

**Dare to
Compare**
**Becoming a Believer
by Choice**

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All quotes from the Qur'an are from THE HOLY QUR'AN by Abdullah Yusuf Ali, 1989.

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Dare to Compare

WOULD YOU AGREE?

There must be a better way of communication than the exchange of well used arguments which often deeply offend the person who does not hold one's own views.

Muslims and Christians have been in disagreement on some fundamental issues. The claims regarding the divine origin of their respective Holy Books and the position of Jesus or Muhammad are questioned. It is only natural that the followers of each faith seek arguments and support for *their* cause.

Christians are bewildered about many hurtful attacks against their Book and certain Islamic concepts about Jesus; and sincerely ask the Muslims to give them a hearing regarding the other side of the story.

An honest and spiritual person will not just accept his own traditions and exercise loyalty to them, but will give the other side a fair hearing. Few people have ever taken the time and effort to compare what the Qur'an and the Bible have stated about the two books or how the person of Jesus is presented in them. The quotes we have collected are by no means comprehensive, but we would feel greatly rewarded for our effort if these could kick-start our readers to do their own comparative study.

By all means: Dare to Compare!

WHAT THE QUR'AN SAYS ABOUT THE BIBLE

“Say ye: ‘We believe in Allah, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and that given to Moses, and Jesus, and that given to all prophets from their Lord: WE MAKE NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ONE AND ANOTHER OF THEM.’” (Sura al-Baqarah 2: 136)

“Allah’ there is no god but He, - the Living, the Self-subsisting, Eternal. It is He who sent down to Thee in truth the Book, confirming what went before it; and He sent down the Law (of Moses) and the Gospel (of Jesus) . . . as a guide to mankind.” (Sura Al-Imran 3:2-4)

“O ye who believe! Believe in Allah, and His Messenger, and the scripture which He has sent to his Messenger.” (Sura an-Nisa 4: 136)

“It was We who revealed the Law (to Moses); therein was guidance and light. . . if any do fail to judge by the light of what Allah hath revealed, they are (no better than) unbelievers. . . We sent Jesus, the son of Mary, confirming the Law that had come before him: We sent him the Gospel: Therein was guidance and light. . . a guidance and an admonition to those who fear Allah.

LET THE PEOPLE OF THE GOSPEL JUDGE BY WHAT ALLAH HATH REVEALED. THEREIN. IF ANY DO FAIL TO JUDGE BY (the light of) WHAT ALLAH HATH REVEALED, THEY ARE (no better than) THOSE WHO REBEL.

Judge. .. by what Allah hath revealed, and follow not their vain desires. . .” (Sura al-Maidah 5:44, 46, 47, 49)

“People of the ‘Book’ . . . Stand fast by the Law, the Gospel, and all the revelation that hath come to you from YOUR LORD. It is the revelation that has come to thee from THY LORD.” (5: 68)

“The Qur’an is. . . a confirmation of (revelations) that went before it” (Sura Yunus 10:37)

“If thou wert in doubt as to what We have revealed unto thee, then ask those who have been reading the Book from before thee. The truth has indeed come to thee’ from the Lord.” (10: 94).

“AND DISPUTE YE NOT WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK... BUT SAY: WE BELIEVE IN THE REVELATION WHICH HAS COME DOWN TO US AND THAT WHICH CAME DOWN TO YOU.” (Sura al-Ankabut 29:46)

“This is a book which We have sent down, bringing blessings, and confirming (the revelations) which came before it: that thou mayest warn the Mother of Cities and all around her.” (Sura al-Anam 6:92)

Surely this can only mean that Muhammad came to bring revelation to Mecca and the Arabs, confirming and establishing *what was sent before him*.

“Before thee, also, the messengers We sent were but men, to whom We granted inspiration: If ye realize this not, ASK OF THOSE WHO POSSESS THE MESSAGE.” (Sura al-Anbiya 21:7)

We can clearly see, that the Qur’an presupposes the divine revelation of “the Book” and its unpolluted content at the time of the prophet Muhammad. The Qur’an criticizes, however, the twisting and misinterpretation thereof.

“Ye people of the Book! Why do ye clothe truth with falsehood, and conceal the Truth, while ye have knowledge?” (Sura Al-Imran 3:71)

“There is among them a section who distort the Book with their tongues: (as they read) you would think it is part of the Book, but it is not part of the Book.” (3:78)
(All emphases in the quotations are the author’s.)

