

# Jesus & His Twin Flock

**Shabbir Akhtar**

**[www.ukim.org](http://www.ukim.org)**

**UK ISLAMIC MISSION**

**202 North Gower Street**

**London NW1 2LY**

**Tel: 020 7387 2157**

**Fax: 020 7383 0867**

**Email: [info@ukim.org](mailto:info@ukim.org)**

## Jesus and His Twin Flock

... “Jesus, I will take you back... And I will place the people who follow you above those who are disbelievers until the Day of Rising...” *(Qur’an 3:55)*

...” And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold, them also I must bring and they shall hear my voice and there shall be one fold and one shepherd...” *(John 10:16)*

**By Shabbir Akhtar**

“Since wars begin  
in the minds of men,  
It is in the minds of men  
that the defences of peace  
Must be constructed.”  
Constitution of U.N.E.S.C.O.

WITHIN an unpretentious Glasgow household, and in the middle of a so-called terror war, a man of peace sits writing. He is concerned that people of good faith should understand the beliefs and principles that bring them together, rather than be confused by the dissimilarities that would drive them apart.

Particularly is he concerned that Christian and Muslims should put aside their differences and work towards a mutual respect and understanding, for along with many another percipient observer, he has detected, in the wake of Nine-Eleven, a malevolent intent to set the followers of Muhammed and their Christian counterparts at each other's throats, for the benefit of shadowy third factions with their own agendas.

Shabbir Akhtar knows his own – knows also that hostile remnants of his people, helpless in the face of Western military technology, have chosen the suicide bomb and the soft civilian target as futile forms of protest. He finds no pride in this, directs us out of secular thinking back to the holy books that have made us what we are.

He is a good man. When he writes, let us read. When he speaks, let us listen. His lesson is for all mankind.

James Gibb Stuart  
March 2004

## Contents

1	Preface
6	Introduction
8	Oneness of God
13	The Kingdom of Heaven
15	Jesus Escaped Death
17	Gospel of Grace Destroyed the Mission of Jesus
19	Enmity of Satan
20	Follow Jesus
21	Misconception of Jesus' Teachings
24	Judaeo-Christianity versus Pauline-Christianity
28	True Nature of the Covenant
31	Jesus Condemned Jews
32	St. Paul and Judaism
38	Divine Servant and Saviour of Humanity
41	Abraham, Jesus, Muhammad (pbht): The Similarities
42	One Fold and One Shepherd

## Preface

A real healthy community can only be built on the principles of pure divine revelations. They can be traced in all previous religions. The corruption of hand-written scriptures is the hindrance.

“So woe those who write the book with their own hands, then say that is from God, so as to gain little price in lieu thereof. Woe to them for what their hands do write and woe to them for the gain they make thereby.”

*(Al-Baqarah 2:79)*

It is true that all religions have basic teachings of love: for all creation and for each other. God spoke to different cultures through history, but not with different principles. The principles remained the same. It is time for all religions to unite on the set of principles of the One and Only God, the Almighty.

These are:

To love God with obedience and love the creation, according to the wishes of the Creator. The over-riding wish of the Creator to guide His People.

To seek obedience to God through divine guidance, revealed through the Prophets with authenticity of revelations, without addition or subtraction.

Faith in the Day of Judgment with accountability.

Once we lose sight of these principles, any addition or subtraction can never improve human relationship.

Judaism and guidance, being a tribal religion, has no room for universal human needs. In Christianity's evolution or extension, we find that although St. Paul introduced it to others and brought

outsiders in its fold, he could not do so without violating the set principles. It became hostile to those who wanted to keep religion in its pure form. It is not wise to amend divine principles to please others to join in. When religion does not remain in the pure form, ultimately the whole structure is destroyed. Once our Christian brethren succeed to segregate Churchianity and Paulianity from true Christianity - that is, to distinguish between commands of God and man - Christianity and Islam are bound to unite.

The beauty of Islam is that all the efforts to corrupt its teachings have been checked, more by the Almighty than by the Muslims. Islam recognises the previous revelations and at the same time it informs us of the changes made human. It is generous to all religions and their followers to choose and practise as they wish.

“Let there be no compulsion in religion: truth stands out clear from error. So whoever rejects evil and believes in God hath grasped the most trustworthy Handhold that never breaks. And God heareth and knoweth all things.”

*(Al-Baqarah 2:256)*

Unlike Christianity, Islam does not allow anybody to interfere with its teachings. Some people admire the great Mogul emperor Akbar. The truth is that Akbar ignored the divine instructions and extended and violated the Islamic teachings: something that neither he nor anyone else has the authority to do in Islam. A great scholar of the time took notice and challenged Akbar. Mujadid Alf Thani confronted Akbar and did not submit to his whims and notions. In the confrontation Akbar was helpless. Mujadid Alf Thani believed in the Kingdom of Heaven and not the Kingdom of Akbar.

Akbar's actions are comparable with St. Paul's. The difference is that St. Paul increased his followers, by freeing Christians from obedience and accountability, which ultimately has brought Christianity to a spiritual chaos. Akbar did not succeed, as Islam was deep rooted, relevant to human needs, and under divine

protection. One can neither extend nor constrict it. Akbar's concept of Islam did not go any further. When Akbar died, his philosophy died with him, *Al-hamdu lillah* (All praise be to God).

A person who declares a faith and yet violates its principles is the worst of the creation. In Islam it can be easily noticed and those who violate are known as hypocrites. No-one has the authority to change its principles. In Christianity, on the other hand, the situation is quite different. To keep the law or violate the law are both equal as St. Paul states:

“Although I am free of everyone I have enslaved myself to all of them in order to win their large number. To the Jews I behave as a Jew, to win the Jews, to those under the law as one under the law, although I am not under the law, to gain those who are under the law. To those who are without the law, I am as without the law, although not lawless towards God, but committed to Christ's law, in order to win those who are without law.”

*(I Corinthians 9:19-21)*

St. Paul claims to be the spokesman of Jesus, yet we cannot find any trace of this in the teachings of Jesus. St. Paul's teaching is tantamount to “To keep the command or not to keep the command”, i.e. both are on an equal footing: clearly this cannot be a divine revelation. In divine revelation there is nothing like “please yourself”, it is rather to please God with obedience. Any Muslim engaged in usury, drinking alcohol and neglecting prayers is a *Fasiq*. Mohammed (pbuh) disowns such Muslims. St. Paul takes everybody onboard. His concept of freedom from legalism encouraged new comers to violate the law. That gradually prevailed in entire Christendom. Jesus disowns such Christians. Jesus and Mohammed (pbuh) stand shoulder to shoulder against Paul's laxity.

Some people, knowingly or subconsciously, consider the unity of religions as the salvation of mankind. It is indeed a lofty aim and

something to which man may aspire. The pursuit of this aim leads one down to the creation of a super-religion, incorporating all religions without compromising their rituals and customs: such a super-religion would encompass the vast majority of the world population. Although superficially attractive, any journey down this pathway soon distorts the component religions beyond recognition.

St. Paul in the Christian tradition, and Emperor Akbar amongst the Muslims, experimented with these ideas and failed. The failure of Emperor Akbar is very evident, whereas St. Paul apparently achieved numerical success. A very large proportion of the Christian population still reveres St. Paul. One reason for this is that the Christians have lost a large proportion of the teachings of Jesus Christ. The Bible itself testifies to this fact. The second reason is the love of Jesus, which St. Paul exploited to abrogate the Law that was observed by Jesus himself. The new religion put forward by St. Paul bore little resemblance to the original faith. Islam has inbuilt precautions against the emergence of a “St. Paul” and assurances of the preservation of its teachings in their original form.

