
Chapter 22

Conclusion

After reading my story, I hope you have seen how Christ influenced my life from the time I was born to where I am today. Of course, the revelation of Christ was not revealed to me until the day conversion took place in my heart, as I mentioned in chapter seven. Now, I would like to finish my book with an ending that will explain the reasons why I left Islam to a true relationship with the One who is “*the Way, the Truth and the Life.*” Today, I am indebted totally to Jesus Christ for His love, grace and mercy that he has offered so freely.

As a Christian, I am a better ‘Muslim’ than when I practiced my faith as a follower of Muhammad in Islam.

I happened to become a Muslim by birth because I was born in a country at a time when Islam was, and still is, the main religion of the land. The majority of the populations including my parents were practicing Islam as their religion. But today, I am a Christian by choice after realizing who Christ is and what He did for me. I was in awe at the teachings of Jesus Christ and I preferred them over the teachings of Mohammad. Here is why:

For years, I searched and questioned both religions in order to find the Truth. My family's fate was in my thoughts and mind since they were still practicing the doctrine of Islam. Because of their lack of religious freedom, peer pressure within their society, and lack of education about other faiths, they had no choice but to trust those Imams and Mullahs as their spiritual leaders. Although there was some education about other religions, it was mostly one-sided and incorrect.

When I came to America, I was faced with a challenge that I had never encountered before. I noticed that people were at ease to discuss any matters they wished and that the manner of their conversation and thinking were different from mine. My curiosity was raised, and I desired to know more, but I didn't want to jeopardize my own character or identity that made me who I was.

As I was growing up, I was taught to believe that Islam had many, good moral values, and these became a part of me. But, there was still something missing in my life. When you don't know what to compare it to, you might be content with what you have, but the more I learned, the more I knew there was a "void" in my life that only Jesus could fill. He gave me hope and assurance with a clear understanding that I could not attain as a Muslim.

As I was searching, this freedom that belonged to Christians fascinated me and I wanted to be like them. I felt free to ask questions or discuss any subject in public or private without fear; something I could not do in Iran. You never question or challenge an Imam! I was also curious to know why so many people in the United States were not practicing Islam as I was, yet they possessed pure hearts!

As part of my research, I spent a great deal of time listening to Muslim professors and scholars such as Dr. Jamal Badawi, Sheik

Ahmad Deedat, and Dr. Zakir Naik in debates with Christian teachers and pastors. I also read many books from well respected Islamic teachers, i.e. Ayatollah Noori from Iran and others, as well as the Quran, in order to be certain that I did not miss anything. Here are some of the points I learned by listening to those debates:

1) You cannot convince any Muslim in a debate because they are not willing to listen and understand what the Christians are trying to say to them, as they choose to close their ears! One example is this: Christians believe in one God manifested in three persons (the Father, Son and Holy Spirit), while Muslims are conveying the opposite by saying, “No, you believe in three gods!”

2) There are statements or words in the Bible that Muslim scholars have wrongly interpreted, yet no one is willing to acknowledge it and say, “Perhaps I do not understand that; please explain!” Here is an example. Muslim scholars look at the statements in the Bible as they are written literally, interpreting them in such a way that changes their meaning to something very different. The Bible is full of figurative words or statements that require more explanation than literal interpretation will allow, yet they are not willing to listen and they often misquote by using a part of the scripture, or they take it out of context. A good example is in the Book of Numbers 23:19, which often is quoted by Muslims and where they claim “God is not a man or the son of man”. But the scripture says, “God is not a man that, He should lie; nor a son of man that he should repent.”

3) Due to the lack of the Holy Spirit as their guide, Muslim scholars often refer to their own Quran as the source of correction for the Bible since they claim that the Bible is corrupt. But, the Quran claims that God is the protector of the scriptures including the Torah and the Gospel.

(Sura 6:34 says: “There is none that can alter the Words and Decrees of God”. Sura 35:43 says: “But no change wilt thou find in God’s way- God’s Laws are fixed.” And Sura 10:94; 4:136; 6:115-116 all confirm the before books (meaning Torah and Gospel).

