

## ***IS THE KORAN ON PAR WITH THE BIBLE?***

**David W. Hester**

Islam teaches that there are “four books of Allah.” The first, *Taurat* (Old Testament), was revealed by the prophet Moses. The second, *Zaboor* (Psalms), was revealed by the prophet David. The third, *Injeel* (New Testament), was revealed by the prophet Jesus. And the fourth, the “Holy” *Koran*, was revealed by the prophet Mohammed. “The very first verse of Holy Quran ordains that a Muslim is one who believes in all the revealed books i.e. Taurat, Zaboor, Injeel and Holy Quran and their Prophets.” (Hussein, *Daily Times*)

Further, Islam teaches the primacy and superiority of the Koran.

There is no need of a Prophet after Prophet Muhammad, for the Message, i.e., the Holy Koran (that he has brought for the whole world) is the final and most complete Code of Religion, and is and will be preserved for all time absolutely intact in its original form; besides the authentic record of the Prophet's eventful life covering all human activities is also extant, and will always remain as a Model for mankind. Hence no Prophet either with or without code and commandments, is required after him, and therefore the Holy Koran says that Prophet Muhammad is the last and the Seal of all Prophets. (Vision of Islam.net)

The late Everett L. Huffard was a missionary in Israel for several years. As a teacher at Freed-Hardeman University, he brought a unique perspective to his classes. In 2001, he wrote a book entitled *Christ or the Koran?* It drew upon his years of work in the Middle East as well as his scholarly abilities. Concerning the Koran, Huffard wrote, “Muslims claim that it was sent down from heaven to Mohammed. Only the purified are permitted to touch and to recite it, and to recite it is the most sublime and edifying occupation for the Muslim, even if it is not understood” (Huffard, 16).

Obviously, the claims that Muslims make for the Koran compose the foundation for the Islamic religion. If those claims are shown to be false, the entire system will collapse. “Any criticism of the Koran would be considered as blasphemy by Muslims, even to the point of death

by many extremists. However, the search for truth demands that we examine and test any document that has such claims” (Huffard, 18). The Bible had been in existence for more than 500 years before the Koran was written. Although there are many similarities between the Old Testament and the Koran, there are many critical contradictions.

The Koran teaches that Jesus is one of God’s prophets, but not the Son of God and the Savior of the world. “In Surah 6:84-86 seventeen prophets are named and among them the name of Jesus is found” (Huffard, 53). It even goes so far as to deny that Jesus was crucified:

That they said (in boast) “We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, The Apostle of God.” But they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not (Surah 4:157, 58).

Jesus Himself claimed to be the Son of God and Savior of the world. He did not forbid Peter to confess, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16, KJV). Jesus said, “I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world” (John 6:51, KJV).

If Jesus lied, then he was a false prophet, and no false prophet can go to Heaven; yet, the Koran tells of a supposed “magic carpet ride” that Mohammed took from Mecca to Jerusalem. On that trip, he supposedly visited the “seven heavens” and was introduced to Jesus, among other biblical characters (Gallery of Islamic & Persian Manuscripts). Clearly, the Koran considers Jesus to be a prophet from God; however, Jesus was more than just a prophet—He was and is the divine Son of God.

The book of Hebrews describes the finality of God’s Word—to the offering of sacrifices, covenant, and priesthood. But, the Koran offers a “latter day” covenant, prophet, and message. Jesus Himself said in Mark 12:6, “Having yet therefore one son, his wellbeloved, he sent him also last unto them” (KJV). This leaves no room for either Mohammed or the Koran!

Muslims believe in the prophets of the Old Testament; yet, all of those prophets foretold the coming of Jesus—none foretold the coming of Mohammed. There are several hundred

prophecies in the Old Testament pointing to Jesus and His Kingdom; where is just one clear prophecy that mentions Mohammed? It cannot be found, because it is not there. In Deuteronomy 18:15, Moses says, “The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken”(KJV). Peter cited this passage in Acts 3:22-23, and applied it to Jesus—not Mohammed.

The Islamic belief that the Koran was to complete God’s revelation denies that the Bible is complete. Yet, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 teaches, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works” (KJV). There can be no addition to it without denying that it is all truth. Yet, Islam claims that the Bible is not all truth. Clearly, there is a choice that must be made.

Jesus shed His blood that others might live; Mohammed shed the blood of others that his teaching could be forced upon unwilling people. Jesus’ way is the way of peace; the way of the Koran is the way of *jihad*. Jesus’ way is of the cross; the way of the Koran is of the sword. The Koran is supposedly attested by secret visions that no one ever saw, delivered in a cave. The Bible is verified by prophecies of Christ’s coming, proof that He did come and genealogies to bear witness of His bloodline. Mohammed is still in his tomb in Medina; Christ’s tomb is empty!

Huffard succinctly summarizes the difference:

In an effort to save the world did God send a book or a person? This is the real question to consider...Mohammed does not mean to the Muslim what Christ means to the Christian. They do not wear his name nor believe that he was anything but a human being with an earthly father and mother. With them it is in the Koran that divinity touches humanity but with the Christian it is Christ who makes the contact (Huffard, 20).

Clearly, the Koran is not on par with the Bible. True Christianity provides eternal salvation through the Gospel.

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