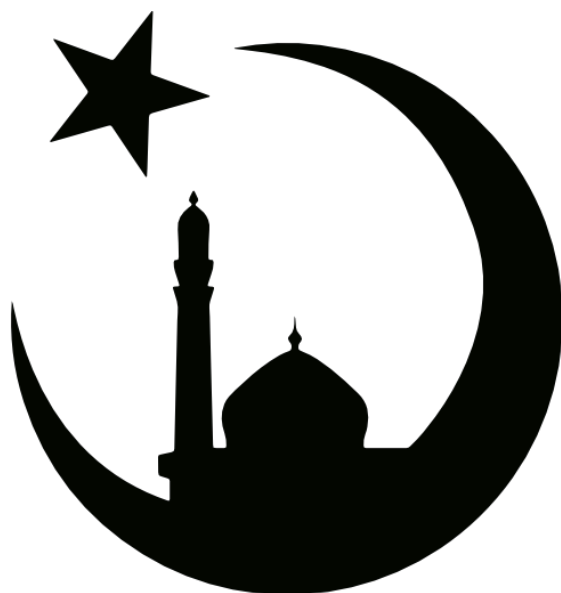


THE TRUTH ABOUT ISLAM



LESSON 1: IS THE BIBLE CORRUPTED?

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IS THE BIBLE CORRUPTED?

We thank you for taking the time to begin this important study of Islam and the Bible. There is no more valuable time spent than that of spiritual matters. The authenticity of every religion can be established **only** on the basis of the source of its authority. The religion of Judaism and consequentially the religion that arose from it, Christianity, rely solely upon the Bible to determine its beliefs and practices.

It is our goal to accurately and honestly give you the facts concerning Islam and Christianity. There are several questions that are important to note and ask as we begin:

1. Is the Bible corrupted or is it reliable?
2. Is the Quran the inspired word of God?
3. Are the Bible and the Quran compatible books or in opposition?
4. Is there a reliable standard of truth upon which we can rely?

We have included all verses that are referenced in this and following studies so that owning a Quran or Bible is not essential at this point. Each course class should take you less than one hour to read and study. At the end of each course is a set of questions. The answers to these are all found in the text of the course. We ask that you answer each question to the best of your ability. On the last page is an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have from the current study. Included with each course is a self-addressed envelope that you can send in your course questions and someone will grade it. They will then send you the next course with another self-addressed envelope. Included with each study will be the contact information for someone who can be of assistance with this study if you need their help.

It is our goal and prayer that this study is of benefit to you and your soul. We mean no ill-will to anyone or their religious beliefs but rather hope to help you as you strive to reach the ultimate goal of salvation!

THE BIBLE'S ENDORESMENT FROM THE QURAN

The Quran repeatedly refers to the text of the Bible. Take note of just a few examples from the Quran:

Surah 4:163 (O Muhammad!) We have revealed to you as We revealed to Noah and the Prophets after him, and We revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob and the offspring of Jacob, and Jesus and Job, and Jonah, and Aaron and Solomon, and We gave to David Psalms.

Surah 3:3-4 He has revealed this Book to you, setting forth the truth and confirming the earlier Books, and earlier He revealed the Torah and Gospel for the guidance of mankind;

Surah 17:2 We gave Moses the Book, and made it a source of guidance for the Children of Israel, commanding: "Take no other Guardian beside Me."

Those who would say that "the Bible has been corrupted!" must disagree with Mohammed and the Quran! The Quran clearly states and assumes that the scriptures are still with the Jews and Christians (often called *people of the book* in the Quran) at its time of writing (it was finished AD 632).

Surah 5:43-44 Yet how will they appoint you a judge when they have the Torah with them, wherein there is Allah's judgement - and still they turn away from it? The fact is, they are not believers. Surely We revealed the Torah, wherein there is guidance and light. Thereby did Prophets - who had submitted themselves (to Allah) - judge for the Judaized folk; and so did the scholars and jurists.

Surah 5:68 Say to them: 'People of the Book! You have no solid ground to stand on unless you establish the Torah and the Gospel and all that had been revealed to you from your Lord. Indeed the message revealed to you from your Lord will aggravate insurgence and unbelief in many of them. So do not grieve for those who disbelieve.

THE BIBLE'S TRANSMISSION ACCURACY AND BIBLE VARIANTS

There are some who claim that since the Bible is ancient there is no way that it was able to be preserved with its original and accurate message. Is this true? Can the Bible be trusted? Can we read the same Bible that was originally written? The answer to this question is an overwhelming YES! The Bible is the most preserved and trusted book in all of antiquity.

OLD TESTAMENT ACCURACY

Scribes were used to copy the books of the Old Testament. These scribes were aware of the great task of preserving the purity of the Word of God and went to great lengths to have an exact copy of the original text without any mistakes. They were diligent to make sure the texts stayed exactly the same with each translation. There were very strict Jewish traditions and rules that clearly dictated how many lines and columns could be on a single page. Every word, every line, and every letter was to be accounted for. Any and every copy that had even one mistake was to be removed and destroyed. Because of scrolls found in Qumran, referred to as the Dead Sea Scrolls, we have original texts that date all the way back to 200 B.C, which matched other texts we have that were written nearly 1000 years later!

THE NEW TESTAMENT ACCURACY

The New Testament which was originally completed nearly 1,900 years ago is also without a doubt preserved and kept intact for us to have just as the first century Christians did. There are some 25,000 original manuscripts both partial and full copies of the New Testament in existence. Compare that to the second most copied ancient text of Homer's the Iliad with under 1800 copies. The New Testament of the Bible has manuscripts dating all the way back to 125 A.D.!

