

HAVE THE PROPHECIES OF THE HOLY QUR'AN BEEN FULFILLED?

Compiled and researched by Moeen Kiani

A Study of some verses and prophecies of the Holy Qur'an

Note: In this study the verses of the Holy Qur'an are taken from the well known English translation by Rodwell.

The Meaning of Islam

“The true religion with God is Islam” (Imran – 3:17)

“Whoso desireth any other religion than Islam, that religion shall never be accepted from him, and in the next world he shall be among the lost” (Imran – 3:79)

In accordance with the above holy writings of the Qur'an, the only religion accepted by God is Islam. Islam means surrender or resignation of one's will to God's will and whoever follows Islam is a Muslim. The Qur'an refers to followers of other religions that believe in God as Muslims, for example, Noah is called a Muslim. (Yunus – 10:72-73)

Moses and His followers are called Muslims (A'raf – 7:123) and (Yunus – 10:84)

Disciples of Christ are called Muslims – “And when I revealed unto the Disciples, (of Christ), ‘Believe in Me and on My Sent One!’ they said, ‘We believe; and bear witness we are Muslims’.” (Ma'idah – 5:111)

Thus we see that what the Author of the Qur'an meant by “Islam” was the universal religion of God – true believers of God, that submit their will to the will of God – past, present and future, and not limited to the followers of Muhammad only.

The Meaning of the Seal of the Prophets

The verse designating Muhammad as the “Seal of the Prophets” is as follows: “Muhammad is not the father of any man among you, but he is the messenger of God, and the Seal of the Prophets: and God knoweth all things.” (Alizab – 33:40)

This is interpreted by some Muslims to mean that there will be no more Messengers of God.

There are two points to look at regarding this subject:

1. The similarity in previous religions;
 - a) The Jews were required (in Exodus – 31:16-17) to keep the Sabbath as an eternal covenant: “Wherefore the Children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout the generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the Children of Israel

forever.” Both Jesus and Muhammad broke the covenant. Does it mean that They were wrong?

- b) Jesus has been referred to in Revelations 1:11, as the Alpha and Omega, the First and Last. Likewise He said, in Luke 21:33, “Heaven and earth shall pass away; but My words shall not pass away.” If the words of Jesus were not to be changed, why did Muhammad reveal the Qur’an?

The reason why such verses are found in the Holy Books is that all the Messengers of God are one in Their reality. What applies to one applies to all. The following verses from the Qur’an demonstrate this reality: “Say ye: we believe in God, and that which had been sent down to us, and that which had been sent down to Abraham, and Ismael and Isaac and Jacob and the tribes: and that which had been given to Moses and to Jesus, and that which was given to the Prophets from their Lord. No difference do we make between any of them.” (Baqurah – 2:130)

“We make no distinction between any of His Messengers.” (Baqurah – 2:285)

2. A distinction is made in the Qur’an between the two words: “rasool” (messenger or apostle) and “nabi” (prophet). We have not sent any Messenger, nor any Prophet before thee...” (Hajj – 22:51)

Also note in the following two verses that Moses is referred to as a Messenger as well as a Prophet, but Aaron, the brother of Moses, is referred to merely as a Prophet.

“And commemorate Moses in ‘the Book’; for He was a man of purity: moreover He was a Messenger and a Prophet.” (Maryam – 19:52)

“And We bestowed upon him (Moses) in Our mercy, his brother, Aaron, a Prophet.” (Maryam – 19:54)

Thus it becomes clear that “rasool” means “he who is sent with a message” from God, he reveals the laws of religion, also foretells the future, but “nabi” (prophet) appears after the messenger, promotes and interprets the teachings of the messenger and foretells of future events.

