripture and warn them of the corruptions that took place. Muhammad therefore, being the last prophet, was given a book showing the right path of salvation and the road to Paradise.

Allah's revelation throughout the ages is "The Book". The Law of Moses and the Gospel of Jesus were only portions of the Book. The Koran completed the revelation and is par excellence the Book of Allah.

As we read in the Koran:

Hast thou not regarded those who were given a portion of the Book (the Jews and the Christians), being called to the Book (Koran) of Allah, that it might decide between them, and then a party of them turned away, swerving aside? (Al-Imran, 23).

Now we are offered the Truth – the Koran - if people reject it, they must take all the terrible consequences, which are prefigured in the Fire of Hell. Its flames and roof will completely disclose the unbelievers like a tent. Ordinarily there is water to quench the heat of thirst: here the only drink will be like molten brass, thick, heavy, burning, sizzling. Before it reaches the mouth of the unfortunates, drops of it will scald their faces as it is poured out.

The Koran says about the disbelievers in the Koran:

Say: 'The Truth (the Koran) is from your Lord; so let whosoever will believe.' Surely, We have prepared for the evildoers a fire, whose pavilion encompasses them: if they call for succour, they will be succoured with water like molten copper, that shall scald their faces – how evil a potion, and how evil a resting-place (Al-Kahf, 28).

Today Islam is the only religion in the text of which no changes could be made. Islam is the only religion which is historically authentic. Islam is the only religion whose teachings are found in a living language. The candle lit by Allah in the shape of Islam has never been dimmed or extinguished. It is there in its entirety before the world, maintaining its ideological superiority over all other religions (3).

1- My words to the Jews

Allah did a foretime take a covenant from the Children of Israel: 'Allah is with them if they establish regular prayers, practise regular charity, believe in their Messengers, honour and assist them, and loan to Allah a beautiful loan (spending in the cause of Allah – Allah in His infinite grace looks upon this as a loan, for which He gives a recompense manifold), verily Allah will wipe out from them their evils, and admit them to Paradise; but if any of them, after this, resists faith, he has truly deviated from the even way. The Children of Israel however, breached their covenant with Allah, so Allah cursed them and made their hearts grew hard. Allah withdrew His overflowing Grace from them, so they began to sin against truth and religion; they began to misuse Scripture itself, by either taking words out of their right meaning, or applying them to things for which they were never meant; in doing so, they forgot a part of the Message and purpose of Allah and they invented new deceits to support the old ones (2).

As we read in the Koran:

Allah took compact with the Children of Israel; and we rose up from among them twelve chieftains. And Allah said, 'I am with you. Surely, if you perform the prayer, pay the alms, believe in My Messengers, succour them, and lend to Allah a good loan, I will acquit you of your evil deeds and I will admit you to gardens underneath which rivers flow. Therefore, whosoever of you thereafter disbelieves, surely he has gone astray from the right way.

So for their breaking their compact We cursed them and made their hearts hard, they perverting words from their meanings; and they have forgotten a portion of that they were reminded of; and thou wilt never cease to light upon some act of treachery on their part, except a few of them (Al-Maidah, 12, 13).

Allah gave the Book (Torah) to Moses, but his people were disputant about it, and had it not been for Allah's word which was proclaimed beforehand to put punishment in respite, their hereafter would have been planted in the now. These people were as suspicious of the Torah, as the pagan Arabs were of the Koran.

The Koran says:

And We gave Moses the Book; and there was difference regarding it, and but for a word that preceded from thy Lord, it had been decided between them; and they are in doubt of it disquieting (Hud, 110).

Reviewing the long course of Jewish history until the time of Jesus, we could see that the Jews had often given the lie to Allah's Prophets. They further killed their Prophets Zachariah and John, and they tried to slay Jesus. The Israelites recorded their crimes in detail in their own history. Here are just a few examples from the Bible:

(1) After the death of Solomon the state of the Israelites was split into two: the State of Judah with its capital in Jerusalem, and the State of Israel with its capital in Samaria. This was followed by a series of wars between the two States so that the State of Judah sought the assistance of the Aramacan State of Damascus against its own kinsmen. At this, Hamani the seer went under God's direction to Asa the king and rebuked him. Instead of rectifying his behaviour, Asa was so angry that he put the seer in the stocks. (See 2 Chronicles 16: 7-10).

(2) When Elijah denounced the Jews for their worship of Baal and invited them to return to monotheism, Ahab, the king of Israel pursued him for the sake of his pagan wife so that he had to take refuge in the mountains of the Sinai Peninsula. On this occasion, according to the Bible, he said: '. . . the people of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thy altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword., and 1, even 1 only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away' (1 Kings 19: 14).

(3) The same king Ahab imprisoned another Prophet, Micah, for no other reason than that of speaking the truth. King Ahab ordered that he should be given only bread and water. (See 1 Kings 22: 26-7).

(4) When idol-worship and moral corruption became prevalent in Judah and the Prophet Zechariah raised his voice against them, he was stoned to death in the very court of the house of the Lord. (See 2 Chronicles 24: 21).

(5) When the Israelite State of Samaria was wiped out by the State of Jerusalem, the Prophet Jeremiah deplored the condition of the Israelites. He warned them that it was time they set about mending their ways otherwise they would face an even more calamitous end than that of Samaria. The response to this sincere preaching was abuse and curses: he was beaten, imprisoned, put in the stocks and lowered by ropes into a cistern, where he was left to die of hunger and thirst. He was also accused of various crimes, including treason and conspiracy. (See Jeremiah 15: 10; 18: 20-3; 20: 1-18; 36-40).

(6) It is reported of another Prophet, Amos, that when he denounced the widespread errors and corruption in the State of Samaria and warned of the evil consequences that follow such misdeeds, he was condemned to exile and told to pursue his prophetic task somewhere beyond its frontiers. (See Amos 7: 10-13).

(7) When John the Baptist protested against the acts of moral corruption that were brazenly practised in his court, Herod, the ruler of Judah, first put John into prison, then had him beheaded at the request of a dancing girl, and had his head set on a platter and presented to the girl. (See Mark 6: 17-29).

(8) The same hostility to Prophets is evident from the life of Jesus. The priests and political leaders of Israel ultimately became inflamed against Jesus, who criticized them for their impiety and hypocrisy and invited them to true faith and righteousness. It was this which prompted them to prepare a false case against him and persuade the Romans to sign a death sentence. Later, when the Roman governor, Pilate, asked them which of the two prisoners - Jesus or Barabbas, a notorious brigand - should be released on the occasion of the feast, they asked for the release of Barabbas and for the crucifixion of Jesus (Matthew 27: 20-6).

(9) Extending the review of that history to the time of Muhammad, they tried to take his life twice.

This is a shameful chapter in the record of the Jewish nation, to which the Qur'an states:

And We took compact with the Children of Israel, and We sent Messengers to them. Whensoever there came to them, a Messenger with what their souls had not desire for, some they cried lies to, and some they slew (Al-Maidah, 70).

Curses were pronounced on those among the children of Israel who rejected faith by the tongue of David and of Jesus the son of Mary because they disobeyed Allah their Lord and persisted in excesses. They did not forbid one another the iniquities, which they committed. The Psalms of David have several passages of imprecations against the wicked. Cf. Psalms's cix 17-18; Lixivia. 21-22 ('Therefore the Lord heard this and was wrath: so a fire was kindled against Jacob, and anger came against Israel; because they believed not in God, and trusted not in His salvation'); Psalms Lxix. 22-28, and Psalms v. 10.

Also in Matt. Xxiii 33 ('ye serpents, ye generations of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of Hell'); also Matt. Xii. 34.

There are bad men in every community, but if leaders connive at the misdeeds of the commonalty – and even worse, if leaders themselves share in the misdeeds as happened with the Pharisees, and Scribes against whom Jesus spoke out, then the community is doomed.

The Koran says:

Cursed were the unbelievers of the Children of Israel by the tongue of David and Jesus Mary's son; that, for their rebelling and their transgression. They forbade not one another any dishonour that they committed; surely evil were the things they did (Al-Maidah 78, 79).

As the Koran teaches, the slimily of those who were given the Torah to carry in their hearts but it did not reach their inmost being, nor did they absorb it in their minds, or profit by it, speaks of a donkey carrying a load of books full of knowledge and learning but the donkey do not understand it nor does it profit by it. Evil indeed is the slimily of a people who have refused to admit the truth of Allah's revelations and signs. Allah does not impress piety on the hearts of the perverse that are wrongful of actions.

We read in the Koran:

Those who have been charged to obey the Torah, but do not do so, are like a donkey carrying books; how base such people are who disobey Allah's revelations! Allah does not guide people who do wrong (Al-Jummu'ah, 5).

The correct faith, which Allah will accept from His servants on the Day of Resurrection, must include the belief in all Prophets without exception. The Jews believe only in some of their Prophets. They do not believe in Jesus and his mother. They even tried to kill Jesus but Allah honoured him and raised him up unto himself. The Jews do not believe in Muhammad and his Koran as well.

The Koran says:

And when they were told, 'Believe in that Allah has sent down,' they said, 'We believe in what was sent down on us'; and they disbelieve in what is beyond that, yet it is the truth confirming what is with them. Say: 'Why then were you slaying the Prophets of Allah in former time, if you were believers?' (Al-Baqarah, 91).

Allah said in the Koran regarding those who corrupted His Holy Words:

Know they not that Allah knows what they keep secret and what they publish? And some there are of them that are illiterates not knowing the Book (the Bible), but only fancies and mere conjectures. So woe to those who write the Book with their hands, 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 the gain they make thereby (Al-Baqarah, 77-79).

The growth of Jewish superstition is shown in the Talmud, and Christian superstition in the doctrine of papal infallibility and the worship of saints. The mere idea of a separate order of priesthood to stand between Allah and man and be the exclusive repository of Allah's secrets is derogatory to the goodness and all-pervading grace of Allah.

When Allah settled human beings on the earth, He furnished them with His divine Books. Later, when people fell into the ways of neglect and worldliness, they changed the Words of Allah to suit their desires. Whatever the people themselves wanted, they attributed it to Allah and wrote it in Allah's Book. They even went to the extent of believing that their great revered men to be mediators with Allah. Whatever bad deeds they did, would be forgiven because their holy men will be saviour before Allah.

We read in the Koran:

They have taken their rabbis and their monks as lords apart from Allah, and the Messiah, Mary's son – and they were commanded to serve but One God; there is no god but He; glory be to Him, above that they associate – desiring to extinguish with their mouths Allah's light; and Allah refuses but to perfect His light, though the unbelievers be averse (Al-Tawbah 31, 32).

This attitude of associating intermediaries with Allah in worship has been going on and on, but Allah sent other Prophets to rid His divine religion of all fabricated impurities. Subsequent generations however, made changes in that as well.

When superstition and apathy spread in the Jewish race, certain individuals exploited this tendency in order to make commercial gains, by providing success-seekers with magical prescriptions. To make their business flourish, these unscrupulous profiteers attributed their art to Solomon, saying that the extraordinary power he exercised over the

spirits and winds were, in fact, based on his knowledge of magic, and claimed that this knowledge had been passed on them by spirits. This claim to authority accounted in great measure for the rapid spread of sorcery, which soon developed into a highly popular art among the Jews.

When angels came to Lot's people, who were practising homosexuals, they came in the garb of handsome men in order to test them. Similarly, angels were sent to the Jews in Babylon in the garb of holy men to teach them magic, at the same time making it quite clear that they were only putting the Jews to the test, this being a form of knowledge that should not be practised, but the Jews took no heed of this warning. They practised magic with great fervour and even used it for illicit ends.

We read in the Koran:

They pursued what the devils falsely attributed to the kingdom of Solomon. Solomon was not an unbeliever: it is the devils who are unbelievers. They taught people witchcraft and that which was sent down to Harût and Marût, the two angels in Babylon. But these two taught no one until they had said, 'We are but trial, therefore, do not disbelieve (in Allah's guidance). So men learnt from them that which they caused to discord between man and wife; but they harmed no one thereby, except by the command of Allah; these people learned that which would harm them and do them no good knowing full well that whoever acquired (this knowledge) would have no share in the Hereafter. Evil indeed was the (price) for which they sold their souls. If only they had known it. And had they but believed and been mindful of Allah, His reward would have been far better for them, if they had but known it (Al-Baqarah 102, 103).

The Koran teaches that Allah gave Moses the Book – the Torah – and there it was met with disagreement; it was not in accordance with the taste and liking of some of the Children of Israel. And had it not been for Allah's Word which was proclaimed beforehand to put the punishment of the Jews of Medina who opposed the Prophet of Islam in respite, the torment would have overtaken them. Besides they were at variance concerning their Torah, the Jews were also in perplexity about the Koran with suspicious amongst their thoughts.

The Koran says:

And We gave Moses the Book; and there was difference concerning it (the Torah), and but for a Word that preceded from thy Lord, it had been decided between them; and they are in doubt of it (the Koran) disquieting (Fussilat, 45).

Allah then invites the Children of Israel to Islam. He reprimands them saying that they received revelations before Muhammad, and now comes one confirming it: the first who should accept the new revelation should be you – are you be the first to reject it? And reject it for what? Allah's signs are worth more than all your paltry considerations, and the standard of duty and righteousness is to be taken from Allah and not from priests and customs.

Allah says to the Jews:

And believe in what I have sent down, confirming that which is with you, and be not the first to disbelieve in it. And sell not My signs for a little price; and fear you Me. And do not confound the truth with vanity, and do not conceal the truth wittingly (Al-Baqarah, 42).

The greatest favour that Allah bestows upon a people is to send His Prophet to them, thus opening for them the road to eternal salvation. Before the advent of Muhammad, this favour was the privilege of the Children of Israel. However, with the passage of time, they let their religion deteriorate into a set of lifeless rituals passed on from one generation to the next. With the coming of Prophet Muhammad, those whose sensitivity to the truth was still alive recognized the signs indicating his coming in their Book, and the veracity of his prophet-hood, so they followed him. But those of whom religion had become a hereditary tradition found his Message unfamiliar and failed to recognize the truth when they heard it and turned against the Prophet.

