



RETURN TO ETERNAL TRUTH

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. Luke 24:44

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19

Preface

This study guide has been created by people who are deeply familiar with both the Qur’an and the Bible. They have spent decades learning and following the teachings found in each of these books. Written to help Jesus followers, this study guide provides the information and tools to encourage Muslim friends to discover the endless riches found in the Word of God. *“...to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people ... But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.”* Titus 3:2, 9

A bridge study takes each concept from an Islamic understanding and perspective, then bridges to a biblical explanation. The goal is to create curiosity and prompt Muslims to seek to understand Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible. *“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”* Hebrews 4:12

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ABOUT THIS BRIDGE STUDY

The message of this comparison bridge is to show the uniqueness of the Bible in the following ways:

- **The Bible tells the complete story:** For example, the Qur'an does not tell the prophets' stories in chronological order or with all of the details.
- **The Bible is cohesive:** For example, the Old Testament concepts are fulfilled in Jesus Christ as detailed in the New Testament.

What does being a bridge mean?

Being a bridge means to encourage others to find the truth, and not to criticize or attack an individual. *“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”* Colossians 4:6. Part of bridging is to understand the culture and background of those with whom we are sharing the Good News without compromising on the fact that Jesus is the only Way (Acts 17 and 1 Corinthians 9:20-22). *“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.”* Galatians 1:8.

Ways of Bridging

Remember that each language has its cultural expressions, idioms, and figures of speech. We do not expect the reader to fully appreciate the eloquence of the original language rather, we ask the reader to respect the beauty and style of the scriptures. Additionally, we cannot understand many of expressions out of the context of the theological system. Bridging is based on understanding that a seed needs first to take root, grow, and then bear fruit at the proper time. In many cases, there are many steps on the journey to Jesus. Bridging uses what others already know, and emphasizes, expands upon, or explains that knowledge according to biblical truth. The purpose of these methods is to encourage Muslim friends to see positive points in the Bible as the first step to being open to the truth. As you share concepts and stories, always consider the proper context within each conversation.

The Qur'an alone is regarded by Muslims as the sacred words of God. Therefore, the Qur'an alone is cited in this study. Some additional references from the Hadith (a collection of traditions containing sayings of Mohammed) are used to offer more clarification and understanding.

INTRODUCTION: MAJOR BARRIERS

Below are the major barriers for a Muslim when hearing the Gospel:

- **The superiority of the Qur'an:** *“And We have sent down to you the Book as clarification for all things and as guidance and mercy and good tidings for the Muslims.”* 16:89b.
The Answer: As we show how connected biblical truths are throughout both the Old and New Testaments, our Muslim friends can see the answer to this statement more fully. We will discuss this further in Chapter One.
- **The eloquence of speech:** One of the strongest arguments to support the Qur'an as revelation from God is its beauty and excellent poetry. No other Arab poet has been able to match the writing style of the Qur'an. *“Say, If mankind and the jinn gathered in order to produce the like of this Qur'an, they could not produce the like of it, even if they were to each other assistants.”* 17:88. **The Answer:** The beauty of speech is not indicative of revelation. We can, however, help others see the power of the Word of God. To understand this further, see the “Beauty of Speech” section in Chapter One of this book.
- **The Bible is corrupted:** Muslim friends will often say, “The Bible is corrupted. What Jews and Christians now have is not the same scripture that God revealed to Moses and Jesus and other prophets.”
The Answer: This statement is not supported by Qur'an, as this verse says *“So if you are in doubt, [O Muhammad], about that which We have revealed to you, then ask those who have been reading the Scripture before you.”* 10:94. There are many references throughout the Old and New Testaments that support the lack of corruption in the Bible.

Prophecies that Muslim Scholars Believe Speak About Mohammed

- **Deuteronomy 18:18:** *“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.”* Many Muslim scholars say that the prophet in this text refers to Mohammed.
The Answer: The context of “from among their brothers” refers to Israel. (See Deuteronomy 17:15, 15:2, Leviticus 25:46, 15:1-3; 17:15.) Peter refers to Jesus using Deuteronomy 18:18 (Acts 3:20-24).

Additional Note: The New Testament teaches that it is impossible for anyone to come from God after Jesus Christ with a different message (Galatians 1:8-9; 4:4-5).

- **Psalm 84:4-6:** *“Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Selah. Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the **Valley of Baca** they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.”* Many Muslim scholars say that the “Valley of Baca” refers to Bakkah (3:96-Yusuf Ali) or Mecca.

The Answer: Verse seven in Psalm 84 explains the context as referring to Zion.

- **Isaiah 42:1-4:** *“Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.”* Some Muslim scholars say these verses refer to Mohammed.

The Answer: In Matthew 12:17-21, it becomes clear that the prophet Isaiah was referring to Jesus, the Messiah, who would come. (See also Luke 24:44.)

- **Isaiah 42:10-13:** *“Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the end of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants. Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits; let the habitants of Sela sing for joy, let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory to the Lord, and declare his praise in the coastlands. The Lord goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war he stirs up his zeal; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes.”* Many Muslim scholars believe that “Kedar” refers to Arab descendants of Ishmael, and verses 10-13 describe the pilgrimage to “Mecca,” the villages that Kedar inhabits. (See also Ezekiel 27:21).

The Answer: This chapter has the same context as Isaiah 60:7-14 which refers to Zion. Kedar’s home has never been in the area of Mecca. (See Jeremiah 49:28.)

CHAPTER 1 – THE SCRIPTURES

Views on Inspiration (Wahy)

Because Muslims have heard that many different people wrote the Bible, your Muslim friend may ask, “How can the words of man be understood to be also the Word of God? Isn’t this a contradiction?”

QUR’ANIC TEXT

GOD REVEALS THE LETTER

God sent down the letter of the Scripture: *“Move not your tongue with it, [O Muhammad], to hasten with recitation of the Qur’an. Indeed, upon Us is its collection [in your heart] and [to make possible] its recitation. So when We have recited it [through Gabriel], then follow its recitation.”* 75:16-18 (See also 12:2).

Additional Note: According to the qur’anic view (3:3), the New Testament, or al-Injil in Arabic, is a book descended directly from God to Jesus alone. The Christian view of Al-Injil shows that it was written by various authors and includes the following:

- 1. The good news of salvation through Christ:**
Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
- 2. The story of Jesus in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John:** Matthew 26:13; John 20:31
- 3. The entire New Testament scriptures:**
2 Peter 3:15-16a

BIBLICAL TEXT

GOD REVEALS THE MEANING

OLD TESTAMENT

“The Spirit of the Lord speaks by me; His word is on my tongue.”
2 Samuel 23:2 (Compare to Matthew 22:43-44.)

NEW TESTAMENT

“All Scripture is breathed out by God.” 2 Timothy 3:16

“...knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever

produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” 2 Peter 1:20-21

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The classic view of Islamic understanding is that the Qur’an was sent down to the prophet Mohammed through the angel Gabriel as a prepared text. Because of this, the text of the Quran, only in Arabic, is considered the literal Word of God. Muslim scholars are offended by what they regard as the human transcription of the Bible. The personality and vocabulary of the authors in both the Old and New Testaments is very clear. The process is explained in this way “... *men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*” 2 Peter 1:21. With this explanation, there is no contradiction as to how God brought His Word. The Holy Spirit spoke through human instruments to mankind.

Beauty of Speech

One of the strongest arguments to support qur’anic revelation from God is the beautiful poetry of the Qur’an. No other Arabic poet has written anything similar to the Qur’an.

QUR’ANIC TEXT

“Say, If mankind and the jinn gathered in order to produce the like of this Qur’an, they could not produce the like of it, even if they were to each other assistants.” 17:88

“And if you are in doubt about what We have sent down upon Our Servant [Muhammad], then produce a surah the like thereof and call upon your witnesses other than Allah.” 2:23

BIBLICAL TEXT

IT IS NOT ABOUT LOFTY SPEECH, BUT ABOUT THE SPIRIT LIVING IN THE WORD

“All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.” Matthew 13:34-35

“And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom.”

1 Corinthians 2:1

“The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” John 6:63b

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” Hebrews 4:13 (See also John 15:3.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Using the “beauty of speech” argument about the classical Arabic of the Qur’an, the same could be said for notable Greek, Hebrew, English, Aramaic, Persian, and Latin literature. Most of these classic texts would not be considered a revelation from God, even by the writers themselves. The beauty of speech, as argued by Islamic scholars, may not necessarily speak strongly as an indication of revelation. Otherwise, the same argument could be made for the 1611 translation of the King James English Bible, regarded as a classic.

The Scriptures are Not Corrupted

A popular Muslim complaint is that the Bible is corrupted and that Jews and Christians do not have the same scriptures that God revealed to Moses, Jesus, and other prophets. Is this statement supported by the Qur’an? Can we find proof of the preservation of the scriptures through the Old and New Testaments?

QUR’ANIC TEXT

THE QUR’AN TESTIFIES THAT THE BIBLE IS NOT CORRUPTED

Please Note: The point is not to use the Qur’an as proof that the Bible is not corrupted, but to see that the Qur’an testifies that the original, uncorrupted Bible was in the hands of the People of the Book (Jews and Christians) in the 7th century.

The Qur’an confirms the previous Holy Books: *“O you who were given the Scripture, believe in what We have sent down [to Muhammad], confirming that which is with you.”* 4:47a (See also 46:30.)

The Torah and the Injil should be upheld: “Say, ‘O People of the Scripture, you are [standing] on nothing until you uphold [the law of] the Torah, the Gospel (Al-Injil).” 5:68a

“And let the People of the Gospel (al-Injil) judge by what Allah has revealed therein.” 5:47a

Ask the people of the scripture: “So if you are in doubt, [O Muhammad], about that which We have revealed to you, then ask those who have been reading the Scripture before you.” 10:94a

Al-Thekr (or Reminder): “And before thee also the messengers We sent were but men, to whom We granted inspiration. If ye realize this not, ask of those who possess the Message.” 16:43 (Yusuf Ali) In the original Arabic text, instead of the “Message”, it literally says “al-Thekr” which means “reminder”.

“Before this We wrote in the Psalms, after the Message given to Moses: My servants the righteous inherit the earth.” 21:105 (Yusuf Ali) Again, in the original Arabic text, instead of the “Message” given to Moses, it says “al-Thekr”.

“We have, without doubt, sent down the Message, and We will assuredly guard it from corruption.” 15:9 (Yusuf Ali) Yet again, in the original Arabic text, instead of the “Message”, it says “al-Thekr”.

Additional Note: The Qur’an uses the term al-Thekr (“reminder”) for the Torah and for general biblical scripture and says that it is “protected” or “guarded” from corruption.

Additional Note: Some respected Muslim scholars believe that the Scriptures are not corrupted. For example, Al-fakhr Al-razi says, “... it was not practicable thus to corrupt the text, because those Scriptures were generally known and widely circulated, having been handed down from generation to generation.” (Al-tafseer Al-kabeer, Surah 5, verse 13)

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

TESTIFIED TO AND PROPHESED ABOUT THE COMING OF JESUS THE MESSIAH

The Word of God stands forever: *“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”* Isaiah 40:8
(Compare to 1 Peter 1:24, 25.)

Israel honors the scriptures: Deuteronomy 17:18-19;
1 Kings 2:3

NEW TESTAMENT

THE NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLED THE PROPHECIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT ABOUT THE MESSIAH

The fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets: *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”*
Matthew 5:17, 18

“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:27 (See also John 5:39.)

Examples of Old Testament References in the New Testament:

Matthew 11, 15, 22, 23
Mark 7 and 12
Acts 13 and 26
Romans 10
Galatians 3
Hebrews 3 and 9

SUMMARY STATEMENT

As mentioned earlier, the Qur’an uses the term al-Thekr (“reminder”) for the Torah and for general biblical scripture and says that it is “protected” or “guarded” from corruption. This same term, al-Thekr, that promised protection from corruption cannot be understood to refer to only to the Qur’an, as many Islamic interpreters claim. We have seen in the biblical verses mentioned above that Jesus said that the scriptures (the Torah and the Prophets) would remain intact and not even the smallest part would ever be changed. Israel as a nation honored the Old Testament and Peter wrote that *“the Word of our God will stand forever.”* The Old Testament is a shadow, or foretelling, of the events fulfilled in the New Testament. *“Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.”* Psalm 119:89.

Corruption as Concealment of the Truth

QUR'ANIC TEXT

“Those to whom We gave the Scripture know him as they know their own sons. But indeed, a party of them conceal the truth while they know [it].” 2:146

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

There are no clear or direct references in the Old Testament.

NEW TESTAMENT

“And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.” 2 Peter 3:15-16

Tradition has trumped the Truth: *“So for the sake of your tradition, you have made void the word of God.” Matthew 15:6*

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Sometimes the use of the term “corruption” can be used to explain a type of manipulation. By implication, this means the scriptures have been misinterpreted or concealed. In all religions, it is possible to stray away from the original intention of the scriptures and begin to follow the interpretations of people and traditions which accompany the teachings (Surah 2:146 and 2 Peter 3:16).

CHAPTER 2 – CREATION AND THE FALL

In the Beginning

QUR'ANIC TEXT

“And it is He who created the heavens and the earth in six days, and His Throne had been upon water.” 11:7

“Indeed, Our word to a thing when We intend it is but that We say to it ‘Be’ and it is.” 16:40

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

“And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.” Genesis 1:1-4

NEW TESTAMENT

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” John 1:1-4

“...there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.” 1 Corinthians 8:6

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Bible teaches that God created the world by his Spirit and the power of his Word. When considering the biblical references above, we see that the Father, Jesus (the Word of God), and the Spirit were involved in the creation (Colossians 1:15-17).

The Purpose of Man’s Creation

QUR'ANIC TEXT

Worship God: *“And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me.” 51:56*

God equipped Adam to be his successor on earth: “*And [mention, O Muhammad], when your Lord said to the angels, ‘Indeed, I will make upon the earth a successive authority.’ They said, ‘Will You place upon it one who causes corruption therein and sheds blood, while we declare Your praise and sanctify You?’ Allah said, ‘Indeed, I know that which you do not know.’ And He taught Adam the names - all of them. Then He showed them to the angels and said, ‘Inform Me of the names of these, if you are truthful.’ They said, ‘Exalted are You; we have no knowledge except what You have taught us. Indeed, it is You who is the Knowing, the Wise.’ He said, ‘O Adam, inform them of their names.’ And when he had informed them of their names, He said, ‘Did I not tell you that I know the unseen [aspects] of the heavens and the earth? And I know what you reveal and what you have concealed.’” 2:30-33 (Compare to Genesis 2:19-20).*

Additional Note: The Qur’anic context of angels arguing with God about Adam comes from the Talmud. Here is a quote from the Midrash to Genesis 2:19: “*When the Holy One, blessed be He, was about to create humankind, He consulted with His ministering angels, saying, ‘Let us make Adam.’ The angels responded, ‘What’s so wonderful about this Adam?’ So He brought each creature before the angels and asked them, ‘This creature, what is its name?’ But they did not know. Then He brought the creatures before Adam and asked him, ‘This creature, what is its name?’ To which Adam responded, ‘This is shor [Hebrew for ox], this is chamor [donkey]...’” Chabad.org.*

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

To glorify him: “*...everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.*” Isaiah 43:7

To know him: “*And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord... ”* Jeremiah 31:34a

To love him: “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*” Deuteronomy 6:5

To enjoy him: *“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”* Psalm 37:4

NEW TESTAMENT

To live with him: *“Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”* John 14:23

To love him: *“And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind.”* Luke 10:27

To rejoice in him: *“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.”* Philippians 4:4

To be his children: *“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”* John 1:12

“No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.” John 15:15

SUMMARY STATEMENT

In the Qur’an and the Bible, we are created to bring God glory, honor, and worship. The Bible further says that God wants to befriend us as he did with Abraham (James 2:23). We can enjoy this relationship (Psalm 37:4) and fellowship with him (Revelation 3:20). God wants to be a father to us and have us as his children (Malachi 2:10; Matthew 6:9). This is not a biological relationship, but a connection through Jesus, *“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”* Romans 8:14.

