

Klaus Habib Neven

Christianity

from the perspective of

Islam

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**In the name of Allah,
the Beneficent, the Merciful.**

Verily, all praise is for Allah; we praise Him, seek His help, and ask for His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of our own selves and from the evil of our deeds. Whomsoever Allah guides none can lead astray, and whomsoever Allah leads astray none can guide. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah alone and that He has no partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger.

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Klaus Habib Neven

www.tauhid.net

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Dedicated to those
who seek the truth

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Preface

There were times I itinerated through the world without money, passport and baggage, just with a bible, trusting in the words of Jesus:

“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?”

Thousands of kilometres I covered, seeking God’s guidance, like described in my book ‘Hidaya’. My search for truth was not a pure study of books, but faith which had to prove itself hard in practice. It was a journey of five years, in which I tried to discover the truth in the Bible and to live it, and at the same time to correct my acquired prejudices about Islam.

For those who do not know: One is not a Muslim if one does not believe in the Bible and Jesus. My turn to Islam was not really a turning away from Christianity and the truths contained in it. Rather, it was a correction of the distortions that had sneaked into Christianity over the centuries. The Qur'an says:

Then We caused Our messengers to follow in their footsteps; and We caused Jesus, son of Mary, to follow, and gave him the Gospel, and placed

compassion and mercy in the hearts of those who followed him. But monasticism they invented - We ordained it not for them - only seeking Allah's pleasure, and they observed it not with right observance. So We give those of them who believe their reward, but many of them are evil-livers. [Al-Hadid 27]

Basically, my belief has not changed very much since I had previously never prayed to Jesus, but always directly to God. Jesus had prayed to God. Why should I pray to Jesus then?

Before, I prayed to the One God, and do it still today. Before, I tried to abide by the Ten Commandments, and do it still today. Before, I believed in the prophets Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David and Solomon, and do it still today.

Currently, both on Islamic and Christian side, the other religion is badmouthed and an objective discussion hardly takes place. Emotions are stirred and a clash of cultures is summoned. It is made believed, Christianity and Islam would have been always in conflict. But this is only partly correct.

Islam sees itself as the same faith that Abraham already had preached. The similarities between the two religions outweigh their differences by far. Islam sees itself even as the continuation of the

original Christianity which was preached by James, the Just. Islam even says that if one truly follows the Gospel, it would lead one to Islam. This experience I made myself.

And We caused Jesus, son of Mary, to follow in their footsteps, confirming that which was [revealed] before him in the Torah, and We bestowed on him the Gospel wherein is guidance and a light, confirming that which was [revealed] before it in the Torah - a guidance and an admonition unto those who ward off [evil].

Let the People of the Gospel judge by that which Allah hath revealed therein. Whoso judgeth not by that which Allah hath revealed: such are evillivers. And unto thee have We revealed the Scripture with the truth, confirming whatever Scripture was before it, and a watcher over it. So judge between them by that which Allah hath revealed, and follow not their desires away from the truth which hath come unto thee. [Al-Maidah 49-51]

It is Islam, which keeps the command-ments of Moses, which are in the Bible, and not the (Pauline) Christianity that originated from this very Bible. By contrast, (Pauline) Christianity practices today things, which have no origin in the Bible in any way, such as Christmas. It follows rites that were never ordained by God, and prohibits and allows things

quite contrary to the Holy Book, on which it is allegedly based.

However, there exist in the Bible itself enough traces of the original Christianity. And if one looks from the view point of Islam, they are not difficult to discover.

This book wants to make an appropriate contribution, and illuminate Christianity from the perspective of Islam. God has not made it difficult to discover the truth, if one is willing to look for it and also willing to face the consequences, which could be caused by an expanded insight (which is usually the main reason why uncomfortable truths gets rejected).

It is incumbent for people like me who know both religions and cultures, are at home and have relatives and friends in both, to build bridges and to share their experiences and acquired views. In turn, it is the responsibility of their former brothers and sisters in faith, to take benefit from their experiences and knowledge and to reflect on their (inherited) views.

What does the Koran say about Jesus?

Isa Ibn Maryam, known in the New Testament as Jesus, is regarded as a messenger of God and al-Masih (the Messiah) in Islam, which was sent to lead the Children of Israel (Bani Isra'il) with a new scripture, al-Injil (the gospel). Faith in Jesus is required in Islam, as well as for all the other prophets who are mentioned in the Koran. He is clearly an important figure in the Koran, where he appears in 93 Ayaat (verses).

It is said that Jesus was born by the decree of God by a virginal conception of Mary (Maryam in Arabic). To support him in his responsibility for the Jewish people, Jesus was given the ability to perform miracles (such as the healing of the blind, resurrection of the dead and others), all with the permission of God and not by his own power.

Although it so appeared that Jesus was crucified, according to the Koran, he was not killed by crucifixion or by other means, but "God took him to himself". Like all prophets in Islam, Jesus is considered to be a Muslim, somebody who submits to God. He preached to his followers that they

should follow the "straight path" as commanded by God.

Islam rejects strictly both the doctrine of the Trinity and that Jesus is an incarnated God or the son of God, that he was crucified or resurrected, or that he has atoned for the sins of mankind. The Koran says that Jesus himself would have never claimed all this and also points out that Jesus will deny at the final judgment having ever claimed divinity, and God will vindicate him.

And when Allah saith: O Jesus, son of Mary. Didst thou say unto mankind: Take me and my mother for two gods beside Allah? He saith: Be glorified. It was not mine to utter that to which I had no right. If I used to say it, then Thou knewest it. Thou knowest what is in my mind, and I know not what is in Thy Mind. Lo. Thou, only Thou, art the Knower of Things Hidden. [Al-Maida 119]

The Koran stresses that Jesus was a mortal man who was like all other prophets chosen by God to spread God's message. Islam forbids strictly to ascribe divinity to anyone or anything besides Allah. This is called Shirk and is the greatest sin a man can commit, and the only one that God will not forgive.

Numerous titles are given in the Koran and in Islamic literature for Jesus, the most common being "al-Masih" (Messiah) and "Ibn Maryam" (son of

Mary). Jesus is also recognized as a prophet (Nabi) and messenger (Rasul) of God. The terms “wadjih” (worthy of esteem in this world and the next), “mubarak” (blessed or a source of benefit for others), “Abd-Allah” (servant of God), are all used in the Koran. Jesus is also known as "seal of the prophets of Israel" because Jesus was the last prophet sent by God to lead the children of Israel. Jesus is seen in Islam as a predecessor to Muhammad s.a.w. whose coming he would have predicted.

Jesus special status is that he was not created by combination of opposite poles, but came directly from God. He is called “ruhun mina Llah” (Spirit of God) and “kalimatu Llah” (Word of God). Jesus and his mother Mary are the only people who, according to prophetic tradition, were not touched by Satan at birth, that is, they are completely sinless.

Muslims believe that Jesus will return at the end of time to restore justice on earth and to defeat the "false Messiah", al-Masih ad-Dajjal (called the Antichrist by Christians). Therefore, he plays a very special role.

The accounts of Jesus in the Koran begin with a prologue describing the birth of his mother Mary and her service in the temple of Jerusalem while under the care of the prophet and priest Zacharias.

In the temple Mary receives provision directly from God, to the great astonishment of Zacharias. The Koran then describes the conception of Jesus. Maria, called the best of all women, receives Jesus while still a virgin.

Annunciation

Mary had retreated into the temple, where she was visited by the angel Gabriel (Arabic: Jibrail), who brought the good news of a holy son. The Koran says that God had honoured Mary among the women of all nations. The angel told her also that her son would become a great prophet, whom God would give the Gospel and that Jesus would be one of the righteous.

When Maria hears this message, she asks:

How can I have a child when no mortal hath touched me? He said: So [it will be]. Allah createth what He will. If He decreeth a thing, He saith unto it only: Be. and it is. [Ali Imran 47]

The Koran asserts the truth that Jesus was created as an act of God and compares this wonderful creation of Jesus with the creation of Adam, who God created also by an act of His will (kun-fa-yakun, which means, "Be. and it is.").

Birth of Jesus

The Koran tells the virgin birth of Jesus several times, and how Maria suffered from the pain of childbirth. During her agony and helplessness God caused a stream of water springing up below her feet, from which she could drink. Also, she was told to shake the trunk of a palm tree and ripe dates would fall. On this day, Mary gave birth to her son Jesus in the middle of the desert.

Maria brought the baby back to her people and was promptly ridiculed and accused by the elders of the temple of illegitimate sexual intercourse. But Zacharias believed in the virgin birth and supported her, and Maria pointed to her son and told them they should talk to the baby. The elders were upset and thought Mary would mock them. It was then that God made Jesus talk in the cradle:

Then she pointed to him. They said: "How can we talk to one who is in the cradle, a young boy?" He spake: "Lo. I am the slave of Allah. He hath given me the Scripture and hath appointed me a Prophet. And hath made me blessed wheresoever I may be, and hath enjoined upon me prayer and almsgiving so long as I remain alive. And [hath made me] dutiful toward her who bore me, and hath not made me arrogant, unblest. Peace on me the day I was born,

and the day I die, and the day I shall be raised alive."
[Maryam, 29-33]

Mission

According to the Koran, Jesus was chosen by God to preach the message of monotheism (tawhid) and submission to the will of God (Islam) to the Children of Israel (Bani Isra'il). He was given a new scripture, al-Injil (the Gospel), which confirmed the truth of the earlier revelations, that of the Torah and al-Zabur (the Psalms). The Koran speaks positively about al-Injil, which he describes as a scripture that fills the hearts of their followers with humbleness and piety. However, it is also said that the original biblical message has been corrupted and damaged (tahrif) over time.

