

Islam: From God Or Man? #2

Introduction. On September 11, 2001, America was rudely awakened to a festering hostility that had been growing around the world for more than a generation. As we saw last week, a radical form of Islam, existing from the beginning of the religion, is gaining momentum. This radical Islam sees the world as existing in only two divisions -- the world of faith in Allah (dar al-Islam) and the world of unbelief (dar al-harb), or faith in false gods. The goal of Islam is to bring the entire world under the rule of an Islamic state.

In this lesson, we will examine the stark differences between the Qur'an and the Bible. From this examination, one will see that the Qur'an not only contradicts the Bible, but it also contradicts itself and the facts of history and archaeology.

I. *The Qur'an And The Bible*

A. A comparison of the Qur'an and the Bible.

1. Muslims believe the Qur'an is perfect and without error. Islam further claims that the teachings of the Qur'an are in harmony with the autographs of the Bible because this is what the Qur'an teaches.
2. Muslims furthermore believe that Christians have corrupted the Bible, therefore it is unreliable. The Encyclopedia Britannica says, "For the Muslims, the Qur'an is the Word of God, confirming and consummating earlier revealed books and thereby replacing them ..."
 - a) But Muslims make this claim without offering any credible evidence to back their claim.
 - b) Furthermore, if Muslims could disprove the gospel, that still does not prove Islam. Islam offers no trustworthy evidence for its claim that the Qur'an is inspired.
3. Some brief facts about the Qur'an:
 - a) The word Qur'an means "the reading" or "the book," and is divided into 114 "surahs" or series which contain 6,225 verses. These are generally arranged by length from longest to shortest.
 - b) Because Muhammad was illiterate, these "revelations" were committed to memory instead of written down over the alleged two decade period of revelation. His aide, Zayd ibn Thabit, collected scattered fragments of what had been recorded on parchment, smooth stones, palm leaves, and other objects about a year after Muhammad's death.
 - c) Twenty-five years after the death of Muhammad, Zayd was given the task of the production of one authoritative universal version of the Qur'an. Different readings generated serious disputes and

in order to secure the purity of the text, all previous copies were burned.

- d) Interestingly, most Muslims do not read the Qur'an; they rely upon the clerics to tell them what it means. One Muslim from Turkey expresses the feelings of man: "Now we are in Ramadan, I fast and practice, but I have never thought of reading the Qur'an, anyway; I would not understand any of it. Even a Turkish version would not help." Unfortunately, even most clerics do not know Arabic.
- B. The Qur'an is a conglomeration of myths, fables and fairy tales:
1. It contains elements of paganism -- one example of this would be the Kaaba with its rites and ceremonies (2:142, 158, 196; 3:97; 8:34; 22:26; 106:3). While the devout Muslim believes with all of his heart that the rituals and doctrines of Islam are entirely heavenly in origin and thus cannot have any earthly sources, Middle Eastern scholars have demonstrated beyond all doubt that every ritual and belief in Islam can be traced back to pre-Islamic Arabian culture. In other words, Muhammad did not preach anything new. Everything he taught had been believed and practiced in Arabia long before he was ever born. Even the idea of "only one God" was borrowed from Jews and Christians.
 2. It contains elements of Judaism -- the Qur'an confuses Old Testament narratives of Joseph, Moses, etc. Many of the stories in the Qur'an come from the Jewish Talmud, the Midrash, and many Jewish apocryphal works.
 3. It contains elements of heretical "Christian" Gnostic gospels -- this is one of the most documented and damaging facts about the Qur'an. The Encyclopedia Britannica says, "The gospel was known to him chiefly through apocryphal and heretical sources" (15:64).
 4. It contains elements of Eastern religions -- Muhammad derived some of his ideas from Eastern religions such as Zoroastrianism and Hinduism. These religions were in existence long before Muhammad was born. The Qur'an records many sayings which are ascribed to Muhammad but in reality were previously known stories now attributed to him for the first time.
 5. It contains elements of the Sabeen religion -- Muhammad adopted such pagan rituals as the worship at the Kaaba, praying five times a day toward Mecca, and fasting for part of a day for an entire month. These were all part of the Sabeen religion.
 6. It contains elements of apostate Catholicism -- the perversion of Jesus' Sonship (6:101) and the "worship" of Mary (5:116) are both found in Catholicism.

