

The Methodology of Abdullah Jahangir in Challenging Christianity in Bangladesh

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Abstract

Professor Dr. Abdullah Jahangir is considered as one of the important prominent Islamic figures in Bangladesh for his various writings, lectures, and social activities. Due to his critical approach in writings and lectures, he is not only well-known in Bangladesh but also in India among Bengali native speaking people. On Islam and comparative Religion, he had outstanding knowledge and contribution as to provide solutions for existing problems in the context of Indian subcontinent. This paper aims to explore the methodology of Abdullah Jahangir in the study of Christianity with special reference to his master piece *Pobitra Bible Porichiti O Porjalochona*. The research is based on qualitative in nature method will be used in this article and to examine the methodology of Abdullah Jahangir to understand how he studied and viewed about Christianity especially Bible in the context of Indian subcontinent. The outcomes of this research will enhance new outlook in the field of comparative religion and improve our understanding in the study of religious studies. The outcomes of this research will enhance new outlook in the field of comparative religion and improve our understanding in the study of religious studies.

Keywords: Abdullah Jahangir, Bible, Christianity, Islam, Pobitra Bible Porichiti O Porjalochona, Bangladesh

Abstrak

Profesor Dr. Abdullah Jahangir dianggap sebagai salah satu tokoh penting Islam di Bangladesh untuk berbagai tulisan, kuliah, dan kegiatan sosialnya. Melalui pendekatan kritis yang tertuang dalam tulisan dan ceramahnya, menjadikan beliau tidak hanya terkenal di Bangladesh melainkan pula di India terutama pada masyarakat berbahasa Benggali. Kontribusinya pada kajian keislaman

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dan perbandingan agama dianggap luar biasa dalam mengurai problem pada konteks kawasan anak benua India. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi metodologi Abdullah Jahangir dalam studi Agama Kristen melalui pembacaan secara khusus karya fenomenalnya, *Pobitra Bible Porichiti O Porjalochona*. Penelitian ini didasarkan pada pendekatan kualitatif guna mengkaji metodologi Abdullah Jahangir dalam memahami bagaimana beliau mempelajari dan memandang Agama Kristen khususnya Alkitab dalam konteks anak benua India. Hasil penelitian ini diharapkan dapat menambah wawasan baru dalam bidang perbandingan agama sekaligus meningkatkan pemahaman kita dalam studi keagamaan.

Kata Kunci: Abdullah Jahangir, Alkitab, Kristen, Islam, Alkitab Pabitra Porichiti O Porjalochona, Bangladesh

Introduction

Abdullah Jahangir was a multifaceted and productive Muslim scholar of 21st century in Bangladesh. Due to his vast knowledge and deep understanding, he practiced different branches of knowledge and engaged himself throughout his life in producing new knowledge to enlighten the society. He has written on a subject that no other Bangladeshi scholar has written before or in his time. He has made intellectual contributions to Fiqh, Sahih hadith, contemporary religious issues, and comparative religions.

Though the North American Conference on Muslim Evangelisation was held in 1978, the tension seems on the rise in Muslim populated developing country like Bangladesh in recent years during 21st century. Smith quoted an interesting data on evangelization program across Muslim country like Bangladesh, "According to the human rights organization Christian Freedom International, it is estimated that as many as 91,000 Muslims across Bangladesh have converted to Christianity in the last six years, even though apostasy in many Muslim cultures is punishable by death."⁹³ the actual situation might grow in more alarming rate since few Muslim organizations are working for this field due to lack of awareness and funding from Muslim donors and Government of Muslim countries.

The question is how such high level of conversion is happening digital country like Bangladesh where the Muslim religious leaders

⁹³ Biraj), (Photo: Reuters/Andrew. "Thousands of Muslims Converting to Christianity in Bangladesh despite Rising Persecution." The Christian Post, July 20, 2016. <https://www.christianpost.com/news/thousands-of-muslims-converting-christianity-bangladesh-despite-rising-persecution.html>.

and scholars spent their most of the time delivering religious lectures across Bangladesh and contents are also available on social media like Facebook, YouTube and so many other means? The systematic approach like *Kitabul Mukaddas* (Misleading name of bible for local Muslim community) can answer the question perhaps whereby preachers claim themselves as Isa-I Muslim (technical misleading name) while maintaining calling prophets by Arabic names. Now the trick is yet to reveal. The poverty level among less educated Muslims in villages are extremely high. When no Muslim organization or donor agencies come forward to help these underprivileged villagers, the Christian missionary and patronized NGOs are appearing like divine vicegerent and guardians with merciful message of Jesus with the name of Islam. That must be quite thought provoking for less educated villagers since these villagers are emotionally vulnerable to any kind of religious authorities. And when you get enough financial security by following these religious missionaries, it would not be wise to miss such lucrative opportunity to stay in the path of God while having some financial security. This is the basic mentality that villagers hold towards this Christian missionary and Christian NGO groups. Hence, we can say that The North American Conference on Muslim Evangelisation can be considered as most effective and influential conference. Christian missionaries would be successfully capable to implement their preaching approach across Muslim countries with their different strategic plans.

Moreover, the basic cursory search on internet regarding converted Christians in Bangladesh would make any readers sympathetic to these Christian minority in Bangladesh. At the same time, we can notice the sophisticated hidden and open propaganda against Islamic missionaries if we use our critical approach to the same sources.

To understand this, you need to perhaps read *Kitabul Mukaddas* at first.⁹⁴ Then, if you search for internet resources regarding Christian conversation in Bangladesh, you can notice that almost all the English articles are against Muslim community as if whole Muslim population are plotting against Christian missionaries. In this scenario, the global community would easily get misconception regarding Muslim community in Muslim countries. This is also good for them to raise

⁹⁴ Kitabul Muqaddas (কিতাবুল মোকাদ্দস) holy bible in Bengali by BBS. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2022, from <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40614055-kitabul-muqaddas-holy-bible-in-bengali>

fund for their work plan to work for their missionary missions. In fact, Muslim organizations get little fund if you could compare their funding strategies and efforts.