And We caused Jesus, son of Mary, to follow in their footsteps, confirming that which was [revealed] before him in the Torah, and We bestowed on him the Gospel wherein is guidance and a light, confirming that which was [revealed] before it in the Torah - a guidance and an admonition unto those who ward off [evil]. [Al-Maida 49]

He hath revealed unto thee [Muhammad] the Scripture with truth, confirming that which was [revealed] before it, even as He revealed the Torah and the Gospel. Aforetime, for a guidance to

mankind; and hath revealed the Criterion [of right and wrong]. [Ali Imran 3-4]

In this verse is made clear that the Koran is the criterion according to which the truth of the Bible (both Torah and Gospel) is measured, for example, in the following verse:

O People of the Scripture. Do not exaggerate in your religion nor utter aught concerning Allah save the truth. The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was only a messenger of Allah, and His word which He conveyed unto Mary, and a spirit from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers, and say not "Three" - Cease. [it is] better for you. - Allah is only One Allah. Far is it removed from His Transcendent Majesty that He should have a son. His is all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. [An-Nisa 171]

Disciples

The Koran says that Jesus has been supported by a group of apprentices who believed in his message. Although the Koran does not name the disciples, he mentions how Jesus taught them.

But when Jesus became conscious of their disbelief, he cried: Who will be my helpers in the cause of Allah? The disciples said: We will be Allah's helpers. We believe in Allah, and bear thou witness

that we have surrendered [unto Him]. Our Lord. We believe in that which Thou hast revealed and we follow him whom Thou hast sent. Enrol us among those who witness (to the truth). [Ali Imran 52, 53]

The longest story of the disciples is when they get a dinner table sent from heaven, as further evidence of the true message that Jesus preaches:

And when I inspired the disciples, [saying]: Believe in Me and in My messenger, they said: We believe. Bear witness that we have surrendered [unto Thee] "we are Muslims". When the disciples said: O Jesus, son of Mary. Is thy Lord able to send down for us a table spread with food from heaven? He said: Observe your duty to Allah, if ye are true believers. [They said:] We wish to eat thereof, that we may satisfy our hearts and know that thou hast spoken truth to us, and that thereof we may be witnesses. Jesus, son of Mary, said: O Allah, Lord of us. Send down for us a table spread with food from heaven, that it may be a feast for us, for the first of us and for the last of us, and a sign from Thee. Give us sustenance, for Thou art the Best of Sustainers. Allah said: Lo. I send it down for you. And whoso disbelieveth of you afterward, him surely will I punish with a punishment wherewith I have not punished any of [My] creatures. [Al-Maida 111-115]

Ascendance

Islamic texts categorically deny the idea of the crucifixion and death of Jesus, as described in the New Testament, although the Koran affirms that people (that is, the Jews and Romans) were trying to kill Jesus, but they did not succeed. Instead of Jesus, someone looking similar was crucified (or someone to whom the appearance of Jesus was put over, perhaps even Judas himself) and Jesus was lifted up to Allah.

And because of their saying: We slew the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, Allah's messenger - they slew him not nor crucified him, but it appeared so unto them; and lo. those who disagree concerning it are in doubt thereof; they have no knowledge thereof save pursuit of a conjecture; they slew him not for certain. But Allah took him up unto Himself. Allah was ever Mighty, Wise. [an-Nisa 157, 158]

Second coming

According to Islamic tradition Jesus will appear during the wars lead by al-Mahdi. Al-Mahdi is the one who will unite the Muslims under his leadership, and will begin the fight against al-Masih ad-Dajjal (the Antichrist or "false Messiah") and his followers. Jesus will assist al-Mahdi in his war and will defeat the Antichrist. At this time, the people of the book (ahl al-kitab, i.e. Jews and Christians) will

believe in him and become Muslims (as Jesus will judge according to the laws of Islam). Thus, there will be only one community, that of Islam.

The Hour will not be established until the son of Maryam will descend among you as a just ruler. He will break the cross (abolish the false Christianity), kill the pigs (i.e. the Mosaic laws concerning food and others will be reintroduced) and the jizya abolished. Money will be in abundance so that nobody will accept it (as charitable gift). [Sahih al-Bukhari, Volume 3, Book 43: Kitab-ul-`Ilm (Book of Knowledge), Hadith No. 656]

After the death of al-Mahdi, Jesus will assume leadership. He will lead the Muslims and mankind back to God's guidance and the true understanding of religion. This will be a time of universal peace and justice, just as the world before was filled with injustice.

In the following chapters we will see that the bible itself supports the view about Jesus in the Koran.

Jesus, Son of God?

Anyone who reads the Bible carefully, will notice that the Bible itself disproves the claim that Jesus is the Son of God, and it clearly shows that he, as claimed by the Koran, was a prophet and messenger of God. The concept of God's Son is close to the Roman polytheism and also the Hindu polytheism where an incarnated God is called Avatar (e.g. Krishna), but not to the religion of Abraham. It was the Roman Paul, the real founder of Christianity and a former enemy of monotheism, who introduced this idea, if we follow history carefully.

Jesus and the devil in the Bible

In the New Testament, in the fourth chapter of Matthew, the sixth and seventh verse show quite clear that Jesus was an obedient mortal and God his Lord and Master, according to his Jesus' own statement:

Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

In this chapter, we read that the devil carries the Messiah from place to place. How can the devil carry God? Praised be God; He is above such blasphemy.

Then the devil asks Jesus to prostrate before him and worship him, trying him even with worldly possessions and power. How can the Devil even dare such audacity with God? When the devil tempted Jesus, Jesus answered like written in all holy books:

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. [Matthew 4: 10]

Children of God

Jesus never called himself the Son of God so far as it is known, but the Son of Man (Mark 2:10), although he did not complain if he was so called - as it says in the Bible - but did not understand this title to be reserved for him only. In the biblical terminology of the Old and New Testament, every God-fearing, sincere person is called a child of God, as we read in Matthew:

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. [Matthew 5: 9]

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven ... [Matthew 5: 45]

And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. [Matthew 23: 9]

God, the Father

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. Matthew 5: 48]

...otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. [Matthew 6: 1]

The word Father for God is mentioned several times in the Bible, but never exclusively for Jesus.

Jesus, the worshiper

And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. [Matthew 14: 23]

If Jesus is God or one with him, why was he praying then? The fact is, a prayer always comes from a devoted, needy being, requiring the grace of the Almighty, as it is mentioned in the Koran:

O mankind. Ye are the poor in your relation to Allah. And Allah. He is the Absolute, the Owner of Praise. [Fatir 15]

There is none in the heavens and the earth but cometh unto the Beneficent as a slave. [Maryam 93]

Jesus, a prophet of God

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have

eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. [Matthew 19: 16-17]

In the above verses can be clearly seen the devotion of Jesus to God's will.

And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them. But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet. [Matthew 21: 45-46]

And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. [Luke 24: 18-19]

Here it is proven that all those who believed in Jesus during his lifetime regarded him not as God or the Son of God, or believed in the doctrine of the Trinity, but regarded him as a prophet.

Jesus, a servant of God

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. [Matthew 24: 36]

This is a clear indication that the knowledge of Jesus was imperfect and therefore not one with God, and that God alone is the All-knowing.

And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. [Matthew 26: 39]

Here we see that the person speaking does not have the same will as God and it is clearly expressed that he is an obedient servant of God.

Jesus, a preacher of monotheism

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. [John 17: 3]

And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul,

and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. [Mark 12: 28-30]

And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but He. [Mark 12: 32]

And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. [Mark 12: 34]

In these verses, Jesus confesses himself that God is one God and there is no other than him, and that anyone who believes in His oneness, is close to the kingdom of God. That is why he who joins something in worship besides God, or who believes in a Trinity, is far from the kingdom of God. Those who take Jesus as God, betray him and his teachings.

The First Commandment

And verily We have raised in every nation a messenger, [proclaiming]: Serve Allah and shun false gods. [An-Nahl 36]

The first commandment of Moses: I am the Lord thy God, Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

Lo. Allah forgiveth not that a partner should be ascribed unto Him. He forgiveth [all] save that to

whom He will. Whoso ascribeth partners to Allah, he hath indeed invented a tremendous sin. [An-Nisa 48]

Every prophet of God came with the same message: Worship God and believe in me and the commandments which I convey to you from Him. Who does not, is already judged. Jesus was no exception.

What became of God's commandments?

In the Koran, the believers are repeatedly ordered to obey Allah and His Messenger pbuh (peace be upon him), such as in the following verse:

He who obeyeth Allah and His messenger, and feareth Allah, and keepeth duty [unto Him]: such indeed are the victorious. [An-Nur 52]

Also the God of the Old Testament threatens with terrible consequences if the faithful do not keep His laws:

I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your

yoke, and made you go upright. But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments; And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant: I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you. And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits... (Leviticus 26: 13-20)

Etc. etc. etc. ... there are still many more consequences mentioned. Therefore the term, "to read one of the Levites".

