



**THE LINKING FAITH**

**OF**

**JESUS**

**&**

**MUHAMMAD**

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**Shabbir Akhtar**

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He has written many valuable books. May God Almighty turn people's hearts towards his advice. You can feel his burning ambition to save the world from disaster. He has the quality of a real peacemaker. He is an angel living among us, taking a just stance against the wicked ones. His book "Hidden Menace to World Peace" is a living proof, which cannot be denied.

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My greatest and ultimate debt and gratitude is due to Allah, the creator of the heavens and the earth. May he pardon and forgive me, strengthen my faith in Him and endow me with knowledge and wisdom.

# RECOMMENDATION

## *From the Imam of Glasgow Central Mosque*

Mr Shabbir Akhtar, a man who I earlier respected just for his commitment, asked me after one Friday prayer, in November last year, if he could see me, since he had an important subject to discuss. It was only after spending half an hour with him that I realized that this man was much more than just committed.

Shabbir wanted me to comment on his recent work on Islam and Christianity. I promised to look into this. Christianity is a subject that I do not specialize in. My knowledge of Christianity is limited and this is why I was so reluctant in answering his request. It is only after three months that today, I have managed to put pen to paper and even this is after much persuasion.

There is no doubt that the aim and objective of Shabbir's efforts is what the British Religious Community is in need of. The threat of Liberalism that advances itself under the guise of 'modernisation', and now 'globalisation', is a challenge that confronts the entire believing community. Liberalism as a way of life is nothing more than an ideology that has every right to be adopted by those who believe in it. It has only become a threat to religious communities since it has declared itself a political power and has begun to seek subordination, and even elimination of religions. It is about time that we woke up to the reality and accepted the hard truth.

The forces of globalization are not economic only; they are also social and cultural. Economic forces of the world could only be in the secure control of Liberalists if the latter remained the unchallenged authority in the political arena, the roots of which lie in social and cultural aspects of human civilization.

There is little doubt that these individuals will go to extreme lengths, just to ensure their supremacy.

It has hence become vital for the survival of the believing community to re-assess their differences in order to find common grounds for mutual understanding and enhanced co-operation. If this was the only reason for establishing communications between the various religious communities it would have been enough to set us going. The truth is that there are other reasons that demand from us to get as close to each other as possible.

The very nature of our British community, that we pride ourselves in being multi-cultural, urges us to build bridges between the followers of different religions that have set themselves to live together for generations. It is essential for us, if we seek to prosper, that we understand each other well enough to be able to support and respect each other.

Islam considers the Christian as closest to its teachings. The Qur'an refers to them as sincere people who seek to please their Lord. I have heard similar views about Islam from some Christians that I have met. Hence, it is only appropriate that we start the much-needed cooperation between these two great religions that share so many similarities. I hope Shabbir Akhtar's work will help to prepare the ground for this co-operation.

**Habib Rauf**  
**February 14, 2002**

# INTRODUCTION

Towards the end of the eleventh century A.D. Christians and Muslims fought a series of bitter wars for possession of the Holy Places. It was an era of insensate savagery relieved only by the flashes of chivalry displayed on both sides.

Almost one thousand years later, at the advent of the third millennium, those two great religions, which must jointly command at least the lip service of a majority of the civilized beings on this earth, are once again set in confrontation and pending conflict, with fundamentalism on the one hand poised to engage with the forces of international secularism on the other.

At the end of the Cold War the mighty arsenals of NATO and the Soviet Empire were stood down, put in store or sent to quell brush fires ignited in trouble spots around the earth. For those with a vested interest in human strife and misery, it was not enough. The finance-driven, military-industrial power complex needed an enemy resourceful and fanatical enough to be portrayed as a menace to the peace of all mankind.

Such could be found in a revived and reunited Islam, with access to nuclear technology, and suitably provoked to take up the challenge of the Antichrist for suzerainty over our worldly environment. It's a thought that must be mentioned - as I have mentioned it already - since to be forewarned is to be forearmed, and it is against this somber background that Shabbir Akhtar makes his point.

Mr. Akhtar is essentially a simple man. It seems to me that so many of the turning points in our civilisation have been designated by simple men, sure of their inspiration, and strong in their faith and convictions. Here, in this tract, we find a message as persistent and compelling as anything that has moved the holy peacemaker throughout the ages. With constant reference to scripture, the author endeavors to show that there are no contradictions between the teachings of Muhammad and the teachings of Jesus, that any differences which may be seen to have emerged are attributable to corruptions of Jesus' message which were promulgated after he departed this earth - perhaps through the writings of St. Paul.

I make no further comment on that, save to say that Mr. Akhtar's crusade for peace and oneness and accord and understanding between the two great faiths is something which our society desperately needs. Even the inherently secular should take comfort from it. For the test of a man's religion is the manner in which he lives out his mortal existence, and an atmosphere of mutual respect and amity between Christians and Muslims would bring blessings to us all.

*James Gibb Stuart*

## **PREFACE**

The purpose of writing this booklet is to appeal to believers to break boundaries and divisions created by mis-understanding of Divine Scripture, and concentrate on common values beneficial to humanity. To develop and promote good whilst stamping out evil, is a duty enjoined upon us by Almighty God.

The human race is broadly divided into two main groups of the believing and the non-believing, although a great number of potential believers are presently in the other camp because of the attitude of believers who have not approached them in a proper and sympathetic manner. The only purpose in explaining the true message of Divine Revelation is to save souls from hellfire, and prepare them for success in the life hereafter, without taking any advantage, neither planting one's own ideas and traditions, nor seeking political or materialistic gain. When religion is sold to the public with corruption in the message, Divine Revelation disappears and hypocrisy takes over. People run away from religion because of hypocrisy.

Those who claim to be believers, be they Jews, Christians or Muslims, must concentrate to work for peace and justice, where man is a brother of man, and respects his humanity without exploitation, where individual rights are upheld, and the powers of the state are seen as a sacred trust from God for the common welfare. In the field of law, the goal of the believer will be to make it the true embodiment of justice, and a real protection for all, particularly the weak, with neither injustice nor oppression inflicted on anyone.

*Shabbir Akhtar*

## MESSAGE AND MISSION OF JESUS for SALVATION

### “ONENESS OF GOD”

The words Father and Son have literal and spiritual meanings. In the beginning it was quite clearly understood in which sense these words were used. When scripture spoke of Adam as the Son of God, nobody had any doubt that it was used in its spiritual sense and not meant literally. The spiritual meaning of the word Father is as the Creator, Sustainer and Nourisher -the one Supreme Being, called Jehovah in Hebrew, God in English and Allah in Arabic. Later on these words were misused; a political and religious collaboration gave them literal meaning, just to hide the message of Jesus (Peace be upon him) behind the arguments arising from these words.

All those arguments, energy and resources are spent in proving it either way. Nobody takes time to look at the message and mission of this great prophet of God, who was assigned to establishing the kingdom of God on earth. Those who sincerely love Jesus (Pbuh) should study the Bible in its spiritual meaning of Father, as when Jesus himself said, “Call no man your Father on earth. There is only One, Which is in heaven.” He clearly explained the spiritual meaning of Father.

