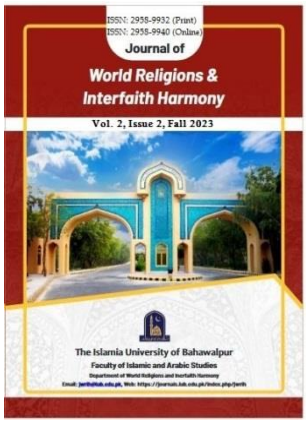


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Religious Diversity in Post-Modern Globalized World- An Intertextual Study of the Quran and Bible

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Abstract

Religious diversity has been an infinite and irrefutable truth of the universe. In the contemporary Post-Modern globalized world, the phenomenon of religious diversity has gained more prominence. The antiquity of religious diversity and its significance is absolute. As religious diversity is heavenly, divine literature has been providing directives about it. Quran provides extensive and comprehensive directions about interactions and dealings with multi-faith and multi-cultural societies. Similarly, biblical teachings offer principles to deal with the followers of other faiths. This study will provide an intertextual study of both divine literature Quran and the Bible in terms of religious diversity in the context of a Post-modern globalized world. By applying qualitative research methods together with a comparative approach, this paper will highlight the Quran and the Bible verses about the absolute truth of religious diversity. Both religious texts dictate reverence for other religious, cultural, and social systems as it is essential for peaceful coexistence. The three dimensional-theologies concerning religious diversity (Pluralism, Exclusivism, and inclusivism) will also be discussed in the light of Quranic and biblical teachings as they are getting more scholarly attention in the modern globalized society. This study aims to highlight the revelational directions of the Quran and the Bible regarding religious diversity and offer a deeper view of how these scriptures handle the synergetic issues of a globalized and diversified world, that ultimately foster interfaith interactions, cooperation, and peaceful coexistence.

Keywords: Religious diversity, Quran, Bible, Post-Modernism, Globalization

Introduction

The influence of faith on the evolution of humanity has been significant, with the Bible and the Quran emerging as highly important and extensively adhered to sacred writings globally. These scriptures are widely venerated by a substantial portion of the global population, owing to their profound philosophical and ethical import. Within the framework of a constantly shifting, postmodern worldview, the significance of these convictions grows increasingly prominent, as they offer valuable perspectives on the dynamics and adaptability of various traditions within our global network. The contemporary period characterized as postmodernism has seen a notable surge in ecumenical endeavors and conversations to cultivate comprehension, collaboration, and harmonious cohabitation among individuals belonging to diverse religious affiliations. In an era characterized by the coexistence of various religious beliefs and increased interconnectivity, these efforts have assumed a critical role in tackling worldwide concerns and fostering a sense of unity.

Religious debate encompasses the facilitation of healthy discourse and relationships between people and groups that reflect diverse faiths. These talks frequently prioritize broad ethical principles, and collective issues, surpassing religious divisions. These platforms function as a means of confronting and challenging spiritual preconceptions, presumptions, and misconceptions.

Interfaith projects encompass a diverse range of manifestations, such as meetings, seminars, classes, and ground involvement programs. Notable organizations and interfaith committees have been established to facilitate these discussions, and foster collaboration among the clergy, academics, and ordinary individuals.

Research Question

The primary research question of this investigation pertains to the examination of how the Bible and the Quran approach and contribute to the comprehension of various religions within the context of the current postmodern globalized era.

This inquiry explores the holy writings of two prominent global faiths in order to analyze their doctrines, rules, and viewpoints toward religious diversity, acceptance, and cohabitation. Through a comprehensive analysis of the aforementioned works and their respective theories, the study's objective is to unveil the intricate array of concepts they present in traversing the complicated structure of spiritual plurality within the age of postmodernism.

Significance of the Study

The study holds significance due to its ability to provide insights into essential facets of present-day religious practices and societal dynamics. Various crucial elements contribute to its relevance:

1. The Promotion of Interdisciplinary Tolerance: An examination of the biblical and Quranic perspectives on religious variety can catalyze the cultivation of ecumenical understanding and discussion. This holds particular significance within a global context characterized by religious tensions and conflicts.

2. Ethical and Philosophical counsel: The Bible and the Quran offer sound moral and ethical counsel to adherents of their respective faiths. Gaining insight into various viewpoints about religious variety can assist people and societies in effectively addressing intricate ethical inquiries about diversity.

