**RELIGIOUS PRIMARY SIX 2023 .**

**Meaning of Revelation of God .**

-The word **revelation** is defined as “an act of revealing or communicating divine truth or something that is revealed by God to humans”.

**-The revelation** is a mysterious manifestation, the unfolding of a mystery or of a truth by God, or by a person whose inspiration is from God.

**Types of God’s revelation**

1. **General (or indirect) revelation:**

It is called “general’’ or “**indirect’’** revelation because it is available to everyone. This is often used to describe the way God is revealed through the natural world, conscience, people, awareness of morality, scripture or reason. Revelation shows us that God reveals Himself as the Creator.

1. **Special (or direct) revelation:**

It is called “**direct’**’ because it is revelation directly to an individual or sometimes a group. This is often used to describe the way God is revealed through a dream, a vision, a miracle, experience, or prophecy. The scriptures of some religions are regarded as the result of special revelation. Then the special revelation is the revelation of God in His Word.

**God’s revelation through creation.**

**This revelation** is also known as natural revelation because it is God’s revelation through the created universe and in nature. The self-revelation of God in the visible creation is accessible to all human beings. Since the beginning of time, human being has observed the grandeur of nature and inquired about its origin and author.

**The visible creation bears witness to the existence of God, the Creator, the Protector, as well as to His wisdom and power.**

**The power of God’s word in creation.**

**From the beginning**, God has spoken. The words of God have always produced results. The account of creation in **Genesis 1 & 2** is one of the most powerful treatises on the power of God’s Word. There can be no ignoring God’s voice in creation. Everything exists because God has spoken. **God** creates by spoken command and names the elements of the world as he creates them. God’s creation by speech also suggests that he is being compared to a king, who has merely to speak for things to happen.

**The first chapters** of Genesis leave us in no doubt whatsoever about how God created the universe. On the six successive days of creation, God spoke and what He said happened. That is to say, the means that God used to create the universe and all things in it was His Word.

**Day 1**: **And God said**, “Let there be light”

**Day 2:** **And God said**, let there be an expanse between water to separate water from water .

**Day 3** : **And God said** “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place , and let dry ground appear . **Then God said** ,”Let the land produce vegetation :seed bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it , according to their various kinds .

**Day 4 : And God said** ,” Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night , and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years , and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the Earth .

**Day 5 : And God said :** “Let the water them with living creatures , and let birds fly above the Earth across the expanse of the sky .

**Day 6 : And God said** ,Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds : livestock , creatures that move along the ground , wild animals , each according to its kind . **Then God said** ,”Let us make man in our image ,in our likeness , and let them rule over the creatures that move along the ground .

**As conclusion,** there is nothing more powerful than God’s Word .

**God’s revelation through Holy Scriptures in Old Testament (in the history of Israel)**

-The fact that God revealed Himself in history through his Word first becomes clear in the development of the people of Israel as attested in the Old Testament, as the first main part of the Bible.

-When He revealed himself in the burning bush, God provided an historical reference by pointing out that He had already revealed Himself to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

-He had also revealed Himself with the central event of salvation for the people of Israel that is their liberation from slavery in Egypt.

-God Himself determined the place where His people were to live and, through the Commandments at Mount Sinai .

. **God’s revelation through His Son**

Christians recognize Jesus as the center of our faith and our devotion to God. Jesus reveals to us what God is like (John 6:37). “No one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him” (Matthew 11:27). With the incarnation of God, the Son, the Old Testament promises concerning the coming Messiah were fulfilled. We believe that the **Incarnation** of God is the doctrine that the Son of God was conceived in the womb of Mary and that Jesus is true God and true man.

It means the presence of God on Earth in the person of Jesus. Since then, faith is also required in God, who is not only the Creator, but who also reveals Himself in Jesus. Through the rebirth out of water and the Spirit, Jesus Christ opens up the way for human beings to attain childhood in God as well as the opportunity to attain the status of firstling .

The Son of God, who is united from eternity to the Father and the Spirit, is now also joined to humanity because of his incarnation his becoming a real flesh and blood human being (John 1:14). **We summarize this by saying that Jesus is both** **fully God and fully human.**

**God’s revelation in the time of the church**.

The Church is built on the teachings of the Apostles and prophets (Ephesians 2:20). The Church is divine since it is founded by Christ and given life by the Holy Spirit which is her gift . The work of the Church continues; it did not cease when the disciples of Jesus died. At first the job of the Apostles, the Church’s mission was passed unto each generation of God’s people. Jesus Christ promised to be with His followers as they accomplished that work until He returns at the end of the age .