In brief, what we learn from the above two verses of the Qur’an is:

1. The Messenger of God is also a Prophet.
2. The Prophet is not necessarily a Messenger of God.

The Term of A Religion

(Om-mat)

There is an Arabic word “om-mat” in the Qur’an for which there is no exact English translation. Some translators use the word “people” and some use the word “nation”, both of which are correct, but when Muhammad talks of religion, “om-mat” means the followers of the religion, as Christians are the “om-mat” of Christ, Jews are the “om-mat” of Moses and Muslims are the “om-mat” of Muhammad.

We have to understand the exact meaning of “om-mat” to grasp the meaning of the following verses in the Qur’an.

The Qur’an is setting forth a universal principle governing the appearance of the Messengers of God, (which does not exclude Islam) which provides that to any “om-mat” who receive the Messengers of God are given a fixed term or period of time. At such an appointed time, a new Divine Book is revealed by God through His new Messenger, which seals the past term and starts a new term. For example, Jesus came with a new Book (New Testament) after Moses and sealed the old Book (Old Testament) and Muhammad came with a new Book (Qur’an) after Jesus and sealed the old Book (New Testament).

Here are the verses of the Qur’an:

“Every ‘om-mat’ hath its set time. And when their time is come, they shall not retard it an hour; and shall not advance it.” (Al A’raf – 7:32)

“O children of Adam! There shall come to you Messengers from among yourselves, rehearsing My signs to you; and whoso shall fear God and do good works, no fear shall be upon them, neither shall they be put to grief.” (Al A’raf – 7:33)

“To each age its Book. What He pleaseth shall God abrogate or confirm; for with Him is the source of revelation.” (Ra’d – 13:38-39)

“Neither too soon nor too late shall ‘om-mat’ reach its appointed time.” (Mu’menun – 23:45)

“He guideth whom He will into the right path. Thus have We made you an intermediate ‘om-mat’.” (Baqarah – 2:136-137)

The Day of Judgement

1. The Qur’an uses many different names for the Day of Judgment, such as the Day of Resurrection, the Day of Chastisement, That Time, the Day of Separation, the Day of the Blowing of the Trumpet, the Day of Exit, and so on.

The Qur’an teaches that the meaning of the Day of Judgment is a mystery which will be revealed by God on that Day itself. “They will ask thee of the Hour – for what time is its coming fixed? Say: The knowledge of it is only with my Lord: None shall manifest it in its time but He.” (Al A’raf – 7:186)

There is reference to the future for interpretation: “And now have We brought them the Book; with knowledge have We explained it; a guidance and a mercy to them that believe. What have they to wait for now but its interpretation? When its interpretation shall come, they who aforetime were oblivious of it shall say, ‘The Prophet of our Lord did indeed bring the truth.’” (Al A’raf – 7:50-51)

The description set forth in the Qur’an about the Day of Judgment needs attention – for example:

The earth is to change to another earth. (see 39:67 / 14:49 / 84:3 / 50:43)

The heaven is to split asunder. (see 84:1 / 82:1 / 78:19 / 21:104)

The Sun is to be folded up and lose its light. (see 81:1-29)

The stars are to disperse and be blotted out. (see 82:2 / 77:8)

“Warn them of the day of sighing when the decree shall be accomplished, while they are sunk in heedlessness and while they believe not.” (Maryam – 19:40)

“But on the day of Resurrection some of you shall curse the others.”
(Ankabut – 29:25)

Let us now ask ourselves this question: If the overwhelming description of the changes in the physical world to take place on the Day of Judgment are to be interpreted literally, would it be reasonable to expect that the unbelievers would still be unaware of it, would not know of its occurrence, and particularly, after the “decree would be accomplished” for them to be still sunk in “heedlessness” and not to believe – and above all for men to “deny” and “curse” one another?

Wouldn't the physical signs and portents be so drastic that there could be no room for unbelief, heedlessness and cursing to continue?

Surely the answer is that the signs of the Day of Judgment must be interpreted symbolically, not literally. Then we would understand why disbelief and heedlessness would still prevail at such a time.