3. Intellectual Scholarship: This investigation contributes to the expanding corpus of scholarly research in the fields of religious studies, theology, and interfaith studies. The provided research presents a sophisticated examination of intertextuality, serving as an invaluable tool for academics, theologians, and young people who possess a curiosity in exploring the convergence of faith and the postmodern period.

4. Societal Impact: The results of this study hold significance for the real-world use of fostering religious tolerance and inclusivity within the community, which could foster enhanced social cohesion and tranquility.

5. Significance on a Worldwide Scale: In a contemporary era marked by the interconnectedness of nations and the simultaneous presence of diverse religious beliefs, examining how these two prominent works engage with religious diversity holds significant worldwide significance. The emergence of postmodernism during the latter part of the 20th century has exerted a significant influence on the realm of religious discourse. Postmodernism is distinguished by its repudiation of overarching, comprehensive narratives and its acknowledgment of the multiplicity of viewpoints and lived realities. Within the domain of religion, this cognitive transformation holds considerable ramifications.

Elucidation of the postmodernist global situation

The concept of "postmodernism" comprises a multidimensional and intricate philosophical trend that originated throughout the later part of the twentieth century. This statement signifies a notable deviation from the prevailing modernist principles that had exerted a dominant influence on Western intellectual discourse over an extended period. Encyclopedia Britannica

characterizes "Postmodernism" with the perceptions of relativism, subjectivism, and skepticism.[1]

Within the context of a postmodern paradigm, there exists a deliberate repudiation of overarching, all-encompassing accounts, alongside an acknowledgment of the multifarious nature of individual observations, points of view, and cultural contexts. This postmodernism is considered to be a reaction to modernism.[2]

Within the context of the postmodern global landscape, it is evident that these conceptual transformations also permeate the domain of faith. Contemporary culture exhibits a heightened level of skepticism towards conventional religious authority and structures, accompanied by a notable inclination towards embracing religious pluralism, which entails a harmonious integration of diverse religious beliefs and practices within a unified societal framework. In recent times, there has been a notable increase in global interdependence, which is characterized by the seamless flow of information and ideas across national boundaries. This phenomenon has played a significant role in fostering interactions and exchanges between many religious and ideological frameworks. The interconnectivity of different religious groups presents both advantageous and problematic consequences for the promotion and maintenance of religious diversity.[3]

Postmodernism places significant emphasis on relativism in culture, recognizing the absence of a universally applicable framework for religion or ethics. It promotes the cultivation of a polite and open-minded approach towards other perspectives and a preference for engaging in constructive discourse rather than adhering rigidly to fixed beliefs. During the postmodern era, the Bible and the Quran can be regarded as textual sources that provide useful knowledge into the comprehension and management of faith-related variance.

Postmodernism, Pluralism and Religious Discourse

Postmodernism poses an obstacle to the conventional notion of objective reality and promotes an increasingly liberal perspective on religious convictions. The proposition posits that religious truths are influenced by cultural and personal settings, hence imbuing them with an intrinsic subjectivity. This phenomenon has

[1] "Postmodernism | Encyclopedia Britannica," accessed September 24, 2023, https://www.britannica.com/topic/postmodernism-philosophy.

[2] Gary Aylesworth, "Postmodernism," in *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, ed. Edward N. Zalta (Metaphysics Research Lab, Stanford University, 2015), https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2015/entries/postmodernism/.

[3] David Ray Griffin, *God and Religion in the Postmodern World: Essays in Postmodern Theology* (SUNY Press, 1989).

resulted in the adoption of a more inclusive and open-minded attitude to religious discourse, wherein a range of views are recognized and treated with reverence.

The encouragement of religious pluralism stands as an important aspect of postmodernism in the debate around religion. Pluralism recognizes the simultaneous presence of numerous faiths and perspectives within a unified societal framework. It promotes the active participation of individuals and groups in constructive discourse and collaboration, prioritizing collaboration and mutual comprehension over attempts to convert or deal with confrontation. The current trend to plurality is following the present-day global context characterized by a wide range of spiritual convictions and practices.

