



Jesus in Qur'an
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To all seekers of knowledge and truth, believers and non-believers, may Allah, the Creator, God of all the children of Adam and Eve, the very same unique God of Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammad (May Allah grant them peace and pleasure) bless you with divine light and truth.

-Mansour Malik-

FOREWORD

The need to write and compile this book was first felt a long time ago when, in 1984, I was studying at London University and had a chance to attend a two days' conference in Oxford where I met many Christian scholars and lawyers. I felt, during our discussions, that most of them unknowingly believed that the Qur'an, the Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) and Islam are against Jesus (pbuh) and Mary (pbuh). When I told them that Jesus and Mary (pbuh) have very high esteem in the Qur'an, and that the Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) clearly predicted that Jesus (pbuh) would return to this world, and that he gave instructions to the Muslims to follow Jesus (pbuh), they were surprised and wanted to have a look at the Qur'an. I remember, on my return to London, asking Dr Hussain Shammari to accompany me to buy copies of an English translation of the Qur'an to send to my co-participants of the Oxford conference. I sent 7 copies to my Christian friends residing in various cities in the UK. They all thanked me profusely and sent me amazing notes which I have, unfortunately, lost among my bundles of files in storage in the UK. More recently, in Dubai, I have had numerous meetings with visiting high profiled bankers and business directors from the Isle of Man and the UK, and found them interested in the ins and outs of Islamic Banking; a new trend these days. While talking generally about Islam, I, once again, sensed that all these people shared the same misconceived view about the Qur'an and Islam as inimical towards Jesus (pbuh). They were all surprised to find that false impressions and erroneous media information has kept them in the dark about Islam's true position on Jesus (pbuh) and Mary (pbuh) via the enlightenment of the Qur'an. It amazes everyone I meet when they hear that the Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) predicted the return of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) before the end of time. This motivated me to write this little book quoting direct references from the Qur'an and the statements of the Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) concerning Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and his return. This book, therefore, is purely a reference book for providing true information and the Quranic concept of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). I sincerely hope that it will be beneficial for all seekers of truth and knowledge, and will help to dispel misconceptions and misinformation about Islam among our Christian and non-Christian friends. It will also help to promote mutual understanding, respect, and good will, especially among Muslim and Christians. We all wish and pray to be among the followers and soldiers of the Holy

Prophet Jesus (pbuh) if we live and witness his second coming. Viewing all the predictions, the present prevailing circumstances of hate, terror, wars, calamities, killings, torture, inhuman (and subhuman) behaviour, injustice, moral and ethical decay, the predominant materialism and declining spiritual decay are all signs of the imminent appearance of the anti-Christ and devilish forces. Following this, however, comes light and hope for the arrival of Divine blessings to save our suffering humanity through the second coming or return of the Holy Prophet Jesus (pbuh.)

It is my heartfelt hope that this study and book will help many Christians and others to understand Islam and its view about Jesus Christ. This may help to overcome many common misunderstandings about Islam among Christians and others. I also believe that Muslims and Christians will become united and follow Jesus Christ upon his second coming. They will form one united group of believers before the end of time. History tells us that the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) enjoyed good relations with Christians. He entered peace treaties with them, and he also wrote letters to Roman, Persian and to the king of Ethiopia. These letters are still available and can be traced in many history books. The Christian king of Ethiopia provided shelter and refuge to the early followers of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) fleeing from pagan Arabs of Makkah. He later embraced Islam.

INTRODUCTION

Al Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) through the archangel Gabriel (pbuh) over a period of 23 years in Makkah and Madinah in the Arabian Peninsula during the early part of the seventh century. Al Qur'an provides us with a detailed account about the life of the Holy Prophet Jesus (pbuh) from the time before his birth to his ascension to the heavens, and includes a further brief mention about his destined return during the era known as 'the end of time' until his final departure from this world. The Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) has furnished us with further details about the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and his return and subsequent establishing of a Kingdom of God on earth, administering justice under the divine commandments, initially with the assistance of a descendant from the Prophet Mohammad's daughter, Seyeda Fatima (pbuh). Named Mohammad, he is also known as Imam Mahdi (rightly guided leader) – forerunner of Jesus Christ (pbuh). The Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) informed us clearly about the signs before the emergence of this Imam Mahdi followed by the anti-Christ (Al Dajjal – the misguiding) and then the heavenly descent of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) to clean out the anti-Christ and the forces of corrupt leadership and deception and to establish a just, peaceful rule with material and spiritual prosperity. Mankind; ailing, tired, and sick will heave a sigh of relief from torture, restlessness, and terror by the arrival of the promised Messiah – the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). The world will witness peace, justice and love as a global family living under the divine rule of law.

We will try to restrict our references directly from the Qur'an and the statements (Ahadith) of the Prophet Mohammad (pbuh). This will enable readers to see the truth for themselves. At the moment, we are all helplessly suffering from grave injustice, cruel killings, oppression, and terrorism from individual to governmental level. Every child of Adam today is longing and looking for a Messiah who can deliver humanity from the atrocities perpetuated at the hands of groups, gangs, and governments. We are waiting for our promised Messiah – the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) who can solve the problems and lead us to a just world. None of our current world leaders shows the ability to solve contemporary world problems or the capacity to lead mankind in the right and just direction. The world is ripe for searching for and anxiously awaiting the true Messiah – Holy Jesus Christ (pbuh).

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

All my praises and thanks go to Allah for enlightening me with strength and knowledge to produce this book for His pleasure alone and for the benefit of all mankind. My personal thanks to my parents and all my teachers who guided me to seek knowledge from east to west. My special thanks to Ms Maryam El Murad who has been kind enough to help with the editing from a distance of 7,000 miles. I am equally thankful to my secretary, Alma, and her total commitment in assisting me throughout the hard work of writing, compiling and finding many pictures for this book. She is from the Catholic faith and has felt amazed while typing, "Jesus in Qur'an."

Finally, my thanks to Mufti Mohammad Sarwar from Nadwat Ulama in India who very kindly offered his help to get this book printed in India. I also appreciate my printers for their help to produce this book.

We pray to the Most Merciful Lord of all the Worlds to bless all the children of Adam to submit themselves in His worship.

— Mansour —

Chapter 1

New Chapter

Jesus – Esa (pbuh)

Birth of Jesus - Esa (pbuh)

The story of Jesus is told with special application to the time of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The religion of God has always been one religion and it was, in essence, the religion of Prophet Abraham (pbuh), Prophet Moses (pbuh), Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The true religion has always been, and still is today, bowing to the will of Allah. Prophet Jesus (pbuh) taught nothing but to submit before the will of Allah.

Al Qur'an – Sura 3 verse 45 Al - Imran – The family of Imran chapter 3:- The angels said, "Behold O Maryam – Mary! Allah gives you glad tidings of a word from Him: his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held in honour in this world, the hereafter, and of (the company of) those nearest to Allah."

Sura 3 verse 47: She (Mary) said: "O my Lord! How shall I have a son when no man has touched me? He said: "even so: Allah creates what he wills: when He has decreed a plan, He but says to it, Be, and it is!"

Al Qur'an – Sura 19 verse 16 – 21 Maryam – Mary verse 16:- Relate in the Book (the story of) Mary, when she withdrew from her family to a place in the East.

Al Qur'an – Sura 19 verse 17:- She placed a screen (to screen herself) from them; then we sent to her our angel and he appeared before her as a man in all respects.

Al Qur'an – Sura 19 verse 18:- She said: "I seek refuge from thee to (Allah) Most Gracious: (come not near) if thou dost fear Allah."

Al Qur'an – Sura 19 verse 19:- He said: "Nay, I am only a messenger from thy Lord, (to announce) to thee the gift of a holy son."

Al Qur'an – Sura 19 verse 20:- She said: "How shall I have a son, seeing that no man has touched me, and I am not unchaste?"

Al Qur'an – Sura 19 verse 21:- He said: "So (it will be): Thy Lord says, 'That is easy for Me: and (we wish) to appoint him as a sign unto men and a Mercy from Us.'"

Status of Jesus - Esa (pbuh)

Al Qur'an describes the status of Jesus in the following verses.

Al Imran Sura 3 verse 45:- The angels said: Behold! O Mary! Allah gave thee glad tidings of a word from him: his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held in honour in this world and the hereafter and among those nearest to God.

Al Imran Sura 3 verse 59:- The similitude of Jesus before God is as that of Adam; He created him from dust, then said to him: "Be": and he was.

Note: Adam was born without either a human father or mother; similarly Jesus (pbuh) was born without a human father. God is all competent and powerful and the supreme designer and creator as He wills. The greatness of Jesus (pbuh) arose from the divine command "Be": from dust to a great spiritual leader and teacher.

Al Nisaa Sura 4 verse 171:- O people of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: nor say of Allah aught but the truth. Christ Jesus the son of Mary was (no more than) an apostle of Allah, and His word, which He bestowed on Mary, and a Spirit proceeding from Him: so believe in Allah and His apostles. Say not "Trinity": desist: it will be better for you; for Allah is One God: Glory be to Him: (Far Exalted is He) above having a son. To him belong all things in the heavens and on earth. And enough is Allah as a Disposer of affairs.

Al Nisaa Sura 4 verse 172:- Christ disdaineth not to serve and worship Allah, nor do the angels, those nearest (to Allah); those who disdain His worship and are arrogant, He will gather them all together unto Himself to (answer).

Note: Christ Jesus (pbuh) was described as the son of Mary (pbuh) and an apostle with a mission from Allah who was created by the word / command of Allah with great spiritual qualities and attributes. His mission was to teach people to worship Allah alone. He was especially honoured and blessed with great miracles.

Al Maida Sura 5 verse 17:- In blasphemy indeed are those that say that Allah is Christ the son of Mary. Say: "Who then hath the least power against Allah, if His Will were to destroy Christ the son of Mary, his mother, and all - every one that is on earth? For to Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between. He creates what He pleases. For Allah has power over all things."

Note: All power belongs to Allah. The most honoured among mankind are apostles of Allah. Allah is the supreme creator. No creature can be Allah. Allah's creation may take many forms; every one of the creatures is subject to the power of Allah alone.

Al Maida Sura 5 verse 46:- And in their footsteps We sent Jesus the son of Mary confirming the Law that had come before him: We sent him the Gospel: therein was guidance and an admonition to those who fear God.

Al Maida Sura 5 verse 72:-They do blaspheme who say: "Allah is Christ the son of Mary: "O Children of Israel! Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. Whoever joins other gods with Allah, Allah will forbid him the Garden, and the Fire will be his abode. There will, for the wrongdoers, be no one to help.

Al Maida Sura 5 verse 75:- Christ the son of Mary was no more than an Apostle; many were the apostles that passed away before him. His mother was a woman of truth. They had both to eat their (daily) food. See how Allah doth make His Signs clear to them; yet see in what ways they are deluded away from the truth!

