

## **Chapter Two: The General Attitude to Other Religions and Their Followers**

*There are two contradictory approaches presented in the Egyptian textbooks, both based on traditional Islamic notions. One approach treats Judaism and Christianity as heavenly revealed religions whose books and prophets are revered by Islam. The other approach is bent upon denigrating both religions vis-à-vis Islam on various grounds, one of which is the claim that the Jews and the Christians have distorted their holy books.*

### **Judaism and Christianity, like Islam Itself, Are Heavenly (Monotheistic) Religions**

Among the religions followed by the peoples of the [Asian] continent are the heavenly religions which are Islam, Christianity and Judaism, and man-made religions such as Buddhism, Confucianism and Hinduism.

**Social Studies: Geography of the World and Studies in Modern History of Egypt, – Exercise and Activity Booklet, Grade 8, Part 1 (2002) p. 15, answers side**

Non-heavenly [non-monotheistic] and man-made religions are widespread on the continent [Asia], among them, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Hinduism. These religions, on the whole, call for peace, asceticism and keeping away from violence, but they do not believe in God.

**Social Studies: Geography of the World and Studies in Modern History of Egypt, Grade 8, Part 1 (2002) p. 40**

Asia was the cradle of the three heavenly religions. What are they? Where did each of them originate?

**(Social Studies: Geography of the World and Studies in Modern History of Egypt, Grade 8, Part 1, (2002) p. 30**

The [heavenly] missions are: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

**Our Beautiful Language: Reading and Texts, Exercise and Activity Booklet, Grade 6, Part 1 (2002) p. 9 - answers side**

Define the following:

- Christianity
- Judaism

[Answer:]

- Christianity is a heavenly [monotheistic] religion that was initiated by Jesus, son of Mary, may peace be upon them both. It spread in [Arabia and the adjacent regions in] parts of Yemen, Iraq, and Syria.
- Judaism is a heavenly [monotheistic] religion that was initiated by Moses, may peace be upon him. It was found in some of the towns in the Arabian Peninsula.

**Social Studies: Geography of the Arab Homeland and Milestones of Islamic History, Exercise and Activity Booklet, Grade 7, Part 1 (2002) pp. 34, 30 - answers side, respectively)**

The Messenger of God said: “I am closer to Jesus, the son of Mary, than any [other] person in [both] this world and the hereafter.”

**Selected Prophetic Sayings [Ahahdith], Grade 10, (2002) p. 92**

*Some historical details are also given, especially about Christianity.*

Southern Syria (Palestine) was the birth place of two heavenly [monotheistic] religions – Judaism and Christianity. From that land the two religions spread to other areas.

**Egypt and the civilizations of the Ancient World, Grade 9, (2002) p. 149**

There happened an important event in Bethlehem in Palestine, which is the birth of the Lord Messiah... Soon Jesus – peace upon him – began calling for tolerance, humility, love and fraternity and urged the disavowal of idols and the worship of the Lord of Heaven and earth and obedience to Him. He started preaching a new religion, the Christian religion.

The preaching of the lord messiah and his tenets found acceptance among the people and news of him, especially the miracles he had performed, as well as his reputation, spread. His message began to spread inside Palestine and outside it at the hands of apostles who believed and were true to the new faith. Saint Peter traveled about the regions of Europe propagating Christianity until he came to Rome. Saint Mark began propagating it in Egypt.

The spread of Christianity worried the Roman emperors. They adopted a completely hostile attitude to Christianity and harshly oppressed those who embraced it. Emperor Nero (54-68 CE) issued laws aimed at stamping out Christianity. History also blames him for setting fire to the city of Rome in order to put the blame for the fire on those who embraced the new religion and punish them severely....

The oppression of the Christians continued for two centuries, during which they were slaughtered, burned alive, and thrown to beasts of prey. But they were patient and endured and did not become weak, until Emperor

Constantine converted to Christianity which became the official religion of the state in the reign of Emperor Theodosius (379-395) [who] banned paganism in all parts of the empire.

**Egypt and the Civilizations of the Ancient World, Grade 9, (2002) p. 215**

The pagan Romans desperately opposed the Christian religion, and harshly oppressed, and severely punished, those who embraced it. But the Christians withstood the oppression until Emperor Constantine recognized the Christian religion, and soon [afterwards] Emperor Theodosius, at the end of the fourth century, made the Christian religion the official religion of the state and prohibited paganism absolutely.

