

# THE QUR'AN

## IS THE QUR'AN THE REVEALED WORD OF GOD?

The Quran is at the heart of Islam. If its claims can be substantiated, then Islam is true, and all opposing religious claims, including Christianity, and Judaism, are false.

The Quran claims to be without mistake (sura 18:1), and that there is a copy of the Qur'an preserved on a table in heaven (sura 85:21-22).

The Quran also claims that, *"The revelation of this book is from God, The exalted in power, full of wisdom. It is we who have revealed the book to thee in truth"* (sura 39:1-2).

Muslim commentators say that the Quran is the final revelation from God (*see for more details, Geisler's book, Answering Islam, p.179-80*).

Muhammad also makes the claim that, *"Can they not consider the Koran? Were it from any other than God, they would surely have found in it many contradictions"* (sura 4:84).

So according to the Quran, if there is contradictions in this book, then **IT IS NOT THE WORD OF GOD!**

Muhammad just helped us dig the grave for the Quran because **THE QURAN IS LOADED WITH MISTAKES AND CONTRADICTIONS!**

## THE STRUCTURE OF THE QUR'AN

The Qur'an consists of 114 books or chapters called Surahs.

The Qur'an can be viewed as two books intertwined. The early, Mecca era would be the first book, and the later, Medina era the second. The earlier Mecca chapters deal more with faith and religion whereas the later Medina chapters deal more with politics and war.

The Surahs are not arranged by chronological order. They are arranged by length. The longest, and typically the latest Surah are toward the front of the Qur'an while the shortest and usually earliest Surahs are found in the back.

The primary exception to this format is the first Surah, which is basically a Muslim prayer and amounts to a Muslim profession of faith.

The Surahs are arranged by verse, but there is no standardized numbering for these verses. Consequently, the numbered verses can and do vary slightly from Qur'an to Qur'an and translation to translation.

## THE LANGUAGE THE QUR'AN

The Qur'an is only considered to be the true word of Allah when written in Arabic.

When read in Arabic, the Qur'an is said to be of such beautiful and profound poetry as to entrance the reader/listener. This poetry is held out as one of the signs that the Qur'an is the inspired/revealed word of Allah: because it is too beautiful for man to have written.

Translations are considered to be just that: a translation. They are not held to be the true word of Allah.

The original writings that made up the modern Qur'an were written in ancient Arabic, in a time before vowels were added to the text. This creates some trouble in reading the text even when it is in Arabic as, in many cases, the written text can hold many possible meanings. If the context of a passage would allow for more than one meaning, then the reader is left to decide for himself as to what Allah meant to say. Here are two examples from a literal translation of the Qur'an compiled by a devout Muslim and his daughter:

Surah 2:36

*36. So the devil made them (B) **slip/fall/sin** from it, so he brought them (B) out from what they were (B) in it, and We said: "**Descend/decline**\* some of you to some (are) an enemy and for you in the **earth/Planet Earth** (is) **settlement\*** and long **life/enjoyment** to a time\*."*

Surah 3:112

*112. The **humiliation/disgrace** (is) **forced\*** Oljy on them, wherever they were **defeated/overtaken\***, except with a **covenant/agreement\*** from God, and a **covenant/agreement\*** from the people, and they **returned/resided\*** with anger from God, and the **poverty/oppresion** (was) **forced\*** on them, that (is) with what they were disbelieving with God's **signs/verses/evidences**, and they kill the prophets without right, that (is) because (of) what they disobeyed, and they were transgressing\*.*

Non-Muslim scholars have often remarked on what is often poor and even incorrect grammatical structure in the Qur'an. Many times, as evidenced in the two verses cited above, necessary words are missing entirely from the verses in the Qur'an. Some have suggested that – at least in part – this is caused by the attempt to make poetry from the revelation, but the Qur'an does say that one sometimes has to “fill in” for Allah: meaning, correct Allah's grammar for him.

## THE LITERARY STYLE THE QUR'AN

As previously noted, the Qur'an was revealed in the form of poetry: poetry that is often forced and/or awkward to read.

It is written as one half of a conversation where it is assumed the reader is already aware of the events that happened previously.

As a result, the Qur'an often reads as disjointed, or rambling and incoherent.

In large part, this is why the Sirah and Hadith are necessary: to fill in the blank and missing information necessary to make a coherent religion out of the text of the Qur'an.

## **THE HISTORY OF THE QUR'AN**

Originally, the Qur'an was disseminated orally (*remember, the Qur'an says that Muhammad was illiterate*).

What was written down was written on whatever was available at the time Muhammad dictated his vision/revelation. This ranged from paper and parchment to rocks, sticks and palm fronds and even animal bones. Often times, 'reciters' were called to memorize the revelation as closely as possible.

During the battle of Yamama, some 450 of the earliest "reciters" who kept the Qur'an were killed.

There was no definitive Qur'an at the time of Muhammad's death.