WHAT ABOUT BIBLE VARIANTS?

A *textual variant* is a conflicting reading between manuscripts involving a word, verse, or verses. In comparing the manuscripts, the New Testament is so accurate that 99 1/2% of the New Testament is exactly the same and the remaining 1/2% mostly deal with discrepancy's in simple spelling or a word order. None of these small cases of variance hold any doctrinal bearing or differences. Without a doubt, the authenticity and surety that we have an accurate and faithful translation of the New Testament Bible is undeniable.

J.I. Packer, from Regent College in Vancouver, B.C. said this concerning the facts surrounding Bible variants:

Faith in the adequacy of the text is confirmed, so far as it can be, by the unanimous verdict of textual scholars that the biblical text is excellently preserved, and no point of doctrine depends on any small number of cases in which the true reading remains doubtful.

The Textual Critics, Westcott and Hort, said this in their book *The New Testament in the Original Greek* page 564:

Since textual criticism has various readings for its subject, and the discrimination of genuine readings from corruptions for its aim, discussions on textual criticism almost inevitably obscure the simple fact that variations are but secondary incidents of a fundamentally single and identical text. In the New Testament in particular it is difficult to escape an exaggerated impression as to the proportion which the words subject to variation bear to the whole text, and also, in most cases, as to their intrinsic importance. It is not superfluous therefore to state explicitly that the great bulk of the words of the New Testament stand out above all discriminative processes of criticism, because they are free from variation, and need only to be transcribed.

Anyone who has studied the facts concerning the transmission, accuracy, and Bible variants knows from the evidence that exists today that we have the entire Bible in a near perfect condition today as compared to when it was first written!

THE BIBLE'S OWN INTERNAL EVIDENCE

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Bible, within its own pages claims to be the inspired word of God. There are literally hundreds of Bible passages which claim this very thing. However, is this self-proclaimed assertion true? Is it proveable by accuracy in geography, history, science, fulfilled prophecies, and a unified message from all of its penmen? Lets briefly examine the evidence.

HISTORICAL ACCURACY OF THE BIBLE

Not one time has the Bible been proven to have an error when it comes to historical accuracy! This is a profound proof of the accuracy of the scriptures. A great example of this is that for many years historians argued that Bible's referencing a group of people called the Hittites was nothing more than a imagined group of people because no archeological or historical sources could be found that ever mentioned the Hittites. But in 1906 Hugo Wincler was doing an archaeological dig in Turk and found the capital of the Hittite empire! The critics were proven wrong and the Bible was again proven to be accurate.

GEOGRAPHICAL EVIDENCE FROM THE BIBLE

In John 9 we read the story of Jesus healing a man who was born blind. Christ spits on the ground, makes some mud and puts it on the blind man's eyes. He then instructs the blind man to wash in the Pool of Siloam. The blind man does so, and is healed. Critics of the Bible often claim that John's Gospel contains fictional accounts of Christ's actions.

However, in 2004, engineers were digging to work on a sewer and discovered the steps of a first century ritual pool near the mouth of Hezekiah's tunnel. By the summer of 2005, archaeologists said it was without doubt the missing pool of Siloam.

Mark D Roberts said this, "In the plaster of this pool were found coins that establish the date of the pool to the years before and after Jesus. There is little question that this is in fact the pool of Siloam, to which Jesus sent the blind man in John 9." The Bible has always been proven to be geographically accurate!

SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE FROM THE BIBLE

In Deuteronomy 23:12-13, nearly 3,500 years ago God commanded His people to have a place outside the camp where they could use the bathroom. They were to each carry a shovel so that they could dig a hole (latrine) and cover their waste. Up until World War I, more soldiers died from disease than war because they did not isolate human waste because there was not scientific knowledge of the dangers of human waste yet God revealed to man in the Bible the regulations of human waste long before man ever knew!

FULFILLED PROPHECIES OF THE BIBLE

Isaiah, the prophet, clearly described how God would destroy the kingdom of Babylon. Writing as if it had already occurred (commonly known as the "prophetic perfect," to stress the absolute certainty of fulfillment), Isaiah said that Babylon would fall in Isaiah 21:9. He then prophesied that Babylon would fall to the Medes and Persians in Isa.13; 21:1-10. He later prophesied that Babylon would be conquered by a man named Cyrus in 44:28 and 45:1-7. This is a remarkable prophecy, especially since Cyrus was not born until almost 150 years after Isaiah penned these words.

The Bible has proven within its own pages to be perfect in every way! It contains sufficient evidence of being from a supernatural source and is free from contradiction even though God inspired over 40 men over the time period of 4000 years!

**PLEASE ANSWER ALL
QUESTIONS TO THE BEST OF
YOUR ABILITY**

1. Who are the *people of the book* that are referenced in the Quran?
2. List 5 examples of people mentioned in the Quran that are also mentioned in the Bible.
3. In what year were the Dead Sea Scrolls found?
4. How many copies of manuscripts of the New Testament are in existence today?
5. What group of people that are named in the Bible were found in Turkey in 1906?

6. What is the name of the Pool from John 9 that Jesus healed the blind man in?

7. What action were the Jews told to do outside the gate of the city as a precaution against disease?

8. What are scribes?

9. What was done to ensure that Old Testament books were faithfully copied?

10. How many years before his birth did Isaiah prophesy of Cyrus?