I have concluded that the religion of Islam, with Muhammad as their Prophet and the Quran as their scripture, are part of historical events. These historical events, whether I believe in them or not, occurred in 610 A.D. and there is nothing any person can do to change it. Many good people practice Islam and are no different from those who practice Judaism or Christianity. They love their families and would do their best for them. Many of them hate war, confrontation, or ill feelings toward others, however, at the same time, most are trapped by a whirlwind of a lifestyle that is chosen for them, such as my family in Iran, and thousands of other like them. However, there are some exceptions, such as those who live in a free country like the USA, and still practice Islam. I actually have more respect for them since they are free from the peer pressure of their closed-society and the influences of their government. But at the same time, thousands have left that faith for Christianity, including Mullahs, Professors, and Imams. I have seen some of their baptismal videos, as well as read their testimonies over the Internet and their published books.

While growing up as a teenager in Iran, I was faced with many teachings and slogans that are humorous in this day and time! We were brain-washed to say the least! We were chanting words and phrases that could only have come from a mad-man or an evil-minded person! One of those slogans was, “Omar-Omaru, sag-pedaru” meaning Omar’s dad was a dog. (The word, “dog” represents a dirty and pathetic animal.) Here is the reason for that slogan:

“Omar was the second Sunni Caliph following the death of Abu Bakr, and is thus regarded by Sunni Muslims as one of the Rashidun (righteously guided Caliphs) after Mohammad. The Shiites regard Omar as an usurper, or bully, citing his refutation of Ali as Mohammad’s heir, his role as a fugitive from the battle of Uhud and Hunayn, and his threat of violence against Ali, to induce him to submit to Abu Bakr. Omar is said to have caused the death of Muhammad’s daughter, Fatima Zahra, and her unborn child, Mohsen..” (From Wikipedia encyclopedia)

When I went home to Iran in the spring of 2004, I spoke with a few teenage boys and I asked them what they thought about America. They immediately started chanting the “Death to America!” slogan. I pictured myself as one of them, as we used to shout the same type of slogans many years ago without realizing what we were saying. Where did these teenagers learn these hatred slogans? No one should ever subject these innocent children to such harsh words!

For the last thirty years, the slogans, “Death to America and death to Israel” have been painted on several walls in Tehran, including the walls of the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran. Now, you can imagine who the culprit was behind these hateful slogans in a country which claims Islam as a peaceful religion under the Islamic Republic!

Here is another example: There is a chapter in the Quran called “Sura 112 Lahab”, concerning Abu Lahab, uncle of the Prophet Muhammad, who disagreed with Muhammad and his Prophet-hood. Many people, including me, used to recite it in Arabic, not realizing what we were saying since Arabic is not our mother language. It was brought to my attention recently by Ali Sina’s website, another Iranian who lives in Canada, that this is a cursing verse. I looked at that particular chapter in the Quran and

sure enough, Ali Sina was correct, yet I never thought of it as a curse. It was just another slogan we learned to recite out of our ignorance! This is the translation of that chapter {Lahab, or the Father of Flame} in English:

- 1. Perish the hands of the Father of Flame! Perish he!*
- 2. No profit to him from all his wealth, and all his gains!*
- 3. Burnt soon will he be in a Fire of blazing Flame!*
- 4. His wife shall carry the crackling wood as fuel!*
- 5. A twisted rope of palm-leaf fiber round her own neck!*

Muslims believe that the Quran verses are the exact words of God! But why would God find it necessary to curse Mohammad's uncle? It sounds as if God is chanting those hateful slogans Himself! This is one of the reasons I believe that the Quran is written by men and not God, though it contains some beautiful passages for mankind as a guide and for encouragement. Furthermore, it does not have the same message as the Bible as many Muslim scholars claim.

As I have listened several times to the recorded audio version of the Quran, I can't help to hear so much damnation and hell fire and fear tactic messages. The chapters jump from one subject to another without a definitive beginning and ending. It's content is full of hatred and mudslinging toward anyone who does not follow Allah and his messenger, Mohammad.

You may ask why I find it necessary to question Allah or his writings since I have been taught not to do so from an early age. My answer is that it is okay to question Allah if you don't understand it. In fact I believe Allah loves it when

his people question him. I am not arrogant in my questioning. I just don't understand why there is such a huge difference in the message and in the teachings from the same creator!

Side remark from "Answering-Islam.org"

"That is one of my problems with Muhammad, who according to Islam is the greatest prophet, because his message is the final one, the one for ALL mankind, while the earlier ones were just of 'local' significance. So then, if the Messiah, Jesus, was only of 'local' and 'temporal' significance, how come, that there are over 300 fulfilled prophecies about the Messiah in the Old Testament PLUS several hundred more prophecies about his second coming, but nothing clear at all about Muhammad?"

