International Multi. J. of PURE LIFE. 7 (24): 13-37, Serial Number 4, Autumn 2020



International Multidisciplinary Journal of PURE LIFE

Homepage: http://p-l.journals.miu.ac.ir



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

A Comparative Approach to the "Trinity" from the Perspective of the Holy Quran, the Bible and the Lord of the Church Akram-Sadat Fatemi Hasanabadi^{1*}, Mahdi Islami²

- 1. * MA in Department of Quran and Hadith Studies, Faculty of Theology and Ahl al-Bayt Studies, University of Isfahan, Isfahan, (Corresponding Author)
- 2. Assistant Professor in Department of Mystical Literature, Faculty of Language and Literature, Imam Sadegh Research Institute, Qom, Iran, mehdiislami2010@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 24 June 2020 Revised 15 August 2020 Accepted 20 September 2020

Kev Words:

The Holy Quran
Bible
Overlord of the Church
Trinity

DOI:

10.22034/IMJPL.2020.5337

DOR:

20.1001.1.26767610.2020.7.24.1.3



Abstract

SUBJECT AND OBJECTIVES: The issue of the "Trinity" is one of the most important and complex doctrinal principles of the Christian world and because of the many intellectual and philosophical difficultas that this belief entails, Christian scholars have faced serious challenges and in interfaith dialogue, this issue is always mentioned as one of the problems that the Christian intellectual system and ideas face. METHOD AND FINDING: Many factors have been involved in the formation of the doctrine of the Trinity among christians, including the thoughts of Paul and Greek philosophy. The irrationality of the Trinity is now considered one of the prerequisites for the denial of Christianity among scholars of various religions. Therefore, recognizing the truth of the Trinity and the justifications of its acceptors along with examining the consequences of accepting the Trinity is one of the issues that this research which was carried out by a qualitative method and using library studies and reviewing of scientific documents, try to discover it.

CONCLUSION: The results of this comparative research indicate the rejection of the doctrine of the Trinity based on the sources of monotheistic religions and rational arguments that show that this belief is not divine and is rooted in heresies that have entered the religion of early Christianity.

* Corresponding Author: Email:

<u>akramfatemi66@yahoo.com</u> ORCID: 0000-0003-2795-9126 Article Address Published on the Journal Site: http://p-l.journals.miu.ac.ir/article 5337.html

NUMBER OF	NUMBER OF	NATIONALITY OF
REFERENCES	AUTHORS	AUTHORS
29	2	(Iran)

Introduction

The books that the Christian Church considers sacred form the concept of the Bible, which is divided into two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament, and the last part begins with the four Gospels. In addition to the Gospels, this section includes the works of the apostles and several other epistles, which are also attributed to the apostles, and finally ends with the "Book of Revelation" or the "Apocalypse".

In the division of the Bible, the first part is known as the Old Testament and the second part is known as the New Testament. The famous Old Testament contains 36 books and treatises, and Christians have attributed its compilation to Jewish prophets by the time of Moses to the time of Jesus.

Also, the New Testament, which the world's most famous Christians believe in, has 27 books or epistles, and Christians cite the compilation of some parts of it to the disciples of Jesus and the other parts to the leaders of the early Christian period.

According to another division, the New Testament can also be classified into the following two sections:

- 1. Historical Journeys: Including "Gospel of Matthew", "Gospel of Mark", "Gospel of Luke", "Gospel of John" and "Acts of the Apostles".
- 2. Scientific Journeys: It includes the other part of the New Testament, which is the letters of the leaders of early Christianity, and because the precepts of some of the Christian beliefs are expressed in it, it "Journeys" called scientific chapters, which the "Epistles Paul" as the founder of contemporary Christianity. (Eshagh Khoeini, 1985: 332-333)

In general, the Christian Church calls the biblical collection of Old and New Testaments "Bible", which is derived from the Greek word "Byblos", of which is the meaning book.

The Bible contains the Christian religious beliefs and principles, which is called "Canon" and in Greek means scale, and in this sense, the Bible can be considered a scale of Christian beliefs. (Ashtiani, 2011: 14)

Thus, the Christian Bible is composed of the Old and New Testaments, which include the Torah and some of the various epistles, and the New Testament, which contains the Gospels of "Matthew", "Mark", "Luke", "John" and it is also "Acts of the Apostles" and the numerous letters and "Book of Revelation", which is according to what has been explained, this article tries to explain this category in the Holy Quran, the Bible and with the Lord of the Church, focusing on the "Trinity"; but before entering the topic, it is necessary to clarify the relation of some of the concepts in Christianity that are related to this category as an entry to explain the debate.