Al Maida Sura 5 verse 116:- And behold! Allah will say: "O Jesus, son of Mary! Didst thou say unto men, 'Worship me and my mother as gods in derogation of Allah?'" He will say: "Glory to thee! Never could I say what I had no right (to say). Had I said such a thing, Thou wouldst indeed have known it. Thou knowest what is in my heart, though I know not what is in Thine. For Thou knowest in full all that is hidden."

Al Maida Sura 5 Verse 117: - "Never said I to them aught except what Thou didst command me to say, to wit, 'Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord'; and I was a witness over them whilst I dwelt amongst them; when thou didst take me up Thou wast the Watcher over them, and Thou art a witness to all things."

Al Maida Sura 5 verse 118:- "If Thou dost punish them, they are Thy servants: if Thou dost forgive them, thou art the Exalted in power, the Wise."

Maryam Sura 19 verse 30:- He said: "I am indeed a servant of Allah: He hath given me revelation and made me a prophet;"

Maryam Sura 19 verse 31:- "And He hath made me blessed wheresoever I be, and hath enjoined on me Prayer and Charity as long as I live;"

Maryam Sura 19 verse 32:- "(He) hath made me kind to my mother, and not overbearing or miserable;"

Maryam Sura 19 verse 33:- "So peace is on me the day I was born, the day that I die, and the day that I shall be raised up to life (again)!"

Maryam Sura 19 verse 34: - Such (was) Jesus the son of Mary: (it is) a statement of truth, about which they (vainly) dispute.

Maryam Sura 19 verse 35:- It is not befitting to (the majesty of) Allah that He should beget a son. Glory be to Him! When He determines a matter, He only says to it, "Be", and it is.

Maryam Sura 19 verse 36:- Verily Allah is my Lord and your Lord: therefore serve Him: this is a Way that is straight.

Maryam Sura 19 verse 37:- But the sects differ among themselves: and woe to the Unbelievers because of the (coming) Judgment of a momentous Day!

Miracles of Jesus - Esa (pbuh)

The birth of holy Jesus (pbuh) was itself a great miracle. He was born to the Virgin Mary. He had no known human father. He was raised to a very high spiritual position as a prophet from his childhood. He was preaching from childhood and he was divinely taught the wisdom, the Torah and the Gospel from the time of his birth. When still a baby, he spoke to members of his mother's family when she brought him to them shortly after his birth. He was a prophet who never married. His earthly life of reportedly 33 years was nothing but full of miracles. He fed his disciples by miracles.

Al Qur'an confirms his miracles. Among his miracles the following are mentioned in Quranic verses;

Al Imran Sura 3 verse 47:- She said: "O my Lord! How Shall I have a son when no man hath touched me?" He said; "Even so: Allah creates what He wills: when He hath decreed a Plan, He but says to it, 'Be', and it is!"

Al Imran Sura 3 verse 48:- "And God will teach him the Book and Wisdom, the Law and the Gospel,"

Al Imran Sura 3 verse 49:- "And (appoint him as) an apostle to the Children of Israel, (with this message): "I have come to you with a Sign from your Lord in that I make for you out of clay, as it were, the figure of a bird, and breath into it, and it becomes a bird by Allah's leave: and I heal those born blind, and the lepers, and I quicken the dead, by Allah's leave; and I declare to you what ye eat, and what ye store in houses. Surely therein is a Sign for you if ye did believe;"

Al Imran Sura 3 verse 50:- "' (I have come to you) to attest the Law which was before me. And to make lawful to you part of what was (previously) forbidden to you; I have come to you with a Sign from your Lord. So fear Allah, and obey me."

Al Imran Sura 3 verse 51:- “It is Allah Who is my Lord and your Lord; then worship Him. This is a Way that is straight.”

Al Maida Sura 5 verse 109:- One day Allah will gather the apostles together and ask: “What was the response ye received (from men to your teaching)?” They will say: “We have no knowledge: it is Thou Who knowest in full all that is hidden.”

Note: A scene of the day of reckoning is put before us in the above verse.

Al Maida Sura 5 verse 110:- Then will Allah say: “O Jesus, son of Mary! Recount my favour to thee and to thy mother. Behold! I strengthened thee with the Holy Spirit, so that thou didst speak to the people in childhood and in maturity. Behold! I taught thee the Book and Wisdom, the Law and the Gospel. And Behold! Thou makest out of clay, as it were, the figure of a bird, by My leave, and thou breathest into it, and it becomes a bird by My leave, and thou healest those born blind, and the lepers, by My leave. And behold! I did restrain the Children of Israel from (violence to) thee when thou didst show them the clear Signs, and the unbelievers among them said: ‘This is nothing but evident magic.’”

Note: In this verse, in a solemn scene before the court of judgment, Jesus (pbuh) is asked by his Lord – Allah - to recount all the mercies and favours shown to him, so that those of his followers who were responsible for such actions should become ashamed of their ingratitude in corrupting his message when they could have done so much in profiting by its purity and spiritual truth.

The birth of Jesus was a miracle as were a multitude of others, including speaking to the people in his childhood and then telling them about the Torah and Gospel, creating living birds out of clay by the leave of Allah, healing those born blind and the lepers, bringing forth the dead etc. Unfortunately, the children of Israel denied his miracles by defining them as works of magic. It is interesting to note that the miracles of the holy prophets Moses and Mohammed (pbuth) were also denied and denigrated to the level of magic tricks by the people of their time.

Miracles performed or showed by the apostles were brought about by the permission of Allah.

Al Maida Sura 5 verse 111:- "And behold! I inspired the disciples to have faith, and do thou bear witness that we bow to Allah as Muslims."

Al Maida Sura 5 verse 112:- Behold! The disciples said: "O Jesus, son of Mary! Can thy Lord send down to us a table set (with viands) from heaven?" Jesus said: "Fear Allah, if ye have faith."

Al Maida Sura 5 verse 113:- They said: "We only wish to eat thereof and satisfy our hearts, and to know that thou hast indeed told us the truth; and that we ourselves may be witnesses to the miracle."

Al Maida Sura 5 verse 114:- Said Jesus, the son of Mary: "O God our Lord! Send us from heaven a table set (with viands), that there may be for us - for the first and the last of us - a solemn festival and a Sign from Thee; and provide for our sustenance, for Thou art the best sustainer (of our needs)."

Al Maida Sura 5 verse 115:- Allah said: "I will send it down unto you: but if any of you after that resists faith, I will punish him with a penalty such as I have not inflicted on any one among all the peoples."

Mission and Disciples of Jesus - Esa (pbuh)

Mission

Al Qur'an mentions very clearly the mission of Holy Jesus Christ (pbuh) as a prophet and messenger of Allah. Jesus, (pbuh) like other prophets and messengers of Allah called people to worship Allah – God - alone. The essence of the message of Jesus (pbuh) was to make it clear that Allah – God is, alone, worthy of worship. Jesus Christ (pbuh) himself worshipped Allah – God - alone. This statement is confirmed in the bible in Mark 14:32, which states: *And they went to a place which was called Gethsemane; and he (Jesus) said to his disciples, 'Sit here, while I pray.'* And in Luke 5:16, *"But he withdrew to the wilderness and prayed."*

According to the Qur'an and the statements of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), the message and mission of all prophets and

messengers was one and the same; that God – Allah - alone is to be worshipped.

Jesus Christ (pbuh) declared himself an apostle and worshipper of Allah alone. He also confirmed the Torah and the coming of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) after him. The mission and message of Jesus (pbuh) was to submit to the will of Allah – the One God. He called them to worship the one true God who is unique and who has created everything. God is all powerful, merciful and competent to do what He – Allah - wills. He is the One to whom every creature has to submit and worship. Referring to verse 171 and 172 of Sura 4 Al Nisaa, Jesus Christ's attributes are, (1) that he was the son of a woman, Mary, and therefore a man; (2) but an apostle, a man with a mission from God, and therefore entitled to honour; (3) a word bestowed on Mary, for he was created by God's word "Be" (iii. 59). His life and his mission were more limited than in the case of some other apostles, though we must pay equal honour to him as a man of God. The doctrines of Trinity, equality with God, and son-ship, are repudiated as blasphemies. God is independent of all needs and has no need of a son to manage His affairs.

An-Nahl Sura 16 verse 36:- And surely, we have sent to every nation a messenger (proclaiming): Worship Allah and avoid false gods – eschew evil.

Al Maida Sura 5 verse 46:- And in their footsteps We sent Jesus the son of Mary, confirming the Law that had come before him: We sent him the Gospel: therein was guidance and light, and confirmation of the Law that had come before him: a guidance and an admonition to those who fear God.

As-Saff Sura 61 verse 6:- And remember Jesus, the son of Mary, said "O Children of Israel! I am the apostle of Allah (sent) to you confirming the Torah before me, and giving Glad Tidings of an apostle to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad, (Mohammad). But when he came to them with Clear Signs, they said, "This is evident sorcery!"

Disciples

Al Qur'an mentions the disciples of Jesus Christ (pbuh); however, no names are mentioned.

There is no confirmation of the numbers of disciples.

Interestingly, the most influential person in the current forms of Christianity was not among the disciples of Jesus (pbuh). St Paul wrote most of the source books of present-day Christianity, whereas, Jesus (pbuh), himself, did not write a single word.

Al Imran Sura 3 verse 52:- When Jesus found unbelief on their part, he said: "Who will be my helpers towards Allah? Said the Disciples: "We are Allah's – God's - helpers: We believe in Allah, and do thou bear witness that we are Muslims."

Al Imran Sura 3 verse 53:- "Our Lord! We believe in what Thou hast revealed, and we follow the Apostle; then write us down among those who bear witness."

Al Maida Sura 5 verse 111:- "And behold! I inspired the disciples to have faith in Me and My Apostles: they said, 'we have faith, and do thou bear witness that we bow to Allah as Muslims.'"

Al Maida Sura 5 verse 112:- behold! The Disciples said: "O Jesus son of Mary! Can thy Lord send down to us a Table set (with viands) from heaven?" Said Jesus: "Fear Allah, if ye have faith."

The Crucifixion of Jesus – Esa (pbuh)

The end of the worldly life of Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is as mysterious as his birth. Al Qur'an does not confirm the crucifixion of Jesus (pbuh). The Quranic claim was that Jesus Christ (pbuh) was neither crucified nor killed.

Al Nisaa Sura 4 verse 157:- That they said (in boast), "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the apostle of Allah"; - but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not:-

Al Nisaa Sura 4 158:- Nay, Allah raised him up unto Himself; and Allah is Exalted in Power, Wise:-

Second coming of Jesus – Esa (pbuh)

There is no direct verse in the Qur'an confirming the return of Jesus (pbuh), however it is a part of Islamic faith that Jesus (pbuh) will return before the end of time. As mentioned in verses 157 and 158 of Sura Al Nisaa, the Qur'an informed us that Jesus was neither killed nor crucified but was instead raised up alive by God, Allah, into the heavens. Those who differ about it are in full of doubts and they have no knowledge about it and just follow conjecture. And Allah is all powerful and wise.

