

FINDING THE TRUE RELIGION

By Steven Ritchie

HOW YOU CAN KNOW IF YOU ARE IN THE TRUE RELIGION?

It has been said, “Does it really make sense that the geographical location of ones birth or the particular family tree into which one was born should determine ones religion?” If a person was born in Southern Europe or South America, he or she will probably be raised a Catholic. If a person was born in the Middle East or North Africa, he or she will probably be raised a Muslim. If a person was born in South East Asia he or she will probably be raised a Buddhist. And if a person was born in India, he or she will probably be raised a Hindu.

Most religious people have blindly followed the particular religion into which they were born and raised without carefully examining the intellectual integrity of its foundational beliefs. If a religion is really a true religion then it must present some convincing reasons why people should believe it above other religions. For if everyone simply believes in their different religions simply because they were raised that way then all religions could be considered true no matter how different they are from one another.

For example, Muslims and Jews believe that there is only one God yet Hindu’s and Shintoists believe in many Gods. Catholics believe in prayers to the saints while Protestants do not. Jehovah’s witnesses believe that Jesus is Michael the archangel “manifested in the flesh” rather than the Bible’s teachings that “God was manifested in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16).” Can all of the various world religions and sects of these religions be true while they are diametrically opposed to each other? How can one religion believe that God is ONE Divine Individual and another religion believe that God is MANY different Divine Individuals? God cannot be both ONE BEING and MANY BEINGS at the same time? Therefore it is clear that all of the world’s different religions cannot all be right!

How then can the average seeker find the true religion from the many false? The only way to know for sure if one is really in the true religion is for that person to carefully examine his or her particular religious affiliation to make sure it is founded on solid foundational pillars of truth and credibility. The evidence proving the one true religion should be clearly understood and explained in the presence of other hostile religions. If there is no substantial evidence giving justifiable reasons why one is a Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, etc. then it makes clear sense that the followers of this religion have been deceived by a false religious system. And if the majority of the world’s religions are false then it makes reasonable sense to honestly take a careful look at one’s own religion to ensure that it is indeed the right one! Have you ever done this? Most people have accepted the religion that they were raised in as the true one without ever seriously taking the time and effort to question its validity. If a person honestly investigates the reasons why a religion claims to be true and finds that this particular religion (that he or she was raised in or has embraced) is proven false, then one must have enough honesty and integrity to abandon this religion (or sect of a world religion) and embrace the true one. If a person sees that their religious affiliation is false but he or she is afraid to leave that religion because of fear of being rejected or persecuted by one’s family, friends, and the religious people associated with one’s culture, then that person is a religious hypocrite who loves the approval of men more than the approval of God (or the gods of Paganism). For why should anyone spend the rest of his or her entire lifetime diligently pursuing a religion that is not founded on intellectual truth and credibility? And why would one knowingly choose to follow a false religion with false promises? And why would anyone knowingly allow himself and his family to waste their lives away pursuing a religion that is false?

Below: Catholic Popes forced Catholicism upon most of Europe and Latin America. Can one’s religion be right because it was forced upon his ancestors centuries ago?



Have you ever taken the time to make sure the religion you were raised in or the one you have later embraced is the right one?



The Qur'an gives permission for men to beat their wives. Surah 4:34: "Men are in charge of women. . . And those of them [wives] that you fear might rebel, admonish them and abandon them in their beds and beat them. . ."

Eternity is too long to take the chance on being wrong! If you choose the wrong religion in this short life it will determine where you spend all eternity. In other words, if you diligently follow the right religion you will be rewarded with great blessings and eternal life (most of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam believes in eternal life) but if you have the wrong religion you will receive no blessing at all, but rather, eternal damnation in Hell (most of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam believes in eternal damnation in Hell). No matter what your religious affiliation is I'm sure that there are great blessings promised to the faithful and great punishments promised to the unfaithful. Therefore it is necessary to make sure you are truly in the right religion so that you do not waste your life chasing false promises and false rewards that will never come to you and to your family. For eternity is too long to be wrong!

If we are to make sure that we are in the right religion and that we are rightly rewarded we must be willing to take an intellectually honest look at the alleged foundational evidence of the religion we were raised in (or the one we have subsequently embraced) and compare our findings with the alleged evidence of other religions. Any religion that cannot stand up to critical examination is not worth following. Many false religions use fear tactics and threats to keep adherents in the same false religion from generation after generation.



Left Photo: Former Muslims executed in an Islamic country for converting to Christianity. The Qur'an gives Islamic governments the right to execute all former Muslims who turn away from Islam. Surah 4:89 "Do not, then take any companions from them, until they emigrate in the Way of Allah. Then should they turn back [from Islam], seize them and kill them wherever you find them; and do not take from them any companion or supporter."

Is your religion based upon tyranny or factual evidence?

Turkish Muslims slaughtered hundreds of thousands of Armenian Christians who rejected Islam. Many governments throughout the world clearly used terror tactics to spread government approved religion within their borders.



If a religion is established upon the fear of men then it cannot be true. Man's intimidation, persecution, and punishment against those who turn away from a particular religion is not a justifiable reason to follow that religion. If people are constantly threatened to stay in a particular religion rather than being given evidence for faith in that religion then it is not truth that the religion is built upon but the fear of men. Many who have decided to change their religion have been severely persecuted by people in their former religion because the former religion was not built upon truth. Many people have even been disowned by their parents and family members just because they rejected the religion that they were born and raised in. Any religion that rams its beliefs down people's throats without giving adult people a choice to accept or reject it cannot be a true religion. For how will the Divinity judge the world for wrongdoing if all people are forced to do right?

It makes clear and reasonable sense that a Divine Religion would back up its teachings with clear signs and infallible proofs confirming the Words of its founding Prophet(s), Apostle(s), or Teacher(s). The true religion should obviously stand out from the many false religions so that all mankind could easily know the true religion from the many false religions! If the Deity in any religion is Almighty, All-Knowing, and All-Wise, then it is reasonable to expect that His chosen Prophets, Apostles, or Teachers who founded the true religion would speak with infallible utterances and with signs and miracles confirming the power of the Deity of that true religion. Therefore, there should not be any historical, scientific, doctrinal, or prophetic errors or contradictions inherent within the utterances or inspired writings of their religions founder(s).

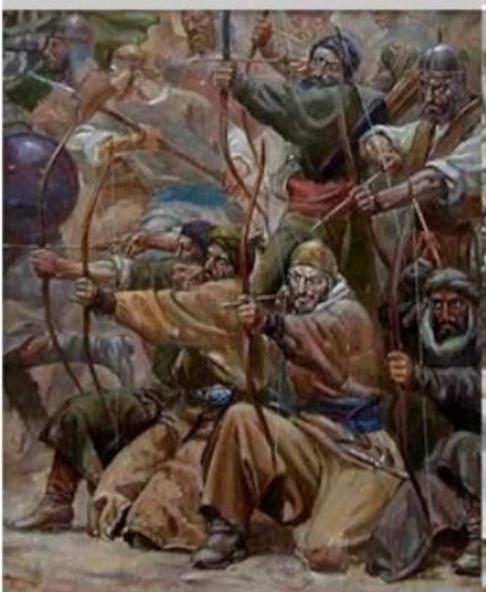


Jesus and the Hebrew Apostles and Prophets never contradicted themselves. Yet many of the world's prominent religious leaders repeatedly contradicted their own teachings. For instance, the Prophet Muhammad taught "no compulsion in religion." But after being repeatedly rejected and ridiculed at Mecca the Prophet later ordered his followers to spread Islam through warfare. Jesus and the apostles never advocated violence to spread Christianity. Yet many professing Christian Denominations rejected the commands of Jesus by also using the persuasion of the sword to advance Catholicism throughout the world.





Above Left: Catholics tortured Christians in Europe for their Anabaptism [rebaptism] into the name of Jesus rather than into the Catholic view of the Trinity. **Right:** South and Central American Indians were slaughtered for not accepting Catholicism. The Indians who survived had to accept Catholicism or they were put to death!



Above: Mogul Buddhists attempted to eradicate Islam by force. Buddhists forces sacked Bagdad but were later defeated and driven out of Islamic lands.

If a religion is true it must have some justifiable or factual reasons why it is true. If a person cannot find some kind of evidence to back up his or her faith in that religion then that religion cannot be true. If that alleged evidence is not powerful enough to submit to others (even one's critics) then how that religion can be a true religion. There must be some kind of concrete evidence to give credence to a religion if it can be called the true religion.

If the religion of our family or ancestors is proven false then we must be honest enough to accept the truth about the matter and honestly seek only the truth that comes from above. It makes no sense to blindly follow ones particular religion into which one was raised without taking the time to carefully critique the intellectual credibility of its origin. If you have never honestly analyzed the intellectual credibility of the religion that you were raised in then you are probably following one of the world's many false religions, rather than the true one!

What a tragedy that so many people around the world are wasting their precious lives by dedicating themselves to so many different false religions or diverse sects within these religions? If all religious people everywhere would carefully examine the foundational integrity of their particular religion with an intellectually open and honest heart, then all of humanity would be able to find and acknowledge the One True Religion originating from above. How I wish that all people everywhere would do just that!

Unfortunately, most people are not willing to carefully examine their particular religion to make sure it is indeed the right one! They will get very mad at anyone who dares to question or expose the false and contradictory teachings of the particular religion they have been raised in (or have embraced) without ever seriously taking a moment to question the legitimacy of their religion. Many are content to say that their parents were Catholic, Muslim, or Hindu etc. so this is the reason why they remain in that religion.

Many people who are in false religions refuse to hear anything about other religions because they are afraid of being ostracized by their family and friends. Others even fear being physically harmed if they were to change their religious faith. Are any of these reasons the same reasons why you are in a particular religion? If so, you are most probably in a false religion and on a path leading you and your family away from the truth rather than towards it!

