

History of Truth

the Truth About
God & Religions
(2)
Comparative Religion

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Dr. Adel Elsaie, Ph.D. Aerospace Eng.

USIM Publisher
Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia
Bandar Baru Nilai
Negeri Sembilan
2012



FIRST PUBLISHED 2012

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Published in Malaysia by:

USIM Publisher

UNIVERSITI SAINS ISLAM MALAYSIA

71800 Bandar Baru Nilai

Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus

Tel: 06-798 8226/6081 | Faks: 06-798 6083

www.penerbit.usim.edu.my

pej.penerbitan@usim.edu.my

USIM Publisher is a member of the

MALAYSIAN BOOK PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION (MAPIM)

Printed in Malaysia by:

Penerbit UKM

UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA

43600 UKM, Bangi, Selangor

Tel : 03-8921 5371 | 3072 Faks : 03-8925 4575

penerbit@ukm.my

National Library of Malaysia

Cataloguing-In-Publication-Data

Elsaie, Adel M., 1962-

History of truth : the truth about god and religions. 2,

Comparative religions / Adel M. Elsaie.

Includes index

Bibliography: p.

ISBN 978-967-0393-17-9

1. Religions. 2. Religions--Relations. 3. Islam--Relations--Christianity.

4. Christianity and other religions. I. Title.

200



Contents

Dedication	vii
Al-Azhar Approval	ix
Preface	xi
Acknowledgement	xxi
1: Polytheism and Trinities	23
Egyptian Trinity	31
Babylon Trinity	34
Phrygian Trinity	36
Babylonian / Syrian Trinity	38
Greek Trinity	40
Persian Trinity	40
Christian Trinity	44
Hinduism	48
Buddhism	50
2: Monotheism	53
God in the Bible	56
His Name is Allah	59
3: Setting the Stage for Christianity	65
The Old Testament	67
Contradictions in the Old Testament	73
The Prophets in the Old Testament	80
The Axial Age	87
The Hellenistic Age	89
Greek Philosophy	91
Jewish Religious Groups	95
4: Evolution of Christianity – Four Phases Theory	97
Versions of the New Testament	102
The Gospels	113
Other Gospels	118
Sources of the Gospels	122



Contradictions in the New Testament	126
Paul and the Judeo-Christianity	136
Gnosticism	142
The Fathers of the Church	143
The Ecumenical Councils of Church	150
Contemporary Christian sects	157
5: Islam and Christianity	161
The Doctrine of Trinity	163
The Doctrine of the Son of God	167
The Doctrine of Original Sin and Atonement	171
The Crucifixion and the Resurrection	173
Jesus Christ (Pbuh)	177
References	187
Glossary	201
Index	203



Dedications

To The God of the universe.

Thank You for showing me Your way.

Allah, I bear witness that there is no god but You.

Allah, all Praises are to You for Your Glory, Mercy and Bounty.

Allah, please accept this humble effort and forgive me for my shortcomings.

Allah, help me to disseminate this knowledge to those who need it.

Allah, help me to live as a Muslim and die as a believer.

Allah, bless anyone who seeks the truth and Your way.

My Lord! Bestow on them (my parents) Your Mercy as they did bring me up when I was young.

Amen.



نموذج رقم ١٧
AL - AZHAR
ISLAMIC RESEARCH ACADEMY
GENERAL DEPARTMENT
For Research, Writing & Translation

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



الأزهر
مجمع البحوث الإسلامية
الإدارة العامة
للبحوث والتأليف والترجمة

السيد / الأستاذ الدكتور محمد عبد السلام

The History of the Truth

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته - ويمعد :

بناءً على الطلب الخاص بفحص ومراجعة كتاب :
About God and Religion تأليف :
مبارككم

نفيد بأن الكتاب المذكور ليس فيه ما يتعارض مع العقيدة الإسلامية ولا يتأتى
من طبعه على نفقتكم الخاصة .

مع التأكيد على ضرورة العناية التامة بكتابة الآيات القرآنية والأحاديث
النبوية الشريفة .

والله الموفق ،،،

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته ،،،

مدير عام
إدارة البحوث والتأليف والترجمة
علاء الدين
٢١٢١٩



تحريراً في ١٧ / ١ / ١٤٢٤ هـ
الموافق ١٩ / ٣ / ٢٠٠٣ م

إدارة البحوث
علاء الدين





Al-Azhar's Approval

Translation of Al-Azhar's approval for publishing this book

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

AL - AZHAR

ISLAMIC RESEARCH ACADEMY

GENERAL DEPARTMENT

For Research, Writing & translation

Dr. Adel Mahmoud Elsaie

May Peace be upon you and the mercy and blessings of Allah.

Following your request for examining and reviewing your book:

“History of Truth, The Truth about God and Religions.”

We would like to inform you that this book follows Islamic beliefs and
can be published at your expense.

Please ensure the utmost accuracy of the verses of the Quran and the
Prophetic Sayings.

May Allah guide your steps.

May Peace be upon you and the mercy and blessings of Allah.

General Manager, Department of Research, Writing & translation.

Signed and stamped.