However, the following verse indirectly indicates the return of Jesus (pbuh).

Al Nisaa Sura 4 verse 159:- And there is none of the People of the Book but must believe in him before his death; and on the Day of Judgment he will be a witness against them;-

According to many scholars of the Qur'an, this verse is an authority on the second coming of Jesus (pbuh) before his real physical death in this world.

The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) spoke about the return of Jesus (pbuh) and these sayings are recorded in the books of Ahadith (Hadith is a relevant saying or statement of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)). According to the Prophet's companion, Abu Hurairah, Allah's messenger said: "By him in whose hand my soul is, the son of Maryam (Mary) will assuredly descend amongst you shortly and will judge mankind justly by the law of the Qur'an. He will break the cross and kill the pigs and there will be no tax on Non-Muslims. Money will be in such abundance that nobody will accept it and a single prostration to Allah will be better than the whole world and whatever is in it.

According to another Hadith reported by Abu Dawood, Prophet Muhammad said, regarding the return of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), "There will be no prophet between me and Jesus and he will return when he returns; you will know him. He will be a well built man of fair complexion and he will descend wearing a two piece garment, his hair

will look wet, though no water touched it. He will fight to establish divine law and will break the cross, kill the pig and abolish Jizyah – a tax on Non-Muslims. During his time, Allah will end all religions except Islam and the anti-Christ will be killed. Jesus (pbuh) will remain on earth for 40 years; when he dies, Muslims will pray the funeral prayer for him.

Note: According to the Islamic faith, the Holy Prophet Jesus Christ (pbuh) was the son of the Virgin Mary and a sign of Allah. He was not crucified on the cross but rather was saved and taken to the heavens alive by Allah, and he will return before the end of time to establish the divine kingdom of justice. He will remain on earth for 40 years and will initially be assisted by Imam Mahdi – a spiritual Muslim leader from the family of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) for 7 years. When his time comes, Jesus (pbuh) will die a natural death, according to the command of Allah, and will be buried in Madina Munawarra. Thereafter, other signs for the end of time will start appearing.

Chapter 2

New Chapter

Mary – Maryam - Mother of Jesus - Esa (pbuth)

The Story and Family of Mary – Maryam (pbuth)

The story of Holy Mary is very interesting. Her mother was Hannah (in Latin, *Anna*, and in English, *Anne*) and her father was called Imran. Mary's parents both came from the prominent priestly family of Imran from the Prophet Aaron, brother of Prophet Moses (pbuth). Therefore, Mary was called daughter of Imran because of her family and the name of her father, in a double sense. Her mother made a vow to devote her son to the service of God without realising that the child she was carrying in her womb at the time was a daughter rather than a son. When she delivered the child, it was Mary. The mystic mother of Mary said, "So what if I haven't delivered a son; I will devote my daughter to the service of God." When this special child, Mary, grew up her mother wanted to leave her in the temple in the service of God according to her vow.

When her mother took Mary to the temple, every priest in the temple wanted to be her guardian. They had to cast lots – like the tossing of the coin - with arrows for the position. Astonishingly, Mary fell to the lot of the Holy Prophet Zakariya. There was no dispute and she was put under the guardianship of Prophet Zakariya who was related to her and was the husband of her mother's sister. Mary, herself, from the time her mother had conceived her to the occasion of her birth, to her childhood, to her adolescence was nothing but a devoted and pious person. She was granted the highest title of all the women of this world and the hereafter. She conceived by divine command, being virgin, and gave birth to a very special prophet, Holy Jesus, – a sign of God.

Al Qur'an describes the story of Holy Mary in great detail. One Sura of the Qur'an is called Al Imran after the name of Mary's family, and another Sura is called after her very name, Maryam – Mary. This confirms her most elevated spiritual status and honour in the system of God - Allah.

It is interesting to note that Al Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) yet there is not a single Sura of the Qur'an named after the Prophet Muhammad's pious and devoted daughter or any of his sincere wives.

Al Imran Sura 3 verse 35:- Behold! A woman of Imran said: "O my Lord! I do dedicate unto Thee what is in my womb for thy special service: so accept this of me: for Thou hearest and knowest all things."

Al Imran Sura 3 verse 36:- When she was delivered, she said: "O my Lord! Behold! I am delivered of a female child!" – and Allah knew best what she brought forth " – and nowise is the male like the female. I have named her Mary, and I commend her and her offspring to Thy protection from the Evil One, the Rejected."

Al Imran Sura 3 verse 37:- Right graciously did her Lord accept her: he made her grow in purity and beauty: to the care of Zakariya was she assigned. Every time that he entered (her) chamber to see her, he found her supplied with sustenance. He said: "O Mary whence (comes) this to you?" She said: "From Allah: for Allah provides sustenance to whom He pleases, without measure."

Status of Mary – Maryam (pbuh)

Mary, the mother of Jesus was unique, in that she gave birth to a son by a special miracle. Mary gave birth to Jesus and she was a virgin. Al Qur'an confirms her virginity, pious character and devotion to her God - Allah. The chosen people of God have their mysterious spiritual growth under the divine scheme. Al Qur'an confirms the spiritual growth of Holy Mary right from the time of her conception, her upbringing and her devotion to God by living in the temple. It seems that she was being prepared for a highest level spiritual status under the mysterious divine scheme of God.

Al Imran Sura 3 verse 42:- Behold! The angels said: "O Mary! Allah hath chosen thee and purified thee – chosen thee above the women of all nations."

Virginity of Mary – Maryam (pbuh)

Holy Mary, the mother of Jesus, was chaste and of pious virtue though she was maligned by her people as they were unable to understand any birth without a physical father. There were others who blasphemously accused her and there have been people who have been blaming her for giving birth to a child without a proper father, outside wedlock. Such faithless people cannot understand the mysteries and power of God/Allah. When she came to her family with baby Jesus, she was interrogated and cross-examined about the baby. It was, again, a miracle that Jesus spoke from his cradle comforting his pious and holy mother. Al Qur'an tells us about Mother Mary's virginity and the words of Holy Jesus as a child, in the following verses.

Maryam Sura 19 verse 20:- She said: "How shall I have a son, seeing that no man has touched me, and I am not unchaste?"

Maryam Sura 19 verse 21:- He said: "So (it will be): thy Lord saith, 'That is easy for Me: and (We wish) to appoint him as a Sign unto men and a Mercy from Us': it is a matter (so) decreed."

Conception of Virgin Mary – Maryam (pbuh)

The holy conception took place when Mary was devoted in service to God in a private chamber of the temple, away from her people and worldly affairs. God, all powerful and competent with all of His mysteries, had destined Mary to be the mother of the Holy Prophet Jesus Christ as a miracle without any human physical contact. She was now about to experience a great test in her personal side. It was surprising for her to find herself pregnant without even a single touch of a man. It was God's divine plan which was to be revealed in her regard. When she was informed, by an angel of God, about her conception, she was in complete devotion and prayers to her God in the Eastern chamber of the temple. Regarding her question as to how it would be possible for her to become pregnant when no man had touched her, she was informed that for anything that God wishes to create, He says, "Be" and it is. So, by divine

command she became pregnant. It was a miracle. She was under divine protection and guidance. Mary followed divine instructions and inspiration without any doubt or hesitancy. She had submitted herself to the will and command of God/Allah right from her childhood. This miraculous conception of the baby Jesus most likely took place in Nazareth (of Galilee around 65 miles north of Jerusalem).

Delivery of baby Jesus by Mary – Maryam (pbuth)

The result of the miraculous conception would obviously have been the deliver of a baby. The delivery of any child is a most difficult time for any mother. But here it was a delivery of a child outside wedlock and without a father; therefore, it was the most difficult delivery one could ever witness. Mary, the mother, was, after all, a human being. Though she was under divine protection and guidance, the society she was living in, including her family, were unable to understand the happy event because they were not under divine guidance. Mary must have realized this and under divine guidance and planning she chose to leave the temple and travel to another place where unfamiliar people had no reason to doubt her. She was divinely guided to go to a remote place away from her family and people. It is generally accepted by the majority of Christians and a large number of Muslims that Jesus was born in Bethlehem about 6 miles south of Jerusalem. From the Qur'an we learn that under a palm tree, in a remote corner, this greatest miraculous delivery took place and unseen provisions for thirst or hunger were made available with instructions, described as follows.

Maryam Sura 19 verse 22:- So she conceived him, and she retired with him to a remote place.

Maryam Sura 19 verse 23:- And the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm tree: she cried (in her anguish): "Ah! Would that I had died before this! Would that I had been a thing forgotten and out of sight!"

Maryam Sura 19 verse 24:- But (a voice) cried to her from beneath the (palm tree): "Grieve not! For thy Lord hath provided a rivulet beneath thee;

Maryam Sura 19 verse 25:- “And shake towards thyself the trunk of the palm-tree: it will let fall fresh ripe dates upon thee.”

Mary with Baby Jesus coming to her Family (pbuth)

From the very start, Mary was under a vow of silence and was, therefore, not able to talk to anyone. On this occasion, she was, again, divinely inspired to decline all conversation with man or woman on the grounds of a vow to God. It was all but apparent that upon her arrival at her family's house with the baby Jesus she would be questioned and all sorts of allegations levelled against her. When she came to her family carrying baby Jesus in her arms, she was immediately questioned about the baby without marriage. She remained sober and quiet. The baby Jesus spoke under divine command in defence of his mother. Al Qur'an explains this in the following verses.

Maryam Sura 19 verse 26:- “So eat and drink and cool (thine) eye. And if thou dost see any man, say, ‘I have vowed a fast to (Allah) Most Gracious, and this day will I enter into no talk with any human being.’ ”

Maryam Sura 19 verse 27:- At length she brought the (babe) to her people, carrying him (in her arms). They said: “O Mary! Truly an amazing thing hast thou brought!”

Maryam Sura 19 verse 28:- “O sister of Aaron! Thy father was not a man of evil, nor thy mother a woman unchaste!”

Maryam Sura 19 verse 29:- But she pointed to the babe. They said “How can we talk to one who is a child in the cradle?”

Maryam Sura 19 verse 30:- He said: “I am indeed a servant of Allah: He hath given me revelation and made me a prophet;”

Maryam Sura 19 verse 31:- “And He hath made me blessed wheresoever I be, and hath enjoined on me Prayer and Charity as long as I live;”

Maryam Sura 19 verse 32:- “(He) hath made me kind to my mother, and not overbearing or miserable;”

Maryam Sura 19 verse 33:- “So Peace is on me the day I was born, the day that I die, and the day that I shall be raised up to life (again)”!

Maryam Sura 19 verse 34:- Such (was) Jesus the son of Mary: (it is) a statement of truth, about which they (vainly) dispute.

Maryam Sura 19 verse 35:- It is not befitting to (the majesty of) Allah that He should beget a son. Glory is to Him! When He determines a matter, he only says to it, “Be”, and it is.