**Egypt and the Civilizations of the Ancient World, Grade 9 (2002) p. 218**

#### Religious Life [in Pre-Islamic Arabia]

The Arabs before Islam were followers of heavenly [monotheistic] religions. They were:

- A. Hanifiyyah: Worship of God in accordance with the religion of our lord Abraham. Its followers refused to worship idols, and they believed in God and in the Judgment Day. They were called Hunafa'.
- B. Judaism: This was the religion of some Arab tribes in Yemen and in the town of Yathrib [later renamed Medina] and Khaybar in the Hijaz [region]. Its spread in the Arabian Peninsula was limited.
- C. Christianity: Its most important centers were Najran in Yemen, Al-Hirah in Iraq and Busra in Syria.<sup>1</sup>

#### Paganism

Most of the Arabs were worshipping idols....

**Social Studies: Geography of the Arab Homeland and Milestones of Islamic History, Grade 7, Part 1, (2002) p. 65**

Judaism and Christianity were known in the Arabian land.

**Arabic Literature: Literature, Texts, Eloquence, Grade 9, (2002) p. 3**

Having overcome the danger of the Jews in the Hijaz [region], the Messenger sent letters to the heads of the Arab [Bedouin] tribes and to the kings of the neighboring states in which he called upon them to [embrace] Islam... Some of them responded in an amicable manner without embracing Islam, like Heraclius, the king of the Byzantines, the Negus [emperor], the king of Ethiopia, and Al-Muqawqis, the ruler of Egypt, because they were Christians, People of the Book

**Social Studies: Geography of the Arab Homeland and Milestones of Islamic History, Grade 7, Part 1, (2002) p. 75**

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<sup>1</sup> Al-Hirah in Iraq and Busra in Syria were inhabited by Arabians.

*Much emphasis is put on the common human heritage of the three religions.*

The Qur'an has explained to all people that the heavenly [monotheistic] religions revealed by God to His prophets are essentially in agreement, and the difference between them is in secondary matters only...

The fundamentals of the[se] religions, in which there is no difference between them or between their laws, such as the faithful worship of God and the belief in His books, messengers, angels and the Judgment Day...As regards the secondary [elements] embodied in the[se] laws, such as some pleasures being permitted for a [certain] people in order to make it easier for them, and their prohibition for [another] people in order to punish them, these are not part of the unchangeable fundamentals in all the religions, but differ [from one religion to another] in accordance with the changing circumstances and conditions. This is supported by His statement [in the Qur'an]: "We have ordained a law and assigned a path for each of you." (Al-Ma'idah, 48) In other words, we have assigned for every nation – in present times and in the past – a wise law and a clear way of its own, dealing with the details and the secondary matters. As for the fundamentals and the basic elements, such as faithful worship of God and the adoption of high moral standards, all religions are in agreement regarding that.

... Thus we see that the heavenly [monotheistic] religions revealed by God to His prophets are in agreement that no worship is due except to God alone.

**Studies in Theology: Spiritual Matters, Grade 9, (2002) pp. 84-86**

If there is a difference in the laws of the prophets, this difference is only in secondary matters and not in the fundamentals.... In other words, as We [God] revealed the Torah to Moses and revealed the Gospels to Jesus, we have revealed to you, O Muhammad, the Qur'an which encompasses all the guidance included in the earlier Heavenly books.

... We [God] have also made it [i.e., the Qur'an] the guardian of them, that is, guarantor and judge of them [i.e., the other books].

O noble Messenger, know that our wisdom has decreed that We [God] make for every nation the law that suits it [best] and the way that improves it. The differences in the laws are only – as We have already indicated – in some commands and interdictions, in some permitted and forbidden matters and in other details of the law. God may forbid one people to do something as a punishment, while permitting others to do it in order to make life easier for them. As God said [in the Qur'an]: "We forbade the Jews all animals with undivided hooves and the fat of sheep and oxen, except that which is on their backs and intestines and what is mixed with their bones. Such is the penance We have imposed on them for their misdeeds..."

As for what relates to the fundamentals of the law, the essence of religion, the foundation of faith and the adoption of high moral standards, there is no difference whatsoever between any of the laws or religions.

It becomes clearly apparent to us from the preceding words that all the messengers [of God] brought what, in its essence and fundamentals, is one law, and the differences are merely in secondary matters and [in] details.

