

# Chapter 5

## The Qur'an

### 5.1 How did we receive the Qur'an today?

### 5.2 Muslim claims for the Qur'an

#### 5.2.1 Claim: The poetic quality of the Qur'an is proof of its divine inspiration

The Qur'an is proclaimed as the most amazing piece of literature of which no human literature can compare. Sura 10:37,38 summarizes this claim by saying:

*This Qur'an could not have been devised by any but God. It confirms what was revealed before it and fully explains the Scriptures. It is beyond doubt from the Lord of the Universe.*

*If they say: He invented it himself, say: Bring me one chapter like it. Call on whom you may besides God to help you, if what you say be true!. N.J. Dawood translation.*

This claim when put side by side with other evidences of divine inspiration from previous prophets as recorded in the Bible such as with Moses and the 12 plagues and the parting of the Red Sea, the Raising of the Dead by Elijah and Jesus, and the many other works by the Prophets of old and Jesus, to which the Qur'an does not dispute, seem hardly to compare in magnitude.

Nevertheless, this claim presents a number of difficulties. Some of these are philosophical difficulties, others logical problems and still others scientific and self-contradicting problems.

#### Problems with the poetic quality proof

As mentioned above, the Qur'an proclaims itself as the most amazing piece of literature (Arabic) ever produced. In fact, this is called **the one and only** miracle of Muhammed, and is claimed as proof positive of Qur'ans divine inspiration. The test of this divine inspiration is given in form of a poetry contest, i.e. to come up with a verse or chapter as powerful and elegant as one in the Qur'an.

The first problem with this type of a claim is that it is a subjective contest. For instance, consider someone who claims that Shakespeare was the greatest poet to have ever lived and has built his life on that claim. If someone comes to him with a particular piece of poetry for a comparison, it is quite likely he will instantly reject it. Before I understood exactly what the poetic challenge meant I suggested what Christ said was the most important commandment as a test of the challenge

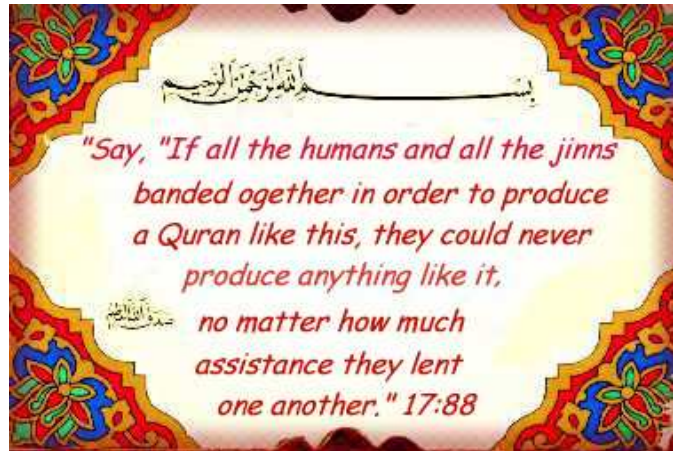


Figure 5.1: The Quranic Poetry Contest

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Mark 12:30*

Unfortunately, I soon found out that this does not meet the qualifications of the test. Why? It is not the just the meaning of the verse, but rather it must have meaning and be in Arabic. Under these rules, the writers of the Old Testament, New Testament, and even Shakespeare are disqualified themselves as contenders.

Nevertheless, the challenge to produce Suras like those found in the Qur'an has been answered several times by Arabic writers. Nadir ibn Haritha arranged some short stories of Persian kings in chapters and Suras [1]. Hamzah ben-Ahed wrote a book against the Qur'an which has been claimed of equal elegance, and Maslema another which many believe to have surpassed it, which caused a great number to even abandon the Islamic faith [1].

The more important and non-subjective problem with this poetic proof of divine inspiration is that only people who speak Arabic can see it. On one hand we have Muhammed claiming he is last and only universal prophet whose proof of authenticity is the Qur'an. While on the other hand, one can only see the miracle if one speaks Arabic. This is a severe problem for a person who is honestly considering Islam and doesn't speak Arabic. I once asked a Muslim friend of this apparently severe dilemma for non-Arab seekers in the truth. He wasn't quite sure what to say besides, I guess they'll just have to learn Arabic. What then is one to do if someone from India tells them that the Hindu scriptures are the Word of God, but, they can only see it if you speak Hindi!