The adoption of religious plurality within the framework of the postmodern world can be seen as a response to the failure of modernism's endeavors to establish all-encompassing and cohesive spiritual accounts. Postmodernism presents a critique of the notion of a singular, unchanging reality within religious contexts, opting rather to recognize and validate the existence of many viewpoints. It resists the establishment of encompassing structures or controlling legends, emphasizing the comparable validity of these various views. The concept signifies a departure from traditional adherence and regulation within spiritual ideology, promoting the acknowledgment of diverse and genuine spiritual narratives.[4]

Moreover, postmodernism lays significant importance on fostering interfaith communication. The recognition of the significance of comprehending and valuing diverse religious viewpoints is acknowledged. Consequently, there has been a rise in projects and establishments that are committed to fostering conversation and collaboration amongst those who follow different religious beliefs. In contemporary times characterized by postmodernism, there has been a noticeable rise in the participation of faith-based supervisors, intellectuals, and individuals in intercultural dialogues, intending to cultivate a sense of shared comprehension and admiration.

The importance of religious diversity in the contemporary globalized age has been attributed to a variety of interconnected factors. The phenomenon of globalization has played a crucial role in the transmission of faith principles and practices beyond national boundaries, hence facilitating the peaceful coexistence of diverse religions among various cultures on an international level. Migration flows have played a significant role in augmenting this variety, as individuals

[4] Douglas Pratt, "Pluralism, Postmodernism and Interreligious Dialogue," *Sophia* 46, no. 3 (December 1, 2007): 245–61, https://doi.org/10.1007/s11841-007-0038-z.

with varying convictions relocate and establish themselves in various areas, thereby fostering religious pluralism.

The proliferation of technologies for communication, notably the Internet and social media platforms, has played a pivotal role in enabling multicultural spiritual engagements and the dissemination of religious knowledge.[5] This phenomenon has resulted in heightened consciousness and inquisitiveness regarding various religious beliefs.

The phenomenon of secularization has resulted in a decrease in the commitment to conventional religious practices in certain areas, hence creating an opportunity for people to engage in the exploration of other spiritual avenues. The implementation of statutory safeguards to guarantee freedom of faith has fostered an environment conducive to the open expression of diverse views on religion, thereby amplifying the prominence of spiritual variety.

The emergence of interdisciplinary projects can be attributed to the increasing diversity among groups of faiths, with a focus on fostering discussion, collaboration, and compassion. These endeavors aim to establish connections between different religions and foster an atmosphere that recognizes and appreciates theological variety.[6]

The variety of religions has emerged as a prominent concern in modern times, primarily driven by the forces of globalization, migration, advancements in technological innovation, the process of secularization, legislative safeguards for religious liberties, and the promotion of ecumenical endeavors. The comprehension of numerous faiths, encompassing those exemplified by the Bible and Quran, is of scholarly significance.

Significance of Diversity in the Quran and Bible

Diversity is a universal notion, such as lingual, racial, cultural, social, economic, and religious different kinds of diversities naturally exist among human beings. There is so much diversity everywhere in the world that it would be difficult to assess it. Whatever the species of man, animal, plant, and all other things, despite the basic similarity, there are numerous differences among its members, even if no individual of a species is exactly similar to another. Islam calls this difference a sign of Allah.

وَمِنْ اٰيٰتِهٖ خَلْقُ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافُ اَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَاَلْوَانِكُمْ ۗ اِنَّ فِيْ ذٰلِكَ لَاٰيٰتٍ لِّلْعٰلِمِيْنَ۔

[5] Linda Woodhead, Christopher Partridge, and Hiroko Kawanami, *Religions in the Modern World: Traditions and Transformations* (Routledge, 2016).

[6] Chad V. Meister, *The Oxford Handbook of Religious Diversity* (OUP USA, 2011).

> And among His signs is the birth of the heavens and the earth, and the difference of your tongues and your colors. Indeed, in this are many signs, for the wise.[7]

Similarly, The Holy Book of the Christian "Bible" also acknowledges the universality of diversity. Genesis 11:1-9 explicitly shows that God endorsed the diversification, deliberately,

> "Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar [and settled there… let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." So, the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth."[8]

In the course of this key narration, mankind endeavors to construct a towering structure to attain spirituall heights. In response, divine intervention occurs when the dialect of humanity is deliberately confounded by a higher power, resulting in the subsequent dispersal of individuals into various geographical areas characterized by the emergence of unique linguistic systems. The narrative serves as a representation of the genesis of cultural and lingual multiplicity, as well as following dispersion of individual communities. The Bible mentions cultural diversification, as

> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."[9]

The heavenly edict expressly mandates the dispersion of the human race, an ongoing subject in the accounts of Genesis, so tacitly advocating for the development of many cultures.