In view of the clear prophesies in the Torah of the coming of an Arab Prophet (Isaiah, Chapter 42, verses 9-12; Genesis 21: 13; Isaiah, 42 verse 17; Genesis 17: 16; Genesis 22 16/18; Isaiah, 13, 14, 16, 17), it would have not been difficult to the Israelites to recognize the truth of his prophet-hood and believe in him; but to believe in him was not in their worldly interests. So they concealed the prophesies of Muhammad's coming and covered the truth with falsehood.

Allah says to the Jews in the Koran:

And cover not truth with falsehood, or hide the truth when you know it (Al-Baqarah, 42).

The Koran teaches that those who conceal the clear and plain revelations, which Allah has revealed in the Torah and the Gospel, and exchange the truth for the worthless vanity of the fleeting world, simply consume nothing but fire in their bellies; Allah shall ignore them in the Day of

Judgment; He shall not absolve them from guilt and they shall be put to the torment.

As we read in the Koran:

Those who conceal what of the Book Allah has sent down on them, and sell it for a little price – they shall eat naught but the Fire in their bellies; Allah shall not speak to them on the day of Resurrection neither purify them; there awaits them a painful chastisement. Those are they that have bought error at the price of guidance, and chastisement at the price of pardon; how patiently they shall endure the Fire (Al-Baqarah 174, 175).

Instead of being the first to believe in Muhammad, the Jews of Arabia were the first to reject him. They subjected Allah's Messenger to scorn and victimization. They had seen prophecies of the coming of a final Prophet in their scriptures, and had eagerly anticipated his arrival. They used to say that when he comes they will join with him in great alliance against the Arab pagans and idolaters. But these proved to be empty words on their part, a pretence aimed at consolidating their status as undisputed guardians of divine faith. When the Prophet of Islam came, the truth of their position was exposed. They were shown to be steeped in bigotry, reluctant to believe in a Prophet who did not come from the Jewish race. They could not dispute the authentic indications presented in the Koran in support of Muhammad's prophet-hood, all they could say was 'It all sounds very impressive, but our ancestral religion is good enough for us. Our hearts are sealed and we will not accept anything besides the faith we have inherited from our fore-fathers.'

The Jews were not ready to accept the Koran because they thought they were already guided. They were sure that they belonged to the largest group of the followers of truth, that is, the Israelites, and that would be enough to earn them salvation. But, in fact, this was a feeling of ethnic superiority, which they mistook for love of truth.

The Koran says:

And now that a Book (the Koran) has come to them (the Jews) from Allah, fulfilling that (predictions about the coming of the final Prophet in their scriptures) which is with them, they deny it – whereas previously they used to pray for victory against the disbelievers (Arab pagans) – yet when there came to them that which they recognized as the truth, they rejected it, but the curse of Allah is on the disbelievers. Miserable is the price for which they have sold their souls, in that they deny (the Koran)

which Allah has sent down, grudging that He should reveal His bounty to whom (Muhammad) He chooses from among His servants. They have incurred wrath upon wrath. Humiliating punishment awaits those who deny the truth (Al-baqarah 89, 90).

The communal values of their group came to occupy the position of pure truth. That was why when the truth appeared in the original form, they failed to accept it. Had their aim been to find pure truth, they would not have found it difficult, since predictions about it appeared in the Torah, to the effect that now it is the Koran that was the Book of Truth to be followed and not their corrupted Books or the religion of their own group.

Allah says in the Koran:

When they are told, 'Believe in what Allah has revealed,' they say, 'We believe in what Allah has revealed to us,' while they deny the truth in what has been sent down after that, even though it is the truth, confirming that which they have already have. Say, 'Why did you kill Allah's Prophets in the past, if you were true believers (Al-Baqarah, 91).

The Jews considered themselves the only ones qualified to pass decrees on truth and falsehoods: how could others be allowed to believe in what they themselves had chosen to disbelieve. The first step that they took was to incite the polytheists of Mecca to rise up against Muslims. Secondly, they tried to mislead Muslim converts about their new religion, putting doubts into their minds in the hope that they would revert to the religion of their ancestors. Being the descendants of saints and Prophets throughout history, they were the ones who would go to heaven. But the Koran tells us that one does not merit entrance into heaven by dint of belonging to a certain community. Everyone will be judged according to his own actions and deeds. National status is of no significance in the sight of Allah. To be sincere in one's faith is to become so devoted to Allah that everything else assumes secondary importance. Prejudices, personal loyalties, material or worldly interests should not come in the way of responding to the call of truth.

The Koran says:

Many among the people of the Book wish, through envy, to lead you back to unbelief, now that you have embraced the faith and the truth has been made plain to them. But you should pardon them and bear with them until Allah gives His command. Truly Allah has power over all things. And they say, 'None shall enter heaven unless he be a Jew or a Christian.' This is their own wishful thinking. Say, 'Produce your evidence if you are

telling the truth.' Indeed, those who submit themselves to Allah and act righteously shall be rewarded by their Lord: they shall have no fear, nor shall they grieve (Al-Baqarah 109, 111, 112).

The Jews claimed that they are favoured by Allah out of all people. Allah says to Muhammad in the Koran that if they presume that they are the chosen people of Allah to the exclusion of all others, then why they not eagerly desire death, which would bring them nearer to Allah. But of all people they are most tenacious of this life, and never would they long for death because of what their hands have sent forward.

The Koran says:

Say: 'You of Jewry, if you assert that you are the friends of Allah, apart from other men, then do you long for death, if you speak truly.' But they will never long for it, because of that their hands have forwarded; Allah knows the evildoers (Al-Jumua'h 6, 7).

The religion the Prophet of Islam taught was the religion of Prophet Abraham, the very religion to which the Jews and the Christians claimed allegiance. Why was it, then, that they turned away from Prophet Muhammad? The reason for this was that the religion brought by the Prophet, taught people to devote themselves to Allah entirely. With the people of the Book however, religion had a different meaning. For them religion was reduced to a symbol of national pride. The Message of Islam hurt their pride, so they turned against him. Those who consider their own race superior to others cannot accept the truth when it manifests itself in a nation other than their own. They would believe in Prophets who came amongst their own people, but not who appeared among the people outside their own community. The only Prophets that they acknowledged were those who belonged to their own race.

Deep down in their hearts, they knew that Muhammad was true but they did not accept him as the final Prophet, as was enjoined by Allah, for the simple reason that they were more concerned about their own position and prestige.

Over hundreds of years, the Jews developed an ecclesiastical structure, which the Israelites sanctified. Being the successors of saints and Prophets, they were looked up to for spiritual leadership. People also paid tribute and presented offerings to them all the year round. It appeared to them that if they accepted the Arab Prophet their privileged religious position would come to an end and their whole profit structure would be demolished (3).

2- My words to the Christian leaders attacking Islam

In this part the dogmas the Christians invented in their religion, thus deviating from the original monotheistic teachings of Jesus are emphasized.

a- Jesus is a man, a son of a virtuous woman, and not God

While Mary was serving her Lord in the sanctuary, the angel came to her and said, "O Mary we relate to you a divine edict: "Allah intimated to you the announcement of a happy event, the arrival of a male child, the product of a Word from Him, designated the Messiah Jesus, son of Mary, who shall be distinguished here and Hereafter and of those nearest to Allah; he shall speak to people in his cradle in infancy and in manhood, and he shall be one of those whose deeds are imprinted with wisdom and piety."

Mary said, "How shall I have a son O Allah my Creator, when no man has touched me? She was told, "Thus does Allah create what He will; when He decrees a thing He only says "Be" and it is. He shall teach him the Book of knowledge and wisdom and He shall teach him the Torah and the Gospel, and he shall be a Messenger to the Children of Israel conveying acts of miraculous nature serving to demonstrate his delegated divine power and authority, he shall be instructed to say to the children of Israel: "I have brought you an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. I shall create for you from clay the figure of a bird and inspire it and there it shall be a living bird by Allah's command; I shall restore the sight of him who is congenitally blind and heal the leper, and with delegated divine authority shall I raise the dead by Allah's command. I shall also inform you of what you eat and of what you store in reserve in your homes. This should be enough divine evidence to bring you to acknowledge the truth of my mission if indeed your hearts have been impressed with the image of religious and spiritual virtues. And to bring matters to completeness, it shall be my duty to Allah to confirm that which was before me of the Torah, and to make lawful to you some of what was forbidden to you aforetime, and I have come to you with a proof from your Lord, so fear Allah and obey me. Allah is certainly my Creator and your Creator, so worship Him alone. This is the straight path".

The corresponding verses of the Koran are:

The angels said, 'Mary Allah gives you news of a Word from Him, whose name will be the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, who will be held in honour

in this world and the next, who will be one of those brought near to Allah. He will speak to people in the cradle (in his infancy) and in his adulthood. He will be one of the righteous.' She said, 'My Lord, how can I have a son when no man has touched me?' [the angel] said, 'This is how Allah creates what He will; when He has ordained something, He only says, 'Be' and it is. He will teach him the Scripture and wisdom, the Torah and the Gospel, He will send him as a Messenger to the Children of Israel saying, 'I have come to you with a sign from your Lord: I will make the shape of a bird for you out of clay, then breath unto it and, with Allah's permission, it will become a real bird; I will heal the blind and the leper, and bring the dead back to life with Allah's permission; I tell you what you may eat and what you may store up in your houses. Surely therein is a sign for you, if you believe. I have come to confirm the truth of the Torah, which preceded me, and to make some things lawful to you, which used to be forbidden. I have come to you with a sign from your Lord. Be mindful of Allah, obey me: Allah is my lord and your Lord, so serve Him – that is a straight path (Al-Imran 45-51).

So, Jesus never said that He was God or the son of God. He emphasized the fact that Allah is his Lord and people's Lord, and that worshipping Him alone is a straight path. Jesus also emphasized that all the miracles he makes are with Allah's permission and not due to his own authority.

Jesus often watched and prayed as a humble worshipper of Allah, and his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane was full of human dignity, suffering, and self-humiliation (see Matt. xxvi. 36-54).

We also read in the Gospels of Luke and Matt:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Luke 11:2; Matt. 6:9-10).

This concept was emphasized by Jesus in a number of his statements recorded in the Gospels. He taught, for example, that only those who submitted would inherit Paradise.

Jesus also pointed out that he himself is submitted to the will of God.

"None of those who call me 'Lord' will enter the kingdom of God, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven." (Matt. 7:21).

"I cannot do anything of myself. I judge as I hear and my judgment is honest because I am not seeking my own will but the will of Him Who sent me." (John 5:30).

There are many reports in the Gospel, which show that Jesus made it clear to his followers that he was not the one true God. For example, when speaking about the final Hour, he said:

"No one knows about the Day or Hour, not even the angels in heaven, not the son, but only the Father." (Mark 13:32).

Thus, Jesus like the prophets before him and the one who came after him, taught the religion of Islam: submission to the will of the One true God.

Jesus did not worship himself when he worshiped, but rather he worshiped Allah. Jesus was reported in the Gospels to have said:

"It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'" (Luke 4:8).

The Koran says:

The Messiah will not disdain to be a servant of Allah, neither the angels who are near stationed to Him. Whosoever disdains to serve Him, and waxes proud, He will assuredly muster them to Him, all of them (Al-Nisa' 172, 173).

Associating Jesus with Allah in worship is considered in Islam an unforgivable sin because it is a stupendous blasphemy against Allah. Allah, however, forgives except that anything else to whom He wills.

The Koran says:

Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with Him; less than that He forgives to whomsoever He will. Whoso associates with Allah anything has indeed forged a mighty sin (Al-Nisa', 48).

The companion of the Prophet Abdullah ibn Mas'ud said:

I said, "O Allah's Apostle! Which is the biggest sin?" He said, "To set up rivals to Allah by worshipping others though He alone has created you." I asked, "What is next?" He said, "To kill your child lest it should share your food." I asked, "What is next?" He said, "To commit illegal sexual intercourse with the wife of your neighbour." (Volume 8, No. 802).

The belief in Allah begetting a son lowers Him to the level of man or animal! If combined with the doctrine of vicarious atonement, it amounts

to a negation of Allah's justice and man's personal responsibility. It is destructive of all moral and spiritual order, and is condemned in Islam in the strongest possible terms. By saying that Allah has begotten a son, the Christians have uttered a monstrous falsehood that would make the heavens tremble, and the earth splits asunder, and the mountains fall in ruins. There is none in the heavens and the earth but comes unto Allah as a slave.

We listen to the Koran:

And they say, 'The All-Merciful has taken unto Himself a son.' You have indeed advanced something hideous! The heavens are well nigh rent of it and the earth split asunder, and the mountains well-nigh fall down crashing for that they have attributed to the All-Merciful a son; and it behoves not the All-Merciful to take a son. None is there in the heavens and earth but he come to the All-Merciful as a servant (Maryam 88-93).

The reliance on Jesus as a saviour is incorrect. Nobody has any power in this world or the world to come except Allah. On the Day of Judgment, no one will be able to save the Christians, even Jesus himself, because Allah is the only saviour. Allah is the only protector from His torture; no one else's protection is of any use.

The Koran says:

What, do the unbelievers reckon that they may take My servants as protectors apart from Me? We have prepared Gehenna (Hell) for the unbelievers' hospitality (Al-Kahf, 102).

The Christians distorted the concept of Tawheed (Allah's oneness – pure monotheism) and associated Allah with Jesus and the Holy Ghost in worship. They worshipped Allah as one in three or three in one (Trinity)! They see Jesus as Allah or the son of Allah, a matter that is considered in the sight of Allah as glaring blasphemy.

The Koran teaches that they do blaspheme who say: 'Allah is Jesus the son of Mary.' Jesus never said in the Gospel that he was God. The concept of the Trinity is something the Christians invented in their religion. In Matt. Iv. 10, Christ rebuked Satan for desiring to worship of other than Allah's: John xx. 17, Christ said to Mary Magdalena, 'Go unto my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father and your Father; and to my God and your God: also in Luke xxiii, 19, Christ rebuked a certain ruler for calling him Good Master: 'Why callest thou me good?

None is good save One, that is God.' In Mark vii. 25 Jesus said, 'The first of all commandments is, Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is One Lord.'

