



A Study of Similarities between Some Biblical and Qur'anic Verses

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Author MU designed the study and performed the literature searches. Author AMT wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Author AB managed the type settings and some minor corrections. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Article Information

DOI: 10.9734/AJARR/2020/v14i130320

Editor(s):

(1) Dr. Mohd Fauzi Abu-Hussin, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Malaysia.

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Complete Peer review History: <http://www.sdiarticle4.com/review-history/56731>

Original Research Article

Received 28 May 2020
Accepted 02 August 2020
Published 22 September 2020

ABSTRACT

Allah the mighty in power and mercy who sent Messengers and prophets in order to call and guide mankind to the right path, Prophets and Messengers were sent to different generations and nations except Muhammad (saw) who was sent to all mankind including Jins, they have different laws but the main point is the same i.e calling to oneness of Allah. Although their laws were different, there are certain similarities that do exist. Due to the fact that they were similar. The research work is aim to highlight the similarities that exist between some verses of the Glorious Quran and the Holy Bible in some aspects. However the study addressed the following problems; Religious followers assumed that laws concerning some aspects did not exist, mentioned or addressed in the both scriptures. For instance, laws concerning economic wellbeing i.e. corruption, usury, justice, alcoholism and fraud e.t.c. were not in both scriptures, therefore the study explained that all the laws were in existence and addressed in both scriptures and also enlighten the followers on how similar the books are in various aspect of life. The researcher used various methods in collecting relevant data pertaining the subject under study. This includes primary data which includes

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interview of the scholars and gathering authentic information from the historians and secondary data which also includes the Glorious Quran, the Holy Bible, text books and articles. The study addressed the misperceptions that exist in the mind of some of the followers of the religions which make them to see that the scriptures have no any similarities in their laws as well as some acts were only permissible or prohibited in holy bible or glorious Qur'an. The study also found out that followers of both the scriptures that is; Islam and Christianity have common verses with regards to the teachings, laws and have similar injunctions. Thus recreate unity and good understanding among the followers of both the religions besides, misunderstandings of the scriptures will be addressed.

Keywords: Similarities; Holy Qur'an; Holy bible; scriptures; prohibited; religious and injunctions.

1. INTRODUCTION

Religion is as a natural to man as Social intercourse. The aim of the religion of the world is to undertake the spiritual guidance bestowed by God the almighty upon mankind. The higher blessing and the special way in which the scene to accomplished every religion has to answer for three questions. What does it promise to do for good of man?, What Is the nature of higher power on whose return is compulsory? and then what is the expected benefit of a man after meeting his kingdom?

The innate tendency of Allah S. W. T to man, made him to identify ways of worshipping him in order to have pleasure and rewards from him of the revealed religion Christianity and Islam are today the greatest religion of the world. Dr. Johnson goes to the extent of saying there are two objects of curiosity the Christian world and the Muslims world, all the rest may considered Barbarous. Christianity and Islam have a great deal in common. Both claim to be monotheistic faith, both believe in the immortality of the soul and life after death.

They both have a revealed book of testimony where all have a guided doctrine for their followers. However, both have theological believers where some subjects were claim to suit the believing members of their dominant.

moreover, Islam as a religion and a way of life practiced based on the guidelines from Allah the supreme contained in the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of the prophet of Islam Muhammad S. A. W. Each and every Muslim is subjected to the dictates of Islam and therefore should be under an obligation to fashion out his entire life in accordance with the ethics of the Quran and Sunnah in such a way that he has to observe at every step the laws between what is right (Halal) and what is Wrong (Haram), [1].

