

Analysis of the Social Characteristics of the Jews in the Holy Quran

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Abstract

In this article, an analysis of the social characteristics of the Jews in the Holy Quran is presented, which with the aim of presenting the identity of the Jewish community such as their name, language, living areas, travels and religion, Have a theme. The results of the research show that the Jews are a Bedouin nation that has strict rules in life and despite adhering to ancient civilizations such as Egypt and Canaan, they still adhere to their principles of life and beliefs. The Jewish people, though receiving many divine blessings through the prophets; But they did not believe in the blessings of God and distorted their religion. This article also discusses the behavioral and moral characteristics of Jews; Such as betrayal of the divine covenant, hiding the truth and closing the way to serving God, lying, stinginess, fear and so on. These characteristics were the reason for their deviation and confrontation with the prophets of Israel; Because they dealt severely with the prophets in order to oppose the invitation of the prophets and to oppose their movement, as a result of which they were killed, displaced and degraded from the position and virtue that God had created for them. In the continuation of the article, the lessons and teachings learned from the story of the Jews in the Holy Quran and the ways to protect the Islamic society from the danger of the Jews were examined;

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Among other things, studying the personality and beliefs of Jews and getting to know them in the face of their intellectual and psychological aggression can help Muslims.

Keywords: The Holy Quran, Jews, Social Characteristics

Introduction

The Holy Quran is a reliable source that every Muslim should resort to it on all his circumstances. This divine source introduces the Jewish community in many of its noble verses and speaks of their history, culture, religion, and psychological and behavioral characteristics; Therefore, it is necessary to know the Jewish people and their characteristics through the verses of the Holy Quran.

It is the Holy Quran that opens wide horizons for us to understand clearly the details of the Jewish social life and their behavioral, moral and religious conditions.

Research Questions

The main question of the research is:

- What are the social characteristics of Jews in the Holy Quran and what lessons can be learned from it?

The sub-questions of the article also include the following questions:

1. What is the identity of the Jews in the Holy Quran and what is their situation?
2. What is the Quranic view on the causes of the deviation of the Jews?
3. What lesson has been learned from the social characteristics of the Jews and how can it be used in Islamic society?

Research Purposes

This research seeks to achieve the following goals:

1. Understanding the reality and nature of Jewish life in its important aspects
2. Identify the causes and reasons leading to the deviation of the Jews
3. Analysis of the social characteristics of the Jews in order to prevent its creation in the Islamic society

Allah says:

“Has not the Time arrived for the Believers that their hearts in all humility should engage in the remembrance of Allah and of the Truth which has been revealed (to them), and that they should not become like those to whom was given Revelation aforetime; But long ages passed over them and their hearts grew hard? For many among them are rebellious transgressors”. (Quran, 57: 16)

The subject of the Jews in the Holy Quran is repeatedly mentioned in the Holy Quran and the characteristics of their social life are comprehensively stated, including identity, language, living areas, moods and behaviors, prophets, beliefs and psychological and behavioral characteristics. Some of these features are mentioned.

The Etymology of the Jews

The Jewish people have several names, including the children of Israel, the Jews, the Hebrews, the followers of the Torah, and the People of the Book. Among these names, the Holy Quran mentions three names: the Israelites, the People of the Book, and the Jews. As to why this people are called Jews, some commentators believe that this name was given to them after the incident of Miqat Musa, on Mount Sinai; As Mofazzal quotes:

- My sir! Why did they call the people of Moses Jews?

- He said: Because God says: We have guided you; As your orientation will be to us. (Majlisi, 1983, Vol. 53: 5)

After that, the name of the Jews spread among the Israelites and remains to this day. Other commentators believe that they were named “Jews” because they belonged to Judas, the fourth son of Jacob.

Jewish Words

Jewish society, like other human societies, uses language in its intellectual, social, and cultural systems. The most important language used by the Jews from the beginning until today is Hebrew. The beginning of the Hebrew language dates back to the 10 century BC.

After the Torah was revealed to Moses, the Bible became the source of the Hebrew language; Of course, in the 5 century BC, the Hebrew language gradually weakened until it was replaced by Aramaic.

Damaged Identity

The Quran states that the Jews belong to the prophets of God. They are descendants of Abraham, and on behalf of Abraham they descend to Jacob, the son of Isaac, who was the son of Abraham: “All food was lawful to the Israelites, except what Israel Made unlawful for itself, before the Law (of Moses) was revealed. Say: Bring ye the Law and study it, if ye be men of truth”. (Quran, 3: 93)

Their origins go back to Sam, the son of Noah, and their religious affiliation with Moses, who played an active role in achieving the achievements of the Jewish people.