**Studies in Theology: Prophecies, Grade 10, (2002) pp. 28-31**

The Heavenly [monotheistic] religions have been sent down by God for the happiness of men, for their guidance to the right path and in order to implant virtuous concepts in their souls.

**Islamic Education, Grade 9 (2002) p. 66**

All religions call for the same values and conduct.

**Arabic Language: Read and Express – Exercise and Activity Booklet, Grade 4, Part 1 (2002) back cover**

All the religions call for mercy.

**Our Beautiful Language: Reading and Texts – Exercise and Activity Booklet, Grade 6, Part 2 (2001) p. 9-answers side**

[All] religions have called for cooperation.

**Our Beautiful Language: Grammar and Grammatical Exercises, Grade 6, Part 1 (2002) p. 37**

All the religions have accorded truthfulness the greatest value and made it the foundation of successful dealings between human beings.

**Arabic Language: Read and Express, Grade 4, Part 1 (2002) p. 78**

To what do the heavenly [monotheistic] religions aspire?

The heavenly [monotheistic] religions aspire to the refinement of man's conduct.

**Arabic Language: Read and Discuss, Exercise Booklet, Grade 5, Part 1, (2002) pp. 26, 19 - answers side, respectively**

The heavenly [monotheistic] religions call upon us to [adopt] tolerance so that society will live in security and peace.

**Arabic Language: Read and Discuss, Grade 5, Part 2, (2002) p. 60**

*In fact, all the heavenly religions have one source – the religion of the Patriarch Abraham.*

The religious unity of Muslims, Jews and Christians is derived from our lord Abraham.

**Islamic Education, Grade 11, (2002) p. 30**

The religion of Abraham is the meeting point of the three [monotheistic] religions.

**Islamic Education, Grade 11, (2002) p. 31**

*Egypt has been closely tied to the three Heavenly religions from their very inception.*

This deep religiosity among the Egyptians created for Egypt an honorable place in the history of the heavenly [monotheistic] religions. For it was upon its land that Moses propagated Judaism, the Virgin Mary sought asylum there with her son Jesus, and the Egyptians embraced Christianity... Moreover, the Egyptians played an important role in spreading Christianity in Ethiopia and other countries of Africa..."

**National Education: Egypt and Its Role in Civilization, Grade 9 (2002) p. 44**

What religious history tells [us] is [that] Hagar, the Egyptian (wife of Abraham, may peace be upon him) is the mother of the Arabs, and [that] Mary the Copt was mother of Ibrahim, Muhammad's son [who lived only a short while]...

**National Education: Egypt and Its Role in Civilization, Grade 9, (2002) p. 45**

### **The Torah and the Gospels Are Heavenly Books**

God sent the messengers to guide the people toward worshipping God alone and to guide them along the path of goodness, so that they should live in love and peace. He revealed to them the [following] Heavenly Books:

- The Torah – to our lord Moses.
- The Gospels – to our lord Jesus.
- The Qur'an – to our lord Muhammad.

**Islamic Religious Education, Grade 2, Part 2, (2002) p. 7**

...Our lord Moses, may peace be upon him, and the Torah was revealed to him.

**Our Beautiful Language: Reading and Texts – Exercise and Activity Booklet, Grade 6, Part 2 (2001) p. 9 answers side**

The revelation of the Torah to our lord Moses, may peace be upon him.

**Islamic Religious Education, Grade 4, Part 2 (2002) p. 21**

Put a V sign next to the correct phrase:

...

The Torah is a sacred book from God.

**(Islamic Religious Education, Grade 4, Part 2 (2002) p. 34)**

The Torah... was revealed by God to His prophet Moses... The Gospels are the book that God revealed to His prophet Jesus.

**Commentary on the Surahs of Muhammad, Al-Fath, Al-Hujurat and Qaf, Grade 11, (2002) p. 175**

*In one exercise the student is requested to look for certain information in the "heavenly books."*

The heavenly books speak of wheat. Write down [excerpts] from them indicating that and comment on each in two lines. Ask for the help of the religious education teacher.

**Social Studies: Geography of the Arab Homeland and Milestones of Islamic History, Grade 7, Part 1, (2002) p. 49**

*Non-Muslims are to be judged according to their own books.*

The Prophet had two Jews executed by stoning, and he did that according to the law of the Torah [regarding adultery].

