

Adaptation and Comparison of Dajjal (Antichrist) in Islam with in Christianity

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Abstract

One of common moods in Ibrahimian religions is the existence of a survivor at the end of world that we will be evident of ascendancy of righteous people government in the world. By surveying sources of heavenly religions in relation to common symbols and signs of arriving time of this great event, we find out that one of common signs is the emersion of Dajjal by Islamic title and Antichrist by Christian title. Although the supposition of every of these two ideologies is different in some cases, we can explore common points about the presence of antichrist in society that its most important one is encountering to a reformer for establishing a justice-oriented government. In the present paper, in addition to examining Antichrist history in Christianity, its function is also examined in Islamic sources in order to specify common and uncommon points.

Keywords: Quran, Hadith, emersion, New Testament, Dajjal, Antichrist

Ventilation

Due to the belief of divine and humanistic religions, world will experience a survival at the end of its lifetime that by reforming human's problems will provide a life for him accompanied by leisure that following it, justice will progress throughout the universe and faith will shine in every place of this world.

According to the religion of ancient Indians, "kalki" as the survivor will be riding a white horse and will have a shiny sword in his hand and will initiate the golden age. (Shaygan, 274/1) In Zoroastrian and new Avesta, Sushians will build a desirable world and a glamorous town (Moghadam, 11) that he is the last Hormazdi person and is admirable because he is from Farvardin (Frawahr, Fravarti or Fravasi) generation. In Jewish religion, the future utopia will be built by Christ that we can study some of these predictions in the sources of this religion (Nak: ancient, 351-352).

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In Christianity, human's son is the promised survivor that is accompanied by the return of Christ to cosmos scene. Mr. Hex differentiates between the term human's son and the belief of Christ return in Bible and he says: " the term human's son has been used in New Testament eighty times that only thirty instances are adaptable to Jesus Christ and other fifty instances talk about reformer and survivor that will emerge at the end of world. (ancient, 219) as the saying goes, he doesn't introduce survivor or in other words he has not the ability of this introduction; however by reference to Islamic sources we can reach to an appropriate guideline in this field. In Islamic sources and texts, it is mentioned that the last prophet of God on earth named as Mahdi will emerge as reformer, survivor and leader of world at the end of human's life. (Pouresmaeel, 275-203)

Shiyye outlook toward the issue of world's survivor is a doctrinal outlook as in all nations people expect the establishment of Mahdavi system throughout the cosmos; it has been quoted from Imam Ali: " All of the nations have not expected a survivor except Imam Mahdi".

In addition to the common statement of religions about the existence of a survivor at the end of world, different religions, especially divine religions warn about future dangers and problems by prediction about future for more readiness of their followers.

Although, Bible has been distorted (Pouresmaeel, 2), by precision, examination and accurate comparison of religions with Islam, in the first step we notice some common points of their beliefs and trainings with Islam and in the next step, we can admit Islam's evolution in comparison to other heavenly religions.

One of the common titles between Islamic and Christian sources is the term Dajjal or Anti- Christ that based on two doctrines he will emerge in future of human's life. Although, the name Dajjal is not used in Quran directly contrary to New Testament, by searching Islamic sources, we can gain access to this concept in the news related to future from the mouth of religion leaders. The important point about the quotations related to human's future is that since the identity and substance of this news is prediction, occurrence or not accruing it, is possible; in other words, the emersion of survivor is discussed in Quran and narratives as the necessity of religion, but the predictions about future are changeable. (Pouresmaeel, 4)

Dajjal in Literal Meaning

Dajjal is the equivalent of word liar and is a person who hides truth.

Ibn Mansour quotes from Ibn Seyyedeh that Dajjal is a man of Jew nation that will come out at the end of world by the intention of fighting against truth and replacing untruth instead of it; a group of people introduces him as the claimant of Godhead.

Dajjal in Terms of Islamic Narratives

By surveying Islamic narratives, it can be said that Dajjal is a person that by denying the existence of survivor and combating with him, he will try to defeat the universal government of reformer.

History of Belief to Anti- Christ

In Bible, Mr. He knows the intention from antichrist as a person who resists against Christ and is claimant of his position. (Nak: Pouresmaeel, 375).

Content of John discoveries can be divided to four sections based on every main dreams of John:

- 1- First dream: that he sees Christ in the state of talking to churches.
- 2- Second dream: Christ will dominate on universe.
- 3- Third dream: by this dominance, Christ will overcome on villain powers.
- 4- Fourth dream: he is evident of Christ's reign on earth.

What is clear in this division is that most of John's dreams are related to future; with this statement, It will be clear that why we should find the trace of anti-Christ in the discoveries of John, while we should attend to this fact that literature of John is metaphorical and symbolic that most of people tend to use Old Testament in order to understand it. (Helli, 740)

In the first treatise of prophet John, it is expressed: " this is the last hour and as you have said, anti- Christ will arrive at the last hour, there are a lot of Antichrists at the time being and because of this sign, we find out that this is the last moment".