The Christian Organization and its Rites

Christianity is divided into three major denominations: Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant. The most important Christian denomination is the Catholic denomination, followed by the Orthodox and Protestant denominations.

Apart from these three major denomination, other religions emerged in Christianity, numbering as many as 150 denominations and religions. The largest Christian denomination today is Catholic, which the pope is its leader. (Moballeghi Abadani, 1997: 784)

There are also about 360 denominations in Christianity, each of which has its own beliefs and is hostile bias to each other. (*Kashif al-Ghita*, 1974: 241)

Another point is the main rites and rituals of Christianity, which are briefly mentioned:

- Baptism: It is a holy bath and wash (Fazai, 1982: 258) and is a purification from sin which is called "Repentance" in Islam. This is done to

- prepare the Christian person for honor and to move in the kingdom of God presence.
- Eucharist: The most important rites and rituals of the religion of Christ are considered to be eating bread and drinking wine, which is done in remembrance of the revival of the covenant with Christ. and its root is eating the bread and wine that Christians believe Jesus did on the last night of life with his the "Apostles". This custom is performed every Sunday among Christians: later it was stopped every week and now it is done once a year.
- The Rite of Adolescents
 Entering into Christianity
 and Membership in the
 Church: According to
 this rite, the adolescents
 go to the priest and ask
 for forgiveness, and
 strengthen their faith and
 covenant with Christ and
 his teachings, and as a

- result, find the right to participate in the "Eucharist". (*Challaye*, 1967: 452)
- Confession of Sin, Expression of Repentance and Forgiveness of Sins: It is obligatory for every Christian to confess his sin to a priest; of course, this religion is not common among Protestants. (Molland, 1989: 70)
- Anointing: It is a ritual that the priest prepares the person of the last moment of his life for the afterlife with special prayers and holy olive oil.

In addition to these rites and ceremonies, it is necessary to belief that in state hierarchy and ranks ofChristian clergy and respect for clerical officials from the pope local priests essential to the religion Christ. (Nozari, 1996: 52-53)

The Concept of "Trinity"

In explaining the monotheistic approach and expression the People of the Book, the Holy Quran says:

Say: "O People of the Book! come to common terms as between us and vou: That we worship none but Allah; that we associate no partners with him: that we erect not, from among ourselves, Lords and patrons other than Allah". If then they sav ve: turn back, "Bear witness that we (at least) are Muslims (bowing to Allah's Will)". (Quran, 2: 64)

The word "Trinity" is derived from the Latin root "Terry. Netas". In Christianity, this word refers to the doctrine of God in the form of father, son and soul. Christian missionary James Hawkes describes the "Trinity" as follows:

The divine nature is one of the three equal Hypostasis; It means the God of the Father, the God of the Son and the God of the Holy Spirit. God the Father is the Creator of the whole universe through

the Son and the Son, the sacrificer and the Holy Spirit, the cleansing; but it should be known that these three Hypostasis are one action. (Hawkes, 2015: 344)

Shahrestani also writes about the "Trinity":

Christians placed triple Hypostasis God and said that the God is a single essence: is, it is existence, has no volume and does not fit in place. So he is one in terms of essence it is single and three terms of Hypostasis and the meaning of Hypostasis is traits: traits such as existence, science and life; that is, "Father", "Son" and "Holy Spirit", in which only science was incarnation. (Shahrestani, 1956, Vol. 1: 285)

The issue of the "Trinity" was also common in many pre-Christian religions; examples include Brahmins, Iranians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, and Chaldeans; (Rashid Ridha, 2014, Vol. 6: 567) of course, the "Trinity" is not in the sense that is known to Christians.

In Hinduism, the greatest and most famous worship is "Trinity". In this ritual, three gods are worshiped in the Sanskrit language "Trimurti", which are as follows:

- Brahma: God of creation and the creator of the whole
- Shiva: God of death and total deadly
- Vishnu: God of life and protector of the whole

The Brahmins believe that the absolute existence and the whole soul of the Brahman-Ātman have appeared in three manifestations and are manifested in these three gods, each of whom is engaged in his own action and work. (Noss, 2013: 276)

The Three Hypostases

One of the definitions that is directly related to the "Trinity"

is the term, the three Hypostases that it is necessary to examine each of these three Hypostases separately to reveal how to believe in the "Trinity" and "Deism" of these three.

Hypostases has Greek roots and means the way of existence; that is, three ways for the existence and action of God. These are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Father in Arabic language means father and in Christian culture, the Father is the name of God, who is eternal and the Creator of the universe. He is the God who has determined the destiny of the world from the beginning.

