

Da'wah Course DP206 at IIU

M. Amir Ali, Ph.D.

July 15 to September 30, 2003

Outline Lecture 6: August 19, 2003.

Recommended Books.

1. Christian Muslim Dialogue by Dr. Hasan M. Baagil
Islamic Foundation of America, 6606 Electronic Dr., Springfield, VA 22151, U.S.A.
Phone (703) 914-4982, Fax (703) 914-4984
2. Christianity Examined by Mir Arif Ali
Islamic Educational and Correctional Services
5452 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, OH 44127, U.S.A.
3. Da'wah to Americans: Theory and Practice by Steve Johnson
ISNA, P.O. Box 38, Plainfield, IN 46168, U.S.A.
4. Da'wah to the World Using Hikmah (Wisdom): An Outline for a Workshop
By Dr. Syed Sabeel Ahmad
Available from: The III&E, P.O. Box 410129, Chicago, IL 60641-0129, U.S.A.

Reading assignment:

Call to Islam by Amin Ahsan Islahi, pp. 1-33.

A. Developing an Islamic personality. Commandments of the Qur'an 17:22-39, also see 6:151-153

1. Do not set up partners with Allah and if you do, in the life hereafter you will find yourself reproved, forsaken and abandoned. This part of the verse is mentioned in 17:22 and repeated in 17:39 thereby the whole passage 17:23-38 is sandwiched between the verses against Shirk. The emphasis is: serve none but Allah.
2. Next to Allah, among fellow human beings the most important people are the parents who should be served. Similar passages are 31:13-15 and 46:15-17. These are the commandments of Allah.
If you find one or both parents in old age, do not say a word of disgust and do not repulse them but always say kind words. Take care of them as they did care for you when you were young. If you have to disagree or disobey them because their obedience would be disobedience of Allah, do it with respect and Allah knows what is in your heart.
3. Give your relatives (who need help) their right and the needy and travelers. If you cannot help them because you are in financial hardship, tell them in a kind manner.
4. Do not squander your wealth as squanderers are brethren of Shaytan and he was ungrateful to his Rabb. Let us learn some terms of economics. Desires are obviously wishes to have something. If one has the means to obtain what one desires, such desires are called "wants". If one does not have means to obtain, such wishes remain "desires". Wants are of three types: (a) necessities, (b) comforts, and (c) luxuries. Necessities are those wants, which are essential for life. Comforts are those wants, which increase efficiency of a person in doing whatever that person is producing. Luxuries are those

- wants, which do not add to efficiency but only to prestige but show of power and wealth. Allah say that all prestige belongs to Him only (Q 4:139). Squandering is spending the wealth on luxuries and such spending Allah forbids. Simplicity in life style is encourages.
5. Do not be a miserly person nor become so generous that you yourself become denuded. Know that your Rabb gives to whomever in plenty without measure and to some in a limited measure for bare survival. He knows and He watches over His slaves.
 6. Do not kill your children (or abort pregnancies) for fear of poverty or lowering your standard of living; Allah will provide for them and for you too. Killing children is a great sin.
 7. Do not go near fornication and adultery because this is a great abomination and an evil way. Abomination (*fahisha*) is a sin that leads to even worse results or greater sin.
 8. Do not take the life, which Allah has forbidden except with justification. The justifiable killings are the following:
 - (a) In case of non-humans, such as, animals, birds, insects and creatures of the water, the only allowed killing is food. Killing for sports, such as, hunting, fishing, target shooting birds, etc. is forbidden if the purpose is not food.
 - (b) In case of humans the following are justified killing.
 - (i) In a justifiable war, which is generally defensive wars, see 2:190-194; 46:1-7; 9:29 and 5:33.
 - (ii) In self-defense when attacked at home, street or wherever.
 - (iii) Qisas (retaliation) when a murderer is caught, tried and convicted with the proof required under Islamic Shari'ah. The job of the Islamic state stops at convicting the guilty but sentencing power is given to the survivors of the victim. (Q 2:178-182)
 - (iv) Apostasy combined with treason. The punishment of killing for treason is very common in all societies of the world (Q 5:33).
 - (v) Robbers, killers and those who disturb the peace after peace, justice and equity have been established (Q 5:33).
 - (vi) Adulterer and adulteress when required proof is produced or there is self-admission. This is in accordance with the ahadith; Islam has preserved the Biblical law.
 - (vii) Homosexuals after obtaining required evidence. This is in accordance with Ijma' (consensus) of Sahaba; Qur'an and Hadith are silent on this point.
 9. Do not go near the wealth of orphans; embezzlement of wealth of the orphans or replacement of their high quality wealth with lower quality wealth is a great sin.
 10. Fulfill your covenants, promises, pacts, contracts and treaties because you are accountable for them on the Day of Judgment.
 11. Carry out your business with honesty and fair dealings because this is better at the end that brings better results. Measurement and weighing are symbolic of all business dealings.
 12. Do not follow the matters of doubt, suspicion and conjecture (Q 49:12). Do not spread slander based on conjecture (Surah 104). Do not pass on the rumors without investigation and verification (Q 49:6).
 13. And walk not on the earth exultant, arrogant and haughty as you are not so heavy to crush the earth under your feet nor are you so tall reaching heights of the mountains.