1. In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

2. All the praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the 'Alamin (mankind, jinns and all that exists).

3. The Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

4. The Only Owner (and the Only Ruling Judge) of the Day of Recompense (i.e. the Day of Resurrection)



5. You (Alone) we worship, and You (Alone) we ask for help (for each and everything).



6. Guide us to the Straight Way.

7. The Way of those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace, not (the way) of those who earned Your Anger (such as the Jews), nor of those who went astray (such as the Christians).

(Quran 1:1-7)






Preface

Throughout time immemorial, man has been in search of the truth. The truth, relative to physical phenomena and spiritual experiences, has lead mankind to a winding course. Sometimes, confusion and disorientation of the principles of life, unfortunately, can taint this course. Religion and philosophy are the historical vehicles for the search of truth. While religion presents the Divine aspect of the purpose of life, philosophy is a human attempt to gain a higher intellectual knowledge of oneself, morality and the underlying meaning of life. The current tendency to separate science and religion imposes disgraceful restrictions on science to achieve even more prosperous horizon. This book incorporates theology, natural sciences and philosophy in an attempt to satisfy the eternal quest for the search of the ultimate truth.

It is easy to go through life avoiding difficult questions about our origin and our destiny. It is easy not to talk about dying, or why people suffer. However, life would not be the same if there were no questions and answers. It is important to have an accurate understanding of our origin and yes, its pursuit is worthwhile. Everyone needs a sense of identity, purpose and personal goals. This is impossible without a sense of origin. What a person believes about human origin will condition that person's life style and affect one's ultimate destiny. Our origin goes back, perhaps, tens of thousands of years and our destiny takes us from the present time to eternity. Although our life on this earth spans through, perhaps, 60 or 70 years, we are heavily involved with this short time while neglecting our origin and destiny.

Sometimes we have very interesting and yet vital questions that linger in our minds:

- Why do humans suffer and how can one be happy?
- What is the purpose of this life?
- What will happen to us after death?
- Does God exist?
- Were we created or did we evolve from apes?
- Why do we have this huge universe?



When one asks these questions to anyone, one gets different answers such as:

- I do not care and I just want to enjoy my life.
- Leave me alone. I am trying to survive.
- I do not know. I never thought about that.
- I know that God exists, but I am confused with all those religions. I do not know which one is right. I will try to live a good moral life and that is it.
- I know that God exists, but I am not really doing a good job in preparing myself to meet Him. Maybe I will do that when I retire and have more time.

Only a small percentage of people know why they exist and they are living their lives the way it is supposed to be. Those are the people who understand their priorities in life and act accordingly. Those are the people who appreciate human knowledge and know its limitation. Those are the people who realize the difference between science and reality. Einstein said *“One thing I have learned in a long life - that all our science, measured against reality, is primitive and childlike... Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind”*, (1941).

In the present time, it seems that science and technology have an answer for everything. Consequently, many people may tend to think that they know everything. If you ask one of those persons about life and how it started, the answer will be quick and most likely will be: life started as an organic substance that came to earth through a comet that collided with earth billions of years ago. Life after that evolved according to Darwin, (1809 - 1882). Ask him again about human behavior and he will start referring to Freud, (1856 - 1939). Then, most people tend to think that we know all the answers about everything. The reality is that we know very little about few things. And if you don't believe this statement, just ask a pharmacist how aspirin works, a brain surgeon how the brain works, or a psychoanalyst how we dream.

One of the top priorities of everyone in this life, regardless of one's wealth or social status, is to make one's house comfortable. The English language provides the word “home” to emphasize a feeling of comfort, security, peace and love in a house. Humans spend a lot of time and energy to change a house into a home. If someone plans to move to another house, he usually reserves his energy and money for the next house. However, everyone knows that all our homes are temporary and sooner or later everyone will move to another house or home called “the grave.” Should we not be wise and invest a little bit in making sure that this

grave is a home? Should we not make sure that this home will have “light and heat”? Would we not like to have this grave as a piece of paradise? Ancient Egyptians dramatized this concept 5000 years ago. They did not just build graves; they built pyramids. The fourth dynasty pharaoh Khufu (also known as Cheops) built the great pyramid of Giza, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, as his tomb. The pictures of this tomb do not do the pyramid any justice. This pyramid is much larger than anyone would think. It covers 13 acres and contains more than 2 million blocks of stone, (Lacovara & Millar, 2004, p. 40). This proves that what the ancient Egyptians experienced in their daily life was just as important as what awaited them beyond the death’s gate. They firmly believed in an afterlife that was not all that different from the normal life. This concept of ensuring comfort in the afterlife, although practiced by polytheists, had its root in the original monotheist religion, perhaps by Enoch (Prophet Idris in Arabic). Some scholars believe that Prophet Idris was the same as the ancient Egyptian god Osiris.

The questions, that everyone should ask, are:

- Should I invest heavily in a home that I will live in, perhaps, for tens of years, or in the home that I will live there for, perhaps, thousands of years?
- How can I make this home for thousands of years extremely comfortable?

The Quran goes one step further than that by labeling life in the grave as only a visit, which indicates a short stay, compared to eternity.