God Created Man in His Own Image

QUR’ANIC TEXT

This concept is not in the Qur’an but it is found in the Hadith, (the collection of traditions containing sayings of the prophet Muhammed which constitute the major source of guidance for Muslims apart from the Qur’an). This is from Sahih Al Bukhari, *“God created Adam in His image and he was 60 cubits tall.”* and from Sahih Muslim, *“When you fight,*

you should avoid the face because God created Adam in His image.”

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:26-27

NEW TESTAMENT

Not in physical sense: *“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”* John 4:24

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, ...” 2 Corinthians 3:17a

In God’s spiritual image: *“You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”* Matthew 5:48

“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6:36

“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18

“...who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.” Philippians 3:21

“... and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.” Colossians 3:10-11 (See also Philippians 2:6-8.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

In the Islamic tradition, we see more of the physical image regarding the creation of man in God’s image. This is why some Muslim scholars accepted it literally; others have rejected it completely. The context in the Old Testament is closer to that of a spiritual and intellectual image. In Genesis 1:26, as a result of

that image, God gives dominion of the earth to human beings. The Qur'anic verse, 2:30 (Yusuf Ali), could be connected to this dominion. Many references in the New Testament refer only to the spiritual connection to humans being in the image of God.

Original Sin

QUR'ANIC TEXT

THE FORBIDDEN TREE IS NOT EXPLAINED CLEARLY

“And ‘O Adam, dwell, you and your wife, in Paradise and eat from wherever you will but do not approach this tree, lest you be among the wrongdoers.’ But Satan whispered to them to make apparent to them that which was concealed from them of their private parts. He said, ‘Your Lord did not forbid you this tree except that you become angels or become of the immortal.’” 7:19-20

BIBLICAL TEXT

THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL EXPLAINS THE PROBLEM OF PRIDE

OLD TESTAMENT

“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’” Genesis 2:16-17

New Testament

“At that time Jesus declared: I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children.” Matthew 11:25 (See also 1 Corinthians 1:19-21.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

In the Qur'an and Old Testament, Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree. The Old Testament further explains that they were relying on their own understanding, following their desires instead of God's commands. It also explains “original sin” and its motive clearly (Genesis 3:5-6). The wisdom of God, unattainable by man in his own strength (Proverbs 3:5-7), is available only to those who humbly seek God (James 4:6).

Innocent Nature became Sinful Nature

QUR'ANIC TEXT

GOD ACCEPTED THE REPENTANCE OF ADAM, BUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS SIN ARE STILL CONTINUING

Adam's repentance and the consequences of sin: *“And We said, ‘Go down, [all of you], as enemies to one another ...’ Then Adam received from his Lord [some] words, and He accepted his repentance ... We said, ‘Go down from it, all of you.’”*
2:36b, 37-38a

“So he made them fall, through deception, and when they tasted of the tree, their private parts became apparent to them, and they began to fasten together over themselves from the leaves of Paradise.” 7:22

BIBLICAL TEXT

BY SINNING, HUMANKIND LOST THE NATURE OF GOD, BUT GOD PROVIDED FOR REDEMPTION

OLD TESTAMENT

The consequences of sin: *“Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.”* Genesis 3:7 (See also Genesis 2:17; 3:17-19.)

Garments of skins: *“And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.”* Genesis 3:21

NEW TESTAMENT

The consequences of sin: Romans 3:10-12

Jesus restores the first nature: *“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”* John 10:10

“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive ... Thus, it is written: The first man Adam became a living being, the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.”
1 Corinthians 15:22, 45

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Even though most Muslim scholars deny the concept of “original sin,” this concept can be found indirectly in the qur'anic text. The

Bible says in Genesis, chapter three, that when Adam chose to disobey God's commandment, he became corrupted. Since that time, all of Adam's descendants have inherited a sinful, fallen nature. The result is that sin has wrecked humankind's relationship with a holy, sinless God. Beginning in Genesis and continuing throughout the entire Bible, we see clearly that redemption requires a blood sacrifice. While the first Adam was sinful and passed along a distorted image of God, the Second Adam, who was Christ, was sinless, fulfilling the requirement of the law for a perfect and blameless sacrifice for the redemption of humanity. This shows the continuity between the Old and New Testaments.

The Tree of Life (Shajarat al-hayat)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

UNEXPLAINED CONCEPT

“And he certainly saw him in another descent. At the Lote Tree of the Utmost Boundary. Near it is the Garden of Refuge.” 53:13-15

Additional Note: The Sidr Tree is also called the Lote, Jujube, or Zizphus Tree. It is a symbol of the blessed tree described in the Qur'an as a tree of Paradise.

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

AFTER ADAM AND EVE FELL, GOD PROHIBITED THEM FROM EATING FROM THE TREE OF LIFE

“The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” Genesis 2:9

“Then the Lord God said, Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.” Genesis 3:22-24

Additional Note: The reason humankind is forbidden to eat from the Tree of Life since Genesis until Christ came to

this world is that God does not want people to stay in their sinful nature forever.

NEW TESTAMENT

THE TREE OF LIFE IS A SYMBOL OF JESUS CHRIST

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

“Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”
John 14:6a

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh ... Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” John 6:51, 54

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” Revelation 2:7

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Tree of Life is not clearly explained in the Qur'an. In the Bible, the Tree of Life, created by God, was a living tree in the Garden of Eden. It is also a symbol of the life-giving power of Christ. Like Jesus, the Tree of Life is able to give eternal life for anyone who eats its fruit.

The Angels Worshiped the Firstborn

QUR'ANIC TEXT (Yusufali)

SIMILAR CONCEPT; DIFFERENT CONTEXT

“[So mention] when your Lord said to the angels, Indeed, I am going to create a human being from clay. So when I have proportioned him and breathed into him of My [created] soul, then fall down to him in prostration.” 38:71-72

The Second Adam: *“Lo! the likeness of Jesus with Allah is as the likeness of Adam. He created him of dust, then He said unto him: Be! and he is.”* 3:59

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

THE FIRSTBORN DOES NOT ALWAYS REFER TO CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

Israel: *“Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord, Israel is my firstborn son.’* Exodus 4:22

The Messiah: *“And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.”* Psalm 89:27

Other Examples:

- Cain and Seth Genesis 4:25
- Ishmael and Isaac Genesis 17:21
- Esau and Jacob Genesis 25:33-34; 28:1-4
- Reuben, the firstborn of Jacob,
and the sons of Joseph 1 Chronicles 5:1
- Manasseh and Ephraim,
the sons of Joseph Genesis 48:14, 19
- Nadab and Eleazar,
the sons of Aaron Numbers 3:2-4
- Amnon and Solomon 1 Chronicles 3:1; 17:11-13

NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus Christ is the firstborn of all creation: *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”* Colossians 1:15

Angels worship the firstborn, Jesus Christ: *“And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says: ‘Let all God’s angels worship him.’* Hebrews 1:6 (Compare to Psalm 97:7.)

The last Adam: *“Thus it is written, ‘The first man Adam became a living being;’ the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.”*
1 Corinthians 15:45

SUMMARY STATEMENT

In the Qur’an, God commanded the angels to worship Adam. In the New Testament, the angels were commanded to worship Christ as the “firstborn.” The word translated as “firstborn” can be used in several ways. It can refer to first in chronological order, rank,

or importance. According to the New Testament, only the Second Adam, Jesus Christ is worthy to be worshiped.

Cain (Qabil) and Abel (Habil)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

“And recite to them the story of Adam’s two sons, in truth, when they both offered a sacrifice [to Allah], and it was accepted from one of them but was not accepted from the other. Said [the latter], ‘I will surely kill you.’ Said [the former], ‘Indeed, Allah only accepts from the righteous [who fear Him] ...’ And his soul permitted to him the murder of his brother, so he killed him and became among the losers.” 5:27, 30

BIBLICAL TEXTs

OLD TESTAMENT

“Then the Lord said to Cain, ‘Where is Abel your brother?’ He said, ‘I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?’ And the Lord said, ‘What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground.’” Genesis 4:9-10

NEW TESTAMENT

ABEL WAS A SHADOW OF CHRIST

A symbol of blood that was shed because of sin: *“Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.” Matthew 23:34-35*

The blood that speaks better than Abel: *“... and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.” Hebrews 12:24*

The Flood of Noah (Nuh)

QUR'ANIC TEXT (Yusuf Ali)

JUDGMENT AND COVENANT

“Allah did choose Adam and Noah, the family of Abraham, and the family of ‘Imran (Amram) above all people, Offspring, one of the other.” 3:33-34

“Noah’s son was among those overwhelmed in the flood: “So the Ark floated with them on the waves (towering) like mountains, and Noah called out to his son, who had separated himself (from the rest): O my son! embark with us, and be not with the unbelievers! The son replied: I will betake myself to some mountain: it will save me from the water. Noah said: This day nothing can save, from the command of Allah, any but those on whom He hath mercy! And the waves came between them, and the son was among those overwhelmed in the Flood.” 11:42-43

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

JUDGMENT AND COVENANT

“And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart ... But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.” Genesis 6:6, 8

The Covenant: Genesis 9:12-17

All of Noah’s sons were with him in the ark: *“And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood.” Genesis 7:7*

NEW TESTAMENT

THE ARK AS A SYMBOL OF CHRIST

“...when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 3:20-21

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Qur’an and the Old Testament tell the story of Noah and the flood. More details are provided in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, the ark was a picture of salvation in Jesus and refers to the flood as a symbol of baptism for salvation. Baptism is not the ritual of washing away dirt or the contamination of our body, but the answer of a clean conscience before God.

CHAPTER 3: THE HOUSE OF ABRAHAM (IBRAHIM)

Abraham's Righteousness

QUR'ANIC TEXT (Yusuf Ali)

ABRAHAM WAS THE FOUNDER OF ISLAM

(Islam means “submitting to Allah”)

“And who is better in religion than one who submits himself to Allah while being a doer of good and follows the religion of Abraham, inclining toward truth? And Allah took Abraham as an intimate friend.” 4:125

“Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was one inclining toward truth, a Muslim [submitting to Allah]. And he was not of the polytheists.” 3:67

“Indeed, those who believed and those who were Jews or Christians or Sabeans, those [among them] who believed in Allah and the Last Day and did righteousness - will have their reward with their Lord, and no fear will there be concerning them, nor will they grieve.” 2:62

Additional Note: The verses 3:67 and 2:62 support the concept that the title “Islam” refers to monotheism and not a specific religion. There is debate, however, between Muslim scholars about the connections between the above references and verses 3:85 and 9:29.

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Righteousness: Genesis 15:6

The Promises: Genesis 22:18

NEW TESTAMENT

Righteousness: Romans 4:3

The Promises: Galatians 3:16a

SUMMARY STATEMENT

In the Old Testament, God called Abraham out of the land of Ur of the Chaldeans and sent him to the land of Canaan. God's purpose was to bless Abraham by making him a great nation of many

peoples. This is seen in the development initially of historic Israel and ultimately in the international church of Jesus Christ.

The Home of Abraham and Ishmael

QUR'ANIC TEXT (Yusuf Ali)

ABRAHAM AND ISHMAEL (ISMA'IL) WERE IN MECCA

Bakkah: *“The first House (of worship) appointed for men was that at Bakka: Full of blessing and of guidance for all kinds of beings: In it are clear signs [such as] the standing place of Abraham. And whoever enters it shall be safe. And [due] to Allah from the people is a pilgrimage to the House.”* 3:96-97a (Yusuf Ali)

Mecca: 48:24a

Abraham and Ishmael built God's house: 2:125-127; 22:26-27

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

ABRAHAM AND ISHMAEL NEVER WERE IN MECCA

The Valley of Baca: *“As they go through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.”* Psalm 84:6-7 (See also 2 Samuel 5:23-24.)

Beersheba: *“So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba and Abraham lived at Beersheba.”* Genesis 22:19

The Land of Canaan: *“...that I may make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell.”* Genesis 24:3

The wilderness of Paran: *“He (Ishmael) lived in the wilderness of Paran and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.”* Genesis 21:21 (See also Numbers 13:26 and 1 Samuel 25:1.)

Where he settled: *“(These are the years of the life of Ishmael: 137 years. He breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.) They settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite*

Egypt in the direction of Assyria. He settled over against all his kinsmen.” Genesis 25:17-18

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Qur’an teaches that Abraham and Ishmael were in Mecca. According to the biblical texts, when we follow the narrative of Abraham’s life, we see that his journey began from Ur of the Chaldees. From there, he traveled to Canaan and then south to Egypt. These texts also record that the mother of Ishmael sent for a wife for Ishmael from Egypt. He made his home in Paran, not in the Arabian Peninsula. There is no evidence that Abraham or his sons were ever in Mecca. According to the Bible, Paran is in the north on the way from Sinai to the land of the Philistines.

Ishmael or Isaac (Is’haq)

QUR’ANIC TEXT (Yusuf Ali)

ISAAC AND JACOB ARE THE LINEAGE OF PROPHETHOOD

Isaac was a reward for Abraham’s righteousness: 37:100-113

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: *“And We granted him (Abraham) Isaac and Jacob, and conferred on his descendants the Prophethood and the Book.”* 29:27a (See also 38:45-47.)

The Children of Israel: *“O Children of Israel, remember My favor that I have bestowed upon you and that I preferred you over the worlds.”* 2:47 (See also 2:122.)

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaac is the promised: *“But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year.”* Genesis 17:21

The sacrifice of Isaac: *“After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ He said, ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”* Genesis 22:1-2

NEW TESTAMENT

The promise through Isaac: Galatians 4:22-31 and Hebrews 11:18

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Bible teaches that even though Ishmael was the firstborn son, God chose the second born, Isaac, to inherit the covenant promised to Abraham. The Qur'an also agrees with the fact that Isaac was the heir, in the line of the prophets. Both the Qur'an and the Bible agree that the Children of Israel (Jacob) had favor bestowed on by God, and a special covenant with him. It is important to note that the New Testament provides a deeper definition of who are the real Jews (Romans 2:28-29), and who are the Children of Abraham (Romans 4:16, 9:6-8; Galatians 3:29).

Joseph (Yusuf)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

The longest story in the Qur'an: Surah 12

Joseph in prison: *"She said, 'That is the one about whom you blamed me. And I certainly sought to seduce him, but he firmly refused; and if he will not do what I order him, he will surely be imprisoned and will be of those debased.' He said, 'My Lord, prison is more to my liking than that to which they invite me.'"* 12:32-33

Joseph asks for a position: *"[Joseph] said, 'Appoint me over the storehouses of the land. Indeed, I will be a knowing guardian.'"* 12:55

Joseph forgives: *"They said, 'By Allah, certainly has Allah preferred you over us, and indeed, we have been sinners.' He said, 'No blame will there be upon you today. Allah will forgive you; and He is the most merciful of the merciful.'"* 12:91-92

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Joseph in prison: Genesis 39:19-20

Pharaoh chose him for a position: Genesis 41:39-40

The promised son of Judah: Genesis 49:8-11

Joseph forgives: *"And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life." Genesis 45:5*

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Even though the story of Joseph is the longest in the Qur'an, more details are provided in the Old Testament. Joseph's story is of the rescue of the people of Israel from famine and destruction and, centuries later, how God brought them into the land of Canaan where they would be transformed from being slaves into a great nation (Genesis 45:5). The Qur'an mentions that Joseph forgave his brothers' treachery even though they were undeserving but the Old Testament describes why he did this (Genesis 45:5; 50:19). In addition, the Old Testament tells of Joseph's prediction of Israel's exodus into the Promised Land (Genesis 50:24-25). This is a foreshadowing of God's love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:32).