How comes that today's Christians, except from a few Christian sects, seem to ignore the commandments of the Old Testament so completely?

Muslims believe that only God can revise His commandments. No one may contradict the commandments of God. Otherwise man would stand higher than God himself. Only Prophets sent by God have the authority to proclaim God's instructions. In order that people can recognize their special status, God gives them signs that identify them as Messengers of God.

Undoubtedly Jesus was such an envoy, whom have been given many signs, like healing the sick, raising the dead and multiply bread. Was it him, therefore, who revised the commandments of God, communicated through the Prophet Moses, and revoked a large part?

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled, Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." [Matthew 5: 17-19]

According to Jesus himself, he had not come to revise the law, but on the contrary, he confirmed it.

How can it be that today's Christians, who refer to Jesus, disregard the Law of Moses?

It was the Apostle Paul who abandoned the law, the same Paul who fiercely persecuted the early Christians and put to death many of them. Then there was his "conversion", by nobody witnessed than Paul himself, and hence he claimed to strive for the cause of Jesus and God.

But Paul was not a prophet. To him no signs were given by God that would have qualified him as somebody who had the authority to change the laws of God. Unlike the other apostles, Paul did not even know Jesus. The teachings of Paul contradict the teachings of Jesus and the other apostles significantly.

Therefore it is not surprising that his teachings were accepted predominantly by the Greek and Roman pagans, who already followed a very similar doctrine, but not by the Jewish Christians who, on the contrary, were very angry with him:

When Paul came to Jerusalem in 58 AD., there was a great commotion in the city, and the crowd wanted to lynch him. He barely escaped with his life, because Roman soldiers rescued and captured him (see Acts 21: 28, 31-33; 22: 22).

Paul commented unfavourably of Moses, the law bringer, and the Law brought by him carved in stone (see 2 Corinthians 3: 7 and Gal 4: 24-25). He urged his followers not to perform the circumcision, even though Jesus himself was circumcised:

And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS... [Luke 2: 21]

Paul wrote to the Galatians:

"Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." [Galatians 5, 2: 4]

Whoever adheres to the law of God, according to Paul, falls from grace. Imagine. You have to break the law of God to find mercy according to Paul's opinion. He therefore unsurprisingly does not care about the laws for food either. He wrote to the Corinthians:

"All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not. Whatsoever is sold in the shambles that eat, asking no question for conscience sake. If

any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake." [1 Corinthians 10: 23; 25; 27]

Finally, he obliterated the Law of Moses entirely. He even said that a curse would be on it.

He wrote to the Galatians:

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." [Galatians 3: 13]

What Paul says here, completely contradicts Jesus himself who said:

And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. [Matthew 19: 17]

Here Jesus points out first, that he is not God, and secondly, that we should keep the commandments (of Moses).

James, the Just, according to the Bible, was the brother of Jesus and his disciple, at the same time the head of the early church in Jerusalem and a law-abiding man. He writes:

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." [James 2: 10]

"Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." [James 2: 24, 26]

Paul on the other hand writes:

"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." [Romans 3: 28]

Paul preached to the people the opposite of what Jesus and the original apostles taught. He wrote that the other apostles would proclaim another Jesus and another gospel than he (see 2 Corinthians 11: 3-5)

And he has insulted the missionaries of the first apostles and warned his followers they should not believe them (see Galatians 5: 12; Philippians 3: 2). These missionaries were active in the areas of Paul and doubted his teachings. Paul says of them:

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ." [2 Corinthians 11: 13]

But obviously, the false apostle is Paul himself, who was supported by the Roman authorities. Those who still clung to the laws of God were finally driven out of Jerusalem:

The early church of Jerusalem under the leadership of the monotheistic Jewish Christians ended after the destruction of the Jewish revolt led by Bar-Kokhba and the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman army in the year 135. Thereafter the Roman Emperor Hadrian expelled all circumcised believers from Jerusalem. Entering Jerusalem was punishable by death for anybody circumcised. From then on, the city was inhabited by gentiles. This affected not only the Jews but also all circumcised Christians. That is why a large number of them settled in Transjordan and Syria, and they remained a minority. After the expulsion of the Christians of the Jerusalem church, their place was taken by Paul-Christians (Gentile Christians), and they continued to lead the local church, but according to their own faith.

It is therefore right to say that today's Christianity should be actually called Paulianity. Not Jesus, but Paul was the "inventor of Christianity," as Nietzsche had noted correctly.

For the Church it still applies to today: All writings and books that deny the crucifixion of Jesus

and his divinity, are referred to as heretical or as a forgery, including the Koran. It is impossible for the Christian church to accept a book that supports the monotheistic faith, as it has forbidden the monotheistic Christianity (Arianism and other) with the help of the Roman state, and indeed since the reign of Emperor Theodosius I (for more than 16 centuries).

Today only the Pauline branch of Christianity exists with all its variants. The other branch ceased to exist because it merged into Islam. The monotheistic Christians who followed the other apostles like James and Barnabas and who were situated mainly in the Middle East and North Africa, have accepted Muhammad pbuh as their expected Prophet and followed him.

Paulus altered the foundation of Christianity and made it compliant with the faith of the Greeks and Romans. Over the centuries their belief systems and traditions united even more.

Where does Christmas come from?

Christians believe they celebrate Christmas, because that night Christ was born. However, that Jesus was born that night, is nowhere mentioned in the Bible, and certainly not that one should celebrate the birth of Jesus. In fact, the Bible says otherwise:

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. (Luke 2: 8)

According to the Bible, at the time of the birth of Jesus were shepherds with their flock in the field, something that could not possibly have been the case in winter. It is proven historical fact that shepherds did not watch their flocks in the fields at night later than the end of October. This was usually done in fall. The cold, rainy season usually begins in October, and shepherds - especially in the colder highlands, such as those around Bethlehem - brought their sheep into protected shelters at night. The coldest weather, sometimes accompanied by snow, occurs in December.

Another indication that Jesus' birth was in autumn, is the census of Caesar Augustus, who wanted to collect taxes. It makes much more sense to collect taxes directly after harvest, and to send

the people to their places of birth, when the weather is accordingly, and not in the winter.

The ancient Romans held celebrations at the end of the year to honor Saturn, their harvest god, and Mithra, the god of light. Various peoples in northern Europe celebrated similar festivals at the same time. As part of these celebrations, people decorated their homes with greenery, prepared special food, celebrated with songs and gave each other gifts. This custom became gradually part of the Christmas celebration. Adherence to the 25th December as Christian feast dates from the fourth century, due to the assimilation with the Mithra festival, where the birth of the sun was celebrated.

The fact that celebrating Christmas is not mentioned or commanded by God anywhere in the Bible, should be reason enough for Christians to distance themselves from these celebrations. Especially if one knows that nations of different cultural spheres celebrated the 25th December with almost exactly the same rites, such as those found today at Christmas.

In the Bible we read:

Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth

a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers that it move not. (Jeremiah 10: 2-4)

Here commands the Bible, not to adopt the custom of nations, mentioning adorning a tree. In fact, the Christmas tree has purely pagan origins:

The fir was used by the Romans during their festival of Saturnalia. Among the Egyptians, palm branches were used to honor Baal-Tamar (Judges 20: 33). Adorning an ever-green tree was custom at the worship of Adonis. Celts, Teutons and Germanic used evergreens like mistletoe for their rituals and festivals of the winter solstice. Decorating a tree was also custom at the Yule festival in Scandinavia.

The mutual gifting was known to the Romans as Strenae. It had been practiced during Saturnalia, where lush dishes were served. Wreaths were known as Celastrales.

One may say that the entire pagan Roman faith was simply merged with the (Pauline) Christianity, where one did not even bother to change the packaging. Only a few names were simply exchanged.

Santa Claus however has Germanic origins. Who cares? Certainly not the retail and wholesale trade.

But good God does:

Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? Even so will I do likewise ... What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it. (Deut. 12: 29, 32)

If the rites of Christmas correspond to those of the heathens, and we know that Jesus was not born on December 25th, whose birthday is actually celebrated on that day?

The sons of God

Mithraism had a seat in Tarsus, the hometown of Paul in pre-Christian times. The parallels to Jesus are striking:

- Mithra was the Son of God
- Mithra was born on December 25th in a cave
- Mithra came from heaven and was born as a man to take the sins of mankind upon him
- Mithra was sacrificed in order to redeem mankind
- The holy day of Mithraism was Sunday
- Mithra was buried and then rose from the dead and ascended into heaven
- The baptism in the blood of the bull (taurobolium) - the first baptisms "washed in the blood of the Lamb" - in later times with water (recorded in writing by the Christian author Tertullian)
- Mithra was called the "Lamb of God"
- Mithra was the "Good Shepherd"
- Mithra was called "the light" and "the truth"
- Mithra was known as the "Savior"
- The Last Supper was celebrated in Mithraism with bread and water, or with bread and wine, symbolizing the flesh and blood of the sacred bull.

But not only has Mithra similarities with Jesus, many others too, such as the Egyptian God Horus. They share the same characteristics, such as Birth at the winter solstice, the twelve disciples, the crucifixion and resurrection. The common root of these cults is clearly and openly visible ... in the sky.

The sun had always been an object of worship and adoration. It gives light and heat, and already the earliest cultures understood that no life may exist without it. But they were aware of another natural phenomenon too, the stars.