**Selections for the Explanation of [the Book of] "Selection", Grade 11, (2002) p. 287**

A Jew is made to swear [in court] by God who revealed the Torah to Moses, a Christian – by God who revealed the Gospels to Jesus and a Zoroastrian – by God who created fire... Because the Christians revere the Gospels and the Zoroastrians revere the fire as much as the Jews revere the Torah, and they are made to swear on that which is most important to them... [On the other hand, it is decreed] by [the early Muslim jurist] Abu Hanifah... that no one is made to swear except by in the name of God alone.

**Selections for the Explanation of [the Book of] "Selection", Grade 10 (2002) p. 179**

### **The Torah and the Gospels Are Distorted**

Thus we see that the Qur'an tore away the curtain of the past on more than one occasion in order to provide Muhammad with true information about those messengers and prophets who preceded him and in order to correct

what had been distorted in the heavenly books [i.e., the Torah and the Gospels] that God had revealed and that the monks and the rabbis distorted.

... The miracle here is the correction of the distortions of the heavenly books that preceded the Qur'an. Muhammad was challenging the rabbis of the Jews and the monks of the Christians with the Qur'an, telling them: "This [passage came] from God in the Torah or the Gospels, and that [is what] you distorted in the Torah or the Gospels." They could not confront that challenge or answer it. That is so because the Qur'an... penetrated the curtain of the past, reached the most precise secrets of the past heavenly missions, corrected for them [i.e., for the Jews and the Christians] with clarity what they had distorted and what they had hidden of those [secrets]. He [Muhammad] challenged them to prove that what was said in the Qur'an was a lie, but they could not.

**The Miracle of the Qur'an, Grade 9, (2002) pp. 15-16**

There is no doubt that these qualities [of the believers] had existed in the two Books [the Torah and the Gospels] before they were distorted and altered [by the Jews and the Christians, respectively, according to Islamic belief]. Moreover, some of these qualities are found in [these] two books even after their distortion.

**Commentary on the Surahs of Muhammad, Al-Fath, Al-Hujurat and Qaf, Grade 11, (2002) p. 177**

*That seems to be the case as well with Muhammad himself.*

Abdullah Bin Amr Bin Al-As... was asked [by] Ata' Bin Yasar: "Tell me about the description of God's Messenger in the Torah" – because he had read it – He said: ... "By God, he is described in the Torah by some of his characteristics [that appear] in the Qur'an." [quotations from the Qur'an are given here]

... And it is possible that this is another verse from the Torah describing his characteristics.

**Selected Prophetic Sayings [Ahadith] Grade 11, (2002) pp. 62-63**

*On the other hand, the heavenly books are denied of having been a source of the Qur'an.*

The infidels of Quraysh [Muhammad's tribe in Mecca] said: "The Qur'an is a lie made up by Muhammad who was helped in that by people from among the People of the Book." These people [Quraysh] are wrong, as they claimed that an Arab [Muhammad] had taken from a non-Arab [a Jew or a Christian] Arabic phrases [i.e., the Qur'an] of such eloquence, which the Arabs [themselves] could not produce.

**Islamic Religious Education, Grade 7, Part 1, (2002) p. 7**

## **Islam Is the Only True Religion**

The Concept of religion

What do we learn in this lesson?

...God's religion is Islam...

God's religion is one. It is Islam, which means faithful worship of God and compliance with His law. God revealed it [i.e., Islam] to Adam and to all the prophets after Adam, like Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus – peace be upon them – until Muhammad's mission became the seal on God's religion ... Therefore, God will not accept from His creatures a religion other than Islam.

...Do we understand from that... that the religion revealed by God to Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus – peace be upon them all – was Islam? Yes.

**Islamic Religious Education, Grade 7, Part 1, (2002) p. 22**

God's religion is one, from Adam to Muhammad. It is Islam, which is God's religion to all people ...

**Islamic Religious Education, Grade 7, Part 1, (2002) p. 25**

God's religion is Islam.

**Islamic Education, Grade 11, (2002) p. 30**

The grace of God is on this nation [i.e., the Muslims] and a proof of its superiority over [all] other nations. He [i.e., God] has already said [in the Qur'an]: "You have been the best nation [ever] brought forth to mankind".