If there is anything that comes out very clearly, it is that the Qur'an is emphatic that the Torah and the Gospel are both revelations from God. This is what Christians believe, too. The Qur'an adds to this:

*"No change can there be in the words of Allah."
(Sura Yunus 10:64)*

*"There is none that can alter the words of Allah."
(Sura al-Anam 6:34)*

"Never did We send a messenger or a prophet before thee, but, when he framed a desire, Satan threw some (vanity) into his desire: but Allah will cancel anything (vain) that Satan throws in, and Allah will confirm (and establish) His signs: for Allah is full of knowledge and wisdom." (Sura al-Hajj 22:52)

History and archaeology preclude one from arguing that the Bible has undergone any change.

When Muhammad referred to "the Book" or "Taurat", "Zabur" or "Injil", he referred, no doubt, to what was in circulation in Arabia in his day and age.

If words mean anything at all, then Muhammad referred to this "Book" (al-Kitab) as revelation.

Besides, why should a Jew or Christian before or after the time of Muhammad be interested in changing God's revelation? Does he want to go to hell? – Many might not be aware of the severe warning expressed right at the end of the Bible:

"I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away from his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book." (Revelation 22:18, 19)

These are virtually the last verses of the Bible. The only conceivable reason to introduce changes in the text would be to explain the difference between the Qur'an and "the Book". Muslims, seeing that "the Book" was in contrast to the Qur'an, expediently claim that the Bible must have been corrupted.

In the first four centuries after Muhammad (AD 600-1000) no Muslim theologian seriously contended that the Gospel texts were not authentic. It was only with Ibn-Khazm, who died at Cordoba in 1064, that the charge of falsification was born.

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In his defense of Islam against Christians, Ibn-Khazm came up against the contradictions between the Qur'an and the Gospels. One obvious example was the Qur'anic text, 'They slew him not, and they crucified him not' (Sura an-Nisa 4,157). 'Since the Qur'an must be true', Ibn-Khazm argued, 'it must be the conflicting Gospel texts that are false. But Muhammad tells us to respect the Gospel. Therefore, the present text must have been falsified by the Christians.' His argument was not based on historical facts, but purely on his own reasoning and on his wish to safeguard the truth of the Qur'an.

In fact, it seemed the easiest way to attack the opponents. 'If we prove the falsehood of their books, they lose the arguments they take from them. This led him eventually to make the statement: 'The Christians lost the revealed Gospel except for a few traces which God has left intact as argument against them.'

Many of the great Muslim thinkers have accepted the authenticity of the New Testament text.

Their testimony proves that Christian-Muslim dialogue need not for ever be hindered by the allegation introduced by Ibn-Khazm. Two great historians, Al-Mas'udi (died 956) and Ibn-Khaldun (died 1406), held the authenticity of the Gospel text. Four well-known theologians agreed with this: Ali at-Tabari (died 855), Qasim al-Khasani (died 860), 'Amr al-Ghakhiz (died 869) and, last but not least, the famous Al-Ghazzali (died 1111). Their view is shared by Abu Ali Husain Ibn Sina, who is known in the West as Avicenna (died 1037). Al-Bukhari (died 870), who acquired a great name by his collection of early traditions, quoted the Qur'an itself (Sura al-Imran 3,72.78) to prove that the text of the Bible was not falsified. (Hans Wijngaard "Can We Trust the Gospel?").

WHAT THE QUR'AN SAYS ABOUT JESUS

1. *He was born of a virgin* (Sura Maryam 19:16-35). Note the expression by Allah: "That is easy for Me". (v.20) This implies in no uncertain terms that Allah presents the Father figure. Please, not in a physical sense! This is exactly the Christian concept of God being the Father of Jesus Christ.
2. *He was the Messiah* (Sura an-Nisa 4:171). The Qur'an does not define the word Messiah. So we must assume that the Biblical meaning is accepted. The predicted and accepted function of the Messiah was that of the redeemer from sin.
3. *He was a Spirit from God* (Sura an-Nisa 4: 171).
4. *He was the Word of God* (Sura an-Nisa 4: 171). This may also mean "the expression of God". This again is in perfect keeping with the Bible (John 1:1-14, Colossians 1:15).

