

IDENTITY THEFT



**UNMASKING ALLAH'S FRAUDULENT
CLAIM TO YAHWEH'S THRONE**

BROTHER MARKO

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Unmasking Allah's Fraudulent Claim to Yahweh's Throne

BY

BROTHER MARKO

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to
The King of kings,
The LORD of heaven and earth,
The Creator and the Ruler of the entire universe
The almighty God of the Bible.

May His name be glorified,
May His truth be known and
May the whole earth be filled with the knowledge
and the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly and most importantly, I thank God for calling me, enabling me to write this book. I am forever grateful to Him for his grace, favour and provisions.

So many people have contributed to this book, in many different ways. They have given their time, expertise and resources. I am very grateful for each and every contribution.

I thank my family and friends, who have been faithfully praying for this book and supporting and encouraging while I was busy writing it. Without their prayers and support this book would not have become a reality.

I thank Dr K. Smith, D. Woods, G. Schitteck and others for their feedback and contributions in improving the draft manuscript of the book.

COMMENDATIONS

In *Identity Theft*, Brother Marko, former Muslim and now passionate Christian, puts Islam's Allah on trial on a charge of identity theft. Avoiding the usual clichés, Marko examines distinctive attributes of God, including God's passions. He finds Allah guilty as charged, concluding that Allah's claim to be the God of the Bible is a 'Grand Identity Theft'. Take and read. This is a book for our times which will stimulate and challenge, as Brother Marko exposes falsehoods to present an inconvenient truth.

Mark Durie

**Anglican pastor and theologian and Adjunct Research Fellow at
the Arthur Jeffery Centre for the Study of Islam**

Brother Marko's reader-friendly yet hard-hitting book strikes at the heart of a popular contemporary deception—Yahweh and Allah are in reality the same person. He exposes the fact that the deities revealed in the Bible and the Qu'ran are so opposite in character and conduct that they cannot possibly be the same God. Brother Marko has boldly stated and argued what many evangelical Christians seem afraid to say: We love Muslim people and desire their salvation, but we cannot pretend they already know and worship the true and living God, as fully revealed by Christ and in Scripture.

Dr Kevin Smith

Vice Principal of the South African Theological Seminary

The arguments presented in this book will definitely help every reader to define his own position. I would recommend this book for all Christians. After reading it, nobody should have even the thought of speaking of Islam as a faith, but only as a religion. Allah is a self-made god like any idol. I thank Brother Marko for his courage to take this stand, and hope this book will guide many to see the difference and understand who the living God is.

Gottfried Schitteck,
Evangelist and missionary to Muslims

FOREWORD

Dear reader,

You have opened the pages of a book that challenges the thought process and core beliefs of millions of people around the world. It puts a spotlight on the fundamental doctrines of Islam, and calls for all Muslims not only to verify what they believe, but also to authenticate the principal claims of their religion.

It also challenges all others to revisit their position and response to the demands of Islam. The author is writing with the background of his personal journey and the truths he has ultimately been convicted of. I was privy to the last eleven years of this process during which many insightful discoveries were made.

Foreword

Brother Marko was born and raised in a predominantly Muslim country, by a Muslim family. The realities of his world were often so disturbing and dissatisfying, that it inspired a thirst for knowledge and the truth. When he broke out of the confines of the Muslim culture he was raised in, he realised how ill-informed both Muslims and the Christian world were regarding the facts and dogmas of Islam. As a devoted scholar, Brother Marko now contributes to the burning conversation about the true character of Allah.

This book comes at a time when the conversation regarding the true character of Islam is heated. Not only are there various opinions held by scholars of different religions, but there are opposing views from representatives of Islam itself. When we read and listen to the scholars or even the testimonies of former adherents of Islam or Christianity, the confusion increases regarding history, laws, customs and practices. The current world events are also adding to the disillusionment. People are asking difficult questions, and we need to commit ourselves to a hard course in finding the truth. It starts with a serious question: what is the truth?

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Marko's attempt to provide the answer is to be commended. *Identity Theft* addresses the core issues of dispute between Christianity and Islam, including whether Islam and Christianity worship the same God.

This read should be undertaken in deep humility and prayer. I urge you to read this book with an open mind and heart, trusting that God will use the content as a mediator that will bring revelation and conviction. My prayer is that every reader will be enlightened by the love of God as He reveals the truth that sets free from all deception. Whom better can we trust than God to reveal Himself and His true character? I urge every reader to ask boldly and sincerely: 'God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, may I know the truth – reveal Yourself to me!'

A. Francois Botha

Reverend of Dutch Reformed Church

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, when we hear about 'identity theft' we generally think of a person stealing or assuming the identity of someone else for the purposes of financial exploits. Together with this, we also tend to think that this is a fairly new type of a crime, belonging to our Information Age. However, in fact, the crime of identity theft is a very ancient form of crime. Furthermore, it is not at all limited to financial exploits. Its objectives can be much broader, and its strategies can be much more complex than what we tend to think. Therefore, I would like to define identity theft as someone claiming the identity of someone else for the purposes of exploiting, abusing and even destroying the other person's name, fame, position, possessions, visions, plans and dreams. In other words, identity theft is an ancient crime, where an identity thief manages to fraudulently assume the identity of his victim to both exploit and destroy all that the victim is and all that he has.

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In this book I will unmask the most daring and chilling attempted identity theft of all time: Allah attempting to steal the identity of Yahweh. Allah has devised and implemented such a well-thought-through and complex attack, that in fact he has made millions of people believe his lies and worship him as God. Today, in our so-called Information Age, many people all over the world seem to be more mesmerised and convinced by the fraudulent claims of Allah to the throne of Yahweh (God of the Bible), than ever before.

Consequently, the politically correct post-modern worldview of our times suggests that Allah is God, and that Allah and Yahweh are one and the same God. Parallel to this idea is the conviction that Judaism, Islam and Christianity are 'three Abrahamic religions' or 'three sister religions'. In this book, I investigate these long-held popular conceptions. Is it really true that Islam is an Abrahamic religion and a sister of Christianity and Judaism? Most importantly, is the deity of Islam (Allah) one and the same as that of Christianity and Judaism (Yahweh)?

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I intend to provide Biblical and comprehensive answers to these questions. My answers will be based on the self-revelations of Yahweh and Allah as presented in their respective religious texts, namely the Bible and the Qu'ran. I will try to comparatively analyse Allah's character, words and deeds with those of Yahweh and see if they match. If at the conclusion of this comparative analysis, we discover that the words, deeds and characteristics of Allah are identical to those of Yahweh, then we can perhaps seriously consider the possibility of 'Allah' being just another name for the God of the Bible. However, if our analysis reveals serious differences, disagreements and opposite traits between Allah and Yahweh, then we will have to conclude that Allah is not the God of the Bible, but a fraudster who has been attempting to steal the name of Yahweh and sit on His throne as God.

All my analysis and conclusions will be naturally and inevitably influenced by my evangelical Christian frame of mind and my desire to discover the truth. What makes this book unique is not not the extent of my research and discoveries, but my Muslim background and my personal experiences of who Allah is.

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Muslims and Allah

The subject of this book is not Muslim people nor their culture nor their traditions. The subject of this book is the fraudulent claims of Allah to the throne of God. Therefore, in this book I will critically analyse the words and deeds of Allah to unmask his false claims. My intention is not to offend Muslim or non-Muslim persons, but to conduct a theological analysis. Inevitably, my analysis will touch on the beliefs and deeds of people who follow the instructions of Allah, as those beliefs and deeds are direct reflections of Allah's characteristics.

As a Christian of Muslim background, I know very well how sincere and full of goodwill are most of the Muslim people. Their desire to serve God is something that has fascinated me many times. Unfortunately, all Muslims think that Allah is God, and therefore they offer all they have and all they are into the worship and service of Allah, with all good will. Therefore, when I think of Muslim people, I see a people group that wants to know, love and serve God. In the pages of this book I will mention some of the not so nice things some Muslim people have done in obedience to the instructions of Allah. My intention is not to attack or depict Muslims as bad people, but to show

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how Allah abused and used these people to carry out his evil plans.

In accordance with the teachings of Yahweh throughout the Bible, I understand and believe that Muslims, just like all other people, are created by Yahweh in His own image, and Yahweh has plans to save, prosper and bless them with every blessing listed in the Bible. I believe that Jesus loves them so much that He willingly gave His life to save them. In the same way, I also love Muslim people with the love of Jesus Christ and pray for their salvation. I pray that the true God will bless them with life, peace, joy and every other blessing. Most importantly, I pray that Jesus will reveal Himself to Muslim people all over the world, and that the Holy Spirit will gently lead them into a life of faith in Jesus Christ. I also pray that Jesus Christ will open their eyes and help them to find the truth. I pray that every Muslim person who reads this book will be blessed by the truth presented in these pages, and will be guided by the Holy Spirit to the King of kings, the only true saviour, Jesus Christ.

Additionally, I think of millions of Muslims whose homes are destroyed by Islamic terrorism and who are forced to emigrate to Europe and other parts of the world. I pray that Jesus

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will help them to find a better home, to start a much better life and be a blessing to their host countries. I pray that Jesus will provide for all their needs; physical, emotional and spiritual needs. May Christians all over the world reach out to these Muslims with the love and gospel of Jesus Christ. I pray that they will hear the truth, believe in the truth and the truth shall set them free from the lies of Allah.

The Author

I was born and raised as a Muslim in a Muslim country. I grew up in a Muslim community, studied at Muslim schools under the instruction of Muslim teachers and served in the Muslim army of my country of birth. I have been taught about Allah, his words, deeds, will and character since the day I was born. Since my birth, I was instructed to believe, obey and worship Allah. Inevitably, I believed and worshipped him for many years, like all the rest of my family.

I was an ordinary young Muslim man when I met Jesus at the age of 24 in Turkey. Until then, like many in our community, my lifestyle, convictions, worldview and opinions were all

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influenced by who Allah was, what Allah said, what Allah did and what Allah wanted. I was a slave of Allah, until I met Jesus.

When Jesus came into my life, He made me a new creation (2 Cor 5:17). He set me free from bondage to Allah (John 8:36). I was no more a slave of Allah, but a brother and friend of Jesus (John 15:15) and a child of God (Gal 3:26). Since the day Jesus came into my life, the Spirit of the Lord has been continuously renewing the way I believe, think and live (Eph 4:22-24). I am still in the process of being transformed by Jesus into the man Father God has purposed me to be. So far it has been an amazingly wonderful and breathtakingly exciting journey with Jesus. My testimony is that I am what I am by the grace and work of Jesus Christ, and I am still under construction in His hands. All the credit and praise be to Him.

My Muslim background and the consequent saving and sanctifying work of Jesus during the last fifteen years have uniquely equipped me to investigate this subject and to write this book. This book is not intended to be a mere academic or theological exercise for me neither for the readers. It is aimed at setting the records straight and assisting those who would like to discover the truth. This book is the product of a heavy burden

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God has laid on my heart concerning His saving truth and the destructive lies of Satan.

My heart's desire and my prayer is that God will use this book to help you distinguish God's truth from the false claims of Allah. You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free (John 8:32). It is God's will for you to be free.

Chapter 1

CAN WE FIND GOD?

As mortal humans, with our own abilities, can we find and get to know God? The answer to this question is a definitive no! If God did not progressively reveal Himself to us, we could never find Him or discover anything about Him. All we know and all we can ever know about God is a result of His self-revelations to us. It has always been God's will that we should know Him and we should be in an intimate personal relationship with Him. Thus God has been revealing Himself to all people of all generations and nations. This self-revelation of God comes progressively in four different layers.

Firstly, God reveals himself by putting a mysterious '*inner sense*' or knowledge of Himself in the hearts of all men and women (Grudem 1994:141). This first layer of God's self-revelation helps all people to know that they are created by a mighty God and that they belong to Him. This mysterious inner sense or knowledge transcends our cultures and all studying and learning practices. People all over the world have this mysterious

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inner sense of a creator God behind our existence. Needless to say that many people try to either ignore or silence this inner sense by their secular or atheist learning. At the same time countless others show this inner sense of the various gods of their respective religions in their worldviews and cultures.

Secondly, God reveals more of His might, creativity, sovereignty and even His glory to all people all over the world through nature, the universe, history and the extraordinary make-up of humankind among all other creation (Erickson 1998:178-179). This is referred to as '*God's general self-revelation*' among Christian theologians. This second layer, like the previous one, is also given by God to all people in every nation and generation. No matter who you are and where you are, just by observing the skies and nature you will have evidence of an intelligent Creator. As the sustainer of His creation He holds the stars in the skies and restrains the waters in the oceans. One of the best recorded proofs of God's self-revelation through nature and the universe can be seen in Psalm 19:1-6. At this level God reveals a great deal of information about His glory, might, creativity and sovereignty, but He reveals almost nothing about His personality and how we can approach Him. He reveals His personality as well as the way for us to reach Him in the deeper

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level of self-revelation which is called '*special revelation*'. Thus any religion or so called theology that is built on the first and second layers of God's self-revelation (namely the '*inner sense*' and the '*general self-revelation*') will be at best insufficient and misleading. At worst, such religious attempts will be used by Satan to produce and promote many false gods, and lead many people into destruction. Many of the false religions of the world are actually built (at least partly) on these limited general revelations of God. They remain as false religions because they attest the *generally revealed qualities* of God to the false gods of their imaginations rather than the true God Himself. The truth is, there is one true God who continues to reveal some of His qualities to all people via the inner sense and the general revelation. However, to know more about Him we need more specific self-revelations from Him.

Thirdly, God reveals very special and very personal information about Himself, at specific times and places to specific persons (Erickson 1998:201). This third layer of God's self-revelation makes it possible for people to enter into a redemptive and eternal relationship with God. This is known as God's '*special or specific self-revelation*', which is the only way man can learn the truth about the true God, and at the same time

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safeguard himself from the lies of the false religions and the false gods of Satan. The good news is that all of God's special revelations are completed and collected in a book which is now available in most languages of the world: The Bible.