It was 20 years or more after Muhammad died before anyone started to collect the verses of the Qur'an. It took some 150 years after his death before they were compiled and the first Qur'an was written. It is known that some of the original verses of the Qur'an were lost:

Muhammad's child wife said this after Muhammad died:

*"The verse of the stoning and of suckling an adult ten times were revealed, and they were (written) on a paper and kept under my bed. When the messenger of Allah expired and we were preoccupied with his death, a goat entered and ate away the paper."*

References: Musnad Ahmad bin Hanbal. vol. 6. page 269; Sunan Ibn Majah, page 626; Ibn Qutbah, Tawil Mukhtalafi 'l-Hadith (Cairo: Maktaba al-Kulliyat al-Azhariyya. 1966) page 310; As-Suyuti, ad-Durru 'l-Manthur, vol. 2. page 13

From the Hadith, we know that other Surahs have been lost:

*We used to recite a surah which resembled in length and severity to (Surah) Bara'at. I have, however, forgotten it with the exception of this which I remember out of it: "If there were two valleys full of riches, for the son of Adam, he would long for a third valley, and nothing would fill the stomach of the son of Adam but dust". (Sahih Muslim, Vol. 2, p.501).*

*We used to recite a surah similar to one of the Musabbihaat, and I no longer remember it, but this much I have indeed preserved: 'O you who truly believe, why do you preach that which you do not practise?' (and) 'that is inscribed on your necks as a witness and you will be examined about it on the Day of Resurrection'. (as-Suyuti, Al-Itqan fii Ulum al-Qur'an, p.526).*

In fact, it is reported from Ismail ibn Ibrahim from Ayyub from Naafi from Ibn Umar who said:

*"Let none of you say 'I have acquired the whole of the Qur'an'. How does he know what all of it is when much of the Qur'an has disappeared? Rather let him say 'I have acquired what has survived.'" (as-Suyuti, Al-Itqan fii Ulum al-Qur'an, p.524).*

It is also admitted by Muslim clerics that the Qur'an has been 'edited' throughout the years. The episode of the 'Satanic verses' is just one example:

*In the Koran, Surah 53:19 says '**Have you considered "Al Lat" and "al-Uzza" and "Manat" the third other?**' This passage was originally followed by the words '**Verily they are the exalted maidens and their intercession is to be hoped for**'.*

*The earliest authority on the life of Muhammad (Ibn Hisham) claimed that **these words were uttered by Muhammad at the "instigation of Satan" and are considered to be Satanic Verses** (not to be confused with Salman Rushdie's book).*

Islam's first scribe discovered that, while writing down the revelations Muhammad gave him, he could suggest changes to the revelation to which Muhammad often agreed. Deciding that this meant Muhammad's visions could not possibly be divine if a mere scribe could change them; he left Islam and was later assassinated by Muhammad for apostasy.

Finally, Muhammad, himself, seemed to think there were at least seven "official" versions of the Qur'an:

*"Ubayy entered the mosque and, hearing a man recite, asked him who had instructed him. The man replied that he had been taught by the Prophet. Ubayy went in search of the Prophet. When the man recited. Muhammad said, 'That is correct.' Ubayy protested, 'But you taught me to recite so-and-so,' The Prophet said that Ubayy was right too. 'Right? right?' burst out Ubayy in perplexity. The Prophet struck him on the chest and prayed, 'O God! cause doubt to depart.' Ubayy broke into a sweat as his heart filled with terror. **Muhammad disclosed that two angels had come to him. One said, 'Recite the Qur'an in one form.' The other advised Muhammad to ask for more than this. That was repeated several times until finally the first angel said. 'Very well. Recite it in seven forms.'** The Prophet said, 'Each of the forms is grace-giving, protecting, so long as you don't terminate a punishment verse with an expression of mercy, or vice-versa - as you might for example say, **Let's go; or, let's be off.**' " (Tafsir of Tabari.).*

## THE OLDEST COPIES OF THE QUR'AN

The oldest known copy of the Qur'an dates from 790 A.D. and is in the British Library.

Muslims claim the Qur'an in the Topkapi Museum in Istanbul, Turkey is the oldest surviving Qur'an and dates from 650 A.D. HOWEVER, this Qur'an is written in Kufic script. There is no known use of this script before 750-800 A.D.

None of the earliest versions of the Qur'an agree with each other; they all contain significant differences that cannot be simply attributed to translational problems.

## THE QUR'AN AFFIRMS AND CONFIRMS THE BIBLE

### **The Gospel of Jesus and Old Testament (Torah): "Guidance and Light"**

- Surah 2:87 - *And most certainly We gave Musa the Book and We sent apostles after him one after another; and We gave Isa, the son of Marium, clear arguments and strengthened him with the holy spirit,*

- Surah 3:48 - *And He (Isa/Jesus) will teach him the Book and the wisdom and the Taurat (Torah) and the Injeel (Christian Gospel).*

- Surah 3:50 - *And a verifier of that which is before me of the Taurat (Torah) and that I may allow you part of that which has been forbidden to you, and I have come to you with a sign from your Lord therefore be careful of (your duty to) Allah and obey me.*

- Surah 5:44 - **"Surely We revealed the Taurat (Torah/Bible Old Testament) in which was guidance and light"**, with it the prophets who submitted themselves....

