



GOSPEL DEFENCE LEAGUE

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Dear Friends,

About six months ago, on 13.10.2007, 138 Muslim scholars of various streams of Islam wrote a long open letter to Pope Benedict XVI, headed "A Common Word Between Us and You." 1) Their message was: *Make peace with us or the survival of the world will be at stake.* The letter was also sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury and other Christian leaders worldwide. It begins with the words: *"Muslims and Christians together make up well over half of the world's population. Without peace and justice between these two religious communities, there can be no meaningful peace in the world. The future of the world depends on peace between Muslims and Christians."*

Common Ground?

The scholars quote Mohammed who, in Sura 3:64 wrote: *"O people of the Scripture! Come to a common word between us and you: that we shall worship none but God, and that we shall ascribe no partner unto Him, and that none of us shall take others for lords beside God."* They explain at length that Christians and Muslims share the Great Commandment which, in the Old Testament, reads: *"Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God is one LORD; and you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might."* (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) And in the New Testament: *"And a lawyer asked him [Jesus] a question: 'Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?' And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.'"* (Matthew 22:34-40)

The scholars' letter closes with the words: *"With the terrible weaponry of the modern world; with Muslims and Christians intertwined everywhere as never before, no side can unilaterally win a conflict between more than half of the world's inhabitants. Thus our common future is at stake. The very survival of the world itself is perhaps at stake.... Our very eternal souls are all also at stake... Let us respect each other..."* The letter was a response to a lecture the Pope had given in Regensburg on 12 September 2006 in which, by way of a quote, he had said that Mohammed, the founder of Islam, had commanded his followers to spread Islam by the sword.

Many Christian leaders responded positively to this invitation to inter-faith dialogue. The Pope said he would receive some of the Muslim signatories. The president of Yale University, Prof Harold Attridge, gathered 450 theologians 2) who not only signed their approval but also pleaded the *'forgiveness of the all-merciful One and the Muslim community of the whole world'* for cruelties committed by Christians against Muslims during the Crusades and during the present *'war on terror'*. The World Council of Churches, a champion of multi-faith dialogue (which claims to represent over 560 million Christians), also gave its support to the *"Common Word"*. This includes all South African Churches which are affiliated to the SACC and WCC. The Archbishop of Canterbury (speaking for over 70 million Anglicans) and wanting to *"improve community relations,"* went so far as to call for the incorporation of Muslim *Sharia* law into the legislation of Great Britain. 3)

Da'wa – a call to Conversion to Islam

More discerning Christians, however, such as the *Barnabas Fund* which supports persecuted Christian in Muslim countries, understand the letter as a form of *Da'wa*, a call to conversion to Islam. Such a call has in the past often been associated with threats of *Jihad*. The Bible-based *International Christian Network (ICN)*, led by Professor Peter Beyerhaus, also put out a warning *"Explanation"*. When Muslim scholars advocate peace, the ICN said, they mean submission to Islam. The letter of the 138 specifically states that *"there is no god but God (Allah). He Alone, He hath no associate...And none of us shall take others for lords beside God."* Peace and love is thus subject to the Islamic godhead, to the acceptance of the Koran, and the introduction of *Sharia* as state law. Jesus Christ has no redeeming role in this kind of peace, and when the Bible says: *"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him,"* this conflicts with Islamic principles. Christians, however, are sure that *"in this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."* (1 John 4:10-11). In other words, LOVE for both God and Man is bound up in Jesus Christ.

Apologies for the Crusades?

Mohammed was born in Mecca in AD 570. He established the six pillars of Islam, which are: the confession of faith, the five daily prayers, the keeping of the fast, the giving of alms, the pilgrimage to Mecca, and holy war (*Jihad*). In the 160 years after Mohammed Muslim Arabs conquered Syria, Palestine, Egypt, and North Africa, in fact the entire Christian region which had brought forth such great Church Fathers as Augustine of Hippo, Origen and Clement of Alexandria, Cyprian and Tertullian of Carthage, Paul of Tarsus, Polycarp of Smyrna, and Chrysostom of Constantinople, and which had hosted the great Councils of Nicaea, Constantinople, Ephesus, and Chalcedon which had so wonderfully clarified and established Biblical doctrine. Between the 7th and the 10th centuries *Jihad* wiped out more than half of the church worldwide. 4) The Arab Muslims (Moors) swept right through Christian Spain, until in AD 732 at Tours in France they were beaten by Charles Martel. During the *Jihad* of the first century of Islam, 3,200 churches were destroyed or converted into mosques. Christians were killed and enslaved. Those who survived were subjected to the “*Pact of Umar*”. They had to promise: “*We shall not build in our cities or in their vicinities any new monasteries, churches... we shall not restore, by night or by day, any of them that have fallen into ruin... We shall not hold public religious ceremonies. We shall not seek to proselytize anyone... We shall not display our crosses or books...*” If they disobeyed the punishment was simple: “*Anyone who violates such terms... it is permissible to kill them.*” 5)

In 1009, the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and then over 10 000 other Christian worship places were destroyed. A few decades later, Constantinople was attacked by the Muslim Turks. The East Roman Emperor appealed to the Pope to help them, and in response, the first Crusade was launched in AD 1097 to offer relief to the suffering Christians of the Middle East.