The Jewish people were introduced with long suffering and widespread jihad in order to create a united nation that would exercise divine rule on earth by God.

Therefore, we find that they have attained great virtue; But not only did they not appreciate these divine blessings; Rather,

they used it as an excuse to consider themselves superior to other nations, citing this factor as a reason for committing crimes and spreading corruption.

The Jews in Egypt

Jacob and his sons migrated to Egypt from the land of Canaan in the 17 century BC, where the Israelites settled and reproduced until their numbers multiplied and the years in a special social, politically, economic and security situation; the conditions created for them by the ruler of Egypt at the time, so when Joseph said to them:

“Then when they entered the presence of Joseph, he provided a home for his parents with himself, and said: Enter ye Egypt (all) in safety if it please Allah”. (Quran, 12: 93)

At the same time, the security situation of this people after the death of Jacob and Joseph and the emergence of Pharaoh as the ruler of Egypt, became a state of torment and persecution. Pharaoh treated them like slaves; Especially in irrigating crops, building palaces and providing services to palace dwellers.

He also weakened them to the point that he killed their sons and kept their wives. So Pharaoh was a terror to the Jews, and they remained in this bitter state until God sent Moses to them in Judaism.

After this change of circumstances, the situation for the Jews changed from weakness to strength on earth and from slavery and humiliation to glory and honor, and they came to the rule and authority that God gave them through Moses; then the divine command reached Moses to take the Israelites from Egypt to the land of Palestine at night:

“By inspiration we told Moses: Travel by night with my servants; for surely ye shall be pursued”. (Quran, 26: 52)

So Moses and his people, followed by Pharaoh and his soldiers, went out and met each other in a region, and the divine miracle happened at that time; as the Holy Quran says:

“And when the two bodies saw each other, the people of Moses said: We are sure to be overtaken. (Moses) said: By no means! my Lord is with me! Soon will He guide me! Then We told Moses by inspiration: Strike the sea with thy rod. So it divided, and each separate part became like the huge, firm mass of a mountain, And We made the other party approach thither. We delivered Moses and all who were with him; But We drowned the others”. (Quran, 26: 61-66)

Jewish Trip to Palestine

After these events, Prophet Moses went to Palestine with his people, which was the home of the ancestors and divine messengers. On the other hand, it was the Pharaohs who rebuked and confronted Moses; because they abandoned a happy life and suffered a bad fate. The Holy Quran depicts the divine currents that surrounded them in this way and says:

“And We gave you the shade of clouds and sent down to you Manna and quails, saying: Eat of the good things We have provided for you: (But they rebelled); to us they did no harm; But they harmed their own souls”. (Quran, 2: 57)

And when Moses was on his way to Palestine, he received the divine command to go to the mount Sinai to receive the Torah through revelation; So Moses was absent from his people for 40 nights, and after him he chose his brother Aaron as his successor; But when he came down from the mountain, he saw what the people saw from turning to worship the calf, and he became angry with them.

Moses continued on his way to Palestine with the people; But the inhabitants of Palestine became aware of the Israelites and their movement, and stood in a position that prevented them

from landing in their land. It seemed to the Israelites that the Palestinian people wanted to fight them, and as usual, the cowards could not fight them.

“They said: O Moses! In this land are a people of exceeding strength: Never shall we enter it until they leave it: if (once) they leave, then shall we enter. (But) among (their) Allah-fearing men were two on whom Allah had bestowed His grace: They said: Assault them at the (proper) Gate: when once ye are in, victory will be yours; But on Allah put your trust if ye have faith”. (Quran, 5: 22-23)

The Arrival of the Israelites into the Holy Land

During the period of the Israelites wandering and astonishment, Moses and Aaron died, and Joshua ibn Nun took over the leadership of the Israelites.