His name in the Old Testament is "Yahweh". (Noss, 2013: 276) Some, citing the text of the Old Testament, believe that Yahweh is the only father of a group of human beings.

Robert Hume, a researcher in the history of religions, writes:

In the Old Testament, the specific name of God is Yahweh. In 28 places in the Torah,

there is an explicit or implicit teaching that God is father. a However, he is the only father of a group, such as the Israelites, or the father of those who fear him. (Psalms, 103: 13) There is not a single instance in the Torah that says that God is the universal father of all human beings. (Hume, 2012: 353)

Christ mentions God as "Heavenly Father" and said to His apostles: When you pray, say, "Our Father in heaven! Blessed be upon your name". (Matthew, 6: 9) In some references from Christ, instead of the God's government, the state of my father is expressed. (Matthew, 29: 26)

Some scholars believe that Christ, in his allegories and some interpretations to express the ultimate divine mercy, in contrast to the Jewish teachings that portrayed God as an excuse and avenger, it interprets the divine essence to the father. (Nouri, 1984: 85)

The term father for God has been used in many ancient literatures. In Greece and Rome he is called "Zeus" and in India "Deus" is called the father. In Egypt, Pharaoh was called the Son of God and was often referred to as the incarnation of God.

Many ancient kings called themselves the Son of God and sometimes God Himself. The title of God has been used to justify His mercy and love; as in the Gospels, God is often referred to as the Father through Christ.

Modern Christians believe that Christ claimed to be the Son of God. Not only in his trial in the Jewish Council; rather, he made this claim many times before the trial, and usually referred to God as my father. The most important reason for this belief is expressed by the words of God at the baptism of Christ, who said: You are my beloved son, I am pleased with you. (Mark, 1: 11)

In the "Acts of the Apostles", Christ is often called the Son of God. (Miller, 1981: 46)

Christian scholars Some introduce with verses in which Jesus identifies himself as the Lord of the Shabbat (Matthew. 12: 8) and the bread of life (John, 6: 35) or says: Whoever believes in me, if he is dead, he is alive, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die, (John 11: 25) or the fact that I and the Father are one, (John 10: 30) they know a proof of the divinity of Christ. (Munger, 1962: 34)

Finley, a Christian thinker, writes about the concept of Christ being the Son of God, emphasizing the oneness of God and the absence of a physical wife and child: Christ was born by Mary only from perspective of the body, and the title of Son of God is not related to his birth from Mary.

This leads us to one of the most important mysteries of the Bible, and that is that Christ was the Son of God from the beginning, even before the creation of the world. (Finley, 1981: 24)

He appeared in the body with reference to verses like

God, (First Epistle to Timothy, 3: 16) God was in Christ, (Second Epistle to the Corinthians, 5: 19) Christ was in the image of God and became in the likeness of men, claiming that the Bible also knows Christ as God. (Epistle to the Philippians, 2: 5)

Referring to this verse from "Gospel of Matthew" the which says that the Father has given me everything and no one knows the Son except the author Father, this writes: Jesus has clearly stated that the essence of the Son of God is one of the mysteries that No human being can understand this, in other words, only God knows depth of this the mystery. (Matthew, 11: 27)

With this statement, he considers the divinity of Christ beyond the scope of human understanding and considers it necessary to accept it despite his opposition to reason or at least lack of rational proof.

William Horden is another Christian scholar who believes in the use of words such as God, Lord, Savior, and only Son about Christ. These terms have been used by Christians to clarify their belief that God has revealed Himself to man in a unique way in Christ. (Horden, 1989: 10)

On this basis, after the death of Jesus, they made him the Christ and then the Lord, who is equal in nature to the Creator God.

Along with Christ, there is another person called the Holy Spirit, who does not have an independent nature at the first; but gradually this factor also creates a divine personality that exercises power alongside God the Father. The character of the Holy Spirit (Old Testament) in the Christian church was completely transformed.

In these epistles, the Spirit of God has no separate identity and never pretends to be a divine being; rather, like the power emanating from God, it affects human beings and often leads to their power. The prophets and men of God are influenced by the Holy Spirit and the power of miracles or are able to forecasting. (Ashtiani, 2011: 335)

The Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit in various terms:

- The Third Hypostases: Because the third Hypostases is one of the three divine Hypostases.
- Spirit: Because he is the creator and inventor of life.
- Holy: One of his special tasks is to sanctify the hearts of the believers.

Accordingly, the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ are so named because of their love for God and Christ.

