

SCRIPTURAL ANALYSIS & COMPARATIVE THEOLOGY

The Only Path to True Peace: Deconstructing Misconceptions Around Divine Unity and the Way of Salvation



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My beautiful brothers and sisters, look around our world today. So many pure hearts are searching, seeking a sense of peace, clarity, and true connection with our Creator. We find ourselves wandering through various philosophies and complex dogmas, trying to find that one steady anchor. Allah, in His boundless mercy, never left us to figure this out alone in the dark. He sent clear signs, open invitations, and a manifest light to welcome every single seeker back home to truth.

To understand this invitation deeply, we must turn to the profound verses of the Holy Quran, specifically in Surah Al-Ma'idah. Let us explore how Allah

addresses the People of the Book, clarifies the reality of His guidance, and gently but firmly clears up the theological shifts that occurred across history.

A Revelation Disclosing What Was Concealed

يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولُنَا يُبَيِّنُ لَكُمْ كَثِيرًا مِمَّا كُنْتُمْ تُخْفُونَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَيَعْفُو عَنْ كَثِيرٍ ۖ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ نُورٌ وَكِتَابٌ مُبِينٌ

"O People of the Scripture, there has come to you Our Messenger making clear to you much of what you used to conceal of the Scripture and overlooking much. There has come to you from Allah a light and a clear Book."

[Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:15 - Saheeh International]

In this verse, the Almighty calls out with tremendous gentleness to the "People of the Book"—the Jews and the Christians—reminding them that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was sent not to bring something alien, but to clarify what was previously altered, hidden, or forgotten from their own scriptures. He restores the pristine truths while graciously overlooking minor historical details that no longer serve a practical spiritual purpose for humanity.

But let us step back for a moment and look at the language. The text states: **"There has come to you from Allah a light (Noor) and a clear Book (Kitabu' Mubeen)."** What exactly is this light, and what is this clear book?

To understand the speech of Allah swt, we let the Holy Quran interpret the Quran. If we turn our hearts back to Surah An-Nisa, verse 174, Allah explicitly states:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ بُرْهَانٌ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكُمْ نُورًا مُبِينًا

"O mankind, there has come to you a conclusive proof from your Lord, and We have sent down to you a clear light."

[Surah An-Nisa 4:174 - Saheeh International]

In Surah An-Nisa, the Prophet ﷺ himself was the "conclusive proof" (Burhan) who separated truth from falsehood through his magnificent character and flawless conduct, while the Quran was the descended "clear light."

However, when we return to Surah Al-Ma'idah verse 15, the grammar reveals something incredibly profound. The verse uses the conjunction "Wa" (and), stating a light **and** a clear book. In the rules of the Arabic language, this conjunction typically signifies **Al-Mughayarah**—meaning that what

comes before the "and" is distinct from what comes after it. For example, it is linguistically incorrect to say "a man and a man arrived" if you mean the exact same person; rather, you say "a man and a woman arrived."

Therefore, the "Clear Book" is undeniably the Holy Quran, and the "Light" sent by Allah is none other than the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ himself. Though his physical presence left this temporary world, the light he brought remains perfectly preserved through his sacred lifestyle and teachings—the Sunnah. Together, the Quran and the Sunnah form an unquenchable lighthouse of guidance for all of mankind and creatures.

The Mechanics of Guidance: Paths of Peace and Free Will

يَهْدِي بِهِ اللَّهُ مَنِ اتَّبَعَ رِضْوَانَهُ سُبُلَ السَّلَامِ وَيُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَيَهْدِيهِمْ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ

"By which Allah guides those who pursue His pleasure to the ways of peace and brings them out from darknesses into the light, by His permission, and guides them to a straight path."

[Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:16 - Saheeh International]

My friends, have you ever wondered why some people receive guidance smoothly while others remain completely closed to it? This beautiful verse reveals the condition. Allah guides **"those who pursue His pleasure."** Divine guidance is not a matter of forced compliance. Think of the guidance of Allah like clear, brightly illuminated road signs along a dark highway. The signs are there for everyone to see, but you must make the conscious, sincere choice to steer your vehicle in their direction.

Allah explicitly guarantees that there is absolutely no compulsion in religion:

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ ۚ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ

"There is no compulsion in religion. The right course has become clear from the wrong."

