

19- The claim of abrogation of the Injeel.

Nahed: *My dear viewers, you are most welcome to a new episode of the program, "Questions About Faith". It is a great pleasure to have these new and renewed sessions, and we're also pleased to answer every question and every inquiry that is sent to us. It is also our pleasure today, all the more, to have with us our Father Reverend Zakaria Botros. You are most welcome, Reverend Father.*

Father: Well, thank you very much.

Nahed: In the previous episode we had discussed whether the Quran has abrogated the Torah and Injeel, and your Reverence has proven to us that this can't be true. And right now there are two more inquiries, so we can finish this topic and embark on a new one. You said: How could the Quran abrogate the Injeel, although it commands the Christians and the Jews alike to judge according to what God had revealed in it? Would Your Reverence clarify this point for us?

Father: As a matter of fact, we embarked on the discussion regarding this point the previous time, and said that in Surah 2 verse 212 it says: "Mankind were once, mankind was once one nation, so God dispatched prophets as heralders and warners." He sent the Book down along with them to bring the truth, so as to decide among mankind concerning whatever they had been disagreeing about. He sent down the Book to judge.

Nahed: *And the verses.*

Father: Yes, the verse, Surah 5 (AL Maeda) verse 68, says the following: " Say, people of the Book, you will not make any point until you keep up the Torah and the Gospel.". So He commands them to observe the Torah and Injeel as well as: "anything that has been sent down to you by your Lord." And this is a confirmation of that. So here He tells the Jews to uphold

the Torah and The Injeel. How could He then tell them to uphold the Torah and the Injeel, even though.....

Nahed: They had been abrogated..

Father: They had been abrogated. It doesn't make sense. So whoever claims that the Quran abrogated the Gospel is an ignoramus. If he understood the Quran he wouldn't utter such things, because he would be challenging the Quran itself as false. The Quran says: "uphold them. How could they choose you as a judge?" This is Surah 5 (Al Maeda) verse 43. "How can they choose you as a judge when they have the Torah which contains God's judgment?" Why would they? They don't have to come to you. They needn't come to you to judge among them.

Nahed: Or even resort to you for judgment because they already have the judgment.

Father: They have them already, in the Torah. This is in Surah 5 (Al Maeda) verse 43.

How could it abrogate it, yet He tells them you have God's judgment? He should rather have said: "the judgment of God you've got had been abrogated and here is a new judgment." Right? Surah 5 (Al Maeda) verse 44: "We have sent down the Torah containing guidance and light. The prophets judge by means of it and so do the rabbis and the scholars." So it hasn't been abrogated. They "judge by means of it." And in Surah 5 (Al Maeda) verse 47: "Let the people of the Gospel "... You know, someone may say "Ah, that was the Torah but the Injeel is not mentioned here." But here it comes. In Surah 5 (Al Maeda), verse 47 "Let the people of the Gospel judge by what God has sent down in it." Not only that, "But those who do not judge by what God had sent down are perverse."

Nahed: It's an injunction of the continuity of the observation of the Torah and the Injeel.

Father: Otherwise they would be perverse.

Nahed: And a threat.

Father: Pay close attention to this one. This verse testifies to the fact that the Quran has not abrogated the Holy Scriptures because the prophet cites them, and appeals to the Christians to judge according to "what God had sent down in it." And those who do not judge by what God had sent down are.... what? Perverse. How then could they allege that the Quran abrogated the Bible?

Here is a further verse. Surah 5 (Al Maeda) verse 71, "Say people of the Book, you will not make any point until you keep up the Torah and the Gospel." Here are both of them together "As well as anything that has been sent down to you by your Lord." It says "to keep" Surah 5 (Al Maeda) verse 69: "if they had only kept up the Torah and the Gospel and whatever God had sent down, and whatever was sent down to them by their Lord, they would have eaten anything above them and beneath their feet." If they had only kept up."

Nahed: This is an evidence of blessing.

Father: Blessing. If only they had kept up the Torah and the Injeel. So how could they claim it has abrogated them, even though it mentions these two things? Right?

Nahed ***There is still one point, Father, that needs clarification. You said, how could the Quran abrogate the Injeel even though it commands the people to observe its ceremonies?***

Father: That's right.