- Surah 5:46 - *And We sent after them in their footsteps Isa, son of Marium, verifying what was before him of the Taurat (Jewish Torah) and We gave him the Injeel (Christian Gospels) in which was **guidance and light**, and verifying what was before it of Taurat and a guidance and an admonition for those who guard (against evil).*

- Surah 5:68 - *Say: O followers of the Book! you follow no good till you keep up the Taurat and the Injeel and that which is revealed to you from your Lord;*

- Surah 6:154: *Again, We gave the Book (Torah) to Musa to complete (Our blessings) on him who would do good (to others), and making plain all things and a guidance and a mercy, so that they should believe in the meeting of their Lord.*

- Surah 6:155: *And this (Torah) is a Book We have revealed, blessed; therefore follow it*

*and guard (against evil) that mercy may be shown to you.*

*- Surah 29:46 "And dispute ye not with the People of the Book, but say, "We believe in the revelation which has come down to us and in that which came down to you; Our Allah and your Allah is one;*

*- Surah 32:23 - And certainly We gave the Book to Musa, so be not in doubt concerning the receiving of it, and We made it a guide for the children of Israel.*

*- Surah 43:63 - When Jesus came with Clear Signs, he said: "Now have I come to you with Wisdom, and in order to make clear to you some of the (points) on which ye dispute: therefore fear Allah and obey me.*

*- Surah 46:12 we are told.... "And before it the Book of Musa (Moses) (Torah) was a guide and a mercy: **and this is a Book verifying (it) in the Arabic language** that it may warn those who are unjust and as good news for the doers of good....."*

Muslims are commanded to accept the Bible and not to judge between the prophets and the word of God. They are not permitted to believe in one and not the other, or in parts. If they do, they are infidels (Suras 4:150-152; 2:89; 42:13-15; 29:46-47). Muhammad, himself, referred to the Torah (Old Testament) for authority:

Asked to produce the Torah and read from it, Âl 'Imran 3:93.

*A group of Jews went to Muhammad and ask him to pronounce judgment on an adulterous couple. Muhammad asked for the Torah to be brought before him, and the couple was subsequently stoned, in accordance with the penalty laid down in the Torah. (see Sahih Bukhari Book 38, no. 4434)*

This then leads to contradictions between the Bible and Qur'an such as this one:

**Surah 29:46** *Muslims are told by Allah, not to question the authority of the scriptures of the Christians, saying, "And dispute ye not with the People of the Book, but say, "We believe in the revelation which has come down to us and in that which came down to you; Our Allah and your Allah is one;*

**Romans 10:9-10** *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

**Surah 5:73-75,** *"They do blaspheme who say: Allah is one of three..."*

However, when these types of contradictions are pointed out to Muslim clerics, they reply with the claim that the Torah and Gospel were both corrupted: changed by evil men who followed the prophets who revealed the original Qur'an to them, as Gabriel did to Muhammad.

This means that everything in the Qur'an rests upon the validity of the Bible as we have it today. It can be shown that the Bible of today is substantially the same as the original, then the Qur'an commands Muslims to obey it and not the Qur'an. It would also mean that the Qur'an could not be an inspired text, or the revealed word of an omnipotent and perfect god.

### **A BRIEF COMMENTARY ON THE RELIABILITY OF MODERN BIBLICAL TEXTS**

The Christian Bible predates Muhammad and Islam by more than 575 years. The Jewish Torah predates Muhammad and Islam by 1,000 - 3,000 years.

The Christian Gospels could not have been changed after Muhammad, as there are 5,735 manuscripts of the whole or part of the Greek text of the New Testament pre-dating Muhammad still in existence. *(Welte, 2003)*

Worldwide, there are 24,800 copies of these original manuscripts. These include the Codex Vaticanus (325-350 AD) located in the Vatican library and the Codex Sinaiticus (350 AD) located in the British Museum.

There are also 80,000 quotations in the works of early Christian writers which are so extensive that the New Testament could virtually be reconstructed from them without the actual New Testament documents.

Recent discoveries have been dated to the time of David, some 1,000 B.C. This suggests that the Bible has been in existence and in its current form for more than 3,000 years.

There are four more "safeguards" for the integrity of the Bible.

(1) Jesus Himself read from Isaiah scroll in a Synagogue in Nazareth and declared it as Scripture (inspired from God), Luke 4:16-21;

(2) The Dead Sea scrolls, found in 1947, verified the Jewish Torah back to 100 AD to 200 BC, when they were copied. Prior to this discovery, the oldest Torah dated to the 9th century AD. The Dead Sea scroll of Isaiah verified almost exactly the Isaiah scroll copied in the 9th century;

(3) Early Church Fathers like Ignatius, Clement of Rome, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, Irenaeus, who wrote from between 90-160 AD all cited in their writings Christian Gospel accounts (Guthrie, 1990, page 24);

(4) We know that the writings of Moses were preserved as far back as 621 BC. 2 Kings 22 speaks of this at the time of the Israeli King Josiah. Ezra 7:14, Nehemiah 8:1-18, and Jeremiah 36 also speaks of the Jews maintaining Scripture.