The website article under the title, *Christian converts targeted by Islamic extremists in Bangladesh* is completely misleading to international community and false propaganda against Muslim community in Bangladesh. No doubt that Muslim missionaries are not funded and educated like Christian missionaries. Hence, it is easy for Christian missionary groups to spread the misconception and propaganda against minor Muslim missionary groups (Only few nominal Muslims working in this field due to lack of education and awareness without proper training like Christian missionary groups). As a consequence, Government has taken always neutral and strict position to solve the problem if any crime occurs which promotes violence among different religious groups in Bangladesh.⁹⁵ It goes without saying that there are some Muslim local scholars who understand and raise concern against this evangelization program in Bangladesh for ordinary less educated Muslims. Late Adullah Jahangir is one of them. History tells us the most of the forced conversation happened in history by Christian missionaries and Islam has no record on forced conversation but the recent article portrays as if Bangladeshi Muslim groups are forcing minority to convert to Islam⁹⁶ which is completely misleading information against Muslim community in Bangladesh. Surprisingly, famous Muslim NGOs are also labelled as dangerous and threatening and funded by militant Muslim terrorist organisations to make Muslim governments fool as like western narrative did against Muslims in the West.⁹⁷ For this reason, OIC can easily raise the concern among Muslim countries regarding these Muslim NGOs where Government of Muslim countries can easily observe the workplans of these Muslim NGOs towards under privilege Muslim community. If a Muslim converts just because of poverty and these Muslim NGOs

⁹⁵ Al Arabiya English. (2020, May 20). Isis claims murder of Christian convert in Bangladesh. Retrieved May 10, 2022, from <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2016/03/23/ISIS-claims-murder-of-Christian-convert-in-Bangladesh>

⁹⁶ Forced conversion of Bangladeshi tribal kids on the rise - UCA News. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2022, from <https://www.ucanews.com/news/forced-conversion-of-bangladeshi-tribal-kids-on-the-rise/78062>

⁹⁷ AsiaNews.it. (n.d.). Authorities suspect 17 Islamist ngos of funding to terrorism. Retrieved May 10, 2022, from <https://www.asianews.it/news-en/Authorities-suspect-17-Islamist-NGOs-of-funding-to-terrorism-41330.html>

can teach any business skill and support for initial start-up business to these vulnerable Muslims, and their workplans save a Muslim from converting Christianity, that should be the responsibility of the Muslim country's government to support these types of Muslim NGOs. This is very easy for Government to ban any NGOs if they find any militant activities since the donors are also from within Muslim government and countries. OIC can have check and balance system for Muslim NGOs within Muslim countries. Ministry of Religion can have also check and balance system in each country. This is very important and necessary to save Muslim community within Muslim countries.

When Christian missionaries in different parts of Bangladesh, especially in the border districts, were converting poor and uneducated Muslims to Christianity in various ways, he took practical steps as well as stood up against the malpractices of intellectual Christian missionaries.

He has a special acceptability among people of different Muslim sects, scholars and people of all classes and professions in Bangladesh for producing new knowledge on broad, authentic and contemporary issues. This paper has started with a brief biography of Abdullah Jahangir such as early life of Abdullah Jahangir, his birth and death, education, teachers, and major works. In the second part, the researcher has discussed the methodology used by Abdullah Jahangir in his master peace *Pobitra Bible porichiti O Porjalochona*, critique of Abdullah Jahangir on the bible, significance of *Pobitra Bible* and so on. The researcher employed descriptive and analytical method in this paper to provide the appropriate information and analysed the method of Abdullah Jahangir in the study of Christianity. The research is qualitative in nature method will be used in this article and to examine the methodology of Abdullah Jahangir to understand how he studied and viewed about Christianity especially Bible in the context of Indian subcontinent. The collection of data was based on library research along with internet resources. The aim of this research is to raise concern about the Christian evangelization in Bangladesh and the contribution of Abdullah Jahangir in the study of Christianity in Bangladesh.

Life of Abdullah Jahangir

The full name of Abdullah Jahangir is Khandaker (ANM) Abū Naser Muhammad Abdullah Jahangir. His surname is Khandaker, but he is well known as Abdullah Jahangir. Abdullah Jahangir was born on 1st February 1961, to a distinguished Muslim family at *Norshighapur* village in *Jhenaidah* (a south-western district in Bangladesh). His father Khandaker Anowerujjaman was a schoolteacher, and his mother, Begum Lutfunnahar, is a homemaker and well-known for her morality and benevolence. Though Abdullah Jahangir passed away, his mother is still alive. Abdullah Jahangir was the only son his father, and he had three sisters. His father was known as a pious and honest man. Abdullah Jahangir, thus, grew up in a devout Muslim family.⁹⁸

Abdullah Jahangir was coming to Dhaka (Capital city of Bangladesh) from *Jhenaidah* (a District of Bangladesh) to attend a TV program on May 11, 2016. On the Dhaka-Khulna highway at *Magura* (A District of Bangladesh), Abdullah Jahangir's microbus collided with a covered van, and this great soul departed to meet his generous Lord on the spot. He was 53 years old at the time of his death.⁹⁹ His research-based masterpiece book *fPobitra Bible Porichiti O Porjalochona* (consisting approximately 700 pages) got published earlier in January 2016 containing extensive criticism towards the widespread misleading Christian missionary works across Bangladesh. Albert Camus, noble laureate, found death in street accident with no trace.¹⁰⁰ The problem with modern world reflects in Sir Willima Shakespeare's famous masterpiece Hamlet "To be or not to be, that is the question". Despite the problem what modern people are still facing for the God in current academia, faith base conspiracy seems still in the screen in 21st century. Intellectual dishonesty is still practiced among faith-based institutions. Abdullah Jahangir pointed towards that intellectual dishonesty done by Christian missionary

⁹⁸ Meer Monjur Mahmood, *Abdullah Jahangir O Tar Fiqhi Rochonabli: Ekti Poddotigoto Bislesion* (Abdullah Jahangir and his Fiqh Literature: A Methodological Analysis), (Dhaka: Islami Ain O Bichar, 2018), Vol. 14, 2.

⁹⁹ "IU Professor among 5 killed in road crashes". The Daily star. May 11, 2016. <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/iu-professor-among-5-killed-road-crashes-1222081?amp>.

¹⁰⁰ TRTWorld. (2019, December 06). Was Albert Camus murdered? Retrieved May 10, 2022, from <https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/was-albert-camus-murdered-31963/amp>

works in Bangladesh.