5. *He was faultless* (Trans. by Muhammad Marmaduke Pickthall) or holy (Trans. by A. Yusuf Ali) (Sura Maryam 19:19). This was said in contrast to any other man or prophet. Adam sinned (Sura al-Baqarah 2:36, 7:22, 23). Abraham sinned (Sura al-Shu'ara 26:82). Moses sinned (Sura al-Qasas 28:15, 16). Jonah sinned (Sura as-Saffat 37:142). David sinned (Sura Sad 38:24, 25).
6. *He is illustrious in this world and in the hereafter* (Sura Al-Imran 3:45).
7. *He was taken up to heaven by God* (Sura an-Nisa 4: 158).
8. *He will come back to earth for judgment* (Sura az-Zukhruf 43:61 trans. by Yusuf Ali and Mishkat 4, pp.78-80).

Can anyone, in the light of these statements alone, claim that Jesus was an ordinary man or prophet? Where is a prophet with like qualities and attributes?

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT JESUS

Did you ever consider that the name "Jesus" actually has a meaning? This name has great significance, for it was not only predicted in the Torah, but also given to Mary by the angel Gabriel. Jesus is the English form of the Hebrew word "Yeshuah", and that means "Salvation." To deny that Jesus is our Salvation is a denial of him altogether, for if we make him less, we dishonor him. The Old Testament, which was recorded between 1500 - 400 BC predicted or prophesied the coming of Yeshuah (Jesus), the Messiah, in many passages. The New Testament which is the recorded life and teaching of Jesus, confirms these prophecies fully.

This salvation through Jesus, the Messiah is well presented in the Gospel. Out of the 89 chapters of the Gospel some 27 report on the last week in the life of Jesus. In order to establish the truth we must again look at the evidence.

Eyewitness Reports

These happenings did not occur in a hidden corner, away from any witnesses. They took place in public and all Israel was aware of them. When the Gospel was written down by the four recorders the whole of Israel would have stood up in protest against these had they been forgeries. On the contrary, the Apostles repeatedly challenged the people to question the many eyewitnesses. Paul in his defense before King Agrippa said:

To deny that Jesus is our Salvation is a denial of him altogether, for if we make him less, we dishonor him

“I am speaking the sober truth. For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak freely; for I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this was not done in a corner”. (Acts 26:26)

Also Peter on the Day of Pentecost shortly after the crucifixion said to a great multitude of Jews:

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know

- this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.” (Acts 2:22-24)

We note that the Jews never denied the execution of Jesus by crucifixion. They denied his Messiah-ship and resurrection.

A little later Peter and some of the other Apostles were put into prison for their teaching. While being interrogated by the Council of the Jews, they replied:

“We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance

to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.” (Acts 5:29b-32)

Paul likewise referred to a double security: it is “in accordance with the Scriptures” (reference to prophecy in the Torah) and evidenced by many witnesses of whom at that time most were alive to be questioned. This was mentioned in a letter to the people in Greece, for in Israel there would have been little need to mention it:

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Kephias, (i.e. Peter) then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.” (1Corinthians 15:3-7)

This again is supported by the Apostle Peter just before his execution, emphasizing the eyewitness report by pointing to the fulfilled prophecy as “more sure”. A witness may lie. Even many witnesses may. But in prophecy and its fulfillment there can be no flaw!

“We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased’, we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word made more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

First of all you must understand this that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”
(2 Peter 1:16-21)

History Confirms the Gospel

We all know that old historical annals and records hardly ever deal with anything other than wars, heroes and contemporary leaders. Consequently, it can hardly be expected that occurrences in such remote places as Galilee and Judea would merit mention. And if they did, the events of war and royalty would be the main features. Even so, there are references that support the Biblical record.

Cornelius Tacitus was the greatest historian of the Roman Empire. He relates how the Christians were hated by the populace for their “crimes” and how they were made scapegoats to suffer punishment for the great fire of Rome which Nero caused in AD 64.

“The name Christian,” he writes, “comes to them from Christ, who was executed in the reign of Tiberius by the Procurator Pontius Pilate; and the pernicious

superstition, suppressed for a while, broke out afresh and spread not only through Judea, the source of the malady, but even throughout Rome itself, where everything vile comes and is feted."

It is clear that Tacitus had no sympathy for Christianity: practiced as it was by the lower classes in general and Orientals in particular. His evidence is, therefore, all the more valuable. ("Runaway World" by Michael Green)

Josephus was one of the Jewish leaders involved in the insurrection against Rome AD 70. He wrote in his "Antiquitates iudaicae" (AD 93) and "De bello iudaicae" (AD 75-79) to inform the Roman public about the religion of his fathers. . . In these we meet many figures known to us from the New Testament: Pilate, Annas, Caiaphas, Herod, Cyrenius, Felix, Festus and others. He also writes about John the Baptist, his preaching, baptizing and execution. Of greatest importance, however, is his reference to Jesus himself.

"Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was the Christ (Messiah). And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day." ("Antiquitates iudaicae", Vol. 18,111:3)

Fulfilled Prophecy Confirms the Gospel

We all know of Jesus' miracles. But introducing miracles in the "Mishkat", Al-Haj Maulana Fazlul Karim rightly states:

"The greatest thing in miracles is a prophecy i.e. a forecast of future events. This is not a political forecast but a forecast of future secrets derived from Divine Knowledge. Prophecy is greatest for the following reasons. It can be historically proved but a miracle cannot. Prophecy manifests God's foreknowledge, while a miracle God's power. As knowledge is greater than power, prophecy is greater than a miracle."

In the Gospel as recorded by Matthew no fewer than 60 references are made to fulfilled prophecies! A selection (and from the other disciples of Jesus,) may prove this point.

Prophecy of Jesus' birthplace and pre-existence c.700 BC:

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." (Micah 5:2)

Fulfillment:

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to be registered with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:4-7)

Prophecy of the virgin birth, divinity and unique sonship of Jesus c.700 BC:

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." (God with us) (Isaiah 7:14)

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the

government will be on his shoulder, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!" (Isaiah 9:6)

Fulfillment:

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; and she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins! All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel' (which means, God with us)". (Matthew 1: 18-23)
This is confirmed by many passages in the Qur'an.

Prophecy concerning the time of the coming of Jesus was given by the prophet Daniel c.500 BC in chapter 9:24ff.

This passage is rather too involved for a booklet of this type. The interested reader may acquire more information by writing to the address given at the end of this booklet.

Prophecy foretelling that he came to save and to heal c.700 BC:

"Behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; He will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped." (Isaiah 35:4, 5)

Fulfillment:

A. He came to save.

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21).

“For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10)

“No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has

come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds be exposed.

But he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God.” (John 3:13-21)

“But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from law, although the law and the prophets bear witness to it, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction; since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as an expiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies him who has faith in Jesus.” (Romans 3:21-26)

“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God.” (Romans 5:1, 2)

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8:1)

B. He came to heal.

“And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ He said, ‘Lord, let me receive my sight.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.’ And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people when they saw it, gave praise to God.” (Luke 18:40-43)

“And he went about Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them.” (Matthew 4:23, 24)

“Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?’ And Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see; the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is he who takes no offence at me.” (Matthew 11:2-6)

“That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, ‘He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.’” (Matthew 8:16, 17)

“And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus’ feet he besought him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. . . a man from the ruler’s house came and said, ‘Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more.’ But Jesus on hearing this answered him, ‘Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well.’ And when he came to the house . . . all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, ‘Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping.’ And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, ‘Child arise!’ And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. . .” (Luke 8:41-55; see also Luke 7:1-10)

Prophecy predicting the name of Jesus c.700 BC:

"Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken ye people from far, the Lord has called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother has he made mention of my name. And he has made my mouth like a sharp sword; . . . I will also give you for a light to the Gentiles, that you may be my salvation (Hebrew i.e. Yeshuah, the actual name of Jesus, when he lived in Israel) unto the end of the earth. Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despises, to him whom the nation abhors." (Isaiah 49: 1-7; see also 12:2,3 in the light of John 7:37, 4:10-14, Revelation 21:6, Isaiah 52:10, etc.)

Fulfillment:

The Angel told Joseph:

"She (Mary) shall bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

Up to this point Muslims and Christians can reasonably agree, although Muslims might dispute the passage in Isaiah that foretells or determines Jesus' deity and sonship. But we have to consider the substantial weight of his claim to be God in prophecy and fulfillment.

Remember: Of no other man can it be said that

1. He was born in such a miraculous way
2. He could heal all manner of diseases and raise the dead
3. He cast out evil spirits
4. He was sinless and holy. . . (Sura 19:19; Hebrews 4:15; 1John 3:5; 2Corinthians 5:21; 1Peter 2:22; Isaiah 53:9; etc.)
5. He is the Word of God... (Sura 4:171, John 1:1, 2, 14)
6. He is a Spirit from God. . . (Sura 4: 171)
7. His life is foretold in such detail hundreds of years before its fulfillment.

Let us now consider the end of the life of Jesus as predicted in the Old Testament, and its fulfillment.

Prophecy of Jesus' humble entry to Jerusalem on a donkey c.480 BC:

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, your King comes to you (!), he is just and having salvation; lowly and riding upon a colt, the foal of an ass (donkey)." (Zechariah 9:9)

Fulfillment:

"And when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will

find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them', and he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your King is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass.'