CHAPTER 4: ISRAEL

The Promised Land

QUR'ANIC TEXT

THE QUR'AN AGREES THAT THE PROMISED LAND BELONGED TO ISRAEL (JEWISH PEOPLE)

“...when Moses said to his people ... O my people, enter the Holy Land which Allah has assigned to you and do not turn back [from fighting in Allah's cause] and [thus] become losers.” 5:20b-21

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

“On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.’ Genesis 15:18 (See also Deuteronomy 4:1.)

NEW TESTAMENT

MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD

“My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” John 18:36

The Land of Milk and Honey

SIMILAR CONCEPT, DIFFERENT CONTEXT

QUR'ANIC TEXT

PARADISE

“Is the description of Paradise, which the righteous are promised, wherein are rivers of water unaltered, rivers of milk the taste of which never changes, rivers of wine delicious to those who drink, and rivers of purified honey, in which they will have from all [kinds of] fruit and forgiveness from their Lord, like [that of] those who abide eternally in the Fire and are given to drink scalding water that will sever their intestines?” 47:15

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

THE PROMISED LAND

“And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites.” Exodus 3:8

NEW TESTAMENT

THE PROMISED LAND AS A SYMBOL OF A NEW HEAVEN

Revelation 21 and 22:1-5

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Qur’an refers to the “land of milk and honey” as Paradise, the heavenly place promised to true believers. According to the Bible, however, this was both an earthly place (the land of promise called Canaan), as well as a symbol of the future paradise or heaven.

Moses (Mosa)

QUR’ANIC TEXT

MOSES IS MENTIONED MOST OFTEN IN THE QUR’AN

God spoke to Moses directly: *“... and Allah spoke to Moses with [direct] speech.” 4:164b*

The rock: *“... and We inspired to Moses when his people implored him for water; ‘Strike with your staff the stone,’ and there gushed forth from it twelve springs. Every people knew its watering place.” 7:160b*

Manna: *“... and We shaded them with clouds and sent down upon them manna and quails, [saying], Eat from the good things with which We have provided you.” 7:160c*

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

MOSES AS SHADOW OF CHRIST

“Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house.” Numbers 12:7 (Compare to Hebrews 3:2-6.)

Face to face: *“Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.”* Exodus 33:11a (Compare to the Transfiguration story found in Matthew 17:1-8.)

The two tablets: Exodus 31:18; 34:1 (Compare to Mark 12:29-31.)

The rock to be struck only once: Exodus 17:6-7; Numbers 20:8-12 (Compare to 1 Corinthians 10:4.)

Manna: Numbers 11:4-9 (Compare to John 6:35.)

The bronze serpent: *“So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.”* Numbers 21:9 (Compare to John 3:14-15.)

NEW TESTAMENT A BETTER COVENANT

“But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.” Hebrews 8:6

EIGHT COMPARISONS BETWEEN MOSES & JESUS

- Moses prophecies about Christ Luke 24:27
- The Lawgiver and the Grace-giver John 1:17;
2 Corinthians 3:6
- A faithful servant, but Jesus is
the Son and the Builder Hebrews 3:2-6
- The Passover 1 Corinthians 5:7
- The Rock to be struck once 1 Peter 3:18
- The Rock gives water John 4:10
- The Bread of Life John 6:32-53
- The Bronze Serpent John 3:14;
Galatians 3:13

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Even though the Qur'an mentions many stories about Moses, but like other characters mentioned in it, the stories of these characters are not complete or connected to the new covenant given by Jesus. In the Old Testament, Moses is a shadow of deliverance from captivity and the wilderness. He is also a shadow of the living water and bread from heaven. *“Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.”* Hebrews 3:5-6.

The Nation of Israel

QUR'ANIC TEXT

BELIEVERS ARE THE NEAREST TO ABRAHAM

“Indeed, the most worthy of Abraham among the people are those who followed him [in submission to Allah] and this prophet, and those who believe [in his message]. And Allah is the ally of the believers.” 3:68

Preferred them above all: *“And We did certainly give the Children of Israel the Scripture and judgement and prophet hood, and We provided them with good things and preferred them over the worlds.”* 45:16

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

GOD SHOWS NO PARTIALITY

“For they provoked him to anger with their high places; they moved him to jealousy with their idols. When God heard, he was full of wrath, and he utterly rejected Israel.” Psalm 78:58-59 (See also Zechariah 1:2-3.)

God's chosen people: *“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”* Exodus 19:5-6a (Compare to Revelation 5:10.)

NEW TESTAMENT
A SPIRITUAL NATION

Abraham's children: *“Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham ... And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.”* Galatians 3:7, 29 (See also John 8:39, 44.)

A holy nation: *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”* 1 Peter 2:9 (Compare to Exodus 19:5-6a.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Both the Qur'an and the Bible express strongly that the nation of Israel was given the scriptures and the promised land from God. The New Testament gives a spiritual definition for “Seed of Abraham” and “Israel.” The children (or seed) of Abraham are the *“children of promise through faith.”* Romans 9:6-8. All believers will become a part of a royal priest-hood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession (1 Peter 2:9).

The Children of God

QUR'ANIC TEXT

DENIES THE CONCEPT OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD

“Both the Jews and the Christians say: We are sons of Allah, and his beloved.” Say: Why then doth He punish you for your sins? Nay, ye are but men,- of the men he hath created.” 5:18a

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

THE PHYSICAL COVENANT

“...the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose.” Genesis 6:2

“Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord, Israel is my firstborn son, and I say to you, Let my son go that he may serve me. If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.’”
Exodus 4:22-23

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.” Hosea 11:1 (Compare to Matthew 2:15.)

NEW TESTAMENT

A SPIRITUAL COVENANT

“They said to him, ‘We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father - even God.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love me.’” John 8:41-42a

“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”
John 1:12-13

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”
Romans 8:14

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The idea of “the children of God” is not present in the Qur’an. It is correct to say we indeed are just men created by God. When the Bible uses the word child (or children), it is not always referring to a literal or a biological relationship. It is also used in a figurative and relational sense (Isaiah 1:2). The concept of children of God in the New Testament is not based on flesh, but on the Spirit (John 1:12-13; John 3:5).

Israel Asked for a King

QUR’ANIC TEXT

THE QUR’AN REFERS TO SAMUEL, BUT DOESN’T MENTION HIM BY NAME

“Have you not considered the assembly of the Children of Israel after [the time of] Moses when they said to a prophet of theirs, Send to us a king ... And their prophet said to them, Indeed, Allah has sent to you Saul as a king.” 2:246a, 247a

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

“Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations ... And the Lord said to Samuel: ‘Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have

rejected me from being king over them.” 1 Samuel 8:5b, 7 (See also Deuteronomy 17:14-20.)

The true king: *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* Isaiah 9:6 (Compare to Luke 2:11.)

NEW TESTAMENT

MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD

“Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” John 18:36

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Both the Qur’an and the Old Testament mention Israel asking for a king. The Old Testament says further that God was unhappy with Israel when they wanted a human king to lead them into battle and to make them “like the other nations.” According to Exodus 15:18, God already was the King of Israel. Speaking through the prophet Samuel, God told Israel that they had rejected him as their king. This is an example of people choosing the ways of man instead of the ways of God.

David’s (Dawud) Repentance

QUR’ANIC TEXT

NO MENTION OF DAVID’S SIN

The story of the rich and poor: 38:21-24 (not clearly relevant to David’s sin with Bathsheba)

The Psalms (al-Zabor): *“Before this We wrote in the Psalms (al-Zabor), after the Message given to Moses (al-Thekr): My servants the righteous, shall inherit the earth.”* 21:105 (Yusuf Ali) (Compare to Psalm 37:11.)

“And We certainly gave David from Us bounty. We said, O mountains, repeat Our praises with him, and the birds.” 34:10 (Yusuf Ali) (Compare to Psalm 148:9-10.)

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

DAVID'S STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

The story of the rich and poor: 2 Samuel 11 and 12
(David's sin with Bathsheba)

David's heart: *"For when Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father."*

1 Kings 11:4

The Psalms: *"Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel: "The Spirit of the Lord speaks by me; his word is on my tongue." 2 Samuel 23:1-2*

NEW TESTAMENT

DAVID'S PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

"Then he said to them: 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.'" Luke 24:44 (See also Matthew 22:41-44.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Both the Qur'an and the Old Testament describe the mountains and the birds praising God with David, the sweet singer and composer of songs and hymns to God. The Old Testament explains further that, though blessed and used by God to do many things, including giving us scripture as a prophet, David sinned greatly and needed the forgiveness of God to have his relationship restored. Human effort can never obtain peace with a holy and righteous God. In the New Testament, we learn that only through Jesus can we be considered righteous (Romans 3:21; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

Solomon (Sulayman)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

EXAGGERATIONS AND LEGENDS

Solomon asked for a kingdom: 38:35

His army: *“And gathered for Solomon were his soldiers of the jinn and men and birds, and they were [marching] in rows.”* 27:17

“He brings the Queen of Sheba into submission: “[Solomon] said, O assembly [of jinn], which of you will bring me her throne before they come to me in submission? A powerful one from among the jinn said, I will bring it to you before you rise from your place, and indeed, I am for this [task] strong and trustworthy. Said one who had knowledge from the Scripture, I will bring it to you before your glance returns to you.” 27:38-40a

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

NO LEGENDS IN THE BIBLICAL STORY OF SOLOMON

Solomon asked for wisdom: 2 Chronicles 1:11 (Compare to Matthew 6:33.)

Solomon’s temple: 2 Samuel 7:13; 1 Kings 8:17-20

Solomon’s weakness: *“For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.”* 1 Kings 11:4

Queen of Sheba’s visit: *“And when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind. And Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her.”* 1 Kings 10:1-3

NEW TESTAMENT

SOMEONE GREATER THAN SOLOMON IS HERE

The physical temple no longer matters: Luke 13:35; John 2:21 (Compare to Isaiah 66:1-2.)

Someone greater than Solomon is here: *“The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.”* Luke 11:31

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Qur'an's references about King Solomon contain many exaggerated details about his life that are not in the Old Testament. In addition, the Qur'an says that Solomon asked for a great kingdom. According to the Old Testament, Solomon asked God for extraordinary wisdom to rule his people. Because his request was unselfish, God blessed him in every area. Unlike the Qur'an, the Old Testament tells of King Solomon building the temple. It also describes him as "the wisest man who ever lived." Even with his great power, wealth, and wisdom, he sinned greatly. His wives turned away his heart from following after the Lord because his heart was not "fully devoted" as his father David's had been.

CHAPTER 5: OTHER PROPHETS' STORIES

Job (Ayyub)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

UNEXPLAINED CONCEPT

“And remember Our servant Job, when he called to his Lord, “Indeed, Satan has touched me with hardship and torment.” [So he was told], “Strike [the ground] with your foot; this is a [spring for] a cool bath and drink.” And We granted him his family and a like [number] with them as mercy from Us and a reminder for those of understanding.” 38:41-43

Additional Note: Some scholars believe that the Qur'an was written assuming the readers would know the details of these stories from previous scriptures.

BIBLICAL TEXT

THE STORY OF SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND AFFLICTIONS

OLD TESTAMENT

- Piety and Affliction Job 1:1, 18-19
- First Response Job 1:20-22
- Response to his Three Friends Job 16:1-4
- Deep Despair Job 19:7-11
- Self-Righteousness Job 9:28-33
- The Lord's Answer Job 38:4-7

Job is humbled and brought to the light: *“I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” Job 42:5-6 (Compare to Isaiah 6:5.)*

The Lord restored Job's fortune: *“And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.” Job 42:10 (Compare to Psalm 147:3.)*

NEW TESTAMENT

“Then Jesus told his disciples: If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

Matthew 16:24

None righteous, no not one: Romans 3:12

The work of God through afflictions: Romans 5:3-5

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Qur'an and the Old Testament refer to Job as a righteous and devout servant, touched by adversity because of Satan, the Evil One. The Old Testament explains that God sometimes allows affliction in our lives so that we might see him and his ways more clearly. Job thought he was righteous and that he understood the ways of God. In the end, he humbled himself and said, “I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” Job 42:5-6. When Job realized his true position before a righteous and holy God, he repented and received double blessings. In the New Testament, Jesus begins his Sermon on the Mount with this concept (Matthew 5:3). (See also James 4:6.)

Jonah (Yunus - Zon-nun)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

UNEXPLAINED CONTEXT

“And remember Zun-nun (Yunus), when he departed in wrath, He imagined that We had no power over him! But he cried through the depths of darkness: There is no god but thou: glory to thee: I was indeed wrong! Som We listened to him, and delivered him from distress, and thus, do We deliver those who have faith.” 21:87-88 (Yusuf Ali)

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Jonah flees the presence of the Lord: Jonah 1:1-3

In the fish's belly for three days and nights: Jonah 1:17

Jonah goes to Nineveh: Jonah 3:3

NEW TESTAMENT
A SHADOW OF CHRIST

“But he answered them: An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” Matthew 12:39-40

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Although some of the details of the story of Jonah in the Qur’an are similar, the Old Testament gives more information, revealing Jonah’s heart and motives. Jonah is the most straightforward Old Testament character to be considered a picture or shadow of Jesus Christ. Jonah is an example of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Also, Jonah’s message was delivered in a more powerful manner after his rescue from the great fish. The same happened with Jesus after his resurrection. The only difference between the two is that Jonah was in the belly of the great fish because of his sin. Jesus Christ, however, was in the heart of the earth because he carried the sins of the world. For our sake, God made him to be sin who knew no sin (2 Corinthians 5:21).

The Ascension

QUR’ANIC TEXT

ALLAH RAISED JESUS TO HIMSELF

Enoch (Idris): *“And mention in the Book, Idris. Indeed, he was a man of truth and a prophet. And We raised him to a high station.”* 19:56-57

Mohammed: *“Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from al-Masjid al-Haram to al-Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs. Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Seeing.”* 17:1 (See also 53:11-16.)

Jesus: *“[Mention] when Allah said, “O Jesus, indeed I will take you and raise you to Myself and purify you from those who disbelieve ...”* 3:55a

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Enoch: “*Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.*” Genesis 5:24

Elijah: “*...and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried: My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen! And he saw him no more.*” 2 Kings 2:11-12

The Son of Man: “*I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days, and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom.*” Daniel 7:13-14a (Compare to Matthew 26:64.) (See also Psalm 110:1. Compare to Matthew 22:43-44.)

NEW TESTAMENT

AT THE RIGHT HAND OF MAJESTY

“*Jesus said to him, You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.*” Matthew 26:64 (Compare to Daniel 7:13-14.)

“*He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.*” Hebrews 1:3

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Qur'an teaches that the ascension of Jesus was different than that of the other prophets including Mohammed. Jesus was raised to God himself. The Bible teaches that Jesus was raised to sit at the right hand of the Majesty on High. This is a place of power and authority. In fact, all authority has been given to him (Matthew 28:18). He has the power to heal, to forgive, and to save.

