

## The Koran and The Bible compared

*The Koran:* Muslims believe that the Koran (Qur'an) was gradually revealed from Allah to Muhammad verbally through the angel Jibrīl (Gabriel) over a period of approximately twenty-three years, beginning in 610 AD, when he was forty, and concluding in 632 AD, the year of his death. Importantly, according to the Koran, the Bible is the inspired Word of God - Muslims are commanded to believe in the Bible (Refer to Suras 2:89; 2:136; 4:13; 4:136; 4:150-152; 32:24; etc.). The Koran clearly states that no one can change God's Word (Bible). For Muslims, this is a fatal contradiction, as we'll soon discover.

...The words of the Lord (the Bible) are perfect in truth and justice; there is none who can change His words. He both heareth and knoweth. (Sura 6:114-115)

If you (Muhammad) doubt what We (Allah) have revealed to you, ask those who have read the Scriptures (the Bible) before you. The truth has come to you from your Lord: therefore do not doubt it. (Suras 10:94-96 and 21:7)

*The Bible:* According to the Bible, it alone is the Word of God. The Bible is complete. Any new revelation (such as the Koran) is condemned.

You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. (Deuteronomy 4:2)

Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar. (Proverbs 30:5-6)

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God... (2 Timothy 3:16)

Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. (Jude 1:3)

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life. (Revelation 22:18, 19)

Because the Bible states that new revelation, such as the Koran, is to be rejected, then either the Bible is wrong or the Koran is wrong. They cannot both be God's Word.

## *Koran - Is It God's Word?*

**Prophecy:** The Koran has no specific, fulfilled prophecies. Only generalizations regarding the Day of Judgement (Sura 77:6-12).

**Historical:** There is no evidence that Allah directed history or that the Koran anticipated future events. In fact, the Koran has numerous errors regarding history.

**Scientific:** No true scientific foreknowledge in the Koran, and many mistakes.

**Archaeology:** Excavations refute and contradict many claims in the Koran.

**Power over death:** There is no evidence that Allah or Muhammad had supernatural power or power over death.

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## *Koran: Errors, Contradictions, and other Problems*

The Koran claims that it is a continuation of the Bible and will not contradict it. Therefore, any verifiable contradiction is enough to prove the Koran is not the inspired Word of God.

We believe in God, and in what hath been revealed unto us, and in that which hath been revealed unto Abraham, and Ishmael, and Isaac, and Jacob, and the tribes; and in what hath been given unto Moses and Jesus, and that which hath been given unto the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them; and unto Him are we resigned.  
(Sura 2:136)

### **Examples of Error in the Koran:**

**Creation** - According to Sura 41:9-12, it took Allah eight days to create the world. Yet, Suras 7:51 and 10:3 agree with the Bible which states that God created the world in six days (Genesis 1:31; Exodus 20:11).

**Noah's Ark** - Sura 11:44 claims Noah's Ark came to rest on top of Mount Judi while the Bible says Mount Ararat (Genesis 8:4).

**Nimrod** - The Koran claims Nimrod threw Abraham into a fire (Suras 21:68,69 and 9:69). This serious error contradicts the Bible and history. Nimrod lived many centuries before Abraham. Nimrod was long dead when Abraham was born (Compare Genesis 10:8, 9; 11:19-26).

**Noah's Flood** - The Koran indicates Noah's flood took place in Abraham's day (compare Sura 7:59 with 7:136). This is a historical impossibility (Genesis 9:28-29; 11:10-26).

**Haman and Babel** - The Koran says that Haman lived in Egypt during the time of Moses and worked for Pharaoh building the tower of Babel (Suras 28:38; 29:39; 40:23, 24, 36, 37). But Haman actually lived many centuries later in Persia and was in the service of King Ahasuerus according to the Book of Esther (Esther 3). This again reveals the Koran contradicts both the Bible and secular history - proving the Koran is not the word of God.

**Crucifixion** - The Koran indicates that crucifixion was used by Pharaoh (Sura 7:124), though history reveals it was not invented until many centuries later.

**Mary or Miriam** - Muhammad confused Mary, the mother of Jesus with Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron (Sura 19:28). This is a very serious error as it reveals that Muhammad and his followers had no understanding of the different time periods for biblical figures. Miriam lived 1500 years before Mary!

**Mary's Miracles** - Muhammad clearly made up fraudulent speeches and miracles for Mary (Sura 19:23-26).

**Fictional Speeches** - Muhammad made up fictional speeches using words that did not exist at the time of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Noah, Moses, Mary, Jesus, etc. For example, Muhammad quotes several Bible characters using the words "Muslim" and "Islam." Yet, these words did not even exist until hundreds and even thousands of years later. (Refer to: Suras 2:60, 126-128, 132-133, 260; 3:49-52, 67; 6:74-82; 7:59-63, 120-126; 10:71, 72; 18:60-70; 19:16-33; etc.)