Over thirty years ago after graduation from college, I found myself thinking about religion and God. I wanted to search for the ultimate truth. I wanted to know the true purpose of life. Taking answers for granted from someone was not good enough for me. I wanted to "feel" the answers and not just "know" them. I wanted to have a strong faith based upon logic. A few times during prayer, I was wondering if I was just following a ritual. How do I make sure that God exists? How do I achieve strong belief? And, how do I know that I am following the right religion? My religion tells me that it is the true religion. This is also the same for Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism and the rest of the religions. I want to be sure that I am following the right religion. Humans have choices to select a religion, but they cannot control the consequences of their choices. Consequently, I started my search with an open mind and a total objectivity.

I started reading books that addressed the existence of God. To my delight, I found an Arabic book about God and the modern sciences

written by Dr. Abdel-Razek Nofal. This book had a great effect on me throughout my life because it convinced me that God truly exists. This can be demonstrated by the numerous examples that show the perfect balance in the universe and the intricate design of the earth, its atmosphere and its different life forms. Then I asked myself the next basic question; what is the right religion? I read about Moses, Jesus, Buddha and Confucius. I excluded Judaism since it is not a universal religion and not just anyone can be Jewish. It is hard to believe that God, the Ultimate Just, has chosen only about 15 million Jews as His people at the present time and the 6 billion gentiles on Earth have no chance for salvation. A Muslim has to believe in Moses, his message, his miracles, as well as the Jewish and all other prophets. This makes the original Judaism included in Islam. I read the Bible and the Quran. I had so many troubles with the Bible. My first problem was the eternal confusion of the mystery of the trinity. Is God one, or two, or three? My Christian friends told me that God is one. But there is a statement in the Bible that says that Jesus ascended to heaven and sat on the right hand side of God. This makes them two separate beings. I was told that they are two but they are one and I just had to have faith. Every time I discuss this subject with my Christian friends, we found ourselves involved in a Byzantine argument where no conclusion could be reached. It is interesting to note that the term Byzantine argument was coined in the second century AD, when Christians argued about the nature of God as compared to the nature of Jesus.

Next, the last words of Jesus on the cross are very confusing. First, there are four different versions of the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. This raises major questions about the accuracy of recording a Holy Book. These verses are part of a Christian doctrine of divine inspiration. If God had inspired these four gospel writers, why did God inspire them to record different words? These verses are not just different words, but totally different concepts. It seems that the closest statement should be the one that Jesus said in his own Aramaic language:

“Jesus cried with a loud voice saying Eli, Eli, lama sabachtani? That is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46, & Mark 15:34, though it is Eloï instead of Eli in Mark.) which means “God, God, why have you abandoned me?”

It is hard to believe that Jesus said that God abandoned him. There are three possibilities:

- **He said that.** Then, why did the son of God think that his father abandoned him? Jesus told the disciples that he would die and rise from the dead in three days. He knew that he would die and be resurrected, so how can that be called abandonment? If he is the son

of God that came to save humanity with his blood, so how can that be called abandonment? If he knew his mission in life, so how can that be called abandonment? This statement simply contradicts all the New Testament. Many Christian scholars have the same trouble justifying this statement.

- **He did not say that.** This means that Matthew and Mark were not accurate and God did not inspire the Gospels because God would not allow any inaccuracies.
- **The man on the cross was not Jesus!** This may seem at first sight as an unreasonable idea. But if we know that the same sentence, word for word, exists in the songs of David, Psalm 22.1, one may be tempted to suggest that the man on the Cross was a Jew asking God for help from his Old Testament.

It is interesting to note that Christian theologians introduced a branch called Apologetics to provide answers to criticisms against Christian beliefs. Apologetics started early in Christian history to resolve many contradictions in the New Testament. It is no secret that the word Apologetics came from the Latin word “apology” and the Greek origin “Logos.” Some apologists suggest that Jesus said all the above versions. This is in spite of the fact that no single Gospel included all the four versions. Analyzing the Apologetics reasoning of the above four versions of Jesus’ last word does not present a satisfactory argument. Also, recent Apologetics advocates that historical and archeological evidences support early Christian history. That is a fair statement. However, historical and archeological evidences support the historical Jesus only and cannot be extended to support the Christian belief about the nature of Jesus. In the New Testament, Jesus always presented himself as the “*son of man*.” He never said that he was the son of god. Forty years later, Paul made him the “*son of god*,” and in the first Ecumenical Council of Churches, 325 AD, Athanasius made Jesus of the same Divine “*substance*” as that of God.

The three monotheistic religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam originated in the Middle East. Islam and Christianity share many common beliefs and history that no other two religions may claim to share: Oneness of God, Day of Judgment, resurrection from the dead, eternal afterlife and the moral values of peace, freedom and justice. While there are differences between Muslims and Christians about the nature of Jesus, (Pbuh i.e. Peace be upon him) there is no disagreement in the Middle East about the Name of God, or the status of many of the common prophets in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Noah (Pbuh), Abraham (Pbuh), Moses (Pbuh) and Jesus (Pbuh), are also prophets in Islam. The Quran declares



Mary as the holiest woman ever (Chapter “Surah” 3, verse “Ayah” 42) - not Muhammad’s (Pbuh) mother, daughter, or wife. One complete chapter in the Quran is devoted to Mary with her name as the title of chapter 19. The Bible does not give Mary the same honor. The Quran mentions Jesus and Mary 34 times and Muhammad 4 times.