Nahed: ***I mean here, about "keeping up." We understand that, but there is also the ceremonies.***

Father: The ceremonies. O.K. In Surah 5 (Al Maeda) verse 48, it says this: "We have given each of you a chord of law, legislation, plus a program." We have given each of you a chord of law, plus a program. If God had wished, He might have made you one community. So then God is pleased.

Nahed: *Would you please, Father, repeat this again?*

Father: Surah 5 (Al Maeda) verse 48, "We have given each of you, that is, each nation...

Nahed: *The Jews included..*

Father: A chord of law plus a program, that is, a law and a procedure of action. If God had wished, He might have made you one community. But it isn't His wish, He hasn't willed it, so He made for each community a chord of law and a program. The 2 Imams Al Galalan say: "we have given each of you, O nations, a clear law and course in religion according to which you walk. If God had wished, He might have made you all follow one law, but He has divided you into groups to test you about the different laws. He has given you, to see which of you is obedient and which is disobedient. Compete, rather, in doing good deeds".

Here we see the commentators do not maintain that the Quran has abrogated the Injeel. Each nation has its own law and the evidence, or the reason, is in order to test the obedience of each nation.

Nahed: *Please clarify that "by each nation," you mean the Jews, the Christians, and the Muslims. Each nation has its own law according to which they walk. It has no other meaning but that.*

Father: How could it abrogate then?

Check Surah 42 verse 13: "He has instituted the religion for you, as He recommended for Noah, and which we have inspired in you and recommended for Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. Maintain religion and do not stir up any divisions in it . So each of them should maintain his own religion. "We commanded you, just as we commanded Abraham, Noah, Moses and Jesus," and that each one maintain his own religion. Imam Baydawy has commented on this verse. I don't want to be giving my own interpretation. He said, "That is, He has instituted the religion, the religion of Noah and Mohamed, and of such lawgivers in between, and they all go back to one

common root " Maintain religion, that is, faith in what must be believed and obedience to God's judgments, which had been sent down to you". So how could it have come to abrogate?

Each one has his own law.

And Surah 4 (Al Nisaa) verse 25, God wants to explain things to you and to guide you in the laws of those who had preceded you, to show you the customs of those who had preceded you not to nullify them, nor to abrogate them.

The 2 Imams Al Galalan said: "Laws of those who precede you are the ways of the prophets in terms of prohibition and authorization, the laws to explain them, not to cancel them nor abrogate them. therefore it's quite evident that the Quran explains to the Arabs , the ways of the prophets as well as their laws in terms of prohibition and authorization , so how could an ignoramus allege that the Quran has abrogated the Holy Scriptures, including the laws contained in them? Only an ignoramus would allege that the Quran has abrogated the Holy Injeel. He doesn't understand. Had he understood...?"

Nahed: He wouldn't have said so.

Father: An evidence that the Quran has not abrogated the laws of the Bible, is when the prophet judged according to the statute of stoning which the Torah instituted. When? When they brought to him from Khaybar an elderly man and an elderly woman, although they were already married, each to a different partner, they had committed adultery together. They brought them. Of course the Mosaic law instituted stoning for both. But the people of Khaybar wanted to wrangle it. They didn't want them to be stoned and disgraced in public, so along with them, they sent people to Mohamed, and told them, "go to Mohamed and speak to him, now if he abrogates the Mosaic law of stoning, and commands you to only flog them and let them go, then tell him 'well done', but if he observes the Mosaic law and orders them to be stoned to death, just ignore him." So they went to Mohamed. Now had the Quran abrogated the Torah, he would not have passed the stoning judgment. Rather he would have said: "this is all nonsense now, and all you do is just flog them and let them go."

Nahed: Or bring four witnesses first, as the Quran itself instituted.

Father: No, he would rather ask them, how do you choose me for a judge although you have the Torah, which contains God's judgment? How do you choose me as a judge? Why did you come to me? You've got the Torah, it says stone them. But they insisted on his judgment. He said 'they must be stoned to death' and so they took them to the gate of the mosque and did what? Finished them off. Right?

Nahed: Here is an urgent question, Reverend Father. There isn't then, in the Quran a single verse to prove or confirm the claim that the Quran has abrogated the Torah and the Injeel. I see all the verses confirming quite the opposite.