In the Bible we can see the characteristics of the Holy Spirit, which indicates the fact that he has a true personality, teaches, (Luke, 12: 12; John, 14: 26) speaks (Matthew, 10: 20; Mark, 13: 11) and guides (Matthew, 4: 1; Luke, 4: 1) and these attributes cannot be attributed to an unknown force; rather, they belong to one person. (Khachiki, 1982: 56)

The Holy Spirit is the supporter of the apostles in spreading the faith; because he is the spirit of truth that

originated from the Father. Christ said: Peace be with you; For I send unto you the Comforter, which is the pure Spirit of God. He is the source of all truths, he comes from my father and tells you everything about me. (John, 15: 26)

Factors Influencing the Spread of the Belief in the "Trinity"

1. Paul

One of the people who played important role in promotion and spread of the religion of Christ is a person named Paul, (*Al-Sheikh*, 2000: 39) whose letters are next to the Gospels in terms of authenticity and in the Bible with the two names of Paul meaning "Small" and "Saul" is called him in the proper sense; but before he converted to Christianity, he was a fanatical Jew who severely persecuted Christians: but later, as a result of a revelation he quotes, he converted to Christianity and changed his name to Paul.

The Bible describes his revelation as follows:

Paul, still threatening and blowing on the disciples of the God, came to the chief ruler and asked him to send letters to the synagogue in Damascus, that if any of the denomination of Christ, whether male or female, found him, he should be bound and brought to Jerusalem, and on the way, when he came to Damascus. suddenly a light from heaven shone round him, and he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul! Why are vou persecuting me? Said: Who are you? God said: I am Jesus whom you are persecuting; but get up and go to the city, where you will be told what to do. (Acts of the Apostles, 9: 1-9)

Paul influence on Christianity was so great that the Christian community called him the second founder of Christianity. (Noss, 2013: 613)

One of the reasons for Paul sanctification in the Christian world is that his thoughts and opinions made the Christians universal; because he created certain divine principles that established the spiritual works of Jesus' principles in the consciences and souls of his followers. (Noss, 2013: 614)

Referring to Paul familiarity with the Greek language and his influence on Greek philosophers, Hawkes writes:

> Referring to the epistle of Paul which recounts the "Gospel of Paul"; it turns out that Paul views are close to the Greek "Trinity" and the ideas of Philo, philosopher born 20 vears before Christ. (Hawkes, 2015: 230)

Some scholars believe that the apostles of the first Christ who knew him intimately were far from the "Trinity"; Saint Peter the Apostle, for example, saw Christ as the only man to whom revelation was given; but Paul disagreed with the first disciples of Christ, believing that Christ was higher than man and that he was an example of a new man born of God. (Wajdi, 1967: Trinity Article)

The following are examples of Paul words that express his views and have had a significant impact on the expansion of the "Trinity":

- Christ is a heavenly being who has a divine nature and essence; but he has humbled himself, accepted the human face and body, and descended from heaven. (Noss, 2013: 614)
- Christ was born from generation of David, and became known by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Son of God. (Epistle to the Romans, 1: 3)
- Christ is a cursed God to bring believers out of the curse. (*Epistle to the Galatians*, 3:10)
- Christ had divinity from the beginning; but he deprived himself of all its benefits and became

a slave and became like a human being. (*Epistle* to the *Philippians*, 2: 6-7)

2. Plotinus

Some contemporary scholars speak of the influence of Plotinus views on Christian beliefs; among them is Jaspers, writes: who The Hypostasis of Plotinus in the single sense, the intellect and the spirit of the world, gave way to the three Hypostasis of the Christian religion, and the relations of the three Christian Hypostasis with each other and the idea of the creation of the world replaced the thought of Plotinus.

3. Greek and Eastern Philosophy

The French sociologist Gustave Le Bon writes about the influence of Christianity on the Trinitarian doctrine of Greek and Eastern philosophy: Christianity continued to evolve in the first five centuries of its life by absorbing philosophical, religious, Greek and Eastern elements, and thus a mixture of Eastern beliefs; Egypt and Iran, in particular, which had spread to European lands around the first century, and accordingly the people adopted a new "Trinity" called the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit instead of the old "Trinity" of Neuropeter, Genoa and Nero. (Sobhani, 1996: 38)

4. Imitation of Polytheists

Voltaire, a French writer, believes that Christians did not have complete faith in his divinity until three centuries after Christ, and that the idea was gradually established that this idea was founded by imitating pagans who worshiped mortals creatures.