When we study the Bible in this way, the mission of Jesus (Pbuh) will be highlighted. Our hearts will be softened, and we shall hear the word of God and follow His commandments. Only then shall we listen and understand as the prophet Isaiah explains the word of God. “Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.” (Isaiah 51:4)

This is an open invitation for all the people to find out where is that law which has proceeded from God. It is none other than the Holy Qur'an. If anyone can prove otherwise, he should come forward and show us the law of God that brings the light to the people and rules the nations by that law. Those who believe that Jesus is the way must follow Jesus; his way is to establish Divine Law, not to destroy it. He and his chosen disciples were upholders of the Divine Law.

One must decide to uphold the law and follow Jesus, or abolish the law and follow Paul. The choice is ours. Let us listen to our inner voice, and to the voice of Isaiah. “Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.” (Isaiah 51:7)

## A TRUE ETERNAL RELIGION

There is only one true religion. God's messengers had been raised among every people, and they all brought essentially that same religion - complete submission and obedience to the one true God. In this respect all the messengers of God stand on a par with each other. If a man belies any one of them, he belies them all; and if a man affirms and believes in one of them, he must and ought to affirm them all. The reason is simple. Suppose ten men make one and the same statement; if you admit one of them to be true, you ipso facto admit the remaining nine as true, and if you belie any one of them, by implication you belie all of them. It is for this reason that it is necessary to have implicit faith in all the prophets of God. The prophets Moses and Jesus (Peace be upon them) each received a book from God. The first is called Torah and the second is called Injeel. These genuine divine books are not to be equated with the Old and New Testaments, which are only very slightly derived from the former. The Torah was revealed to Moses. The last book of the Pentateuch ends with the death of Moses, therefore no part of at least the books of the Old Testament that follow the Pentateuch could even remotely be related to the original Torah.

However, the Torah was not accessible to lay people, including the respective believers themselves. These books were in the possession of religious authorities as part of the prestige of their positions. The authorities were thus able to reveal what they liked of the books, and conceal those parts that did not suit them. Their

false interpretation of the Chosen People, which was conditional upon obedience and submission to God, carried them away from the right path.

The Biblical version of Judaism, as the religion of the elite and privileged, is a false concept - a particularly inauthentic concept, which was made the main theme of the Pentateuch, and has played a central role in destroying previous religious messages. This concept, which runs throughout the whole of the Old Testament - not only the Pentateuch - concerns the alleged link with the religion of the Israelites. In contrast to this view of religion being firmly and fundamentally tied to them as a people, the Israelites found nothing in the message of Jesus (Pbuh) that supports this claim or concedes that they, as a distinct ethnic group, are better than other people in the sight of the Lord. On the contrary Jesus taught the parables of the good Samaritan. The one who had mercy was better in the sight of the Lord.

There is nothing to be proud of in being a chosen nation. A chosen nation must be humble and thankful to God for the favour bestowed upon it. That nation must prove to be worthy of the selection by remaining on the straight path and holding fast to the creation of peace and justice in the world. The only criterion for the nation's nearness to God is the degree of its piety and obedience to Him. It has nothing to do with race, colour, or anything other than piety. Abraham (Peace be upon him) was honoured and praised for his obedience and submission to God. Israelites adopted the religion of shalom from Abraham. After some time the true spirit of obedience and submission faded away. The teachers of the law and the Jewish elders portrayed God as a jealous God, making people fear Him for His revenge and punishment.

In this situation people became hypocrites. God did not help them, and they were subjected to Roman emperors. Then God sent Jesus (Pbuh) to bring them back to the true religion. He introduced the new name of Creator, so as to take the fear out of their hearts. He spoke of the Father, and a very loving and caring relationship developed between people and their God. He also gave a new name to religion. Instead of shalom, he called it the Kingdom of Heaven. The miraculous and very powerful character of Jesus influenced many people. Later on, love of Jesus developed to such an extent that the fear of God and the mission of Jesus both disappeared.

“Thy kingdom come!” For twenty centuries Christians of all denominations and shades of belief have been praying and repeating this invocation.

“Thy kingdom come!” Only God knows how long they will continue to pray for and vainly anticipate its coming. This Christian anticipation of the coming of the Kingdom of God is similar to that of Judaism for the coming of the Messiah. Both exhibit a thoughtless and ill-starred imagination, and the wonder is how persistently they cling to this vain hope. If you ask a Christian priest or layman what he thinks of the Kingdom of God, he will tell you all sorts of illusory and meaningless things.

The Kingdom of God on earth is a true religion, a powerful society of believers in one true God, equipped with faith to fight for and maintain its existence and absolute independence against the powers of darkness, against all those who defy the divine laws. According to Jesus, he who is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than John the Baptist (Peace be upon him), not in status, but for achievement. Jesus and John were inviting people to believe and to repent, to build up their characters for the challenge they were going to face. Jesus did not actually abrogate the law of Moses. He gave a new life and spirit to it. He explained more explicitly the immortality of the human soul.

## **THE CRUCIFIXION**

A very significant event in Christian doctrine is the crucifixion of Jesus. The traditional Biblical account of the crucifixion is that he was arrested and crucified by the orders and plans of the chief priest and the Jewish elders, because the multitude were gathering around him, and they felt they were losing the authority of their religious leadership. Instead of joining him to create the Kingdom of Heaven, they decided to denounce him as a traitor and a danger to the Roman Empire. (See Matthew 22:17-21.) “Tell us therefore, What thinkest

thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

The Pharisees' plan had failed on this occasion, but they kept on looking for a way to trap him under Roman law. Then came the incident which roused him to confrontation. When he noticed moneychangers practicing usury in the synagogue, he became furious, overturned their tables, and forced them to stop violating God's commandments. They had no justification for turning their religion into a trade, but when Jesus took action against them, God's commandments and Roman Law were brought face to face. The authorities were alarmed. They took it as a threat and a challenge to the prevailing system and as in our own day, God's commandments had no value in their sight. Thus Jesus was arrested, convicted and sentenced to be crucified.

But did any of the disciples or writers of the gospels see either the crucifixion or the resurrection? Nobody knows whether he really died on the cross, and nobody saw the moment he was resurrected. It was one of Paul's epistles which professed the crucifixion and resurrection. "Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel." (II Timothy 2:8)

In Luke 24:36-41 Jesus himself states that he did not die on the cross. "And as they (the disciples) thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 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 showed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them."

Jesus (Peace be upon him) being alive and not dead, is further supported in his own prophecy. (Matthew 12:40) "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Jonas was alive in the belly of the whale, and so was Jesus. Christianity's present belief that the crucifixion/resurrection is necessary for the redemption of sin is not part of Jesus' teaching. People's sins were being forgiven before the alleged crucifixion/resurrection, as shown in Mark 11:25-26. "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." Further, the knowledge that Jesus forgave sins before his crucifixion and resurrection contradicts the belief that His blood was shed in washing sins away.