The Bible is God's only complete and perfect self-revelation. In the Bible God reveals all that we need to know about Him, as well as showing us the way to reach Him and enjoy an eternal relationship with Him. As we have seen above, the general self-revelation is not sufficient to know God, it only gives us a limited glimpse of God's glory. In contrast, the Bible is complete and sufficient, providing us with all that we need to know about God and how we can reach Him. The Bible is not an ordinary book, but an amazing miracle on its own. From the first letter to the very last letter, all of the Bible is inspired by God and recorded by the authors God chose for this great task (2 Tim 3:16). It was written over a period of more than 1500 years, by more than forty authors, over forty generations, on three continents (Asia, Europe and Africa) and in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek (McDowell 1979). In spite of such a long writing process by so many authors, in so many generations, places and languages, the entire book has an

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amazingly harmonious continuity. This is due to the fact that the entire book was inspired by the one and only almighty and sovereign God. This fascinating reality makes the Bible a living miracle. The Bible is the ultimate and all-sufficient self-revelation of the true God for mankind. God, in His sovereignty has orchestrated and supervised the writing, preservation and translation of the Bible into most languages of the world, so that all nations may know and even enter into an eternal personal relationship with Him. The general revelations reveal some qualities and glory of God, but only the Bible reveals His identity. Therefore, any human endeavour to find and worship the true God has to be based on the Bible. Any god that is not revealed in the Bible is not the true God. Religious or theological claims that are not based on the Bible will not lead people to the true God, but to false gods. These false gods claim for themselves some of the qualities and glory of the true God which have been revealed at the level of general revelations.

This is where the god of Islam comes into our discussion. The religion of Islam claims that their god, Allah, is one and the same deity as the God of the Bible. Therefore, Muslims claim that they and Christians and also Jews worship one and the same God, which is called Allah in Islam and Yahweh in the Bible. Is

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this claim really true? Do Christians and Muslim truly worship the same God?

Assigning some generally revealed qualities of God to Allah or putting forward some vague similarities between Allah and Yahweh is not sufficient to conclude that Allah and Yahweh is one and the same.

It is easy to acknowledge the generally revealed qualities of God, as they have been indeed revealed generally to all people. It is also easy to attribute these qualities to any idol or false god of our wildest imagination. These general revelations only reveal some of the qualities of God, such as His creativity, sovereignty, might, and intelligence, but they do not disclose His identity. Could it be possible that some generally revealed qualities of the true God have been attributed to Allah, raising him to the position of God? Yes, it is very possible! In fact, these qualities of the true God have been assigned to many

false gods since the days of Adam and Eve. That is how humanity happens to have so many false gods and religions.

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The only way one can find the true God is through the Bible, because only in the Bible is the identity of God made known. If Allah of Islam is truly one and the same person as the God of the Bible, he must then have the same identity, the same characteristics, the same desires and plans as those of the God of the Bible. At this point, I would like to set the standard by stating that a limited similarity based on the general revelations is not enough to even consider Allah as Yahweh. Assigning some generally revealed qualities of God to Allah, or putting forward some vague similarities between Allah and Yahweh, is not sufficient to conclude that Allah and Yahweh are one and the same.

If Allah is truly the same as the God of the Bible, he then has to be identical to the biblical God.

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Jesus Christ, the only way to God

Jesus Christ is the final layer and the pinnacle of God's self-revelations. Any person who wants to reach the true God has to go through Jesus Christ.

Fourthly, Jesus Christ is the final layer and the pinnacle of God's self-revelation. All of God's self-revelations eventually lead us to Jesus Christ, His Son. The Bible points us to Jesus as our only way to reach God and enjoy eternal relationship with Him. While the Bible is the only written record of God's special revelation, Jesus Christ is the only way God provided for us to reach Him.

For there is one God and one intermediary between God and humanity, Christ Jesus, himself human

(1 Tim 2:5, NET).

There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved

(Act 4:12, NLT).

Can We Find God?

It is imperative that any person who desires to know the truth concerning the true God has to study the Bible responsibly. Likewise, any person who wants to reach the true God and enter into a relationship with Him has to go through Jesus Christ. There *is* no other way.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6, ESV).

Therefore, Jesus is both the only way to God and the only Saviour of mankind. Despite the fact that the God of the universe wants all men to know Him personally through an eternal relationship (Ezek 18:32), the sin of mankind has both separated him from God (Isa 59:2) and also brought death upon him (Jas 1:14-15). Consequently, mankind is in need of a saviour who can both reconcile them to God and give them eternal life by paying the penalty for their sin. God provided Jesus Christ as that saviour.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 6:23, HCSB).

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As I stated at the beginning of this chapter, it is absolutely impossible for us as mortal humans, with our limited abilities to find and know God. If God had not revealed Himself progressively, we could have never found Him. If Jesus had never showed the way and died for our sins, we could never have entered into a relationship with God.

**There is only one
true God:
YAHWEH,**

**only one book
containing all
His special self-
revelations:
the BIBLE,**

**and only one
name that can
lead us to God:
JESUS CHRIST**

Although the general revelations of God teach us a lot about Him, they still do not reveal specifically who God is and what He expects from us. Therefore, we need God's special revelations, all of which are compiled in one book: the Bible. It is God's only written word for all mankind. However, the Bible is not able to save us from our sin or reconcile us back to God. We still needed a saviour, a mediator between God and men. So God sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to be the bearer of men's sin and lead men back to God.

Chapter 2

THE NAME GAME

We cannot do a just analysis of this subject without looking into the famous (or shall I rather say infamous) '*name game*' that has been causing much confusion. This infamous name game is among the most favourite arguments of the proponents of the heresy that '*Muslims and Christians worship the same God*'. They claim that Allah is the Arabic name of the God of the Bible, and Isa is the Arabic version of the name 'Jesus'. In support of this argument, they draw attention to the fact that in many Islamic countries, Christians use the words Allah and Isa in reference to Yahweh and Jesus. Thus they conclude that Allah and Yahweh are one and the same, and Muslims and Christians worship the same God.

Chapter 2

Similarities of words and names cannot and should not have any theological weight and any influence in our quest to find God.

Firstly, accepting such a claim and constructing our theological convictions concerning the identity of God based on this 'name claim' would be an irresponsible act. It would be as irresponsible as paying your homage and taxes to a certain Mr GW Bosh just because he happens to have a similar name to the president Mr GW Bush. Similarities of words and names cannot and should not have any theological weight or any influence in our quest to find God. The truth is: names or words can change, get misspelled or mispronounced in different places, generations and languages. Building our faith, and life for that matter, on the conclusions based on some sort of name game is at best as silly as building a house with ice bricks on the beach.

Secondly, if we really want to know who Allah and Yahweh are, we have to go deeper and look much further behind the names that are associated with them in different languages. We have to look into their history, characteristics, words and deeds. Allah might be called 'God', 'Ilah', or 'Rab' in different

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languages. In the same way, Yahweh might be called 'Jehovah', 'God' or 'Hashem'. These variations are normal and do not confer any theological weight on their own. What really matters is the character of the person behind the name, not the name itself. However, given the similarities of languages and linguistic assimilations which have occurred throughout world history, and the human tendency to misspell and mispronounce names, it is inevitable that many names, including the names for deities may be confused. It is likely that a certain person will be called David in one place, Dawood in another place and Deyvid in yet another place. Names may vary, but each person's identity remains unique, no matter how similar their names may be. Therefore, if we really want to know who Allah and Yahweh are, and whether they are the same person, we have to move behind the names and study their persons.

Nevertheless, since this name game has been causing so much confusion among many Christians, including some theologians, I feel compelled to examine it in detail. I would like to look into the reasons why Islamic words and names are used by Christians in the Muslim countries. I would also like to

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explain why Christian usage of Islamic words cannot constitute theological grounds for determining the identity of God.

**Therefore, if we really want to know
who Allah and Yahweh are and
whether they are the same person, we
have to move behind the names and
study their persons.**

The twisted facts of the Name Game

This name game is built on some twisted facts, like many other heresies. It is true that in many predominantly Islamic countries Christians use the words Allah and Isa in reference to Yahweh and Jesus. There are multiple reasons for this, such as persecution, lack of proper theological training and Bible knowledge and linguistic limitations.

Literally, in every predominantly Muslim country and community, Christians are oppressed, terrorised and persecuted by their Muslim neighbours and Muslim governments. This is not a new phenomenon. It has always been this way since the days of Muhammad, the founder of Islam. Due to this never-ending persecution, many Christians in Muslim countries are forced to go underground. In other words, on the outside, they look, act and speak like the Muslims do, but secretly they retain their faith in Jesus Christ and worship with other underground believers in the privacy of their homes. Many of these underground Christians deliberately use the words Allah and Isa as a camouflage. They cannot use any words such as 'Yahweh' and 'Yeshua' as these words will reveal their Christianity and may cause severe persecution for them and their loved ones.

Chapter 2

Therefore, it is neither plausible nor theologically acceptable to say that Christians and Muslims worship the same God because some Christians in Muslim countries use Islamic words in reference to God.

Secondly, the lack of adequate education and sufficient knowledge among the indigenous Christians in Muslim countries about Yahweh, His Word, kingdom and mission on earth are other reasons why some Christians in Muslim countries use Islamic terminology. The lack of proper theological training is probably the biggest and most devastating problem for the persecuted indigenous church in Muslim countries. This problem is a direct result of nearly 1400 years of continuous Islamic destruction, persecution and terrorism aimed at Christians and Jews in territories which were invaded and have been ruled by Islam. One of the overlooked facts is that today's Muslim countries around the Mediterranean sea were once flourishing Christian communities with churches, cathedrals, monasteries and religious training centres filled with books, and teachings of renowned Christian leaders and thinkers as well as many manuscripts of the Word of God (Bat Ye'or 1996). Among the best evidence of this are the seven churches of the book of Revelation in Western Turkey (Rev 2-3), the church that cared for

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Paul in Damascus in Syria (Acts 9:1-25), the missionary sending church of Antioch (Antakya, Turkey) (Acts 13:1-3), Polycarp of Smyrna (Izmir, Turkey), Origen of Alexandria in Egypt, Augustine of Hippo (Annaba, Algeria) and countless other Christians and churches from the cities around the Mediterranean sea. As a direct result of the evangelistic and theological works of the apostles, the church fathers and the Jewish and Gentile followers of Christ during the first four centuries, the territories around the Mediterranean sea were filled with the knowledge and worship of the God of the Bible. All of this was despite recurring and severe persecution from the Roman rulers (Renwick and Harman 2004:24-36). By the end of the 4th century, the Mediterranean sea, the largest sea of the known world resembled a Judeo-Christian lake, surrounded by people and civilisations that revered and worshipped the God of the Bible. However, when Muslim armies began invading Christian territories in the 7th century, intentionally and systematically they killed and destroyed everything that was Judeo-Christian, including the churches, synagogues, schools, the most magnificent libraries, and even the Christian and Jewish cemeteries, in an attempt to erase Christianity and its memory once and for all from the entire land.

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All of this was done to eradicate Christianity and Judaism and spread the rule of Islam over the nations. In the Islamic doctrine and practice, this devastating Islamic onslaught of Jews and Christians is called 'jihad'. According to the teachings and traditions of Islam, Muslims must wage jihad (war) against Jews and Christians until they are defeated and subjugated to Allah and Islamic rulers or until they are completely eradicated. The following verse from the Qur'an is one of the most important and influential normative texts of the Islamic war and violence against Jews and Christians.

Fight against those who believe not in Allah, nor in the Last Day, nor forbid that which has been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger (Muhammad...), and those who acknowledge not the religion of truth (i.e. Islam) among the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians), until they pay the Jizyah with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued (Qur'an: surah 9:29).

Once a Judeo-Christian civilization had been invaded by Islamic armies, the survivors could survive only by converting to Islam, speaking Arabic and forgetting their Judeo-Christian past or living in 'dhimmitude' - under Islamic oppression, by paying

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heavy taxes for their lives (Bat Ye'or 1996). This has been the typical behaviour pattern of Muslim armies in the countries they invaded throughout the centuries. Invasion and destruction of Constantinople in 1453 by the Turkish Muslim army is only one of many similar events that took place all around the Mediterranean Sea. Historian Runciman (1965:152) provides a glimpse of the destruction Constantinople suffered at the hands of the Muslim army:

On 21 June the Sultan and his Court left the conquered city for Adrianople. It was now half in ruins, emptied and deserted and blackened as though by fire, and strangely silent. Churches had been desecrated and stripped; houses were no longer habitable and shops and stores battered and bare. The Sultan himself as he rode through the streets had been moved to tears. 'What a city we have given over to plunder and destruction' he murmured.

This is how the advanced and intellectual Christian civilisations have been transformed into underdeveloped third-world, Islamic nations. As historian Bat Ye'or (2006) rightly points out, the lands around the Mediterranean were once filled with Jews and Christians. But they are all now Islamised, their

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Judeo-Christian roots are completely erased from their historical records and memories. Their cultures, languages and values are all destroyed. They are all forced to speak the language of Arabs, worship the god of Arabs, dress like Arabs, eat and act like Arabs. In other words, they have all become enslaved by Arabs, but they do not even know that they are enslaved because they have lost their own history and background. They do not know any more that once upon a time they were free Judeo-Christian civilizations. As a result of this total eradication, there are no longer any traces of Judeo-Christianity left in North Africa, the Middle East and Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), which were once the cradle of Judeo-Christian thinking, teaching and practice. Since the Islamic invasion of these territories, Muslims have never really allowed Christians to re-establish their theological centres, churches, and missionary movements. That is why Christian churches in these Muslim countries suffer greatly from the lack of adequate theological training and constructive critical thinking. At best, they manage to share the Gospel of Jesus in its most simple and basic form (under severe persecution from their fellow Muslims), but they cannot raise their own indigenous theologians and Christian thinkers to develop Biblical theological teachings to address issues of Christian life and practice in the context of their own circumstances. This lack of Bible-based theological training,

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thinking and sufficient understanding is yet another reason why many Christians in Muslim countries continue to use Islamic vocabulary such as Allah, Isa and injil (the Islamic word for the Gospel of Jesus).

Thus, for us in free Western countries, redefining or renaming the God of the Bible based on the oppressed, underdeveloped and undereducated Christianity of persecuted Christians in the Muslim lands would be only as wise as pulling a brand new BMW car with an ox instead of starting the engine and driving it normally as a sane person would.

Thirdly, the linguistic limitations are yet another reason why Christians in Muslim countries use Arabic words. Islamic armies would destroy churches, libraries, and learning centres when they invaded a Christian city. Destruction of the library of Alexandria by the invading Muslim army in the 7th century is only one of many such events. Caliph Omar's instruction concerning the library to the commander of the Muslim army that invaded Alexandria, reveals the Islamic mindset concerning books and libraries of non-Muslims.