A great deal of the Christian/Jewish Bible has been authenticated by archeology. To date, nothing has been found in the archeological record that has directly contradicted the Bible's record.

The Qur'an cannot lay claim to such a strong and lengthy lineage of authentication, which brings into serious question the Qur'an's claims to be the revealed word of Allah, and to be the same revealed word as was given to Moses and handed down by all the other Biblical prophets.

### **SOME OF THE CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN THE BIBLE AND THE QUR'AN**

The Qur'an claims that it and the bible are one: that they are in perfect agreement with one and other.

*"We believe in God and that which has been sent down us [Koran], and sent down on Abraham and Ishmael, Isaac and Jacob, and the [Israelitish] tribes, and in that which was given to Moses [the law] and Jesus [the Gospel], and the prophets of their Lord; we make NO DIVISION between any of them..." (Sura 2:130; 3:78).*

But there are many differences between the two books. These are just a few:

1. In the creation of Adam, God told his angels to worship Adam(see sura 2:32). **This breaks his own law** , that you should only worship God (see sura 2:77)
2. In the Qur'an's account, one of Noah's sons dies in the flood, but the Bible says all his sons were saved. Sura 11:4-6 says the ark landed on mount Judi, the Bible says it landed on the Mountains of Ararat, which was east of the land of Shinar, most likely in Iran!
3. The Koran says that Abraham's father was called Azar, (sura 6:74) but the Bible says Terah (Gen 11:27).
4. The Qur'an claims Abraham lived and worshiped in Mecca (sura 14:38) but the Bible says he was south of Bethel (see Gen 13:3). *"It is virtually certain that Abraham never reached Mecca"* (Watt, p.136, Muslim and Christian Encounters).
5. It was Abraham's son Isaac, not Ishmael who was almost sacrificed (see Sura 37:100-110 and Gen 22).
6. The Qur'an claims Abraham built the the Kaaba (Sura 2:121-122), but the Bible has no record of this.
7. The Qur'an claims Abraham was thrown into the fire by Nimrod (see Sura 21:60-69). This is a very serious error in Biblical and secular history. Nimrod was dead for centuries while Abraham walked this earth.
8. It was not Pharaoh's wife that adopted Moses (Sura 28:7-8), it was Pharaoh's daughter (Exodus 2:5).
9. The Koran says Haman lived in Egypt during Pharaoh's day in the time of Moses building a tower akin to the tower of Babel the tower of Babel (Suras 28:5-7,:38; 29:38; 40:24-25, 38-39). But Haman actually lived in Persia 1000 years later, see the book of Esther. This contradicts secular as well as biblical history.

10. Mary, the mother of Jesus, her father was not Imram (Sura 66:12), but Muslims say she was a descendant of Aaron. Sura 3:30-43 plainly says that Imram's wife gave birth to Mary and Imram said a prayer when she was born, and Zechariah took care of her when she was born. She is also called the "sister of Aaron," brother of Moses' (see Sura 19:29). Mary and Aaron live **thousands of years apart from each other!** Muhammad confused her with Miriam the sister of Moses and Aaron.
11. The Qur'an claims Mary gave birth the Jesus under a palm tree (Sura 19:20-23), but the Bible tells us it was in a stable (Luke 2:1-20).
12. The test of how the soldiers would drink the water from the stream did not take place in the days of Saul when David defeated Goliath, but many years earlier with Gideon (compare Sura 2:249-250 with Judges 7:1-8)
13. In Sura 20:87-88, 96 we are told that the Israelites built a golden calf at the suggestion of the "Samaritan." Muhammad did not know that Samaria was **founded by the Israelites under King Omri**, and then when Assyria took them away captive in 721 B.C. they put other races people into Samaria years after Moses in the wilderness. This also contradicts secular as well as Biblical history.
14. The Qur'an says Jesus died (Sura 19:33; 3:55), and that He did not die but was snatched up to heaven (Sura 4:157-158).

The Encyclopedia Britannica says, "The deviations [in the Koran] from the Biblical narratives are very marked, and can in most cases be traced back to the LEGENDARY ANECDOTES OF THE JEWISH HAGGADA AND THE APOCRYPHAL GOSPEL.

### **THE QUR'AN ON ACCUSATIONS THAT MUHAMMAD WAS COPYING JEWISH SCRIPTURE**

Muhammad was often accused of plagiarizing Jewish and Christian scripture. These are some of the 'revelations' that were handed down to Muhammad in response to those accusations, as well as attacks against him based on contradictions and changes within his 'revelations' (I have bolded particularly interesting verses for you):