Father: You know, maybe... just maybe, in order to be fair, the esteemed viewers have got something. So I appeal to you, please, mail them to the address that will appear, so that we might get to know it as well. So if anyone has got something, you're most welcome. Please go ahead, it's an open invitation. This is not a challenge, this is out of love. A love for expressing the correct idea, and the right opinion, and the correct doctrine.

Nahed: A love for reaching the truth...

Father: Yes, a love for the truth... Whoever says that, please provide a single verse in the Quran that says it has canceled it.

Nahed: Cancelled the books preceding it.

Father: There aren't any.

Nahed: You know, Father, that's a shame. They only repeat memorized words, but it is groundless. They even communicate the meaning wrong. I see only positive evidence, I haven't seen anything negative.

Father: You know, the issue and the problem is, that they program the minds of very young kids.

Nahed: ***Tell me about it.***

Father: This programming of the minds of the kids when they are still young, they are told: Christians are infidels, Christians are associators, Christians are going to hell, don't talk to a Christian, don't talk to a...

Nahed: ***Not just that, don't have discussions with a Christian, he will turn you into an infidel.***

Father: Yes, turn you into an infidel because the devil is in the details!!!

Nahed: ***Just as they have turned me into an infidel.***

Father: So that's the issue. They brainwash the little kids with information that is all erroneous, for this one reason. They are afraid that the Muslims would get to know the truth, then embrace Christianity and fall away from Islam.

Also, the linkup between Islam and the state causes a big problem. I mean, if the Islamic religion vanishes, the Islamic nation would vanish also, and then the Christians crusaders, the Jews, the Zionists would come and seize the Arab homeland. No, not at all. Christianity has nothing to do at all with politics or war or colonization. What about the crusaders? Were they?

Nahed: ***Father, they just confuse the conduct of such nations with the Biblical teachings. The Bible is innocent of all such wars.***

Father: You know, even the crusaders themselves, who waged the crusades in the name of the cross. The cross is innocent of such people. Do you know why? It's really quite simple. The cross is a tool, like a guillotine, of execution on which Christ died for redemption. So how could it be turned into a dagger or a sword or a spear to stab people with?

Nahed: ***No way. It could not be made into such use.***

Father: Impossible... So the crusades were born from a colonial view, but they only put themselves under the symbol of the cross in order to gather as many people as possible. But the cross is innocent of all such things. It was a purely colonial movement. They would say what about Catholic Ireland and the war with the Protestants? What do you have to say about them? They are just political parties, taking the name of Catholicism and Protestantism.

Nahed: *Not related at all to religion.*

Father: .. And the proof is, Germany has a party called the Christian Democratic Party. What does this have to do with Christianity? They are mere names given to them for distinction. But as we know, Christianity is peace, Christ is peace, the Bible calls for peace, it doesn't call for war or for colonization or any such thing. Therefore, let me assure our Muslim viewers, study and understand and have no fear about your country. It will stay intact. No one will occupy it. They will keep it as it is. All you do is get to know the light. Get to know God's way. Get to know where the truth is. But it is a shame, my son and my daughter to remain in such ignorance and get to know the truth only after it is said to you: "it is too late". Right? Get to know it today. And what I'm saying is only logical. Humanly spoken. But it needs the touch of the Holy Spirit, a touch of grace, the touch from the hand of God, to touch the heart, and He opens up everything, and helps you to understand everything.

Nahed *O.k., in order to wrap this subject up Father; let us just say to the viewers briefly, in a summary in a minute, to really finish the subject of the Quran not having abrogated the Torah or the Injeel. Would you please, give them a short message in one minute only, in order to get into the main question for today? Go ahead.*

Father: Well, the important message is the following: Please my son, do not judge the Bible before you read it. They tell you, the Holy Bible has been tampered with. Take the Holy Bible and read it for yourself. And check out where the alteration is. Check what the mistakes are. And through your perusal of the