Paul made a distinction between Jesus and Christ. The law which had bound Jesus and his followers was no longer necessary since Jesus had died. Now they are no longer "married" to Jesus, but to Christ, who had invoked another law in direct revelation to Paul. It was therefore necessary to follow Christ and not Jesus. Thus, anyone who held to Jesus' teaching had gone astray. By this logic Paul assembled his doctrine of redemption and atonement, which was accepted by the Church three centuries after Jesus left the earth.

One step taken in the wrong direction can lead you miles from your destination. Paul's theology has taken the zeal and enthusiasm from the Christians. They no more think it necessary to follow the divine laws, let alone build up a society based upon them. Anyone who wants to follow Jesus has no choice but to revive the divine law. By so doing he will risk his life. Jesus said that one who loses his life for His sake would have eternal life. The sooner we realize our mistake and call the people to the real message and mission of Jesus, the sooner will the multitude be with us, and together we can change society.

## **JESUS' PRAYER WAS HEARD**

The event recorded in the Holy Bible which creates doubt of either an unintended error or an irresponsible approach in recording the scriptures, is the incident when Jesus (Pbuh) was put on the cross. Before the

alleged crucifixion he uttered up a prayer to God, saying (Luke 22:42), “Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup (of death) from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”

It seems God turned down his request, and Jesus reluctantly offered himself for crucifixion. Whilst on the cross, he said “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” (My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?)

Surely not an utterance worthy of such a great prophet of God! We are told that two other people were crucified alongside Jesus, and with the story passing from mouth to mouth, it is possible that the words could have been uttered by one of these. The hearsay ends by Jesus proclaiming that the words are not true.

Human beings have been called to make great sacrifices, and many have faced death with great dignity. God tested Abraham (Pbuh), the Father of the nations, when Nimrod and his men threw him in the fire. He did not plead for his life. He did not cry or show any distress. On another occasion, when God commanded him to sacrifice his only begotten son, he did not hesitate to act, but God saved the boy from slaughter. It is quite possible that as God saved Abraham from fire, and his son from slaughter, and Jonas in the belly of the whale, so did he save Jesus on the cross. Jesus on the one hand submitting to the will of God without complaining, and God accepting his prayers by removing the cup of death from his lips. The most gracious and merciful God!

## **PILATE, THE FAITHFUL, SAVED JESUS**

Pilate the Roman governor had a personal reason for saving the life of Jesus. He believed that Jesus was an innocent holy man, and he and his wife were experiencing some strange things in their personal affairs. His wife sent him a message insisting that the life be spared.

“When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.” (Matthew 27:19)

Pilate was in great distress. It was not easy to spare Jesus' life. It meant going against the religious leaders and also facing treason to the Roman Empire. On the other hand he and his wife contemplated a miserable existence. There is evidence that he intended to save Jesus at all cost, and had thought out an ingenious plan. He and a rich man named Joseph, a friend of Pilate's and an admirer of Jesus, worked together. A new tomb out in the rock was just built to serve such a purpose. It was near where the crucifixion would take place.

The Jews were apprehensive for the survival of Jesus. They requested the governor to station a heavy guard around the tomb to prevent his escape. But Pilate refused their demand. He would have planted his own reliable soldiers to take care of Jesus in such a way that his survival would be ensured. His bones were not broken, as in confirmation of death, and his body was not handed to the relatives - all of which would confirm the mysterious passages in Matthew 27:58-60. “He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.”

Pilate and Joseph thereby salved their consciences in this world and the world hereafter.

## **CONCEPT OF ORIGINAL SIN**

Since crucifixion and salvation have emerged from the concept of Original Sin, it behooves us to ponder, analyse and seek out the truth. Christians claim that when Adam (Pbuh) ate from the forbidden tree, God

became angry and punished him, and that punishment was visited upon Adam's offspring until the coming of Jesus, whose crucifixion was to expiate the generations after him from the sin of the forefather.

We know that Abraham's father was a non-believer and idol worshipper. God did not punish Abraham for his father's shortcomings. Therefore by the same logic would God hold him responsible for the sin of Adam? God would be neither wise nor just, to put humanity under a test they were not capable of performing. To punish someone for the sins of all humanity lacks both wisdom and justice.

If Adam's offspring, until the coming of Jesus, were under the burden of Original Sin, how comes it that God was selecting prophets to guide people on to the right path, if the prophets themselves were liable to punishment by death, from being under the same condemnation? If they say that generations before the Christ were like those who came after him, how can it be that Satan was allowed to take hold of the earlier generations, but not the later ones, although they were equally related to Adam? They had committed even greater sins than the prophets of God before them.

The nature of sin is twofold, one deliberately committed as by Satan, the other committed mistakenly through some outside agency, enticed by deception. In the case of Adam and Eve, the Original Sin was not committed by them, but by Satan, and was a deliberate act without repentance. The sin shall remain in this world as long as the choice is given to both Adam's and Satan's offspring to obey or disobey God. It has no link with Original Sin whatsoever - the Original Sin is manifestly in autonomy of will, sanctioned by Almighty God.

Thus the idea of crucifixion as a form of absolution for the Original Sin is not only incompatible with human intellect and understanding of justice, but is also contradictory to the teachings of the Bible itself. (See Ezekiel 18:20.) "The soul who sins is the one who will die. The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous man will be credited to him, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against him." All this runs contrary to the concept of the Original Sin, so what is false and what is true? Let the scholars of the Bible explain it.

## **PAUL'S VISION**

Paul did not try to seek the truth. He did not have any backing for himself from scripture. He never enjoyed the company of Jesus (Peace be upon him). He did not learn the teaching of Jesus. His understanding of religion is based on a vision. He saw a vision and took it for granted that he was getting instructions from Jesus. He may be truthful in his statement of the vision. But there is no guarantee that he was talking to Jesus, and not the Deceiver, the enemy of all humanity. Satan tried to tempt Jesus for forty days. Why would he not try to work on Paul, who over thirty years found no satisfaction in obeying the Divine Law? His obedience to the law must have been like that of a blind teacher or a Pharisee. He never experienced the way Jesus taught in the keeping of the commandments.

A real keeper of the law is one who follows it as Jesus and other prophets did. There is a lesson in the teaching of Jesus where, when the disciples could not cure a sick person, they brought him to Jesus, and Jesus healed him. Then they asked why they could not do likewise, and Jesus told them that unless you did devoted prayers and sincere fasting, you could not achieve this state. To become slaves of the law of the Creator is a blessing, not a curse as Paul explains it. To keep the Divine Law as hypocrites do, is no doubt a curse, but sincere obedience in the true spirit is a different thing altogether. If you take off the yoke of the Divine Law, it does not set you free. On the contrary you become a slave of Satan, slave of your own desires, slave of society and so on. A true believer is one who keeps the Divine Law in both letter and spirit. He becomes a slave of the Creator, of the Master of all Creation. What a great honor, to become a slave of the Creator!

Jesus did not keep us in the dark about his reappearance on this earth. He made it quite clear that we must be always on our guard, as the time is kept secret. But his appearance will be open to all; he does not have special or secret links with anyone. It will mean equal opportunity for all who seek the truth, and sincerely wish to follow divine guidance. No secret deals! No pick and choose! Jesus' teachings clearly contradict Paul's claim of secretly picking and choosing apostles. It is the work of the Deceiver, who comes to Christians' hearts in the guise of the Redeemer, and guides them towards himself. Making all food clean opens the door

to eating pork and becoming a wine-bibber. Nakedness and self-desire become prime objects of one's life. A good tree bears good fruit, and an evil tree bears evil fruit. Nakedness is the fruit of evil, which should be cast off, as it is a result of abandoning the Divine Law.

