

# What Christians & Jews should know about the Qur'an & Muhammad

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# What is the Qur'an?

The Qur'an is **God's divine revelation** to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

The Qur'an is the **literal words of God**

**Muhammad did not write the Qur'an:** he was illiterate (could not read or write)

The Qur'an was **inspired to Muhammad through the angel of revelation** Jibreel (Gabriel)

# The Qur'an was revealed in Arabic and came down gradually over 23 years

1-The Qur'an came down **interrupted over 23 years**: from the time the Prophet started receiving divine revelation at age 40, till shortly before his death at age 63

2-The Qur'an was **revealed in Arabic** because Muhammad was an Arab. The divine revelation comes in the language of the prophet

***“We sent not a messenger except to teach in the language of his own people”***

Ibrahim (Abraham) 14: 4

# Why did the Qur'an come down interrupted over 23 years?

1-To **answer questions** and to solve problems that the Prophet (PBUH) & the Muslims faced

2-To **strengthen the heart of the Prophet** & his companions

3-It would have been **impossible** for the Prophet & his companions to recite the Qur'an, learn it, apply it or teach it to others if it came down all at once

***“Those who reject faith say: “Why is not the Qur'an revealed to him all at once?” Thus it was revealed that We may strengthen your heart thereby; and We have rehearsed it to you in slow, well-arranged stages; and no question do they bring to you but We reveal to you the truth and best explanation”***

Al-Furqan (The Criterion) 25: 32 & 33

# God promised to safeguard and preserve the Qur'an

***“We have without doubt, sent down the message, and We will assuredly guard it”***

Al-Hijr (Rocky tracts) 15: 9

# How was the Qur'an preserved?

The **Arabic Qur'an** was preserved in two ways:

- 1-Oral memorization:** Few verses of the Qur'an were revealed every day. Since Muslims recite the Qur'an in their prayers five times each day it was not difficult to memorize. A group of the Prophet's companions were charged with memorizing the Qur'an
- 2-Written scripture.** Qur'anic verses were written on material available at that time. A group of the Prophet's companions were charged with writing the Qur'an

# How was the Qur'an preserved?

**Abou Bakr** (the first righteous Caliph) ordered that the Qur'an be collected from its oral sources and written sources, and the Qur'an was written in one book

**Othman** (The third righteous Caliph) ordered that the Qur'an be written in one version. This is the Arabic Qur'an that we have today. It is the same whether it is in the Middle East, America or Europe

# What is the evidence that the Qur'an is a divine revelation from God and not the work of a human being?

## **Evidence from the Qur'an**

- 1-The Qur'an is clear and logical
- 2-None of the verses of the Qur'an have been proven wrong
- 3-There is no contradiction in the Qur'an

## **Evidence from the life of Muhammad**

Muhammad was illiterate

No one could produce such a Qur'an



# The Qur'an is clear and logical

Those who reject faith argue: how can we be raised up again after we die and become dust and bones? The Qur'an answers:

***“Does not man see that it is We who created him from sperm, yet he stands up as an open adversary. And he makes comparisons for Us, and forgets his own creation, he says: “Who can give life to dry and decomposed bones? Say: “He will give them life who created them for the first time, for He fully knows all creation”***

Ya Sin 36: 77-79

# Look at the dead earth how it comes back to life

***“And among His signs is that you see the earth humble, but when we send down rain to it, it is stirred to life and yields increase. Truly He who gives life to the dead earth can surely give life to those who are dead, for He has power over all things”***

Fusselat (Explained in detail) 41: 39

# Every soul is rewarded or punished according to its deeds

***“Shall We treat those who believe and work righteous deeds, the same as those who do mischief on earth? Shall We treat those who guard against evil, the same as those who turn aside from the right?”***

Sa’ D 38: 28

# God is just: every soul is judged according to its deeds

***“Do those who do evil deeds think that We shall make them equal to those who believe and do righteous deeds,- that their life and death is equal? The judgment that they make is wrong. God created the heavens and the earth for just ends and in order that each soul may find the recompense of what it has earned, and none of them shall be wronged”***

Al-Jatheya (Bowing down) 45: 21 & 22

Those who are guided can see their way clearly,  
those deprived of guidance are in darkness

***“Can he who was dead, to whom we gave life and a light whereby he can walk among mankind, be like him who is in the depths of darkness from which he can never come out? Thus to those without faith their own deeds seem pleasing”***

Al-Ana'am (The Cattle) 6: 122

We are ordered to pray because prayer improves our character and behavior, not because God needs our prayers

***“Recite what is sent of the Book to you by inspiration, and establish regular prayer: for prayer restrains from shameful deeds. The remembrance of God is the greatest without doubt, for God knows what you do”***

Al-Ankabut (The Spider) 29: 45

- Reciting the Qur'an
- Prayer
- Remembering God

# Fasting guides us to become righteous

***“O you who believe fasting has been ordained on you, as it was ordained on those before you, that you may learn self-restraint and righteousness”***

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 183

# Charity liberates our souls of greed and grant us God's forgiveness and reward

***“So fear God as much as you can, listen and obey; and spend in charity for the benefit of your own souls. Those saved from the covetousness of their own souls will prosper. If you loan to God a beautiful loan, He will double it to your credit, and He will grant you forgiveness; for God is all-thankful, most-forbearing”***

At-Taghabun (Mutual loss and gain) 64: 16 & 17



# None of the Qur'anic verses were proven wrong

The Qur'an is not a book of science, but its verses do not contradict scientific knowledge. It is God who gave us our intellect to think, experiment, reflect and reach conclusions. It is the same God who sent down the Qur'an in truth.

Any apparent contradiction means either we did not understand the Qur'anic verse, or our scientific theory has a hole in it

# The age of the earth

The Qur'an states that God created the heavens and earth in six days

Science tells us that the age of the earth is billions of years

Obviously God's days are not like our days. In one verse a day is 1000 years, in another verse a day is 50,000 years:

***"Yet they ask you to hasten on the punishment, but God will not fail in his promise. Indeed a day in the sight of your Lord is like a thousand years of your reckoning"***

Al-Hajj (Pilgrimage) 22: 47

***"The Angels and the spirit ascend unto Him in a day the measure whereof is fifty thousand years"***

Al-Ma'arij (Ways of ascent) 70: 4

# There is no contradiction in the Qur'an

Despite the Qur'an being sent down over 23 years there is no contradiction, rather Qur'anic verses complete and complement each other.

***“Do they not ponder on the Qur'an? Had it been from other than God, they would surely have found therein much discrepancy”***

An-Nesa'a (The Women) 4: 82

# Muhammad could not read or write

How can he produce such a magnificent Qur'an?

***“You were not able, before this revelation, to recite a book or write it with your right hand; in that case the talkers of vanity would have doubted”***

Al-Ankabut (The Spider) 29: 48

# No one could produce such a Qur'an

***“Say: “If the whole of mankind and the Jinn were to gather together to produce the like of this Qur'an, they could not produce the like thereof, even if they backed up each other with help and support”***

Al-Isra'a (Night Journey) 17: 88

# How do Muslims look at the Qur'an?

Muslims consider the Qur'an the **literal words of God**

The Qur'an has teachings and principles that **govern the life** of Muslims, it is their **constitution** and main **source of knowledge**

Muslims **recite the Arabic Qur'an in their prayers** 5 times each day

The Qur'an reminds of **our accountability to God**

It is a **guidance** and shows us our way and goal in life

It is a **mercy** from God and a **cure** for the ills in our hearts

# The Qur'an is a guidance, mercy, cure and a reminder of our accountability

***“O mankind there has come to you an admonition (reminder) from your Lord, and a healing for the diseases in your hearts, and for those who believe a guidance and a mercy”***

Yunus (Jonah) 10: 57

# The Qur'an is a criterion that distinguishes right from wrong

***“Blessed is He who sent down the Criterion to His servant, that it may be an admonition to all creatures”***

Al-Furqan (The Criterion) 25: 1

Muslims judge other books according to the Qur'an. What agrees with the Qur'an they accept. What contradicts Qur'anic teachings they reject like the Divinity of Jesus Christ or the concept of the Trinity



# The message of the Qur'an

- 1-Understanding **God** and **our accountability** to Him
- 2-God's divine **books**
- 3-God's **prophets** & messengers
- 4-Rituals of **worship**
- 5-**Morals**, ethics and noble character
- 6-**Relationship** between human beings
- 7-**Family** values

# There is only One God (Tawheed)

God created us and He provides for us

God guides us to his way

God is forgiving and merciful

God knows what we do, and is in full control

God is just and rewards us or punishes us according to our deeds

We are accountable to God

# Man's duty is to worship and serve God

Worship is not just prayer and fasting

Whatever we do in our daily life can be an act of worship to God if our deeds are good and our intention is to serve God

When we help the poor, and reach out to those who need our help then we are worshipping God

When we are honest at work, and do our work to the best of our ability we are indeed worshipping God

When we are kind, caring, forgiving and merciful we are worshipping God

***“O mankind worship your Guardian Lord, who created you and those before you, that you may attain righteousness”***

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 21

# Why do we need to worship and serve God?

We cannot enumerate **God's blessings** over us:

***“If you count the blessings of God over you, you will not be able to enumerate them, for God is often-forgiving, most merciful”***

An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 18

We **cannot survive without God's** help and guidance

God gave us our **faculties and ability to learn**:

***“It is God who brought you out from the wombs of your mothers when you knew nothing; and He gave you hearing and sight and intelligence, that you may give thanks”***

An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 78

# God provides for His servants

***“How many are the creatures that carry not their own sustenance? It is God who feeds them and you; for He hears and knows all things”***

Al-Ankabut (The Spider) 29: 60

***“Say: “My Lord enlarges and restricts the sustenance to such of His servants as He pleases; nothing that you spend in the least in His cause but He replaces it, for He is the best of those who grant sustenance”***

Sa’Ba 34: 39

# God helps us when we are in trouble

***“Who listens to the distressed when he calls on Him, and who relieves his suffering, and makes you (mankind) inheritors of the earth? Can there be another god besides Allah? Little it is that you heed”***

An-Naml (The Ants) 27: 62

# God hears our prayers and answers us

***“When My servants ask you concerning Me, I am indeed close to them; I respond to the prayer of every suppliant when he calls on Me; let them also with a will listen to My call and believe in Me, that they may walk in the right way”***

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 186

***“Your Lord said: “Call on Me I will answer you; but those who are too arrogant to serve Me will surely enter hell in humiliation”***

Ghafir (Forgiving) 40: 60

# God responds to our prayers in his own way

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) said: (The Dua'a (prayer) of every Muslim (believer) is responded to: either he gets what he asked for, or his reward is delayed till the Day of Judgment, or a calamity is lifted off his shoulder; as long as he is not calling for sin, and not distancing himself from his relatives, or hurries and says: "I called on my Lord, but He did not respond to me)

(Three people their Dua'a to Allah is never turned down: A just ruler; and the fasting person till he breaks his fast; and the person who is wronged, his prayer to Allah is lifted above the clouds, and the gates of heaven opened for it, and the Lord says: "With My might I will come to your rescue, if not now, then after a while) Bokhari



# God is forgiving and gives us many chances

***“But without doubt I am He that forgives again and again, to those who repent, believe and do right, who then are on true guidance”***

Ta Ha 20: 82

***“Unless he repents, believes, and work righteous deeds, for God will change the evil of such persons into good, for God is often-forgiving, most-merciful”***

Al-Furqan (The Criterion) 25: 70

***“Say: “ O My servants who have wronged their own souls, do not despair of the mercy of God, for God forgives all sins, for God is often-forgiving, most merciful”***

Az-Zumar (The Groups) 39:

# Steps for forgiveness

- 1-Realizing that we have made a mistake, and feeling ashamed
- 2-Turning to God seeking his forgiveness
- 3-Doing something good to wipe out our sin and mistake
- 4-Learning from our mistakes and not repeating them

# God is merciful

***“He ordained on Himself the rule of mercy”***

Al-Ana’am (The Cattle) 6: 12

***“And My mercy encompasses all things (that mercy) I will ordain to those who do right, and give in charity, and those who believe in Our signs”***

Al-Araf 7: 156

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) said relating after his Lord: **(Indeed My mercy supersedes My anger)**

# God is just and does not wrong anyone

***“Indeed God will not wrong man in the least, it is man that wrongs his own soul”***

Yunus (Jonah) 10: 44

***“We shall set up scales of justice for the Day of Judgment, so that no soul is wronged in the least; if there be no more than the weight of a mustard seed, We will bring it to account; enough are We to take account”***

Al-Anbia’a (The Prophets) 21: 47

# God knows well all that we do

***“Say: “Whether you hide what is in your hearts or reveal it God knows it all; He knows what is in the heavens and what is on earth. And God has power over all things”***

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3: 29

**“He knows the treachery of the eyes, and all that the hearts conceal”**

Ghafir (Forgiving) 40: 19

**We do not know the how of His knowledge**

**“Not a single word he utters but there is a vigilant guardian (recording)”**

Qa F 50: 18

# How do we know God?

We know God by:

1-His **beautiful names** or attributes of perfection

2-Through **his creation**

We cannot comprehend the innate nature of God or the know how of His knowledge or power. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: **(Do not think of the innate nature of God, but think of his creation).**

# How do we call on God?

We call on God by His beautiful names or attributes of perfection

***“To God belongs the most beautiful names (attributes of perfection) ,  
so call on Him by them”***

Al-Araf 7: 180

**God the Creator, Provider, Just, Forgiving, Merciful, Wise, Most-High,  
All-Hearing, All-Knowing, All-Seeing, All-powerful, Mighty, Worthy of  
all praise, the guide, the source of peace, the controller of the day of  
judgment**

# Accountability and the Day of Judgment

After we die we will be **resurrected to stand judgment** before God.

