

Da'wah Course DP206 at IIU

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Outline Lecture 5: August 12, 2003.

Reading Assignment:

1. The Message of Islam and Approaches of Da'i by Dr. Manzoor Alam, pp. 21-64
Read all notes at the end of the book.
 2. Relevant III&E brochures at <http://www.iiie.net/Main/ForMuslims.html>
 3. Handling People to be posted at www.ilaam.net, IIU students page.
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A. Versions of the Bible and their abbreviations:

Reference: SO MANY VERSIONS? 20TH CENTURY ENGLISH VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE by Sakae Kubo & Walter F. Specht, Academic Books of Zondervan,

These authors list 159 versions published during 1900 through 1982.
Major versions are given below with their abbreviations.

AB	Amplified Bible
ASV	American Standard Version
BLE	Bible in living English
GNB	Good News Bible
JB	Jerusalem Bible
KJV	King James Version
LB	Living Bible
MLB	Modern Language Bible (Berkeley)
NAB	New American Bible
NASB	New American Standard Bible
NEB	New English Bible
NIV	New International Version
NJV	New Jewish Version
NKJV	New King James Version
NWT	New World Translation
RDB	Reader's Digest Bible
RSV	Revised Standard Version
TEV	Today's English Version

Some important abbreviations:

LXX	Septuagint (Greek translation of the Jewish Bible)
MSS or MS(S)	Manuscript
NT	New Testament
OT	Old Testament

Glossary of terms:

Apocrypha	Meaning hidden (books) from the general reading public. This is a disparaging term to mean "false", "spurious" and "heretical".
Codex	Manuscript of a leaf book bound by a string; not a scroll.

Canonization To declare an official manuscript.

B. God of the Bible is mentioned as if he is a human being with all his weaknesses.

The Qur'an verse 2:79 is proven true that they write with their own hands and attribute it to God. Some examples:

- Gen 3:8-9 God did not know whereabouts of Adam within the paradise where God walked like a human.
- Gen 6:6 God regretted that He created Adam.
- Exod 31:17 God got tired after six days of creation activity, therefore, He rested and refreshed himself.
- Is 7:20 God grows hair and He needed to shave but He had no razor, therefore, he rented the razor from the king of Assyria and shaved his feet and beard. Naturally a bearded God became a clean-shaven God.
- Ps 78:65 God got drunk with wine.
- 2 Sam 22:8-9 God was like a dragon; when He became angry smoke came out of His nostrils and fire out of his mouth.

C. Developing Islamic personality through the Qur'an:

Study of Surat Al-Hujurat 49:1-18. Brief notes:

- Background is the visit of uncultured desert Arabs to the Prophet.
- Verses 1-3 Two lessons: (a) Etiquette of the respect of the Prophet and way of addressing him and by extension, respect for the Muslim leaders; (b) constitution and legal system of an Islamic country should not promulgate laws, which go beyond the boundaries set by Allah and His Messenger.
- Verses 4-5 Desert Arabs should have waited outside the apartment of the Prophet until he came out himself rather than shouting.
- Verses 6-8 Very important ordinance to investigate a bad news or a rumor rather than taking an action against some people and be embarrassed afterwards and cause severe damage to the community or a country. Through rumors enemies of Islam cause dissension and destroy divided people.
- Verses 9-10 All believers are one brotherhood, therefore, if there is a dispute there should be some believers who should mediate and bring brothers together.
- Verse 11 Men and women should not make fun of each other because it is just possible that those who are object of derision are better than the others. Do not call each others with bad names because this is a sin and those who do not repent afterwards are the transgressors.
- Verse 12 Believer are not to have suspicion and conjecture about certain matters because some such things are sin. Do not spy on each other and do not do back-biting of each other because back biting is like eating the flesh of your dead brother.
- Verse 13 This is the most often quoted verse about the equality of all human beings. There is no superiority of one over the other on any account except in piety and God-consciousness. Only Allah knows the matter of piety and who is better than other. He divided people into races, tribes and nations so that they may recognize each other.
- Verse 14 The matter of belief is known only to Allah but people may claim to be Muslims, that is, those who submitted to the obedience of Allah and His Messenger. This verse differentiates between a Muslims and a Mu'min; however, Allah will reward all good works by a Muslim even if he is not a Mu'min.

- Verse 15 Believers, indeed are those who afterwards did not doubt and striven (jahadu) with their wealth and persons (given time, talent and best efforts) in Allah's cause.
- Verses 16-18 Once you declare your Islam do not behave as if you have done any favor to any one but know that Allah has done favor to you by showing the path of truth. Allah is very well aware of what you have in your heart and what you do.

D. How to interact with people for Da'wah.

- One to one on the job, college, neighbor and other situations.
- Streets and markets.
- Prisons.
- Hospital chaplain and volunteering.

E. Ways of communication.

- Talks, seminars, Q&A sessions.
- Dialogues and debates: their advantages and pitfalls to watch out.
- Literature distribution tables on colleges, bazaars, conventions, county fairs, conferences, etc.
- Donation of book sets to libraries.
- Internet chat rooms, newsletters, web sites, etc.
- Radio and TV programs, talk shows, etc.

F. Handling People.

- Session 1. Food for thought discussed under 19 points.
This topic is to be continued over several lectures.