5. The Character of Christ in Creation

One of the issues that led to the acceptance of the idea of the divinity of Christ is the special creation of the Jesus, which took place without a human father. The Holy Quran has answered this question in the form of a contradiction and as follows:

"The similitude of Jesus before Allah is as that of Adam; He created him from dust, then said to him: "Be", And he was". (Ouran, 2: 59)

6. Christian Groups and the "Trinity"

According to the verses of the Holy Quran, when God asks Jesus as a negative question whether he commanded people to make themselves and his mother two gods, it can be understood that the issue of the divinity of Christ in his time and that of the Prophet People have been raised. (*Ref: Quran: 5: 116-117*)

In general, in the face of the issue of the Christian trinity, they are divided into three main categories, which are called followers of radiation, followers of emergence, and adherents of composition:

denomination that the main problem for them is that if Christ is the true God, how can a person really be followers of radiation called to

believe the light as shines and different levels of lighting, God in different stages of manifested himself Christ and the Spirit Holy appeared; Christ is in the lower stage of the Holy God. and Spirit is the Spirit of God in another stage.

- The other group who believe that the otherworldly nature of Christ is somehow intertwined with His worldly nature is followers of emergence.
- Some also believe in the composition of "Father", "Son" and "Holy Spirit" and believe that soul and body are mixed.

Justifications for Accepting the "Trinity" and its Opponents

Christian scholars who have accepted the "Trinity" have given various justifications for it; among them is Augustine, who wrote a book on the Trinity entitled "On the Triune Hypostasis".

Karl Jaspers expresses Augustine view as follows: Augustine never forgets a point states it with repeatedly complete insistence: The fact that God does not fit into thought and language unique, no idea can reach him, and every thought or assumption about him is incorrect. The of Triune mystery the Hypostasis is based solely on revelation and the Bible (Jaspers, 1984: 75)

Thomas Aquinas, one of the Christian saints, in his book on rejecting the misguided denominations, introduces the ultimate simplicity and unity of the divine essence; (Russell, 2011: 847) but at the same time, he accepts the "Trinity". This Christian theologian, by violating the most obvious rational precepts, allows the community of contradictions.

Bertrand Russell quotes him as saying:

Natural intellect is deficient in divine affairs. This intellect can prove a part of religion; but it is not able to prove its other components. The intellect can prove the existence of God and the survival of the soul; but the proof of the "Trinity" and the Last Judgment was not made by him. (Russell, 2011: 845)

In summary, many other Christian scholars, such as Karl Fender, have been around for centuries, despite the emergence of the doctrine of the "Trinity"; they have not yet been able to find a rational reason for it; But merely rely on certain biblical expressions in this regard.

On the other hand, in the Christian world. there are thinkers who the oppose "Trinity" and work to reform it; among them was Artemon, who taught some of his followers that Christ was the only human being who had received the forgiveness of the Holy Spirit more than any other. There was nothing wrong with understanding this belief; but because he denied the divinity of Christ, the church did not accept it.

Sabilos also believes:at the first, God revealed himself as the Father, then as the Son, and finally as the Holy Spirit, and therefore the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were not three Hypostasis who existed together in eternity in a divine essence; rather, there were three forms or three names by which God manifested Himself and became known.

This belief agrees with the eternal oneness of God and denies the eternal son of Christ. According this to approach, Christians needed a savior who was not just a lasting manifestation of God's power; but also to be alive and to live forever, which of course, was rejected by the church. (Miller, 2003: 201)

Will Durant also believes that modern Christianity has derived many of its beliefs, especially on theology, from the atheistic and pagan thoughts of the time; beliefs developed after Christ and by some apostles such as Paul not only did not abolish polytheism; sheltered rather. he it in himself and brought it to life. (Durant, 2012, Vol. 4: 696)

Monotheism and the "Trinity" in the Bible

There are expressions in the Gospels, some of which refer to monotheism and some to the "Trinity": Including the narration in which Christ was asked: What is the most important commandment of God? He replied: The command that says: O people of Israelites! Listen, the only God who exists is our God and you must love him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. The questioner said: Master, you are absolutely right, there is only one God and there is no other god besides him. (Mark, 112: 28-34)

Other things that are stated in the Bible about the monotheism of God are:

- Eternal life is to know you as the one true God and Christ you have sent. (John, 17: 3)
- O Israelites! Hear God, your God is one and there is no other God. (Mark, 2: 29)

In contrast, phrases from Christ are quoted that carry the "Trinity"; that Christ said to His apostles at the end of His life: I have been given all the powers of heaven and earth, so go and make all nations my disciples and Baptize them in the name of "Father", "Son" and "Holy Spirit" and teach new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. Rest assured, wherever you go, always with you. (Matthew. 28: 18-20)

Sentences such as "I and the Father are one", and the Father is in me, and I in the Father", (John, 10: 22 and 40; Ibid, 14: 3) and what is said in the "Gospel of John" is a proof for those who believe in the "Trinity", and that there are three witnesses in heaven who testify: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one. (John, 5: 7)

Problems of the "Trinity" 1. Opposing the Rule of Reason

In a general classification, three assumptions can be made for the "Trinity":

- True Unity and Plurality of Mental: This possibility is compatible with monotheism; But Christians do not accept it.
- True Plurality and Mental Unity: This possibility requires polytheism.
- Both True Plurality and True Unity; This assumption requires contradiction, because the concept of unity and plurality are two contradictory concepts, and the combination of the two in a single instance is impossible considering the conditions of contradiction.

