**RELIGIOUS NOTES .**

**P5 NOTES .**

1. **CHRISTIAN RELIGION .**
2. **INTRODUCTION .**

**Unit 1 .NOTION OF THE BIBLE .**

**What is Bible ?**

-Is set of books of the word of God .

-Is the word of God and human word **.**

**What is Authorship of the Bible ?**

Refers to the origin and to its writing then the whom the Bible is belonging .

**Who wrote the Bible ?**

The Bible is written sacred people called by God .

**Examples of messages are written in the Bible .**

-Story of creation and fall of man .

-Laws of norms and life .

-Divine callings .

-Preparation and accomplishment of human salvation .

**Why the Bible is Word of God ?**

Because in creation God worked by His word .

**Why is a Bible is a Divine word ?**

-Because the Bible is inspired Word of God .

-Because God breathed the content of the Bible into mind of sacred Authors .

**Why is a Bible is called human word ?**

Because it was written by men inspired by God .

**Why a Bible is called a Library ?**

Because Bible is a collection of books .

**Terms to keep in mind .**

**-Alliance :** This is eternal and unbreakable agreement .

**-Testament :** means Alliance **.**

**-Testament :** Means agreement or covenant **.**

**-Torah :** Means Laws . Its refers to the five books of laws written by Moses .

**-Pantateuch :** means the five books of Moses **.**

**Main parts of the Bible .**

* 1. Old testament .
  2. New testament .

**Gospel :** means good news **.**

* + 1. **The Old Testament / Old Covenant**

It is relationship between God and His chosen people ,Israel .

-Catholic Old Testament is made up with 46 books .

-The Protestant Old Testament is made up by 39 books .

* + 1. **The New Testament./ Gospel Books .**

**-**Is said about the **Birth –Death and Resurrection** of Jesus Christ.

**-**The New Testament is made up with **27 books** .

**Examples of Gospel books / Evangelical books.**

1.Mathew 2. Mark 3. Luke 4. John .

**The Writers of Gospel books :** Mathew , Mark , Luke , John .

**Note :**

-The Sign of the Old Alliance is **the Ten Commandments of God given** **on Mountain Sinai** .

-The sign of the New Alliance becomes **the Holy Sacrifice** : **offering**  **body and blood of Jesus Christ** .

**How Jesus summarizes the commandments ?**

The commandments **in love and we are no longer slaves of Laws** .

**Parts /Groups of New Testament .**

1. **Gospels / Good News :** There are formed with 4 books that account the filfilment of salvation .

**E.g . Matthew –Mark-Luke –John**

1. **Acts of Apostles :** 1 book written by Luke to testify the Birth of the church and expansion of good news .
2. **Epistles or Letters .(21 Letters written by Paul )**

**Examples of Letters :** 1 letter of Hebreu ,2 letters of Peter , 3 letters of John , 1 letter of Jude , and 1 letter of James .

**Main message of letters :**were to create unity of believers , call to leave idols , encourage to faith , Peaceful life ,….

1. **Apocalypse / Books of Revelation .**

1book written by by John Apostle .

**Role : To strength faith and hope of Christians .**

**Structure of old testament.**

The Bible is one with many books and topics written with many authors.

**Examples:**

-The law of Moses .

-History of Israelites.

-Poems that praise God .

**Formation of the Old Testament .**

The Hebrew Bible is made by **3 main parts** :

1. **TORAH** : 5 books of Law of Moses that occupy the first places in Jewish life .
2. **NEVI’IM /PROPHETS** : Book of Joshua ,Judges ,Samuel and Kings .
3. **KETUVIM /OTHER WRITINGS** . : Daniel ,Ezra , Nehemiah and Chronicles .