God did not make ultimate truth a crystal of many glistening facets. The truth is always one facet. Any addition to its glistening facet is a falsehood. Jesus explained clearly that he did not come to destroy the law or the Prophets (pbuh). That means that Abraham, Moses and all other Prophets delivered one thread of religion. The tragedy is that human generations will continue to suffer for their self-made extended religions. If the idea of multi-faceted religion is correct, then why did Jesus chastise the Jews, who were after all following a different facet. With the Bible in witness, this idea does not carry weight. It is a man-made thing, not divinely revealed.

The final message of the Lord, the Qur'an, invites humanity to the concept that unity of thought can only be achieved by expunging religion of all extraneous influences and purifying the faith at the

core. Those who have a vested interest in safeguarding their own additions and interpretations in the religion show little or no desire to tread this path.

On the basis of reason, logic and justice it is unreasonable, to say the least, to invite humankind to a faith of God with an ideology corrupted with human innovations. Any new such effort, i.e. further innovations in the form of additions, deletions, modifications and merging is unlikely to fare any better. The only solution is to analyse the various faiths with regard to their authenticity and relevance to universal human needs in order to determine their claims to divinity and human guidance.

**Akhtar Saeed Bhutta**

## **Introduction**

Humanity basically is fond of good deeds and dislikes bad deeds and corruption. Yet Satan through corrupt rulers and misguided religious leaders promotes falsehood in guise of truth. Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (pbut) guided their people to the right path. Their teachings were in harmony with each other, but the corrupt religious and political leaders created rifts causing permanent division between their followers. The 'Divine Guidance' exactly as Moses and Jesus preached, is preserved in the last and final Word of God.

There is no compulsion in religion, every person is free to have a faith of his own choice and act according to his own faith and beliefs. However one can explain and discuss his point of view to people of all faiths without confrontation or debate winning. They can reconcile on the common points, come closer and work together for the benefits of humanity. The points of disagreements should be kept aside and must not be used to make excuses and become a hindrance to the benefit of the common cause of peace and justice. Christianity and Islam have much in common. These two great religions command the majority of the civilised beings on this earth. Bearing this in mind I studied the Divine Scripture to find common ground and endeavour to build a society based on Divine Guidance.

It was a very difficult and delicate task and a person with very modest knowledge, I was unable to cope with the problems and hurdles of routine. But only with God's grace and mercy, I kept working on the subject and finally with the help of a Christian brother (James Gibb Stuart) my dream came true in the shape of "The Linking Faiths Of Jesus And Muhammad" (pbut).

After the first edition I gave a copy to a Christian brother to seek his views. His name is George Chalmers, a committed Christian

working with the Church of Scotland. Occasionally I go to the same Church as him and listen to the Word of God. Apart from the Divinity of Jesus, in which I differ, I find myself very comfortable with the lectures of morality and the life after death conception. The Angels and the unseen force of God working mysteriously are common beliefs of both Christians and Muslims. George gave a very honest and interesting opinion that can be useful in understanding the Christian point of view. His comments are a valuable contribution to the understanding of Christianity and Islam.

I have no desire to make arguments for the sake of argument. My only ambition is to seek the truth and to share it with others. Knowledge and wisdom are the instruments which purify human hearts. One's entire life is not sufficient to achieve and comprehend wisdom. Where ever I find truth and wisdom I am sure to surrender. I do not feel embarrassed in accepting the truth. To acquire wisdom, seek and ask is the principle of my life.

**Shabbir Akhtar**

## Oneness of God

All the prophets of God revealed God's existence to their people. They also stressed they should obey God and live their lives according to Divine Guidance. Some human failed to recognise in full this harmony and true essence - a perfect understanding of God; they invented God: as creatures spiritually more enhanced than themselves. Buddha, Rama, Krishna are among some of the examples to support this argument. However the case of Jesus is an example of its own.

Jesus himself declared:

“I do nothing of myself”

*(John 8:28)*

“My father is greater than I”

*(John 14:28)*

“Lord our God is one God”

*(Mark 12:29)*

Jesus presented his miraculous life for his claim of being sent by Almighty God. Many times he explained to the people that they should recognise the God Almighty who has sent him to them as a vicegerent and messenger.

Despite his teaching supporting absolute authority of One True God, he was made a partner of God along with the Holy Ghost.

To attribute a shape or number to God in itself proves it is a work of human intellect to limit God according to human imaginations. God has to be something that is beyond human capabilities to comprehend. Did Jesus leave everyone in the dark by not revealing to even his most trusted disciples, his true identity? Did he leave this to an outsider to introduce his authority to be the spokesman

of his ministry? It did create doubt and suspicion as, St. Paul claimed a vision, He did not contact disciples of Jesus to inform them of his so-called selection. Instead he went into isolation for more than three years to prepare his own version of Christianity.

Paul supported the rulers of the world and appealed to the people to submit to the god of "state". He makes his statement as such:

"Rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of him who is in authority? Then do what is good and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain; he is the servant of God to execute his wrath on the wrong doers."

*(Romans 13:3-4)*

If the above statement is correct, then Paul is a wrong-doer as he himself became a victim of such a sword.

Paul is eager to obey man-made laws yet disregards Divine commands such as the concept of clean food.

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

This is the real issue as Jesus pointed out time and time again. In fact the god of 'state' is a rival to the Kingdom of Heaven. When Jesus challenged usury all the supporters of man-made law became active and turned to their 'state god' for help. Jesus was charged for his terrorist act by disobeying human rules. With a great cunningness and expertise, Paul elevated Jesus from the position of a messenger and servant of God to that of a partner and equal to God in the form of trinity in order to make the way clear to spreading his own teachings. There was no other way he could slip in.

The three-faceted oneness of God is not supported by Jesus and

his chosen disciples. The first three Gospels are free from such a notion. The statement mentioned in the fourth Gospel "In the beginning there was word and word was with God and word was God" is difficult to believe as because it is against the firmly established faith of the Old Testament and the early followers of Jesus. Without the original script it is hard to determine the true nature of this statement. It is possible the real statement was "In the beginning there was word and word was with God and word was God's". By missing out the 's' the whole meaning is changed. Jesus is the word of God as explained clearly in the Holy Qur'an.

"O People of the Book! Do not exceed the bounds in your Religion, and do not say of God save what is the truth. The Messiah Jesus, son of Maryam, is but a Messenger of God and His Word - He cast it upon Maryam- and a spirit from Him. Believe therefore in God and His Messengers, and do not say: 'Three'. Desist that it may be well for you. God is but the one God; hallowed be He that there should be up to Him a son! His is whatever is in the heavens and the earth and enough is God as a Trustee!

"The Messiah does not disdain that he should be a servant of God nor do the angels brought near to him. And he who disdains serving Him and is stiff-necked, soon He shall gather them all unto Him".

*(An-Nisa' 4:171-173)*

The concept of God in the Christian faith is very vague. It does not meet the firm and absolute authority of God as Jesus (pbuh) clearly explained. God is greater than all (including Jesus). He has no associates and partners to help reveal Himself or help Him to rule the world. There is no need to get mixed up with the expression of His Being. Why stop at three in the Trinity? What would the Christian ruling be if someone goes beyond the Trinity? There are ninety-nine attributes ascribed to God in the holy Qur'an, yet He is beyond comprehension.