2. Another important event on the last day is that the dead will find life. As we have already seen, this means a spiritual life, the life of faith. The following verse was revealed when Hamzih, the uncle of Muhammad joined Islam and was referred to as “being quickened” (became alive), and received “light.”

“Shall the dead whom We have quickened, and for whom We have ordained a light whereby he may walk among men, be like him, whose likeness is in the darkness, whence he will not come forth?” (An'am – 6:22)

This verse is of particular interest, because it shows that “life” and “light” are both to be taken spiritually, not physically.

3. In the Day of Resurrection God will reveal a new Book. “And on the Day of Resurrection will We bring forth to him (man) a Book which shall be proffered to him wide open. (Bani-Isra'il – 17:14)

The Period of Islam

The Qur'an states that the religion of God, that brings a revelation from heaven to earth, returns to God in a thousand years. “From the heaven to the earth He governeth all things: hereafter shall they come up to Him on a day whose length shall be a thousand of such years as ye reckon.” (Adoration – 32:4)

The Fárs

We read this verse in the Qur'an: "Lo! Ye are they, who are called to expend for the Cause of God: and some of you are niggards (stingy) but whoso is niggardly shall be niggard only to his own loss, for God is the rich and ye are the poor: and if ye turn back, he will change you for another people, and they shall not be your like!" (Muhammad – 47:40)

Muhammad was asked who were the people He referred to as "another people", who were to replace the Arabs? One of His famous followers, Salman Farsi, a Persian, was sitting near Him. Muhammad patted the legs of Salman and said: "He and his people" and He continued: "By the True One, in Whose hands is My life, if the Faith of God should be suspended in the Pleiades, surely men from Persia shall reach it." (This tradition is accepted by Sunnis and Shiites and is included by Nasafi in his book, Vol 4, page 169, as well as by Muhammad Farid Vajdi, in his book, third edition, page 676)

In Brief Now We Know

1. The meaning of "Islam", in general, is "to believe in God and submit to His will" and is not limited to followers of Muhammad only.
2. Muhammad is the seal of the Prophets and not the seal of the Messengers of God.
3. There is no difference between the Messengers of God.
4. For every "om-mat" (the followers of a religion) there is a term.
5. The religion that Muhammad brought is a middle religion, not the last one.
6. The Religion of God, revealed by Muhammad, returns to God in one day – which is 1000 years.
7. The Day of Judgment is spiritual and not physical. The "dead" become "alive" is meant spiritually, not physically.
8. At the Judgment time God will send a Messenger with a new Book.
9. The Messenger after Muhammad shall come from Fárs (Persia, now called Iran)

The Search

Now that we know a thousand years has passed since the beginning of Islam and God will send a new Messenger to appear from Fárs (Iran), we shall make a search in the news and history books of that country.

The history books show of Iran that there appeared a religion in the south of that country – called the Bahá'í Faith.

What does the Qur'an guide us to do? "Oh Believers: if any bad man comes to you with news, clear it up at once, lest through ignorance you harm others, and speedily have to repent of what you have done. (Hujurat – 49:6)

Since this is a strong order in the Qur'an – every true Muslim should investigate that news.

History of the Bahá'í Faith

The Bab

In the year 1260 of the lunar year from Hijrat (corresponding to the year 1844AD of the Western Calendar), in the city of Shiraz, in the Southern part of Iran, a young merchant, a man 25 years of age, announced that He was the One foretold by all the Holy Scriptures.

He called himself "The Báb" (which means Gate) and said he was sent by the Lord to announce the coming of "One greater than Himself". He declared His willingness to sacrifice Himself for that Great One.

Many became His followers, but those in opposition succeeded in having Him imprisoned and finally, had Him publicly executed. Twenty thousand of His followers were also killed for their beliefs.

The Báb had His own Holy Writings. Among His Writings: "In the year nine ye will attain to all good." Again He writes: "In the year nine ye will attain unto the presence of God."