## **PAUL'S CONVERSION AND DEVIATION**

It was Paul who wanted to have Jesus die on the cross in order to create a new religion of Christianity. He took advantage of some poor versions of the scriptures. He changed the whole theory of good deeds and repentance for any shortcomings due to human nature. One cannot accept the atonement theory for redemption of sin. If it was true then it ought to have come from the Chosen People of God. Jesus himself, or John the Baptist (Peace be upon them) were more worthy to declare it. God does not leave basic teaching in illusion to be explained by an outsider on his own assertions. Even twelve chosen disciples were scarcely suitable for introducing such a fundamental shift.

Paul, though a Jew, did not see any future for Israel. He converted himself to his own new religion of Christianity. He praised Jesus and misguided the followers of Jesus by his Romanisation/Israelisation of Christianity. He said, "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written." (Romans 11:26) We clearly see the commitment of Christians to help and work for the state of Israel. Christians keep on repeating Jesus' saying, "I am the way". In reality, for today's Christians Paul is the way, and they follow him. Yet his teachings are contradictory to the teaching of Jesus and the prophets before him. Jeremiah, that great prophet of God, who noticed the evil creeping up on the Jewish nation, made it clear. "If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever." (Jeremiah 31:36)

"Thus saith the Lord; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the Lord." (Jeremiah 31:37) The charge is quite clear. It is required to uphold the Divine Law. Secular laws cannot save us from God's punishment. Yet in Paul's opinion there is no need for divine ordinance. This deviation is very significant, as it contradicts the true religious teaching of all the prophets.

Christians have ceased to work for the Kingdom of Heaven. Instead they are working for the kingdom of Israel, hoping that in return the Israelites will accept Jesus according to Christian belief. This Israelisation of Christianity has taken them away from the true path. The fact is that the Jews took away the love of God from religion, and the Christians took away the fear of God. Thus humanity lost its chance to achieve that ultimate goal of creating a Kingdom of Heaven. The Israelites are heading for the final punishment of God. They are depending on their wealth and influence within today's political structures, where the Israelisation of Christianity has worsened the cause of world peace.

Paul did not honor God's commandments. He took very lightly the commandment on clean and unclean food. He also liberated all Christians from the commandment on circumcision - the everlasting oath committed with God by Abraham - as if he was wiser than God, and had authority to overrule whatever he chose. All Christians have set aside these commandments at Paul's suggestion. They follow Paul, and overlook the saying of Jesus, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15: 9)

Many Christian churches are empty these days, despite every effort to encourage people to join the services. Why is this so? The reason is that God's commandments are not there, the link is broken! The spirit of Jesus and Abraham is not there. They have set aside the chief cornerstone (Jesus) and concentrated upon the teachings of an apostle. The apostle's guidance is only valid as long as it is in harmony with the divine laws. The apostle Paul slips through and takes overall control of Christianity, with Jesus merely a showpiece.

What Paul could not achieve during his lifetime - because of strong opposition from Jesus' chosen disciples, and that first church established in Jerusalem under the leadership of St. James, Jesus' own brother - found

favour long after his death, when the Emperor Constantine converted himself to Christianity, and derived political advantage from the fifth gospel preached by St. Paul, in which he proclaimed himself to be the only true interpreter of the teachings of Jesus, with which this addendum, containing Paul's views and vision are totally at variance.

All the chosen disciples were very much concerned over this new extended religion. St. Peter, one of the most prominent among them, rightly commented that working with Jesus for so many years had no value, if it was so easy to become a disciple by experiencing just such a vision. Paul's message was strengthened by very powerful political support, since not only were his views and teachings patronised by the Emperor Constantine, but the emperor also suppressed and discouraged those who were preaching the true gospel as passed down by the chosen disciples. Had it been otherwise, things might have been altogether different. Without political backing, any movement would founder.

## **FOLLOW JESUS**

Jesus (Peace be on him) will reject his followers' false claim that faith is enough, without obedience. This is not so, as we see in Matthew 7: 21-23. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

The whole Sermon on the Mount makes it clear that a good tree will bear good fruit. The labourers who work for the will of the Creator shall be rewarded. Paul, the founder of Christianity, differs with Jesus and his disciples. He claims that his teachings are the result of direct revelation. He makes himself above all the disciples appointed by Jesus. According to the prophets and the teaching of Jesus, faith, law and obedience are one and the same thing. Paul says that with faith and grace, salvation is free - a gift.

Jesus' true disciples disputed this, but let Paul preach it to the Gentiles only. Divine laws are a curse in Paul's opinion, yet without the divine laws how can a person know right from wrong? What pleases God and what displeases Him? How can you prove yourself to be obedient to God? Suppose Abraham had said, "I have faith in you, My Lord, but do not put me under the curse of circumcision, or ask me to sacrifice my only son." It is the action which reflects the faith. If there is no obedience, there is no faith.

Contrary to Jesus' teachings, Paul destroys the law. As long as a person thinks he is keeping the law, he is proud, and despises God's grace. "Don't turn back to the law from which Christ redeemed us." No doubt to keep the law as the hypocrites do, one becomes proud, and does indeed despise God's grace. This is the only way Paul knew God. He was keeping the laws as the Jewish elders were doing. He did not get a chance to walk with Jesus, and learn from him that keeping the law with sincerity makes a man humble, not proud. God honored Abraham and Jesus (Peace be upon them) for their faith and obedience in keeping the commandments. You cannot take one away from the other.

The new teaching introduced by Paul had some attractions, but took them away from true religion. Divine laws are the shield, without which we are easy victims of Satan. For proof of this, one need only look upon the world today. Without the divine laws, people are involved in all sorts of errant practices. All the nations of the world - including Muslims - have problems of sinfulness in some shape or form. One thing which looked good at the beginning, but proved harmful in the end, was to turn the Gentiles away from their metal and stone idols, and indulge them in creative contemplation of Christ crucified. This new concept of washing away sins was a great success. What more could man want to cover up his wickedness? God no longer chalks up sin against Christians because of their faith in Christ's dead body taking away all sin. A very partial God who is kind to Christians only!

If this is true, why did Jesus tell those who believed in him, “depart from me, ye that work iniquity”? (Matthew 7:23) It is quite clear that faith without good deeds is not acceptable to God. Another statement of Jesus is, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.” (Matthew 5:17) “Full well ye reject the commandment of God that ye may keep your own tradition.” (Mark 7:9) and (Matthew 15:3)

We go against all the teaching of Jesus because we want our own traditions, our own laws. Paul gave us what we wanted. He has set all Christians free from law. By his relaxed teaching he brought many new converts to the Christian faith. They grew in number, and when they became strong enough, they turned against the true followers of Jesus, who wanted to keep the law. Pray and obey the only true God, was their aim in life. It is a tragedy that a great number of books on the teachings and life of Jesus have been destroyed by the Christians themselves. The reason is simply that there were those who wanted to live an easy life in this world, and stay in the good books of the rulers. So they eliminated the message and mission of Jesus from the scriptures, and confined it to lip service only. They have increased the number of their followers on the one hand, and maintained good relations with the rulers on the other. To celebrate Christmas, they are all Christians. They are secular when it comes to working for the kingdom of heaven. They do not want to lift a finger in the cause of the divine laws, let alone take up the cross and follow Jesus (Peace be upon him).