The stars helped early humans during the navigation and in the predestination of certain

events such as equinox. Stars were grouped into constellations and also personalized.

The Zodiac shows the relationship of the sun to the constellations in the course of a year. It shows other things too, such as the twelve months, the four seasons and the equinox. The sun is in the middle and represents the center and God - God's sun. God's sun moves through the twelve constellations of the zodiac, symbolizing what usually happens at this time, such as the sign of Aquarius, which brings the spring rain, or the sign of Virgo wearing ears, which represents harvest time.

About Horus, an Egyptian god who was worshiped around 3000 BC, we know a lot by the hieroglyphs. Horus, which symbolized the light or the sun, had an enemy, Seth, who symbolized the night and darkness. Every morning Horus won the fight against Seth, whereas in the evening Seth won the battle and banished Horus to the underworld. The battle light against darkness and good against evil are the most important archetypes in human consciousness.

The story of Horus is as follows:

He was born on December 25th of Isis, the heavenly mother. His father was Osiris - the sun god. His birth was accompanied by a star in the east, which three solar deities followed that paid homage

to the new-born. Horus had twelve disciples with whom he travelled. He committed miracles like healing the sick and walking on water. He was known by many names such as Lamb of God, the light, the truth, etc. After he was betrayed, He was crucified and rose again after three days.

These stories, as we know so well from the Bible, are found with many ancient deities such as Attis, Greece 1200 BC; Dionysis, Greece 600 BC; Mithra, Persia 1200 BC; Indra of Tibet; Bali of Afghanistan; Jao of Nepal; Wittoba; Thammuz; Atys; Xamolxis; Zoar; Adad; Taut; Deva Tat; Alcides; Mikado; Beddru; Hesus; Thor; Cadmus; Gentaut; Ischy; Fohi, Tien; Adonis, Prometheus and others around the world.

Early Christians were well aware that their religion was almost identical to that of the Romans. Justin Martyr (100-165 AD.) for example said: "When we say that he, Jesus Christ, our teacher, was created without sexual union, that he was crucified and died and was resurrected and ascended to heaven, we say nothing else than what you believe of the sons of Jupiter."

Why are all these cults so similar? The answer is not difficult to recognize in the sky:



Let us first take a look at the birth: A Star in the East shows the Three Kings the way to the place of birth of the Son of God.

On December 25, Sirius, the star in the east, and the three kings in Orion's belt, form a straight line to the 'birth of the sun' at the winter solstice, the place where the sun appears on the horizon when the days are getting longer and thus light and warmth return again.

Until December 21, the shortest day of the year, the days are getting shorter and the weather getting colder. The sun 'dies' symbolically speaking. For three days it is 'dead' until on the 25th it gets 'resurrected' and takes its journey up north again. During these three days it lingers near the Southern Cross.



Hence, the Myth: The Son of God (the Sun God) dies on the cross, is dead for three days and then rises again from the dead. That's why this myth is put in different clothes on the northern hemisphere, but the story is always the same. On December 25, the sun reappears on its way north and announces 'salvation' from the darkness and death. The resurrection however is celebrated at Easter. Why?

Because at Easter the day last longer than the night, thus the light defeats darkness. Only now spring and new life begins.

If one understands this symbolism, also other symbols become clear. The crown of thorns are the rays of the setting sun as it shines through the bare branches of winter. The twelve disciples of God's

Son are the twelve signs of the zodiac, with which the sun travels. And one understands why Christians sanctify the Sun-day, the day of the sun, and what the cross stands for: It is the center of the zodiac, an ancient pagan symbol, not the symbol of the Messiah.

The head of Jesus is usually displayed on the center of the cross, with a 'Halo'. This is because it symbolizes the sun in the middle of the zodiac, the 'light of the world' (John 9: 5), which 'you will see coming in the clouds' (Mark 13: 26).

But how could it happen that an ancient pagan symbol became the symbol of Christianity, and not only that, but that this whole symbolism got even incorporated into the Bible?

The explanation is not difficult: The name Paul comes from Pol or Apollonius of Tyana. Paul was a follower of Apollo, the sun god, who adapted the original Christian faith to the Roman faith (more on that later).

And also Emperor Constantine, who eventually at the Council of Nicea defined the preliminary 'final shape' of the (Pauline) Christianity, was a devotee of Sol Invictus, the immortal sun, the sun god.

Muslims may not pray during the time of sunrise, the time of sunset and the time the sun

reaches its highest point as this was the time the ancient used to worship the sun.

Original sin and crucifixion

Since divine nature is so alien to us, many beliefs are often not questioned and simply accepted, especially if they have been taught us from childhood. If one, however, examines some beliefs and brings them to a human level, they appear completely different. Let us imagine the following:

Someone calls us and asks if we would not be the grandson of so and so:

"Yes, I am. And?"

"Your grandfather bought a car several years ago. As he drove along the main road, I went across the crosswalk. Your grandfather wanted to slow down, but the brakes of the car failed, and he hit me, and I broke my leg. "

"I'm terribly sorry to hear that. But what do I have to do with that?"

"Yes, you may feel sorry, but as a grandson you carry the guilt of your grandfather and are responsible."

"I beg your pardon?"

"Yes. But do not worry. I have already a solution, how can I forgive you. Of course, for

pardoning your guilt a bloody sacrifice is required. I always held it that way. So I will kill an innocent rabbit, one of my own, of course. Yup. But I will not just cut its throat, no. I will nail it with all four feet to a cross, put spikes into its fur, flog it and sprinkle some vinegar in its mouth, and then on the third day I put a spear in its ribs to see whether it is still alive. I will call you then and tell you that I already made the offering for your sake. All you have to do then is to believe that I have rendered the sacrifice, and this only because I love you so much and in order to be able to forgive you. If you believe, I forgive you that your grandfather has hit me with the car, along with everything else you have committed. But if you believe not, I will come and stick you in a scorching furnace."

Well, we imagine our approximate reaction...

I would like to ask for forgiveness here, I do not want to make fun of the Christian faith. And of course the comparison is misleading. What I like to demonstrate in an exaggerating manner is how grotesque the Christian image of God becomes when it is projected onto a human-perceptible scope. The idea of a loving and just God who demands a bloody, cruel sacrifice of an innocent person, in order to be able to forgive us something

that we have not even done ourselves, is simply absurd. This grotesque image of God was never actually part of true Christianity.

As proof we can use the Bible itself:

„The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.“ [Ezekiel 18: 20]

This verse in the Bible contradicts clearly the concept of original sin, and is fully consistent with our normal sense of justice. So how could the concept of original sin find its way into Christianity?

It was Satan's plan from the beginning of time, to unite the whole earth little by little in unbelief and disobedience; a humanity that refuses its creator and worships Lucifer instead. He was worshiped in various forms around the world as sun god or god of fire. And one brought him bloody human sacrifices. Human sacrifices are diabolism.

The cross was a symbol of sun worshipers centuries before Jesus was born. As mentioned, it is found in the middle of the zodiac which divides the zodiac into its four seasons. The ruler of the zodiac in turn is the sun or the sun god. No greater insult could have done Satan to Christ than to get him

crucified on this very symbol of Satan worship. But according to Islam, God preserved Jesus. In fact, Jesus was never crucified.

...they slew him not nor crucified him, but it appeared so unto them... [An-Nisa 157]

What assures us that this statement in the Koran is actually true? Answer: The Bible itself.

In Luke 24: 36 we read how Jesus returns after his alleged crucifixion to the disciples. They are shocked at his appearance. But why should they be scared? The natural reaction would be to feel joy when you meet again somebody you missed. They were scared because they thought he was a ghost.

Could the disciples be sure to have a ghost in front of them? The answer is a categorical no. The disciples themselves were not eyewitnesses to the crucifixion, as we learn from Mark 14: 50: "*... they all forsook him and fled.*" Their knowledge of the alleged crucifixion they got from hearsay only. They only heard, he would have been crucified. They only heard that he had been buried. Of course they were stunned:

But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and

my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. [Luke 24: 37-40]

Which means: Touch me, so you see that I am not a ghost, not a spiritualized resurrected body, but flesh and blood. Jesus himself had said that resurrected bodies would be of spiritual nature.

...for they are equal unto the angels... [Luke 20: 36]

To make the disciples even more certain that he was not crucified, he asked:

And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of a honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them. [Luke 24: 41-43]

A spiritualized body does not need food. All these demonstrations of Jesus prove: He was not crucified. The whole foundation of Christianity is refuted by Jesus and the Bible itself.

That the crucifixion in fact is poorly documented, becomes obvious in the following verses:

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? ... Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. [Matthew 27: 46 & 50]

And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost. [Luke 23: 46]

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. [John 19: 30]

Apparently we have three different versions from the foundation of Christianity.

That God does not require human sacrifices, confirms the Bible in the story of Abraham, who is to sacrifice his son (in the Bible Isaac, in the Koran Ismael). Human sacrifices were still prevalent at the time of Abraham. Although Abraham probably must have been amazed that God demanded something like this of him, he surrendered to God and obeyed. But when he was about to put the knife, God told him that he had already fulfilled the vision.

With this event, that Muslims commemorate every year at the time of Hajj, God made it clear to the people that He does not require bloody human

sacrifices by man, but godly devotion and obedience to His commandments.