The Koran strictly states:

They are unbelievers who say, 'Allah is the Messiah, Mary's son. For the Messiah said, 'Children of Israel, serve Allah, my Lord and your Lord. Verily whoso associates with Allah anything, Allah shall prohibit him entrance to Paradise, and his refuge shall be the Fire; and wrongdoers shall have no helpers (Al-Maidah, 72).

Those who have claimed divinity for themselves down through the ages have often based their claims on the mistaken belief that Allah is present in man. Taking one step further, they claim that Allah is more present in them than the rest of us, and that other humans should therefore submit to them and worship them as God in person or as God concentrated within their persons. Similarly, those who have asserted the godhood of others after their deaths have found fertile ground among those who accept the false belief of God's presence in man.

Those who corrupted the Gospel of Jesus say, 'Allah has taken to Him a son'. Glory be to Allah! Nay, but they are honoured servants that outstrip Him not in speech, and perform as His commands. They tremble in awe of Him, and fear His punishment.

We read in the Koran:

If any of them says, 'I am god apart from Him', such We recompense with Hell; even so We recompense the evildoers (Al-Anbiya', 29).

It should be abundantly clear that one who has grasped the basic Message of Islam and its implications could never agree to worship another human being under any circumstance. Allah's religion, in essence, is a clear call to the worship of the Creator and the rejection of creation-worship in any form. This is the meaning of the motto of Islam: "Laa ilaaha illaa Allah" (there is no god but Allah).

The sincere declaration of this phrase and the acceptance of prophet-hood automatically bring one within the fold of Islam, and sincere belief in it guarantees one Paradise. Thus, the final Prophet of Islam is reported to have said:

"Anyone who says 'There is no god but Allah', and dies holding that (belief) will enter Paradise."

The most honoured of the Prophets of Allah are but men. Allah's creation may take unusual forms (Jesus came without a father; able to perform

miracles with Allah's leave, etc.), but because in any particular form it is different from what we see daily around us, it does not cease to be creation, or to be subject to the power of Allah. No creature can be Allah. All power belongs to Allah, and not to any man.

The Koran clearly states:

They are unbelievers who say, 'Allah is the Messiah, Mary's son.' Say, 'Who then shall overrule Allah in any way if He desires to destroy the Messiah Mary's son, and his mother, and all those who are on earth?' For to Allah belongs the kingdom of the heavens and of the earth, and all that is between them, creating what He will. Allah is powerful over everything (Al-Maidah, 17).

Jesus was only a servant to Allah. Allah favoured him with prophet-hood and sent him to the Children of Israel.

We read in the Koran:

He is only a servant We blessed, and We made him to be an example to the children of Israel (Az-Zukhruf, 59).

The Jews lost the spirit of religion and indulged in hair-splitting over the basic principles of religion. Consequently, different sects developed among them. One sect laid stress on one controversial issue, another laid stress elsewhere. In this way they turned their religion into several religions. The Prophet Jesus, the man, the son of Mary, came to reconcile the jarring sects in Israel, and his true teaching was just the same as which was expounded in a wider form by Islam. He did not claim to be God or son of God. He preached that the real religion was based on the fear of Allah, and that they should become worshippers of the One and only God, Allah, and follows his example in everyday affairs. Beyond this, whatever innumerable problems they had created by their futile discussions and hair-splitting arguments were their own self-additions. They were advised to give up all these self-made additions and be steadfast in their adherence to the real religion. All these exhortations made by Jesus exist in the Bible even today (3).

The Koran teaches that Jesus came to the Children of Israel in order to make clear to them some of the points on which they disputed. Jesus came to reconcile the jarring sects in Israel. He did not claim to be God or the son of God. His very words to the Jews were: 'Allah is my Lord and your Lord, so worship you Him, this is a straight way.'

The Koran says about the true teachings of Jesus:

And when Jesus came with the clear signs he said, 'I have come to you with wisdom, and that I make clear to you some of that whereon you are at variance, so fear you Allah and obey you me. Assuredly, Allah is my Lord and your Lord; therefore serve Him; this is a straight path. But the parties among them fell into variance; so woe unto those who did evil from the chastisement of a painful day (Al-Zukhruf 63-65).

Once, the Prophet of Islam was with his companion Mu'adh ibn Gabal. The Prophet said, "O Mu'adh! Do you know what Allah's Right upon His slaves is?" Mu'adh said, "Allah and His Messenger know best." The Prophet said, "To worship Him Alone and to join none in worship with Him. Do you know what their right upon Him is?" I replied, "Allah and His Apostle know best." The Prophet said, "Not to punish them." [Sahih Al Bukhari 93/471].

Paul of Tarsus effectively shifted the centre of worship away from Allah by saying that Jesus was the divine agent of their salvation (Gal. 2:20). In so doing, Paul set aside all teachings of Allah's prophets, and even the concept of monotheism itself, since Allah in Christianity needs Jesus as His divine helper.

With his very salvation at stake here, the Christian should take a closer look at what he believes in and why.

Allah says in the Koran:

"O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion, nor say of Allah aught but the truth. Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, was no more than a Messenger of Allah... for Allah is One God; glory be to Him: far exalted is He above having a son. To him belong all things in the heavens and on earth. And enough is Allah as a Disposer of Affairs." (An-Nisa', 171).

b- The concept of the Trinity is strictly condemned

Christians regard their religion as monotheistic, since Christianity teaches the existence of one God - Yahweh, the God of the Jews. Contemporary Christianity shares this belief with two other major world religions, Judaism and Islam. Christian monotheism, however, is questionable. It holds that Allah is One, but that three distinct "persons" constitute the one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This unique threefold God of Christian belief is referred to as the Trinity (from Latin trinitas, "three").

The word "Trinity" does not appear in the Bible. It was defined in the Nicene Creed, which declares Jesus to be: "God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father."

Past and present Christian faiths who do not believe in the Trinity include: Arianism (4th century); some radical reformers (16th century), such as Michael Servetus; Jehovah's Witnesses; Mormonism; Unitarianism. Reasons given for rejecting the doctrine of the Trinity include: it is not mentioned in the Bible; it does not make philosophical sense; it is not compatible with monotheism; it is not necessary in order to explain the "specialness" of Jesus.

The doctrine of the Trinity took centuries to develop, but the roots of the doctrine can be seen from the first century. The foundations of the concept of the Trinity can be seen in the New Testament, especially in the Gospel of John. Hints of Trinitarian beliefs can also be seen in the teachings of extra-biblical writers as early as the end of the first century. However, the clearest early expression of the concept came with Tertullian, a Latin theologian who wrote in the early third century. Tertullian coined the words "Trinity" and "person" and explained that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit were "one in essence - not one in Person."

About a century later, in 325, the Council of Nicea set out to officially define the relationship of the Son to the Father, in opposition to the Unitarian teachings of Arius. Led by bishop Athanasius, the council established the doctrine of the Trinity as orthodoxy and condemned Arius' teaching that Christ was the creation of God and not God. The creed adopted by the council described Christ as "God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance (homoousios) with the Father."

Arius, an elder in the Alexandrian church, in the early fourth century AD, affirmed the uniqueness of God and denied the complete divinity of the Son (Christ). He taught instead that Christ was a created and changeable being, who, while superior to humans, is not of the same order as the one God.

Arius and Arianism were condemned at the famous Council of Nicea in 325 AD, which proclaimed that the Son was of "the same substance" as the Father. After Constantine's death, however, Arianism flourished again for some decades and almost overcame the Nicene party. Arianism was finally condemned at the Council of Constantinople in 381 AD. <http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/beliefs/trinity.htm> - 4

Despite its widespread acceptance among Christians, the doctrine of the Trinity has been an obstacle to many non-Christians throughout its

history. The monotheistic Jews rejected the idea of the Trinity since it first arose.

The concept of the Trinity is strictly condemned in the Koran. Allah, repeatedly mentioned in the Koran that He is not the third of three in a Trinity, but is rather One indivisible God. Jesus the son of Mary was no more than a Messenger, his mother was a woman of truth. They had both to eat their daily food for sustenance. Jesus without Allah's help had no power to help himself or benefit people.

We read in the Koran:

They are unbelievers who say, 'Allah is the third of three.' No god is there but one God. If they refrain not from what they say, there shall afflict those of them that disbelieve a painful chastisement. Will they not return to Allah and pray His forgiveness? Allah is All-Forgiving, All-Compassionate. The Messiah son of Mary was only a Messenger; Messengers before him passed away; his mother was just a woman; they both ate food. Behold, how We make clear the signs to them; behold, how they perverted are (Al-Maidah, 73-76).

The Koran explains the identity of Jesus:

In Allah's eyes Jesus is just like Adam, He created him from dust, and then said to him 'Be', and he was. This is the truth from your Lord, so do not be one of those who doubt (Al-Imran, 59, 60).

The Koran asserts in several places that Allah is one God:

'Take not to you two gods. He is only One God; so have awe of Me (Al-Nahl, 51).

There is no god but He; He gives life and makes to die; your lord and the Lord of your fathers, the ancients (Al-Dukhan. 8).

The Oneness of Allah (Tawheed) is the foundational doctrine of Islam. Muslim criticism of the Christian doctrine of the Trinity flows from the conviction that the Trinity compromises Allah's unity and entails tri-theism. Believing that Allah is one in a trinity is an act of blasphemy, for by associating partners with Allah (shirk), wrongly gives Jesus an exclusive rule of the world, a matter that is due only to Allah, the Lord of creation.

Muslims believe that the concept of the Trinity is a corruption of the Message of Jesus. The Koran rejects a triad that consists of Allah, Jesus, and his mother Mary.

The Koran says:

And when Allah said, "O Jesus, son of Mary! Did you say to the people, 'Take me and my mother as gods apart from Allah?' He said, 'To thee be glory! It is not mine to say what I have no right to. If I indeed said it, Thou knowest it, knowing what is within my soul, and I know not what is within thy soul; Thou knowest the things unseen I only said to them what that didst command me: "Serve Allah, my Lord and your Lord... (Al-Maidah, 116).

The Koran also denies that Jesus is Allah's son and that Allah is three entities:

People of the Book, go not beyond the bounds in your religion, and say not as to Allah but the truth. The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was only the Messenger of Allah, and His Word that He committed to Mary, and a Spirit from Him. So believe in Allah and His Messengers, and say not, "Three." Refrain; better is it for you. Allah is only one God. Glory be to Him – that He should have a son! To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and in the earth; Allah suffices for a guardian (Al-Nisa', 171).

The Koran considers calling Christ Allah's son is clear blasphemy, and that worshiping Christ as a lord is glaring polytheism.

We read in the Koran:

The Jews say, 'Ezra is the Son of Allah; the Christians say, 'The Messiah is the Son of Allah.' That is the utterances of their mouths, conforming with the unbelievers before them. Allah assail them! How they are perverted! They have taken their rabbis and their monks as lords apart from Allah, and the Messiah, Mary's son – and they were commanded to serve but One God; there is no god but He; glory be to Him, above that they associate - desiring to extinguish with their mouths Allah's Light; and Allah refuses but to perfect His Light, though the unbelievers be averse (Al-Tawbah 30-32).

We also read in the Koran:

They are unbelievers who say, 'Allah is the Messiah Mary's son.' For the Messiah said, 'Children of Israel, serve Allah, my Lord and your Lord. Verily whoso associates with Allah anything, Allah shall prohibit him

entrance to Paradise, and his refuge shall be the Fire; and wrongdoers shall have no helper (Al-Maidah, 73).

c- Jesus was not crucified

Among the pagans of Paul's time, a wide variety of gods existed. Although these gods had different names and were embraced by people from different areas of the world, such as Adonis from Syria, Dionysus from Thrace, Attis from Phrygia, the basic concept in each cult was the same: these sons of gods died violent deaths and then rose again to save their people.

Since the pagans had tangible saviour-gods in their old religions, they wanted nothing less from the new; they were not able to accept any sort of an invisible Deity. Paul was quite accommodating, preaching therefore of a saviour named Jesus Christ, the son of God, who died and then rose again to save mankind from sin (Rom. 5:8-11; 6:8-9).

The Bible itself points out the error of Paul's thinking. While each of the four gospels contain an account of the crucifixion of Jesus, these accounts are strictly hearsay; none of the disciples of Jesus were witness to such, having fled his side in the Garden (Mark 14:50).

In the Torah, Allah says that one who is "hanged upon a tree" – crucified – is "accursed" (Deut. 21:23). Paul sidestepped this by saying that Jesus became accursed in order to take on the sins of man (Gal. 3:13); in so doing, however, Paul set aside the very Law of the Lord.

The resurrection, wherein Paul says that Jesus "conquered" death and sin for mankind (Rom. 6:9,10), plays such an important part that one who does not believe in it is not considered a good Christian (1 Cor. 15:14).

Here, too, the Bible lends little support to Paul's notions; first of all, not only was there no eyewitness to the actual resurrection, but all post-resurrection accounts are in contradiction with each other as to who went to the gravesite, what happened there, and even where and to whom Jesus appeared (Mat. 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20).

Secondly, although Christianity states that the body following resurrection will be in a spiritual form (1 Cor. 15:44), Jesus had obviously not changed, for he both ate with his disciples (Luke 24:30, 41-43), and allowed them to touch his wounds (John 20:27). Finally, as the divine son of God in Christianity, Jesus is said to share in Allah's attributes; one cannot fail to wonder, however, just how it can be possible for Allah to

stay in his mother's womb for nine months before being born, play and communicate with his contemporaries, eat and drink to survive, and then die on the cross!

In his desire to win souls among the pagans, Paul simply reworked a number of major pagan beliefs to come up with the Christian scheme of salvation. No prophet – including Jesus himself – taught such concepts; they were authored entirely by Paul.

Long accustomed to making sacrifices to their gods, the pagans easily grasped Paul's notion that Jesus was the "ultimate sacrifice" whose blood washed away sin. A common ceremony during this time in various Middle Eastern cults, such as those of Attis and Mithras, was that of the "taurobolium": a person descended into a pit covered over with grillwork upon which a bull (or ram), said to represent the pagan deity himself, was then ceremoniously slain. By covering himself with the blood, the person in the pit below was said to have been "born again" with his sins washed away.