**Unit 2.The Holy Trinity as communion of God’s love .**

**Meaning of Holy Trinity .**

Persons are meant characteristics in a particular situation. God expresses his nature in three diverse ways: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The three persons are inseparable as they work in unity. You may have in mind what you have heard or read about qualities of each personality .

**God the Father**

The title “**Father”** is used in the Bible referring to God in relation of love to His Son Jesus Christ, His people and servants whom He pleases. It has been also applied to Jesus in the prophecy about Messiah: “For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders .

**God the Son**

The second person of the Trinity is regarded through the incarnation or personification. It refers to the way triune God took the human nature in the person of Jesus for the salvation of humanity. Jesus was born, grew like any other human, but never sinned.

**God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is connected with God the Father as the Son in unbreakable union. It reveals his power, the source of life, and the strengths he gives to his messengers to revive them his people. The Holy Spirit has been active and on control from the beginning of the universe.

**The relationship of the three persons of the Holy Trinity .**

The study of the holy trinity is simple. It is adequate to understand it in the sense of the relationship and love in the family. The Holy Trinity expresses the divine communion and its inseparable unity. The Son lives with the Father in mutual relation of love. He cannot work independently without the relation with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Thus, the three persons of the Holy Trinity are said to be in inseparable unity. Here are some qualities of the persons of the Holy Trinity:

a. The Son has the same nature like the Father and they live together in a divine communion.

b. The Father, the Son and Holy Spirit are active in the creation and renewal of the world. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created. (John 1: 1-3).

c. The persons of the Holy Trinity have communion with the human beings in the perfect acts. The Word became flesh to save humanity.

d. The Son has the same conduct and qualities like his Father. The Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We observed His glory, the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1: 14).

e. The Holy Spirit proceeds from both the Father and the Son. He is the Counselor in the place of the Father or the Son. He is rooted in love and its fruits (1 Corinthians 13: 3-13; Galatians 5:22).

f. The Holy Spirit tells the truth about the Father and the Son (1 Corinthians 2: 10-11).

The unity of the Trinity is a recommendation to the unity of the believers as the members of the same family. God wants his believers to imitate the relation of love in the Holy Trinity. Jesus calls his disciples to follow the model of the love between the Father and the Son .

**Meaning and examples of the attributes of God**

The word “**attributes”** refers to the characteristics that are natural to an individual. **God’s attributes** **refers to the** **qualities emanating from His personality and his infinite power**. They are classified **into communicable and non-communicable qualities**. **Communicable qualities** are those God shares with human beings (e.g. **justice, love, mercy,** **peace, and grace**), while **the Non-communicable qualities** are special to God (holiness, eternity, infinitude, omnipresence, omnipotence, and infallibility).

**God’s omnipresence, God’s omniscience and God’s omnipotence .**

The prefix “**omni”** means **all, everything, everywhere**. It makes part of the terms omnipotent, **omnipresence** and **omniscience** :

**Omnipotence of God** refers to his supreme infallible and extraordinary power. This indicates that God is able to do all essential things. You may attribute him miracle to him, but not nonsense.

**Omnipresence** refers to God as being everywhere. God is present in everywhere in the world but He is not part of it.

**Omniscience** refers to God as all knowing; his wisdom is boundless.

The above attributes also relate to the difference between God and humans. God has no limits while human knowledge and capacity are limited.

**God’s eternity, self-existence, sovereignty and infinity.**

**The eternity, self-existence and sovereignty** of God are among other attributes. They consist of the existence beyond the time and dependence. God has neither beginning nor end. This is referred as **infinity**. God has also the capacity to subsist in total freedom and autonomy. God is not served by the human hands as if he needed anything (Acts 17: 25). This is referred as self-sufficiency. God does not depend to anybody or anything for his subsistence. In contrast, He controls the climate conditions; he causes the sun to rise and sends the rain to the righteous and unrighteous (Matthew 5: 45). This is referred as sovereignty. It is related to various attributes such as omnipotence, providence and kingship .

**God’s immutability and impassibility**

**Immutability** consists of the unalterable nature of God. God never change his mind or thoughts. He remains faithful to his covenant and promise regardless of the uncertainty and human indecision. Men change their minds, and break their words; but God never changes his mind. They don’t recall their promise, but never forgets his promise. And when in Scripture God is said to repent, it does not mean any change of his mind; but only a change of his way (Numbers 23: 11; Matthew Henry’s Concise Commentary).