As Allameh Tabatabai has pointed out, the combination of true unity and true plurality is impossible if the gender of plurality and unity is the same and, for example, both types of unity are personal or type or gender. (*Tabatabai*, 2006, *Vol. 14: 35*)

In other words, if the believers in the "Trinity" were present to consider the oneness of God as figurative and to consider the "Trinity" to be real or the "Trinity" to be figurative and monotheism to be real, the problem would be simple; but the strange thing is that they both know the truth.

It is in this case that they are faced with an unreasonable problem; because the equation 1=3 is not acceptable why thev this anyone; is "Trinity" believe that the should not be accepted by the standard of reason: But should be adhered to by the standard of worship and the heart.

It seeks such issues that the separation and alienation of science and religion in Christian logic is reasonable and acceptable.

2. Opposing the Teachings of the Gospels

In some Gospels, there are phrases from which the "Trinity" is derived; but by referring to all the verses and teachings of this holy book, one can understand the opposite.

Accordingly, the testimony of Christ to his humility towards God (Matthew, 11: 27)

is his ignorance of the time of the resurrection (*Matthew*, 24: 37) and the fact that the father is greater than the son, (*John*, 14: 28) it is one of the teachings that denies the "Trinity".

The New Testament also states that believers are children of God; (Matthew, 5: 9; Luke, 20: 36) Such interpretations are figurative; But Christians consider them to be true about Christ and figurative about other believers.

3. Opposing the Words of Christ

In order to remove any ambiguity about his worship, Christ has repeatedly emphasized his servitude, which is mentioned in the Holy Quran; Including the following two verses:

- "When Jesus came with Clear Signs, he said: "Now have I come to you with Wisdom", and in order to make clear to you some of the (points) on which ye dispute: therefore fear Allah and obey me. For Allah, He is my Lord

- and your Lord: so worship ye Him: this is a Straight Way". (Quran, 43: 63-64)
- "Christ disdaineth nor to serve and worship Allah, nor do the angels, those nearest (to Allah): those who disdain His worship and are arrogant, He will gather them all together unto Himself to (answer)". (Quran, 4: 172)

4. Opposition to the Holy Quran

The Holy Quran censures Christians for their "Trinity" attributes infidelity them (Ref: Quran, 4: 73) and denies his divinity by stating of some the human characteristics of Christ, God has called the "Trinity" exaggeration and asks People of the Book not to say anything about God other than the truth. The following verses deal with some Quranic descriptions on this subject:

- "Christ the son of Mary was no more than a messenger; many were the messengers that passed away *before* him. His mother was a woman of truth. They had both to eat their (daily) food. See how Allah doth make His signs clear to them; yet see in what ways they are deluded away from the truth". (Quran, 5: 75)
- Say: "Will ye worship, besides Allah, something which hath no power either to harm or benefit you? But Allah, He it is that heareth and knoweth all things". (Quran, 5: 76)
- "O People of the Book!
 Commit no excesses in
 your religion: Nor say
 of Allah aught but the
 truth. Christ Jesus the
 son of Mary was (no
 more than) a messenger
 of Allah, and His Word,
 which He bestowed on
 Mary, and a spirit
 proceeding from Him:

so believe in Allah and His messengers. Say not "Trinity": desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is one Allah: Glory be to Him: (far exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens and on earth, And enough is Allah as a Disposer of affairs". (Quran, 4: 171)

The result is that if everything in the heavens and the earth belongs to God; So there is no other god who wants to be next to this god.

The Lineage of Christ

The last article of this article is the lineage of Jesus Christ, which is mentioned in different interpretations and some of these interpretations refer to his lineage. In general, what is stated in the scriptures as a lineage for Christ cannot be consistent with his divinity, which is examined and analyzed in three areas.