[Surah Al-Baqarah 2:256 - Saheeh International]

He has laid down the markers out of love and mercy. If a person chooses to follow their own fleeting desires, arrogance, or worldly egos instead of looking for truth, they willingly blind themselves to the road signs. But for

the sincere soul whose ultimate goal is to please the Creator, Allah opens up **Subul as-Salam**—the multiple pathways of peace.

Notice how "paths" is plural, while "light" and "straight path" are strictly singular. This is beautifully deliberate. The paths of peace represent the diverse, noble avenues through which you can earn the pleasure of the One.

- **✓ The Path of Seeking Knowledge:** Dedicating your mind to understanding reality and revelation.
- **✓ The Path of Dawah:** Calling people to goodness with gentleness, patience, and compassion.
- **✓ The Path of Community Service:** Relieving the hardships of others and serving humanity selflessly.
- **✓ The Path of Striving (Jihad):** Standing firmly for justice against oppression and overcoming the lower self.

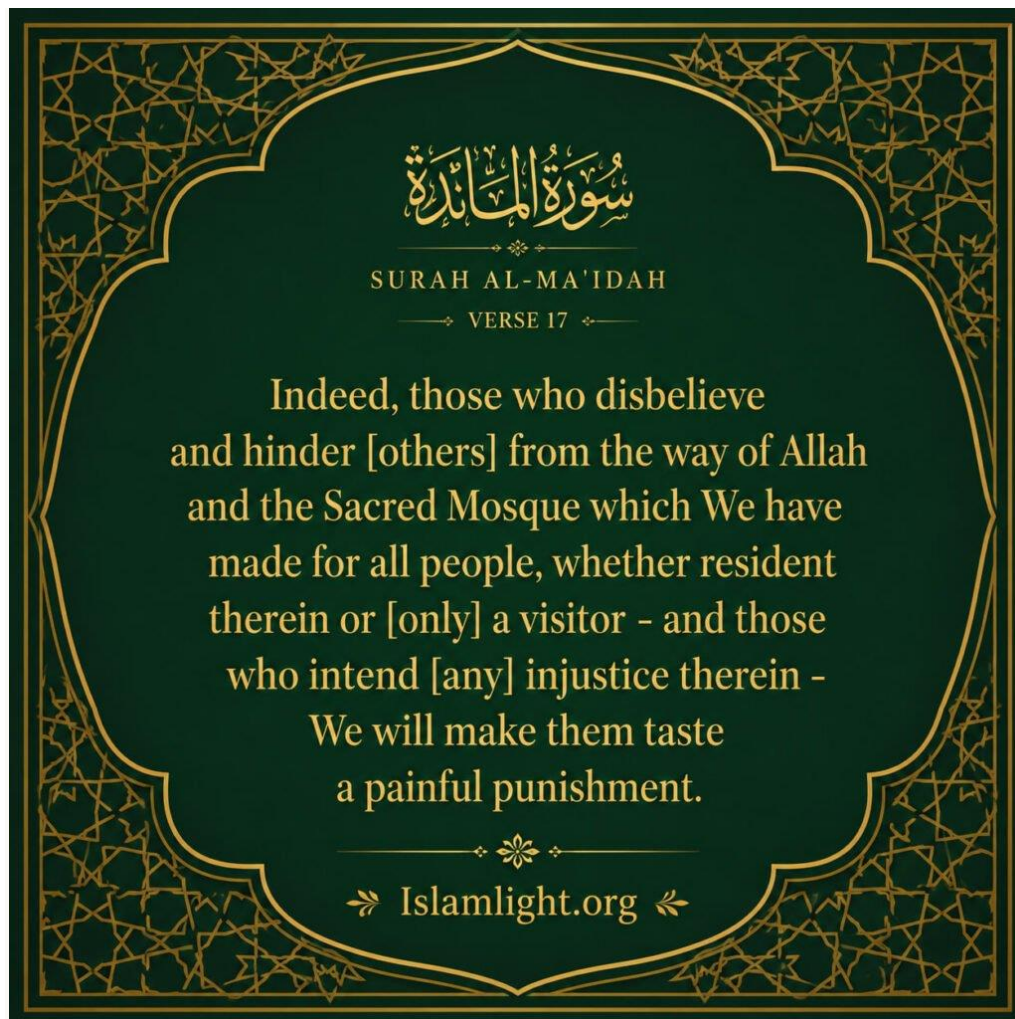
All of these beautiful branches converge into a single, unified destination: pulling humanity out of the darkness of idolatry, doubt, and spiritual confusion into the singular, radiant light of Pure Monotheism (Tawheed), settling comfortably upon the Straight Path of Islam.