Muslim scholar Ali Dashti also recognized this problem and suggested that one should accept Muhammed and what he wrote in the Qur'an not on the basis of its poetic elegance, but rather on the amazing impact that a mere illiterate orphan, Muhammed, has had on the world. However, this reduces finding the truth to an equally plagued technique, one of counting the number of people following a certain religion (counting noses). Additionally, if we were to count noses at this point we would find that there are more Christians than Muslims!

### 5.2.2 Claim: The Bible is corrupt and the Qur'an is not

The most common phrase Christians here is "But YOU changed your Bible!". However, surprisingly we see that nowhere in the Qur'an does it suggest that the Bible has been corrupted. We do see it

reprimanding people from misinterpreting it, but never that the book itself is corrupt.

In fact, Muhammed asked early skeptics to go and ask the People of the Book (Jews and Christians) whether or not what the Qur'an said agreed with scripture. Sura 10:37 also says that the Qur'an confirms and explains the Bible.

*And this Qur'an is not such as could be forged by those besides Allah, but it is a verification of that which is before it and a clear explanation of the book, there is no doubt in it, from the Lord of the worlds. Sura 10:37 [2]*

Additionally, in regards to the Injil we see that there is guidance and light

*After them We sent forth Jesus, the Son of Mary, confirming the Torah already revealed, and gave him the Gospel(Injil) in which there is guidance and light... Sura 5:46 [3]*

and it is called a light to mankind in Sura 3:3. The Torah itself was even used by Muhammed to pronounce judgement on Jews caught committing sexual sin as recorded by Burkhari in the Hadith

*Narrated Ibn 'Umar: A Jew and a Jewess were brought to Allah's Apostle on a charge of committing an illegal sexual intercourse. The Prophet asked them. "What is the legal punishment (for this sin) in your Book (Torah)?" They replied, "Our priests have innovated the punishment of blackening the faces with charcoal and Tajbiya." 'Abdullah bin Salam said, "O Allah's Apostle, tell them to bring the Torah." The Torah was brought, and then one of the Jews put his hand over the Divine Verse of the Rajam (stoning to death) and started reading what preceded and what followed it. On that, Ibn Salam said to the Jew, "Lift up your hand." Behold! The Divine Verse of the Rajam was under his hand. So Allah's Apostle ordered that the two (sinners) be stoned to death, and so they were stoned. Ibn 'Umar added: So both of them were stoned at the Balat and I saw the Jew sheltering the Jewess. Volume 8, Book 82, Number 809: [4]*

The Christians and Jews had in their possession the Holy Scriptures at the of Muhammed according to

*The Jews say the Christians are misguided, and the Christians say the Jews are misguided. Yet they both read the Scriptures. Sura 2:113*

Sura 21:7 details that the Book (Bible) was given through inspired men

*The Apostles We sent before you were but men whom we inspired. Ask the People of the Book if you do not know this.*

Additionally, the People of the Book are instructed to test the Qur'an according to the Holy Injil in Sura 5:47

*Therefore, let those who follow the Gospel (Injil) judge according to what God has revealed therein.*

If the Injil was corrupted at the time, could Muhammed really suspect them to judge according to it? Even Muhammed is (by God) encouraged to ask the people of the book for more details if he doesn't fully understand. But we have hundreds of manuscripts dating back far before the time of Muhammed. And they all prove that the Bible is the same today as then.

Apart from this: anybody claiming falsification has to come up with a proof. What sort of evidence would you demand if somebody would claim the falsification of the Qur'an? Wouldn't you expect that he can show you an old authentic copy of the Qur'an that is clearly different from today's version?

So where is your original Taurat or Injil to give this claim of corruption any credibility? That God has not been able to preserve even the slightest hint of a different Taurat or Injil anywhere in the ancient writings might be a very strong hint, that there has never been any other than those we find in today's Bible. And even learned Muslim scholars admit that there has been no corruption of the text of the Holy Scriptures. (Most will admit that all through history people had distorted interpretations of it, but that is quite something different from altering the very text itself).