After the identification of Noah's three descendants, the book of Genesis proceeds to elucidate that the individuals who eventually dispersed across the globe originated from this lineage.[10] The reference to "scattering" in the text alludes to the inherent duality of diverse cultures as depicted in the Bible.

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[7] Surah Rome 30:22
[8] Genesis 11:1-9
[9] Genesis 1:28
[10] Genesis 9:19

Oneness of Human Race

Tribes and nations come into existence based on sharing color, race, region, and language. According to the Qur'an, the existence of tribes has happened under the plan of Allah and mankind is the descendent of one man and woman. As referred in Holy Quran,

يٰٓاَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اِنَّا خَلَقْنٰكُمْ مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ وَّاُنْثٰى وَجَعَلْنٰكُمْ شُعُوْبًا وَّقَبَاۤىِٕلَ لِتَعَارَفُوْا اِنَّ اَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللّٰهِ اَتْقٰىكُمْ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ عَلِيْمٌ خَبِيْرٌ

> O mankind! We created you from a male and a female and then made you into nations and communities so that you may know one another. Indeed, in the sight of Allah, the most honorable among you is the one who is the most pious among you. Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing and All-Aware.[11]

Syed Maududi explains this verse in this way, "In a short verse, Allah SWT addressed all the people and explained three very important principled facts. **First** is that you all have the same origin, from one man and one woman, your whole species has come into being, and all your races are found in the world today, they are the branches of the original race. It started with one mother and father. **The second** is that despite being one in origin, it was a natural thing for you to be divided into nations and tribes, but this natural difference and variation did not require that distinctions of superiority and inferiority should be established based on it. The reason why the Creator organized human groups in the form of nations and tribes was simply that this was the natural form of cooperation and familiarity between them. **Thirdly**, if there is and can be any basis of excellence and superiority between mankind, it is only moral excellence."[12]

The Bible also concedes all these three concepts. In the New Testament, these idea is referred to in these words

> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.[13]

Humanity's diversity is appropriately perceived within the broader framework of harmony in the Bible. Therefore, it is evident that in the Bible, religious diversity is occasionally portrayed in ideological contexts.

[11] Al Hujrat 49:13

[12] Maududi, Maulana, Abul-Ala, Tafheem ul Quran (Institure Tarjama nul Quran, Lahore), n.d, 1: 124

[13] Acts 17:26

The Bible proclaims that the Lord of universe created the mankind as one race, as mentioned in Genesis 1:27,

> So God created mankind in his image, in the image of God, he created them;Human Race, he created them.[14]

Mentioning the "human race" shows gender diversification (male and female). Therefore, according to the both Qur'an and the Bible, all human beings are made of the same core but they are created with differences.

Reverence and Love for Humankind

The holiness and respected of each person as a gift from God are emphasized in almost every religion of the world. Quran and bible exhort people to handle other people with reverence, decency, and empathy, acknowledging that every human being has a heavenly imprint. Quran proclaims that,

لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْاِنْسَانَ فِيْٓ اَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيْمٍ[15]

> Undoubtedly, We created man on the best structure.

وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِيْٓ اٰدَمَ وَحَمَلْنٰهُمْ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنٰهُمْ مِّنَ الطَّيِّبٰتِ وَفَضَّلْنٰهُمْ عَلٰي كَثِيْرٍ مِّمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيْلًا [16]

> It is Our grace that We gave the sons of Adam greatness and gave them rides in the dry and wet and gave them sustenance from pure things and gave them great superiority over many of Our creatures.

Allah has made every human being worthy of respect and honor. Quran does not consider any caste, color, race, country, or nation to be superior, but the origin of all human beings is the same. Islam gives the concept of unity even in diversity.

The Bible also provides the notion of a universal community. Regardless of discrimination of color, race, and creed, it states that the Holy Spirit resides in every person,

> Did you not realize that the Sacred Spirit of truth, who lives inside of you and what you got from God, resides in your physical beings as temples? You were purchased for a cost; you aren't truly your own. Consequently, revere God with your body.[17]

[14] Genesis 1:27
[15] At-Teen 95:4
[16] Al-Isra 17:70
[17] 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

These passages emphasize the need to treat the body of a person with dignity and regard since it is precious. In Luke, it is mentioned that Jesus says to his disciples,

> 'Love the Lord, your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'[18]

This particular verse serves as an instructive narrative that underscores the significance of empathy and care for all individuals, regardless of their religion or social affiliations. This phenomenon presents an opportunity to the established bounds of faith belonging, while simultaneously emphasizing the inherent global significance of virtues such as generosity and compassion.