**Secular History** - Sura 105 claims that the elephant army of Abraha was defeated by birds dropping stones of baked clay upon them. But according to the historical record, Abraha's army withdrew their attack on Mecca after smallpox broke out among the troops.

**Jews** - In Sura 20:87, 95 we are told that the Jews made the golden calf in the wilderness at the suggestion of "the Samaritan." Yet, Samaria did not exist until many centuries after the golden calf incident (Exodus 32; 1 Kings)!

**Alexander the Great** - The Koran claims that Alexander the Great (Dhul-Qarnayn) was a Muslim who worshipped Allah (Sura 18:84-98). Yet, history clearly contradicts this claim.

**Scientific Errors** - The Koran claims that Alexander the Great followed the setting of the sun and found that it went down into the waters of a muddy spring (Sura 18:85, 86)! In contrast, the Bible explains that the sun goes in a circuit (Psalm 19:6).

Some scientists scoffed at this verse thinking that it taught geocentricity – the theory that the sun revolves around the earth. They insisted the sun was stationary. However, we now know that the sun is traveling through space at approximately 600,000 miles per hour. It is literally moving through space in a huge circuit – just as the Bible stated 3,000 years ago!

**Clots of Blood** - Allah claims he created man from clots of blood (Sura 96). This contradicts the Bible and science. The Bible says God created man from the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7; 3:19), and today science confirms that man is indeed made from the elements (dust) of the earth. Scientists have discovered that the human body is comprised of some 28 base and trace elements – all of which are found in the earth.

**More Contradictions** - The Koran contradicts itself in many passages. For example, Sura 32:5 says a day is as a thousand years, while Sura 70:4 states that a day is as fifty-thousand years.

**Abraham or Moses** - The Koran states that Abraham was the first to believe (Sura 6:14). It then turns around and says Moses was the first to believe (Sura 7:143).

**Persecution** - The Koran orders persecution of other religions and demands they pay tribute (bribe money) (Sura 9:5, 29). The Bible teaches us to love our neighbors, strangers, and even our enemies (Leviticus 19:18; Deuteronomy 10:19; Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:35). Even in the Old Testament, God did not order the destruction of a pagan culture until the cancer of sin spread so far as to be incurable and only if they were not willing to repent (Jonah 3 and 4). Furthermore, the Bible commands believers to never take a bribe (Exodus 23:8).

**Arabian Fables** - Many stories in the Koran were well-known fables and folklore before they were written by Muhammad. For example, the story of the she-camel who leapt out of a rock and became a prophet was known long before Muhammad (Suras 7:73-77, 85; 91:14; 54:29).

**Ape Legends** - The Koran reports that an entire village of people were turned into apes because they broke the Sabbath by fishing (Suras 2:65; 7:163-166). This legend precedes Muhammad and his followers – who apparently plagiarized it.

**Rip Van Winkle** - The Koran says that seven men and their animals slept for 309 years in a cave and then awoke perfectly fine (Sura 18:9-26)!

**Jesus Christ** - The Koran rejects and contradicts the Bible's clear teachings concerning Jesus. The Koran states that Jesus was not the Son of God (Sura 5:75; 9:30). Jesus did not die for our sins (Sura 5:19). He was not crucified (Sura 4:157). He was not divine as well as human (Sura 5:75). The Bible repeatedly states that Jesus is the Son of God who died for our sins (John 20:31; 1 Corinthians 15:3; etc.)

**Trinity** - Muhammad mistakenly thought that Christians worshipped three gods: the Father, the Mother (Mary), and the Son (Jesus), (Sura 5:73-75, 116)!

**Racism** - According to the literal Arabic translation of Sura 3:106-107, on Judgment Day, only people with white faces will be saved. People with black faces will be damned. This is racism at its worse form. The Bible teaches that we are all one race - the human race, and that Jesus died for us all (John 3:16-17; Acts 17:26). God has created all mankind from one blood (Acts 17:26; Genesis 5). Today researchers have discovered that we have all descended from one gene pool. For example, a 1995 study of a section of Y chromosomes from 38 men from different ethnic groups around the world was consistent with the biblical teaching that we all come from one man (Adam).

**Summary** – Though the Koran contains Biblical truths and passages, it also contains much Arabian folklore and unbiblical teachings. Muhammad interacted with Jews, Christians, and Catholics, therefore it is no surprise that many of the teachings in the Koran are similar to those taught in the Bible and several appear to be copied right from the Bible (remember the Holy Bible was complete six centuries before The Koran).