These are the matters, which are evil in the sight of Allah and Allah revealed it to the Prophet. When these matters are followed they truly provide wisdom.

Authenticity of the Bible. We will study this topic under four subtopics.

1. Authorship and canonization of the Bible.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A. Who Speaks in the Bible? | |
| (a) God speaking | Ex 20:2-17 Ten commandments |
| (b) Prophet speaking | Deut 9:16, Books of Jer and Lament |
| (c) Disciple speaking | I Peter, II Peter |
| (d) Theologian speaking | I Cor 7:25, II Cor 11:16 |
| (e) Unnamed Historian | I and II Chronicles |
| (f) Unknown Author | Hebrews, Mk 16:9-20, Jn 7:53; 8:11 |

B. Development of the Bible.

I. The word "BIBLE" is not found in the Bible.

- a. "BIBLE" – From the Greek "*biblia*", which means "books"
- b. "Bible" "Old Testament", "New Testament" not named within the text of the Bible itself.

II. Original Language of writing:

- a. Old Testament: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek (by Hebrew writers)
- b. New Testament: Aramaic and Greek (by Greek-speaking Gentiles) but Aramaic Manuscripts are extinct. The mother tongue of Jesus was Aramaic.

III. Period of Authorship of "original" manuscripts and Canonization.

a. Old Testament:

- (i) Written from c.1100 B.C. to 100 B.C.
- (ii) The Pentateuch canonized c. 400 B.C
- (iii) The Prophets and The Writings of other books of the O.T. and their canonization took place between 400 B.C. and 100 C.E.
- (iv) **Septuagint** (between 3rd and 1st century B.C.) Jewish Scriptures translated into Greek for Jewish colonists in Greek-speaking areas.
- (v) **90-100 C.E. Council at Jamnia** canonized 39 books of the Old Testament. They rejected 7 books as **Apocrypha**. Protestants reject the 7 books, but the Eastern Orthodox, the Catholic, and the Anglican, accept them, for a total of 46 books.

Note: Before being written down, the stories and laws of the Hebrews were passed down orally from generation to generation.

b. New Testament:

- (i) Written from c. **70 C.E. to 150 C.E.** (Dates vary.)
- (ii) 27 books canonized by the Western Church about 3 centuries and many disputes later.
- (iii) **367 C.E.** 39th Festal Letter of Athanasius listed the 27 books for the first time.

The following tables have been prepared based on information from:

'The NIV Study Bible 10th Anniversary Edition', The Zondervan Corporation, 1995
 Keener, Craig S 'The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament', Inter Varsity Press, 1993

TABLE 1. THE BIBLE AUTHORSHIP (OT)

Close to certain Authorship	Doubt over Authorship	Unknown Author
Jeremiah	Genesis*	Joshua
Ezekiel	Exodus	Judges
Daniel	Leviticus	Ruth
Joel	Numbers	1 Samuel
Amos	Deuteronomy	2 Samuel
Obadiah	Isaiah	1 Kings
Micah	Malachi	2 Kings
Nahum		1 Chronicles
Habakkuk		2 Chronicles
Zephaniah		Ezra
Haggai		Nehemiah
Zechariah [#]		Esther
		Job
		Psalms
		Proverbs (Solomon and other unknown authors)
		Ecclesiastes
		Song of Songs
		Lamentations
		Hosea
		Jonah

Table 2. The New Testament (NT) Authorship

Close to certain Authorship	Doubt over Authorship	Unknown Author
Mark (by default)	Matthew	Hebrews
Luke	Ephesians	
John	1 Timothy	
Acts	2 Peter	
Romans	Revelation	
1 Corinthians		
2 Corinthians		

* Although the scholars of the NIV (New International Version) believe Mosaic authorship is the strongest view, there is another significant theory proposing four different authors based largely on use of language. For example, the final chapters of Deuteronomy often contain a third person speaking, and statements which couldn't have been written by Moses (see Deut 34:5-8)

[#] According to the NIV "Most likely Zechariah wrote the entire book that bears his name. Some have questioned his authorship of chapters 9-14...[a]ll these objections, however, can be explained in other satisfactory ways, so there is no compelling reason to question the unity of this book"(pg1398). Thus although there is some doubt, we have classified this as having close to certain authorship. Of course, by Islamic standards of authenticity, this level of certainty is inadequate.