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As for the books you mentioned, here is my reply. If their content is in accordance with the book of Allah, we may do without them, for in that case the book of Allah more than suffices. If, on the other hand, they contain matter not in accordance with the book of Allah, there can be no need to preserve them. Proceed, then, and destroy them.

(Quoted in Canfora 1989:98)

Thus, repeatedly, Muslim armies committed the same destruction, city after city, in every land they managed to invade. After such acts of destruction, Christians were never allowed to re-establish advanced Christian education and thinking. Instead, they were either wiped out as 'stubborn infidel people' (Christians and Jews are considered infidels by Islam) or they were allowed to live, on condition of submitting to Muslim leaders and paying the heavy Jizyah tax (a yearly tax levied by Muslim states on non-Muslims subjects) (Bat Ye'or 1996). Of course, the third option was to convert to Islam and abandon Judeo-Christian values, beliefs, culture and language by adopting those of Islam, and thus escaping Islamic oppression. However, even those who did not deny faith in the God of the Bible under such terrible conditions were systematically and gradually assimilated into Islamic way of life, culture and

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language over many years. That is why today, in Muslim countries all over the world, the very heavy presence of the Arabic language, dress code and worldview is undeniable. It appears as if Islam is a political weapon of Saudi Arabia. Every nation that is 'Islamised' becomes like a colony of Saudi Arabia. Arabic law, culture, language, ethics, and beliefs are forcibly implemented by the Muslim invaders. When someone in an 'Islamised' and 'Arabised' country converts to Christianity, naturally he will address God in the only language he speaks (Arabic or the 'Arabised' version of his native language) using the Arabic words such as Allah and Isa. The linguistic limitations of his context force him to use Islamic (Arabic) words. He does not know any better. Even if he knew any better, he still could not do any better, because he lives under the never-ending persecution of Muslims.

However, as Christian citizens of free Western societies, we should know better and do better. We have all the freedom and easy access to all the Biblical data to learn about God and worship God freely. We have no excuse to confuse the Holy God of the Bible with the false gods and demons of Satan, even on the levels of names and semantics. God of the Bible has very clearly

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revealed His name, identity and characteristics to us in the Bible. He then warned us saying:

We have no excuses to confuse the Holy God of the Bible with the false gods and demons of Satan, even on the levels of names and semantics

You are never to bow down to another god because Yahweh, being jealous by nature, is a jealous God

(Exod 34:14, HCSB).

There shall be no strange god in you, neither shall you worship any foreign god. I am Yahweh, your God...

(Ps 81:9, WEB).

You shall fear Yahweh your God; and you shall serve him, and shall swear by his name. You shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the peoples who are around you; for Yahweh your God in the midst of you is a jealous God; lest the anger of Yahweh your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth

(Deut 6:13-15, WEB).

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On the other hand, it is our God-given responsibility to study, teach and preach God's special self-revelation (the Bible) and also to help our Christian brothers and sisters in Muslim lands to understand and honour Biblical truths in spite of their difficult circumstances. It is our calling to cherish, safeguard and promote what God has revealed in the Bible. However, in spite of all the freedom and the resources God has blessed us with, if we allow ourselves to be carried away and deceived by the very same lies which are forcefully imposed on Christians by Islam in the Islamic countries, how are we different from a lazy, irresponsible and cowardly soldier who abandons his post and runs away at the first sight of the enemy?

If we so eagerly submit ourselves to the lies and deceptions of Satan, although we have all that is necessary to resist those lies, how are we different from those that are enslaved and powerless? If this is our situation, what hope then can we offer to our persecuted brothers and sisters? Even more disturbingly, what light is in us and what salvation message can we give to Muslim people who are even more deceived by the lies of the false god Allah?

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In conclusion, this name game is a big ugly lie, a product of Islamic deception, destruction and persecution against Biblical truth and those who believe in it. Yes, some Christians in Muslim countries use the Islamic words of 'Allah' and 'Isa' in reference to God, because of persecution, linguistic limitations and the lack of advanced Biblical theology. However, their practice does not constitute a sound theological ground to suggest that Allah and Yahweh are one and the same God, or Allah is the God of the Bible. Instead, this practice of Christians in Muslim lands should encourage us to put more effort in studying, teaching and preaching the Biblical self-revelation of God.

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THE ABRAHAMIC DECEPTION

Muslims claim that they hold the faith of Abraham and their god Allah is the god of Abraham. This Islamic claim is established and supported by the doctrine of Islam. Passages from the Qur'an such as the ones below are the normative texts for this Islamic conviction:

Say, [O believers], 'We have believed in Allah and what has been revealed to us and what has been revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the Descendants and what was given to Moses and Jesus and what was given to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction

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between any of them, and we are Muslims [in submission] to Him' (2:136, Sahih International).

In the Qur'an, Allah also instructs Muslims to tell Christians and Jews that they all believe in the same god, Allah.

And do not argue with the People of the Scripture (Jews and Christians) except in a way that is best, except for those who commit injustice among them, and say, 'We believe in that which has been revealed to us and revealed to you. And our God and your God is one; and we are Muslims [in submission] to Him'

(29:46, Sahih International).

So, according to Qur'an, Abraham's God was Allah, and Jews, Christians and Muslims all believe in Allah. As we see in the Qur'anic text above, Allah does not only expect Muslims to believe in this claim on a personal level. But He also commissions Muslims to convince '*the people of the Scripture*' (Christians and Jews) that Allah is Yahweh and thus they shall start worshipping Allah alone. Any Christian or Jew who does not accept this Islamic claim would be considered by Allah and

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his followers as an infidel. Thus they would face severe persecution from Muslims for not accepting Allah's claim to the throne of the God of the Bible.

This Abrahamic claim of Allah implies that Islam is essentially an Abrahamic religion, sharing a common root and a common heritage with Judaism and Christianity. Muslims use this assumed common root, based on their Abrahamic claim, to legitimise Islam and to secure the respect and support of Jews and Christians for their religion. If their claims get accepted, then no sane Christian or Jew will be able to criticise or attack Islam, because it has originated from our common father Abraham and worships his God. Additionally, if this Islamic claim gets accepted by Judaism and Christianity, many Jews and Christians will see no danger in getting married to Muslims, converting to Islam, and supporting the religion of Islam in various ways. At the same time, if this claim gets accepted by Christians, then some Christians may even choose to stop evangelising Muslims, and even attempt to unite Islam and Christianity as a united Abrahamic religion. The emergence and spread of Chrislam, as well as the Christianity-Islam-Judaism interfaith movements are inevitable outcomes of this Abrahamic deception. Ultimately

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some Christians may even start worshipping Allah, and think that they are worshipping the God of the Bible.

Muslims have successfully achieved their goal when the Roman Catholic Church has accepted and confirmed their claim. This decision of the Roman Catholics is captured in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC 1993), paragraph 841, which states:

The Church's relationship with the Muslims. 'The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day'.

This statement clearly communicates the conviction that Muslims, together with Catholics, worship the same creator God, the God of Abraham. This is not a simple, insignificant statement, but is a highly important doctrinal statement, which has been at the very root of worldwide Christian thought and interaction towards Islam and Muslims for many centuries. To be able to comprehend the long-lasting global impact of this statement, we need to consider the fact that, today, as it has been for many

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centuries, the Catholic Church is the richest, biggest and the most influential church in international politics, global understanding of Christianity and also in the development of Western Christianity as a whole. Sadly, even today, after many years of deliberate separation, many streams of Protestant Christianity are still influenced by the dogmas and practices produced by the Roman Catholic Church. One can easily make a long list of beliefs and practices imported directly from Roman Catholicism into Reformed, Pentecostal, Evangelical and other forms of Protestant Christianity. The belief that Islam is an Abrahamic religion is yet another one of the ideas imported from Roman Catholicism into many streams of Western Christianity. Strangely, in the Western world, many newborn, sincerely Bible-based Christian individuals hold the belief that Islam is an Abrahamic religion. Although, in the Bible there is not even one statement, sentence, nor even a single word, to support or even suggest such an idea. So then, from where did they learn it? If it is not based on the Bible, why then do they continue to hold that belief? The answer to these questions might shock you: They have been successfully deceived by Catholics and Muslims for over 1400 years. They have been deceived against all contradictions and inconsistencies, and in spite of the lack of biblical, historical

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and even archaeological evidence. There is absolutely no evidence, not even one single piece of acceptable evidence, neither in the independent historical records, nor in the findings of archaeology, nor in the Bible that can suggest that Allah is the god of Abraham, or that Islam originated from Abraham. This big lie was produced by Islam, accepted and confirmed by the Catholic Church and spread to the whole world by the joint efforts of both. As the old saying goes:

'If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed'.

Sadly this has been the case with the lie of Abrahamic origin of Islam. This big lie has been told so often that even some influential evangelical theologians believed and further promoted it. One of such names is Dudley Woodberry (2004:36-37), who argues that Christians and Muslims worship the same God, the God of Abraham. Woodberry and the others like him, base their conviction on the Islamic and the Catholic claims, as there are no such claims or suggestions in the Bible.

Additionally, evangelical Christian proponents of this idea are often driven by their strong desire to find a common

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ground where Christians and Muslims can meet and talk. Inherently, they wish to share the love and Gospel of Jesus with Muslims, once they meet on common ground. Thus the claim that 'Islam is an Abrahamic religion' works well for them as a good common ground. Driven by this 'good intention', some evangelical leaders such as Rick Warren (Kiroglu 2015:1-2) have been saying or implying that Islam is essentially an Abrahamic religion and Muslims and Christians worship the same god. Although I acknowledge the good intentions of these evangelical Christians, good intentions are not adequate to make sound theology.

Our desire to evangelise people should not lead us to define God in a new way that is not compatible with God's self-revelation in the Bible. Otherwise, at best, we will produce our own god which is not the God of the Bible, and invite people to believe in our own lie, instead of the Biblical truth. It is sad that some evangelical proponents of the Abrahamic deception have done exactly this: creating a hybrid of Allah and Yahweh and inviting people to worship this hybrid, because it is the common ground

Our desire to evangelise people should not lead us to define God in a new way that is not compatible with God's self-revelation in the Bible

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for Muslims and Christians, and it does not offend Muslims. On the other hand, this politically correct lie does not save anyone either. Instead it leads people into eternal destruction. In an attempt to legitimise their hybrid god and make him look like the God of the Bible, they have developed the Abraham - Ishmael argument. They would argue that, because Ishmael was Abraham's son, and Abraham's God also blessed Ishmael, and because Muslims are the descendants of Ishmael, Islam then is an Abrahamic religion. They would use the biblical account of Abraham and Ishmael story to reinforce this argument. It is true that Ishmael was Abraham's son and Abraham's God blessed Ishmael (Gen 16). However neither of these facts justifies nor legitimises Islam as an Abrahamic religion. The biological connection between Abraham and Ishmael, and God's blessing for Ishmael does not and cannot condone or certify a religion founded by an Arabian man (Muhammad) in the Arabian Peninsula, 2600 years after Abraham blessed Ishmael.

Firstly, there is no reliable proof that Muhammad was truly a descendant of Ishmael. It is only a claim, without any proof. Neither history nor archaeology provides sound proof for this claim. Instead there are more than enough inconsistencies and historical records to prove that Muhammad's claim of

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Abrahamic genealogy was a false claim, an identity theft. Just like Allah has falsely claimed the identity of Yahweh, so did his prophet Muhammad falsely claim Abraham as his ancestor.

Dr Rafat Amari's (n.d.) analysis of the history of Ishmaelites in comparison to genealogical claims of Islamic historians reveals enormous fabrications and false genealogical claims on the side of Muhammad and his Arabic followers (Dr Amari is a world renown expert on the history of Arabia and the origin and history of Islam.) It appears that the Arab Muslim historian Ibn Ishaq and others after him have created false genealogical records by inserting Arabic names into the Biblical genealogical records to make it look like Arabs and Muhammad descended from Ishmael. It also appears that these false genealogical records were created by Muslim historians only after the rise of Islam, to support the Islamisation of Jews and Christians (Amari n.d.).

Secondly, even if Muhammad was a direct descendant of Ishmael, this would still not make any difference. His assumed biological connection to Ishmael or Abraham, cannot make Islam an Abrahamic religion.

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A biological connection is only a mere biological connection at its best. It is not a seal of approval for spiritual choices. I am a direct descendant of a Muslim family. My father, grandfather and all my relatives are Muslims. My biological connection to these Muslim men and women does not mean that my Christianity is approved by them or by their Allah. Regardless of my biological connection to my Muslim ancestors, I have chosen to put my faith in Jesus. My spiritual choices are my own choices and do not represent the ideas or preferences of my biological ancestors or relatives. It is common sense that my spiritual choices represent only me, and are condoned only by me, automatically, without an expressed statement. In the same

A biological connection is only a mere biological connection at its best.

It is not a seal of approval for spiritual choices.

way, Muhammad's questionable assumed biological connection to Abraham does not and cannot mean that his new religion is condoned by Abraham. Likewise, Muhammad's devotion and service to Allah does not and cannot mean that, his assumed ancestor Abraham also worshipped and served Allah. What sane person can claim that my Muslim father worships Jesus, just because I worship

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Jesus? That would be insanity. My biological father is a Muslim and he worships Allah. That is his choice and his life. On the other hand, I (his direct descendant) worship Jesus. That is my choice and my life, regardless of the opinions and choices of my ancestors.

Therefore, even if Muhammad was a descendant of Abraham, his choices were his own. They do not represent Abraham and they are not condoned by Abraham. To say that Muhammad's new religion Islam and his devotion to Allah is approved and condoned by his assumed ancestor Abraham, who lived and died nearly 2600 years before him, would be to say that my faith in Jesus is condoned by my ancient Muslim ancestors. Well, that would be plainly unintelligent, wouldn't it?

Thus, Islam cannot be an Abrahamic religion, and Allah cannot be Abraham's God, just because someone claims that Muhammad is a descendant of Abraham.

**Islam cannot be an Abrahamic religion,
and Allah cannot be Abraham's God, just
because someone claims that Muhammad
is a descendant of Abraham!**

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The criteria for a truly Abrahamic religion

Firstly, any religion that claims to be Abrahamic has to accept and honour the entire Old Testament, without objecting, rejecting or twisting any portion of it. We consider Judaism and Christianity as Abrahamic religions because they believe in the Old Testament in its entirety, and they are built on God's self revelation and interactions with Abraham and his children as recorded in the Old Testament. Therefore, if Islam wants to be an Abrahamic religion, then Islam has to accept and honour the Old Testament as it is, in its entirety.