- Qur'an 74:43 ***"Each one of them wants to be given scrolls of revelation spread out! No! By no means!"***
- Qur'an 2:106 ***"When we cancel a Verse or throw it into oblivion, We replace it with a better one." [Or:] "Whatever Revelation We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, We substitute something better."***
- Qur'an 16:103 ***"When we replace a message with another, and Allah knows best what He reveals, they say: 'You have made it up.'"***
- Qur'an 4:82 ***"Do they not ponder over the Qur'an? Had it been the word of any other but Allah they would surely have found a good deal of variation in it, much discrepancy and incongruity...those who check and scrutinize will know it."***
- Qur'an 73:1 ***"O you who have been wrapped in your garments! Who said, 'Cover me, cover me. I'm afraid of the angel.' Keep watch all night except a little. And recite the Qur'an as it ought to be recited, in slow, measured rhythmic tones. Surely We will soon entrust you with Our***

*weighty Word. Surely the night is the most devout way when the soul is most receptive and the words most telling."*

- Qur'an 75:6 *"Move not your tongue concerning the Qur'an to make haste. It is for Us to collect it, put it together, and promulgate it. When We have read it, follow its recital as promulgated. It is for Us to explain it."*
- Qur'an 47:024 *"Do they not understand the Qur'an? Nay, on the hearts there are locks preventing them from understanding."*
- Qur'an 5:101 ***"Believers! Do not ask questions about things which if made plain and declared to you, may vex you, causing you trouble."***
- Qur'an 5:102 ***"Some people before you did ask such questions, and on that account they lost their faith and became disbelievers."***
- Qur'an 5:109 *"One day Allah will gather the messengers together, and ask: 'What was the response you received (to your teaching)?' They will say: 'We have no knowledge.'"*
- Qur'an 3:7 *"He it is Who has sent down to you the Book. In it are entirely clear verses, decisive, or fundamental (with established meaning); they are the foundation of the Book: others are unclear or allegorical. As for those who are perverse, they follow the part that is not entirely clear, trying (to cause) dissension by seeking to explain it and searching for hidden meanings. But no one knows its explanation or meaning except Allah. And those who are firmly grounded in knowledge say: 'We believe in the Book; the whole of it (clear and unclear) is from our Lord.' None will grasp the Message except men of understanding."*
- Qur'an 69:38 ***"But nay! I swear that this is truly the word of an honored, illustrious, and noble Messenger; it is not the word of a poet, nor is it the word of a soothsayer."***
- Qur'an 69:43 *"This is a Message sent down from the Lord of men and jinn [demons]. And if the Messenger were to attribute any false words to Us, We would seize him and cut his aorta. None of you would be able to stop Us. So truly this is a Message for those who fear. Yet We know that there are those who deny and belie (this Qur'an). But truly this (Qur'an) revelation is a cause of sorrow and anguish; the nemesis of unbelievers."*
- Qur'an 72:1 *"Say (Muhammad): 'It has been revealed to me that a group of Jinn [demons or devils] listened (to the Qur'an). They said, 'We have heard a really wonderful recital (of this Qur'an)! It guides to the Right Path. We have come to believe it. We shall not associate anything with our Lord.'"*
- Qur'an 72:13 *"So, since we [Jinn/Devils] have listened to the guidance (of the Qur'an), we have accepted (Islam): and any who believes in his Lord has no fear of loss, force, or oppression."*
- Qur'an 81:24 ***"Neither is he a concealer, withholding knowledge of the unseen. Nor is it (the Qur'an) the Word of an evil spirit accursed, the utterance of a devil, the curses of Satan."***
- Qur'an 81:26 *"Then where are you going? Verily this (Qur'an) is no less than a reminder to all the Alamin (men and jinn [demons or devils])."*
- Qur'an 22:52 ***"Every Messenger or Prophet before you recited the message Satan cast into his***

**recitation."**

- Qur'an 56:75 *"Furthermore I call to witness the falling Stars, and that is indeed a mighty adjuration, a tremendous oath, if only you knew, that this is indeed a noble recitation (of the Qur'an). In a Book kept hidden that is protected which none shall touch but those who are clean, the purified ones. A Revelation from the Lord of men and jinn [devils]. Is it such a talk that you would hold in light esteem, a statement to scorn? Do you then hold this announcement in contempt?"*
- Qur'an 12:1 *"These are verses of the immaculate Book, a clear discourse."*
- Qur'an 12:3 *"Through the Qur'an We narrate the best of histories."*
- Qur'an 2:1 *"This is a book free of doubt."*
- Qur'an 10:37 *"This Qur'an is such a writing that none but Allah could have composed it. It confirms what has been revealed before."*
- Qur'an 13:38 *"It was not for any Apostle to come up with a miracle or sign unless it was granted by Our permission. For every age there is a Book revealed. Ar-Rahman abrogates, blots out, or confirms (whatever He wants)."*
- Qur'an 13:42 *"Sure, they devised their plots, but We are the best schemers."*
- Qur'an 13:43 *"Yet the disbelievers say: 'You are not a Messenger.' Tell them: 'This Scripture is sufficient witness between me and you.'"*
- Qur'an 87:18 *"Verily, this is in the Books of the earliest Revelation, in the former scrolls and Scriptures, The Books of Abraham and Moses."*
- Qur'an 46:12 *"Before this was the Scripture Book of Moses [the Torah] as a guide. This Book [the Qur'an] confirms and verifies (it) in the Arabic tongue; to admonish the unjust, and as glad tidings to the good-doers."*
- Qur'an 3:1 *"Alif-Lam-Mim. (These letters are one of the miracles of the Qur'an but only Allah knows their meaning.)" Qur'an 3:3 "He has verily revealed to you this Book, in truth and confirmation of the Books revealed before, as indeed He had revealed the Taurat (Torah) and the Injeel (Gospel)."*

## **JESUS CHRIST IN THE BIBLE AND THE QUR'AN**

### **Jesus Christ:**

To the Muslim, Jesus Christ is merely one of the many prophets of Allah (Sura: 4:171; 5:74).