7. It contains elements of sensuality -- polygamy (4:3), easy divorce (2:229-232), Paradise with its "lovely maidens" (44:54), and drinking with the absence of hangovers (56:18-19).
- C. Perhaps the single most troubling aspect of the Qur'an is its total disregard for all recorded world history, archaeology, and, of course, the Bible. Muslims seem to exist in a historical vacuum when they propose a completely different version of history simply because the Qur'an taught such in the seventh century.
1. In other words, if the Qur'an makes a historical claim that contracts 5,000 historical documents that are 3,500 years old, and the entire knowledge base of archeology, then Muslims disregard all this and blindly accept on faith their own mythical version of history revealed in the Qur'an.
 2. If I published a book which stated that Mother Teresa was actually a Buddhist, or that the Holocaust never happened, I would rightly encounter severe criticism. Yet Islam teaches that Jesus Christ was really a Muslim and that God caused someone who "looked like Jesus" to die on the cross. To suggest that Jesus never died on the cross is not only contrary to all known world knowledge, but is also utterly destructive to the gospel, which is founded upon the historical fact of the crucifixion.
- D. Whatever is true in the Qur'an is borrowed from Bible; whatever is original is false. The New Testament teaches that it is sufficient for our salvation.
1. The gospel is for every creature (Mark 16:15-16); not the Qur'an.
 2. The apostles were guided into all truth (John 16:13); there is no place for the Qur'an.
 3. Paul preached the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27); no Qur'an was included.
 4. Preaching another gospel results in one being accursed (Galatians 1:6-9); there is no room for the Qur'an.
 5. We are complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10); but not in Muhammad.
 6. We are furnished for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17); there is no need for the Qur'an.
 7. If we go beyond the gospel, we have not God (2 John 9); so there is a danger in believing in the Qur'an.
 8. The faith was once for all delivered unto the saints (Jude 3); there is no need for any additional revelation.
- E. Contradictions in the Qur'an.
1. There are four basic categories of contradictions in the Qur'an.
 - a) Verses contradicting each other or the laws of logic.

- (1) Fight the pagans and those who believe not in Allah (9:5, 29); no compulsion in religion (2:256).
 - (2) Any who believe in God (Jews, Christians, or Sabeans) will be rewarded (2:62); if anyone desires a religion other than Islam, it will not be accepted (3:85).
 - (3) Christ did not die (4:157); Christ did die (19:33-34).
 - (4) What is the worst sin? Lying against God (7:37)? Falsely claiming inspiration (6:93)? Rejecting Him and His signs (6:21; 8:22)? Polytheism (4:48)?
- b) Verses contradicting the facts of history or science.
- (1) Solomon listening to ants (27:18-19). Ants do not use sound but smell to communicate.
 - (2) The stars and the moon (67:3; 71:15). The Qur'an teaches there are seven heavens above each other, and that the stars are in the lower heaven, but the moon is depicted as being inside the seven heavens, even though in reality the stars are much further away from the earth than the moon.
 - (3) Everything is made in pairs (51:49). The Qur'an claims that everything is created in pairs, but there is a lot in nature that has no counterpart and species where only one gender exists.
- c) Verses contradicting the Bible. If you carefully examine the Bible and the Qur'an, they contradict one another on every major religious doctrine and fact of history. Muslims agree that it is impossible to inspire error. If that is the case, how could God have inspired them both?
- (1) The Old Testament.
 - (a) Noah.
 - i) Qur'an: His son drowned (11:42-43).
 - ii) Bible: All were saved (Genesis 7:1-5).
 - (b) Abraham.
 - i) Qur'an: Left his father (6:74-82; 19:46-50).
 - ii) Bible: Did not leave him (Genesis 11:32; 12:4; Acts 7:4).
 - (c) Lot's wife.
 - i) Qur'an: Stayed behind (26:171).
 - ii) Bible: Did not stay behind (Genesis 19:16).
 - (d) Potiphar.
 - i) Qur'an: Near the door (12:25).
 - ii) Bible: Potiphar not home (Genesis 39:16).
 - (e) Potiphar.
 - i) Qur'an: Urged Joseph to forgive her (12:29).
 - ii) Bible: Put Joseph in prison (Genesis 39:20).

