

Christianity

Christianity has been one of the major religions in the world, practised all over the world, and in all the six continents. Its contribution to theology, philosophy, and other social sciences has been significant. The architecture it inspired in building the churches has resulted in creating monumental works. There have been two major divisions within this religion, one being Roman Catholic and other Protestant movement. In addition, there have been many denominations of each of these divisions, some region specific and some based on minor differences. Since the religion was started with Jesus Christ, it is necessary to know the essential teachings, and the philosophy and ideals for which he lived. The information about the birth, parentage, life and preaching, and ultimate crucifixion of Jesus Christ is generally known. It is important to know the factors that led to making Christianity a universal religion and the special qualities that made it universally acceptable.

A very uncommon common man: Many great teachers were born in the upper strata of the society whose parents or guardians possessed property, and could give early education to their children. Jesus was not born to any well to do parents, did not study Under any teacher, and followed a profession demanding little skill in a small town. But his teachings attracted many people, and his miracles established his superior abilities. Even if one does not believe in the miracles, his gospels, full of spiritual experience and Conviction, endeared him to the masses around him.

Originality of Jesus' teachings: Many people claim that there was nothing original in his teachings, and the ideas were already there in Judaism and Greek-Roman tradition. Even if it is granted that this may be so, presenting them and highlighting them to suit the need of the time calls for a genius. If the words he had spoken and the parables he delivered did not contain new ideas, there would have not been such a violent reaction to what he said, leading

to his crucifixion. He was a revolutionary of his time, and his ideas took a long time for acceptance, and the society of his time was not ready to take His sermons. He was ahead of his time.

Terminology:

Theology: The study of the nature of God and religious belief.

The churches: A building used for public Christian worship.

Cathedral.

Jesus Christ: peace and blessings be upon him, is one of the five greatest messengers of God, his message is called “Injil” or the gospel.

Crucifixion: the execution of a person by nailing or binding them to a cross.

Protestant movement (Protestant Reformation): a 16th – Century movement for the reform of abuses in the Roman Catholic Church ending in the establishment of the Reformed and protestant Churches.

Roman Catholic (Catholicism): relating to Roman Catholic Church, the world’s oldest and largest institution, played a prominent role in the history and development of western civilization. It maintains that it practised the original Christian Faith.

Mary: (from Mariam in Hebrew) is the name of several women in the Bible, most especially of the mother of Jesus, Mary, mother of Jesus.

New Testament: The second part of the Christian Bible that contain the story and teachings of Jesus.

Old Testament: The first part of the Christian Bible , Comprising thirty –nine books and corresponding approximately to the Hebrew Bible.

Passion: means "suffering" and, within theology, refers to the suffering and death of Jesus under Pontius Pilate, the Roman Prefect (c. 30 CE).

Revelation is God's self-disclosure that enables a relationship between God and humans.

Sacrament, broadly, is any visible sign of God's invisible presence. More narrowly, sacraments are liturgical celebrations of the Christian community through which God becomes present to the community. Catholics, the Orthodox churches and some others have seven sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage, Holy Orders) but Protestants usually consider only baptism and Eucharist to be sacraments.

Ten Commandments: The "Ten Commandments" ("Decalogue") lie at the heart of the Torah ("Law") which was given to Moses by God on Mount Sinai ("Horeb" in Deuteronomy)

Trinity: is a term of Christian theology (not found in the Bible) that refers to the "three in one" (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) of the Godhead.

Solomon: was the son of David and his successor to the throne of Israel (c. 970- 930).

Solomon was the one who built the first temple in Jerusalem, and is also credited with being the author of some of the wisdom books of the Old Testament (e.g. Proverbs, Song of Songs). After his reign the unity of the twelve tribes as one nation ended, and the kingdom split into "Israel" in the north and "Judah" in the south.

Salvation, along with the verb "save," refers both to the process of God rescuing humans (thus, to the relationship between God and humans) and to the state of peace or happiness to which God brings them.

Pentateuch: means "five scrolls" and refers to the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Together these books comprise the Torah or Law of ancient Israel, which is referred to by Jesus and others in the New Testament.

BOOKS OF ALLAH

Allah sent prophets and messengers to show us the right path. God, the Kind and Loving Creator, also sent books for guidance. He sent them to His messengers. These books are called the Books of Allah. Allah sent the books through the angel Gabriel. Books of guidance sent by Allah are also called books of revelation. Revelation is "wahyu" in Arabic. There are four books of Allah mentioned in the Qur'an. They are the Tawrah, Zabur (Psalms), Injil (Gospel) and the Qur'an. Tawrah was sent to the prophet Moses, the Psalms was sent to the prophet David and the Gospel to the prophet Jesus. The last book of Allah and the most comprehensive was sent down to the last prophet, Muhammad (p.b.u.h.), its name is the Qur'an. We know the names of the books of Allah from the Qur'an. There was also the "sahifa" or scroll, a kind of book which was given to the prophet Abraham. The scroll of Abraham Can not be found now.