While the Koran has no beginning or ending, the Bible alone begins with the creation account, explains man's fall into sin, then explains God's promise to send a Savior, and concludes with Jesus Christ's return, the end of all evil and the curse, and a new heaven and new earth wherein dwells everlasting righteousness, peace and joy for those who trust the Lord. And as we might expect, only God's Word explains the origin of sin and death, the origin of our conscience, God's plan to redeem those who trust Jesus, and God's great love for every person. In fact the Bible alone explains the origin of everything and the consummation of everything!

Furthermore, the Koran has no Savior or plan of salvation. In contrast, the Old Testament (written before Christ – B.C.) declares many prophecies pointing to the Lord Jesus Christ's first coming. And the New Testament is all about our salvation in Jesus – the One who fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies and fulfilled the Law perfectly! Jesus summarized God's grand plan with these words: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

The Koran also contains no specific prophecy. In contrast, as we will document, the Bible contains scores of specific prophecies proving that it is the inspired Word of our Creator.

The Koran portrays Allah as a sovereign dictator who is capricious and unknowable. And though the Koran states that Allah is merciful, it does not teach that He is our loving Father. The Bible teaches that God is intimate and personal, a perfect Father who loves us. God is also righteous and holy and therefore hates wickedness and sin. Therefore because God knew before He created man that man would sin, He had a plan in place to send His only begotten and sinless Son to earth to live a perfect life and suffer and die for every person's sins. Jesus alone died for our sins and rose from the dead! All who repent and trust Jesus will receive forgiveness and eternal life and will spend eternity with our Father in heaven!

## *Evidence That The Bible is God's Word*

Since the time of Christ, skeptics have tried to discredit the authenticity of the Bible. From every conceivable angle, people have attempted to disprove the Bible's claim that it is the inspired Word of God. No other book has received such ferocious and consistent attacks. Yet, the Bible remains the only "Holy Book" on planet earth that establishes itself as God's Word, transcending time and space. When a sincere, truth-seeking person comes to that inevitable fact, they are set free. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32), and He said that God's Word is truth (John 17:17).

This section cannot do justice to the numerous volumes written that test and prove the Bible's reliability and accuracy. We seek only to highlight a small number of the many evidences that prove God has inspired each and every word of the Bible. If you are a skeptic, the question you must ask yourself is this: Are you willing to risk your eternal destiny on the hope that the Bible is not the Word of God? If not, then investigate the claims of Jesus Christ and search His words, to see if they are true. God is not afraid of what you'll find, neither should you be. Examine the world's other self-proclaimed "holy books" and compare their accuracy and reliability with the Bible. As the Bible exhorts: Test ALL things; hold fast what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

### **Prophecy**

Prophecy sets the Bible apart. No other book dares to establish its credibility by predicting future events before they happen. Yet, the Bible, predicts hundreds and even thousands of specific events. All of them have been fulfilled precisely, or are being fulfilled in these last days. God alone transcends His creation, and He alone can declare the future with 100% certainty. While many false prophets have an occasional hit, often because they simply plagiarize the Bible, only the Bible has 100% hits, 100% of the time. God does not "predict", when He says something will come to pass, it will! God declares:

For I am God, and there is no other; I am God and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure..." (Isaiah 46:9, 10).

The Bible has accurately predicted the rise and fall of many ancient kingdoms. The Bible has foretold specific earth-shaking and history-making events, which were fulfilled literally. The Bible has predicted the entire history of Israel in intimate detail, and to date, the Word of God has proven itself faithful and true. The Bible anticipated the Messiah with scores of prophecy references, all fulfilled in Jesus Christ. We begin with the Messianic prophecies.

## **Jesus Christ in Prophecy**

The Old Testament predicted the coming of God's Anointed One, Jesus Christ, in amazing detail. For example, Jesus is the only person in history whose genealogy was written in detail centuries before He was even born! Here is a sampling of some of the prophecies fulfilled in Christ.