**Impassibility refers** to the facts that God can never feel pains or sufferings. It corresponds to His spiritual nature. He may suffer if He chooses to do so, as he did it in Jesus. And that He does not have bodily passion such as hunger or human drive for needs. Impassibility is also connected to the sovereignty .

**The knowledge of God’s immutability and impassibility** leads to the confidence and endurance in the faith, work and troubles. Despite the life uncertainty, changes and challenges in this world, God remains faithful and dependable.

**Immanence and transcendence**

The concepts of **immanence** and **transcendence** are contrasted. **Transcendence** refers to God who cannot be approached or seen while **immanence** refers to God who is near and among the people. Thus, God is at the same time near and distant to people. The Old Testament accounts show how God always gave signs to his people among them. Although, people could see him physically, his power was visible in the unusual phenomena. Examples:

-The Lord went ahead of Israelites in a pillar of cloud to lead them during the day and in a pillar of fire to give them light at night, so that they could travel day or night (Exodus 13: 21).

-Then the Angel of God was moving in front and behind the Israelites forces (Exodus 14: 19).

-The ark of covenant and sanctuary were made for God to dwell among the people (Exodus 25: 8). Later the ark was set up in the temple (2 Kings 6: 19).

-God repeated it that he is with his people and that he neither will leave them nor abandon them (Psalm 94: 14).

**The immanence** has been full in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. The name **Immanuel** in Hebrew means **God is with us** (Matthew 1:23). Jesus took the flesh and lived with people. He revealed that God remains with the people in a complete way. “**The Word became flesh and took presence among us.** We observed his glory, the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1: 14).

**God’s holiness and total perfection**

**Holiness of God** is his character that he is separate from sin or corruption. God can never be corrupted. The holiness has the connection with the covenant of God with his people. As God’s inheritors they have to live in continuous purity of the body and the heart and continual purification from the sins. God repeated invites his people to live holy life as they relate with him and act in a perfect way towards their neighbor. The book of Leviticus shows some of the laws and instructions emanating from holiness. Some of them refer to individual life while **others concern the relationship in the community:**

-Respect parents.

-Avoiding things that might destroy our boy or cause it becoming unclean.

-Be honest and faithful. x Prevent oppression and theft.

**God’s love: Merciful and Jealous God**

**Love and mercy** are central qualities of **communicable attributes**. **Love** is the greatest commandment and the fulfillment of the God’s Law. The Bible says that without love piety is meaningless. The qualities of love are the following are the patience, kindness, self-sacrifice, and everlasting (1 Corinthians 13: 3-13).

**Mercy** consists of the state of having compassion, kindness and sympathy to another person. **Mercy** is the character of God in relation to his people. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him (Psalm 103:13) .

**Names of God**

**-Elohim** means simply “God” – This name refers to God’s great power and might.

-**Yahweh** means often translated “the Lord”. God revealed this name to Moses

**-Abba** means “Father”. Abba is the most intimate form of God’s name, showing us His character as our loving Father.

- **El Elyon** Means “God Most High”. El Elyon is a name used through the Old Testament revealing God is above all gods, that nothing in life is more sacred.

-**El Roi** means “The God Who Sees”. I love the kindness and care that this name holds as it points to God’s character.

The name El Roi says to us that God is watching over all,

**-El Shaddai** means “God Almighty”. El Shaddai reminds that God is allpowerful; He is the Mighty One to run to.

-**Yahweh Yireh** means “the Lord will provide”. God will provide for our needs.

-**Yahweh Nissi** means “The Lord Is My Banner”. This is the name of God that proclaims His protection, leadership, and deliverance for His people.

-**Yahweh Rapha** means “Healer, the Lord who heals you.” This name brings so much comfort and hope to many of us who have prayed for healing and deliverance from disease, illness, brokenness, or painful circumstances.

-**Yahweh Shalom** means “The Lord is Peace”. God is the only One able to give the peace that passes all of our own understanding.

**Unit 3 . Relationship and Friendship .**

**Friendship** and relationship make part of the life. With more fiends, life becomes more interesting and pleasant than remaining in isolation.

Friends and peers have an impact on the behavior of each member. Thus, the meaning of friendship and relationship must be observed carefully .