Therefore the great majority of people who have lived their short lives here on planet earth will suffer the consequences for choosing to follow the false religions of their ancestors. The Prophet Jesus said, "If the [spiritually] blind lead the [spiritually blind] both will fall into the ditch (Matthew 5:14)." Although Jesus spoke this maxim of truth it can rightly be applied to all religious people worldwide. Both the false religious leaders and their followers shall fall into the same ditch. This is why it is necessary for every man and every woman to carefully examine the original foundations of their religious faith. It is very careless and reckless for anyone to take the chance on one's religion being the right one just because it was the religion he or she was raised in from birth.

Any religion which cannot endure intellectual critique but has to perpetuate itself through isolation from other religions, the use of persecution, or even physical violence to suppress its detractors, cannot be a true religion. If a God is a true deity then He could never make the mistake of building His religion without ample foundational reasons to back it up as the one true religion mankind is to follow. Otherwise, all of the world's population could not be held accountable for believing in any different kind of religion that they wanted to follow. Therefore, the true religion must stand out from the rest of the world religions by many Divine confirmations that all other religions do not have!

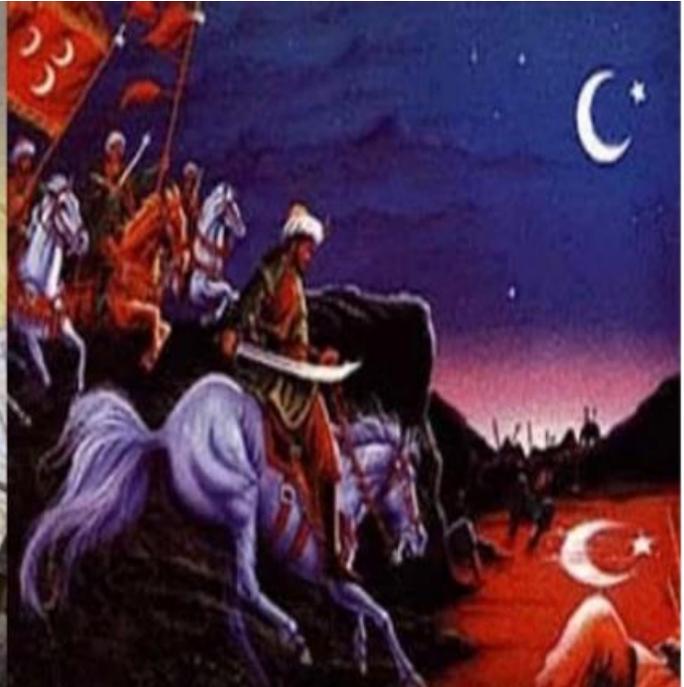


**THE TRUE RELIGION MUST
STAND OUT FROM
THE MANY FALSE RELIGIONS**

A few thousand years ago the great ancestors of all later Muslims and Christians did not embrace Islam or Christianity because the vast majority of the world's population were born and raised pagans. Less than two thousand years ago the religion now known as Islam did not yet exist because the Prophet Muhammad was not born until the seventh century AD. About two thousand years ago Christianity was still in its infancy and Christians were only a very small part of the population of the known world. According to the annals of history, your long distant ancestors were probably pressured to convert into the particular religion you are now embracing today through fear of harsh persecution or even death. The great majority of professing Christians in Europe were coerced and pressured into embracing the various Church State forms of Denominational Christianity. The same can be said of many of the earliest peoples converting to Islam. They were pressured to join the new religion of Islam through fear of forced slavery, heavy taxation, or bodily harm.



The annals of history documents many religious wars which have caused millions of people to be tortured or murdered in order to spread and impose different religions upon civilian populations. How can a just God endorse religion being rammed down people's throats?





PROOF THAT CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM PERSECUTED EACH OTHER

The Following Quotes Are From The Wikipedia Encyclopedia

Persecution of Muslims in South Europe

“At first, the Muslim populations did well in Sicily in the first 100 years of the Norman conquest. Arabs remained privileged in the matters of government. Indeed, 4000 Saracen archers took part in various battles between Christian forces. When the Normans and later the House of Anjou lost control of the Island to Peter of Aragon, Islam began to decline. Norman rulers followed a policy of steady Latinization (converting the island to Catholicism). Some Muslims chose the option of feigning conversion, but such a remedy could only provide individual protection and could not sustain a community (Page 35).”

“Sicilian Muslims, a subject population, were dependent on the mercy of their Christian masters and, ultimately, on royal protection. When King William the Good died in 1189, this royal protection was lifted, and the door was opened for widespread attacks against the island’s Muslims. Islam was no longer a major presence in the Island by the 14th century. Toleration of Muslims ended with Increasing Hohenstaufen control. Many repressive measures, passed by Frederick II, were introduced in order to please the Popes who could not tolerate Islam being practiced in the heart of Christendom,[36] which resulted in a rebellion of Sicily's Muslims.[37] This in turn triggered organized resistance and systematic reprisals[38] and marked the final chapter of Islam in Sicily. The rebellion abated, but direct papal pressure induced Frederick to mass transfer all his Muslim subjects deep into the Italian hinterland, to Lucera.[37]”

In the Iberian Peninsula

“Depending on the local capitulations, local Muslims were allowed to remain (jars) with some restrictions and some assimilated into the Christian population. After the conquest of Granada, all the Spanish Muslims were under

Christian rule. The new acquired population spoke Arabic and the campaigns to convert them were unsuccessful. Legislation was gradually introduced to remove Islam, culminating with the Muslims being forced to convert to Catholicism by the Spanish Inquisition. They were known as Moriscos and considered New Christians. Further laws were introduced, as on 25 May 1566, stipulating that they 'had to abandon the use of Arabic, change their costumes, that their doors must remain open every Friday, and other feast days, and that their baths, public and private, to be torn down.'[39]. The reason doors were to be left open so as to determine whether they secretly observed any Islamic festivals.[40] Phillip II ordered the destruction of all public baths on the grounds of them being relics of infidelity, notorious for their use by Muslims performing their purification rites.[41][42] The possession of books or papers in Arabic was near concrete proof of disobedience with severe repercussions.[43] On January 1, 1568, Christian priests were ordered to take all Muslim children, between the ages of three and fifteen, and place them in schools, where they should learn Castillian and Christian doctrine.[44] All these laws and measures required forced to be implemented, and from much earlier. In Aragon alone, during the close of the 15th century, fifty thousand Muslims were put to death and double the number compelled to renounce their religion.[45] Between 1609 and 1614 the Moriscos were expelled from Spain.[46] They were to depart 'under the pain of death and confiscation, without trial or sentence... to take with them no money, bullion, jewels or bills of exchange... just what they could carry.'[47]

Bulgaria Main article: Turks in Bulgaria

“In 1989, 310,000 Turks left Bulgaria, many under pressure as a result of the communist Zhivkov regime's assimilation campaign (though up to a third returned before the end of the year). That program, which began in 1984, forced all Turks and other Muslims in Bulgaria to adopt Bulgarian names and renounce all Muslim customs. The motivation of the 1984 assimilation campaign is unclear; however, some experts believe that the disproportion between the birth rates of the Turks and the Bulgarians was a major factor.[48] During the name-changing phase of the campaign, Turkish towns and villages were surrounded by army units. Citizens were issued new identity cards with Bulgarian names. Failure to present a new card meant forfeiture of salary, pension payments, and bank withdrawals. Birth or marriage certificates would be issued only in Bulgarian names. Traditional Turkish costumes were banned; homes were searched and all signs of Turkish identity removed. Mosques were closed. According to estimates, 500 to 1,500 people were killed when they resisted assimilation measures, and thousands of others were imprisoned or sent to labor camps or were forcibly resettled.[49]”

QUOTES FROM RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION BY MARC CARLSON

Buddhists Persecuted Other Religions

Like Christianity Buddhism is supposed to be a peaceful religion but the annals of history proves that Buddhists also used military might to advance their own religion: “In fact, between the 10th and 13th centuries Japanese Buddhists fielded large armies to dispute differences with rival groups. Even today, the varying sects of Buddhists have missionaries spread across the face of the Earth.” “Hired Brahmin killers later tried to assassinate the Buddhist ruler Harshavardhana. As a Buddhist, he was unwilling to take life and so banished 500 Brahmins involved in the conspiracy to a remote area south of the Vindhya.”

Just as the teachings of Christianity is peaceful so is the teaching of Buddhism. Yet both professing Christians and Buddhists have repeatedly departed from the peaceful teachings of these religions to protect themselves against other religions and to advance their religions throughout the earth. When Islamic armies advanced into Buddhist Mongul territories the Muslims slaughtered the peaceful Buddhists because they refuse to accept Islam. The Buddhist Monguls eventually retaliated against

Islam by launching their own religious war to eradicate the Islamic faith from the whole earth. The Buddhists were not content to push the Muslims out of their own lands but they continued to press their attack on Islam all the way to Palestine where they were eventually defeated. Hence, Buddhism clearly attempted to expand itself by destroying Islam by the power of the sword.



Left: Chengiz Khan – An artist's impression.

Chengiz Khan's and Hulagu Khan's attack on Islam Dom was a collective expression of resistance to Islam from the pre-Islamic Persians who had settled in China and Mongolia, and the Turks who had been waging a struggle against Islam in the 8th to the 10th centuries.

The Mongol counterattack on Islam was a result of historical wrongs committed by the Arab Muslims on the Zoroastrian Persians, and by the Arab Muslims along with the Islamized Persians on the Turks, and in turn, by the Arabs with the Islamized Persians and the Islamized Turks on non-Islamic Turks and Mongols and Chinese.