Arab-speaking Christians and Muslims recognize Allah as the only name of God. Any Arab-speaking Christian, when asked about the name of God, would answer Allah! The English Old Testament starts with: *“In the beginning, God created the heaven and earth.”* The Arabic Old Testament starts with: *“In the beginning, Allah created the heaven and earth.”* The name of God throughout the Arabic Old and New Testament is Allah.

It is ironic that the Western Christians are unaware of the name of God of their Arabic brothers. The differences in the stature of the prophets in Judaism, Christianity and Islam involve only Jesus and Muhammad, Peace Be Upon Them. Jews do not recognize Jesus and claim that he was a false Messiah and Christians do not recognize Muhammad and claim that he was a false prophet.

Moreover, some Christian may feel that the Quran has satanic origin, God forbid, because the Quran does not recognize the divine nature of Jesus (Pbuh). This is a false notion. Satan is rejected and accursed in many verses in the Quran. Also, Muslims have to seek the protection of God from Satan every time they recite the Quran.

After extensive reading and thinking, I became convinced that Islam is the righteous religion and Islam has the answer to all our social, economic and judicial troubles. That is when I decided to write this book with the only motive to make the truth known.

To try to reach answers about vital questions, assumptions and criteria have to be adopted. The guidelines followed in reaching conclusions in this book are as follows:

1. This book is for anyone, from any faith, who seeks the truth.
2. Not a single attempt was intended to offend any faith, or lack of, for that matter.
3. The search for knowledge should be approached with an open mind, heart and soul and that search should not decrease or stop.
4. Our logical approach is real and meaningful with no deception or arrogant ideas.
5. Divine Creation is not subjected to any or all the laws of physics.

In the present time, there are serious challenges to monotheism:

1. High-powered scientists armed with tremendous marketing tools, promoting atheistic concepts that a layman has no way of challenging.
2. Global education system that fails to stimulate a comprehensive thinking process, but rather introduces subjects such as history, physics and life sciences in a fabricated form to exclude God from our lives. Again, students have no way of challenging their teachers.
3. Overwhelming western culture that promotes fake images of success. Again the layman anywhere on earth has no chance but to accept the western image for success.

Having watched all that, I feel compelled to agree with John Calvin, the Protestant theologian, who said:

“I would be a coward if I saw that God’s truth is attacked and would remain silent without giving any sound.”

(Filson, 2006, p. 9)

I tried to study the approaches taken by the true scientists, such as Newton and Einstein, along the history of humanity. I admired tremendously their reasoning and logic because their goal was knowledge for the sake of knowledge and not for business, publicity, or marketing by twisting facts. Accordingly, this book represents a scientific attempt to answer the following questions:

1. **Does God exist?**
2. **Should there be a universal religion and what is that right religion?**
3. **How can one be constantly sure that his or her conclusion is accurate?**

The first question is the most difficult one if we do not know where to look. Therefore, the first question is answered by examining the known facts about the universe and life. The introduction of these subjects is presented in simple contexts and not just pure scientific abstracts. The divine Law of Repetition is introduced. This law simply states that because common guidelines exist in all living organisms or physical objects, then the Designer or the Creator of all living and non-living objects is the same. With humility and open mindedness, we should believe that God exists. He, then, has to make somehow this existence known to everyone. Some people adopt an arrogant idea of believing in god, but not in any organized religion or any messenger of god. These people may think that



god should communicate directly with them and they have reached the level of the prophets. How else will they know what god wants from them. Examining the monotheistic religions that believe in One God is followed. Next, one conclusion should become obvious after that: because God is one, then there should be only one religion for the entire universe at any time and any place. This is the essence of monotheism. This is accomplished by establishing criteria for accepting a religion and then applying these criteria on the three Abrahamic “*monotheistic*” religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

It is important to note that I am not writing this book as a biologist, cosmologist, physicist, or theologian. I am writing this book as a human being searching for the truth and purpose of life. In doing so, I am following two religious commands in Islam; first to seek knowledge and second to spread knowledge. Also, I would ask you to consider the contents of this book with an open mind because this information could prove to be of greater importance to you than you might yet realize.

In writing this book, technical information has to be introduced and could not be avoided. I tried to make the presented information simple and readable for average readers. Also a glossary section is added to present definitions of technical or religious terms.

This book is an attempt of recording the Truth, which is one of the Names of God and is mentioned in the Quran 226 times. It is not about faking lies about Moses, Jesus, or Muhammad (Peace be upon them), who are loved, honored and respected by all Muslims. Some Jewish and Christian “scholars” made it their business to spread unsubstantiated lies about the life of Muhammad and to quote obscure references or preach half the truth. The main references in this book are the Bible and the Quran, thus it should be easy for the readers to check these references. Also, a good part of the information on Christianity in this book was obtained from Christian authors and friends. Allah addressed mankind to get to know each other, Surah 49, Ayah 13. Consequently, as a Muslim I had to form my ideas about Christianity from its sources. That is something that most of the critics of Islam never tried.