<b><u>Old Testament Messianic Prophecy</u></b>	<b><u>New Testament Fulfillment</u></b>
Genesis 3:15 - Seed of a woman, virgin birth anticipated	Galatians 4:4
Genesis 12:3 - He would be the Seed of Abraham	Matthew 1:1
Genesis 49:10 - From the tribe of Judah	Luke 3:33
Micah 5:2 - Messiah would be born in Bethlehem	Matthew 2:1
Jeremiah 31:15 - Herod would kill children	Matthew 2:16
Isaiah 40:3 - Preceded by a messenger (John the Baptist)	Matthew 3:1, 2
Psalms 2:7 - Son of God	Matthew 3:17
Deuteronomy 18:15 - Jesus would be a prophet	Luke 1:76; Acts 3:20-22
Isaiah 61:1, 2 - He would heal the brokenhearted	Luke 4:18, 19
Isaiah 9:6, 7 - Messiah fully God and fully Man	John 10:30-33
Psalms 35:19 - Hated without cause	John 15:24, 25
Daniel 9:25 - Exact date of Jesus' triumphal entry	Mark 11:7-11
Zachariah 9:9, 10 - Palm Sunday, Triumphal entry	Mark 11:7, 9, 11
Psalms 41:9 - Betrayed by a friend	Luke 22:47, 48
Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12 (several prophecies) Despised, rejected, man of sorrows, paid for our sins	John 1:11; Luke 23:18; Romans 5:6-8
Psalms 69:21 - Gall and vinegar offered Him	Matthew 27:34
Zachariah 12:10 - He would be Crucified	John 19:34; John 20:27
Psalms 109:4 - Prayer for His enemies	Luke 23:34

Psalm 22 (several prophecies) Scorned and mocked; hands and feet pierced	Luke 23:35; Matthew 27:35
Psalm 31:5 - His mission committed to God the Father	Luke 23:46
Psalm 34:20 - Jesus' bones would not be broken	John 19:33
Psalm 16:10; Psalm 49:15 - He would rise from the dead	Mark 16:6
Psalm 68:18 - He would ascend to God bodily	Mark 16:19; Eph. 4:8-10

### **Statistically Impossible**

This only represents a few dozen of the over 300 prophecies that Jesus fulfilled. It is statistically impossible for one man to fulfill all of these prophecies by chance. To illustrate, let's calculate the odds of just eight of these prophecies being fulfilled in any one person.

- 1) What's the chance that a man would be born in the tiny town of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)? Scholars have conservatively estimated that during Jesus' day, the chance would be 1 in 200,000.
- 2) How many kings have entered their city on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9)? Let's be very conservative and say 1 in 100.
- 3) How many people have been denied by a friend for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12)? Certainly less than 1 in 1000.
- 4) How often is betrayal money used to buy a potter's field (Zechariah 11:13)? Probably none, other than Jesus, but let's say 1 in 100,000.
- 5) Of those who were murdered, how many were wounded in their hands (Zechariah 13:6)? No more than 1 in 1000.
- 6) How many criminals who are innocent offer no defense at their trial (Isaiah 53:7)? I've never heard of one except Christ, but let's say 1 in 1000.
- 7) Of those crucified, how many died with the wicked, but had their grave with the rich (Isaiah 53:9)? Certainly fewer than 1 in 1000.
- 8) Of all the people who have been put to death, what portion were crucified (Psalm 22:16)? Maybe 1 in 10,000.

Taking just these eight prophecies, the probability that one man would fulfill just these eight is 1 chance 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000!!!<sup>1</sup> And that's only eight of the over 300 fulfilled prophecies. Any person rejecting Jesus Christ as the Son of God is rejecting a fact proven more absolutely than any other fact in the world. Any person rejecting the accuracy and inerrancy of God's Word is simply choosing to ignore the evidence.

Of course, the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled are only one example of irrefutable evidence that the Bible is God's inspired Word. There are many more proofs that establish God's Word as inerrant and unequalled.

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<sup>1</sup> Chuck Missler, *Footprints of the Messiah*, Coeur d' Alene, ID, 1994, pp. 9-11, audiocassette with notes.



## Last Days Prophecies

The Bible tells us in great detail what will happen in the Last Days – just before the Lord Jesus returns. We have compiled a list of *101 Last Days Prophecies* that you can review online at: <http://www.eternal-productions.org/101prophecy.html> Here are just ten Last Days prophecies given in the Bible:

- 1) The Christian gospel would be preached as a witness to all nations (Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:10; Revelation 14:6). Today, portions or all of the Bible have been translated into thousands of languages and dialects covering over 90% of the world's population. No other book compares in translations and distribution.
- 2) Global communications foreseen (Revelation 11:9-10; 17:8). The Bible prophesies that the entire world will "see" certain events unfold. The invention of the television and the deployment of global satellite networks during the 20th century allow news to travel the world at the speed of light for the first time ever. Remember that in the apostle John's day, news traveled at the speed of horseback.
- 3) Mankind would be capable of destroying all life (Matthew 24:21-22). Consider that when Jesus made this prophecy the armaments of His day were swords and spears. But today, with nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, it is possible to wipe out all flesh on planet earth.
- 4) The use of nuclear weapons anticipated (Zechariah 14:12). The neutron bomb melts (dissolves) its victims – just as God warned 2500 years ago – "Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths." This was unimaginable in Zechariah's day.
- 5) There would be a global cry for peace (1 Thessalonians 5:3). Never has there been such a concerted, global effort to bring about peace at any cost as there is today.
- 6) The Antichrist would use (false) peace to destroy many (Daniel 8:23-25). With all the problems facing mankind, multitudes are looking for a "savior" to usher in peace and prosperity without moral accountability. The Antichrist will promise the world and Israel such a peace if they follow him – but his intentions will be sinister.
- 7) In the last days Israel would have a peace treaty in place that the Antichrist will confirm and eventually break (Daniel 9:27). Currently the world's governments are striving for an Israeli peace treaty.
- 8) Damascus would be destroyed (Isaiah 17:1, 14; Jeremiah 49:23-27; Amos 1:3-5; Zechariah 9:1-8). Damascus, Syria is increasingly in the news and is extremely anti-Semitic. Many terrorist organizations have their bases in Damascus. God declares that they will become a ruinous heap because they have violently taken what was not theirs. In 2007 Israel vowed to wipe Syria off the map if Syria attacked by chemical weapons.
- 9) Chaotic weather would be prevalent (Luke 21:25-26). Jesus foresaw "the seas and the waves roaring" in the last days. He also likened these signs to birth pangs (Matthew 24:8). The Greek word *odin*, often translated as sorrows in Matthew 24:8, literally means birth pangs. Furthermore, the apostle Paul reminded us that the creation itself will be delivered from the curse at the end of the age (Romans 8:21). And that the "the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs" (Romans 8:22). As delivery draws near, birth pangs always increase in both intensity and frequency. Therefore, the creation itself would travail as the time of delivery draws near. Of course chaotic weather is not new, but there are indications that we are witnessing an increase in strange weather.
- 10) There would be a move toward a global government (Daniel 2:40-44; 7:23; Revelation 13:7-8). The former Roman Empire – which encompassed present-day Europe – would revive and eventually dominate the world. The European Union has steadily moved forward in its attempt to unite Europe politically and economically. It has succeeded in creating a European parliament, a court, and a common currency. And globalization is not unique to Europe, it is happening everywhere.

## **The Resurrection**

The capstone of Christianity is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. No other person in history predicted his own death and subsequent resurrection, and then proved his assertion by appearing to hundreds after his death, in his resurrected body. This fact alone, proves that Jesus is exactly who He said He was - God in human form.<sup>2</sup> But, what hard evidence exists that establishes Jesus' resurrection as an historic fact?

To begin with, all the apostles claimed to be eyewitnesses of Jesus after His resurrection. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter, and Jude all write that Jesus' resurrection is an historic fact.<sup>3</sup> The resurrection was even reported by secular historians.<sup>4</sup> The apostle Peter writes, "For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, **but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.**" (2 Peter 1:16). Here are a few of the many historical evidences that verify the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### **Fact #1 - The Resurrection Changed History**

Jesus' life, death, and resurrection actually changed the course of history, as no life has ever done. So much so that most of the world's calendars revolve around His birth, from B.C. (Before Christ) to A.D. (the Latin *Anno Domini* - the year of our Lord). Though His followers have been tortured, burned, fed to the lions, and persecuted throughout the ages, Christ remains the central, most influential person ever to walk this earth. If evidence existed that Jesus had not risen, and was thus a liar, He would have been dismissed as one of the many false prophets who have come and gone throughout history. Yet, no contrary evidence has ever held up. And despite the attempts of many to bury this truth and discredit the resurrection, the resurrected Jesus remains the central figure of world history because of this indisputable fact.

### **Fact #2 - The Empty Tomb**

Another obvious fact confirming the resurrection was the empty tomb. Though the Jewish and Roman authorities went to great lengths to guard and seal the tomb, Jesus still rose. Both the Jewish and Roman authorities wanted to squash this new sect. In order to do so, all they would have needed to do was produce the body. As the only ruling authorities they used every means at their disposal to keep Jesus in the grave. Yet, they were unable to because He supernaturally rose. No conspiracy could have accomplished what God alone did. Many Jewish and Gentile skeptics became followers of Christ because of the irrefutable evidence surrounding the resurrection. If the resurrection was some sort of hoax, certainly the world power of that day, Rome, would have exposed the deception and ended the much hated Christian sect.

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<sup>2</sup> John 10:30-33; Philippians 2:5-8

<sup>3</sup> James and Jude write about Jesus' Second Coming, which presumes He has previously risen.

