SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

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CHAPTER 6
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Resume of the study

The study is an attempt to trace out the epistemological and cognitive foundations of the Bible and the Quran by conducting a thorough study of the Bible and the Quran and thereby comparing them with regard to their treatment or approach towards information, knowledge and wisdom. Based on these approaches, an attempt has been made to examine the validity of the treatment of information, knowledge and wisdom dealt in the Bible and the Quran within the context of the emerging cybersociety.

The study is also intended to examine the practical importance of the approaches of the Bible and the Quran on information, knowledge and wisdom in solving the basic developmental problems of the humanity. It is also expected that the study will also provide some theoretical basis for Information Science and Information Technology.

The Bible and the Quran can prove to be effective sources of knowledge and wisdom for the emerging cybersociety. The present study is an attempt to explore the knowledge and wisdom hidden in the Bible and the Quran in the context of the cybersociety. The study has special significance in understanding both the Bible and the Quran and thereby Christianity and Islam in the context of the emerging cybersociety.
6.1.1 The Problem

The study is entitled “A Comparative Study of the Treatment of Information, Knowledge and Wisdom in the Bible and the Quran within the context of the Emerging Cybersociety”.

6.1.2 Major Objectives

The major objectives of the study are:

1. To study the Bible and the Quran with regard to their treatment or approach towards information, knowledge and wisdom.
2. To make a comparison between the Bible and the Quran with regard to their treatment of information, knowledge and wisdom.
3. To examine the validity of the treatment of information, knowledge and wisdom dealt in the Bible and the Quran within the context of the emerging cybersociety and
4. To examine the practical importance of the approaches of the Bible and the Quran towards information, knowledge and wisdom in solving the basic developmental problems of the humanity.

6.1.3 Major Hypotheses

The study tested the following hypotheses:

1. The basic treatment of information, knowledge and wisdom in the Bible and the Quran remains the same.
2. The approaches in the Bible and the Quran with regard to information, knowledge and wisdom encourage the growth, development and application of information technology in the modern age.
3. The present study will provide a theoretical foundation for Information Science, Information Technology and Cybersociety.

6.1.4 Methodology in brief

The methods of data collection basically included exhaustive study of the Bible and the Quran, survey based on the views of Biblical and Quranic experts and literature survey of documents and historical records.

The analysis of data involves a thorough analysis of the Bible and the Quran to find out the various chapters and sections dealing with information, knowledge and wisdom and the categorization of these ideas into ten different heads or themes. The data analysis includes a) count analysis, b) content analysis and c) analysis of experts’ views. The count analysis is conducted by taking the count of the ten themes on knowledge and wisdom in the Bible (OT and NT) and the Quran and their comparison. Word count of the terms Knowledge and Wisdom for the two texts is also taken and analysis is done similarly. The content analysis procedure involves a thorough analysis of these themes as dealt in the two texts, following which the basic approach of the individual texts regarding each theme is arrived at. The analysis of this data helps in comparing the basic approaches to find out whether any similarity or differences exist in the approaches. The analysis of the views of the experts is based on the structured interview of the experts. Based on the count analysis, content analysis and analysis of experts’ views findings are arrived at and conclusions are drawn.
6.2 Summary of Findings

The following are the major findings arrived at on the basis of the analysis of the data in the Bible and the Quran regarding their treatment of information, knowledge and wisdom following the count and content analysis.

6.2.1) Wisdom and Knowledge are very extensively dealt within the Bible and the Quran. The Wisdom Books almost fully deals with various aspects of Wisdom and Knowledge. In Quran, these ideas are scattered throughout the text.

6.2.2) Both the Bible and the Quran often uses the words Knowledge and Wisdom interchangeably, which also includes Information implicitly. But occasionally they are spoken of as separate and distinct.

6.2.3) God as related to Knowledge and Wisdom is the theme most discussed in the Bible and the Quran.

6.2.4) The New Testament depicts Christ as the incarnation of the Wisdom of God. His life and teachings thus represent the Wisdom of God.

6.2.5) Quran describes itself as the Revelation or Wisdom from God. Thus all the teachings and principles in the Quran represent the Wisdom of God and they are Wisdom for human beings.

6.2.6) The origins of Wisdom and Knowledge are from God according to the Bible and the Quran.
6.2.7) Both the Bible and Quran give utmost importance to Knowledge and Wisdom. They consider Knowledge and Wisdom as the basis of human life.