**Three collection of Catholic structure Bible** .

1. **Historical books** with **Pentateuch** (**Genesis ,Exodus ,Leviticus ,Numbers** and **Deuteronomy** )

**-Others** : Joshua ,Judges ,Ruth ,Samuel ,Kings ,Chronicles ,Ezra ,Nehemiah , Tobit, Judith ,Ester and Maccabees .

1. **Didactic books** : Job ,Psalms ,Proverbs , Quohelet (Ecclesiastes ) ,Song of Songs ,Wisdom and Sirach (Ecclesiasticus )
2. **Prophetic books with two collections** :

-Major Prophetic books (Isaiah , Jeremiah , Ezekiel and Daniel )

-Minor prophets (Hoses ,Joel ,Amos ,Obadiah ,Jonah , Micah ,Nahum ,Habakkuk ,Zephaniah ,Haggai , Zechariah and Malachi )

**Four Collections of Actual Bible .**

-The **Roman Catholic** has **73 books** .

-The **protestants** Bible has **66 books** .

**Four Collections of Actual Bible . (Catholic Bible )**

1. **ROMAN CATHOLIC BIBLE .**
2. **TORAH or PENTATEUCH** : Genesis –Exodus-Leviticus-Numbers-Deuteronomy .
3. **HISTORICAL BOOKS** : Joshua ,Judges ,1,2 Samuel , Ezra , 1,2 Chronicles ,….
4. **POETIC AND WISDOM BOOKS** : Job, Psalms ,Proverb , Wisdom , Sirach ,…
5. **PROPHETIC BOOKS** :

-**3major prophets** : Isaiah , Jeremiah ,Ezekiel .

-**15 books as minor prophets** :Lamentations of Jeremiah , Daniel ,Zechariah, Amos ,Hosea ,Jonas,Joel ,Zephaniah , Nahum ,Haggai , Malachi ,…..

**B. PROTESTANT BIBLE .**

1. **HISTORICAL BOOKS** : Joshua ,Judges, Ruth ,1,2 Samuel ,1 kings ,Ezra ,Nehemiah , Esther , 1 Chronicles ,2C hronicles .
2. **POETIC AND WISDOM BOOKS** : Job ,Psalms , Proverb, Ecclesiastes , Song of Songs .
3. **PROPHETIC BOOKS**

-**3major prophets** : Isaiah , Jeremiah ,Ezekiel .

-**14 books as minor prophets** :Lamentations of Jeremiah , Daniel ,Zechariah, Amos ,Hosea ,Jonas,Joel ,Zephaniah , Nahum ,Haggai , Malachi ,…..

**EXAMPLES OF BOOKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED BY PROTESTANTS .**

**Why ?** : Because for them **their origin is hidden and their message in not clear**.

These books are also called **APOCRYPHA BOOKS .**

-These books are **: Tobit –Judith –1Maccabees -2 Maccabees –Wisdom –Sirach –and Baruch .**

**Authenticity of the Bible B:** Is quality of being real or true and genuine .

-Authenticity of the Bible deals with **accuracy** , **truth , genuine** , as the Word of God .

-**The Bible is Authentic /True in double Authorship .**

1. **First** , the different books are authentic because they show and appreciate all the human authority that is certainly delivered by their respective authors .

2. Second , They possess a higher authenticity , because of divine authorship

**Evidences for the Truth of the Bible .**

1. Physical evidence :copies of the manuscripts .
2. The Coherence and Consistence of biblical message .

**Basic elements of the Bible .**

The Bible contains many themes : Creation ,Sin and its consequences , the virtues and vices , the prophecy and human salvation .

**Salvation /Redemption in the Bible .**

**Redemption** is a deliverance from sin ,evil and eternal death through the process of Incarnation . ,suffering , **Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ for human** **salvation .**

-The Salvation **was fulfilled not in Isaac the unique son of Abraham and Sarah but in Jesus Christ the unique Son of God .**

**The sin in the Bible .**

**Sin** refers to the conscient disobedience , disregard ,and deviation from divine laws .

-The sin entered in human nature when the first men made a bad choice : to do which is wrong /bad .

-Eden garden symbolizes happiness . The tree of knowledge and of life is symbolic . It is represents good and evil .

-To choose the tree of knowledge is to disobey God’s command , refusing to be human , wanting to be like God , then to choose death .

**Origin of sin and the growth of sin in the World .**

Refers to the Sin of Adam and Eve .