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) said: (Every human being will be asked to account for four things: His whole life, what has he done? And his youth, did he waste his energy and abuse it or do right? And his money: how did he earn it and how did he spend it? And his knowledge, what did he do with it?) Narrated by Termedhi



# We will be brought back to account before God

***“And fear the Day when you shall be brought back to God, then every soul shall be paid what it earned, and none shall be dealt with unjustly”***

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 281

***“On the Day when every soul will come pleading for itself, and every soul will be requited regarding what it has done, and none will be wronged”***

An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 111

# The righteous will be rewarded according to the best of their deeds

***“Whoever works righteousness, man or woman, and has faith, indeed to him We will give a life that is good and pure, and We will bestow on such their reward according to the best of their actions”***

An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 97

# The righteous will be admitted to paradise

***“Those who believe and work deeds of righteousness, to them shall we give a home in heaven, lofty mansions beneath which rivers flow, to dwell therein forever; an excellent reward for those who do right. Those who persevere in patience, and put their trust in their Lord”***

Al-Ankabut (The Spider) 29: 58 & 59

**“Gardens of eternity will they enter: therein they will be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls, and their garments will be of silk. And they will say: “Praise be to God who has removed from us all sorrow, for our Lord is indeed often-forgiving, ready to appreciate service. Who has, out of His bounty, settled us in a home that will last: no toil, nor sense of weariness shall touch us therein”**

Fatir (Originator) 35: 33-35

# The wicked will enter Hell Fire

***“Those who rest not their hopes on their meeting with Us, but are pleased and satisfied with the life of this world, and those who do not heed our signs, their abode is Hell Fire, because of the evil they earned”***

Yunus (Jonah) 10: 7 & 8

**“But those who reject faith for them will be the fire of Hell, no term shall be determined for them, so they should die, nor shall its chastisement be lightened for them, every ungrateful one. Therein they will cry aloud: “Our Lord bring us out, we shall work righteousness, not the deeds we used to do”. Did We not give you enough long life so that he that would should receive admonition? And the warner came to you, so taste, for the wrong-doer there is no helper”**

Fatir (Originator) 35: 36 & 37

# Avoid the major sins

- 1-Worshipping **others besides Allah** (God)
- 2-Being **unkind to our parents** or treating them wrongly
- 3-**Killing** a soul that God made sacred
- 4-Committing **adultery**
- 5-Drinking **alcohol and gambling**
- 6-**Lying**
- 7-**Cheating** or giving false weight and measure
- 8-Being unkind or **abusive to orphans**
- 9-**Not keeping our promises** or being untrue to our covenants
- 10-Following a **path other than the straight path of God**

# Worship God alone with no partners

***“Serve Allah, and join not any partners with Him”***

An-Nesa’a (The Women) 4: 36

***“Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and that you be kind to parents”***

Al-Isra’a (Night Journey) 17: 23

***“Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with Him, but He forgives anything else”***

An-Nesa’a (The Women) 4: 48

People nowadays worship **money, power, fame and their vain desires**

# Being unkind to our parents is a major sin

**Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)** said: (Shall I tell you what are the most grave of sins?) They said: Yes O messenger of Allah. He said: **(To worship others besides Allah, and to be unkind to your parents or treat them wrongly, and to lie and give false witness)** Narrated by Bokhari & Muslim

**He said: (The grave sins or worse sins are: worshipping others instead of Allah; and treating your parents in a wrong way; and killing a soul; and bearing wrong witness)** Narrated in Bokhari

Being good and kind to our parents is one way to enter paradise.

# Being good to our parents is one way of entering paradise

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

**(How can a person have his parents with him, yet he was not allowed to enter paradise? How can a person witness Ramadan, yet his sins are not forgiven? How can a person hear my name mentioned, yet he does not send peace and greetings over me?)**

Narrated by Bokhari



# Do not kill the soul that Allah has made sacred

***“Do not kill the soul that Allah made sacred, except through due process of law”***

Al-Isra'a (Night Journey" 17: 33

***“That if any one kills a person, unless it be for murder or spreading mischief on earth, it would be as if he killed all of mankind; and if anyone saves a life, it would be as if he saved all of mankind”***

Al-Ma'ida (The Table) 5: 32

# Adultery is a major sin

***“Do not come near to adultery, for it is an indecent deed and an evil way”***

Al-Isra’a (Night Journey) 17: 32

In Islam the only sexual relationship allowed is between husband and wife. Sex outside of marriage, or before marriage is forbidden, and is considered adultery

# Alcohol & drugs destroy our mind

**Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:**

**(Whatever substance when used clouds the mind, then even small amounts of that substance are forbidden)**

Narrated by Ahmad, Abou Dawood, Termedhi & Ibn Hibban

**(Alcohol is the root of many grave sins and evils)**

Narrated by Tabarani

**(Whoever drinks alcohol his prayer will not be accepted for 40 days, but if he repents Allah will accept his repentance; if he keeps drinking many times his repentance will not be accepted, and he will be punished)** In another narration: **(If he dies he will enter Hell Fire)**

Narrated by Ahmad & Termedhi

**(God has cursed those drinking alcohol, those producing it, those marketing it, those serving it)**

Narrated by Abou Dawood & Hakim

# Lying, cheating and giving false witness are major sins

Being truthful and not giving false witness is a characteristic of those of faith: “***Those who witness no falsehood, and who avoid vain talk***”

Al-Furqan (The Criterion) 25: 72

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) told us that ,lying, cheating and giving false witness is one of three grave sins

A person who is fasting, yet he lies or cheats, then his fast is not accepted

# Abusing orphans is a grave sin

***“Those who unjustly eat up the property of orphans eat up a fire into their own bodies; they will soon be enduring a blazing Fire”***

An-Nesa'a (The Women) 4: 10

In contrast, those who are kind to orphans and treat them well will be rewarded for their effort

If we follow a path other than the path of God  
we will become misguided

*“This is My way leading straight: follow it, follow not other paths, for they will scatter you away from God’s path. Thus does He command you that you may be righteous”*

Al-Ana’m (The Cattle) 6: 153

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) once drew a line in the sand, and said: **(This is the path of God, leading straight)**. Then he drew lines to its right and to its left and said: **(These are paths, other than the path of God, on each path is a devil)**

# Excuses are not accepted and no second chance is given

***“And spend out of what We have provided for you, before death comes to one of you and he should say: “My Lord why did you not give me respite for a little while? I should then have given in charity and should have done good deeds.” But God will not give respite to no soul when its appointed time has come, and God is well-acquainted with all that you do.”***

Al-Munafeqoun (The Hypocrites) 63: 10 & 11

Intercession is in the hands of God alone, and allowed only on behalf of those whom God accepts

***“How many are the angels in heaven, their intercession will not avail anything except after God has given permission for whom He pleases, and that is acceptable to Him.”***

An-Najm (The Star) 53: 26

***“No intercession can avail with Him, except those for whom God has granted permission.”***

Sa' Ba 34: 23

No saints in Islam



# God's Divine Books

- 1-The **Torah** revealed to prophet Musa (Moses): Judaism
- 2-The **Gospel** revealed to prophet Eisa (Jesus): Christianity
- 3-The **Qur'an** revealed to prophet Muhammad: Islam

# The Qur'an confirms previous Divine revelations and safeguards it

***“God sent down the Book to you (O Muhammad) in truth, confirming what came before it, and He sent down the Torah and Gospel, before as a guidance to mankind, and He sent down the Criterion.”***

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3: 3 & 4

***“He (God) sent down the Book to you in truth, confirming what came down before it of the Book and safeguarding it.”***

Al-Ma'ida (The Table) 5: 48

# Muslims believe in the Bible

***“Say: “We believe in God, and what was sent down to us, and what was sent down to Abraham, Ishma’il, Isaac, Jacob and the tribes, and what the prophets got from their Lord; we do not distinguish between any of them, and we submit to God in Islam.”***

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 136

- \* **Morals & ethics** in the Bible are similar to the Qur’an and are accepted
- \* **What contradicts the Qur’an is not accepted**, like the Trinity or the Divinity of Jesus Christ
- \* Stories in the Hebrew Bible that God’s prophets committed major sins are also not accepted

# Muslims believe in all of God's prophets and messengers

Noah and Abraham

Ishma'il, Isaac and Jacob (Israel)

Moses and Jesus

Muhammad

Five messengers referred to as messengers of firm resolve:

***“And We took from the Prophets their covenant, and from you (Muhammad) and from Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus the son of Mary, and We took from them a solemn covenant”***

Al-Ahzab (The Confederates) 33: 7

# God's prophets serve as examples for us in morals and noble character

Prophet **Abraham** obeyed God, and was willing to sacrifice his son

Prophet **Job** was patient and persevered despite chronic illness

Prophet **Moses** stood up to a tyrant

Prophet **Jesus** show the power of God

Prophet **Muhammad** had excellent morals and noble character

# Muhammad (PBUH) was sent to implement morals & noble character

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

**(Indeed I have been sent to implement morals and the most noble of character)**

Narrated by Hakim & Baihaqi

# Muhammad's noble character and excellent morals

He was **honest & truthful**, and never lied

He was **kind, caring, forgiving & merciful**

*“There has come to you a messenger from among yourselves. It pains him that you should suffer, he cares about you, he is kind and forgiving with the believers”* At-Tawba (Repentance) 9: 128

He was **just** even with his enemies

He was **humble & not arrogant**: (Do not glorify me)

He was a **devoted worshipper** & submitted to God & had trust in him

He was **eloquent** and commanding in his speech

He was **wise** and able to solve problems & have a vision

He **worked tirelessly** and was full of energy

# Rituals of worship in Islam

- 1-**Prayer**: Muslims pray five times each day
- 2-**Charity**: for the poor & needy
- 3-**Fasting** the month of **Ramadan**
- 4-Performing **Hajj** (Pilgrimage) to the sacred house in Macca



# Prayer in Islam: the five obligatory prayers

Prayer	Obligatory Raka'a	Optional Raka'a
1-Dawn prayer before sunrise (Fajr)	2	2
2-Noon prayer	(Zuhr) 4	4
3-Afternoon prayer	(Asr) 4	
4-Sunset prayer	(Maghrib) 3	2
5-Night prayer	(Eisha'a) 4	2
		3 (Watr)
	Total 17	13

# Three phases of prayer

1-**Standing** reciting the Arabic Qur'an (Qiam)

2-**Bowing down** praising God (Rukou')

3-**Prostration** praising God (Sojoud)

# The rationale & benefit of prayer

- 1-Reciting the **Qur'an**, God's own words provide **guidance**
- 2-Standing up in prayer seeking God's **forgiveness & mercy & blessings**
- 3-Prayer reminds us of our **accountability to God**
- 4-Prayer **restrains from sin** and shameful deeds
- 5-We learn **obedience, discipline** and placing our **priorities** correctly
- 6-We learn **sincerity, devotion & humility**
- 7-Prayer in congregation teaches us **equality and solidarity**
- 8-Prayer in congregation allows Muslims **to know one another** and to **help** each other

# Prayer restrains from shameful deeds

***“Recite what is sent of the Book by inspiration to you, and establish regular prayer, for prayer restrains from shameful and evil deeds; and remembrance of Allah is the greatest thing without doubt; and Allah knows the deeds that you do”***

Al-Ankabut (The Spider) 29: 45

# Prayer gives us peace and prevents impatience, panic and despair

*“Truly man was created very impatient; fretful when evil touches him; and niggardly when good reaches him; not so those devoted to prayer, those who remain steadfast to their prayer; and those in whose wealth is a recognized right for the needy who asks and him who is deprived; and those who hold to the truth of the day of judgment; and those who fear the punishment of their Lord”*

Al-Ma'arij (Ways of ascent) 70: 19-27

# Through prayer our sins are forgiven

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) asked his companions: (If you had a river by your house, and you wash in it five times every day, would any dirt remain on you?). They said: No. He said: (This is how God removes your sins through prayer)

Narrated by Bokhari

# Great reward for prayer and reciting the Qur'an

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) said: **(Every letter of the Qur'an that you recite will give one good deed as a reward. I do not say: ALM is one letter, but A is a letter, and L is a letter and M is a letter)**

Narrated by Bokhari

# Pray at certain times

**“Set up regular prayers, for such prayers are enjoined on believers at stated times”**

An-Nesa’a (The Women) 4: 103

**“Establish regular prayers at the sun’s decline till the darkness of the night, and the recital of the Qur’an at Dawn prayer, for the recital of Dawn is witnessed”**

Al-Isra’a (Night Journey) 17: 78

**“Therefore be patient with what they say, and celebrate the praises of your Lord before the rising of the sun, and before its setting; and part of the hours of the night, and at the sides of the day, that you may be pleased”**

Ta Ha 20: 130



# The Friday congregational prayer: Jumua' prayer

The Jumua' (Friday) congregational prayer replaces the Zuhr (noon) prayer on the day of Friday

This Jumua' prayer is obligatory on Muslim men, but can be attended by Muslim women as well

It consists of a sermon (Khutba) followed by prayer (2 Raka'a).