6.2.8) The purpose of Knowledge and Wisdom, according to the two texts is to lead mankind from darkness to light i.e, realization of God and thus attain salvation.

6.2.9) Bible represents Wisdom in various forms. It is represented as a thing distinct from God or human beings somewhere while elsewhere it is personified as a woman, a hostess, a teacher, an educator, a counsellor and in many other forms.

6.2.10) Quran views Knowledge and Wisdom as a thing possessed by God. Human beings receive it as a reward for their righteous deeds.

6.2.11) Both the Bible and the Quran views Knowledge and Wisdom to be of divine nature. God is the supreme creator, possessor and the giver of Wisdom and Knowledge to human beings.

6.2.12) Human beings should fear the Lord and pray to him and strive hard in order to acquire Knowledge and Wisdom.

6.2.13) Both the Bible and Quran give explanations to the creation of the universe and other creations including living and non-living.
6.2.14) The sources of Knowledge and Wisdom are God’s percepts and his commandments according to the Bible and according to Quran, it is the Quran itself and the teachings of the Prophet Mohammed (Hadiths).

6.2.15) Heart is the seat of Knowledge for human beings according to the Bible and the Quran.

6.2.16) Both the Bible and the Quran exhorts man to go in search of Knowledge and Wisdom.

6.2.17) The basic requirements for attaining Knowledge and Wisdom are fear of the Lord, prayers to him, trust in him, avoiding evil ways and possessing intense desire for Knowledge and Wisdom.

6.2.18) Both the Bible and the Quran basically divide Wisdom into Godly Wisdom (Divine Wisdom) and Humanly Wisdom.

6.2.19) According to the Bible, Wisdom means fear of Yahweh, which means hatred of evil. Quran gives the meaning of Wisdom as knowledge of the Hereafter, i.e., attaining of spiritual knowledge.

6.2.20) The Bible and the Quran say that reason should be the basis of every activity and human beings should reflect on God’s works of Wisdom.

The Bible and the Quran has been analysed in detail regarding their treatment of Information, Knowledge and Wisdom. The findings of the analysis will help in tracing out the basic approaches of the two texts towards
Information, Knowledge and Wisdom. The basic approaches of the two texts based on the findings have been derived under separate heads:

6.3 The basic approach of the Bible towards Information, Knowledge and Wisdom

Bible is the holy text of the Christians. Though it upkeeps the religious values for the humanity, it has its own approach towards Information, Knowledge and Wisdom. The prime thing that Bible reflects is that Knowledge and Wisdom is divine or godly. It is eternal and remains to be so. Fear of Lord and hatred of evil, keeping the morals and living an evil free life is the basis of knowledge and wisdom. Thus human values – fear of Lord, hatred of evil, love, empathy, brotherhood all thus forms the roots of knowledge and wisdom. Man should go in quest of knowledge and wisdom everywhere and always – or else, he will be among the downtrodden or the fools. Continuous and wholehearted prayer to God to bestow wisdom and efforts from the part of the self to enquire more and more information and knowledge and thus gain wisdom is to be the aim of human beings. This is the basic approach of Bible towards Information, Knowledge and Wisdom.

6.4 The basic approach of the Quran towards Information, Knowledge and Wisdom

Quran, which is the holy text of Muslims, also has its own approach towards Information, Knowledge and Wisdom. The Quranic approach of Information, Knowledge and Wisdom relies on the knowledge of the Hereafter, i.e., life after death. Human beings are given birth in this earth
only to remember God and to act according to His Will. This, he can achieve only through acquiring knowledge and wisdom. Knowledge – he can attain through God’s creations in this whole universe, by using his reason and reflecting on them. This is what the science, technology, literature, arts and other divisions of human knowledge do actually present. Man, in this attempt to understand the universe is helped by the Quran and the teachings of the Prophet. The prime aim of human beings is success in the Hereafter life and this is achieved through knowing God. Prayers to the Almighty and leading a good life according to God’s Will and constant attempt from the part of the human beings to acquire knowledge and wisdom is what is left to the human beings to do in this world. This is the basic approach of Quran towards Information, Knowledge and Wisdom.