**Commentary on the Surahs of Al-Nur and Al-Ahzab, Grade 10, (2002) p. 255**

"It is He that has sent forth His apostle with guidance and the true faith, so that he may exalt it above all religions" ... that is, it is He – God alone – who sent his messenger, Muhammad, with guidance, i.e., a clear guide and an evident proof that would guide to the straightest path. He also sent him with the true religion, which is the religion of Islam – the last of the [monotheist] religions and the most perfect one of them, in order to "exalt it above all religions", i.e., in order to exalt it and raise it over all religions, because of the guidance, religious observances, rules and legislations it contains. They have combined the good qualities of the former religions that were brought by the prophets and added to them new ones as was necessitated by God's wisdom and mercy towards this nation [i.e., the Muslims] to which He sent His messenger. God has made it clear that this religion alone is the one that is accepted by Him saying: "Whoever follows a religion which is not Islam, it shall not be accepted from him and he shall be among the losers in the Hereafter." This religion appeared and spread in east and west and, God

willing, it will remain exalted above all religions by the power of its argument and the clarity of its proofs...

**Commentary of the Surahs of Muhammad, Al-Fath, Al-Hujurat and Qaf, Grade 11 (2002) pp. 167-168**

*Based on the preceding material is the following exercise.*

Write a clear and a brief sermon, quoting from the Qur'an and the Prophetic tradition [Sunnah] as much as possible, to a man... who repeatedly says that Islam is the reason for our backwardness.

**Islamic Religious Education, Grade 7, Part 2 (2002) p. 60**

### **Followers of Judaism and Christianity Are Unbelievers**

The meaning of "the unbelievers" in God's words [in the Qur'an]: "The unbelievers who keep others from the path of God" - all the unbelievers, such as the Quraysh polytheists [of Mecca], the hypocrites [i.e., the false Muslims in Medina], and the People of the Book [mainly Jews and Christians].

**Commentary on the Surahs of Muhammad, Al-Fath, Al-Hujurat and Qaf, Grade 11, (2002) p. 79**

What is meant here by "who will lose most through their labors" (Qur'an, Surat Al-Kahf, 103) [This] includes the polytheists, the Jews, the Christians and others who believe that their unbelief and error are correct and right.

**Commentary of Surat Al-Kahf, Grade 9, (2002) p. 224**

...Guide us in the straight path, the path of those whom you have favored, not of those who have incurred your wrath, nor of those who have gone astray.

### **Meanings of Expressions**

... Those who have gone astray: the infidels [*kafirin*]

**Islamic Religious Education, Grade 1, Part 1, (2002) p. 1**

*Qur'an commentators throughout the ages have generally agreed that the Jews were indicated by the phrase "those who have incurred your wrath" in this Qur'anic verse, while Christians were indicated by the phrase "those who have gone astray". The text here avoids such explanations and uses the general term "infidels".*

### **Muslims Should Not Be Like Jews and Christians**

It is time that the believers' hearts be humble when [they hear] the mention of God and the Qur'an He revealed to the heart of their own Messenger. It is time as well for them not to be like those who were given the book before them, as they have been immersed in lust and pleasures, their hearts have become rough ... and they do not differentiate between what is prohibited and what is permitted. Many of them have deviated from God's commandments and have left all virtuous deeds.

**Studies in Theology: Tradition and Morals, Grade 11, (2001) pp. 254-255**

Whoever swears by a false law, other than the law of Islam, such as Judaism or Christianity and the like, deceives in glorifying that false law by which he swears, and in his intent, saying, for example, that he [himself] is a Jew if he does that, or he is a Christian if he does that, he will be sentenced according to what he attributes to himself...

**Selected Texts from the Prophetic Tradition [Sunnah], Grade 7 (2000) p. 35**

The Prophet said: "You will surely follow very closely the norms of those who preceded you..." We asked: "[Do you mean] the Jews and the Christians?" He said: "Who else?"

**Selected Prophetic Sayings [Ahadith]..., Grade 11 (2002) p. 98**

The Prophet came to Medina and saw the Jews fasting on Ashura' [the tenth day of the first month]. He asked: "What is this?" They [i.e., the Jews] said: "This is a good day. This is the day on which God rescued the Children of Israel from their enemies, and therefore Moses fasted on it." He [then] said: "I am worthier of Moses than you are" and fasted on it and ordered [the Muslims] to fast on it... And his fasting on it was not a confirmation of what they had said.

**Selected Prophetic Sayings [Ahadith]..., Grade 10 (2002) p. 65**

A Prophetic Saying [Hadith]...: "Fast on Ashura' [but] be different from the Jews and fast [as well] on the day before and on the day after it".

