

Second List From Thomas Mathai

My dear and loving brother:

I really appreciate your brotherly tolerance. I am 74 years old right now. While I was a young person I joined a law course in Bombay University when I had to study about Islamic law. I have gone through the Qur'an and also the different and opposing comments of scholars from Shia and Sunni sects. I have gone through the details of the private and public life of your Prophet Mohammad written by Islamic scholars.

There are many passages in the Qur'an which completely stand against the teachings of Lord Jesus Christ. The Qur'an states special supernatural actions of Lord Jesus Christ. He is called as *Kallimullah* (Word of God) and *Ruhalla* (Spirit of God). The Bible and other historical evidences are there showing Lord Jesus Christ was crucified and died and buried. On the 3rd day He was resurrected and then He spent 40 days with His disciples and then went to heaven.

Acts 1:11 (Engil)- Jesus Ascends to Heaven:

(9) Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Many of Islamic scholars say that after the death of Prophet Mohammad (after 50 years), Osman the 3rd caliph codified the present Qur'an after putting many manuscripts of Original

Qur'an into fire. He was killed for the same by Islamic followers. I know one real fact that the present teachings of Qur'an are not from Almighty God and that is why they completely failed to bring spiritual transformation to Islamic followers who have become the most backward people in the world.

You should know of one mystery. Why have the Israeli scientists received 80% of total Nobel Prizes so far and they have become the 4th major power in the technological field? If you go through the Islamic nations, it is full of disorder and confusion. For example if you closely study the history of Pakistan, it is fully pathetic and harrowing. Three time Prime Minister, Mr. Nawas Sherif is taking rest in the prison. The earlier General Parvish Musharaff cannot come to his native place.

There is not any rule of law in any of the Islamic countries, where minorities are treated with contempt.

However I sincerely pray for the spiritual and material upliftment of Islamic nations. The refugees from these nations prefer to migrate into Christian countries. The Christians and Jewish people are the most educated and advanced people in the world who really control the whole world right now.

There are some basic lapses in the Islamic nations and their people. The Qur'anic teachings could not save their cadres with spiritual and material growth.

Please clarify the above points. I have great hope that Lord Jesus Christ will appear very soon to establish a Kingdom with peace, joy, equality, fraternity and justice whose headquarters

will be Jerusalem. Hallelujah Amen.

With respect and love towards all people in the world,

Dr Thomas Matha

Dear Pastor Thomas Matha,

Thank you for your kind message.

The original list of questions you had posted gave me an overall impression that whoever had prepared those questions either did not know any Arabic or he/she had not read the Qur'an with commentary, or both.

Therefore, I decided to address the list in my postings at the rate of one set of questions per day.

I am pleased that you have responded, but I also see that you have now posed a completely new set of issues.

My idea was to address your questions from an academic point of view instead of harping on faith and belief. In my postings, I referred to already published material in the English language for your perusal.

Now that you have posed new questions, let me address those first.

Here is a list of your new questions:

1. There are many passages in the Qur'an which completely stand against the teachings of Lord Jesus Christ. The Qur'an states special supernatural actions of Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Many of Islamic scholars say that after the death of Prophet Mohammad (after 50 years) Osman the 3rd caliph codified the present Qur'an after putting many manuscripts of Original Qur'an into fire. He was killed for the same by Islamic followers.
3. I know one real fact that the present teachings of Qur'an are not from Almighty God and that is why they completely failed to bring spiritual transformation to Islamic followers who have become the most backward people in the world.
4. You should know of one mystery. Why have the Israeli scientists received 80% of total Nobel Prizes so far, and they have become the 4th major power in the technological field? If you go through the Islamic nations, it is full of disorder and confusion. For example if you closely study the history of Pakistan, it is fully pathetic and harrowing. Three time Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif is taking rest in the prison. The earlier General Parvish Musharaff cannot come to his native place.
5. There is not any rule of law in any of the Islamic countries where minorities are treated with contempt.

Here are my answers. Although I hope and I know that you may bring additional points after reading my responses, which I will gladly address.

There was an intense and long debate in the earliest days of Islam with Christian scholars and the holy Qur'an had responded to the questions with logical reasons.

But before that, the very first encounter of Muslims with Christians took place when 83 of the early Muslims had to leave the city of Makkah trying to escape persecution at the hands of the infidels of Makkah. That delegation was headed by Jafar, a first cousin of the Prophet of Islam. They arrived at the court of the King Negus of Abyssinia and asked for asylum. The King, who was a practicing Christian welcomed them with open arms and gave them full protection. His own people accused the King of having accepted Islam. When the King denied that claim, his people asked him to bring the leader of the Muslim group, Jafar, and confront him about the Qur'anic ideas of Jesus Christ and the virgin Mary. That was done, when Jafar was asked to do that, he recited verses from Sura Maryam, Chapter 19 of the Qur'an.

