

The
Gospel
of
Barnabas

The disciples asked : O Master ! Who shall that man be of whom thou speaketh, who shall come into the world ? Jesus answered: He is **Muhammad the Messenger of God.**

(Barnabas)

by

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www.aaiil.org

Publisher :—

MALIK ZAFARULLAH KHAN

Secretary Jamaat-i-Ahmadiyya Rawalpindi

(Jinnah Girls High School, Railway Road)

Hakim Shah Nawaz Street; College Square,

RAWALPINDI. (West Pakistan)

Can be had free from :—

Malik Zafarullah Khan

Hakim Shah Nawaz Street, College Square,

Rawalpindi. (W. Pakistan)

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by

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are much grateful to the under-mentioned for the financial help they have rendered us for the publication of this pamphlet. May the Most High God be pleased with them :—

1. Jamaat-i-Abbottabad under the good guidance of Dr. Saeed Ahmad, Sitara-i-Khidmat.
2. Jamaat-i-Rawalpindi (Jinnah Girls High School)
3. Chaudhri Fateh Muhammad Aziz, Pleader, Gujrat.
4. Khwaja Muhammad Ibrahim Ishai, Landlord of Murree. This well-natured youngman, walking in the foot-steps of his revered father, the late Khwaja Muhammad Ishmael Ishai, has been, whenever requested, giving us handsome financial aid, with a smile on his face, to promote and further the cause of the Ahmadiyya Movement which is, in fact, the cause of true Islam of the Holy Prophet's day. May the Most Merciful God shower His blessings on him.

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THE GOSPEL OF BARNABAS

Islam, at the time of which we are speaking, was only a child of few days old. Some very poor people, belonging to the humbler stratum and station of social life had gathered round the Prophet, reposing their belief in him. They could be counted on fingers. To deal destruction to and exterminate this small band of believers, the whole of the peninsula of Arabia had risen up in arms. The idolaters wielded all power and authority in the land; and they had unsheathed their swords with the grim resolve of annihilating Islam and its Prophet with the sharp edge. It was not a mere threat to force the believers to renounce the new faith and return to their ancestral religion, the worship of idols and stones, but the unbelievers, with all their fierceness and fury, had actually launched upon their campaign of destruction and death. Islam seemed to be a matter of few days only.

Divine Proclamation

It was under such dreadful conditions that a revelation came from On High making the following announcement :

*When the heaven is cleft asunder,
And when the stars become dispersed,
And when the rivers are made to flow forth,
And when the graves are laid open.*

(Chapter 82)

In this beautiful figure of speech, the Most High God, in Whom resides all power, declared, in reply to the

unbelievers' challenge, that the doors of heaven shall be thrown open, and Divine help shall descend for the protection of the Prophet and the small band of his followers, and that the Teachers of Truth (Islam), called *stars* metaphorically, shall spread not only in Arabia but all over the earth, causing the rivers of Divine knowledge and wisdom to flow and fertilize dry lands. In fine, a new heaven and a new earth shall be created, giving rise to a great spiritual resurrection. The old order of religion shall change yielding place to the new, *Al-Islam*.

The Great Prophecy

And when the graves are laid open, they shall yield invincible proof of the truthfulness of Islam and its Holy Prophet.

1. Pharaoh's Tomb

We read in the Bible when the Children of Israel fled from Egypt under the leadership of Moses, the king of Egypt, Pharaoh, pursued after them with all his army and chariots, and overtook them encamping by the sea. Turn over chapter 14, of the Second Book of Moses, called *Exodus*, and read.

And the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the Children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand and on their left. And Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all

Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen..... And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen; and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; *there remained not so much as one of them.* (Verses 21, 22, 23, 28)

In another pamphlet, entitled *That Prophet*, when the present writer made a mention of this great historical event, a grey-headed Padre of India who struts and frets his hour upon the stage assuming the fictitious guise of the *Conqueror of Qadian*, came forth with his quirk of logic, contending, Where is it written in the Bible that Pharaoh was drowned in the sea? It puts us in mind of the Latin proverb: *No mischief but a woman or a padre is at the bottom of it.* If Pharaoh perished not in the sea, as the artful and astute Padre would have the world believe, where did he go to, for he existed not on this earth after the tragical event of the sea? Did he, like the Padre's Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Christ, arise to the high heaven? We, however, invite the Padre to read the following text of the Bible:

O give thank to him (God) that brought out Israel from among them (Egyptians) with a strong hand and with a stretched out arm; to him which divided the Red Sea into parts and made Israel to pass through the midst of it, *but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea* (Psalms 136: 11-15)