Religion is a serious business. In the present time, there is a statement that declares that all religions lead to One God. Well, I do not accept that. I cannot believe that worshiping a cow or a statue leads to one God. Humans make choices everyday in their lives but they cannot control the consequences of those choices. It should be a matter of utmost wisdom for everyone to think and plan for the Day of Reckoning. Our faith will lead us to our destiny. Everyone in every faith should be prepared to face God,

the Ultimate Judge. Humans will be asked about their faith and will have to acknowledge the truth, regardless of their faith. This Day of Judgment is like a court scene, where the Judge knows all, even more than people can tell. As such, this book is also my attempt to do my best to search for God and a religion. I started researching and writing this book in 1992. I believe that this time is well spent since this book can be my defense on the Day of Judgment. I will beseech God:

“I did not ignore the important questions about my origin and my destiny. I tried, I thought, I researched and this is the best within my capacity.”




Acknowledgements

The author owes immeasurable gratitude to his daughter Dr. Hanan Elsaie, DDS, for the continuous encouragement and the interminable patience for sharing her knowledge about God and life sciences.

Years ago on a Christmas day, my granddaughter Dannah asked me a question: how can God be baby Jesus? Then she started laughing!!! This was the intuition of a 5 years old girl. Since then, she has been asking me a lot of questions about God and religions.

May God bless my daughter, her husband Bilal, Telecommunication Engineer, M.Sc. in Telecommunication from SMU and my granddaughters: Dannah, Daliah, Deyalah and Denah who will be InShaa Allah the harbinger of Islam in the new age.

Many friends shared their valuable comments on the manuscript. Special thanks to Scholar-in-Residence/Imam Dr. Prof. Yusuf Z. Kavakci of Islamic Association of North Texas, Founder of Quranic Academy and Founding Dean & Instructor, Suffa Islamic Seminary, Ph.D. in Islamic History and Culture, Former Dean of the College of Islamic Studies of Ataturk University, Erzurum, Turkey, Imam Moujahed Bakhach, AlAzhar University, Brothers K. A. Shariff, Retired Civil Engineer, Dr. Fouad Elrefai, Ph.D. Biomedical Engineering, David McClung, Mechanical / Electrical engineer, Aftab Ahmad, Economist, Dr. Nayer El-Ashram, MD Pulmonary Specialist, Dr. Nizam Peerwani, MD Chief Medical Examiner for Tarrant County - Texas, Dr. Ayaz Malik, MD Neurosurgeon, Dr. Farooq Selod, MD Orthopedic Surgeon, Dr. Zafar Anjum, Imam of Islamic center of Frisco, Texas, Ph.D. Arabic Literature, Dr. Khaja Khaleeluddin, Ph.D, Physical Organic Chemistry, Dr. Saiyad Fareed Ahmad, Ph.D, Medical Sociology, Syed Shahab Anwar, M.Sc Organic Chemistry and Raymond Santillan, Jr., former chief stress engineer, Menasco Aerospace, Texas.

Special thanks for Reyad Ghosheh, Intra-Graphics, for the cover design.

The author would like to express his appreciation to the staff of the Islamic Research Academy of Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt, for their diligent review of the manuscript and approval to publish this book.

The author would also like to express his appreciation to Dr. Muhammad Yusuf Khalid, Senior lecturer at Islamic Science at Universiti



Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) for using my books in his lectures, Da'wah activities and recommending to publish my books at USIM, Noor Adibah Mohamad for supervising of the publishing process and Dr Harison Mohd Sidek for the meticulous work of editing the manuscript.

May Allah (SWT) reward them all with the best in this life and in the Hereafter.

- To all who contributed – my undying gratitude.
- To all who seek the truth – my unfaltering encouragement.



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- Christian Aid Report on Nigeria.
- Christian Aid Report on Uzbekistan.
- Methodologies in missionary work to Muslim countries.
- World Vision Annual Report.
- The Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, or Vatican II.

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Quran websites:

- http://www.usislam.org/books/free_islamic_books.htm Read and download Qu/ran in many languages.

[http: / / www. qurancourses. com/](http://www.qurancourses.com/) Learning of Quran and Hadith is the foremost duty of every Muslim.
[http: / / www. searchtruth. com/ list. php](http://www.searchtruth.com/list.php) Read and listen to The Quran in many languages

<http://www.reciter.org/>Welcome to the Electronic Reciter version 2.0. Click on the English, French, or Arabic text in the box below to select the interface language and launch the program:

<http://quran.muslim-web.com/>

<http://www.alketab.com/default.asp> The Holly Quran Website - 26 translations

<http://www.tvquran.com/>Quran on TV from Palestine

<http://www.quran4u.com/> Listen, Read, Quran & Tafsir

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General Islamic Websites

<http://www.usislam.org/>A comprehensive Dawah and educational Website in 57 languages.

