

What does the Qur'an say about the Bible?

Introduction Few Muslims question that the Qur'an is inspired by God. But in regards to the Bible, most Muslims think that it is given only for the Christians, and that it is either uninspired or corrupted by them. Many are afraid of reading the Bible. It may come as a surprise for them to learn what the Qur'an says about the Bible.

Let us begin in An-Nisa', surah 4 and verse 163-164...

Qur'an 4:163-165 Who inspired Noah, Abraham, Job, Moses, Aaron, Solomon, David, Jesus and the other Biblical Prophets? According to Islam there are four holy books: Tawrat (Torah/OT), Zabur (Psalms), Injil (Gospels/NT) and the Qur'an (**3:84**).

Al-'Imran makes it even clearer: Surah 3, verses 3-4...

Qur'an 3:3-4 Who sent down the Torah (Law) and the Gospel (Injil)? For what purpose? What will happen to the rejecters of the Old and New Testament?

This is no exception in the Qur'an. Please turn to Al-Ma'idah: surah 5, verses 44 and 46...

Qur'an 5:44, 46 Who revealed the Torah to Moses? Is there light and guidance in it? Are the rest of OT prophets inspired by God? (cf Luke 24:44). What are you if you fail to judge by the light of the Old Testament? Whom did God send after the OT prophets? Is there guidance and light in the Injil (Gospel/NT)? Would Jesus abolish the Old Testament (Law/Torah) or confirm it?

This agrees well with what Jesus Himself said in the Injil (Gospel) ...

Matt 5:17-18 Did Jesus come to destroy the Law (Torah) or the Prophets?

New light never replaces old light, it only brightens it. Jesus made this clear...

Luke 24:25-27 What did Jesus think of those who refused to believe in all the Old Testament prophets? (2 Tim 3:16). In the same way, the Qur'an claims to have been revealed, not in order to replace or abolish the Torah or the Gospel, but in order to confirm the revelations therein.

Alright, but is not the Bible of today corrupted by the Christians? What does the Qur'an say of this?

Qur'an 5:47, 48 By what standards should the Christians judge? The Qur'an or the Gospel? (**5:68-69, 10:94, 3:110-115**) If the text of the Gospel would have been changed, how can the Qur'an tell the Christians to judge by it? What was the Qur'an to guard? If the Bible is corrupted by Christians has it succeeded? There are texts in the Qur'an that speak of Jews and Christians changing the meaning of the Bible and misrepresenting it (3:78, 2:75, 4:46, 5:13 and 5:41). But they say nothing about a change in the written text. There must have been a pure version of the Bible at the time of Muhammad since God would not refer men to a corrupt book. And we know for fact that the Bible we have today is the same as the one existing in the 7th century.

IE: Dead Sea Scrolls 1947. OT from 3rd century BC. 99 % identical.

IE: NT – 230 mss. prior to 7th century. 97-99 % identical to modern mss.

The idea that a good muslim should only believe in and read the Qur'an contradicts the Qur'an itself...

Qur'an 2:4-5 Who has assurance of the Hereafter and are on guidance from the Lord?

What happens to Muslims that deny that the Old and the New Testament are God's Inspired Word?

Qur'an 4:136 How far astray have they gone who deny the Bible?

This is a serious warning for every Muslim, which agrees with the New Testament...

2 Tim 3:15-17 How much of the Holy Scriptures are inspired by God? Word of God.

APPEAL Do you wish to be assured of the Hereafter? Are you willing to accept the Bible as the Inspired Word of God? Are you willing to study all of God's Revelations?

APPENDIX

QUOTES ABOUT THE BIBLE FROM ISLAMIC THEOLOGIANS

- Ibn Taymiyya** “no one has changed any text of the Scriptures. Rather they (Jews and the Christians) have falsified their meanings by (false) interpretations.” (Ibn Taymiyya, *al-Tafsir al-Kabir*, I, p. 209 (1263-1328 AD))
- Abdullah Ibn Abbas** ““They corrupt the word [2:75]” means “they alter or change its meaning.” Yet no one is able to change even a single word from any Book of Allah. The meaning is that they interpret the word wrongly.” (Abdullah Ibn Abbas’, cousin of the Prophet, *Al-Bukhari*, Kitaab Al-Tawheed, Baab Qawlu Allah Ta’ala, “Bal Huwa Qur’aanun Majeed, fi lawin” no. 85)
- Saeed Abdullah** “authorized Scriptures of Jews and Christians remain very much today as they existed at the time of the Prophet, it is difficult to argue that the Qur’anic references to Tawrat and Injil were only to the “pure” Tawrat and Injil as existed at the time of Moses and Isa al Masih (pbuh), respectively. If the texts have remained more or less as they were in the seventh century CE, the reverence the Qur’an has shown them at the time should be retained even today. Many interpreters of the Qur’an, from Tabari to Razi to Ibn Taymiyya and even Qutb, appear to be inclined to share this view. The wholesale dismissive attitude held by many Muslims in the modern era towards the Scriptures of Judaism and Christianity do not seem to have the support of either the Qur’an or the major figures of tafsir.” (Saeed Abdullah, “The Charge of Distortion of the Jewish and Christian Scriptures”, *The Muslim World*, vol. 92, [2002], s. 434-435)

HISTORICAL QUOTES ABOUT THE BIBLE

- Millar Burrows** “It is a matter of wonder that through something like one thousand years the text underwent so little alteration. As I said in my first article on the scroll, ‘Herein lies its chief importance, supporting the fidelity of the Masoretic tradition.’” (Millar Burrows, *The Dead Sea Scrolls* (1955), p. 304)
- Gleason Archer** “Even though the two copies of Isaiah discovered in Qumran Cave 1 near the Dead Sea in 1947 were a thousand years earlier than the oldest dated manuscript previously known (A.D. 980), they proved to be word for word identical with our standard Hebrew Bible in more than 95 percent of the text. The five percent of variation consisted chiefly of obvious slips of the pen and variations in spelling.” (Gleason Archer, *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction* (1985), p. 25)
- Daniel Wallace** “Spelling and nonsense readings are the vast majority, accounting for at least 75% of all variants.” (interview with Justin Taylor, *The Gospel Coalition*, 21/3 2012)
- Frederick Bruce** “There is no body of ancient literature in the world which enjoys such a wealth of good textual attestation as the New Testament.” (Frederick Bruce, quoted from Lee Strobes, *Case for Christ*, p. 63)