On this basis, one of the signs of last hour or in Islamic term the end of world is the emersion of antichrist, although in the following, this issue has been implied that in every time and every era, antichrist can have a similar instance; with this expression we can conclude that perhaps antichrist should not essentially be a special person but it can be a particular stream, as in continuing of letter, an exact definition is represented from antichrist: who is liar except a person that denies Christ. A person who denies son, he doesn't have father and the person who confesses to son, he has fathered.

The person or especial stream of antichrist appeared after denying Christ that based on the trainings of Bible, such a person is not a Godly person and this is soul of antichrist that you have heard he will come and he is present in the world right now. Therefore, we are evident of different instances of antichrist in Bible. " Since there are many sinister people that do not confess to Jesus Christ manifested in body, these people are sinister and antichrist". (Second treatise of John, 7)

Almost all interpreters of Bible sign to antichrist, however their main disagreement is about a specific chapter that has explained about antichrist that their viewpoints are as follows:

- 1- Some interpret antichrist to a " savage person".
- 2- Some interpret him as " fiery dragon".
- 3- Some interpret him as a barbarous creature that has ten horns and seven heads.
- 4- A major number of researchers interpret antichrist to a wild creature that has " two horns like horns of sheep" and was talking like " dragon" or he was like a red untamed creature that had "seven heads and ten horns" or finally he was interpreted as Satan

That " will release from his prison" and will misguide nations. " Catholic encyclopedia, antichrist entry"

Poles also has informed about the emersion of antichrist but his interpretation is " vicious man" and "son of death"; thus at the end of world this man will emerge and will misguide a group of people.

Emersion of anti- Christ is visualized at least by three events in Bible that are as follows.

- 1- The mystery of adultery that is the main supporter of vicious powers of present time will reveal throughout the world. The climax of this movement is disrespect to sacred criteria of God's words, yet there are still people who are loyal to sacred affairs at the present time.
- 2- In last days of world, many of churches authorities will recede from the reality of Bible and they will be apostasy.
- 3- Removing an obstacle or person that by this event, day of God will begin.

Jewish nation has believed a survivor like "Sushians" at the end of world because of being in touch with Iranians' this thought invigorated because of the cruelties of roman nation and their beliefs increased in the expectation of a survivor named as "Christ" that because of this belief, a young man emerged from Jewish nation named as "Jesus" that he called himself fakely as "Christ", some of Jewish people rushed toward him and many of people considered him as "anti-Christ" or "liar" and waited for real Christ (Mashkoor, 159).

But according to the outlook of some thinkers, the belief to anti- Christ should be considered simultaneous to the life of Jesus; a religion that appeared simultaneous to the emersion of God's prophet was "Gnosi" or secondary mysticism. Gnosi has been taken from the word Gnosis, a Greek word and means mysticism, knowledge and science.

Flourishing period of this religion was from first to third centuries; Gnosi people raised orator scientists in Palestine, Suria, Beinalnahrein and Egypt. Some consider Jewish Gnosticism effective in emerging this doctrine. Most of followers of Gnosi sects were from Christ's followers and they know Christ as the survivor of human; they believe that Christ has fired Satan from this world and has imprisoned him in the circle of black fire but Satan will create a son from a foul woman that is the enemy of Christ and is named as anti- Christ, he will lead human's generation to depth of dissension but eventually Christ will overcome on anti- Christ.

Prophet Poles who is from the eminent figures of church attributes some miracles to anti- Christ and he believes that Anti-Christ will do extraordinary actions by the supporting power of Satan (Ashtiyani, 92) then irreligious man will emerge and Christ will kill him by the fire of his breath and destroy him by the manifestation of his emersion....

Moreover according to the belief of Gnosi people, anti- Christ was a person that after Christ invitation to Christianity, he confided him to Jewish nation that following it, they crucified Christ but Christ could release himself from cross and he hid himself in Moora Mountain. (Mashkoo, 223)

Although, there are statements about cross in Quran, the discussion about cross is the quotation of Jew claims but the decisive outlook of Quran is expressive of this fact that Christ ascended to heaven that night by the permission of God (Alnisa, 17) and Jewish people never could access to him.

Modern Notion of Christian society toward Antichrist

Followers of America's Bible church that form one- fourth of the population of this country which is about seventy million people are the most important theoretical origin of rightist Christians. Based on their belief, human has constantly been the evident of good and evil battle and second Avant of Christ at the end of world will happen in seven dispensations that at the time being we are in the sixth dispensation or church dispensation. Next level is called as "end time" that Christ will descend to earth and will revive real believers of God. Then, antichrist will emerge on earth and will lie that he is the survivor of Jewish nation. Some people think that what causes others to accept him as the survivor is that he is capable of clamming establishing a superficial peace in Middle East.

The dominion of antichrist will last seven years and is called as the period of "suffrage or tribulation". According to this period, in the first half of this time, antichrist will establish superficial peace and in second half, he will enterprise against Israel that the collection of humans' sins will be completed and an unheard period will initiate for irritating Jew in order to prepare the scene for final battle or "Armageddon". (Fahimdanesh, 168)

Anyway, based on the belief of some modern Christians, the formation of antichrist reign is upcoming that following it a severe political and economic dictatorship will be dominant that even an ordinary business will need permission. They believe that for reinforcing such a system, a liar prophet and a universal religion will be created.