CHAPTER 6: SOME QUESTIONABLE STORIES

SAME CONCEPT; DIFFERENT CONTEXT

The Qur'an contains at least nine stories that are considered to be questionable. The reader needs to pay careful attention to the historical background. These narratives are taken out of context or they are missing completely from the biblical text.

Saved from Fire

QUR'ANIC TEXT

Abraham: *"They said, have you done this to our gods, O Abraham? ... They said, Burn him and support your gods - if you are to act. Allah said, O fire, be coolness and safety upon Abraham."* 21:62, 68-69

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Daniel's friends: Daniel 3:25-27

Mary (Miriam)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

Mary, the daughter of Imran, the sister of Aaron, AND the mother of Jesus: *"And [the example of] Mary, the daughter of 'Imran, who guarded her chastity, so We blew into [her garment] through Our angel, and she believed in the words of her Lord and His scriptures and was of the devoutly obedient."* 66:12

"Then she brought him to her people, carrying him. They said, O Mary, you have certainly done a thing unprecedented. O sister of Aaron, your father was not a man of evil, nor was your mother unchaste. ... That is Jesus, the son of Mary - the word of truth about which they are in dispute." 19:27-28, 34

BIBLICAL TEXT

Miriam: *"The name of Amram's wife was Jochebed the daughter of Levi, who was born to Levi in Egypt. And she bore to Amram Aaron and Moses and Miriam their sister."* Numbers 26:59

Mary: “... and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.” Matthew 1:16

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The verses in the Qur’an refer to one person named Miriam to be the mother of Jesus, AND the sister of Aaron and the daughter of Imram (Amram). When these stories from the Bible are compared, Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron, and the daughter of Amram, is from the story of the exodus from Egypt. This took place sixteen centuries before the other story referencing Miriam (Mary), the mother of Jesus.

Golden Calf

QUR’ANIC TEXT

Samaritan: “[Allah] said, *But indeed, We have tried your people after you [departed], and the Samiri has led them astray ... They said, “We did not break our promise to you by our will, but we were made to carry burdens from the ornaments of the people [of Pharaoh], so we threw them [into the fire], and thus did the Samiri throw. And he extracted for them [the statue of] a calf which had a lowing sound, and they said, This is your god and the god of Moses, but he forgot.”* 20:85, 87-88

BIBLICAL TEXT

Aaron (Harun) and the Golden Calf: Exodus 32:1-4

Zimri and Baal: Numbers 25:1-6, 14

Additional Note: Samaria, the calves of gold, and Baal worship all occurred approximately 700 years after Moses. (See 1 Kings 12:25-29; 16:23-32.)

Haman

QUR’ANIC TEXT

Haman and Pharaoh: “And Pharaoh said, “O eminent ones, I have not known you to have a god other than me. Then ignite for me, O Haman, [a fire] upon the clay and make for me a tower that I may look at the God of Moses.” 28:38

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Haman and Ahasuerus: *“After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, and advanced him and set his throne above all the officials who were with him. And all the king’s servants who were at the king’s gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage.”* Esther 3:1-2

The Cow to be Killed

QUR’ANIC TEXT

To bring the dead to life as a witness to their killer: *“And [recall] when Moses said to his people, Indeed, Allah commands you to slaughter a cow ... They said, Call upon your Lord to show us what is her color. He said, He says, ‘It is a yellow cow, bright in color - pleasing to the observers ... So, We said, Strike the slain man with part of it. Thus does Allah bring the dead to life, and He shows you His signs that you might reason.”* 2:67, 69, 73

BIBLICAL TEXT

As an offering for the murder of a man: Deuteronomy 21:1-9

The Test of the River

QUR’ANIC TEXT

Saul and the Test of the River: 2:249

BIBLICAL TEXT

Gideon and the test at the river: Judges 7:1-7 (occurred many years earlier than Saul)

Moses and a Righteous Man

QUR’ANIC TEXT

18:66-78

BIBLICAL TEXT

There is no reference to this story in the Bible. Some researchers trace this to a traditional Jewish story about a rabbi who met Elijah.

The Cave Story

QUR'ANIC TEXT

18:9-12

BIBLICAL TEXT

There is no reference to this story in the Bible.

Additional Note: Some authors claim that this story is connected to a legend known long before the time of Christ among Greek pagans. Aristotle (322 BC) has mentioned it in his book, *Physics*, and it is found later in Catholic tradition in the 5th century. For more information, see: *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. "The Story of Seven Sleepers of Ephesus." www.newadvent.org/cathen/05496a.htm

The Messengers to the Village

QUR'ANIC TEXT

"And present to them an example: the people of the city, when the messengers came to it. When We sent to them two but they denied them, so We strengthened them with a third, and they said, "Indeed, we are messengers to you." 36:13-14

BIBLICAL TEXT

The Apostles' journeys to Antioch: Acts 11:22-26; 13:1-3; 14:26-27; 15:22

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Who are the messengers in the verses from the Qur'an? Even though there is no clear explanation in the Qur'an, some interpreters say these verses refer to the Apostles' journey to Antioch.

See *Denial Tafsir Surah Yasin Rahman* by Sheikh Yasir Qadhi Al Maghrib. His notes can be found at: www.scribd.com/mobile/doc/145754616/Denial-Tafsir-Surah-Yasin-Rahman-by-Sheikh-Yasir-Qadhi-Al-Maghrib-Notes-pdf-download-available#

CHAPTER 7: SIMILAR BUT NOT IDENTICAL

Repentance (al-Tawbah)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

“Indeed, Allah loves those who are constantly repentant and loves those who purify themselves.” 2:222b

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

“From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.” Malachi 3:7

NEW TESTAMENT

A DEEPER CONCEPT

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:30

The parables of the lost sheep, coin, and the son: Luke 15

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Even though the Qur'an speaks about the change of mind or heart as a way to get close to God, this is overshadowed by the need to do external works and obligations in Sharia law. In the New Testament, Jesus said, *“First, clean the inside of the cup.”* (Matthew 23:25-26).

Times of Prayer (al-Salat)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

“Establish prayer at the decline of the sun [from its meridian] until the darkness of the night and [also] the Qur'an (prayer) of dawn. Indeed, the recitation of dawn is ever witnessed.” 17:78

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

“Evening and morning and at noon, I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my voice.” Psalm 55:17

The Morning Prayer: Psalm 5:3, 119:148

NEW TESTAMENT

Pray without ceasing: *“Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning.”*
Mark 13:35

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (Compare to Isaiah 62:6-7.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Although the Qur’an and the Book of Psalms teach about praying between three and seven times a day, the New Testament teaches that we are to *“pray without ceasing.”* (Luke 18:1). The prophets warned about honoring God with our lips and words but having our hearts far from him (Isaiah 29:13). We can be taught to follow a schedule or to engage in a routine, yet Jesus told us to be careful about repetition (Matthew 6:7). True prayer is a matter of the heart, a heart of true worship.

Charity (al-Sadaqah)

QUR’ANIC TEXT

“It is not righteousness that ye turn your faces Towards east or West; but it is righteousness - to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers; to spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for , for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in prayer, and practice regular charity.” 2:177

Additional Note: From the Hadith, narrated by Hakim bin Hizam: *“The Prophet said, ‘The upper hand is better than the lower hand.’”* (i.e., he who gives in charity is better than him who takes it). Sahih al-Bukhari. Book of Obligatory Charity Tax (Zakat). sunnah.com/bukhari/24.

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Blessings of giving: Malachi 3:10

NEW TESTAMENT
A DEEPER MOTIVE

The motive (love): *“And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’”*
Matthew 22:35-40

The Parable of the Good Samaritan: Luke 10:29-37

SUMMARY STATEMENT

In both the Qur’an and the Bible, people are instructed to be generous and to care for the needs of those who are less fortunate than they. In the New Testament, instead of seeking to establish our own righteousness, we find that sacrificial love is the motive – simply giving and expecting nothing in return. We give because of our love for God and to demonstrate love for others, not to earn a right standing with God. Also we are to demonstrate this divine love even to our enemies (Luke 6:27).

Fasting (al-Sawm)

QUR’ANIC TEXT

Fasting the month of Ramadan: *“The month of Ramadhan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur’an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. So whoever sights [the new moon of] the month, let him fast it; and whoever is ill or on a journey - then an equal number of other days.”* 2:185

Other reasons for fasting (expiation): 4:92b; 5:89b; 58:4a

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Fasting as plea to God: 2 Samuel 12:16; 2 Chronicles 20:3; and Daniel 9:3

The accepted fasting: Isaiah 58:6-7

NEW TESTAMENT

Fasting for a new purpose: *“And Jesus said to them, ‘Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made.’”* Matthew 9:15-16

“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then after fasting and praying, they laid their hands on them and sent them off.” Acts 13:2-3

SUMMARY STATEMENT

When considering the qur’anic and biblical verses, we see that fasting is used as a means of gaining favor or a blessing from God. It is also said to promote thankfulness and to physically and spiritually purify. Although followers of Jesus are not commanded to fast, it was understood from his teachings that fasting was to be important part of our spiritual development. The New Testament expands on the purpose of fasting. We see the early church fasted to hear from the Holy Spirit for the commissioning of workers to be sent (Acts 13:2; 14:23).

Other Shared Expressions

THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT:

Qur’an: *“The companions of the right - what are the companions of the right? [They will be] among lote trees with thorns removed. And [banana] trees layered [with fruit] ... And the companions of the left - what are the companions of the left? [They will be] in scorching fire and scalding water. And a shade of black smoke, Neither cool nor beneficial.”* 56:27-29, 41-44

Bible: *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”* Matthew 25:31-33

EXAMPLES OF THE NUMBER SEVEN:

Qur'an: 12:43-48; 15:44,87

Bible: Genesis 2:2-3, 41:17-24; Joshua 6:4; Revelation 1:4, 5:1, 15:1

“Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous rules.”
Psalm 119:164

“For the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.” Proverbs 24:16

“Then Peter came up and said to him: Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him: I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.” Matthew 18:21-22

THE CAMEL AND THE EYE OF NEEDLE

Qur'an: 7:40

Bible: Mark 10:24-25

A DAY EQUALS A THOUSAND YEARS

Qur'an: 22:47

Bible: Psalm 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8

THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH

Qur'an: 14:48

Bible: Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:13

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The above concepts are similar in the texts but they have different applications. It is important to consider the relationship and historical placement of the Bible compared to the Qur'an. When the text says that *“one day is as a thousand years,”* this was written in the Bible hundreds of years before the Qur'an. This makes the Bible the primary source for these concepts.

The Parables (al-Amthal)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

“The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills.” 2:261

“Have you not considered how Allah presents an example, [making] a good word like a good tree, whose root is firmly fixed and its branches [high] in the sky? It produces its fruit all the time, by permission of its Lord. And Allah presents examples for the people that perhaps they will be reminded.” 14:24-26

BIBLICAL TEXT

NEW TESTAMENT

CERTAIN AND DEEP PURPOSE

The purpose of the parables: *“All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, ‘I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.’” Matthew 13:34-35 (Compare to Psalm 78:1-2.)*

“Then the disciples came and said to him, ‘Why do you speak to them in parables?’ And he answered them, ‘To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.’” Matthew 13:10-11

Parables of Matthew: Chapters 13, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25.

Parables of Luke: Chapters 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Qur’an contains several examples of parables, but they do not express the same amount of detail and the depth of understanding as do the biblical parables. In the New Testament, parables were simple stories in which Jesus used everyday situations to explain supernatural ideas. A great example of this is in the Parable of the Wedding Feast (Matthew 22:2-14). Although anyone can understand the common ideas, the parables portray hidden mysteries.

Not Literal Language (Figures of Speech)

GOD IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Qur’an: 24:35

Bible: John 8:12

THE THRONE OF GOD

Qur'an: 7:54a

Bible: Psalm 11:4

ALLAH MOCKS THEM

Qur'an: 2:15

Bible: Psalm 2:4

GOD HARDENED THEIR HEARTS

Qur'an: 2:7

Bible: Isaiah 6:9-10

LOANING MONEY TO GOD

Qur'an: 2:245

Bible: Proverbs 19:17

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The above scriptures are part of literature. They need to be understood and interpreted through their cultural and linguistic realms. Hebrew, Greek, and Arabic each have their own special manner of communicating thoughts and ideas. Be careful not to criticize the text without an understanding of the depth of the literature.

CHAPTER 8: SHARIA, MOSAIC, AND NEW TESTAMENT LAW

FROM LITERAL TO SPIRITUAL

“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” John 1:17

“...who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life ... Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

2 Corinthians 3:6, 17

“Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.” Galatians 3:23-25

The Sabbath (al-Sabt)

QUR’ANIC TEXT

MISCONCEPTION OF GOD’S REST

“And We did certainly create the heavens and earth and what is between them in six days, and there touched Us no weariness.”
50:38 (See also 5:64.)

The law of the Sabbath was for Israel: *“And you (Children of Israel) had already known about those who transgressed among you concerning the Sabbath, and We said to them, ‘Be apes, despised.’ And We made it a deterrent punishment for those who were present and those who succeeded [them] and a lesson for those who fear Allah.”* 2:65-66

Work is not allowed during the Friday noontime prayer: *“O you who have believed, when [the adhan] is called for the prayer on the day of Jumu’ah [Friday], then proceed to the remembrance of Allah and leave trade. That is better for you, if you only knew. And when the prayer has been concluded, disperse within the land and seek from the bounty of Allah, and remember Allah often that you may succeed.”* 62:9-10

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

The law of the Sabbath and God's rest: *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work ... For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”* Exodus 20:8-11

“Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations - I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly.” Isaiah 1:13

NEW TESTAMENT

A DEEPER CONCEPT

God is working until now: *“And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them: ‘My Father is working until now, and I am working.’”* John. 5:16-17

The Sabbath was made for man: *“And he said to them, ‘The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So, the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.’”* Mark 2:27-28

The spiritual rest: *“So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.”* Hebrews 4:9-10 (Compare to Psalm 95:11.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Qur'an does not explain the purpose of the Sabbath and why it is no longer part of Sharia law. In the Old Testament, God *“rested”* from his labors after creation, thus making it a holy day. Although some Islamic scholars view this as God having his *“hands tied,”* thus preventing his further personal involvement with humanity, this is a poor understanding of this verse. A better interpretation is that God's work of creation had ended and he saw that it was good (Genesis 1:31a). In the New Testament, the book of Hebrews teaches us that there is a spiritual rest as well. Jesus says, *“... the Son of Man is the lord of the Sabbath.”* Matthew 12:8. True

believers are to rest in him. *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* Matthew 11:28. The New Testament also teaches that we are no longer obligated to follow the laws regarding the Sabbath (Colossians 2:16).

The Temple (the Holy Mosque, al-Masjid)

QUR’ANIC TEXT

The sacred Mosque: *“Allah has made the Ka’bah, the Sacred House, standing for the people.”* 5:97a

“O, you who have believed, indeed the polytheists are unclean, so let them not approach al-Masjid al-Haram after this, their [final] year.” 9:28a

The prayer direction to Mecca (al-Qibla): *“We have certainly seen the turning of your face, [O Muhammad], toward the heaven, and We will surely turn you to a qiblah with which you will be pleased. So turn your face toward al-Masjid al-Haram. And wherever you [believers] are, turn your faces toward it [in prayer].”* 2:144a

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

First altars:

Noah	Genesis 8:20
Abraham	Genesis 12:7
Jacob	Genesis 28:22
Moses	Numbers 7:1-3
Solomon	1 Chronicles 29:19
Rebuilding the Temple	Ezra 5:2

“Thus says the Lord: ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.” Isaiah 66:1-2

NEW TESTAMENT

THE REAL TEMPLE

“See, your house is left to you desolate.” Matthew 28:38

Worship in spirit: *“Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father ... But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.’”* John 4:21, 23

The real temple: *“Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ The Jews then said, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking about the temple of his body.”* John 2:19-21

You are God’s temple: *“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”* 1 Corinthians 3:16

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Both the Qur’an and the Old Testament have regulations about worship and the places of worship set apart by God as holy. The New Testament teaches that worshiping God is not about the place (John 4:20-21). God wants more from us than just keeping rules and worshiping in a certain place. He wants us to worship him in spirit and in truth. (See also Ezekiel 36:26-27.)