However, Islam fails to accept and honour the Old Testament in its entirety. Unlike Judaism and Christianity, Islam is not based on the Bible. Instead it is built on some false genealogical claims and a plagiarised and distorted version of some of the Old Testament teachings scattered in the Qur'an. Therefore, Islam does not meet the first criterion of a genuinely Abrahamic religion.

Secondly, a truly Abrahamic faith would believe in the New Testament because it is the natural and prophesied continuation of the Old Testament. God's special self-revelation

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to Abraham begins in the Old Testament and continues through God's interactions with Abraham's descendants Isaac, Jacob and their children. The Old Testament points the reader to the New Testament via prophecies. Then, a natural and smooth transition takes the reader from the Old to the New Testament. In the New Testament, God confirms what He revealed in the Old Testament, and also continues His special self-revelation through the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as He has promised.

Although Judaism does not accept the New Testament, we still consider it Abrahamic because of the fact that it is the faith of Abraham's biological descendants based on the Old Testament.

At the same time, Christianity is also considered as an Abrahamic faith because it stems from Judaism and

believes in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Islam, however, neither stems from Judaism nor Christianity, nor believes in the Old Testament nor in the New Testament in their entirety. Therefore, it is not possible to consider Islam as a truly Abrahamic religion.

**Islam cannot
be considered
Abrahamic
religion
because of the
fact that it does
not believe in
the Bible.**

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If Islam really wants to be an Abrahamic faith, Islam has to honour and believe in the Old and the New Testaments as God's inerrant Word, without omitting, rejecting and twisting any part of it. As long as Islam, rejects, omits and twists certain portions of the Bible, Islam cannot be a truly Abrahamic faith. At best, it can be an alien religion which is attempting to steal the truth and the glory of the God of Abraham by claiming His identity (i.e. identity theft).

Besides, neither in the Old Testament nor in the New Testament are Ishmael and his descendants chosen and used by God as His instruments of special self-revelation. Instead, God's special self-revelation is reserved *exclusively* to Abraham and his descendants via Isaac and Jacob, the Israelites. Neither Ishmael, nor Muhammad nor any other Arabic name is mentioned anywhere in the Bible among the people through whom God decided to reveal His special self-revelation.

Thirdly, and perhaps, most importantly, if Islam really wants to be an Abrahamic religion, then Islam must cease to exist. All of the Abrahamic revelations of God have been

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compiled, completed and sealed in the Old and the New Testaments. The Abrahamic revelations begin with the book of Genesis in the Old Testament and end with the book of Revelations in the New Testament with a warning and a seal from God himself:

I testify to the one who hears the words of the prophecy contained in this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are described in this book. The one who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!" Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all (Rev 22:18-21, NET).

This means God has revealed all that He wanted to reveal, and sealed His revelation so that no one would be able to omit or twist any of it or add anything extra to it. There are no more new special self-revelations, no more gospels and no more religions to come from God. He has revealed Himself and provided a salvation for all mankind, then closed and sealed His

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self-revelation. This is the end of the Abrahamic self-revelation of God.

Additionally, the apostle Paul also warns Christians about people like Muhammad and their false religions or gospels. In fact, Paul does not only warn Christians, but also strongly curses people like Muhammad who would bring a new gospel or religion:

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be under a divine curse! As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you embraced, let him be under a divine curse
(Gal 1:8-9, BSB).

Clearly, the God of the Bible has said and revealed in the Bible all that He wanted to reveal about Himself, His saving grace and how we can approach Him. He also warned the readers about false prophets and false religions, with the calling of a divine curse on such false prophets.

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These warnings, the seal of closure and the divine curse for the abusers of God's self-revelation do not leave any room for any religion such as Islam to even exist legitimately. Based on what Abraham's God said in the Bible, Islam appears to be an illegitimate religion, in contradiction to the will, words and deeds of the God of Abraham.

So if Islam really wants to be an Abrahamic religion, then Islam has to acknowledge and honour the will, words and the deeds of Abraham's God. In that case, Islam has no grounds, no legitimacy even to exist. The Abrahamic self-revelation of God does not give Islam even permission to exist, never mind condoning it. If the Abrahamic revelation is completed and sealed, then all the prophetic and religious claims of Muhammad are not from the God of the Bible. Perhaps Muhammad is indeed a descendant of Ishmael, the son of Abraham. Nevertheless, this makes no difference. Because, Muhammad founded

Even the emergence of Islam as a religion is an act of contradiction and rebellion against what the God of Abraham said and did.

Therefore, it is impossible for Islam to be an Abrahamic religion.

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a new religion (the religion of Islam), with a new gospel (Qur'an) nearly 600 years after the Bible was completed and sealed by the God of Abraham. Thus, even the emergence of Islam as a religion is an act of contradiction and rebellion against what the God of Abraham said and did. Therefore, it is impossible for Islam to be an Abrahamic religion.

Chapter 4

TRINITARIAN VERSUS UNITARIAN

As all Bible-believing Christians would acknowledge, the God of the Bible is a trinitarian God; meaning that He is one God in three distinct persons, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Although the word 'trinity' is never found in the Bible, the concept of trinity runs throughout both the Old and the New Testaments, making the doctrine of trinity one of the most important doctrines of Christianity. The doctrine of trinity can be defined as follows:

God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God, and there is one God (Grudem 1994:226).

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We consider it to be an important doctrine because it reveals and teaches us about God's nature. A theologian of the 19th century, Augustus H. Strong (1903:549), makes the following observation:

In the nature of the one God there are three eternal distinctions, which are represented to us under the figure of persons, and these three are equal. This tri-personality of the Godhead is exclusively a truth of revelation. It is clearly, though not formally, made known in the New Testament, and intimations of it may be found in the Old.

As Strong points out, our knowledge and faith in the trinitarian nature of God are based solely on God's special self-revelation as recorded in the Bible.

In the Old Testament, the God of the Bible is introduced as consisting of more than one person. Passages such as Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 11:7; Isaiah 6:8 and Psalm 45:6-7 suggest that the God of the Bible is not one person but multiple persons. At the same time, again in the Old Testament, we read that He is one God:

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Hear, Israel: Yahweh is our God; Yahweh is one: and you shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might (Deut 6:4-5, WEB).

So, the Old Testament progressively reveals that the God of the Bible consists of multiple persons in unity, and He is one God.

In the New Testament we are introduced to persons of God's composition. One of the most amazing scenes in the New Testament is the baptism of Jesus Christ, which is recorded in three of the four Gospels (Matt 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). As Grudem (1994:226) observes, in this baptism event we witness all three members of the Trinity being present at the same place, at the same time and performing three different activities:

God the Father is speaking from heaven; God the Son is being baptised and is then spoken to from heaven by God the Father; and God the Holy Spirit is descending from heaven to rest upon and empower Jesus for his ministry.

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Additionally, New Testament passages such as Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14 and Ephesians 4:4-6 confirm the three distinct personalities of God in unity.

Therefore we can safely say that the God of Abraham is one God, eternally existing in three distinct persons (Father, Son and the Holy Spirit). Thus the trinitarian nature of God is an absolute in Abrahamic revelation of God.

If Allah fails to be trinitarian as Yahweh is, then Allah cannot be the God of the Bible.

Based on this absolute fact (unchanging and timeless truth) we can also safely reason that, if Islam were to worship the same God as Christianity, then the god of Islam has to be one God in three persons, just like the God of Christianity. If Allah fails to be trinitarian as Yahweh is, then Allah cannot be the same as Yahweh. If Allah is not one God in three persons (Father, Son and the Holy Spirit), then the word 'Allah' is not the Arabic name of Abraham's God, as some have been claiming.

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Let us now examine the formative teachings of Islam to see if Allah is trinitarian like Yahweh. Firstly, in the Qur'an, Allah claims that he is one god:

And your Allah is One Allah: There is no god but He, Most Gracious, Most Merciful (Qur'an 2:163, Yusuf Ali).

This claim is very similar to how Yahweh introduces Himself in the book of Deuteronomy:

Hear, O Israel: Jehovah our God, Jehovah is one

(Deut 6:4, VW).

So far there seems to be no problem. However a major inconsistency emerges when Allah strongly denies having any association with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit in the form of a trinity:

O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians)! Do not exceed the limits in your religion, nor say of Allah aught but the truth. The Messiah 'Iesa (Jesus), son of Maryam

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(Mary), was (no more than) a Messenger of Allah and His Word, ('Be!' - and he was) which He bestowed on Maryam (Mary) and a spirit (Ruh) created by Him; so believe in Allah and His Messengers. Say not: 'Three (trinity)!' Cease! (it is) better for you. For Allah is (the only) One Ilah (God), Glory be to Him (Far Exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. And Allah is All Sufficient as a Disposer of affairs

(Qur'an 4:171, Mohsin Khan).

This passage is understood by Muslims as Allah's rejection of Biblical trinity as well as the deity of Christ and the Holy Spirit. Even in the light of this Qur'anic verse Muslims would claim that their Allah is one and the same as the God of the Bible. At the same time, they would reject the deity of Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the trinitarian nature of God. It looks as if they attempt to rename and redefine the God of the Bible based on the teachings of Islam. In this process of renaming and redefining God, they give him a new name (Allah), reject His trinitarian nature and deny the deity of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Of course, all these claims and rejections are made based on the words of Allah in the Qur'an. On the one hand, Allah claims deity for himself

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alone. On the other hand, he vehemently rejects the Holy Trinity as a blasphemy against himself.

They do blaspheme who say: Allah is one of three in a Trinity: for there is no god except One Allah. If they desist not from their word (of blasphemy), verily a grievous penalty will befall the blasphemers among them

(Qur'an 5:73, Yusuf Ali).

After having claimed the throne of God for Himself and rejected the Holy Trinity, Allah speaks about severely punishing those who would still continue to believe in the Holy Trinity or associate Allah with the Holy Trinity. In the Islamic doctrine the name of this great blasphemous sin is 'shirk'. Islamic preacher and author Dr Abu Ameenah Bilal Philips defines 'shirk' as follows:

Shirk literally means partnership, sharing or associating, but Islamically it refers to the act of assigning partners to Allah in whatever form it may take (2005:43).

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According to Qur'an the act of shirk or associating Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit with Allah would be the most heinous and most unforgivable sin, as seen in this verse of the Qur'an:

Surely Allah does not forgive that anything should be associated with Him, and forgives what is besides that to whomsoever He pleases; and whoever associates anything with Allah, he devises indeed a great sin

(Qur'an 4:48, Shakir).

Conclusion

Yahweh is a trinitarian God: one God eternally existing in three persons. The Bible (both the Old and the New Testaments) progressively reveals the trinitarian nature of Yahweh. He is one God in three persons: Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

In contrast, Allah is a self-proclaimed unitarian. He came into the world arena 600 years after the Bible was completed and began claiming to be God. He claimed that he is one god, he also claimed that he is the God of Abraham and the God of the Bible. However, while he claimed the throne of God for himself, he rejected the trinitarian nature of God as an unforgivable blasphemous sin against himself. It seems as though Allah wants to be known and worshipped as the God of the Bible, but he does not want to be associated with the God of the Bible. In the light of this major inconsistency and Allah's opposition and dislike of

Allah wants to be known and worshipped as the God of the Bible, but he does not want to be associated with the God of the Bible.

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the Holy Trinity, how can we conclude that Allah and Yahweh is one and the same deity?

Based on the above analysis, the only reasonable conclusion we can reach is that Allah is not the God of the Bible. If he was the God of the Bible, he would be part of the Holy Trinity and he would be proud of it. Instead, Allah's strong hatred shown towards the Holy Trinity makes me wonder who Allah really is, and why is he filled with this hatred.

Chapter 5

RELATION TO JESUS

The God of the Bible introduces Jesus Christ as His beloved Son, in whom He is well pleased (Matt 3:17; Mark 9:7). Yahweh speaks about Jesus as a proud Father who takes great delight in his son. For God, Jesus is not just another person, prophet or servant, but His beloved Son to whom he gives dominion over all things. In the same way, for Jesus Yahweh is not a slave master, boss or a distant ruler, but His beloved Father whom he loves, obeys and honours. This perfect Father-Son relationship is the reason why Jesus could say things such as:

The Father and I are one (John 10:30, OEBcw).

He who has seen me has seen the Father (John 14:9, BBE).

But I am doing what the Father has commanded me to let the world know that I love the Father (John 16:31, ISV).

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Just as the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. So abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love (John 15:9-10, ISV).

Jesus' favourite term used to address God was 'Father', using it sixty-five times in the synoptic Gospels and more than hundred times in the Gospel of John (Stein 1997). This shows us how Jesus is proud of His Father. The words and actions of Jesus also show that Jesus not only respected and honoured His Father, but also loved Him dearly. In the New Testament, it becomes obvious that the Father-Son relationship between Yahweh and Jesus is saturated with a mutual love and the unconditional and self-sacrificial submission of Jesus. The best and the ultimate display of Jesus' love for His Father can be seen in His submission to His Father even at the point of death on the cross.

O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as you will. (Matt 26:39, UKJV).

Relation to Jesus

Father God sent His beloved Son Jesus to die on the cross to pay the penalty of the sins of the entire humankind. In other words, God sent His Son on a mission where His Son would lay down His own life so that the Father's will might be fulfilled. The Father's will is that no one, no man or woman should perish but all shall be saved from the penalty of their sins and live an eternal life.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16, ESV).

Father God sent His Son Jesus to die to save humanity. Jesus did not disobey, but willingly submitted to the will of His Father. So the salvation of mankind became possible because of the perfect and love-saturated Father-Son relationship between Yahweh and His Son Jesus. Naturally, Jesus' love and submission to His Father has both pleased and also honoured the Father. Therefore, it is not strange that God gave Jesus dominion over all things and seated Him on His right hand (Eph 1:20-22; 1 Pet 3:22).

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Jesus Christ, as the beloved Son of the God of the Bible, is the most significant aspect of who God is. As I said earlier, God reveals Himself personally in the Bible and unfolds His salvation plan for humanity. As part of this self-revelation, God also reveals His Son Jesus, and shows us how Jesus made our salvation possible by obeying His Father. At the same time, we notice the pride and joy in God's words as He introduces Jesus. For God, Jesus is not a mere Son, but He is God's *beloved Son* and the King of His kingdom.