It is worth noting that the Jews had given up sacrifice back in 590 BCE following the destruction of their Temple. Paul's notions, therefore, were in direct contradiction to both Old Testament teaching (Hosea 6:6) and even to the teaching of Jesus himself (Mat. 9:13) which stressed how Allah desired good virtues, not sacrifice.

While Paul stressed that Allah's "love" was behind the sacrifice of Jesus (Rom. 5:8), the Doctrine of Atonement instead shows a harsh Deity satisfied only by the murder of his own innocent son. Paul was way off base here, for the Old Testament is full of references to the love and mercy of Allah to man (Ps. 36:5-10; Ps. 103:8-17) revealed through His forgiveness (Ex. 34:6,7; Ps. 86:5-7), of which even Jesus spoke (Mat. 6:12).

Pagan influence in Christianity even extends to its sacred symbol. Although Paul calls the cross of Jesus "the power of God" (1 Cor. 1:18), reference works, such as the Encyclopaedia Britannica, Dictionary of Symbols, and The Cross in Ritual, Architecture, and Art point out that the cross was used as a religious symbol centuries before the birth of Jesus. Bacchus of Greece, Tammuz of Tyre, Bel of Chaldea, and Odin of Norway are just a few examples of ancient pagan gods whose sacred symbol was that of a cross.

The Koran rejects the concept of crucifixion as well. Jesus was not crucified, but Allah honoured him, protected him from the deceit and snare of the Children of Israel, and lifted him up unto Himself.

The Orthodox-Christian Churches make it a cardinal point of their doctrine that Jesus life was taken on the cross, that he died and was buried, that on the third day he raised in the body with his wounds intact, walked about, conversed, ate with his disciples, and was afterwards taken up bodily to heaven. This is necessary for the theological doctrine of blood sacrifice and vicarious atonement for sins, which is rejected by Islam. But some of the early Christian sects did not believe that Christ was killed on the cross. The Basilidans believed that someone else was substituted for him. The Docetate held that Christ never had a real physical or natural body, but only an apparent or phantom body, and that his crucifixion was only apparent, not real. The Marcionite Gospel (about A.C. 138) denied that Jesus was born, and merely said that he appeared in human form. The Gospel of St. Barnabas supported the theory of substitution on the cross (2).

The Koranic teaching is that Christ was neither crucified nor killed by the Jews, but was taken up to Allah Almighty.

The Koran states:

Allah said, 'Jesus I will take you back and raise you up to me: I will purify you of the disbelievers. To the Day of Resurrection I will make those who followed you superior to those who disbelieved. Then you will all return to Me and I will judge between you regarding your differences (Al-Imran, 55).

Here we see that Allah Almighty promised Jesus peace be upon him to raise him to heaven. Jesus was charged by the Jews with blasphemy as claiming to be God or the son of God. A few early sects, who were annihilated by persecution, and the modern sect of Unitarians, believed that Jesus was a Prophet and worshipped Allah their Lord without associating with Him any partners. The majority of the Christians thereafter, considered Jesus as God or the son of God, and made this false belief the cornerstone of their faith. Allah Almighty clears Jesus of such a charge or claim. Those who really followed Jesus were the Christians who did not believe he was God but only a Prophet.

Now let us look at what the Gospels say:

Luke 4: 10-12.

10 - He will order his angels to protect and guard you.

11 - And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone."

12 - Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, "You must not test the Lord your God."

Matthew 4:5-10

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple,

6 and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

7 Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

8 Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

9 "I will give it all to you," he said, "If you will kneel down and worship me."

10 "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

Let us now look at Psalm 91.

God Almighty will hear his cries (Psalm 91:15) and will save him (Psalm 91:3).

God Almighty will cover him with His Protection (Psalm 91:4).

Christ will then not have any fear in him (Psalm 91:5).

Christ will then observe with his own eyes the punishment of the crucified ones (Psalm 91:8).

No harm (this includes crucifixion!) or disaster will even come near Christ (Psalm 91:10...this even contradicts him being beaten up before crucifixion).

GOD Almighty will send down the Angels to protect him and lift him (Psalm 91:11-12, 14, Isaiah 52:13). Not even his foot will strike the ground from his enemies pushing, grappling and punishment.

Christ's call will be heard, and he will be delivered and honoured (Psalm 91:15, Isaiah 52:13). No way would these verses be valid if Christ was crucified.

His life will be prolonged (extended) and he will live to even see his offspring (Isaiah 53:10 and Psalm 91:16, which by the way contradict Jesus never, got married and had children. In Islam's Noble Quran's 13:38, however, it is quite possible that Jesus Christ had wives and children).

His life will overpower death (Isaiah 53:12).

"Death" in Isaiah 53:9 is proven to be symbolic using the Hebrew Lexicon and several English translations, and it never meant a literal death.

Now let us see what Allah says in the Koran about the crucifixion of Jesus in the context of reprimanding the Jews for their iniquities and disobedience to Allah:

And for their saying (in boast), 'We slew the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah' - yet they did not slay him, neither crucified him, only a likeness of that was shown to them. Those who are at variance concerning him surely are in doubt regarding him; they have no knowledge of him, except the following of surmise; and they slew him not of a certainty - no indeed (Al-Nisa', 157).

d- The Koran rejects the doctrine of vicarious atonement

The evidence is overwhelming that the concept of salvation in Christianity – its Doctrine of Vicarious Atonement – came not from Allah but from man via pagan rituals and beliefs.

In Christianity, salvation is achieved through the Doctrine of Vicarious Atonement. Since human nature is considered in Christianity to be wayward and sinful, this doctrine states that Jesus "rendered full satisfaction" to Allah for the sins of man through his death and resurrection. Briefly, Jesus took our place, and his death absolves us of our sins.

This is contrary to what is found in the Torah where Allah says: "...every man shall be put to death for his own sin" (Deut. 24:16).

The matter of Jesus, as saviour of humankind, is refuted in the Koran, wherein Allah says that He:

"... has stamped them (the Jews) with their disbelief... for their saying 'We killed Allah's Messenger, Christ Jesus, the son of Mary' they neither

killed nor crucified him, even though it seemed so to them..." (Al-Nisa', 155 - 157).

Nowhere in the four gospels did Jesus explicitly state that he would die to save humankind from sin. When approached by a man who asked what he could do to gain eternal life, Jesus told him to keep the Commandments (Mat. 19: 16, 17); in other words, to obey Allah's Law. To a similar question put to him by a lawyer, as recorded in the gospel of Luke, Jesus told him to love Allah and his fellow man (Luke 10:25-28).

The role of Jesus is made clear in the Koran where Allah says:

"Christ, the son of Mary, was no more than a Messenger; many were the Messengers that passed away before him...see how Allah does make His Signs clear to them, yet see in what ways they are deluded away from the truth" (Al-Maidah, 75).

The mission of Jesus was not, therefore, to set up a new method of achieving salvation, much less the founding of a new system of belief; as even the Bible points out, Jesus sought only to take the Jews from their emphasis on ritual back to that of righteousness (Mat. 6:1-8).

For the origin of the doctrine of atonement, one does not go to the teachings of Jesus, but instead to the words of Paul of Tarsus, the true founder of Christianity and in teachings of present Christian terms and practices.

Like many Jews, Paul had no use for the teachings of Jesus, and he himself persecuted the followers of Jesus for their unorthodox beliefs. This zealous persecutor was turned into an ardent preacher, however, through a sudden conversion around 35 CE. Paul claimed that a resurrected Jesus appeared to him in a vision, thereby, choosing Paul as his instrument for carrying his teachings to the Gentiles (Gal. 1:11; 12:15, 16).

Paul's credibility in any capacity is questionable, when considering that: (1) there are four contradictory versions of his so-called "conversion" (Acts 9:3-8; 22:6-10; 26:13-18; Gal. 1:15-17); (2) God says, in passages such as Num. 12:6, Deut. 18:20 and Ez. 13:8-9, that revelations come only from Him, and (3) accounts of numerous disagreements between the other disciples and Paul regarding his teachings recorded in Acts.

Experience and observation had taught Paul that preaching among the Jews was not feasible; he, therefore, chose to go to the non-Jews. By

doing so, however, Paul disregarded a direct command from Jesus against preaching to other than a Jew (Mat. 10:5-6). In short, Paul set aside the actual teachings of Jesus in his desire to be a success (4).

The Koran rejects the concept of vicarious atonement. Every person is responsible for his own deeds. On the Day of Judgment, people will be judged individually according to their actions. To think that anything other than good deeds will avail one is to underestimate the rigours of that Day.

The Koran says:

..and beware of a day when no soul for another shall give satisfaction, and no intercession shall be accepted from it, nor any counterpoise be taken, neither shall they be helped (Al-Baqarah, 48).

The wrongdoers are not in Allah's sight like the righteous; neither in life nor in death is they equal; in life the righteous are guided by Allah and receive His Grace, and after death His Mercy, while the wrongdoers reject His Grace, and after death receive condemnation. If the wicked flourish here, they will be condemned in the Hereafter; if the good are in suffering or sorrow here, they will receive comfort in the Hereafter. The real life of the righteous is not like the nominal life of the wicked, which is really death; nor is the physical death of the righteous, which will bring them into eternal life, like the terrible death of the wicked, which will bring them to eternal misery.

Or shall We make those who believe and do righteous deeds as the workers of corruption in the earth, or shall We make the god-fearing as the transgressors? (Sad, 28).

Or do those who commit evil deeds think that We shall make them as those who believe and do righteous deeds, equal their living and their dying? How ill they judge! (Al-Jathiyah, 21).

Again, man is responsible for his actions and deeds. We cannot transfer the consequences to someone else. Nor can anyone vicariously atone for our sins.

The following Koranic verses confirm the personal responsibility of man:

Say: 'Shall I seek after a Lord other than Allah, who is the Lord of all things?' Every soul earns only to its own account, no soul laden bears the load of another. Then to your Lord shall you return, and He will tell you of that whereon you were at variance (Al-An'am, 164).

That they may bear their loads complete on the Day of Resurrection, and some of the loads of those that they lead astray without any knowledge. O evil the load they bear! (Al-Nahl, 25).

No soul laden bears the load of another; and if one heavy-burdened call for its load to be carried, not a thing of it will be carried, though he be a near relative. Thou warnest only those who fear their Lord in the Unseen and perform the prayer; and whosoever purifies himself, purifies himself only for his own soul's good. To God is the homecoming (Fatir, 18).

Salvation therefore is only in the hands of Allah. He is the only One who grants it to His servants. Believing in His oneness and worshipping Him alone, plus doing good deeds based on His commandments deserve Paradise. Worshipping Him in plurality by associating others with Him, the recompense would certainly be torture in Hell for eternity. He is the only One who grants forgiveness and the only one who pours His punishment on the disbelievers.

In the Opening chapter of the Koran Allah taught Muslims to pray with the following words:

"You alone do we worship and from you alone do we seek help (Al-Fatihah, 4).

Elsewhere in the Koran Allah also says:

Your Lord has said, 'Call upon Me and I will answer you. Surely those who wax too proud to do Me service shall enter Hell utterly abject' (Ghafir, 60).

We conclude from these Koranic verses that Jesus on the Day of Judgment will not atone for the sins of the Christians as they claim. He will not be there to rescue the sinners from the Fire because he will be busy defending himself before Allah. He will stand before Allah in submission answering His questions.

As we read in the Koran:

When Allah says, 'Jesus, son of Mary, did you say to people, "Take me and my mother as two gods alongside Allah?" He will say, 'May You be exalted! I would never say what I had no right to say – if I had said any such thing you would have known it: You know all that is within me, though I do not know what is within You, You alone have full knowledge of things unseen – I told them only what You commanded me to: "Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." I was a witness over them

during my time among them. Ever since you took my soul, You alone have been the watcher over them: You are witness to all things, and if you punish them, they are Your servants, if you forgive them; You are the All-Mighty, the Wise (Al-An'am 116-118).

e- The myth of Original Sin

Central to the Doctrine of Atonement is Paul's notion that humanity is a race of wrongdoers, having inherited from Adam his sin in eating of the forbidden fruit. As a result of this Original Sin, man cannot serve as his own redeemer; good works are to no avail, says Paul, for even these cannot satisfy the justice of God (Gal. 2:16).

Because of Adam's sin, man is doomed to die. By his death, however, Jesus took on the punishment due man; through his resurrection, Jesus conquered death, and righteousness was restored. To earn salvation, a Christian need only to have faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus (Rom. 6:23).

Despite its prominent place in Christianity, the notion of an "original sin" is not found among the teachings of any prophet, Jesus included. In the Old Testament, Allah says: "... the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son" (Ez.18:20-22). Personal responsibility is crucially stressed in the Koran where Allah says: "... no bearer of burdens can bear the burden of another... man can have nothing but what he strives for. This divine concept of salvation was so old as it was also mentioned in the pages of Abraham, as well as those of Moses.

The Koran states:

Did you (O Muhammad) consider him who turned away (from Islam)? And gave a little, then stopped (giving)? Is it with him the knowledge of the unseen so that he sees? Or has he not been told of what is in the pages of Moses, and Abraham, he who paid his debt in full? That no soul laden bears the load of another. And that man shall have to his account only as he has laboured, and that his labouring shall surely be seen, then he shall be recompensed for it with the fullest recompense, and that the final end is unto thy Lord (An-Najm 33-42).

The doctrine of original sin gave Paul the means to justify pagan influence in his scheme of salvation. Irresponsibility became the hallmark of Christianity through this doctrine, transferring sins onto Jesus, Christians assume no responsibility for their actions.

As we are all personally responsible for our actions, there is no need for a humanly concocted saviour in Islam; salvation comes from Allah alone.

Allah has sufficient ability to forgive the sins of those who worship him, with no need to associate with Him in worship any partners. Thus did Islam seek to restore the true meaning to monotheism, for in the Koran Allah asks:

Who can be better in religion than one who submits his whole self to Allah, does well, and follows the way of Abraham the true in faith? (Fussilat, 33).

Perversion sets in the Christians for just one reason. They become to believe that by uttering mere words, or by performing lifeless rituals, they will be able to earn salvation, but salvation can be earned only by performing righteous deeds.