At that time the Israelites invaded the land of Canaan¹ and settled in their houses and palaces. Their entrance was through killing, destruction, and methods of oppression and immorality; However, God commanded them to enter the Holy Land in such a way that the service of God would be revealed; but they disobeyed God's commands, and this is one of the psychological characteristics of the Jews. The result was that because of this disobedience, a severe punishment descended on them from heaven:

“And remember We said: Enter this town, and eat of the plenty therein as ye wish; but enter the gate with humility, in posture and in words, and We shall forgive you your faults and increase (the portion of) those who do good; But the transgressors changed the word from that which had been given them; so We sent on the transgressors a plague from heaven, for that they infringed (Our command) repeatedly”. (Quran, 2: 58-59)

1. The people of Canaan are of Semitic descent and settled in southern Syria and Palestine and controlled it until it became known as the land of Canaan.

After that, the Assyrians conquered the kingdom of Israel and Judah; so the government of Israel fell and the Jews were scattered in different places.

Migration of Jews to Yathrib

After various wars and conflicts, Jewish tribes migrated to Yathrib; Including Banu Qaynuqa, Banu Nadir and Banu Qurayza. There is news that the Jews knew from the Torah about the appearance of the Prophet of Islam in Yathrib. (Ja'farian, 2007: 288)

The Holy Quran refers to the following:

“The people of the Book know this as they know their own sons; but some of them conceal the truth which they themselves know”. (Quran, 2: 146)

In other news, it is known that (when the Jews reached Yathrib, they filled Mount Uhud with water and thought that this was the place of escape from the new Prophet; But a group of them realized their mistake and came to the outskirts of Yathrib and they settled in Khyber). (Ja'farian, 2007: 288)

Jewish Nation and Bedouin Style

The Jews turned from Bedouin life to luxury and learned to make handicrafts and handicrafts such as pottery, weapons, and agricultural machinery from the Canaanites, and their leaders became judges and rulers; but the judges were outraged by immorality, oppression, and bribery.

However, the Jews remained committed to their ideological, psychological, and moral characteristics. The Bedouin life and their strictness overcame them despite their fusion with ancient civilizations such as Egypt and Canaan.

In addition, they destroyed some of their heritage; Like the original Semitic dialect, which became a Canaanite language and disappeared in the worship of the God Dumuzid with the Canaanites.

Gustave Le Bon writes:

And the Israelites remained with these qualities even in the time of their kings: the Bedouins, vigilant and adventurous, who rushed to war and turned to luxuries when they reached power and wealth. (Saafan, 2007: 16)

Judaism and its Characteristics

Religion; It is a belief and law by which one worships God. Every religion and creed on earth must be based on the concept of submission to the status of Lordship and divinity to God:

“The Religion before Allah is Islam (submission to His Will)”. (Quran, 3: 19)

Judaism is one of the oldest Abrahamic religions and was originally the religion of Moses; of course, this religion also includes other cases, some of which are mentioned:

A. The Book of the Jews

The Jews have sources from which they take commands and instructions and trust in their beliefs, laws, and beliefs: The Old Testament and the Talmud The Old Testament consists of several books, which are a total of 39 books, and among the Jews “Tanakh” is read.

The Talmud is the second source of the Jews and they derive their law from it. This book is divided into two parts, “Mishnah” and “Gemara”.

B. Jewish Prophets

The Jews have the most prophets among the other divine religions; Including Moses, Aaron, Elijah, Elisha, David, Solomon, Zechariah, Yahya, Jesus and others.

C. Jewish Beliefs

The Holy Quran mentions the ideological characteristics of the Jews and highlights the characteristics of their faith that revolve around God and the divine prophets.

Examining this, it becomes clear to scholars of the Holy Quran that the Jewish people have gradually undergone ideological deviation. They described God in such a way that they considered attributes that are not in the dignity of God; Such as deficiency, weakness, ignorance and lies.

They also believed in pluralism and polytheism and embodied other things:

“The Jews say: “Allah's hand is tied up. Be their hands tied up and be they accursed for the (blasphemy) they utter. Nay, both His hands are widely outstretched: He giveth and spendeth (of His bounty) as He pleaseth; But the revelation that cometh to thee from Allah increaseth in most of them their obstinate rebellion and blasphemy. Amongst them we have placed enmity and hatred till the Day of Judgment. Every time they kindle the fire of war, Allah doth extinguish it; but they (ever) strive to do mischief on earth, And Allah loveth not those who do mischief”. (Quran, 5: 64)

The Jews were not satisfied with this issue; but they worshiped gods other than the one God to whom the prophets were called; Like worshiping a calf made of gold.