But no man can serve two masters. In the concept of a crucified and resurrected Jesus, the whole story is turned around, since now his followers are free from any obligation to confront materialism, oppression and all sorts of corruption. The burden is placed upon the shoulders of Christ crucified to clear up the mess. (This concept of Jesus' sacrificial death suits the political, religious and social needs of a materialistic society.)

On the other hand, the living Jesus and his teachings are a real challenge to all forms of secular government. He always intended to liberate people from the yoke of authority and supremacy imposed by manmade laws. His message is a dynamic force in the elimination of society's evils. He motivates and encourages his followers to take up the cross and confront them. This is exactly what Muhammad (pbuh) taught his followers - to live and die for the sake of the Creator.

## **PRESENT DAY CHRISTIANITY**

When Constantine the Great proclaimed Christianity as the true religion, he strengthened Paul's influence accordingly. Christianity and Romanisation worked together under his regime. Yet Constantine, who entered the fold in the shape of a believer, was not a true believer at all. He personified a regime of terror and fierce war against the Unitarians, the true believers, with their religious books suppressed and their churches seized and handed over to Trinitarian bishops and priests. At length the Unitarians appeared triumphant under the guidance of the last prophet Muhammad, and dominated the world for one thousand years.

Muhammad (Peace be upon him) established the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. It remained in its true form during his remaining lifetime, and for thirty years after his death, making forty years in all. The first change appeared when kingship was introduced. Democratic selection of the ruler was abolished, but the rest of the system remained the same. This new protocol brought about a decline in the character of the ruling class. From time to time God-fearing people warned the rulers not to play with the divine laws. The rulers put them in prison, and some were even put to death. The sacrifices of the saintly kept the faith alive, but the rulers persisted with their pressures, and eroded the trust of the majority. Their order weakened to such an extent that the ordinary people did not support it. So the system collapsed and they became the victims of colonialism.

During the period of Muslim ascendancy, the weakness of their beliefs caused the Christians to think again. They came to the conclusion that they could regain their dominance by adopting a system of materialism. But in adopting materialism they lost their faith even in Christianity. More than 80% of Christians are not Christian at all. They are half-atheist, half-Christian. They are developing techniques and power structures to bring the whole world under this new atheistic materialism. By the tyranny of interest they are building multinational companies to dominate the world's economy. With their control of information technology and

their gross abuse of the communications media, they are thus far successful in advancing the cause of the Anti-Christ.

But one thing is certain. Ultimately materialism will collapse. Unitarians have realised the weakness of their faith. Materialism cannot defeat the true believer whose faith is strong, and Unitarians are now trying to strengthen their beliefs.

The final clash will be between the former chosen people - equipped with materialism and backed up by the secular Anti-Christ - and the new chosen people, of true unitarian faith, proclaiming Jesus Christ as the saviour of humanity, and implementing the divine laws as the last and final word of God. There is no doubt which of these will command the support of Jesus (Peace be upon him).

The most trustworthy and most powerful support! No worldly power can match it. God did not let Jesus succeed the first time because the chosen people were not willing to accept the Kingdom of God. They betrayed Jesus and helped the wicked Roman Empire. They schemed with the Romans, but God countered their schemes with schemes of his own. He recalled Jesus to Himself, and after a short time appointed a new nation to work for His holy purpose.

Now things are moving very fast. The final clash is inevitable. Most Muslims are inclined to follow divine guidance. Their total obedience and submission to God will make them worthy of Jesus to guide them. They will not turn their backs on Him, as did the Jews.

Christians must decide where they stand. Presently they are in a very confused situation, not knowing the reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. They are more sympathetically inclined towards the former chosen people, being unaware of the true teachings and guidance of Jesus. Their contributory negligence of divine scripture has exacerbated their position.

## **THE MISSION OF JESUS**

When the Jews were living under the Roman Empire, they were treated as second-class citizens. Heavy taxes were laid upon them, whilst at the same time they were cheated by their own community religious leaders. Their lives were torn apart, as is a sheep between two wolves. The Pharisees and teachers of law were aware of the kingdom of God. They knew that Jesus the Messiah (Peace be upon him) would establish the kingdom of heaven. But they were not ready to give up their worldly gains, and were less obedient to God than to Rome. The phrase kingdom of God, so often used by Jesus, makes it very clear that humankind must not make its own laws and impose them on society. The kingdom of heaven must have divine laws.

The kingdom of heaven has two stages :-

- Individual
- Collective

These two are in indirect obedience to God through the laws given to the prophets. And those who enter into these two categories will succeed to the kingdom of heaven after the Day of Judgment, the final and undisputed climax of God's kingdom. For the first one has to be an individual kingdom, where a person accepts the first commandment, that he must love God with all his heart, with all his soul, his mind and all his strength. He is truly born again and has recognised the truth, so that he will by the grace of God live by loving his neighbours, respecting his parents, by obedience and caring - caring for society as a whole.

Jesus did not have time to move to the collective stage of establishing the Kingdom, but his remarks show that he had this in mind. Two of his statements prove that he was trying to make people realise. "Think not that I have come for peace . . . but to divide." And then ". . . divide between good and bad." He also asked his followers to sell their garments and buy swords. These were clear signs that though he was obedient to God

only, he wanted to get rid of both corrupt religions and political powers. Relatively few people joined the kingdom of God and followed Jesus. He told them, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when he, the Spirit of truth, the Comforter comes, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak on his authority, but whatever he hears, he will speak. He will tell you things to come. He will glorify me, for he will take of what is mine and declare it to you."

When Jesus saw that most of them were not listening, he warned them that God would reject them. "You will no more be chosen people to work for the kingdom of heaven." So he said that the kingdom of God should be taken from them, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. (Matthew 21:43)

## **THE NEW CHOSEN PEOPLE**

Who could this nation be that Jesus (Peace be upon him) singled out for the next chosen people to work for the kingdom of God? We go back to the age of Abraham (Pbuh). There we find the answer in Genesis 21:17. God heard the boy crying, and from Heaven the angel of God spoke to Hagar. "What were you troubled about, Hagar? Don't be afraid. God has heard the boy crying. Get up, go and pick him up, and comfort him. I will make a great nation out of his descendants." God was with the boy as he grew up.

In Genesis 17:9-14 God said to Abraham, "You also must agree to circumcise every male among you. From now on you must circumcise every baby boy who is eight days old, including slaves born in your homes and slaves bought from foreigners. This will show that my covenant with you is everlasting. Any male who has not been circumcised will no longer be considered one of my people, because he has not kept the covenant with me." From this passage it is quite clear that the nation to work for the kingdom of God are the descendants of Ishmael (Pbuh). There is no other nation on earth which fulfills the prophecy of Jesus. Now it is very easy to understand that God shall reveal the whole truth through Angel Gabriel to the descendants of Abraham through the lineage of Ishmael.