Abdullah Jahangir grew up in a religious family. In his youth, he was well-known for his talent. For primary education, he attended his village primary school, *Jhenaidah Butiargaty* primary school. His primary teachers suggested him to take admission into a public school because they were concerned about the future of Madrasah education. But his father wanted him to be an Islamic scholar. Accordingly, he continued study in *Madrasah* to fulfil his father's desire. After completing primary education, he took admission into *Jhenaidah Siddiqia Kāmil Madrasah (Master's)*. From the same institution, he passed *Dākhil* (Secondary School Certificate) in 1973, *Ālim* (Higher Secondary School Certificate) in 1975, and *Fādil* (Degree) in 1977. After completing graduation from *Madrasah*, he moved to the capital city Dhaka for higher education. He enrolled in the department of *Hadīth* at Dhaka *Ālia Madrasah* ((Government Madrasah), and he earned his *Kāmil* degree (Master's) with the best result at Dhaka *Ālia* in 1979.¹⁰¹ Along with Islamic education, Abdullah Jahangir wanted to study at *Jhenaidah Cadet College*. He studied at *Magura*¹⁰² *Hossain Shahid Shohrawardi college* and achieved his Higher Secondary School Certificate in 1980 with the best result in the *Jessore*¹⁰³ education board.¹⁰⁴

At that time, those who stood first in various education boards, the then President Ziaur Rahman¹⁰⁵ took them on a boat trip Abdullah Jahangir was among them since he secured first-place in the *Jessore* Board.¹⁰⁶ After graduation, he worked as a teacher for two years in Bangladesh. He had a thirst for knowledge. So, with a scholarship, he moved to Saudi Arabia for higher education and enrolled in the department of Arabic literature at Imām Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University, Saudi Arabia. He achieved Bachelor's (1986),

¹⁰¹ Ibid., 2

¹⁰² Magura is a district in south-western Bangladesh.

¹⁰³ Jessore District, officially known as Jessore District, is a District in the south-western region of Bangladesh.

¹⁰⁴ Abdul Kalam Azad, *Preronar Batigor* (The beacon of inspiration), (Dhaka: Batigor Prokashani, 2017), 88.

¹⁰⁵ Ziaur Rahman, who served as the President of Bangladesh during 1977-1981.

¹⁰⁶ Abdul Wahab Bin Zakaria, *Muslim Ummahr Ekjon Dorodi Manush Abdullah Jahangir k Jemon dekhesi* (A compassionate man of the Muslim Ummah: As has been seen Abdullah Jahangir), Sazu, 16 March 2017. Retrieved 2020-04-10.

Master's (1992), and Ph.D. (1998) from there.¹⁰⁷ His Ph.D. research was on grammatical analysis of *Qur'ān* and its various dialects.¹⁰⁸ At the Imām Muhammad Ibn Saud University, Abdullah Jahangir obtained a first-class with the best result in every program, be it undergraduate, Master's, or Ph.D. It is worth noting that during his studies at Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University, Abdullah Jahangir received the best student award twice.¹⁰⁹ Moreover, Abdullah Jahangir studied in *Qur'ān*, *Hadīth*, *Fiqh*, History, Arabic literature, Economics, and Culture.

Abdullah Jahangir studied with a lot of renowned teachers from Bangladesh and abroad. Among his teachers are Mia Muhammad Qāsim, Obaidul Haqq, Anowārul Haqq Qāsimī, 'Abd al-Rahīm, 'Abd al-Bārī, Ayub 'Alī¹¹⁰, Shaikh 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd Allāh ibn-Bāj, Shaikh Muhammad ibn Sāleh al-'Utha'īmān, Shaikh Sāleh ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Ash-Shaikh, Shaikh 'Abd Allāh ibn 'Abd al-Rahmān al-Jibrīn, Shaikh Sāleh ibn Fawzān al-Fujān and many more.¹¹¹

Major Works of Abdullah Jahangir

Abdullah Jahangir's significant contributions to the academic world acquired a reputation in Bangladesh and the subcontinent, especially among Muslims and scholars. He is viewed as one of the influential Islamic scholars of Bangladesh. He spent his last eight years of life in writing. His works were published by 51 journals in Bangladesh as well as abroad. He published more than 50 books and numerous articles with different publishers and journals in Bangladesh and abroad. He spent six hours every day for writing.¹¹² Among the extraordinary work of Abdullah Jahangir are *A women from the desert*, *Pobitra Bible: Porichiti O Porjalochona* (The

¹⁰⁷ Mawlana Mizanur Rahman Azhari waz, *The Biography of Khandoker Abdullah Jahangir*. <https://mizanurrahmanazhariwaz.com/blogs/dr-abdullah-jahangir-biography/>. Retrieved 2020-04-10.

¹⁰⁸ Abdul Kalam Azad, *Preronar Batigor* (The beacon of inspiration). (Dhaka: Batigor Prokashani, 2017), 88.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, 91.

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 89.

¹¹¹ Miraz Rahman, *Bohumukhi Protivar ononmo odharon ekjon Doctor Abdullah Jahangir* (A unique example of multifaceted talent is Abdullah Jahangir). May 12, 2016. <https://m.priyo.com/articles/বহুমুখী-প্রতিভার-অনন্য-উদারহণ-একজন-ডক্টর-আবদুল্লাহ-জাহাঙ্গীর#>. Accessed 2020-04-15.

¹¹² *Ibid.*

Holy Bible: Introduction and Review), *Hadiser Name Jaliyati* (Fraud in the name of *Hadīth*), *Islam er Name Jongibad: Alochito O Onalochito Karonsomoh* (Militancy in the name of Islam: discussed and non-discussed reasons), *Bohūs Fī lūm al-Hadīth* (Research in *Hadīth* Science), A Summary of three Fundamentals of Islam, '*Iihya' alsanan* (The revival of the *Sunnah*), *Rasulullah er (PBUH) er Poshak O Islam e Poshaker Bidhan* (The dress of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the provision of dress in Islam, Guidance for fasting Muslims, *Bangladeshe Ushar Ba Fosoler Zakat:- Gurutto O Proyog* (Crop Zakat in Bangladesh:- importance and application), *Qur'ān and Sunnah er Aloke Islam 'Aqīdah* (Creed in Islam in the light of the *Qur'ān* and *Sunnah*).¹¹³

The Book Pobitra Bible: Porichiti O Porjalochona

Abdullah Jahangir has written many books and articles on Christianity in the context of Bangladesh. Perhaps the most important one is *Pobitra Bible: Porichiti o Porjalochona* (the holy Bible: introduction and Review). This book is the most original, informative, and detailed book written in the Bengali language to critique Christian scriptures. There is a painful history involved with the text of *Pobitra Bible: Porichiti o Porjalochona*. After writing the entire book, the author was preparing to publish it; before publishing this book, he died, and this book was with him when he died. Hossain Zakir said this book is a blood-stained manuscript of Abdullah Jahangir.¹¹⁴ Abdullah Jahangir was socially conscious; he always thought about society's happenings. He was mainly concerned about the faith, education, awareness of Muslims, especially the less educated ones, and loved to work for them. For a long time, Bangladesh's Christian missionaries spread misinformation, misinterpretation, and misleading ideas about Islam and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) among the poor and the less educated Muslims across Bangladesh in rural areas to convert them to Christianity.