Maryam Sura 19 verse 36:- Verily Allah is my Lord and your Lord: Him therefore serve ye: this is a Way that is straight.

Maryam Sura 19 verse 37:- But the sects differ among themselves: and woe to the Unbelievers because of the (coming) Judgment of a momentous Day!

Maryam Sura 19 verse 38:- How plainly will they see and hear, the Day that they will appear before Us! But the unjust to-day are in error manifest!

Maryam Sura 19 verse 39:- But warn them of the Day of Distress, when the matter will be determined for (behold,) they are negligent and they do not believe!

Note: Mary was a pious and devout person from her youngest days. Her whole life had been spent in the service of Allah as a sincere devotee. She was a virgin and she conceived by the divine decree of a miracle. She has a true faith and was brought up in a very clean, pure and spiritual atmosphere without any chance of contamination. Her family line from both mother and father’s side was very noble. Once her son, Holy Jesus, declared his prophet-hood, she testified her faith in him and his revelations. She was blessed with high spiritual status, the preferred and perfected woman of Allah.

Chapter 3

New Chapter

Prophet Yahya - John the Baptist (pbuh)

Prophet Zachariah (Zakariya) – Father of John (pbuh)

Prophet Zachariah - Zakariya (pbuh) reached his old age without an heir. He was anxious to have an heir to carry on his divine mission. One day, he made a supplication to God/Allah asking for an heir. Prophet Zakariya is buried in the great mosque in Haleb - Aleppo in Syria. His supplication was granted. Zakariya (pbuh) was a prophet and priest of God Most High – Allah. He was blessed with a son, Yahya (John the Baptist as he is known among the Christians). Al Qur'an mentions his story in the chapter of Maryam. In chapter Al Imran, Al Qur'an mentions Prophet Zakariya's (pbuh) role as guardian of Holy Maryam. He was related to her through her mother and was high priest at the temple.

Prophet Zachariah (Zakariya) as Guardian of Holy Mary (pbuh)

Al Imran Sura 3 verse 37:- Right graciously did her Lord accept her: he made her grow in purity and beauty: to the care of Zakariya was she assigned. Every time that he entered (her) chamber to see her, he found her supplied with sustenance. He said: "O Mary from whence (comes) this to you?" She said: "From Allah: for Allah provides sustenance to whom He pleases, without measure."

Prophet Zachariah (Zakariya) and His Prayer for an Heir

Maryam Sura 19 verse 2:- (This is) a recital of the Mercy of thy Lord to His servant Zakariya.

Maryam Sura 19 verse 3:- Behold! He cried to his Lord in secret.

Maryam Sura 19 verse 4:- Praying: "O my Lord! Infirm indeed are my bones, and the hair of my head doth glisten with grey: but never am I unblest, o my Lord, in my prayer to Thee!"

Maryam Sura 19 verse 5:- "Now I fear (what) my relatives (and colleagues) (will do) after me: but my wife is barren: so give me an heir as from Thyself,"

Al Anbiyaa – (The Prophets) Sura 21 verse 89:- And (remember) Zakariya, when he cried to his Lord: "O my Lord! Leave me not without offspring, though Thou art the best of inheritors."

Maryam Sura 19 verse 6:- "(One that) will (truly) represent the posterity of Jacob; and make him, O my Lord! One with whom Thou art well-pleased!"

Maryam Sura 19 verse 8:- He said: "O my Lord! How shall I have a son, when my wife is barren and I have grown quite decrepit from old age?"

Al Anbiyaa – (The Prophets) Sura 21 verse 90:- So we listened to him: and We granted him Yahya: We cured his wife's (barrenness) for him. These were ever quick in doing good works: They used to call on us in yearning and awe, and humble themselves before Us.

Birth of Prophet Yahya – John the Baptist (pbuh)

Prophet Zakariya and his wife were both old but without a successor. They were devout in their duties and service to God/Allah. Their reputation was chaste and noble. Allah, the all wise and powerful, was pleased with them and, with His special will and mercy, Prophet Zakariya's wife's barrenness was corrected by Allah's will. She was made fertile and capable of giving birth to a child even in her old age. Prophet Zakariya's prayer was granted and a son was born whose name was inspired to Prophet Zakariya by God, Himself. Allah the most gracious destined blessings upon the wife of the Prophet Zakariya by raising her spiritual dignity through the process of her becoming the mother of a special Prophet whose name was divinely chosen as 'Yahya'; and no

one of high religious stature had this name before him. All three of them, Prophet Zakariya, Prophet Yahya and his mother were devout and sincere to Allah's worship and obedience.

Maryam Sura 19 verse 7:- (His prayer was answered): "O Zakariya! We give thee good news of a son: his name shall be Yahya: on none by that name have We conferred distinction before."

Maryam Sura 19 verse 9:- He said: "So (it will be): thy Lord saith, 'That is easy for Me: I did indeed create thee before, when thou hadst been nothing!'"

Maryam Sura 19 verse 10:- (Zakariya) said: "O my Lord! Give me a Sign." "Thy Sign," was the answer, "shall be that thou shalt speak to no man for three nights, although thou art not dumb."

Maryam Sura 19 verse 11:- So Zakariya came out to his people from his chamber: he told them by signs to celebrate Allah's praises in the morning and in the evening.

Status of Prophet Yahya- John the Baptist (pbuh)

The Prophet Yahya – John the Baptist - was the forerunner of Jesus. He prepared the way for Holy Jesus and renewed the message of God which had been corrupted among the Israelites. He was an heir of the Prophet Zakariya and the result of his prayerful entreaty to God. He was devout and sincere in the service of God as his father was before him. He did not live long. He was imprisoned by the provincial tyrannical governor of the Roman Empire whom he had reprimanded for his sins. In retaliation, the governor imprisoned Yahya/John the Baptist who was later beheaded on false allegations. His head is buried in the grand Umayyad mosque in Damascus. Al Qur'an tells us about his gentle piety, devotion, sincerity and purity. He loved God and all His creatures and was kind to his parents. He was very humble and full of compassion. He was thoroughly blessed by Allah.

Maryam Sura 19 verse 12:- (To his son came the command): "O Yahya! Take hold of the book with might": and We gave him Wisdom even as a youth,

Maryam Sura 19 verse 13:- And pity (for all creatures) as from us, and purity: he was devout,

Maryam Sura 19 verse 14:- And kind to his parents, and he was not overbearing or rebellious.

Maryam Sura 19 verse 15:- So peace on him the day he was born, the day that he dies, and the day that he will be raised up to life (again)!

Chapter 4

New Chapter

Trinity

Al Qur'an mentions about the creed of trinity among the Christians and clarifies the true status of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). Al Qur'an repudiates the doctrine of trinity, equality with God and son-ship all of which are treated as blasphemy. We understand from reading the Bible that Holy Jesus Christ (pbuh), himself, prayed and worshipped God/Allah alone without associating any partnership with God/Allah. Al Qur'an places Jesus with great respect and of a very high spiritual status but as a man, son of Mary, without a father by the command of God-Allah Almighty who is the creator of everything. He created Adam (pbuh), a long time before Jesus (pbuh), without any father or mother. Adam is referred to as a man created by God and a slave of God/Allah. No one has ever treated Adam (pbuh) above the status of human being despite the fact that he was brought to life without any physical father or mother. He never claimed to be the son of God/Allah.

We quote a translation of a verse from the Qur'an on this subject.

Al Nisaa Sura 4 verse 171:- O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: nor say of Allah aught but the truth. Christ Jesus is the son of Mary, and a Spirit proceeding from Him: so believe in Allah and His apostles. Say not "Trinity": desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is One God: Glory be to Him: (Far Exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens and on earth. And enough is Allah as a Disposer of affairs.

Al Kahf Sura 18 verse 1:- Praise Be to God, Who has sent to His servant The Book and hath allowed therein no crookedness.

Al Kahf Sura 18 verse 4:- Further that He may warn those who say, God hath begotten a son.

Al Ikhlas Sura 112 verses 1-4:- Say: He is God, The One and Only; 2:- God, the Eternal Absolute; 3:- He begetteth not, nor is He begotten; 4:- and there is none like unto Him.

Note: According to the Qur'an and the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), Allah most gracious and most merciful is absolutely one and is almighty, all powerful and does whatever He wills. His nature is so sublime and far beyond human limited intellect and concepts. He alone is worthy of worship. He is not comparable in any way to anything else. He is Eternal and unique in every respect. He, who brings life and He who cause death. He is designer and creator of the entire universe; all creatures, all things, heavens and earth. He it is who brings light from darkness. He is the one who has absolute knowledge of everything and has absolute power over everything. He is Master of Divine Decree and Destiny. He does what He wills. He is from before the beginning and He is after the end. He is the one Who sent all the prophets and messengers from Adam to Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (pbuth) with His divine message and books – including the Torah, the Bible and the Qur'an for the guidance and education of mankind to follow the right path and to avoid that of the devil. All this in order that mankind could qualify to be dwellers in the heavenly gardens after their worldly life. The worldly life is nothing but a test and training for the permanent abode hereafter. Allah is not in need of anything. He is above need or support. He has large numbers of angels who just glorify and obey him. The highest angels are known; Archangel Gabriel who brought divine revelations to His prophets and messengers. Angel Izrael, who is deputed to take the soul at the time of death and deliver and keep it in the world of spirits, the Angel Israfiel, who is deputed for blowing the trumpet to end this world and at the time of resurrection. Angel Makaiel is deputed regarding worldly provisions from God (such as rain, crops, fruits, etc.) .There are other angels and two are assigned to each human being and are responsible for recording their deeds and actions. Humans cannot see them except with the special leave of the Almighty. Allah/God Almighty and Merciful will be Lord on the Day of Judgment. The believers will go and dwell in heavenly gardens by His Decree, Grace and Mercy.

Chapter 5

New Chapter

Al Qur'an's Invitation to People of Book

Al Qur'an invites all mankind to the truth and faith of one God worthy of everyone's worship. Abraham (pbuh) is known as the father of all prophets of the Israelites including Christians and Muslims. Abraham (pbuh) was a sincere worshipper of one God/Allah. He existed before the time of the law of Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (pbuth) but all the prophets were on his faith concerning the oneness of God/Allah. Al Qur'an confirms Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (pbuth) as very special prophets of God/Allah and confirms all the true books including the Gospel. Therefore, Prophet Muhammad was advised to call upon the people of the book for a principal faith of oneness of God/Allah and unite on this ground.

Al Imran Sura 3 verse 64:- Say: "O People of the Book! Come to common terms as between us and you: that we worship none but Allah; that we associate no partners with Him; that we erect not, from among ourselves, lords and patrons other than Allah." If then they turn back, say, "Bear witness that we (at least) are Muslims (bowing to Allah's Will)."