*Did God get his plan for the correct religion so woefully wrong and out of balance? Or did He change his plan after the Bible was already written? Seems to be unlikely to me, and it is one more indication for *me* that maybe Muhammad was not being sent by the God of the Bible. And how come that all over the Bible, representing a 1500 year period of God talking through prophets, we have many thousands of prophecies on historical events, many already happened and verified, and many more to come, but somehow God suddenly chooses to speak a 'different language' and there is basically*

*nothing to be found in that respect in the Qur'an?
Unlikely again, to my taste.”*

In many Muslim countries, such as Sudan, Christians are being killed daily simply for believing in Jesus Christ, not to mention those who left Islam for Christianity.

You can easily find many sources of persecution over the Internet that exposes these disgusted countries and individuals. The “Voice of the Martyrs” magazine is one of those sources which expose and describe the persecuted church since 1967.

Incidentally, Jesus’ name is held in “great honor” in the Quran. The One who did nothing wrong but showed mercy and love to mankind, forgave the sinners, even those who persecuted Him, and taught others to do the same.

**Why would anyone want to kill the followers of the
Prince of Peace?**

Unfortunately, to the Muslims, Jesus is only a great Prophet and nothing more.

I asked one of my sisters what she thought the difference was between the Sunni and Shiite, in reference to the rulers of Islam after the death of Muhammad. She told me that according to historical events, there were four, so-called guided rulers; Abu-Bakr, Omar, Ali, and Othman. However, Shiites do not accept, nor recognize them all, only Ali, as their legitimate ruler.

The reason for my questioning her was this. There are some historical facts that are not being recognized by some.

The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ is another example. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ is a historical fact, and billions of Christians have put their trust in that fact. It does not matter whether Muslims, or any other religion ‘leaders’, want to accept it or not. Christians believe that “God the Father” has accomplished everything He has willed through the person of Jesus Christ. Salvation was sealed and achieved on the Roman Cross.

Don’t make any mistake about it, that which was meant to disgrace and humiliate Jesus by going on the Roman cross, was changed to honor and glory by the power of His resurrection, and Jesus Christ rose bodily and is alive forever more! And one day He will return.

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.” (*1 Cor. 1:18-19*)

There is nothing more that needs to be added to what Jesus Christ has already said to mankind.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill”.

Also, it is recorded in John 19:28-30; “After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, ... He said, “ It is finished!” and bowing His head, he gave up His spirit. There is no need for any other Prophets, books or mediators between man and God.

Jesus warned us about the false Prophets; that some might come claiming that they are exalting Jesus as ‘the messiah’ or the most honored Prophet, yet they reject Him as Son of the Most High. Jesus Christ is the One who will judge the world (John 5:22-23), and is coming back again. He is the ‘Lamb’ who is worthy to open the scroll (Rev. 5), and reveal the end time, for He is the “Alpha and the Omega”.

One more thing before I move on. We all are the children of God by the means of creation (Luke 3:38). In addition, Christians are the children of God by adoption (John 1:12). This group is exclusive to those who believe and trust in Jesus Christ as their savior.

Jewish people were the chosen ones, but due to their disobedience, they have been temporarily pushed aside until the Davidic covenants take place. Christians have replaced them as the chosen ones. This new chosen generation, royal priesthood, includes many from all walks of life, such as Jews or Gentiles, free or slave and from any color, or ethnic background.

“For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that who so ever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

Lastly, Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. This **does not** mean that God the Father had an intimate relationship with Mary as some Muslims believe. God forbid!

He is much more supreme than that. In Muslim theology, the authority and the written word of Allah is expressed in the whole Quran. In Jewish tradition, the Law was given to Moses. But in Christianity, the authority of the Word of God is expressed and

manifested in the person of Jesus Christ. **In other words, the Quran is the written word of Allah for the Muslims, while Jesus Christ is the living Word of God.** (John 1:14)

GOD’S SUPREME REVELATION:

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the Prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as he has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” (Hebrews 1:1-4)

Now, since the Quran is the written word of Allah for the Muslims, then the next series of questions are:

Are Allah and God the same?

Who is Muhammad? Is he one of those false Prophets Jesus was talking about?

What are the writings within the pages of the Quran?