To return to our story. The Biblical tale that Pharaoh perished in the sea, and not a trace was left of him was told for two thousand years. When the Holy Quran was revealed, and the hitherto unknown fact that Pharaoh's body had been preserved to serve as a sign for the coming

generations (10:92), was disclosed upon the people, the Padres laughed at and ridiculed the Quranic statement, alleging that it was against the facts of history. Pharaoh had been swallowed up by the sea, they contended, and not a trace of him was left, but the Quran said that his body had been preserved to serve as a sign for the coming generations. It was evidently a mis-statement, they said arrogantly. Centuries passed over this Biblical story, and the Christian preachers continued to indulge in their raillery and ridicule. But it was only recently that during the archaeological excavations in Egypt, that the body of Rameses II who was the Pharaoh of Moses, had been discovered along with other mummies (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Art. *Mummy*). It has since then been placed in the museum in Egypt to serve as a sign for the people. He is that Pharaoh who, intoxicated with his power and pelf, stood against the Prophet of God (Moses), but met with and suffered such a tragical fate. This discovery which has been made in the present age, could not have been known to the *Ummi* (the unlettered) Prophet of the Desert; and it was, as a matter of fact, not known to any one in the world. Does it not offer an incontrovertible proof of the truthfulness of Islam and the Divine mission of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace and the blessings of God be upon him). The prophecy had said :

And when the graves are laid open, they shall yield invincible proof of the truthfulness of Islam and its Holy Prophet.

2. Tomb of Jesus the Christ

According to the Gospel-record, the Jews conspired against the life of Jesus, and hatched up a plot to kill him by the accursed and ignominious death on the Cross to prove to the world that he was an impostor and not the Messiah *which was for to come*; it was written in the Law of Moses: *He that is hanged is accursed of God* (Deut : 31 : 23). They apprehended him and killed him on the Cross; but on the third day he rose from the dead, and ascended to heaven. Was Jesus son of Mary an impostor or, was he the true Messiah which was for to come? The Gospel-narrative unfortunately proves him to be a pretender; *for he that is hanged is accursed of God*. The Most High God cleared, in the Quranic revelation, this shameful stigma from the face of His true and righteous prophet, saying that the Jewish plan was frustrated, and Jesus died not upon the Cross, but lived after the event of Crucifixion, and died a natural death afterwards. The Quran said:

When Allah said: O Jesus, *I will cause thee to die* (a natural death) and exalt thee in My presence and clear thee of those who disbelieve (3-54)

When taken down from the Cross, Jesus was in a state of complete unconsciousness, resembling death. His disciples lavished all care on him. Jesus recovered, and escaped to the Eastern countries in search of the Ten Lost Sheep of the House of Israel. His mother and twin-brother and disciple Thomas accompanied him. These Lost Tribes of Beni Israel, modern research has proved beyond all shadow of doubt, are

the people of Afghanistan and Kashmir. The Quranic revelation went on to say :

And We made the son of Mary and his mother a sign, and we gave them refuge on a lofty ground having meadows and springs.
(23 : 50)

This description applies exactly to the valley of Kashmir. Having been delivered from the hands of the Jews, Jesus travelled through Persia and Afghanistan, and at last reached Kashmir. He delivered his message to the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel, and died at the age of 120 years and was buried in Khanyar (Srinagar) where his tomb exists even up to this day. When this tomb will be excavated and laid open, it will certainly yield, as it happened in the case of the Pharaoh of Egypt, the dead body of Jesus son of Mary together with conclusive, evidential signs. That day will drive the last nail into the coffin of Christianity, and the truthfulness of Islam and the Holy Prophet will shine forth and glitter like the noonday sun.

There is yet another important tomb, the *Tomb of Barnabas*, a mention of which will shortly be made in the sequel.

A Padre's Fanfaronnade

On one occasion, a zealous Christian preacher began to read, in the presence of the present writer, verse after verse from the Gospels, adducing them as an argument in

support of his contention. I asked him to know what he was reading so pretentiously. *The word of God*, came the prompt reply. *You have three Gods*, I said, *of which God is this the word?* The Padre replied with his nose in the air, *The word of God the Father which came upon God the Son.* I further questioned him, *Did God the Son commit it to writing himself, or even had it inscribed on paper in his presence?* With a blush on his face the Padre said, *No.* And it is such a hard fact which even a Padre cannot gainsay and deny. Jesus the Christ was a man of letters and learning, and he could, if he liked, easily preserve with his own pen the Word of God the Father. But he did it not. And according to the Gospel record, Jesus had preached and taught for about three years only when the Jews caught and crucified him.

Oral Transmission

After Jesus, a mention of the events of his life and teaching was continued to be made by word of mouth only. The disciples went about and visited villages and towns and delivered the message of Christ unto the people. Of these, Peter, Paul, and Barnabas deserve a special mention. Peter, long after the event of Crucifixion, converted Mark. This man had neither seen Jesus nor heard him speak with his own ears. He knew other languages and Peter and Barnabas therefore, used to take him with them as an interpreter, when they went on missionary expeditions. The message of Christ was, in this way, delivered unto the people by oral transmission.