Tithes (al-Zakat)

QUR’ANIC TEXT

“Zakah expenditures are only for the poor and for the needy and for those employed to collect [zakah] and for bringing hearts together [for Islam] and for freeing captives [or slaves] and for those in debt and for the cause of Allah and for the [stranded] traveler” 9:60a

BIBLICAL TEXT

Old Testament

The first tithes: Genesis 14:20 (Compare to Hebrews 7:2.)

The law of tithes: Deuteronomy 14:22-29

NEW TESTAMENT

AS DECIDED IN THE HEART

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint

and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness.” Matthew 23:23

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Qur'an and Old Testament give rules, codes, laws, and rituals to follow to bring people to God. The New Testament teaches that God looks on the heart, not on the outside of a person (Matthew 15:10-11; 6:21). Although obedience is important, God is more concerned with our motives – the attitude of the heart – why we do something is much more important than what we do.

Sacrifices (al-Dhabayih)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

Momentous sacrifice: *“And when they had both submitted and he put him down upon his forehead, We called to him, ‘O Abraham, You have fulfilled the vision.’ Indeed, We thus reward the doers of good. Indeed, this was the clear trial. And We ransomed him with a great sacrifice.” 37:103-107*

Sacrifices as part of the ritual on the pilgrimage to Mecca:
22:36-37; 2:196

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

The insufficiency of animal sacrifice: *“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.” Isaiah 1:11*

The replacement sacrifice: *“And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.” Genesis 22:13 (Compare to John 8:56.)*

“Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief.” Isaiah 53:10a

NEW TESTAMENT ONCE FOR ALL

A better sacrifice: *“For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”* Hebrews 9:13-14 (Compare to Deuteronomy 17:1.)

“And to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.” Hebrews 12:24 (Compare to Genesis 4:10.)

Christ’s sacrifice once for all: *“For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.”* Romans 6:10

Spiritual sacrifice: *“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”* Romans 12:1

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Both the Qur’an and Old Testament discuss the giving of animal sacrifices in order to commemorate, cover, cleanse, or forgive a specific sin. God wants more from us. *“For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.”* Hosea 6:6. (See also Isaiah 1:11.) The New Testament teaches that repeated animal sacrifices are insufficient to cleanse us from sins permanently. The Old Testament sacrifices were a shadow of the ultimate sacrifice of Christ and pointed to him as the Lamb of God (John 1:29). *“... for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”* Revelations 5:9b.

Unclean Food (al-Haram)

QUR’ANIC TEXT

“He has only forbidden to you dead animals, blood, the flesh of swine, and that which has been dedicated to other than Allah .

But whoever is forced [by necessity], neither desiring [it] nor transgressing [its limit], there is no sin upon him. Indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.” 2:173

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Clean and unclean food: Leviticus 11

NEW TESTAMENT

WHAT GOES INTO THE MOUTH DOES NOT DEFILE A PERSON

“And he called the people to him and said to them: Hear and understand, it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.”
Matthew 15:10-11

“But Peter said, ‘By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.’ And the voice came to him again a second time, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’” Acts 10:14-15

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”
Romans 14:17

“If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations: ‘Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch (referring to things that all perish as they are used) according to human precepts and teachings?’” Colossians 2:20-22

Purifications (al-Taharah)

QUR’ANIC TEXT

“O, you who have believed, when you rise to [perform] prayer, wash your faces and your forearms to the elbows and wipe over your heads and wash your feet to the ankles. And if you are in a state of janabah, then purify yourselves. But if you are ill or on a journey or one of you comes from the place of relieving himself or you have contacted women and do not find water, then seek clean earth and wipe over your faces and hands with it.” 5:6a
(See also 2:222.)

Spiritual purification: *“Take, [O, Muhammad], from their wealth a charity by which you purify them and cause them increase.”*

9:103a

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Before the altar: *“When they go into the tent of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn a food offering to the Lord, they shall wash with water, so that they may not die. They shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they may not die.”*

Exodus 30:20-21a

The law of purifications: *“Whoever touches the dead body of any person shall be unclean seven days.”* Numbers 19:11 (Compare to John 19:38-40.)

Spiritual purification: *“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”* Psalm 51:7 (See also Isaiah 1:16).

NEW TESTAMENT

INNER PURIFICATION

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness.” Matthew 23:25-27

“To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled.” Titus 1:15

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Old Testament contains the Mosaic Law given to the nation of Israel to protect and to set them apart from the rest of the world. The New Testament teaches that the laws revealed the depth of human sinfulness and the need for a Redeemer, and that the internal heart issues, including envy and jealousy, defile our body; not the external prohibitions such as unclean food. Jesus

also warned about being prideful in our outward appearance while masking our inward evil (Matthew 23:25).

Marriage Law (al-Zawaj)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

Modesty: *“And tell the believing women to reduce [some] of their vision and guard their private parts and not expose their adornment except that which [necessarily] appears thereof and to wrap [a portion of] their head covers over their chests.”* 24:31a

The husband’s authority: *“Your wives are a place of sowing of seed for you, so come to your place of cultivation however you wish and put forth [righteousness] for yourselves.”* 2:223

“But those [wives] from whom you fear arrogance - [first] advise them; [then if they persist], forsake them in bed; and [finally], strike them. But if they obey you [once more], seek no means against them. Indeed, Allah is ever Exalted and Grand.” 4:34

Additional Note: Some contemporary apologetic Muslim scholars purposely pick out a different translation for the word “dharb” in 4:34 such as: “leave them,” or “depart from them.” But there are five reasons to say that the only possible meaning for “dharb” in this verse is “beat” or “strike”:

1. The context of the paragraph is addressing the escalation of punishment for disobedient woman. In this context, the punishment escalates from the lighter discipline to the tougher one, and not vice versa.
2. It is the only meaning possible according to Arabic grammar. Similar contexts for the same word “dharb” clarifies the claim: “When Musa sought water for his people, We said: ‘Strike [dharb] the rock with staff.’” 2:60. The word, “dharb” does have other meanings under either one of the two following conditions:
 - When combined with a preposition: *“And when you journey in the earth [“dharbtum” fil ardh], there is no blame on you if you shorten the prayer.”* 4:101

- When combined by the presumption of figurative speech: *“Have you not seen how Allah has set forth a parable [kaif “dharb” Allah mathal]: A good word is like a good tree, having its root firm and its branches in the sky.”* 14:24

3. All respected interpreters agree on one meaning of “dharb” in 4:34. See the following interpreters: Al Tabari, Ibn Katheer, Al Razi, Al Zamakhshari, and Al Baidhawi.
4. The Hadith also supports the classic interpretation of this verse: Narrated by Jabir b. Abdullah, Prophet Mohammed said: *“Fear Allah concerning women! Verily you have taken them on the security of Allah, and intercourse with them has been made lawful unto you by words of Allah. You too have right over them, and that they should not allow anyone to sit on your bed whom you do not like. But if they do that, you can chastise them but not severely.”* Sahih Muslim, The Book of Pilgrimage.

Lawful marriage: *“And [also prohibited to you are all] married women except those your right hands possess. [This is] the decree of Allah upon you.”* 4:24a

“And [lawful in marriage are] chaste women from among the believers and chaste women from among those who were given the Scripture before you, when you have given them their due compensation, desiring chastity, not unlawful sexual intercourse or taking [secret] lovers.” 5:5b

Polygamy: *“And if you fear that you will not deal justly with the orphan girls, then marry those that please you of [other] women, two or three or four. But if you fear that you will not be just, then [marry only] one or those your right hand possesses. That is more suitable that you may not incline [to injustice].”* 4:3

Divorce: *“But if you want to replace one wife with another and you have given one of them a great amount [in gifts], do not take [back] from it anything. Would you take it in injustice and manifest sin?”* 4:20

“Divorce is twice. Then, either keep [her] in an acceptable manner or release [her] with good treatment ... And if he has divorced

her [for the third time], then she is not lawful to him afterward until [after] she marries a husband other than him. And if the latter husband divorces her [or dies], there is no blame upon the woman and her former husband for returning to each other if they think that they can keep [within] the limits of Allah.” 2:229-230 (Compare to Deuteronomy 24:1-4.)

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Modesty: Isaiah 3:16-24

Husband’s authority: Numbers 30:6-15

Lawful marriage: Leviticus 18:6-22

Monogamy: Genesis 2:23-24

The First Case of Polygamy: Genesis 4:19 (Lamech, a descendant of Cain)

Abram’s second wife, Hagar, was the Sarai’s desire: *“Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said to Abram, Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her; And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.”* Genesis 16:1-2

Divorce: Malachi 2:16; Deuteronomy 24:1 (Compare to Matthew 19:7.)

NEW TESTAMENT

Modesty: *“Likewise, also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness with good works.”* 1 Timothy 2:9-10

Husband’s authority: *“But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.”* 1 Corinthians 11:3 (See also Ephesians 5:22-23)

Monogamy: *“He answered, ‘Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and*

hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two but one flesh.” Matthew 19:4-5

Limited divorce: *“So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. They said to him, Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away? He said to them, Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”* Matthew 19:6-9

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The New Testament teaches that marriage involves a spiritual union and the husband and wife become one. Therefore, the practices of divorce and polygamy are unacceptable except under certain circumstances.

Discipline for Sinners (al-Ta’adib)

QUR’ANIC TEXT

Stealing: *“ [As for] the thief, the male and the female, amputate their hands in recompense for what they committed as a deterrent [punishment] from Allah.”* 5:38

Adultery: *“The woman or man found guilty of sexual intercourse, lash each one of them with a hundred lashes.”* 24:2a

Additional Note: From the Hadith, narrated by Abu Huraira *“The Prophet said, Allah curses a man who steals an egg and gets his hand cut off, or steals a rope and gets his hands cut off.”* Al-Bukhari, The Book of Punishments. Also narrated by Ibn Umar *“Jew and a Jewess were brought to Allah’s Messenger 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?’ 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.”* Al-Bukhari, The Book of Punishments.

Retribution: *“O, you who have believed, prescribed for you is legal retribution for those murdered, the free for the free, the slave*

*for the slave, and the female for the female.” 2:178a
(See also 5:45).*

Forgiveness: *“But whoever overlooks from his brother anything, then there should be a suitable follow-up and payment to him with good conduct.” 2:178b*

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Breaking the Sabbath: Numbers 15:32-36

Blasphemy: Leviticus 24:11-16

Adultery: Leviticus 20:10-21

Retribution: *“But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.” Exodus 21:23-25 (See also Leviticus 24:17-20 and Deuteronomy 19:21.)*

Forgiveness: Proverbs 25:21-22

NEW TESTAMENT

*“Then he said to them, Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”
Matthew 22:21*

Forgiveness: *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.’” Matthew 5:43-44*

Sinners need help: *“And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying: ‘Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?’ And Jesus answered them: ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.’”
Luke 5:30-32*

“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:1-2

The Warfare Law (al-Jihad)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

TO SPREAD THE RELIGION OF ISLAM

Three Stages of qur'anic revelation about Jihad:

- 1. Mecca and Early Medina – PEACE:** *“And [Allah acknowledges] his saying, ‘O my Lord, indeed these are a people who do not believe.’ So turn aside from them and say, ‘Peace.’ But they are going to know.”* 43:88-89
- 2. Second Medina – DEFENSE:** *“Fight in the way of Allah those who fight you but do not transgress. Indeed, Allah does not like transgressors.”* 2:190
- 3. Late Medina – ATTACK:** *“And when the sacred months have passed, then kill the polytheists wherever you find them and capture them and besiege them and sit in wait for them at every place of ambush. But if they should repent, establish prayer, and give zakah, let them [go] on their way.”* 9:5

“Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, (even if they are) of the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued.” 9:29 (Yusuf Ali)

Additional Note:

1. Jihad: Mainstream Islamic scholars believe that because jihad is a qur'anic teaching, its principles are timeless and unalterable. They teach that only the Hadith allows for an interpretation of a specific time period.

2. Abrogation: An important principle to understand when reading the Qur'an is the idea of abrogation. *“We do not abrogate a verse or cause it to be forgotten except that We bring forth [one] better than it or similar to it.”* 2:106a. Basically, this means that the LAST verse given in time (not necessary the last in the current written order) cancels out what had previously been revealed. In short, believers

were to follow the last teaching on a certain subject (such as marriage or jihad) and ignore the earlier verses.

The only way to know which was the latest revelation is by using the Hadith and the interpretations by Muslim clerics and Islamic scholars.

For chronological order of the Qur'an, see wikiislam.net/wiki/Chronological_Order_of_the_Qur'an

The spiritual victory: *“When the victory of Allah has come and the conquest, And you see the people entering into the religion of Allah in multitudes, Then exalt [Him] with praise of your Lord and ask forgiveness of Him. Indeed, He is ever Accepting of repentance.”* 110:1-3

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

THE PROMISED LAND BELONGED TO ABRAHAM (IBRAHIM)

“On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites.” Genesis 15:18

“After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, “Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.” Joshua 1:1-3

The spiritual victory: *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.”* Isaiah 53:6-7

NEW TESTAMENT

FOR ALL WHO TAKE UP THE SWORD WILL PERISH BY THE SWORD

“Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” Matthew 22:21

“Jesus answered: ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.’” John 18:36

“With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ‘Put your sword back in its place,’ Jesus said to him, ‘for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.’” Matthew 26:51-52

“If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” Romans 12:18

The spiritual victory: *“As it is written: ‘For your sake we are being killed all the day long; are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.’”* Romans 8:36-37

“For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” 1 John 5:4-5

SUMMARY STATEMENT

There is consensus among respected Islamic scholars to identify and accept the stages of jihad in the Qur’an that are mentioned above. They agree that the last stage of initiating war with other nations was to propagate religion. The harshest treatment was prescribed for pagans (polytheists). The choice was to convert to Islam or be killed. They could be spared by converting to Islam and fulfilling all obligations (9:5). The “People of the Book” (Jews and Christians) were required to pay a tribute, *“the jizyah,”* and to *“feel themselves subdued”* in order to be spared (9:29). The “warfare scriptures” in the Old Testament were based upon the land that was given to Abraham as a promise from God. In the New Testament, we see Jesus teaching his followers the opposite of war. We are to be people of peace. Our weapons are spiritual. The Holy Spirit enables us to fight against our sinful flesh and the forces of evil in the spiritual realm by his divine power (2 Corinthians 10:4). (See also Matthew 5:44.)

CHAPTER 9: THE WAY

The Way: Acts 9:2, 19:9, 24:14 – This was the first title of Christianity in the Bible

“You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13

QUR’ANIC TEXT WHAT IS ISLAM?