**Friendship refers** to a kind of relationship between different individuals who care for one another and freely share both positive and bad news. Friendship is usually based and maintained on honesty, trustworthiness, loyalty, compromise, and unconditional favor among others .

**Characteristics of unhealthy and healthy relationships.**

**A positive friendship** is basic for a happy life. However, unhealthy friendship may lead to harmful effects. Bad friends or peers may lead to harmful behavior including violence, theft, poor self-esteem, use of drugs and alcohol, premature sexual intercourse, etc. Harmful behaviors have negative consequences including poor performance at school, dropping from school, unwanted pregnancies, infection of sexual transmissible diseases, depression and other health issues.

**Healthy friendship involves the following:**

- **Respect**: good friends understand and consider the values of each other. Listening to your partner’s ideas even when they are different from yours is one way to show that you respect him or her.

-**Understanding:** think about your partner’s feelings and care about how your behavior might affect him or her.

**-Trust:** Good friends trust each other.

**-Responsibility:** good friends support each other.

- **Equality**: good friend does not show the relation of power. Friends act as equal partners.

**-Communication**: a good friend uses open, honest and supportive communication.

**Sexual abuse** or **harassment** may include forcing someone to have sex, touching someone in ways he or she does not like, and not respecting someone physical space. In such cases, it is important to report to the parents, family member, friend, teacher, counselor or an authority .

**Copying with peer pressure**

**The peer pressure** is a strong influence from a group towards individuals of that group or out of that group. Then, the group overcomes the individual character and the person acts according to the ambition of that particular group.

**The benefits from positive peer pressure:**

1. Opportunity to learn how to interact with others;

2. Support in defining identity, interests, abilities, and personality;

3. Autonomy without control of adults and parents;

4. Opportunities for witnessing the strategies others use to cope with similar problems, and for observing how effective they are;

5. Emotional support;

6. Building and maintaining friendships. The positive peer pressure can increase the performance at school. When the group influences a member to work hard, s/he may succeed in class.

**The following strategies can be useful in coping with peer pressure:**

- Choose a friend carefully and wisely.

-Spend time with people who have a good character.

-Always convince your peers in assertive way to live the positive values .

- Ask for advice from the parents, guardian, relatives and friends .

**Sexuality in God’s plan**

**Sexuality** is the quality or state of being sexual, the condition of having sex, sexual activity. Then, Sexuality means sexual feelings, sexual attitudes and sexual activities. Sexuality is part of human being. It affects all the human aspects: social, physical, psychology, spiritual, moral, economic, etc. Sexuality has been in God’s plan since the creation ,

-**Human sexuality** is the way people experience and express themselves sexually. This involves biological, erotic, physical, emotional, social, or spiritual feelings and behaviors. Interest in sexual activity typically increases when an individual reaches puberty .

**God’s plan for sexuality**

To understand God’s plan for sexuality we need to go back to the beginning about all the ways to the story of creation in Genesis. Then God said:*’Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”*

-**Human sexuality** is a gift from God. Once it is understood as a reflection of who God is and who we have been created to be in God’s image, it becomes our gift back to God and to our neighbor. If we receive, learn and live it all the while relying on God’s help we will find that we are on the path to true freedom and abiding joy.

**What can we learn from the God’s plan for sexuality?**

First, we learn that the God in whose image we were created is not just a “He” but a “We.” Our God is a Trinity

— a divine communion of love. The love between the three individual persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) of this communion is so strong that it binds them as one being. The love from this divine communion is so powerful, that it creates life. We are created to be in relationships of divine communion with God and with others

**The purposes of sex**

From the moment of our creation, God has written into our very biology the purpose for our sexuality. The purposes of sex are twofold and inseparable:

-The procreation of children (it reflects and imitates the life giving love of the Trinity)

-The unity of the couple (it reflects and imitates the divine communion of the Trinity).

**Sexuality, culture and laws versus relationships**

**Culture and sexuality The culture needs some explanation.**

Popularly, it means a society’s current trends and fashions, the sense conveyed in the quarterly journal Sexuality and Culture (Springer). In its anthropological sense, culture is the capacity for symbolic thinking and communication, which is revealed through knowledge, beliefs, behavior, and products, and which distinguishes people from other animals

**Sexual attraction**

**Sexual attraction** is attraction on the basis of sexual desire or the quality of arousing such interest. Sexual attractiveness or sex appeal is an individual’s ability to attract the sexual or erotic interest of another person, and is a factor in sexual selection or mate choice. The attraction can be to the physical or other qualities or traits of a person, or to such qualities in the context in which they appear .