Sins are atoned for by repentance and with good deeds that outweigh the bad deeds. That's just common sense. If someone is doing something bad, but then regrets and asks for forgiveness and even gives us a generous gift, should we not forgive him then? Probably we would not only forgive him, but even embrace him. And that's what God does as He confirms in the Koran: God loves those who turn to Him in repentance.

Where do actually human sacrifices come from?

Human sacrifice

Human sacrifices are as old as humanity itself, and found almost anywhere in the world. They served a variety of purposes such as dealing with an emergency situation, when other people directly served as food (cannibalism) or indirectly to restore the favour of a deity, from which one expected remedial of a shortcoming. Human sacrifice also served to sanctification, de-profanisation or consecration of a cult place or cult building, but also for secular buildings. Disasters such as droughts, earthquakes, floods and volcanic eruptions were seen as a sign of the wrath of the gods. Human sacrifices should allay this anger. Prisoners were sacrificed to the Tribal or War God as a token of gratitude, for example by the Germans after the victorious Battle of Varus.

In the Hebrew Bible human sacrifices were, in contrast to the surrounding ancient Middle Eastern religions, banned at a very early time. The sacrifice of the firstborn had to be ransomed by an animal sacrifice. This is the reason behind the narrative of the near-sacrifice of Isaac (Gen. 22; in Islam Ismael). Jewish religion has thus abolished human sacrifice, but human sacrifices were still practiced. However,

these were not ordained by God but on the contrary called forth His wrath and were viewed as idolatry.

„In his days did Hiel the Bethelite build Jericho: he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his firstborn, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Segub.” (1 Kings 16: 34)

The sacrifices of his own sons, which Hiel paid as the price for the reconstruction of the Canaanite city of Jericho here, should presumably satisfy the gods who lived there previously. It is also possible that he thus made this profane place a sacred place of worship, because Bethel was an old northern Israeli, probably earlier Canaanite sanctuary. The name means House Els, and this name was designated in the Ugaritic pantheon for the Supreme God.

Jericho's reconstruction was considered a return to Canaanite conditions and was therefore put under a severe curse of God in the Book of Joshua (Joshua 6: 26). The sacrifice of Hiel's sons was therefore interpreted not as God's very own will, but rather as just punishment for the transgression of His ban. Hiel's act appears in the context as hardly beatable increase of idolatry, which precedes the story of Elijah, who fought the mingling of faith in God with the cult of the Canaanite fertility god Baal radically (1 Kings 17).

Human sacrifices were a typical sign of worship of foreign gods like Moloch and Baal:

„For Baal hath devoured the labour of our fathers from our youth; their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters. [Jeremiah 3: 24]

"They brought their sons and daughters as a sacrifice for the demons. They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan." [Ps 106, 37ff]

According to the biblical history, the tradition of sacrifice of the first sons was common in the surroundings of Israel which rejected the Deuteronomic theology:

"Then he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his stead, and offered him for a burnt offering upon the wall." [2 Kings 3: 27]

"And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the LORD." [2 Sam 21: 9]

Jeremiah fought the sacrifice of the firstborn, which the people of Jerusalem apparently had taken from some Canaanites previously living there, and branded them as idolatry and serious violation of God's commandments:

"And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart." [Jeremiah 7: 31]

So what one can clearly see from all the above passages is the following:

God Himself had never commanded human sacrifice.

Even animal sacrifices were not required to forgive sins. Nowhere in the Bible is it obvious that people sacrificed to get their sins forgiven, but because it was a commandment of God.

Whenever human sacrifices were held, the people did not follow the monotheistic religion of Abraham, but idolatry. And it was especially Baal, who demanded such sacrifices.

The purpose of such human sacrifice was the same as in other cultures too, namely to appease the wrath of God or the gods and ask for victory.

Does the sacrifice of Jesus then, as God's alleged son, follow the tradition of the Old Testament or the idolatrous traditions of the Israel surrounding tribes who wanted to appease the wrath of God with human sacrifice?

Especially Baal is mentioned as the god demanding such sacrifices (Jer 19: 5; 32: 35). Baal however is a representative of the sun god or god of fire, which in fact is Lucifer. He was worshiped in various forms around the world, and the people brought him bloody human sacrifices:

- *Mayas: Kulkulcan*
- *Babylonians: Vul / Baal*
- *Romans: Volcan*
- *Egyptians: Osiris / Ra*
- *Greeks: Helios*
- *Aztecs: Tonatiuh*
- *Sumerians: Ea / Enki*
- *Assyrians: Shamash*
- *Hindus: Surya*
- *Chinese: Tai-Yang-King*

The bible shows that the worship of Baal was equal with the worship of the sun and the zodiac. Because the ruler of the zodiac is the sun or the sun god:

"And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets (zodiac), and to all the host of heaven. [2 Kings 23: 5]

And what is in the middle of the zodiac? The cross.

The Zodiac yet shows another parallel, the resurrection. For it is the sun that dies every day and is reborn, also in the change of seasons.

So we ask:

Does it make sense that God first condemns something and then does the very same thing that one would commonly refer to as satanic: sacrifice the own son?

Why would He do that? In order that He can forgive humans their sins? Why should he need a bloody sacrifice for that, in the tradition of the appeasement of the wrath of the pagan gods?

Why would He use the very symbol for the sacrifice of His Son, that stands for the sun and sun god, that is Satan, and for idolatry and human sacrifice?

Blessed be God. Neither has He ever demanded human sacrifice, nor did He ever provided one. Human sacrifices are diabolism, in whatever form.

Isaac or Ishmael?

Whenever the original teaching was falsified, God sent a new prophet to expose corruption and to lead the people back to His path. That is why the Koran is called al-Furqan, the criterion (of right and wrong, e.g. of what was previously revealed in the Torah and the Gospel).

Allah. There is no Allah save Him, the Alive, the Eternal. He hath revealed unto thee [Muhammad] the Scripture with truth, confirming that which was [revealed] before it, even as He revealed the Torah and the Gospel. [Ali Imran 2-3]

Let's take as an example the story of Isaac and Ishmael, as we already talked about human sacrifice, to see how we can use the Koran as a criterion which stories in the Bible are true and which are not.

Muslims remember every year during the celebration of Idhul Adha, the story of Abraham, who was put to test by God in the form of the command to sacrifice his only son. Abraham passed the test, and had already placed his son on the woodpile, when God made known that Abraham had already fulfilled the vision and passed the test. Instead of his son, Abraham sacrificed then a ram. This story is also narrated in the Torah / Bible, but

there is a small and subtle difference: In Judaism / Christianity, Abraham has almost sacrificed Isaac while in Islam Ishmael.

The Bible says: *"For now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me."*

Here it is said that Abraham wanted to sacrifice his only son, as a proof of his obedience to God. But the first son he had was with Hagar (Hajar) and was called Ishmael as the Bible testifies itself:

Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had a handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai. And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael. [Genesis 16]

But why did the old Jewish scribes did not accept Ishmael as a son?

According to Jewish understanding, Hagar was an "unclean bird" because a non-Jewish woman, as one can read in the Zohar:

In Shemos 32a is described how an angel stands for 400 years before the throne of the Almighty and

asks, if anyone who is circumcised does not have a part in His name. God finally replied and said that Isaac was circumcised properly while Ishmael was circumcised imperfectly. But just because of this imperfect circumcision, God gave in to the insistence of the angel and gave the descendants of Ishmael the land of Israel to rule until the time of the return of the Jews. So the descendants of Ishmael will prevent the Jews to return until the bonus of the imperfect circumcision is finished.

Daniel is said to have seen in a dream that Israel is occupied by three animals: A frog, which is eaten by a snake, which in turn was eaten by a raven. The frog symbolizes Macedonia and Greece, the snake Rome, and the raven the Arabs. Here it comes:

The raven is an unclean bird, and he was female, to symbolize the fact that Ishmael was from a non-Jewish mother, Hagar.

So pure racism: a black, carrion eating, hateful bird symbolizing a non-Jewish mother. One wonders: If Abraham and Sarah had not recognized children from a non-Jew, would it have ever made sense to marry Abraham with Hagar? Of course not. Therefore this argument is completely absurd.

But why was it so important to forge this passage in the bible?

And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice. [Genesis 22: 15-18]

God promises here to Abraham that all nations will be blessed by his seed. Of course, the Jews wanted to get this blessing for themselves. And simply forged the story by mentioning Isaac instead of Ishmael. But the Bible itself exposes this deception by saying that at the time of this near-sacrifice, Abraham had only one son. And that logically must have been Ishmael then, who was born before Isaac.

This is evidenced further by God's promise concerning the seed of Abraham: Who is more numerous, the descendants of Isaac, the Jews, or the descendants of Ishmael, the Arabs?

Of course, the descendants of Ishmael are several times more numerous. So this blessing was

given to him who (willingly) participated with Abraham in the test: Ishmael.

What sanctuary is visited each year by more than three million people of all nations? The Kaaba, built by Abraham and Ishmael.

And by whom are all nations of the earth blessed? Not by Jesus, who was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel, but by the Prophet Muhammad pbuh from the seed of Ishmael, who was sent as a mercy to all people.