Islam: *“Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam. And those who were given the Scripture did not differ except after knowledge had come to them - out of jealous animosity between themselves ... And whoever desires other than Islam as religion - never will it be accepted from him, and he, in the Hereafter, will be among the losers.”* 3:19a, 85

Additional Note: Is “Islam” in this verse referring to the belief of monotheism including Judaism and Christianity or to the specific teaching of Mohammed? Answer: There is more than one opinion by Islamic scholars about the meaning of “Islam” in this verse.

The religion of Abraham: *“Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was one inclining toward truth, a Muslim [submitting to Allah]. And he was not of the polytheists.”* 3:67

Jews and Christians: *“Indeed, those who believed and those who were Jews or Christians or Sabeans [before Prophet Muhammad] - those [among them] who believed in Allah and the Last Day and did righteousness - will have their reward with their Lord, and no fear will there be concerning them, nor will they grieve.”* 2:62

Real righteousness: *“Righteousness is not that you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but [true] righteousness is [in] one who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and the prophets and gives wealth, in spite of love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, the traveler, those who ask [for help], and for freeing slaves; [and who] establishes prayer and gives zakah; [those who] fulfill their promise when they promise; and [those who] are patient in poverty and hardship and during battle. Those*

are the ones who have been true, and it is those who are the righteous.” 2:177

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Abraham’s righteousness: *“And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.”* Genesis 15:6

The Anointed: *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.”* Isaiah 61:1 (Compare to Luke 4:18.)

NEW TESTAMENT

I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH

“Jesus said to him: I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6.

Love the Lord your God: *“And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, ‘Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the Law? How do you read it?’ And he answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.’ And he said to him, ‘You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.’”* Luke 10:25-28 (Compare to Deuteronomy 6:4-6.)

The fruit of the truth: *“Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.”* John 15:3. (See also Galatians 5:22-23.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Islam mainly teaches that righteousness is based on belief and good works. This idea is found in the Old Testament also. In addition, both the Old and New Testaments emphasize the great commandment – to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. The New Testament further teaches that the way to love God is to experience the fruit of the Spirit, not through the law, but through Jesus Christ. The New Testament also explains that our love of God is given to us by the Holy Spirit alone (Romans 5:5). We cannot love God by human effort (Galatians 5:22-23).

Faith and Works

QUR'ANIC TEXT

“We did indeed offer the trust to the heavens and the earth and the mountains; but they refused to undertake it, being afraid thereof: but man undertook it; he was indeed unjust and foolish ...” 33:72

“If any do deeds of righteousness,- be they male or female - and have faith, they will enter Heaven, and not the least injustice will be done to them.” 4:124

The scale: *“And the weighing [of deeds] that Day will be the truth. So those whose scales are heavy - it is they who will be the successful. And those whose scales are light - they are the ones who will lose themselves for what injustice they were doing toward Our verses.” 7:8-9*

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

“...but the righteous shall live by his faith.” Habakkuk 2:4b

“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.” Psalm 51:5

NEW TESTAMENT

Justification by faith: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16*

“...he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.” Titus 3:5

A living faith: *“Jesus answered him: ‘If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.’” John 14:23*

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.” Galatians 5:6

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Qur'an and the Old Testament teach that the way to righteousness is through faith and works, and humans are broken and have a fallen nature. God desires us to live in righteousness and holiness; however, good works are insufficient to cleanse our sin. In the New Testament, the only path to ultimate redemption is through the grace of God as demonstrated through Jesus Christ and his sacrifice (2 Corinthians 5:21). As a fruit of this grace and the faith given to us by God, we are called to do works as an outward sign of God working in us. Faith without works is dead (James 2:17).

The Promises of Heaven (al-Jannah)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

“And they will be given to drink a cup [of wine] whose mixture is of ginger. [From] a fountain within Paradise named Salsabeel. There will circulate among them young boys made eternal. When you see them, you would think them [as beautiful as] scattered pearls.” 76:17-19 (See also 47:15. Compare to Deuteronomy 27:3.)

Companions: *“And with them will be women limiting [their] glances, with large, [beautiful] eyes. As if they were [delicate] eggs, well-protected.”* 37:48-49

“And [upon] beds raised high. Indeed, We have produced the women of Paradise in a [new] creation. And made them virgins. Devoted [to their husbands] and of equal age.” 56:34-37

BIBLICAL TEXT

NEW TESTAMENT

FLESH AND BLOOD CANNOT INHERIT GOD'S KINGDOM

“But Jesus answered them, ‘You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.’” Matthew 22:29-30

“I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.” 1 Corinthians 15:50 (See also John 3:5 and Romans 14:17.)

The new heaven: Revelation 21:22-27; 22:1-5

Jesus prepares a place for us: John 14:3

SUMMARY STATEMENT

In the Qur'an, many promises about life in heaven focus on physical pleasures. Men seem to be the primary benefactor with promises of exquisite virgins to be their companions. In contrast, the New Testament assures us that life in heaven will look completely different than life on earth as we know it (John 3:5). Heaven, or the kingdom of God, is not about eating, drinking, or marriage. Instead, we will see only righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). In addition, Jesus promised that he would prepare a place for his followers in heaven so they could live with him always (John 14:3).

Prophecies (al-Nubuwwaat)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

MOHAMMED IS PROPHESED IN THE BIBLE

Moses spoke about the Prophet: *“Those who follow the apostle, the unlettered Prophet, whom they find mentioned in their own (scriptures), in the law and the Injil ... He releases them from their heavy burdens and from the yokes that are upon them.”* 7:157a (Yusuf Ali) (See page 11.)

Jesus spoke about Ahmad (Mohammed): *“And [mention] when Jesus, the son of Mary, said, ‘O children of Israel, indeed I am the messenger of Allah to you confirming what came before me of the Torah and bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name is Ahmad.’”* 61:6a (Compare to John 14:16-17 where Jesus said, *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”*)

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Replacing Israel with a foolish nation: Deuteronomy 32:21
(Compare to Romans 10:19.)

A new prophet like Moses: *“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.”*
Deuteronomy 18:18 (Compare to Acts 3:20-24.)

Examples of messianic Psalms and the fulfillment in the New Testament

- Psalm 2:7-8, 12 Acts 13:33, Gal 4:4, Heb 1:5, 5:5
- Psalm 8:2, 4-6 Matt. 21:16, Heb. 2:6-7
- Psalm 16:10-11 Acts 2:27-32, 13:35, Heb. 12:2
- Psalm 22:7-18 Matt. 27:39-43, John 19:23-24
- Psalm 23:1 John 10:11-14, Matt 18:12
- Psalm 40:6-8 Hebrews 10:5-9,
- Psalm 41:9 John 13:18
- Psalm 45:6-7 Hebrews 1:8-9
- Psalm 68:18 John 3:13, Ephesians 4:8
- Psalm 69:21 Matthew 27:34,48
- Psalm 110:1, 4 Matt. 22:41-46; Luke 22:67-69;
Acts 2:34-35; Hebrews 1:13; 5:6
- Psalm 118:22 Matthew 21:42
- Psalm 118:26 Matthew 21:9, 23:39

NEW TESTAMENT

JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS

“Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’”
Luke 24:44

Jesus spoke about the Advocate, the Holy Spirit: *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you*

forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” John 14:16-17

Other Examples of Prophecies about Jesus Christ:

The cornerstone, the stumbling block: Psalm 118: 22;
Isaiah 8:13-14; 1 Peter 2:7-8

The Son of Man: Daniel 7:13; Matthew 24:30

The Son of David: 2 Samuel 7:12-13; Luke 1:31-33

Called from Egypt: Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:15

Bethlehem: Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:1-7

Virgin birth: Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22-23

The triumphal entry: Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:4-5

He was silent: Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-14

Numbered with transgressors: Isaiah 53:12;
Mark 15:27-28

They divided his garments: Psalm 22:18; John 19:24

Not one of his bones will be broken: Psalm 34:20;
John 19:33

Rose from the dead: Psalm 16:10; Acts 13:35-37

SUMMARY STATEMENT

When the Qur’an refers to a prophecy about Mohammad in the Bible, it contains no specific references or quotes. The New Testament writers give specific references and exact quotations as found in the prophetic writings of the Old Testament. From the list of prophecies above, we can see that these prophets were given amazing details about the coming Messiah. Jesus fulfilled hundreds of these messianic Old Testament prophecies.

CHAPTER 10: NO GOD BUT ONE (AL-TAWHID)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

“And do not argue with the People of the Scripture except in a way that is best, except for those who commit injustice among them, and say, ‘We believe in that which has been revealed to us and revealed to you. And our God and your God is one; and we are Muslims [in submission] to Him.’” 29:46

Allah (God) is not al-Lat (an idol): *“So have you considered al-Lat and al-'Uzza? ... They are not but [mere] names you have named them - you and your forefathers - for which Allah has sent down no authority. They follow not except assumption and what [their] souls desire.”* 53:19, 23a

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Shema: *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”* Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (Compare to Mark 12:29-30.)

NEW TESTAMENT

“And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, ‘Which commandment is the most important of all?’ Jesus answered, ‘The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’” Mark 12:28-29

“How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?” John 5:44

“For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.” 1 Corinthians 8:5-6

“Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.” Galatians 3:20

God Reveals Himself (al-Tajalli)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

Moses: “*And Allah spoke to Moses with [direct] speech.*” 4:164b

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Abraham: “*Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your offspring I will give this land.’ So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.*” Genesis 12:7

Adam and Eve	Genesis 3:8
Noah	Genesis 9:8
Jacob	Genesis 32:24
Moses	Deuteronomy 34:10
Daniel’s Friends	Daniel 3:25

NEW TESTAMENT

Immanuel: “*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel - which means, ‘God with us.’*” Matthew 1:22-23 (Compare to Isaiah 7:14.)

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth ... No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.” John 1:14, 18

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Qur’an and Old Testament agree that God spoke to Moses directly. The Old Testament teaches further that God has revealed himself to mankind since the creation when he “*walked in the garden in the cool of the day,*” wanting to speak with Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:8). God appeared and spoke to Abraham and Moses. In fact, it was said of Moses, “*Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.*” (Exodus 33:11). In the New Testament, the ultimate way that God revealed himself was in Jesus Christ. “*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*” John 1:14. (See also Colossians 2:9 and Philippians 2:9.)

The Trinity (al-Thaluth)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

DOES NOT TEACH THE TRINITY

“They have certainly disbelieved who say, ‘Allah is the third of three.’ And there is no god except one God.” 5:73a

“The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, was but a messenger of Allah and His word which He directed to Mary and a soul [created at a command] from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers. And do not say, ‘Three’; desist - it is better for you.” 4:171b
(legacy.quran.com)

Additional Note: Usufali translated 4:171 to read, “Say not ‘Trinity’.” In this point, the legacy.quran.com is linguistically more accurate than Usufali.

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Plural: *“Then God said: ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”* Genesis 1:26a

“Then the Lord God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil.’” Genesis 3:22a

NEW TESTAMENT

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
Matthew 28:19

“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.” John 15:26

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Qur'an and the Bible are in complete agreement about this: there is only one God. The first line of the Shema is quoted by Jesus, “... the most important is, Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.” Mark 12:29. Followers of Jesus see no contradiction with “God is one” and the idea of the Trinity. The One True God revealed himself through the Son and the Holy Spirit (Timothy 3:16). There is no belief in three gods. This would be considered as blasphemous to both Jews and Christians. The

Trinity is a mystery for humans; to understand the infinite nature of God is impossible. “*For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?*” Romans 11:34. (See also 1 Corinthians 2:11.)

God the Father (Allah al-A’b)

QUR’ANIC TEXT

“*Say, He is Allah, [who is] One, Allah , the Eternal Refuge. He neither begets nor is born, Nor is there to Him any equivalent.*” 112:1-4

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Our Father in the Heaven: Isaiah 63:16; 64:8; Psalm 103:13
(Compare to Matthew 6:9.)

NEW TESTAMENT

“*No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.*” John 1:18 (See also 1 John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 8:6.)

God the Son (al-Ibin)

QUR’ANIC TEXT

THE MISCONCEPTION OF “THE SON OF GOD”

“*And [it teaches] that exalted is the nobleness of our Lord; He has not taken a wife or a son.*” 72:3. (See also 6:101a.)

Additional Note: The verse above may be in response to the Mariamites: “*If we look at history, we will find that in the fifth century Mariamites were outsiders to Christianity who called the Virgin Mary a goddess, instead of Venus (the Queen of Heaven) which they used to worship before joining Christianity. They interpreted the Trinity as – Father, Mother, and Son. They have been strongly rejected and resisted by the church, and their heresy disappeared in the seventh century. Their concept of Trinity, that God took a wife and had a son from her, is the one that is criticized by the Qur’an.*” Awad Semaan, *God in Christianity*, Book 2, Chapter 7.

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6

“I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, ‘You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.’”

Psalm 2:7-8

“Who has ascended to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son’s name? Surely you know!”

Proverbs 30:4 (Compare to John 3:13.)

NEW TESTAMENT

EQUAL TO THE FATHER

“I and the Father are one.” John 10:30

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

“This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.” John 5:18 (See also Philippians 2:6; Colossians 1:15.)

I am He

QUR’ANIC TEXT

“And when he came to it, he was called, ‘O Moses, Indeed, I am your Lord, so remove your sandals ... Indeed, I am Allah. There is no deity except Me.’” 20:11-12a, 14a

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

“God said to Moses, ‘I AM who I AM.’ And he said, ‘Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” Exodus 3:14

NEW TESTAMENT

The I AM's of Jesus:

In the Gospel of John: 6:35; 8:12, 24, 28; 10:11; 13:19; 14:6

In the Book of Revelations: 1:17; 2:23; 21:6

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Qur'an does not teach that Jesus was God. He was merely a prophet. We can find many evidences of Jesus claiming to be God. "I and the Father are one." John 10:30. Jesus also shows how he is God by using the Old Testament. For example, Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd (John 10:11). Ezekiel 34:16 declares, *"For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out."* Jesus again says, *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* Matthew 11:28. He is referring to Isaiah 55:1 which says, *"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."*

God the Holy Spirit (al-Ruwḥ al-Qudus)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

In the Quran, the Holy Spirit is not defined clearly.

The Holy Spirit: *"...to Jesus the son of Mary We gave clear (Signs), and strengthened him with the holy spirit."* 2:253b

The Spirit of God: *"And she who guarded her private parts, and we breathed into her of our Spirit, and we made her and her son a sign unto the worlds."* 21:91 (theQur'an.com)

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

The Holy Spirit: *"Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me."* Psalm 51:11

The Spirit of God: *"The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."* Job 33:4

NEW TESTAMENT

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them

in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
Matthew 28:19

The work of the Holy Spirit: *“And no one can say Jesus is Lord except in the Holy Spirit.”* 1 Corinthians 12:3 (See also John 14:26.)

CHAPTER 11: THE MESSIAH (AL-MASIH) – THE WORD OF GOD

The Virgin Birth

QUR'ANIC TEXT

THE QUR'AN TEACHES THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS

“She said, ‘How can I have a boy while no man has touched me and I have not been unchaste?’ He said, ‘Thus [it will be]; your Lord says, ‘It is easy for Me, and We will make him a sign to the people and a mercy from Us.’” 19:20-21

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”
Isaiah 7:14 (Compare to Matthew 1:22-23.)

NEW TESTAMENT

“And Mary said to the angel: ‘How will this be, since I am a virgin?’ And the angel answered her: ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.’”
Luke 1:34-35 (See also Galatians 4:4.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Although the Qur'an describes Jesus Christ as the Word and Spirit of God and that he was born of a virgin by the Spirit, it does not clearly define the purpose or depth of these ideas. The context of the virgin birth in the New Testament is interrelated with several implications. First, Jesus Christ is the Son of God, born in the Spirit, and not by planting flesh, not inheriting sin (Hebrews 4:15). Secondly, he is the seed of the woman who crushes the head of the serpent, which is the symbol of sin (Revelation 12: 9; Genesis 3:15). Lastly, he is the spiritual Adam in which life is formed (Romans 5:17; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45).