Allah's rejection of Jesus as Son

Now let's consider the god of Islam. If Allah was one and the same person as Yahweh, then Allah would have the same feelings, same relationship with and the same delight in Jesus. If Allah was truly the God of the Bible, Allah would rejoice over Jesus and be proud of Jesus as His Father. If Allah was truly the God of Abraham, then his words and deeds would reflect his love, trust and delight in Jesus as his son.

However, while Allah claims to be the God of the Bible and God Abraham, he vehemently rejects being the Father of Jesus and rejects Jesus as his son, or as his associate. At the same

Relation to Jesus

time, Allah reduces Jesus to a mere ordinary servant or messenger.

It befits not (the Majesty of) Allah that He should beget a son [this refers to the slander of Christians against Allah, by saying that 'Iesa (Jesus) is the son of Allah]...

(Qur'an 19:35, Mohsin Khan).

Jesus was a servant of Ours to whom We had granted favors and whom We made as an example for the Israelites

(Qur'an 43:59, Muhammad Sarwar).

Christ the son of Mary was no more than a messenger; many were the messengers that passed away before him...

(Qur'an 5:75, Yusuf Ali).

Furthermore, Allah is not satisfied only by rejecting Jesus as his son, but he even goes as far as cursing anyone who may say Jesus is Allah's son.

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and the Christians say: Messiah is the son of Allah. That is a saying from their mouths. They imitate the saying of the disbelievers of old. Allah's Curse be on them, how they are deluded away from the truth! (Qur'an 9:30, Mohsin Khan).

These and other similar passages from the Qur'an form the basis of Islamic doctrine on why Jesus is not Allah's son, and why Allah is not Jesus' Father. Therefore, Muslim scholars and religious teachers would argue tirelessly to strip away Jesus' divinity and reduce Him to the level of a mere servant.

Yahweh loves and embraces Jesus as His beloved Son.

Allah rejects, despises and reduces Him to the level of an ordinary servant.

Besides the fact that Allah denies Jesus as his son while Yahweh proudly embraces Him, we also see an intense hatred and rejection towards Jesus in the words of Allah. However, in the words of Yahweh, the joy, delight and pride of the Father towards Jesus is clearly reflected. Thus we can safely conclude that while Yahweh loves and embraces Jesus as His beloved Son, Allah rejects, despises and reduces Him to the level of an ordinary servant.

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Obviously, Allah's rejection and humiliation of Jesus is rooted in intense hatred and jealousy. In contrast, Yahweh's attitude towards Jesus is driven by love and delight.

How inconsistent is it that Allah claims to be the God of the Bible but at the same time hates and despises the Son of the God of the Bible. In the light of this major inconsistency, it is not possible to accept Allah's claim to God's throne. Instead, we are led to think that if Allah hates and despises God's Son, Jesus so intensely - forget about being God himself - he is most probably God's arch enemy!

How inconsistent is it that Allah claims to be the God of the Bible but at the same time hates and despises the Son of the God of the Bible.

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Death and resurrection of Jesus

Analysing the death and resurrection of Jesus and Allah's reaction to them will help us further in accurately assessing if Allah is the God of the Bible, or an identity thief. For Bible-believing Christians, the death and resurrection of Jesus is the most significant event in the entire human history. It is significant because by dying on the cross Jesus (1) honoured His Father by submitting to His Father's will; (2) paid the penalty for the sins of all mankind, and by doing so; (3) He opened the door for the reconciliation of mankind with their Creator. Because of the fact that Jesus died on the cross as our substitute, any man or woman can now be reconciled to God by accepting Jesus as their sin sacrifice. If Jesus had never died in our place, none of us would be saved. His death brought eternal life to humanity. If Jesus had never died on that cross, neither our world would be the same, nor would any one of us be who he is and where he is. The death and resurrection of Jesus not only changed the lives of those who believe in Him, but has brought about major positive transformation in global politics, economics, education, health care, relationships between people, as well as the eternal life and restoration for those who believe.

Lastly, if Jesus had never died, He would have never risen from the dead. If He had never risen from the dead, then our faith

Relation to Jesus

would be as meaningless as any other false religion. As the apostle Paul wrote;

and, if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is without meaning, and our faith without meaning also!

(1 Cor 15:14, OEBcw)

His death on the cross set the scene for His great victory. In obedience to Father God and in utter humility, He died, and in glory and honour Father God raised Him from the dead. He died in submission for the salvation of the sinners, He rose victoriously as the King of Kings. Thus the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the most significant events in human history with very far-reaching, direct implications for the believers and also the unbelievers. Even those who reject and curse Jesus are still blessed by His death and resurrection. It is because they live in a world which has been transformed, and is still enjoying the many great blessings of His death and resurrection.

The Bible, being God's inerrant word, provides for us the most accurate, detailed and reliable account of Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection on the third day:

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**Jesus died
for the
salvation of
the sinners**

then

**He rose
victoriously
as the King
of kings.**

Pilate hands Jesus over to be crucified as Jews demanded (Matt 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:13-25; John 18:38-19:16). Jesus is crucified and died on the cross (Matt 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-37). The dead body of Jesus is laid into a tomb (Matt 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42). Jesus rises from the dead and appears to people (Matt 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-43; John 20:1-21:25).

The life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are of such great importance for God and for humanity that they have been recorded in great detail in the four Gospels by four different authors. Thus, these Gospels are the most reliable, the most accurate and the most important records of how Jesus lived, died and rose from the dead.

However, the Gospels and the other Biblical references are not the only acceptable records of Jesus' death and resurrection. In addition to the Biblical records, these major events were captured in the writings of ancient historians, government officials and non-Christian religious records. The

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historians Cornelius Tacitus (AD 55-120), Flavius Josephus (AD 37-97), Thallus and Julius Africanus have written about Jesus, His death on the cross and the Christian belief in His resurrection (Habermans 1996:187-197). The writings of these historians provide independent, non-Christian confirmation that Jesus Christ was crucified and killed.

Furthermore, Jesus' crucifixion and the death on the cross is confirmed also in the Talmud (Habermans 1996:203). In addition to all that, there are also archaeological discoveries which are in support of the Biblical account of crucifixion and burial of Jesus Christ (Evans 2012).

Thus the death of Jesus Christ on the cross is a fact that has been recorded in the Bible, confirmed by extra-biblical historical texts, and has radically transformed the way in which people think, live and interact with one another and with God for the last 2000 years. Therefore, we can confidently conclude that Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection on the third day are not only religious claims from the Bible, but historical facts.

Now let us look at what Allah has to say about this most significant event of human history. Allah and his religion Islam

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broadly teach that Jesus never died, thus never rose from the dead.

Allah not only denies the Biblical account of how Jesus died but he also rejects the historically and archaeologically proven fact of the most significant event of human history.

And [for] their saying, 'Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah.' And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but [another] was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain. Rather, Allah raised him to Himself. And ever is Allah Exalted in Might and Wise (Qur'an 4:157-158, Sahih International).

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Allah not only denies the Biblical account of how Jesus died but he also rejects the historically and archaeologically proven fact of the most significant event of human history.

This denial of Allah does not only jeopardise his false claim to God's throne, but also reveals that he is either ignorant, knowing nothing about Yahweh's interactions with people, or he is an intentional liar aiming to deceive nations with a daring lie. In either case, his denial proves that he is not the God of the Bible.

Allah's rejection of Jesus' death and resurrection is exactly opposite to Yahweh's reaction. While Yahweh rejoices over Jesus' self-sacrificial death on the cross and the victorious resurrection, Allah despises it and denies that such events even took place. When Jesus willingly offered Himself, in obedience to Father-God, as a sin sacrifice and rose from the dead on the third day, Yahweh responded by seating Him on His right hand and giving Him the dominion over all things (Eph 1:17-23).

If Allah's reaction to Jesus' death is not exactly the same as that of Yahweh, then Allah is not the same person as Yahweh!

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The implications of Allah's denial of Jesus' death and resurrection

Allah's denial of Jesus' death and resurrection have far-reaching, destructive implications for those who believe Allah and even for the rest of the world which is influenced by the believers of Allah. When Allah proclaims that Jesus did not die on the cross, he basically communicates the following message:

- 1) Jesus Christ is not your saviour, because He did not die for you. He did not die at all. So do not fool yourselves by believing that He died for your sins.

- 2) Jesus Christ did not obey and honour His Father by laying down his life for the sinners. Thus Jesus Christ is not so special and honourable. So do not offer your praises to Jesus and His Father.

- 3) Father-God of the Bible did not send Jesus to die for you. Even if He did send Jesus to die for you, it did not happen because Jesus did not die at all. So do not think of Jesus or His Father as someone who cares for you.

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- 4) If Jesus never died, then Jesus never rose. Thus Jesus is not victorious over death. Therefore, what reigns over you is not Jesus, but death.
- 5) You are still sinners and still condemned to the death penalty, because no one, not even Jesus paid the penalty of your sins. So you should know that you are not saved and you are not free.
- 6) There is no hope and no bright future for you because you are not saved, nor rescued, nor purchased from your bondage to your sin and Satan.
- 7) You are not reconciled to God because Jesus did not die for you and did not reconcile you to God. Thus, for you, God is far away and unapproachable. If you want to reach God, know that, I, Allah is your god (not Jesus) and you should just do what I command and forget about all the Jesus stories they tell you.
- 8) Jesus did not die. So whoever claims that Jesus died is a liar. Do not believe them and do not allow them to promote their lies.

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- 9) Those who believe that Jesus died on the cross are deceived and doomed for destruction.

- 10) You should guard yourselves against these liars and their lies.

None of the implications of Allah's claim are in accordance with the message of the Bible. Instead, Allah's claim and all of its implications are the direct opposite of what the God of the Bible says regarding the death and resurrection of Christ and the salvation of mankind. Inevitably, these implications are exactly what Muslims believe and do. The belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus is seen as a disgusting lie by Muslims who are deceived by Allah.

Chapter 6

LOVING FATHER VERSUS FEARFUL RULER

Perhaps the most striking characteristic of the God of the Bible is that He is the loving and caring Father who desires an intimate relationship with His children.

The concept of the fatherhood of God runs throughout the entire Bible and it is the most important aspect of who God is. Although His fatherly love and care for His people is evident in the Old Testament, His fatherhood becomes much more obvious in the New Testament. Especially, His relationship with Jesus Christ clearly displays what a wonderful father Yahweh is. As we discussed in the second chapter, God is the Father of Jesus, Jesus is the beloved Son of God. While God introduces Jesus proudly as His *'beloved Son'* Jesus repeatedly refers to God

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as His Father. However, God's Fatherhood is not limited to Jesus alone. Since we have discussed the Father – Son relationship of God and Jesus in the previous chapter, I do not want to repeat myself here. Instead, in this chapter, I would like to concentrate on the fatherhood of God that is extended to God's people.

Yahweh as a father in the Old Testament

In the Old Testament, God is the Father of the nation of Israel (Deut 1:31; 14:1; Isa 63:16; 64:8). Perhaps, God's loving, caring and gently-leading fatherhood towards the nation of Israel is revealed best in God's own words in Hosea 11:1-4.

When Israel was a young child I loved him, and from Egypt I called my son. The more I called out to them, the farther they fled from me; they sacrificed to Baals, burning incense to carved images. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, supporting them by their arms, but they never knew that I was healing them. I guided them with human kindness, with loving reins. I acted toward them like one who removes a yoke from their neck; I bent down and fed them (ISV).

Loving Father versus Fearful Ruler

Thus, the Old Testament introduces us to an affectionate and caring God who has been the Heavenly Father of the nation of Israel since her very beginning in the days of Abraham. Yahweh has never been a distant ruler, but has always been a loving, and nurturing Father who is very interested and involved in the lives of His people. The following verses are yet more proof of God's fatherhood for His people:

You must say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, Israel is my son, my firstborn, and I said to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me," but since you have refused to let him go, I will surely kill your son, your firstborn!' (Exod 4:22-23, NET).

'Is not Ephraim my dear son, the child in whom I delight? Though I often speak against him, I still remember him. Therefore my heart yearns for him; I have great compassion for him,' declares the LORD (Jer 31:20, NIV).

These and other similar words and accompanying actions of Yahweh show us that He truly loves and cares for the Jewish people. The depth and quality of His fatherhood far exceeds the words and actions of all earthly fathers. There is no doubt that God in the Old Testament is a very affectionate, concerned and

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involved Father, and not a distant, uninvolved and despotic ruler.

Yahweh as a father in the New Testament

After I observed the affectionate fatherhood of God in the Old Testament towards Jewish people, as a Gentile I could not help but envy them and wish that I also had such a father. I wished that I could also be counted as a child of the God of the universe. I wished that I could also be loved, cared for and guided by God as His child. Furthermore, I am sure that this would be not only my yearning, but the yearning of many Gentiles throughout generations and across the world today. As a Gentile, under the dispensation of the Old Testament, I would probably never have received the honour and privilege of becoming God's child.

However, in the New Testament, an amazing thing happens. Jesus Christ opens the doors of God's house to all people. Regardless of their nationality, gender, age, culture and colour, any person from anywhere can now become a child of God by believing in Jesus (John 1:12; 1 John 5:1). In essence, Jesus did not establish a new Hebraic religion for us, the Gentiles.

Loving Father versus Fearful Ruler

Instead, He opened the doors of His Father's house, so that we might enter in and be adopted as children of God. As the apostle Paul writes, Yahweh sent Jesus to redeem us so that we might receive God's adoption as His sons and daughters, receive His Spirit into our hearts and be treated by God as His children, not as slaves (Gal 4:4-8).

The extension of God's fatherhood to non-Jewish people and their adoption into God's family is the most important, but often neglected, aspect of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To put it in other words, the main concern of the mission and Gospel of Jesus Christ is not that people should observe various religious ordinances and secure their place in some kind of paradise or heaven. His mission and Gospel have one single major objective: people should be adopted as God's sons and daughters into God's Kingdom. Therefore, a genuine father-son relationship between the believer and God is non-negotiable in the New Testament. Believers of Jesus Christ are God's adopted children and they naturally refer to God as their 'Father', as seen in Jesus' teachings (Matt 5:45, 48; 6:4,6,8-9,14-15,18,26,32; 7:11).