Chapter 6

New Chapter

Signs before the Second Coming of Jesus - Esa (pbuh)

There are certain signs reported to happen before the heavenly descent of Jesus often referred to as his second coming.

We will now briefly mention the circumstances and signs which were foretold by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as reported by various ahadith books. These include Bukhari, Muslim, Musnad Ahmad, Tirmizi, Tabrani, Abu Daud and Mustadrak Hakam. According to these books, peoples of the world will be differing with the Muslims. Frequent earthquakes and everyday killing will become routine. Cruelty, torture and abuse will become common practice. Muslims will be divided among themselves and very weak despite their huge numbers and resources. They will find no refuge anywhere. Adultery, alcohol, corruption, nakedness, immodesty and murder will become the norm of life. Usury will also become common. People will not think of the life of the hereafter. Faith will become disrespected and considered unimportant. To align oneself to Allah/God will be treated as an executable offence. Most people will prefer the worldly life, and focus on its luxuries as the purpose of living.

The State of the World

According to various authentic statements of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) – Ahadith - the world will be filled with injustice, killing, war, floods, earthquakes, disturbances, restlessness, adultery, immodesty, alcohol, usury, dishonesty, lack of trust; faith will become unimportant, the worldly life will become uppermost, and people will face tribulation after tribulation.

According to an authentic report, it would be a sign of the end of time when people with no means (barefooted sheep herders) will be competing in constructing tall – high rise buildings.

The last sign will be the death of a ruler of Hejaz and dispute over his succession. A man named Mohammad from the Prophet Muhammad's family, descended from the family of Al Hassan will be divinely inspired that he is Imam Mahdi (pbuh). He will, however, go to Makkah next day to avoid any involvement in the dispute over the succession of the ruler of Hejaz. Muslims in Makkah will recognize him and they will give him their allegiance.

Imam Mahdi, forerunner of Jesus - Esa (pbuth)

A Muslim leader from the family of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) will appear before the emergence of the anti-Christ – Dajjal - and the heavenly descent of Jesus Christ as his forerunner. Imam Mahdi (pbuh) will be in the grand mosque of Damascus among the Muslims at the time. Imam Mahdi will receive Prophet Jesus (pbuth) on his return to earth in the grand mosque of Damascus.

The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) gave glad tidings to the people that when the world would be under serious trial and the Muslims divided amongst themselves and injustice would be prevailing, at that time Mahdi will appear and fill the world with justice as it had been filled with injustice (reported in the Hadith book of Musnad Ahmad).

In another report, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) gave the brief description of Imam Mahdi (pbuh) that he would be from his progeny, his name would be Muhammad and he will be descended from the Prophet's grandson, Imam Hassan's line. He will have a broad forehead with bright face and prominent nose and will resemble him. He will be 40 years of age and in Madinah when Allah inspires him in one night that he is Imam Mahdi. It is further stated that when Muslims become helpless, and a dispute arises upon the death of a ruler of Hejaz, Imam Mahdi will appear. He will leave Madinah to avoid confrontation and go to Makkah. People will recognize him at the place of Ibrahim (pbuh) and will offer allegiance to him. The news of his appearance and allegiance by Muslims will spread all over the world and a man by the name of

Sufiani will send or lead an army from a base near Haleb to capture Imam Mahdi. However, that army will be swallowed up by the earth near a place called Baida in the dessert between Madinah and Damascus. It seems from many reports that Imam Mahdi will confront other enemies in his two year period before Prophet Jesus (pbuth) joins him.

Imam Mahdi (pbuh) will remain on earth for a total of 9 years. 2 years before the second coming of Jesus and 7 years with him. In his first 2 years, Imam Mahdi will confront many enemies and the major one will be Abu sufyani, who will be an army commander of Arab origin, based in the area of Haleb in Syria, who will first send an army to kill or capture Imam Mahdi. This will lead to war. There will be a huge war between Muslim and anti-Muslim forces near Damascus. This battle will be a fierce one and on the third day, Imam Mahdi will be victorious and he will then open many cities. The anti-Christ/ Dajjal will emerge in the last month of his first two years. Both Sunni and Shia Muslim scholars believe in the appearance of Imam Mahdi from the prophet's family at the end of time, and that he will be divinely guided and protected.

He will be called Mahdi, because he will guide people to a mountain in Syria from where he will bring out the volumes of the true *Torah* and bible and will place them in Jerusalem. When the Jews see it, most of them will become Muslim.

With the appearance of Imam Mahdi and the second coming of Holy Jesus Christ (pbuth), all believers will unite and become one group of believers. Imam Mahdi will remain with Jesus Christ for 7 years and will then depart this world. This period will be the golden period of peace, prosperity, love, sincerity, justice and piety on this earth.

Emergence of anti- Christ – Dajjal

The Anti-Christ will emerge with extensive powers and will be the greatest evil on the earth against the believers of God/Allah. Holy Prophet Moses, Holy Prophet Jesus Christ and Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuth) all warned their people against the trials and tribulations of this greatest evil anti-Christ (in Arabic he is called Dajjal, meaning deceiver, cheater, liar who will falsely claim to be Messiah and Lord). The anti-Christ will appear first as a tyrannical king with extraordinary powers. He will later claim to be Messiah and Prophet. Finally, he will claim to be Lord. Ironically, most of the people and

hypocrites will follow him. He will control almost every country and nation except Makkah and Madinah. The issue of the Dajjal/anti-Christ is mentioned in the Bible in the book of revelations. A number of Nostradamus' predictions also mention the anti-Christ. There is no verse in the Qur'an directly referring to the emergence of the anti-Christ; however, the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) informed us about him and his trials and tribulation. He advised us to recite the first ten verses of Sura Al-Kahf for our protection from the anti-Christ. The Prophet Muhammad described him as a one-eyed man. According to Abdullah ibn Umar, the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, 'I dreamt at night that I was at the *Ka'ba*, and I saw the most handsome man of red complexion you have ever seen. He had hair reaching to between his ears and his shoulders like the most excellent of such hair that you have seen and water was dripping from his hair. He was leaning on two men or on the shoulders of two men performing *tawaf* around *Ka'ba*. I asked, "Who is this?" It was said, "*Al-Masih ibn Maryam* – Jesus Son of Mary – the True Messiah." Then I turned around and saw a man with heavy body, curly hair and one eye, his other eye was like a floating grape. I asked, "Who is this?" It was said to me, "*This is Al Masih ad-Dajjal*– the anti-Christ – the False Messiah.'"

Note: This Hadith is mentioned in the books of Bukhari and Muslim.

According to Hudhayfah, "The Prophet (pbuh) said, 'I know more about the powers which the Dajjal will have than he knows himself. He will have two flowing rivers: one will appear to be pure water, and the other will appear to be flaming fire. Whosoever lives to see that, let him choose the river which seems to be fire, then let him close his eyes, lower his head and drink from it, for it will be cold water. The Dajjal will be one-eyed – (blind from one eye); on his forehead will be written the word KFR – *Kafir* (non-believer), and every believer, whether literate or illiterate, will be able to read it.' "(Muslim)

According to some reports, the anti-Christ/Dajjal will first emerge from the borders between Iraq and Syria; however there are more authentic reports saying that he will first emerge from a place east of *Khurasan* and Jews from *Isfahan* will follow him.

It appears that the anti-Christ/Dajjal will have a kind of power and most people will fall under the influence of his glittering deceptions. His

words will be able to be heard and listened to all over the world and he will be able to see things happening far away from him. He will be able to cause death to anyone and bring him back to life. There are many sayings – Ahadith - where the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) referred to the subject of Dajjal – the anti-Christ. Study of these Ahadith provides many details about this impostor. It seems he will be given powerful tricks and be capable of impressing, influencing and misleading lots of people. It would be a test for faithful believers and non-believers alike. He will travel with a very fast speed from east to west and will seem able to do anything. He could command rain and all materials, crops and treasures to come out from the fields. The affliction and trial happening during the time of Dajjal/ the anti-Christ would be of the gravest nature that the world has ever witnessed.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) advised people to pray and supplicate in the following words to protect themselves from the trials and tribulations of the Dajjal – anti-Christ,

‘O Allah, I seek refuge in You from the torment of Hell, and I seek refuge in You from the torment of the grave, and I seek refuge in You from the trial of the *Dajjal*- anti-Christ, and I seek refuge in You from the trial of life and death.’

New Chapter

Second Coming of Prophet Jesus - Esa (pbuh)

Muslims seriously believe that before the end time, Prophet Jesus Christ will come as a Messiah. He will establish a divine kingdom to do justice according to divine law. He will kill the anti-Christ and will remain in this world for 40 years before his final natural departure from this world. There is no direct verse in Qur'an confirming his second coming, however, there are authentic statements from the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) about his return and establishing the Kingdom of God with the help of Imam Mahdi (a descendant of Prophet Muhammad who will appear before the return of Jesus). According to various reports from the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), it transpires that Imam Mahdi (rightly guided) will be a forerunner of Prophet Jesus (pbuh) who will receive him at the grand mosque in Damascus. As reported in the Hadith book of Muslim, Nawas ibn Samaan said, Allah will make Jesus, son of Mary (pbuh), descend dressed in saffron coloured clothes accompanied by two angels on the white minaret at the eastern part of Damascus. When he lowers his head, water drops will fall like pearls. His breath will reach to the extent of sight and if touched by any non-believer, that person will not survive. He will then chase the anti-Christ and kill him at the gate of Ludd.

Note: Holy Jesus (pbuh) will descend from heaven at the eastern minaret of the great mosque of Damascus at dawn when Muslims will be preparing to pray. This is the same mosque where Prophet Yahya – John the Baptist's - head is buried. It is treated with great respect in a Holy Shrine by Muslims.

There is no direct verse about the second coming of Jesus (pbuh), however there is one verse which indirectly indicates that he will come

and this is also confirmed by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), as reported in the following hadith;

Abu Hurayrah stated that, “The prophet (pbuh) said, ‘By Him in Whose hand is my soul, surely the son of Mary (Jesus) will come down among you as a just ruler. He will break the cross, kill the pigs and abolish the *Jizyah* (a tax on minorities). Wealth will be in such abundance that no one will care about it, and a single prostration in prayer will be better than the world and all that is in it.’ “Abu Hurayrah said, ‘If you wish, recite the *Ayah* - verse.’

Al Nisaa Sura 4 verse 159:- And there is none of the People of the Book (Jews, Christians and Sabaien) but must believe in him before his death; and on the Day of Judgment he will be a witness against them;- (Al-Nisaa verse 159, as reported in Bukhari and Muslim – two authentic ahadith books).

According to Muslim scholars of Qur’an, this verse indicates that Jesus will die a natural death and all people of book will have to believe in him before his death and the Day of Judgment. The scholars maintain that Jesus is still living in body. He was raised to heavens when the Roman ruler, on the conspiracy of Jews, wanted to put him on the cross. When Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was taken on his heavenly journey, he met him at the second heaven. According to reports, Prophet Muhammad said Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will return before the end of time. He will return to purify the sinful world from disbelief and will preach for belief in one God- Allah.