Muslims honour Jesus and his greatness but in no way can they

accept him as God. In this respect the teachings of the Bible are in harmony with the Qur'an. Jesus asked the Jews who opposed him, why do you stone me, and why do you wish to kill me. Is it the works I do? They replied it is not because of your works, it is because of blasphemy. Every time Jesus proved them wrong in public. There was not a single event where Jesus had not refuted their charge. The Bible confirms that some did bear false witness to prove the charge of blasphemy. Had Jesus declared his Divinity there would have been no need to bring false witnesses. It is clear that Jesus did not claim divinity and the Jews could not prove it even with false witnesses.

We can see this in the Bible, when the time came Jesus kept silence on both charges of blasphemy and treason.

“And Jesus stood before the governor and the governor asked him, saying, ‘Art thou the king of the Jews?’ And Jesus said unto him, ‘Thou sayest.’”

*(Matthew 27:11-12)*

And when he was accused by the Chief priests and elders, he again answered nothing.

Jesus kept silent on the charge of blasphemy for the reason that it was false. The Roman governor, the chief priest and elders were all aware that this was a false allegation. Jesus had a great opportunity for declaring his divinity, if at all there was any truth in it. All of it proves the divinity of Jesus is a later addition.

To leave the reality of his secret divinity for others to explain is hard to believe. To use Jesus as a scapegoat for clearing a tiny minority from their sins, not committed through their own fault, rather being the victims of Original Sin. The majority of people are bound to suffer since they are unable to understand the mysterious sacrifice of the sacred Lamb of God. People cannot understand, through their own intellect and the Holy Ghost does not reveal the

ransom and sacred blood shed on behalf of the sinners. Those who perish do not do so due to their own fault, and those who are chosen for eternal life are purely the favoured ones. God would have chosen a better way to meet the requirements of His Love and Mercy.

Since the original authentic Bible is not available. It is impossible to determine the adaptations, the deletions and the nature of the rephrasing. Both the Bible and the Qur'an witness changes in the divine scripture prior to the final word of GOD - the holy Qur'an. Hence the Bible cannot serve as the means of establishing the whole truth.

The Qur'an confirms the statement of the Bible (*Ezekiel 22:28*) “Her prophet's white-wash these deeds for them by false visions and lying divinations. They say, this is what the Sovereign Lord says - when the Lord has not spoken”.

As the Qur'an explains:

“And surely among them are some who pervert the Book with their tongues that you might consider it of the Book yet it is no part of the Book. And they say, it is from God whereas it is not from God and they forge a lie against God, while they know.

“It is not possible for a man to whom God has given the Book and wisdom and Prophet hood that he should afterward say to men, be you worshippers of me, beside God, but be you faithful servants of the Lord, seeing that you are won't to teach the Book and seeing that you are won't to exercise yourselves therein”.

*(Ali-Imran 3:78-79)*

We may maintain our position on the concept of our God and concentrate on the mission of Jesus and all the prophets to establish the Will of God. We must focus our efforts, energy and resources to work together for creation of kingdom of heaven. Once we concentrate on the mission of all the prophets, the reality of true status of God shall appear to us as a naked truth. The Holy

Qur'an invites us to unite for the cause of Allah, to pray and obey Almighty God alone, as it is recorded in the Qur'an:

Say, "O people of the book! Come to a word equal between us and you - that we worship none but Allah, and that we associate no partner with him, and that some of us take not others for Lords beside God Almighty. But if they turn away, then say, bear witness that we have submitted to God."

*(Ali-Imran 3:65)*

It is not desirable for people to possess God's word and live under subjugation for carrying the yoke of man-made law on their necks. The Qur'an addresses to the people of the Book as follows:

"And had they established the Torah and the Gospel and what has now been sent down to them from their Lord, they would have received abundance from above and from beneath. Among them is a community right doing; but for many of them vile is what they do!

*(Al-Ma'idah 5:66)*

The only way to bring peace and prosperity to this world is to give "Divine Guidance" its true position. Jesus has spoken many times on this point, that he and his disciples were the upholders of the law. This is the point on which believers can come together and work united for the kingdom of heaven.

## **The Kingdom of Heaven**

The kingdom of heaven on earth is a true religion. To exclude organisational or human institution from this kingdom cannot be justified without the approval of Jesus. This is a real problem with the Christian faith. Ninety out of a hundred Christians have lost their faith because of the control of the present day institutions over their minds and bodies. When minds are polluted the heart

cannot survive pollution. This is the reason why the majority of them are neither Christians nor atheist - a sort of in-between. Those who are born in the Christian faith and yet turn away from God are those Christians who take no notice of human institutions. These institutions are corrupting society and taking our loved ones from the right path. This is the real hurdle Christians must overcome. They assume that the Will of God is over the hearts of human beings. Their bodies and their actions are free to act however they like; there is no justification for this. The domination of man-made law is against the teachings of Jesus. Let us seek the guidance of Jesus and settle this issue.

Jesus said "Verily I say unto you, among them that are born of a women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: not with standing he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he". If the Will of God is only over the hearts then John cannot be excluded from that kingdom. Here Jesus explains the physical establishment of the kingdom of heaven and those who succeed to establish that kingdom - the least among them is greater than John the Baptist. The Jews did not honour the teachings of Jesus due to rejection and Christians do not honour his teachings due to some emotional statements made by their religious leaders whom they trust.

Jesus clearly said to Peter: "follow me; do not walk in front of me". Paul and his followers do not honour this command. They have no need to follow Jesus.

Jesus' teachings are important. In fact without his teachings and obedience, mere faith and acknowledgement of his greatness is a misconception for salvation.

The real issue is not to fulfil the law in every respect. The real issue is whether to follow man made laws or submit to divine laws.

"But in vain they do worship me, teachings for doctrine the commandment of men".

*(Matthew 15:9)*

“Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own traditions”.

*(Mark 7:9)*

## Jesus Escaped Death

The testimony of the Roman soldiers is not reliable, as they were working for the Roman Governor. Pontius Pilate was not happy with the Jews or their methods for the entrapment of Jesus under the charge of treason. Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting:

“If you let this man go, you are not friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

*(John 19-12)*

In spite of the challenge and threats of the Jews to the governor, the Divine intervention and human interference were both working together to save Jesus. Pilate's wife was shown a dream in which she was told that “No harm should come to this just man” and then Jesus was shown to be on the cross for only a short period of time when thunderstorm, earthquake and the darkening of the sun helped to disperse the sadistic mob enabling his secret disciples to help keep him alive.

The Jews suspected that Jesus had escaped death on the cross. They were dissatisfied with the way Pilate's officials had handled the crucifixion of Jesus. They felt that they had been cheated. Jesus was sentenced to death on the charge of treason. There was no such law to punish a person on account of blasphemy. It is surprising that the Jews were eager to eliminate Jesus, but in all their nervous haste they made two mistakes.

The first was that they had permitted Jesus to be brought down

from the cross without breaking his legs, under the false assumption that he died.

The second would be to allow the secret disciples of Jesus to render help to the wounded man, by not sealing off the tomb. But in the meantime, they made another mistake by approaching Pilate the next day, which was too late. God works in a mysterious way.

His ways are not our ways. Historical facts are in favour of Jesus' escape.