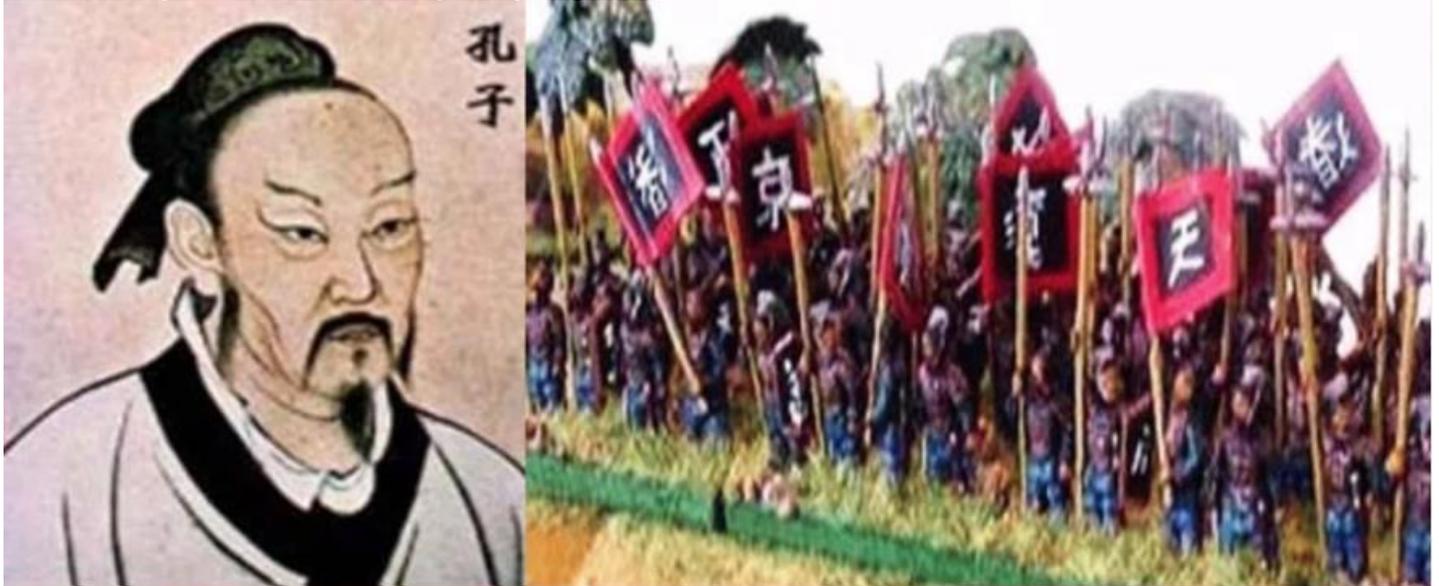
If Islam was completely defeated by Buddhist or Catholic Crusaders would you be a Muslim today? If Islam completely defeated Catholic Europe would you be a Catholic today? And if Islam had completely wiped out Hinduism from India would you be a Hindu today? Should military conquests that occurred many generations ago determine your religion or should you be free to choose the religion that makes the most sense?

Hindu's Persecuted Buddhists

“According to Gopinath Rao (East & West Vol 35) the old tribal shrine at Jaganath Puri was usurped by Vaisnavas and the walls of the temple even today displays gory murals recording the beheading and massacre of Buddhists . . . The huge Buddhist complex at Nagarjunakonda was destroyed. According to Shankara Dig Vijaya, the newly anointed Brahma-Kshastra kings ordered every Kshatriya to kill every Buddhist young and old and to also kill those who did not kill the Buddhists.” “E.S Oakley (Holy Himalaya) Rhys Davids (Buddhist India) and Daniel Wright (History of Nepal) quote several Nepalese and Kumoani documents showing that Buddhism had been the prevailing religion of the Himalayas with Badrinath and Kedarnath as Buddhist temples until Shankaracharya (788 -820 AD) usurped them in the 8th century and the shrines at Badri and Kedar were then converted into shrines of Shiv and Vishnu . . . And many were encouraged to attack Buddhist monasteries. Several Nepalese accounts state that the followers of Buddha were ruthlessly persecuted, slain, exiled and forcibly converted. Though many converted rather than face death, humiliation or exile . . . Many bhikshunis, or nuns, were forcibly married and the learned Grihasthas were forced to cut off the distinguishing knot of hair on top of their heads . . . Buddhist works were searched for and destroyed . . . oceans of blood were shed in the quest for power even among those who now consider themselves peace loving and spiritual. In India, as in every country, the hunger for political power and masculine dominance led to many examples of bloodshed and this became even more vicious when rulers used and abused the power of religion to motivate their followers.”

Therefore the historical evidence proves that Pagan Hindu's completely wiped out the Buddhists in India. See our book, “The Five Pillars of Hinduism.”

At first, Buddhists generally were the recipients of persecution but when this religion gradually gained acceptance in China and Japan it also used the Imperial power to expand its influence in the world.



Although Buddhism originated in India this religion was wiped out of that nation by violent Hindu's. Buddhism was also heavily persecuted in China and Japan until it eventually gained acceptance by blending into these cultures. Then Buddhism itself utilized the imperial powers of countries like China, Mongolia, and Japan to spread its influence:

“In China, Buddhism initially received a dim reception by the official Confucianist and Taoists, who were still fighting among themselves at the time. Eventually, after centuries of political bickering between the Confusionists and the Buddhists, a quasi- syncretic system was worked out.”

Quote from “Religious Persecution” By Marc Carlson / For more info see our book “Buddhism - A False Religion.”

If your great ancestors did not adhere to the accepted religion(s) of the Kingdom or Empire they were living in then they would have probably been harshly persecuted. And if they continued to not accept the religion(s) of the Kingdom or Empire they would have been expelled from the community or even executed. This is why almost all people living in India are Hindu's (The Sikh's and Muslims had to separate into their own separate geographic communities because they constantly fought and murdered each other), almost all people living in China and Southeast Asia are heavily influenced by Buddhism, almost all people living in Arabia or Turkey are Muslim, and almost all people living in Japan have always been Buddhists or Shintoists for hundreds of years. People living in these lands had to adhere to the religion they were raised in or they would be severely punished. Can all of the various worldwide religions be true just because people were raised in them? And can all of these different religions be true just because its adherents had to be kept in that religion through severe persecution or bodily harm?

It behooves all followers of the various worldwide religions to carefully and critically examine the original foundational reasons why this religion claims to be true and compare the resultant evidence with other world religions to ensure that the particular religion one is following is in fact, the One True Religion.

If the religion you are following does not claim to have any justifiable evidence to support its claim to be truthful, then it is necessary to question the accuracy of its original founder(s). And if there is another religion which does have clear and justifiable foundational reasons why it claims to be true then that religion ought to be cheerfully embraced as the true one.

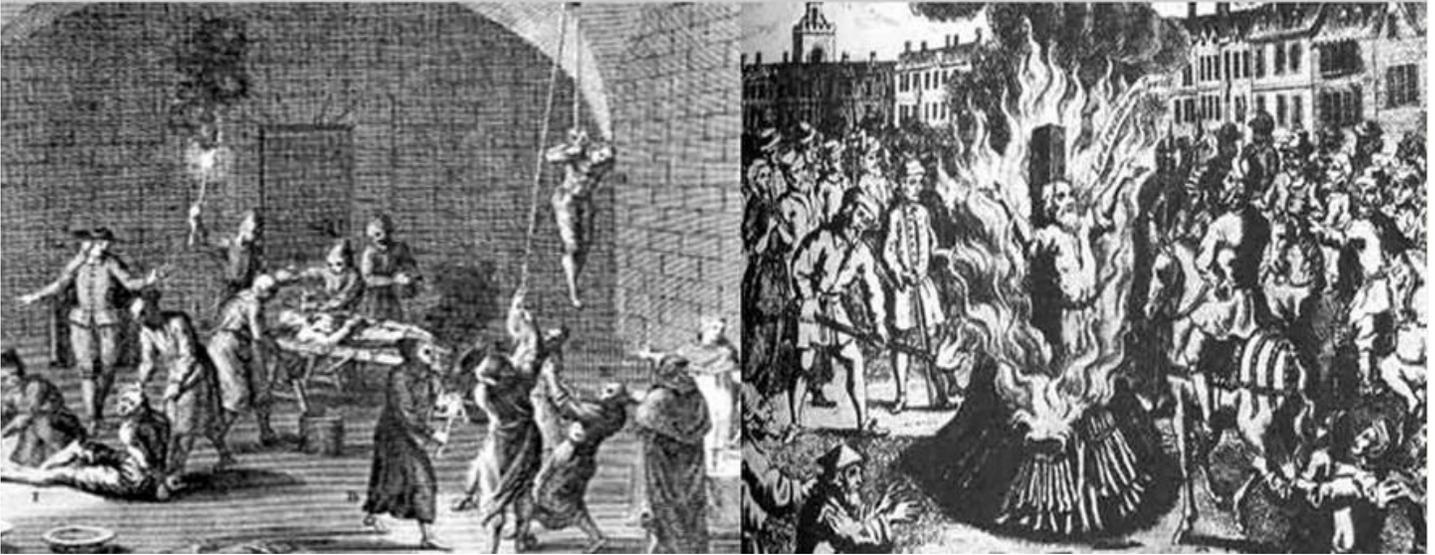
The author believes that the spirit and attitude of the prophet Jesus, "Love your enemies," ought to be practiced whenever we debate with other religions. All who practice hatred and persecution of other religions usually do so because they do not have sufficient proof to back up their own religion. Therefore they must resort to human anger, persecution, and even violence to spread their own religion, suppress the other religions, and to keep their worshipers in this same religion.



Islamic warriors used military jihad to bring Islam to Spain but when Catholic armies later defeated the Islamic armies, the Catholics were equally as brutal to the Muslim inhabitants as the Muslims were with the Catholics. If Islam was never driven out of Spain would you be a Muslim today? Would Islamic Conquistadors have imposed Islam upon Central and South America rather than Catholicism?

The historical evidence proves beyond a shadow of doubt that almost all of the major world religions have persecuted each other throughout human history. Some of these religions persecuted other religions because the original founding teacher or prophet encouraged this practice. Yet other religions such as Christianity and Buddhism have forced their religious views down people's throats even though Jesus and Buddha never taught violent evangelism. Jesus and Buddha both taught their followers love and peace towards people believing in other religions. Therefore all professing Christians and Buddhists who participate in the persecution of other religions are not true Christians or Buddhists because they have not obeyed the teachings of the founders of these religions, Jesus and Buddha.