Leadership

When war for succession broke out among the disciples and Peter, Paul and James contested for leadership, different belligerent parties came into being. Now any sharp-witted and astute man who conceived such an idea into his head, would compile a pamphlet, and call it *Injil* (Gospel), and in order to strengthen the position of his party, wrote therein whatever he liked. Gospels, in this way, began to breed into existence, and their number continued to rise and swell. But since wrong and inconsistent statements had been attributed, in them, to Jesus the Christ, dissensions and disputes arose among the community.

The Gospel of Mark

People approached Mark and said unto him: Thou hadst often been accompanying Peter, Paul and Barnabas on their missionary expeditions and interpreting their preachings. Carrying your thoughts back and recalling all those things to mind, put them in black and white and compile a book. Bishop Eusebius who lived in the third century and was an eminent scholar of religious learning, wrote in his famous book, *Ecclesiastical History*:

Mark, the interpreter of Peter, wrote down exactly but not in order what he remembered of the acts and sayings of the Lord, for he neither heard the Lord himself nor accompanied him.

The *Gospel according to Mark* was, in this way, written 70 years after the event of Crucifixion, and the *Gospel according to Matthew* after 85 years, and the *Gospel according to John*

after 110 years. Matthew and Luke both have gathered and gleaned copiously from the *Gospel according to Mark*. This man Luke, the Gospel-writer, was also a Gentile who had neither seen Jesus the Messiah, nor ever heard him speak. He was converted by Paul.

The Current Gospels, Not Word of God

To return to the story of the Padre Sahib. He argued rather vehemently that the four Gospel-writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, wrote under inspiration, and it was, therefore, the holy Word of God. I asked him respectfully that he should, in all fairness, adduce at least one verse from each of the four Gospels in which the writer had said and claimed that whatever he had written, he wrote under inspiration, and it was, therefore, the Word of God. But the reverend Minister of the Church could not bring forward and quote any such verse. And how could he, when the Gospel-writers themselves confess and admit that whatever they have written, is their own human word and not the Word of God. Turn over the *Gospel according to Luke*, and read his opening statement :

Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, even as they delivered them unto us which from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word; it seemed good to me, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, that thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed. (Chapter 1. verse 1)

Luke used to impart instruction and teach a Roman Minister. Theophilus by name. Furtheron, in *The Acts* (1:1) Luck goes on to say:

The former *treatise* have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach.

Even a cursory examination of the above-quoted verses leads us to the inevitable conclusion that,

1. Many persons had set themselves to the writing down and putting on record what Jesus said and did during the short period of his ministration.
2. Luke also took it into his head-it *Second good to me-* to chronicle the teaching and acts of the Christ.
3. Luke insituted an inquiry and picked up information from the people and incorporated it in his *treatise* for the knowledge and wisdom of Theophilus.
4. It is but evidently clear that the so-called *Gospel according to Luke* was not written under Divine inspiration. It may, at the most, be called *Memoirs of Jesus*.

Now turn over *Encyclopaedia Americana*(Art. Gospels) and read:

Luke the author of *Luke-Acts*, a two-volume defense of Christianity in historcal form; was probably known the

person to whom the work was dedicated; ‘the most excellent Theophilus,’ perhaps a Roman magistrate before whom Christians were being tried in the days of Domitian (81-96 A.D.). The earliest Gospel, Mark, from about, 68 A.D. was probably written at Rome, as tradition says, and was addressed to the martyr church in that city at the time of Nero’s persecution.

As regards Matthew’s Gospel, *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (Art. *St. Matthew*) tells us :

According to tradition indeed it was Matthew himself who was the author of the First Gospel, *but the tradition is undoubtedly a mistaken one.....*

The internal evidence of the Gospel has shown that the author was a Christian Hellenist, probably ignorant of Hebrew, who depended for his knowledge of the life and teaching of Christ upon tradition.

Hellenist is a person who adopts Greek speech, ideas or customs, and admires Greek civilization.

Writes Professor J.W. Donaldson in his book *The Christian Orthodoxy*.p. 156 :

The question of inspiration of the New Testament is of dogmatic, not historical import.

Now turn over *The Gospel according to John*, and read :

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which. if they should be written every one, I suppose that

even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written (21 : 25)

John, too, it is but obviously clear, calls his Gospel only the life-story, the memoirs of Jesus, and that too, so short and succinct, that if, according to him, a full history of what Jesus said and did during his ministry of three years only, the whole surface of the world would be insufficient to contain the books. The Gospel-writer in making this statement, has indulged in an hyperbole of a high-colouring.