**Selected Prophetic Sayings [Ahadith]..., Grade 10 (2002) p. 66**

### **The Vices of Judaism and Christianity**

Umm Habibah and Umm Salmah [two of the Prophet's wives] mentioned a church they had seen in Ethiopia in which there were images. They mentioned that to the Prophet.... He said: "Those people, if there is a good

man amongst them who dies, they build a place of worship upon his grave and put there such images. Those are the worst creatures in God's eyes on the Day of Resurrection.”

...Because the Christians worship the prophets' graves, out of reverence for their importance, pray in their direction and make idols – God has cursed them and has forbidden the Muslims to do such things.

**Selected Prophetic Sayings [Ahadith], Grade 11 (2002) pp. 31-32**

“Anyone who testifies that there is no god except God alone – with no partner, that Muhammad is His servant and messenger, and that Jesus is the servant of God – and, according to one version: son of His maid – and His messenger... God will make him enter His Paradise.”

Jesus was mentioned [here] in order to expose the [error of the] Christians and make clear that their belief in the Trinity is pure polytheism, which will not rescue them from [Hell's] fire. He [Jesus] is [also mentioned here as] God's messenger, in order to expose [the error of] the Jews who deny that... and who defame him and his mother in a way that is not permissible. He [Jesus] is [further mentioned as] the son of God's maid, in order to expose [the error of] the Christians again and define him as servant of God and son of His maid. So, how dare they attach him to God as a son?

**Selected Prophetic Sayings [Ahadith], Grade 11, (2002) p. 94**

He [God] does not have a son, as alleged by the Jews and the Christians.

**Islamic Religious Education, Grade 7, Part 1, (2002) p. 7**

...All the infidels, and among them those who have attributed a son to God... These are the Jews and the Christians and some Arabian polytheists. God said [in the Qur'an]: “The Jews say Ezra is the son of God, while the Christians say the Messiah is the son of God.” (Al-Tawbah, 30)

**Commentary of Surat Al-Kahf, Grade 9, (2002) p. 16**

The meaning of “harming God and His Messenger” is: Committing what they both despise and hate – unbelief, iniquity and disobedience. It also includes what the Jews said, namely: “Ezra is the son of God” and “God's hand is fettered”, and what the Christians said – that Christ is the son of God...

**Commentary of the Surahs of Al-Nur and Al-Ahzab, Grade 10 (2002) p. 294**

God prescribed Friday for the Jews [as their holy day in the week], and they said: “O Moses, God did not create on Saturday anything. Make it our day.” So He made [that] for them. In some sources [we find] that Moses... fixed Friday for them and told them about its superiority, [but] they argued with him that Saturday was better. God inspired him [saying]: “Leave them alone with what they have chosen”.

**Selected Prophetic Sayings [Ahadith], Grade 10, (2002) p. 35**

The Jews chose Saturday on the basis of their unsound allegation that it was the day on which God had finished the creation of the created [world]. They said: “We shall rest on it from work and be occupied with worship and thanksgiving.” The Christians [chose] Sunday because it was the first day on which [God] started the creation [of the world] and therefore it deserved glorification. God guided us [the Muslims] to [choose] Friday because He created Adam on it.

**Selected Prophetic Sayings [Ahahdith], Grade 10, (2002) p. 36)**

God is able to create the heaven and the earth and all that is between them in one blink of the eye. But He created them in six days in order to teach His servants to be careful and patient in their affairs. What is meant by the noble verse [“In six days We created the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them; nor were we ever wearied” (Qaf, 38)] is to show God’s perfection and to answer... the Jews who alleged that God created the world in six days and then rested on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath.

**Commentary of the Surahs of Muhammad, Al-Fath, Al-Hujurat and Qaf, Grade 11 (2002) pp. 302-303**

### **Legal Differences between Islam and Other Religions**

The Islamic true religion is a religion of comfort, convenience, tolerance, and gentleness for those obligated [to fulfill its precepts]. It takes difficulty and hardship off them, unlike the other religions that preceded it, which contained difficulties and hardships. Some of the clearest examples that prove this are [as follows]:

1. Penitence in the religions that preceded Islam was by killing oneself [i.e., self mortification]... As regards penitence in this Islamic true religion, [it is done] by desisting from sin, repenting it, and being determined not to repeat it.
2. It was necessary in the earlier religions to cut out the spot of impurity in order to purify a garment stained by it. As for the Islamic religion, [the garment] is purified by water.
3. Also in the earlier religions, a person had to say his prayers in a specially prepared place. It [the prayer] was not considered valid except there. In this purified community [Islam], [it is possible] for

a person to pray in any place, after having performed his ablution with water, or with sand – when there is no water...