-It is the sin of our first parents , that reason why Christian baptism as new creation .

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SIN** | **ITS EFFECTS .** |
| Disobedience of Adam and Eve . | To be chased from Eden garden . |
| Jealousy of Cain and assassination of Abel | The curse of the soil . |
| Immorality of people from Sodom and Gomora | The flood as symbol of purification of the world . |
| Lack of humility of Babel people | Confusing of languages . |

**The prophecy in the Bible .**

The Biblical prophecy is the passages that contain God’s communications to human beings through prophets .

**Privileges of the prophets .**

Here are special prophets’ performances :

**-Perform miracles** : Elijah stepped up oil of a poor woman .

**-The prediction** : the foretold signs must be accomplished in near time .

-**The messianic time** : Micah foretold that Messiah would be born in Bethlehem .

**Elements of the Biblical prophecies .**

**-Morality and Religion** : Remind the covenant and ethical values .

**-Punishment for immorality** : Observance is the necessary .

**-Mercifulness of God** :The anger of God is not permanent .

-**To height Messianic hope .**

**Right and wrong in the Bible .**

Wrong and Evil refer to what is not morally good .

-Isolation of the human race from God ,

-Sin leads to deaths .

-Saint Paul confirms death as consequences of sin .

-Sin brought instability into the world : Earthakes , floods , …

**Authority of the Bible .**

Authority itself means the right or power to command action or to determine belief , expecting obedience from those under authority ,and in turn giving responsible account for the claim to right or power .

**Uses of term authority into the Bible .**

-Freedom to decide .

-Power ,ability or capability to complete an action .

-Delegate authority .

-Exercising Authorithy in a domain .

**Evidences of true authority of the Bible .**

-Self –proclamation .

-Holy spirit .

-Transformation ability .

-Unity .

**Importance of the Bible in the Christian life .**

-It is source of God’s revelation .

-It is source of education of faith .

-It is the guidelines for social relationship .

**Spiritual importance of the Bible .**

As the Bible was written under the guidance of God’s Spirit it mainly contains the spiritual and religious content :

-It is essential for spiritual growth : prayer in order to win the devil .

-It comforts soul of sick people .

-It calls us to be role model .

-It is used in religious ceremonies .

**Unit 2 . THE FIRST CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY .**

**What is Charity ?**

Is a kind deed means a good action .( **Unpaid action of love** ) .

**The Biblical kind of deeds / benevolent actions .**

-Mercy .

-Kindness .

-compassion .

-Performance love .

**What is Faith ?**

Faith means a complete trust , confidence in someone or God .

**Characteristics of Faith .**

-Faith is a grace .

-Faith is a gift .

-Faith is human act .

-Faith and Science .

-Faith is the light of reason .

**Faith and kind kind deeds as identity of a true Christian .**

-**Faith** is among the theological virtues : Faith , hope and charity .

-**Faith obliges us to perform kind deeds** to others remembering that God first loved us .

**The greatest commandment .**

-Love your Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and your mind .

-Love your neighbor as you love yourself .

**Other laws hang on the greatest commandment .**

1. You shall have no other gods exept me .
2. You shall not make an idol for yourself and worship it .
3. You shall not misuse the name of God your God .
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy it .
5. Honor your Father and your mother .
6. You shall not murder .
7. You shall not commit adultery .
8. You shall not steal .
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbors .
10. You shall not covet .

**Acts of charity as the measures of spiritual commitment .**

-Our spiritual life includes : Faith , prayer ,hope repentance and fasting .

-The Sacrifices of King Saul became vain because of lack of doing the right .

-Obedience is better than sacrifice .Remember we shall be judged by our works

**SPECIFIC UNIT FOR CATHOLIC .**

The term **Sacrament** means **alliance**. It is holy visible signs to mean the invisible reality.