### Can the truth in the Bible be changed?

In the Old Testament through the prophet Isaiah we are told in chapter 40 verse 8:

*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stand forever.*

In Deuteronomy (5. Book of Moses) chapter 4 verse 2:

*Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.*

Jesus says (Gospel according to Matthew 5:17 - 20):

*Do not think I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the **smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law** until everything is accomplished Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commandments will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.*

And in the Revelation given to John the Apostle (Revelation 22:19-20) Jesus says:

*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 words away from this prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.*

So the Bible makes very clear that God's word is unchangeable and very sternly warns everybody not to dare to add to or subtract from it. And all the historical and archeological evidence proves that the Bible is essentially unchanged and the same today as in first original copies. As God is unchangeable and he is saying similar things in the Qur'an, do you want to say that God did lie in the Bible? Or are exactly those verses corrupted and originally read somehow like: Don't take to seriously what I am telling you and don't care to much preserving it carefully, since I am going to change it anyway? Any suggestion like this would be blasphemous as one will certainly agree. So why then is God's promise of preservation of his word in the Bible not to be believed, but in the Qur'an it is to be believed?

### 5.2.3 Claim: The Torah and the Injil both mention Muhammed

In the Torah the Muslims often point to Dueteronomy 18:18-22

<sup>18</sup> *I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto the e, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.*

<sup>19</sup> *And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him. But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.*

<sup>20</sup> *And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?*

<sup>21</sup> *When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.*

and often use the “put words in his mouth” phrase to analogize with Muhammed.

If this is pertaining to Muhammed then we have the problem with Genesis 17:19 and following verses which say that God is going to Abraham and Sarah and son named Isaac and through him God will make his contract and not Ishmael. Additionally, although it seems plausible there is no real proof that Muhammed is a descendant of Ishmael, but Jesus is clearly mapped out as a descendant of Isaac in Matthew 1 and in part in 1 Chronicles 1 - 4. The word brethren is accepted as pertaining to the children of Israel since God made his covenant with them alone.

In the Injil some Muslims claim that Jesus prophesied about Muhammed to confirm Sura 61:6. Usually this is attempted to suggest that the chapters of John 14,15, and 16 are corrupt where Christ says that he is sending a Comforter or Counselor. However, this cannot hold since in John 14:26 the comforter is specifically identified as the Holy Spirit and that God would send him in the name of Jesus Christ. Muhammed never claimed to be a Spirit or for that matter to come in the name of Jesus Christ.

#### 5.2.4 Self-contradictions?

Morey [1] points out several self-contradictions.

- **Revelation of the Qur’an to Muhammed.** Sura 53:2-18, 81:19-24 have Allah coming to Muhammed in the form of a man and that Muhammed saw him. Suras 16:102,26:192-194 have the holy spirit as the one who came to Muhammed. Then in Sura 15:8 and 2:97 we have angels and finally the angel Gabriel himself as the deliver of the message.
- **The Number of Days in Creation:** The normal reader would examine Sura 41:9,10,12 in the Qur’an and conclude that creation took (4 days + 2 days + 2 days)=8 days. However, not only does this contradict the Bible which says 6 days but it also contradicts the Qur’an itself since it says it took 6 days according to Sura 7:51 and 10:3. What do muslim scholars do? Comment 4470 in the Qur’an starts out with *This is a difficult passage*, and then proceeds to suggest that the 4 days includes the 2 days of verse 9. However, there appears no logical reason to do this other than if they don’t that there will be a self contradicting error in the Qur’an.
- Suras 32:5, 70:4 differ on whether a day is a thousand years or 50 thousand years in God’s eyes.
- Muhammed first told his followers to face Jerusalem in prayer, then later anywhere was fine, and finally Mecca was only acceptable (Sura 2:115, 2:144).
- Sura 6:14 has Abraham as the first to believe, while 7:143 has Moses as the first to believe.
- When Judaism and Christianity broke into different religions it was proof positive that they were not from God according to Suras 30:30-32 and 42:13,14. However, what is one to believe now that the same has happened in Islam?

## Conflicting Biblical passages in the Qur'an

### Abraham

- He went to sacrifice Isaac and not Ishmael as traditional commentaries from Sura 37:100-112 leads one to believe. This is an amazing fundamental problem, the entire Jewish faith is based on Abraham and Isaac and this story is one of the most amazing contrasts between the two.
- Suras 21:68,9 and 9:69 suggest that Abraham was thrown into a fire by Nimrod. However Nimrod lived centuries before Abraham according to the Bible.