- (f) Joseph.
 - i) Qur'an: Imprisoned for resisting a group of women (12:30-34).
 - ii) Bible: Imprisoned for resisting Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:20).
- (g) Pharaoh's dream.
 - i) Qur'an: Cupbearer tells interpretation (12:43-49).
 - ii) Bible: Joseph tells interpretation (Genesis 41:4-13).
- (h) Joseph.
 - i) Qur'an: Reveals self at third visit (12:70-82).
 - ii) Bible: Reveals self at second visit (Acts 7:13).
- (i) Moses.
 - i) Qur'an: Pharaoh's people pick up Moses and Pharaoh's wife urges Pharaoh not to kill him (28:7-13).
 - ii) Bible: Pharaoh's daughter (Exodus 2:2-9).
- (j) Moses.
 - i) Qur'an: Met in Midian by two of Jethro's daughters (28:23).
 - ii) Bible: Met by seven daughters (Exodus 2:18-19).
- (k) Moses.
 - i) Qur'an: God appears after 10 years (28:27-30).
 - ii) Bible: God appears after 40 years (Acts 7:30).
- (l) Pharaoh.
 - i) Qur'an: Became a believer at the Red Sea (10:90).
 - ii) Bible: Silent.
- (2) The New Testament.
 - (a) John the Baptist.
 - i) Qur'an: Father silent three days (3:41).
 - ii) Bible: Father silent nine months (Luke 1:13-24, 57-64).
 - (b) Marriage.
 - i) Qur'an: Polygamy encouraged (4:3).
 - ii) Bible: One wife-one husband (1 Corinthians 7:2).
 - (c) Marriage.
 - i) Qur'an: Exist in Paradise (44:54; 52:20).
 - ii) Bible: No marriage there (Luke 20:35).
 - (d) Divorce.
 - i) Qur'an: For many reasons (2:229-232).
 - ii) Bible: For one reason only (Matthew 19:9).
 - (e) Divorce.
 - i) Qur'an: Exchange wife (4:20).
 - ii) Bible: Married for life (Romans 7:2).

- (f) Opponents.
 - i) Qur'an: Kill them (8:38-41; 9:29; 61:4).
 - ii) Bible: Love your enemies (Matthew 5:44).
- (g) Retaliation.
 - i) Qur'an: Commanded (3:140).
 - ii) Bible: Turn the other cheek (Matthew 5:38-39).
- (h) Oaths.
 - i) Qur'an: Permitted even if you break some (2:224-225; 66:2).
 - ii) Bible: Swear not at all (Matthew 5:34; James 5:12).
- (i) Sacred months.
 - i) Qur'an: Observe them (5:2; 9:36).
 - ii) Bible: Observation condemned (Galatians 4:10; Colossians 2:16).
- (j) Jesus.
 - i) Qur'an: Not God's Son (9:30).
 - ii) Bible: Is the Son of God (Matthew 16:16; 2 Peter 1:17).
- (k) Jesus.
 - i) Qur'an: Not crucified (4:157-159).
 - ii) Bible: Was crucified (Luke 23:33).

Conclusion. How can Islam be a friend of the gospel and yet so deeply undermine the scriptures? The Bible is the all-sufficient word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4; Jude 3). The Bible needs no additions or subtractions, for to do so would result in condemnation (Deuteronomy 4:1-2; Revelation 22:18-19). To all who truly believe that Jesus is who He and the prophets said He was, and that He died in your place for your sins, and rose again from the dead, God is willing to freely give you salvation from the penalty and power of sin, a cleansed conscience, a deep peace, an un-touchable joy, a new nature, and an eternal home with Him in heaven. Will you come today?