Read Deuteronomy 18:18,19 in which God speaks to Moses. "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren, and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not give heed to my words, which he shall speak in my name; I myself will require it of him."

This divine plan shows that Muhammad (Peace be upon him) took up the task where Jesus left off. To establish the Kingdom, Jesus' task was to take the people out of the hands of corrupt religious leaders and for full measure, defeat the political rulers as well. Muhammad followed in the footsteps of Jesus for the first thirteen years in Mecca. He established individual kingdoms, then was forced to move to Medina, where, after a struggle, he succeeded, there also, in establishing the Kingdom.

Now Jesus will follow in the footsteps of Muhammad to establish the Kingdom of God throughout the world. Then will his mission be accomplished. Any person who has not joined the individual kingdom, not worked for a collective kingdom of God in this world, shall not be allowed to join the real kingdom after the Day of Judgment. Hell would be a more suitable place for him.

This is the time for opening our eyes and being truthful. Only truth can set us free. The truth is that God is the Creator of the universe and only His laws are worthy to be obeyed. How can a Kingdom of God be established where His divine laws have no place? All our claims will be rejected if we keep on following manmade laws. "But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

## **JESUS LAID THE FOUNDATION**

Jesus made it very clear that he wanted to establish the Kingdom of God on this earth. His disciples were committed to work for it. They had the clear vision of the message and mission of Jesus (Peace be upon him), but gradually that vision faded. To praise Jesus and pay him lip service is not enough to ensure eternal life.

Many books have been written, many films made about Jesus, but none of them have done justice to his mission. They make it look like a thing of the past, and praise his courage and truthfulness, but are never ready to take up the cross and follow in his footsteps.

The Romans were very acute. They deduced that he had a political motive, and although he was conveying his message to the common man by means of parables, they became aware of his intentions. He was conscious of the danger, and went into hiding, trying to work secretly to gain a little more time. But the Romans made use of the hypocritical Jewish religious leaders to overcome and arrest him before it was too late. Their reasoning was obvious, that he was a danger to the whole Roman Empire.

“Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.” (Matthew 27:27-31)

The inference is again clear in Matthew 27:37. “And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

We overlook things for our own benefit. We do not want to follow the living Jesus, lest it be at the risk of losing our lives.

The foundations of this modern world are based on Roman law, and the religious foundation of the different cults and sects conveys a similar message - you can see their cooperation with the Antichrist. Any system not based on divine guidance is of the Antichrist. Both political and religious leaders are helping each other to achieve worldly gains. A great number of the followers of Jesus (Peace be upon him) are committed to work for the Kingdom of God. They are being tortured all over the world for refuting the manmade laws, which are the cause of all worldly miseries. Present day laws are not based on justice, but privilege for some and misery for the many. Only divine laws are free from injustice. The international media is in the hands of the Antichrist. It has conveyed a distorted image. Jesus will take off the veil they have over their faces, and reveal the true extent of their wickedness. He will enforce the divine laws revealed in the final message to humanity.

## **NO CHANGE IN BASIC PRINCIPLES**

Those religious leaders who see no harm in manmade laws are obstacles to the individual Kingdom of Heaven, and those political leaders who want to impose their own laws and traditions, without divine guidance, are obstacles to the collective kingdom. All religious and political leaders must think again, and correct their attitudes. But the main responsibility lies with the people, who must keep their eyes open, and not follow blindly. We have our part to play if we wish to be rewarded in this life and the life hereafter. The main task is to create a decent society obedient to God only. It requires two things from us - our intention to fulfill our obligation laid upon humanity as a whole, and the efforts we make to achieve that goal. God will judge us by the efforts we make in accordance with our own capability, rather than by our achievements. Intention and effort are key factors in pleasing God. They appeal to His grace and mercy. That is the way to eternal life after the Day of Judgment. By the grace of God, anyone with an open mind and a clean heart can easily find the truth, if he tries to seek that truth.

Those who claim that the practice of good deeds and repentance - right from Adam to John the Baptist (Peace be upon them) - was a failure, do not come up with any clear evidence. All the prophets of God - including Jesus - preached about good deeds and repentance. Their religion was shalom in Hebrew, Kingdom of Heaven in English and Islam in Arabic respectively. It was the people who did not follow the teachings of the prophets, and thus went astray. When the Jews rejected Jesus (Peace be upon him), they rejected true religion as well. Judaism became their religion, instead of shalom. So it was the people who failed, not the prophets. Jesus and his disciples remained in the true religion of shalom, or Kingdom of Heaven.

Very shortly after this, a prophet in sheep's clothing would change the whole story. The kingdom of heaven was dragged into Christianity. No more labourers! No more hard work! No more divine laws! No more obedience and submission to God! Just believe in the crucifixion, and enjoy eternal life. The people had failed again. Jesus said that the spirit of truth will guide you into the whole truth. And the whole truth is revealed in the last and final word of God, the Holy Qur'an.

## **THE MYSTERY OF THE COMFORTER**

Up to the time of Jesus, human intellect, though considerably developed, was still not mature enough to rationalize its conceptions of God. It required something by way of miracles to convince people of the reality of God's existence.

Miracles still happen, but no longer as a proof of the divine presence. It says in Mark 16:17,18 "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

All such miracles were performed with the help of the Holy Ghost. (See John 14:26.) "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

Note the words "all things I have said unto you." But not the other things which they were then unable to bear. The Holy Bible confirms that the Holy Ghost was present in Jesus' time.

Another Comforter is mentioned in John 14:16. "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever."

It is further clarified in John 16:7. "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you." And then in John 16:13. "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come."

This prophecy clearly refers to the last of the prophets. It also clarifies and solves the mystery of the question raised by the Jews about the prophet mentioned in John 1:21. "Art thou that prophet? And he (John the Baptist) answered, No."

This Biblical statement remains obscure unless one accepts the finality and seal of the prophets. The Jews were looking for three prophets, first of whom was Elias, the second was Christ, and the third was "that prophet" as mentioned so often in both the Old and New Testaments.

The Jews refused to accept Jesus as their Messiah. Jesus himself confirmed that Elias had already come. Both Christians and Jews failed to recognise the remaining one as none other than Muhammad (pbuh), the last prophet of God. It was not due to lack of evidence, but rather to diversions infiltrated into the scriptures which misled their peoples. A thorough and unbiased study of the Holy Qur'an, the final word of God, is the only way to reach the ultimate truth. It is the only book God guaranteed to keep in its original form, without corruption. There are no changes in its basic script due to translation, or the scoring of a debating point. And the Arabic language remained stable while all other languages were subject to considerable change.

The language spoken by Jesus was not Greek, but either Hebrew or Aramaic. Christians failed to interpret the original word used by him in the prophecy of the Comforter. The Hebrew word for Comforter is perhaps Mnahem. The similar Greek word is Periclytos, which literally means "the most illustrious, renowned and praiseworthy". This is precisely what Ahmad means in Arabic. So on this point the Qur'an is the only source one can rely upon.

