

Chapter – 05

Different Religions

(دیگر مذاہب)

According to the survey carried out by the US Census Board in the year 2012, the total population of the world is around seven billion. This survey also says that at present more than 16 religions are prevalent throughout the world. Out of the total population, around 53.57% people are following three religions sent through three Messengers of God. Those Messengers are; the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the Prophet Eisa عليه السلام, and the Prophet Moosa عليه السلام. Followers of these three religions are known as Muslims (20.28%), Christians (33.06%) and Jews (00.23%). People related to these three religions are agreed on three points: (1) their religion is the chain of the religion of Prophet Ibrahim. (2) Ibrahim is genetically grandfather of them, and (3) he is the Prophet sent by God.

At present this world has 11.92% of people who do not follow any religion, whereas 2.35% persons entirely reject for the existence of God. These individuals are called ‘Atheist’. The remaining 32.16% population consists of those people who have one religion out of 13 prevalent religions. However, these religions are not introduced by God but are presented by the ‘Servants of God’. None of them were prophets or messengers but are self-made religious guides. The followers of these religions are known with the names of Hindu, Chinese, Buddhist, Sikh, Baha’i, Confucianist, Jain and Taoist etc.

Major Religious Groups as a percentage of world population

Christians	33.06%	Neo	01.68%	Jains	00.07%
Muslims	20.28%	Sikhs	00.39%	Shintoist	00.04%
Hindus	13.33%	Jews	00.23%	Taoist	00.04%
Chinese	06.27%	Spiritist	00.20%	Zoro & others	00.06%
Buddhists	05.87%	Baha’is	00.12%	No Religion	11.92%
Ethno	03.97%	Confucianist	00.10%	Atheist	02.35%

Following are some details of those prominent religions whose followers extensively exist in this world, and those religions that are not noticeable by population but play effective role in this world.

❖ ***Christianity:***

The founder and guide of Christianity is Prophet Eisa عليه السلام. He is the special ‘Servant of God’ who was born through Respectful Maryam but without father. This fact is not only acknowledged by Christians but also by Muslims. Prophet Eisa was born some two thousand years ago. Today’s Christian Calendar basically refers to the year of birth of Prophet Eisa. The events before his birth are expressed as BC (Before Christ).

Prophet Eisa عليه السلام is also known as Jesus or Jesus Christ. He is not only a respected personality for Christians but he is equally respectful for Muslims as well. As regard to the Prophet Eisa, holy Quran says that:

وَآتَيْنَا عِيسَى اُبْنَ مَرْيَمَ الْبَيِّنَاتِ وَأَيَّدْنَاهُ بِرُوحِ الْقُدْسِ

{And We gave Eisa (Jesus), the son of Maryam, clear signs and We aided him with the Holy spirit. (02:87&253)}

Injeel or Gospel (god-spell) means “Good News”. According to Islam, Injeel is a holy book that comprises God’s Revelations on Prophet Eisa. But Christians disagree to it and they say that God’s Revelations came upon Jesus Christ but these revelations were compiled in a book form by his apostles. It is said that collection of these revelations were made in four different books. The first four books are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These books (Gospel) were prepared after 60 to 100 years of Prophet Eisa. They gave the name to these books as Bible, because bible means book.

The interesting part of it is that, later these four books have been rearranged with a new name. Now the altered name to this compilation is given as “New Testament”. Even this New Testament has been recompiled and till now it is available in 27 volumes, ([See URL, Link-1](#)). Moreover, it looks that these revisions are not going to stop anywhere. The translation works in different languages are also continued along with reshuffles. ---- Obviously, in this way, how the ‘Original and Holy Injeel’ could be available ----?

As such, not only God’s Revelations on Prophet Eisa were distorted by human hands but a tragedy also occurred when a council was made in the year 325 AD in the city of Nicaea of Anatolia which has

changed the original faith of the “*Oneness of God*” into a new philosophy of “*Trinity*”. Now, Christianity is based on three elements: (1) Father means God, (2) Son means Messiah or Jesus Christ, (3) Rooh-ul-Quds means God’s Glories. As such, the Christianity has been badly affected by the treacherous attack of their followers.