Promoting Interfaith dialogue

Interfaith dialogues are crucial for peaceful coexistence and harmony in a world of religious diversity. Semantic religions have different codes of conduct but all of them are derivative from the same Holy truth. In such a case, if there are commonalities in some things, then Islam calls for these common things for the establishment of religion.

> قُلْ يٰٓاَهْلَ الْكِتٰبِ تَعَالَوْا اِلٰى كَلِمَةٍ سَوَآءٍ بَيْنَنَا وَ بَيْنَكُمْ اَلَّا نَعْبُدَ اِلَّا اللّٰهَ وَ لَا نُشْرِكَ بِهٖ شَيْـًٔا وَّ لَا يَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضًا اَرْبَابًا مِّنْ دُوْنِ اللّٰهِ-فَاِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَقُوْلُوا اشْهَدُوْا بِاَنَّا مُسْلِمُوْنَ
>
> Prophet! You say, O people of the book! Come to a word that is equal between us and you, that we worship none but Allah, and that we associate none with Him, and that none of us take other than Allah as Lord. If they turn away, O Muslims! Say: "Be a witness that we are true Muslims[19]."

The followers of Sematic religions hold the same belief of monotheism. Starting an interfaith dialogue with these common beliefs clears the way toward peaceful negotiation and cohabitation.

Within the New Testament, in Mathew Jesus imparts instructions to his followers, urging them for interfaith dialogue to embark on a goal to disseminate the teachings of Christianity throughout the entire globe, to convert individuals from all countries.[20]

[18] Mark 12:30-31
[19] Ale-Imran 3:64
[20] Mathew 28:16-20

This directive underscores the expansive scope of Interfaith dialogue in Christianity and the concept of propagating the faith amidst culturally and religiously diverse environments.

Similarly in Acts 17:16-34, the apostle Paul participates in discourse with thinkers hailing from Athens, acknowledging the multiplicity of spiritual opinions present among them. He strategically employs their altar to an "unknown god" as a beginning to present them to the Christian deity.[21]

These verses serve as an exemplification of an earlier Christian endeavor to actively interact with and establish connections with individuals adhering to dissimilar religious convictions.

Freedom of religion and tolerance

For peace in a pluralistic society, it is important not to try to convince anyone by force, despite the firm belief in the rightness of one's ideology and religion.

لَآ اِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّيْنِ قَدْ تَّبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَّكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوْتِ وَيُؤْمِنْۢ بِاللّٰهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقٰى لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللّٰهُ سَمِيْعٌ عَلِيْمٌ

There is no compulsion in the matter of religion. Indeed, guidance has been distinguished from misguidance. So whoever rejects Evil (Taghut) and believes in Allah, then he has taken hold of a firm support that cannot be broken. And Allah is All-Hearing and All-Knowing.[22]

Islam not only gives religious freedom to all non-Muslims but also prevents them from insulting other Gods.

وَلَا تَسُبُّوا الَّذِيْنَ يَدْعُوْنَ مِنْ دُوْنِ اللّٰهِ فَيَسُبُّوا اللّٰهَ عَدْوًۢا بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ كَذٰلِكَ زَيَّنَّا لِكُلِّ اُمَّةٍ عَمَلَهُمْ ثُمَّ اِلٰى رَبِّهِمْ مَّرْجِعُهُمْ فَيُنَبِّئُهُمْ بِمَاكَانُوْا يَعْمَلُوْنَ

(Muslims, these) people who call upon (entities) besides Allah, do not curse them, otherwise, these people will go beyond the limit and start cursing Allah with unreasonable burdens. Thus we have made the process pleasant for every group. Then (finally) they (all) have to return to their Lord, then He will tell them whatever they have been doing (in this world)[23].

This means it is crucial to accept the freedom of those who disagree with one’s religion.

[21] Acts 17:16-34
[22] Al-Baqarah 2:256
[23] Al-Ana’am 6:108

The concept of liberty is frequently depicted in the Bible, affording humans the agency to make choices regarding their opinions and behaviors. In the book of Joshua, Joshua makes a declaration whereby he states,

> "However, if the act of following the LORD appears unappealing to you, then it is incumbent upon you to make a decision today regarding whom you shall decide to obey."[24]

This paragraph exemplifies the concept that everyone has the autonomy to select their theological trajectory.

