

1 QUR'AN CALLS CHRISTIANS TO JUDGE

Surah 5:42–48; 65–68 calls on Christians to judge according to the gospel, the revelation given to them by God. In 5:47 it says, “Let the People of the Gospel judge by that which Allah had revealed therein. Whoever judges not by that which Allah has revealed; such are corrupt.” It is surprising that the Qur’an instructs Christians to judge according to that which was revealed to them. Surely Christians in Muhammad’s day were expected to follow this instruction. This instruction assumes that Christians had the gospel and that it wasn’t corrupt—they could know what Allah had revealed to them.

What happens when we judge according to the Gospel/New Testament? We find that Muhammad was ignorant of the teaching of Jesus, his apostles, the cross, the resurrection, the nature of the Son of God, salvation, and the gospel itself! If we obey the Qur’an and judge by the standard it commands us to use, we find that Muhammad fails the test of a prophet. To quote the Qur’an again, “Say: ‘O People of the Book! You have nothing [of true guidance] till you observe the Torah and the Gospel, and that which was sent down to you from your Lord’” (5:68). The Qur’an places us in an unsolvable dilemma, if we obey what it says, we must deny Muhammad’s claim of prophethood.

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CORRUPTED TRUTH?

Everything that has been written here is typically dismissed on the grounds that Christians have corrupted the truth—the Christian Scriptures are corrupted and must be interpreted in light of the Qur’an. There are serious problems with this accusation.

First, the words of Allah cannot be corrupted (Surah 15:9; 6:114–115; 18:27; 10:64). This not only applies to the Qur’an but also to what was revealed before the Qur’an. In fact, the Qur’an admits that Allah has given a book to Christians (Qur’an 3:3–4; 29:46–47); it calls Christians to judge what God has revealed to them and to act justly (Surah 5:42–48).

Second, when the Qur’an speaks of the corruption of the Christian Scriptures, it speaks of the corruption of its interpretation, not the actual text (Surah 3:78; 2:75, 79), and to bear with them (Surah 5:13, 41). How can the words previously revealed by Allah be corrupted and its meaning lost? How can the Qur’an call on Christians to judge what Allah has revealed to them if it was already corrupted in 632 A.D.? The Scriptures we have today are the same as those in the time of Muhammad!

If the Qur’an is true, it calls Christians to judge by the Bible since the Bible is from God. But if the Bible is from God, then the Qur’an is false and Muhammad is a false prophet. Read the gospels, and read for yourself what God revealed before Muhammad even lived.

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

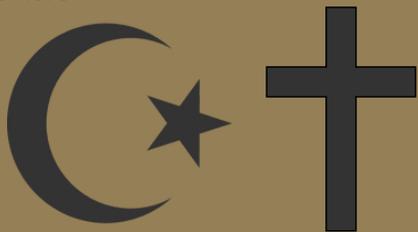


DENYING HISTORICAL FACT WITH A SINGLE AYAḤ

2

With a single sentence, the Qur'an seeks to overturn one of the most historically certain events—the death of Jesus of Nazareth. The Qur'an says, "And because of their saying: 'We slew the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, Allah's Messenger.' They slew him not, nor crucified him, but it appeared so to them, and those who disagree concerning it are in doubt thereof; they have no knowledge of it except the pursuit of a conjecture; [but] certainly they slew him not" (4:157). The crucifixion of Jesus is well documented and is not something only believed by Christians. Of course, the New Testament speaks much of the death of Jesus, containing many detailed eyewitness accounts. Besides Christians, Josephus, a Jewish historian in the first century notes the historical event of Jesus' crucifixion. Not only this, but the second-century Roman historians, Tacitus and Lucian, also speak of Jesus' crucifixion at the hands of Pontius Pilate. In fact, Bart Ehrman, a famous agnostic whose books attack the Christian faith says, "One of the most certain facts of history is that Jesus was crucified on orders of the Roman prefect of Judea, Pontius Pilate."

How can someone 600 miles away and born 600 years after the event overturn overwhelming evidence of this historical fact? Why would the Qur'an, be so out of step with historical facts? Maybe it is because Muhammad believed that a prophet would not die such a disgraceful death—we cannot be sure. However, this shows that the author of the Qur'an knew little about the New Testament's central teaching of God's redeeming act in Christ on the cross. Not only that, it shows that the author knows little of what history itself says on the subject. Who is following mere conjecture here?



3

THE QUR'AN MISUNDERSTANDS THE TRINITY

One of the central discussions between Christians and Muslims focuses on the nature of God. Islam strongly rejects the Christian teaching of the Trinity, that God is one in the three persons of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Muhammad mistakenly thought the Trinitarian Christians believed in multiple gods.

In the Qur'an, Surah 4:166–172 commands Christians to "say not three!" What is the "three" spoken of? In both the Qur'an, and historical Muslim tradition, the three are understood as Allah, Mary, and Jesus. That is, father, mother, and son. This is certainly not what Christians believe or have ever believed!

The Qur'an also says, "They have disbelieved who say: 'Allah is the third of three,' when there is no god save One God. If they cease not what they say, a painful torment will fall upon those of them who disbelieve" (Surah 5:73). Later, it says, "And when Allah said: 'O Jesus son of Mary! Did you say to mankind: 'Take me and my mother for two gods other than Allah?''" (Surah 5:116, see also 5:17). Here again, the Qur'an assumes Christians believe Allah, Mary, and Jesus are three gods, with Allah being the "third of three." Even non-Christians can recognize this as a serious misrepresentation of the Trinity. Such a misrepresentation of Christian belief in the Qur'an demonstrates that it is the result of human effort, is marked by ignorance and error, and is not from God.

If only Muhammad knew the true Jesus and what he and his followers actually said and did, what a difference it might have made!

WHAT'S NEXT?

4

Jesus said the greatest commandment was to love God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30). The greatest evil then is not loving the true God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. There has never been a day in your life when you've loved God the way he deserves to be loved. As such, you've broken the greatest commandment. In fact, you break it every single day! Since you have broken God's greatest law, you are a lawbreaker of the greatest kind.

If you have seriously broken the law and stand before a judge, only a corrupt judge would let you go free. A good judge will ensure justice is served. Even if your good deeds were many, a good judge must condemn the person who has broken the law. God's judgment is not arbitrary, and he cannot permit the guilty to go free. This great dilemma has only one solution, which is found in Jesus Christ.



Jesus obeyed the law, he kept the greatest commandment perfectly. But it doesn't end there. Jesus said, "I came not to be served but to serve and to give my life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). Why did he say this? He came to die so that God could be just in forgiving people who broke his law. When Jesus was crucified, he suffered God's wrath for his people's sins. This means that God can be just in forgiving people who had broken his law. Because of this, Jesus is exalted as Lord of all and in his name, every knee will bow. God now commands all men to repent and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. Turn from false worship of Muhammad's god and trust the true God. When you do this you will receive mercy and forgiveness. Read the Gospels to see who the true Jesus is, why he came, and what it means to follow him. Examine the truth of what God revealed beforehand as the Qur'an says.