How can Muslim scholars prove that the Quran contains the exact words of Allah?

These are some of the questions people are eager to know since Islam is known as the second largest religion in our world today.

No one can deny history when it tells us that Islam surfaced by the person of Muhammad in about 610 AD. His revealed book is the “Quran”, while “Hadith and Sunnah” are considered the words and deeds of Muhammad and are used daily in almost all Islamic countries as their example and role model, even their laws.

We also cannot deny that more than a billion people put their trust in that religion. The only puzzling part of the issue is how their revelation, as it is written in their holy Quran and hadith, collaborates with the nature and character of Jehovah God, as it has been revealed to us and to past generations, thus recorded in the Bible.

If we reject the truth of the past as false, corrupt and unacceptable, then the future events will also become unacceptable since ultimately God is the author of the scripture. With that in mind, let us examine the source of Islamic revelation, Allah, and what the community says about him:

“*Allah* (Arabic: الله, *Allāh*, is the standard Arabic word for “God”. While the term is best known in the West for its use by Muslims as a reference to God, it is used by Arabic-speakers of all Abrahamic faiths, including Christians and Jews, in reference to “God”. The term was also used by pagan Meccans as a reference to the creator-god, possibly the supreme deity in pre-Islamic Arabia.

The concepts associated with the term *Allah* (as a deity) differ among the traditions. In pre-Islamic Arabia, Allah was not the sole divinity, having associates and companions, sons and daughters.

In Islam, Allah is the supreme and all-comprehensive divine name. All other divine names are believed to refer back to Allah. Allah is unique, the only God, transcendent creator of the universe and omnipotent. Arab Christians today, having no other word for 'God' than 'Allah', use terms such as Allāh al-ab (الآب الله) to mean God the father. There are both similarities and differences between the concept of God as portrayed in the Qur'an and the Hebrew Bible.” (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

By the way, in the above statement, “In pre-Islamic Arabia, Allah was not the sole divinity, having associates and companions, sons and daughters.” it is where one of the sources of the false trinity came from; the second source of false trinity came from another group. In the 5th century, the same heresy surfaced among a sect of Christians called the “Maria-mite sect.”, where the talk of an intimate relationship between Mary and god and having Jesus as their son was floating around. These talks concerning God and Jesus were pure heresy and false, and were strongly rejected by the orthodox Christians altogether. The Quran interestingly includes both “The pre-Islamic false association and companions and the Maria-mite sect” within its pages when it says, “Do not say trinity!” This trinity is different from what the Bible teaches, “Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.”

Unfortunately, there are many other verses in the Quran where it talks about Christ not being divine, or it is a monstrous idea for God to have a son! And so on...

We know from history that the name of Muhammad's father is Abdol-allah, meaning, "servant of Allah". Abdol-allah died before Muhammad was born. Therefore, Allah pre-existed before Islam came to existence, which could lead us to the pre-Islamic Arabia or pagan Meccans, as mentioned earlier. The reason I bring that up is this. Most people, especially the ones in the west, thought that Allah surfaced with the beginning and introduction of Islam through the Prophet Muhammad. But the name Allah was known to the Pagan Arabs way before Islam. We know from history that Pagan Arabs worshipped 360 deities, including the "moon god" as their deity before Islam. This is the reason why Muhammad, when he came to power, went to Mecca to destroy all those false deities. He never went to a Christian Church, claiming that their God or Scriptures were false. In fact, it was the opposite. He was told that if he had any doubts or questions, he should go to the People of the Book, meaning Jews and Christians, for answers. Did he? Yes he did, but with his sword unfortunately! Several Jewish tribes were slaughtered; wives and children taken as slaves, and all their belongings taken as booty! Why did he attack them? This is how Ayatollah Montazeri answered:

Ayatollah Montazeri

"As for the raids at the merchant caravans of the Quraish, this caravan comprehended several wealthy Meccan enemies of Islam, and was accompanied by Abu Sofyan, the renowned arch enemy of Islam and the Muslims. In that year, the hostilities of the Quraish and their instigations against Islam and the Muslims had intensified. Medina had just become the political and governmental center for the Muslims and was under attack of its Quraish enemies from every direction.

