Significance of Worship in Islam and Judaism

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ABSTRACT

In every age and for every nation, God nominated prophets and apostles for the reformation of society through His revealed commandments for smooth running of the discipline of this world. Throughout history, the fundamentals preached by all the prophets were the same, i.e. Oneness of God, Prophethood and the hereafter. The religion preached by all the prophets was the same but commandments and rituals remained different to some extent. The teachings about the ways of offering Prayer and fasting, the prohibited and the permitted, the ways of ablution, purification and bathing in different sharias remained different. The present study compared the existing literature on the significance and philosophy of worship in Islam and Judaism for finding the similarities and differences in both. To this end, this study adopted a pure speculative analytical approach to arrive at a conclusion. The study found that in both the Islamic Law and Moses’ law worship has similar purpose. Both the laws consider worship is a source of bringing man closer to his Creator, purifying his soul, improving his deeds and making him a better human being and thus resulting in a peaceful society based on social welfare and collective good.