Abu Hurayrah also reported that, “The Prophet (pbuh) said, ‘The son of Mary (Jesus) will come down as a just ruler. He will break the cross, and kill the pigs. Peace will prevail and people will use their swords (arms) as sickles. Every harmful beast will be made harmless; the sky will send down rain in abundance, and the earth will bring forth its blessings. A child will play with a fox without any harm; a wolf will graze with sheep and a lion with cattle, without harm’ “ (recorded in the Musnad Ahmad, a book of Hadith).

Note: There are other Ahadith – (sayings of the Prophet Muhammad) on this subject confirming the second coming of Jesus (pbuh). This study brings good news and hope for all mankind currently suffering under

various unjust rulers and multiple problems. It is clear that none of the current leaders and rulers have the ability to solve the current problems everyone is facing today. All nations and peoples are helpless. Material and machinery cannot rescue the suffering nations. Technology and nuclear arms are unable to bring about peace. Power and authority has failed to keep law and order. The world has become a most dangerous place for everyone. We do not know what will happen in the next hour and the next day. Rich and poor are all suffering and feel insecure and unsafe. Moral and ethical values are no longer respected. Money has become our 'god' and purpose of life. But it does not bring about prosperity and safety. Powerful rulers are busy in wars and poor rulers are busy in corruption. This grave situation cannot be rectified because evil is prevailing upon minds and society. Therefore, a divine leader is now needed to release mankind from this situation and bring back moral and spiritual values and norms where love and justice prevails. We hope and pray to Allah – God the most merciful to send us his promised Messiah, Jesus Christ (pbuh) to deliver us out of the current ugly and most difficult situation.

Armageddon – Malhama – Battle against anti-Christ

Imam Mahdi (pbuh) will be preparing for the final fight with the anti-Christ – Dajjal - and Holy Jesus Christ (pbuh) will descend from the heavens at the white minaret of the Damascus grand mosque. He will join Imam Mahdi upon his heavenly descent. Imam Mahdi will receive him and request him to lead the dawn prayer. After the prayer, along with the worshippers they will both open the main door of the mosque at the western side where they will confront the anti-Christ and his 70,000 armies. The anti-Christ will start crumbling and melting like salt with fear of the Holy Jesus Christ (pbuh). Jesus Christ and Imam Mahdi (pbuh) accompanied by the army of believers will fight the anti-Christ/ Dajjal. The final decisive battle between the believers and non-believers will take place from Damascus to Ludd. This battle is known as Armageddon. The anti-Christ and his followers will flee but Jesus and Imam Mahdi (pbuh) will chase them up to the gate of Ludd, where Jesus Christ will finally overcome and kill the anti-Christ (Dajjal). All of the followers of the anti-Christ will be killed and find no protection on that day. This marks the end of the anti-Christ, his evil supporters, and terror and injustice in the world.

Kingdom of God

Jesus Christ (pbuh) will establish the divine kingdom with the assistance of Imam Mahdi. Imam Mahdi will be the forerunner of Jesus Christ (pbuh) and will appear two years ahead of him. He will confront the great tribulation of the anti-Christ who will emerge before Jesus (pbuh). On the 40th day, the anti-Christ – Dajjal will meet with his end.

The final global capital of the divine kingdom on earth will be in the holy land.

Holy Jesus Christ (pbuh) will be a Messiah sent by God Almighty to end injustice on earth and relieve the suffering helpless believers. Jesus Christ (pbuh) will purify society and the believers. He will establish the global kingdom of God on earth with the help of Imam Mahdi. The world will become a peaceful place. Love, peace, prosperity and justice will emerge in society. All mankind will be treated humanely and everyone will be happy. This will be the best and most blessed time mankind will ever witness on earth. Imam Mahdi will depart from this world after about seven years of his company with Holy Jesus. Prophet Jesus will be the ruler of the global divine kingdom and will stay in this position for 40 years before his final departure from this world. The process and the final signs of the end of this world will become complete soon after the departure of Holy Jesus from this world. According to the Islamic view, Holy Jesus will be buried next to the holy grave of Prophet Muhammad in Madinah. Interestingly, there is a place reserved for this purpose since the time of the departure of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), and although there were very close members of his family and important companions who would have been buried in that place, it has always remained reserved. Allah knows best.

Chapter 8

New Chapter

Departure of Imam Mahdi (pbuh)

As mentioned above, Imam Mahdi will remain with Prophet Jesus (pbuh) for seven years and will then meet his Lord/Allah. His funeral prayer will be led by Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and attended by many Muslims. He will be buried in Madinah. Imam Mahdi will remain in this world for about 9 years. He will appear two years ahead of Prophet Jesus (pbuh). He will confront the anti-Christ – Dajjal’s - forces everywhere until the descent of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 9

New Chapter

Major Signs of End Time

The major signs before the end of our world as mentioned by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) are the following; however the precise time of the hour is not known to anyone except Allah.

The first major sign after the second coming of Jesus Christ (pbuh) will be Gog and Magog. It is mentioned in the Qur'an. Gog and Magog in Arabic are called Yajooj & Majooj.

Gog and Magog – Yajooj & Majooj

Al Qur'an mentioned Gog and Magog in Sura 13 – Al Kahf verse 94 – 98. According to hadiths, in the Qur'anic story, Moses was referring to Al Khidr – the Holy Green Man.

Briefly, it is believed that Gog and Magog are wild tribes of Central Asia. They were attacking and creating insecurity for other nations. Chinese, Persians, Greek and Romans all suffered at their hands and were unable to fight them. Finally, Zul-qarnain- a king believed to be a man of God, who was given vast powers and sovereignty from east to west. With the help of his powerful army, he imprisoned Gog and Magog by blocking their passage through two mountains by a strong barrier made with melted iron and lead. This barrier blocks them from coming out in any direction until the time when it is broken. It is said that they will not be able to emerge under a divine decree until the time of Prophet Jesus. According to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), they will emerge during the time of Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and will cause havoc. They will drink all the water dry. Their number will be around thousand times that of the believers. According to reports, Prophet Jesus (pbuh)

will take the believers and go to Mt. Sinai and will devoutly supplicate and pray to God to end the pandemonium of Gog and Magog and save the believers. Prophet Jesus (pbuh)'s supplication will be granted by God/Allah Almighty and the Gog and Magog will die. A heavy rain will cleanse the earth from their remaining smell. Prophet Jesus reportedly will physically die by natural causes and will be buried by the side of Prophet Muhammad (pbuth).

It is reported by Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet (pbuh) said, "Every day, Gog and Magog are trying to dig a way out through the barrier. When they begin to see sunlight through it, the one who is in charge of them says, 'Go back; you can carry on digging tomorrow,' and when they come back, the barrier is stronger than it was before. This will continue until their time comes and Allah wishes to send them forth. They will dig until they begin to see sunlight, then the one who is in charge of them will say, "go back; you can carry on digging tomorrow, *in sha Allah*.' In this case he will make an exception by saying *in sha Allah*, thus relating the matter to the Will of Allah. They will return the following day, and find the hole as they left it. They will carry on digging and come out against the people. They will drink all the water, and people will entrench themselves in their fortresses. Gog and Magog will fire their arrows into the sky, and they will fall back to earth with something resembling blood on them. Gog and Magog will declare, 'We have defeated the people of earth, and overcome the people of heaven.' Then Allah will send a kind of worm to the napes of their necks, and they will be killed by it..." By Him in Whose hand is the soul of Muhammad, the beasts of the earth will become fat. ' "

Departure of Jesus - Esa (pbuh)

In the light of Ahadith, it transpires that Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will stay on earth as a divine ruler for 40 years after his second coming. During his stay he will most probably marry a lady from the line of Prophet Shoab (pbuh). When he first visits Prophet Muhammad's mosque and says *salaam* at his grave, he will receive a reply from the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). On the 40th year, he will appoint his deputy named Maqaed. He will then meet his Lord Allah and will be buried next to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Soon after this, the words of the Qur'an will suddenly disappear and then big signs for the end of time will start coming one after the other.

Smoke

The appearance of vast amount of smoke is also one of the major signs heralding the end of time. It will appear before the day of resurrection and the Day of Judgment. There is one Sura in the Qur'an called the Smoke. It is believed that this verse relates to the smoke before the end of time. Al Qur'an Sura Adukhan verse 10 and 11 state, "Then watch thou for the Day that the sky will bring forth a kind of smoke plainly visible enveloping the people; this will be a severe penalty.

This is a clear reference to a great future calamity that people will witness and suffer shortly before the end time. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, (possibly referring to this) the hour will not come until Allah takes away the best people on earth; only the worst people will be left; they will not know any good or forbid any evil. (Reported in the book of Musnad Ahmad.)

According to another report, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, the hour will only come upon the worst of the people. (Musnad Ahmad)

The smoke will fill up the whole atmosphere from east to west. The non-believers will become unconscious; the believers will suffer with flu as an effect of this smoke.

Destruction of Ka'aba

The Ka'aba is a cubic building in the grand sanctuary of Makkah; we see it on television these days. In the middle of the sanctuary, a cubic building covering in a black cloth gives grandeur and grace to every view. It was built by Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) and its original foundations were laid by Prophet Adam (pbuh). The first man is the father of all mankind. The Ka'aba is known as the house of Allah. It settles the direction for prayers and worship to Allah. Its destruction at the end of time is one of the major signs of the end of this world. According to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), at the end of time, a man from Abyssinia named Dhu'l – Suwayqatayn will come from Abyssinia to destroy the Ka'aba in order to steal its treasure and *Kiswa* – (black cloth of the Ka'aba). The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) gave a description of him as if he could actually see him while relaying the information to his followers; he will be

bald with distorted wrists. He will be black and his legs will be widely spaced. According to another report Dhu'l – Suwayqatayn will be known as Jahjah. (Allah knows best)

Sunrise from West

The rising of the sun from the west is also one of the major signs before the end of time. According to Abu Zer Ghaffari, the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said that at the very end of time the sun will, one day, suddenly rise from the west. That day Allah Almighty will not allow the sun to rise from the east and it will go back from the west.

Appearance of Beast

This is another major sign mentioned before the end of time. When the world will be filled with injustice, a divine decree will come to stop the current world. Al Qur'an mentions this in the following verse;

Al Qur'an Sura 27 verse 82:- And when the world is fulfilled against them we shall produce, from the earth, a beast to them. He will speak to them for mankind did not believe with assurance in our signs.

The beast will emerge from the mountain of Safa near the Ka'aba in Makkah. It will take place on the same day when the sun will rise from the west. The beast will speak to people in their language. According to some reports, the beast will hold the rod of Prophet Moses (pbuh) in one hand and the ring of Prophet Solomon (pbuh) in his other. The beast will mark the forehead of every believer with his rod. A light will appear from the forehead of believers with the touch of his rod. And he will fix a black spot with his seal on the face of the non-believer. It seems that the rod and ring would be used by the beast with divine command to separate the believers from the non-believers. After this, the beast will disappear.