### Moses

- Sura 28:8,9 mentions that it was Pharaoh's wife who adopted Moses when it was actually his daughter according to Exodus 2:5.
- Noah was dead by the time that Moses came along. However, Sura 7:136 and 7:59 have the flood happening in the Moses' day.
- Suras 27:4-6, 28:38, 29:39, 40:23,24,36,37 mention that Haman lived in Egypt in Moses' day. However secular history and the book of Esther have Haman in Persia in the service of King Ahasuerus.

### Mary the mother of Jesus

- Sura 19:22 has Mary giving birth to Jesus under a palm tree, while the Bible has it in a stable Luke 2:1-20.
- Mary is described as the sister of Moses and Aaron Sura 19:28, while Moses and Aaron lived centuries before Mary.

### The Trinity

The Christian doctrine has always said that there is one God in three persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Not three Gods as Sura 5:73 if literally translated would suggest *Allah is the third of three* [1]. The Yusef Ali translation *Allah is one of three (in a Trinity)* deliberately adds in a Trinity which is not in the Arabic. Additionally, Suras 5:73-5,116 suggest that Muhammed believed that the Christians worshiped three Gods, the Father, Mary and Jesus which has never been Christian belief.

#### 5.2.5 Now you see it, now you don't

One of the interesting aspects of the Qur'an is the fact that later revealed verses can overrule previous ones, and in some cases revelations are given and then totally taken away. Burkhari [4] records one of these as;

Narrated Anas: The Prophet sent seventy men from the tribe of Bani Salim to the tribe of Bani Amir. When they reached there, my maternal uncle said to them, "I will go ahead of you, and if they allow me to convey the message of Allah's Apostle (it will be all right); otherwise you will remain close to me." So he went ahead of them and the pagans granted him security But while he was reporting the message of the Prophet, they beckoned to one of their men who stabbed him to death. My maternal uncle said, "Allah is Greater! By

the Lord of the Kaba, I am successful.” After that they attached the rest of the party and killed them all except a lame man who went up to the top of the mountain. (Hammam, a sub-narrator said, ”I think another man was saved along with him).” **Gabriel informed the Prophet that they (i.e the martyrs) met their Lord, and He was pleased with them and made them pleased. We used to recite, ”Inform our people that we have met our Lord, He is pleased with us and He has made us pleased ”** Later on this Quranic Verse was cancelled. The Prophet invoked Allah for forty days to curse the murderers from the tribe of Ral, Dhakwan, Bani Lihyan and Bam Usaiya who disobeyed Allah and his Apostle, Volume 4, Book 52, Number 57: [4]

### 5.2.6 Scientific facts reported by the Qur’an?

### 5.2.7 The mysterious 19 in the Qur’an?

## 5.3 The Qur’an on marriage and women

The website ”Islam Review” summarizes several important aspects of Islam’s teachings and marriage [5]

### 5.3.1 Women

- **Men’s wishes prevail over women’s:** The divorced women shall wait three menstruations (before marrying another man). It is not lawful for them to conceal what GOD creates in their wombs, if they believe in GOD and the Last Day. (In case of pregnancy,) the husband’s wishes shall supersede the wife’s wishes, if he wants to remarry her. The women have rights, as well as obligations, equitably. Thus, the man’s wishes prevail (in case of pregnancy). GOD is Almighty, Most Wise. Surah 2:228, Khalifa translation
- Women have half the rights of men:
  - In court witness, ”Two men shall serve as witnesses; if not two men, then a man and two women whose testimony is acceptable to all. Thus, if one woman becomes biased, the other will remind her.” Surah 2:282
  - In inheritance: ”GOD decrees a will for the benefit of your children; the male gets twice the share of the female.” Surah 4:11
- Women should be veiled in public ”that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what (must ordinarily) appear thereof; that they should draw their veils over their bosoms and not display their beauty except to their husbands” Surah 24:31
- Most of those in Hell are Women. *He said, ”O people! Give alms.” Then he went towards the women and said. ”O women! Give alms, for I have seen that the majority of the dwellers of Hell-Fire were you (women).” The women asked, ”O Allah’s Apostle! What is the reason for it?” He replied, ”O women! You curse frequently, and are ungrateful to your husbands. I have not seen anyone more deficient in intelligence and religion than you. O women, some of you can lead a cautious wise man astray.” Volume 2, Book 24, Number 541:, Burkhari. [4]*
- Women as a evil omen, and with children they may keep you from God: *’If at all there is evil omen, it is in the horse, the woman and the house.” a lady is to be warded off. And the Statement*