Then there is the story of Warqa ibn Nawfal, the cousin of lady Khadija, who was a Christian and he had lived in Makkah. I ask you, Pastor Matha, to read Sura 19 in the Qur'an again and tell me what is against Jesus Christ or his teachings in it.

The final chapter of Christian-Muslim encounter comes in the ninth year of Hijra in the city of Madinah, when the Prophet has established a self-contained Islamic state in Madinah. A delegation of senior Christian leaders from Najran (south Arabia) visits him and challenges the Qur'anic concept of Jesus and Mary and the virgin birth. That episode is mainly chronicled in Sura Nisa, Chapter 4, of the holy Qur'an.

In that text, the Qur'an negates the Christian concept of godhood for Jesus Christ and explains with logical reasons that Jesus was a human being, a creation of Allah, so was Mary. A virgin birth does not prove that Jesus was the son of god or he had any godhood in his being.

Geoffrey Parrinder, a Christian scholar, had written a book. Here are details of that book:

- Jesus in the Qur'an by Geoffrey Parrinder
- Paperback: 190 pages
- Publisher: Oneworld Publications (March 30, 1995)
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 1851680942
- ISBN-13: 978-1851680948

I suggest you read that book, if you have not done so already.

As far as the teachings of Jesus are concerned, most of the Bible is actually a Jewish Bible and it contains events and statements relating to times before Jesus, mostly those of previous prophets and mainly of Moses.

Anything related to Jesus is contained only in the four books of the New Testament, which was authored not by Jesus, it was not even dictated by Jesus, but it was authored by people who had lived after Jesus.

Actually, there is a book with the following details: Who Wrote the Bible? New Edition by Richard Elliott Friedman published by HarperCollins (USA) (1997)

Which actually has put questions about the authorship of the various books of the Bible.

There is no question about the charitable work done by both Christian individuals as well as by Christian organizations all around the world. Who can forget Mother Teresa?

Given all that, I must emphasize that both Christians and Jews have been declared as People of the Book, by the Qur'an and they have always been given special respect by Muslims both at individual as well as institutional level. Except for the ideological debate with the early Christians, as I mentioned above, there was no conflict with Christians in the Islamic movement.

The Prophet and the Muslims had to defend themselves against the armed onslaught and conspiracies perpetrated by the Jewish tribes living around Madinah.

Many Islamic dietary laws are the same as those stated in the Bible.

The most basic factor among the three revealed religions is the concept of a One god, Allah, even though they address Him with separate names.

My own impression of Christianity is a reflection of what Pope John Paul II had to say about Islam and Muslims in his book: *Crossing the Threshold of Hope* –

“Nevertheless, the religiosity of Muslims deserves respect. It is impossible not to admire, for example, their fidelity to prayer. The image of believers in Allah who, without caring about time or place, fall to their knees and immerse themselves in prayer remains a model for all those who invoke the true God, in particular for those Christians who, having deserted their magnificent cathedrals, pray only a little or not at all.”

I appreciate and admire the Christians for their otherworldly feelings and behavior in their Charitable work for humanity all over the world, and their deep faith in what they believe about Jesus Christ.

The differences are actually in certain laws. That we will discuss in a future post, *insha'Allah*.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Syed-Mohsin Naquvi

Loving Bro,

You are one of the few Islamic followers who really responded with love and respect for others. I, in the past, advised all Muslims to join hands with Christians and Jews to eradicate poverty from suffering and also impart excellent education which shall narrow down our differences.

God bless you, my loving Brother. I have been settled in Bombay for the last 52 years. My maid servant is a Muslim lady whom we treat as our daughter. I used to help including Muslims and others- that is what was commanded by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God bless you all. Please keep in touch with me. In 2012, I visited Lahore and spent a few days. While I was working in Saudi Arabia during 1981, many Pakistani bros worked under me and treated them very well. They used to love me from the bottom of their hearts. I lost their personal contacts and I could not meet any of them in Lahore.

With love and respect,

Dr Thomas Mathai

Dear Pastor Thomas Mathai,

Thank you for your message dated July 18, 2018.

It appears from your recent message that you wish to close this discussion.

That is fine with me. However, I would like to complete my response to your message.

Your second question is as follows:

“Many of Islamic scholars say that after the death of Prophet Mohammad (after 50 years) Osman the 3rd caliph codified the present Qur'an after putting many manuscripts of Original Qur'an into fire. He was killed for the same by Islamic followers.”

Actually these are two questions:

What is the history of the collection of the Qur'an?, and Why was the third *khalifa*, Usman, killed?