-These processes, which involve attracting one or more partners and maintaining **sexual interest**, can include two ways: **Flirting** and **Seduction.**

**Flirtin**g is the attraction of the sexual attention of another to encourage romance or sexual relations .

**Seduction** is the process whereby one person deliberately entices another to engage in sexual behavior.

**Sexuality issues**

While much more is known about various sexual issues that may cause relationship problems in the modern world, there are still many unknown factors depending on the exact circumstances .

**Types of sexual issues**

Many different types of sexual issues exist in the modern world, but here are some of the more common categories:

**-Loss of libido:** Whether it is menopause in women or too much stress for a man, there are many reasons that sex may become less of a priority. This can cause serious problems in a relationship for everyone involved.

**-Performance problems:** From erectile dysfunction to an inability of a female to achieve an orgasm, there are a variety of physical problems of a sexual nature that may have a negative effect on a relationship.

**- Pain issues:** For some women and men sex may be painful, which can cause a desire to avoid any and all sexual activity. This avoidance of intimacy because of physical pain may be misunderstood by a partner, causing even more stress on a relationship.

**Typical signs of sexual issues**

- Anxiety, anger, guilt or other emotions.

- Depression.

-Avoidance of intimacy in all forms.

- Failure to perform during sexual activity .

**Getting help with sexual issues**

**Sexual issues** are problems that affect a man or woman’s ability to function sexually. While there is a wide array of sexual issues that may cause relationship problems, there are also many forms of therapy that can help, no matter the specific problem .

**Sexual abuse and violence**

**-Sexual abuse** is any form of forced or unwanted sexual activity. The perpetrator of sexual abuse may use physical force, make threats or take advantage of a person unable to give consent.

**-Sexual violence** is any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act by violence or coercion, acts to traffic a person or acts directed against a person’s sexuality, regardless of the relationship to the victim .

**a) Sexual abuse includes:**

- Rape .

-Deliberately causing pain during sex .

-Assaulting the genitals .

-Forced sex without protection against pregnancy.

- Forcing someone to perform sexual acts .

-Using sexually degrading insults .

- Unwanted touching .

-Unwanted exposure to pornography .

-Sexual jokes .

-Withholding sex as punishment .

- Using sex to coerce compliance .

**Types of Sexual Violence**

The term “**sexual violence”** is an all-inclusive, non-legal term that refers to crimes like sexual assault, rape, and sexual abuse in general .

**Sexual Assault:** Sexual assault can take many different forms and be defined in different ways, but one thing remains the same: it’s never the victim’s fault .

**Child Sexual Abuse**: When a perpetrator intentionally harms a minor physically, psychologically, sexually, or by acts of neglect, the crime is known as child abuse .

**Sexual Assault of Men and Boys:**

Men and boys who have been sexually assaulted or abused may also face some additional challenges because of social attitudes and categorizes about men and masculinity.

**Incest:** This is a sexual contact with a family member that can have a lasting effect on the survivor.

**Sexual harassment** : You should be able to feel comfortable in your place of work or learning. If you are being sexually harassed, you can report it to the authorities at your job, school, or local law enforcement.

**-Adult survivors of child sexual abuse** : Many perpetrators of sexual abuse are in a position of trust or responsible for the child’s care, such as a family member, teacher, clergy member, or coach.

**Using technology to hurt others** : Some people use technology, such as digital photos, videos, apps, and social media, to engage in harassing, unsolicited, or non-consensual sexual interactions.

**Sexual abuse of people with disabilities** : Consent is crucial when any person engages in sexual activity, but it plays an even bigger and more complicated role when someone has a disability.

**What can we do in order to prevent sexual abuse in our society today?**

The prevention of sexual abuse occurs on several levels: from the individual to the organizational level. They argue that in order to work towards prevention of sexual abuse, political goals and legal frameworks also have to undergo a change on the organizational level .

**Sexuality issues: promiscuity, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, pornography .**

**Promiscuity** is defined as a lack of discrimination when it comes to sexuality or having unplanned sex. Then it means that promiscuity is the practice of having sex frequently with different partners or being indiscriminate in the choice of sexual **Fornication** is generally consensual sexual intercourse between two people not married to each other. Fornication is sex between two unmarried people.