Baha'u'llah

Baha'u'llah, which means "the Glory of God" was born into a wealthy and noble family (a descendant of Aryan kings) in Teheran, the capital city of Iran. He joined the Faith of the Bab and, for that reason, was tortured and imprisoned in Teheran with heavy chains on His neck. This happened **nine** years after the declaration of the Bab. Since He was of a noble family, His life was spared but He was banished, with guards, to the city of Baghdad. Since His renowned wisdom and devotion made Him a center of attraction, people of high and low rank, and especially the followers of the Báb, gathered around Him. The government authorities moved Him from city to city and finally, imprisoned Him in the fortress city of Akka, in Palestine. He passed away in 1892.

He received His Revelation while in prison under heavy chains, in Teheran. Of that experience Baha'u'llah wrote several accounts, one of them is as follows:

"While engulfed in tribulation I heard a most wondrous, a most sweet voice calling above my head...I beheld a Maiden...pointing with her finger unto My head...'By God! this is the Best-Beloved of the worlds, and yet ye comprehend not. This

is the Beauty of God amongst you, and the power of His sovereignty within you, could ye but understand...”

“One night, in a dream, these exalted words were heard on every side: ‘Verily, We shall render Thee victorious by Thyself and by Thy pen. Grieve Thou not for that which hath befallen Thee, neither be Thou afraid for Thou art in safety...’”

It was in Baghdad that Baha’u’llah declared, to the followers of the Báb, the mission that was given to Him by God.

While a prisoner, Baha’u’llah revealed many books and letters to guide humanity towards the unity of all religions, all nations and all races. He even addressed tablets (letters) to the kings and rulers of the world, including Napoleon the Third of France, Queen Victoria of England, Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany, Czar Alexander II of Russia, Pope Pius IX, and the rulers of the Republics of the Americas, to whom He announced His mission.

Baha’u’llah wrote His will and testament so that after Him, His eldest son, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá would be the Centre of His Covenant and the Interpreter of His Writings. Because of this, the Baha’i Faith is the only religion in the world which did not split into different sects after the death of its Founder.

Two Messengers of God for One Religion?

The Báb and Baha’u’llah are two Messengers of God for the Bahá’í Faith. Does the Qur’an have anything to say about this? The Qur’an announces that the trumpet of God, i.e. the Cause of God, will have two blasts on the Day of Judgment, signifying two messengers, and indeed it is but one blast, signifying one religion (one message).

“And there shall be a blast on the trumpet, and all who are in the heaven and all who are on the earth shall expire, save them whom God shall vouchsafe to live. Then shall there be another blast on it, and lo! Arising they shall gaze around them: and the earth shall shine with the light of her Lord. (Zumar – 39: 68-69)

One day, the disturbing trumpet-blast shall disturb it, (the universe), which a second blast shall follow... Verily, it will be but a single blast” (Nazil’at – 79:6.7&13) Notice the word “follow” as Baha’u’llah did follow quite closely after the Báb.

The followers of Muhammad of different sects are waiting for two holy figures to appear and guide them, i.e. the Mehdi and the return of Christ to the Sunnis, and the Qa’im and Imam Husayn to the Shiites.

Opposition

In the history of the life of His Holiness Mohammad we see how many of the Arabians opposed Him, laughed at Him – wanted to kill Him. Finally He escaped from Mecca to Medina. He revealed in the Qur’an, as the Mouthpiece of God, the following

verse: “Oh! The misery (that rests) upon My servants! No Messenger cometh to them but they laugh them to scorn.” (Ya Sin – 36:29)

It happened in this same way, that the people and religious leaders opposed, and finally, killed the Báb – and the government authority moved Baha’u’llah from prison to prison, city to city, to stop His popularity. Yet they could not stop the progress of His Teachings – on the contrary, they were fulfilling the prophesies of the Holy Scriptures.