On the other hand Christianity according to the Christian believe is a religion which gives all praises and worship to the Only one God (Timothy 2:5, Corinthians 8:4, Corinthians 15:28 and Corinthians 11:3). If the head of Christ is God, how then can Jesus be equal with him?, if also Christ will be subjected unto God as written in Corinthians, where then is his so called equality with God? There is no doubt that Paul had tried to convince the Christians that there is only one God and Jesus is subordinate to him. It was the gospel writers who without hesitation have tempered the doctrine of the inspired gospel of Jesus which he had received from God to suit their interest [2]. Therefore, comparing the Quran and the Bible one can really dictate some similarities between some of their verses. The comparison however, will go along away in pointing out clearly the distinction between the two Holy books applications of their laws and show which religion is really on the right path.

2. METHODOLOGY

The research work does not cover all the religions of the world as a whole. The study is only limited to two major religions that is Islam and Christianity. However, for the purpose of the comparison and classifications, quotations will be cited from the Quran and the Bible, as well as prophetic traditions and other consensus opinions of the scholars will also be quoted to give more evidence at the work. Moreover, the research used various methods in collecting relevant data pertaining the subject under study. This includes primary data which includes gathering authentic information from the historians and secondary data which also includes the Glorious Quran, the Holy Bible, text books and articles.

The collections consist of views of some renown scholars of comparative studies such as Dr Zakir Naik from Indian, Dr Hussaini Yusuf Maberu from

Nigeria, Ibn Katheer English translation book as well as an articles written by Adil Hussain 20/11/2011, Khalid Ibn Muhammad Saed Bn Abdul Jeddah Saudi Arabia 21/10/2011.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Similarities between Some Biblical and Qur'anic Verses

Both Quran and Bible possess several similarities as all are believed to be Holy Scriptures of Islam and Christianity respectively. They commonly consist of narrative, teaching, poetry, and rebuking. Many narratives, contain same basic event and figures. They both teach the creation of the world by a single Almighty Omniscient God who commands humans to follow the morality set down for them. Muslims do believe that God dictated every word of the Qur'an and has protected the Quran from any possible human mistake. Therefore, as God is perfect in every way, the Glorious Quran also is perfect. In Muslims believe, the Glorious Qur'an is applicable to every creature regardless of complexity. Also in Christians believe Bible is completely true, but in a different way. The Bible is the record of God's revelation to the Jews and through Jews. It was written through a divine inspiration process by human together with God.

The content of the Quran often contained few details and tend to concentrate more on the moral and spiritual importance of the story of some Muslims may turn to the Bible to give a further picture of the person concerned. However, there are guidelines set out in the way Muslims comprehend the Bible, the primary are being that the Quran is always more authoritative than the Bible. Therefore, anything in the Bible that agrees with the Quran is accepted, and anything in the Bible that disagrees with the Qur'an is rejected. Something in the Bible are not talked about at all in the Quran or in the Sunnah, with regards to such passages, Muslims are advised to either believe or disbelieve in them but they are allowed to read them and pass them on if they wish to do.

It may be argued that the similarities between the two texts are only superficial in nature. Interpretation of scripture brings with it the underlying message of the text, and it is there that the interpreter will find systematic differences.

3.2 Common Figures

The Bible and Quran have more than 50 people's in common, typically in the same narratives. The Qur'an identifies the prophets; Jacob, Enoch, Imran and Ishmael but they are never given a story. In the Bible all these men were described as righteous people but not prophets only Ishmael that is not written of favorably.

3.3 Mixed Similarities

In much cases the Bible and Quran have common similarities but differ in different narrations.

3.4 Soul and Gideon

In the Bible both Gideon and Soul are military leaders of Israel between the Exodus and Exile in the Book of judge, in Bible Gideon is hesitant about leading the Hebrews to battle. The demonstrate God's power, God tell Gideon River and whoever drinks without his hands Gideon must sent home. The Hebrew later has victory. In the Qur'an, the same event happens on the way to meet Goliath in the Biblical account of saint and Goliath soul is also hesitant about the battle with Goliath's army. Human's pharaoh and Xerxes' in the Bible, human is a builder and an adviser under king Xerxes' that desires to persecute the Jews. In the Qur'an, human is a builder and an adviser under pharaoh.