Many Muslims were forced to abandon their homes due to the Quraish persecution and immigrated to Medina. These people

wanted to retaliate and reclaim their properties from the Quraish. They had been informed that this caravan carried a lot of wealth. The leadership of the Muslims was also planning to render the highways that were providing economically and militarily the enemy, unsafe. The main objective of this sudden attack was to render insecure the arteries so that the enemy would be weakened in their war against the Muslims. These wars continued until Mecca was conquered.

Obviously, when two countries or two forces are in war, and while there are no peace treaties between them, each side is justified to harm the economical and the military strength of the opposing party and to threaten their security.

This was, and still is, an accepted practice in the world. Highway robbery, however, is something completely different. A highway robber is a thug and a hoodlum that endangers the lives and the safety of the people that live peacefully in their own city or country, without showing enmity to others or stealing their property.”

Now this was the climate of that time as clashes between the Muslims of Medina and the Quraish of Meccan took place. The reason the Jewish tribes were attacked by the Muslims as it is alleged, was because they sided with the Quraish by passing the information to them about Muhammad and the Muslims. Here is a response by another Iranian “Ali Sina” (not his real name) in a debate.

Responded By Ali Sina in his debate:

“The truth is, despite the fact that Muhammad constantly insulted the religion of the Quraish and infuriated them with his abrasive behavior, there is not a single incidence of physical

violence or persecution against him or his followers recorded in Islamic annals.

Muslims today would not tolerate any criticism against their religion. They would kill at once any person who dares to question their belief. This is what the Prophet taught them to do. But Arabs, prior to Muhammad, were more tolerant. They used to live with the Jews and Christians in harmony without any sign of religious animosity between them. Yet the ultimate test of tolerance came when Muhammad started to taunt their gods. Despite that kind of libeling, the Quraish demonstrated an incredible degree of tolerance and although being offended, never harmed Muhammad or any of his cohorts.

Compare this to the treatment of the Baha'is in Iran. Baha'is do not insult Muhammad or his Allah, nor do they reject the Imams or disagree with any part of the Quran. All they say is that their messenger is the Promised One of the Muslims. This is nothing compared to Muhammad's insults of the beliefs of the people of Quraish. Nevertheless, Muslims have not spared any act of atrocity against the Baha'is. They killed many of them, jailed them, tortured them, beat them, denied them of their human rights and treated them with utter inhumanity. None of that was done against Muhammad and his followers in Mecca even though he constantly confronted their gods with showers of taunts and would curse their sacred beliefs as if daring them to persecute."

In short, when Muhammad came to power in Medina, a city north of Mecca, he offered Islam and his hand of friendship to the Jews and expected their support in exchange. But later, when the war between the Muslims and the Quraish tribe in Mecca took place, Jews were not interested in going to war or to support

Muhammad in the way he was expecting. Therefore, they faced a harsh retaliation against their whole tribe.

By the way, it is recorded in the Quran that it was okay for Mohammad to attack the caravans and to take the booty to feed his people. It even says that 1/5 of the booty belonged to Allah's Prophet and his family. This action by Muhammad and his people is so ironic because we see that the God of the Bible fed the children of Israel for forty years while they were in the wilderness, and He never told them to attack anyone!

That is why to this day if you live in their territories, you either obey or you pay! This is not "free will" as God ordained. Even Jesus never forced anyone to follow Him. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13)

False gods and false Prophets:

There have been many false gods and Prophets from the early times. We see them not only among the pagan Arabs, but as I previously cited, in the Holy Bible as well. Here is an example of one recorded in the Bible:

1st Samuel Chapter 5:1-8

- 1 *Then the Philistines took the ark of Yahweh and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod.*
- 2 *When the Philistines took the ark of Yahweh, they brought it into the **house of Dagon** and set it by **Dagon**.*
- 3 *And when the people of Ashdod arose early in the morning, there was **Dagon**, fallen on its face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. So they took **Dagon** and set it in its place again.*

- 4 *And when they arose early the next morning, there was **Dagon**, fallen on its face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. The head of Dagon and both the palms of its hands were broken off on the threshold; only Dagon's torso was left of it.*
- 5 *Therefore neither the **priests of Dagon** nor any who come into **Dagon's house** tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.*
- 6 *But the hand of the LORD was heavy on the people of Ashdod, and He ravaged them and struck them with **tumors, both Ashdod and its territory.***
- 7 *And when the men of Ashdod saw how it was, they said, "**The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for His hand is harsh toward us and Dagon our god.**"*
- 8 *Therefore they sent and gathered to themselves all the lords of the Philistines, and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?"*

There is another example in Exodus 4:2-3 and 7:8-12, for those who wish to read more about false Prophets.