According to other reports, the beast would be very strong and powerful and no one would be able to control him by any means. His face would be human, his neck like horse, legs and feet like a camel, hands like a monkey, horn like deer and tail like a cow.

Great Fire

According to Hadith, the great fire will appear before the day of resurrection. It will start from Aden and will drive the people from all over the world to the place of their last and final assembly. This fire will spread like a bush fire and like wind from east to west it will take over the whole world. It will push people from all over the world and gather them towards the Sham – Damascus Palestine area. That area is believed to be the place of great grand assembly of mankind at the time of resurrection.

A Blow of Trumpet – End of Time

By divine decree and command at the end time, the first Trumpet will be blown and the whole visible world will cease in its current form. All human souls will lose their consciousness and personality. Every other thing including the earth and the heaven will diminish. The mountains will be crushed to powder by one divine stroke. All traces of injustice, darkness and evil will be gone forever with the previous world and its earth. A new world will come into being. With the second Trumpet, every human soul will stand in the new world. The new world with its new earth will have one universal Light, the Glory of God/Allah. Everything will be seen in its true light. Mankind will see the clear vision more than ever before. Now the judgment will proceed by divine decree. This will be the Day of Judgment.

Al Qur'an Sura 27 Alnaml verses 87:- And the Day that the Trumpet will be sounded – then will be smitten with terror those who are in the heavens, and those who are on earth, except such as Allah will please (to exempt): and all shall come to His (Presence) as beings conscious of their lowliness.

Al Qur'an Sura 27 Alnaml verses 88:- Thou seest the mountains and thinkest them firmly fixed: but they shall pass away as the clouds pass away: (such is) the artistry of Allah, Who disposes of all things in perfect order: for He is Well acquainted with all that ye do.

Chapter 10

New Chapter

Resurrection and the Day of Judgment

The knowledge of the final hour is with God/Allah alone. Its coming is certain without any doubt. The exact timing of its happening was not even revealed to any of the prophets. Every human soul will be resurrected and stand before his Lord. This day will be very heavy on everyone; especially those who disbelieved who will see this day and regret, but nothing can save them because they have lost their chance. They denied God's messengers and clear books. They followed their whims and remained arrogant. Al Qur'an clearly mentions about resurrection and the Day of Judgment in many verses. The first and the second Trumpet are mentioned. We understand from Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) that an angel by the name of Israfil is deputed to blow the trumpet. By the sound of the first trumpet, every living being will die. The current world will be replaced with a new world. With the sound of second trumpet, all the dead will rise. They will regain their memory and personality. Time and space as we know it here in this world will be no more. The whole gathering and resurrection will be as in the twinkling of an eye. The great summons will come from God Almighty and no one will be able to escape that day.

Judgment will be according to the highest standard of justice and divine grace. The judgment will be held before the Throne of God/Allah. The book of each and every man's total deeds and moves will be placed in front of him. Nothing will be hidden; everyone will be able to see it clearly. Everyone's deeds, good or evil, will be placed around his own neck in the form of a scroll or a disc which will spread open in front of him. He will be asked to read his own record by himself and account for it.

Here are a few direct and clear verses from the Qur'an relating to the Trumpet, the Resurrection and the Day of Judgment.

Al Qur'an Sura 27 Al Naml verse 83:- One Day We shall gather together from every people a troop of those who reject Our Signs, and they will be kept in ranks, -

Al Qur'an Sura 27 Al Naml verse 84:- Until, when they come (before the judgment –seat), (Allah) will say: "Did ye reject My Signs, though ye comprehended them not in knowledge or what was it ye did?"

Al Qur'an Sura 36 Al Ya-sin verse 51:- The trumpet shall be sounded, when behold! from the sepulchres (men) will rush forth to their Lord!

Al Qur'an Sura 36 Al Ya-sin verse 52:- They will say: Ah! Woe unto us! Who hath raised us up from our beds of repose?" (A voice will say:) "This is what (Allah) Most Gracious had promised, and true was the word of the apostles!

Al Qur'an Sura 36 Al Ya-sin verse 53:- It will be no more than a single Blast, when lo! They will all be brought up before Us!

Al Qur'an Sura 36 Al Ya-sin verse 54:- Then, on that Day, not a soul will be wronged in the least, and ye shall but be repaid the meeds of your past Deeds.

Al Qur'an Sura 39 Al Zumar verse 68:- The Trumpet will be sounded, when all that are in the heavens and on earth will swoon, except such as it will please Allah (to exempt). Then will a second one be sounded, when, behold, they will be standing and looking on!

Al Qur'an Sura 78 Al Nabaa verse 18:- The Day that the Trumpet shall be sounded and ye shall come forth in crowds.

Al Qur'an Sura 78 Al Nabaa verse 19:- And the heavens shall be opened as if there were doors.

Chapter 11

New Chapter

Record of All Deeds and Moves

God's/Allah's knowledge and power extend to all things. He has full knowledge of all our deeds and even whatever is in our hearts, deep in the seas, skies, heavens and earth. Nothing is beyond his power, knowledge and access.

Al Qur'an Sura 2 Al Baqara verse 255:- Allah! There is no god but He, - the Living, the Self-subsisting, Eternal. No slumber can seize Him nor sleep. His are all things in the heavens and on earth. Who is there can intercede in His presence except as He permits? He knows what (appears) to His creatures as) before or after or behind them. Nor shall they compass aught of His knowledge except as He wills. His Throne extends over the heavens and the earth; He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them for He is the Most High, the Supreme (in glory).

Note: This verse is known as Verse of the Throne. This clearly explains that Allah is Self-subsisting, Eternal and Absolute. He is supporting and maintaining all life. He is all Perfect. His Knowledge, Wisdom and Power are Absolutely Perfect. His Throne is the symbol of His Power, Authority, Knowledge and Wisdom. He does not need any rest or sleep. His perfection is beyond any such needs.

Reportedly, all our deeds and moves in our worldly life are being constantly recorded under an invisible divine system. It seems that angels are deputed over every single soul to write and record all actions, deeds and moves. This record will be placed in front of every single soul on the Day of Judgment. It will not be possible to hide or deny anything on that day because of its clear record. It seems some highly sophisticated and

transparent divine system of recording is in place. Even in our world of today, we have hidden cameras in shopping malls, roads and other places which record our conversations and movements. When anyone of us is confronted with such a video record, no denial is possible in our current world. How will any soul on the Day of Judgment be able to deny his record prepared and maintained by angels? Al Qur'an mentions this in the following words:

Al Qur'an Sura 17 Al-Isra verse 13:- Every man's fate we have fastened on his own neck: on the Day of Judgment We shall bring out for him a scroll, which he will see spread open.

Al Qur'an Sura 17 Al-Isra verse 14:- (It will be said to him :) "Read thine (own) record: sufficient is thy soul this day to make out an account against thee."

There are many other verses in Quran relating to the accountability and judgment of every single soul on the Day of Judgment. There will be absolute justice to everyone.

Chapter 12

New Chapter

Allah – God Almighty

Allah in Arabic means the one Who is worthy of worship. Allah is God Who created everything, the universe and every thing in it, heaven and earth; all humans, animals, plants and everything else. The one who created Adam, the one Who is God of everyone including Prophet Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (pbuth). Allah is the one and only Lord of this world and the world hereafter.

Chapter 13

New Chapter

Basics of Islamic Faith

The Islamic faith is not new. It is same faith which was the faith of Adam, Noah and all the prophets and messengers including Prophet Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (pbuth). A Muslim must believe in the absolute oneness of God/Allah and worship Him alone. A Muslim must believe and confirm all the prophets and messengers sent by Allah and their books. A Muslim must believe in angels, Divine Decree of Destiny, life after death and the Day of Judgment. It is the continuation of the Abrahamic faith.

A Muslim must pray five times a day to Allah (provided that he/she is adult and if she is not menstruating). He/she must pay zakat (charity for the poor provided he/she is self sufficient). He/she must fast from dawn to dusk during the month of Ramadan (provided he/she is adult and physically fit). He/she must perform pilgrimage to the Ka'aba (House of God built by Prophet Abraham (pbuh) in Makkah) once in his/her life-time provided he/she can afford the costs of travel and is physically fit.

Al Qur'an Sura 57 Al Hadid verse 1:- Whatever is in the heavens and on earth, - let it declare the Praise and Glory of Allah: for He is the Exalted in Might, the Wise.

Al Qur'an Sura 57 Al Hadid verse 2:- To Him belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth: it is He Who gives Life and Death; and He has Power over all things.

Al Qur'an Sura 57 Al Hadid verse 3:- He is the First and the Last, the Evident and the Immanent: and He has full knowledge of all things.

Al Qur'an Sura 57 Al Hadid verse 4:- He it is Who created the heavens and the earth in six Days, and is moreover firmly established on the Throne (of authority). He knows what enters within the earth and what comes forth out of it, what comes down from heaven and what mounts up to it. And He is with you wheresoever you may be. And Allah sees well all that ye do.

Al Qur'an Sura 57 Al Hadid verse 5:- To Him belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth: and all affairs are referred back to Allah.

Al Qur'an Sura 57 Al Hadid verse 6:- He merges Night into Day, and He merges Day into Night; and He has full knowledge of the secrets of (all) hearts.

Al Qur'an Sura 57 Al Hadid verse 7:- Believe in Allah and His Apostle, and spend (in charity) out of the (substance) whereof He has made you heirs. For, those of you who believe and spend (in charity), - for them is a great Reward.

Chapter 14

New Chapter

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was born in Makkah on Monday in April 570 A.D. His mother and father were both of pious and noble lineage among the Arabs. He received the first revelation in a cave of Hira near Makkah at the age of 40 years. Once he declared his prophethood among the Makkans, he gave them the message of Allah that they should worship none but Allah alone. Most of them subsequently became his fiercest enemies including some of his uncles and close relatives. He did not claim anything for himself. He only delivered the divine message about the oneness of Allah and His Worship alone. He confirmed all previous prophets including Abraham, Moses and Jesus (pbuth). Most of the Arabs were following paganism at the time of Prophet Muhammad's divine message. The Ka'aba, built by Prophet Abraham (pbuh), was intended purely for the worship of Allah alone but the pagan Arabs brought idols inside it to include them in their worship. When the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) tried to educate them about the divine message and advised them to abandon their idols and worship Allah alone, they tried to oppress him and his few followers. He had to flee, under divine plan and protection, to Madinah to save his followers and himself from the tortures and persecution of the Makkans. He was warmly received in Madinah where he lived for the rest of his life and completed the divine mission. He is buried in Madinah by the side of his mosque. He received the Qur'an through divine revelations brought by Archangel Gabriel (pbuh) over a period of 23 years. He was the last prophet, and God sent him as a prophet for all mankind with the last book, Al Qur'an. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said words to the effect that, 'there is no other prophet after me and no other divine book, as the Qur'an is the last divine book.' However, he confirmed that, before the end of time, Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will come back, confirm the Qur'an

and establish a kingdom of Allah on earth under the divine law of the Qur'an. Prophet Jesus will finally depart from this life after 40 years of his stay, and will be placed to rest next to his resting place in Madinah. Thereafter, the remaining major signs will quickly take place, one after the other, and the Trumpet will be blown for the end of life and this world. With the second Trumpet, everyone will be resurrected and then the Day of Judgment will become established. This will determine the final destiny and place of abode for every soul. Prophet Jesus (pbuh) also confirmed Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) coming. According to the Qur'an, Sura 61 As-Saff verse 61:- Remember when Jesus son of Mary said, 'O children of Israel I am the messenger of Allah sent to you, confirming the Torah before me, and giving glad tidings of a messenger coming after me, whose name will be Ahmad' – (Prophet Muhammad's name is Ahmad in heaven).