The structure which pharaoh ordered human to build is similar unrelated to the narrative of human in the Bible. Both structures are mark from burnt bricks for the purpose of ascending to the-believe. Idol Samaritan and calf in the Bible, in Moses absence certain people that went out of Egypt with the Hebrews worship a golden, Calf saying "this is your God, O Israel who brought you up out of Egypt". Hundreds years of later, Samaria was founded and become the capital of the Northern kingdom of Israel. King Jeroboam, it's first also made two golden calves and said, "These are your gods O Israel who group occupies Samaria called the Samaritans.

The Qur'an tells the story of a Calf while Moses is gone. A man called "The Samaria"[2] or "Samaritan"(Auberry) is blamed for photogonizing their idolatry.

3.5 Similar Narratives

The creation and sin of Humanity see [3] and [4].

3.6 Similar Doctrine

In the Bible and the Quran, Allah (God) is the only creator of all things, His power and wisdom cannot be matched.

3.7 Monotheism

The Qur'an and Bible accorded that only one God exist thus should be worshipped without associating a partner to Him. In both books idolatry is considered as a greater sin. Similarly, Lukman in the Quran and Jeremiah in the Bible postulated the doctrine (Q 31:13, Corinthians 8: 4), of not worshipping speechless idols whom a human creates, as the creator or someone with wisdom.

3.8 Ethics

Honesty, truth-worthiness and fairness are not compliment in both the Devine book, Idolatry and murder are also condemned. Fasting and prayer are pivotal. The ethics of the Qur'an are more similar to the Ethics of the books recommend in agreement to the city. Both condemned eating pork and some other foods. Adultery is several planeside the scriptures should be read or recited regularly. Prayers should be said facing Jerusalem through the Qur'an later changed the direction to Mecca. Most of Islamic regulations are contained in the Hadith.

3.9 Torah

The Qur'an identifies the Torah as revelation from God to Moses. The Torah is of the first five books of the Bible. The Qur'an does not identify exactly what the Torah is. The new Testament calls them the Torah itself does not give an author. According to the Qur'an and New Testament the gospel confirms the Torah.

3.10 Word

Both the scriptures have a high veneration of the God's word, God's revelation to humankind. The Qur'an identified the Islamic Holy books as the ward of God. Muslims believed that they were dictated by God. The Bible calls Jesus the word of God because he is full manifestation of God on earth. The Quran also calls Jesus God's word.

3.11 Angels

According to the both scriptures, angels are God's super natural agents who vary His

messages. Also, Gabriel is named in the both books.

3.12 Economic Well Being in Both the Scriptures (Quran and the Bible)

The two scriptures (Qur'an and the Bible) guide its followers in financial and economic matters. One must always remember that economic system is not in itself complete; it is a part of the overall system of life. The economic wellbeing can be observed under the following:

- ✓ Bribery/Corruption
- ✓ Fraud
- ✓ Justice
- ✓ Usury

3.13 Bribery/Corruption in the Qur'an & Bible

Initially, bribery is an act of giving money to someone through a person who takes something which he/she has no right to. For example bribing a security to get verdict in favor (wrong fully), or bribing an official to give him preference over others or to get other favor. In fact, bribery is a big sin in both the major religions (Islam and Christianity). According to the Glorious Qur'an Allah s.w.t said:

"And do not eat up one another's property unjustly, nor give bribery to the rulers that you may knowingly eat up other peoples property sinfully." (Q:2:188).

"Allah does not forbid you to deal justly and kindly with those who fought not against you nor send you out of your homes. Verily, Allah loves those who deal with equity"(Q:60:8).

"Do not consume one another's wealth unjustly or send it (in bribery) to the needed in order that (they might aid) you (to) consume a person's wealth in sin while you know (it is lawful)" (Q:2:188). "Verily! Allah commands that you should render back the trust to those that are due and that when you judge, to judge with justice .Verily, how excellent (good) is the teaching which He (Allah) gives you! Truly, Allah is All-hearing, All seeing". (Q:4:58).