Correcting the Modern Misconception of "Perennialism"

Now, let us tackle a highly prevalent modern misunderstanding with complete intellectual honesty and love. Today, some philosophers and ideological thinkers twist the word "subul" (paths) in this verse to argue for pluralism or "Perennialism"—the claim that every existing religion is simply a different, equally valid path leading to the exact same God. They claim that whether you are a practicing Muslim, Jew, Christian, Hindu, or Buddhist, you are automatically walking on one of the "ways of peace" mentioned by Allah.

With deep respect to all people, this claim is entirely unfounded. It crumbles under the weight of logical consistency and direct textual evidence. How can a belief system that asserts God has a son, or that partners partners with Him, be classified as a path to His pleasure when it directly violates His nature? How can a path that rejects the prophethood of Jesus, or the prophethood of Muhammad, be a path of peace when it rejects the very messengers sent to establish peace?

To leave zero room for philosophical gymnastics, Allah directly follows this verse with a definitive statement in verse 17, addressing the core creedal adjustments of the Christian faith.



Deconstructing the Divinity of Christ with Logic and Love

لَقَدْ كَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ ۚ قُلْ فَمَنْ يَمْلِكُ مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا إِنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يُهْلِكَ الْمَسِيحَ ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ وَأُمَّهُ وَفِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا وَلِلَّهِ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا ۚ يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ ۚ وَاللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

"They have certainly disbelieved who say, 'Allah is the Messiah, the son of Mary.' Say, 'Then who could prevent Allah at all if He had intended to destroy the Messiah, the son of Mary, or his mother or everyone on the earth?' And to Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth and whatever is between them. He creates what He wills, and Allah is over all things competent."

[Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:17 - Saheeh International]

Let us look closely and fearlessly at the word used here: **Kafara** (disbelieved/concealed the truth). In our contemporary discourse, the translation "infidel" or "kafir" has been heavily weaponized or viewed as an insult. But let us look at it neutrally and academically. The term simply means to reject or deny a specific truth or standard.

In reality, every single human being is a believer in what they hold dear, and a "kafir" (rejector) of what opposes it. A Christian rejects the prophethood of the noble prophet Muhammad ﷺ; hence, from an Islamic perspective, they deny that truth. A Muslim rejects the idea of the Trinity or that God died on a cross; thus, we openly state our rejection of that concept. There is no need for artificial offense here. To be a true believer in Allah, one **must** first reject all false concepts of divinity. As the verse we read earlier in Surah Al-Baqarah highlights: **"So whoever disbelieves in Thaghoot (false deities) and believes in Allah has grasped the most trustworthy handhold."** Spiritual purification requires clearing out errors before filling the heart with truth.

Sometimes, well-meaning people say, **"But Christians don't say Jesus is God, they say he is the Son of God!"** This observation often comes from a superficial understanding of Christian orthodoxy. If you speak to an educated theologian well-versed in the Nicene Creed or Christian dogma, they will tell you plainly that according to the doctrine of the Trinity, Jesus **is** fully God.

They subscribe to what is historically illustrated as the **Shield of the Trinity**: The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. Yet, the Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father. If you find this formulation mathematically and logically impossible to grasp, do not be dismayed—your sound human intellect (Fitrah) is working exactly as it should.

By the thirteenth century, Christian theologians like Richard of St. Victor explicitly concluded that the Trinity cannot be rationally comprehended; it must simply be accepted as an impenetrable mystery of faith.

Allah addresses this foundational error in Surah An-Nisa, pointing out the root cause: theological extremism and exaggeration (Ghuloo):

يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لَا تَغْلُوا فِي دِينِكُمْ وَلَا تَقُولُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْحَقَّ ۚ إِنَّمَا الْمَسِيحُ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَكَلِمَتُهُ أَلْقَاهَا إِلَى مَرْيَمَ وَرُوحٌ مِنْهُ ۖ فَآمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ ۚ وَلَا تَقُولُوا ثَلَاثَةٌ ۚ انْتَهُوا خَيْرًا لَّكُمْ ۚ إِنَّمَا اللَّهُ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ ۚ سُبْحَانَهُ أَنْ يَكُونَ لَهُ وَلَدٌ

"O People of the Scripture, do not commit excess in your religion or say about Allah except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, was but a messenger of Allah and His word which He directed to Mary and a soul [created at a command] from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers. And do not say, 'Three'; desist - it is better for you. Indeed, Allah is but one God. Exalted is He above having a son."