During this stage of decline, superstition comes to be more highly regarded than actual good deeds. People begin to expect mysterious kinds of results or benefits by performing senseless rituals. This thinking, initially focusing on salvation, later comes to dominate the entire national policy of the Christian sects. A realistic approach is thus replaced by a superstitious approach.

For the Christians, the call to Islam is seen as a threat to the status that they enjoy owing to their worldly interpretation of religion. Due to their negativism, they begin to make such representations as are outwardly correct but which, in term of reality, are totally meaningless. All arguments point to the fact that Muhammad received the same Message as was sent down to Abraham, Moses and Jesus, and that the revelation received by the Arab Prophet tallied exactly with the predictions made in the previous divine scriptures. This proves beyond all doubt that the revelation Muhammad received was sent by Allah Himself.

Allah says in the Koran:

And We have sent down unto thee signs, clear signs, and none disbelieve in them except the ungodly. Why, whensoever they have made a covenant, does a party of them reject it? Nay, but the most of them are unbelievers. When there has come to them a Messenger from Allah confirming what was with them (Torah, Gospel), a party of them that were given the Book reject the Book of Allah behind their backs, as though they knew not (Al-Baqarah, 99-101).

Islam rejects the concept of "Original sin". The Koran explains the story of Adam in three phases:

First, Adam was ordered not to approach a specific tree in paradise.

And We said, 'Adam, dwell thou, and thy wife, in the Garden, and eat thereof easefully where you desire; but draw not nigh this tree, lest you be evildoers (Al-Baqarah, 35).

However due to the temptation of Satan he approached it anyway:

Then Satan caused them to slip therefrom and brought them out of that they were in (Al-Baqarah, 36).

Allah then commanded them:

'Get you all down, each of you an enemy of each. On earth will be a dwelling place for you, and enjoyment for a time.' (Al-Baqarah, 36).

Adam then felt bad for what he did and sought repentance from Allah. Adam as being still primitive and innocent did not know the words to use in order to repent, so the Lord taught him some words of repentance. The Koran mentioned these words:

They (Adam and Eve) said, 'Lord, we have wronged ourselves, if You forgive us not, and have mercy upon us, we shall certainly be among the losers' (Al-A'raf, 23).

And Allah due to His Mercy forgave him:

Thereafter Adam received certain words from His Lord, and His Lord pardoned him. Verily, He is the One Who forgives, the Most-Merciful (Al-Baqarah, 37).

f- Believing in all divine Books and all Prophets is necessary for sincere faith

Religion of Allah is only one. All Prophets came to their people with the same Message. Therefore, the true faith in the sight of Allah is to believe in all Prophets and in all divine Books. Believing in some and rejecting some others is considered in the sight of Allah as clear blasphemy.

Allah says in His Koran:

Those who disbelieve in Allah and His Messengers and desire to make division between Allah and His Messengers, and say, 'We believe in part

and disbelieve in part,' desiring to take between this and that a way – those in truth are the unbelievers; and We have prepared for the unbelievers a humbling chastisement. And those who believe in Allah and His Messengers and make no division between any of them, those – We shall surely give them their wages; Allah is All-Forgiving, All-Compassionate (Al-Nisa' 150, 151).

The Christians do not believe in Muhammad and his Koran. The Jews do not believe in Jesus and Muhammad, they even killed some of their Prophets. The above verse applies to them.

The religion that the Prophet Muhammad taught was the religion of the Prophet Abraham, the very religion to which the Jews and the Christians claimed allegiance. Why was it, then, that they turned away from Prophet Muhammad. The reason for this is that Islam taught people to devote themselves entirely to Allah their Creator. With the Jews and the Christians, religion had a different meaning. For them religion was reduced to a symbol of national pride. The Message Muhammad brought hurt their pride, so they turned against him. Those who consider their own race superior to others cannot accept the truth when it manifests itself in some nation other than their own. They would believe in Prophets who came from amongst their own people, but not in those who appeared among other people outside their own community. The only Prophets that they acknowledged were those who belonged to their own race. The mistake of the Jews and Christians was to think that contemporary and succeeding generations would be rewarded for the good deeds of their ancestors. The idea of original sin held by Christians implied that sins were handed down from one generation to the next. Such beliefs have no basis in truth. Every one will be rewarded by Allah according to his or her personal actions; no one can be hold responsible for the deeds or others (3).

The Koran says:

They say, 'Be Jews or Christians, and you shall be rightly guided.' Say, 'By no means! We believe in the faith of Abraham, who was ever inclined (to Allah); he was not one of those who set up partners with Allah.' Say (O Muslims): 'We believe in Allah and that which is revealed unto us and that which was revealed unto Abraham, and Ishmael, and Isaac, and Jacob, and the tribes, and that which Moses and Jesus received, and that which the prophets received from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and unto Him we have surrendered.' (Al-Baqarah 135, 136).

Here we have the creed of Islam: to believe in (1) the One universal God, Allah; (2) the Message delivered by Muhammad; (3) the Message delivered by all the Prophets of the past. We make no difference between any of them. Their Messages in essentials was one, and that was Islam.

Muslims are thus in the true line of those who follow the one and indivisible Message of the One Allah, wherever delivered. If others narrow it or corrupt it, it is they who have left the faith and created a division or schism (2).

Allah says:

If they believed as you have believed; then they are indeed on the right path; but if they turn back, it is they who are in schism. Allah will suffice thee as against them, for He is All-Hearing, All-Knowing (Al-Baqarah, 137).

Muslims were told that many among the people of the Book (Jews and Christians) wish through envy, to lead Muslims back to unbelief.

The Koran says in this connection:

Many of the people of the Book wish they might restore you as unbelievers, after you have believed, in the jealousy of their souls, after the truth has become clear to them; yet do you pardon and be forgiving, till Allah brings His Command; truly Allah is powerful over everything (Al-Baqarah,105).

The Koran teaches that neither the Jews nor the Christians shall be pleased with Muhammad until he conforms to their system of faith. Allah commanded him to say to them that the guidance of Allah, i.e. Islamic monotheism is the only guidance, and should he be tempted to follow their wishes after the Koran had been imparted to him, then he will not find neither protector nor helper against Allah.

Never will the Jews nor the Christians be satisfied with you till you follow their religion. Say: 'Allah's guidance is the only true guidance.' If you follow their desires after what you have received of knowledge, you shall have against Allah neither protector nor helper (Al-Baqarah, 120).

For the Jews and the Christians the words of ancient Prophets embellished by myth and legend, became a matter of national pride; to regard it in any other light would have been to deny a great legacy of the past. What was so special about Islam was that it amounted to acceptance of the truth on an abstract level; it was belief in truth for the sake of truth.

Unlike the ancient prophets who were great figures in their times, Prophet Muhammad came afresh to the world with no accumulation of tradition behind him to lend weights to his words. When truth stands on its own, unsupported by history or tradition, as it was in the time of the Muhammad, those who accept it do so for the pure and simple reason that it is the truth. This is the kind of belief that Allah recognizes and accepts. This is true faith; only faith of such strength and purity is acceptable to Allah (3).

Islam is therefore not a new religion brought by Prophet Muhammad into Arabia in the seventh century, but rather a re-expression in its final form of the true religion of Almighty Allah, as it was originally revealed to Adam and subsequent prophets.

A decisive word

This is the lesson I wanted to give to the Christian leaders who had the nerve to attack Islam, the one and only religion of Allah. Their stupidity took them to believe that Islam is not a true religion, Muhammad is a false prophet and the Koran is of Muhammad's own making! This erroneous thinking made them commit great sins when they gave themselves the right to slander the Prophet, belying the Koran and humiliating their Creator by crying lies to His signs. They thought that by doing so they were defeating Islam and humiliating Muslims. But how that could be and Islam is self-protected? Allah descended His last revelation to mankind and guarded it from corruption. Allah defends His religion and his faithful servants.

We read in the Koran:

Assuredly Allah will defend those who believe; surely Allah loves not any ungrateful traitor (Al-Hajj, 38).

The Koran is the speech of a Noble Messenger, a sending down from the Lord of all Being. In the Koran Allah confirms in several verses, that His Koran is the truth sent down from Him upon Muhammad peace be upon him.

Allah ascertains in the Koran:

No! I swear by the fallings of the stars, and that is indeed a mighty oath, do you but know it. It is surely a Noble Koran in a hidden Book none but the purified shall touch, a sending down from the Lord of all being. What,

do you hold this discourse in disdain, and do you make it your living to cry lies? (Al-Waqiah 75-82).

The televangelists twist the facts to stab Islam in the back. They misguide their followers by spreading falsehood about Islam. Ignorant as they are about their own religion, they misguided their followers by stuffing their minds with fictitious trifles their fathers fabricated and added to the religion of Jesus. Before Allah, they are doubly guilty, because not only do they bely the Message of Islam, and distort its true meaning, but also persist in misguiding their people about the true Message of Jesus.

The deceptions they practise on their people will before the seat of Judgment, become clear in their own eyes. On the Day of Judgment when they are called to account and set before the Fire, the truth they used to hide will become all too clear to them.

These morons, who had the guts to attack Islam in such insolent way, think they are on something, and that they have the right to attack Muslims and their religion. They mobilized themselves against Muslims, and raced in launching foul epithets that touched everything sacred to Muslims. Do they think that Allah is unaware of the crimes they committed against His last religion to the world? Do they think their ugly words against Islam will just evaporate in the air? Do they think they will be left uncontrolled? Know they not that Allah encompasses the things they do?

They lead a life according to their material status, but in the Hereafter they will rise or fall according to their spiritual status. The distorted religion they believe in will be rejected from Allah in the Hereafter. They did not speak out in support of the truth, they were as if without eyes, ears and tongues. They rather blissfully imagined that their actions shall have no consequences in the Hereafter.

The Koran says about the enemies of Allah in all ages:

We shall gather them together, lying upon their faces, blind, dumb and deaf. Their abode shall be Hell. Every time the Fire dies down, We will make it blaze up again for them (Al-Isra', 97).

They ridiculed the Koran and rejected Allah's Message. They could not grasp the importance of the call for truth. The reason is the enticement of this world. The present world is so attractive to them that they find it difficult to rise above it. Know they not that Allah has adorned the world with pleasant things, so that He may test His servants which of them do

best. Do they know that after an appointed time Allah shall reduce the earth to barren dust?

We have appointed all that is on the earth for an adornment for it, and We shall surely make all that is on it a barren dust (Al-kahf, 8).

They measured not Allah with His true measure. They are unaware of the greatness of Allah. They think that He is a god we invented! I invite them to understand what Allah truly is.

With Allah are the keys of all that is hidden which no one knows but He. He knows whatever there is in the land and in the sea, and not one single leaf, large or small, laterally produced from a stem or a branch, or springing from its root that falls but comes to His knowledge. Nor a seed embedded in the darkness of the interior of the earth nor anything fresh, moist or green, or anything dry, withered or solid but is inscribed in a clear record according to which everything seen or unseen, is ordered and regulated.

We read in the Koran:

With Him are the keys of the Unseen, none knows them but He. He knows what is in the land and sea; not a leaf falls, but He knows it. Not a grain in the earth's shadows, not a thing, fresh or withered, but is in a Book Manifest (Al-An'am, 59).

They should have known that Allah knows whatever is in the heavens and the earth, and He knows what they conceal and what they reveal. Allah knows the thoughts within the breasts. Everything is recorded, they will pay dearly for the crimes they committed against Allah and His Prophet. If they could but see themselves at the distressed moment of death, as the angels of death are stretching forth their hands to disembody their souls and say to them: 'Deliver your souls, this day you shall be recompensed with the torment of degradation because what you used to utter against Allah other than the truth.

We read in the Koran:

And who does greater evil than he who forges against Allah a lie, or says, 'To me it has been revealed', when naught had been revealed to him, or he who says, 'I will send down the like of what Allah has sent down'? If you could only see when the evildoers are in the agony of death and the angels are stretching out their hands: 'Give up your souls! Today you shall be recompensed with the chastisement of humiliation for what you said untruly about Allah, waxing proud against His signs (Al-An'am, 93).

The arrogance we see from them is due to the riches and wealth they hoard in this world. They forgot that whatever blessings come their way is only for testing them and that too during a limited period. As soon as the time of death arrives, all these things will suddenly be snatched from them. They will be a lone existence, just as it was at the time of their birth. Immediately after death, they will have neither wealth nor position; neither their companions and followers, nor their intermediaries; there will be only Allah and themselves. None of the things they were proud of in the world will be there to save them from Allah' scourge.

It should be pointed out that good deeds without true faith in the One God, Allah, is worthless. Nothing is acceptable to Allah, which does not proceed from sincere faith. On the day of Resurrection Allah will never accept the good deeds of the idolaters, infidels and polytheists. Without believing in Allah as the sole Creator of the universe, and worshipping Him alone without associating with Him Jesus as a partner, or any other false deities, good deeds are valueless

The Koran states:

Surely those who disbelieve, and die disbelieving, there shall not be accepted from any one of them the whole earth full of gold, if he would ransom himself thereby; for them awaits a painful chastisement, and they shall have no helpers (Al-Imran, 91).

The unbelievers, though they possessed all that is in the earth, and the like of it with it, to ransom themselves from the chastisement of the Day of Resurrection thereby, it would not be accepted of them; for them awaits a painful chastisement (Al-Maidah, 36).

Say: 'Expend willingly, or unwillingly, it shall not be accepted from you; you are surely a people ungodly.' (Al-Tawbah, 53).

The Koran compares the actions of the unbelievers to ashes, which are scattered by a strong wind and lost:

The likeness of those who disbelieve in their Lord: their works are as ashes, whereon the wind blows strong upon a tempestuous day; they have no power over that they have earned - that is the far error! (Ibrahim, 18).

In the Koran, the works of the unbelievers have been likened to a mirage, which appears to be water but upon being approached, turns out to be nothing.

And as for the unbelievers, their works are as a mirage in a spacious plain which the man athirst supposes to be water, till, when he comes to it, he finds it is nothing; there indeed he finds Allah, and He pays him his account in full; and Allah is swift at the reckoning (Al-Nur, 39).

Proper prayer will be the first thing a person will be questioned about on the Day of Judgment. Prayer is a right of Allah, and people will be questioned about it.