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul discusses the importance of demonstrating regard towards the morality of people. In the biblical passage of 1 Corinthians, the author cautions the readers to apply caution and mindfulness regarding the use of their entitlements, to avoid causing difficulties for others who are more vulnerable or less spiritually mature.[25]

This admonition emphasizes the importance of considering the potential negative impact of one's actions on others within the community. This highlights the significance of taking into account the principles and emotions of individuals when it comes to issues about religious beliefs.

Exclusivism

Exclusivism, frequently linked with fundamentalist religion, posits that an individual's particular belief system is the exclusive and definitive origin of knowledge and deliverance. The tendency is observed to involve the rejection or marginalization of alternative religious beliefs, stating their insufficiency or lack of veracity. Both the Bible and the Quran contain exclusivist ideas, which are, however, counterbalanced by teachings emphasizing tenderness, empathy, and fairness.

The primary focus of the ten commands in the Bible's Old Testament, namely the initial two commandments, centers on the promotion of the singular devotion to the God of Israel, while simultaneously cautioning contrary to the veneration of different divine entities. [26]

These exemplify the presence of monotheistic exclusivity as a fundamental aspect of the Bible.

Nevertheless, the Bible also has scriptures that highlight the importance of kindness and fairness. One such instance exhorts adherents to engage in acts of justice, exhibit compassion, and maintain a humble disposition in their

[24] Joshua 24:15
[25] Corinthians 8:9
[26] Exodus 20:2-6

relationship with God.[27] This signifies a more comprehensive moral paradigm that extends beyond notions of exclusivity.

The Quran places significant emphasis on the concept of monotheism (Tawheed) and advocates for exclusive devotion to Allah. The passage in the Quran emphasizes the importance of worshipping one's God, who is the creator of both mankind as well as those who came previously, to attain righteousness. The one who has created the earth as a resting place for humanity and the heavens as a protective covering.[28]

This highlights the presence of monotheistic exclusivity within the Islamic faith.

Nevertheless, the Quran recognizes the presence of additional faith groups and a wide range of viewpoints. Surah Al-Kafirun serves as a prominent illustration, wherein it acknowledges the presence of diverse religious affiliations and convictions among individuals, hence advocating for a certain level of mutual acceptance and cohabitation[29].

Inclusivism

Inclusivism refers to a philosophical or ideological stance that promotes the inclusion and acceptance of diversity. Inclusivism has a more inclusive perspective, positing that the attainment of redemption is possible within one's religious framework while acknowledging the potential for others to gain atonement by the mercy of God. Inclusive individuals frequently demonstrate a respectful attitude towards other faiths, acknowledging the presence of reality and moral virtue within other spiritual traditions.

The Bible is a religious text that holds significant cultural and historical importance.

Within the New Testament, the messages of Christ place significant emphasis on the virtues of tenderness, forgiveness, and the attainment of deliverance via the expression of faith in His person. This bible verse is frequently referenced within this specific setting, when it states, "I am the path and reality and the way that leads to life."[30] The exclusive means by which individuals can access the father is using me. While the aforementioned phrase may be perceived as having a privileged connotation, it is important to note that other biblical texts underscore

[27] Micah 6:8
[28] See, Al-Baqarah 2:21-22
[29] Al-Kafiroon 109:1-6
[30] John 14:6

the concept of inclusivity.[31] These verses emphasize that deeds of sympathy directed towards people are regarded as actions of sympathy towards Christ.

The Quran acknowledges the presence of preceding apostles and their corresponding teachings. Following the Quranic verse, it is mentioned that prophets were dispatched by Allah to different nations.[32] Additionally, the Quran asserts that individuals were directed following the revelations specific to their nations. The acknowledgment of diverse prophetic practices suggests an inclusive viewpoint.

In the Quran, a global dimension of faith is discussed, recognizing that adherents of many religious traditions engage in devotion to a shared deity, although through distinct practices. The verse states, "To all communities, we have prescribed the means of devotion that they should practice."[33] Therefore, it is advisable to discourage any potential disagreements over this topic.

Pluralism

Pluralism refers to the coexistence and recognition of multiple perspectives, beliefs, and values. Pluralism, as a philosophical perspective, extends beyond the notion of religious tolerance and asserts that every faith holds equal validity as a pathway to the almighty. Pluralism emphasizes the principles of cohabitation, mutual respect, and the inherent worth found within theological variety. The concept posits that various religious beliefs make valuable contributions to the diverse fabric of individual consciousness.