<http://www.rasoulallah.net/v2/index.aspx?lang=en> The Messenger of Allah: Arabic French German Spanish Italian Russian Hebrew Chinese

<http://www.elsharawy.com/>Arabic Website of Sheikh Elsharawy

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Search engine of different versions of the Bible. Read Carefully and you will know Islam is the Truth.

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<http://www.muslimconverts.com/> How to convert to Islam and Issues facing Converts

<http://www.jewstoislam.com/> Jewish converts to Islam from Rabbis to monotheism.

<http://convertstoislam.org/> Multi-National Muslim Committee, Christians.

<http://www.thetruereligion.org/converts.htm> Christian priests and missionaries and many others who have discovered the one true religion.

<http://www.latinmuslims.com/> Latin American Muslim Unity (LAMU)

<http://www.islamtomorrow.net/> Christian Bishop & Preacher & German Diplomat & Cat Stevens & others.

<http://www.welcome-back.org/> Welcome Back to Islam

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Agora/4229/ind.html> Hindus learn Islam.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jewstoislam/> Jewish Converts to Islam Support Group.

<http://www.why-christians-convert-to-islam.com/> A very good web site by brother Frank, who is a new convert to Islam.

<http://www.turntoislam.com/> Turn to Islam. A lot of documentaries, videos, links and articles about Islam and Muslims.

Scientific Miracles in Quran

<http://www.usislam.org/90scien.htm> The Scientific Miracle

<http://www.miraclesofthequran.com/index2.html> Modern Science Reveals New Miracles of the Qur'an

<http://www.scienceinquran.com> Scientific accuracy of the Qur'an.

<http://www.bensys.mcmail.com/Islam.htm> Many scientific discoveries.

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<http://www.harunyahya.com/> Many scientific and Islamic books by Harun Yahya.

<http://www.55a.net/> , The Quran Miracles Encyclopedia web Site

<http://www.elnagarzr.com/> Dr. Zahlool Al-Najjar Website. Library of Scientific Knowledge.

<http://www.quran-m.com/> The Quran Miracle Encyclopedia.




Glossary

Allah: The name of God of all Muslims and Christians in the Middle East.

Avatar: In Hindu myth, the descent of a god to earth in human form. More generally used of a person who is believed to embody or incarnate the divine.

Axial Age: The term used by historians to denote the period 800-200 BC, a time of transition during which the world major religions emerged in the world.

Ayah: (plural Ayat) (Arabic) Sign, parable. In the Quran, the manifestations of God in the world, or one verse in the Quran.

Brahman: (Hindi) The Hindu term for the sacred power that sustains all existing things; the inner meaning of existence.

Buddha: (Hindi) the enlightened one. The title applies to the numerous persons who have attained nirvana (q.v.) but it is often used of Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism.

Dogma: (Greek) used by the Greek Christians to describe the hidden, secret traditions of the Church, which could only be understood mystically and expressed symbolically. In the west, dogma has come to mean a body of opinion, categorically and authoritatively stated.

El: The high God of Canaan who seems also to have been the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Gentile: (Hebrew) One who is not Jewish.

Goy: (plural goyim) (Hebrew) Non-Jews or Gentiles.

Islam: (Arabic) Surrendering to the Will of God.

Logos: cosmic reason, used in ancient Greek philosophy, as the divine source of order and intelligibility.



Monotheism: the belief that the universe is created and governed by one God.

Nirvana: (Hindi) literally “cooling off” or “going out” like a flame; extinction. Term used by Buddhists to denote the ultimate reality, the goal and the fulfillment of human life and the end of pain. It is impossible to define in rational terms but belongs to a different order of experience.

Nous: mind or reason, used in ancient Greek philosophy, as the principle of divine reason.

Surah: (Arabic) a chapter in the Quran.

Yahweh: the name of the God of Israel. Yahweh may originally have been the god of another people and adopted by the Israelites.



Index

A

“A”, Source of the New Testament,

Aaron 72, 76-78, 183
Abraham, Prophet 82-83, 173
Adam, Prophet 23-24, 166-168, 171-173, 180
Ahura Mazda 88
Al-Azhar ix, xxi
Alexander the great 88-89
Allah 54-56, 59-61, 63-64, 66-67, 80-81, 84-87, 157, 177, 179-83, 185, 196-98, 201
Anaxagoras 92
Anaximander 92
Angels 63, 107, 129, 156, 170, 181
Antioch 28-29, 54, 114, 120, 136, 139-41, 155, 158
Apologetics 126, 128, 132, 148
Aramaic language 60, 100, 128-29
Aristotle 46, 89, 93-94
Arius of Alexandria 141
Arianism 54, 149, 195
Athanasius 131, 143, 149, 151-53, 165
Atheism 144-45, 199
Attis 25, 29, 31, 36-37, 39-40, 42
Avatar 49, 201
Axial Age 87, 201
Ayah, (verse) 59, 67, 166, 177, 179-82, 185, 201