Baghdad

Baha’u’llah entered Baghdad as an exile and, there, announced His mission. Previously, Baghdad had been called “Dar’al-salaam” meaning “Abode of Peace” or “Dwelling of Peace”. The Holy Qur’an refers to it as follows: “And God calleth to the Dar’al-salaam; and He guideth whom He will into the right way.” (Yunus – 10:26)

“For them is Dar’al-salaam with their Lord! And in recompense for their work, He shall be their protector.” (An’am – 6:127)

So we see that this prophesy is fulfilled.

Akka

The fortress of Akka was the last place in which Baha’u’llah was exiled and imprisoned. He passed away still a prisoner. There are many writings in the books of traditions about Akka, here are some of them: “Akka is a city in Syria to which God hath shown His special mercy.” (From Abdu’l-Aziz, son of Abdu’s-Salam)

“I announce unto you a city, on the shore of the sea, white, whose whiteness is pleasing unto God, exalted be He! It is called Akka.” (From ‘Anss, son of Malik)

“Blessed is the man that hath visited Akka, and blessed he that hath visited the visitor of Akka”

Religion

Religious teachings are of two types: The first consists of spiritual guidance to mankind, such as – to know God and to worship Him, love of others, unity, brotherhood, chastity, truthfulness, etc. Such teachings are eternal and unchangeable, and constitute the basis of every religion.

The second consists of laws dealing with the material and social life of man, such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, form and time of prayers and fasting, prohibited foods, etc. These teachings are changed by each Messenger of God to suit the conditions of the age in which He comes.

This principle is also upheld in the Qur’an: “To every ‘om-may’ We appointed observances that they observe. Therefore let them not dispute this matter with thee, but bid them to Thy Lord.” (Hajj – 22:66)

There are certain laws in the Qur'an that cannot be practiced today and Islamic countries do not follow them, as an example, here are a few of the many:

“O Believers! Only they who join gods with God are unclean.” (Yaubah – 9:28)

“As to the thief, whether man or woman, cut ye off their hands in recompense of their doings.” (Mah'idah – 5:42)

“Men are superior to women on account of the qualities with God hath gifted the one above the other...” (Nesa' – 4:38)

Today there are many educated women – doctors, engineers, lawyers, scientists, and teachers – some of them are doing better than men. A woman can be elected as President of a country, Prime Minister, Mayor and so on. We cannot say any longer that men are superior to women.

The essence of Baha'u'llah's spiritual teachings is the same as in past revelations, but, in compliance with the need of ever-advancing and progressive society, He revealed laws and ordinances to meet the requirements of this age.

Baha'i Laws & Teachings

- * Pray and read the Holy Writings every day.
- * Observe the Baha'i Fast from March 2-20
- * Observe Baha'i Holy days and attend the Nineteen Day Feast.
- * Consider work as worship (work which is done in the spirit of service to others is elevated to the station of worship.)
- * Contribute to the Baha'i Fund – it is completely voluntary. There is no collection or tithing in the Baha'i Faith, and Baha'is do not accept contributions from non- Baha'is.
- * Use of alcoholic drinks and narcotics is strictly forbidden.
- * Observe Baha'i marriage laws. (In Baha'i marriage each partner must freely choose the other. Once the choice is made, the consent of the living, natural parents of both parties is required. This is conducive to unity between the two families.)
- * Respect for and obedience to the government and no participation in partisan politics.
- * Backbiting and gossip, are strictly forbidden.
- * Teach the Baha'i Faith to others.

The Good Tree

The Qur'an gives guidance to seekers of truth: “Seest thou not to what God likeneth a good Word? To a good tree: its root firmly fixed, and its branches in the heaven: yielding its fruit in all seasons by the will of its Lord. God setteth forth these

similitudes to men that haply they may reflect. And an evil word is like an evil tree, torn up from the face of the earth and without strength to stand. (Ibrahim 14:29-31 }

Let's study the fruits of the good tree of the Teachings of Baha'u'llah. The core of His Teachings are the 'three onenesses':