I am grateful to Jesus for dying on the cross for me so that as a Gentile, I may also be accepted into God's family. Therefore,

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I can now approach God and call Him 'Abba, Father' just as Jesus did (Mark 14:36). I think one of the best explanations of the adoption process of Gentiles into God's family is found in Ephesians 2:11-19:

Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called 'uncircumcised heathens' by the Jews... In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were

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near. Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us. So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. (NLT),

Therefore, those who believe in and follow Jesus Christ are no longer strangers nor slaves, but God's sons and daughters, who are loved by God. Love is the most important characteristic of God's Kingdom as clearly displayed in 1 Corinthians 13. Furthermore, Yahweh Himself is

**Yahweh's
expectation from
His children is love
and not slavery nor
servitude resulting
from oppression.**

love (1 John 4:7-21). His dealings with His people are driven by His fatherly love and care for them (2 Cor 6:18; 1 John 3:1). In the same fashion, Yahweh's expectation from His children is love and not slavery or servitude resulting from oppression. Firstly, they shall love their Father God with all their heart, with all their soul, and with all their mind (Matt 22:36). Secondly, they shall love other people as they love themselves (Matt 22:39). Yahweh expects that all the actions, activities, devotion and worship of His children should be driven by their love for God and for people. Therefore, with a great level of confidence we can say

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that Yahweh is a loving and caring Father for His people. Fatherhood is one of the most prominent aspects of who He is. It is so much so that we cannot even imagine Him otherwise. At the same time we can say that those who are adopted by this loving God of the Bible are truly blessed. They are not called or treated as slaves or second class citizens in the Kingdom, but they are called and treated as the very children of God.

They are not seen as dispensable worthless labourers and fighters, but valued as sons and daughters. How blessed are those that are adopted by Yahweh!

Allah, not a father but a despotic ruler

According to Islamic doctrine Allah has 99 names and these names reveal the characteristics of Allah. Names such as 'Al Muntaqim (the avenger)' (Qur'an 32:22, 43:41, 44:16), 'Al Qawee (the strong)' (Qur'an 22:40, 22:74, 42:19, 57:25) and 'Al Hadi (the guide)' (Qur'an 25:31) reflect who Allah is. Shockingly, one of the well known names and characteristics of Allah is that he is the *chief of all deceivers*, (Qur'an 3:54; 7:99; 8:30). Although the root word 'makr' is translated as 'planner' or 'schemer' in most of the English versions of the Qur'an which are made available to non-

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Muslim readers such as us, in essence these passages of the Qur'an reveal that Allah is the most deceptive deceiver (Katz n.d.).

However, none of the names or characteristics of Allah is 'father'. No word, no statement and no teaching in the Qur'an and other Islamic texts points to Allah as father. No teaching in Islamic doctrine encourages Muslims to develop an intimate father-child relationship with Allah. Therefore, no true Muslim can call Allah 'Abba, Father'. Allah is not father. He is not the father of Jesus, nor the father of Christians and Jews nor the father of Muslims. Fatherhood is not one of his characteristics.

Here are some Qur'anic verses directly rejecting any notion of fatherhood of Allah.

It is not [befitting] for Allah to take a son; ... (19:35, Sahih International).

But the Jews and the Christians say, 'We are the children of Allah and His beloved.' Say, 'Then why does He punish you for your sins?' Rather, you are human beings from among those He has created...

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(5:18, *Sahih International*).

Allah has not taken any son, nor has there ever been with Him any deity... (23:91, Sahih International).

Allah is not father.

He is not the father of Jesus, nor the father of Christians and Jews nor the father of Muslims.

Fatherhood is not one of his characteristics.

And they (Jews, Christians and pagans) say: Allah has begotten a son (children or offspring). Glory be to Him (Exalted be He above all that they associate with Him). Nay, to Him belongs all that is in the heavens and on earth, and all surrender with obedience (in worship) to Him (2:116, Mohsin Khan).

Allah denies being father, Muslims reject the idea of Allah being father and the Qur'an rejects the association of any notion of fatherhood with Allah. Therefore, based on the very own words and claims of Allah, the Qur'an and Muslims, we conclude that Allah is not a father.

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Furthermore, Islamic doctrine teaches that Allah is a master and people are his slaves who should serve him and relate to him in a master-slave relationship. Here are only some of the Qur'anic verses that teach and support this master-slave concept of Islam as opposed to the Father-child relationship in the Bible.

There is none in the heavens and the earth but cometh unto the Beneficent as a slave (19:93, Pickthall).

Say (O Muhammad SAW): 'O My slaves who believe (in the Oneness of Allah Islamic Monotheism), be afraid of your Lord (Allah) and keep your duty to Him (39:10, Mohsin Khan).

Islamic doctrine teaches that Allah is a master and people are his slaves who should serve him and relate to him in a master-slave relationship.

Say: O My slaves who have been prodigal to their own hurt! Despair not of the mercy of Allah, Who forgiveth all sins. Lo! He is the Forgiving, the Merciful. Turn unto your

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Lord repentant, and surrender unto Him, before there come unto you the doom, when ye cannot be helped.

(39:53-54, Pickthall).

Furthermore, Allah claims that even Jesus Christ and the angels of heaven are his slaves.

The Messiah will never be proud to reject to be a slave to Allah, nor the angels who are near (to Allah)

(4:172, Mohsin Khan)

He [’Iesa (Jesus)] said: Verily! I am a slave of Allah, He has given me the Scripture and made me a Prophet;

(19:30, Mohsin Khan).

Because of these and many other similar verses in the Qur’an and the other Islamic texts (i.e. hadiths), it is a common belief in Islam that all Muslims are slaves of Allah. Therefore, Muslims see Allah as their master and not their loving father.

Loving Father versus Fearful Ruler

Conclusion

Yahweh has always been and will always be a loving, caring and gently guiding Father for His people (Jews and Christians). In the Old Testament, He is seen as the Father of the nation of Israel as He redeemed them and led them through the desert and waters into the promised land. In the New Testament, He becomes the Father even of Gentiles who believe in Christ. The death on the cross and the resurrection of Jesus Christ made it possible for all people to become children of God. Most importantly, Yahweh is the Father of Jesus Christ.

Loving fatherhood is the most important characteristic of Yahweh, which gives birth to His other characteristics such as redeemer, sustainer and life-giver. Because He is a loving Father, He loves, cares, redeems and gives life. His fatherhood is so much of who He is that we cannot even imagine him otherwise.

However, on the other hand, Allah is exactly the opposite. He rejects any notion of fatherhood. Even those that are most faithful to him cannot approach him as a child approaches a father. Instead, Allah calls and treats his people as

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his slaves. Therefore, no one is allowed to approach him and call him 'Abba, Father'.

While Yahweh is a loving Father, Allah is not a father but a slave master.

In the light of this major difference, how can we ever believe the Islamic claim that Allah is the same person as Yahweh?

If Allah was truly one and the same person as Yahweh, he would at least have the same father-heart towards Yahweh's people (Jesus Christ, Jews and Christians). Since Allah does not have a father-heart, but is a self-proclaimed slave master, it is not possible to consider him as the true God of the Bible.

If Allah is not the true God of the Bible, who is he? The answer is found again in Allah's own words. He introduces himself as the chief of all deceivers as seen in Qur'an 3:54; 7:99; 8:30. Although he is not a father of people, it seems that he is the 'father of lies and deceptions'

Interestingly, in the Bible there is a definition that matches this self-proclamation of Allah.

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... He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44, NLT).

Chapter 7

FREEDOM GIVER VERSUS OPPRESSOR

The God of the Bible created people free, and wanted them to think, reason and act freely, without fear of oppression. Freedom is neither an invention nor an achievement of mankind. Instead, it is Yahweh's design and desire for people of all races, ages and languages all over the world. From the very beginning, since the days of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden freedom has always been a natural component of how God created people and how God interacted with them. God created man and woman in His own image with a free will to think, to reason, to question and to make choices (Gen 1:26-27). From the beginning, God never restricted their freedom, but always gave them room to exercise their free will. At the same time God encouraged people's freedom by informing them concerning the possible consequences of their choices. We may choose to do anything we

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like, as long as we are prepared to face the consequences of our choices. Freedom comes with responsibility. God designed our freedom in such a way that those of us who inform themselves properly, reason and choose wisely, will enjoy positive consequences of their choices. However, those of us who remain uninformed and choose poorly will suffer negative consequences of our ill-informed choices. Based on this principle, Jesus could say:

*Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free
(John 8:32, KJV).*

Freedom and responsibility are among the most precious gifts God gave to mankind. In accordance with this natural make-up, God always treated people as free beings. A careful analysis of Yahweh's interactions with people clearly shows that He respects their freedom and expects them to freely reason and freely choose. The first proof of this is Adam and Eve's freedom to eat from whichever tree they chose. Although God told them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and warned them concerning the consequences of doing so, they still had the God-given freedom to obey or disobey God (Gen 2:17). Eventually, they chose to disobey God (Gen 3:6). This event shows us that although Yahweh tells us what to do and how to

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live, He never forces us to do His will but rather allows us to make our own decisions. The Bible is full of instances where God allows people to exercise their freedom and choose for themselves. Here are only a few of them:

I call heaven and earth to testify against you today! I've set life and death before you today: both blessings and curses. Choose life, that it may be well with you — you and your children. Love the Lord your God, obey his voice, and cling to him, because he is your life — even your long life — so that you may live in the land that the Lord promised to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

(Deut 30:19-20, ISV).

But if it doesn't please you to worship Yahweh, choose for yourselves today the one you will worship: the gods your fathers worshiped beyond the Euphrates River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living. As for me and my family, we will worship Yahweh

(Josh 24:15, HCSB).

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Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me (Rev 3:20, ESV).

Yahweh's respect for the freedom of mankind is so strong and so deeply rooted in His character that He is never found guilty of violating or restricting their freedom. Although He desires that man shall believe Him and follow His guidance, He never forces His ideas and ways on to anyone. Even when the people He created choose to worship Satan and curse God, Yahweh still does not restrict their freedom.

People, using their God-given freedom, may choose to honour and worship Yahweh or they may reject Him and go on their own way. They are free, absolutely free. In fact, if Yahweh did not allow people to choose against His will or even to reject Him, it would not be genuine freedom, it would only be a polished version of oppression. The genuine freedom that Yahweh gives enables people to even do things that are not condoned by Him. If we use our freedom wisely and follow Yahweh's advice, we will have a good and satisfying life as depicted in Psalm 1:1-3. However, if we use our freedom unwisely and reject God and His guidance, we will perish as depicted in Psalm 1:4-6. We have the God-given freedom to

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chose and do whatever we like. We can choose life or we can choose death. We can choose honour and glory or we can choose misery and ugliness. The choice is ours and Yahweh neither violates nor restricts our freedom. This concept of freedom for mankind is so important for Yahweh that He sent His Son Jesus Christ to save the captives from slavery and bless them with freedom, the God-given freedom. Thus, Jesus could say:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and the regaining of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed,' (Luke 4:18, NET).

God created mankind free, and He wanted them to live freely, thinking, reasoning, questioning, evaluating and choosing for themselves without any oppression. Any form of terror, oppression and violation of freedom does not come from Yahweh, but comes from Satan, who hates Yahweh and people.

A recent example of God's desire for the freedom of humanity is seen in the testimony and hard work of two Christian men: John Newton (1725 - 1807) and William Wilberforce (1759 – 1833) of the British Empire. These two Christian men (one, a former slave trader, the latter, a member of

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parliament of the United Kingdom) used all their abilities, might and influence to abolish the slave trade and slavery. They believed that the God of the Bible created men free and so shall men be free. John Newton, the former slave trader, became a pastor and the writer of the famous hymn '*Amazing Grace*' and mentored and supported William Wilberforce in his fight against slavery in the British Parliament. In 1788, John Newton wrote and published his well-known book '*Thoughts upon the African slave trade*' to expose the ills and evils of the slave trade practice. Eventually, after many years of hard work, on 25 March 1807, the Parliament of the United Kingdom abolished the slave trade throughout the British Empire. Eight months later John Newton died on 21 December 1807, knowing that the slave trade was no more (UK Parliament) (Johnnewton.org). After his death, his good friend William Wilberforce continued to fight against slavery and the oppression of people. Finally, on 26 July 1833, the Slavery Abolition Act was passed by the House of Commons. Three days later Wilberforce died, knowing that slavery was abolished and people were once again free, as God created them (Britannica entry on William Wilberforce).

The God of the Bible is the God of freedom. Consequently, He used these two men and many others to abolish slavery and set people free. Freedom, absolute freedom,

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has always been Yahweh's design and desire for mankind. Whenever people fell victim to various forms of slavery and oppression, Yahweh came to their rescue, as we see in the story of William Wilberforce and John Newton.

Now let's examine Allah. If Allah is one and same person as Yahweh, then he too would hate slavery and want freedom for people. If he was the God of the Bible, he then would never violate nor restrict the freedom of people, but rather respect and protect it.

However, a careful study of Allah's words and actions shows that he does not like the concept of freedom at all. He does not respect the God-given freedom of mankind. His religion is built on the idea and practice of denying people's freedom and forcibly making people subjects of himself and his prophet Muhammad.

As opposed to the concept of freedom in the Bible being one of the foundational privileges Yahweh gave to mankind, Islam is built on the foundational principles of the denial of all freedom and an indisputable submission to Muhammad.

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Any Islamic scholar would suggest that the very word 'Islam' means submission. Nowadays, some Western Muslims (in an attempt to justify and glorify their religion in the West) would suggest that Islam means submission to Allah's will. However, this is not true. This is only a twisted and polished version of an ugly truth that they attempt to hide or ignore. In the days of Muhammad, the word 'islam' was used to refer to those who were subjugated to the lordship of Muhammad and his Allah through wars, invasions and slavery. Many war victims of Muslim armies agreed to become Muhammad's subjects and slaves rather than be killed by his companions. Muhammad wrote his own *'gospel to fit his own needs. Then by enforcing his "Mission" by the sword converted the masses into submission through fear'* (McKinney 2007:25). These masses who became Muhammad's subjects were called the *'dar-al Islam'* meaning *'the house of submission'*. The rest of the world that was not yet conquered by Islamic armies, and did not yet submit to Muhammad and his Allah was called *'dar-al harb'*, meaning *'the house of war'*. At the same time, Muhammad and Allah instructed the *'dar-al Islam'* to wage war against the *'dar-al harb'* until all the nations are conquered and all the people are made subjects of Allah and Muhammad. This global war effort of Islam is known as *'jihad'*. Jihad is the duty and responsibility of every person in the house of Islam. In other words, Allah instructs and forces

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Muslims collectively and individually to wage war against each and every other human on earth until they are either killed or made slaves of Allah. Such practices are not the sporadic actions of a few Muslim lunatics, but they are theologically grounded and culturally cherished practices of the followers of Muhammad throughout the centuries.