Nowadays, especially in threshold of third century, many of church authorities have introduced dictator people that caused many of wars and destructions of temporary era as antichrist or third antichrist. This belief has been arisen from the existed statements of Bible: "You will hear wars and news of wars... because a nation will be in conflict with another nation and a country with another country...".

It seems that as Bible has not expressed exact characteristics of antichrist, by demonstrating antichrist's similar instance, Church Council tries to prove this statement that "there are many antichrist in the society right now" (first treatise of John, 2:18) but by exact survey on the first and last of speech and by regarding to Islamic trainings, in particular the subject of "end of world" we can reach to the following conclusion.

- 1- Antichrist, an undeniable reality in Christians' Belief.
- 2- He has not emerged in society yet, since he says: "you have heard that he will come".
- 3- Emergence of antichrist is in the last hour. "This is the last hour, as you have heard that anti-Christ will come".

Antichrist in Sources

1- Belief to the Emergence of Antichrist

Shia and Sunni have mentioned word antichrist in their sources. In Shia religion and in a sermon excluded to antichrist, Samee Ibn Sohan asks from Imam Ali about the emergence of antichrist in society that Imam Ali represents a bright visualization about future by representing complete information about his time and place conditions. (Nouri, 12/32).

In Sunni's mind, the belief to emerging antichrist has been considered as equivalent to the belief of Mahdaviyat and the person who denies it is considered as pagan;

Jabber Ibn Abdullah Ansari quotes from holy prophet: "Everyone who denies antichrist is pagan and everyone who denies Mahdi is also pagan" (Moghadas Salar, 157) in another quotation from holy prophet, three beliefs of Mahdaviyat, emersion of antichrist and dissension of Christ is an essential affair in Islamic belief.

In Shia sources, emersion of antichrist has been predicted from east and from Sajestan and according to Shia belief what is expressed about future can be changeable by God's will.

2- Signs of the Emersion of Antichrist

It is mentioned in holy Quran: whether they expect except that angels rush to them or God comes toward them, or a number of God's verses appear to them? The day that some of Gods verses reveal to them does not have any advantage or profit for a person who didn't believe Islam already or a person who did not have any good act or did not provide any good thing' say to them: wait, we are also waiting.

The implication of quoted expository narratives following this verse can be summarized in four subjects:

- 1- subject of innate convention of God with people:
- 2- Signs of resurrection that mention only sunrise from west in some of narratives.
- 3- Emersion of Imam Mahdi: Abobasir quotes from Imam Sadegh: "the intention is day of Imam Mahdi's emersion. Then Imam Sadegh said: Hey Abobasir, how lucky Shia people are that in the period of Imam's absence are expectors of his emersion and are his obedient in the time of his emersion, thus people are God's saints and they do not fear and never be upset.
- 4- Expression of some signs of emersion is like what we think about antichrist. A narrative that Ayashi quotes from Zarareh, Hamra and Mohammad Ibn Moslem: "the intention from these verses is the sunrise from west and departure of creature from earth and antichrist that if human insisted on sin and doesn't do any good action, his faith does not have any prophet."

3- Fate of Antichrist

The ultimate fate of war between antichrist and Imam Mahdi will be accompanied by dominance and victory of real followers of Imam Mahdi; the narratives about the subject of killing antichrist can be divided to two classifications:

- 1- A group of narratives introduce Imam Mahdi as the killer of antichrist. In a sermon of Imam Ali, he specifies the exact time and location of this event.
- 2- Another group attributed doer of this murder to Christ.

As a result of these narratives, regarding to the belief of Muslims to the Advent of Christ and his ministry status of future government of world and leadership of Imam Mahdi, we can say that both classifications are reliable and acceptable, in other words, first group of narratives attributes killing antichrist to the leader of this universal government and second group attributes it to the minister of this government.

Conclusion

According to Ibrahimian religions, a person sent from God will establish fair and justice throughout the cosmos that based on Islamic trainings, he is the twentieth son of holy prophet, Mohammad, named as Mahdi and based on opinion of Christians, he is Christ. Against to this survivor, there is an enemy named as antichrist that is powerful by the help of Satan; by establishing peace in some geographical areas and introducing himself as survivor, he will attract a group of people to himself.

Trainings of Bible introduce antichrist as a person who denies Christ, moreover they know the emersion time as the last hour that we can compare it with Islamic concept "end time"; by referring to the statements of John; antichrist exists in the world right now that this statement has attracted the attention of many modern authorities of church to the extent that they have tried to introduce instances of antichrist in every era. Belief to antichrist is formed simultaneously with the presence of Christ, although most of the times, Christians of world have had made mistake in determining his real instance.

This mistake is arisen from an expression from Bible that in the time of introducing antichrist, they implied to his presence in society; by the approach of many Christians toward antichrist, the presence of antichrist should be felt every time in society.

On the contrary, in Islamic narratives emersion of antichrist has been implied at the end of world.

In Islamic sources, killer of antichrist is Imam Mahdi and the minister of future government of world is Christ.

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