According to Islam, the prophet Muhammad supersedes Jesus Christ.

Islam says Jesus Christ is not the Son of God or part of any Trinity (Surah 5:17; 5:116; 19:35).

We are told by Islam that Jesus was the Messiah (Surah 3:45; 4:157; 171), but nothing but a slave on whom God showed favor (Surah 43:59); yet elsewhere in the Qur'an we are told the Messiah is not a slave (Surah 4:172).

The Qur'an tells us that Jesus Christ did not atone for anyone's sins, although he was himself sinless (Surah 3:46) and is one of those who are near to God (Surah 3:45).

Positively, the Qur'an says that Jesus Christ performed miracles (Surah 3:49; 5:110) and was the Messiah.

The Qur'an says Jesus did not die on a cross. Various Muslim traditions say that Jesus either miraculously substituted Judas Iscariot for himself on the cross, or that God miraculously delivered Him from the hands of the Romans and Jews before He could be crucified. Most Muslims believe that Jesus Christ was taken bodily into heaven without having died (Surah 4:157). However, Surah 19:33 says Jesus died and would be resurrected.

Muhammad on the other hand died in his wife Aisha's home, not long after he was poisoned by a slave girl. Muhammad's body was lowered into a hole in Medina, and his dead body was covered by dirt and brickwork.

It is interesting to compare Jesus and Muhammad according to the Qur'an. Jesus did miracles (Surah 3:49; 5:110), but Muhammad did not (Surah 13:8: "thou art a warner [of coming divine judgment] only"; also 6:37; 6:109; 17:59 and 17:90-93).

Jesus was sinless (Surah 3:46), but Muhammad sinned and needed forgiveness (Surah 40:55: "Ask forgiveness of thy sin"; 42:5: "Ask forgiveness for those on the Earth"; 47:19: "Ask forgiveness for thy sin" ; 48:2: "that Allah may forgive thee of thy sin").

Jesus was called "the Messiah" by Allah in the Qur'an. And Jesus was even born of a virgin (Surah 3:45-57)! Yet Muhammad who had 12 wives, 2 concubines, and participated in many attacks on innocent caravans and villages, and insisted on 20% of all the booty from these raids -- is claimed to be the greatest of the prophets.

The repeated denial of Jesus' death on the cross in Surah 4:157 not only exposes Allah's deception, but it also exposes his ignorance of prophetic tradition. The true God mentioned the triumph of Messiah (Jesus) over Satan through death when He gave the promise in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:15). The Prophet Isaiah predicted His (Jesus) virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14) and also His atoning death (Isaiah 53:5-9). The Prophet David, whom Muslims call Anabiya Dauda, also prophesied Jesus' death (Psalm 16:10), a prophecy [which is confirmed in Acts 13:32-35](#).

Surah 3.45: When the angels said: O Marium, surely Allah gives you good news with a Word from Him (of one) whose name is the ' . Messiah, Isa (Jesus) son of Marium, worthy of regard in this world and the hereafter and of those who are made near (to Allah).

**Jesus (Isa)**

**Muhammad**

<p>Jesus is God (<a href="#">John 1</a>, Col. 1) and <a href="#">here</a> Jesus forgave sins and dispelled demons in His own name. He said "<b>I and the Father are one</b>".</p>	<p>Muhammad admitted he is only a man (Surah 18:110)</p>
<p>Jesus raised Himself from the dead (<a href="#">Matthew 28:6</a>) and rose into heaven in front of many witnesses.</p>	<p>Muhammad remains dead</p>
<p>His Birth, Life, Death, Resurrection was foretold by numerous prophets. See <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Proverbs 30:4 (written 700 B.C./1300 yrs before Muhammad): "...What is His name, and <b>what is His son's name</b>, if thou canst tell?"</p>	<p>Nothing predicted about Muhammad. The "Comforter" was the Holy Spirit Jesus promised the apostles.</p>
<p>Jesus lived a sinless life (<a href="#">2 Corinthians 5:21</a>).</p>	<p>Allah himself refers to Muhammad as sinful (Surah 40:55, 48:1-2).</p>
<p>Jesus did numerous miracles to prove His divinity, including raising the dead and command over nature (All Gospel writers and Josephus). While teaching his apostles Jesus said; "Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves" (John 14:11 and Matthew 9:2-7)</p>	<p>On two occasions in the Qur'an Muhammad admitted he could do no miracles to show any sort of divinity or divine calling (Surah 17:90-95; 3:183, also see: 29:50-51)</p>
<p>Jesus cared for His enemies (<a href="#">Matthew 5:43-44</a>). Jesus promised to save those who believe and trust in Him.</p>	<p>Killed his enemies and anyone who disagreed with him (Surah 9:5)</p>
<p>Held a high view of marriage and hated divorce - as God the Father does (Matthew 19:7-8).</p>	<p>Muhammad commanded his adopted son to divorce his wife so that she would become his (Surah 33:36-38)</p>
<p>Accurately prophesied many verifiable events that took place after His time (<a href="#">Matthew 24</a>).</p>	<p>Delivered only <b>one</b> - <i>questionable</i>- guess/prophecy about the Romans winning a future battle. No date or place given. (Surah 30:1-4)</p>
<p>Jesus gave his disciples authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness (Matthew 10:1; Mark 6:12-13)</p>	<p>Muhammad gave his followers the authority to wage war on unbelievers.</p> <p>Muhammad is Allah's apostle.</p>