1. The Gospels

The lineage of Christ is expressed in the Gospels in various ways:

- Son of David: The sick called Christ by this name for healing (Matthew, 9: 27) and all the people confessed that Christ was the son of David. (Matthew, 12: 23; Ibid, 15: 22)
- Son of Joseph: Joseph is mentioned in some Gospels as Mary fiancé or wife; (Matthew, 2: 11) Although some of the Gospels are skeptical of being the son of Joseph, (Luke 3: 23) others explicitly cite this relation. (Matthew, 1: 23; 20: 16; John: 1: 45; Ibid, 6: 42)
- Son of Mary: The Gospels agree on the mother of Christ. The story of the descent of the angel (Holy Spirit) on Mary and her pregnancy while she was praying is mostly quoted in the Gospels. (Matthew, 1: 18; Luke, 1: 35; Ibid, 2: 5)

- Son of Man: This is the most common description Christ has used of himself. (Matthew, 8: 20; Mark, 2: 28; Luke, 6: 5)
- Son of God: This ratio is also true of the Gospels. (Matthew, 4: 3; Luke, 1: 35; Mark, 1: 1; John, 1: 34) Bible commentators consider the mystery of God to be the Son of God. (Bible Introduction: 121)
- Christ Warns Against Distortion (Tahrif): So you invalidate the word of God by imitating what you have done, and you do a lot of things like that. (Mark, 7:13)

5. The Epistles of Paul

This part of the Bible speaks less of the lineage of Christ than the Gospels. In "Epistles of Paul", Christ is called the Son of Man; but he relies more on being a child of God.

In this collection, Christ has preserved both his divine and human aspects; (*Epistle to the Romans*,

1: 1-4; Hebrews, 2: 5) of course, in some passages Paul is described as God and is described as follows: The fathers are from the Israelites, and from them Christ became body, and God is above all things forever. (Epistle to the Romans, 9: 5)

6. The Holy Quran and Hadiths

Many verses and hadiths introduce Christ as the son of Mary. The Holy Quran introduces Jesus as the word of God, a spirit from God and the prophet of God. (*Ref: Quran, 4: 171; Ibid, 5: 57*)

The interpretation of the child of God is one of the most hated interpretations in Islamic literature and has been rejected in religious texts.

It is understood from the Quranic verses that in the Arabian Peninsula, a group of Christians believed in the divinity of Mary, and the Holy Quran invalidates this issue and using the phrase of Jesus son of Mary, denies in many verses the illusion of the

divinity of Christ and his mother; Including the following verse:

"And behold! Allah will say: "O Jesus the son of Mary! Didst thou say unto men, worship me and my mother as gods derogation in Allah?" He will say: Glory to Thee! never could I say what I had no right (to say). Had I said such a thing, thou wouldst indeed known it. Thou knowest what is in my heart, Thou I know not what is Thine. For Thou knowest in full all that is hidden". (Quran, 5: 116)

Conclusion

References to authoritative historical sources and conclusive rational arguments are evidence of the inaccuracy of the "Trinity" belief. The justifications offered by Christian scholars for accepting the "Trinity" also face serious problems.

The Holy Quran explicitly this issue opposes and considers it as one of the distortions that has occurred in beliefs of Christians. the Today many scholars, some of whom also believe in Christianity, have critically studied the beliefs of Christians, and have acknowledged the irrationality of the "Trinity", which in the findings of the present study provides some evidence for this, it was pointed out.

List of References

- 1. The Holy Quran.
- 2. The Bible.
 - Gospel of Matthew
 - Gospel of Mark
 - Gospel of Luke
 - Gospel of John
 - Acts of the Apostles
 - Psalms
 - First Epistle to Timothy
 - Second Epistle to the Corinthians
 - Epistle to the Romans
 - Epistle to the Galatians
 - Epistle to the Philippians
- 3. Eshagh Khoeini, Ali (1985). **Introduction to the School of Christian Revelation**. Qom: Publications of the Office of Islamic Tablighat.
- 4. Ashtiani, Jalal-ed-Din (2011). **Research in the Religion of Christ**. Edition 3. Tehran: Negaresh Publications.
- Challaye, Felicien (1967).
 Petite Histoire des Grandes Religions. Translated by Manouchehr Khodayar Mohebbi. Tehran: University of Tehran Publications.
- 6. Durant, Will (2012). **History of Civilization: Age of Faith**. Translated

- by Abolghasem Taheri, Abolghasem Payandeh and Abotaleb Saremi. Tehran: Scientific and Academic Publishing.
- 7. Fazaie, Yusef (1982). The Evolution of the Religions of Judaism and Christ. Tehran: Atai Press Institute.
- 8. Finley. James (1981). In Search of the Truth.
 Translated by Tatavos Mikaelian. Edition 4.
 Tehran: Hayat Abadi Publications.
- Hawkes, James (2015).
 Bible Dictionary. Edition 3.
 Tehran: Asatir Publications.
- Hordon, William (1989).
 A Layman's Guide to Protestant Theology.
 Translated by Tatavos Mikaelian.
 Tehran: Scientific and Academic Publishing.
- 11. Hume, Robert Ernst (2012). **The World's Living Religions**. Translated by Abdul-Rahim Gawahi. Edition 19. Tehran: Elm Publications.
- 12. Jaspers, Karl (1984). **Augustine**. Translated by Mohammad Hasan Lotfi. Tehran: Kharazmi Publications.