Here are few of the facts to prove Jesus was alive:

1. The Encyclopaedia Biblica under the reference for ‘Cross’ - column 960: Says that when the spear was thrust - Jesus was alive.

2. ‘Forthwith came there out blood and water’: meaning straightaway, immediately, which was a sure sign that Jesus was alive.

3. Reporting on the winding sheets

German scientists who carried out experiments on the Shroud of Turin said that the heart of Jesus had not stopped functioning - That he was alive.

4. Dr. Primrose testifies:

That the ‘Water and blood’ when Jesus was lanced on the side, was on account of an upset in the nervous vessels because of scourging by staves. Which was a sure sign that Jesus was alive.

The unique idea that God did not save Jesus on the cross “to save us from our sins”, and the cry of desolation being separated from the Godhead, surely did not come from Jesus himself. His chosen disciples were unaware of these teachings that created diversion in the true religion. The Christians are conned into believing in a God who is helpless and can not forgive a sinner without taking a blood offering. A blood thirsty God is against the teachings of the Bible.

Since the Bible confirms that Jesus forgave sinners then surely the One greater than Jesus who allowed Jesus to forgive sinners has the absolute authority to forgive sinners without any sacrifice. All these mysterious teachings were brought in the religion only to avoid our obligations so that one could deceitfully seek the pleasures and enjoyments of this world. Love of this world for evil desires is the reason to reject the true religion. To falsify true religion Judaism and Pauline Christianity were invented. Both are diversions from Shalom and the Kingdom of Heaven respectively.

The Holy Qur'an explains their position:

“And they say, “None shall ever enter Heaven unless he be a Jew or a Christian. These are their vain desires. Say ‘produce your proof, if you are truthful.’”

Nay, “Whoever submits himself completely to God, and is the doer of good deeds, shall have his reward with the Lord. No fear shall come upon such, neither shall they grieve.”

*(Al-Baqarah 2:111-112)*

## **Gospel of Grace Destroyed the Mission of Jesus**

To avoid the clear instructions of Jesus some apostolic teachings were introduced explaining that as we are by nature unable to fulfil that law in every respect, Christians should seek some other source. A clever move to use the name of Jesus against his own teachings. The ‘gospel of grace’ is introduced which is not part of the teachings of Jesus.

This nullifies whatever he preached during his stay on the earth. It also diverts us from our ultimate goal, to establish the kingdom of heaven on earth. Fear of God is again important as it is the foundation, and love of God is perfection. If you take out the

foundation you will never reach perfection. Christians must learn to fear God also; they lack this quality due to self-proclaimed love of God. The love of God is built upon fear of God. The Holy Qur'an says:

“Verily whoso keeps the covenant and fears God, then surely God loves God-fearing”.

*(Ali-Imran 3:76)*

Abraham is declared God-fearing in the Bible as it is stated in *Genesis 22:12*. The angel of the Lord called Abraham out of heaven. “And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God”.

To use the term filthy rags for good deeds is a very serious matter. People are encouraged to follow their own desires and forget about morality and other religious restrictions, as they are filthy rags. Jesus and his teachings are free from such emotional remarks. When righteousness is declared as “filthy rags” and there is no fear of God then why should they carry the burden of dirty rags on their shoulders. Some-one has given them the licence of justification by faith. I think that this is not a true reflection of the teaching of the Bible. As St. James challenged, “Show me your faith and I will show you my works.”

It is true that God's grace, mercy and love is the only way for entry into His kingdom. At the same time it is also true that sincere obedience is the only way to provoke His grace, mercy and love. There is no shortcut. Obedience of Jesus to the Creator, in order to purchase entry into His kingdom is not a radical thought. On that day when Jesus himself shall disprove it by saying, “I do not know you, depart from me.” Give it a thought and think again and again.

Faith without good deeds means nothing. Faith demands good deeds. Jesus explained it very clearly in *Matthew (7:21-23)* “Not every one that sayeth unto me Lord, Lord shall enter into the

kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of the father which is in heaven". The will of the Father is to create the kingdom of heaven on earth. Believers are bound to struggle against human institutions to change them into divine institutions. Jesus explains this to the same type of believers who think that faith is enough for their salvation. The believers are claiming their faith, and Jesus rejects their faith with out the support of good deeds. His teachings are very simple and his burden is very light. It is light in the sense that who ever strives for it has the blessing of God which makes it light. Although it is the hardest and most difficult burden one can imagine. It is not as easy or light as present-day Christians want it to be. They have compromised with man-made laws and they are happy to live under any type of legislation, even if it is against the teachings of Jesus. They think that their hearts are enlightened and that is all they care about. Their lives are divided into two parts. Their active and practical actions are all under human institutions free from divine guidance. They are obedient and supportive to the rulers of the word. They ignore the importance of Divine rule.

## **Enmity of Satan**

We must understand the real conflict between Satan and humanity.

Five thousand years before the creation of Adam, Satan and his offspring were given a chance to abide on earth. They made no progress and failed to create peace on earth. Selfishness, greed and hostility created hell on earth. God ordered the Angels to punish and destroy their entire race. It is possible that during this mass destruction, other creatures like dinosaurs were also destroyed. At this time they noticed Satan and a hand-full of his followers were very keen and pious and so they spared their lives.

The Angels were unaware that their obedience was based on achieving only worldly gains. God knew that their piety did not

come from the bottom of their hearts. To expose their wickedness God created Adam from clay and ordered the Angels to honour his new creation, who was to be given the task of creating the kingdom of heaven on earth. Satan disagreed and requested God to let him have the opportunity to prove that Adam and his offspring were not worthy of the selection. God granted his request and let him work to prove his point.

## **Follow Jesus**

Jesus was selected by God to deliver that universal Kingdom of God, only when the people are ready to stand by him and struggle to defeat all worldly kingdoms. It cannot be done simply to acknowledge his sufferings on the cross or admitting his sacrificial death. Worldly Kingdoms maintain double standards to suit their evil and unjust criteria. Weaker nations of the world suffer under the "might is right" ideology of the powerful nations.

Living Jesus and his teachings are a real challenge and threat to all forms of secular governments. He intended to liberate the people from the yoke of being under the authority and supremacy of man-made laws. At the same time theocracy in the form of a priesthood is not desirable in the teachings of Jesus. Only theocracy based upon the Supreme Command of Almighty God was his mission.

Crucified Jesus' sacrificial death suits the political, religious and social needs of the unbelieving and semi-believing materialistic secular society. It has no room for a living Jesus or his teachings. Jesus and his true followers did not and cannot compromise with man-made laws. One cannot serve two masters at the same time. In the case of a crucified and resurrected Jesus, the whole story is turned around; in a so-called diverted lip service to him, followers are free from any obligation. They need not to confront

materialistic domination, all sorts of oppressions and corruptions are not their concern, the burden is placed on the shoulder of the crucified and resurrected Jesus to clear up the mess.

Contrary to this, the living Jesus and his teachings are a dynamic force to stand up and eliminate evil from society. His teachings motivate and encourage his true obedient followers to take up the cross and struggle against evil. To dismantle the whole structure of double standards and create real equality amongst humanity, thus creating the kingdom of heaven - good news for the weak and oppressed.

## Misconceptions of Jesus' Teachings

To use the teachings of Jesus in favour of the gospel of Paul, which offers freedom from legalism, must be reconsidered. Jesus did not contradict himself. Those who follow the gospel of freedom from legalism contradict themselves. Jesus said:

“Full well ye reject the commandments of God, that ye may keep your own tradition”.