God says:

“Then he brought out (of the fire) before the (people) the image of a calf: It seemed to low: so they said: This is your god, and the god of Moses; But (Moses) has forgotten!”. (Quran, 20: 88)

As for the Jewish belief in the prophets, the Jewish sects believe in the greater prophecy of the prophets; but this belief is tainted with deviant beliefs.

Another deviant belief of the Jews is that prophecy is for the Israelites and not for other human beings; because they do not know the prophets who are outside of Israel, like the Prophet of Islam (Prophet Mohammad).

Another point is that their view of prophecy in terms of relative competence and its relationship with the Israelites is without considering the divine purposes.

As for the Last Judgment, it is surprising that in the books of the Old Testament, the Last Judgment, heaven, hell, reward and punishment are less mentioned and almost all of these statements are empty, except for a small hadith “The book of Daniel” speaks of eternal life.

And many who sleep in graves will wake up; Some will achieve eternal life and others will suffer eternal shame and humiliation. (Bible: 1285)

D. Legislation in Judaism

The legislation revealed to Moses in the heavenly law is in accordance with common sense and achieves justice and prosperity for all, and included worship, transactions, rights and morals. Of course, to all the different aspects of individual and social life, including impurity and purity, halal and haram rules, food and drink and what is related to animals and birds, marriage rules, the Jewish position on slavery, the issue of women, usury, inheritance and deals with rulings related to agriculture and politics and so on.

And all these laws that existed in the books and travels, their details and branches are stated, and in the end, it was decided to follow them and in case of deviation from these laws, punishments will be imposed.

At the same time, some things happened to them, including the Ten Commandments; because the monks and priests are the ones who prepared and wrote these rules and regulations to become a source for the Jews.

Jewish Personality Traits

The Jewish character was characterized by a set of bad traits and morals, and perhaps many of them were not found in the history

of any nation. These traits and behaviors were deeply rooted in the psychology of the Jewish personality and had spread deep into it, and then grew up, nurtured, and sent its branches to the outside world, embodying them in their behaviors, transactions, relationships, and appearances.

Among the characteristics of the Jews is betrayal to the divine covenant; other characteristics also include: concealment and wearing it with falsehood, taking usury, illegal consumption of people's money, rebellion, lies and deception, jealousy, ridicule, cowardice, miserliness, corruption in the land, haste in sin and aggression, Racial and national prejudice.

The worse deviation of the Jews goes back to the kind of confrontation with the approach of the prophets and these divine figures who opposed their movement and invitation. Therefore, they committed a rebellion against the reforming revival of the prophets and did not refrain from killing, displacing and trying to weaken their position:

“We gave Moses the Book and followed him up with a succession of messengers; we gave Jesus the son of Mary Clear (Signs) and strengthened him with the holy spirit. Is it that whenever there comes to you a messenger with what ye yourselves desire not, ye are puffed up with pride?- Some ye called impostors, and others ye slay!”
(Quran, 2: 87)

The Result of Jewish Deviance

The Holy Quran discusses in details the consequences of the deviations of the Jewish community and the divine punishment in this world and the hereafter, which was inflicted on them as a result of deviant behaviors and heinous acts; these include divine wrath, cursing them by God and the prophets, blinding their eyes to seeing the truth, humiliating and persecuting them, distorting and scattering them on earth, bewilderment, forbidding good things, and so on.

Conclusion

The Quran's repeated references to the Jews reflect a prominent the Quranic feature that has fundamental reasons; among other things, some Jews are the enemy of Muslims, which is accompanied by aggression and expression of superiority. The fight against this enemy continues in every age until the hour of reckoning.

Therefore, the Holy Quran forbids allegiance to them and calls on Muslims to be careful in dealing with them; therefore, Muslims should be aware of the great danger that has befallen the Muslim Ummah, and investigate the identity of the Jews and their personality traits, and contribute to public awareness through the use of public tools.

In addition to trying to counter the ideological aggression that the Jews are plotting against Muslims, in order to counter the psychological warfare of the Jews and protect the Islamic community from its adverse effects, it is necessary to develop an educational program to help create an informed generation; In such a way that a person with personal clarity has wisdom, piety, courage, patience and correct planning and is qualified to face the enemy:

“For the present, Allah hath lightened your (task), for He knoweth that there is a weak spot in you: But (even so), if there are a hundred of you, patient and persevering, they will vanquish two hundred, and if a thousand, they will vanquish two thousand, with the leave of Allah: for Allah is with those who patiently persevere”. (Quran, 8: 66)

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