Historian Bat Ye'or's well-researched book '*The decline of eastern Christianity under Islam*' (1996) provides a mass of chilling evidence on how Christian nations and peoples from North Africa to the Middle East and into Bulgaria and Greece were systematically and brutally invaded, plundered, enslaved and subjugated to Muhammad and Allah over many centuries. This global Islamic war, killing, kidnapping and selling/buying non-Muslims as slaves has never died, but only escalated since the days of Muhammad. So much so that, today, perhaps more than ever before, the house of Islam is single-mindedly focused on infiltrating, terrorising, plundering and eventually Islamising (bringing into submission to Muhammad) the rest of the world.

True to Allah's oppressive nature, even the worshippers of Allah, the Muslim people themselves do not have any form of genuine freedom. As any Muslim would testify, Muslim people are not free to leave Islam. They are not free to disbelieve and

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disobey Allah. They are not free to question or disagree with what Muhammad said or did. Leaving Islam and converting to Christianity or Judaism is punishable by death in most of the Islamic countries. At best, the apostates are persecuted and rejected by their immediate family and friends. Muslim women in most of the Muslim countries are not free to dress the way they choose. Muslim men are not free to be the man they would like to be. Almost every detail of their lives is dictated to them by the decrees of Allah and Muhammad. Muslims are not free to think, reason or choose for themselves.

Some Muslim apologists may argue by quoting the following verse from the Qur'an: *'There is no compulsion in religion'* (2:256). In fact, the Islamic practice of quoting this verse, in an attempt to whitewash and conceal the oppressive nature of Allah and Muhammad, has been very popular among Muslims in the West. Is it really true? Is there really no compulsion in accepting or rejecting Islam? Are people truly free to reject the claims of Muhammad and refuse to worship Allah? Throughout the history of Islam, since the days of Muhammad, in every country that was conquered and ruled by Muslims, the answer to these questions has been a resounding 'NO', again and again. People who did not submit themselves to Muhammad and Allah were systematically plundered, raped, killed, and eventually

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eradicated by Muslims. Concerning this fake 'freedom of religion in Islam', Christian apologist Dr. Ravi Zacharias makes the following observation:

When, for example the Qur'an is quoted that there is no compulsion in belief, it ought to be understood in a very real way then. Is a person in Iran free to disbelieve? Is a person in Malaysia free to disbelieve? Is a person in Indonesia free to disbelieve? If you are not free to disbelieve in a certain faith then there is compulsion in that faith (Hovsepian 2007).

The following global trends and the timeless practices show yet again the oppressive and slave-driver nature of Allah as opposed to the freedom in the house of Yahweh.

- 1) When a Christian becomes Muslim, he or she is never persecuted or killed by other Christians because of converting to Islam. However, when a Muslim becomes Christian, he is rejected, persecuted and killed by his Muslim family, friends and government.
- 2) Rarely do citizens of Judeo-Christian countries ever immigrate to Muslim countries for freedom and

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human dignity. It is always the citizens of Islamic governments that attempt to immigrate to Judeo-Christian countries for better treatment, freedom and human rights.

- 3) Muslims in the Judeo-Christian countries enjoy extensive levels of freedom and they are not treated as second class citizens or slaves. They can freely exercise and promote their Islamic faith and traditions. In many cases they even receive financial assistance (for the practice and promotion of their religion) from the governments of the Judeo-Christian nations where they live. However, Christians and Jews in Muslim countries are always treated as infidels and lower class citizens. They continuously face persecution, threats, kidnapping and murders from their Muslim neighbours. They are never given the freedom to practise and promote their religion and traditions.

- 4) Judeo-Christian nations welcome Muslims and give them full freedom. As a result, in these countries you will see many Muslims and mosques as well as Islamic religious training centres. In contrast, Muslims neither truly welcome nor give any genuine freedom to

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Christians and Jews. Consequently, in the Muslim nations, Christians and Jews are scarce. You will see hardly any churches and synagogues and Judeo-Christian educational institutions.

- 5) It is mostly the Judeo-Christian nations that send humanitarian aid to the Muslim nations. It is because these nations inherently believe in human dignity and they care for the souls of other people, both Muslims and non-Muslims. However, Muslim nations rarely send humanitarian aid to Jews and Christians in the Judeo-Christian nations.

These world-wide trends actually reflect the nature and characteristics of the god of the Muslim nations and the God of Judeo-Christian nations. To a very large extent Muslims do what they do because of what they see and hear from their Allah and Muhammad. Their cultures, practices and values are shaped by who Allah and Muhammad are.

In perfect harmony with the actions of Muhammad, the words and deeds of Allah and his servants during the last 1400 years prove that Allah is not partial to freedom. In fact, it would

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not be an exaggeration to say that Allah hates any form of freedom of mankind. Allah and his prophet Muhammad have been in the business of invading, killing, raping and enslaving people. Furthermore, they instruct their followers to do the same, until the whole world is Islamised. By contrast, Yahweh and His Son Jesus have always been in the business of redeeming, restoring and setting people free. Furthermore, Yahweh and Jesus encourage their followers to do the same until all the people are redeemed and blessed with an eternal freedom.

Among the most famous and most celebrated followers of Muhammad and Allah are people like Usama Bin Laden, who killed thousands of innocent people in his jihad campaigns and Abubakar Shekau, leader of Boko Haram, who kidnapped hundreds of schoolgirls in Nigeria and Kenya and sold them in slave markets as sex slaves, as well as killing many thousands. In contrast, among the most notable followers of Jesus and Yahweh are people like William Wilberforce, who abolished the slave trade and slavery in the British Empire and George Muller, who fed and educated tens of thousands of orphans and poor children (Benge & Benge 1999).

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Obviously, Allah sends his slaves to kill, kidnap and enslave the free people. Yahweh, however, sends His people to save, heal, and give freedom to those who are in bondage. Yahweh is a freedom giver. Allah is an oppressor. In the light of this, how can anyone possibly conclude that Allah is the same as Yahweh and Allah and Yahweh are one and the same God?

Allah and Muhammad have been in the business of invading, killing, raping and enslaving people and instructing their followers to do the same.

In contrast,

Yahweh and Jesus have always been in the business of redeeming, restoring and setting people free and encouraging their followers to do the same.

Chapter 8

THE BIBLE

The Bible is yet another of the very crucial matters in my investigation of Allah's claim to the throne of the God of the Bible. If Allah is truly the God of the Bible, as he claims, he then would have exactly the same attitude towards the Bible as Yahweh. If Allah's attitude towards the Bible is any different from that of Yahweh, then Allah cannot be the God of the Bible.

Firstly, I will analyse Yahweh's attitude towards the Bible. Thereafter I will examine Allah's attitude to see if they correspond.

Firstly, we must acknowledge that Yahweh declared the whole Bible as His inspired word:

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All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; (2 Tim 3:16, NASB).

Although this verse directly declares that the Old Testament is God's inspired word, it also indirectly affirms the divine inspiration of the New Testament as well. This means that the entire Bible, both the Old and the New Testament are the words of God inspired in the hearts of the authors who penned them in understandable languages. In confirmation of this, Peter wrote:

For no prophecy at any time was brought by the will of man, but men spoke from God, being carried by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet 1:21, BLB).

In the light of these declarations of Yahweh, we can safely say that the entire Bible is the inspired and written Word of Yahweh. Furthermore, Yahweh proudly exalts the Bible as His powerful Word:

For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even as far as the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrows, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart

The Bible

(Heb 4:12, BLB).

In perfect harmony with that, King David said:

*I will bow down toward your holy temple, and give thanks
to your Name for your loving kindness and for your truth;
for you have exalted your Name and your Word above all
(Ps 138:2, WEB).*

Obviously, Yahweh is very pleased and proud of the Bible. Therefore, He declared that He will eternally protect and preserve every single word of the Bible. He promised that generations will come and go like grass and flowers as the centuries follow centuries, but the Word of God, the Bible, will not pass away (Isa 40:8). Even the heavens and the earth will pass away, but the Word of God, the Bible, will still stand firmly and continue to be a testimony to the identity and greatness of God (Mark 13:31). Then, at the end of the Bible, Yahweh issued a stern warning, that those who might attempt to corrupt the Bible by adding or taking away any part of it would be punished and cursed severely (Rev 22:18-19).

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On the other hand, throughout the centuries, Yahweh has been encouraging His people to read, study and meditate on the Bible, as He instructed Joshua (Josh 1:7-8). It has always been Yahweh's desire that people, especially His chosen and saved people, should read, study, believe and obey the Bible. Thus in obedience to Yahweh, His children have studied, copied, and translated the Bible into many languages over many generations. According to the Global Scripture Access Report 2014 by United Bible Societies, the entire Bible has already been translated into 542 languages and now nearly 80% of the world's population read the Bible in their own languages (UBS 2015:5).

The same report also states that various Bible societies are currently working on over 400 more Bible translation projects around the world. Furthermore, Guinness World Records claims that 'the Bible is the world's best-selling and most widely distributed book'. Wow, what a marvellous miracle! It has been Yahweh's desire that all people should read the Bible and the whole world shall be filled with the knowledge and the glory of the Lord, just as the oceans are filled with water (Hab 2:14).

To fulfil this desire, Yahweh used His children to translate and distribute His book, the Bible. The result is a miracle, a world

The Bible

record: the Bible is the world's most translated and read book of all times. And the miracle goes on. Yahweh's children all over the world are still tirelessly working to study, teach, translate and distribute the Bible.

Now let us turn to Allah and see what his attitude is towards this amazing book.

All over the Muslim world the Bible is regarded as a corrupted and invalid book, which is now replaced by a better one, the Qur'an. At the root of the Islamic disregard for the Bible lie instructions from Allah such as surah 2:77-79.

The Islamic argument is that if the Bible had not been corrupted by Jews and Christians, then Allah would not have had to send yet another book, the Qur'an, So, according to Islamic thinking, even the very existence of the Qur'an is proof that the Bible is a corrupted and invalid book. During the recent years some Christian apologists have been trying to convince Muslims that the Qur'an actually does not say that the Bible is corrupted and invalid. In support of their argument, these

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Christian apologists would use Qur'anic verses such as the surah 10:94.

So if you are in doubt, [O Muhammad], about that which We have revealed to you, then ask those who have been reading the Scripture before you. The truth has certainly come to you from your Lord, so never be among the doubters (Sahih International).

However, no matter how hard and how convincingly these Christians apologists argue, the Islamic traditions and practices all over the world still hold on to the idea that the Bible is a corrupted and invalid book. Islamic hatred of the Bible is neither a new phenomenon, nor is it a passing trend. It has been one of the most important characteristics of Islam since the days of Muhammad, which is consistently practised in all Muslim societies. In other words, there is a deeply rooted and widely practised hatred in Islam towards the Bible. As I said earlier, this hatred is justified by the idea that, if the Bible was still valid or reliable, then Allah would not have sent the Qur'an. Since Allah sent us the Qur'an and Muhammad, then the Bible must be somehow corrupted and not valid any more. In connection with this idea, Muslims believe that, since the testimony, revelations

and the teachings of the Bible do not consistently match those of the Qu'r'an, then the Bible is unacceptable.

The Islamic dislike of the Bible is a direct result of what Allah instructs Muslims and expects from them. Both Islamic history and the current Islamic practices show that the Bible is the most hated and the most unwanted book in the Muslim countries. So much so that in the Muslim countries the Bible is the number one illegal book by default.

Even today, in the post-modern 21st century, there is still not one Muslim country in the whole world where Bibles can be printed, published, sold, read and displayed in the libraries without facing various levels of prosecution, persecution and even death. Although in some Muslim countries such as Egypt and Turkey there are some Christian publishers and bookshops that print and sell Bibles, they do so in spite of continuous persecution. The fact that they publish and distribute Bibles in these Islamic countries does not mean that they

**The Bible is
the world's
best-selling
and most
widely
distributed
book.**

**However, in
the Islamic
world it is
the most
unwanted,
illegal book.**

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are not persecuted for doing so. On the contrary, they continue to print and distribute Bibles in spite of all persecution. By default, in the Muslim countries, ordinary publishers do not print the Bible, ordinary bookshops do not sell the Bible, and Bibles are not available from the ordinary libraries. Consequently, people do not have easy access to the Bible. Still today, Christians have to smuggle Bibles into many Muslim countries. Still today, in many Islamic countries Christians are arrested, imprisoned and even killed for possessing a Bible or giving a Bible to someone.

The Islamic reception and treatment of the Bible is exactly the opposite of the reception and the treatment the Bible receives from the Judeo-Christian nations. One wonders why? Well the answer is simple: It is because the God of the Judeo-Christian nations, Yahweh, loves, embraces and proudly and promotes the Bible as His own, infallible Word. Naturally, people who believe in Yahweh love and highly esteem the Bible. On the other hand, the god of the Muslim nations, Allah, hates and disregards the Bible and sternly discourages his people from either possessing or selling it. Naturally, Muslim people, in obedience to their god, despise, destroy and even abolish the Bible in their countries. Indisputably, Allah's attitude towards the Bible contradicts that of Yahweh. In the light of this contradiction how can any one

The Bible

believe that Allah and Yahweh are one and the same God of the Bible?

Chapter 9

THE JEWS AND CHRISTIANS

Jews and Christians are my last topic in this examination of the characteristics of Yahweh and Allah. If Allah is truly what he claims to be, the God of the Bible, then his attitude towards Jews and Christians would be exactly the same as that of Yahweh. If his words and actions about and towards the Jews and Christians are any different from those of Yahweh, then he is not Yahweh but a liar. I would like to examine how Yahweh relates to Jews and Christians, and compare it with how Allah treats them.

The most outstanding and the most overarching aspect of Yahweh's relationship with Jews and Christians is His Fatherhood, as I explained in Chapter 6. He is the protecting,

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**Fatherhood
is the most
outstanding
and
the most
overarching
aspect of
Yahweh's
relationship
with
Jews and
Christians.**

providing and caring Father of the nation of Israel. He is the heavenly Father of Christians. Jews are His chosen people, and Christians are His adopted children (Deut 7:6; Deut 14:2; Rom 8:15; Gal 4:1-7). Therefore, all other aspects of Yahweh's relationship with Jews and Christians are natural outcomes of this Father-child relationship. Even when Jews and Christians do not do the right thing or disobey God, Yahweh still loves them and treats them as a loving father treats his children.