In the context of Bangladesh, there was no available Bengali book written in response to the Christian missionary false narratives such as Isa-e Muslims, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

¹¹³ Meer Monjur Mahmood, *Abdullah Jahangir O Tar Fiqh Rochanaboli: Ekti Poddotigoto Bisleshon* (Abdullah Jahangir and his Fiqh Literature: A Methodological Analysis), (Dhaka: Islami Ain O Bichar, 2018), 15.

¹¹⁴ Khandaker Abdullah Jahangir. *Pobitra Bible: Porichiti O Porjalochona* (The Holy Bible: Introduction and Analysis), (Jhenaidah: As-Sunnah Publications, 2016), 3

only came for Arabs, not for all human beings, Isa (Jesus) will come back to save all human beings.¹¹⁵ Writing some books was essential in response to the Christian missionary's incorrect propaganda against Islam to protect the poor and the less educated Muslims from converting to Christianity. It is vital to mention here that some preachers asked Abdullah Jahangir to write a book to defend Islam and prove Christian missionaries' untruthful publicity against Islam. As a socially conscious person, intellectual, academician, and a *dā'ī* of Islam, he realized the situation. He thought to do something intellectually to save Imān (faith) of common Muslims, to open their eyes to the spurious publicity of missionary, and to teach them about Islam's fundamental beliefs. From this intention, he wrote this monumental treatise.¹¹⁶

In this book, Abdullah Jahangir presents the Christian missionary concoction. First, he provides an introduction about the Old and New Testament of Christian scripture. He intends to point out that the present Bible is altered from its original text and the distortion and contradiction by its people. He also demonstrates that the Bengali Bible is also corrupted, modified, and this book contains many wrong things. The most concerning thing about Christian missionaries is that they are propagating by misleading ideas among the deprived, the less educated, and the illiterate Muslims who do not know about Islam, falsification of the Bible, and the hidden purpose of converting people to Christianity. Within this scripture, Abdullah Jahangir presents many distortions and human manipulation cases in the Bible's text. The alteration and changes have been done deliberately or unknowingly by the Christian theologians. The Christian missionaries spread unreliable narratives with the distorted Bible among illiterate Muslims to convert them to Christianity. Most importantly, the author emphasizes the distortion of the Bengali Bible. He thoroughly highlights the errors, contradictions, and distortions of the Bengali Bible.¹¹⁷

¹¹⁵ Khandaker Abdullah Jahangir, *Kitabul Muqaddas, Injil Sharif O Isayee Dharma* (The Bible, the Gospel, and the Jesus religion), (Jhenaidah: As-Sunnah Publications, 2018), 3

¹¹⁶ Khandaker Abdullah Jahangir, *Pobitra Bible*, 33

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 36-37

The Contents of *Pobitra Bible: Porichiti O Porjalochona*

Pobitra Bible is a significant volume book with ten chapters written on the *Bible* in the Bengali language. In this part, the discussion presents the contents of the *Pobitra Bible* briefly. In the first chapter, Abdullah Jahangir offers the historical development of the *Bible* based on historical evidence. When the author discusses the *Bible*, he explains the *Bible*, such as the origin of the Bible's word, how the Bible has changed over the ages, and the Old and New Testament descriptions. In this portion, the author also uses the Bible's book, the change of compilation, the Christian sects, and their different books. Most importantly, Abdullah Jahangir does a comparative review of the Bible's text to show how the Bible has been changed by number, name, and translation in different languages. Since the author has written this book for Bengali speaking people, he has given a detailed account of the Bengali translation of the Bible and shown huge mistranslation and interpretation have been compiled in the Bengali Bible.¹¹⁸

In the second section, the author, Abdullah Jahangir, discusses the importance of the scriptures' authenticity and the necessity of the scriptures' original manuscript, authenticity, and infallibility. Highlighting the authenticity of the religious text, the author says that the scriptures' authenticity is crucial because the spiritual life is based on scriptures. If the scriptures are not authentic, the follower of this world's Christian life and hereafter is ruined.¹¹⁹ The author then presents a review of biblical text, legitimacy, and trustworthiness in light of the historical context. Most importantly, he points out that the Bible's ancient original manuscripts have been lost. There are many additions, omissions, and alterations in the Christian holy text that do not prove the authenticity of a biblical text.¹²⁰

The third chapter covers the contrast, which has been done in the Old and New Testament. Abdullah Jahangir shows many discrepancies in the Bible, especially in the New Testament. For Abdullah Jahangir, there are four types of distinction made in the Bible such as contradictions of the one-dimensional information that exists in the Bible, the information contained in the Bible is

¹¹⁸ Ibid., 80

¹¹⁹ Ibid., 113

¹²⁰ Ibid., 128-129

proven wrong in light of other evidence, changing, adding, or omitting biblical discourses proves that the original treatises have been distorted, and unusual and anti-conscientious information in the Bible.¹²¹

In chapter four, the author illustrates the errors in the scriptures of the Bible. He says that besides the contradictions in the Bible's book, many errors existed in the Bible, which Jews and Christian theologians recognize. The author demonstrates the rejection in the Old and New Testament by comparing different verses, chapters, books, volumes, or editions of the Bible's text. It cannot be ignored but demands further interpretation. On the other hand, mistakes are known from the outside. It is possible to find them through knowledge, conscience, historical information, or by judging biblical stories through other sources of knowledge.¹²²

In the fifth chapter, Abdullah Jahangir discusses alteration, distortion, change, deformation, perversion, corruption, and fabrication. Significantly, the author discourses about the falsification of the current most useable and recognized King James version of the Bible and the Bengali Bible. In this connection, Abdullah Jahangir was able to figure out the colossal distortion in the Bible.¹²³ The writer of the New Testament is responsible for the distortion of the Old Testament. Most importantly, many modern Christian scholars have acknowledged the perversion of the Bible and stated that the Bible is no longer God's book, but a religious and historical book written by a man. On the other hand, a Christian religious expert claims that though distortion existed in the Bible, the Bible is still unequivocal.¹²⁴

In chapter six, the author confers about the Bible's absurdities such as Bible vulgarities, obscenities, and the Bible atrocities regarding almighty God and the prophets (PBUH). In this regard, the author explains the informational issues with specific quotations from the Bible.¹²⁵ Jesus Christ and all apostles were very respectful to everyone. They came to spread the truth in this world and were encouraged to follow to rule of Almighty God. But it was mentioned that Jesus Christ's and the apostles' mission was to unrest and made a division in this world, which are offensive, irrational, vulgar, and