The Bible incorporates verses that underscore the distinctiveness of the Creator, whilst concurrently promoting the virtues of affection, understanding, and reverence towards fellow individuals. The messages of Jesus, exemplified by the Parable of the Good Samaritan, emphasize the significance of providing assistance and demonstrating benevolence towards individuals from diverse socioeconomic classes and religious affiliations[34].

The Quran also espouses the concept of harmonious relations. Quran asserts that humanity has been established from both male and female individuals, and has been diversified into many communities and groups to facilitate mutual recognition and understanding. Inevitably the individuals who are deemed most honorable in the eyes of Allah are those who exhibit the highest degree of righteousness. [35]

[31] Matthew 25:40
[32] Fatir 35:24
[33] Al-Hajj 22:67
[34] Luke 10:25-37
[35] Al-Hujrat 49:13

This passage emphasizes the profound insight inherent in the variety observed among individuals, which is attributed to a supernatural source.

Quran addresses the concept of religious pluralism, affirming the autonomy of different religious communities and emphasizing that Allah will ultimately adjudicate among them. This initiative fosters an atmosphere of mutual tolerance and collaboration amongst many faith communities[36].

In the contemporary postmodernism period, people of all kinds are engaged in a complex process of coping with various viewpoints, having the aim of establishing shared understanding and respect for others amidst inherent disparities. It is imperative to acknowledge the inherent variability in readings of the Bible and the Quran, as these religious writings encompass a diverse array of viewpoints that can significantly shape one's understanding and approach to certain matters.

Significance of the Bible and the Quran in fostering religious tolerance

The Bible and the Quran, regarded as hallowed scriptures within the Christian and Islamic traditions, have exerted a substantial influence on the development of interfaith comprehension and discourse. These writings espouse doctrines that highlight the distinctiveness of their religions, while simultaneously promoting ideals that foster collaboration and reverence between diverse faith groups.

The lessons of kindness and tenderness inherent in the Bible are seen by Christians as a fundamental basis for participating in ecumenical discourse. Routes like the Ten Commandments, which highlight the significance of demonstrating love towards one's neighbor, are frequently referenced to emphasize the value of exhibiting tolerance and charity towards individuals of diverse religious beliefs.[37]

Similarly, the Quran has passages that advocate for harmonious cohabitation and constructive communication. Surah Al-Kafirun openly acknowledges the coexistence of diverse religious beliefs, as it affirms, "To you be your religion, and to me be my religion."[38] This passage is frequently referenced as a Quranic affirmation of tolerance for faith and the liberty to practice one's religion.

Both the Bible and the Quran feature accounts of people who interacted with persons adhering to diverse religious beliefs. An illustrative instance can be

[36] Al-Ma'idah 5:48
[37] Matthew 22:36-40
[38] Al-Kafirun 109:1-6

found in the Bible, namely in the narrative of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman effectively, as recorded in the Bible.[39] This account serves to emphasize the significance of participating in courteous and constructive conversations with those who adhere to diverse viewpoints. The Quran recounts the narrative of Prophet Muhammad's engagements with Jewish and Christian populations in Medina, including instances of interfaith cooperation.

Achievements and Obstacles in Interfaith Collaboration

In the postmodern age, there have been several instances of successful outcomes resulting from religious dialogue. These narratives frequently encompass collective endeavors aimed at tackling urgent worldwide problems, including but not limited to destitution, sustainable development, and equitable treatment. Religious groups stemming from various backgrounds have collectively converged with the shared objective of effectuating a constructive influence on humanity.

An exemplary instance of achievement is exemplified by the Parliament of the World's Religions, an assembly that has brought together individuals of many religious backgrounds, including religious leaders, scholars, and practitioners, since the year 1893. This international occurrence serves as a forum for interfaith discourse and collaboration on pressing matters, encompassing topics such as civil rights and safeguarding the environment. The primary objective of its establishment of the "Parliament of World Religions" was to promote concordance among global religious and spiritual groups and facilitate their active involvement with global institutions, with the ultimate aim of attaining a world characterized by equity, tranquility, and environmental sustainability.[40]

Nevertheless, collaboration among faiths encounters multiple hurdles. Religious disputes and rivalries continue to endure in diverse regions across the globe, impeding the prospects of constructive discussion and collaboration. The presence of extremist ideology and bigotry might present substantial obstacles to the attainment of intercultural comprehension.[41]

Furthermore, there exists a considerable range of interpretations when it comes to sacred literature such as the Bible and the Quran. The interpretation of these scriptures by particular people and organizations may lead to the promotion of exclusivity instead of inclusivity, hence posing challenges to religious initiatives.