**Selected Texts from the Prophetic Tradition [Sunnah], Grade 7, (2000) pp. 13-14**

Prayer is permitted in any place on the earth, as it is all [considered] a mosque and its soil is pure... As for [followers of] the religions that preceded Islam, it was not permitted for them to pray except in special places prepared for that, such as churches and synagogues...

**Selected Texts from the Prophetic Tradition [Sunnah], Grade 7, (2000) p. 27**

God permitted him [the Prophet] and his nation [the Muslims] to benefit from the spoils which the Muslims seize from the infidels in war. As for the preceding [religious] nations, spoils were not permitted to them, because some of them were not permitted to perform the Jihad in the first place and they did not have spoils. Others were permitted to perform it but spoils were unlawful for them and a fire would come and burn them.

**Selected Texts from the Prophetic Tradition [Sunnah], Grade 7 (2000) p. 27**

The Prophet said: “Do not mention the evil deeds of the dead, because they have already got what they deserved”... This saying [Hadith] apparently forbids mentioning the evil deeds of the dead in general, whether they are Muslims or infidels. But it is restricted to the dead Muslims.... There is no prohibition on Muslims mentioning the evil deeds and shortcomings of the infidels, the hypocrites, and the sinful and the crimes they have committed.

**Selected Texts from the Prophetic Tradition [Sunnah], Grade 7, (2000) p. 33**

If an infidel does good deeds with the purpose of getting closer to God, like giving alms and helping his kinsfolk, and then becomes a Muslim and dies as a Muslim – he is rewarded for them. But if he does not become a Muslim, he is not rewarded for them [in the next world], but benefits in this world only. God may increase his property or children, or grant him health. But he is not rewarded in the hereafter, as if he has not done anything.

**Selected Texts from the Prophetic Tradition [Sunnah], Grade 7, (2000) p. 17**

### **The Negative Influence of Non-Muslims on Islam**

Groups of Zoroastrians, Sabi'as [a Gnostic sect known today as Manda'ite in southern Iraq], Jews, Christians and others embraced Islam. Some of them outwardly behaved as Muslims out of fear of authority while they [secretly] followed another [religion]. They began spreading among the Muslims, which corrupted their religion and made them doubt the tenets of their faith. The impact of that was seen in the existence of sects that bear the name of Islam while being destructive 'hoes' [against Islam].

**Studies in Theology: Prophecies, Grade 10, (2002) p. 104**

The great Imam, Sheikh Mahmud Shaltut, has left a grand heritage of valuable researches and studies... [Some] of his most important printed works [are]:

- Commentary on the Holy Qur'an... It is characterized... by its commitment to being a commentary on the Qur'an based on the Qur'an [alone] and by cleansing the commentary of Isra'iliyyat [Jewish traditional stories that were introduced into early Islamic commentary by Jewish converts to Islam] and other fables of that kind.

**Islamic Education, Grade 9, (2002) p. 74**

... Without paying attention to the Isra'iliyyat [Islamic commentary of the Qur'an based on Jewish traditions] that some of the commentators have introduced here and that have no value.

**Commentary of Surat Al-Kahf, Grade 9, (2002) p. 202**

As for reading from the Qur'an [during prayer] – Abu Hanifah's [juristic] school [forbids that] while others [think] that it does not spoil [the prayer], because looking at the Qur'an is worship... But he [i.e., Abu Hanifah] did not like it because it was [like] imitating the People of the Book [in their prayer].

**Selections for the explanation of [the Book of] "Selection", Grade 9, (2002) p. 85**

The Protected People [Ahl al-Dhimmah] shall not go out with them [i.e., with the Muslims, for prayer for rain outside the city]... because the gathering of infidels is expected to bring forth a [divine] curse.

**Selections for the Explanation of [the Book of] "Selection", Grade 9 (2002), p. 103**

[Question:]

Should there be a prayer for rain? What would be the judgment if the Protected People went [to pray] with the Muslims?