Islam absolutely rejects this philosophy of “*Trinity*”. Quran says in this regard:

وَلَا تَقُولُوا ثَلَاثَةٌ اسْتَهُوا خَيْرًا لَكُمْ

{And do not say, “Three”, desist for your own good. (04:171)}

Allah (SWT) further says:

لَقَدْ كَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ وَقَالَ الْمَسِيحُ يَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَرَبَّكُمْ إِنَّهُ مَنْ يُشْرِكُ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ حَرَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَأْوَاهُ النَّارِ

{They are certainly disbelievers who say, “Allah is actually the Messiah, the son of Maryam”, whereas the Messiah had said, “O Descendants of Israel, worship Allah who is my Lord and your Lord”, undoubtedly whoever ascribes partners with Allah, then Allah has forbidden Paradise for him, his destination is hell. (05:73)}

It is said that Prophet Eisa was publically known as a Messenger of God for only three years. During this period he showed some miracles, that include, curing sick people, walking on water, and many dead persons were made alive. --- Within this period he made twelve pupils who were called as ‘Apostles’ (حواري). He said that this world will be finished unexpectedly. He also said that in the last days of this world I will come back and take the account of the people, so always be prepared for this account.

It is also said that there was one apostle whose name was Judas Iscariot who planned to kill Prophet Eisa with the help of Jewish Emperor Pontius Pilate, Latin Pontius Pilatus. Prophet Eisa was tortured when he was arrested. The persons who tried to murder him virtually double crossed but God had revenged differently. God has selected one of the Jews and changed his face similar to Eisa. Jews hanged that person as if they murdered to Eisa. Whereas, Prophet Eisa was lifted-up to the Heavens by God’s angels.

Presently Christianity is distributed into three branches:

1. **Roman Catholics**: Its center is State of Vatican City, located within the city of Rome. The followers of this belief mostly live in Poland, South Europe, Ireland and South America.
2. **Orthodox**: They are conventional Christians. Greece and Slavic countries and people of Russia are related to this belief.
3. **Protestant**: The people of this belief mostly live in North Europe, Britain, Scotland, and North America. According to the population view point, these Christians are on top of list. Moreover, they are having their great influence all over the world.

❖ ***Islam***:

Among all the prevalent religions, Islam has the significance in this respect that, being the latest, it is “**The Most Modern Religion**”. This religion has been introduced by Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, who was born in the Makkah City of Arabian Island, on 20th April, 571AD. At the age of forty he declared himself as God’s Messenger. Just after this declaration, like all prophets, he had to face lots of difficulties and tortures. Hence, after ten years he was forced to migrate permanently to the city of Madinah.

The noble prophet Muhammad Mustafa is the Principal Prophet (أفضل الانبياء). His preference over all prophets is evident with the following verse of Quran:

وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ

{And obey Allah and obey the Noble Messenger.
(03:32&132, 04:59, 05:92, 08:01, 20&46, 24:54&56, 47:33, 58:13, 64:12)}

Simultaneously, Allah (SWT) has instructed to the followers of His prophet that:

وَمَا آتَكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا

{And accept whatever the Noble Messenger gives you; and refrain from whatever he forbids you. (59:07)}

Even, God says:

مَنْ يُطِعِ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ

{Whoever obeys the Noble Messenger has indeed obeyed Allah.
(04:80)}

As such Islamic Sharee’ah is now based not only on the Quranic Orders but also on Hadiths (sayings of the Noble Prophet).

The second preference of the Noble Prophet Muhammad is that Islam was initiated from the Prophet Adam عليه السلام and passing through various periods and different prophets, it reached to the Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم and with his grandeur personality the religion came to its completion stage. Quran says:

الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتْمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

{This day, I have perfected your religion, and completed My favor upon you, and chosen Islam as your religion. (05:03)}

The Holy Book of Islamic religion is Quran. The Verses of this book are revealed on Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم intermittently. Some part of it was given to him in Makkah and some part in Madinah. If we see these Verses minutely we will come to know that this Book is a treasure of Knowledge. It gives the lesson for the “Oneness of God”. It teaches all about the procedures of worships and methods of dealings in life. This Book narrates the history of the previous natives and the history of earlier Prophets. This Book states all about good and bad deeds and accordingly the concept of ‘reward and punishment’. The specialty of this Book is its ‘language’. The linguistic authorities treat it as a miracle. And this miracle is given to a person whose has never been taught by any colleague or teachers. Of course, Allah (SWT) was his guide and the real educator for him. This book is undoubtedly a Divine Book of Almighty God.