Below: Catholic Popes claim to follow Jesus even though they ordered the torture and execution of all who refused to accept Catholicism. For more info on Catholicism see our book, "Are Catholic Popes Infallible?"



Do you really believe in the religion that you were born and raised in because of valid intellectual reasons? If so, what are those intellectually persuasive reasons? And can this alleged evidence for your religion stand against the critique of other religions? And what should you do if you find that another religion has more persuasive evidence to prove that it is the true religion and the religion that you were raised in does not? Would you change your religion?

The prophet Jesus clearly pointed out the real reason why many Jews rejected the true religion:

“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” John 3:19-21



Left: Just as Shiite and Sunni Muslims fought wars to impose their religious views on each other so Protestant and Catholic Christians fought wars to impose their religious views. How can Deity sanction all victorious religious armies when many different religions ruled many different parts of the world at once? Can all conquering religions be right even when their teachings are all diametrically opposed to each other?

Is your religious affiliation determined by religious wars occurring centuries ago or is your religious affiliation based upon solid evidence?



thelastcrusade.org

Somali Christian Beheaded for his Faith



The use of violence to force religion down people's throats continues in modern times.

Above Photo: Indonesian Muslims recently beheaded teenage girls just because they refused Islam and embraced Christianity. The girl's heads were left at a church, each with a note that vowed, "We will murder 100 more Christian teenagers and their heads will be presented as presents." Should tyranny impose religion on innocent civilians or should people have a choice?

PROOF THAT MUHAMMAD USED VIOLENCE TO SPREAD ISLAM

The best Islamic historical sources prove that Muhammad used war and violence to spread Islam. One Hadith as related by Bukhari states that the Prophet Muhammad said:

“I have been commanded to fight people until they testify that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, and perform the prayer, and pay zakat. If they say it, they have saved their blood and possessions from me, except for the rights of Islam over them. And their final reckoning is with Allah.”

After Muhammad’s peaceful preaching failed to make much headway, the prophet Muhammad gave the following mandates to spread Islam to all unbelieving non-Muslims:

“I will instill terror into the hearts of the unbelievers. Smite ye above their necks and smite all their finger tips off them. This because they contend against Allah and his apostle. If any contend against Allah and his apostle, Allah is strict in punishment.” Qur’an 8:13-16

The prophet Muhammad himself commanded his followers to instill terror into the hearts of unbelievers. Is it any wonder why so many Muslims today are joining terrorist organizations?

“Fight and slay the pagans wherever you find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem (of war). . . “ Qur’an 9:5

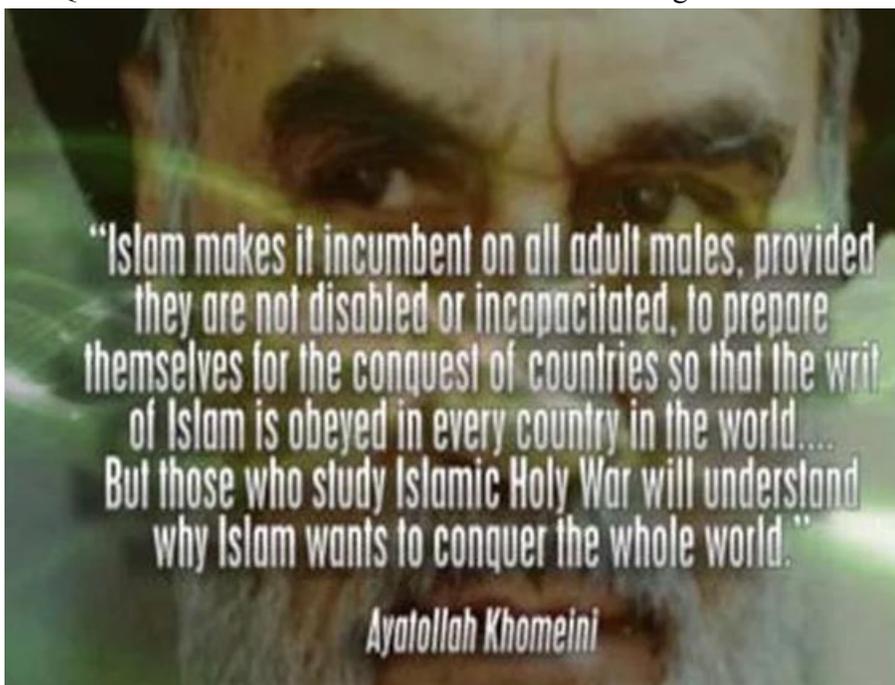
“The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His apostle and strive with might and main for mischief through the land is: execution, or the cutting off of the hands and feet from opposite sides, or exile from the land. . .” Qur’an 5:36

“Fight against such of those to whom the Scriptures were given as believe neither in Allah nor the Last Day, who do not forbid what Allah and His Apostle have forbidden, and do not embrace the true Faith, until they pay tribute out of hand and are utterly subdued.” Qur’an 9:29

An early Muslim Biographer of Muhammad records Muhammad as saying, “Kill any Jew that falls into your power.”

Surah 4:89 “Do not, then take any companions from them, until they emigrate in the Way of Allah. Then **should they turn back, seize them and kill them** wherever you find them; and do not take from them any companion or supporter.”

The Qur’an itself commands Muslims to seize and slaughter all Muslims who turn back (or turn away) from Islam.



ISLAM TEACHES ITS FOLLOWERS TO CONQUER THE WORLD TO SPREAD ISLAM

Islam’s first Caliph who lived and fought with the Prophet Muhammad clearly knew the true Islamic teaching which commands Muslims to spread Islam to the whole world through holy wars:

“... the Lord of the Heavens and the Earths,.. sent to us from among ourselves a Prophet whose father and mother are known to us. Our Prophet, the Messenger of our Lord, has ordered us to fight you [all non-Muslim nations] till you worship Allah Alone or give Jizya (i.e. tribute); and our Prophet has informed us that our Lord says: –

“Whoever amongst us is killed (i.e. martyred), shall go to Paradise to lead such a luxurious life as he has never seen, and whoever amongst us remain alive, shall become your master.” THE REAL TEACHINGS OF ISLAM

IS A THREAT TO THE WHOLE WORLD!

ISLAM WAS CLEARLY FORCED UPON MUCH OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION

Here are some historical references behind forced conversion to Islam. Note that they are taken from the most reliable Islamic historical sources. Ibn Ishaq's Sirat Rasulallah, op cit.

1. On pages 668 and 669 Abu Bakr instructs a fellow Muslim in Islam. He states: "You asked me for the best advice that I could give you, and I will tell you. God sent Muhammad with this religion and he strove for it until men accepted it voluntary or by force."

2. On page 547, Muhammad's arch enemy, Abu Sufyan was given safe passage by Ibn Abbas to meet with Muhammad. During the meeting, the following conversation occurs: "Woe to you, Abu Sufyan, isn't it time that you recognize that I [Muhammad] am God's apostle?" He answered, "As to that I still have some doubt." I [Ibn Abbas] said to him, "Submit and testify that there is no God but Allah and that Muhammad is the apostle of God before you lose your head," "So he did so." Sufyan did not intend to recognize Muhammad until he was threatened with his life. This is a clear case of compulsion in accepting Islam: convert or die.

3. On pages 614, 615, Muhammad's attack upon the people of Thaqif who were hostile to Muhammad is detailed. Their reasoning was this: "We are in an impasse. You have seen how the affair of this man has progressed. All the Arabs have accepted Islam and you lack the power to fight them, so look to your case." Thereupon Thaqif took counsel and said one to another, "Don't you see that your herds are not safe; none of you can go out without being cut off." "So after conferring together they decided to send a man to the apostle as they had sent Urwa [to accept Islam so that they and their possessions would be safe from being plundered and killed by the Muslims]."

These people did not become Muslims because they wanted to. They had been invited to submit to Islam and refused. But because they were helplessly outnumbered by the force of arms, they decided to become Muslims. Hence, their conversions were forced down their throats and made under compulsion. Then after these frightened people became Muslims they were unable to turn from Islam because Muhammad had declared the death penalty for any new Muslim who would dare turn away from it. Many ancestors of Muslims living today were forced to become Muslims many centuries ago and their descendants are still not free to turn away from this religion even to this day. Many Muslims who do turn to another religion must flee to non-Muslim lands in order to escape certain death. How can anyone desire a religion that takes away all freedom of choice?

4. On page 645 the story of Muhammad's emissary Khalid to the tribe of the Banu al-Harith bin Ka'b in the region of Najran is described. Muhammad "... ordered him [Khalid] to invite them to Islam three days before he attacked them. If they accepted then he was to accept it from them; and if they declined he was to fight them. So Khalid sent out and came to them, and sent out riders in all directions inviting the people to Islam, saying, 'If you accept Islam you will be safe,' so the men accepted Islam as they were invited."

People were converting to Islam simply because they were threatened. Notice Khalid's words "If you accept Islam you will be safe." Is this the type of religion that people truly desire? One that threatens them with death unless they convert! Notice that it was not Muhammad's alleged powerful rhetoric, nor any convincing religious evidence that persuaded non Muslims to be converted. It was not that the Bible allegedly supported Islam that produced conversions. It was not the alleged miraculous words of the Qur'an that produced conversions into Islam. It was not the alleged scientific and historical evidence that mightily convinced multitudes to convert to Islam. Nor was it the alleged harmony of the Qur'an that persuaded people to convert. It was clearly Islamic Jihad [known by many Muslims as the 6th compulsory duty - or the 6th Pillar of Islam] that mightily persuaded the masses to convert to Islam. Therefore Islamic history proves that Muhammad's compulsory duty of global Jihad forced the populations of most lands (now known as Islamic Lands) into Islam, causing the religion to grow into a major world religion.

After exiling two Jewish tribes from Medina and spoiling their goods, Muhammad massacred the remaining 800 Jewish males of Medina (from teenagers reaching puberty to old men), not for making war against Islam, not for aiding Islam's enemies, but for rejecting Muhammad as a Prophet of God.