	Those who follow him are ruthless to unbelievers. (Surah 48:29)
Jesus told his disciples not to ask for money, and not to carry money with them. (Matthew 10:8-9, Luke 10:7)	Muhammad instructed his followers on how to divide booty they seized from unbelievers. He insisted on 20% for himself.
Jesus said to his followers that if anyone will not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. (Matthew 10:14-15, 23)	Muhammad ordered Muslims to attack any city that rejected Islam.
Jesus told his followers to get ready, because unbelievers would flog them, arrest them, and put them on trial (Matthew 10:16-19)	Muhammad told his followers to fight (militarily) hard against unbelievers.  "Kill the Mushrikun (unbelievers) wherever you find them, and capture them and besiege them, and lie in wait for them in each and every ambush..." Surah 9:5. Also see Surah 9:29.
Jesus washed his disciples' feet.  He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. John 13:4-5, 12-17	One day after battle, Muhammad came back home and said to his daughter Fatima, "Wash the blood from this sword and I swear in the name of Allah this sword was obeying me all the time." Muhammad then took the swords of his friend Ali ibn Abu Talib and washed them for him.
Jesus never took up a sword or encouraged anyone else to do so. Once a close follower took it upon himself to take up a sword. Jesus soundly reprimanded him. Jesus warned; "all who take the sword will perish by the sword" (Matthew 26:52)	According to Muslim scholar Pickthal, "the number of campaigns (military) he (Muhammad) led in person during the last ten years of his life is twenty-seven, in nine of

	<p>which there was hard fighting. The number of expeditions which he planned and sent out under other leaders is thirty-eight" (n.d., pg. xxvi)</p>
<p>Jesus said: "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? (Matthew 5:44-46)</p>	<p><u>Surah 9:29</u>: <b>PICKTHAL</b>: "Fight against such of those who have been given the Scripture (Christians &amp; Jews) as believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, and forbid not that which Allah hath forbidden by His messenger, and follow not the Religion of Truth, until they pay the tribute readily, being brought low."</p>
<p>Jesus's last message to his followers about himself and his mission:</p> <p>Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:46-47</p>	<p>Muhammad's last speech to his followers on Mt Arafat:</p> <p>....."I descended by Allah with the sword in my hand, and my wealth will come from the shadow of my sword. And the one who will disagree with me will be humiliated and persecuted."</p> <p>Reference: Ibn Hisham (828 A.D., "The Life of Muhammad", 3rd ed., pt. 6, vol. 3 (Beirut, Lebanon: Dar-al-Jil, 1998), p. 8</p>

## THE TRINITY IN THE BIBLE AND THE QUR'AN

The Qur'an denies the Trinity:

**Surah 5:73-75**, *"They do blaspheme who say: Allah is one of three..."*

Yet, throughout the Qur'an, when Allah is supposedly speaking through Muhammad, he constantly refers to himself as "We."

And then there's this:

The Qur'an speaks of a 'spirit' similar to the Holy Spirit. The Qur'an claims that this spirit is not god, but that it was not created, either. This spirit also has the power to create life (see Surahs 32:9, 38:72, 21:91).

John of Damascus posed a challenge to this spirit in the Qur'an: "If Christians are said to have Shirk (associate "partners" with God), then, according to the Qur'an, Muslims should be accused of mutilating God by separating Him from His word and His spirit." This challenge remains unanswered even today.