B

“B”, Source of the New Testament,

Baal 29, 31, 34-36, 38-39, 43, 70
Babylonian mythology 64, 146
Bible 25, 27, 32, 34, 38, 47, 56-74, 76-82, 84-87, 91, 97, 100-4, 107-13, 115-19, 121-23, 126-27, 131, 135, 139-40, 142-43, 149, 156, 158-60, 162-65, 167-68, 170-72, 175, 177, 179, 181, 184-85, 87-88, 190-92, 194, 198
Brahman 49, 201
Buddha 50, 201
Buddhism 50-51, 201
Byzantine argument 46, 150

C

“C”, Source of the New Testament,

Canaan 34-36, 60, 70, 81, 131-33, 201
Christ, see Jesus 24-25, 27-37, 40, 44-48, 54, 60, 63, 68-69, 81, 85, 87, 97-104, 106-8, 113-22, 124-47, 149-58, 161-85, 187, 190-91, 198
Clement of Alexandria 115, 142-43, 146
Codex Alexandrinus 109
Codex Sinaiticus 105-9, 116, 121, 194

Codex Vaticanus 104, 106-8, 116, 194
 Confucius 89
 Constantine 44-45, 105, 149-53, 194
 Contradictions in The New Testament 99, 126-27, 173
 Contradictions in The Old Testament 73, 99
 Creation, in Bible 74
 Cyrus 88, 179

D**“D”, Source of the Old Testament,**

David 26, 40, 69-71, 80, 83, 85-88, 128-29, 141, 167, 177, 188, 190-91, 194-95
 David's Son 86-87
 Day of Judgment 25, 28, 34, 41, 54, 108, 173
 Death 25-26, 28-29, 32-33, 35-39, 43, 45, 50-51, 59, 61, 66, 69, 71, 88, 90, 93, 95, 99, 107, 114, 118, 121, 131, 139-41, 143, 148-49, 151-52, 154-55, 171-74, 176, 178, 181
 Douay-Rheims Bible 112

E**“E”, Source of the Old Testament,**

Ecumenical Council
 325 AD, Nicaea I 101, 121
 381 AD, Constantinople I 166
 431 AD, Ephesus 117, 145, 154, 158
 451 AD, Chalcedon 155, 158
 Egyptian Mythology 33, 142
 Eichhorn, J.H. 60, 72
 El 34, 61, 63-64
 Enlightenment 50, 91

Enoch, Prophet xiii
 Epicureans 91
 Eternal substance 92
 Essenes 96
 Eusebius 25, 105, 115, 190

F

Flood of Noah 75
 Four Phases Theory, Christianity 98
 Four Source Theory, New Testament 100

G

Gabriel, angel 166-67
 Genealogies of Jesus 127
 Gentile 25, 28-30, 47, 61, 95, 98, 114, 116, 120, 132, 137-41, 144, 201
 Gnosticism 142-43, 147
 God 24, 44, 46-47, 49-50, 53-67, 69-84, 86-87, 90-91, 93-96, 98-101, 103, 108-10, 112-13, 115, 117-22, 125-31, 133, 135, 138-39, 141-75, 177-82, 184-85, 188-91, 194-95, 201-202
 Golden Calf 71, 76-78
 Gospel according to John 117, 167, 168
 Gospel according to Luke 116
 Gospel according to Mark 98, 115
 Gospel according to Matthew 98, 113, 132
 Gospel of Barnabas 120-21, 129
 Gospel of Jesus 108, 118-19
 Gospel of Thomas 47, 122, 142
 Greek Mythology 148

H

Hadith 66, 196-97
 Hagar 78-79

- Hammurabi 43
 Hellenistic Age 89, 91
 Holy Ghost 25, 46, 98, 136, 150, 154, 162-67
 Horus 27, 29, 31-34, 39
- I**
- Ibn Ezra, Abraham 69, 74
 Ibn Yashush, Isaac 69
 Idols 23-24, 38, 56
 Idris, Prophet 34
 Incarnation 24, 33, 53, 109, 118, 141-42, 145, 153
 Irenaeus 121, 142, 145-47, 151
 Isis 27-29, 32-34, 39, 74, 152-53, 164
 Islam 48-49, 53, 55, 59-60, 77, 80, 82, 121, 163-65, 173, 177, 180-81, 184-85, 187-91, 193, 197-200
 Israel, Tribes of 70
 Israel (Jacob), Prophet 57, 72
- J**
- “J”, Source of the Old Testament,**
 Jacob and the red lentil soup 82
 Jacob’s Family 84
 Jehovah 60-62, 157, 182, 199
 Jeroboam 71, 77-78
 Jerusalem 24, 28, 46, 85-86, 88, 96, 114-115, 117, 120, 124, 126, 135, 137-40, 144, 146, 169, 172
 Jesus,
 Apostles of 113, 122, 140
 Arrest of 129, 132
 Ascent of 42
 Crucifixion of 114
 Genealogy of 85, 99, 117
 Last supper 42, 44, 122, 133
 Last Words of 60, 117, 128-29, 152
 Resurrection of 24, 26, 28, 33, 34-37, 95, 141
 Jesus Seminar 48, 191
 John the Baptist 33, 116-17, 141, 162, 171, 179, 182
 Judah 61-62, 67, 70-71, 77-78, 80, 83-85, 87-88
 Judaism 28, 53, 68-69, 77, 84, 96, 101, 120, 137, 140-44, 163
 Judas 99, 114, 122, 129, 131-32
 Justin Martyr 45, 143, 145
- K**
- Karma 49, 51
 King James Version 109, 111-12, 134, 164, 167-68, 180
 Koine 90-91, 102, 158
 Kyrios 61
- L**
- La Peyrere, Isaac de 70
 Logos 47, 91, 118, 144-45, 147, 149, 151-52, 162, 166, 180, 201
 Lot, Prophet 21, 44, 82, 108, 182, 184, 199
- M**
- Marcion 103, 142-43
 Marduk (Sun God) 64
 Mary, Virgin 44, 46, 140, 154, 156, 166
 Mary Magdalene 47, 114, 134-35, 175-76
 Melchisedec 168, 180
 Mesopotamia 29, 72, 87, 141, 154
 Mithras 25, 31, 41-45, 152
 Montanists 147
 Monotheism 24, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 152-53, 161, 163, 199, 202
 Muhammad, Prophet 55, 66