A sacrament has then **two dimensions**: **symbol and the symbolized** for example for baptism: water is symbol, **it makes body proper that symbolizes** **Purification of soul and death on sins.**

**The Catholic Church has seven Sacraments**

1. Baptism,
2. Confirmation,
3. Eucharist,
4. Penance,
5. Anointing of sick,
6. Order and
7. Marriage.

**Groups of seven Sacraments of the Church .**

-**The Sacraments of Christianization or Initiation:** Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

**-The Sacraments of healing**: Penance and Anointing of sick.

**-The sacraments of services:** Order and Marriage.

**The Sacrament of Baptism**

**Meaning**: Baptism is the Sacrament of rebirth by water and words expressed by ministers.

**Institution/creation into the Bible**: John3:5, Matthew 28:18-20

**Main elements**: Water and words of the minister of the sacrament.

**Candidate :** All those who wish and who were prepared and not baptized yet.

Infant in parents’ Faith.

**Ministers:** Ordinary: bishops, priests and deacons.

**Reiteration:** once in life (non-reiterable).

**Effects/fruits**: Remission of sins and original sin, new creation in family of God (the Church).

**The sacrament of Confirmation .**

**-Meaning:** It confirms graces of baptism; it is sacrament of election and mission in the church. It is sacrament of election and mission in the church.

- **Institution/creation into the Bible:** Acts 8; 14-17, He 6; 2.

-**Main elements:** Opened hands wide on the multitude of candidates and unction of holy Chrism by saying “be marked by the Holy Spirit, gift of God”.

-**Candidate:** Any baptized not confirmed yet.

-**Ministers:** Ordinary: bishops only. Extraordinary: Priests with temporal permission of bishop.

-**Reiteration :** once in life (non-reiterable).

**- Effects/fruits** : it roots us in divine filiation and we say abba, Father (Romans 8:15); reception of the graces of the Holy Spirit in full way, link with the Church, special force to defend the church by works and words .

**The Sacrament of the Eucharist .**

-**Meaning:** Eucharist means thanksgiving. Other names: Holy Communion, holy meals, holy Mass, Bread of life, Easter, holy sacrifice, holy Sacrament. It is called Viaticum when it is the last communion to the dying sick.

- **Institution/creation into the Bible**: Matthew 26:26, Luke22:14-19.

**-Main elements: bread and wine; prayer of epiclesis.**

**-Candidate**: any baptized with age of reason can attend the holy communion. -**Reiteration:** reiterable (we receive it many times possible).

**-Effects/fruits:** increasing the relationship with Christ: who eats and drinks…abides in me and in him .

**The sacrament of Marriage**

-**Meaning:** it is a blessed union between man and woman, based on love with the commitment to live together forever.

**- Institution/creation into the Bible**: Genesis1:27-28; Genesis2: 18-24 .

- **Main elements:** public mutual consent and consumption of marriage at home. -----**Candidate:** man and woman with legal maturity.

-**Ministers:** fiancées themselves. Bishops and Priests are there to bless it and to represent the Church.

-**Reiteration:** non-reiterable except on of partner is no longer alive. ----------------**Effects/fruits**: it configures the love of spouses to the love between Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:25-21).

**Importance of Sacraments .**

-By sacraments believers are spiritually born, fed, grown and comforted.

- Increase faith believers : believe the reality behind the signs.

- Christians stay linked to God and to the Church.

-They make Christian the adopted God’s children.

- They heal and comfort our soul.

- They fill in us commitment to the Church mission.

-Through Sacraments celebration Christian develop spiritual and moral values.

- Christians live good relationship and peaceful life.

**SPECIFIC UNIT FOR PROTESTANTS** .

**Read the following verses and answer the questions below:**

**Nicodemus** said to Him “How can a man be born when he is old. He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” Jesus answered, “truly, truly, I say to you unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God?” (John 3:4-5)

1. Who is talking to Jesus?

2. Was he baptized?

3. What did Jesus tell him?

4. What is the role of water and Spirit?

**Meaning of baptism .**

-There was a **Christian process** for any individual to his or her Christian name. Most of Christians get **their second names at the time of baptism.**

-The word baptism is from the word **greek “baptizomai”** that means **to dip in** **water.**

-Baptism is an act **that marks the beginning of one Christian life** **and Christian** **membership**. Even though

-There are two forms of baptism: **immersion baptism** and **submersion baptism**. All Christian denominations baptize new adherents as their members.