But Muhammad apparently received a revelation concerning this spirit:

Surah 17:85

*85. And they ask/question you about the Soul/Spirit\* say: "The Soul/Spirit (is) from my Lord's matter/affair, and you were not given from the knowledge except little\* ."*

### **THE TWO GODS IN THE QUR'AN**

Allah is not the only god mentioned in the Qur'an. There is another named Ar-Rahman

Qur'an 67:28 *"Say: 'He is Ar-Rahman; in Him we believed, and in Him we have placed our trust: Soon will you know which one of us is in manifest error.'"*

Qur'an 67:20 *"Who is he that will send an army to assist you besides Ar-Rahman? The unbelievers are lost in delusion."*

Qur'an 55:1 *"Ar-Rahman bestowed the Qur'an. He created man. He has taught man eloquent speech (and intelligence). The sun and moon are made punctual, following courses, they revolve to a computation."*

Qur'an 55:6 *"Ar-Rahman created the herbs (or stars) and the trees all of which prostrate themselves."*

Qur'an 13:30 *"They do not believe in Ar-Rahman. Tell them, 'He is my Lord. There is no other Ilah (God) but He. In Him I have placed my trust.'"*

Qur'an 13:38 *"It was not for any Apostle to come up with a miracle or sign unless it was granted by Our permission. For every age there is a Book revealed. Ar-Rahman abrogates, blots out, or confirms (whatever He wants)."*

Qur'an 20:90 *"O my people, you are being misled with this. Surely your Lord is Ar-Rahman. So follow me and obey my command."*

Qur'an 20:108 *"Their voices will be hushed before Ar-Rahman. You will not hear a sound but faint shuffling. That day no intercession will matter other than his whom Ar-Rahman grants permission."*

Qur'an 21:25 *"Not a messenger did We send before you but We revealed to him: La ilaha illa Ana (No*

gods but I), so worship Me." [Incredibly, this assertion of a singular divinity is followed by:] Qur'an 21:26 "And yet they say: '**Ar-Rahman has begotten a son.**' Too exalted his He." [Most translations, trying to hide their god's duplicity, mistranslate the passage:] "(Allah) Most Gracious has begotten offspring." [Muslims have to deceive us to keep their god together.]

Qur'an 21:36 "When the disbelievers see you (Muhammad), they treat you with ridicule, choosing you out for mockery: 'Is this he who mentions your gods? Yet they disbelieve at the mention of Ar-Rahman.'"

Qur'an 21:41 "Mocked were messengers before you, but their scoffers were hemmed in by what they mocked. Say: 'Who can protect you from (the wrath of) Ar-Rahman?' Yet they turn away from the mention of their Lord. Have they alihah (gods) who can defend them against Our Torment?"

Today, if you press a Muslim on this issue, they will likely tell you that this is another name for Allah, or they may even deny this name exists in the Qur'an – but it is in the original Arabic and even some older translations.

### **WAS MUHAMMAD A PROPHET OF GOD?**

First, there are four conflicting accounts of this original call to be a prophet.

We are told in Sura 53:2-18 and sura 81:19-24 that Allah personally appeared to Muhammad and did signs in front of him.

Later on we see sura 16:104 and sura 26:192-194, that the "holy Spirit" called him.

The third account of his call is given in sura 15:8 where we are told "the angels" came down and called him. Later on this account was amended and we are told the only Gabriel called him.

The last account of his call is the most popular one the angel Gabriel called him to be a prophet sura 2:92. In the Bible However ONLY GOD calls people to be prophets. So here we see the first of many differences between the Bible and the Koran.

Muhammad and he says, "Muhammad himself questioned the divine origin of the experience. At first he thought that he was being deceived by a jinn or evil spirit.

Second, according to Muhammad, a prophet can only come from the line of ISAAC AND JACOB. In the Koran we read: "*And we bestowed on him Isaac and Jacob, and we ESTABLISHED THE PROPHETHOOD AND SCRIPTURE AMONG HIS SEED*" (Sura 29:27).

**Islam is adamant: Muhammad is a direct descendant of Ishmael.**

The real God (Yahweh) chose to establish His covenant with Abraham and Sarah's son Isaac, instead of with Ishmael, the son of the slave girl Hagar. God informed Abraham a full year before Isaac's birth that he would perpetuate His covenant through Isaac, not Ishmael. This choice of Isaac by God is mentioned 5 times, beginning in Genesis 17:18-21.

None of the prophets in the Bible had epilepsy, or thought themselves mad, or questioned whether or not God was truly calling them. Muhammad suffered from all three.

Muhammad made no prophecies.

Muhammad performed no miracles.

### **SOME OTHER ERRORS IN THE QUR'AN**

In several places, the Qur'an implies that the world is flat (Surahs 79:30, 18:47, 88:17 and 20, 21:32, 50:7) Many modern Muslims still believe this to be true today. Yet, the Bible tells us the earth is round and that it is "hung on nothing" (Isa 40:22, Job 26:7)

Muhammad said that thunder and lightning are caused by two of Allah's angels. Baydawi comments on verse 13 of the chapter of the Thunder in the Qur'an:

*"Ibn Abbas asked the apostle of God about the thunder. He told him, 'It is an angel who is in charge of the cloud, who (carries) with him swindles of fire by which he drives the clouds.'"*

The Qur'an says the moon is a light, not a heavenly body (Surah 10:5)

The Qur'an says the sun sets in a muddy spring or black sea here on earth (Surah 18:86) and that it rises from a specific place on earth (Surah 18:90). The Qur'an claims a devout Muslim once witnessed both of these things happen, where he also found a people by the place where the sun sets (Surah 18:86)

The Qur'an says that stars were created to throw at devils (Surah 67:5)

The Qur'an says the sky is a roof, a solid dome above the earth (Surah 21:33)