The Jews of Medina had the option to become Muslim but they refused! The Jews knew Muhammad was a false prophet so they chose martyrdom rather than following a false prophet. Muhammad never found the anticipated confirmation he was expecting (that his Qur'anic Revelations were from God) from the People of The Book. Since the Jews of Medina threatened the validity of Islam, Muhammad chose to murder the men and enslave the women and children. This is the true history of Islam's growth into a worldwide religion!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT ISLAM READ OUR BOOK ENTITLED "THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM."

WHY THE OLD AND NEW COVENANTS OF THE BIBLE ARE TRUE MOSES PAST THE TEST OF A TRUE PROPHET

The Prophet Moses received clear proofs and miraculous signs including detailed predictive prophecy proving that he was truly sent from God to the Children of Israel with the true religion of his day:

Exodus 4:1-9 "Then Moses answered and said, 'But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'Yahweh has not appeared to you.' So Yahweh said to him, 'What is that in your hand?' He said, 'A rod.' And He said, 'Cast it on the ground.' So he cast it on the ground and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. Then Yahweh said to Moses, 'Reach out your hand and take it by the tail' (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), 'That they may believe that Yahweh God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.' Furthermore Yahweh said to him, 'Now put your hand in your bosom,' And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, like snow. And He said, 'Put your hand in your bosom again,' So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his other flesh. 'Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign. And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. The water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land.'"

Exodus 7:8-10 "Then Yahweh [Name for Allah] spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 'When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, 'Show a miracle for yourselves,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and cast it before Pharaoh, and let it become a serpent.' So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and then did so, just as Yahweh commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent."

Yahweh God continued to confirm the message of Moses as the true Word of God by performing many other diverse miracles throughout his ministry: The Ten Plagues in Egypt (Exodus Chapters 7-11), Pillar of Cloud by day and Pillar of Fire by night which supernaturally led and protected the Children of Israel (Exodus 13:21,22); Opening of the Red Sea and the destruction of Pharaoh's army when the sea closed upon the pursuing Egyptians (Exodus 14:22-30 - See our book "The Real Mount Sinai Is In Arabia" for archaeological evidence proving that the remains of Pharaoh's chariot army has been found at the bottom of the Red Sea's Gulf of Aquaba); Purification of Poisonous Waters of Marah (Exodus 15:25); Miraculous Food called "Manna" which supernaturally fed the Israelites in the Desert (Exodus 16:4-31); Miraculous provision of Quail (Exodus 16:13); Miraculous radiance of Moses' face (Exodus 34:5-7); Waters miraculously burst from a rock (Exodus 17:5-7); And the punishment of rebellious Israelite believers who rebelled against Moses: The supernatural fire which devoured Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1,2) / The earth supernaturally opening to swallow up Korah, Dathan, Abiram and all who followed their dissension against Moses (Numbers 16:31-35) / The punishment of supernatural fire sent against those who complained against Moses (Numbers 11:1-3). / And the judgment of leprosy upon Miriam for opposing Moses (Numbers 12:10-15). Notice that it was God who supernaturally punished Moses' detractors and not Moses' followers.

Could you imagine God performing these kinds of signs and wonders to confirm the validity of Muhammad's Message? Yet the Qur'an not only does not mention miracles in the life of Muhammad, it actually denies that Muhammad ever performed any miracles. Unlike Moses, Muhammad had his followers punish and kill his opponents. But the God of Moses was the One Who killed and punished those who rebelled against Moses. How then can the Prophet Muhammad or any other founder of a world religion be superior to the Old Covenant Prophet Moses and the New Covenant Prophet Jesus?

IF DEITY EXISTS THEN THE DIVINE MUST BE CAPABLE OF PERFORMING THE MIRACULOUS

Jesus and Moses both performed many great miracles in the sight of the people they ministered too. God confirmed both the Old and the New Covenant with many supernatural miracles. If Muhammad, Buddha, Confucius, or other founders of the world's various religions were really from above, then they should have performed many miracles to confirm that their message was from heaven.



The Qur'an says that Muhammad did not perform miracles other than reciting the Qur'an. To most non-Muslims, the Qur'an is not vastly superior to other religious writings of antiquity. Nor is there any internal evidence pointing to the supernatural origin of its words. The same can be said of all worldwide religions except Biblical Judaism and Biblical Christianity.

The preponderance of scholars agrees that the Torah (the first 5 books of the Bible) was written by Moses during his lifetime and was in the possession of his successor Joshua when they took the land of Canaan (Now Called Israel). It is quite difficult to believe that Moses and Joshua made up false tales of miracles and then wrote down these fictitious events in the Torah in front of the whole nation of Israel who were eyewitnesses of the events during the exodus from Egypt. It is also quite unimaginable to think that all twelve tribes of Israel accepted bogus stories without someone blowing the whistle. Since there were many surrounding nations which had knowledge of the Torah during the lifetime of Moses and Joshua, and since there were also many non-Israelites among the mixed multitude of nations that joined Monotheism because of these miracles, the Torah passes the test of historic credibility.

Had the Qur'an contained false tales of miracles and fictitious events surely someone would have repudiated it as false. If Muhammad and his immediate successor had invented miraculous tales and tried to include them in the Qur'an both Muslims and Non-Muslims would have strongly objected and would have documented these false additions to the Qur'an. To think that anyone could write down bogus tales before multitudes of eyewitnesses who could speak up to disprove them passes all degrees of logic. In like manner, it passes all logical boundaries to think that Moses and Joshua invented false miraculous accounts of their Exodus from Egypt and the other miraculous events recorded in the Torah.

Furthermore, the Prophet Moses past the test of Deuteronomy 18:21, 22 by accurate predictions which have been fulfilled in the nation of Israel. Moses accurately predicted that the Israelite people of the Book would repeatedly break the Covenant given to Moses (Deuteronomy 31:20) and this moral failure of the Jews would continue even "in the latter days (Deuteronomy 31:29)" in which the Jews would be provoked to jealousy by the infusion of non-Jewish Christians Monotheists (Deuteronomy 32:21).

Moreover, Moses predicted that the Israelis would resort to cannibalism while being besieged by a foreign nation and taken captive into "a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known." This prophecy was fulfilled by the Assyrian and Babylonian invasions (Prediction: Deuteronomy 28:36, 37/Fulfillment: 2 Kings 17:6; 24:11-16).

Then in the last days Moses declared: "Then Yahweh will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other . . . And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there Yahweh will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul. Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of your life."

Moses accurately depicted the sufferings of the Jews during the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities and from AD 70 [the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem] until the end of World War Two. The Jews have been severely persecuted and repeatedly murdered in most of the nations wherever they were scattered. Prior to the twentieth

century False Christian Denomination in Europe and Islamic Rulers in the Middle East and North Africa repeatedly tortured and murdered Jews forcing them to flee from one nation to another.

Has your religion prospered through murdering other's faith or has it grown through the willful acceptance of the masses?



Moses further declared that the Jews would eventually be restored to the land of Israel by being gathered from a worldwide dispersion:

Deuteronomy 30:3-5 “. The Lord your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where Yahweh has scattered you. If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there Yahweh your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. Then Yahweh your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.”

Moses could not have been any more accurate than this! Israel is being repopulated by Jews from around the globe unto this day. Yet this prophecy is not yet complete. Something is going to happen in the United States that will cause Bible Prophecy to be fulfilled. Something will drive the seven million Jews living in the United States to move to the land of Israel. After a major war in the Middle East (predicted by the Hebrew Prophets), Israel is going to feel safe and secure while its economy and agriculture will flourish. During Israel's great prosperity the economy of the United States is probably going collapse and it's feeling of safety and security will be stripped away! This would certainly drive millions of more Jews from “the farthest parts under heaven” back to the land of Israel, fulfilling the prophecy of Moses.

Since there are just under five million Jews living in Israel and about seven million Jews living in the United States (in 2009), God is going to pull the American Jews back to the land of Israel. The two things keeping the Jews in the United States are 1) Financial Prosperity and 2) Safety from Violence. This author believes that both of these factors will collapse in America while Israel's economy and security will flourish. Verse seven of this same passage goes on to predict Yahweh God's punishment of Israel's enemies after some of the Jewish people have been gathered back into their homeland during the last days:

Deuteronomy 30:7 “Also Yahweh your God will put all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you.”

The ancient Hebrew Prophets of God have foretold soon coming future events in the Middle East. God is going to punish all those who hate and persecute Israel in these last days. Israel is going to be a flourishing, populated, and prosperous power in the Middle East which will annihilate all of its enemies all around it and no nations will be powerful enough to “heave it away.”



Angels of God have been sent to protect modern Israel from all of its enemies.

Zechariah 12:2,4,6,8,9 “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding people, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it. In that day, says Yahweh, I will strike every horse with confusion, and its rider with madness; I will open My eyes on the house of Judah, and I will strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. . . In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; **they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left**, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again [by the Jews] in her own place . . . In that day **Yahweh [God] will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem**; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of Yahweh before them. It shall be in that day that **I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.**”

Notice that the above Old Testament Hebrew Scripture says that when Jerusalem is “inhabited again” by the Jews that Yahweh God will defend the Jews and “will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.” Since the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has promised to “destroy” and “cut in pieces” all the nations that would seek to attack the reinhabited Jewish Nation we know that the modern nation of Israel will be victorious against Iran, Syria, Russia, and all other nations that will seek to “heave it away” in the future. For more info about future war in the Middle East (including America’s involvement) see our book, “The Destruction of America.”

Zechariah 14:11-15 “. . . Jerusalem shall be inhabited again [by the Jews]. And this shall be the plague with which **Yahweh will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths . . .** . Such also shall be the plague on the horse and the mule, on the camel and the donkey, and on all the cattle that will be in those camps. So shall this plague be.”