- **Baptism is a Christian symbol showing one’s spiritual life**. It is an outside sign of the changes of one’s spiritual life. It is a sign of **regeneration**, new life in Jesus Christ. Water is a sign of washing away of one’s sins before God.

- **The protestant churches accept two sacraments: baptism and holy meal**. In the difference from Catholic Church celebrate 7 sacraments: **baptism, confirmation,** **the Eucharist, matrimony, penance, holy orders and extreme unction.**

**-** **Baptism** is administered by **water in the name of the father, the son and the** **Holy Spirit**. The use of water is a declaration that the persons baptized have acquired new identity as sons and daughters of God and as members of the church, called **to be witnesses of the gospel**. The administrator of baptism is a minister.

**Graces of baptism .**

The power from God is neither sold nor bought. Simply the obedience, repentance and faith proved by the baptism allow the person to receive the gifts from God .

**Preparing to receive Holy Communion .**

The Holy Communion refers to the reminder and celebration of Christ’s love. By it Christians remember the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It can be also be called Eucharist that literary mean “**Thansgiving.”** Protestant Holy Communion is a declaration and celebration of faith in Jesus Christ.

-Because Holy Communion is God himself. God is the origin of all that exist and the purpose of our existence.

**P5 ISLAMIC RELIGION .**

**Unit 1 . SUBMISSIVENESS TO ALLAH .**

**The meaning of Islam .**

**Islam** literary is derived from the Arabic root **“Sa-li-ma”** which meanspeace, purity ,submission and obedience.

**Inclusiveness of Islam .**

**Inclusiveness** is that fact that Islam is for all times and places .

-The prophet Muhammad **(peace be upon him** ) declared that he was the final prophet sent for humankind .

Islam as the door to **Paradise** .

-**Paradise** or **garden** in Islam also known as ‘**Jannah** “ is an Arabic word that means “to cover or hide something “ .

-**Heaven** is a place that unseen to us .

-**Jannah** is the final destination in the after life for good and faithful Muslims .

**-Paradise** is described in the Quaran as an eternal after life of peace and bliss , where the faithful and righteous are rewarded .

-**Islamic tradition** describes heaven as having eight doors or gates .Each door has a name that describes the types or characteristics of the people who will be admitted through it .

The meaning of **Ihsan** with examples with examples in our life .

-**Ihsan** is an Arabic term which from the word **Husn** (beauty )

-**Ihsan** refers also to “**perfection** “ or “**Excellence “** .

-It is a matter of taking one’s inner faith (Iman) and showing it in both , sayings and actions , a sense of social responsibility borne from religious convictions .

**-**Islam is composed of three parts in which we have **Islam ,Iman** and **Ihsan .**

**Significance of Ikhlas .**

**-Ikhlas** means **“sincerity “** or **“the purity”** or **“the refining”** or **“isolation .**

-Islamically it denotes purifying our motives and intentions to seek the pleasure of Allah .

-It is purifying one’s deeds from all contaminations by ***polytheism*** , in order to worship Allah in the correct way .

**Unit2. THE GRAVE SINS IN QURAN .**

**-Sin** is an important concept in Islamic ethics .It is seen as anything that goes against the commands of God , a breach of the laws and Norms laid down by religion .

-Every person is born free from Sin .When he grows to maturity and the person is not mad ,**a sleeping person or a minor or an insane person , he/she becomes accountable for his/his deeds .**

**-Polytheism** known as **Shirk** which means “Association” and refers to accepting other gods and divinities along sides the God is one of the greatest sins .

**Murder and its consequences to the society .**

-The prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him ) emphasized in many of his Hadiths on the sanctity of non-Muslims how lives among Muslims , one of these Hadiths states .

**-Murder is one the greatest sins .**

-If you killed a person deliberately , then there are three rights which are connected to that : the rights of Allah , the rights of the victim and the rights of the victim’s next of kin .

**Consequences of murder to the society .**

-The killer will be punished by God .