Holy Bible, God will reveal the truth to you. So you've got two things that I advise you; First to read the Holy Bible. And it is available everywhere. You may send it to them and they may get it through the Web. Look up 'Arabic Bible', you'll find a website about the Holy Bible. Read it and see for yourself. Are these things good or bad? Are they acceptable, unacceptable or what? The Holy Bible overflows with grace, overflows with blessing, overflows with peace, overflows with love. And together with the Bible, the other factor is, lift up your heart and pray. Say: God, help me understand this, show me Your way. Let me enjoy You. Your words are truth. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free, and deliver your soul from the bitter bondage to Satan, sin and the world, and give you the freedom of the glory of the sons of God. Repeat with me: O, Lord Jesus, please enlighten my heart, show me the way. Shed light, through the Bible, on Your way. And help me understand. Touch my heart. And enlighten my eyes. And let your light shine in my heart, in order that I may see you and get to know you experientially and truly, that you may deliver me. Save my soul from sin and from the bondage of uncleanness and depravity and show me the path to freedom, the path to love, the path to peace. Amen.

The Lord hears you and He answers you on the spot. Fear not.

Nahed: *And now we come to the most important question. What did you mean by your statement: "which book has been singled out for the abrogating and the abrogated?"*

Father: Oh, yes. Well as a matter of fact, the expression abrogating and abrogated does not exist in the Torah or the Gospel.

Nahed: *We've never heard of it, or seen it.*

Father: There is nothing called abrogate or abrogated at all. Never. They tell me 'No, Christ came and abolished the Old Testament.' This is the same as abrogation, isn't it? Oh, no. Christ Himself said "I came not to destroy, but to fulfill."

Nahed: ***Where then has that concept come from, Father?
The abrogating and the abrogated?***

Father: Well, this concept is related only to the Quran. There is a specific Quranic verse that states: "We do not cancel any verse nor let it be forgotten. Instead, we bring something better than it or else something similar." This is Surah 2 (El Baqara) verse 106: "We do not cancel any verse nor let it be forgotten. Instead we bring something better than it, or at least something similar."

This was the first occurrence of...

Nahed: ***Abrogation***

Father: Abrogation. And then other verses came. In Surah 16 (Al Nahl) verse 101: "Whenever we replace a verse with another verse, God is aware of what He sends down, they say you are merely an imposter. Indeed most of them do not know anything." Of course this was no answer .he would only say they don't know but here it says we replace a verse with another verse. So there is...

Nahed: ***Replacement***

Father: Replacement. And in Surah 22 (El Hajj) verse 52: "We have never sent any messenger, nor any prophet before you, unless Satan interfered with his desire, even while he desired something..."

Nahed: ***This is the one we spoke about, in the previous episode***

Father: Yes, wait a second. "God will cancel whatever Satan tampers with." And the story behind it is well known, about the "exalted semi-goddesses whose intercession is to be hoped for." So this is abrogation. God abrogates what Satan tampers with, and replaces a verse with another verse. So it hasn't said, He replaces a book with another book. A verse with another...

Nahed: ***So here, abrogation is related only to the Quran, has not gone beyond the Quran because we haven't got that.***

"Heaven and Earth will pass away, but not one of My Words will pass away." This isn't there.

Father: .. This concerns the Quran itself. Are you following? That is why it says, "we do not cancel any verse nor let it be forgotten." Meaning what? To abrogate a verse means to replace it, in the Quran. "Cause it to be forgotten", means to make the prophet forget the verse itself. He forgets it. Of course, this is difficult, because it says "We have sent down the Reminder, and we are safeguarding it." He should have all the more preserved it in his memory. Is that clear?

Nahed: ***Very clear.***

Father: O.k.. So He abrogates a verse textually, or makes it to be forgotten and replaces it, or Satan implanted ideas into the prophet and God supplants them and replaces them, and so forth. But the issue is actually bigger than that. First of all, Imam Galal El Deen El Siouty said in his book, "El Etqan Fi Ulum Al Quran" volume 2 page 22, the following: Pay close attention to this statement. It's the decider now. "Abrogation is one of those things God singled this nation out for."

Nahed: The Muslims.

Father: The Muslims. Because talking about the Arab nation it says: "You are the best nation which has been produced in mankind" Surah 3 (Al Omran) verse 110. So Abrogation is one of those things God singled out this nation for. Namely, this does not apply to the other nations. Who is this? Galal El Deen El Siouty in his book, "Al Etqan Fi Ulum Al Quran" volume 2, page 22.

Nahed: ***There is a small point that still requires clarification. For the sake of our esteemed viewers. That abrogation applies only to the Quran, and not done by the Quran to another book. It is within the Quran itself.***

Father: Yes, it is well defined by the Quran: "any verse We cancel".