O People of the Scripture. Why will ye argue about Abraham, when the Torah and the Gospel were not revealed till after him? Have ye then no sense? Lo. ye are those who argue about that whereof ye have some knowledge: Why then argue ye concerning that whereof ye have no knowledge? Allah knoweth. Ye know not. Abraham was not a Jew, nor yet a Christian; but he was an upright man who had surrendered [to Allah], and he was not of the idolaters. Lo. those of mankind who have the best claim to Abraham are those who followed him, and this Prophet and those who believe [with him]; and Allah is the Protecting Guardian of the believers. A party of the People of the Scripture long to make you go astray; and they make none to go astray except themselves, but they perceive not. O People of the Scripture. Why disbelieve ye in the revelations

of Allah, when ye [yourselves] bear witness [to their truth]? O People of the Scripture. Why confound ye truth with falsehood and knowingly conceal the truth? [Ali Imran 65-71]

Unfortunately, not only the story of Isaac and Ishmael is forged in the Bible. Also otherwise, the Bible is a book that is far from being the "Word of God", as we shall see in the next chapter.

Bible & Koran - a revelation of God?

A believer should make sure that the book on which his faith is based is really a holy scripture, and not the work of man. Because if it is the work of man, then it is necessarily flawed. And if the foundation of faith is flawed, then faith itself.

Whoever reads the Bible or the Koran, will certainly admit that much truth and wisdom can be found in these books. But, is this sufficient to claim, the book would be a "holy book" or even "God's Word"? Surely, it must be possible to prove such a claim by relatively plain criteria:

1. The book should be of God or inspired by Him.

The Bible is not "God's Word". It consists of texts that are attributed to God, e.g. in the form of "The LORD said ...", but also to a large extent of texts from the author of the verses (e.g. Psalms of David), or even reports from a third or fourth source, as becomes clear in the following verse:

Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; It seemed good to me also, having had perfect

understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed. [Luke 1: 1-4]

Here speaks Luke, not God, and tells a report he has only heard himself. Such reports are collected in Islam in the "Hadith", thus are completely different categorised as in the Bible where reports by eyewitnesses or those who heard the reports of eyewitnesses are incorporated into "God's Word".

The Koran is of one piece and has - computerized voice analysis corroborate this - a single author whose linguistic characteristics are different from those of Muhammad pbuh (whose linguistic characteristics are well documented in numerous reports [hadiths]). The Koran therefore differs from the writings of the Old and New Testaments. These originate from different authors from different centuries; most of these authors are unknown, and many texts certainly have been tampered with. The real founder of Christianity, Paul, did not even know Jesus.

At the beginning of Christianity there were many different gospels. Research estimates them at about 50, of which at least 12 are known by name.

Only four of them have been included in the New Testament.

And this Qur'an is not such as could ever be invented in despite of Allah; but it is a confirmation of that which was before it and an exposition of that which is decreed for mankind - Therein is no doubt - from the Lord of the Worlds. [Yunus 37]

2. God is omnipotent and therefore has to be presented as such.

Let's take a look at the following verses in the Bible:

And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. [Genesis 32: 28]

A man defeated God?

And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it

repenteth me that I have made them. [Genesis 6: 5-7]

God does feel sorry for what He did, as if he did not know what He was doing? And then he wants to destroy his creatures again, like an angry child destroys his sandcastle again, because it has not turned out the way he wanted?

And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. [Genesis 18: 20-21]

Here is God presented as an old man, who must first descend the stairs with difficulty to see what's going on.

Compare this with the Koran:

Allah it is who hath created seven heavens, and of the earth the like thereof. The commandment cometh down among them slowly, that ye may know that Allah is Able to do all things, and that Allah surroundeth all things in knowledge. [At-Talaq 12]

And with Him are the keys of the Invisible. None but He knoweth them. And He knoweth what is in the land and the sea. Not a leaf falleth but He

knoweth it, not a grain amid the darkness of the earth, naught of wet or dry but [it is noted] in a clear record. [Al-Anam 59]

To be fair it must be said that of course there are many verses in the Bible that are similar with the above Quranic verses. It should again be emphasized that faith in the Bible is a part of the Islamic religion. We only want to prove here that the Bible, as it is now, cannot possibly be the original scripture anymore.

3. The text should be authentic, that is, still present in the original language.

It is no secret that the original text of the Bible is no longer available. And if the original text of the Bible is no longer present, it means that the Bible is not God's Word, but rather a translation. And a translation not of God's Word itself, as we have seen, but of various reports and from different authors.

However, a translation is never comparable to the original. It is hardly ever possible, especially for languages that are not closely related, to transmit accurately both the meaning, and the style and beauty of the language. Many words in Aramaic or Arabic do not exist in English and would have to be explained cumbersome in order to get the exact meaning, which would of course affect immensely

the style and beauty of the language. Every translation therefore is only a compromise.

But the original Aramaic text does no longer exist. So it is even a double translation: Aramaic - Greek - English, or even worse, Aramaic - Greek - Latin - English.

By contrast, the Koran is still present in the original language. That the present text is authentic and equal to what thousands of Muslims memorized and collected at the time of the death of Muhammad pbuh, is not disputed by Western Orientalism.

Alif. Lam. Ra. These are verse of the Scripture that maketh plain. Lo. We have revealed it, a Lecture in Arabic, that ye may understand. [Yusuf 1-2]

By the Scripture which maketh plain, Lo. We have appointed it a Lecture, in Arabic that haply ye may understand. And Lo. in the Source of Decrees, which We possess, it is indeed sublime, decisive. [Az-Zukhruf 2-4]

4. The authors of the text must be known.

In any court of the world a testimony is accepted only if the witness is known. But most writers of the Bible are unknown. How can one accept such testimonies and let depend one's salvation on them? Even the authors of the New

Testament are only partially known (Who was Matthew? Who was John who wrote the Revelation?) Add to this the fact that the "testimonies" were written 30 to 60 years after the death of Jesus.

It is quite different with the Koran here. The Koran is the collection of revelations that was sent to a Meccan from a good family known for his integrity in the course of 23 years: Muhammad pbuh. There is no doubt about the origin.

5. There must be no contradictions within the text.

Evidently, a text which claims to be divinely inspired, must be internally consistent. But this is not the case with the Bible as can be seen in countless examples. Here only a few are enumerated:

Was man created after all animals or before? One time, people are created after the animals, another time before:

And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth,

and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. [Genesis 1: 25-27]

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. [Genesis 2: 18-19]

How many of the clean animals should Noah take into the ark?

Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female. [Genesis 7: 2]

Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth, There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah. [Genesis 7: 8-9]

Should children suffer for their fathers?

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous

God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me. [Exodus 20: 5]

The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him. [Ezekiel 18: 20]

Prepare slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers; that they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities. [Isaiah 14: 21]

The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin. [5 Moses 24: 16]

Had Absalom three sons or no son at all?

And unto Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name was Tamar. [2 Samuel 14: 27]

Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and reared up for himself a pillar, which is in the king's dale: for he said, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance: and he called the pillar after his own

name: and it is called unto this day, Absalom's place.
[2 Samuel 18: 18]

...and so on. According to the admission of the Anglican Church of England, there are hundreds of contradictions.

What does the Qur'an say about himself?

Will they not then ponder on the Qur'an? If it had been from other than Allah they would have found therein much incongruity. [An-Nisa 82]

Although there are few alleged contradictions, these can be explained or are not really contradictions:

C: How many angels talked to Mary? When the Koran speaks of the proclamation of Jesus' birth to the Virgin Mary, in Surah 3: 42-45, he speaks of (some) angels, but contrariwise about only one in Surah 19: 17-21.

A: Surah 3 speaks of angels and Surah 19 of Ruh. Ruh is understood as the angel Gabriel, we know this from Hadith and other parts of the Koran. A simple explanation would be that a group of angels appeared, and their spokesman (Gabriel) announced the good news.

C: How many gardens are in paradise? ONE (as in Surah 39: 73, Surah 41: 30, Surah 57: 21 and Surah

79: 41) or MANY (as in Surah 18: 31, Surah 22: 23, Surah 35: 33 and Surah 78: 32)?

A: The entire realm of the blessed is called Garden. Inside are smaller gardens, and individuals may have one or more of them.

C: According to Surah 56: 7 there will be THREE distinct groups on the last day, but Surah 90: 18-19 and Surah 90: 6-8 mention only TWO groups.

A: One group are the Kafirun (unbelievers), and next to it there are two groups of believers: those who are brought near to God, and the normal faithful. The first verse cited above defines all the groups, and the subsequent verses mention only the two main groups, believers and unbelievers.

6. The text may not contradict clear scientific evidence.

Another evidence for or against a divine origin of a text should be, whether it corresponds to scientific discoveries:

Which removeth the mountains, and they know not: which overturneth them in his anger. Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble. [Job 9: 5-6]

The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his reproof. [Job 26: 11]

The earth and the heaven have pillars according to the Bible. These verses were the ones who led to the persecution of Galileo by the Church. What does the Koran say?

And He it is Who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. They float, each in an orbit. [Al-Anbiya 33]

And these are they which ye shall have in abomination among the fowls; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, and the ossifrage ... and the bat. [Leviticus 11: 13-19]

Here the Bible incorrectly refers to the bat as a bird. But in fact, the bat is a mammal. The Bible even mentions very strange creatures:

All fowls that creep, going upon all four, shall be an abomination unto you. [3 Exodus 11: 20]

Such animals do not exist as far as we know.