-The killer can be taken to prison or other punishments , and his /her .

-Murder creates enmity in the society .

-People can kill themselves because of one person .

**The danger of disobeying parents .**

**-**The seriousness of disobedience to parents as a greater sin be gauged from the fact that the holy prophet Muhammad **(peace be upon him )** has mentioned it along with polytheism (shirk ) which is the greatest of all greater sins .,and unforgiveable , unless by sincere repentance .

-Children have responsibilities and duties towards their parents in return for education , expenses , protection and care that their parents gave them from infancy until adolescence and even later . These duties are the basic rights of parents for as long as they live , include :

1. Being dutiful to parents and obeying them .

2. Showing humility and gratitude to parents .

3. Dutifulness to parents takes precedence over Jihad for the sake of God .

**Lying and its impact to the society .**

-Lying is the complete opposite of truth . It is to give a wrong or false statement .

**What are the motives of a liar ?**

**A liar** tells a lie for the purpose of :

-Concealing the truth ,as he may be afraid of the truth .

-Cheating and deceiving others and enjoying their misery .

-Short-term worldly gains , such as gaining the favours of others or monetary gains .

**Stealing and its consequences to the society .**

**Stealing** is one of the most henous acts and one of the grave **major sins .**

“**Cut o ff** : from the wrist joint ) the right hand of the thief , male or female , as a recompense for that which they committed , a punishment by way of example from Allaah . ( Quaran 5:38)

**Unit3. PILLARS OF ISLAMIC RELIGION .**

The five pillars of Islam are the most important that Muslims practice . They are also called the five obligations of Muslims .

**The five pillars of Muslims .**

1. **Shahadat** : sincerely reciting the Two Testimonies of Muslim Faith .
2. **Swalat :** performing ritual prayers in the proper way five times each day .
3. **Zakat** : paying an alms (charity) tax to benefit the poor and the needy .
4. **Swawm** : Fasting during dthe month of Ramadan .
5. **Hajj** : Pilgrimage to Mecca .

**The first pillar : Shahadat** (Two Testimonies of Faith )

The first pillar of Islam is to bear witness that none should be worshipped except Allah and prophet Muhammad is his Messenger .***[Ashahadu ala ilaha ila Allah , wa Ashahadu ana Muhamadan Rasulullah ] .***This is the **basic statement** of the Islamic faith : **anyone who can not recite** this whole heartedly is not a Muslim **.**

**When a Muslim recites this they proclaim :**

-That Allah is the only God , and that Muhammad is his prophet .   
-That they personally accept this is as true .

-That they will obey all the commitments of Islam in their life .

-Reciting this statement three times in front of with witnesses is all that any one need do to become a Muslim .

A **Muslim** is expected to recite this statement out loud , with total sincerity ,fully **understanding what is means** .

**Daily Swalat .**

The second pillar of Islam is performing ritual prayers in the proper way five times each day **. Swalat** is the way Muslims communicate to Allah . God ordered Muslims to pray at five set times of day :

**-Salat al-Fajr** : dawn , before Sunrise .

**-Salat a –Zuhr** : midday , after the Sun passes its highest .

**-Salat al-Asr** : The late part of part of the afternoon .

-**Salat al-Maghbrib** : just after Sunset .

-**Salat al- Isha** : between Sunset and midnight .

**Practical guideline for decease body and burial practices .**

When a Muslim dies, it is the responsibility of his family (either the spouse or a same-gender relative) or other Muslims within the local community to wash him according to the Islamic rites of washing the deceased. Islam takes cleanliness very seriously in all aspects of life and death. Close family members will then shroud the deceased in **a Kafan** (a white burial cloth) tied with ropes before turning the body so **his or her head is pointed east towards Mecca .**

**ZAKAT .**

How the **Zakat** is regarded in Islam?

The third pillar of Islam is **Zakat**; **It is the compulsory giving of a set proportion of** **one’s wealth to charity**.

It is regarded as a type of worship and of self-purification.