6.5 Comparison of the basic approaches of the Bible and the Quran towards Information, Knowledge and Wisdom

Letting aside very minor differences, the basic approach of the two texts remain the same. Both the texts uphold the human values attaining through leading of a moral life in this world through realization of God. This is the basis of knowledge and wisdom according to the two texts. Thus both the Bible and the Quran give utmost importance to religious values and principles. The basic approach of the texts towards knowledge and wisdom are also related to these religious values – the basic human values. They are meant for the uplift of the humanity.
6.6 Interpretations for the findings

Based on the basic approaches of the Bible and the Quran, and the analysis of the experts' views, the following interpretations can be given for the findings:

6.6.1. The treatment of information, knowledge and wisdom in the Bible and the Quran will be of high value in the emerging cybersociety:

It is known from the section dealing with the theoretical aspects and the epistemological/cognitive foundations of the cybersociety that the emerging society is going to be a knowledge and wisdom based one. In other words, knowledge and wisdom are considered to be the most important resources in the emerging cybersociety. From the findings of the study, we understand that knowledge and wisdom are dealt with in abundance in the Bible and the Quran. Thus the value and importance of the two scriptures will only increase in the emerging cybersociety.

Even though generations have passed by and given rise to various societies, one thing has never changed – the human values. Human nature, perceptions, expectations, fear, desire, emotions etc are of the same order, passing on through the ages. Some basic human values have been given utmost importance and they remain permanently – the values of love, affection, and common brotherhood. The Bible and the Quran ultimately deals with these values. So the value and importance of the two scriptures will exist in any society.
6.6.2. The approaches in the Bible and the Quran with regard to information, knowledge and wisdom encourage the growth, development and application of information technology in the modern age:

We know from the findings that the Bible and the Quran exhorts man to go in search of knowledge and wisdom. The intensive treatment of knowledge and wisdom in the two texts encourage the pursuit of intellectual knowledge that ultimately leads to the development of science and technology.

From the sections ‘Christianity and Science’ and ‘Islam and Science’ in the chapter Review of related studies, we see that scientific and technological contributions from both the religions were the most when the respective religious learning and understanding was at its maximum. History says that Reformation helped the emergence of Renaissance, which paved the way for speedy and faster developments in science and technology. Similarly Muslim contributions to science and technology were at its peak (750-1100AD), when Islamic ideology and Muslim learning was at its maximum. Thus we can generalize that the Bible and the Quran having an intellectual element in them, and the modern age demanding more and more knowledge and wisdom, the approaches in the Bible and the Quran with regard to information, knowledge and wisdom encourage the growth, development and application of information technology in the modern age.
6.6.3. The approaches of the Bible and the Quran towards information, knowledge and wisdom are very important in attaining greater understanding between people and communities:

We see from the comparison of the basic approaches of the Bible and the Quran that the basic approach of the texts towards knowledge and wisdom are related to the religious values—the basic values to be possessed by the humanity. These are the moral values of love, affection, brotherhood and the human conduct.

The present state of decline of values is the result that human beings have gone long way from understanding the gist of these scriptures, clinging to the peripheral things. The study reveals that the essence of the Biblical and Quranic approach towards information, knowledge and wisdom is meant for empowering the humanity. Thus attaining a correct understanding of the approaches helps in achieving greater understanding between people and communities and thereby eliminating rivalries between people and communities.

6.6.4. The present study may help to derive the theoretical foundations of Information Science, Information Technology and Cybersociety:

The three ideas revolve around information, knowledge and wisdom. From the findings of the study it can be inferred that the unifying element in the Bible and the Quran as discussed in the methodology chapter is that of the human values or the human beings itself. From the chapter - review of related studies, it is seen that the epistemological/cognitive foundations of Information Science, Information Technology and Cybersociety stress the
human component or the human mind. Latest studies on theoretical foundations of information also indicate that information is a cognitive construction and takes human beings into focus of consideration and not technical means, processes or products. The three branches of study concerned with the human component, the theoretical foundations of these concepts can be derived from the present study.

6.6.5 The approaches of the Bible and the Quran towards information, knowledge and wisdom will help in solving the basic developmental problems of the humanity:

While discussing the common elements of an ideal community in chapter 2, the first and foremost value to be possessed was that of principle centred goodness i.e., righteousness, living by principles, adhering to natural laws and correct principles characterized by honesty and trust worthiness, knowing that the lasting solution to the very real social problems we face will be based on the principles of a shared vision and synergetic approach.