Nahed: *It has nothing to do with us.*

Father: If We cancel any verse or cause it to be forgotten. So had it abrogated any prior books it would have said: "any book We cancel, We send down something better than it."

Nahed: *The Quran is very clear about it.*

Father: Or it would have said: We abrogated the Torah and the Injeel, and we have sent out a book from the presence of God." This wouldn't have been difficult to say.

Nahed: *No, not at all.*

Father: It wouldn't be. If it wanted to say that, it would have said it. The matter of abrogation, I believe, is a huge issue that requires a whole session by itself. An entire discussion. But I want to give some highlights about it, as an introduction to the idea. The issue of abrogating and abrogated is quite problematic, problematic to any Muslim. It has serious implications. Why? Because the verse in Surah 2 (El Baqara) says, "We do not cancel any verse nor let it be forgotten. Instead we, bring something better than it or else something similar." Even though there are other verses stating otherwise. For example in Surah 6m (Al An3am) verse 34: "There is no way to change God's words and there is no way to alter God's words."

Nahed: *How come!*

Father: This is the dilemma, and the problem. How can this verse say we replace and abrogate, and this one says there is no replacement? We have also in Surah 85 (El Buruj) another dilemma which is: "A majestic Quran preserved in a guarded tablet." In "a guarded tablet". The Quran is recorded in a preserved tablet. O.K. How could it be altered in the preserved tablet? How could it be abrogated in the preserved tablet? This has been preserved since eternity past.

Nahed: *Maybe both versions are preserved*

Father: I have no idea. I don't know if it has got both together or not. This is another dilemma.

This is the question that we'd like one of the viewers, and I would like someone who is a scholar in religion or jurisprudence, watching this program to mail us and tell us 'You are wrong about this part here, and the correction is as follows.' And we are open to learn. We also would like to know the truth. Tell us that this is such and such. We have no objection at all. We are not prejudiced against Islam. We are people seeking to understand. We read the Quran, we read the commentaries, we use our minds. We have reached certain truths, we need someone else to use his mind and tell us, 'No what you are saying is wrong, the correction is such and such, using logic and proof.' Not wrong using platitudes. No, prove that I'm wrong logically, and use proof.

There's also another Surah, and this one is absolutely the most serious, extremely serious.

Nahed: Say it twice.

Father: Surah 4(Al Nisaa) verse 82

Nahed: ***Surah 4 verse 82.***

Father: 4, verse 82. It says the following: "If it had come from some other source than God, they would have found a great deal of contradiction in it." "If it had come from some other source than God." You see the challenge. "If it had come from some other source than God they would have found a great deal of contradiction in it." Namely, if there are many contradictions in the Quran, this would prove...

Nahed: That ***it is not from God.***

Father: And this is dangerous. So how come it has abrogation and replacements and such problematic things? Know for your own information, I don't want to delve too deep into the subject. You know what it says, there is one verse in Surah 9 (El Tawba) verse 5, one single verse cancelled and

abrogated 124 other Quranic verses. Who says that? Al Nahhas, the author of the book "Al Nasekh Wa Al Mansookh." What is this verse, I wonder, that cancelled 124 other verses? Those 124 verses were mostly Meccan verses. And the prophet in Mecca wasn't a man of sword and war or weapons. He spent all the days in Mecca

Nahed: Without war.

Father: Without war. As soon he had gone to Medina, he started to wage wars, and other verses were introduced. So a Medinan verse was revealed stating: "Kill them, wherever you may find them." The same applies to verse 29, in Surah 9. It abolishes 124 verses about peacefulness and peace. Very hard.

Nahed Well, again I say that this topic is very large and the time of the program is almost over, so we're going to put it off, so that we can better deal with it in detail in the next episode God's willing.

At the conclusion of our episode, we thank you, Father for these clarifications.

And I 'm addressing you now, my dear viewer, and I repeat again that it is my pleasure to receive any question of yours. Be sure that any question we get will be met with all attention and care.

My dear viewer, please do not repeat words without knowing first where they came from. Be sure that we love you. And we want to communicate the truth to you, nothing more.

Thank you, and until we meet again, we will have many more interviews. Good bye.