The above Bible prophecy reveals that nuclear weapons will be used against Israel’s enemies in the future. It is no secret that modern Israel has a huge arsenal of nuclear weapons. There is good evidence that Israel has enough nuclear weapons to be the fourth nuclear power in the world. Through Divine intervention Israel will destroy its enemies in future wars. For more info read our book, “Atomic Bombs In The Bible.”



THE HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF MOSES AND THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT HAS BEEN PROVED ACCURATE

The remains of ancient Egyptian Chariots were found in the Red Sea at Nuweiba Beach all the way to the shores of Arabia. This is clear evidence that this was the true site of the Red Sea crossing.



The three different kinds of spoke chariot wheels found at the bottom of the Red Sea only existed during the 18th Dynasty during the lifetime of Moses. Archaeologists state that these chariot wheels are ancient Egyptian. How did so many chariot wheels end up at the bottom of the Red Sea? For more info see our book, "The Real Mount Sinai Is In Arabia."



CAIRO - Egyptian archaeologists found coins dating from the time of the Pharaohs, according to a report in Cairo's *Al-Ahram* newspaper.

One coin portrayed Pharaoh's dream of the seven lean and seven fat cows and had the name of Joseph inscribed on it. See Genesis

"Joseph's name appears twice on this coin, written in hieroglyphs: once the original name, Joseph, and once his Egyptian name, Saba Sabani, which was given to him by Pharaoh when he became treasurer. There is also an image of Joseph, who was part of the Egyptian administration at the time," the report stated.

Right Photo: The top of the real Mt. Sinai in Arabia (not in Egypt) is black from the presence of Yahweh God burning it "like the smoke of a furnace" just like the Bible says it should be. The darkened peak is not from a shadow but from charred rock.

Moses accurately recorded the Red Sea Crossing, the burnt peak of Mt. Sinai, the Egyptian Pharaoh's dream, and the rise of Joseph as a ruler in Egypt. If all of the historical evidence backs up the Bible then we can conclude that the miracles that God wrought through Moses are also true!



ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE UNEARTHED THE REAL CITIES OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH AND HAVE FOUND MILLIONS OF SULPHURIC BALLS EMBEDDED IN THE LIMESTONE BUILDINGS



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE PROVES THE ACCURACY OF THE FIRST BOOK OF MOSES: Sulphuric balls can easily be dug out of the surface rubble of the ruined city of Gomorrah. Lab tests revealed that these sulphuric balls were about 98% pure sulphur with measurable amounts of magnesium. Researchers were astonished at these results because all sulphur found throughout the world is usually no more than 40% pure sulphur. There is no other location on the planet where sulphur can be found in such a pure form (98 % pure).



The five cities that Moses described as being overthrown by fire and brimstone have all been located by archaeologists. The cities were found with brimstones embedded in the city structures. “Then Yahweh rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from Yahweh out of the heavens. So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. . . and behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace.” The First book of Moses, Genesis 19:24-28

For further info see our book: “The Ruins of Sodom and Gomorrah Prove the Bible.”

JESUS PAST THE TEST OF A TRUE PROPHET

The Prophet Jesus also performed many great miracles among the Jewish People, uttered clear and accurate predictive prophecies, and fulfilled numerous detailed predictive prophecies written in the Hebrew Scriptures hundreds of years before his birth. Many of these Messianic Prophecies were totally out of Jesus' human power to control.

The Prophet Isaiah who lived contemporaneously with King David prophesied that the Messiah would have a ministry of miracles:

Isaiah 35:4-6 "Say to those who are fearful hearted, Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing."

God confirmed the ministry of Jesus by miraculously healing the paralytic (Matthew 9:2-7), the leprous (Mark 1:40-42), the blind (Matthew 9:27-31), the deaf (Mark 7:31-37), the mute (Matthew 12:22), the crippled (Luke 13:11-13), and raising people from the dead (Luke 7:11-15/ John 11:1-44). Jesus further miraculously multiplied five loaves of bread and two fish to feed 5,000 men at one time (Mark 6:35-44) and on another occasion he fed 4,000 men, not including the thousands of women and children who were present (Mark 8:1-9).

Since the New Covenant Scriptures were written and circulated during the lifetime of the first century apostles it passes all boundaries of logic to think that the apostles invented miraculous events and wrote them down in the New Testament. How could the apostles who were eyewitnesses to the events of Jesus' ministry have circulated and recorded fables about his life during the lifetime of those who had accurate eyewitness knowledge of these events?

For a first century inhabitant of Jerusalem to disbelieve in the accuracy of the Gospel Narratives would be like someone living in New York City in the twenty first century claiming that the terrorist strike on the twin towers never happened. Anyone making such a false claim would be considered to be out of his mind. No one would believe lies about truthful events which occurred during their lifetimes. Nor would logical people living during the Exodus from Egypt believe fabrications like the plagues on Egypt if they never really occurred!

Can you imagine someone living in New York City telling other New Yorkers that God sent the ten plagues of Exodus upon the city when no such events ever really happened? Could you imagine an entire nation of people living during the time such claims were made actually believing detailed miraculous events if they were all false? Can you imagine an entire nation of eyewitnesses going along with imaginary events which never happened and then recording them in their religious book? That would be the equivalent of all New Yorkers believing that God has sent ten plagues like the plagues recorded in Exodus upon New York when everyone knows that no Biblical plagues have ever struck New York..

Since the Torah of Moses, the Gospel of Jesus, and the Qur'an of Muhammad were written during the lifetime of multitudes of eyewitnesses, all three books must be considered historically trustworthy. Yet later Jewish, Christian, or Muslim books (like many Hadiths) claiming to add miraculous events to the historic past which were not already recorded in the lifetimes of the eyewitnesses of that generation cannot be considered reliable or trustworthy. An author must live contemporaneously with the people he is writing about to be considered a reliable source of historical data.

Most Pagan myths such as Greco-Roman literature about gods were not written by eyewitness accounts. They are mere traditions invented by centuries of tale bearers. There is no reliability to the alleged historic data because the data lacks eyewitness testimony. Moreover, Pagan literature does not contain detailed predictive prophecy like the Bible does!

The Prophet Jesus further passed the test of a true prophet by accurately predicting the conditions of these last days: The rampant spread of Homosexuality and violence (Luke 17:26-30/See Genesis 6:5,11), the increase in the amount of worldwide earthquakes, famines, and pestilences (Luke 21:11) [The Greek word "loimos" for pestilence also means sickness or disease which causes "trouble" or "a public menace"- So diseases such as AIDS and SARS can

also be included as signs of the end time]. The drastic increase in hurricanes, tsunamis, and tornadoes causing “the sea and the waves” to “roar.”(Luke 21:25). And the world wide fear caused by weapons of mass destruction - or possible meteorite impacts (Luke 21:26): “Men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”

Jesus accurately predicted the destruction of the second temple (Matthew 24:1,2) and the subsequent dispersion of the Jewish People (Luke 21:24).

Luke 21:24 “And they [the Jews] will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles [Non-Jews] until the time of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”



Jesus performed both physical miracles and the miracle of accurately predicting future events. Moses and all of the great Hebrew Prophets accurately predicted many historical events in the life of Jesus the Messiah many centuries before he was born. What other religion can claim such miraculous evidence to confirm its validity? For much more information proving that Jesus is the predicted Messiah of the Hebrew Prophets see our book entitled, “The Reliability of Bible Prophecy” Part 1.

Jesus further predicted the rebuilding of a third temple which would be desecrated by a future world leader [the Anti-Christ]:

Matthew 24:15 “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place . . . Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”

The second rebuilt temple was desecrated in 167 BC by Antiochus Epiphanies, the Greek ruler of Syria who set up an altar to Zeus in the sacred Jewish Temple. This desecration of the temple led to the Maccabean revolt. Here Jesus goes on to predict a second desecration of a third rebuilt temple. When this happens the world will have another major predictive prophecy spoken by Jesus to prove he is the true Messiah foretold by the ancient Hebrew Prophets.

The rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem has already been planned by eager Israeli Zionists but the Dome of the Rock has been built on the site of the ancient ruins of the Temple. Only God knows how this prophecy is going to be fulfilled. Since other prophecies of Jesus have been fulfilled it makes sense that the Dome of the Rock will one day be destroyed and the Jewish Temple will be built again in its place. When Jesus’ prophecy of the third temples desecration by the Anti-Christ comes to pass then many more Jews will know that they missed their true Messiah about two thousand years ago.

Bible Scholars have counted as many as 332 Messianic Prophecies which were fulfilled in the life and ministry of the Prophet Jesus. Many of these prophecies are very graphic and detailed such as his birth in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), ministry of miracles (Isaiah 35:5,6), betrayal for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12), hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22:16), crucified with thieves (Isaiah 53:12), side pierced (Zechariah 12:10), and darkness over the land at his death (Amos 8:9).

Many of these prophecies were totally out of Jesus' ability to control. No man has the ability to control or orchestrate the place of his birth: Micah 5:2 predicted that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. No man has the ability to predict the exact location of his birth. Nor does anyone have the ability to predict or plan with certainty the exact cause of his own death: Psalm 22:16 foretold that the Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced and Zechariah 12:10 had foretold that his side would be pierced. The chances of any man fulfilling all of these detailed predictive prophecies in a single life are truly miraculous. How could Jesus not be the Messiah when he accurately fulfilled so many detailed Hebrew prophecies written between 400 to 1500 years before his birth? No other man but Jesus in all of human history has ever fulfilled all of these prophecies to qualify as the true Messiah and Savior of the World!

May the reader carefully search all of the detailed Messianic prophecies listed in the Hebrew Scriptures in the chart below.

The testimony of history and scripture prove that Jesus was crucified under the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate and that a Roman Soldier thrust a spear in his side to make sure he was dead (John 19:34). If Jesus had failed to escape death by stoning on several occasions, his untimely death would have disqualified him from fulfilling predictive prophecies to qualify him as the true Messiah (John 8:59; 10:31). On several occasions some Jews who rejected Jesus attempted to stone him to death but he miraculously escaped. Had Jesus died by the common method of capital punishment employed by the Israelites [stoning] he could not have been the true anticipated Messiah. Yet even in death Jesus did fulfill all of the Hebrew prophecies in the Law of Moses and in the Prophets.