*(Mark 7:9)*

The four gospels represent Jesus as a teacher and a guide to prepare people to be worthy of the kingdom of heaven. People are reluctant, because of hardship and danger of losing their lives, to become involved in the struggle. He explained that his yoke of Divine law is easier and light compared with man-made laws. It is a proven fact that man-made laws shall never bring peace and justice in the world. People are restless, to give them peace and rest Jesus said:

“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls: For my yoke is easy and my burden is light”.

*(Matthew 11:29-30)*

This statement is in favour of Divine law. Jesus will be unhappy with what the “bond slave of Christ Jesus” has done with his teachings.

With reference to John, it was Almighty God who “so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Whoever believes in him is not condemned but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. [See *(John 3:16-18)*.]

If a person is not under the influence of Paul and his explanation of the scriptures, the story is quite different.

Now look at the teachings of Bible and the life of Jesus to understand the real message.

The Bible confirms that all the prophets of God are spiritual sons of God. Whenever there was corruption in the world these selected people tried to guide the people. Most of them were rejected and some of them were killed. Some did succeed but very shortly their followers lost the true guidance due to negligence. The Bible confirms that had the teachings and works of Jesus been kept as a record it would have required many libraries. This is clear proof that most of his teachings have been lost and that it is impossible to follow Jesus without his own teachings. Similarly with the teachings of other prophets of God. Credit goes to the Muslims that they preserved not only the final word of God, but also the actions and saying of the last Prophet in the minutest of detail.

Look to the teachings of the Bible and the life of Jesus to find out

the real nature of things as Jesus explained in *John 3:16-18*.

As Satan who is the eternal enemy of humanity wants to destroy the world. God loves the world and wants to save it. Among the prophets Jesus is selected to amend the world according to the Will of God. He did not condemn the world. He condemned the Jews as they stood against him as all those who stand against him are condemned.

Jesus has been chosen to defeat Satan in the last and final clash and destroy the works of Satan. Those who believe in him and follow him according to his teachings will not perish but have eternal life. There is nothing to suggest that the obedience to God through law is null and void as Paul declared it:

“For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression”.

*(Romans 4:15)*

On what grounds did Paul declare it against the clear instruction of Jesus? “It is easier for heavens and earth to pass away than for one dot of the law to become void.” See *(Luke 16:17)*. There is no suggestion that the believers of Paul are free from this command. Those who enjoyed the company of Jesus and learnt from him were aware of the importance of this:

“What does it profit my brethren, if a man says he has faith save him? ... was not Abraham, our father, justified by works, when he offered his son upon the alter? You see that faith was active along with works and was completed by works.”

*(James 2:14-22)*

All early Christians knew that Jesus was the man chosen by God to work for the kingdom of heaven. His true followers are those who stuck to what Jesus himself said to the Jews who had believed him Jesus said:

“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”

*(John 8:31-32)*

The confusion is caused by Greek word *Paida*. *Paida* means servant, it also means ‘son’ or ‘child’. When the same word was used for David in *Acts 4:25*, it was translated as servant.

This title is also recorded in *Matthew 12:18* “Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgement to the Gentiles.” Why not call Jesus by the same title?

It is important to see what the chosen disciples were saying about Jesus and which titles were used for him. Peter said:

“The God of Abraham and Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus. Whom you delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.”

*(Acts 3:13)*

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

*(Acts 2:22)*

Soon after the ascendance of Jesus to Heaven all early Christians represented Jesus as a man and a servant of God who was assigned a mission that is yet pending and ignored due to the Gospel of grace.

## **Judaeo-Christianity versus Pauline Christianity**

The holy Qur’an confirms the teachings of Jesus and rejects the teachings of the Pauline concept:

“Certainly they disbelieve who say: God is Christ the son of Mary but said Christ: O children of Israel Worship God, my Lord and your Lord”.

*(Al-Ma'idah 5:72)*

The Qur'an further states:

“And nearest among them in love to the believers you will find those who say ‘we are NASARA, (the follower of JESUS) because among them are those who are devoted to learning and who have renounced the world and they are not arrogant”.

*(Al-Ma'idah 5:82)*

Jesus preached the importance of the divine commandments throughout his life. And said:

“Whoever, therefore abolishes the least significant of these commands and so teaches the people, he shall be the least significant in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever shall observe and teach them shall be prominent in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not at all enter into the kingdom of heaven”.

*(Matthew 5:19-20)*

Paul believes in a cursed Christ and the Law.

“Christ has ransomed us from the curse of the law in as much as he became a curse for us, for it is written, ‘cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”.

*(Galatians 3:13)*

Paul claims the source of his gospel as a direct revelation from Jesus.

“for I (Paul) want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ”

*(Galatians 1:11)*

What is the truth? One cannot believe that Jesus instructed differently to his chosen disciples. Paul in his teachings appears to expose a duplicity, possibly to win a large number:

“Although I am free from everyone, I have enslaved myself to all of them in order to win a large number. To the Jews I behave as a Jew to win the Jews; to those under the law as one who is under the law, although I am not under the law, to gain those who are under the law. To those who are without the law I am as without law, although not lawless towards God but committed to Christ's law, in order to win those who are without law.”

*(Corinthians 9:19)*

Dr. Maurice Baucaille, the well-known French scholar states:

“From the time Jesus left earth to the second half of the second century, there was a struggle between two factions. One was what one might call Pauline Christianity and the other Judeo-Christianity. It is only very slowly that the first supplanted the second, and Pauline Christianity triumphed over Judeo-Christianity”.

“For those Judeo-Christians who remained ‘loyal Jews’, Paul was a traitor: Judeo-Christian documents call him an ‘enemy’, accuses him of ‘tactical double dealing’. Until 70 A.D., Judeo-Christianity represents the majority of the Church” and “Paul remains an isolated case”.

Paul produces no evidence except his own statements. Did Jesus fail to support Paul's claim? On the contrary Jesus was fully aware of the coming of the enemy of his teachings and the law. After careful study of the following parable with its explanation, nothing remains unexplained:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seeds in his field, but while men were asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. When the blade shot up and the wheat headed, the weeds appeared too. The

owners slaves went to him and said, ‘was that not good seed, sir, that you sowed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this’. They ask him, ‘would you like then to have us go and weed them out?’ but he said, ‘No, for in gathering up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow side by side until harvest time, and at harvest I shall direct the reapers to collect the weeds first, bundle them up and burn them but bring the grain in my barn” (*Matthew 13:24*):

“Explain to us the parable of weeds in the fields?” he replied ‘the sower of the good seeds is the son of man. The field is the world. The good seed is the children of the kingdom, but the weeds are the children of the evil. The enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age. The reapers are the angels. Just as the weed are collected and burnt up, so will it be at the end of age. The son of Man will send forth his angels and they will gather up out of his kingdom all those who offend and those who are guilty of lawlessness and will cast them into fiery furnace. Whoever has ears let him listen”.

*(Matthew 13:37)*

Paul is the only one in Christianity who claimed direct revelations yet Jesus’ statement appears more meaningful now and clarifies the duplicity.

“Watch out for false prophets they come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognise them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognise them”.

*(Matthew 7:15-20)*

## True Nature of the Covenant

The purpose of Divine guidance is to create justice, which brings peace and prosperity in this world. It is an individual as well as collective liability for all humanity to work for a society based on justice and peace which cannot be achieved with mere force, but with justice.