- 13. Khachiki, Saro (1982). **Principles of Christianity**. Edition 2. Tehran: Hayat Abadi Publications.
- 14. Kashif al-Ghita, Mohammad Hossein (1974). Explanation of the Bible and Christ. Translated by Syed Hadi Khosroshahi. Qom: Dar al-Tabliq el-Islami.
- 15. Miller, William McElwee (2003). A History of the Ancient Church in the Roman and Persian Empires. Translated by Ali Nakhostin. Tehran: Asatir Publications.
- 16. Miller, William McElwee (1981). Beliefs and Practices of Christians: A Letter To A Friend. Translated by Kamal Moshiri. Tehran: Hayat Abadi Publications.
- Moballeghi Abadani, Abdullah (1997). History of Religions and denominations of the World. Qom: Hor Publications.
- 18. Molland, Einar (2009). The World of Christianity. Translated by Mohammad Baqir Ansari and Masih Mohajeri. Edition 3. Tehran: Amirkabir Publications.

- 19. Munger, Robert Boyd (1962). **What Jesus Says?**Translated by Massoud Rajabnia. Tehran: Noor Jahan Publications.
- 20. Noss, John (2013). Man's Religion. Translated by Ali Asghar Hekmat. Edition 12. Tehran: Scientific and Academic Publishing.
- 21. Nozari, Ezzatullah (1996).

 Christianity from the
 Beginning to the
 Intellectual Age. Tehran:
 Marandiz Publications.
- 22. Nouri, Yahya (1984).

 Analytical Knowledge
 of Islam and some
 Professions and Religions;
 Such as Judaism,
 Christianity, Zoroastrianism.
 Tehran: Islamic Studies
 and Research Association.
- 23. Rashid Ridha, Mohammad (2014). The Interpretation of the Hakim Quran (Al-Manar). Beirut: Dar El-Marefah.
- 24. Russell, Bertrand (2012). A History of Western Philosophy. Translated by Najaf Daryabandari. Edition 14. Tehran: Scientific and Academic Publishing.

- 25. Shahrestani, Abu al-Fatah Mohammad ibn Abd al-Karim (1956). Al-Milal wa al-Nihal. Translated by Afdal al-Din Sadr. Tehran: Taban Publications.
- 26. Al-Sheikh, Ali (2000). The Gift of Heaven: My Journey from Christianity to Islam. Qom: Dar Al-Sadiqin.
- 27. Sobhani, Ja'far (1996).
 The Way of Theology and Recognizing his Attributes. Qom: Publications for School of Islam.
- 28. Tabatabai, Syed Mohammad Hossein (2006). **Al-Mizan fi Tafsir al-Quran**. Edition 7. Qom: Dar al-Kutub al-Islamiyah.
- 29. Wajdi, Mohammad Farid (1967). Encyclopedia of the Fourteenth and Twelfth Centuries. Beirut: Dar El-Marefah.

AUTHOR BIOSKETCHES

Fatemi Hasanabadi, MA in Department of Quran and Hadith Studies, Faculty of Theology and Ahl al-Bayt Studies, University of Isfahan, Isfahan.

✓ Email: <u>akramfatemi66@yahoo.com</u> ✓ ORCID: 0000-0003-2795-9126

Islami, Mahdi. Assistant Professor in Department of Mystical Literature, Faculty of Language and Literature, Imam Sadegh Research Institute, Oom, Iran.

✓ Email: <u>mehdiislami2010@gmail.com</u> ✓ ORCID: 0000-0002-0249-5217

HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE

Fatemi Hasanabadi, Akram-Sadat. and Mahdi Islami (2020). A Comparative Approach to the "Trinity" from the Perspective of the Holy Quran, the Bible and the Lord of the Church. *International Multidisciplinary Journal of PURE LIFE*. 7 (24): 13-37.

DOI: 10.22034/IMJPL.2020.5337 DOR: 20.1001.1.26767610.2020.7.24.1.3

URL: http://p-l.journals.miu.ac.ir/article_5337.html