The Prophet said:

“The first thing the people will be accountable for on the Day of Judgment is prayer” (reported by Imams Ahmad, Abu Dawood, An-Nisa'i, and Al-Hakim).

But what would be the case with those who do not pray, or follow a false religion of their own invention? What would be the situation of those who follow fabricated rites and prayers that debase Allah, anger Him, and do not give Him His true measure? On the Day of Judgment Allah will reject all these sorts of false worship.

The disbelievers who do not believe in Allah, or worship Him in a twisted way, may think that their good deeds could expiate the sins they committed during their lifetime, but this is just their wishful thinking.

Good deeds like establishing schools, places of learning, writing, and teaching; health services like medicine, nursing, establishing sanitary establishments, and so forth; are all in vain, if the doers of such good deeds were unbelievers or worshipping Allah in a distorted manner.

The good deeds of the unbelievers, with all their deceptive appearances, are a mirage that lacks reality. And as for their evil deeds, alas! They are evil above evil, darkness upon darkness!

The state of the true believers however is quite different:

Surely those who say, ‘Our Lord is Allah’ and then go straight, no fear shall be on them, neither shall they sorrow. Those are the inhabitants of paradise, therein dwelling forever, as a recompense for that they have been doing (Al-Ahqaf, 13).

Those are they from whom We shall accept the best of what they have done, and We shall pass over their evil deeds. They are among the inhabitants of Paradise – the promise of the very truth, which they were promised (Al-Ahqaf, 16).

The televangelists misguided their followers with charming and magic words. They portrayed the path they tread as a straight way. But when the revolution of the Hereafter unveils the realities, how utterly meaningless will their words appear.

Allah says about them in the Koran:

Now you have come to us one by one, as We created you upon the first time, and you have left what we conferred on you behind your backs. We do not see with you your intercessors (Jesus as God or the son of God, his mother Mary as the mother of God, saint, intermediary priest, pope, animal, nature, idol, etc.), those you claimed were your partners with Allah; the bond between you is now broken; that which you ever asserted has now gone astray from you (Al-N'am, 94).

They found their fathers on the wrong path, so with their ears closed, and their eyes blind, they insisted on walking in their father's footsteps to perdition.

Muhammad the Prophet of Islam came with the clear proof from his Lord – the Koran. In it, Islam, the true religion of Allah has been clearly explained. The religion with Allah is only Islam and no other. All the Prophets of old came with the same Message: Allah is One, and He is to be worshipped alone without associating with Him any partners. This must be supported with good deeds as mentioned in the divine Books. Jesus said the same, and also Muhammad. Any deviation from Islamic monotheism by worshipping Allah through His creation is an unforgivable sin. Polytheism is the reason behind all evil, and polytheists and disbelievers will be the inmates of Hell abiding there forever.

Now the televangelists, and all the other enemies of Islam, know the truth. Now they will be held responsible for it whether they believe in it or not. Do they have the courage to reform their distorted religion and restore it from ugly polytheism to pure monotheism, the true religion of Jesus and Muhammad and all other prophets? Do they have the valour to confront their people and call for religious reformation, or maybe it is safer for them to hide their heads in the sand and submit to polytheism in order to evade the anger and opposition Christendom might pour on their heads? Or maybe it is safer and simpler to find no crime in attacking Allah their Lord, belying and burning His Koran, and slandering His Prophet to gain more fame? In all cases, they have done nothing but compiling sins over sins upon their heads.

After all that, they think they are on something and we Muslims are far astray. Wake up you morons. Read the last divine revelation, which Allah your Lord descended on Muhammad the Prophet of mercy. Muhammad was sent to you in particular so that you know the truth about your religion - the truth that you will not find in any other Book. The Koran is your last chance to realize the truth, so grasp the opportunity before it is

too late. If you do not believe in the Koran, then what Message after that will you believe.

Fear a Day of distressful wrath from your Lord. Fear a Day whose evil flies far and wide. Allah showed you the truth in His previous Books but your forefathers corrupted it, and you followed them blindly without thinking. When Muhammad came with the Message of Truth for you, you disobeyed him and followed no advice. You even mocked at his Message and ridiculed it. You have killed your discernment and are unwilling to submit to guidance. You are only interested in worldly gain and neglect the Hereafter. Allah and the Hereafter have no value for you. You are worse than brute beasts. It would be more fitting for you to please Allah and His Messenger, if you are believers, but you are polytheists associating Jesus the son of Mary with Allah in worship, a matter considered in Islam as a glaring blasphemy. All your works in this worldly life have failed, and in the world to come you shall be the losers.

On the Day of Judgment, We will be asked about all of the blessings and bounties that Allah gave us in this life. The Prophet said that we would be asked about five things:

“The son of Adam will not pass away from Allah until he is asked about five things: how he lived his life, and how he utilized his youth, with what means did he earn his wealth, how did he spend his wealth, and what did he do with his knowledge.” (reported by Imam At-Tirmithi).

The Messenger described the questioning in a speech reported by Imam Muslim that the prophet Muhammad said: "Allah will meet a person and ask him: "O person, Wasn't I generous to you, and made you with a spouse, and made the horses and camels at your disposal? The servant will reply "yes"! Allah will then ask "Did you think that you will meet me?" He will reply: "No!" Allah will say: "I will forget you like you forgot me"! Then Allah will meet another person and his reply will be the same as the first person. Then Allah will meet a third person and will ask similar questions, and the person's reply will be: "O Lord I believed in you, in your Books, and in your Messengers. I prayed, I fasted, and I gave charity. And he will praise Allah as much as he can. Allah will say: "Hold on to your words, Now we will bring the witnesses. The person will ask himself "Who will testify against me?" Then that person's mouth will be sealed, and his thighs, flesh and bones will be asked to speak. They will speak about his bad deeds. He will know that he has no excuse. That is the hypocrite Allah will be furious with!"

Allah describes that situation in His noble Koran:

"On the day when their tongues, their hands, and their feet will bear witness against them as to their actions" (An-Nur, 24).

Allah also says:

"And they will say to their skin:" Why did you bear witness against us?
"They will say "Allah has caused us to speak, as He cause all things to speak." (Fussillat, 21).

On the Day of Judgment Allah will ask about the covenants and promises that we have made in our lives. Those promises may be made to Allah or to people.

Fulfil Allah's covenant, when you make covenant, and break not the oaths after they have been confirmed, and you have made Allah your surety; surely Allah knows the things you do (Al-Nahl, 91).

And fulfil the covenant; surely the covenant shall be questioned of (Al-Isra', 34).

Allah will also ask us on the Day of Judgment about our hearing, our vision, and our hearts. He will ask us about how we utilized each of them.

Allah says in the Noble Koran:

And pursue not that thou hast no knowledge of; the hearing, the sight, the heart - all of those shall be questioned of (Al-Isra', 36).

Muhammad brought you the Truth, but you are averse to it. You eat as cattle eat, you take your enjoyment in this evanescent life, but only for a little; if you do not wake up now, the Fire shall be your lodging.

Allah says in the Koran:

We have created for hell many jinn and men: they have hearts, but understand not with them; they have eyes, but perceive not with them; they have ears, but they hear not with them. They are like cattle; nay, rather they are further astray. Those - they are the heedless (Al-A'raf, 179).

Or deemest thou that most of them hear or understand? They are but as the cattle; nay, they are further astray from the way (Al-Furqan, 44).

What, was it at Allah and His signs that they were mocking? They are never safe from Allah's wrath. They will be deprived from His grace in this world and the Hereafter.

They ran campaigns of false propaganda, devising several ways to distort the image of Islam. They set themselves up as adversaries of Allah their Creator. Having adopting such criminal attitude, they have written their names on the list of Allah's enemies. Now, for them, there is nothing but dishonour and divine retribution. Do they not know that he who sets

himself against Allah and His Messenger shall suffer the fire of hell to abide therein for eternity?

The Koran says

Do they not know that whosoever oppose Allah and His Messenger – for him awaits the fire of Hell, therein to dwell forever? That is the mighty degradation (Al-Tawbah, 63).

Will they not then understand? The angels are writing down what they are devising against Allah's religion, can they not reflect before it is too late?

One cause of man's going astray in this world is his taking someone other than Allah as his supporter. This deviance is at its worst when someone is believed to be the son of Allah. All such beliefs are false, because there is no body on earth or in heaven who wields any power or authority except Allah.

Praise belongs to Allah who has sent down the Book and has not assigned unto it any crookedness; right, to give warning of a stern punishment from Him, and to give good tidings unto the believers, who do righteous deeds that theirs shall be a goodly wage therein to abide forever, and to warn those who say, 'Allah has taken to Himself a son'; they have no knowledge of this, they nor their fathers; a monstrous word it is, issuing out of their mouths; they say nothing but a lie (Al-Kahf 1-5).

Out of His mercy, the Lord sent the Koran as a last warning, do you people take heed, or you would prefer to sink further in the darkness of polytheism and disbelief?

You transgressed wrongfully in the land. You crossed all bounds when you rejected Allah's signs and slandered His Prophet who came to rescue your wretched souls from the torment of the Fire. But your insolence is only against yourselves; you are only enjoying the deceitful splendour of this fleeting life, then unto Allah you shall return, then He shall tell you what you were doing.

Listen to the Koran:

...They transgress insolently in the land in defiance of right. O mankind! Your insolence is against your own souls; the enjoyment of the present life, then unto Us is your return, and We will inform you of all that you have done (Yunus, 23).

Is there any of the intermediaries or partners you associate in worship with Allah (Jesus, priests, popes, rabbis, etc...) guide one to the truth? It is Allah who guides to the truth. Is he who guides to the truth more worthy to be followed or one who cannot find the way himself unless he be guided? What is the matter with you, how you judge? You follow

nothing but surmise, merely conjecturing, but surmise can be of no avail against the truth. Allah knows the things you do.

They shut their eyes to Allah's glory and goodness, go after false gods, and give excuses for themselves such as they will intercede for them. But how can men intercede for them, when they themselves have need of Allah's mercy? Even Muhammad the best and the noblest of men, the only Prophet who was granted intercession, cannot intercede as of right, but only with Allah's permission. To pretend that there are other powers than Allah is to invent lies and to teach Allah of something He does not know in the heaven or in earth. Glory be to Him, and far is he above the partners they ascribe to Him.

The Koran states:

They serve apart from Allah what hurts them not, neither profits them, and they say, 'These are our intercessors with Allah.' Say: 'Will you tell Allah what He knows not either in the heavens or in the earth? Glory be to Him! High He be exalted above that they associated! (Yunus, 18).

They lied in religion, and invented false god (Jesus) or gods (intermediaries), and false worship (fabricated rites). Have they any idea of the Day of Judgment, when they will be called to account, and will have to answer for their sinful deeds?

Have they any idea that whatever activity they may be engaged, and whatever deed they do, Allah is witness over them; and not so much as the weight of an ant in earth or heaven escapes from their Lord, and there is nothing smaller or bigger but is recorded in a clear Book?

How dare they say, 'Allah has taken to Him a son?' Do they say concerning Allah that they know not? Those who forge against Allah falsehood shall not prosper, some enjoyment in this world; then unto Allah they shall return to receive their terrible chastisement.

Everyone will die and meet His Lord. Everyone will receive his account alone without relatives, friends or supporters. No vicarious atonement would be there. Jesus will not be there to atone for their sins. Muhammad came and delivered the Message of mercy, then travelled up to His Lord. He left behind the Koran, the Reminder, and it is to his followers to remind people of the right path of rectitude, and the dreadful terror the polytheists and the disbelievers are going to encounter on the Day of Judgment.

We read in the Koran:

And We have not sent down upon thee the Book except that thou mayest make clear to them that whereon they were at variance, and as a guidance and as a mercy to a people who believe (Al-Nahl, 64).

The Koran is their salvation. They should read it carefully haply they may prosper. The Koran came to purify the Torah of Moses and the Gospel of Jesus from the violations their forefathers added to their texts, thus perverting the original words of Allah.

Allah has sent down the Koran confirming the Scriptures, which were revealed before and serving as the Book of reference which does answer any query on matters disputed among the Jews and the Christians. The Koran is the umpire of all preceding Scriptures, and the decision that is based upon its precepts shall have to be accepted as final. In other words, the Koran safeguards the former Books for it has preserved within it the teachings of all preceding Books. It watches over these Books in the sense that it will not let their true teachings to be lost. It supports and upholds these Books in the sense that it corroborates the Word of Allah, which has remained intact in them. It stands as a witness because it bears testimony to the Word of Allah contained in these Books and helps to sort it out from the interpretations and commentaries of the people, which were mixed with it: what is confirmed by the Koran is the Word of Allah and what is against it is that of the people (2).

Our mission as Muslims is to deliver the Message of Islam and explain it as clear as possible; but guidance is not our responsibility because it rests with Allah only. Preaching may not be of value if Allah does not wish guidance to touch the heart of the sinners.

We read in the Koran:

Thou guidest not whom thou likest, but Allah guides whom He wills, and knows very well those that are guided Al-Qassas, 56).

Yes, had Allah willed, He would have induced all people domiciled on earth to conform to His system of faith and worship. But it was His will to keep man in a free environment, and to give him the opportunity to obey Him of his own free will. The eternal bounties of paradise are to be obtained at the cost of this voluntary obedience. Man will be granted the blessing of faith only on his adopting the method laid down by Allah for this purpose. The way for man to be blessed with faith is by his using mind to understand the call to the true faith - pure Islamic monotheism. But they are polytheists, associating with their Lord other deities, and their minds are swamped by worldly considerations. Their minds are as if immersed in mud. It is not likely that they be blessed with the bounty of true faith.

We read in the Koran:

And if thy Lord had willed, whoever is in the earth would have believed, all of them, all together. Wouldst thou then constrain the people, until they are believers? It is not for any soul to believe save by the leave of Allah; and He lays abomination upon those who have no understanding (Yunus 99, 100).

Muhammad came with the Koran as guidance to all humanity. He asked no wages for it, for it is a reminder unto all beings.

The Koran says:

And We have brought to them a Book that We have well distinguished, resting on knowledge, a guidance and a mercy unto a people that believe (Al-A'raf, 52).