"Indeed! Those who devour the property of orphans unjustly are only importing into their bellies fire, and they will be burned in a blaze"(Q4:10). "And the heavens He raised

and imposed the balance, that you not transgress within the balance, and establish weight in justice and do not make Deficient the (due) balance."(Q:55;7-10). Among other verses.

3.13.1 Besides, according to the holy bible

"And though shall take no gift: For the gift blinded the wise, and perverted Gifts shall live" (Exodus 23:8)

"In whose hands (is) mischief, and their right-hand is full of bribes". (Psalms 26:10).

"For i know your manifold transgressions-and your mighty sins: They affected the just, they take a bribe, and turn Aside the poor in the gate (from there right)". (Amos S:12) "For the congregation of hypocrites (shall be) -desolate, and fire shall consume the Tabernacles - of bribery". (Jacob 15:34). "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which -white some collated after, they have erred from the -faith, and priced themselves through with -many sorrows". (Timothy 6:10).

"Surely oppression make a wise man mad, and - a gift destroyed the heart". (Ecclesiastes 7:7). "And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after we're, and took bribes and perverted judgment". (I Samael 8:3).

"And they were glad and covenanted to -give him money" (LUKE 22:5). "And when they heard (it), they were glad, and promised to -give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently -betray him"(MARK 14:11).Among many other verses.

4. FRAUD AS IT IS CONTAINED IN THE QURAN & BIBLE

Fraud is forbidden in both the religions, similarly breach of trust is also forbidden in all circumstances, whether in trade, marriages, agreements and engagements and all that it takes in whatsoever transactions. Therefore, the Glorious Quran has made it clear that a true Muslim is the one who is honest and upright in his business and monetary dealing with others, even if they were not Muslims. Also, he should keep to his words, fulfill his promises, shun fraud and avoid deceit, and should not encroach upon the right of others [5-8]. He does not give false testimony, and abstains from making unlawful money. In fact, his life circle is restricted on the teachings of the Quran.

Allah s.w.t said:

"Oh ye who believe! eat not each other's - property, through un fear and dishonest means" (Q4:29). "Whoe to these that clean in fraud-those -who when they have to receive by measure -but when they want to give by measure or -Weight to men, give less than due. Do they not -think they will be called to account on the day of reckoning,- when (all) mankind will stand before the - Lord of the world" (Q:133:1-6) among -many other verses. Likewise, in the Holy Bible there are many verses that stated clearly that fraud is prohibited among them are:

"Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, -but judge your neighbor fairly" (Leviticus 19:15). "He that is faithful in what is least is faithful, also in much: and he who is -unjust in what is least is unjust also in much". "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the un righteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?".

"And if you have not been faithful in what is another Man's, who will give you what is your own?". "No servant can serve two masters for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and dispise the other. You cannot serve God and Mammom" (Luke 16:10-13).

"Even on their beds they plot evil, they commit themselves to a simple course and do not reject what is wrong" (San 36:4)

"You should not steal" (Exodus 20:15)

"A man also or woman that halt a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death They shall stone them, stones their blood (shall be) upon them" (Leviticus 20:27), among many other verses.

4.1 Justice According to the Quran and the Bible

Originally, the concept of justice in the two scriptures is a broad term that applied to the individual. Over time, religious thinkers thought to unity, political, legal & social justice which made justice a major interpretive theme as the exercise of reason and free will or the practice of judgment and responsibility [9-13]. Justice is something that one demands for oneself, more

importantly, it is something to be fulfilled for others, regardless of the cost to one self and one's own Community.

However, the following are some of the Qur'anic verses on justice:

"And do not eat up another's property unjustly (in any illegal way e.g. stealing ,robbing, deceiving e.t.c.) nor give -bribery to the rulers (justice before presenting your-cases) that you may knowing eat up a part of the-Property others sinfully" (Q2:188)

"Verily ! Allah commands that you should render back -the trust to those to whom they are due; and that when -you judge between men, and judge with justice. -verily! How excellent is the teaching which He (Allah) gives you! truly Allah is ever All-Hearer, All-Seer". (Q4:58)

"But no by your Lord, they can have no faith until they make you (O Muhammad) judge in all disputes between them, and find in themselves no resistance against your decision and accept (them) with full submission" (Q4:65).