**“O you who believe when the call is proclaimed to prayer on Friday hasten earnestly to the remembrance of Allah, and leave off business; that is best for you if you only knew”**

Al-Jumua' (Friday) 62: 9

# Congregational prayers during Ramadan and the Eids (Feast celebrations)

During the **fasting month of Ramadan** it is a Sunnah (tradition) to attend the Eisha'a (night) prayer in the mosque, followed by Taraweeh prayer when the Qur'an is recited during prayer every night in Ramadan, till it is completed in the 27<sup>th</sup> night of Ramadan

**During the two Eids** (Feast celebrations) congregational prayers in the mosque is also attended by Muslims:

**1-The small Eid** celebrating the end of the month of Ramadan

**2-The big Eid** which corresponds to the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Zul-Hijja (12<sup>th</sup> month of the Muslim Calendar) and is when the pilgrims in Macca are in Mena performing the rites of Hajj.

# The five daily prayers can become congregational prayers when performed in the mosque

Attending **prayer in the mosque** in congregation with other Muslims is rewarded much more than performing prayers at one's home alone.

Congregational prayers done in the mosque keeps the mosque alive, and fosters a bond of brotherhood between Muslims.

The Qur'an states: **"Lit is such a light in houses, which Allah has permitted to be raised to honor, so that His name is celebrated in these houses, and He is glorified in the morning and in the evening, again and again, by men whom neither trade or sale can divert them from the remembrance of Allah, nor from regular prayer, nor from giving charity; their only fear is for the day when hearts and eyes will be turned about"** An-Nur (The Light) 24: 36 & 37

# Charity is obligatory on Muslims who can afford to give in charity

**This obligatory charity is called Zakat** (meaning it purifies our money and liberates our souls of greed).

**It is 2.5% of our income given to the poor and needy** and other entities that need our gifts of charity

**The poor and needy have a right in the money of the rich**, this way the wealth of the community is recirculated

**Those who do not give in charity are threatened** with severe punishment

# The rationale of charity

- 1-**Social injustice is corrected** as the wealth of the community is recirculated to help the poor and needy
- 2-This money **creates jobs and stimulates the economy**
- 3-Our **souls are liberated of greed**
- 4-**Ill-feelings is removed from the hearts of the poor & needy** towards the rich in their community
- 5-Charity **wipes out our sins**
- 6-**Great reward** for giving in charity

# The rewards of charity

**“If you loan to God a beautiful loan, He will double it to your credit, and He will grant you forgiveness, for God is all-thankful, most forbearing”**

At-Taghabun (Mutual loss and gain) 64: 17

**“Of their money take alms (obligatory charity) so that you might purify them and sanctify them by it; and pray on their behalf, for indeed your prayers are a source of security for them; and Allah is One who hears and knows”**

At-Tawba (Repentance) 9: 103

**“Satan threatens you with poverty and bids you to conduct unseemly; but Allah promises you His forgiveness and bounties; and Allah cares for all, and He knows all things”**

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 268

# Ethics and manner of giving charity

**“Kind words and covering of faults are better than charity followed by injury, for Allah is free of wants, and He is most-forbearing. O you who believe do not cancel your charity by reminders of your generosity or by injury, like those who spend their wealth to be seen of men, but believe not in Allah nor in the Last Day”**

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 263 & 264

**Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)** described seven people who will be protected and shaded by God on the Day of Judgment: among them a person who gave charity in secret so that his left hand did not know what his right hand was doing (narrated by Bokhari).

# Ethics and manners of charity

1-Give charity in secret

2-Do not offend the feelings of those receiving your charity

3-We should give the best of what we have

4-Give charity as soon as you can, do not delay it

5-Each should give what he is capable of. God rewards us according to our effort and sincerity



# Those who covetously withhold and do not give in charity will be punished severely

**“Let not those who covetously withhold of the gifts which Allah has given them of His grace think that it is good for them; no it will be the worse for them: soon it will be tied to their necks like a twisted collar, on the Day of Judgment. To Allah belongs the heritage of the heavens and the earth, and Allah is well-acquainted with all that you do.”**

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3: 180

# Fasting the month of Ramadan

Muslims are ordered to fast Ramadan, the 9<sup>th</sup> lunar month in the Muslim Calendar:

**“O you who believe fasting has been ordained on you, as it was ordained on those before you, that you may attain Taqwa (self-restraint and righteousness).”**

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 183

# How do Muslims fast?

**Abstaining from food, drink** and sexual contact from Dawn till sunset

This fast is done **every day for 29-30 consecutive days** in the month of Ramadan

This is the passive part of the fast. What is more important is to abstain from doing what is wrong and from lying or cheating or vulgar speech.

**Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)** said: **(If your fast does not prevent you from lying or giving false witness, then there is no need for you to leave your food and drink)** Narrated by Bokhari & Muslim

# The rational and wisdom of fasting

- 1-Fasting teaches **self-discipline and control**, and a sense of **accomplishment**
- 2-Fasting stresses **obedience to God** and placing our **priorities** in order
- 3-Learning **patience and sacrifice** and **getting closer to God**
- 4-Ramadan is a **holy month of worship** where besides fasting Muslims **pray often** and **recite the Qur'an** and **remember God**
- 5-There is a **sense of unity and identity** in Ramadan at the family level and at community level and globally
- 6-There are **tremendous rewards** for fasting Ramadan

# Fasting teaches us self-restraint and controlling our vain desires

We learn **to cope with hunger and thirst** and to control our vain desires and **not say or do anything wrong** when fasting.

The **first few days are difficult**, but strong faith and belief and obedience to God helps us cope with difficulty. Then our bodies get used to fasting and **we pass time in worship and reciting the Qur'an**, and **remembering God** and **thanking Him** for His blessings, and for allowing us to complete our fast successfully

Ramadan is an **exercise in patience and sacrifice** and **self-control**, and we emerge as better human beings

# The great reward for fasting Ramadan

## Forgiveness of sin

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) said: (Whoever fasts Ramadan with full conviction, seeking his reward from God alone, his sins will be forgiven, whatever he has committed before)

Narrated by Bokhari & Muslim

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) said: (Ramadan is a great month: its first ten days is forgiveness of sin; its second ten days is mercy from God; and the last ten days is liberation from Hell Fire) Narrated by Tabarani

# The great reward of fasting Ramadan

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) said (relating after his Lord in Hadeeth Qudsi): **(Fasting is done for Me (God) and I give its reward. The smell of the mouth of a fasting person is more beloved to Me than musk. He leaves his food, drink and desire for My sake. The fasting person has two joys: Once when he breaks his fast, and the second when he meets his Lord)** Narrated by Bokhari & Muslim

# Hajj (Pilgrimage)

**Muslims are obligated to perform Hajj, once in a lifetime, if they have the money and health to undertake this journey:**

**“The first house (of worship) appointed for mankind was that at Bakka, full of blessings and of guidance for all kinds of beings. In it are manifest signs, the station of Abraham; whoever enters it attains security; pilgrimage thereto is a duty men owe to Allah, those who can afford the journey; but if any deny faith Allah stands not in need of any of His creatures”**

**Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3: 96 & 97**



# What are the rituals of Hajj?

1-The **intention** to perform Hajj seeking God's pleasure

2-**Wearing Ihram** (consecration) clothes

3-**Tawaf** (circumambulation) the Ka'Ba (the sacred house in Macca), built by prophets Abraham & Ishma'il

4-**Sa'y** (walking between the hills of Safa & Marwa)

5-**Standing in the valley of Arafat** on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of Zul-Hijja (12<sup>th</sup> lunar month in the Muslim Calendar).

6-**Rites in Mena**: Sacrifice, stoning and shaving the head

# Circling the Ka' Ba (Tawaf)

**“Remember Abraham and Ishma’il raised the foundation of the house (with this prayer): “Our Lord accept (this service) from us, for You are the all-hearing, all-knowing. Our Lord make us Muslims bowing to Your will, and of our progeny a people Muslim, bowing to Your will, and show us our places for the celebration of due rites, and turn to us in mercy, for You are the often-returning, most-merciful”**

**Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 127 & 128**

## Sa'y (walking between the hills of Safa & Marwa)

**“Indeed Safa and Marwa are among the symbols of Allah. So if those who visit the house in the season or at other times, should compass them round, it is no sin in them. And if any one obeys his own impulse to good, be sure that Allah is He Who recognizes and knows”**

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 158

# Standing in Arafat

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) emphasized that standing in Arafat on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of Zul-Hijja is the most important cornerstone in Hajj. He said: **(Hajj is Arafa)**.

Pilgrims stand there from noon till sunset, praying Zuhr (Noon) and Asr (afternoon) prayers together, and saying Dua'a (prayer) to Allah. The best Dua'a is: **(There is no god but Allah; He is alone with no partners; all praise and thanks is due to Him; He gives life and takes life away; and He has power over all things)**

# The Rationale and wisdom of Hajj

- 1-A pilgrim leaves his pre-occupation with this worldly life and **journeys to Allah, making a pledge** to live his life as Allah has commanded
- 2-**Muslims from all over the world meet in Macca**, and have a chance to discuss current affairs, work together and cooperate
- 3-Visiting these holy sites **brings to life God's prophets** like **Abraham** and **Muhammad** and their example of obedience, devotion and sacrifice. **Hajj also honors Hajir**, the wife of Abraham and the mother of Ishma'il
- 4-Standing in Arafat praying to God and seeking His forgiveness **reminds us of our accountability and the Day of Judgment**
- 5-The reward of Hajj is **forgiveness of sin, clean slate and a new beginning**

# Hajj is a journey to Allah leaving our preoccupation with this worldly life

**“Know that the life of this world is but play and amusement, pomp and mutual boasting and multiplying, among yourselves, riches and children. Here is a similitude how rain and the growth which it brings forth delights the heart of the tillers; soon it withers, you will see it grow yellow, then it becomes dry and crumbles away. But in the Hereafter is a severe penalty for those who do wrong, and forgiveness from Allah and His good pleasure for the devotees of Allah, and what is the life of this world but goods and chattels of deception?”**

Al-Hadeed (The Iron) 57: 20

# Standing in Arafat reminds us of the Day of Judgment and our accountability to Allah

**“O mankind do your duty to your Lord, and fear the coming of a day when no father can avail aught for his son, nor can a son avail aught for his father. Verily, the promise of Allah is true; let not then this present life deceive you, nor let the chief deceiver deceive you about Allah”**

Luqman 31: 32

# Hajj promises forgiveness of sin and a clean slate

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) said: (Whoever performs Hajj and conducts himself in proper manner will return free of sin, as on the day he was born)

Narrated by Bokhari & Muslim

Since Hajj is a **new beginning** it should be **performed early**, rather than late when one is old and may not be able to go



# Morals and ethics in the Qur'an

A great part of the Qur'an is dedicated to morals & ethics and noble character

**Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (I have been sent in order to implement morals and the most noble of character)** Narrated by Baihaqi