¹²¹ Ibid., 205

¹²² Ibid., 341

¹²³ Ibid., 397

¹²⁴ Ibid., 400

¹²⁵ Ibid., 439

disrespectful to Jesus Christ and the apostles. Abdullah Jahangir focuses on the above issues in chapter seven.¹²⁶

In chapter eight, the author disputes the absurdities, vulgarities, and obscenities of the Bible.¹²⁷ Chapter nine describes how the Bible describes the creator as extremely cruel and murderous and the biblical religion as brutal and evil.¹²⁸ In the last chapter, he discusses Prophet Muhammad's name (PBUH) in the Bible. The Christian scholar claims that many essential things are mentioned in the Bible, but Prophet Muhammad's name (PBUH) was not mentioned in the Bible. Muslim scholars argue that Christian scholars removed Prophet Muhammad's name (PBUH) from the Bible or misinterpreted that verse that discusses Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).¹²⁹

The Methodology of Abdullah Jahangir in *Pobitra Bible*: Porichiti O Porjalochona

Abdullah Jahangir made tremendous efforts in the study of Christianity to define the basis to provide insight. He employed different methodologies to attain a thorough and precise interpretation of Christian scripture. It has been seen through a close examination while studying Abdullah Jahangir's book *Pobitra Bible* that he is amenable to apply the Qur'an in the study of Christianity. It is a recognized fact that the Qur'an is the leading source for understanding other religions. In many places in the Qur'an, Allah has mentioned the People of the Book and the previous books and their truth, falsehood, and acceptability. As Allah says in the Qur'an

Can ye (O ye men of Faith) Entertain the hope that they will believe in you? -Seeing that a party of them Heard the word of Allah, And perverted it knowingly After they understood it. (*Sūrat al-Baqarah*, 2:75)¹³⁰

The Holy Qur'an inspires and motivates the fundamental basis of Muslim scholarship in the study of religions other than Islam. It is not merely offering religious instruction for praising the one and

¹²⁶ Ibid., 505

¹²⁷ Ibid., 559

¹²⁸ Ibid., 619

¹²⁹ Ibid., 707

¹³⁰ Abdullah Yusuf Ali, transl., 2004, *al-Bakarah*: 75. Abdullah Yusuf Ali's translation of the Holy Qur'an will be used in this thesis.

only God but also providing detailed knowledge and documents on faiths, spiritual values, norms, and core concepts relating to different aspects of life.¹³¹ Abdullah Jahangir used verses of the Qur'ān to show that the People of the Book have some books called *Torah*, *Jabur*, and *Injil*, in which the People of the Book have combined the words of God and human perversion. The People of the Book corrupted their books by distorting, adding, omitting, and concealing them, which has proved their books' unreliability.¹³²

When Abdullah Jahangir studied the treatise of the *Pobitra Bible*, he applied the textual review method to study Christian scriptures. He used Bengali and English Bible in his research on Christianity and compared it to the Bible versions. More explicitly, Abdullah Jahangir uses the Old Testament, New Testament, and several Bengali versions of the Bible. He also discusses the oldest manuscript of the Bible to evaluate the authenticity of the Bible.¹³³ Moreover, the *Pobitra Bible* author presents affluent quotations from Christian scriptures and opinion, elucidation of Jews and Christian scholars supporting his explanation, which demonstrates Abdullah Jahangir's earnestness and integrity in the study of Christianity.¹³⁴

In the study of Christianity, Abdullah Jahangir attempts to highlight the transmission of the Bible to prove the Bible's contradiction. In this case, Abdullah Jahangir discusses historical evidence and Jewish and Christian scholars who studied the Bible. Biblical inconsistencies are due to the small number of narrators, the lack of continuity of narrators, the loss of the Bible, the mention of the narrator's own word in the Bible, which creates opportunities for falsehood in verses of the Bible, raise the question about the narrators, and prove that the Bible is no longer the book of God.¹³⁵ Abdullah Jahangir was able to figure out the discrepancies of the various translations of the Bible that have been found in his review. He discovered the historical corruption, contradiction, errors, alteration and distortion that have been done in the Christian scriptures of the Bible and how Christian missionaries propagate their faith to the adherent of other religions through false narratives of their book. He

¹³¹ Muhammad Azizan Sabjan, the people of the book and the people of a dubious book in Islamic Traditions, Flipside Digital Content Company Inc., 2008.

¹³² Khandaker Abdullah Jahangir, *Pobitra Bible: Porichiti o Porjalochona*, 34

¹³³ *Ibid.*, 120

¹³⁴ *Ibid.*, 142

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*, 130-131

was interested in showing the truth and errors of the Bible through his textual review. He relied on the Bengali translation propagated by the Bible Society or Christian organizations in providing all the quotations.¹³⁶

Abdullah Jahangir is inclined to apply logic and reason in his method to the study of Christianity. He uses extensive logic and reasoning when discussing the errors and authenticity of the Bible. He states that we check the documents in different ways in the purchase of material resources. In scriptures, clear documentation is essential because forgery or error in worldly documents destroys the fleeting life of money, property or the world. In contrast, eternal life is lost due to fraud or mistake in religious forms.¹³⁷

Abdullah Jahangir utilizes the descriptive method in his book *Pobitra Bible*. Abdullah Jahangir is not critical of Christian scripture and religious practices. He uses the descriptive approach to gather and compile information from many Bible topics to give a descriptive overview of a Christian's beliefs and practices. His concise explanation includes detailed facts from initial Christian texts and provides the shape of a biblical encyclopedia. In short, he explains the philosophical, religious views, processes and practices, and a religion's traditional customs.¹³⁸ Abdullah Jahangir is not susceptible to significant controversies and is often found to make short statements if any. But he makes distinctions with text to explore and discuss much of the Bible's topics.¹³⁹ While Abdullah Jahangir presents comprehensive abstract details concerning Christian scriptures, there is a lack of adequate information regarding singularly appropriate theological knowledge sources.

Nevertheless, his respective writings provide a comprehensive understanding of Christian scriptures. Abdullah Jahangir also practices the logical and rational method regarding the execution of Jesus. He refers to the *Injil* and demonstrates the contradiction among the Christian scholars over this issue that he highlights through his logical thinking and rationale.¹⁴⁰

¹³⁶ Ibid., 34.

¹³⁷ Ibid., 113.

¹³⁸ Abdullah Jahangir, *Pobitra Bible*, 47-48.

¹³⁹ Abdullah Jahangir, *Pobitra Bible*, 57

¹⁴⁰ Abdullah Jahangir, *Pobitra Bible*, 253, 254.