Galatians		
Philippians		
Colossians		
2 Thessalonians		
2 Timothy		
Titus		
Philemon		
James		
1 Peter		
2 John		
2 John		
3 John		
Jude		
21 books	5 books	1 book

Note:

We have been liberal in our classification as “close to certain authorship”. It should not be understood that all books listed in that category are of certain authorship. As Keener sates ‘...I believe in the fourth Gospel’s claim to authorship by John is stronger than the claims for the other Gospels, which are ultimately dependent only on Christian tradition external to the texts itself’ (p.260). Here Keener admits that there is no complete certainty regarding the first three Gospels, yet we have included two of them in the “Close to certain” category. Quite a few books are considered of fairly certain authorship, simply because there is a lack of evidence to refute the traditional view, rather than the weight of evidence supporting it.

2. Versions of the Bible: This information has already been given in one of my previous lecture and its outline.

3. Missing verses and contradictions. I Corin 14:33 the Bible says “For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.” The Bible is the Book of confusion due to many versions, missing verses and contradictions at many levels.

Table 3. Missing Verses from some recent versions of the Bible

Key: X= verse present, **Blank** = verse removed

Verse(s)	KJV	HB	RSV	NIV	NEB	ATHB	AB	LB	NWT	NJB	GNB	NASB
Mt 17:21	X	X					X	X				
Mt 21:44	X	X		X		X	X	X	X			X
Mt 23:14	X						X					
Mk 9:44 and 9:46	X	X										
Mk 11:26	X	X										
Lk 17:36	X	X					X	X				
Lk 22:43-44	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Acts 15:34	X						X						
Mk 11:26	X	X											

**Table 4. Contradictions of the Bible
Inter-Version Contradictions**

Key: ? = Unknown,

Ref	Subject	KJV	HB	RSV	NIV	NEB	ATHB	AB	LB	NWT	NJB	GNB	NASB
1 Sam 13:1	Age of Saul (yrs)	?	?	?	30	50	?	40	?	?	?	Verse removed	40 yrs
1 Sam 13:1	Saul's reign (yrs)	2	2	?	42	22	?	2	2	2	?	Verse removed	32 yrs
2 Sam 24:13 Cf. 1Chron 1:12	Years of Famine	7	7	3	3	3	7	7	7	7	3	3	7
2 Chron 22:2 cf. 2 Kings 8:26	Age of Ahaziah	42	22	42	22	42	42	42	22	22	42	22	22
2 Chron 36:9	Age of Jehoiachin	8	18	8	18	8	8	18	8	18	18	18	8
Rev 8:13	Creature crying in the sky	angel	eagle	eagle	eagle	eagle	eagle	eagle	eagle	eagle	eagle	eagle	eagle

Internal Contradictions within the Same Bible

- i) **Gen 6:3 vs. Gen 11:11** – Man to live only 120 years?
- ii) **Jn 1:18 vs. Gen 32:30** – Has any one ever seen God at any time?
- iii) **Gen 32:30 vs. Ex 33:20** – Jacob saw God but didn't die?
- iv) **Gen 22:1 vs. James 1:13** – Does God tempt people?
- v) **Ex 4:22 vs. Jer 31:9**- Was God's first born Israel or Ephraim?
- vi) **Ex 20:5 vs. Ez 18:20** – Shall the iniquity of the fathers be upon the sons or not?
- vii) **Num 23:19 vs. Gen 6:6-7** – Does God repent or not?
- viii) **2Sam 24:1 vs. 1Chron 21:1** – God or the Devil incited David?
- ix) **2 Sam 6:23 vs. 2 Sam 21:8** – Did Michal, the daughter of Saul, have no child, or did she have five sons?
- x) **Mt 1:16 vs. Lk 3:23** – Who was Joseph's father?
- xi) **Jn 3:16(KJV) v Ps 2:7** – Is Jesus the only begotten son of God?
- xii) **Jn 5:31 vs. Jn 8:14** – Is Jesus' witness true or not?
- xiii) **Mt 21:2 vs. Mk 11:2** – Ass or colt tied beside ass?
- xiv) **Mt 27:5 vs. Acts 1:18** – What did Judas do with the money? And how did he die?
- xv) **Mk 15:21-22 vs. Jn 19:17** – Did Jesus carry his own cross, or did Simon the Cyrenian carry Jesus' cross?

a. The Qur'anic Challenge:

Q 4:82 “Will they not then ponder the Qur’an through? If it had been from other than Allah they would have found in it much discrepancy.”

Missing verses and contradictions.

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Mt 23:14	X						X					
Mk 9:44 and 9:46	X	X										
Mk 11:26	X	X										
Lk 17:36	X	X					X	X				
Lk 22:43-44	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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4. Ridiculous and unbelievable statements in the Bible.

(a) Human-like God. Examples were given in one of the early lectures.

Handling people, session II.

General Principles.
