

JESUS THE MAN

By: BAR BARA THIERING

What can be known about Jesus the man? The peshar of the gospels gives every detail of the events in which he was involved; but what does it say about him?

In some ways, he is still a mystery. Enigma lies at the heart of the gospel form. It conceals and reveals, yet what is revealed, concerning individuals, always has deeper layers. The personality of Jesus is seen only obliquely, in what he did or did not do, in the motifs of the carefully crafted stories. But the way the reader understands him is still a matter for interpretation. As there always has been, there will be personal projection onto an identification with the one who for so long has been the human for humankind. He may still, in Albert Schweitzer' words, "pass us by, as stranger and enigma to our times"¹. What now, at least, we can see him in his own setting, the rest of our picture of him comes from each person's perspective.

He may perhaps have been small of stature: Mary Magdalene said, to the man she thought was the gardener: "Have you carried him away? Tell me where you have laid him and I will lift him up"². He would normally have had the long hair and beard of a Nazirite, a Jew who had taken an ascetic vow; for Essenes it also indicated a celibate state. But during times when he fulfilled the rules of the dynastic order, he would have shaved his beard and cut his hair short.

The position he was in was his by birth, not because there was anything extraordinary about his nature. Deemed to be heir to the throne of David, he was at the center of an evangelizing movement which attributed charisma to its leaders for the sake of winning the awe and respect of followers. Priests, levites and kings were regularly thought of

languages certainly created the problem of authenticity. Compromises and adjustments were made in the Canon – the ecclesiastic text. Bible had always remained vulnerable. The human element in writing it is considerable. It has been written arbitrarily over a period of time adding texts in pieces and bits.

Therefore a distinguished French doctor and scholar Maurice Bucaille writer- "It is not difficult to understand why from version to version, and from translation to translation, with all the corrections inevitably resulting, it was impossible for the original text to have been transformed during the course of more than 3300 years."

علوم القرآن نمبر

خصوصی شمارہ

ششماہی علوم اسلامیہ انٹرنیشنل

(اُردو، عربی، انگریزی، سندھی)

شائع کرنے کا پروگرام ہے اہل علم حضرات کو قرآنیات کے حوالہ سے

کسی بھی پہلو پر مقالہ تحریر کرنے کی دعوت دی جا رہی ہے۔

مقالات اُردو، عربی، انگریزی اور سندھی میں اصول تحقیق

کی روشنی میں تحریر کیے جاسکتے ہیں۔

1. 1000 years after Moses, Book of ECCLESIASTES was added.
2. 1100 years after Moses, Books of CHRONICLES, EZRA and NAHEMIAH were added.
3. 1300 years after Prophet Moses came Prophet Jesus.
4. During 40 A.D. to 100 A.D. hundreds of Gospel appeared.
5. 150 A.D. 23 Books of Paul and of other writers appeared though Paul and those others were not prophets yet their writings are included in the Bible.
6. 325 A.D. only 4 Gospels out of many were retained by King Constantinople (now Istanbul)
7. 700 A.D. This time a Latin version appeared called the VOLGATE version. (By now YAHVISTIC, ELOHISTIC, SECER-DOTAL and VOLGATE versions had appeared).
8. 1605 A.D. Pope Clement VIII accepted the VOLGATE version.
9. 1870 A.D. Vatican Council again revised the Bible.
10. 1962 A.D. second Vatican Council again revised it.
11. 1978 A.D. Some hundred scholars from world over took the task to scrutinize and revise the Bible text and called it - Holy Bible- New International Version.
12. 1983 A.D. Before the ink was dry, it was again revised.
13. Thus there were a number Bible text YAHVISTIC, ELOHISTIC, SECER-DOTAL and VOLGATE versions. Because they were multilingual and complicated, therefore their authenticity was questionable, Hebrew, Arabic, Latin, Syriac, Greek and even Arabic versions were in use. The fusion of all these texts and