King Constantine

To pick up the thread of our story. When contest and conflict for leadership broke out among the disciples Gospels began to be compiled : *The Gospel of Peter, The Gospel of Andrew, The Gospel of James, The Gospel of Philip, The Gospel of Bartholomew, The Gospel of Nicodemus, The Gospel of the Ebionites. The Gospel Relating to the Birth and Infancy of Christ, The Gospel of the Nativity of Mary etc etc.*

The number of these Gospels, in the time of King Constantine, rose to *158-me hundred and fifty-eight*. And since, in those books, wrong and contradictory statements had been made in the name of Jesus, quarrels and disputes arose among the different parties assuming outrageous proportions. The country fell into a state of unpeacefulness and mutual ill-will. The King had at last to promulgate an order commanding that all the Gospels should be delivered up and surrendered to the King by such and such date, and that the defaulters shall be punished with death. In this

way, all the Gospels came into the hands of the King. He, then, convened a meeting of 300 Church bishops and divines to determine and decide which of them were authentic books containing the true teaching of Jesus the Christ. The Christian Fathers, strange enough, instead of scrutinizing and scanning closely this huge heap of Gospels carried them into the Church, and placed them under the Lord's table, and sat round it with folded hands and closed eyes, and prayed to their Lord to cause the genuine books to jump up on to the table and the spurious ones to remain lying underneath. Some one of them performed this miracle also; and when they opened their eyes, the books that lay upon the table were: The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John: The Epistles of Paul, and some other scriptures which had been included in the New Testament of the Bible. King Constantine ordered that all the remaining books that remained underneath the Lord's table, should be consigned to the flames.

The Gospel of Barnabas

But there was yet another Gospel which the Most High God under some Providential plan, had preserved and saved from this wholesale destruction - *The Gospel of Barnabas*. Barnabas was one of the distinguished disciples of Lord Jesus the Christ. *Barnabas* means *The son of consolation*. Of him it is written in the Christian scripture.

The Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them (*The Acts 13 : 2; 4 : 36*)

Barnabas and Paul together paid visits to different places and delivered unto the people the message of Christ. Mark also, as stated above, accompanied them as interpreter. But difference arose between Paul and Barnabas regarding the teaching of Jesus; and *it was not a small dissension and disputation.* The result was that Barnabas and Mark separated from Paul, and went to Cyprus, the country and birth-place of Barnabas. In Cyprus, Barnabas carried on his work for some time, and then breathed his last, and was entombed there. Barnabas had also compiled a Gospel and written in his own hand which he always kept with him. He was commanded by Jesus to write this Gospel. He wrote in his Gospel.

And Jesus turned himself to him who writeth, and said: See Barnabas that by all means thou write my gospel concerning all that hath happened through my dwelling in the world. (CCXXI. p. 487)

Years passed over his death. In 478 A.D. when his relics were discovered in a tomb, this Gospel was found to be lying on his breast. If this Gospel had not been entombed along with Barnabas in this way, it would also have been consigned to fire in the time of King Constantine, and burnt to ashes. But, as stated above, the Most High God, under His particular plan, had saved it from destruction.

A Christian Monk

For 18 years this Gospel, *Evangelium Barnabe*, was read and recited in the churches. It was in 496 C.E. that

this Gospel was condemned by a Decree of the Church as heretical Gospel and its reading was prohibited. It was, then, consigned to the library of Pope Sixtus V where it continued to lie along with other prohibited books for one thousand years. It is interesting as well as instructive to know how this Gospel got out of and escaped from this second grave. A Christian Monk named Fra Marino, tells us that a writing of Irenaeus fell into his hands by a mere accident. Irenaeus was the Bishop of Lyons, and lived in the second century. The Bishop had criticised severely the doctrine preached by Paul, and adduced the *Gospel of Barnabas* as authority in support of his argument. Fra Marino goes on to tell us that he became exceeding desirous to find and read this Gospel. But it was not to be had, and the desire remained in the monk's mind unfulfilled and unrealized. Time rolled on. Now it so happened that he found access into the Vatican, and became intimate with the Pope, and was often admitted into audience. One day it so happened that he called on the Pope and was seated in the library. He was all alone, and in order to employ himself, he got to an almirah to see books. As luck would have it, the very first book whereon his hand fell, was the much-cherished *Evangelium Barnabe*. His joy, the monk states, knew no bounds. He concealed it under his cloak, and soon after, took leave of the Pope, and carried away with him the precious prize. In this way, the *Gospel of Barnabas* emerged from its second grave to see the light of the day.

Translations

The *Gospel of Barnabas*, in the first instance, was rendered into Italian, and the Italian MS exists up to this day in the Imperial Library at Vienna. In the beginning of the 18th Century, the name and fame of this book spread over Europe, and particularly in England, and a mention of this Gospel was made in religious and literary gatherings. In 1901 C. E. a professor of Queens College, Oxford. Dr. Minkhouse, translated it into English. It was also rendered into Arabic by a Christian scholar of Egypt, which was further rendered into Urdu by a Muslim savant. There is another popular English translation that we have before us, published at Oxford at the Clarendon Press (1907). Its title-page reads :

The Gospel of Barnabas,
 Edited and translated from the Italian MS in the Imperial
 Library at Vienna.