The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof. [Matthew 13: 31-32]

The mustard seed is not the smallest among the seeds. ...and so on. Again, only a small selection of verses.

I have translated a book, which compares the statements of the Koran with the statements of modern science (Dr Zakir Naik, Qur'an and Modern Science). It shed lights on facts contained in the Koran which an illiterate in the 7th century AD could impossibly have known. Many scientists became Muslims due to statements that they found in the Koran, such as Dr Maurice Bucaille.

The Koran contains in addition to its scientific statements also "number miracles" such as the following:

In the Koran the word "Bahar" (sea) is mentioned 32 times, the word "Bar" (land) 13 times. If we add this we get 45. 32 are 71.11% of 45 and 13 are 28.88% of 45. This is the distribution of sea and land mass on earth.

7. The book must be a lesson and call to the right path.

A holy book must contain a sublime doctrine and morality. It must teach us the right actions by setting examples. Let's take a look at the following verses:

And he went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head. And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them. [2 Kings 2: 23-24]

One has to ask, can it really be that a prophet (Elisa) lost patience and cursed little children, just because they called him Baldy? And God promptly approved of the curse and let 42 children be teared into pieces? What a picture of God and a prophet is taught here? What a morality is shown here?

This is what the Koran says about Elisa:

And Ishmael and Elisha and Jonah and Lot. Each one [of them] did We prefer above [Our] creatures. With some of their forefathers and their offspring and their brethren; and We chose them and guided them unto a straight path. [The cattle 86-87]

And thou shalt eat it as barley cakes, and thou shalt bake it with dung that cometh out of man, in their sight. And the LORD said, Even thus shall the children of Israel eat their defiled bread among the Gentiles, whither I will drive them. Then said I, Ah Lord GOD. behold, my soul hath not been polluted: for from my youth up even till now have I not eaten

of that which dieth of itself, or is torn in pieces; neither came there abominable flesh into my mouth. Then he said unto me, Lo, I have given thee cow's dung for man's dung, and thou shalt prepare thy bread therewith. [Ezekiel 4: 12-15]

Can you believe this? God orders to bake bread on human excrement? But then changes his mind and allows cattle manure? Should God not order purity? In the Koran God says:

Truly Allah loveth those who turn unto Him, and loveth those who have a care for cleanness. [Al-Baqarah 222]

8. The lessons must be consistent with the nature of man.

A holy book can only teach what is consistent with God's creation. It is not fair of God to demand something from the people what they can not meet, or only with the greatest difficulty.

Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. [1 Cor. 7: 1]

Marrying and getting children is human nature. It would be nonsense to ask something else from the people. And as one can see, 99% of all Christians do not heed the instructions of Paul. What happens

however with many priests who follow this teaching, we know well enough from the press.

How very different the Koran:

And of His signs is this: He created for you helpmeets from yourselves that ye might find rest in them, and He ordained between you love and mercy. Lo. herein indeed are portents for folk who reflect. [Ar-Rum 21]

Now look at the following verse:

It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery. [Matthew 5: 31-32]

Divorced women have to stay alone a lifetime, if they do not like to commit adultery. And when the man divorces the wife, he makes HER committing adultery. And this should be the authentic words of Jesus?

Compare this with how pragmatic and sensitive the Koran handles such issue:

And if ye fear a breach between them twain [the man and wife], appoint an arbiter from his folk and

an arbiter from her folk. If they desire amendment Allah will make them of one mind. Lo. Allah is ever Knower, Aware. [An-Nisa 35]

First one tries to save the marriage with the help of mediators / counselors. If that does not succeed, and it becomes obvious that the two really do not match, then:

O Prophet. When ye [men] put away women, put them away for their [legal] period and reckon the period, and keep your duty to Allah, your Lord. Expel them not from their houses nor let them go forth unless they commit open immorality. Such are the limits [imposed by] Allah; and whoso transgresseth Allah's limits, he verily wrongeth his soul. Thou knowest not: it may be that Allah will afterward bring some new thing to pass. Then, when they have reached their term, take them back in kindness or part from them in kindness, and call to witness two just men among you, and keep your testimony upright for Allah. Whoso believeth in Allah and the Last Day is exhorted to act thus. And whosoever keepeth his duty to Allah, Allah will appoint a way out for him, And will provide for him from [a quarter] whence he hath no expectation. And whosoever putteth his trust in Allah, He will suffice him. Lo. Allah bringeth His command to pass. Allah hath set a measure for all things. And for such

of your women as despair of menstruation, if ye doubt, their period [of waiting] shall be three months, along with those who have it not. And for those with child, their period shall be till they bring forth their burden. And whosoever keepeth his duty to Allah, He maketh his course easy for him. [At-Talaq 1-4]

A period is set in which no sexual activity is permitted in order to give both parties time to reconsider the matter again calmly, but also in order that it can be determined whether the woman might be pregnant which might affect the affair positively and it will not come to a divorce. In case the woman is actually pregnant, she has a right to get protected and nourished until she gives birth to the child. The man is responsible for the child even after the divorce.

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. [Matthew 5: 27-29]

One should tear out one's eye when one looks at a woman with a dirty thought. Question: How many Christians have ever practiced this bestial commandment?

In contrast, one is only asked in the Koran to lower one's gaze and to cloth oneself decent to conceal one's shame (for women, a headscarf and not tight-fitting clothes). Very easy to practice for everybody, unlike tearing out one's eye. Who still looks at a woman with ill intent, should make 'Taubat' that is repent and make up the bad deed with a good deed. Then one is even loved by God, as He Himself ascertains: "*Verily, Allah loves those who turn to Him ruefully.*" A quite different standard here.

9. There shall be no sadism and brutality.

Here are a few verses from the Bible, where one only can say: My God.

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass. [1 Samuel 15: 2-3]

But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth: But thou shalt utterly destroy them; namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. [Deut 20: 12-16]

Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished. [Isaiah 13:16]

And we took all his cities at that time, and utterly destroyed the men, and the women, and the little ones, of every city, we left none to remain: Only the cattle we took for a prey unto ourselves, and the spoil of the cities which we took. [Deut 2: 34-35]

And all the spoil of these cities, and the cattle, the children of Israel took for a prey unto themselves; but every man they smote with the edge of the sword, until they had destroyed them, neither left they any to breathe. [Joshua 11: 14]

One can hardly resist a nod to Crusader and Zionist policy, but let's see what the Koran has to say:

Fight in the way of Allah against those who fight against you, but begin not hostilities. Lo. Allah loveth not aggressors. And fight them until persecution is no more, and religion is for Allah. But

if they desist, then let there be no hostility except against wrong-doers. [Al-Baqarah 190, 193]

Fight only until the other party stops fighting and surrenders. But in no case it is permissible to kill women, children and non-able-bodied men; moreover, no trees and plantings should be destroyed, as we know from sayings of the Prophet (Muslim No. 1726 & 1728 and others). ISIS and other terrorist groups do not act according to the teachings of Islam and are not representatives of Islam.

10. The name of the religion of God should originate from God Himself.

The name "Christianity" or "Christian" is not from God but from man, as we see from the following verse:

And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. [Acts 11: 26]

By contrast, the name "Islam" and "Muslims" originate from God Himself:

Lo. The religion with Allah [is] Islam [the Surrender to His Will and Guidance]. Those who [formerly] received the Scripture differed only after

knowledge came unto them, through transgression among themselves. [Ali Imran 19]

And whoso seeketh as religion other than Islam it will not be accepted from him, and he will be a loser in the Hereafter. [Ali Imran 85]

All believers throughout the ages were considered Muslims, such as the disciples of Jesus too:

And when I inspired the disciples, [saying]: Believe in Me and in My messenger, they said: We believe. Bear witness that we are Muslims. [al-Maidah 111]

11. Prophecies in the book must be fulfilled.

Bible Prophecies, which turned out to be historically incorrect:

Egypt should be small, and no longer rise above other peoples.

And I will bring again the captivity of Egypt, and will cause them to return into the land of Pathros, into the land of their habitation; and they shall be there a base kingdom. It shall be the basest of the kingdoms; neither shall it exalt itself any more above the nations: for I will diminish them, that they shall no more rule over the nations. [Ezekiel 29: 14-15]

In the 19th century, however, Egypt defeated Sudan and dominated the foreign country.

Israelites going to Egypt should die.

So shall it be with all the men that set their faces to go into Egypt to sojourn there; they shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: and none of them shall remain or escape from the evil that I will bring upon them. [Jeremiah 42: 17]

Nevertheless, Jews immigrated to Egypt, but instead of perishing, as predicted, they set up a cultural centre in Alexandria, where their descendants still live until today.

According to the Bible Damascus should "no longer be a city" and be left deserted forever.

The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap. [Isaiah 17: 1]

Damascus is now a metropolis and thus clearly not a "ruinous heap" and not left forever.

David's descendants were to rule for ever.

I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah. [Psalm 89: 4-5]

The reality was however different. Bestselling author Walter-Jörg Langbein writes: "The throne of David should exist for all time. In other words, until all the ages the king of Israel would come from the house of David. David reigned from about 1001 to 968 A.D. His followers were in fact first from his family. But already around 607 A.D. the line was interrupted. Around half a millennium there were no longer descendants of the house of David on the throne." [Walter-Jörg Langbein: "Encyclopaedia of Biblical errors", Munich 2003, p.171]

Uncircumcised and unclean shall not enter Jerusalem.

Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. [Isaiah 52: 1]

But of course were entering and still continue to enter uncircumcised and unclean into Jerusalem.

In the Koran, most prophecies concern the end times and the hereafter. But this prophecy is fulfilled:

Lo. We have given thee [O Muhammad] a signal victory, That Allah may forgive thee of thy sin that which is past and that which is to come, and may

perfect His favour unto thee, and may guide thee on a right path, And that Allah may help thee with strong help. [Al-Fath 1-3]

These verses are about the Treaty of Hudaibiyah between the Muslims and the Quraish. The Muslims wanted to do the small pilgrimage to Mecca that year, but were prevented by the Quraish. They made a contract, in which was written that the Muslims should enter Mecca only next year. Furthermore, peace should prevail from now on, on the condition that people who flee to the Muslims, thus turn away from their old religion and want to be Muslims, have to be returned to the Quraish, but not the other way around.

The companions of the Prophet were first depressed and even angry about this treaty, which looked like a defeat, until Allah sent down the verse above. Later it turned out that it was a great victory indeed, because many people could learn now more about Islam in peace and the number of Muslims was multiplied.

Therefore, after two years the contract was broken by the Quraish, but the Muslims had now become so strong that they took Mecca shortly afterwards without a fight.

Many fulfilled prophecies can be found in the Hadith (reports from the Prophet).

12. Other aspects

These aspects are reserved for the Koran only (the original in Arabic), because they are generally unknown to Christians. They are also no "proof" of divine origin as such, but an indication that God ordains the necessary love and respect for His Book. Based on the sayings of the Prophet:

- ❖ Whoever learns the Koran and teaches it is the best among men.
- ❖ Each letter one reads gives a reward, and the reward will be multiplied by ten.
- ❖ Allah raises some people by the Koran and lowers other by it.
- ❖ Who puts the Koran in front of him (i.e. believes in it and acts according to its teachings), is lead to paradise, and who puts it behind him, is lead to hell.
- ❖ If one reads, recites, touches or even just carries the Koran, one has to be in a state of ritual purity.
- ❖ If one reads the Koran, one has to cover one's 'Aurat' (for men this is from the navel to the knees, and for women all except face and hands, although men should wear a shirt too).

- ❖ The Koran should not be recited in a loud ostentatious voice, but should be read melodically and softly.
- ❖ Anyone who reads the Koran slowly, precisely and melodically, will be in the company of the noble and obedient angels, and the one who reads the Koran with difficulties and stammers (because he can not speak Arabic), will have double the reward.
- ❖ One must take refuge in Allah from Satan before reciting and start with the Basmallah (In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, Most Merciful), except in Surah At-Taubat.
- ❖ Best is to read the Koran while one is turned towards Kiblah / Mecca.
- ❖ When the Koran is recited, one should listen and stop one's own talk. It is therefore a bad habit, to play the Koran aloud from the mosque or to play it as "background music". Unfortunately, these bad habits are very common nowadays among Muslims.
- ❖ The Koran or even verses from it must not be taken into the toilet.

- ❖ The Koran should not be placed on the floor or another place, which lowers it, but in an elevated position.
- ❖ The Koran must be on top in a pile of books, so on top of all other books. It must also lay on its right side (beginning of the Koran above). One must not put anything on it.
- ❖ The Koran has the right to be read fully twice a year.
- ❖ Parts of the Koran are recited at least five times a day, that is, during the compulsory prayers.
- ❖ One should read in it daily, and if this is not possible, touch it at least once with respect.
- ❖ The Koran may not be recited for making money or begging.
- ❖ God says in the Koran that the Koran is easy to remember. And really, thousands of Muslims do know the Koran by heart. When did you ever hear of a Christian who ever tried this with the Bible, or at least with the New Testament?
- ❖ Someone who can memorize the whole Koran (Hafiz), may intercede for 20 Muslims on the Day of Judgment.

- ❖ In the hereafter one will be asked to recite the Koran. So long as one recites it, one rises in heaven (levels in Paradise), depending on how much one had memorized from the Koran).
- ❖ The Koran accompanies the person, who has spent a lot of time with it, in the grave, in the form of a handsome young man.
- ❖ The Koran itself can intercede with God on Judgment Day for the one who has honoured him.
- ❖ The Koran gives (spiritual) light houses where it is recited.
- ❖ The Koran amazes with beauty, in writing, sound and eloquence. Muslims and non-Muslims agree that the Koran is Arabic literature par excellence - and that it is even the best Arabic literature at all.
- ❖ The Koran has healing properties. Certain Surah can also be recited as a protection against black magic, poverty and the Antichrist.
- ❖ By reciting the Koran, jinn are expelled (exorcism, known in Islam as Ruqyah).
- ❖ The Koran is comfort and relaxation for the heart.

- ❖ The Koran must be accepted as a whole. A Muslim cannot accept parts that appeal to him and reject others.
- ❖ God promises to protect the Koran against counterfeiting until the day of resurrection: *Lo. We, even We, reveal the Reminder, and lo. We verily are its Guardian.* (Al-Hijr 9) And this is the fundamental difference: the Koran was sent down as a whole by God and is guarded by Him, whereas the Bible consists in large parts of reports by third parties, and simply does no longer comply with "God's word" and the actual events.

If we believe in a good and just God, can it be that the criteria of who goes to paradise and who is doomed, is a book containing all the said defects as the Bible? Can God make people responsible if they do not believe in a book that is full of contradictions, cruelty and false scientific statements? That does not heed the nature of man and asks things of him he cannot attain? Whose prophecies did not fulfil itself? Which shows God as not omnipotent who even commands obscenities? Whose authors are mainly unknown, and which in the present state is only a translation of a text that is no longer present in the original?

Would this not be entirely unjust?

The Koran however meets all the required criteria and more. Its origin is known; it is present in the original; it contains no contradictions, false scientific statements and no unfulfilled prophecies; but above all its commandments do not burden anyone beyond one's capability, but administers all things pragmatically, the God given human nature accordingly.

Christians should realize that their book is not "God's word", even though it contains a lot of truth and wisdom. God in His mercy has confirmed the truth in the Bible by the Seal of Prophets Muhammad pbuh, but also pointed out its flaws and limitations.

And unto thee have We revealed the Scripture with the truth, confirming whatever Scripture was before it, and a watcher over it. So judge between them by that which Allah hath revealed, and follow not their desires away from the truth which hath come unto thee. [Al-Maidah 48]

Abu Hurairah r.a. narrated that the Prophet pbuh said:

There was no prophet among the prophets, who has not been given miracles, through which the people had security or faith, but what has been

given to me is the divine revelation that God has revealed to me. So I hope my followers will be more than of the other prophets on the Day of Resurrection. [Bukhari, Vol. 9, No. 379]

*There is no compulsion in religion.
The right direction is henceforth
distinct from error.
And he who rejecteth false deities
and believeth in Allah
hath grasped a firm handhold
which will never break.
Allah is Hearer, Knower.*

[Al-Baqarah 256]

*Whoever of the Christians and Jews
hears of me but does not believe
in my message and dies
in this state (of disbelief),
will be a resident of hell.*

[Sahih Muslim, Vol. I, P. 91 No.284]

With contributions from:

- H. Insan L.S. Mokoginta
- Ahmed Deedat
- Wikipedia
- Dr Ibrahim Mokrani
- Zeitgeist
- And other open source authors

Translations mainly used:

- The Holy Bible, King James Version
- The Glorious Koran, Marmaduke Pickthal

The author

was born 1966 in Aachen and irreligious until the age of about 21 years. When travelling to several continents and undergoing radical experiences, he began first to study esoteric and then religion in general intensely. At the age of 24, he finally managed to free himself from the rat race of everyday life in Germany, trying to entrust himself to God. He left his job spontaneously and walked thousands of kilometres without money, passport and luggage, until he finally found his true identity in a small dugout on the Indian Ocean.

Since 1997 he lives with his wife and three children in Indonesia.

Other works from same author in English available on amazon:

No Name Nomad

- A quest for guidance -

Autobiographical Novel

This book describes the author's journey from an irreligious materialistic life to one full of meaning and closeness to God. He leaves his home-country and former life, trusting in God and His promise. He tries to get rid of all materialistic things and walks thousands of kilometers without money, passport and baggage. He lives as painter on the streets of Valencia and in a cave on the Sacromonte of Granada; he smuggles himself into Morocco and crosses the whole country and the void of the desert without any possessions and identity. He shares prison cells with Algerian fundamentalists, lives in an old watermill, a village full of tepees, a small house in Andalusia, a millionaire's villa on Tenerife, a beach hut on Gomera; and finally finds his true identity on a little dugout in the middle of the Indian Ocean.

The book describes the attempt to follow, without compromise, one's own intuitions and the inner guide. The author compares his intuitions and

outer situations with waves. These waves one has to recognize and 'to ride' if they should bring one to new shores because the rational analysis of a situation and its logical conclusion never suffice to adjust oneself to the constant flow of life and God's will. Surfing becomes him a symbol, and the author starts it also on the material plane to better understand its laws. This brings him to an island south-west of Sumatra where are some of the highest waves in the world. There he gets an English translation of the Koran and the waves get a name: Hidayah.