This is an exposition for mankind, and a guidance, and an admonition for such as are god-fearing (Al-Imran, 138).

Their life prolonged to abject old age, ceasing to understand what is right and what is wrong. If Allah took them to task for the evil they do, He would not leave one living creature on earth, but He gives them respite to a stated term; when their time comes they cannot delay it for a moment nor can they bring it forward.

There is no excuse now for them to go astray, for clear proofs have come to them from their Lord. Whoso sees clearly, it is to his own gain, and whoso is blind, it is to his own loss; the Prophet has adequately delivered the Message of Islam, and we, his followers, are persisting in delivering the Message of Islam after him. Our task is not to force people to accept Islam; we are just delivering the Message. We are not here as watchers over people, we are not responsible for their folly.

The solution for their wretched souls

But what is the solution that might save their wretched souls from a severe punishment in the Hereafter. They are already sunk in the unforgivable sin of polytheism. They are already immersed in worshipping Jesus the son of Mary instead of Allah, his Creator. They are already condemned because they worship not the Creator but His creation. They hoard money and riches but the Lord is not in their horizon. They did not benefit from the Koran as a reference to purify their corrupted religion from the distortions their forefathers added to it. On the contrary, they cried lies to Allah's signs, mocked them, defiled them, and some crazy pastor burned the divine Book.

But how to rescue their miserable souls? Is it to reform their adulterated religion? But how that could possibly be and their eminent scholars had admitted that 75% of the gospel is Paul's invention and the rest is the words of Jesus! The corruption in their Scripture is so huge that it is impossible to make the necessary amendment. And even if the amendment was made, a substantial curtailment is to be made to eradicate the falsehood that was added, a matter that would result in the production of an unreliable deficient copy not representing the original Gospel in any way.

Furthermore, how would Allah accept their prayers and their religious rituals that are also fabricated? Jesus never said that they should eat his flesh and drink his blood. Jesus never said that they take their priests as intermediaries between them and their Lord. Jesus never said that they worship him as a man nailed to the cross. Jesus never talked about original sin, or that he will be crucified to atone for the sins of the criminals. Jesus never claimed to be worshipped as god or the son of God. His whole ministry concentrated on one thing "worship my God and your God, this is a straight path".

In Islam the very few and simple rites are well defined in the Koran and the Sunna of the prophet. Outside Islam, the Jews and the Christians corrupted their Books and invented their rites and ceremonies. They have no rites or ceremonies, which they are themselves agreed upon, either as Christians or as Jews, or one compared with the other.

False worship dishonour Allah. No one who descends to the base forms of false worship can have a true idea of Allah.

As the Koran stated, the truth about Jesus is that he was the Messenger of Allah who was sent to guide the Children of Israel with a new scripture, Injil or Gospel. According to the Koran, Jesus, although appearing to have been crucified, was not killed by crucifixion or by any other means, instead, "Allah raised him unto Himself". Like all prophets in Islam, Jesus is considered a Muslim (i.e., one who submits to the will of Allah), as he preached that his followers should adopt the "straight path" as commanded by Allah. Islam rejects the Trinitarian Christian view that Jesus was God incarnate or the son of God, that he was ever crucified or resurrected, or that he ever atoned for the sins of mankind. The Koran says that Jesus himself never claimed any of these things, and it furthermore indicates that Jesus will deny having ever claimed divinity at the Last Judgment, and Allah will vindicate him. The Koran emphasizes that Jesus was a mortal human being who, like all other prophets, had been divinely chosen to spread Allah's Message. Islamic texts forbid the association of partners with Allah (shirk), emphasizing a strict notion of monotheism (tawhīd). Jesus called for the worship of the One and only God, Allah.

These arrogant televangelists think that they are the only ones who are rightly guided, and Muslims are heretics. But they are the ones who are far astray. How it could possibly be that they are rightly guided and they believe that Allah has begotten a son! Know they not that this false belief is a stupendous blasphemy against Allah, the Lord of creation? Allah does not need a son to rule His kingdom in heaven or in earth, and He feels no fatigue in preserving them. If this false belief is combined with vicarious atonement, it amounts to negation of Allah's justice and man's personal responsibility. There is not a single creature including Jesus but shall come back to stand before Allah as a servant submitting to His authority and surrendering himself to Allah's judgment.

They have committed a dreadful thing when they thought that Jesus is their saviour. Such reliance on Jesus is false because in this world and in the Hereafter no one has any power except Allah, Allah is the only saviour.

The Koran says:

What, do the unbelievers reckon that they may take My servants patrons apart from Me? We have prepared Hell as lodging for the deniers of truth (Al-Kahf, 102).

They conduct themselves in life according to false concepts and they think they are doing what is right! They have such a smug sense of self-righteousness that while they go on doing wrong they think they are acquiring merit. All their work they think is charitable and good is not appreciated, because they do not worship the One and only God, Allah, and because their real intention is to seek some hidden gain or false glory for themselves. They refuse to see the many signs of Allah and listen to the Word of the Lord when it came to them. Their works in this life is of no avail.

They think they have something to stand upon because they enjoy riches and wealth, but what are these worldly advantages before the Throne when they stand before Allah to receive their reckoning. They will be stuck with horror when they see Hell almost burst with fury every time a group of them is cast into it.

They thought they were on firm ground when they indulged in tall talk to oppose Islam. But when they suffer the blast of the Doomsday, they will come to know that their utterances against Islam were false words encompassing them from every side and Hell bursts asunder with rage eager to receive them.

They measured not Allah with His true measure when the Christian Right based its faith on the distorted reading of the Bible and thought that only the Christians will be taken up to heaven prior to a great tribulation which will befall the earth, and that during that time they will be seated at the right hand of God, watching the trials of those who have remained below. Their extreme racism is so despicable as to think that in order for that to happen most of the human race who do not convert to their faith including all the Jews, Muslims and the rest of human race must be eliminated first. They silly believe that they are helping God to end the world during their lifetimes and thereby will get a quick pass to heaven without dying, and without judgment day. Therefore, in order for them to escape physical death, two-thirds of the Jews in Israel must perish, soon. This is the grim prophetic trade-off that fundamentalists rarely discuss publicly, but which is the central motivation in the movement's political support for the State of Israel.

No just estimate have they made to Allah when they thought that once they verbally confess to God that Jesus is Lord and believe that Jesus was raised from the dead, they are born again and can now enter heaven. When they are born again, they are in Christ and condemnation or guilt cannot reach them. Actually, that is an arrogant way to think.

They believe that they were born again because they said a little prayer, asking Jesus to come into their hearts, and stating that they were sorry for their sins. Could salvation be attained by such simple rite? The concept of "born again" is based largely on ignorance of Allah's Word, coupled with outright silly reasoning.

True salvation is attained by worshipping Allah alone, and then doing good deeds based on authentic Scripture. Allah is the only true God who alone deserves to be worshipped. This implies total submission and complete obedience to Allah's Commandments both in utterances and actions whether explicit or implicit and whether private or public.

But they associate with Allah in worship Jesus the son of Mary, an unforgivable sin! All their works in the present life have failed because they worship besides Allah one of His creatures, Jesus the son of Mary. Jesus is not saviour; the saviour is only Allah the Lord of creation. Islam has no Saviour. Mohammad is rarely called Saviour. He had brought Allah's Law to people, and advised them that by practising it, they will win Allah's salvation.

Their belief and religious rituals are false, and it is time that they search for the true path of salvation. I therefore call these televangelists, as well as all Christians and Jews to join the religion of Islam, the true and only religion of Allah. Their salvation resides in embracing Islam without any delay, for the judgement may come at any time, suddenly, before they even perceive how it happened or whence it came.

The Koran says about those who reject Allah's signs:

Woe to every guilty imposter who hears the signs of Allah being recited to him, then perseveres in waxing proud, as if he has not heard them; so give him the good tidings of a painful chastisement. And when he knows anything of Our signs, he takes them in mockery; those for them awaits a humiliating chastisement. Behind them Hell; and that they have earned shall not avail them aught, nor those they took as protectors apart from Allah; for them awaits a mighty chastisement. This is guidance, and those who disbelieve in the signs of their Lord, there awaits them a painful chastisement of wrath (Al-Jathiyah 7-11).

Now they heard the signs of Allah, and they must abide by them without hesitation. If they do not embrace Islam and die disbelieving in Allah and the Koran, upon them shall rest the wrath of Allah and a chastisement most terrible. When they will see the chastisement, their tongues will express regret and sorrow.

The Koran says:

Follow the best aspect of what is sent down to you from your Lord, before the scourge comes upon you unawares. Lest anyone should say, 'Alas for me, for having neglected what is due to Allah, and having been one of those who scoffed.' Or, 'If only Allah had guided me, I would surely have joined the god-fearing.' Or, he may say as he sees the punishment, 'Would that I had a second chance, so that I could be among the doers of good.' [Allah will say to him], 'No indeed! My revelations did come to you, but you rejected them: you showed arrogance, and were among those who deny the truth.'

On the Day of Resurrection you will see those who uttered falsehoods about Allah with their faces blackened. Is there not enough room in Hell for the arrogant? But Allah will deliver those who feared Him to the places of success (Paradise). No evil shall touch them, nor shall they grieve (Az-Zumar 55-61).

Do they use their minds and try to get out of the rut of common customs, or they will be content to stand on ancestral ways, many of them evil, and leading to perdition.

The respite in this life is for short duration. The ultimate penalty of evil is such as cannot be quenched. It will be too late to repent.

These hate mongers, these televangelists, measured not Allah with His true measure when they humiliated Him by slandering His Prophet, and belying His Koran. They found their amusement in slandering the Prophet with impudent words, thus showing their utter hatred to Allah and His Message. Some other ignorant morons unaware of Allah's majesty called Allah a moon god, a monkey god, and a demon god!

The fools have no grasp of Allah's true measure. They thought that Allah is a god Muslims have invented. I therefore find myself compelled to explain the nature of the Creator we Muslims and all true believers of ancient times, present and future worship. The God of Abraham and Muhammad and all other Prophets including Prophet Jesus, the son of Mary.

The God Muslims worship

The God we Muslims worship, is the One and only God of the universe, the Creator of all things, the light of the heavens and the earth. Allah cannot be described physically. Something physical is something that has material existence, form, limits, confinement in time and space, and so forth, all of which are impossible for Allah Most High. The reason these aspects are impossible for Allah is because they are attributes of created things and Allah has clearly stated in the Koran that "there is nothing whatsoever like unto Him." (Ash-Shu'ara, 11).

Man cannot fathom the transcendent nature and majesty of Allah. The Prophet is narrated to have said, "Contemplate on the creation of Allah but do not contemplate on Allah." [Bayhaqi, Shu`ab al-Iman; Tabarani, al-Awsat; Abu Nu`aym, Hilya; Asbahani, Targhib].

The most concise definition of Allah in Islam is given in the four following verses:

Say: 'He is Allah, The One and Only.
"Allah, the Eternal, Absolute.
"He begets not, nor is He begotten.
And there is none like unto Him.' (Al-Ikhlās 1-4).

Allah is One god in heaven and earth:

And it is He who in heaven is Allah and in earth is Allah.; He is the All-Wise, the All-Knowing. Glory be to Him, to whom belongs the Kingdom of the heavens and the earth and all that between them is; with Him is the knowledge of the Hour, and to Him you shall be returned. (Az-Zukhruf, 84-85).

Allah is the only lord of all:

Lord of the east and the west, there is no God save him. So choose him alone as disposer of your affairs (Al-Muzzamil, 9).

The Koran also says about Allah:

Unto Allah belongs whatsoever is in heavens and whatsoever is in the earth; and whether you reveal what is in yourselves or conceal it Allah will bring you to account for it. He will forgive whom he will, and he will punish whom he will, and Allah is capable of all things. The Messenger (Muhammad) believed in that which was revealed to him from his Lord and so did the believers. Each one believed in Allah, His angels, His books and His Messengers; and they said: we heard and we obeyed. Our Lord grant us your forgiveness . Unto You is the home coming. Allah charges no soul save to its capacity; standing to its account is what it has earned, and against its account what it has merited. Our Lord! Condemn us not if we forget or err. Our Lord! Lay not on us such a burden as you did lay on those before us. Our Lord! Impose not on us that which we have not the strength to bear. And pardon us, forgive us and have mercy on us. You are our protector. So grant us victory over disbelieving folk. (Al-Baqarah 284-286).

Muslims have collected Allah's attributes mentioned in the Koran, and were able to gather 99 beautiful names; these are:

Allah is: the Beneficent, the Merciful, the Sovereign, the Holy One, the Source of Peace, the Guardian of Faith, the Overwhelming, the Mighty, the Irresistible, the Supreme, the Creator, the Evolver, the Fashioner, the Ever Forgiving, the Subduer, the Grantor of Bounties, the Provider, the All-Knowing Judge, the All-Knower, the Withholder, the Extender, the Abaser, the Exalter, the Honourer, the Humiliator, the All-Hearer, the All-Seer, the Arbiter, the Justice, Beyond All Comprehension, the All-Aware, the Most Forebearing, the Glorious, the Oft-Forgiver, the Most Thankful, the Most High, the Greatest, the Guardian, the Saviour, the Holder of Careful Accounts, the Majestic, the Generous, the Watcher, the Responder, the All-Embracing, the Wise, the Most Loving, the Owner of Glory, the Resurrector, the Witness, the Truth, the Most Trusted One, the Powerful, the Steadfast, the Patron, the Praiseworthy, the Keeper of All Statistics, the Beginner of Creation, the Restorer of life, the Giver of life, the Causer of death, the Ever Living, the Self Subsisting, the Founder, the Deserver of all Praise and Honour, the One, the Eternal Absolute, the Capable, the Omnipotent, the Forwarder, the Giver of Respite, the First, the Last, the Manifest, the Invisible, the Protector, the Most Eminent, the Source of All Good, the Acceptor of Repentance, the Punisher, the Pardoner, the Most Kind, the Owner of the Universe, the Lord of Majesty, Bounty and Honour, the Just, the Gatherer, the Self Sufficient, the Giver of Wealth, the Preventer, the Harmer, the Giver of Profit, the Light, the Guide, the Originator, the Everlasting, the Inheritor, the Most Upright, the Most Patient.