*of Allah: 'Truly, among your wives and your children, there are enemies for you (i.e may stop you from the obedience of Allah)' Volume 7, Book 62, Number 29:, Burkhari [4]*

### 5.3.2 Marriage [5]

- Up to four wives, and multiple slaves for sex are allowed. *Marry women of your choice, Two or three or four; but if ye fear that ye shall not be able to deal justly (with them), then only one, or (a captive) that your right hands possess, that will be more suitable, to prevent you from doing injustice. Surah 4:3*
- Divorce of a woman is generally permitted twice, Surah 2:229, however, *If he divorces her (for the third time), it is unlawful for him to remarry her, unless she marries another man, then he divorces her. Surah 2:230*
- Women are to obey or else; no sex, and beatings are to come. *The men are made responsible for the women, and GOD has endowed them with certain qualities, and made them the bread earners. The righteous women will cheerfully accept this arrangement, since it is GOD's commandment, and honor their husbands during their absence. If you experience rebellion from the women, you shall first talk to them, then (you may use negative incentives like) deserting them in bed, then you may (as a last alternative) beat them. If they obey you, you are not permitted to transgress against them. GOD is Most High, Supreme.Surah 4:34*

### 5.3.3 Children in Mixed Marriages [5]

Given that *"The religion before Allah is Islam"* Surah 3:19, a mixed marriage to a Muslim man, will undoubtedly prescribe that the children will be raised Muslim. In the advent of a divorce, in a Muslim country, the non-believing wife will have no rights to custody, and will not be able to see her children again, for Islam Law favors the "better religion", which in this case is the fathers, and unbelievers cannot be protectors of Muslims *O ye who believe; take not for friends (protectors) unbelievers rather than believers" Surah 4:144*

## Chapter 6

# The Bible

A synopsis of the Bible shows that it

1. consists of 66 books written by many different authors.
2. The authors were from different walks of life, e.g. peasants, kings, tax collectors. For example, **Moses** was a political leader in Egypt. Peter was a fisherman. Amos was a herdsman. Joshua was a military general. Nehemiah was a cup-bearer to the king. Daniel was a prime minister. Solomon was a king.
3. written on three different continents Asia Africa, Europe
4. written over a period of 1600 years.
5. written in 3 different languages. The majority of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew with the remaining parts in Aramaic. The entire New Testament was written in Greek.
6. Was written in at least 9 different literary types. History, Law (civil , criminal, ethical, ritual and sanitary), Biography, Personal correspondence, Sermons and prophecy.
7. Was written during different moods. Some authors wrote from the height of joy while others from the depths of despair, e.g. Job.
8. Was written in many locations, the wilderness, a dungeon, a hillside, in a palace, while traveling, while on a desert island.

I have been told before, that this variety is a handicap to the Bible. However, it appears to me that this is a strong point. Consider, in spite of this great variety, the Bible deals with hundreds of controversial subjects with complete agreement and harmony from Genesis ,the first book, to the last book, Revelation. They agree on

1. The Sinfulness of the Human Heart. Old Testament- Genesis 6:5 (5th century B.C.). Psalm 51:5 (6th century B.C.), Proverbs 20:9 (10th century B.C.). Ecclesiastes 7:20 (10th century B.C.), New Testament Romans 3:23 (A.D. 57-58). I John 1:8 (A.D. 85).
2. Salvation on the basis of faith alone. Genesis 15:6- Abraham believed the Lord and it was accredited to him as righteousness. Romans 4:1-25. Says also about Abraham.
3. Salvation not by works. From the Old Testament Isaiah 64:6, Jeremiah 2:22, from the New Testament Ephesians 2:8,9.

4. Salvation through the sacrifice of the Messiah. Old Testament Isaiah 53:6, New Testament Romans 5:8,9.

## 6.1 How were the books of the Bible chosen?

The Bible was formed, not on a popularity vote, but rather on the basis of whether it was inspired by God. Several inspirational tests guided those who formed what we call the Bible today. Namely,

1. Was it authoritative? (Does it contain a “Thus saith the Lord”)?
2. Is it prophetic?
3. Is it authentic?
4. Is it dynamic?
5. Was it received, collected read and used?

## 6.2 Can we believe the Bible has come down to us reliably?

**Translation versus changes** It is often mentioned that the Bible has been changed too much over the years that we cannot trust what we have today as the truth. However, we must first notice the difference between a change, and a translation.