# Morals & ethics and noble character in the Qur'an

1-Being truthful in word & deed

2-Being righteous

3-Being patient and persevering

4-Being just and not wronging others

5-Being kind, forgiving and merciful

6-Being devoted and sincere in serving God 7-Being humble and not arrogant

8-Seeking knowledge, proper understanding and wisdom

9-Loving others, caring for their welfare, and reaching out to help those

who need our help

10-Doing our work to the best of our ability and being honest

11-Thanking God and acknowledging His blessings, and seeking His forgiveness for our sins and doing good to wipe out our bad deeds

12-Never giving up hope of God's mercy during difficult times and working through our difficulty

13-Not harboring ill-feelings towards others or being envious, rather praying to God to guide them

# Fearing God and being mindful of Him and aware of our accountability to God

**“Tell My servants that I am indeed the often-forgiving, most-merciful; and that My punishment will indeed be most grievous”**

Al-Hijr (Rocky Tracts) 15: 49 & 50

**“O you who believe fear Allah and be mindful of Him, and let every soul look at what it has sent forth for the morrow; yes fear Allah, for Allah is well-acquainted with all that you do”**

Al-Hasr (The Gathering) 59: 18

# The Qur'an is a guidance to those who are conscious of Allah

**“This is the Book; in it is guidance, without doubt, to those who fear Allah; who believe in the unseen, are steadfast in prayer, and spend out of what We provide for them; and who believe in the revelation sent to you, and sent before your time; and who have the assurance of the Hereafter. They are on true guidance from their Lord, and it is these who will prosper”**

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 2-5

Taqwa (God-consciousness) implies having faith and being truthful, patient and faithful to our trusts and giving in charity

“It is not righteousness that you turn your faces towards East or West; but it is righteousness to **believe in Allah** and the **Last Day**, and the **Angels**, and the **Book**, and the **Messengers**; to **spend** of your substance, out of love for God, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in **prayer**, to practice regular **charity**; to fulfill your **contracts**; and to be firm and **patient** in pain, suffering and adversity and all periods of panic; such are the **people of truth**, the **God-fearing**”

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 177

## Other characteristics of Taqwa (God-consciousness)

“And hasten for forgiveness from your Lord, and for a garden whose width is that of the heavens and earth, prepared for the righteous. Those **who spend**, whether in prosperity or in adversity; who **restrain anger**; and **pardon others**, for Allah loves those who do good. And those who, having done something to be ashamed of, or wronged their own souls, earnestly **bring Allah to remembrance**, and **ask for forgiveness** for their sins; and who can forgive sins except Allah? And are **never obstinate** in persisting knowingly in the wrong they have done. For such **the reward is forgiveness** from their Lord, and **gardens** with rivers flowing underneath, an eternal dwelling, how excellent is the reward for those who work and strive”

Al-Imran (The family of Imran) 3: 133-136

# How can we achieve Taqwa (Righteousness)?

## **1-Increasing our faith and understanding our accountability to God**

“O people worship and serve your Lord, who created you and those before you, that you may learn righteousness” Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 21

## **2-Fasting teaches us self-restraint, patience and sacrifice**

“O you who believe fasting has been ordained on you, as it was ordained on those before you that you may learn righteousness” Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 183

## **3-Confirming our faith in our character and behavior**

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) told us to be mindful of Allah at all times, and to follow a bad deed with a good deed, and to treat others with morals and noble character

## **4-Remembering God and seeking His guidance and protection**

“Those who fear Allah, when an evil thought of Satan assaults them, bring Allah to remembrance when lo! They can see clearly” Al-Araf 7: 201

# Patient perseverance

**1-Tests and trials are to be expected**

**2-Seek help in prayer**, and in **remembering God** and turning to Him  
for guidance and support

**3-Follow the example of God's prophets** who were patient & determined

**4-Never give up hope of God's mercy**

**5-Understand the tremendous reward of patience** and true faith



# Tests and trials are to be expected: it is God's way for us to learn and evolve

**“We shall try you until We test those among you who strive their utmost and persevere in patience; and We shall try your reported mettle”**

Muhammad (Prophet Muhammad) 47: 31

**“Do people think that they will be left alone on saying: “We believe”, and that they will not be tested? We did test those before them, and Allah will certainly know those who are true from those who are false”**

Al-Ankabut (The Spider) 29: 2 & 3

# Seek help in prayer

**“Seek help with patient perseverance and prayer; it is indeed hard except on those who are humble and obedient; those who understand that they will meet their Lord, and that they are to return to Him”**

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 45 & 46

**“O you who believe seek help in patient perseverance and prayer, for indeed Allah is with those who patiently persevere”**

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 153

**Follow the example of God's prophets who patiently persevered, were determined and committed**

**“Therefore patiently persevere, as did all messengers of resolve; and be in no haste about the unbelievers”**

Al-Ahqaf (Winding Sand Tracts) 46: 45

**“Rejected were the messengers before you; with patience and constancy they bore their rejection and their wrongs, until Our aid did reach them”**

Al-Ana'm (The Cattle) 6: 34

# Never give up hope of God's mercy

On the tongue of **Prophet Jacob**:

**“Never give up hope of Allah’s soothing mercy; truly no one ever give up hope of Allah’s mercy except those who have no faith”**

Yusuf (Joseph) 12: 87

On the tongue of **Prophet Abraham**:

**“He said: “And who despairs of the mercy of his Lord , but such as go astray?”**

Al-Hijr (Rocky Tracts) 15: 56

# The rewards of patience

**“We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger, some loss in goods, or lives or the fruit (of your labor), but give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere. Who say when afflicted with calamity: “To Allah we belong, and to Him is our return”. They are those on whom descend blessings from their Lord, and mercy, and they are the ones that receive guidance”**

Al-Baqara (The cow) 2: 155-157

-Blessings    -Mercy    -Guidance

**Call on God certain that He hears your prayer  
and will answer you in His own way**

**“When My servants ask you concerning Me, tell them that I am near;  
I hear the prayer of every suppliant when he calls on Me; let them  
also listen to My call, and believe in Me that they may walk in the  
right way”**

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 186

**“And your Lord says: “Call on Me and I will answer you; but those  
who are too arrogant to serve Me will find themselves in Hell  
humiliated”**

Ghafir (Forgiving) 40: 60

# How does God answer our prayers?

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) said: **(Every Muslim calling on Allah, his Dua'a (prayer) will be answered: either Allah will give him what he asked for; or give him his reward in the Hereafter; or remove some evil from him; unless he calls for something sinful, or distances himself from his relatives, or is hasty and says: "I called on my Lord, but He did not answer me")**

Narrated by Termedhi & Ibn Majja

# Proper manners of calling on God

## 1-Call on God in humility and devotion

**“Call on your Lord with humility and in private, for Allah loves not those who trespass beyond bounds. Do no mischief on earth, after it has been set in order, but call on Him with fear and longing (in your hearts), for the mercy of Allah is always near to those who do good”**

Al-Araf 7: 55 & 56

## 2-Call on God in your heart secretly

## 3-Call on God convinced that He will answer you



# Turn to God seeking His forgiveness

**“Say: “O My servants who have transgressed against their souls! Despair not of the mercy of Allah, for Allah forgives all sins, He is the often-forgiving, most-merciful. Turn to your Lord in repentance and bow to His will, before the penalty comes on you, after that you shall not be helped. And follow the best revealed to you from your Lord before the penalty comes on you while you perceive it not”**

Az-Zumar (The groups) 39: 53-55

# How can we atone for our sins?

- 1-understanding that we have sinned or done wrong, and feeling sorry and ashamed of what we have done
- 2-Turning to God seeking His forgiveness, and making a pledge not to repeat that mistake again
- 3-Doing good to wipe out our bad deeds
- 4-Be ready and willing to receive guidance and to follow God's straight way

## Repentance, doing good to wipe out our bad deeds

**“Unless he repents, believes and works righteous deeds, for Allah will change the evil of such persons into good, and Allah is often-forgiving, most-merciful”**

Al-Furqan (The Criterion) 25: 70

**“But without doubt I am He that forgives again and again to those who repent, believe, and do right, who in fine are ready to receive true guidance”**

Ta Ha 20: 82

# God's prophets sought God's forgiveness and turned to God in repentance

**Prophet Abraham:**

**“My Lord makes me one who establishes regular prayer, and also among my offspring, and accept my prayer. Our Lord cover us with Your forgiveness, me and my parents and all believers on the Day of reckoning”**

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 40 & 41

**Prophet Muhammad** said: (By Allah I turn to Him and I seek His forgiveness every day 70 times) Bokhari

# Seeking God's forgiveness in the last third of the night

**“As to the righteous they will be in the midst of gardens and springs; taking joy in the things which their Lord gives them, because before then they lived a good life; they were in the habit of sleeping but little by night; and in the hours of early Dawn they were praying for forgiveness”**

Adh-Dhareyat 51: 15-18

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) said: (Our Lord, glory be to Him descends to the lower heaven, in the last third of the night, and says: “Who is calling on Me, and I will answer him; who is asking Me, and I will give him; who is seeking My forgiveness, and I will forgive him”) Bokhari

# Family values in the Qur'an

- 1-The relationship between **husband and wife** is based on kindness, love and mercy; It affords peace and tranquility and is a blessing from God
- 2-Honor your **parents** and be kind to them
- 3-Raise your **children** well and teach them
- 4-Be good to your **relatives**, especially those who are poor

# The relationship between husband and wife

**“And among His (God) signs is that He created for you, from among yourselves, spouses that you may find peace and tranquility in them; and He put in your hearts kindness, love and mercy towards each other; indeed in this are signs for those who reflect”**

Ar-Rum (The Romans) 30: 21

- tranquility
- kindness and love
- mercy
- blessing from God

# Treat your wives well

## The Qur'an

**“And live with them on equitable terms”**

An-Nesa'a (The Women) 4: 19

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) said: **(The best amongst you are those who are best to their wives and families)** Narrated by Termedhi, Ibn Majja & Tabarani



# The rights of a wife

**1-To be respected and her human dignity is upheld**

**2-To be provided and cared for**

**“Let the man of means spend according to his means; and the man whose resources are restricted, let him spend according to what Allah has provided for him; Allah puts no burden on any person beyond what He has given him; after a difficulty Allah will soon grant relief” At-Talaq (Divorce) 65: 7**

**3-To be consulted and that her opinion is respected**

**“Those who respond to their Lord, and establish regular prayer; who conduct their affairs by mutual consultation; and who spend out of what We bestow on them of sustenance” As-Shura’ (Consultation) 42: 38**

**4-To be cared for and loved**

**Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (You will not enter paradise until you believe; and you will not believe until you love one another) Bokhari & Muslim**

# Duties of a wife

- 1-To care for her husband and children
- 2-To take care of her home
- 3-To learn and improve her mind
- 4-To cooperate with other families in the community
- 5-To give sincere advice

# Rights of a husband

1-To be **obeyed and respected** as the leader of his family

**“Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has given more (strength) than the other, and because they support them from their means” An-Nesa’a (The Women) 4: 34**

2-To be **cared for and given a tranquil home**

**“And among his signs is that He created for you, from among yourselves spouses that you may find in them peace and tranquility” Ar-Rum (The Romans) 30: 21**

3-Not to ask him more than what he can provide

# Duties of a husband

## 1-Providing for his family

**“One of them said: “O my father hire him, for the best of men to employ is he who is capable and trusty” Al-Qasas (The Stories) 28: 26**

## 2-Taking care of his family and guiding them

**3-Setting a good example** for his children though his character and behavior **“O you who believe save yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones” At-Tahreem (Forbidden) 66: 6**

# Our obligations towards our children

- 1-To provide for them and take care of them: both physically and emotionally
- 2-To provide for them a good education
- 3-To set an example for them in our character & behavior
- 4-To teach them the principles of their faith

# Our obligations towards our parents

- 1-To be kind to them and respect them and honor them
- 2-To take care of them if they get old, infirm or depends on us for support
- 3-To pray to God on their behalf seeking God's forgiveness

**“Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and that you are good and kind to your parents; whether one or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of contempt, nor repel them, but address them in terms of honor; and out of kindness, lower to them the wing of humility, and say: “My Lord bestow on them Your mercy, as they cherished me when I was young”**

Al-Isra'a (Night Journey) 17: 23 & 24

# Be good to your mother

A man came to **Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) and said: **O messenger of Allah, who is most deserving of my company?** The prophet said: **(Your mother)**. The man asked: **who next?** The Prophet said: **(Your mother)**. The man asked: **who next?** The Prophet said: **(Your mother)**. The man asked: **Who next?** The Prophet said: **(Then your father)**