We can see clearly from these short stories that false Prophets did exist long ago, imitating Jehovah God and misguided many. I am not saying that 'Allah' is a false God, since Arab Christians use that name as Jehovah God, but we need to examine if the writings, which appear in the Quran, are really from Jehovah God or someone else.

Listening to the Quran, Allah often assures Mohammad and his people that they will be victorious in their fights against the infidels, while I read in the Bible that God will deliver the enemies into the hands of Israel. Look at the war of 1948, one nation against many. Israel is surrounded by

many nations who want to wipe them out of the map, but they are not able to do so since they are going against God's promises.

I have recorded a more meaningful comparison between Islam and Christianity in appendix 1, which is at the end of this book.

Now, Othman the forth Caliph, one of the righteously guided rulers, either himself or under his leadership, ordered to burn all false (not acceptable) Islamic scriptures. He compiled (the good ones) what he presumably used to make the Quran as it is today, which by the way, are not even in the chronological order of the alleged revelations to Muhammad. (Chapter 96 in the Quran is the first revelation).
*See reference notes 1,2,3 at the end of this chapter.

Now, a few very serious questions arise here:

1. Why did Othman order the destruction of those so-called 'false' (not acceptable) scriptures, since according to hadith, they were accepted by Muhammad ⁽³⁾, and what was Othman's motive?
2. Why did they even have 'false' scriptures floating around since Allah was the protector of them, according to the Quran?
3. Was there anything changed or abrogated to benefit their way of governing people and other faiths?

After Mohammad died, the decision making fell in the hands of his companions. Many civil wars took place, not to mention their discord with Jewish tribes. Othman was encouraged to put the Quran together in written form before they lost the men who

kept the scripture in memory, and so they could combine it with what was already written down^{1,2}.

Now, Muslim scholars claim that what was burned was nothing more than different Arabic dialects. I can not accept this for this reason: You may speak a different dialect even using the same exact words, and that is why, according to the Hadith, Muhammad himself accepted those so called dialects.³

Perhaps the Quran was intended only for the people of Arabia of the 6th century A.D. since there were so many untamed and violent people who lived among them. There was so much violence that they killed their own daughters after birth, just because the baby was not a boy!

Maybe they needed to be under the law first to appreciate grace! I really don't know why this religion surfaced. It certainly is not for the whole world.

I know that the Quran has some great verses within its pages that correspond with the Bible, as I have already described some of them in my previous chapters. Yet, at the same time, it contains many verses with different meanings from what the Bible teaches. Here are a couple of examples:

(Bible) Genesis 1:26-27 "Then God said: Let us make man in our image, to be like ourselves." Therefore, God created man in His own image; God patterned them after Himself; male and female He created them."

(Quran) Sura 2:30 "Behold, thy Lord said to the angels: I will create a vicegerent on earth. They (angels) said: Wilt thou place therein one who will make mischief and shed blood? while

we do celebrate thy praises and glorify thy holy name? He (Allah) said: Surely, I know that which ye know not.”

(Bible) Gen 2:15-17 “The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and care for it. But the Lord God gave him this warning: You may freely eat any fruit in the garden except fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat of its fruit, you will surely die.”

(Quran) Sura 2:35 “We (Allah) said: O Adam! Dwell thou and thy wife in the Garden, and eat ye freely (of the fruits) thereof where ye will; but come not nigh this tree lest ye become wrongdoers.”

Notice in both instances what God is speaking is spiritual, while what Allah is speaking is carnal!

That is why salvation in the Bible is a spiritual transformation, while in Islam salvation is by works.

Here is a better clarification: Jesus is speaking, “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” (John 6:63)

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24)

Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” (John 18:37)

What is the Truth?

Jesus said: I am the way, the truth, and the life. (John 14:6)

In other words, when God said He patterned mankind after Himself, it is spiritual. And when he said to man, “you shall surely die”, it is also means spiritual death or spiritual separation from God the Father. But, when Allah referred to man as vicegerent and wrongdoers, he was pointing to a physical person and carnal action. This is very important to understand since all of God’s laws and commandments are spiritual. Our body will die and return to dust but our spirit will live eternally- either in heaven (if saved) or in hell (if Jesus is rejected).