**Zakat is an Arabic word means to increase, to purify or to bless**. It is a special portion a rich Muslim pays from his or her wealth for distribution to specific categories of people. As one of the Five Pillars of Islam,

**Zakat** is a religious obligation for all Muslims who meet the necessary criteria of wealth. It is a mandatory charitable contribution, often considered to be a tax. Zakat is based on income and the value of all of one’s possessions .

**The benefits of Zakat .**

Apart from helping the poor, are as follows:

• Obeying God

• Helping a person acknowledge that everything comes from God on loan and that we do not really own anything ourselves .And since we 97 cannot take anything with us when we die we need not cling to it

• Acknowledging that whether we are rich or poor is God’s choice .So we should help those he has chosen to make poor

• Learning self-discipline • Freeing oneself from the love of possessions and greed • Freeing oneself from the love of money • Freeing oneself from love of oneself

• Behaving honestly

**SADAKA .**

Give the meaning of **Sadaka** **literally and religiously.**

-‘Sadaqa or **Sadaka’ literally means ‘righteousness’ and refers to the voluntary** **giving of alms or charity**.

-But in Islamic terminology; **Sadaqa** has been defined **as an act of “Giving** **something to somebody without seeking a substitute in return** and with the intention of pleasing Allah.” Meanwhile,

- Sadaqa is what the person gives from what he possesses, like Zakat, hoping to get closer to Allah.

**Here are some benefits of giving Sadaka**

**Social contribution**

• It enhances the well-being of the people in Islamic society.

• It helps in fulfilling the requirement of the poor Muslims.

• It lightens the debt of the Muslim debtors.

• It helps in taking care of those whose hearts have been (recently) reconciled (to the Truth).

• It helps the stranded Muslims to complete their journey.

• It helps in the healing of various Sicknesses (according to the prophet Muhammad peace be upon him).

**Spiritual effects**

• It purifies human’s heart from the sins of greed, and the obsessive love of wealth.

• It removes bad luck.

• It guarantees heaven.

**Difference between Zakat and Sadaka**

1**. Zakat** is compulsory while **Sadaka** is optional

2. Paying **Zakat** is a pillar of Islam while **Sadaka** is not.

3. Zakat is paid once a year while Sadaka is paid as many times as possible.

4. Zakat is given to specific groups of people while Sadaka is not.

5. Zakat has a specific rule and regulation and recepient as well

**Unit 4** . Expansion of Islam .

**Oppression and hardships of the first Muslim community in Makkah .**

By the time Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was sent, the whole of Arabia was **polytheist**. All this time, the Arab tribes were divided. worshiped its own idol.

So, when the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) brought them the message of Monotheism, it was not welcomed, the people of Makkah were hard core worshippers of idols. They were not ready to change from their faith. Because the new religion was a threat to their faith. It meant the end of their supremacy and leadership .

People of **Makkah’s anger** towards Muslims increased, so after realising that Muslims were given asylum in Habasha, and when other means of trying to stop Muhammad’s mission was failed, they acted violently. In order to fulfill his duty, the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) thought about another places. Finally, Allah informed him of their plots and allowed him to migrate to **Yathrib** (Medina) where he established the Islamic state.

**Finality of prophethood of Muhammad (peace be upon him)**

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) declared that he was the final prophet sent for humankind. What Allah gave this final messenger must be suitable to guide all of humankind after him until the Day of Judgment.

In fact, the Prophet himself made this very same point in essence when he said: “I have left with you two things that if you cling to them you will never be misguided after me1 : The Book of God and the Sunnah of His Messenger.” (***Saheeh Muslim)*** .

**Arrival and Expansion of Islam in Rwanda**

**The Arrival of Islam in Rwanda**

Islam was first introduced into Rwanda by Muslim traders from the East Coast of Africa in the 19th century. Islam entered in Rwanda in two ways:

-Muslim Tanzanians and Burundians who were working with the German army as soldiers, interpreters etc. This was around 1897. They settled in Shangi in Nyamasheke-Rusizi districts in Western Province of Rwanda.