The Qur'an: **(We have enjoined on man kindness to his parents; his mother did bear him in pain, and did give birth to him in pain; the carrying (of the child) and his weaning is a period of thirty months"** Al-Ahqaf (Winding sand tracts) 46: 15

# The importance and value of taking care of our parents

A man came to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) seeking permission to go with him in Jihad in the cause of Allah. The Prophet asked him: **(Are any of your parents alive?)**. He said: yes, they are both alive. The prophet said: **(Go back and take care of them, this is your Jihad)** Narrated in Bokhari & Muslim

Once the prophet was ascending the Mimbar (steps) on his way to lead the Muslims in prayer. His companions saw him stop at the first step and say: Ameen (Amen). At the second step, he stopped and said: Ameen. He stopped at the third step and said: Ameen. They asked him and he said: (The Angel Gabriel came and said at the first step: **How can a person witness Ramadan, yet his sins are not forgiven?** Then he told me: say Ameen. At the second step, he said: **How can a man hear your name mentioned before him, yet he does not send peace and greetings over you?** Say Ameen. At the third step he said: **How can a man have one or both of his parents alive with him, yet he does not enter paradise?** Say Ameen (Narrated by Bokhari & Muslim)



# What we have in common is more important than our differences

- Both Muslims & Christians believe in **One God**, and believe that we are **accountable** to Him
- Both Muslims & Christians believe in **morals, ethics and living our lives helping others**
- Muslims believe in previous **divine revelations**
  - Muslims believe in all **God's messengers**
  - Muslims believe in the Torah & Bible**

# Patient perseverance in the Qur'an & Bible

**“Therefore, be patient brethren until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient, establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand” James 5: 7 & 8**

**“We shall try you until We test those among you who strive their utmost and persevere in patience, and We shall try your reported mettle” Muhammad 47: 31**

**“Do people think that they will be left alone just by saying: “We believe”, and that they will not be tested? We have tested and tried those before you, and Allah will surely know those who are true from those who are false”**

**Al-Ankabut (The Spider) 29: 2 & 3**

**“Those who patiently persevere will truly receive a reward without measure”**

**Az-Zumar (The Groups) 39: 10**

# Righteousness in the Qur'an & Bible

**“For the Lord is righteous, He loves the righteous, His countenance beholds the upright”**

**Psalms 11: 7**

**“O you who believe be conscious and mindful of Allah, and let each soul look at what it has sent for the morrow; yes be mindful of Allah, for Allah is well-acquainted with all that you do”**

**Al-Hashr (The gathering) 59: 18**

**“Those who keep their promises and covenants and act righteously, for Allah loves those who are righteous”**

**Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3: 76**

# Obedience in the Qur'an & Bible

**“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one man’s obedience many will be made righteous” Romans 5: 19**

**“But peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men” Acts 5: 29**

**“The answer of the believers when summoned to Allah and His messenger, in order that he may judge between them, is no other than this, they say: “We hear and we obey”. It is such as these that will attain felicity” An-Nur (The Light) 24: 51**

**“O you who believe obey Allah, and obey the messenger, and those charged with authority among you” An-Nesa’a (The Women) 4: 59**

# Humility in the Qur'an & Bible

**“Associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no evil for evil. Have regards for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men”**

**Romans 12: 16-18**

**“Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, He will lift you up”**

**James 4: 10**

**Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (Charity never decreases your wealth; and whenever a person forgives another Allah will raise him in dignity; and whoever humbles himself to Allah, Allah will raise him in honor) Narrated by Ahmad & Muslim**

# Mercy and forgiveness in the Qur'an & Bible

**“Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy”**

**Mathew 5: 7**

**“Then peter came to him and asked: “Lord how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” Jesus said to him: “I do not say to you up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven” Mathew 18: 21 & 22**

**The Qur'an: “Let them forgive and overlook, do you not wish that Allah should forgive you? For Allah is often-forgiving, most-merciful”**

**An-Nur (The Light) 24: 22**

# Knowledge and proper understanding in the Qur'an & Bible

**“Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments”** **Psalms 119: 66**

**“To know wisdom and instruction. To perceive the words of understanding. To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment and equity. To give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel”** **Proverbs 1: 2-5**

**The Qur'an: “And say: “My Lord increase me in knowledge”**

**Ta Ha 20: 114**

**“Say: “Are those equal, those who know and those who do not know?’ It is those of understanding that receive admonition”**

**Az-Zumar (The Groups) 39: 9**

# Charity in the Qur'an & Bible

**“Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise”**

**Luke 6: 30 & 31**

The Qur'an

**“Do they not see that Allah enlarges the provision and restricts it, to whomsoever He pleases? Indeed in this are signs for those who believe. So give what is due to kindred, the needy and the wayfarer. That is best for those who seek the countenance of Allah, and it is they who will prosper”**

**Ar-Rum (The Romans) 30: 37 & 38**



# Ethics in giving charity

**“But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret, and your Father who sees you in secret may reward you”**

**Mathew 6: 3**

**The Qur'an**

**“O you who believe do not cancel your charitable gifts by reminders of your generosity, or by injury, like those who spend their wealth to be seen by men, but believe not in Allah or the Last Day”**

**Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 264**

# Charity is more than just giving money

- Because not everyone has money to give, but everyone, rich or poor can give and benefit from giving charity
- The effort that we exert in helping others is a charity
- The kind words and advice that we give is charity
- The good example that we establish in our character & behavior is charity
- Not harming others, in word or deed, can be considered charity

# Working & being productive

Both Islam & Christianity encourage us to work hard, be productive and hasten in all good deeds

**“And say: “Work (righteousness), soon will Allah observe your work, and His messenger and the believers”**

**At-Tawba (Repentance) 9: 104**

**“For I was hungry, and you gave me food; and I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you took me in; I was naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me....in as much as you did it to one of my brethren, you did it to me” Mathew 25:35-40**

# Differences between the Qur'an & the Bible

- 1-Muslims believe that Jesus Christ is human, sent to the Children of Israel as God's prophet, but that Jesus is not divine
- 2-Muslims do not believe in the Trinity

# Jesus is human, not divine

***“They certainly disbelieve who say: “Allah is Christ the son of Mary.” But Christ said: “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 be no one to help the wrong-doers”***

Al-Ma’ida (The Table) 5: 72

***“Jesus the son of Mary was no more than a messenger, many were the messengers that passed away before him. His mother was a woman of truth. They both had to eat their daily food”***

Al-Ma’ida (The Table) 5: 75

# The Qur'an rejects the Trinity

***“They disbelieve who say: “Allah is one of three (in a trinity), for there is no god but One God”***

Al-Ma'ida (the Table) 5: 73

# Original sin in Christianity & Islam

In Christianity every human being is sinful, and his sins can only be cleansed through Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself to atone for the sins of mankind

In Islam there is no original sin since Allah accepted Adam's repentance, and every new born is born on pure innate nature free of sin, and we do not carry the sins of our fathers.

***“Whoever receives guidance receives it for the benefit of his own soul; who goes astray does so for his own loss; no bearer of burden can carry the burden of another”***

Al-Isra'a (Night Journey) 17: 15

# Salvation in Christianity & Islam

**In Christianity** salvation occurs through belief in Jesus Christ as the Savior:  
***“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved”*** Romans 10: 9.  
***“For the wages of sin is death. But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ our Lord”*** Romans 6:23

**In Islam** Jesus Christ is human and has no power of his own. Salvation occurs through our good deeds and faith in God, and through God’s mercy: ***“O My servants, no fear shall be on you this day, nor shall you grieve; being those who believed in Our signs, and bowed their will to Us in Islam; enter you the Garden, you and your wives in rejoicing”***  
Az-Zukhruff (Gold Adornments) 43: 68-70



# Misconception: Muslims hate non-Muslims

There is not a single verse in the Qur'an that tells Muslims to hate non-Muslims. On the contrary, the Qur'an orders Muslims to treat non-Muslims with kindness and justice, and to talk to them in a good way, and to work with them to improve life for everyone

The Qur'an also tells Muslims to be careful and aware that some of the people of the Book may hate Muslims and wish to harm them

Some Qur'anic verses must be understood in historical context:

***“Strongest in enmity to the believers you will find the Jews and Pagans; and nearest in love to the believers you will find those who say: “We are Christians”***

Al-Ma'ida (The Table) 5: 82

This does not mean that all Jews hate the Muslims, or all Christians love the Muslims. At the time the Qur'an was revealed there were three Jewish tribes in Madinah who became adversaries to the Muslims. So the verse only reflects the state of affair at the time of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

# The relationship between Muslims and non-Muslims according to the Qur'an

- 1-Be kind & just.
- 2-Talk to non-Muslims in a good way
- 3-Work with and cooperate in virtue and righteousness
- 4-Do not prejudge the fate of others
- 5-Do not force anyone to accept Islam against his will
- 6-Safeguard places of worship
- 7-Do not kill an innocent soul
- 8-Be good to your neighbor

# Treat non-Muslims with kindness & justice

***“God forbids you not regarding those who fight you not because of your faith, nor drive you out of your homes from treating them with kindness and justice, for God loves those who are just”***

Al-Mumtahina (Woman to be examined) 60: 8

# Talk to each other in a good way

***“Tell my servants that they should say that which is best, for Satan incites enmity and hatred among them, for Satan to man is an avowed enemy”***

Al-Isra’a (Night Journey) 17: 53

***“argue not with the people of the Book except in the best possible way; and say: “We believe in what was sent down to us, and what was sent down to you, our God and your God is one and to him we submit in Islam”***

Al-Ankabut (The Spider) 29: 46

# Work together in virtue and righteousness

***“And work together and cooperate in virtue and righteousness, not in sin or transgression, and be conscious of God, for God is severe in retribution”***

Al-Maida (The Table) 5: 2

# *Do Not force others against their will*

***“Let there be no compulsion in religion, truth stands clear from error”***

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 256

***“Let him who will believe, and let him who will reject faith”***

Al-Kahf (The Cave) 18: 29

***“If it was the will of your Lord then everyone on earth would have believed! Are you then forcing people to believe against their will”***

Yunus (Jonah) 10: 99

# Do Not prejudge The Fate of Others

***“Your job O Muhammad is to deliver the message, it is up to Us to hold them to account”***

Ar-Ra'd (The Thunder) 13: 40

# Safeguard places of worship

***“If it was not for God checking one group of people against another places of worship, like monasteries, churches, synagogues and mosques would have been destroyed”***

Al-Hajj (Pilgrimage) 22: 40



# *Do Not Kill An Innocent Soul*

***“Do not kill the soul that God has made sacred except through due process of law”***

Al-Isra'a (Night Journey) 17: 33

***“Because of this we ordained on the Children of Israel that he who kills a soul, unless it be for murder, or spreading mischief on earth, it is considered as if he killed all of mankind; and if anyone saves a soul, it is considered as if he saved all of humanity”***

Al-Ma'ida (The Table) 5: 32

# Islam is compatible with Western Democracy

Muslims **obey the law of the land**

The principles of **justice, accountability , freedom and the pursuit of happiness** are **Qur'anic principles**

# Freedom of faith & freedom of expression

**No one is to be forced to believe against his will**

***“Let him who will believe, and let him who will reject faith”***

Al-Kahf (The Cave) 18: 29

***“Let there be no compulsion in religion: truth stands clear from error”***

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 256

***“If it was the will of your Lord everyone on earth would have believed; are you then forcing people to believe against their will?”***

Yunus (Jonah) 10: 99

# Justice for all

***“O you who believe stand up for God, as witnesses for justice. Let not the hatred of others towards you cause you to deviate from justice; be just that is next to piety, and be conscious of God, for God is well aware of all that you do”***

Al-Ma'ida (The Table) 5: 8

# Our accountability to God

***“On the day when each soul will come pleading for itself, and every soul will be requited for what it has done, and none will be treated unjustly”***

An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 111

# The pursuit of happiness in moderation

***“O Children of Adam wear your beautiful apparel at every time and place of worship; eat and drink but waste not by excess, for God loves not wasters. Say: “Who has forbidden the beautiful gifts of God which he has produced for his servants, clean and pure, which he has provided for sustenance?”***

Al-Araf 7: 31 & 32

# Is Shari'a applicable to non-Muslims?

**Shari'a only applies to Muslims**

Shari'a is not applied to non-Muslims

Muslims obey the law of the land that they live in, and are bound by its principles and constitution

There is **no clash between the Qur'an and the principles in the American constitution**: Freedom, justice, accountability and the pursuit of happiness are all Qur'anic principles revealed in the Qur'an more than 1400 years ago

# Misconception: Only Muslims will enter heaven

The Qur'an states that among the people of the Book are righteous people, who have faith in God and believe in being accountable to Him, and who hasten in good deeds, and that their effort is appreciated and not rejected:

***“Not all of them are alike, of the people of the Book are a portion that stand for the right; they rehearse the signs of God all night long, and prostrate themselves in adoration. They believe in God and in the Last day; they enjoin what is right, and forbid what is wrong; and they hasten in all good deeds; they are in the rank of the righteous. Of the good that they do nothing will be rejected of them, for God knows well those who do right”***

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3: 113-115



# Misconception: Women are treated like second class citizens and are denied their rights

The Qur'an states that the relationship between husband and wife is based on **kindness, love and mercy**:

***“And among His signs is that He created for you, from among yourselves, spouses that you may find peace and tranquility in them; and He put kindness, love and mercy between your hearts; indeed in this are signs for those who reflect”***

Ar-Rum (The Romans) 30: 21

# The life of Muhammad: the early years

- He was born to a noble family in Quraish
- He was an orphan at an early age :Lost his father before he was born, and lost his mother at age 3
- He worked as a sheperd, then as a merchant
- He was known as “The one to be trusted, and the one who is truthful”
- He married Khadeeja, his first wife when he was 25 years old (she was older than him), and she was his only wife till her death, when he was 50 years old
- God’s revelation came to him when he was 40 years old

# The revelation from God

-Muhammad was 40 years old when the Angel Gabriel appeared to him in the cave of Hara'a

-The Angel said: "Read" but Muhammad was illiterate and said: "I cannot read".