English readers of the Qur’an, are faced with the same dilemma as readers of the Bible. They were both written in different languages. Consequently, a translation from Arabic, or Greek and Hebrew for the Bible to present day English is necessary, and a variety of translations are likely. For example, page vi of the Qur’an [6] also mentions this problem in the translation to English

*Given the depth as well as the sublimity of the Qur’anic text, a faithful translation of it into another language is virtually impossible. The various translations that exist today, however accurate they may be, cannot be designated as the Qur’an, since they can never hope to imitate the diction or the style of the book of Allah. But as translation is one of the few ways to export the message of the Qur’an to allow those lacking in knowledge of Arabic to share this priceless gift, it becomes a duty for those in a position to fulfill this task.*

*....later*

*A number of individuals have in the past have ventured to translate the Qur’an but their works have generally been private attempts, greatly influenced by their own prejudices..... and then it says that they set up a committee and chose the best translation.*

The point appears to be, that this is the same manner in which the Bible has various translations. The fact is, if a book is really the truth then it must be translated and given to everyone in the world to read. This accounts for the variety of translations of the Bible. An interesting side note is that the Bible has been completely translated into 318 languages, with portions of it translated to 1628 languages [7]. There are around 3000 more languages in need of a translation according to Wycliffe Bible translators.

### 6.2.1 Transmission reliability

Muslim scholars are quick to claim that the Bible cannot be trusted since it has corrupted over the ages. This may have been a debatable point a hundred or two hundred years ago, however, recent archeological discoveries, as in the 1947 discoveries of the dead sea scrolls, have eliminated most doubt that what we have today as the Old Testament is indeed the same Old Testament that Jesus had.

The earliest known full copy of the complete Old Testament is dated somewhere around 900 A.D. However, from the dead sea scrolls which are dated around 200 B.C., scholars have been able to determine that the accuracy of the 900 A.D. text has been found to be very very accurate.

In fact, comparing the book of Isaiah chapter 53, out of 166 words, only 17 letters differ between the two copies. Ten of these are differences in spelling as in honour and honor, and four more are only minor differences as in can not and can't, which is only a matter of style. Thus, only three letters for the Hebrew word *light* which is added after *they shall see* in verse 11 differ, which does not change the meaning at all. This is typical of the whole manuscript. Why is this important? Because Jesus accepted the Bible as it was when he was actively engaged in his ministry around 30 A.D., and this is the Bible that we have in the Dead Sea scrolls themselves. Interestingly, some commentaries in the Qur'an accept this pg. 330 [6]

*In Luke xxiv, 44 Jesus refers to the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms, and in other places Matthew vii. 12, Jesus refers to the Law and the Prophets as summing up all of scripture.*

As it says in these quotes, the Old Testament is composed of basically three parts; the Law being the first 5 books, the Prophets which are most of the other books, and the Psalms. Thus, there is a good case for assuming that the meaning of the scriptures (at least the Old Testament for the moment) has been transmitted to us reliably.

### 6.2.2 New Testament transmission reliability

As far as the New Testament reliability goes, we have over 5,000 copies of the ancient text written in Greek and distributed over many nations of which an accurate original text can be compiled.

Critics of the New Testament often suggest that the books were a product of second century christians and not the disciples themselves. Nevertheless, recent archeological discoveries here too have exposed this error and verified the reliable transmission of the New Testament. Copies of the New Testament written on papyri, such as the John Ryland manuscript A.D. 130, the Chester Betty Papyri A.D. 155 and the Bodmer Papyri A.D. 200 have verified the accuracy of the N.T. and prompted even many liberal scholars to believe that the New Testament was written much closer to the time of Christ himself.

The John Ryland manuscript of the Gospel of John is particularly interesting since it was found in Egypt along the Nile river. Consequently, even christians living in Egypt around 130 A.D. had in their possession the Gospel of John. Taking into account the time for this document to be copied and travel to Egypt, even the most liberal theologians no longer debate any time of writing of this Gospel after 100 A.D. which is about the time of death of the Apostle John himself.

All the new testament books unanimously agree on the divinity of Christ. Since they were all written during the time right after Christ, refutations would be rather easy if they tried to pass off anything that was not true (more on this later). If anyone was going to write something and change it, this would be near impossible, since they did not have INTERNET back then, and the sheer volume of copies and spatial location differences would make such a hoax unlikely.