Oneness of God

Oneness of religion

Oneness of humanity

- * We are created noble and spiritual beings, and we should try not to lose that position. " Noble have I created thee, yet thou hast abased thyself. Rise then unto that for which thou wast created". (BWF, p.159)
- * Living a moral life has a direct influence on our spiritual happiness.
- * The family is the foundation of human society.
- * Consultation is a dynamic process for finding truth and for solving conflicts.
- * Each individual must make his own independent search for truth, (There are no clergy or priests in the Baha'i Faith).
- * Education must be made available to all. "Knowledge is as wings to man's life, and a ladder for his ascent. Its acquisition is incumbent upon everyone." (TOB, p. 51)
- * Men and women should enjoy equal rights, privileges, education, and opportunities throughout the world. " Humanity is like a bird with its two wings - the one is male, the other female. Unless both wings are strong and impelled by some common force, the bird cannot fly heavenwards." (BNE, p. 139)
- * " Oh people of the world! The Religion of God is to create love and unity, do not make it the cause of enmity and discord." (BWF, P.209)
- * " That one indeed is a man who, today, dedicateth himself to the service of the entire human race". (TWOB, P.198)
- * " The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens." (GWB, P. 250)
Note: His Holiness, Muhammad said: "Love of country is of your faith" Today with fast communication and world travel, global consciousness is more appropriate. We can see that the law of God for today should be love of the whole world.
- * A world commonwealth of all the nations of the earth must protect the rights of men. "Be united, O kings of the earth, for thereby will the tempest of discord be stilled amongst you, and your peoples find rest." (GWB, P.254) This is a major step toward establishing the kingdom of God on earth. God gave us a plan and direction, we have to work accordingly.

- * Unity of the human race is the goal of God for today; unity of nations, of religions and races " The well-being of mankind, its peace and security, are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established." (GWB.P.286) He also writes, " Soon will the present day order be rolled up, and a new one spread out in its stead." (GWB, P.7)
- * A universal auxiliary language shall be adopted so that when people are out of their native country they will be able to communicate with the local people in the universal language and feel at home.
- * Elimination of all kinds of prejudice. (Prejudice means making a judgment based on incomplete or incorrect information)
- * Religion must be in accord with science and reason.
- * The soul is the essential part of every human being and will continue after death. " Know thou of a truth that the soul, after its separation from the body, will continue to progress until it attaineth the presence of God..." (GWB, P.155)
- * Economic problems have spiritual solutions

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These are some of the fruits of the "good tree" of the teachings of Baha'u'llah.

Day of God

The following verses of the Qur'an refer to the time and appearance of Baha'u'llah: "the Day of God", "meeting with God", "And thy Lord shall come and the angels rank and rank" (Fajr – 89:23)

"The day when mankind shall stand before the Lord of the world" (Tatfif – 83:6)

"And the earth shall shine with the light of her Lord." (Zumar – 39:69)

As explained in the Qur'an, God manifests Himself as a person, and who believes in Him believes in God; "What can such expect but that God should come down to them overshadowed by clouds, and the angels also, and their doom be sealed, And to God shall all things return." (Baqarah – 2:206)

The Messenger of God is like a mirror reflecting the attributes of God, people who have loyalty to the Messenger of God, have loyalty to God, as written in the Qur'an,

"Those who swear allegiance to thee do but swear allegiance to God."

(Fath – 48:10)

The appearance of Baha'u'llah released a power to the entirety of humanity and increased their capacity of understanding the words of God. Baha'u'llah writes; "Behold how the generality of mankind hath been endued with the capacity to hearken unto God's most exalted Word – the Word upon which must depend the gathering together and spiritual resurrection of all men..."

People of diverse religions that had been fighting with each other over religious differences, today, by learning about and joining the Bahá'í Faith, become united and fight no more.