Islam spread very quickly from Madinah to the east and west; it reached all continents.

His sermon, after his victorious and bloodless return to Makkah, devoid of any hint of opposition, is a masterpiece of human rights, tolerance and forgiveness. Along with the treaty of Madinah, it provided a foundation for all constitutions, respect for human beings and their basic-fundamental rights. It said, Allah, Who alone is worthy of worship, has fulfilled his promise by blessing His servant and helping him to defeat his enemy. Listen carefully; all the traditions and customs of the days of ignorance, bloodshed and usurpation of property are under my foot and are abolished. The traditional office of service for the Ka'baa and the office of serving zamzam water (Holy water) will remain intact. Remember that intentional or unintentional murder is a very serious matter; both are punishable and both are liable to blood money (out of 100 camels 40 must be pregnant she-camels). O people of Quraish, (the elite amongst the Arabs), Allah has abolished your racial pride inherited from the period of ignorance. All (people) are from Adam and Adam was born out of dust. ALLAH Almighty has said that We have caused your birth from a man and a woman and have made you tribes and clans so that you can recognize each other. You must know that the best among you is the one who is more GOD fearing. Allah fully knows and is aware (of what you do). Prophet Mohammad asked, 'O people of Quraish what do you feel that I will do to you?' They (the Quraish) replied 'we expect good from you because you are the most excellent brother and the son of a most excellent brother.' The Prophet

Mohammad (pbuh) said, 'OK; I say the same as what Prophet Yousof (Joseph) (pbuh) said to his brothers. Today there is no charge upon you. Go, you are all free today.'

Note; This was on the historical occasion of the Prophet Mohammad's triumphant return to Makkah after about 8 years, from where the Quraish – the elite of the Arabs of the same tribe of the Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) - opposed, and persecuted him and his followers. They had wanted to kill him. They had surrounded his house following a joint decision to kill him. He fled from them under divine protection and by a miracle they could not see him. He fled to Madinah and, in his absence, they seized his belongings and those of all his followers. They placed a bounty on his head and sent a number of people to accomplish his capture. Upon his arrival in Madinah people received him with great warmth and respect. The people of Madinah accepted him as messenger-prophet of ALLAH – GOD, as they had been waiting for the emergence of an Arabian prophet, as had been foretold in the Torah — the Old Testament. Many of them had been of the Jewish faith.

According to Arab law and tradition, on the victorious return to Makkah, after having experienced such treachery, the Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) was entitled to kill the occupants and claim blood money etc, but he did things the other way round and forgave them all. This blessed act of mercy and forgiveness was befitting only a true prophet as we know from the stories of many prophets.

Chapter 15

New Chapter

Al Qur'an

Al Qur'an is a very word of Allah. It was sent by revelation through Archangel Gabriel to Prophet Muhammad. Al Qur'an is in its original language and its original text. There is no other divine book today which is in its original language and form. It has 6,252 verses, 114 Suras and 30 parts. Al Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and under his supervision was written by his many secretaries. Another miracle of the Qur'an is that it was instantly preserved in the chest of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) by divine command. It was also immediately memorized by hundreds of his companions under his instant instructions. There are millions of young and old, men and women who know the whole of the Qur'an by heart. Many young children of the age of 7 – 9 memorize whole Qur'an by heart. This tradition has been continuing since the 7th century from the time of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Again, there is no other divine book which has this miracle. Al Qur'an's every single word is as pure and original as it was revealed over 1400 years ago. The most authenticated, uncorrupted and unchanged divine book today is Al Qur'an. Al Qur'an confirms all the prophets from Adam to Noah, to Abraham to Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (pbuh). It also confirms Al Zabur, Al Torah and Al Injil – Jesus' book. It tells us all about the process of divine creation, the creation of Adam, heaven and earth. It tells us all about the life after death and the Day of Judgment. It confirms many stories of the past prophets. It teaches us about the oneness of God, our true faith and our manners and deeds with each other and with other creatures. It guides us how to enrich our spiritual growth and good manners. It also enlightens us as to how to prepare ourselves for our heavenly eternal abode after death and how to pass our great test on the Day of Judgment.

Chapter 16

New Chapter

Hope

Allah - God Almighty - is Most Gracious and Merciful and is our greatest and only true hope. We are here by His most kind pleasure and we will return to Him with our full and sincere love for him. We hope and are sure of His Eternal Mercy. We are weak and forgetful in nature. We do commit sins and mistakes. We regret and repent and beg for His forgiveness. According to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

When Allah decreed the Creation

He pledged Himself by writing in His book which is laid down with Him: My mercy prevails over My wrath.

(Recorded in the books of Al-Bukhari, An-Nasai and Ibn Majah)

According to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), Allah said,

O son of Adam, so long as you call upon Me and ask of Me, I shall forgive you for what you have done, and I shall not mind. O son of Adam, were your sins to reach the clouds of the sky and were you then to ask forgiveness of Me, I would forgive you. O son of Adam, were you to come to Me with sins nearly as great as the earth and were you then to face Me, ascribing no partner to Me, I would bring you forgiveness

nearly as great as it.

Our belief is that Allah's Mercy is much greater and higher than our sins. We hope we will be granted the permanent and eternal abode under His unlimited and immeasurable mercy and that when Allah speaks to the inhabitants of paradise, we will be among them.

As the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said,

Allah will say to the inhabitants of Paradise: O inhabitants of Paradise! They will say; O our Lord, we present ourselves and are at Your pleasure, and goodness rests in Your hands. Then He will say: Are you contented? And they will say: And how should we not be contented, O Lord, when you have given to us that which You have given to no one else of your creation? Then He will say: would you not like Me to give you something better than that? And they will say: O lord and what thing is better than that? And He will say: I shall cause My Favour to descend upon you and thereafter I shall never be displeased with you.

(Recorded in book of Al Bukhari, Al Muslim and Al Tirmidhi)

Message by the Spiritual Master Rumi

Physical eyes are deceptive:

Whatever these physical eyes show you as a real pleasure,
By the same fantasy you lose your real
treasure.

What you sow so shall you reap:

O you who are digging a well for others from cruelty,
You are actually digging a trap for your own brutality.
Don't be like a silk-worm weaving death around yourself,
Just wait and see what you are digging for yourself.

Spiritual feelings lead you higher:

The feelings of this world are mundane ladders,
The feelings of the other world are the spiritual ladders.
For the health of this world seek a medical doctor,
For the health of the other world look for a divinely guided master.

Kingdom of God – ALLAH under Holy Jesus Christ (pbuh)

On the authority of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), Jesus will certainly return before the end of time. A man from Prophet Muhammad's family, who will be known as Imam Mahdi (rightly guided leader), will be the forerunner of Holy Jesus Christ. All Muslims under their single spiritual leader, Imam Mahdi (pbuh), will welcome the second coming of Holy Jesus Christ in Damascus . Jesus Christ, with the help of Imam Mahdi, will first defeat the anti-Christ (Dajjal) and then establish a global Kingdom of God where all believers will enjoy justice, prosperity, equality, respect and global peace under a single global divine kingdom. We all long for this golden time in human history. It is all too clear that not a single leader in the world today has the ability to restore peace, justice and love among peoples and nations.

GLOSSARY OF ARABIC TERMS

Allah – Worthy of worship, the creator of the universe and everything in it, the Lord of all worlds. We cannot find a real fitting equivalent for Allah in English. It is an Arabic word which shares similarity with the Hebrew word, and can be understood by the word 'God' in the English language.

Al Qur'an – The divine last testament given to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). It is in Arabic. Its translations are available in almost every language.

Dajjal – It is an Arabic word for anti-Christ

Esa – is the Arabic word for Jesus.

Hadith – Statement or saying of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), plural is **Ahadith** – statements or sayings.

Hira – Is the name of the cave in Makkah where Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) used to spend time in seclusion for meditation and where he received the first divine revelation.

Imam Mahdi – A predicted spiritual leader from the family of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) who will reportedly appear near the end of time as forerunner to the Prophet Jesus, and who will pave the way for his second coming and who will fight the anti-Christ alongside him (pbuh).

Israfil – It is an Arabic name of the angel who will first blow the Trumpet to end this world and then for the Resurrection and the Day of Judgment.

Izrail – Is the name for the angel who takes the soul from the body at the time of death.

Jibril – It is an Arabic name for Archangel Gabriel, who brought divine revelations to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and all other Prophets (pbuh) before him.

Ka'aba – The cubic building covered in black cloth, and the house of Allah in Makkah built by Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) (pbuh) on the same foundations laid down by Prophet Adam (pbuh). It is also a direction for Muslims prayers.

Kiswa – black cloth of Ka'aba

Madinah – This is the name of an historic city in the Arabian Peninsula where Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) migrated to, where he established the first Islamic state, and where he is buried. It is in Saudi Arabia.

Makail – It is an Arabic name of the angel deputed by Allah for worldly provision.

Makkah – is an old city where the sanctuary of Ka'aba is situated. It is located in present-day Saudi Arabia.

Maryam – is the Arabic equivalent of the English name, 'Mary'.

Muhammad – The Prophet who appeared first in Makkah then migrated to Madinah to avoid persecution from Makkan aristocrats of his family.

Quraish – It is an Arabic word used for the aristocratic class of Makkan Arabs.

Sura – is an Arabic word used for chapter.

Yahya – Prophet John the Baptist (pbuh) is called Yahya in Arabic.

Ummah – An Arabic word which means the body of Muslims.

Wahn – love for the worldly life and hate/fear of death.

Yajooj and Majooj – Gog and Magog in Arabic.

Zakariya – Prophet Zachariah (pbuh) is called Zakariya in Arabic.

Zamzam – This is a holy well of holy water which sprang into existence during the time of Prophet Ibraheem (pbuh) when he left his son, Ismail – Ishmail as a small baby along with his mother, Hagar, near the

current building of the Ka'aba. This well appeared miraculously for the baby, Ismail. It has been flowing continuously since the time of Prophet Abraham to this day.

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