When I spoke to one of my nephews who is studying Islamic Theology, he pointed out the scripture in Genesis when God created Adam and Eve, walking and talking with them. He said it did not make any sense to him about how God could walk and talk. He was right to say that it does not make sense. 1 Corinthians 2:14 “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

Now, to better understand the condition of Adam and Eve before their fall, and what the scripture meant by walking and talking with God, we can turn to the second Adam, (Jesus Christ). Jesus spent a great amount of time talking with the Father. He was so in tune with the Father that He knew His will without any hesitation. That is why He spoke with much authority and often said, “I and the Father are One!”

“The difference between believers who rested in Christ only, and those who trusted in the law, is explained by the history of Isaac and Ishmael. These things are an allegory, wherein, besides the literal and historical sense of the words, the Spirit of God points out something further. Hagar and Sarah were appropriate

symbols of the two different dispensations of the covenant. The true church from above, represented by Sarah, is in a state of freedom, and is the mother of all believers who are born of the Holy Spirit. They were by regeneration and true faith, made a part of the true seed of Abraham, according to the promise made to him.

The two covenants of works and grace are also called legal and evangelical figuratively. Works and fruits brought forth in a man's own strength are legal, but if arising from faith in Christ, they are evangelical. The first covenant spirit is of bondage unto sin and death. The second covenant spirit is of liberty and freedom; not liberty to sin, but in and unto duty. The first is a spirit of persecution; the second is a spirit of love.” (Matthew Henry commentary)

Again, I have been taught from an early age that you do not question or argue with the Quran since it is the word of Allah. It has been claimed that the Quran is the greatest miracle of God, given to Mohammad, his last messenger. This seems to create a problem, to say that the Quran is a miracle from God, while other scriptures are not! It just does not make any sense at all since God the Father has always talked to mankind through his chosen messengers, and these last days through His Son. Besides, what could be greater than the “salvation of mankind” through Jesus Christ? Not to mention all the miracles that was done through Him. Miracles like healing the sick, feeding a multitude of over five thousand with a small boy’s lunch, giving sight to the blind, raising the dead by His command. The storms obeyed Him, demons recognized the Son of God and were afraid of Him, death could not hold Him, the Tomb could not keep Him, and the list goes on... for He is alive forevermore!

Now, just to be fair, I would like to point out one very important thing in favor of my Muslim brothers and sisters. For that I would like to take you to the Book of Acts in our Christian Bible:

“The Apostle Paul was compelled by the Spirit and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ, but when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, “Your blood be upon your heads; I am clean! From now on I will go to the gentiles. And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshipped God” (Acts_18:6-7)

Again another passage: “...Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; ... I even found an altar with this inscription: ‘TO THE UNKNOWN GOD’... as some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His (God’s) offspring.’ (Acts 17:22-23, 28)

And again, “There was a certain man called Cornelius, a devout man and one who feared God, with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God...” (Acts 10:1-3)

Here is the point. God-fearing Muslim brothers and sisters are worshippers of the same God as we are, however they are misguided about the scripture and the real reason why Christ came. A true Muslim will turn to Christ, just like Cornelius and other Gentiles mentioned in the preceding scripture from the Bible.

Those who reject Christ as Lord and Savior will have to stand judgment before the very person of Christ whom they reject!

Now, here is where the rubber meets the road!

The reason I changed my faith from Islam to Christianity is this: Aside from the uniqueness of Christ, Christianity and the Gospel teaches about peace, brotherhood and love. Jesus Christ himself always spoke about loving and praying for one another, even your enemies. Unfortunately, Islam and the Quran always talk about wars and killing others, especially non-believers, and that has been the way since Mohammad came to power in Medina. Those beliefs and teachings were passed on to me from an early age. I would like to invite you to visit the site below to see for yourself how an Imam, or the leader of a mosque, teaches his congregation how to hate Jews and Christians!

http://www.tangle.com/view_video.php?viewkey=d7d9bf74191e0_06d8e24&sp=1 (Last time the URL was viewed and valid 6/11/09)

Chapter or Sura 2:216 says: “Fighting is prescribed for you (like a doctor telling his patient!), and you dislike it. But it is possible that you dislike a thing which is good for you, and that you love a thing which is bad for you. But Allah knows and you know not.”