To uphold justice we need Divine Guidance as in the final word of God stated as:

“And observe the weight with equity, and do not make the balance deficient”.

*(Al-Rahman 55:9)*

It is further explained :

“Assuredly We sent Our messengers with evidence and We sent down with them the Book and the balance that the people might observe the equity, so that men might uphold justice”.

*(Al-Hadid 57:25)*

This is God’s plan on which Kingdom of Heaven is based. The Jews were chosen for this purpose but they proved unworthy, thus they were condemned by God when they betrayed Jesus. The history of the Jews bears witness to the fact that they have always considered themselves as the chosen people above everybody else. All other human beings are not deemed suitable to qualify for the same rights and privileges as them. In order to retain this distorted image of themselves above all others, they have gone to such lengths as changing the divine books in their possessions. The whole story of sacrifice that Abraham (pbuh) gave by offering his son to God, which was in favour of Ishmael (pbuh), was changed to keep their superiority complex satisfied. Historical evidence and the evidence derived from the Torah, goes against them.

It is disputed which son did Abraham (pbuh) offer for sacrifice. As far as Muslims are concerned, to them Isaac (pbuh) is just as respectful as Ishmael and it makes no difference to the Muslim creed that which son was offered for sacrifice. But in order to reach for the facts it is appropriate to critically evaluate circumstances.

Abraham (pbuh) was an honoured prophet of God according to the Christians, Jews and Muslims. He commands equal respect and popularity among these three communities. He proved his worth when he was asked to put at risk, his own life, wealth and country. He was forced to leave his native land for the sake of God. When he left his native land, he made a prayer to God and requested a righteous son. The request was granted in the shape of Ishmael (pbuh) who was an obedient and pious son. When he reached the age of 13, God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son in His way. Abraham was about to sacrifice his son when God provided a ram to be sacrificed instead. For such devotion God gave him the status of the leader and standard-bearer for many communities.

As stated in *Al Saffat 37:99-113*:

And he said: “Verily I am going to my Lord who will guide me”.

“Lord! Bestow on me a son who will be of the righteous”

“Wherefore we gave him the glad tidings of a gentle boy, and when the boy attained the age of running with him, he said; ‘Son! I have seen in a dream that I am slaughtering you; so look, what consider you?’ He said: ‘Father! Do what you are commanded; you will find me, God willing, of the patient.’ Then when the twain submitted themselves, and he had prostrated him on the temple. We called to him: ‘Abraham! Of a surety you have fulfilled the vision, verily We recompense the well-doers.’

Verily that was a manifested trial. And We ransomed him with a mighty victim.

And for him We left among the posterity; Peace be upon Abraham.

Verily We! Thus do We recompense the well-doers. Verily he was of Our believing bondsmen. And We gave him the glad tidings of Isaac, a Prophet, and of the righteous.

And we blessed him and Isaac; and of their offspring some are well-doers, and some who wrong themselves manifestly.”

Here are a few of the facts to prove that Ishmael (pbuh) was offered for sacrifice.

It is stated in the Torah that Abraham (pbuh) sacrificed his only son Isaac (pbuh) in the way of God. Isaac (pbuh) can never be said to be the only son that Abraham (pbuh) had. This is a clear contradiction and to refer this historic truth to a divine book is degrading its status.

Historically, it has been recorded that the followers of Abraham (pbuh) have been celebrating and remembering the occasion of the offerings of Ishmael (pbuh) to God by Abraham (pbuh) ever since he offered the sacrifice. Even before Mohammad (pbuh) this practice was widespread in the Arab tribes while on the contrary, the same cannot be said of the followers of Isaac (pbuh).

It is written in the Torah, when God declared Abraham (pbuh) as the father of many nations, and ordered him and his descendants the covenant of circumcision, Abraham (pbuh) was 99 years old. Ishmael (pbuh) was 13 years old at the time and Isaac was not born. It is more likely that the offering of the son to God took place before this promise was made. It is unlikely that 14 years after being given the title of Father of the Nations and making the covenant, Abraham (pbuh) was put to test again - for what?

The Qur’an confirms that the sacrifice was made before God declared Abraham (pbuh) the leader of mankind. [See (*Al-Baqarah*

2:124)]. “And recall when his Lord tried Abraham with commands; then he fulfilled them. God said: “ Surely I am going to make you a leader of mankind.”

Whatever the reasoning it was Ishmael who was denied his birthrights. Isaac benefited from the sacrifice of Ishmael (pbuh) who was sent to a far away land along with his mother. It is more appropriate that God asked for the sacrifice of Ishmael rather than Isaac (pbut).

God’s covenant made with Abraham consists of two main points.

1. Every male member of the covenant must be circumcised.
2. To follow “Divine Guidance” through God’s appointed messengers.

Christians and Jews both failed to maintain these criteria of the covenant. The Jews rejected Jesus and thus broke the covenant and lost the prestige of chosen people. Christians disowned the commandment of circumcision and denied the last and final Word of God. If only these two principles are fully adopted then there is a good chance of developing religion into one set pattern, which God requires from humanity.

One True Religion, call it: SHALOM or KINGDOM OF HEAVEN or ISLAM.

## Jesus Condemned Jews

God knew that the Jews would break their covenant and finally betray Jesus. They would become a major obstacle for the creation of peace and justice in the world. Who so-ever breaks the covenant

made with God is cursed and condemned. Jesus clearly warned them time and time again, but they did not listen to Jesus.

Israel’s aggression against the Palestinian people is not surprising. They are seeking to dominate in the whole region. They cannot succeed without Christian support. Christians are jeopardising their own position with God. To support a condemned nation by Jesus the credibility of their faith is at stake. Jesus made it clear that the superiority of a nation is conditional with the obedience and domination of Divine Guidance. Jesus is the messiah for all nations. No nation can prosper without Divine Guidance and justice is the verdict of Jesus.

After Moses’ death the Israelites did not give up idolatry, or purge themselves of moral corruption. They ignored the Prophet David who warned them and the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel foretold them that they were bound to court disaster for their unjust behaviour.

“In you men accept bribes to shed blood; you take usury and excessive interest and make unjust gain from your neighbours by extortion. And you forgotten me, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will surely strike my hands together at the unjust gain you have made and the blood you have shed in your midst”.

*(Ezekiel 23:12-13)*

The Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the Kingdom of Judah in 586 B.C. and raised all the towns of the Kingdom to the ground

## St. Paul and Judaism

The foundation of Judaism is based on the emotional feelings of Abraham’s wife Sarah. Her jealousy towards Hagar and her son Ishmael was a personal matter. Her shortcoming in respect of human equality is accountable. There is no need to mingle the

historical events and personal opinion with Divine revelations. Sarah's recorded jealousy in the Old Testament has confused the Israelites and ultimately created a new religion of Judaism instead of Shalom. Abraham upheld the verdict of Sarah in accordance to Divine instructions. As Sarah complained to Abraham:

“Cast out this bond woman and her son: for the son of this bond woman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac”.

*(Genesis 21:10)*

Abraham was unhappy at Sarah's rejection of Hagar and Ishmael. Despite Abraham's pleading with God for Ishmael to be given the first blessing, and Abraham saying to God:

“O that Ishmael might live before Thee”.

*(Genesis 17:18)*

God made it clear to Abraham that the first blessing of Isaac shall his seed be called:

And God said to Abraham:

“Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bond woman; in all that Sarah had said unto thee, harken unto her voice, for in Isaac shall thy seed be called”.