Muslim wars against Christianity have been going on for 1400 years. The Koran promises great rewards to any who shed their blood or give their lives in *Jihad*. In 1453 the Turks destroyed Constantinople, the centre of Byzantine Christian civilization, and the seat of the Greek Orthodox Church, killing defenceless worshippers in the huge Hagia Sophia Church. The Turks swept across the Balkans and, in 1683, besieged Vienna in the heart of Christian Europe. Even in the 19th century, Assyrian, Lebanese, Bulgarian and other Christians suffered genocide. In the early 20th century, 1.5 Million Christian Armenians were wiped out by Muslim Turks. Christians are still being persecuted, and in some countries, e.g. the Sudan, the age old Muslim slave trade continues to this day. 6)

Don't Sell Christendom out to Islam!

No doubt the majority of modern Muslims want to live in peace just as we do, but there is nevertheless a weight of historical evidence against peaceful Islam. Christians who apologise for past injustices done by their forefathers, seldom think of their slain, martyred and enslaved brethren. Today, Muslims are free to build mosques and chant their religion in any Christian nation in the world, while Christians in Muslim countries are still being persecuted.

Though we all want peace in this world, though it is only right and proper that we respect one another, we cannot accept Islamic *Sharia* law. When Christian leaders and international church bodies encourage their members to seek *common* ground and *common words* with a hostile alien religion, it is actually a shameful thing. For our God is a “*jealous God.*” Syncretism is an abomination to Him. In fact, the Bible calls it whoredom. Every Christian who continues in membership with such ‘*christian*’ leaders or bodies is a spiritual traitor, for by his affiliation he legitimates the Islamisation of Christendom. The true Church of our Lord Jesus Christ needs to wake up and renounce its false leaders. It needs to separate itself from world councils and alliances which engage in multi-faith dialogue and thus destroy our Christian heritage. For God has said: “*Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.*” (2 Corinthians 6:17-18)

May God bless you richly,
D. Scarborough.

Footnotes:

1. The document was issued by the *Royal Aal at Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought* in Jordan. Its Chairman is the Jordanian Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad bin Talat. It can be found on God Voter.org, “A Common Word” from Muslims, or www.acommonword.org, or www.acommonword.com.
2. Published in the New York Times. The list of signatories is still growing.
3. Telegraph.co.uk, Adopt sharia law in Britain, says the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams.
4. P Hammond. Slavery, Terrorism & Islam, Christian Liberty Books, PO Box 358, Howard Place 7450, Tel/Fax 0027-21-689-7478; e-mail: admin@christianlibertybooks.co.za; p. 25
5. Ibid. pp. 70-71
6. The slave trade is particularly evident in the Sudan, where the Swiss organisation *Christian Solidarity International* regularly redeems slaves with money given by Christians from all over Europe.

THE CHALLENGE OF ISLAM

From “Slavery, Terrorism and Islam”, by Peter Hammond (ch. 9 & 10)

The **Bible** is **66 books** written by 40 different prophets and apostles. In **3 languages** (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek) on **3 continents** (Africa, Asia and Europe), over **1500 years**.

The **Koran** is one book, written by one author, in one language, in one geographical area, over 23 years. Even the Koran acknowledges that **Jesus Christ** was miraculously **born of a virgin**, was **holy** and **faultless**, **performed miracles**, **healed the sick** and **raised the dead**.

The authenticity of the Bible as God’s revealed Word is attested to by **many witnesses**, by **miracles** such as the parting of the Red Sea, the fire that came down on Mount Carmel, our Lord feeding thousands with a handful of food, walking on the water, calming the storm, raising Lazarus from the grave and countless other events. The Bible contains hundreds of detailed **prophecies**. Our Lord Jesus fulfilled 300 Old Testament prophecies in his life on earth. The Messiah was to be: born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14), in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), a descendant of David (Isaiah 9:7), 483 years after the decree to build Jerusalem (Daniel 9:24-26). He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12-13), by a friend (Psalm 41:9), His hands and feet pierced – crucified – (Psalm 22:16). His robe gambled for (Psalm 22:18). He would be buried with the rich (Isaiah 53:9). Yet He would rise from the dead (Psalm 16:10) and ascend to Heaven (Psalm 68:18). Unlike the Koran, the Bible is convincingly attested to by countless miracles and detailed prophecies.