By
 Lonsdale and Laura Ragg

Trick of the Trade

The learned translators, *Lonsdale and Laura Ragg*, in a long drawn-out Introduction, have tried their level best to inveigle the people into the queer belief that the author of this Gospel was a Muslim. It is not very difficult to understand the embarrassing position wherein this Gospel has thrown them, and for that matter every other Christian in the world. Their Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Christ, as reported in this Gospel, foretold the advent of the Holy

Prophet Muhammad (peace and the blessings of God be upon him) in such clear and unequivocal terms that it becomes imperatively necessary for a Christian to acknowledge and accept and repose his faith in the Holy Prophet of Arabia. Jesus, day in and day out, used to panegyryze and praise the Holy Prophet Muhammad in the highest words of esteem and honour. He had, as a matter of fact, been sent to proclaim the glad tidings of the coming of the Great World Prophet :

The disciples asked : Master, who shall that man be, of whom you speak, who shall come into the world ? Jesus answered **Muhammad the Messenger of God**

Wastenfells, a renowned Christian scholar and grammarian, expounds that Jesus used the word *Mauhamana*, an Aramaic term, in which language he spoke and preached. This term in Hebrew becomes *Mauhamanna*, and in the sister language Arabic, *Muhammad* or *Ahmad*; these are synonyms, which mean *the praised one*, and are derived from the same root *hamad* which means *praising*. Therefore,

Mauhamana (Aramaic)
 = *Mauhamanna* (Hebrew)
 = *Muhammad* (Arabic)

No prophecy has ever been uttered in so clear and distinct terms. For a Christian, if he sincerely believes in the word of his Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Christ, there is left no other option or alternative but to bow his head in submission before **Muhammad the Messenger of God**.

The learned translators, as well as other persons of their way of thinking, have, therefore, in order to wriggle, out of the hard situation, improvised a clever plan of denying the genuineness and authenticity of the *Gospel of Barnabas*, and declaring that it was compiled by some Muslim.

British Museum

Truth, however, needs not many words. The Holy Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (peace and the blessings of God be upon him) was born into this world in the 6th century in the year 571 C. E. whereas there is incontrovertible evidence on record that the *Gospel of Barnabas* existed, in all reality, in the 4th century C. E. The current translations of the Holy Bible into various, different languages of the world, have been done from one Latin MS, called *Codex Alexandrinus* which lies preserved in the British Museum in England. It is a compilation of the 5th century, i. e. 500 years after the death of Christ. But it is strange enough that Latin was not the language of Jesus. His mother-tongue was Aramaic in which he spoke and preached; neither was Latin the disciples' language; nor was it the language of the people unto whom they delivered the message of Christ and preached. Latin was the language of the unbelievers. The Jews, also, never wrote their sacred scriptures in this language. Besides *Codex Alexandrinus* there are several other ancient MSS of which the following are more known and antique :

1. *Codex Sinaiticus.*
2. *Codex Vaticanus.*
3. *Vulgate (Latin).*

All the three MSS are the compilations of the 4th century C.E. i.e. two centuries before the advent of Islam, and are preserved in the British Museum in England. The *Codex Sinaiticus* contains only 26 Books of the Old Testament, all the Books of the New Testament, and the *Gospel of Barnabas*. Furthermore, the Gospel of Barnabas was condemned by the Church by three successive Decrees, viz,

1. Decree of the Western Church (382 C.E)
2. Innocent I (465 C. E)
3. Gelasius (496 C. E)

The Gelasian Decree mentions the *Evangelium Barnabe* (Gospel of Barnabas) in its index of the prohibited and heretical Gospels. The Prophet of Arabia was born into this world in the year 571 C, E. It is thus but evidently clear that the Gospel of Barnabas did exist on this earth long before the advent of Islam.

Jesus Not Son of God.

The Most High God had declared in the Holy Quran, 1400 years ago :

And when the graves are laid open, they shall yield invincible proof of the truthfulness of Islam and its Holy Prophet.

The Christians had been, for 500 years, misleading the world to believe that Jesus the Christ was the Divine Son of God, *the very God of the very God*, and offered prayers unto him. Then came the Quranic revelation, declaring.

The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary. is only a messenger of Allah.....And say not, three. Desist, it is better for you. Allah is only one God. Far be it from His glory to have a son. To him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth (4 : 171).

But the Christians desisted not. They are still pursuing their wrong course and preaching and propagating the detriious doctrine of the Divine Sonship of Jesus.