**Selections for the Explanation of [the Book of] "Selection", Grade 9 (2002) pp. 103, 104, respectively**

One of the People of the Book should not slaughter it [the sacrifice of the Muslim holiday of Id Al-Adh'ha], because it is an act of worship. [But] if he did so – it is permitted because he may sacrifice an animal [for Muslims].

**Selections for the Explanation of [the Book of] "Selection", Grade 9 (2002) p. 342**

## **The Attitude to Non-Sunnite Sects in Islam and to Non-Muslim Sects that Originated in Islam**

*The material in this section has been taken from one source only, an Azharite textbook.*

### **A Report about the Sects**

**Ibadhiyyah** [found mostly in Oman, Zanzibar and a few places in North Africa].

These are the followers of Abdullah Bin Ibadh al-Tamimi. He lived in the latter half of the first Hijri century [late seventh and early eighth centuries CE] and founded his sect on tolerance. [By that] he was the most moderate [leader] among the Kharijites [a Muslim sect, like the Sunnites and the Shi'ites] and the closest one to the Muslim group [i.e., the Sunnites]....

This sect was destined to survive, unlike the rest of the Kharijites, in some parts of the Muslim world, such as the Maghreb [North Africa]. From their principles we discern their moderation and their fairness towards those [Muslims] who oppose their views. That was the reason for their survival to this day.

**Studies in Theology: Prophecies, Grade 10, (2002) pp. 126-127**

### **[Shi'ism]**

... There is no doubt that Shi'ism was an asylum resorted to by anyone who wanted to destroy Islam due to animosity or malice, for those who wanted to introduce [into Islam] the teachings of their forefathers – whether Jewish, Christian, Zoroastrian or other, and for those who wanted to have their country independent and to rebel against their [Sunni Muslim] kingdom. All these [people] were using the love for the Prophet's family [i.e., Ali, Al-Hasan and Al-Husayn] as a pretext for doing whatever they wanted.

[Question:]

How did Islam's enemies use Shi'ism for spreading their ideas?

**Studies in Theology: Prophecies, Grade 10, (2002) pp. 139, 141, respectively**

### **"[Zaydiyyah – one of the three Shi'ite branches (Yemen)]**

Their denomination is the closest among the Shi'ites to the Muslim group [the Sunnites]. That is so because this community did not indulge in doctrinal exaggerations, many of its followers did not regard any of the [Prophet's] companions as an infidel, and it did not raise [any of] the[ir] imams to the rank of a prophet or God.

**Studies in Theology: Prophecies, Grade 10, (2002) p. 144**

[Imamiyyah – the largest branch of Shi’ism (Iran, Iraq, Lebanon)]

Imamiyyah is one of the Muslim sects. Even though they are in disagreement with the Muslim group [the Sunnites], that disagreement does not exclude them from the Muslim community because they acknowledge the Islamic doctrines and the fundamentals of Islam...

**Studies in Theology: Prophecies, Grade 10, (2002) p. 152**

[Isma’iliyyah – one of the three branches of Shi’ism (mainly in India-Pakistan)]

History has proven that those who founded the Isma’ili denomination of mysticism were people of Zoroastrian descent. They invented tenets aimed at destroying Islam...

The leaders of Isma’iliyyah change and replace tenets as they like, and their followers believe that they [i.e., their leaders] have the right to order matters in this world and in the hereafter. The more time passes on, the more corrupt their denomination becomes. People have been afflicted with much evil as a result of their deeds.

[Question:]

What are their [i.e., the Isma’ilis’] most important principles, and how were these principles [used as] hoes for the destruction of the Islamic religion?

**Studies in Theology: Prophecies, Grade 10, (2002) pp. 154, 156, 157, respectively**

[Bahatism]

This is their behavior in Eastern countries: Deception and hypocrisy with the Muslims. They pretend to be believers and harbor unbelief. In Europe and America their missionary activity is overt and they do not fear [any] reckoning.

**Studies in Theology: Prophecies, Grade 10, (2002) p. 162**

Principles of the Kadiyaniyyah [Ahmadiyyah Sect (India)]

- Prohibition of jihad and call for obedience to the English rulers.
- Kadiyan and its mosque are equal to Mecca and its mosque, and pilgrimage to it is like pilgrimage to Mecca, for it is the third holy place [of Islam]...
- Regarding as infidels those who do not believe in him [Ghulam Ahmad, founder of the Kadiyaniyyah sect] and likening them to the Jews who disbelieved Christ.

**Studies in Theology: Prophecies, Grade 10, (2002) p. 165**