*(Genesis 21:12)*

The Jews and Christians fail to understand the wider plan of God Almighty as explained further:

“And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation”.

*(Genesis 17:20)*

After the blessing Ishmael is declared Abraham's seed:

“And also of the son of the bond woman will I make a nation, because he is thy seed”.

*(Genesis 21:13)*

Isaac and Ishmael both are declared Abraham's seed. A number of Israelite prophets were born from bond women. They were not inferior to those born of a free woman. All human beings are equal in the sight of Almighty God. The Bible does not approve any unconditional privilege to Isaac and his descendants. The covenant with the condition of obedience is the criteria. The Holy Qur'an is in support of human equality with preference given to those obedient to God:

“O mankind, We (Allah) have created you from a male and a female; and We have made you into tribes and communities that you may recognize one another. Verily the most honourable among you, in the sight of Allah is he who is the most righteous among you. Surely, Allah is All Knowing, All Aware.

*(Al-Hujurat 49:13)*

It is so strange to notice that Paul's teachings are based either on Old Testament or his own new ideas. Paul should have made direct reference to the teachings of Jesus, if only his claim for apostleship was true. Paul claimed:

“If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so your faith”.

*(1 Corinthians 15:14)*

Jesus explained to the disciples who were grieved. He said:

“nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the comforter will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send him to you.”

*(John 16:7)*

Further, Jesus states:

“But when he, the spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come”.

*(John 16:3)*

Jesus has clarified the reason for his departure and explained about

his successor who will be able to promote the kingdom of heaven on earth. Resurrection and Atonement introduced in Christianity is the only hindrance in establishing the kingdom of heaven. It is betrayal to Jesus and his mission in guise of declaring his greatness. It has diverted the innocent believers to accept man-made laws instead of Divine Laws.

Paul, according to his own statement tried to please everyone for their sympathy and support. To the Jews he behaved as a Jew, to win them over he preached legalism. To the Romans and the Gentiles he preached gospel of grace. He over-ruled the commandment of clean and unclean food by declaring that all food is clean. God made an everlasting covenant of circumcision with Abraham, his descendants and his followers. Paul declared it null and void, it seems that God is not the ultimate authority. Even Jesus' teachings stand inferior and elementary against the beguiling and duplicitous teachings of Paul. The striking differences can be compared.

<b>Jesus and the Gospels</b>	<b>Paul and his Gospel</b>
"The God is One there is none beside Him".	"The God and Christ are one and the same".
"Jesus Christ is a prophet of God".	"Jesus Christ is a part of God, equal to God".
"God is the head of all power and authority; Jesus is a servant of God".	"Jesus Christ is the head of all rule and authority".
"Jesus is a blessed person as for always".	"Jesus Christ became a cursed person".
"Jesus survived the crucifixion".	"Jesus Christ died on the cross for sinners".
"The Divine Law is a guidance for the people".	"The Divine Law is a curse and an imprisonment".
"Jesus was sent to accomplish the Law".	"Jesus Christ came to abolish the Law".
"All children are pure and sinless, the Kingdom of God belongs to the kind".	"The original sin of Adam is inherited by all of his children".
"Jesus said, "why do you call me, Lord, Lord! and do not do what I say".	"Paul said, "Confess with your lips, the Lord Jesus", and free yourself from legalism.
"All human beings are equal, the distinction is based on faith and piety".	"The promised one are superior, the distinction is based on faith and confession".

Jesus condemned the teachings of Judaism based on superior race, causing diversion in Divine Guidance. Paul acknowledged and approved the Anti-Christ stance of superior race irrespective of their piety and obedience. His hatred of the pro-Christ descendants of Ishmael is very clear from the following passage:

"Tell me, you who want to be under the Law, are you not aware of what the Law says? For it is written that Abraham had

two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise.

These things may be taken figuratively, for the woman represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written:

“Be glad, O barren woman, who bears no children; break forth and cry aloud, you who have no labour pains; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband.

“Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. At the time the son born in ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. But what does the Scripture say?

“Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.

“Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.”

*(Galatians 4: 21-31)*

Paul inherited the concept of superior race from Judaism. He brought Judaism in Christianity along with his own new ideas. He did not learn from Jesus the basic principles of equality and justice. The equality of human beings is the basic teachings of Bible and the Qur’an. The traditions and customs of any nation must not be equated with the Divine Guidance.

Jesus contested the claim of superior race and explained them their responsibility to obey him and help him for establishing the Kingdom of Heaven. He argued with the Jews:

“I know that ye are Abraham’s seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

“I speak that which I have seen with my Father: And ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

“They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said unto them, “If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham”.

*(John 8: 37-39)*

Jesus clearly passed the verdict for Jews to be stripped of being a favoured nation of God Almighty. Paul stepped in and declared against his master’s verdict saying:

“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written”

*(Romans 11:26)*

Paul is neither The Holy Ghost nor the Comforter yet he dares to belittle the judgement of Jesus. Paul has a distinguished status in Christianity but the divine scripture goes against his stance:

“Her priests do violence to my law and profane my holy things; they do not distinguish between the holy and the common; they teach that there is no difference between the unclean and the clean”.

*(Ezekiel 22:26)*

And again it further explains:

“Her prophets whitewash these deeds for them by false visions and lying divinations. They say, this is what the Sovereign Lord says - when the Lord has not spoken”.

*(Ezekiel 22:28)*

## **Divine Servant and Saviour of Humanity**

In the light of the Divine Scripture both the Holy Bible and the

Holy Qur'an expose the wrong interpretation of the everlasting covenant made by God. When the Qur'an declared Jesus as having a Central role and the Holy Bible declared Jesus as a chief corner stone we must try to understand what his real role is? His real role is to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth according to Divine Guidance exactly as Muhammad (pbuh) did fourteen centuries ago. It was the most blessed period in human history.

Jesus claiming to be a good shepherd explained his final role when the Christians who followed his teachings shall come together with the Muslims and become one fold and work for the Kingdom of Heaven together:

“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd”.

*(John 10:16)*

Here is an example of a moral character and the uplift of an inner soul. In Jesus' time the Jews brought forward the case of a woman. A crowd of people full of hatred and disgust witnessed adultery against her. In fact it was a trap for Jesus to see if he implements the Law of Moses or not. If he does the Romans would deal with him and regard his actions as a threat to the law of the country. And if he lets her go he would loose the religious support and face the charges of the teachers of the law that he was against the Law of Moses. In fact he implemented the Law of Moses with a genius condition that whoever has not sinned shall cast first stone. He exposed them, and their scheme to trap Jesus failed again.

A similar case happened in the time of the last prophet but in different environment. A very caring and loving society had been established. No jealousy, no hatred, no desire to expose a straw in others eyes. There was no police and no secret service to investigate criminal acts. People were so God conscious that a woman came in the presence of the Last Prophet of God and asked him to purify her from the sin as she committed adultery.

The Prophet of God, the mercy of, mankind tried to persuade her that she was mistaken. That she had not committed adultery and suggested that she must go home and repent, but the woman insisted that she was going to be the mother of a child. The Prophet said, go home and come after the birth of the baby. The woman came after the birth of the baby but the Prophet of God said that the baby needs the care of a mother for survival. After a few years she came back with the child, convinced the Prophet that the baby can survive without her assistance, and offered herself for punishment.