-The first verses of the Qur'an were then revealed:

***"Read in the name of your Lord; Who created man out of a leech-like clot. Read and your Lord is most bountiful. He taught man that which man did not know"***

Al-Alaq (The Clot) 96: 1-5

# How did Muhammad receive divine revelation?

1-Through the **angel of revelation**, who appeared to him either as an angel or as a man

2-Through **inspiration** to his heart and mind

**3-Directly as God talked to him**

*“It is not fitting for a man that God should speak to him except by inspiration, or from behind a veil, or by the sending of a messenger to reveal, with God’s permission, what God wills, for God is most-high, most-wise”*

Ash-Shura’ (consultation) 42:51

# The early years of Islam were secret for fear of persecution

- The first people to believe in Muhammad as God's messenger were his wife, his trusted friend Abou Bakr and his cousin Ali.
- The early Muslims were few but united by their faith. They met in secret and learned from the early Qur'an patience, perseverance, faith in God, avoiding evil and shameful deeds and hope

# The resistance of Quraish to the Qur'an and the message of Muhammad (PBUH)

The tribe of Quraish, which ruled Macca and were guardians of the Haram (sacred house) did not accept Muhammad as God's messenger or the Qur'an as God's divine revelation for **political and economic reasons**:

- 1-They feared that their authority as leaders will be lost or diminished
- 2-They feared economic loss if pilgrims stopped coming to see the idols in the Ka'Ba and visit the sacred shrine

***“They say: “If we follow the guidance with you we should be snatched away from our land.” Have We not established for them a secure sanctuary, to which are brought as tribute fruits of all kinds? A provision from Ourselves? But most of them understand not”***

Al-Qasas (The Stories) 28: 57

# The resistance of Quraish took several forms

- 1-They accused Muhammad of lying, or being possessed
- 2-They ridiculed the Qur'an
- 3-They tried to prevent people from listening to the Qur'an
- 4-They tortured and oppressed Muslims who were weak and had no one to protect them
- 5-They finally declared open war on Muslims when they immigrated to Madinah

# They accused Muhammad of lying or being possessed

***“Therefore remind for by the grace of your Lord, you are not a soothsayer, nor possessed. Or do they say: “A Poet! We wait for him some calamity by time”***

At-Tur (The Mount) 52: 29 & 30

***“They say: “O you to whom the message is being revealed! Truly you are mad or possessed. Why you do not bring the angels to us if you are truthful?”***

Al-Hijr (Rocky Tracts) 15: 6 & 7

***“They say: “Tales of the ancient, which he has caused to be written, and they are dictated to him morning and evening”***

Al-Furqan (The Criterion) 25: 5



# Quraish tried to prevent others from listening to the Qur'an

***“The unbelievers say: “Listen not to this Qur'an, but talk at random in the midst of its reading, that you may gain the upper hand”***

Fusselat (Explained in detail) 41: 26

# The immigration to Habasha (Ethiopia)

- \*This immigration occurred in the **5<sup>th</sup> year** after the revelation
- \*Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) gave **permission** to some Muslims to go to Ethiopia out of the oppression of Quraish, saying: “**Go to Habasha, where the king is just and wrongs no one, until Allah delivers you from your difficulty**”
- \*Habasha at that time was ruled by a **Christian king** called An-Najashi
- \*Quraish sent a **delegation** with gifts to the king and his ministers, but he refused to send the Muslims back till he heard their story. When he heard Surat Mariam (**Mary**) **chapter 19 of the Qur'an** recited he knew that the Qur'an speaks the truth about Jesus, and assured the Muslims that they are safe under his protection

# The concept of Hijra (Immigration)

If we are **unable to practice our faith and face oppression** then it is our obligation to move to a safer place:

***“When the angels take the souls of those who die in sin against their souls, they say: “In what plight were you?” They reply: “Weak and oppressed in the earth we were” They say: “Was not the earth of Allah spacious enough for you to move away? Such will find their abode in Hell, what an evil refuge”***

An-Nesa’a (The Women) 4: 97

***“O My servants who believe truly My earth is spacious, therefore serve Me”***

Al-Ankabut (The Spider) 29: 56

# The Boycott

The **leaders of Quraish** were afraid of killing Muhammad because his clan would retaliate

They **boycotted** them and forced them to live in the mountain around Macca **for three years**, where they faced hunger, isolation and great difficulty. The **Qur'an** came down urging patience and promising victory in due time:

***“Did you think that you will enter paradise without trials as came to those who passed away before you? They encountered suffering and adversity, and were so shaken in spirit that even the messenger and those of faith with him cried: “When the help of Allah will come?” Indeed the help of Allah is always near”*** Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 214

The **boycott had the opposite effect** as people wondered about the cruelty and injustice of Quraish to its own people

# The journey to Ta'if and the Dua'a of the prophet (PBUH)

The prophet went to Ta'if (60 miles from Macca) to invite its leaders to Islam and to seek their help, but they ridiculed him and incited the mob who threw stones at him

He was bleeding and retreated to a wall and said his Dua'a (prayer to God): ***(O Allah to You I complain of my helplessness and lack of resources and my insignificance before mankind. You are the most merciful of the merciful. You are the Lord of the helpless and weak, and You are my Lord. Into whose hands would You abandon me? Into the hands of someone distant and unrelated who frowns on me, or to an enemy for me to worry about? Your protection is more than ample for me. I seek protection in the light of your countenance, which illuminates the heavens and dispels the darkness, and which controls all affairs in this world as well as the Hereafter. May it never be that I incur Your wrath, or that You should inflict Your anger on me. I will appeal to You until I am acceptable to You. There is no power and no resource except Yours alone)***

# Allah responds to the Dua'a of the prophet

Allah sent Jibreel (Gabriel) and the angel of the mountains.

He was told that if the prophet ordered him he would close the mountains around Makkah on its inhabitants.

The Prophet (PBUH) said: **(No, I hope that Allah will bring of their offspring those who will worship Him alone)** Narrated by Bokhari

Muhammad's heart was now content, for he knew that Allah was not angry with him and will not leave him unsupported. The Qur'an states:

***"Await in patience the command of your Lord, for you are indeed in Our eyes, and celebrate the praises of your Lord when you stand forth***

***(during prayer, and early Dawn), and for part of the night also praise Him, and at the setting of the stars"*** At-Tur (The mountain) 52: 48 & 49

# Isra'a (Night Journey) & Mira'j (Ascension to the heavens)

Allah wanted to strengthen the heart of the prophet, and to show him the wonders of the heavens, so the angel Gabriel took him on a **night journey** from the sacred mosque in **Macca** to the farthest mosque in **Jerusalem**

***“Glory To Allah Who did take His servant for a journey at night, from the sacred mosque to the farthest mosque, whose precincts We did bless in order to show him Our signs; for He is one who hears and sees all things”***

Al-Isra'a (Night Journey) 17: 1

# Mira'j (ascension to the heavens)

Then Prophet **Muhammad** (PBUH) and the angel **Gabriel ascended** to the **seven heavens**. He met other prophets there, and was presented to Allah, Who inspired to him what He willed.

The **five daily prayers** were ordained at that time (11<sup>th</sup> year after revelation). The Qur'an states:

***“The prophet’s heart and mind in no way falsified that which he saw. Will you then dispute with him concerning what he saw? For indeed he saw him at a second descent, near the Lote tree of the utmost boundary. Near it is the Garden of abode. Behold! The Lote tree was shrouded with what shrouds. His sight never swerved, nor did it go wrong. For truly did he see, of the signs of his Lord, the greatest”***

An-Najm (The Star) 53: 11-18



# The significance of Isra'a & Mira'j

This journey was a **private showing to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)** to strengthen his heart

**The journey from Macca to Jerusalem illustrates the bond between religions:** Macca represents Islam, and Jerusalem represents Judaism & Christianity

Mira'j implies getting closer to God. **The five daily prayers that Muslims perform every day and night brings them closer to God**, when they are able to receive His guidance & blessings

# Immigration to Madinah

- 1-Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) invited people to Islam during the Hajj (Pilgrimage) reciting verses from the Qur'an. Men from Yathrib listened to him. The next year 12 men came and gave their pledge to obey him
- 2-The next year at Aqaba 73 men & 2 women came and gave their pledge to hear and obey, to enjoin good and forbid evil, to serve God not afraid of blame and to defend and support the prophet when he comes to their city. This is known as the Aqaba pledge
- 3-Musa'b bin omair went to Yathrib to teach the residents there Islam and to recite the Qur'an. Islam spread rapidly in that city
- 4-Since now Islam had a base in Yathrib the Prophet ordered the Muslims to immigrate. Yathrib after the immigration became known as Madinah

# The immigration of Muhammad & Abou Bakr to Madinah

Abou Bakr, Muhammad's trusted friend accompanied him during the immigration from Macca to Madinah

When he arrived at Madinah the Muslims there were very happy to see God's messenger. The same love exists today as Muslims all over the world love Allah's messenger, follow his example and follow his teachings

He built his mosque and it was a simple structure of mud and palm-leaves. In this simple mosque Muslims learned their religion and met and worked together

# The problems that the Prophet faced in Madinah

1-**War** between the two tribes in Madina, and the influx of immigrants coming from Macca, most were poor except for their faith

2-**Poor economic** situation

3-There were **three Jewish tribes** in Madinah and they controlled the economic life there

4-Many residents in Madinah were **hypocrites**: they confessed Islam but their hearts did not submit

5-The **Kuffar (unbelievers) of Quraish** were waiting to attack and destroy the new Muslim state

6-**Inviting to God** must continue, and the **education** of Muslims must continue

# How did the Prophet solve the problems in Madinah?

## **1-The mosque is the focal point of activity** in the life of Muslims

It is where they met, prayed together, worked together and consulted each other and where decisions were made

## **2-Establishing a covenant of brotherhood between the Ansar (allies) and the Mujahedeen (immigrants from Macca)**

It shifted the economic burden from the state to individuals, and removed differences and divisions among Muslims as they worked together

## **3-Pact of coexistence and cooperation between the Muslims & the Jewish tribes**

The life, property and freedom and faith of both was safeguarded, and they worked together to protect Madinah against its enemy

## **4-Protecting the Muslim state against its enemies**

Muslims prepared to defend their city against aggression

## **5-Education of Muslims and inviting to God**

The Prophet taught a group of young men to carry on the message & educate others

The mosque is where all activities occur and where decisions are made after due consultation

*“In houses which God has permitted to be raised, to honor and celebrate His name and He is glorified by morning and evening by men whom neither trade nor sale can divert them from the remembrance of God, nor from regular prayer, nor from giving charity; their fear is the day when hearts and eyes will be turned about”*

An-Nur (The Light) 24: 36 & 37

# Bond of brotherhood between the immigrants and the allies

The Ansars (original residents of Madinah) opened their homes to their immigrant brothers, and shared with them whatever they had willingly. This friendship and love was possible because God allowed and nurtured this feeling of belonging, unity, love and friendship

***“Allah strengthened you with His aid and with the believers, and He put affection in their hearts. If you spent all that is on earth, you could not have produced this affection, but God has done it, for He is Exalted in might and Wise”***

Al-Anfal (Spoils of war) 8: 62 & 63

# The Qur'an praises both the immigrants and the allies for their character and behavior

***“To the indigent immigrants, those who were expelled from their homes and their property while seeking grace from Allah and His good pleasure, and aiding Allah and His messenger. Such are indeed the truthful. And those who before them had homes in Madinah, and had adopted the faith; show their affection to such as came to them for refuge, and entertain no desire in their hearts for things given to the immigrants, but give them preference over themselves, even though they are poor; those saved from the covetousness of their own souls will achieve prosperity”***

Al-Hashr (The Gathering) 59: 8 & 9



# Covenant of non-aggression and cooperation between the Muslims and the Jewish tribes

- In this treaty the **lives, possessions** and properties of the Jews were **protected**
- They were **free to practice their faith** according to their tradition, and were **not forced to become Muslims**
- If a Jew is wronged the state would **ensure justice** for him, as it would for a Muslim
- In return **the Jews were asked to help and support the Muslim state** and defend it against its enemies

# The reaction and behavior of the Jews in Madinah at the time of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

- Initially they **accepted** the terms of the treaty and cooperated
- Then they began to undermine the Muslim state by working with the **hypocrites** in Madinah to incite division
- They tried to **distort the truth** and said that the Qur'an is not a divine revelation
- Then they **collaborated with the Qur'aish** tribe and promised them help when they laid siege to Madinah in the battle of Ahzab and Bani Qoraiza
- Then they fought the Muslims in **open warfare** in the battle of Khaybar
- They were hoping that the new prophet would be a Jew, and when Muhammad came an Arab they refused to believe in him as God's messenger

# Protecting the Muslim state against its enemies

**The Prophet** (PBUH) ordered the Muslims to prepare themselves to Be able to defend their city and Muslim state against possible attacks from their enemies.