The Word of God - Logos (al-Kalimah)

QUR'ANIC TEXT

Jesus is the Word of God: *“O People of the Book! Commit no*

excesses in your religion: Nor say of Allah aught but the truth. Christ Jesus the son of Mary was an apostle of Allah, and His Word, which He bestowed on Mary, and a spirit proceeding from Him.” 4:171a (Yusuf Ali)

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

The Eternal: Isaiah 48:16; Micah 5:2; Proverbs 8:1, 22-23

NEW TESTAMENT

He was in the beginning: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”* John 1:1-3,14

“But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.” 1 Corinthians 2:7 (See also Hebrews 9:14a; 1 Corinthians 8:6.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

In Islamic understanding, even though Jesus was the word of God and a spirit proceeded from God, he was merely a messenger to communicate good tidings. In his commentary, Al Razi added that Jesus was completely pure and the source of spiritual life. (See: Tafseer Al Razi, verse 4:171.) The New Testament teaches that the Word of God, namely Jesus, existed from the beginning of time, before the world was created. All things were made through Jesus and without him nothing was made that was made (Colossians 1:15-17).

Jesus is Holy

QUR’ANIC TEXT

PROPHETS ARE FALLIBLE; JESUS IS HOLY

“Never did We send an apostle or a prophet before thee, but, when he framed a desire, Satan threw some (vanity) into his desire: but Allah will cancel anything (vain) that Satan throws in.” 22:52 (Yusuf Ali)

Abraham: “*And who I [Abraham] aspire that He will forgive me my sin on the Day of Recompense.*” 26:82

Moses: “*He [Moses] said, ‘My Lord, indeed I have wronged myself, so forgive me.’*” 28:16

David: “*...and he [David] asked forgiveness of his Lord and fell down bowing [in prostration] and turned in repentance [to Allah].*” 38:24b

Mohammed: “*And [remember, O Muhammad], when you said to the one on whom Allah bestowed favor and you bestowed favor, Keep your wife and fear Allah, while you concealed within yourself that which Allah is to disclose. And you feared the people, while Allah has more right that you fear Him.*” 33:37a

“*So be patient, [O Muhammad]. Indeed, the promise of Allah is truth. And ask forgiveness for your sin.*” 40:55a (See also 48:2.)

Jesus is holy: “*He (the Angel to Mary) said, ‘I’m a messenger of your Lord, to announce to you the gift of a Holy Son.’*” 19:19 (Yusuf Ali)

Additional Note: According to the Hadith: “*Abu Huraira said: I heard Allah’s Messenger saying, ‘There is none born among the offspring of Adam, but Satan touches it, except Mary and her child.’*” Al- Bukhari, The Book of the Prophets, and The Book of the Beginning of Creation.

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD

“*They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.*” Psalm 14:3

Noah: Genesis 9:21

Abraham: Genesis 12:11-13

Isaac: Genesis 26:7

Jacob: Genesis 27:19

Moses: “*And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron,*

“Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.” Numbers 20:11-12 (Compare to 1 Corinthians 10:4.)

The Messiah: *“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”* Psalm 45:6-7

NEW TESTAMENT

“...therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.” Luke 1:35b

“Which one of you convicts me of sin?” John 8:46a

“I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me.” John 14:30

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:21 (See also Romans 5:19; Hebrews 7:26; 1 John 3:5.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Qur’an admits that the prophets committed sin and were fallible. However, in Islamic tradition, the tendency is to view all prophets as infallible. Both the Qur’an and the New Testament (along with the Hadith) say that Jesus was holy. The word “holy” means he was sinless from birth, set apart for God. The New Testament says Jesus was tempted as all men, yet he himself was without sin (Matthew 4:11). He was able to challenge his enemies to find sin in him, yet they could find none. *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”* Hebrews 4:15.

Jesus’ Knowledge

QUR’ANIC TEXT

Mohammed: *“And thus We have revealed to you an inspiration of Our command. You did not know what is the Book or [what is] faith.”* 42:52a

Jesus: *“So she pointed to him. They said, ‘How can we speak to one who is in the cradle a child?’ [Jesus] said, ‘Indeed, I am the servant of Allah. He has given me the Scripture and made me a prophet.’”* 19:29-30

“And I inform you of what you eat and what you store in your houses. Indeed in that is a sign for you, if you are believers.” 3:49c

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

Abraham: Genesis 17:17

NEW TESTAMENT

“All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” Luke 10:22

“And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, This man is blaspheming. But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said: ‘Why do you think evil in your hearts?’” Matthew 9:4 (See also Revelation 2:23.)

Jesus’ Sovereignty

QUR’ANIC TEXT

Mohammed: *“And we refrain from sending signs only because the men of former generations treated them as false.”* 17:59a

“And the disbelievers say: ‘Why has not a sign been sent down to him (Mohamed) from his Lord? You are only a warner, and to every people there is a guide.’” 13:7

The miracles of Jesus: *“... and you (Jesus) healed the blind and the leper with My permission; and when you brought forth the dead with My permission.”* 5:110b (See also 3:49a.)

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

“Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.” Psalm 2:12

NEW TESTAMENT

“The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.”
John 3:35

Jesus gives peace: *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.”* John 14:27a

Jesus gives life: *“For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.”* John 5:21

“When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out.’ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’” John 11:43-44

Jesus heals: *“...they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick.”* Matthew 8:16

Prophecy fulfilled: *“He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”*
Matthew 8:17 (Compare to Isaiah 53:4.)

Jesus forgives sins: *“...he said to the paralytic, ‘Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.’”* Matthew 9:2b (See also Luke 7:48.)

The Good Shepherd (al-Raei al-Saalih)

QUR’ANIC TEXT

“By which Allah guides those who pursue His pleasure to the ways of peace and brings them out from darknesses into the light, by His permission, and guides them to a straight path.” 5:16

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 23:1-3; Ezekiel 34:15-16; Isaiah 40:11

NEW TESTAMENT

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:11 (See also John 10:27-28.)

The Great Sacrifice

QUR’ANIC TEXT

THE QUR’AN DENIES THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS CHRIST

“And peace is on me [Jesus] the day I was born and the day I will die and the day I am raised alive.” 19:33 (Compare to 4:159.)

A great sacrifice: *“We called to him, ‘O Abraham, You have fulfilled the vision.’ Indeed, We thus reward the doers of good. Indeed, this was the clear trial. And We ransomed him with a great sacrifice.” 37:104-107 (Compare to Genesis 22:13-14 (KJV) and John 8:56.)*

They didn’t crucify the Messiah, Jesus: *“And [for] their saying, ‘Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah. And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but was made to resemble him (Jesus) to them (Jews).’” 4:157*

Additional Note: The idea of “was made to resemble him to them” is mentioned in Apocrypha, in the Gospel of Barnabas.

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

A shadow of great sacrifice: Genesis 22:13-14 (KJV)
(Compare to John 8:56.)

Not one of his bones is broken: Psalm 34:20 (Compare to Exodus 12:46b and John 19:36.)

NEW TESTAMENT

“Drink of it, all of you, For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” Matthew 26:28

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.” John 12:32-33

For all time, a single sacrifice: Hebrews 10:12 and John 1:29

The Mediator (al-Wasit)

QUR’ANIC TEXT

“Who is it that can intercede with Him except by his permission?” 2:255b.

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

“When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram.” Genesis 15:17-18a
(Compare to Galatians 3:20.)

NEW TESTAMENT

“Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.”
Galatians 3:20 (Compare to Genesis 15:17.)

“For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” 1 Timothy 2:5 (See also 1 John 2:1)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

In the Qur’an, there is no clear understanding of God as our Mediator. In Genesis 15:17-18, God alone walks between the halves of the animal. When a covenant was made in Abraham’s time, an animal was cut in half and the two people with whom a covenant would be made walked down between the two halves together, finalizing the covenant. Many Bible interpreters connect this verse with God as mediator. There is no mediator between God and his people other than God himself. *“Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.”* Galatians 3:20.

Jesus’ Ascension

QUR’ANIC TEXT

ALLAH RAISED JESUS TO HIMSELF

Enoch (Idris): *“And mention in the Book, Idris. Indeed, he was a man of truth and a prophet. And We raised him to a high station.”*
19:56-57

Jesus: *“Mention] when Allah said, ‘O Jesus, indeed I will take you and raise you to Myself.’”* 3:55a (See also 4:158.)

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

THE LORD SAYS TO MY LORD

“The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.’” Psalm 110:1

“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.” Daniel 7:13

NEW TESTAMENT

AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD

“So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.” Mark 16:19
(See also John 16:28.)

“No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.” John 3:13 (Compare to Proverbs 30:4.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Concerning Enoch, the Qur’an and the Bible both support the view that God raised (removed) Enoch from earth into heaven (a high station). The Qur’an and the New Testament also affirm Jesus was raised from the Earth to God himself, above the position to which Enoch was raised. The New Testament further teaches that Jesus was raised from the earth to be enthroned alongside God the Father.

The Judgment on the Last Day

QUR’ANIC TEXT

“And indeed, Jesus will be [a sign for] knowledge of the Hour.”
43:61a

***Additional Note:** From Hadith: Narrated by Abu Huraira:
“Allah’s Messenger said: By Him in Whose Hands my soul is, surely, Jesus the son of Mary will soon descend amongst you and will judge mankind justly.” Al-Bukhari - The Book of Prophets.*

“No! When the earth has been leveled - pounded and crushed. And your Lord has come and the angels, rank upon rank.” 89:21-22
(Compare to Matthew 24:29-31.)

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

“Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.” Psalm 2:12 (See also Psalm 110:1.)

NEW TESTAMENT

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”

Matthew 25:31-32

“For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son.” John 5:22

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.” 2 Corinthians 5:10

SUMMARY STATEMENT

In the Qur’an, there is indirect teaching about Jesus coming as a judge on the last day. Many Islamic interpreters agree on this considering the information given in the Hadith. According to the New Testament, Jesus will come in the last day to judge. His return will be at an appointed time and with ranks of angels. He will divide humankind; the righteous on the right and the unrighteous on the left (Matthew 25:41-46).

The Jews Will Believe in Him in the Last Day

QUR’ANIC TEXT

“And there is none from the People of the Scripture but that he will surely believe in Jesus before his death. And on the Day of Resurrection he will be against them a witness.” 4:159

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

“Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.” Psalm 14:7 (See also Psalm 53:6 and Isaiah 59:20.)

NEW TESTAMENT

“Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob, and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”

Romans 11:25-26

CHAPTER 12: THE GOOD NEWS

The Gospel (al-Injil)

“And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” Matthew 26:27-28

QUR’ANIC TEXT

Jesus: *“And [Jesus] confirming what was before me of the Torah and to make lawful for you some of what was forbidden to you.” 3:50a*

Mohammed: *“Those who follow the apostle, the unlettered Prophet, whom they find mentioned in their own (scriptures), in the law and the Injil ... He releases them from their heavy burdens and from the yokes that are upon them.” 7:157 (Yusuf Ali)*

Additional Note: Evaluate the qur’anic verse, 7:157, using the information in “Chapter Eight: Sharia, Mosaic, and New Testament Law” and “Chapter Nine: The Way” (the “Prophecies” section) of this study guide.

BIBLICAL TEXT

OLD TESTAMENT

The Anointed One: *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.” Isaiah 61:1 (Compare to Luke 4:18-19. See also Isaiah 59:20.)*

NEW TESTAMENT

RELIEF FROM BURDENS BY GRACE

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” John 1:17

Not of the letter but of the Spirit: *“Who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” 2 Corinthians 3:6*

“In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.” Hebrews 8:13 (Compare to Jeremiah 31:31-34.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Al-Injil is the Arabic name for the Gospel and comes from the Greek word for Gospel, Euaggelion. It is described by the Qur’an as one of the four Islamic holy books which include the Torah, the Psalms, and the Qur’an. This is not the same as the Christian view of the Gospel, which is the first four New Testament books describing the life and ministry of Jesus on earth. In the Qur’an, Mohammed is said to relieve burdens. In the New Testament, Jesus taught us to come to him for rest because his burden is light. This rest comes because of the grace of God, not by our works (Galatians 3:2).

Jesus’ Followers (Al-Hawariuwn)

QUR’ANIC TEXT

Superior and dominant: *“Mention when Allah said, O Jesus, indeed I will take you and raise you to Myself and purify you from those who disbelieve and make those who follow you [in submission to Allah alone] superior to those who disbelieve until the Day of Resurrection.” 3:55a*

“O, you who have believed, be supporters of Allah, as when Jesus, the son of Mary, said to the disciples, Who are my supporters for Allah? The disciples said, We are supporters of Allah. And a faction of the Children of Israel believed and a faction disbelieved. So We supported those who believed against their enemy, and they became dominant.” 61:14

The character and practices of Jesus’ followers: *“Then We sent following their footsteps Our messengers and followed [them] with Jesus, the son of Mary, and gave him the Gospel. And We placed in the hearts of those who followed him compassion and mercy*

and monasticism, which they innovated; We did not prescribe it for them except [that they did so] seeking the approval of Allah.” 57:27a

“You will surely find the most intense of the people in animosity toward the believers [to be] the Jews and those who associate others with Allah; and you will find the nearest of them in affection to the believers those who say, ‘We are Christians.’ That is because among them are priests and monks and because they are not arrogant. And when they hear what has been revealed to the Messenger, you see their eyes overflowing with tears because of what they have recognized of the truth. They say, ‘Our Lord, we have believed, so register us among the witnesses.’” 5:82-83

BIBLICAL TEXT

NEW TESTAMENT

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35

“Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him ... Jesus answered him, ‘If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.’” John 14:21, 23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” Galatians 5:22-24

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Qur’an calls Jesus followers “Nazerenes” and describes them as superior and dominant to the unbelieving polytheists. It also describes the character of these Jesus followers. God had given believers hearts filled with compassion and mercy. In the New Testament, when Jesus was asked about which the greatest commandment was, he replied, *“The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* Mark 12:29-31. God gives his followers spiritual fruit in their lives so they can love others (Galatians 5:22-23).

Beyond the Qur'an

RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

“And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him ... Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.” Acts 5:32, 41

“For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements.” Acts 15:28

BEFORE RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

“And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you discussing on the way?’ But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.” Mark 9:33-34

“And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.” Acts 1:26 (Compare to Acts 6:3-6.)

John: *“But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, ‘Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?’ But he turned and rebuked them.” Luke 9:53-55 (Compare to 1 John 4:8.)*

Peter: *“But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” Mark 14:70-71 (Compare to Acts 4:8, 19-20.)*

AFTER RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began

to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:1-4 (See also Acts 4:31-33; 5:27-29; 8:15-39;16:6-7.)