The Noble Prophet had arranged to preserve in writing all the ‘Revelations’ immediately after their exposures. And then he provided his personal supervision for its final compilation. During his life, all these written material was available in parts with his various Companions. Later, his successors Abu Bakr Siddique, Umer Farooq, and Othman Ghani (رضي الله عنهم أجمعين) had organized to collect all the dispersed written material and brought it into one ‘Book’ form. Moreover, they arranged recitation of complete Quran by Huffaz in the month of Ramazan during their special worships. This practice of recitation and listening of Quran in mosques is continued till today. In this way, this Holy Book has been well protected from any possible human alterations. How come this would not be safe when Allah (SWT) Himself has said in Quran that:

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الْذِكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

{Indeed We have sent down the Quran and Indeed We Ourselves surely are its Protector. (15:09)}

The main spirit of Islam is the teachings of ‘Oneness of God’. It is to believe that God’s existence is its own. He is not only His own but also all other things that exist are due to His Persona. He is not in need of anyone, whereas all are dependent on Him.

Faith on Allah (SWT), on His angels, on His Holy Books, on his Prophets and Messengers, on the Day Hereafter, and believing that all good and bad are from His Decree are the fundamental parts of Islamic belief. Giving testimony for the Oneness of God, offering daily five times prayers, giving charity to poor, fasting is the month of Ramazan, going for the Pilgrimage to Makkah and visiting Madinah, once in whole life, for the person who can afford are the pillars of Islam.

As earlier said, that Islam gives us the ‘System of Life’. It provides ways for self-refinement of the Human being. It delivers good and honorable characters. It creates equality in the society. But, in the name of equality, it never makes alike to good and bad, intellectual and ignorant, hard worker and lazy persons. Rather, it provides proper rights to every individual. This religion believes in reward and punishment against performances. Islam teaches for love, dutifulness, and moderation. This religion shows distinction between permissible and forbidden. Islam provides ownership rules for properties and heirship. Similarly, this religion protects the right of women as well. This religion provides socio economic rules and disciplines. It also offers civil and criminal laws.

In Islam, the fear of God (خُشُبَةُ اللَّهِ) turns as a ‘*Super-remedy*’. For this, Allah (SWT) has given a concept of the ‘Day of Judgment’ and the ‘Life Hereafter’. However, He gives the good news for Paradise as well and says:

وَرَحْمَتِي وَسِعَتْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ

{And My mercy encompasses all things. (07:156)}

Presently, 58 countries are such that where the Muslim population exceeds to 50%. Here, although there are some countries where the official religion is not Islam, still they may be considered as ‘Muslim Countries’. Nevertheless, out of these 58 countries, there are 47 countries where Muslim population reaches between 70% and 100%. Hence, these countries would essentially be considered as Muslim States. Among them, the top ranking Muslim States in the order of population are Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangla Desh. Nigeria, Turkey Egypt, and Iran are among the large Muslim countries. Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Libya, Mauritania, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and Maldives are the countries where population is less but here 100% Muslims live.

Geographically, in Asia and Africa Muslims live in abundance. It is estimated that 30% population of Muslims lives in Asia, whereas in Africa it goes up to 59%. Most of them live in the northern part of Africa.

With the passage of time, now Islam is spreading throughout the world very fast. It is an assessment that, in the last 50 years, this growth has exceeded to approximately 235%. A recent survey indicates that the growth rate of Christian religion in the world is more or less 1.5% per year, whereas the growth rate of Islam is more or less 6.4% per year. At present, the preaching of Islam is more effective in Australia and in the European countries. The survey shows that it has gone to 257% and 142% respectively.

❖ **Hinduism:**

The person who follows Hinduism is called ‘Hindu’. The followers of this belief also name their religion as “Santa Dharma”. Santa Dharma is a word of Sanskrit that gives the meanings of ‘The Eternal Law’. Hinduism is one of the oldest religions. Its roots are met with the historical Veda religion of India.