It should be realized that the most growing problem that the humanity faces in the cybersociety is that of social exclusion and the digital divide resulting from the current socio-economic transformation process. The causes behind these problems are understood as homelessness, ageism, racism, unemployment, poverty, bad health, high crime environments, poor educational attainment, sexuality etc. The digital divide characterized by the technological advances assuring affluences for a selected few and poverty for the rest, the balancing force of the nature is disturbed. The reason for this being the widening gap between the information rich and the information
poor due to lack of proper access to information and inability to make use of the information by a larger section of the society.

The root cause of all these happenings is found directly or indirectly related to the decline of religious values. Importance of human values and the brotherhood of man is the main theme of the Bible and the Quran. The basic approach of Bible and the Quran is based on this itself. In order to narrow down this gap, the proper study making these approaches understood to the human beings is necessary. Thus any developmental strategy should be based on the brotherhood of man with emphasis on the love for the human kind. Strategy, if redefined on this basis, we can transform the existing societal framework into a more just and equitable one.

6.7 Tenability of the Hypotheses

The study “A Comparative Study of the Treatment of Information, Knowledge and Wisdom in the Bible and the Quran within the context of the emerging Cybersociety” was carried out with a set of objectives and hypotheses. The validity of the hypotheses is tested herewith.

**Hypothesis 1**

The first hypothesis is “The basic treatment of Information, Knowledge and Wisdom in the Bible and the Quran remains the same”.

The analysis of data and its findings and the comparison of the approaches of the Bible and the Quran as discussed in section 6.5 substantiates this hypothesis.

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**Hypothesis 2**

The second hypothesis is “The approaches in the Bible and the Quran with regard to information, knowledge and wisdom encourage the growth, development and application of information technology in the modern age”.

The analysis of data and its findings and its interpretation in the section 6.6.2 substantiates this hypothesis.

**Hypothesis 3**

The third hypothesis is “The present study will provide a theoretical foundation for Information Science, Information Technology and Cybersociety”.

This hypothesis is proved to be valid on the basis of the findings provided in this chapter and its interpretation in section 6.6.4.

**6.8 Conclusions**

The present study is entitled “A Comparative Study of the Treatment of Information, Knowledge and Wisdom in the Bible and the Quran within the context of the emerging Cybersociety”. Even though there are several studies based on the Bible and the Quran, no major study has so far been conducted from the point of view of the cybersociety because such a study is a future oriented one. Almost all the studies are past oriented. This is a major distinguishing factor of the present study.
The present study is a pioneering study on the Bible and the Quran from the point of view of Information Science and Information technology. The study has helped to trace out the epistemological and cognitive foundations of the Bible and the Quran. The study may help to trace out the theoretical foundations of the knowledge and wisdom based cybersociety. The present study reveals that the value and importance of the Bible and the Quran will increase along with the developments in the knowledge and wisdom based cybersociety.

Even though Christianity and Islam are two dominant religions of the world, people who have deep knowledge of both the Bible and the Quran are very limited. A correct in-depth knowledge will give correct interpretations of the Bible and the Quran based on the basic human values. The ignorance or the rejection of the human values by the practitioners of the religion is the root cause for the unnecessary clashes between the people within the religion or between the religions. A proper and balanced study of the Bible and the Quran will definitely help the formation of a mature, balanced and democratic society rather than a narrow or fanatic one.

6.9 Suggestions for further research

The present study is a multidisciplinary one and is purely a scholarly one within the framework of modern Information Science and Information Technology. It emphasizes on the academic and intellectual value of both the Bible and the Quran within the context of the emerging cybersociety. Hence this can be considered to be a pioneering work in his field and it has opened the gateways for in-depth research on different aspects. The areas of further research as located by the present study are given below.
1. There is an urgent need for conducting further studies on the Bible and the Quran so as to formulate the theoretical foundations of Information Science, Information Technology and Cybersociety.

2. Further studies can be conducted on the actual role of the Bible and the Quran in the development of Science and Technology.

3. More studies have to be conducted regarding the nature and characteristics of the cybersociety.

4. Detailed studies on the importance and relevance of the Bible and the Quran can be conducted from different angles.

5. By taking into account the emergence of the knowledge and wisdom based cybersociety, there is a need for developing new approaches in Christian and Islamic theology and religious studies.