The Qur'an states:

***“Therefore, make ready against them whatever force and war mounts you are able to muster, so that you might deter the enemies of God who are your enemies as well, and others besides them of whom you are unaware, but God knows them”***

Al-Anfal (Spoils of War) 8: 60

# Educating the Muslims and inviting to Allah

Despite the difficulties that the Muslim state was facing it was necessary and essential that the work of inviting others to Islam, with wisdom and good example, continue, as well as educating the Muslims about their religion

Therefore, the Prophet spent a long time educating and grooming a group of young Muslims to carry on this Da'Wa (inviting to God). They followed the example of their teacher in understanding and applying the teachings of the Qur'an and his tradition, then spreading the message of Islam

# Inviting to Allah (Da'Wa)

***“Say: “This is my way, I do invite to Allah, with conviction and clear insight, I and those who follow me”***

Youseff (Joseph) 12: 108

***“Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good example, and argue with them only in ways that are best, for your Lord knows who has strayed from His path and who is guided”***

An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 125

# Examples of the Prophet's sayings

- \*Love for your brother as you love for yourself**
- \*A Muslim is the person who other Muslims feel safe with him and do not fear harm from his tongue or his hand**
- \*Spread greetings of peace, provide food for the needy, keep close to your relations, and pray at night while others sleep, then you will enter heaven in peace**
- \*The Muslim is the brother of another Muslim, he does not wrong him nor fails him or leaves him to his enemy. Whoever is helping his brother Allah will help him. Whoever relieves the difficulty of a Muslim Allah will relieve his difficulty on the day of judgment. Whoever shields and protects a Muslim Allah will shield him and protect him on the day of judgment**

# Muhammad (PBUH) was sent to implement morals & noble character

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

**(Indeed I have been sent to implement morals and the most noble of character)**

Narrated by Hakim & Baihaqi

# Muhammad's noble character and excellent morals

He was **honest & truthful**, and never lied

He was **kind, caring, forgiving & merciful**

*“There has come to you a messenger from among yourselves. It pains him that you should suffer, he cares about you, he is kind and forgiving with the believers”* At-Tawba (Repentance) 9: 128

He was **just** even with his enemies

He was **humble & not arrogant**: (Do not glorify me)

He was a **devoted worshipper** & submitted to God & had trust in him

He was **eloquent** and commanding in his speech

He was **wise** and able to solve problems & have a vision

He **worked tirelessly** and was full of energy



# Follow the example of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in his character & behavior

***“You have indeed in the messenger of God a good example to follow for those who rest their hope on meeting God and the Last Day, and who remember God often”***

Al-Ahzab (The Confederates) 33: 21

# The Prophet (PBUH) was kind, gentle, caring, and forgiving

***“It was Allah’s mercy and grace that you were kind and dealt with them gently; if you were severe or harsh-hearted they would have broken away from you; therefore, pardon them and seek forgiveness for them, and consult them in your mutual affairs”***

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3: 159

***“There has come to you a messenger, from among yourselves, it grieves him that you should suffer, ardently anxious is he over you, to the believers he is most kind and merciful”***

At-Tawba (Repentance) 9: 128

Muhammad did not care about the material things in this life and was patient & devoted to Allah

*“Do not strain your eyes in longing for the things We have given for enjoyment to parties of them, the splendor of the life of this world, through which We test them; but the provision of your Lord is better and more enduring. Enjoin prayer on your people, and be constant therein. We ask you not to provide sustenance, We provide it for you. But the Hereafter is for the righteous”*

Ta Ha 20: 131 & 132

# Fasting the month of Ramadan

1-Fasting was ordained in the **second year** after Hijra (immigration)

***“O you who believe fasting has been ordained on you, as it was ordained on those before you that you may learn Taqwa (self-restraint-righteousness)”***

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 183

2-Ramadan is the **9<sup>th</sup> month in the lunar calendar**, and the month when the Qur'an was revealed

3-Muslims fast **from Dawn till sunset**, and abstain from food, drink and desires, but one should also abstain from wronging others, lying, cheating, back-biting and bad words

4-The goal of the fast is **to learn patience, self-restraint, obedience**, commitment, to get close to God and acknowledge His blessings

5-During Ramadan Muslims **safeguard their prayers**, and offer optional prayers in the mosque at night, give in **charity** and **recite the Qur'an**

# Tremendous reward for fasting the month of Ramadan

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said relating after his Lord:

**(Fasting is done for My sake and I give its reward. Fasting is protection. When one is fasting, he should not use bad language or raise his voice. If someone curses him or picks a fight with him, he should say: “I am fasting”. He leaves his food, drink and desires for My sake. A fasting person has two joys: once when he breaks his fast, he is happy that he can eat; and when he meets his Lord, he is happy that he fasted)**

Narrated by Bokhari

# The prohibition of alcohol

**This prohibition came on gradually and in stages:** First the Qur'an stated that there is some benefit in alcohol but also a lot of harm in it; then it warned Muslims not to pray when intoxicated; then the final prohibition came

***“O you who believe intoxicants, gambling, sacrificing by stones and divining the future are evil and the doing of Satan, then avoid such practices that you may succeed. Satan’s plan is to incite enmity and hatred between you with intoxicants and gambling, and hinder you from the remembrance of Allah and from your prayers; will you not then abstain?”***

Al-Ma’ida (The Table) 5:90 & 91

**Prophet Muhammad** (PBUH) said: **(Alcohol is the root of all evils)**

Alcohol is forbidden in Islam because it **clouds the mind and impairs judgment, and may lead to other sins**

# Fighting in Islam

1-The Muslims in Macca were weak and oppressed, and were forced to leave their homes and possessions and immigrate to Madinah:

***“Those who have been driven from their homeland against all right for no reason other than saying: “Our Lord is Allah”***

Al-Hajj (Pilgrimage) 22: 40

2-Permission to fight was given by Allah in order that the Muslims may defend their city against aggression:

***“Permission (to fight) is given to those against whom war is wrongfully waged, and indeed Allah has the power to aid them”***

Al-Hajj (Pilgrimage) 22: 39

**Fighting in Islam is allowed only for defensive purposes, not for personal reasons**

# Guidelines for fighting in Islam

1-Fighting is only allowed **in the cause of God**, not for personal reasons

2-Fighting is allowed **to defend one's country against aggression**, not to

conquer land

**3-No transgression** is allowed in fighting

4-Offers of **peace must be accepted**

***“Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you, but do not commit aggression, for Allah loves not aggressors”***

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 190



# Ethics in fighting

- 1-Muslims fight only those fighting them. They **do not kill innocent people**. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (Do not kill a child, a woman, an elderly person, or anyone not connected with the fighting. Do not burn crops or destroy the land)
- 2-Captives of war must be treated with human dignity**
- 3-The dead** among the Muslims and among their enemies must be buried
- 4-Offers of **peace** must be accepted

# There is nothing in Islam called “Holy War”

- The Qur'an never mentions the words “Holy War”
- True Jihad is striving in the way of Allah alone
- Jihad cannot be invoked by anyone just because he wishes to do so. It is only invoked by a leader or group of scholars when a Muslim country is under attack, and Muslims must then rise to defend themselves against injustice
- Holy war is a Christian concept**

# The battle of Badr

- 1-Occurred in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year after Hijra (immigration to Madinah).
- 2-The Muslims left Madinah to capture the rich caravan of Quraish, to regain some of their losses since Quraish confiscated the possessions of the Muslims who left Macca. But God willed that the Muslims would fight an army three times their size and better equipped and to defeat them.
- 3-Mistakes were made and the Qur'an came down to correct these mistakes. They were not fighting for monetary gain but to establish the truth. Also accepting ransom from war criminals was criticized

# The battle of Ohud

- 1-A large army from Quraish came to Madinah to fight and destroy the Muslims state, in revenge for their loss at Badr.
- 2-The hypocrites retreated with one third of the Muslim army, hoping to weaken the resolve of Muslims at a critical stage
- 3-The archers disobeyed the prophet's orders when they saw the Quraish fighters retreat, and went for the booty, leaving the back of the Muslim army exposed. The Quraish attacked and the Muslims were confused, and some ran away, and were defeated.
- 4-The prophet stood his ground and fought along with a small band, and was injured.

# Valuable lessons from the battle of Ohud

1-Allah tests His servants, sometimes with defeat and sometimes with victory. The Qur'an states:

***“If a wound has touched you, be sure a similar wound has touched the others. Such days of varying fortunes We give to men by turns, that Allah may know those who believe, and that He may take for Himself from your ranks martyrs, for God loves not the wrong-doers”***

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3: 140

# Valuable lessons from the battle of Ohud

## 2-Disobeying the prophet's orders resulted in disaster

The Qur'an reminds us to obey the prophet, otherwise our deeds will fail:

***“Let those who disobey the prophet's orders beware, lest they face a trial or grave punishment from Allah”***

An-Nur (the Light) 24: 63

# Valuable lessons from the battle of Ohud

3-The Qur'an warns Muslims of the **harmful effect of the hypocrites** and their bad intentions:

***“If they go out with you, they would not have increased your strength; rather they would have caused division and disorder, sowing sedition among you, and there would have been among you those who would listen to them; but Allah knows well the wrong-doers”***

At-Tawba (Repentance) 9: 47

# The Jews break their covenant and are expelled from Madinah

**Banu Qainuqa'** broke their covenant, and were expelled from Madinah. They were allowed to take their possessions with them, and were not Harmed

**Banu An-Nadir** tried to kill the prophet, and declared their hatred to the Muslims. The Muslims laid siege to their fortifications, and they surrendered. They were also allowed to leave unharmed, with their possessions

**Banu Qoraiza**, however invited Quraish to attack Madinah and promised to attack the Muslims from within the city during the battle of Ahzab, and were severely punished



# The battle of Ahzab (Confederates)

1-Occurred in the **fifth year after Hijra**, when 10,000 fighters from several Arab tribes laid siege to Madinah, encouraged by the Jewish promise of support

2-Allah sent a **windstorm** that blew into their tents, **and the angels**

Threw fear into their hearts, and they left in a hurry:

***“O you who believe remember the grace of Allah that He bestowed on you, when there came to you hosts to overwhelm you. But We sent against them a hurricane and forces that you did not see; but Allah sees clearly all that you do”***

Al-Ahzab (The Confederates) 33: 9

# The slander incident

Rumors spread in Madinah, accusing Aesha (the wife of prophet Muhammad) of wrong-doing. She was sick and unaware of the rumors. The prophet was hurt and wondered why people are attacking his honor!