The founders of Hinduism are many. Therefore, their followers have belief in different faiths and customs. In this religion there are many gods but if go deep into the details of this religion, this religion virtually gives orders to worship only one ‘God’.

Maulana Muhammad Abdul Qadeer Siddiqui writes in one of his elucidations of Quranic verses that:

“Dear People! The idle worshipers of earlier age used to believe that for every purpose, there is a god, an idle (and that is a planet from our solar system); For example, Saturn for houses, Mars for war, Jupiter for knowledge, Venus for music, and Mercury for literature, books and magazines. They considered Sun as their prime god. In Moon they saw an old woman busy working on a spinning wheel. They used to consider Jupiter as ‘most favorable’; Venus as ‘promising’; Saturn as ‘very unlucky’; and Mars as ‘ill-fated. They never believed in one God. Till this time, the Hindu religion is prevalent more or less similarly.”

Hindus believe in (1) god, (2) matter and (3) geo, and some also believe in Aakash, means extensive knowledge. On account of inadequate research and less thoughts these people are trapped in the belief of Trinity. These idle worshipers (Hindus) believe in Deva (male-idols) as well as Devi (female-idols). They have an idol for every work.

They saw something in the Supernatural-World (عَالَمٌ مَثَلٌ), mean they saw God's Glories once and started worshiping it. They look at thousand more Glories later but they never think of it. They saw just one Glory earlier and made it an 'idol'. Just believing in one face and rejecting other faces – strange --! Any person who has some wisdom will never do such things. Instead, he should be always ready to accept the new God's Glories all the time.

Hindus believe in three idle worships. First is "Gram Deva", means people's deva. Second is "Kola Deva", means family deva. And the third is "Ishta-Deva", means personal Deva. In other words the Gram Deva is "Ganesh", Kola Deva is "Lakshmi" and Ishta-Deva is "Nandi". On special occasions Hindus also worship some other idles as well. On the occasion of Durga Puja they worship Durga; on the event of Ganesh Chaturthi they worship Ganesh. On the birthday celebration of Krishna they worship Krishna, at the event of Diwali/Deepavali they worship Lakshmi, and at the juncture of Shivaratri they worship Shiva.

At present, after Christianity and Islam, Hinduism stands at Number-3 with respect to the world population. But expanse-wise this religion is confined to India and Nepal only.

❖ *Jewish Religion:*

Grandson of Prophet Ibrahim was Prophet Yaqoob, whose surname was 'Israel' (Servant of God). Prophet Yaqoob was having 12 sons and one of them was يهودا (Judah). From this the word "Yahood" was created. Later Bani Israel was called اليهود (Jews). This nation was first inhabited in Palestine and Egypt. They ruled for a considerable period on this region.

In Bani Israel, right from Prophet Ibrahim to Prophet Sulaiman there were quite famous Prophets. Out of them, Prophet Moosa and Prophet Daood were God's Messengers as well and having holy Books. According to Quran, Prophet Moosa got the holy book "Taurat" and Prophet Daood got the holy book "Zaboor". However, Jews do not agree to this declaration of Quran. In place of Injeel Christians believe that they consider Bible and New Testaments as their holy Books. Similarly Jews give the names of their holy books as "New and Old Testaments". Due to this reason Allah (SWT) is perhaps not happy with these two nations. As Quran says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَخَذُوا أَيْهُودًا وَالنَّصَارَى إِلَيْأَنَا بَعْضُهُمْ أُولَئِكَ بَعْضٌ
 {O People who believe! Do not make the Jews and the Christian your friends of one another. (05:51)}

Even, the Jews do not accept Eisa عليه السلام as Prophet and Messenger and do not believe that Muhammad صلی الله علیہ وسلم is Prophet or Messenger of God. They have strong objections as regards to the Prophet-ship of both Eisa عليه السلام and Muhammad صلی الله علیہ وسلم. So much so, they are mainly involved in the happening of hang-up of Prophet Eisa عليه السلام. Moreover, there is a long history of various full fledged wars between the two nations.

Jews are quiet less in numbers these days. Presently, they are only 0.23% of the total population of the world. Now the majority of Jews live in North America and Israel. However, they are economically so much strong that they have their influence all over the world.