1. 2000 years ago the absolute original Gospel must have been in Aramic language which was also sister language of Arabic. But it was reduced to writing some seventy to hundred years after Jesus.
2. 200 years after Moses the Torah was first composed. In it were included the Ten Commandments, Songs, some prophetic sayings of Prophet Jacob and Moses and some legislative religious text.
3. Then Royal Jewish writers kept on adding.
4. 300 years after Moses, YAHVISTIC version of Bible appeared.
5. 350 years after Moses ELOHISTIC version of Bible appeared.
6. 500 years after Moses the Books of Amos, Hosea Michah and Deuteronomy were added to YAHVISTIC version of Bible (Torah)
7. 580 years after Moses a SECER-DOTAL version also appeared. Now there were three parallel versions.
8. 700 years after Moses – amalgamation of YAHVISTIC, ELOHISTIC and SECER-DOTAL versions took place.
9. 725 years after Moses, Book of LAMENTATIONS was added.
10. 750 years after Moses, Books of ZEPHANIAH, NAHUM, HAGGI, ZECHARIA, ISAIAH, MALACHI and DANIEL were added.
11. 820 years after Moses, Book of PROVERBS was added.
12. 850 years after Moses, Book of JOB was added.
13. 1000 years after Moses, Jewish scholars of Alexandria decided to rewrite the text of Torah out of existing various texts in one language Greek. Seventy scholars rewrote it therefore this version is known in history as SEPTUAGINT.

And Atonement", "Jesus died for your sins", Redemption", "Resurrecton", and "Bread as Jesus's Flesh and Wine as his Blood", "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of GOD is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord", "Death through Adam, life through Christ", "Righteousness through faith", "Dead to sin, alive in Christ", "Life through the spirit", and "one body, many parts" etc. etc. All these notions have come in Christianity either through ignorance or through the over enthusiasm in the praise of Jesus – however much misplaced they may be.

CHRISTIAN SALVATION

Christian believe in achieving salvation (i.e. a place in Heaven) by having faith in the person of Jesus. To them he is the begotten son of GOD. To them Jesus is GOD incarnated in human flesh and he is supposed to have secured all powers from One True GOD. To them Jesus is their LORD and they believe that by surrendering to the deity of Jesus Christ they would achieve salvation. May we ask Paul – the inventor of this belief that – is this belief right? By just believing in Jesus a criminal gets a free life on the earth and an assured redemption and forgiveness in the life hereafter. Simple thing. What an easy bargain! Only if it was true. But which Church, pastor or priest would like to lose his sheep? Christian themselves have a reputation of being impervious to religious truths because that is how they are programmed right from the childhood.

HISTORY OF BIBLE WRITINGS

Bible has been written and re-written several times over a period of centuries.

1. 3300 years ago the absolute Original Torah must have been in Hebrew language which is a sister language of Arabic. But it was reduced to writing some 200 years after Moses.

to Issac, to Jacob, to Joseph, to Job, to Moses, to Aron, to Saul, to Ezekiel, to David, to Solomon, to Esaiah, to Elisha, to Jonah, to Zakariah, to John the Baptist and finally ending up with the account of ' Isa. (Peace be upon him).

The historicity of all the messengers of GOD who are mentioned in the Bible is beyond question but it is the manner in which their accounts and their teachings are narrated by human writers that are questionable. They are full of errors, contradictions, improbabilities and incompatibilities when they are measured with the yardstick of modern scientific knowledge. With every successive edition of Bible, the Bible continues to be revised and distorted. A lot of human element has gone in the Bible composition.

WHAT IS NOT WRITTEN IN THE BIBLE

Bible, unlike Qur'aan does not throw any reflection on the various phenomenon of nature. Bible does not deal with the subjects like astronomy, astro-physics, embryology, human reproduction, animal and vegetable kingdoms, geology, metereology, formation of heavens and the earth and also about the creation of the universe and nature at large. Unlike the Qur'aan, Bible is limited in scope and in the number of subjects that are mentioned in it.

BIBLE CONTRADICTS ITSELF

It is strange that the Bible contradicts itself. Bible commences with the first Book of Genesis. It is the first of the 66 Books of Bible. It deals with the creation of the universe by One and the only One Almighty GOD who is Omni-present, Omni-potent and Omni-scient. Regretfully, Bible ends up with

the Books of Paul and of others which give the concepts like "Trinity". "The son of god" and "The begotten son" etc. the Bible commences with ONE GOD and ends up with three gods. The Father, the son, and the Holy Ghost. Other confusing, illogical, mysterious and false theories are "Original Sin", "Three in One and One in Three", "God made Flesh", "Sin

been cheated for the past 2000 years through false preaching, false notions, false ideas, false practices and false beliefs. It is unfortunate for them that they have been losers in their religion.