"O you who have believed! be persistently standing firm in justice, witness for Allah, even though it be against yourselves or parents and relatives.

"Whether one is rich or poor, Allah is more worthy of both. So fallow not (personal) inclination ,lest you not be just. And if you distort {your testimony} or refuse [to give it], then indeed Allah is ever, with what you do, Acquainted." (Q4:135).

"And if you judge, judge with justice between them. Verily! Allah loves those who act justly" (Q5:45).

"And we ordained there in for them (the Jews): life for life, eye for eye, nose for nose, ear for ear, tooth for tooth and wands equal for equal. But if anyone remits the retaliation by way of charity, it shall be for him expiation. And whosoever does not judge by that which Allah has revealed, such are the wrong doers"(Q5:45).

"My Lord has commended justice" (Q7:29) amongst many other verses.

Besides, the following are some of the Biblical verses that talk about -Justice: "Do not pervert justice, do not show partiality to the poor or -

favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly"(Leviticus 19:15).

"Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may i.e. God is giving you" (Deuteronomy 16:20).

"The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power in his justice and great righteousness, he does not oppress" (Jacob 37:23). "The Lord lower righteousness, and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love" (Psalm 33:5).

"Blessed are they who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right"(Psalm 106:3).

"I know the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds-he cause of the needy"(Psalm 140:12).

"Wow to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their pray and robbing the fatherless"(Isaiah 10:1-2).

"For I, the lord, love justice: I hate robbery and inquiry. In my faithfulness I reward them and make an everlasting covenant with them" (Isaiah 61:8).

"This is what the Lord Almighty says: Administrative, justice; show mercy and compassion to one another" (Zechariah 7:9). "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord required of you? to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8), among many other verses.

4.2 Usury According to the Quran and Bible

This is the practice of making unethical or immoral monetary loans. According to the both scriptures taking Interest is a sin that incurs severe divine punishment. The punishment for usury is mentioned in the scriptures is for more severe than the punishment for other sin. The following are some of the Qur'anic verses that talked about it.

"O you who believed ! do not devour Usury making it double and redouble and be careful of (your duty to) Allah that you may be successful. And guard yourself against the fire that has been prepared for the fire that has been prepared for the believers"(Q3:130-131).

"Those who swallow down Usury cannot arise except as one whom Shytan has prostrated by

(his) touch does rise. That is because they say, trading is only like Usury, and Allah has allowed trading and forbidden Usury. To whomsoever then the admonition has come from his Lord then he desists he shall have what has already passed, and his affairs is in the hands of Allah. and whoever returns (to it) these are the inmates of the fire, they shall abide in it" (Q2:275).

"Allah does not bless usury and he causes charitable deeds to prosper, and Allah does not love any ungrateful sinner" (Q2:276).

"O you who believe! Be careful of (your duty to) Allah and relinquish what remains (due) from usury, if you are believers" (Q2:27).

"And their taking usury though indeed they were forbidden it and their devouring the property of people falsely, and we have prepared for the unbelievers from among them a painful chastisement" (Q4:161)

"And whatever you lay out as usury so that it may increase in the property of men it shall not increase with Allah, and whatever you give in charity, desiring Allah's pleasure-it is these(person's) that shall get manifold".(Q30:39). Among other relevant verses.

5. CONCLUSION

The four Gospel that is according to Mathew, Mark, Luke, John including the Bible cannot be considered identical with the inspired Gospel of Jesus. The manners of their composition and circumstances through which they have passed are such that they cannot be relied upon to give us exact knowledge of what Jesus (AS) had truly said and thought.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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The peer review history for this paper can be accessed here:
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