There is no provision for **forgiveness** in the Koran, no **atonement** for sins (Leviticus 17:11).

Jesus Christ is the **Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world. In **the blood of Christ** we have full atonement for sin.

POINTS OF AGREEMENT AND CONTRADICTION

Christians and Muslim Agree that:

- God created the world and all that is in it, as well as Heaven and hell.
- God is all-powerful. He knows everything and He is everywhere – all the time.
- God revealed His will to mankind through certain prophets.
- God has given us laws which should govern our lives and prevent us from doing wrong.
- God will judge all people. Some will be permitted to go to Heaven, while all others are doomed to hell.
- Muslims also are allies of Christians in opposing evolution, atheism, pornography, gambling and abortion.

But Islam Contradicts the Bible by Saying that:

- Jesus was **no** more than a prophet. He was not the Son of God. (Sura 5:78)
- Jesus was a good man, but was certainly **not** divine. (S. 5:19)
- God is **not** a Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). (S. 4:171; 5:75-78; 119)
- Jesus did **not** die on the cross for sinners. (S. 4:157)
- There is **no** atonement or reconciliation of the sinner to God by means of the sacrifice of Jesus or any other substitutionary sacrifice. (S. 22:36&37)

HISTORICAL ERRORS IN THE KORAN

Much of the Koran is made up of Bible stories. However, they are often distorted and misunderstood. For example:

- **Adam** and **Eve** sinned, not in an earthly garden, but in paradise. They were cast down to earth after they sinned. (S. 7:19-25)
- **Noah** had only one son – and he drowned in the flood. (S. 11:42-43) (cf. Genesis 6 & 7)
- **The father of Abraham** in the Koran, was Azar. (S. 6:74) (cf. Exodus 1:5-10)
- **Moses** in the Koran, was adopted by Pharaoh’s wife. (S. 28:7-9) (cf. Exodus 1:5-10)
- Although the Koran recites **Moses’** confrontation with Pharaoh 27 times, not once does it include the integral part of the story. The Passover is omitted!
- The Koran teaches that **Mary** the mother of our Lord Jesus, was the sister of Aaron and the daughter of Imran who lived 1500 years before (S. 19:16-28)!

FAITH AND PRACTICE OF ISLAM

The Five Fundamentals

Muslims must believe in:

1. **One God, Allah**
2. The existence of angels
3. All revealed **Books**. These are named to be:
 - The *Taurat* (the 5 books of Moses or perhaps the whole of the Old Testament)
 - The *Zabur* (the Psalms of David)
 - The *Injil* (the Gospel or the New Testament)
 - The *Koran*
4. **The Prophets** sent by God. Muslims believe that 124 000 have been sent to all nations, but only a few are mentioned by name. Among these are: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Jesus and Muhammad.
5. **Life after Death** which includes a fatalistic **Predestination** and the coming Last Day of Judgement which will determine whether a Muslim reaches Paradise or hell.

The Six Pillars of Islam

1. The open **confession** of faith (*Shahāda*)
2. The five daily **prayers** (*Salat*)
3. The keeping of the **fast** during the full month of Ramadan (*Sawn*)
But Muslims are allowed to eat and drink from sunset to sunrise.
4. The giving of **alms** (*Zakāt*)
5. The **Pilgrimage** to Mecca at least once in a lifetime, provided one has the means for that (*Hajj*)
6. Holy War (*Jihad*).

What the Koran teaches about Jesus:

- He was born of a virgin (S. 19:20)
- He was holy and faultless (S. 19:19)
- He is the Messiah (S. 4:171)
- He is the Word of God (S. 4:171)
- He is a spirit from God (S. 4:171)
- He created life (S. 5:113)
- He healed the sick (S. 5:113)
- He raised the dead (S. 5:113)
- He came with clear signs (S. 43:63)
- He is a sign to all mankind (S. 19:21; 21:91)
- He is illustrious in this world and the hereafter (S. 3:45)
- He was raised to heaven (where he still is) (S. 4:158)
- He will come back for judgement (S. 43:61)

THE KORAN VERSUS THE BIBLE

Koran	Bible
1 book	66 books
1 author	40 writers
1 language	3 languages
1 country	3 continents
Over 23 years	over 1500 years
No prophecies	Prophecies
No miracles	Miracles
A grave in Medina	An empty tomb in Jerusalem
No atonement	Full atonement
Hatred for enemies	Love for enemies
Slavery	Liberty

Jesus Christ says: (John 14:6)

“I am the way, and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.”