In spite of all their mistakes, shortcomings and failures, Jews and Christians are still the children of Yahweh, and they are still welcomed with open arms in the house of Yahweh; just like the prodigal son that returns to his loving father's home after rebellion, disobedience and many other mistakes (Luke 15:11-32).

As discussed in Chapter 6, Allah rejects the idea of being a father and fails to love and care for Jews and Christians as Yahweh does. Nevertheless, in this chapter, I would like to look into other aspects of Yahweh's relationship with Jews and

Christians and compare them with Allah's attitude towards these people.

Yahweh and Jewish People

In the Old Testament, Yahweh chooses Abraham and raises a nation for Himself from Abraham and his wife Sarah (Gen 12-50). Abraham, Isaac and Jacob became the first ancestors of this new nation of God. Yahweh's love and attachment to this new nation is so deep that many times He introduces Himself with the name of their ancestors 'the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob' (Exod 3:6; 3:15; 4:5; 1 King 3:16; Luke 20:37). Yahweh binds Himself and His glory to this nation with an everlasting covenant in the days of Abraham, as recorded in Genesis 12:1-3 and 17:4-8. Later, in the days of Moses, Yahweh confirms His commitment and covenant to the Jewish people with these words:

**Yahweh
binds
Himself
and
His glory
to
the nation of
Israel
(the Jewish
people)
with
an everlasting
covenant.**

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I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burdens of Egyptians

(Exod 6:7, NKJV).

Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palm of my hands; Your walls are continually before Me

(Isa 49:15-16, NKJV).

The following statement nicely summarizes Yahweh's special relationship with the Jewish people:

Whilst the Scriptures teach unequivocally that every individual soul is equally valuable to the Lord, it is just as clear that He has separated unto Himself a special group of people – namely, the Jewish race (Haupt 2007:24).

Throughout the generations, Yahweh always remained faithful to His people, protecting, providing and leading them. Unfortunately, we cannot say that Jews always remained faithful

The Jews and Christians

to Yahweh. Instead, the Bible and Jewish history prove that time and again they turned their back on their God, and even killed the prophets Yahweh sent to them. In spite of all this recurring rebellion, disobedience and unfaithfulness Yahweh never abandoned nor eternally cursed, them but always loved and cared for them. Again and again, Yahweh tried to bring them back to Himself so that they might enjoy His blessings and they might be His blessing to the rest of humanity. The best depiction of Yahweh's persistent love for the Jewish people can be seen in these words of Jesus:

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling

(Matt 24:37, NASB).

Following their rebellion against Yahweh and rejection of His Son Jesus Christ, Jews were exiled from the land God promised to them in AD 70. Even after nearly 2000 years of exile in all the nations of the world, Yahweh again brought them back to their promised land, and made them a sovereign nation yet

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again in 1948, just as He promised that He would do (Amos 9:14-15; Ezek 34:13 and 37:10-14; Isa 66:7-8).

**Yahweh never
abandoned nor
cursed Israel
but
continuously
pronounced
His love
and
blessings upon
them.**

As is evident throughout the history of the nation of Israel, in spite of all their sin and rebellion Yahweh never abandoned them nor cursed them permanently. On the contrary, He kept pronouncing His love and blessing upon them. At the same time, He warned and encouraged the rest of humanity to be kind and gentle to Jewish people (Gen 12:3).

Blessed are those who bless you, and cursed are those who curse you (Num 24:9, ESV).

Yahweh's love and commitment to Jewish people is often difficult for us to comprehend with our human mind. With an eternal love that surpasses all our understanding, and with an unwavering commitment that surprises and amazes the whole world, Yahweh attached Himself to this tiny nation. Since the days of Abraham and throughout the Bible, Yahweh consistently declared the Jews as His chosen race and declared Himself as the

The Jews and Christians

God of Israel. In other words, He attached His name and glory to this nation eternally. So much so, that He even sent His Son Jesus Christ into our world as a member of this chosen race. In fact, Jesus was not just a mere member of the Jewish nation, but He was and still is the '*King of the Jews*' as Pontius Pilate had inscribed on the cross of Jesus (Matt 27:37, NKJV):

THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS

Even after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Yahweh's love and commitment to Jewish people did not change. He still regards them as His chosen people and He still uses them for His purposes. His commitment and promises to Jewish people are still valid, as they were in the days of Abraham. Furthermore, He still has good plans for them:

I say this because I know what I am planning for you, says the LORD. 'I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future. Then you will call my name. You will come to me and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will search for me. And when you search for me with all your heart, you will find me! I will let you find me,' says the LORD. 'And I will bring you back from your

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captivity. I forced you to leave this place, but I will gather you from all the nations, from the places I have sent you as captives,' says the LORD. And I will bring you back to this place'

(Jer 29:11-14, NKJV).

**Yahweh is
the
God of Jews,
the
God of Israel.**

In the light of all this, we can confidently conclude that Yahweh, by His own choice, attached His name to this tiny nation and called Himself the 'God of Jews' or 'God of Israel'. His love for them never fades, His commitment to them never changes. He also encourages the rest of mankind to be kind and favourable to Jews so that they may be blessed. However, those who mistreat and curse Jews will be cursed themselves.

Now let us take a look at how Yahweh relates to Christians.

Yahweh and Christians

Christians are those who believe in and worship the Son of Yahweh, Jesus Christ. The word Christian means follower of Christ. Christians are made up of all nations, languages, cultures and ethnic groups.

The most prominent things that unite all of these people are their love for and faith in Jesus Christ and Yahweh. In spite of their distant geographic locations scattered around the world, different languages, cultures, and customs, they are all united as one people under the leadership of Jesus Christ. Their love for and faith in Jesus Christ do not only unite them with one another, making them one big family, but also reconcile them with Yahweh, making them His adopted children (Gal 3:26, Eph 1:5). Therefore, together with their Lord Jesus, Christians call Yahweh 'Abba, Father' (Mark 14:36; Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6).

As Yahweh attached His name and glory to the Jewish people in the Old Testament, He has attached His name and glory to Christians in the New Testament.

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In addition to being the adopted children of Yahweh, Christians are also His witnesses and ministers to fulfil His purposes (Eph 2:10).

They are the salt Yahweh scatters around this world to make it a better place (Matt 5:13).

They are the light Yahweh places all over the world to cast away darkness (Matt 5:14-16).

They are the representatives and ambassadors of Yahweh on earth (Eph 6:20; 2 Cor 5:20).

They are the soldiers of Yahweh that fight not against people but against the spiritual forces of evil, powers of darkness and deception of Satan (Eph 6:12; 1 Tim 1:18; 2 Tim 2:3).

They are the peacemakers of God (Matt 5:9).

They are the body of Jesus Christ in the service and to the glory of Yahweh (1 Cor 12:12-27).

Above all they are loved by Yahweh and they love Yahweh.

The Jews and Christians

As Yahweh attached His name and glory to the Jewish people in the Old Testament, He has attached His name and glory to Christians in the New Testament. His love and commitment to Christians is not any less than His love and commitment to Jewish people.

Now let us look into how Allah relates to Jews and Christians.

Allah's attitude to Jews and Christians

Obviously, Allah recognises the special relationship and position Jews and Christians have with the God of the Bible. Therefore, in the Qur'an again and again, Allah refers to Jews and Christians as the '*people of the Book*' or '*people of the Scripture*' (3:19; 4:171; 5:77; 29:46). Such a reference to Jews and Christians shows that Allah recognises the spiritual connection between these two people groups, and also their connection to the God of the Bible. In spite of their unique histories and identities, for the most part Allah does not separate Jews and Christians, but regards them as one people, the people of the Book.

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However, together with this recognition, Allah asks the 'people of the Book' to join Muslims and start worshipping Allah alone (Qur'an 3:64). Clearly, the worship and spirituality of Jews and Christians are not accepted by Allah, unless they reject their Bible-based faith and become Muslims. Therefore, Allah considers them as unbelievers, infidels and polytheists. This attitude of Allah towards the people of the Book is the foundation and basis for the rest of his treatment of Jews and Christians. Multiple times in the Qur'an, Allah pronounces his curse upon Jews and Christians. Here are a few of such pronouncements by Allah:

And because of their breaking their covenant, We have cursed them (Jews) and made hard their hearts...

(5:13, Pickthall).

The Jews say: 'Allah's hand is tied up.' Be their hands tied up and be they accursed for the (blasphemy) they utter

(5:64, Yusuf Ali).

The Jews call 'Uzair a son of Allah, and the Christians call Christ the son of Allah. That is a saying from their mouth; (in this) they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used

The Jews and Christians

to say. Allah's curse be on them: how they are deluded away from the Truth! (9:30, Yusuf Ali).

Furthermore, Allah does not stop at just cursing the people of the Book, but he also instructs Muslims not to befriend them.

O you who believe! do not take the Jews and the Christians for friends; they are friends of each other; and whoever amongst you takes them for a friend, then surely he is one of them... (5:51, Shakir).

However, even this does not seem to satisfy Allah's hatred for Jews. So he decides to despise and humiliate them by turning them into apes and pigs. There are at least three instances in the Qur'an where Allah curses and instructs Jews to turn into apes and pigs (Qur'an 2:65; 5:60 and 7:166).

And well ye knew those amongst you (Jews) who transgressed in the matter of the Sabbath: We said to them: 'Be ye apes, despised and rejected.' So We made it an example to their own time and to their posterity, and a lesson to those who fear Allah (Qur'an 2:65).

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Unfortunately, even pronouncing such humiliation and curse upon them does not satisfy Allah's hatred for the people of the Book. So he decides to instruct his people (Muslims) to fight against them until they are subdued or killed.

Fight against those People of the Book who have no faith in Allah or the Day of Judgement, who do not consider unlawful what Allah and His Messenger have made unlawful, and who do not believe in the true religion, until they humbly pay tax with their own hands

(Qur'an 9:29, Muhammad Sarwar).

Allah's words and instructions of hatred, violence and total annihilation for Jews and Christians are so many that it is simply not possible for me to list them all here. A research document by Natan (n.d.), titled '164 Jihad verses in the Koran' provides a more comprehensive list of such teachings and instructions of Allah. Alternatively, 'Why do Muslims hate the Jews?' by Roark (n.d.) is yet another well-researched document with a broader list of words of Allah, Muhammad and the Islamic doctrine that instructs Muslims to hate, fight and kill Jews and Christians as well as other non-Muslims.

The Jews and Christians

One wonders why is there such intense hatred and such a deep desire to shed the blood of Jews and Christians.

What a contrast!

We have seen that Yahweh attaches His name and glory to both Jews and Christians. We have also seen that Yahweh's relationship with them is driven by a fatherly love and commitment. However, on the other hand, we have seen that Allah's approach to the people of the Book is driven by an extreme hatred and desire for their annihilation. While Yahweh pronounces them as His chosen people and His children, Allah pronounces them to be his enemies. While Yahweh blesses and honours them as His representatives and heirs, Allah curses and humiliates them by attempting to turn them into apes and pigs. While Yahweh asks the nations of the world to bless his people and to be kind to them, Allah instructs his slaves (Muslims) to fight against, enslave and kill them.

Certainly, Allah's relation to Jews and Christians does not match that of Yahweh. On the contrary, Allah intensely hates, dishonours and desires to kill them. We wonder why?

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Why would Allah claim to be God of the Bible and at the same time hate the people of the Bible so much?

This sharp contrast and contradiction does not allow us to conclude that Allah can be Yahweh or even a friend of Yahweh. His hatred for the people of Yahweh and his desire to kill them makes us wonder if He is actually an old enemy of Yahweh, who is now attempting to steal the name, glory and throne of Yahweh, at the same time deceiving and using the nations of the world to persecute the people of Yahweh?

CONCLUSION

I believe that Allah's attempt to introduce and promote himself as the God of the Bible is the greatest example of attempted identity theft. It is truly a lie from Satan, on a universal scale, in an attempt to sit on God's throne and be known as God.

Certainly, Allah has devised and launched a rather comprehensive and complex scheme to disguise himself as the God of the Bible. Indeed, he has done a marvellous job in successfully deceiving the nations of the world, (including many genuine Christians) into believing that he is God and he is the same person as Yahweh.

He claimed to be the same person as Yahweh, but he did not have the same qualities and characteristics Yahweh had. Instead his characteristics, words and deeds have been exactly the opposite of those of Yahweh.

Conclusion

He hated and destroyed the things that Yahweh loved and worked for. At the same time he loved and built up the things that Yahweh hated. A good example of this would be Allah's hatred of freedom and love for slavery as opposed to Yahweh's hatred of slavery and oppression and love of freedom for all men.

He claimed to be the God of the Bible, but he hated and banned the Bible in each and every land where he could get the authority and influence.

He claimed to be the God of Abraham, and produced false genealogical records for his prophet to support his claim, but at the same time he hated and rejected the trinitarian nature of the God of Abraham.

He claimed the throne, glory and the name of God for himself. However, at the same time he hated and dishonoured the Son of God by reducing Him to the level of a mere slave.

Conclusion

He claimed to be the God of Jews and Christians. However, at the very same time, he hated, persecuted and humiliated them as pigs and apes. Multiple times he cursed them. Furthermore, over a hundred times, he instructed his followers to hate, discriminate, persecute and kill Jews and Christians until they feel subjugated to Allah or completely annihilated. As a result of this extreme hatred and violence, in every country where Allah rules, Biblical truth and values are replaced by the lies of Allah. Consequently Jews and Christians are systematically killed and plundered to reward the fighters of Allah.

In summary, Allah has deceitfully claimed to be God although he simply did not display the characteristics of God. On the contrary, his words, deeds and characteristics give us the idea that he is actually not God, but an enemy of God. How else can one explain all that Allah has done against Yahweh and against Yahweh's people? Then my conclusion is: Allah is not God, but an enemy of God that has been attempting to steal the name, glory and kingdom of God by forgery, terror and slaughter of the people that Yahweh created in His own image.

Conclusion

He thought he could deceive the whole world and sit on God's throne. However, as clever as he is, he still does not have what it takes to usurp Yahweh.

When I examine Allah's claim to the throne of God and Allah's words and deeds, I cannot help but remember what the prophet Isaiah wrote about a certain personality with the name Lucifer.

*How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!
For you have said in your heart:
'I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
On the farthest sides of the north;
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.'
Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,
To the lowest depths of the Pit.*

(Isa 14:12-15,NKJV)

Conclusion

I wonder if the true name of Allah is Satan? I wonder if Isaiah's prophecy is in any way connected to Allah, his desire for the throne of God and his deception and destruction on earth.

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