The Apostle John: *“Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:8*

The Apostle Peter: *“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, ... But Peter and John answered them, Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.’” Acts 4:8, 19-20 (See also Acts 2:38-41, 3:6-8, 10:19-20.)*

Saul who became Paul: Acts 7:58; 8:1-3; 9:1-28; 13:9; 19:1-6

Paul opposes Peter: *“But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, ‘If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?’” Galatians 2:11-14*

Peter testifies about Paul: *“And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.” 2 Peter 3:15-16*

Paul and Barnabas: *“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said: ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.” Acts 13:2-3*

Paul, Barnabas, and Mark: *“So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word*

of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John (Mark) to assist them.” Acts 13:4-5

“And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.’ Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus.” Acts 15:36-39

Paul and Mark later: *“Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him.” Colossians 4:10*

“Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.” 2 Timothy 4:11

SUMMARY STATEMENT

When a person decides to repent and become a follower of Jesus Christ, they are born from above and receive the Holy Spirit. The very presence of God indwells the believer. When we consider the New Testament before and after the coming of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16; Acts 1:8), we notice that everything changes. Before the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles needed to determine God’s will about a replacement for Judas who betrayed the Lord (Acts 1:26). They used the practice of casting lots, which is mentioned 70 times in the Old Testament and seven times in the New Testament. The Lord instructed the Israelites (Numbers 33:54) and allowed them to use this system to determine his will (Joshua 18:6-10). This is not commanded in the New Testament since the coming of the Holy Spirit. After Pentecost, these same leaders were led directly by God (Acts 13:2). We can see believers were greatly changed by the presence of God in their lives. Peter was transformed from cowardly to brave. Saul was changed from a persecutor of the church to her greatest champion. The Jesus followers were used by God in powerful ways beyond human comprehension. Believers now have the completed Word of God and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. God gives his Spirit to guide his followers into his will, to teach them spiritual truth, to convict

of sin against God, and to empower them to live godly lives in order to glorify him.

Additional Note: The Acts of the Apostles, often just called Acts, describes not just what the apostles did after Jesus' ascension, but illustrates how powerfully the Holy Spirit worked in and through them. In Acts, we can see how the Holy Spirit directed these men to grow and strengthen the church in ways that are humanly impossible with great wisdom and love.

APPENDIX 1: SUNNI AND SHI'A COMPARISON

ISLAM'S MAIN GROUPS

Sunni Muslims
Shi'ites (Shi'a) Muslims

Adherents are Called:

Sunnis
Shi'ites, Shi'i, or Shi'a (Shi'a implies sect. See Acts 24:14)

Meaning of Name:

Sunnis: "tradition" or "the path of Mohammed"
Shi'ites: "followers of Ali"

Current Population of Adherents:

Sunnis: 80-90% of 1.8 billion Muslims
Shi'ites: 10-20% of 1.8 billion Muslims

Did Muhammad designate a successor?

Sunnis: No
Shi'ites: Yes

True Successor of the Prophet

Sunnis: Abu Bakr, father of Mohammed's wife, A'isha
Shi'ites: Ali ibn Abi Talib, husband of Fatimah, Mohammed's daughter

Qualifications for leader of the Ummah (Nation-Community)

Sunnis: Originally from the tribe of Mohammed; later, any qualified ruler.
Shi'ites: Family of Mohammed

Religious Leadership

Sunnis: Imam is a human prayer leader; trained and educated in their religion. The highest educated Imams are eligible to give opinions on Sharia.
Shi'ites: There are two levels of imams. The first

level consists of 12 Imams who were exalted in position. They were infallible. The second level is the same as the Sunni leadership. “Ayatollah” or “Mujtahid” is a title for the representatives of the 12 Imams.

Approach to Islam

Sunnis believe that the Qur’an should be interpreted by Mohammad’s hadiths only.

Shi’as believe that the Qur’an and its laws can be interpreted by the 12 Imams’ hadiths.

Holy cities

Sunnis: Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem

Shi’ites: Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem, Najaf, Karbala
(and the shrines of the other nine Imams)

Day of Communal Worship

Sunnis: Friday

Shi’ites: Friday

(not considered Sabbath, but work is not allowed during the noontime prayer. See 62:9-10.)

Sufism: Sufis are Islamic mystics. They go beyond external requirements of the religion to seek a personal experience with God through forms of meditation and spiritual growth. Several Sufi orders, comparable to Christian monastic orders, exist. There are Sunni and Shi’ite Sufis. In general, Sufism is a diverse philosophical system within the broader context of Islam. Many conservative Sunni and Shi’a Muslims regard some Sufi schools as a corruption of Islam.

APPENDIX 2: NAMES OF THE QUR'AN'S CHAPTERS (SURAS)

Al-Fatihah	THE OPENER
Al-Baqarah	THE COW
Ali 'Imran	FAMILY OF IMRAN
An-Nisa	THE WOMEN
Al-Ma'idah	THE TABLE SPREAD
Al-An'am	THE CATTLE
Al-A'raf	THE HEIGHTS
Al-Anfal	THE SPOILS OF WAR
At-Tawbah	THE REPENTANCE
Yunus	JONAH
Hud	HUD
Yusuf	JOSEPH
Ar-Ra'd	THE THUNDER
Ibrahim	ABRAHIM
Al-Hijr	THE ROCKY TRACT
An-Nahl	THE BEE
Al-Isra	THE NIGHT JOURNEY
Al-Kahf	THE CAVE
Maryam	MARY
Taha	TA-HA
Al-Anbya	THE PROPHETS
Al-Haj	THE PILGRIMAGE
Al-Mu'minun	THE BELIEVERS
An-Nur	THE LIGHT
Al-Furqan	THE CRITERION
Ash-Shu'ara	THE POETS
An-Naml	THE ANT
Al-Qasas	THE STORIES
Al-'Ankabut	THE SPIDER
Ar-Rum	THE ROMANS
Luqman	LUQMAN
As-Sajdah	THE PROSTRATION
Al-Ahzab	THE COMBINED FORCES
Saba	SHEBA
Fatir	ORIGINATOR
Ya-Sin	YA SIN
As-Saffat	THOSE WHO SET THE RANKS
Sad	THE LETTER "SA'AD"

Az-Zumar	THE TROOPS
Ghafir	THE FORGIVER
Fussilat	EXPLAINED IN DETAIL
Ash-Shuraa	THE CONSULTATION
Az-Zukhruf	THE ORNAMENTS OF GOLD
Ad-Dukhan	THE SMOKE
Al-Jathiyah	THE CROUCHING
Al-Ahqaf	THE WIND-CURVED SAND HILLS
Muhammad	MOHAMMED
Al-Fath	THE VICTORY
Al-Hujurat	THE ROOMS
Qaf	THE LETTER "QAF"
Adh-Dhariyat	THE WINNOWING WINDS
At-Tur	THE MOUNT
An-Najm	THE STAR
Al-Qamar	THE MOON
Ar-Rahman	THE BENEFICENT
Al-Waqi'ah	THE INEVITABLE
Al-Hadid	THE IRON
Al-Mujadila	THE PLEADING WOMAN
Al-Hashr	THE EXILE
Al-Mumtahanah	SHE THAT IS TO BE EXAMINED
As-Saf	THE RANKS
Al-Jumu'ah	THE CONGREGATION, FRIDAY
Al-Munafiqun	THE HYPOCRITES
At-Taghabun	THE MUTUAL DISILLUSION
At-Talaq	THE DIVORCE
At-Tahrim	THE PROHIBITION
Al-Mulk	THE SOVEREIGNTY
Al-Qalam	THE PEN
Al-Haqqah	THE REALITY
Al-Ma'arij	THE ASCENDING STAIRWAYS
Nuh	NOAH
Al-Jinn	THE JINN
Al-Muzzammil	THE ENSHROUDED ONE
Al-Muddaththir	THE CLOAKED ONE
Al-Qiyamah	THE RESURRECTION
Al-Insan	THE MAN
Al-Mursalat	THE EMISSARIES
An-Naba	THE TIDINGS
An-Nazi'at	THOSE WHO DRAG FORTH
'Abasa	HE FROWNED

At-Takwir	THE OVERTHROWING
Al-Infitar	THE CLEAVING
Al-Mutaffifin	THE DEFRAUDING
Al-Inshiqaq	THE SUNDERING
Al-Buruj	THE MANSIONS OF THE STARS
At-Tariq	THE NIGHT COMER
Al-A'la	THE MOST HIGH
Al-Ghashiyah	THE OVERWHELMING
Al-Fajr	THE DAWN
Al-Balad	THE CITY
Ash-Shams	THE SUN
Al-Layl	THE NIGHT
Ad-Duhaa	THE MORNING HOURS
Ash-Sharh	THE RELIEF
At-Tin	THE FIG
Al-'Alaq	THE CLOT
Al-Qadr	THE POWER
Al-Bayyinah	THE CLEAR PROOF
Az-Zalzalah	THE EARTHQUAKE
Al-'Adiyat	THE COURSER
Al-Qari'ah	THE CALAMITY
At-Takathur	THE RIVALRY IN WORLD INCREASE
Al-'Asr	THE DECLINING DAY
Al-Humazah	THE TRADUCER
Al-Fil	THE ELEPHANT
Quraysh	QURAYSH
Al-Ma'un	THE SMALL KINDNESSES
Al-Kawthar	THE ABUNDANCE
Al-Kafirun	THE DISBELIEVERS
An-Nasr	THE DIVINE SUPPORT
Al-Masad	THE PALM FIBER
Al-Ikhlash	THE SINCERITY
Al-Falaq	THE DAYBREAK
An-Nas	THE MANKIND

APPENDIX 3: STUDY QUESTIONS

CHAPTER 1: THE SCRIPTURES

- **Inspiration:**

What is the difference between the Islamic and the Christian view of inspiration? Does the biblical view of inspiration affect the authority of the scriptures?

- **Eloquence/beauty of speech:**

Regarding many examples of high literature and excellent eloquent texts through human history, could this be a sign of absolute truth in those texts?

- **Corruption:**

Could the all-powerful God that gave the scriptures keep them from corruption? How do you interpret the qur'anic term, "Al-thekr" (the reminder) considering the verses 16:43; 21:105 and 15:9?

CHAPTER 2: CREATION AND THE FALL

- **Origin of sin:** How do you explain the fact that the Bible says that humans are created in the image of God? What were the consequences of the sin of Adam and Eve in both the Qur'an and the Bible?

- **Whom angels worshiped:** How do you compare the qur'anic view that angels have worshiped the first Adam who has committed sin and the biblical view that angels have worshiped the second Adam? Who is holy?

- **The flood of Noah:** Comparing the Qur'an and Old Testament accounts, did any of Noah's sons perish during the flood? According to the Bible, what was the purpose of the flood of Noah?

CHAPTER 3: THE HOUSE OF ABRAHAM

- **The home of Abraham and Ishmael:**

The Qur'an teaches that Abraham and Ishmael were in Mecca and they built the Kabba. How do you evaluate this teaching according to the Old Testament?

- **Ishmael or Isaac:** How does the qur'anic text, 29:27, indicate Isaac and Jacob as the lineage of prophet-hood?

CHAPTER 4: ISRAEL

- **The land of milk and honey:**

The Qur'an mentions the land of milk and honey as the description of the heavenly Paradise. How do you connect that with the Old Testament's description of the Promised Land?

- **Moses:** According to the New Testament, what was the purpose of the law that was given by God to his people through the prophet Moses? What did Jesus say about the fulfillment of the law?
- **The children of God:** When the Bible refers to children of God, is it referring to a biological or a relational fact?

CHAPTER 5: OTHER PROPHETS' STORIES

- **Job:** Compare the references about Job in the Qur'an and the Book of Job in the Old Testament. How are they different?
- **Jonah:** What is the connection between the story of Jonah and the story of Jesus?
- **Ascension and Jesus' ascension:** What is the difference between the ascension of Enoch and the ascension of Jesus in both the Qur'an and the New Testament?

CHAPTER 7: SIMILAR CONCEPTS

- **Parables:** What was the reason for telling (writing) parables? How do you describe the uniqueness of Jesus' parables?

CHAPTER 8: SHARIA, MOSAIC, AND NEW TESTAMENT LAW

- **The Sabbath:** When the Qur'an states that God was not tired after the six days of creation, does this refer to what the Bible means when it says that God "rested?" Compare the Old and New Testament references to the Sabbath. How are they different?
- **The temple/holy mosque:** What did Jesus say about the place of worship in John 4:21-24?
- **Offering and sacrifices:** What was the purpose of the animal sacrifices in Islam and Judaism? How do you explain the movement from animal sacrifices in the Qur'an and the Old Testament to spiritual sacrifice as described in the New Testament?

- **Marriage law and discipline:** Islamic law regarding women and forms of discipline are impacted by the time and culture. What do you think about this statement?
- **Jihad:** Is violence able to convey the truth of God to people? Refer to Romans 8:36-37. Which has more value to you as a spiritual seeker; a political victory or a spiritual victory?

CHAPTER 9: THE WAY

- **Faith and works:** Can humans provide salvation for themselves? According to your readings and experiences, how much does the “letter of the law” help for spiritual growth?
- **Prophecies:**
 1. Considering the context of the Bible prophecies about the “prophet,” is it possible that they refer to Mohammed? If not, who do you think they refer to?
 2. According to the context of this chapter, who do you believe Jesus is referring to when he teaches about the Advocate that will come after him?

CHAPTER 10: NO GOD BUT ONE

- **God reveals himself:** Does the Quran agree with the fact that God revealed himself to Moses? Compare Hebrews 11:13 and 12:2. What is the difference in how God revealed himself in the Old and New Testaments? (See also 2 Corinthians 3:15-18.)
- **The Trinity:** Review John 1:14 and 1 Timothy 3:16. How does the New Testament emphasize the oneness of God and the Trinity at the same time?
- **I am He:** Jesus called himself the Son of Man. How is this connected to the prophecy in Daniel 7:13-14? (See John 8:28.)

CHAPTER 11: THE MESSIAH – THE WORD OF GOD (LOGOS)

The Word of God: Both the Qur’an and the New Testament refer to Jesus as “the Word of God.” What is meant by this expression in the context of the New Testament?

Jesus is holy: The Qur’an teaches that prophets are fallible, but Jesus is holy. Considering this, how do you evaluate the Islamic view that Jesus is only a prophet?

APPENDIX 4: EXAMPLES OF THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

These examples are from the book of Matthew:

- 1. Following Jesus:** Jesus says, *“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”* Matthew 16:24. The words, “follow me” imply the obedience in a loving relationship. The expression “take up your cross” refers to a complete denial of self-interest, even to the point of death. Jesus wants us to love him enough to be willing to sacrifice on his behalf.
- 2. Promoting love:** Jesus preaches, *“Love your enemies; do not hate, be reconciled ...”* Matt. 5:38-48; 5:21-24. Jesus showed compassion for all and helped the poor, the despised, the outcasts, and Jesus wants us to do the same (Matthew 4:24-25; 9:9-13). Jesus gave the example of in story called “The Good Samaritan.” In this example of loving our neighbor, it is not referring to a physical neighbor, but someone who needed help. It was not a person from the same religion, the same ethnicity, or even the same socioeconomic status. It was simply a person in need. Compassion was extended without asking for anything in return (Mark 10:25-37).
- 3. Condemning hypocrisy:** Jesus emphasizes, *“Be sincere, not a hypocrite ...”* Matthew 6:1-6. Jesus followers are to repent, to turn away from wrong, and confess wrongdoing to our brothers and sisters in Christ (James 5:16).
- 4. Proclaiming the kingdom of heaven:** Repeatedly Jesus notes, *“The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* Jesus seems to be telling us ways to experience heaven on earth now. He also refers to a future realm where we will be in the presence of God forever (Matthew 18:1-4). Because the religious rulers of Israel were only looking for a political Messiah king who would make Israel the ruling kingdom of the world, Israel rejected the Jesus as the Messiah when he first came. (See Jeremiah 23:5; Psalms 48:2.) They were expecting a warrior leader who would deliver them from Rome and the pagan influences through military means. Instead, Jesus told them, *“My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”* John 18:36.