<sup>4</sup> The Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, who lived during the first century AD, reported the resurrection in *Antiquities*. xviii.33. Cf. Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*, San Bernardino, CA, Here's Life Publishers, Inc., 1972, p. 82.

### **Fact #3 - Appearances of Christ Confirmed**

Jesus appeared to hundreds of people on various occasions in His resurrected body. The apostle Paul, who had previously persecuted the early Christians until he met the risen Lord, explains that over 500 people witnessed the resurrected Jesus at one time (1 Corinthians 15:3-8). Paul uses as evidence to Christ's resurrection the fact that most of the 500 witnesses were still alive at that time. In other words, try to tell those 500 witnesses He didn't really rise from the dead, they were all eyewitnesses! Again, if the Jewish authorities or the Roman government could produce the body, they would have, and Christianity would have died on the spot. Yet, hundreds of eyewitnesses spread the Good News of Christ's resurrection around the world, much to the exasperation of both the Jewish and Roman authorities.

### **Fact #4 - It Changed Lives**

The same men who cowered at Christ's trial and denied Jesus during His crucifixion, were the same men who became bold witnesses after His resurrection. All of them suffered greatly for their conviction that Christ was risen. All of Jesus' apostles, except John, were martyred. What motivated these former cowards, to go everywhere proclaiming the message of the risen Christ? Only indisputable evidence of the fact that Jesus rose could explain their turn-around. They all testified to their very death, when they could have bought their freedom simply by denying Christ. Why would these former fearful men suffer great persecution and even death for a lie?

Of course, since the time of Christ, millions have been persecuted, tortured and killed for their belief in Jesus Christ.<sup>5</sup> If this was simply a first century conspiracy, why would millions give their lives and all they had, unless they had unshakable faith in the resurrected Christ? These men and women discovered such awesome news that they were compelled to share this news, at any cost.

### **Israel in Prophecy**

There is so much evidence for believing that the Bible is God's inspired Word. For instance, the Bible predicts the entire future of Israel in minute detail. Can you think of any nation or ethnic group that was destroyed and dispersed thousands of years ago, yet remains today? What group of people have retained their national, cultural, and ethnic identity for more than a few hundred years?

Only one - the tiny nation of Israel! And, amazingly, God predicted each and every event.<sup>6</sup> This tiny nation, about the size of New Jersey, remains today, though it was laid waste some 2000 years ago. And although Israel's inhabitants were dispersed to the four corners of the globe, they remained an identifiable, national, ethnic group. The Jews are the only people in history who have not been absorbed or assimilated into other cultures after their dispersion. We find Jews everywhere. American Jews. Russian Jews. Ethiopian Jews. For this reason, they have even been labeled the "wandering Jews."

But why would they remain Jews? All other nations or kingdoms, most much larger than Israel, have been assimilated or absorbed by the nation that conquered them.

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<sup>5</sup> John Foxe, *The New Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, rewritten and updated by Harold J. Chadwick, North Brunswick, NJ, Bridge-Logos Publishers, 1997.

<sup>6</sup> Randall Price, *Jerusalem in Prophecy*, Eugene, OR, Harvest House Publishers, 1998.

Why don't we have American Romans? The Roman empire dominated the world at one time, yet the ethnic and national identity of that once proud empire has been lost. Why don't we hear about Russian Babylonians? The Babylonian empire was huge, and yet their ethnic and national identity has also been completely lost.

Israel is unique. They are God's chosen people. Their very existence testifies to the reliability and accuracy of the Bible. God warned His people that if they disobeyed Him and followed after the ways of the pagan nations, that they would be scattered abroad. In many Bible passages, God predicts that Israel would be dispersed to the four corners of the globe, if they did not follow His Word.

[If the Jews do not obey the Lord] then the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other... (Deuteronomy 28:64).

### **Israel Returns**

Yet, God predicted a time, during the last days, when He would bring back His people into their own land, never to be uprooted again.

So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds...But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went...[Therefore] I will sanctify My great name...For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land (Ezekiel 36:19-24).

This happened on May 14, 1948, when Israel was once again declared a sovereign state! And today, Jewish people continue to stream back into their homeland, just as God prophesied.

This is remarkable, and absolutely unique to the nation Israel. It has never happened before, and yet, as God's Word predicted, it has occurred right before our very eyes! No one can honestly dismiss the Bible, based on these facts alone. Of course, individuals do not reject the Bible due to a lack of evidence, but because they don't want to be accountable to the God of the Bible.<sup>7</sup> Also, we must realize Satan is blinding the eyes of unbelievers. We need to pray that their eyes would be opened.

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them (2 Corinthians 4:3, 4).