It is the firm belief of all the 1.6 billion Muslims in the world that the Prophet of Islam had received the various passages of the Qur'an from Allah the Almighty, via Archangel Jibreel over a period of 23 years. He decided as to which passage will go in which chapter (sura).

He trained nearly 500 of his Companions to memorize various passages of the Qur'an and he would ask them to recite those passages repeatedly and confirm that their readings were perfect. These people were known as the qurra.

Since writing had not developed fully until those days, that is how the Prophet guaranteed that the text of the Qur'an would be carried forward in its correct and accurate form.

It is true that the actual writing of the Qur'anic text extensively took shape gradually.

However, the book was complete in the lifetime of the Prophet. There are a number of *hadith* reports which confirm the completion of the text of the Qur'an.

There arose a group of Muslims (mainly scholars) who wanted to include some of the *sahaba* (the Companions) in the work of the collection of the Qur'an, so they propagated the idea that such and such *sahabi* was instrumental in putting together the Qur'an in one book.

However, it is well recorded and well accepted that it was entirely the work of the Prophet himself to collect the Qur'an.

Academically, it has been documented in the book listed below:

Collection of the Qur'an:

- By: John Burton
- Paperback: 284 pages
- Publisher: Cambridge University Press (November 30, 1979)
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 0521296528
- ISBN-13: 978-0521296526

The well-known Sunni scholar of the Qur'an, Mawlana Abul Aala Mawdoodi, also subscribes to this idea.

As for the fact that Khalifa Usman was killed for this reason or that reason, it is mere speculation or just ignorance from historical facts.

Usman's murder was committed due to the mismanagement of affairs in the government. Usman had decided to appoint many of his own relatives (people belonging to his own tribe, Banu Umayya) in responsible and high positions of government who oppressed the public and looted the treasury, as well as not listening to the cries for help from the oppressed public, that had caused his lynching by an angry mob.

Those events have been documented in modern times by the Egyptian scholar Taha Husain, in his book: *Al-Fitnat-Ul-Kubra*.

This book was written in Arabic but it has since been translated into many languages, including Urdu.

In the English language the best book on the topic is:

- Succession To Muhammad
- By: Wilfred Madelung
- Paperback: 432 pages
- Publisher: Cambridge University Press (November 28, 1998)
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 0521646960
- ISBN-13: 978-0521646963

In your third question, you have said, “I know one real fact that the present teachings of Qur'an are not from Almighty God and that is why they completely failed to bring spiritual transformation to Islamic followers who have become the most backward people in the world.”

It is true that the doings of groups such as DAESH and ISIS are not what the holy Qur'an has said.

Modern politics has forced some people to act irrationally and interpret certain Qur'anic verses in the wrong way, to suit their corrupt and violent practices. That is definitely not what the Qur'an teaches. I cannot blame any external agency for that behaviour. People are responsible for their own behaviour.

But, if you look around, you will see how people over the centuries have mis-interpreted the best philosophies to suit their own purpose.

Once again, we cannot really blame the Qur'an for people's corrupted ways to re-interpret certain Qur'anic verses for their own illegal and unwarranted, personal and selfish motives.

Your last point is about Muslims being backwards as compared to other communities.

There are various reasons for that.

The prime reason for that is politics. Muslims have gone through nearly five hundred years of colonialism. During that period, western powers have worked relentlessly to subdue Muslim countries by force of arms and political maneuvering.

For 800 years Muslims ruled nearly one half of the world. They had progressed in science, technology and philosophical thinking enormously. Even the works of Newton and other scientists owe their progress to the works done by Muslims.

It was not until Islam came to Spain and an Islamic state was established there, and the Europeans saw how balanced and prosperous the Muslim society was, that they realized that they had to stop that westward progress of Islam.

Crusades began and the relentless destruction of the Islamic state began. That work is still continuing. European sciences and education system was imposed on Islamic societies. Muslim countries were conquered by stealth and by force of superior arms. That process lasted centuries. Social scientists have argued that such processes go in cycles. As we saw the enormous rise in intellectual successes in the Islamic world during the period when Europe was sunk in the dark ages, now we see that process being reversed. It may take centuries, or thousands of years, but the reverse will happen. The main thing is that Islam is spreading across the world slowly but steadily. Islamic governments may not revive themselves in any size or form as they existed in the past, but Muslim individuals will progress *insha'Allah*. The Nobel Prize is just one phenomenon emerging from that process.

Thank you for your kind words.

I agree that in this world of turmoil, all sensible people, including Muslim, Christians and all others, should join hands to spread education and work to eradicate poverty and hunger.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Syed-Mohsin Naquvi

P.S. We are settled in New Jersey, USA



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