The history cannot produce a society that their members were so God conscious and God obedient that they practically acted according to the teachings of Jesus that if your eye offend you pluck it out and if your right hand offend you cut it off for it is better to face God without a limb that disobeyed God. What Jesus preached; Muslims practise. If the Christians follow the teachings of Jesus they shall not differ from the Muslims. The followings are the similarities to prove that Muslims are true followers of Jesus.

## One Fold and One Shepherd

### Abraham, Jesus and Muhammad (PBUT): The similarities

	Abraham	Jesus	Muhammad
1.	Prayed and obeyed only one God and did not introduce trinity : Bible and Qur'an.	Prayed and obeyed only one God and did not introduce trinity : Bible and Qur'an.	Prayed and obeyed only one God and strongly opposed trinity: Qur'an.
2.	Fell on his face and prayed to God: Bible.	Fell on his face and prayed to God: Bible.	Fell on his face and prayed to god: Qur'an.
3.	Observed Fasting.	Observed Fasting.	Observed Fasting.
4.	Was circumcised.	Was circumcised.	Was circumcised.
5.	Consumed kosher meat only.	Consumed kosher meat only.	Consumed kosher meat only.
6.	Did not eat pork	Did not eat pork	Did not eat pork
7.	Did not drink wine.	Did not drink wine	Did not drink wine, and routed it.
8.	Did not gamble.	Did not gamble.	Did not gamble and routed it.
9.	Forbade usury.	Forbade usury.	Forbade usury and routed it.
10	Used to greet with shalom.	Used to greet with shalom.	Used to greet with salaam.
11	Preached repentance.	Preached repentance.	Preached repentance.

Jesus was acting under the direct supervision of the All Mighty to establish the Kingdom of Heaven with the help of the chosen people. This he explained to the disciples when the Canaanite woman pleaded with Jesus for help. Although he granted her request, this was only as an exceptional case. He never extended his guidance beyond the lost sheep of Israel, even after this incident.

He explained to the disciples:

“I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel”.

*(Matthew 15:24)*

Further the chosen twelve were sent out by Jesus with the following instructions. “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach his message:

“The Kingdom of Heaven is near”. Heal the sick, raise the dead, and cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out the demons. Freely you have received, freely give”.

*(Matthew 10:5-8)*

Jesus according to Divine Guidance confined himself to the house of Israel. He left the task to the New Chosen people to follow him and extend his mission to the entire world, which they did.

Lust and greed is deep rooted in each individual who has discarded Divine Guidance. Usury has played a great part to advance lust and greed, thus an unjust system emerged with little hope of peace in the world. For those in search of truth, it is crystal clear that the Christians who follow Paul have their sympathies with Israel. Paul has sown seed to gain outside sympathy for Judaism. He created a division in Christianity to fulfil his own ambition of Jewish domination of the world.

Jesus condemned Pauline concepts of freedom from legalism. The gospel of grace is Paul's own invention. Those Christians who honour Jesus' teachings, have their sympathies with the Palestinians and the Muslims. They are against oppression; they want justice and peace to prevail in the world. And that is the fulfilment of the Will of the Creator. Jesus did foretell the future events in clear words.

"You will know them by the deeds they do".

He explained the following four groups with their characteristics.

### **1. The true followers (Hold to the teachings).**

To attain salvation, one must have faith in God, and at the same time must obey the revelations of God. It is contrary to divine guidance that salvation can be obtained only by faith, leaving aside the practical obedience to God.

In the Gospels there are recorded clear instructions to observe the law. Observance of law and lawlessness cannot work together. Only an insane person can preach and justify both. There is no contradiction and duplicity in Jesus' teaching.

"If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments"  
*(Matthew 19:17)*

To the Jews who had believed; Jesus said:

"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free".  
*(John 8:31-32)*

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord!' and do not do what I say? Whoever comes to me and listens to my words and does them, he resembles a man who built a house; he dug and went down deep and set the foundation on a rock. But one who listens and does not do what I say resembles a man who built his house

on the ground without foundation"

*(Luke 6:46-49)*

"Whoever therefore, abolishes the least significant of these commands and so teaches the people, he shall be of least significance in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever shall observe and teach them shall be prominent in the kingdom of heaven".

*(Matthew 5:19)*

### **2. True followers (From the other fold)**

"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit"

*(Matthew 22: 43)*

Jesus further pointed out:

"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold them also I must bring and they shall hear my voice and there shall be one fold and one shepherd"

*(John 10:16)*

### **3. Emotional followers (mislead by Paul)**

"Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven"

*(Matthew 7:21)*

By an emotional attachment to religion Paul introduced the Gospel of Grace and freedom from legalism. He extended the religion to the gentiles according to his own visions. It was a great success and Christianity flourished rapidly. The numbers increased as it opened the door for everybody to join in. When the influence of emotional attachment vanished the results of freedom from legalism played a negative role for the Christians. As the quantity increased the quality suffered. This was due to Paul's relaxed teachings, an act

for which he had no authority.

Freedom from legalism is the only reason that they do not consider to follow Jesus. At the end of the day the price of their sins is paid in full. So why undertake any hardship. Although the religious leadership try to harmonise freedom from legalism with the teachings of Jesus, it does not impact on the common Christian. The mysterious, scholarly explanations are not easy to grasp even by the learned and educated.

Paul misled a group of people. He sowed weeds among the wheat. He wronged the concept of righteousness and faith, and misrepresented the judgement of God, in his letter to Galatians he said:

“A person is not made righteous through the works of the Law, but only through faith in Christ Jesus, we have believed in Christ in order that we might be made righteous by faith in Christ and not through works of the Law; for by works of the Law no person will be justified”.

*(Galatians 2:16)*

In his letter to the Romans;

“It is the message of faith, which we preach, that if you confess with your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes so that he is made righteous and with the mouth confession is made for salvation”

*(Romans 10:9)*

Confession of faith is introduced by Paul as a substitute to Jesus’ teaching creating a new religion which is not compatible with the original, authentic, teachings of Jesus.

Jesus clearly stated that only truth can set you free, but Paul’s preachings are based on lies.

Whilst preaching other than what Jesus had emphasised, Paul

asserts that if he uses a little lie to glorify Jesus then no harm is done. This is an open confession of his deceptions:

“For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner?”

*(Romans 3:7)*

He then concludes himself as if he is the sole authority:

“For we come to the conclusion that a man is justified by faith without the works of the Law.”

#### **4. Anti-Christ (Corrupt schemers)**

Jesus disowned the Jews, addressing them plainly:

“I did tell you, but you did not believe. The miracles I do in my fathers name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me, I give them eternal life and they shall never perish. No one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father who has given them to me is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Fathers hand, I and the Father are one’.

*(John 10:25-30)*

If the Christian people do away with the freedom from the legalistic concept of religion, then they shall feel at home with the Muslims. There they shall become one fold as Jesus foretold:

“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold, them also I must bring and they shall hear my voice and there shall be the one fold and one shepherd”.

*(John 10:16)*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to thank Akhtar Saeed Bhutta, Jamil Malik, Jawad Akhtar, Rukhsana Akhtar and G.M.Whyne for their help with the translation of this manuscript.

For their tireless work in typing and preparing the manuscript through many changes for publication thanks also must go to Shakeel Rashid, Sadia Rashid, Iraj Waqar and Amar Waqar.

To Mr & Mrs James and Dorothy Stuart and Gary Johnstone, without whom there would be no Ossian Publishers Ltd.

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.

**Shabbir Akhtar**