"The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!'" (Matthew 21: 1-9)

Prophecy of the betrayal of Jesus c. 480 BC:

"Yea, my own familiar friend, in whom I trusted. . . has lifted up his heel against me." (Psalm 41:9)

"And I said to them, if you think good, give me my price, and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said unto me: cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prized at of them, (i.e. the price of a slave). And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord." (Zechariah 11:12, 13)

Fulfillment:

“Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. And when they heard it they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.

And when it was evening he came with the twelve. And as they were at the table eating, Jesus said, ‘Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.’ They began to be sorrowful, and to say to him one after another, ‘Is it I?’ He said to them, ‘It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. For the Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to the man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.’ “Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, ‘The one I shall kiss is the man; seize him and lead him away under guard.’ And when he came, he went up to him at once, and said, ‘Master!’ And he kissed him. And they laid hands on him and seized him.” (Mark 14:10, 11, 17-21, 43-46)

“When Judas, his betrayer, saw that he (Jesus) was condemned he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders saying, ‘I have sinned in betraying innocent blood.’ They said, ‘What is that to us? See to it yourself.’ And throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, ‘It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.’ So they took counsel, and bought with them the potter’s field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.” (Matthew 27:3-8)

Prophecy of the suffering and death by crucifixion of Jesus c.700 BC:

“When we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and we hid our faces from him: he was despised and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows, yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him and with his stripes we are healed.

All we, like sheep, have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way, but the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.

He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living. For the transgressions of my people he was stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked (crucified between two criminals!) and with the rich in his death (he was buried in the tomb of a wealthy man), because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him. He has put him to grief.

When you shall make his soul an offering (sacrifice) for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied.

By his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many (not ALL!), for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he has poured out his soul unto death and was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.” (Isaiah 53)

c. 1000 BC:

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? . . .’ All that see me laugh me to scorn, they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying: He trusted on the Lord. But you are he, who took me out of the womb. You made me hope, when I was upon my mother’s breast.

They gape upon me with their mouths as a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water and all my bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax. It is melted in the midst of my bowels.

My strength is dried up like a potsherd and my tongue cleaves to my jaws and you have brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have encompassed me, the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me; they pierced my hands and my feet! I may tell all my bones; they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them and cast lots upon my vesture.” (Psalm 22: 1, 7-9, 13-18)

Fulfillment:

“Jesus answered, ‘My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world.’

Pilate said to him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this I was born and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness of the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.’ Pilate said to him: ‘What is truth?’ After he had said this, he (Pilate) went out to the Jews again, and told them” ‘I find no crime in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover, will you have me release for you the King of the Jews?’ They tried out again, ‘Not this man, but Barabbas!’ Now Barabbas was a robber. .

Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him. And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and arrayed him in a purple robe; they came up to him saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again, and said to them, ‘See, I am bringing him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in him.’ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, ‘Behold the man!’

When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried ‘Crucify him, crucify him!’ Pilate said to them, ‘Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him.’

The Jews answered him, ‘We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God.’ When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus, ‘Where are you from?’ But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, ‘You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?’ Jesus

answered him, 'You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin.'

Upon this Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, 'If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar.'

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, 'Behold your King!' They cried out, 'Away with him, away with him, crucify him!' Pilate then said to them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but Caesar.' Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of the skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, 'Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.' Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.'

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom so they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.' This was to fulfill the scripture, 'They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.'

So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold, your son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!' And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), 'I thirst.' A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and

held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, 'It is finished,' and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the Day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath (for the Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness, his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth, that you also may believe. For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'Not a bone of him shall be broken.' And again another scripture says, 'They shall look on him whom they have pierced.'" (John 18:36-19:37)

Prophecy of the Resurrection of Jesus c. 1000 BC:

"I have set the Lord always before me, because he is at my right hand I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices. My flesh also shall rest in hope, for you will not leave my soul in Sheol (underworld, grave), neither will you allow your Holy One to see corruption." (Psalm 16:8-10)

Fulfillment:

"But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise.' And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told this to the apostles; but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them." (Luke 24: 1-11)

Prophecy of the Ascension c. 1000 BC:

"The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool." (Psalm 110: 1)

Fulfillment:

"So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?' He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.' And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven, as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes and said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'" (Acts 1:6-11)

Still unfulfilled prophecy of the repentance of Israel and their turning to Jesus c. 480 BC:

"And I will pour upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of supplication (prayer); and they shall look upon me, whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn." (Zechariah 12: 10)