The Qur'an foretells of this age: "As to those who believe (Muslims), and the Jews, and Sabians, and the Christians, and the Magians (Zoroastrians) and those who join other gods with God (Pagans), of a truth, God shall decide (settle) between them on the Day of resurrection; for God is witness of all things." (Hajj – 22:17)

It is interesting to note that not only are the prophesies of the Qur'an fulfilled in the Bahá'í Faith, but all other religions have certain prophesies that are fulfilled as well. People who become Bahá'ís are from diverse backgrounds, religions, races, nations and tribes. Baha'u'llah writes: "The time foreordained unto the peoples and kindreds of the earth is now come. The promises of God, as recorded in the Holy Scriptures, have all been fulfilled."

Children's Prayer:

"O God, guide me, protect me, make of me a shining lamp and a brilliant star. Thou art the Mighty and the Powerful."

-- 'Abdu'l-Baha

Baha'i community

Since there are no clergy or priests in the Baha'i Faith, then how does the Baha'i community function ?

Bahá'í Communities

In every village or town Baha'is elect nine members (men and women) to the Local Spiritual Assembly. This council is elected for a period of one year, to conduct the affairs of the Baha'is in that community. Baha'is of a country, through their delegates, elect nine members to the National Spiritual Assembly of that country to serve for a period of one year. National Assemblies from around the world elect nine members from the Baha'is around the world to the Universal House of Justice. Members of the House of Justice serve for a period of five years. The Universal House of Justice is the supreme body of the Baha'i Faith and guides the entire Baha'i world. All Baha'is should obey its guidance. All Baha'i elections are spiritually based. There are no nominated candidates, no campaigns, and no advertising.

Nineteen Day Feast

Baha'u'llah teaches that every 19 days Baha'is of each community shall gather together. This is called the 19 Day Feast. The Feast consists of three parts, the first part is devotional. The second part is for consultation about any subject to improve the community. The third part is a social time so that the members of the community may have fellowship with each other, as members of one family.

Each individual Baha'i is a valuable person, who, through the 19 Day Feast, the Local Spiritual Assembly, the National Spiritual Assembly, and the Universal House of Justice is connected to the world wide Baha'i family.

[UHJ]<->[NSA]<->[LSA]<->[19 Day Feast]<->[Individuals}

Some statistics as of May 1994;

Number of National Spiritual Assemblies	172
Number of Local Spiritual Assemblies	approx. 20,400
Number of localities worldwide where Baha'is reside.....	over 120,000
Tribes, races and ethnic groups in the Baha'i Faith	2,112
Languages into which Baha'u'llah's Writings have been translated	802
Number of Baha'is in the world	approx. 6,000,000

Who is a Baha'i ?

Any person who studies the Teachings of Baha'u'llah and is convinced in his/her heart that He is God's Messenger for today, and is willing to obey His Teachings is a Bahá'í. At that point, the person is enrolled into the Baha'i community and invited to community activities and to participate in Baha'i elections.

There is no baptism in the Faith. A Bahá'í must believe in all the Messengers of God and His Prophets of the past. Baha'u'llah teaches that there will be a new Messenger of God after 1000 years.

Let us end this study with a prayer by Baha'u'llah:

“Create in me a pure heart, O my God, and renew a tranquil conscience within me, O my Hope! Through the spirit of power confirm Thou me in Thy Cause, O my Best-Beloved, and by the light of Thy glory reveal unto me Thy path O thou the goal of my desire! Through the power of Thy transcendent might lift me up unto the heaven of thy Holiness, O source of my being

Reference Books:

- GWB - Gleanings from Writings of Baha'u'llah
- BWF - Baha'i World Faith
- TWOB - The World Order of Baha'u'llah
- TOB - Tablets of Baha'u'llah
- BNE - Baha'u'llah and the New Era

The books listed below offer more detailed information:

BAHA'I FAITH, AN INTRODUCTION by Gloria Faizi
Published by the Baha'i Publishing Trust, New Delhi, India.

THE NEW GARDEN by Hushmand Fathea'zam
Published by the Baha'i Publishing Trust, New Delhi, India.

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