The original books or parts of the books given to the prophets before Muhammad were either lost or changed. The people took away the originals of the books and added their own words to Allah's words. This is why we do not have these books as they were revealed. The Qur'an is the last and the most complete book of guidance from Allah. It is not only for a certain group of people and a certain period of time, but it is for all people, all races and nations and for all times. It is with us today, without any change, with nothing added or taken away. It is the last book of guidance for mankind.

A. Exercise

Answer the following questions based on the text!

1. What is the purpose of Allah to send the prophets and the messenger?

2. What did God send to us beside the prophets and the messenger?
3. To whom did the books send?
4. What is the other name of the books that were sent by Allah?
5. What is the last book that was sent by Allah?
6. What did happen to the original books or parts of the books given to the prophets before Muhammad?
7. What is the book that was given to the prophet Abraham that cannot be found now?
8. Is Quran in incomplete?
9. The Quran is different from other previous books. What are the differences?
10. Are the any changes on Quran today?

B) Fill in the blanks using who. Whom, whose or which!

1. The manis standing under the tree is my friend.
2. I see a girlyou talk about.
3. The students arrange the booksare put on the table.
4. The beautiful womanhusband is from Iraq is my neighbor.
5. Would you introduce the manageryour wife speaks with?
6. My family likes a cattail is long.
7. Did you meet the teacherbag is red?
8. Mr. Burhanworks in his office is very handsome.
9. One of my friendsalways plays a truant lives in Solo.
10. Look at them. They are the basketball playersmy sisters like a lot.

C. Vocabulary Enrichment

Fill in the blanks with words from the text!

DAWN OF ISLAM

The prophet Muhammad had been spreading the religion of Islam quietly for three years when Allah commanded him to declare it to the people publicly.

Allah also instructed him to start with his own household – those within his own family. Those among the idolaters could be ignored if they would not respond to his call.

Muhammad understood his orders and went into retirement in his house for a few days. He thought very hard about what he had to do, trying to draw up a plan for the best way to approach his people and call upon them to accept the religion of Islam.

The news of Muhammad's retirement reached some of his aunts or relatives. They became worried that he might not be well. They decided to go and pay him a visit. When they got to his house they asked him about his health and told him how worried they had been about him.

Muhammad answered, "There is nothing the matter with me. Allah has ordered me to introduce Islam to my family and household. So, I have to sit down and think about the best way to do this. I had to collect my thoughts and ideas before I could speak to any of you."

Muhammad then went and invited all the members of his family to dinner in his house. He invited all his uncles and his aunts, all his cousins and nieces and all their children. All of Muhammad's relatives were invited, including even his stubborn and difficult uncle, Abdul Uzza.

Then Muhammad began to deliver his message to his family. He explained the new ideas he had received from God and warned them about what would happen to those who chose not to follow him.

Exercise 1.

Answer the following question according to the text

1. How long did the prophet spread Islam quietly?
2. How did he spread Islam after that? And why did he do that?
3. To whom did he introduce Islam?
4. What would he do if his message was rejected?
5. Did his family know when he went into retirement? Who were they?
6. Was there something wrong with Muhammad in his retirement? Why were his relatives so worried about him?
7. What did Allah order Muhammad to do about Islam?
8. What did he do one day?
9. What did his uncle do after the dinner had finished?
10. Did Muhammad stop delivering his message?

Exercise 2.

Choose the correct answer of the following questions!

1. The following are what Muhammad did after he understood his orders,

EXCEPT.....

- A. He thought very hard about what he had to do
- B. He tried to draw up a plan for the best way
- C. He tried to call upon his people to accept the religion of Islam
- D. He retired in his house for a long time

2. What did his aunts or relatives do when they got to Muhammad's house?

- A. They might not be well.
- B. They asked him about his health
- C. They told they didn't worry about him
- D. They were happy

3. Muhammad said, "there is nothing the matter with me," this expression means

- A. He has nothing to give them
- B. He has nothing in his house
- C. He is alright
- D. He has many matters

4. Who did Muhammad NOT invite to dinner in his house?

- A. His uncles
- B. His nieces
- C. His cousins

D. His sisters

5. Which is likely attributed to Abdul Uzza?

A. He was stubborn and difficult uncle

B. He was not Muhammad's uncle

C. He helped Muhammad

D. He was generous