What is a Bible

Bible is a religious book of both the Jews and the Christians. Muslims also believe in Moses and Jesus (Peace Be Upon Them). Muslims also believe in the Message of "Original Torah" and "Original Gospel". But since "Original Torah" and "Original Gospel" have been lost by both Jews and the Christians, Muslims do not accept the existing version of Torah and Gospels as the word of GOD.

The present day Bible is composed of 66 Books. Some are as lengthy as 75 printed pages while others are as short as one page or even less.

These 66 books are divided into two parts. First Part consists of 39 Books and is called "The Old testament". The Second Part consists of 27 Books and is called "The New Testament".

Though as a whole the Bible consists of 66 Books, but the Jews primarily concern themselves with the very first 5 Books of the Old Testament. On the other hand the Christians primarily concern themselves with all the 27 Books of the New Testament. Out of these 27 Books, the first 4 are called the Gospels. (The Gospel of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). The remaining 23 Books were written by Paul and others.

The original Torah must have been written in Hebrew language. Later day editions were in Latin, Greek and English. Today once again the first 5 books of the Testament One, called the Torah are written in Hebrew language.

The original Gospel must have been in Aramic language. Later day editions were in Latin and Greek and English languages. Today Bible is available in thousands of languages.

WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE BIBLE

The biblical account of Jewish religion and a later jay account of Christian religion are narrated in the Bible. Historical account is given right from the beginning of the universe from Adam, to Noah, to Abraham, to Lut, to Ismail,

For almost 2000 years Bible has remained unquestionable as it was unquestionable for Christians to question the Bible. But today little by little and bit by bit the truth is coming out.

Today Christian scholars themselves are feeling embarrassed at certain passages of Bible which are totally incomprehensible and contradictory. In the Books of Bible there are also cases of incest and adultery vividly described.

But today, modern science has come of age. All theories, religious philosophies and ideas can now be verified on the touchstone of scientific experiments and modern knowledge.

The ideas and theories of Bible are therefore put to undergo these scientific tests. The results arrived at are very clear cut indeed, there are grave scientific errors in the Bible. It is because Bible had been composed, edited and written by several human authors at different times in history. It had been composed and recomposed several times. There are about 5300 versions of Bible and all are on display in London museum.

Since different authors have composed these Bibles therefore they differ in details. There are errors also. These errors are of humans and not of GOD. They are due to their belief and due to their own individual interpretations. After all how could GOD make an erroneous statement-saying one thing here and yet another thing at some other place. Holy Qur'aan in Surah Maaidah at 5:14 says "...but they forget a good part of the message that was sent to them."

Declaration of Second Vatican Council - 1965

Maurice Bucaille says that the second Vatican Council in 1965 declared disappointedly that the Bible- "contains material which is imperfect and obsolete." Today's Christians are therefore shocked and disappointed by these discoveries regarding their centuries old faith and their religious Book. The fact is that there is nothing new about the existence of these scientific errors in the Bible. They reveal themselves in the end. Facts always assert their existences in the end. Today, these discoveries are an eye opener to all Christians.

Christians today feel despaired and disappointed when these facts are brought to their notice. They realize that they have

HISTORY OF BIBLE

Abdul Waheed Khan

Every day the world is getting smaller and smaller. People of one continent are moving into other continents and hence there is an intermix of cultures and religions. It therefore necessary that people of one culture and religion should know and understand others culture and religion as well. Here, in this booklet an attempt has been made to lay down the salient points regarding Christianity. In this booklet wherever a name of any Messenger of GOD is mentioned, the reader is requested to add – “Peace be upon him”.

CHRISTIANS VIEW – ABOUT BIBLE

Christians hold the view that the “Books of Bible” are the works of Divine Inspiration. Christians acknowledge that though GOD did not write down these books of Bible but He had got them written by Jesus’s disciples and other men about the things GOD wanted Christians to know. In other words it means to Christians that the “Books of Bible” were divinely inspired but were reduced to writing by human authors. These human authors wrote them some 40 to 100 years later at different places, all according to their own interpretation. understanding them is therefore incorporated in them. Scholars say that Jesus did not say some 80% of the words that are written in the Gospels.

Since human element is incorporated in the Books of Bible therefore there are contradictions here and there when comparisons are made between the four Gospels while they narrate the same event. On this subject Holy Qur’aan in Surah Baqarah at 2 : 59 says – “But those who were unjust changed the Bible for a saying other than that which had been spoken to them.”

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