In short, Abdullah Jahangir adopted several methods in his book *Pobitra Bible* in the study of Christian scripture to assess the Bible with historical evidence and opinions of Jewish and Christian scholars, specifically textual, rational and logical, and descriptive review. He proves the inauthenticity, contradiction, errors, and discrepancies in the Bible, especially demonstrating the differentiation and polarity of the translation of the Bengali Bible.

The Significance of Pobitra Bible: Porichiti O Porjalochona

Although Abdullah Jahangir gives a complete picture of the change, expansion, and corruption of the Christian sacred scripture in his book *Pobitra Bible* (Holy Bible), it is crucial in Bangladesh's society and education. According to the researcher's best knowledge, there has been no reaction or criticism from the Christian community in Bangladesh to this book. Since the missionaries use many false narratives in their campaigns mentioned in this book, this book's descriptions can help Bangladesh's people, especially the uneducated, semi-educated, and poor people in the rural areas; through this book, the false tales of the Christian missionaries.¹⁴¹ This book clearly illustrates the integrity and seriousness of Abdullah Jahangir in addressing the Christian missionary disinformation and false accusations against Islam and the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). It is said that the Holy Bible is a blood-stained manuscript because when Abdullah Jahangir died, he had the draft manuscript of this book, his handwritten notes, and advice on his typed text. It is a review that is truthful, transparent, concise, and educated.¹⁴²

The writer did not modify his critiques to appease or accommodate but followed straightforwardly and boldly what he saw as the Bible's facts. Every man is guided and influenced by his faith. Abdullah Jahangir was neutral in his review. As he states, "in presenting and reviewing the information in this book, I have tried my best to present it objectively." This text has also provided an example for many other Muslim clerics of the value of seriously researching other faiths.¹⁴³ *Pobitra Bible* offers multiple interpretations and perspectives that help understand how the book of Christianity could be interpreted by an intelligent Muslim and consider and evaluate

¹⁴¹ Abdullah Jahangir, *Pobitra Bible*, 34.

¹⁴² Abdullah Jahangir, *Pobitra Bible*, 3

¹⁴³ Abdullah Jahangir, *Pobitra Bible*, 33-34

the past and see its consequences in the present. In the history of Bangladesh, Abdullah Jahangir was the only person who played an active role against various inconsistencies in the Bible and the false propaganda of Christian missionaries through his institutional and intellectual work.¹⁴⁴

Abdullah Jahangir's Sources in the Study of Christianity

In Abdullah Jahangir's study of Christianity, it has been observed that one of the essential features of his texts, discussions, and lectures on any topics such as Christianity and Islam, more often than not, is that he provides references from the Qur'ān. Referring to Qur'ānic verse is the standard for Abdullah Jahangir that has been seen in almost all of his works. Without providing interpretation from the Qur'ān, he never put his opinion on any purpose he writes or deliberate lectures. When he discussed and criticized Christianity, he gave references from the holy Qur'ān. It is an undeniable truth that his mission was possible only due to his in-depth knowledge of the Qur'ān. For example, Christians claimed that Prophet Ibrahim sacrificed his son Ishak for the sake of almighty Allah.¹⁴⁵ In this case, Abdullah Jahangir proved that Ismael was offered for the sake of Almighty Allah, providing references from the holy Qur'ān.¹⁴⁶ He also showed that the Bible has been distorted and changed by its people. He realized that the Qur'ān has a significant impact to prove any allegation against Islam and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Abdullah Jahangir uses the Bible for his criticism and refutation of Christianity. Christian scholars included many things in the Bible that had not existed in the original Bible. Jesus did not even mention those books of the Bible during His time. Abdullah Jahangir presents all quotations from the Bible related to Christianity. For example, the Christians believe in Trinity's doctrine that God is one God, but three inseparably connected equally eternal persons¹⁴⁷, which refers to the father, the son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit, as one God in

¹⁴⁴ Abul Kalam Azad, "Preronar Batigor" (The beacon of inspiration), (Dhaka: *Batigor Prokashani*, 2017), 106

¹⁴⁵ Khandaker Abdullah Jahangir, *Tawrat, Zabur, Injeel O Qurāner aloke Zabeehullah* (According to the Bible and the Qur'an who was the sacrificed one), (*Jhenaidah: As-Sunnah Publications*, 2010), 7.

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, 19-21.

¹⁴⁷ The Family Bible encyclopedia, s.v. Copylab. 1972, 3790

three divine persons.¹⁴⁸The early fathers of church belief in the trinity remains a matter for discussion. Many pieces of evidence found to justify an early belief in the trinity were triadic declarations from the New Testament and the church fathers (referring to God, Son, and the Holy Spirit). At the first council of Nicaea in 325 AD, the son's belief was of the material of father, God of Heaven, and holy was officially approved. The holy spirit was mentioned in the first council of Constantinople in 381 AD, which officially confirmed the relationship between the father, the son, and the holy spirits as one entity and three co-equal entities.¹⁴⁹

Christians believe that Jesus is the son of God. In this regard, Abdullah Jahangir responses with quotations and references from the Bible. He proved that the Son of God was never mentioned in the Bible but that it was new and consistent. Most importantly, Jesus himself was never announced as a son of God. Abdullah Jahangir does use the Bible to demonstrate Christians' imperfections and erroneous assertions in their teachings. Abdullah Jahangir claims that Paul has corrupted the Bible. He altered, added, and misinterpreted the Bible from its original form. Even Christians are not following the actual teachings of Jesus.¹⁵⁰The Qur'ān also clearly says that

O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: nor say Of Allah aught but the truth. The Messiah Jesus son of Mary Was (no more than) A Messenger of Allah, And His Word, Which He bestowed on Mary, And a Spirit proceeding From Him: so believe In Allah and His Messengers. Say not "Trinity": desist: It will be better for you: For Allah is One God: Glory be to Him: (Far Exalted is He) above Having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens And on earth, And enough Is Allah as a Disposer of affairs. (*Sūrat al-Nisā'*, 4:171)

¹⁴⁸ Leonard Geddes, ed. Charles Herbermann, Catholic Encyclopedia, Robert Appleton Company, 1911

¹⁴⁹ John Norman Davidson Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrines*. A&C Black, 1965, 88

¹⁵⁰ Khandaker Abdullah Jahangir, *Kitabul Mokaddas, Injil Sharif O Isayee Dharma* (The Bible, The Gospel, and Jesus Religion), (Jhenaidah: As-Sunnah Publications, 2018), 30-31