As it states in SURAH AL-SAFF 61:6 And recall when Jesus, son of Maryam, said “O children of Israel! Verily I am Allah's messenger to you, confirming the Torah before me and conveying the glad news of a messenger coming after me; his name will be Ahmad.” Then when he came to them with evidence, they said “This is manifest magic.”

To summarise, therefore, there are two comforters mentioned in the Holy Bible. The first one is the Holy Ghost (Archangel Gabriel), and the other is the last prophet of God. The first comforter helped the true followers of Jesus spread the message by performing miracles. The second comforter guided humanity into all truth as revealed in the last and final word of God. No more miracles to prove His existence! His last and final word is itself a living miracle.

The guidance of the Holy Ghost was not for ever, as the later Christians presumed. Their failure to grasp the essence of the true teachings of Jesus confused them in their reaching for the truth. They claimed that the Holy Ghost was always with them, that he was their guide throughout their lives, that their individual and collective actions were all under his supervision.

Not only the common people, but also their renowned spiritual leaders, fell for this misconception. Some of them tried to perform miracles, but failed. It would appear that when the teachings of Jesus were corrupted, the Holy Ghost had departed. So miracles are no longer possible, as they were for the early Christians.

Muslims feel the only option now is to seek the guidance of the other Comforter, whose advice is rational and for ever, as stated in the Holy Bible. It has the merit of being able to promote scientific advantages whilst still controlling those evils of science and technology which are a threat to the very existence of human life. Islam has the characteristic of being able to work together with science, hopefully towards the promotion of peace and prosperity on this earth. It has something to offer other religions which may somehow fail this critique.

## **THE WAY FORWARD**

It is very hard for Christians to accept reality. But if they listen to Jesus (Peace be upon him), they can find the truth. (See Matthew 21:42-44.) “Jesus saith unto them, did ye never read in the scriptures, the stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.”

Jesus has explained three realities here. God has his own ways of doing things. Our rejection has no value in his sight. He can honor whomsoever he likes. If Abraham's descendants through Ishmael are honored, why should anyone be jealous like Sarah? It is a declaration that God has deprived his (conditionally) Chosen People from the descendants of Abraham through Isaac, because they were not obeying and following Jesus. They had even tried to crucify him.

But whosoever shall try to destroy His final message will never succeed. Any confrontation will result in a total defeat, no matter how strong and powerful the enemy may be. God's verdict: “It will grind them to powder.”

Now this final message is in the hands of Muslims. Their present position is disastrous. Instead of living their lives according to the teachings of the Qur'an and the last prophet, they model themselves on western civilization, being reared under western educational systems. So they have lost their credibility for the time being.

Any nation can come forward to take up the challenge. God has made it clear in his final message that if you do not work for the Kingdom of Heaven, God will raise another nation who will obey and submit to the will of God alone. Such a nation will not only pray in church, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven,” but will observe God's will in its parliament too.

That is the only way to stop Satan creating his own kingdom on this earth. Make more labourers! Make more effort! The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few! Give the real message of Jesus to the common man and change society. Explain the love of God and the fear of God at the same time. Jesus did not work for faithless religious or Roman political leaders. He only worked for the Creator of this Universe, the only true God, greater than Jesus himself. Two thousand years are gone, and we are still not preaching the true message of Jesus.

Pray to God and obey God, is the message of Jesus and all the prophets. Abraham (Peace be upon him) fulfilled the conditions of obedience and submission, and so was made the Father of the Nations. Abraham (Pbuh) was not a Jew; though some people may wrongly have that impression. His descendants from his wife Sarah were recognised as the Jewish nation, but those descended from his wife Hagar were seen as an Arab nation. He himself was neither Arab nor Jew, only a humble servant of God. At present both Arabs and Jews lack the qualities of obedience and submission, and the Jews are the only nation on earth to have betrayed the prophets of God.

## WAY TO UNITY

From the beginning three basic principles remain the same, and are the foundation of human unity. The first is obedience and worship to one true God. The second is the commandments given to selected individuals according to the requirements of the age, finally bringing all humanity under one universal brotherhood, as witnessed in the life of the last prophet of Islam. The third is to follow sincerely the prophets of God, and make the divine laws dominate society. Only then can we obtain God's grace and mercy, since divine laws purify, and manmade laws corrupt. These are the principles necessary to create the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, which is our ultimate goal.

Those who take this stance will be rewarded in the life hereafter. When their efforts become collective, and some succeed in creating a kingdom of heaven, that will be the day when Satan will be found wanting. For the challenge is between Satan and humanity, not between Satan and God.

It is as though Satan had become jealous at the selection of Adam and his offspring to create the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Perhaps he thought he himself was more suitable for the job. He has since been cast as the eternal enemy to all humanity, striving to sway all Adam's succeeding generations from the right path of obedience, and submission to the Divine Laws.

So if humanity fails, and God has to intervene to save the world from disaster, Satan will have been proved right. Such would be a sad reflection upon the knowledge, wisdom and justice of the Almighty, who apparently does not stop Satan conspiring against humanity, but helps those who want to resist his corruptive scheming. God selects some of the best people for his holy purpose. Satan also picks some crafty and unscrupulous schemers of his own.

To disobey God is a sin. When Adam and Eve disobeyed Him, they did not die, but became naked. Satan also disobeyed God, but he did not die either. The difference is that he never repented, so he is accursed. Adam and Eve repented and asked for forgiveness, and God forgave them. That He gives preference in repentance to human beings over a fallen angel is for this reason only, that repentance is the act He loves most. He does not need to send someone to die for sinners, and take away the act of repentance. Christianity's present belief in the crucifixion and resurrection as being necessary for the redemption of sin, is not a teaching of Jesus (Peace be upon him).

Obedience to God by following the laws - the same laws that guided Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and all the other prophets (Peace be upon them), including the last prophet of Islam, who is prophesied in the Bible - this is the only way to unite the whole of human society in obedience to one true God, and accept his one true religion. This is the Kingdom of Heaven-on-earth, about which Jesus spoke so often. It was not God who diverted us into Judaism, Christianity and so many other cults. That was the work of that same everlasting enemy who deceived Adam and Eve.

## **THE REAL MESSIAH SUPPORTED IN THE QUR'AN**

Jesus (Peace be upon him) is the Messiah for everyone, and for all times. The Qur'an confirms it. (Al'Imran 3:54-7)

Then they schemed (against the Messiah), and God countered their schemes by schemes of his own. God is the best of schemers.

When God said, "O Jesus, I will recall you and raise you up to me and will purify you (of the company) of those who disbelieve, and will set your followers above the disbelievers till the Day of Resurrection. Then to me you shall return, and I will judge between you regarding how you differ.

"As for those who disbelieved, I shall punish them with a terrible chastisement in this world and in the next; and they shall find none to help them."

But those who believed, and do righteous deeds, He will reward them in full. God does not love the unjust.