Allah was there first, and nothing ever existed besides Him. He did not commence from what was or was intermingled with what!

His attributes cannot be fixed or limited. He is not an apparition that can be pursued or delimited, nor is He veiled to be contained. He did not issue from what was not, and thus He is not an occurrence. Exalted, and most glorious is the Creator and Maker of everything, Lord of the universe, Whose divine majesty is most awesome and beyond having to explicate His essence to His creation, and instead, we understand, accept and surrender to what He described Himself in the Koran:

He is the first (nothing is before Him), and the last (nothing is after Him), the Most High (nothing is above Him), and the Most near (nothing is nearer than Him), and He is the All-Knower of everything (Al-hadid, 30).

Allah is there from the beginning, and He is the eternal without end. He is not subject to changes, nor is He affected by what He causes to change. How can He be described by an occurrence He created, and how can His divine being be limited to the best fathom of the greatest rhetoricians of all times.

He did not emerge from something else that can lead one to assume His manifestation, nor did He emanate from anything else that brought Him

into being. He is without how, and He is closer than one's jugular vein, and yet, He is beyond description in the widest perceivable realms. Not a single glance of anyone of His entire creation combined is ever hidden to Him, nor the sequence of any uttering or a sound is ever veiled to Him or is unperceived by Him, and neither is a single progression of any toddler is obscure to His divine knowledge, and nor is the tiniest step taken by any of His creation in a dark gloomy night, or at any depth or layer of this world is not visible to Him. The brilliant moon in its fullness does not veil His magnificent effulgent presence, nor can the radiant sun and full gamut of its rays brighten and make His presence more luminous. The orderly changing stages of the nights and what they bring, and the prolongation and shortening of the daylight hours are within His knowledge, for He alone has the knowledge of what He wills to exist, and the wisdom behind their alterations. He is the omniscient Lord who is full of knowledge of every space, time, sequence, duration and term.

The time allotted for the existence of His creation is predetermined solely by Him. He did not create things from pre-existing matters nor from elements that were known before Him rather, He created everything from inception, He made their nature perfect for their respective needs, and He fashioned everything and rendered it its best complementary form. Exalted is He in His glory, for there is nothing that can prevent or limit His reach, nor can anything interfere in His will. He does not benefit from the obedience of His creation, and He is swift in answering their prayers.

The countless myriads of angels in the heavens as well as the two earths are subservient to Him. His knowledge of the annihilated beings and past souls is as intricate as His knowledge of the ever-expanding universe and changing lives. His knowledge encompasses everything in the highest heavens and what is in the deepest layers of the earth. He knows everything. He distinguishes the multitude of sounds He created, and each of them stands distinct from the others before Him. Languages do not preoccupy Him. He is the All-hearing Lord without the extremities of a body, and He alone manages the entire universe, and He is the All-seeing Lord, the Living and the sole Sustaining power behind the entire existence.

Glory be to Him, He spoke to Moses with words without the need for limbs or tools, nor lips nor through the vibration of a uvular sound. Exalted is He beyond ascription of mechanical attributes. He who alleges that our Lord is limited is indeed ignorant of the Creator who is worshipped in the heavens and earth. The one that imagines Him contained within boundaries will live his life confused and mixed up. Instead, it is Allah Almighty, who encompasses everything. What we can understand is limited to recognizing the attributes and the essence of perceived matter, but when it comes to describing the One Whom no slumber nor sleep can seize Him, we will surely fail. To Him belongs what the earths, the

heavens and all what they embody, and He is the Lord of the magnificent throne (5).

These evangelical televangelists, and the like, have no grasp of Allah's true measure. The root of their deviation is, in fact the underestimation of Allah. They are lost in admiration of other kinds of greatness, because they are unaware of Allah's unlimited greatness. They consider attachment to great men (Jesus, pope, priest, etc.) the means of their salvation. When Doomsday removes the veils over their eyes, they will come to know that Allah is so great that the whole world could be enclosed in His fist like a small coin and the sky could be wrapped around His Hand like an ordinary piece of paper.

The Koran says:

They measure not Allah with His true measure. The earth altogether shall be His handful on the Day of Resurrection, and the heavens shall be rolled up in His right Hand. Glory be to Him! High He be exalted above that they associate (Az-Zumar, 67).

The universe as we know it, will be folded up like a scroll of parchment, for it will have done its work. Allah will create an entirely new heaven and a new earth, on a plane on which we can form no conception in our present life. And He will do so, for that is His promise.

The Koran states:

On the Day when We shall roll up heaven as a scroll is rolled for the writing; as We originated the first creation, so We shall bring it back again – a promise binding on Us, so We shall do (Al-Anbiya', 164).

As soon as the time of the world is over, a trumpet will be blown. After that, the whole system will change. A new world will come into existence. Human souls will for the time being be dazed and lose all memory or consciousness of time or place or personality. With the second trumpet, they will stand in a new world; they will see with clearer vision than ever before; and judgement will proceed. It will be a new earth. All traces of injustice or inequality, darkness or evil, will have gone. There will be the one universal light, the Glory of Allah, which will now illuminate all. Falsehood, pretence, and illusion will have disappeared. Everything will be seen in the true light.

It is in such a seen of reality that Judgement will be held. Before the Throne of Allah, the book of each man's deeds will be placed wide open, which all may see; the Prophets and Preachers of Truth and the martyrs who gave their lives in the cause of Truth, will be in the Court, to give evidence; and the decision pronounced will be absolutely just, for the

Judge will not only be just, but He will know every fact and every circumstance, and His wisdom will give due weight to everything great or small. In an earthy court, a decision may possibly go wrong because the judge is deceived; here no deceit or mistake will be possible, for Allah knows all, and knows it better than anyone else can (2).

The Koran says:

For the Trumpet shall be blown, and whosoever is in the heavens and whosoever is in the earth shall swoon, save Allah wills. Then it shall be blown again, and lo, they shall stand, beholding. And the earth shall shine with the light of its Lord, and the Book shall be set in place, and the Prophets and witnesses shall be brought, and justly the issue be decided between them, and they not wronged. Every soul shall be paid in full for what it has done; and He knows very well what they do (Az-Zumar 68-70).

This is Allah, the God we Muslims worship. The Creator of heavens, earth, and all that is between. Show me what your associates you call apart from Allah have created in the earth, or have they a partnership in the heavens? Nay, but you promise one another naught but delusion. Show me what those you worship apart from Allah have created! Bring me a Book before the Koran or some remnant of a knowledge, if you speak truly. Nay, but you are in manifest error. No indeed; rather He is Allah, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

Do you worship Jesus – a man besides Allah? Do you use your priests as mediators between you and Allah? Do you worship men like you that can neither benefit you nor harm you? Fie upon you, can you not understand?

This is Allah, the God we worship. We do not set up with Him another god. But you people set up with Allah a man of His creation, Jesus, the son of Mary. Desist, or you will be cast into Hell, reproached and rejected. There is no god but He. All things perish, except His Face. His is the Judgment, and unto Him you shall be returned.

This is Allah, the God we Muslims worship. Do you worship another god than this God? If you do, your penalty would be most severe. Don't you think it is time that you work out your salvation before it is too late?

They arrogantly attack Islam with foul epithets as if they were the only ones that are guided. But I laugh at their stupidity, because what they did is to bring Allah's wrath over their heads. Severe calamities will befall each one of them in this world, and in the next world, a severe burning in Hell awaits them.

Where was their reason when they attacked their Lord with such insolence? Do they think they can frustrate Allah in the earth or in the heaven? They forgot that Allah is all around them, seeing what they

conceal and what they reveal. They forgot that Allah is there, above, watching, and preparing for them the Blaze!

Where was their discernment when they considered their Creator as their enemy and took Him as a rival? Do they think they are on something? Look around you morons and see what polytheism has done to the Catholic Church. Sex abuse invaded the church, and priests who were supposed to be men of God were the ones who committed fornication even on the altars!

Wake up now before it is too late. You have been on the wrong path for a long time. Don't you think it is time to repent and choose the right path of salvation -the one path of Allah that never changed since He created the universe and until the Day of Judgment? There is no returning back after death. Now it is time to take the right decision. Islam is the way; it has been always like that; the way of Allah, the way to the great success He promised the believers with – Paradise.

They have wasted their years in fighting Islam, but they didn't look around to see people enjoining Islam in multitudes. They mobilized people against Islam for years and years, but they did not look around to see people coming to the fold of Islam in troops. They slandered the prophet and mocked at his Koran, but they did not look around to see people embracing Islam in crowds. They sowed dissension between Muslim and non-Muslim Americans, thus spreading mischief in the land, but their plots recoiled on their own heads, when they saw people entering Islam in throngs.

Now they see Islam, the religion they attacked, the fastest growing religion in America and Europe. Now they live in regrets and sorrow. Regrets eat away at the joy in their lives.

Look around and see how the converts to Islam are now glorifying Allah with His praise and seek His forgiveness. Allah is always ready to accept repentance.

Are they better than these converts are? They used their discernment and grasped the opportunity. Don't they respond to their Lord before a day arrives that will not be turned back. They will not find any refuge from Allah on that day, nor will they have any opportunity to deny their sins.

Allah the Most Merciful has sent a Messenger to recite to them the verses of the Koran, that He may bring them forth from the darkness of polytheism, and disbelief to the light of Islamic monotheism. Whosoever believes in Allah as the sole lord of the universe, and does righteousness, Allah will admit him to gardens underneath which rivers flow – Paradise; therein he shall dwell forever and ever.

Do these people not realize that they will be raised up on a fateful Day? The Day when mankind will stand before Allah, the Lord of the universe.

The Koran is a weighty Word, it is no pleasantry to mock at. Woe on the Day of Resurrection to those who denied the Koran - the last Testament to the world. They will be told, 'Now suffer the consequences of what you denied and treated as falsehood. Go to the blaze, with its fumes and flames that are shooting out in three colossal branches; no shade does it give, nor relief from the flames; it shoots out sparks as large as tree-trunks, and as bright as copper. This is the day they are dumbfounded and unable to talk. Nor are they permitted to plea in justification of their deeds of inequity. They will be told, 'If you have any plots against Allah, try them now.'

But those who took heed of Allah will enjoy cool shade, and spectacular springs, and delicious fruits. They shall be told, 'eat and drink and enjoy all that affords pleasure in return for your good deeds. This is how Allah the Lord, rewards those who believe in Him and do good.

We read in the Koran:

Woe that Day unto those who cry it lies! Depart to that you cried was lies! Depart to a triple-massing shadow unshading against the blazing flame that shoots sparks like dry faggots, sparks like to golden herds. Woe that Day unto those who cry it lies! This is the Day they shall not speak neither be given leave, and excuse themselves. Woe that Day unto those who cry it lies! This is the Day of Decision; We have joined you with the ancients; if you have a trick, try you now to trick Me!' Woe that Day unto those who cry it lies (Al-Mursalat 28-40).

In contrast, joyful tidings is being announced to gladden the righteous:

Truly the god-fearing shall dwell amid shades and fountains, and such fruits as their hearts desire; 'Eat and drink, with wholesome appetite, for that you were working. Even so We recompense the good-doers' (Al-Mursalat 41-44).

The reward the converts to Islam would gain

In Islam, a person need not despair from the mercy of Allah in regards to the sins he may have committed in his life, for indeed Allah, The Most-Forgiving and Most-Merciful, is able to forgive all sins. When someone converts to Islam, Allah forgives all of his previous sins and evil deeds.

Allah says in the Koran:

Say: 'O my people who have been prodigal against yourselves, do not despair of Allah's mercy; surely Allah forgives sins altogether; surely He is the All-forgiving, the All-compassionate (Az-Zumar, 53).

A man called Amr came to the Prophet Muhammad and said, "Give me your right hand so that I may give you my pledge of loyalty." The Prophet stretched out his right hand. Amr withdrew his hand. The

Prophet said: "What has happened to you, O Amr?" He replied, "I intend to lay down a condition." The Prophet asked, "What condition do you intend to put forward?" Amr said, "That Allah forgives my sins." The Prophet, said: "Didn't you know that converting to Islam erases all previous sins?" [Muslim].

After converting to Islam, the converts will be rewarded for their past good deeds, moreover all the sins they did in the past are turned to good deeds, By the Mercy of Allah.

As we read in the Koran:

...save him who repents, and believes, and does righteous work -- those, Allah will change their evil deeds into good deeds, for Allah is ever All-Forgiving, All-Compassionate (Al-Furqan, 70).

It was reported that the Prophet Muhammad said:

"Three types of people will be given their reward twice over; a person from the people of the book (Jews and Christians), one who believed in his prophet and then believed in me..." and in similar narration he said "Whoever embraces Islam from the people of the two scriptures (i.e Jews and Christians) will be given a double reward..." [Bukhari].

After converting to Islam, the person will be rewarded for his or her good and bad deeds according to the following saying of Prophet Muhammad:

"Your Lord, Who is blessed and exalted, is Most Merciful. If someone intends to do a good deed but does not do it, a good deed will be recorded for him. And if he does do it, a reward of ten to seven hundred or many more times will be recorded for him. And if someone intends to do a bad deed but does not do it, a good deed will be recorded for him. And if he does do it, a bad deed will be recorded against him or Allah will wipe it out." (Narrated in Mosnad Ahmad, 2515, and Saheeh Muslim, 131).

This is Allah, the majestic, generous and most compassionate God we Muslims worship. Do you worship another God than the one we worship? If you do, there awaits you a mighty chastisement.

Now we have explained the truth to you and he who chooses to follow it shall only profit his own soul, and he who chooses to stray shall only harm his own soul.

The Koran says:

O man, the truth has come to you from your Lord. Whosoever is guided, is guided only to his own gain, and whosoever goes astray, it is only to his own loss. I am not a guardian over you (Yunus, 108).

This is Allah our Lord, the Lord we Muslims worship. Show me yours. Is he that man, already dead, and nailed to the cross? Woe to those who took Jesus as Lord apart from Allah. Fie upon you; do you not understand? Fear Allah; it is unto Him you will be mustered. Fear Allah, surely He is terrible in retribution. Fear a Fire, whose fuel is men and stones. Fear the chastisement of a dreadful Day.

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