Prophecy of our situation now where people like separating Jesus the Son from God the Father c. 1000 BC:

"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against his Anointed (Anointed i.e. Messiah i.e. Christ), saying, let us break their bands asunder and cast away their cords from us. . . I will declare the decree: The Lord has said unto me: You are my Son; this day have I begotten you (but please understand: not physically), ask of me, and I will give you the heathen for your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth." (Psalm 2:2-8)

Jesus Himself stated:

“The Son of man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28)

“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” (Matthew 26:28)

“God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

“The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep... I lay down my life for the sheep... No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.” (John 10:11, 15, 18)

No critic in the world can explain away the evidence of these prophecies fulfilled. It is unique in all history and

**No man can
undo his sin by
making an effort
to be good.**

to all religious books. It is God's seal that is interwoven with His message to mankind so that any earnest and honest seeker can be totally reassured that he is not reading a fictitious book

by some religious men trying to impose their views on others. No man dare claim on the evidence given above, that the Bible has been corrupted!

Could then the Old Testament perhaps, at least partly, have been written after the New Testament in order to “supply” such “prophecy”? This is unthinkable for several reasons. The Jews guarded the Scriptures with the utmost vigilance and care. They themselves were, in fact, not interested in having these prophecies in their Holy Book, for they contradict their own faith and practice. It is significant that most of the above passages are never read on the regular Sabbath readings in any synagogue. But besides that, the Old Testament was already very widely circulated before Christ and had already been translated into Greek between c.300-200 BC. To then “revise” a text that is widely distributed is quite impossible. Besides, we

have pre-Christian copies of Old Testament books in our possession containing these prophecies.

CONCLUSION

You have dared to compare! Now it is time to reach your own, objective conclusion. You will have noticed:

1. The evidence of the eyewitnesses, historians and the fulfilled prophecies cannot be brushed aside just because it does not fit someone's concepts or expectations.
2. The alleged corruption of the Bible is a malignant slander which misinterprets the Bible as well as the Qur'an. It is based on false concepts and the isolated copying error which is blown up out of proportion. If the Qur'an is subject to the same scrutiny it will be as apparent as with the Bible that human hand was essentially instrumental in its composition.
3. All the evidence backs up the fact that Jesus Christ is what He claims to be in the Bible: The divine and only means of God by which a man may be rescued from the threatening eternal doom which is the result of man's failure to always do His will. By our selfish way of thinking and acting, we have all disobeyed God's divine plan for our lives. Accordingly, all men have become sinners. All need forgiveness in order to be able to enter God's presence in glory. But no man can clear himself.
 - No man can undo his sin by making an effort to be good.
 - No man can be forgiven without asking for the undeserved gift of God: Pardon.
 - According to the Torah and the Gospel this pardon shall not be granted without the punishment being executed on Jesus.

- He is our only way back to God. He is our only hope for eternity.
- No one who has common sense and love for God will overlook these claims without seriously examining them in the light of all the evidence.
- No amount of rejection or persecution by men should intimidate us to reject God's evidenced truth and offer of pardon, forgiveness and the gift of eternal life!

Dear Reader,

What conclusion have you reached after reading this booklet? Please let us know.

We promise a free copy of another of our publications in return to your answers.

1. As a Muslim, have you ever compared the teaching of the Bible with the Qur'an?
2. According to Surah al-Ankabut 29:46 what should be the attitude of a Muslim towards Christians?
3. Why should any true Christian never dare to add or take away anything from the Bible?
4. Give us your opinion about Ibn-Khazm's handling of the contradictions between the Qur'an and the Gospels.
5. What are some of the titles given to Jesus in the Qur'an?
6. Can you give us the actual meaning of the English word 'Jesus'?
7. Name three or more eyewitnesses to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.
8. Explain the significance of 2Peter 1:16-21.
9. What did the Jewish historian Josephus have to say about Jesus?
10. Which of the prophecies and fulfillments about Jesus impressed you most and why?
11. Why is it unthinkable that the Old Testament of parts of it could have been written AFTER the books of the New Testament?
12. What is your conclusion about Jesus Christ?

Please send us your answers together with any questions or issues you would like to discuss.

Thank you.

**Booklets recommended
for our readers:**

1. Made for a Purpose
2. Dare to compare
3. Destination unknown
4. Dear Abdallah
5. Why trust the Bible
6. Man with a message
7. Qur'an and Bible
8. Follow your heart

Al-Kitab (Bible Course for Muslims)

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