-Muslim Arab and Indian Traders who arrived in Rwanda 1901 during the reign of King Kigeli IV Rwabugiri and settled at King’s palace in Nyanza district, Southern Province. It should be noted however that their mission was not to spread Islam, but their trade .

**The Establishment of A.MU.R (Association des Musulmans au Rwanda) known nowadays as R.M.C (Rwanda Muslim Community)**

The big number of Muslims in Rwanda grew mostly in areas like Nyamirambo, Rwamagana, Kiramuruzi, Gatsibo, Mugandamure, Kamembe, Rubavu, Gacurabwenge [Kamonyi District] and Kabaya [Ngororero District]. So there was a need for a leader to streamline their affairs. In that period, Muslims were represented by DJABU Feruzi Almas.

**Unit5 . Halaal and Haraam (Recommended and Prohibited acts)**

What is **Halaal** and **Haraam** acts?

- **Halal** is an Arabic word meaning lawful or permitted. In reference to food, it is the dietary standard, as prescribed in the Qur’an (the Muslim scripture).

The opposite of **halal** is **haram,** which means unlawful or prohibited. **Halal** and **haram** are universal terms that apply to all facets of life. These terms are commonly used in relation to food products, meat products, cosmetics, personal care products, pharmaceuticals, food ingredients, and food contact materials.

**What can a Muslim eat?**

We can eat all fruit and vegetables. There are certain animals that are **Halaal (lawful)** as long as they have been slaughtered in the Islamic way .

These animals are **cows, sheep, lamb, chickens, hens, turkey, ducks, camels, goats,** **goose, ostrich**, etc if they are slaughtered in the **Halaal** way.

**Prohibited methods of slaughtering.**

An animal slaughtered by following methods is prohibited.

– strangled to death

– beaten to death

– died due to falling

– killed by being smitten by horn

– eaten by wild beast **.**

**Beast of cattle Beasts of cattle**

Grazing beasts are lawful except those that are explicitly prohibited.

**The beast of cattle is made lawful** unto you (for food) except that which is announced unto you (herein), game being unlawful when you are on the pilgrimage.

**Game of water is permitted.**

To hunt and to eat the fish of the sea is made lawful for you, a provision for you and for seafarers; but to hunt on land is forbidden you so long as you are on the pilgrimage. Be mindful of your duty to Allah, unto whom you will be gathered .

**Food of Jews and Christians is lawful for Muslims and food of Muslims is lawful for Jews and Christians.**

This day are (all) good things made lawful for you. The food of those who have received the Scripture is lawful for you, and your food is lawful for them. And so are the virtuous women of the believers and the virtuous women of those who received the Scripture before you (lawful for you) when you give them their marriage portions and live with them in honor, not in fornication, nor taking them as secret concubines.

**Animals hunted by trained birds and animals are permitted.**

They ask you (O Muhammad) what is made lawful for them. Say: (all) good things are made lawful for you. And those beasts and birds of prey which they have trained as hounds are trained, they teach them that which Allah taught you; so eat of that which they catch for you and mention Allah’s name upon it, and observe your duty to Allah .

**Prohibited food and drinks**

By official definition, **Halal** foods are those that are:

1. Free from any component that Muslims are prohibited from consuming according to Islamic law (**Shariah).**

2. Processed, made, produced, manufactured and/or stored using utensils, equipment and/or machinery that have been cleansed according to Islamic law.

“Forbidden for you (for food) are: **al-Maytatah** (dead animals, cattle-beast not slaughtered),

-Blood, the flesh of swine, and the meat of that which has been slaughtered as a sacrifice for others than Allah, or has been slaughtered for idols, etc.

-A Muslim cannot eat nor drink anything that causes intoxication in any amounts. **What intoxicates in large amounts is unlawful in small amounts .**

In fact a Muslim is not even allowed to sit in a table were alcohol is being served.

a. So Alcohol and products containing or made from Alcohol are Haram (even if all the alcohol has evaporated).

b. Narcotics, Heroin, cocaine, marijuana and any other substances which causes intoxication are also forbidden

c. Nutmeg also causes intoxication is also **Haram .**

**END .**