According to Abdullah Jahangir, there is Biblical evidence of biblical perversion. He claims that *Jeremiah*¹⁵¹ himself said that the clergyman's false pen or scribe had falsified the Holy Book. That is to say, the meaning of the original statement has changed and has come to be faulty through the distortion of addition, subtraction, changes, etc.¹⁵²

Besides the sources mentioned above, Abdullah Jahangir used some other references to discuss and criticize Christian allegations against Islam. For example, *Injil* (the Gospel of Jesus), the *Tawrat* (Torah or the Law), the *Zabur* (Psalms) revealed to Prophet Dawud (David), and *Kitabul Muqaddas* (the Holy Bible). Abdullah Jahangir uses these books to study Christianity because those books are essential in Bangladesh's context. Bangladesh's Christian missionary uses those books against Islam and misleads the less educated Muslims in Bangladesh to convert to Christianity. Christian preachers claim that since the *Qur'an* mentions, praises, and commands these books for Muslims, it proves that the *Qur'an* preserves the Torah, the Psalms, and the *Injil* are held by Jewish and Christians. Therefore, it is essential for a person who believes in the *Qur'an* to think that everything in these three books is real.¹⁵³ But all Christian scholars unanimously agree that the conventional Gospel books are all human-made and full of innumerable distortions and errors. There is nothing wrong with claiming that it is only to make confusion in the mind of Muslims.

The Critique of Abdullah Jahangir on the Bible

After an immediate investigation on Abdullah Jahangir's study of Christian holy book, it seems that he was not interested in showing the history of Christianity, the progress of Christian churches, doctrines; instead, he was very much concerned with focusing on the Christian scriptures, and he tries to give a complete sketch of Christian text with his deep understanding.

¹⁵¹ He was one of the major Prophets of the Hebrew Bible, according to Jewish tradition

¹⁵² Khandaker Abdullah Jahangir, *Pobitra bible*, 200

¹⁵³ Khandaker Abdullah Jahangir, *Al-Qur'an er Alope Tawrat, Zabur, Injil Bonam Pobitra Bible* (Torah, Psalms, Injil vs. Holy Bible in the light of *Al-Qur'an*), (Islamic University: Islamic University Research Newspaper, 2007), 1

It is widely accepted that Christian scriptures are corrupted. Additions, deletions, distortions have been made in their religious book at different times in history. This can be understood easily by comparing one scripture with another through the contradictory statements of Jewish and Christian scholars and the conflicting accounts of different sects of Christians. It is claimed that the present Torah (Pentateuch) is Prophet Musa's original book (peace be upon him). But followers and specialists of the scriptures could not provide any logical and irrefutable evidence supporting their claim. In this regard, Abdullah Jahangir tries to prove based on historical information that the present Torah is not the Torah of Prophet Musa (PBUH), but the original Torah has been lost. It has been seen that for about the thousand years from Prophet Moses (peace be upon him) to Prophet David (Dawood) (PBUH), for most of this period, except for a few years, the Jews were isolated from the Torah for various reasons, including wickedness, apostasy deteriorating religious, and moral conditions.¹⁵⁴

Besides, after Prophet Solomon (Sulaiman) (PBUH), the nation of Israel engaged in idolatry, communal strife, war, destroying the city, the place of worship, religious book, and various immoralities, especially during the battle of locating the *Torah*, "The Masjid al-Aqsa," was plundered by victorious enemies and turned into a centre of idolatry. Moreover, during the reign of King Josiah, who tried deadly effort to find, practice, and establish the Torah rules but could not find the Torah, children of Israel lost the Torah, which we see based on historical facts. Almost one thousand years later, of the Prophet Musa, eighteen years later of king Josiah ascent to the royalty, a religious priest named Hilkiyah claimed to have found the Torah manuscript. Abdullah Jahangir argues that based on only a priest who found the Torah, it cannot be believable that it is the Torah of Prophet Musa (PBUH). He claims that Hilkiyah wrote the present Torah based on the prevailing truths and lies of that time. It has no connection with the *Torah* of Prophet Musa (peace be upon him).¹⁵⁵

According to historical evidence, after king Josiah, Nebuchadnezzar and Zedekiah invaded Jerusalem and burned and destroyed all the books, documents of particular significance. Based on historical records, it is clear that there have not existed any forms

¹⁵⁴ Khandaker Abdullah Jahangir, *Pobitra Bible*, 132

¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 133

after the catastrophic incursion.¹⁵⁶ The Jews claim that a priest with the name Ezra wrote the books of the Old Testament. But there are various changes and contradictions in the books, such as contradictions in terms, numbers, and the text.¹⁵⁷

According to the above apparent historical and textual fact, it is clear that the present *Pentateuch* (Torah) is not a book of Prophet Moses (Musa) (PBUH), but rather a human-made book. Most importantly, Christian and Jewish scholars admit that the present Pentateuch is not a book of Prophet Moses (PBUH). The second part of the Bible is called the New Testament. There is a total of 27 books in this section. Christians believe that the first twenty books are authentic.¹⁵⁸ There is enough doubt about the genuineness of the seven remaining books.¹⁵⁹ According to Christians' belief, the New Testament books were written inspired by Jesus teaching later.¹⁶⁰ Though Christians claim that the books of the New Testament that were written inspired Jesus', there are not enough reliable documents that Christians have presented to support their claim when it comes to the authenticity of the books. The reality is that Christians distorted the books of the New Testament and preached them in the name of Jesus, which can be understood by examining the language of the scriptures, authority, contradictions in the text, and the statements of the Jewish and Christian scholars. According to Christian belief, the ancient and modern manuscripts of the New Testament were written in Greek; historical evidence shows that Jesus did not speak Greek or preach the Gospels in Greek, but Jesus preached in Hebrew or Aramaic, and His followers also used the same language.¹⁶¹ It is relevant to mention here that the author of *Izharul Haqq* claims that the Gospel of Mathew was initially written in Hebrew but was corrupted by Christians.