[Surah An-Nisa 4:171 - Saheeh International]

While Surah An-Nisa provides a comprehensive critique of the Trinity as a whole, Surah Al-Ma'idah zeroes in specifically on the claim that Jesus himself is the absolute incarnation of God.

Notice the intense, direct rhetoric of divine majesty used to awaken human logic: ***"Say, 'Then who could prevent Allah at all if He had intended to destroy the Messiah, the son of Mary, or his mother or everyone on the earth?'"*** This shifts our focus to absolute vulnerability versus absolute power. Jesus ate food, walked the earth, felt fatigue, wept, and slept. His pure mother, Mary, experienced the pains of childbirth and human physical needs. How can an entity that is subject to destruction or dependency be identified as the self-sustaining, eternal Sovereign of existence? If the Creator willed to cause them to cease to exist, absolutely no force in the cosmos could stop Him.

The Absolute Self-Sufficiency of Allah (As-Samad)

Why does assigning a child to the Lord of the worlds invite such intense divine disapproval? Because it completely undermines the reality of who Allah is.

Let us reflect deeply: Why do human beings desire children?

We crave children because we are inherently fragile, finite, and needy. We want our family name to continue after our death. We grow old, our joints weaken, our eyesight dims, and we desperately need someone strong to take care of us, feed us, and comfort us in our vulnerability.

But Allah is **Al-Hayy** (The Ever-Living who never dies), **Al-Qayyum** (The Self-Sustaining Master who sustains all existence without ever tiring), and

As-Samad (The Absolutely Self-Sufficient, whom everything depends upon, but He depends upon nothing). He does not age, His power never declines, His hearing never fades, and His knowledge is absolute—lacking nothing, requiring no addition. To attribute a child to Him is to project human weakness onto Divine Perfection.

What pushed previous nations down this path of error? It was the miraculous nature of Jesus's birth. Because he was born without a biological father, people fell into the trap of exaggeration, assigning him a divine father. But Allah beautifully answers this cognitive leap: **"He creates what He wills, and Allah is over all things competent."**

Look at the complete matrix of creation that Allah has demonstrated to us:

Creation Category	Example	Divine Principle Demonstrated
With neither Father nor Mother	Adam (Peace be upon him)	Absolute Innovation out of nothing
With a Father but no Mother	Eve (Hawwa)	Derivation by Divine Command
With a Mother but no Father	Jesus (Peace be upon him)	The word "Be" (<i>Kun</i>) bypassing biological norms
With both Father and Mother	The rest of humanity	The established natural law of reproduction

Allah shows us all four possibilities so that our minds realize that the method of creation is simply a manifestation of His limitless will, not an indication of His lineage. He is bound by no law; laws are created by Him.

This complete dynamic is confirmed beautifully in the authentic Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, as recorded in Sahih Al-Bukhari. The Prophet ﷺ shared the words of His Lord, showing us how deeply sensitive this matter is to the Creator:

The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Allah said, 'The son of Adam tells a lie against me though he has no right to do so, and he abuses Me though he has no right to do so. As for his telling a lie against Me, it is that he claims that I cannot recreate him as I created him before; and as for his abusing Me, it is his statement that I have offspring. No! Glorified be Me! I am far from taking a wife or offspring.' "

[\[Sahih al-Bukhari, Hadith 4482 - Sunnah.com\]](#)

An Earnest Invitation to the Ultimate Truth

My beloved readers, truth seekers, and friends, look how clear, liberating, and dignified the message of Islam is. It does not ask you to suspend your logical reasoning or accept incomprehensible mathematical mysteries to secure salvation. It asks you to recognize a simple, pristine reality: You have one single Creator who loves you, who is completely self-sufficient, and who created everything in existence. He sent prophets—from Adam, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, all the way to Muhammad (peace be upon them all)—with one message: Worship the Creator, not the creation.

Islam is the only spiritual home that doesn't name itself after a person, a tribe, or a geographic region. It is named **Islam**—the peaceful submission to the One True Lord of all creation.

If you are searching for clarity, if your heart is longing to leave behind the darkness of doubt, complicated human-made philosophies, and conflicting dogmas, the road signs are lit and waiting for you. Take that beautiful, sincere step towards your Creator today. Turn to Him alone, ask Him to show you the truth, and watch how He opens up the ways of peace to pull you gently into His everlasting light.

For further scholarly verification of these concepts, please visit authoritative repositories such as Islamlight.org