N

Nebuchadnezzar 88
 Nestorians 157
 New Testament, Versions 24, 27,
 29, 34, 44, 48, 61, 67-68, 73,
 91, 95-96, 98-6, 109-11, 113,
 118-21, 124-27, 129, 138, 142-
 43, 163-65, 167, 173, 175, 178,
 187, 190, 192-94
 Nirvana 50-51, 201-2
 Noah 23, 27, 38, 56, 75, 81, 157

O

Oh God 59, 172
 Origen 41, 69, 101, 126, 143, 148-
 49, 151, 156
 Original Sin 28, 54, 158, 171-73
 Osiris 25, 27, 29, 31-34, 36, 39-40,
 42, 195

P

“P”, Source of the Old Testament,
 Palestine 31, 41, 114, 138, 140-41,
 145, 151, 196
 Paul, St. 24-25, 28, 44, 46, 69, 96,
 98, 101, 103, 105-6, 115-16,
 119-20, 136-42, 144, 149, 153,
 168-71, 175, 177, 190, 193
 Pentateuch 68-70, 72-73, 88, 95
 Pharisees 37, 95-96, 115, 130, 132,
 174
 Philo of Alexandria 94
 Plato 46, 91, 93-95, 145, 149
 Prophet, *see Muhammad.*
 Psalms 68-70, 106, 109, 167
 Pythagoras 91-92

Q**“Q”, Source of the New Testament,**

Quran 21, 23, 53-56, 59, 63, 65-67,
 71, 74, 81, 97, 108, 110, 121,
 127, 161, 166, 173, 177, 179-
 82, 184-85, 187-88, 190, 192-
 93, 201-2

R

Reincarnation 49

S

Sabbath 28, 58, 76, 140, 146, 166
 Sadducees 95-96
 Salvation 24, 30, 36, 41-42, 46, 50,
 125, 141-43, 147, 157-59, 171,
 175-76, 195, 199
 Satan 23-24, 31, 80, 173, 175
 Science 21, 67, 74, 89-91, 94, 127,
 157, 188, 200
 Septuagint 104, 148
 Sign of Jonas 37, 44, 115-16, 130,
 174
 Sin 24, 28, 30, 33, 37-38, 42, 45,
 54, 58, 70-71, 76-77, 80-81, 88-
 89, 139, 141, 158, 163, 171-73,
 175-79
 Socrates 93, 145
 Solomon, Prophet 70-71, 86, 106,
 109, 128
 Son of god 25, 28-29, 32, 38, 42,
 44, 100, 108, 115, 117, 121,
 125, 128-29, 133, 141, 144,
 147-49, 152, 167-70, 172, 180
 Stoics 46, 91, 94
 Surah (Chapter) 54-55, 59, 63, 67,
 166, 177, 179, 180-82, 185, 202

T

Tamar 84-87
 Tammuz 31, 38-39, 42
 Ten Commandments 61, 73, 75-76,
 86, 95, 103
 Tertullian 37, 44-45, 120, 142-43,
 147-48, 171
 Theos 61
 Torah 68-69, 104
 Tribes of Israel 70-71, 83
 Trinity,
 Egyptian Trinity 31
 Babylon Trinity 34
 Phrygian Trinity 36
 Babylonian / Syrian Trinity 38
 Greek Trinity 40
 Persian Trinity 40
 Christian Trinity 38, 44-45, 47
 Two Sources Theory, New
 Testament 123-25
 Tyndale, William 111

U

Unitarianism 53-54, 157
 Unitarians 54

V

Valentinus 142
 Van Maes 69
 Vatican 36, 60, 104-8, 116, 125,
 155, 194-95
 Vatican Council, second 60, 125
 Vulgate Bible 121

W

Wellhausen, Julius 73,
 Which Jesus 25, 122, 141, 178
 Wycliffe, John 111

Y

Yahweh 60-62, 72, 74-76, 83, 88,
 146, 202
 YHWH, see Yahweh 61-63

Z

Zeus 90, 144
 Zoroaster 42, 88