Most importantly, there is no authority for the present Gospel in the Greek language. Some Christian scholars claim that Mathew has written the present Gospel but cannot provide any valid evidence or logical argument to support their claim. Rahmatullah Kairanawi

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

¹⁵⁷ Ibid., 134-135

¹⁵⁸ Rahmatullah Kairanawi, *Izharul Haqq* (Truth Revealed), trans, Mohammad Waaly Razi, (World of knowledge for publishing & distribution, 1992), 10

¹⁵⁹ Ibid., 14

¹⁶⁰ Ibid., 1

¹⁶¹ Khandaker Abdullah Jahangir, *Pobitra Bible*, 141-143

argues that such a statement cannot be believable for religious text regarding the author of the Gospel. Still, it is for sure that Christians have corrupted the original Gospel.¹⁶²

When Abdullah Jahangir studied the treatise *Pobitra Bible*, it is viewed that he presented three observations as an unspoken reason for the corruption of the original Gospel. Writing books by religious persons inspired by the "Holy Spirits" and preaching in the name of Jesus, false propaganda against a religious person or a Prophet should not be considered a forgery and false publicity in the name of Jesus apostle Paul. Abdullah Jahangir states that Apostle Paul misled the Christian mind, corrupted the original Gospel, wrote fake Gospel, and preached in Jesus's name. Hence, Paul is responsible for the Gospel forgery and should be condemned.¹⁶³ It is documented that since then, many rulers have attacked, persecuted, tortured the follower of Jesus, and occupied the area where they lived. Simultaneously, religious places of worship were destroyed, Scriptures were burned, religious figures were murdered, and even the city of Jerusalem was burned down several times by the then superpower country recorded in history. It is nowhere recorded that anyone after Jesus saved the Gospel, memorized it, or narrated it frequently. Christians claim somebody has written after Jesus, which is baseless and cannot prove the authenticity of the Gospel of Jesus. Although it is claimed that Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote the Gospel as a proponent of Jesus, there is no credible or authentic evidence or logical record of the scriptures they wrote, except for the controversy, contradictions, and falsehood.¹⁶⁴

After the revelation of the Qur'ān, thousands of Muslims memorized it, preserved it in writing, and when the Qur'ān ' was written in a text, it was rigorously scrutinized. Similarly, before compiling the Ḥadīth, a thorough examination was strictly performed, such as the reliability of the narrator of the Ḥadīth, the number of narrators, the chain of narrators, and the quality of the Ḥadīth. Nevertheless, no method has been found to preserve and compile the book of the Bible like the Qur'ān and Ḥadīth. Hence, to what extent the Christians and Jews claim regarding the authenticity of

¹⁶² Rahmatullah Kairanawi, *Izharul Haqq*, 41

¹⁶³ Abdullah Jahangir, *Pobitra Bible*, 148-151

¹⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, 153

their scriptures.¹⁶⁵ Muslim scholars raised questions and proved the inauthenticity of the Bible. Most ancient and modern scholars have agreed at one point that the present Gospel is not an original one, but Christians faked and distorted the Gospel and the books of the New Testament. For example, Christian scholar *Celsus* says that the present Gospel is counterfeit, and Christians distorted the original Gospel and mixed false with true, added, deleted, and corrupted it. Hence, the present Gospel cannot be considered as a true Gospel. Another scholar, named Festus, says that

It has been established that the books of the New Testament are neither the books of the Christ nor are they the books of his apostles, but unknown people have written them and attributed them to the apostles and their friends.¹⁶⁶

Jews and Christians claim that the name of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is not forecasted anywhere in the Bible. In his discussion on this subject, Abdullah Jahangir presents several quotations from the Bible and mentions Jews, Christians, and Muslim scholars' statement and review specialized in the Bible. The first book of the Bible, Genesis, chapter 17, verse 20, mentioned that God gave Abraham (Prophet Ibrahim) the good news that Abraham's son Ismail (PBUH) would make the nation a "great nation." According to the explanation of Abdullah Jahangir, by referring to the "great nation" here, Allah has given a particular indication of the arrival of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This is because Allah is not referring here to a normal status or descent by a "great nation" but a particular nation, which is the arrival of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) after Prophet Ismail (PBUH).¹⁶⁷

Though Jews and Christians refute the prediction of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in the Bible, nevertheless, it is already well established in the holy Qur'ān that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) will come into this world. Allāh says:

Behold! Allah took The Covenant of the Prophets, saying: "I give you A Book and Wisdom; Then comes to you A Messenger,

¹⁶⁵ Fadhli Mohammed Fushoosh, "A critical Study of ibn Taymia's Response to Christianity" (Ph. D. thesis, Aligarh Muslim University, 2016), 178

¹⁶⁶ Rahmatullah Kairanawi, *Izharul Haqq*, 44

¹⁶⁷ Abdullah Jahangir, *Pobitra Bible*, 707-708

confirming What is with you; Do you believe in him And render him help." Allah said: "Do ye agree, And take this my Covenant As binding on you?" He said: "Then bear witness, And I am with you Among the witness." (Sūrat *Āl-Imrān*, 3:81)

There are different interpretations available on the above verse, but no one disagreed that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was meant to be Prophet in this verse. Moreover, every Prophet and Messenger who came before Muhammad (PBUH) has been promised about Muhammad (peace be upon him), and previous prophets and messengers have instructed their followers to believe in Muhammad (PBUH) and to support him.¹⁶⁸ Another verse of the holy Qur'ān Allāh says:

And remember, Jesus, the son of Mary, said: "O Children of Israel! I am the Messenger of Allah (sent) to you, confirming the Law (which came) before me and giving Glad Tidings of a Messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad." But when he came to them with clear signs, they said, "this is evident sorcery!". (Sūrat *Al-Saff*, 61:6)

In the above verse, Jesus (peace be upon him) has informed the nation of Israel about the coming of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). But when Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) arrived, Jews and Christians refused to accept him as a Prophet and Messenger.

In a nutshell, though Jews and Christians are the people of the book, it would not be an exaggeration to say that Christianity is no longer a valid religion. The Bible is not authentic scripture because of massive distortions, corruption, and failure to preserve it. They are not faithful followers of Jesus and Moses; if they were true followers of Jesus and Moses, they must have accepted Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) because the Bible mentioned the coming of Prophet Muhammad and Prophet Jesus and Moses instructed their followers to acknowledge and support Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

¹⁶⁸ Muhammad Shafi, *Tafsir Ma'ariful Qur'ān*, Bengali Trans, Muhiuddin Khan, (Medina: Badshah Faisal Qur'ān printing projects, 1992), 184

Conclusion

Unlike the propaganda approached by Christian missionaries, Abdullah Jahangir presents his methodologies with integrity and sincerity in *Pobitra Bible*. The methods used by Abdullah Jahangir in *Pobitra Bible*, which is very simple and easy to understand for the readers. He makes an unambiguous statement with objective evidence regarding the Christian scriptures. The methods employed by Abdullah Jahangir, which not only significant for the readers but also crucial for the Christian community because he provides extensive logic and reasoning regarding Christian scriptures based on authentic historical documents. Most importantly, Abdullah Jahangir uses Christian scholars' statement on the Bible in support of his argument. Indeed, Abdullah Jahangir uses unique methods in *Pobitra Bible* in Bangladesh that makes him an extraordinary person though other renowned Muslim scholars have used similar methods.

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