**-Adultery** is voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person who is not their spouse. Mean that Sexual intercourse between a married person and someone who is not his or her mate is adultery.

- **Homosexuality** is loving attraction, sexual attraction or sexual behavior between members of the same sex or gender.

As a sexual orientation, homosexuality is “an enduring pattern of emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attractions” to people of the same sex .

**-Pornography** refers to books, magazines, and films that are designed to cause sexual excitement by showing naked people or referring to sexual acts. It is the portrayal of sexual subject matter for the exclusive purpose of sexual stimulation.

**Biblical teachings on sexuality**

**The sexuality** makes part of life and therefore it is a subject to be talked about. It was created and willed by God for a meaningful and pleasant existence. The sexuality enables to experience the gift of intimacy and love. The Bible gives the direction for purposeful and responsible sexuality:

- Gender complement and marriage: God created human being male and female (Genesis 1: 26-27).

- The man and woman should live in faithfulness and fulfillment (Matthew 19: 4).

-Sexual immorality is a sin. Therefore, it is important to control your own body (1 Thessalonians 4: 3-5). God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral (Hebrew 13: 4) .

**Importance of friendship and relationship**

The relationship and friendship connect people together. Without strong friendship the interaction between people diminishes greatly. Associating with people who are more related to you makes feel better than living in a loneliness situation. Friendship is the foundation of social life. Connecting with different people gives an openness and to value different point of views and an opportunity to learn from them .

Friendship contributes to quality of life throughout conversation, care and support. Affectionate friendship between adult man and woman may lead to marriage and family. Positive friendship and relationship are the source of happiness and joy. They are the beginning of long life.

**Islamic Religious Studies**

**Unit 1. The Attributes of Allah**

Five major beautiful names and attributes of God the Creator are given to imply

Some attributes and names of Allah the sublimity, significance and scale of what they stand for.

Those five names and attributes are **al-Khaliq** (the Creator), **al-Bari’** (the Maker), **al-Musawwir** (the Fashioner), **al-Fatir** (the Bringer into Existence), **al-Badi’** (the Originator).

The three names **al-Khaliq** (the Creator), **al-Bari’** (the Maker) and **al-Musawwir** (the Fashioner) are mentioned together, one after another .

**Allah is the only Creator of everything and no partner has to be attributed to Him**

Allah says: Say, “Who is Lord of the heavens and earth?” Say, “Allah.” Say, “Have you then taken besides Him allies not possessing [even] for themselves darkness equivalent to light?

**Belief in Life after Death ?**

Muslims believe that the present life is only a trial preparation for the next territory of existence. This life is a test for each individual for the life after death.

A day will come when the whole universe will be destroyed and the dead will be resurrected for judgment by God. This day will be the beginning of a life that will never end. This day is the Day of Judgment and that belief is the fifth pillar of Islamic faith.

**There are very convincing reasons to believe in life after death .**

1. All the Prophets of God have called their people to believe in it.

2. Whenever a human society is built on the basis of this belief, it has been the most ideal and peaceful society, free of social and moral evils.

3. History bears witness that whenever this belief is rejected collectively by a group of people in spite of the repeated warning of the Prophet, the group as a whole has been punished by God even in this world.

4. Moral, aesthetic and rational faculties of man endorse the possibility of the life after death.

5. God’s attributes of Justice and Mercy have no meaning if there is no life after death.

**The Eternal Pleasures of Paradise**

The reality of Paradise is something which people will never be able to understand until they actually enter it, but God has shown us glimpses of it in the Quran. He has described it as a place essentially different to the life of this world, both in the very nature and purpose of life, as well as the types of delights which people will enjoy therein.

**The Eternal Horrors of Hellfire.**

Islam teaches that Hell is a real place prepared by God for those who do not believe in Him, rebel against His laws, and reject His messengers. Hell is an actual place, not a mere state of mind or a spiritual entity. The horrors, pain, suffering, and punishment are all real, but different in nature than their earthly counterparts. Hell is the ultimate humiliation and loss, and nothing is worse than it:

**The Names of Hell Hell**

Fire has different names in Islamic texts. Each name gives a separate description. Some of its names are:

**Jaheem** – fire - because of its blazing fire.

**Jahannam** – Hell - because of the depth of its pit.

**Ladzwa** – blazing fire - because of its flames.

**Sa’eer** – blazing flame - because it is kindled and ignited.

**Saqar –** because of the intensity of its heat.

**Hutwama** – broken pieces or debris - because it breaks and crushes everything that is thrown into it.

**Haawiyah** – chasm or abyss - because the one who is thrown into it is thrown .

**The event s of last days .**

**Ten major signs prior to the last day**

Even though the time is hidden, according to the Islamic beliefs, there are signs, which Muslims are told to watch for. These signs are as follows:

1. Masihi Dajjal

2. God and Magog

3. Smoke

4. The beast of the earth

5. Three big earthquakes: i One in the East i One in the West i One in Arabia

6. The sun will rise from the West

7. A fire will come pout of Yemen and will drive people to the place of Assembly for Judgment

8. The descent of Jesus the son of Mariam .

**There will be environmental events which will affect the whole earth.**

1. When the heaven is cleft asunder,

2. When the planets are dispersed,

3. When the seas are poured forth,

4. And the sepulchers are overturned,

**Unit 2. Qur’an Teaching about Sexual Morality .**

The Prophet Muhammad (May the mercy and blessings of God be upon him), often spoke to his companions about the value of good companionship. He emphasized the need to surround ourselves with good people. People, who hold the same values and beliefs that we do, make the best friends and companions.

**Prohibited marriage partners**

Temporary prohibitions are those which arise only in certain special circumstances in which the partners are placed. If the circumstances change, the prohibition also disappears. They are as follows:

1. A man must not have two sisters as wives at the same time nor can he marry a woman and her aunt at the same time. 2. A man must not marry a woman who is already married, unless the former marriage is dissolved by divorce or death of former husband.

3. A man must not have more than four wives at one time.

4. A man must not marry a woman during her Edah .

**The value of the institution of marriage in Islam**

**Importance of Sex in Marriage**

In Islam, marriage is not limited to a friendly relationship between husband and wife, nor is it only for reproduction. The Islamic term for marriage, “1LNDK” literally means sexual intercourse.

**The rights and responsibilities of a husband and a wife in Islam .**

According to Islam, both men and women have rights over each other when they enter into a marriage contract, with the husband serving as protector and supporter of the family most of the time, from his means.

This guardianship has two aspects for both partners:

-The husband is financially responsible for the welfare and maintenance of his wife or wives and any children they produce, to include at a minimum, providing a home, food and clothing.

- In return, it is the duty of the wife to safeguard the husband’s possessions and protect how wealth is spent. If the wife has wealth in her own capacity she is not obliged to spend it upon the husband or children, as she can own property and assets in her own right, so the husband has no right for her property and assets except by her will. A pre-marital agreement of the financial expectation from the husband is in the **Mahr,** given by him to the wife for her exclusive use, which is included as part of his financial responsibility .

**Unit 3. Hygienic Practices .**

There are certain things which require an adult Muslim to perform ablution before engaging in the prayer or circumambulating the **Ka’bah**. Before he performs ablution, he is said to be in a state of ritual impurity.

**Some impurities that must be removed before performing the prayer .**

1. Human urine.

2. Human Excrement.

3. Wadi: A thick white secretion that might be discharged after urination.

4. Mathi: A white sticky prostatic fluid, (other than sperm or semen).

5. Menstrual blood.

6. Defecation and urine of animals whose meat is not permissible to eat (carnivores, such as lions).

7. Dog saliva.

8. Water remaining after a carnivore has drunk from it.

**Minor Impurity and Major Impurity .**

**Minor Impurity**

This requires Wudu (ablution). It happens after one or more of the following occurs: natural discharges like urine, excrement, passing gas, falling asleep, or unconsciousness of any kind, or touching private parts with a hand without any covering, or washing a dead person.

**Major Impurity .**

This requires washing the whole body. It could be caused by unconscious ejaculation (e.g. in one’s sleep), intercourse, menstruation or post-childbirth bleeding. This type of washing requires bathing the whole body, including, the head with pure water.

**Rules of ablution**

**Ghusl** is an Arabic term referring to the full-body ritual purification mandatory before the performance of various rituals and prayers, for any adult Muslim after having sexual intercourse, ejaculation or completion of the menstrual cycle, or post child bleeding .

**Water requirements .**

Some water is permissible for use for ablution **(Ghusl)** whereas some water is not.

Permissible water sources include:   
- Rainwater

-Well water .

-Spring, sea, or river water

-Water of melting snow or hail .

- Water of a big tank or pond .

**Purification with dust (Tayamam)**