The Roman soldiers parted Jesus' garments and cast lots for his vesture. King David had predicted this event as recorded in Psalm 22:18 one thousand years before it actually occurred. Here are a few examples of the many detailed predictive prophecies proving Jesus to be the anticipated coming Messiah as foretold by Moses and the Prophets:

<u>OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY</u>		<u>NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT</u>
Genesis 3:15	Seed of Woman	Matthew 1:20
Isaiah 7:14	Virgin Birth	Matthew 1:18
Genesis 49:10	From the Tribe of Judah	Luke 3:23,33
Micah 5:2	Born at Bethlehem	Matthew 2:1
Psalm 72:10	Presented with Gifts	Matthew 2:1,11
Jeremiah 31:15	King Herod kills Children	Matthew 2:16
Isaiah 7:14	Called Immanuel [God with us]	Matthew 1:23
Isaiah 40:3	Preceded by a Prophet	Matthew 3:1,2
Isaiah 35:5,6	Ministry of Great Miracles	Matthew 9:25
Zechariah 9:9	To enter Jerusalem on a Donkey	Luke 19:35-37
Psalm 16:10	Resurrected after Death	Acts 2:31
Psalm 68:18	Bodily Ascension to Heaven	Acts 1:9
Psalm 41:9	Betrayed by a Friend	John 13:21
Zechariah 11:12	Sold for 30 Pieces of Silver	Matthew 26:15
Zechariah 11:13	30 Pieces of Silver Thrown into Temple	Matthew 27:5
Zechariah 13:7	Forsaken by His Disciples	Matthew 26:56
Psalm 35:11	Accused by False Witnesses	Matthew 26:59,60

Isaiah 53:7	Silent Before Accusers	Matthew 27:12
Isaiah 53:5	Wounded and Bruised	Matthew 27:26
Isaiah 50:6	Smitten and Spit Upon	Matthew 27:30
Psalms 22:7,8	Mocked	Matthew 27:31
Psalms 22:16	Hands and Feet Pierced	John 20:25
Isaiah 53:12	Crucified with Thieves	Matthew 27:38
Psalms 22:18	Garments Parted and Lots Cast for Vesture	John 19:23,24
Psalms 22:1	His Forsaken Cry	Matthew 27:46
Numbers 9:12	Bones Not Broken	John 19:33-36
Zechariah 12:10	Side Pierced	John 19:34
Amos 8:9	Darkness Over the Land	Matthew 27:45
Isaiah 53:9	Buried in Rich Man's Tomb	Matthew 27:57-60

The Hebrew Prophets accurately predicted many historical events in the life, ministry, and death of Jesus the Messiah. Many of these predictions were totally out of Jesus' control to fulfill. Therefore we can accurately conclude that Jesus must be who He said He was the true savior of the world as foretold by Moses and all of the Hebrew Prophets. Can any other world religion measure up to this kind of prophetic evidence?

True Christianity was built upon the testimonial evidence of hundreds of friendly and hostile eyewitnesses. How could so many different people all claim to have seen Jesus' miracles if He never did any miracles? On one occasion Jesus miraculously changed His appearance and stood with Moses and Elijah in front of His disciples (both Moses and Elijah had already died over 1,000 years ago).



And on another occasion Jesus was gloriously taken up into heaven from Mount Olivet in front of over five hundred eye witnesses all at once. Could all five hundred eyewitnesses have all been mistaken? No other founder of one of the world's religions can claim so much documented supernatural and historical evidence to back up its authenticity!

MUHAMMAD FAILED THE TEST OF A TRUE PROPHET

Jesus and Moses fulfilled the test of true Prophets of Allah according to revelations in Allah's Word but how does Muhammad stand up to the test of a true Prophet by these same standards? Since Muhammad claimed that the previous revelations were from God, we must test the truthfulness of Muhammad's Words by comparing them with the previous Scriptures revealed in the Bible. Muhammad himself declares that all true Prophets must judge and speak in harmony with "what Allah has (already) revealed." If not, then Muhammad calls them "unbelievers."

Surah 4:163 "We have revealed to you, as We revealed to Noah and the Prophets after him. And We revealed to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob and the Tribes; and to Jesus, Job, Jonah, Aaron and Solomon; and We gave David a Book [Psalms]."

Surah 5:43,44 ". . . they are in possession of the Torah, which contain Allah's judgments . . . We have indeed revealed the Torah wherein is guidance and light. By it the Prophets who submitted themselves [to Allah] did judge among the Jews, as did the rabbis and the masters, according to what they were made to guard of Allah's Book . . . Whoever does not judge according to what Allah has revealed, those are the unbelievers."

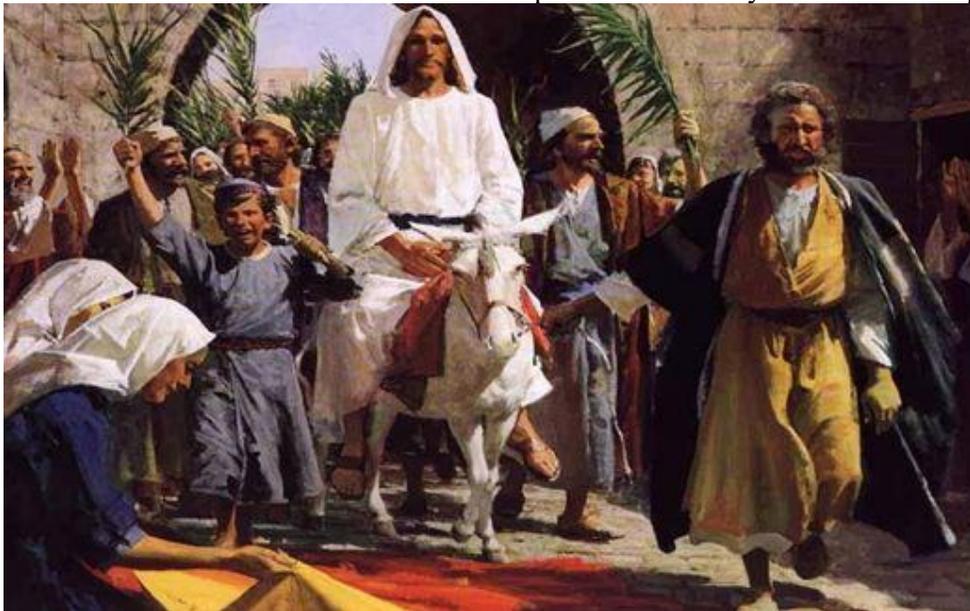
Muhammad failed the main test for true Prophets of God by failing to produce accurate prophetic utterances. Muhammad spoke inaccurate information when he declared that the earth is flat and that the sun sets in a muddy spring. Muhammad also spoke inaccurately about past historical data such as a giant wall made of iron and brass to keep out northern invaders. Muhammad repeatedly spoke inaccurately about the Torah, other Hebrew Prophets, and the Gospel of Jesus.

Muhammad wrote, “. . . and We gave David a Book.” King David wrote the Prophetic Book of Psalms. This God inspired book of Psalms declares the Messiah to be God’s Son (Psalm 1:7) and that this Messiah would be publicly crucified (Psalms 22:14-18). Yet both of these prophecies contradict Muhammad’s Qur’an which states that God does not have a Son and that Jesus the Messiah was not crucified. Muhammad’s Qur’an also contradicts the fulfillment of many Hebrew Prophecies which were fulfilled in the Gospel of Jesus. How then can Muhammad claim that the previous scriptures are in harmony with Islam? How then can Muhammad claim to “judge according to what God has (already) revealed?”

True Christians carry and read the Torah of Moses and the writings of the Hebrew Prophets along with the writings of the New Covenant Scriptures because they can clearly see that Moses and the other Hebrew Prophets predicted the coming of Jesus the Messiah and the establishment of a New Covenant for all of mankind to follow. This is why the apostle Paul (An Israelite from the tribe of Benjamin) declared:

“. . . according to the way called heresy, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law [of Moses] and the Prophets.”

In contradistinction, Muslims do not carry and read the writings of Moses and the Prophets along with the Qur’an because the previous revelations are not in harmony with the Qur’an. Muslims cannot believe all things written in the law of Moses and the other Hebrew Prophets because they contradict and oppose many teachings of the Qur’an.



Since Jesus performed many great miracles and fulfilled hundreds of Bible prophecies (written before He was born) - He had to be who He said He was. All other founders of the world’s diverse religions cannot claim to have fulfilled many detailed predictive prophecies written before they were born!

Yet most Muslims erroneously believe that the Qur’an harmonizes with and confirms the previous revelations of Moses, the Prophets, and Jesus.

This so called seal of the prophets [the last and greatest of all prophets] performed no miraculous signs, nor did he speak any miraculous prophecies like the former prophets had done. How can Muhammad be the greatest of all prophets when there was no demonstrative supernatural element to his ministry? How can Muhammad be a great prophet when his Qur’an blatantly contradicts the writings of the former prophets? How can Muhammad be the greatest of the Prophets when he spoke inaccurately about past historical events and repeatedly declared the earth to be flat? How can Muhammad be the greatest of the Prophets while repeatedly breaking and contradicting his own Qur’anic Law as well as the commandments of God in the previous scriptures of the Torah and the Gospel?

If the Qur'an is truly the Word of God then how can the All-Knowing, Almighty, All-Wise God have been mistaken or misinformed about the historic past? No Biblical Prophet ever made inaccurate utterances like Muhammad had done but he remains the founder of a religion with a modern day constituency of well over one billion people.