It is not the leadership of Jesus, but the way he will guide and unite the people which is important. His way is also the way of the Qur'an. The Qur'an in itself presents a complete way of life - a code of conduct and a master plan covering the whole range of human existence, belief, action and society. It does not divide itself into watertight compartments, separating the material from the spiritual, the worldly from the unworldly. It creates only one supreme loyalty - to God and his prophets - and sets out to bring together the extremities of human life on this basis. The Qur'an invites man to harmonies his will with the will of God in all its aspects, and to establish the will of God over life in its totality.

Jesus (Peace be upon him) struggled all his life for this purpose. "Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven!" Muslims do not have the slightest doubt in their hearts about the leadership of Jesus. Our beloved prophet foretold that we shall be getting ready for morning prayer when Jesus, son of Mary, descends from heaven with two angels. The leader of the prayer shall come forward and ask Jesus to lead in his place. All Muslims feel proud to follow Jesus in prayer and other worldly matters. But Jesus will tell the prayer leader to continue with his offerings, and in so doing, will make it clear that Moses, Jesus, Muhammad and all the other prophets of God do not differ from one another. They are all representative of the one true God, and their message is the same. Their mission is to establish the divine law, not to destroy it.

Thus the way of Jesus is the way of Abraham, Moses, Muhammad, and all the prophets of God (Peace be upon them). They all demanded obedience to divine law. The Divine Law in its purest form is preserved in the Holy Qur'an. God has taken responsibility for keeping and preserving it from corruption. If only the people of the book - Jews and Christians alike - will study it with open minds and clear hearts, they will find both Torah and Injeel (Old Testament and New Testament) combined in the Holy Qur'an. No contradictions! No confusions due to poor handling! No innocent, or even deliberate errors inserted by human hands, to establish superiority over those who might differ from them on a doctrinal basis! Only truth can set us free. We can set things to rights again by accepting the truth without reservation or prejudice.

## CONCLUSION

When God's messenger Jesus (Peace be upon him) came into this world to guide the people of Israel, who were under Roman oppression, they were anxiously waiting for a Messiah to lead them out of their misery into an independent state of their own. Their spiritual life was in the hands of narrow-minded religious leaders, and their political life a form of slavery under Roman occupation. Each individual soul was in turmoil, and Jewish society at large was restless, without any hope of peace or prosperity.

The human body has its material requirements for progress in this world. The human soul has a need of moral values for spiritual fulfillment and satisfaction. When a man came to Jesus and asked for advice, Jesus told him to keep the commandments. Thus the dialogue continues in Matthew 19:18-22. "He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honor thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbours as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions."

Jesus tried to put the material things under the control of the spiritual, thus bringing them together, before placing them both under the central authority and sovereignty of the Lord.

Sovereignty, however, remains a mere legal supposition for as long as some active agency capable of enforcing it is not available. In the language of political science, therefore, legal sovereignty without political sovereignty has no practical application. To be politically sovereign means ownership of the authority to enforce it, and if people themselves strive for it, they can make it workable.

Jesus (Peace be upon him) was concerned about the behavior of his own community members. He told them plainly to be rid of their hypocritical attitudes, to please God and get His mercy and blessings, to follow Him and obey Him, as being the only way to remain the Chosen People. But they rejected Jesus and turned against him, whereupon he warned them (Matthew 21:43), "Therefore I say unto you, the kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."

This statement by Jesus suggests that the Jews are no longer fit to be the Chosen People. Since then they have suffered a great deal over many centuries. At length they turned to the false Messiah - Paul and his followers - who helped them to establish a state of their own. Now they are playing into the hands of the Devil. Jesus forbade them usury, and asked them to forfeit the interest system, yet they promoted it. The whole world is in their grip due to this manifestation of the Antichrist. Jesus does not support their present power, and they still do not consider him the real Messiah.

I request both Jewish and Christian brothers alike to seek the truth, and follow divine guidance to save humanity from disaster. Under the pressures of the interest system, pornography, homosexuality, drugs and adultery are widespread in the so-called Christian world. If Jesus appeared today, he would reject both Jews and Christians alike. But it is never too late for the truth.

Christians should try to seek out the real teachings of Jesus. They are in harmony with the teachings of all the other prophets of God. He taught a further uplift, the elevation of the inner soul to the peak of its perfection. To obey God over and above the requirements of law and the commandments of God Almighty was his constant theme. You can appreciate his masterly intuitiveness as for instance in the Sermon on the Mount. (See Matthew 5:27-28.)

"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."

His teachings are in no way contradictory to those of the earlier prophets. On the contrary his guidance makes the inner soul become like that of an angel, with no awareness of disobedience at all.

To achieve such uplift in one's character is recognised as a state of IHSAN in the Holy Qur'an.

The four stages of uplift are explained in this Final Word of God:-

- Faith. (First stage) (MUMIN)
- Faith with obedience. (Second stage)(MUSLIM)
- Faith with obedience to minor details to fulfill the commandments. (Third stage) (MUTAQI)
- Faith with obedience over and above the Divine Law, not to seek any reward, but only for the pleasure of
- worshipping the Creator. (Fourth Stage)(MUHSIN)

Hence piety to perfection is the target. Sincere efforts to build up the character to achieve this target! And by repentance, to seek the grace and mercy of God for any shortcoming - the only way of salvation, according to Jesus and all the prophets of God.

## **THE ETERNAL MESSAGE**

That final word of God the Qur'an \_ declares, "O people of scripture! Stress not in your religion other than the truth, and follow not the vain desires of the folk who erred of old and led many astray, and erred from the plain road". (Qur'an 5:77)

The Qur'an made some suggestions for people to think about. The first is the same as explained by Jesus (Peace be upon him) in his most important commandment:- "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." (Mark 12:29-30) The Qur'an invites people of the scriptures to unite on this common commandment of all the messengers of God, and move forward by doing good deeds and having faith in the Day of Judgment.

The second suggestion is that if you do not believe the Qur'an is the word of God, then you should produce a book or a chapter or even a verse like it. Not only this, but you should get together and help one another to prove that you can do the same. Surely this is a challenge which should be taken up by all scholars and scientists with modern libraries. Otherwise be prepared for the punishment of rejecting the truth. There is no other book that can make such a claim.

With reference to the third suggestion, the Qur'an states that the divine scriptures do not have any contradictions or confusions. Yet all the gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John contain human errors. There are many contradictions and confusions in them. The Qur'an confirms the gospels revealed to Jesus (Peace be upon him), but unfortunately only a little part of it has been preserved in the four gospels of the disciples. Thus a majority of today's Christians follow the doctrines of men that were going against the teachings of Jesus, as you see in Matthew 15:9. "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Here Jesus rejects their claim of worship as long as they follow manmade laws. On the other hand the Qur'an invites all races to work for the Kingdom of Heaven by implementing the divine laws.

The fourth suggestion of the Qur'an is that you call your community members and people of your faith, and we call our community members and people of our faith, and pray to God, the Creator of the Universe, and say, "If our faith about Jesus as the Messenger of God according to the Qur'an is not true, let God's curse be upon us!"

Likewise those who believe in the divinity of Jesus, as being God, should say, “If our faith about Jesus, as being God the Creator, is not true, let God's curse be upon us.”

Could there be a simpler way of testing our faith? Or of invoking divine guidance to settle the dispute?