(Sura 2:256) says, “There is no compulsion in Islam” and all Muslim scholars know about this verse. But, if you ask any of

them, “Are Muslims **free** to change their faith to any other religion if they choose to do so?” the answer is absolutely not! If they find out about it, you must face an Islamic court for possible punishment. But that is not the case if someone from another religion wants to become a Muslim. So, shall we say that Islam is the fastest growing forced religion in the world today?

Since we are talking about Islam as a forced religion, I can not help but to briefly talk about the recent events in Iran regarding the presidential election of June 2009. What started as a simple people’s right to vote, turned to conflict and uprising as their freedom, once again, was crushed and stolen by the supporters of Ahmadinejad, the current president of Iran.

I watched many news clips and pictures coming out of Iran via Television and internet. All were pointed to how the election was stolen and vote tampering took place by the people who supported the incumbent president Ahmadinejad. I saw thousands of people, young and old, men, women and students, demanding freedom from the dictatorship of the Islamic Republic. The leader of the country, instead of recognizing the will of the people by looking into the allegation of vote tampering, chose to do what they do best; to silence and punish those who were pro-reform with live bullets and police brutality.

The Islamic government stopped every source of communication between the demonstrators, put the opposition leadership on house arrest, forced all foreign media to stop broadcasting, or made them leave the country. And finally, the final word came down from Supreme leader Ayatollah khamenei that his support went to his puppet, Mr. Ahmadinejad. This was another slap to the face of Islam by the examples of this Islamic Republic!

This was the second wave of killing and severe punishment; the first being the revolution of 1979 by the same Islamic Republic with the followers of the Prophet Mohammad and the Quran as their guide!

Under Sharia law, (Islamic law) or this forced religion, leaving Islam for another religion is punishable by death. Polygamy is allowed for men. Marriage is nothing but a contract between a man and his women, which can be broken easily by men, but not by women. Divorce is allowed for men by a simple phrase, “I divorce you” three times, but not for women. Children traditionally belong to the father in a divorce. Male survivors inherit twice the inheritance since they are responsible for women.

I am reminded of a single woman in Syria who had a relationship with a man. Because she was a disgrace to the family, her own brother stabbed and killed her. Authorities knew about him killing her, yet they never arrested him because they agreed with what he had done, and that she received what she deserved!

Well, this is not for me, especially when I read a similar story in the Bible where Jesus responded in love and compassion, forgiving her sin:

“The scribes and Pharisees brought to Jesus a woman allegedly caught in an act of adultery. And they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?”

He said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus saw no one but the

woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours?”

Has no one condemned you?”

She said, “No one, Lord.”

And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” (John 8:2-12)

This is true religion where you find a safe haven, a place of rest, a place where there is **no fear**, where He is your hiding place, and not being condemned. Don’t you just love Him!

Jesus is the only One who came to purge the sin of the world, presenting us righteous before the Holy Father. No other Prophet claimed or was able to bring mankind to the same righteous status before a Holy God. (Hebrews 1:3)

Often, Muslim scholars focus their attack on the free nations in the west, labeling them corrupt and full of filth, while boasting about their own country, ‘with no filth’ since it is an Islamic State. Listening to the Late Sheikh Ahmad Deedat in one of his speeches over the internet, I heard him claim that the majority of Christians in the west were alcoholics. He attributed this to when Jesus turned the water into wine!

I have personally witnessed the same filth in Iran under the Shah and the new Islamic Republic. Sin is not a matter of religion.

Sin is part of every human flesh. I would be lying if I were to say that I don't have any problems with it at all, and if you are honest with yourself, you would say the same. Jesus said in Matthew 5:28 "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." We may bring it under control but it is still part of us all.

Jesus Christ is the only Son of man who lived perfectly and without sin. Therefore:

- 1) *God is Holy and man is not. In order for a Holy God to have a relationship with sinful man, a mediator must be found. That mediator is no one except Christ Jesus.*
- 2) *Christianity is impossible in the power of the flesh, for it takes the Spirit of God to work in the Child of God, to do the will of God.*

In other words, we cannot do it with the power of our flesh. That is why I cannot be righteous on my own, unless I am deceiving myself; pretending by giving extra alms to the mosque, or to the poor, and thinking that I am 'buying my own salvation'. Salvation is not that cheap! You can not enter paradise on your own merits. Jesus is the answer, hope, and assurance. The invitation is given by Him, **{behold, I stand at the door and knock...Rev.3:20}**; the action is ours to take. All we have to do is open the door.

In His Majestic name

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