Now open the *Gospel of Barnabas* to know what Jesus has to say on this point. It is written (XLVIII, p. 113) :

Then Jesus feared greatly, and turning himself to God, said : Take me from the world, O Lord, for the world is mad and they well-nigh call me God. And having *said this, he wept.* (XLVIII)

The crowd drew nigh, and when they knew him (Jesus) they began to cry out, Welcome to thee, O our God ! and they began to do him *reverence as unto God* Whereupon Jesus gave a great groan and said. Get ye from before me, O madmen, for I fear that the earth should open and devour me with you for your abominable words. Whereupon the people were filled with terror and began to *weep.* (XCIII p. 213)

Verily J say unto you that, speaking from the heart, *I tremble because by the world I shall be called God*, and for this I shall have

to render an account. By the living God, in whose presence my soul standeth, *I am a mortal man as other men are*, .or although God hath placed me as prophet over the house of Israel for the health of the feeble and the correction of the sinners, *I am the servant of God*, and of this are witnesses, how *I speak against those wicked men who after my departure from the world shall annul the truth of my Gospel by the operation of Satan...* And having thus spoken, Jesus shed tears, whereat his disciples wept aloud, and lifted their voices, saying, Pardon, O Lord God, and have mercy on thy innocent servant. Jesus answered, Amen, Amen (LII, p, 123).

And having said this, Jesus smote his face with both his hands, and then smote the ground with his head. And having raised his head, he said :

*Cursed be everyone who shall
insert into my sayings that
I am the son of God.*

At these words the disciples fell down as dead. Whereupon Jesus lifted them up. saying, Let us fear God now, if we would not be affrighted in that day. (LII. p. 127).

It is for our Christian friends who do Jesus reverence as unto God. and address their prayers to him, night and day saying *ربنا المسيح وبننا المسيح* (O Messiah our Rabb), to ponder over this grim warning uttered by Jesus himself. It is never too late to mend.

We read in the *Gospel according to Matthew* (7 : 22) that Jesus said that on the Judgment Day

Many will say to me in that day, Lord Lord. have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, *I never knew you ; depart from me, ye evildoers.*

The Promised Son

The Great Patriarch, Abraham, had two sons, Ishmael and Isaac. Ishmael was born of his wife Hagar (Hajrah) when the Patriarch was 86 years old ; and Isaac was born of his wife Sarah when he was 100 years old. We quote from the Bible -

I

And Abram was four score and six years old. when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram. (Genesis, 16 : 61),

And Abraham was an hundred years old when his son Isaac was born unto him (Gen : 21 : 5).

It does not require the wisdom of Solomon to understand from these simple statements that Ishmael was the *firstborn* and many years older in age than Isaac. Regarding Ishmael, God said unto Abraham,

And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee ; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceed-

1. The name *Abram* was later on changed into *Abraham* :

Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham ; for a father of many nations have I made thee. (Genesis, 17 : 5)

ingly ; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. (Gen. 17 : 20)

Ishmael became the progenitor of twelve tribes that settled here and there in Arabia, and became the ancestors of the great Arab nation. And from the seed of Isaac and his son Jacob (Israel) sprang up Beni Israel. The Great World-Prophet, according to prophecy, was to make his appearance among the Beni Ishmael ; but the Beni Israel who looked down upon and despised them, would not concede this privilege to the Children of Ishmael. Ishmael, being the firstborn, was also to inherit the spiritual as well as temporal blessings of Abraham. A conspiracy was, therefore, hatched up to pull him down from his high place on the pedestal, and turn the current of the prophecy in the direction of Beni Israel. The Biblical text was corrupted, and deliberate lies were told :

And God said to Abraham : Now take thy son. *thine only son, Isaac*, whom thou lovest. and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. (Gen. 22 : 2)

In order to debar and deprive Ishmael of the title of inheritance of the spiritual blessings of Abraham, another wicked statement was made that his mother Hagar was merely a handmaid of Sarah, in the face of the fact that she was an honourable lady of the Royal House of Egypt. Only a few years ago, some very ancient scrolls have been discovered from the caves in the vicinity of the Dead Sea.

One of these scrolls, written in Aramaic, contains a record of the life-story of Abraham; and it is written therein that Hagar (Hajrah) was the daughter of the King of Egypt. Dr. Gastor, a research scholar, elucidating this point, has written in his book, *The Scriptures of the Dead Sea Sect*, that according to the Israelite tradition, Hagar was the daughter of the Pharaoh of Egypt whom he had presented to Abraham (pp. 22, 42).

But in order to cut short and conclude this discussion, let us seek a verdict from Jesus the Christ, the Lord and Saviour of our Christian friends, whether Ishmael or Isaac was the firstborn, and which of them was taken up the mountain for sacrifice? Turn over the *Gospel of Barnabas* (XLIV) and read :

Jesus said : Then spake God to Abraham : Take thy son, thy firstborn Ishmael, and come up the mountain to sacrifice him. How is Isaac firstborn, if when Isaac was born Ishmael was seven years old ?