The Qur'an came after a while clearing Aesha of any wrong-doing, and warning the Muslims not to lie or spread rumors or attach the honor and integrity of innocent women:

***“You received it on your tongues, and you said out of your mouths things of which you had no knowledge; and you thought it to be a light matter, while it was most serious in the sight of Allah. Why did you not, when you heard it say: “It is not right of us to speak of this: glory be to You, this is a most serious slander!”. Allah does admonish you that you may never repeat such a conduct if you are true believers”***

An-Nur (The Light) 24: 15-17

# The Slander incident

We must stand up against malicious rumors

***“And those who harm and annoy believing men and women undeservedly, bear on themselves a calumny and a glaring sin”***

Al-Ahzab (The Confederates) 33: 58

# The Slander incident

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) did not suppress freedom of speech, despite the harm it caused him and his family

He was leader of state, but did not jail or oppress those spreading the rumors, because freedom of speech must be guaranteed

Only after their guilt was established were the hypocrites punished

# The truce of Hdaybiyah

The Muslims wanted to perform **Umra** (lesser pilgrimage) and **Hajj** (pilgrimage) but **were prevented by the Quraish** tribe in Macca.

**A truce was signed** and it was agreed upon that the Muslims would do their pilgrimage next year, and that **peace and no fighting would prevail for 10 years**

This allowed the Muslims to **concentrate their efforts on Da'Wa** (inviting to Allah), and many people, after listening to the Qur'an accepted Islam

This truce was described in the Qur'an as a great victory:

***“When the help of Allah and victory comes, and you see the people enter the religion of Allah in crowds, celebrate the praises of your Lord, and pray for His forgiveness, for He is often-returning in forgiveness”***

An-Nasr (Help) 110: 1-3

# The battle of Khaybar

- \***Khaybar** was the headquarter of all Muslim enemies, and where the Jews of Madinah went to after being expelled. They collaborated with enemies of the Muslim state
- \*The Muslim army defeated the Jews of Khaybar and opened their fortresses. They were given a choice: either to leave for Syria, or work the land as tenants, since now their farms belonged to the Muslims.

# Prophet Muhammad invites the heads of state to Islam

In his letter he invited them to worship the One and Only God Allah, and to believe in him as Allah's messenger. Some accepted like the king of Habasha (Ethiopia), while others refused like the emperor of Rome and of Persia.

The Qur'an explains this Da'Wa:

***"Say: "O people of the Book, come to a word that is just between us and you, that you worship none but Allah, and that you associate no partners with Him, and that none of us shall take others as lords besides Allah". Then if they turn away, say: "Bear witness that we are Muslims".***

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3: 64

# The opening of Macca

- Occurred in the 8<sup>th</sup> year after Hijra
- The Quraish broke their covenant and the Muslim army opened Macca with no fighting
- The prophet entered Macca on his camel, lowering his head out of humility to Allah. He forgave the same people who forced him out and who abused the Muslims, saying the same words that prophet Youseff (Joseph) said to his brothers: ***“No reproach or blame on you This day; may Allah forgive you, for He is the most-merciful of merciful”*** Youseff (joseph) 12: 92



# The Christian delegation from Najran

A Christian delegation came from Najran to ask Prophet Muhammad about Eisa (Jesus) How is he regarded in Islam?

When they came wearing silk clothes and gold rings and were arrogant, and Muhammad did not return their greetings. When they changed to simple clothes and became humble he greeted them warmly and answered their questions. He allowed them to pray in his mosque according to their tradition, and did not force them to Islam

He made a peace treaty with them in which they governed themselves, kept their faith and paid a tax for protection

# The battle of Tabuk

Occurred in the 9<sup>th</sup> year after Hijra; the journey was long and it was very hot; food and water were scarce

The Muslims left Madinah to face the Roman army in order to defend their Muslim state and to help the Muslims in Syria

The weak in faith and the hypocrites preferred to stay in Madinah and not go on this long tiresome journey. The Qur'an states:

***“Those who were left behind rejoiced in their sitting back behind the messenger of Allah; they hated to strive and fight, with their goods and persons, in the cause of Allah. They said: “Do not go forth in the heat.” Say: “The fire of Hell is fiercer in heat.” if only they could understand”***

At-Tawba (Repentance) 9: 81

# The battle of Tabuk

But the Muslims were true and committed, and made the journey along with the Prophet. The Qur'an states:

**“But the messenger and those who believe with him strive and fight with their wealth and their persons; for them are all good things, and it is they who will prosper”**

At-Tawbah (Repentance) 9: 88

**No fighting occurred** since the Romans and their allies retreated deep into Syria. The Arab tribes accepted the rule of Islam

**Coping with difficulty is what distinguishes people of faith from those of no faith or are hypocrites**

# The farewell pilgrimage of prophet Muhammad

Prophet Muhammad **did Hajj only once** in the 10<sup>th</sup> year after Hijra.

He showed the Muslims the rites of Hajj, saying: **(take your rites after me, and pray as you see me pray)**.

He **circled the Ka' Ba 7 times** saying **Duaa (prayer) to Allah**, then he walked between **Safa & Marwa**, following the footsteps of Hajir, the mother of Ishma'il as she searched for water.

On the **9<sup>th</sup> day of Zul-Hijja** he **entered Arafat**, prayed noon and afternoon together, and stayed till sunset. **He prayed to God** seeking His forgiveness, mercy and guidance

Then after sunset he went to **Muzdalifa**, where he prayed sunset and night prayers, and stayed till Dawn, and prayed Dawn prayer

Then he went to **Mena**, where he sacrificed the animals, shaved his head, then went to **Macca to circle the Ka' Ba**, then returned to Mena to throw the stones

# Muhammad's sermon during the farewell pilgrimage

- 1-Your souls and possessions are sacred. It is forbidden to kill another human being, or to take his possessions
- 2-Whoever is trusted let him give back his trust
- 3-Usury is prohibited
- 4-You have rights over your wives, and they have rights over you. Fear Allah concerning women
- 5-You are going to meet your Lord, and He will ask you about your deeds
- 6-I have delivered the message. Hold on to the book of Allah and my Sunnah, and you will never be misguided
- 7-A Muslim is the brother of another Muslim
- 8-Allah have I delivered? The people said: "Yes". Then he said: "O Allah be a witness"

# **Qur'anic verse revealed during the farewell pilgrimage**

***“This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My favor upon you, and I have chosen for you Islam as your religion”***

Al-Ma'ida (The Table) 5: 3

# The prophet's last days

He became ill, and **died** in the 11<sup>th</sup> year after Hijra

The Qur'an emphasized that **Muhammad is human**, and that he would die like other prophets before him:

***"Muhammad is only a messenger, many messengers passed away before him"***

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3: 144

***"You are going to die, and they are going to die"***

Az-Zumar (The Groups) 39: 30

**Muslims do not worship Muhammad**, Muslims only worship Allah

Before his death, the prophet **asked if he offended anyone**, or wronged anyone, and if so let him exact retribution from him and forgive him

Prophet Muhammad **left no money**, he left his Sunnah and example for us to follow

# The Sunnah and the Seerah of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

The **Sunnah** is the prophet's sayings (Hadeeth), what he did, and what he approved of

The Sunnah is the **second source of knowledge in Islam**, after the Qur'an

The **Seerah** is the life story of Prophet Muhammad, and how he reacted to events and difficulties. It is closely related to the Qur'an



# How was the Hadeeth of the prophet preserved?

What prophet Muhammad said was **memorized** by his companions

Some of his sayings were also **written**

The prophet used **clear short sentences, and repeated his words**, so that those listening to him understood and memorized his words

The Arabs at that time were gifted with the **ability to memorize**

The prophet's companions **understood the importance of his sayings** and of preserving them for future generations.

The **prophet praised those who heard his saying, memorized it and related it to others**

The prophet's sayings were compiled in **books of Hadeeth**. Only what is authentic and can be verified was accepted

# Books of Hadeeth

Are **classified** into:

**Authentic** Hadeeth only is accepted, like Bokhari & Muslim

**Good** Hadeeth, where the saying of the prophet is reliable but less

In degree than authentic Hadeeth. Books like Malik, Ahmd, Termedhi, Abou Dawood, An-Nesa'ee, Ibn Majja, Hakim, Tabarani.

**Other** Hadeeth that may have some weakness

**False** Hadeeth is rejected

# Criteria to judge the authenticity of the Hadeeth

The **character** and ability of the person ,narrating the Hadeeth, to **memorize** was scrutinized. Was he a righteous person that can be trusted? Was he able to memorize, or did his memory fail him as he got older. Did he indeed hear the Hadeeth from those he claimed to meet

Does this narration contradict the **Qur'an, or another authentic Hadeeth**, or an established rule in Islam?

The **series of men who related the Hadeeth** were also analyzed, and each person studied regarding his honesty, integrity and memorization.

The **content of the Hadeeth** also examined to find out if it was logical or it had any apparent weakness

# The role or function of Prophet Muhammad

1- **Delivering** God's message

**"O messenger deliver what has been sent to you from your Lord"**

Al-M'ida (The Table) 5: 67

2-**Explaining** God's message

**"We sent to you the message in order that you may explain it to mankind, that they may reflect"**

An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 44

3-**Applying** God's message in his character & behavior

His wife when asked about his character said: His character was the Qur'an

4-Serving as an **example to follow**

5-**Teaching** the Qur'an & Sunnah

# Understand and follow the prophet's sayings in historical context and in the context of the Qur'an

**(I have been commanded to fight An-Nas till they bear witness that there is no god except Allah and that I am his messenger)**

Narrated by Muslim

Taken literally this implies that the prophet was ordered by God to fight all mankind till they submit to Islam. This contradicts the Qur'an, because in the Qur'an Muslims are forbidden from forcing anyone to Islam against his will, since God gave man a free choice: to believe or to reject faith, hence he is accountable, and not forced against his will. An-Nas here only refers to the tribe of Quraish who were fierce enemies, and does not apply to others

# Understand the prophet's saying in the context of the Qur'an

**(What is below the ankle is in hell fire)**

This does not mean that we wear short pants. The prophet was only referring to what he saw when a man was walking arrogantly drawing his long robe on the floor. **The Hadeeth only warns us against being arrogant**, and urges humility. The Qur'an confirms this meaning:

**“Nor walk on earth with insolence, for you cannot rend the earth asunder, nor reach the mountains in height”**

Al-Isra'a (Night Journey) 17: 37

# What does Muhammad represent to Muslims?

**1-Muhammad is God's messenger**, therefore his order must be obeyed

**"The answer of the believers , when summoned to Allah and his messenger , in order that he may judge between them, is no other than this: they say: "We hear and we obey"; it is such as these that will succeed" An-Nur ( The Light) 24: 51**

**"He who obeys the messenger obeys Allah" An-Nesa'a (Women) 4: 80**

The **Sunnah (tradition)** of prophet Muhammad is the second source of knowledge in Islam

**2-Muslims follow the example of Prophet Muhammad in his character & behavior**

**"You have indeed in the messenger of Allah a beautiful example of proper conduct to follow" Al-Ahzab (The Confederates) 33: 21**

**3-Muhammad was a human being**, he was born and he died. Muslims do not worship Muhammad, Muslims only worship Allah. Muhammad has no power of his own

4- Muhammad was sent as **a mercy to the worlds**. He is **God's last messenger**

**Muslims do not worship Muhammad, for Muhammad is human, Muslims worship Allah (God)**

***“Call not besides God on another god, there is no God but He. Everything that exists will perish except His face. To Him belongs the command, and to Him you will be brought back”***

Al-Qasas (The Stories) 28: 88

***“Say: “I tell you not that with me are the treasures of God, nor do I know what is hidden, nor do I tell you that I am an angel. I but follow what is revealed to me.” Say: “Can the blind be equal to the seeing? Will you then not consider?”***

Al-Ana'm (The Cattel) 6: 50



# There are social and political reasons for Muhammad's many marriages

- 1-Muhammad was **married to one wife for 25 years**, when he was in the prime of his life.
- 2-After his wife Khadeeja died he married Sawda to **take care of his four daughters**
- 3-He married **Aesha**, the daughter of Abou Bakr, his best friend. She survived him for 37 years and related many of his sayings. He also married **Hafsa**, the daughter of Omar, his second best friend and advisor. This was the custom of the Arabs at that time
- 4-He **married the widows of men who died in the battle of Badr and Ohod**, to take care of their children and to set a precedent for Muslims that they should take care of the children of martyrs
- 5-He married the **daughter of a tribal chief defeated by the Muslims**, and the daughter of a Jewish chief also defeated in battle, in order to reconcile their hearts
- 6-He married **Zainab** by order of God to clear a misconception, that Muslim men can marry the divorced wives of their adopted sons
- 7-He married **Umm Habiba**, the daughter of Abou Sufian, the Quraish leader