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<sup>7</sup> John 3:19-20; Romans 1:18-21

### **Many More Reasons to Believe**

There are thousands of evidences that establish the Bible as God's Word. Most Christian book stores have a large section of books that defend and establish this fact. We could look at the many evidences found this century by archaeologists that support the historical accounts of the Bible. Or we could investigate the numerous scientific evidences that show the Bible is faithful and true. Or we could examine the scientific foreknowledge found throughout the Bible. Instead, we will list a few helpful resources for those who are sincerely seeking the truth.

<b>Web Address</b>	<b>Content</b>
<a href="http://www.answersingenesis.org">www.answersingenesis.org</a>	Science
<a href="http://www.calvarychapel.org">www.calvarychapel.org</a>	Many resources on biblical subjects
<a href="http://www.christiananswers.net">www.christiananswers.net</a>	A wealth of information on biblical topics
<a href="http://www.eternal-productions.org">www.eternal-productions.org</a>	Prophecy, Creation, and the Law
<a href="http://www.icr.org">www.icr.org</a>	Science and Apologetics
<a href="http://www.khouse.org">www.khouse.org</a>	Many resources including on-line Bible
<a href="http://www.understandthetimes.org">www.understandthetimes.org</a>	Science and Prophecy

Another excellent resource is Josh McDowell's two volume book, *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*, published by Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN, 1972.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> See also, Josh McDowell, *More Than A Carpenter*, Wheaton, IL., Living Books, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1977.

## Where Will You Spend Eternity?

### *The Test*

Let's say that despite all the evidence to the contrary, you still believe the Koran is God's Word. If so, will you go to heaven when you die based on the Koran? According to the Koran, the words of Moses and Jesus are God-inspired and without error (Sura 2:136). According to their words you must always keep and obey God's Commandments (The Ten Commandments and the entire Law) in order to enter Heaven. Please test yourself:

### *God's Commandments*

Have you ever lied (white lies and exaggeration are lies in God's sight)? What does that make you? A liar. (Exodus 20:16; Matthew 5:37)

Have you ever stolen anything (a paper clip counts, cheating on taxes, etc. - God is not interested in the amount)? What does that make you? A thief. (Exodus 20:15; Matthew 19:18)

Have you ever lusted for a woman in your heart (this means you sexually desired another person besides your spouse)? According to God, what are you? An adulterer and a fornicator (Exodus 20:17; Matthew 5:27,28). Have you ever been angry or hated another person in your heart without a just cause? According to Moses and Jesus you are a murderer at heart (Exodus 20:13; Matthew 5:21,22)!

### *Truth In The Heart*

We could go on with this test. Jesus explains that sin is conceived in the heart and only the pure in heart will see God (Matthew 5:8; Mark 7:21-23). If you've ever placed someone or something above God you are an idolater. If you've gotten drunk once, you're a drunkard. If you've gotten high just once, you're a sorcerer. If you swore just once, you're a blasphemer. If you've cursed in your heart your enemy you are deserving of hell. If you think you haven't sinned, God's Word says your calling God a liar! That is self-righteous pride and it is the reason Satan will be cast into the lake of Fire (Isaiah 12:12-15; Rev. 20:10).

These are not my words, but God's: "Cursed (damned) is the one who does not confirm (keep and obey) all the words of this law (God's commandments)" (Deuteronomy 27:26). Jesus said: "you shall be perfect just as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). Worse than that, you sinned with understanding. The Word of God states that God has written His commandments on each man's heart (Romans 2:14-15). Your own heart and words will condemn you on judgment day.

### *Is There Hope?*

Yes there is! The Koran agrees with the Bible that Jesus was sinless (Sura 19:29-34;) (Ironically, the Koran admits that Muhammad was a sinner - Sura 40:55). Jesus alone fulfilled and kept every single commandment. He came to earth to pay the penalty for our sins. All who turn from their evil ways and accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior will be saved. "For He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21). "But God

demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Put your trust in Jesus and His Word and your sins will be forgiven and you will receive the gift of everlasting life with God in heaven. You will go to heaven! “a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ” (Galatians 2:16).

## Appendix: More Comparisons

### *Salvation - How to enter Heaven*

**Islam:** Salvation is a combination of good works, the confession of faith, and rituals. First, a person must confess: 1) “*There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the prophet of Allah.*” Followed by: 2) Ritual prayer 3) Almsgiving 4) Fasting 5) A pilgrimage to Mecca. Allah says that those who do many good deeds will earn heaven. (Sura 101:6-9). This goes against common sense - If God is the Source, Originator, and Creator of all things, than we cannot EARN anything from God - all is a FREE gift!