Muhammad the Messenger of God

As stated above, Jesus had come to give the world the glad tidings of the coming of the Great Prophet of Arabia. Just open the *Gospel of Barnabas* (LXXII, p. 167) and read :

Jesus answered : Let not your heart be troubled, neither be ye fearful ; for I have not created you but God our Creator

who hath created you, will protect you. *As for me, I am now come to the world to prepare the way for the messenger of God; who shall bring salvation to the world.*

I therefore say unto you that the messenger of God is a splendour that shall give gladness to nearly all that God hath made, for he is adorned with the spirit of understanding and of counsel, the spirit of wisdom and might, the spirit of fear and love, the spirit of prudence and temperance; he is adorned with the spirit of charity and mercy, the spirit of justice and piety, the spirit of gentleness and patience which he hath received from God three times more than he hath given to all his creatures.

O blessed time, when he shall come to the World! Believe me that I have seen him, and have done him reverence, even as every prophet hath seen; seeing that of his spirit God giveth to them prophecy. And when I saw him, my soul was filled with consolation, O Mohammad, God be with thee, and may he make me worthy to untie thy shoelatchet, for obtaining this I shall be a great prophet and holy one of God.

And having said this, Jesus rendered his thanks to God.

Then said Andrew (a disciple): Master, tell us some sign, that we may know him. Jesus answered; He will not come in your time; but will come some years after you, *when my gospel shall be annulled*, insomuch that there shall be scarcely thirty faithful. At that time; God will have mercy on the world, and so he will send his messenger over whose head will rest a white cloud, whereby he shall be known by one elect of God, and shall be by him manifested to the world. He shall come with great power against ungodly, and shall *destroy idolatry upon the earth.*

And it rejoiceth me because that through him our God shall be known and glorified, and *I shall be known to be true*; and he will execute vengeance against those who will say that *I am more than man.* (LXXII)

Then said Jesus (to the priest): With your words I am not consoled, because where ye hope for light darkness shall come, but my consolation is in the coming of *the messenger, who shall destroy every false opinion of me,* and his faith shall spread and shall take hold of the whole world, for so hath God promised to Abraham, our father: And that which giveth me consolation is that *his faith shall not end, but shall be kept inviolate by God.* The priest said: After the coming of the messenger of God shall other prophets come? Jesus answered: *There shall not come after him true prophets sent by God.* but there shall come a great number of false prophets whereat I sorrow. (XCVII)

(On another question of the priest)

Jesus answered: God himself gave him the name when he had created his soul and placed it in a celestial splendour. God said:

Wait Muhammad:

for, for thy sake I will to create paradise, the world and a great multitude of creatures, whereof I make thee a present, insomuch that *whoso shall bless thee, shall be blessed and whoso shall curse thee, shall be accursed.* When I shall send thee into the world, I shall send thee as my messenger of salvation, and thy word shall be true insomuch that heaven and earth shall fail, but *thy faith shall never fail.*

*Muhammad is his
blessed name.*

Then the crowd lifted up their voices, saying,

*O God send us thy messenger,
O Muhammad, come quickly
for the salvation of the
world.*

(XCVII p. 225)

Blessed are the submissive and obedient who comply with the word of command uttered by Jesus the Christ, and acknowledge and accept the Promised Prophet, *Muhammad the Messenger of God*, and fall on their knees before him. It has been very aptly said :

*He commands enough that
obeys a wise man.*

Appendix

Objections.

1. Why was the Gospel buried with the dead body of Barnabas?
2. Why was the tomb excavated! It is hard to believe that the saints' disciples could have allowed such an act of desecration.
3. How could it be possible that the book, even though buried in earth for such a long time, perished not, nor suffered any natural decay like other things?
4. Paul and Barnabas worked together and delivered the message of Christ. How could it be that Barnabas parted company with him for good merely on the basis of a small difference?

For the disposal of the dead there are six different ways current in the world.

1. Inhumation.
2. Cremation.
3. Conservation (Embalming).
4. Exposure (Tower of Silence).
5. Water - burial,
6. Animal consumption.

