

### Why So Many Religions?

If there is only one God, then why are there so many religions? All religions originated with Allah and then people began to add or take away from the teachings so as to take control over each other.

“This day, those who disbelieved have given up all hope of your religion; so fear them not, but fear Me. This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion.” [Holy Quran 5:3].

Allah does not force anyone to submit to Him. He has laid out a clear path and then made it known to them the two ways (Heaven or Hell). The person is always free to make his or her own choice.

There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in taghut (false gods and false worship) and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower.

“Allah is the Wali (Protector or Guardian) of those who believe. He brings them out from darkness into light. But as for those who disbelieve, their Auliya (supporters and helpers) are taghut [false gods and false worship.], they bring them out from light into darkness. Those are the dwellers of the Fire, and they will remain there forever” [Holy Quran 2:256-257]

There is no compulsion in the way of "Islam." Whoever chooses to worship Allah without partners and is devoted to Him and is obeying His commands as much as possible has grasped the firm handhold that will never break. Whoever denies God and chooses some other way to worship or not to believe at all, for them there is an eternal punishment that is most horrible

(Hell).

People began to separate into different groups due to their rejection of truth and denial of clear proofs becoming evident to them from their Lord.

“And the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians) differed not until after there came to them clear evidence. And they were commanded not, but that they should worship Allah, and worship none but Him Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him), and perform As-Salat and give Zakat, and that is the right religion.” [Holy Quran 98:4-5].

Allah warns the Muslims not to fall into the same trap as the people before them, by disputing with each other and separating into different religious groups :

“And be not as those who divided and differed among themselves after the clear proofs had come to them. It is they for whom there is an awful torment.

On the Day (i.e. the Day of Resurrection) when some faces will become white and some faces will become black; as for those whose faces will become black (to them will be said): "Did you reject Faith after accepting it? Then taste the torment (in Hell) for rejecting Faith" [Holy Quran 3:105-106].

People lied about the revelations, changed their scriptures and abused and even murdered the prophets whom Allah sent to them.

“And verily, among them is a party who distort the Book with their tongues (as they read), so that you may think it is from the Book, but it is not from the Book, and they say: {This is from Allah," but it is not from Allah; and they speak a lie against Allah while they know it. It is not (possible) for any human being to whom Allah has given the Book and Al-Hukm (the knowledge and understanding of the laws of religion) and Prophethood to say to the people: "Be my worshippers rather than Allah's." On the contrary (he would say): "Be you Rabbaniyyun (learned men of religion who practise what they know and also preach others), because you are teaching the Book, and you are studying it" [Holy Quran 3:78-79].

Prophets of Allah only ask people to worship Allah, as One God without partners. They would never ask people to worship them or anyone or anything else. Allah tells us in the Quran:

“Nor would he order you to take angels and Prophets for lords (gods). Would he order you to disbelieve after you have submitted to Allah's Will?” [Holy Quran 3:80].

Man-made religions are an abomination before the Lord and will never be accepted.

“Do they seek other than the religion of Allah (the true Islamic Monotheism — worshipping none but Allah Alone), while to Him submitted all creatures in the heavens and the earth, willingly or unwillingly. And to Him shall they all be returned” [Holy Quran 3:83].

Allah will only accept true submission, obedience and in purity and peace to His commandments.

“And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers” [Holy Quran 3:85].

To believe in Allah and follow His Commandments has been the message of all prophets of monotheism.