[39] John 4:1-42

[40] "The Parliament of the World's Religions," accessed September 24, 2023, https://www.uri.org/parliament-worlds-religions.

[41] Meister, *The Oxford Handbook of Religious Diversity*.

The Bible and the Quran, being prominent spiritual works with significant global influence, have verses and events that engage with the notion of religious diversity.

Results and Discussions

The examination of religious variety in the postmodern globalized world through an intertextual lens has uncovered a multifaceted interaction between holy scriptures, socioeconomic variables, and present-day obstacles. Religious diversity presents notable obstacles, although it concurrently presents prospects for enhanced comprehension and collaboration among individuals belonging to varying religious traditions. Through the persistent pursuit of academic study and the implementation of pragmatic endeavors aimed at fostering religious comprehension and cohabitation, we can endeavour to cultivate a more all-encompassing and concordant worldwide community wherein varied faiths may calmly coexist and make constructive contributions to the globe at large. This scholarly pursuit highlights the significance of scholarly investigation and pragmatic intervention in tackling a pivotal concern of our era.

Recommendations

1. Intertextual research of the Holy Scriptures should be motivated as they may offer a more comprehensive exploration of the literary works within diverse faith communities, extending across the Bible and the Quran. An in-depth examination of how various holy books approach the concepts of spiritual variety and pluralism can contribute to a greater awareness of worldwide perspectives on religion.
2. The integration of interfaith training into the curriculum and programs of colleges and universities and faith-based organizations can be explored. The offerings encompass educational programs and interactive sessions aimed at fostering the ability to read promoting acceptance and facilitating discourse. The objective is to provide persons with the necessary information and competencies to effectively and courteously interact with others from diverse religious backgrounds.
3. The promotion and expansion of interfaith projects and discussions can be further facilitated by the collaboration of states, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and religious organizations. These programs must prioritize inclusivity and accessibility, ensuring that people from different faiths can participate. By doing so, these programs can effectively cultivate connections and promote collaboration within the wider community.
4. The influence of social media and dialogue on the public's views of different faiths is substantial. Media groups can implement ethical techniques for reporting that facilitate the dissemination of precise and impartial depictions

of diverse religious beliefs. Additionally, these platforms can facilitate the expression and representation of diverse interfaith viewpoints and ideas.

5. Authorities possess the power to establish and implement programs aimed at safeguarding faith and liberty and mitigating instances of religious-based prejudice. The implementation of regulations that endorse inclusion and diversity has the potential to foster a more cohesive and amicable community.
6. It is imperative to use interdisciplinary negotiation as a strategic approach to effectively tackle and mitigate religious disputes. Ambassadors and global organizations can actively collaborate with spiritual figures and local groups to foster harmony and enhance mutual comprehension.
7. Communities at large can undertake indigenous endeavors aimed at fostering cooperation and mutual comprehension among varied faith-related organizations. Efforts such as public discussions, interactions between cultures, and collaborative humanitarian efforts have the potential to cultivate teamwork and promote harmonious relations.

Conclusion

The intertextual investigation of sacred texts the Bible and the Quran has essential scholarly and practical significance in today's globalized society, wherein religious diversity is a distinguishing characteristic. While the Bible and the Quran emphasize the distinctive statements of their individual beliefs, this research of religious scriptures has shown that they include morals and anecdotes that promote acceptance, reverence, and collaboration amongst followers of many religious traditions. Additionally, the relevance of postmodernist philosophy in advancing religious plurality, relativism, and intercultural interaction has been underlined by this investigation of postmodernism and its impact on spiritual debate. Postmodernism questions established ideas of the ultimate truth and celebrates the variety of faith-based viewpoints, helping to advance a more accepting stance on the diversity of religions. Religious variety has become a crucial and complicated topic in modern culture as a result of things like globalization, immigration, technological advancements, and constitutional safeguards for the liberty of religion. In terms of acceptance of religion, peace, and comprehension, this diversity has both benefited society and produced complications.