At the time of which we are speaking the first three modes were generally in vogue in the Mediterranean coun-

tries. The Egyptian civilization was in the ascendant and projected its influence over the neighbouring countries. They mummified the corpse to preserve it from decay. They believed that a spiritual body would be developed therein, and the spirit of the deceased would survive. Sundry objects of personal use and adornment such as jars of food and drink, weapons and implements, beads and bracelets of ivory, and other materials, were placed by the side of the deceased in the tomb. Kings and rich people had silver and gold and other precious things about them in the sepulchre. Sacred helpful texts were also carved on the walls of the tomb. But the mummification was a costly affair, and the poorer people contented themselves with the interment of a sacred text with the dead body. Small wonder, therefore, if the Gospel was buried with the dead body of Barnabas. We quote from a recent research book *Jesus In Heaven On Earth* by an eminent scholar Al-Haj Khwaja Nazir Ahmad of The Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law, Senior Advocate, Federal Court of Pakistan, Advocate of His Majesty's High Court of Judicature at Lahore :

“Barnabas was an Apostle of Jesus, selected by the Holy Spirit, an uncle of Mark the Evangelist, and a companion of Paul. He travelled throughout Palestine, from Philipi to Mt. Sinai, preaching the Gospel. *His relics were discovered in a tomb in Cyprus in the fourth year of Emperor Zeno (476 C. E.) and a copy of his Gospel, written in his own hand, was found lying on his breast. The Gospel of St. Barnabas was*

condemned by the Church by three successive Decrees ; the Decree of the Western Church (382 C.E), of Innocent I (465 C. E.) and of Gelasius (496 C. E). The Gelasian Decree mentions the Evangelium Barnabe in its index of the prohibited and heretical Gospels.” (p. 255)

The tombs in those days were not like our tombs, but they were small chambers hewn in the solid rock. We read in the Gospel that when Jesus was taken down from the cross, a believer in him, Joseph of Arimathea, took the body, and

“he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb which he had hewn out in the rock, and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed” (Matt. 27 :60).

The Jewish graves had also a small window in one side facing Jerusalem so that when the dead bodies will rise on the Day of Resurrection, they might be able to walk in the direction of the holy city.

Paper, as we have it today, had not been invented in those ancient times, and a material for writing upon was made from an Egyptian plant. It is written in *Encyclopaedia Americana* (Art. Bible)

“The word Bible is from the Greek *biblos* or *bub'los*, the bark enclosing the pith of the papyrus plant from

which was made paper in ancient times.”

Sacred Scriptures were written on this worm-proof papyrus, and lasted for centuries together. The *Dead Sea Scrolls* which have only recently been discovered, contain several books and fragments of the Old Testament that are being read and studied by the research scholars.

Falling out of Paul and Barnabas

We read in *The Acts* (15 : 35-39)

“Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord; with many others also. And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. And Barnabas determined to take with them John whose surname was Mark. But Paul thought not good to take him with them who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. And the *contention was so sharp* between them, that they departed asunder one from the other; and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus.”

One is naturally tempted to ask, Why Mark, who used to accompany them as an interpreter, with pleasure and a good grace “departed from them from Pamphylia and went not with them to the work?” Open *Encyclopaedia Americana* (Art. Paul) for an answer :

“Taking John Mark along as assistant they (Paul and Barnabas) first traversed the island of Cyprus, preaching mostly in synagogues, then crossed over to Pergia on the mainland of Asia Minor. *There Mark deserted them, perhaps because he could not brook Paul’s plan to preach to Gentiles.*”

Jesus had been sent merely for the good and guidance of the Children of Israel. He said : “I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the House of Israel.” (Matt. 15 : 24). To his disciples, when he sent them out in the country to preach his Gospel, Jesus gave the explicit direction :

“*Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into the city of the Samaritans enter ye not. But go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel*” (Matt. 10 : 5).

Paul’s preaching to the Gentiles (non-Israelites) was obviously a deliberate defiance of the explicit bidding of Jesus. It was, therefore, but natural that Mark and Barnabas should fall foul of and separate from Paul.

The Church Christianity, as we have it today, has nothing to do with the teaching of Jesus the Christ. It is an ingenious invention of Paul’s fertile brain. Writes Dr. Johannes Weiss, of Heidelberg university, in his well - known book, *Paul and Jesus*, p. 130 :

“Hence the faith in Christ as held by Paul was something new in comparison with the preachings of

Jesus ; it was a new type of religion.”

There is yet another research scholar, Dr. Arnold Meyer, Professor of Theology of Zurich University, who states on p. 122 of his famous book, *Jesus or Paul*, in much more distinct and unambiguous terms :

“If by Christianity we understand faith in Christ as the heavenly Son of God who did not belong to earthly humanity, but who lived in the Divine likeness and glory, who came down from Heaven to earth, who entered humanity and took upon himself a human form through a virgin, that he might make propitiation for men’s sins by his own blood upon the cross, who was then awakened from death and raised to the right hand of God, as the Lord of his own people, who believe in him, who hears their prayers, guards and leads them, who will come again with the clouds of Heaven to judge the world, who will cast down all the foes of God, and will bring his own people with him unto the home of heavenly light so that they may become like His glorified body—if *this is Christianity, then such Christianity was founded by St. Paul and not by our Lord.*”