## 6.3 Is there evidence that the New Testament writers lied?

One interesting point is what the testament writers say to back up their writings as the truth

1. II Pet. 1:16 *For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty*
2. Acts 2:22 *Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know*
3. Each of the 27 books of the New Testament proclaim that Jesus said and was the Messiah, and the only way for Salvation is through believing in him.

and there are many more. The fact is, that they even used what the people of the time knew to be true to confirm what they were saying. To me one convincing piece of evidence is what the disciples were willing to pay for what they said. Jesus had 12 disciples in his inner circle. Eleven of these 12 were martyred for believing that Christ was who they said he was, namely the Messiah, and Son of God. They signed their testimonies in blood. It easy to find someone who has died for a lie thinking it was the truth, however, it is hard to find someone to die for a lie knowing it was a lie.

## 6.4 Other Muslim Misunderstandings of the Bible

### 6.4.1 The Gospel of Pseudo-Barnabas

The gospel of pseudo-Barnabas is sometimes used by Muslims to discredit the resurrection of Christ and other basic Christian teachings. However, most scholars believe this so called Gospel is a fraud in every respect. The known copies of this gospel are in Italian, while all other Gospels are in Greek, and its exact date of origins is in unknown. However, internal evidence points to the 1st half of the fourth century, which would have been hundreds of years after Barnabas would have died.

One final fact is that the gospel of Barnabas is a sword that cuts both ways for it contradicts the Qur'an itself. While reading the gospel, one finds that it says that taking more than one wife is a sin, and eating pork is ok. Both of these are contradictory to the Qur'an.

# Bibliography

- [1] R. Morey, *The Islamic Invasion: Confronting the World's Fastest Growing Religion*. Harvest House Publishers, 1992.
- [2] Shakir, *English translation of the Qur'an*.
- [3] Dawood, *Qur'an*.
- [4] t. b. M. M. K. Sahih Burkhari, *Hadith*. <http://www.quraan.com/Bukhari/Default.asp>.
- [5] A. A. Araby, "Being a muslim's wife," <http://www.islamreview.com/articles/beingamuslimswife.shtml>, 2002.
- [6] Muhammed, *The Holy Qur'an, English Translations of the Meanings and Commentary*. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Qur'an.
- [7] Guinness, *The Guinness Book of World Records*. 1993.
- [8] C. D. Smith, "The world at war," *Center for Defense Information-Washington D.C.*, <http://www.cdi.org/dm/2002/dm1-02.pdf>, 2001.
- [9] P. Mark Hartwig, "Spread by the sword." [http://www.answerislam.org/Terrorism/by\\_the\\_sword.html#\\_ednref8](http://www.answerislam.org/Terrorism/by_the_sword.html#_ednref8), 2002.
- [10] P. Standring, "Koran a book of peace, not war, scholars say." [http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2001/09/0925\\_TVkoran.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2001/09/0925_TVkoran.html), September 25, 2001.
- [11] Answering-Islam, "Hadith definition." <http://answerislam.org/Index/index.html>, 2002.
- [12] O. B. Laden, "Transcript of bin laden's october interview." <http://www.cnn.com/2002/WORLD/asiapcf/south/02/05/binladen.transcript/index.html>, 2002.
- [13] T. Huges, "Jihad defn. in a dictionary of islam." <http://answerislam.org/Books/Hughes/index.htm>, 1895.
- [14] O. B. Laden, "Full text: bin laden's 'letter to america'," <http://www.observer.co.uk/worldview/story/0,11581,845725,00.html>, November 2002.

- [15] M. Adams, “Author robert spencer blames koran for terrorism,” *moodynews.com*, <http://moodynews.com/#AUTHOR%20ROBERT%20SPENCER%20BLAMES%20KORAN%20FOR%20>2002.
- [16] BBC, “World: Middle east rushdie death bounty raised.” [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle\\_east/191724.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/191724.stm), Monday, October 12, 1998.
- [17] t. b. A. H. Sahih Muslim, *Hadith*. <http://www.quraan.com/Bukhari/Default.asp>.
- [18] Guillaume, *The Life of Muhammed*.
- [19] t. b. P. A. H. Abu-Dawud, *Sunnah, Introduction to Partial Translation of Sunan Abu-Dawud*. <http://www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/fundamentals/hadithsunnah/abudawud/>.