The Prophet Jesus literally fulfilled hundreds of prophecies recorded in the Law of Moses and the Hebrew Prophets during his lifetime. Muhammad and all other founders of world religions could not claim to have fulfilled detailed predictive prophecies recorded hundreds of years before their lives. Muhammad, Buddha and other founders of the world's religions could not claim to have performed any irrefutable miracles, nor the miracle of detailed predictive prophecies. How then can Muhammad be the seal of all the previous prophets? How then can Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Shintoism etc., be true religions? If these religions were really true religions then they would have some major miraculous evidence to support their claims. Since the Biblical Monotheism of Moses, Jesus, and the other Apostles and Prophets (of the Bible) performed many major miracles, including the miracles of detailed predictive prophecies which have been fulfilled, Biblical Monotheism has to be the One True Religion above all religions of this world. What other religion can claim that its founders performed many major miracles along with many miracles of detailed predictive prophecies?

The apostles followed Jesus because they were convinced by many infallible proofs that He was the founder of the world's one true religion. Moses and all of the great Prophets spoke of the coming of Jesus the Messiah to save the world!



THE BIBLE, EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS, AND EARLY JEWISH AND PAGAN WRITERS ALL DECLARED THAT JESUS WAS THE SON OF GOD WHO WAS CRUCIFIED

The New Testament Scriptures repeatedly declare Jesus to be the Son of God who was crucified (Luke 24:1-7/Matt 27:50,51/Mark15:37-39):

The Jewish Talmud provides us with some interesting corroborative historical information about Jesus and the birth of Christianity. The following quote was written by Jews who were opposed to Christianity some time between 70-200AD:

"They hanged Yeshua [Jesus] on the Sabbath of the Passover. But for forty days before that a herald went in front of him (crying), "Yeshua is to be stoned because **he practiced sorcery** and seduced Israel and led them away from God. Anyone who can provide evidence on his behalf should come forward to defend him." When, however, nothing favorable about him was found, **he was hanged on the Sabbath of the Passover.**" Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 43a.

Notice that this ancient Jewish Talmudic writing also acknowledges that Jesus was hanged (agrees with New Testament account of being hanged on a cross) on the Passover. The information provided in this ancient Non-Christian Jewish writing amazingly coincides with the New Testament Gospel Narrative which states that Jesus was crucified on the Feast of Passover. Notice also that the Jews who rejected Jesus as their Messiah admitted that he performed some notable miracles. Why else would they call Jesus "a sorcerer?" They could not hide the historical fact that Jesus really performed miracles. All they could do was dispute the source of His power.

There are no Jewish or Pagan writings in the first two centuries that deny Jesus performed miracles. Nor did the Jews or Pagans write anything in the first few centuries to disprove Jesus' death and resurrection. There is no mention in the first few centuries stating that the body of Jesus was paraded around Jerusalem for all to see. Had the unbelieving Jews had this kind of evidence, surely they would have heralded it everywhere!

The Roman historian Tacitus wrote: “Christ, who was executed under Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius.” This perfectly corresponds with the New Testament Gospel Narrative in the Christian Bible.

Another Roman writer Phlegon wrote about “the eclipse in the time of Tiberius Caesar, in whose reign Jesus appears to have been crucified.” Phlegon goes on to mention, “the great earthquakes which then took place.”

The Pagan Historian Thallus admitted in the year A.D. 52, only about 20 years after the death of Christ, that there was “darkness which accompanied the crucifixion of Christ.” Thallus goes on to write that it was just a coincidence that a natural solar eclipse had occurred during the crucifixion of Jesus, who is called Christ.

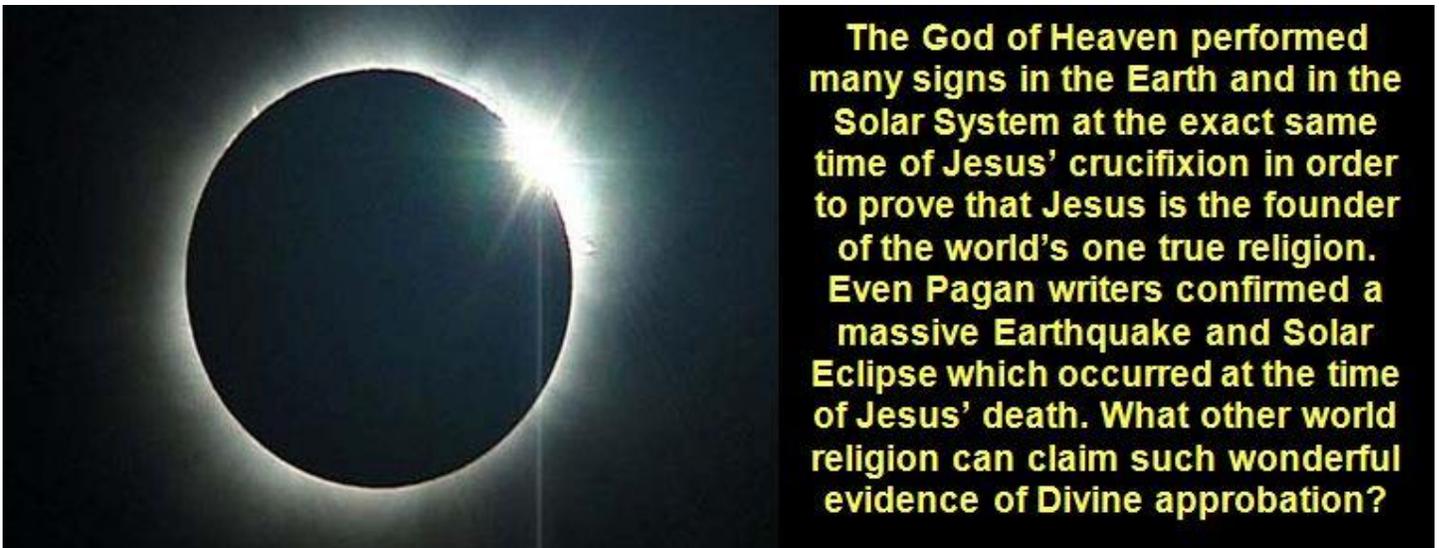
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The non Christian Pagan writings agree with the first century New Testament Gospel Narration:

Matthew 27:45,50,51 “Now from the sixth hour [12 Noon] until the ninth hour [3:00 PM] there was darkness over all the land. . . . And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split.”

This darkness from 12 Noon to 3:00 pm in the afternoon was so great that the early Pagan writers, Thallus and Phlegon, tried to explain it away as a naturally occurring solar eclipse. But how could this be a naturally occurring solar eclipse when it occurred during the Feast of Passover which was a time when there was a full moon? It is not possible for a solar eclipse to occur during the time of a full moon. Therefore this darkness over the land had to be a supernatural, rather than a naturally occurring event!



The God of Heaven performed many signs in the Earth and in the Solar System at the exact same time of Jesus' crucifixion in order to prove that Jesus is the founder of the world's one true religion. Even Pagan writers confirmed a massive Earthquake and Solar Eclipse which occurred at the time of Jesus' death. What other world religion can claim such wonderful evidence of Divine approbation?



Phlegon also mentions “the great earthquakes which then took place.” The Gospel narrative of the Apostle Matthew states that “the earth quaked, and the rocks were split” when the Prophet Jesus died on the cross. Only very great earthquakes will cause rocks to split! This historical evidence from non-Christian sources gives the world sufficient corroborative proof that the Prophet Jesus was really crucified under the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate and that the early first century Gospel of Jesus is amazingly accurate.

Another Pagan manuscript mentions the execution of Jesus. This manuscript was written by Mara bar Serapion which dates from the first century AD:

“What advantage did the Jews gain from executing their King? It was just after that their Kingdom was abolished.”

The first century Jewish Historian Josephus also records the execution of Jesus. This record is noteworthy because Josephus was not a Christian:

“... there was a wise man who was called Jesus . . . Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die.”

Many believe that the words of Josephus might have been tampered with in the surviving Greek translations. But one is hard pressed to refute an ancient translation of the writings of Josephus in this ancient Arabic Manuscript which states:

“Jesus . . . was a wise and virtuous man who had many followers from different nations. **He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, but his disciples reported that, three days later, He appeared to them alive. . . Jesus may have been the Messiah whom the prophets had predicted would come.**”

Any unbiased historian having proper knowledge of the rules of evidence to test the historical accuracy of past events could not deny the fact that Jesus Christ was indeed crucified under Pontius Pilate and that there really was an earthquake and a solar eclipse accompanying his death. There is too much eyewitness testimony to back up the New Testament Gospel Narrative of Jesus’ death to deny the accuracy of the Biblical account. To deny the crucifixion of the Prophet Jesus would be the equivalent of denying that Pontius Pilate was the Roman Governor of Judea during the lifetime of Jesus, or the equivalent of denying that the Romans actually destroyed the Temple at Jerusalem in 70 AD.

How can the Prophet Muhammad or any other religious leader deny the historical accuracy of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus with all this array of historical evidence to corroborate the Biblical Text? How can Muhammad deny that Jesus was called the Son of God? How can the world accept Islam as a true religion of God when the Qur'an repeatedly denies so much proven historical fact? And how can the world accept a Prophet who declares that the previous revelations of the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures are also from God but then goes on to contradict and deny so much of the contents of these previous revelations? No other world religion can compare with the infallible inspired scriptures of the original first century Apostolic Christian Faith!



The Apostles of Jesus the Messiah gave the world the greatest exposition of the one true religion that the world has ever heard. No other world religion can claim the miraculous evidence of so many Bible prophecies written many hundreds of years before they were fulfilled, supernatural healings and miracles in front of multitudes of eye witnesses, and so much historical and archaeological evidence to back its authenticity.

Most of the world thinks of the Christian Faith as it was displayed through the tyranny of Catholic and Protestant Denominations. Yet the true Christian Faith of the original apostles did not use the force of arms or terror tactics to expand its following. The true Christian Faith is found in the Biblical writings of the first century apostles of Jesus.

These writings never mention persecuting other religions, nor prayers to saints, nor many idolatrous doctrines which have been added to Christian Denominations and Sects through the centuries.

The true Christian Faith is the Apostolic Faith of the first century Christians. To find out information about the True first century Christian Faith please read our book entitled, "The Rock of Revelation."