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.  
(James 1:17)

**Christianity:** Salvation is through Jesus Christ alone, by Grace (a FREE gift) alone, through Faith alone. Jesus Christ is the Creator who became a man to rescue man from sin and death. The Bible states,

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Ephes. 2:8, 9).

For the wages of sin is death, but the (Free) gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23)

By repenting of our sins and putting our faith in Jesus, who paid for our sins on the cross, we will be saved!

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### *Muhammad or Jesus Christ: Who to trust with eternal life.*

**Muhammad:** Muslims believe that Jesus was born of a virgin, and that Jesus was created directly by the Word of God. Muslims also believe that Jesus was a sinless prophet, but they strongly deny that Jesus is the Son of God (Sura 4:171). Muslims believe that Muhammad (who was born around 570 A.D., which is over 500 years after Jesus) was the last prophet of Allah. But, they acknowledge that Muhammad was a sinner. Muhammad even had 16 wives and 6 concubines. One of his wives was only 8 years old! The Koran only allows for 4 wives (Sura 4:3). Jesus said marriage is between one man and one woman for life (Matthew 19:4-6; Genesis 2:24).

**Jesus Christ:** The Bible reveals that Jesus Christ is the only bridge between God and man. Jesus is fully God and fully man. Jesus offers us eternal life if we accept Him as



our personal Lord and Savior. Jesus is the only sinless and perfect Man, and He alone died for our sins and rose from the dead bodily. Jesus not only claimed to be God, but history proves His claims true. The Historian Josephus and the Roman procurator - Pontius Pilate, who were both living in the times of Jesus, confirm that Jesus was sinless. On the other hand, Muhammad performed no miracles; made no claims to be God; and his bones remain in his grave to this very day. The Koran points out that Muhammad needed to confess his sins (Sura 40:55), and at one point even considered suicide.

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### *God or Allah*

The Koran declares that Allah is the God of the Bible and the Koran. But, the many contradictions between the Koran and the Bible, indicate that the Koran was not inspired by the God of the Bible. And because both the Bible and the Koran declare that there is no other god besides God, they can not both be inspired by God.

### *Summary*

The Bible is the only holy book that has verifiable fulfilled prophecy. The Bible was completed six hundred years before the Koran was written, and there were thousands of copies distributed in several languages around the world. It would be impossible for all those translations to be corrupted by the Jews or the Christians as some Muslims contend.

In addition, original Bible manuscripts have been discovered this century, that prove that the Bible has not been mistranslated. The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered just a few decades ago (1940's), and they date back hundreds of years before the Koran. And our Bible today agrees with these ancient manuscript Scrolls.

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### *Some additional Koran verses related to this article:*

Muslims believe they can earn salvation by their righteous actions: "Every man's actions have we hung around his neck, and on the last day shall be laid before him a wide-open book." (Sura 17:13)

Muslims believe that those Christians who don't receive the new revelation (of the Koran) are their enemies: "And from those who say, we are Christians, we (Muslims) have received their covenant; but they have forgotten part of what they were admonished; wherefore we have raised up enmity among them till the day of Resurrection." (Sura 5:17)

The Koran commands Muslims to believe in all scriptures including the Bible, or else they will suffer in hell: "Those who rejected the Book, and that which we have sent our

messengers with, - they shall know, when the collar shall be on their necks, and chains by which they shall be dragged into hell - then shall they be burned in fire.” (Sura 40:70-72)

Despite the fact that many Muslims say that the Bible has been mistranslated, the Koran commands Muslims to receive the Bible without doubt. “And verily we gave Moses the book (Bible); wherefore be not in doubt as to the reception of it.” (Sura 32:240)

The Koran denies that God has a Son: “How can He (God) have a son when He has no consort?” (Sura 6:101)

The Koran denies that Jesus is God’s son: “Christ Jesus the son of Mary was (no more than) an apostle of God, and His Word, which He bestowed on Mary, and a Spirit proceeding from Him: so believe in God and His apostles. Say not ‘Trinity’; desist: It will be better for you: For God is one God: Glory be to Him: (Far exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens and on the earth. And enough is God as disposer of affairs.” (Sura 4:171)

The Koran teaches that Muhammad was the last and greatest prophet: “(Muhammad is the) Seal of the Prophets.” (Sura 33:40)

Muslims believe that Christianity is the closest religion to their own: “And nearest among them (Muslims) in love to the believers wilt thou find those who say, ‘We are Christians’” (Sura 5:85)

But, Muslims believe that Christians should convert to Islam: “And when they (Christians) listen to the revelation received by the apostle (Muhammad), thou wilt see their eyes overflowing with tears, for they recognize the truth (Islamic faith).” (Sura 5:86)