

One of the fastest growing religions in the world, Islam is the source of great controversy and conflict, even amongst its own adherents. Why should this be, from a „religion of peace“? This article answers these questions directly from the words of the Qur“an, words which are quite staggering in their origin and audacity!

Ever since God created Adam and Eve He has addressed mankind through His chosen prophets. Through those prophets, from Moses through to Jesus, and later His apostles, He gave us the Bible, of which the Qur“an states : "We gave Moses the book – so [Muhammad] do not doubt this meeting with Him; and we made it a guide for the Children of Israel." (Surah 32:23).

With reference to the first 5 books of the Bible, the Pentateuch, and the New Testament, the Qur“an says: "We sent Jesus, son of Mary, in their footsteps, to confirm the Torah that had been sent down before him. We gave him the Gospel wherein is guidance and light, and confirmation of the Torah already revealed – a guide and a lesson for those who fear God." (5:46).

With regard to the whole Bible, the Qur“an states : "We have sent down to you [Muhammad] the Book with the truth, confirming the Book that came before it, and assuring it." (5:48, first lines)

We read these scriptures in the Qur“an and we can have no doubt that the Qur“an teaches that the Old and New Testaments in the Bible are from God, and must be believed as a lesson for true believers. You can read through the Qur“an from beginning to end and find no derogatory comments about the Bible. Indeed it says; "There is no changing the words of God, that is truly the supreme triumph." (10:64)

"No man can change the words of God." (6:34)
As the Qur“an tells us that the Bible is God“s word, any man who says the Bible has been changed, must be contradicting the Qur“an. Although the Qur“an criticises the Jews for rejecting scripture and wanting Muslims to stray from the truth too, (4:44-46) it nowhere makes

such a charge against Christians, and these verses should in no way be used to deny the divinity and authority of the Bible.

The Qur“an then, says it is one with the Bible, as the revelation of the Great Creator: "In matters of faith, he has laid down for you [people] the same commandment He gave Noah, which We have revealed to you [Muhammad] and which we placed upon Abraham and Moses and Jesus. „Uphold the faith and do not divide into factions within it." (42:13)

It asks an interesting question in 42:21, - "How can they believe in others who ordain for them things which God has not sanctioned in the practice of their faith?"

There is a danger then, of being unaware of the laws which God gave to Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus, part of the whole revelation of God, for there are some ignorant and deceived people who are led by Satan to despise and break those divine commandments, and so we see around the world today Muslims killing Muslims, Muslims hating Jews and Muslims terrorising and beheading Christians. The fate of such people is plain according to Surah 35:36 "But those who reject the truth will stay in hellfire, where they will neither be finished off by death, nor be relieved from hell“s torment. This is how We reward hardened disbelievers."

If the deceived had been sincere in their worship of God, they would have read the Bible as well as the Qur“an for then they would have read Jesus Christ“s words in Matthew 5:44 –"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you." Not only that, but we are told (Surah 35:43) "You will never find any change in God“s practice, you will never find any deviation there." This is echoed in the Bible“s words of the prophet Malachi, "For I am the Lord, I change not;" and in the words of the New Testament: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever."

So, for both Muslims and Christians the Bible is a sacred and holy book to be honoured and revered as God“s word.

The Qur'an gives us little information about the last days but in the Bible God provides extra information for those who will read all His Words. Both Muslims and Christians commonly believe that Jesus Christ will return from heaven at „Al Qiyamah“ - the climax of the last days, to bring peace upon the earth. This will be a time of judgment when the true hearts of men will be examined and revealed. "And [Jesus] shall be a sign (for the coming of) the Hour (of judgment) : therefore have no doubt about the (Hour) but follow ye Me: this is a straight Way." (Qur'an 43:61)

The Bible adds : "Behold the Lord comes with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." Jude :14-15.

It is wise then, for all God-fearing men and women not to neglect to learn from the Bible as a guide and lesson, the teachings which the Qur'an confirms are the words of God, for then they will recognise Satan's false teaching and promises. The Qur'an has this message for its followers, for when that judgment day eventually arrives; "Satan will say, „God gave you a true promise. I too made promises but they were false ones: I had no power over you except to call you, and you responded to my call, so do not blame me, blame yourselves. I cannot help you, nor can you help me. I reject the way you associated me with God before. For wrongdoers there must be a Grievous Penalty." Surah 14:22. There are no such words from Satan in the Bible.

THE QUR'AN

JUDGMENT DAY and SALVATION

(FOR THOSE WHO FEAR GOD)

The Qur'an tells us that God sent Jesus with the Gospel to confirm that the Bible is to be "a guide and a lesson for those who fear (take heed) of God" (Surah 5:46).

True Muslims then, and true Christians who do fear God, will base their lives upon the Gospel God sent, (5:47), lest they become lawbreakers, Matthew 5:18, 'For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.'

We must understand that God tells us Satan rebelled against Him and has deceived all mankind, Revelation 12:9, 'So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.' It is part of God's will that those 'whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.' (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Almost all of Christianity has been deceived, undermined by false teaching to reject the Law of God, for He is choosing now only the very few who truly fear Him enough to follow the words of Jesus Christ, despite the false teaching Satan has inspired in ALL the religions of this world. Only the words of Jesus Christ have remained inviolable, Mark 13:31. 'Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.'

Who was Jesus Christ? We find the answer in Matthew 3:17, when Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist, 'And suddenly a voice came

from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” God gave Mary a Holy Son by the power of His Holy Spirit (Surah 19:19-21). Throughout the Injil, Jesus constantly refers to God as His Father. That explains why Jesus Christ now sits on the right hand of God in heaven... 'the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, who will be held in honour in this world and the next, who will be one of those brought near to God,' (Surah 3:45), Mark 16:19, 'So,He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.'

Hebrews 1:1-3, 'God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.' Jesus was sent as a prophet, but no ordinary prophet. Other prophets sinned. Abraham (Surah 26:82), Moses (28:16), Muhammad (48:1-2).

But Jesus never sinned, Hebrews 4:15, 'For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.' The Qur'an tells us that the Jews did not kill Jesus by crucifixion. It was the Romans, for Christ came into the world not for the Jews, but that ALL men might gain eternal life, John 3:16-17, 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.'

Only the death of the sinless Christ, who made all men, could atone for the sins of all the world; only His resurrection to life can bring us life again. “Peace was upon me the day I was born, and will be on me the day I die and the day I am raised to life again”, Such was Jesus son of Mary.' (Surah 19:33-34).

It is necessary to study the Holy Injil in order to understand the scriptures Jesus refers to in Surah 19:30. Jesus said, “I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly”. (John 10:10) All we can earn ourselves, is death, Romans 6:23, 'For the wages

of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.' Sin is the transgression of the law (1John 3:4). No matter how righteous we become, not one of us can earn salvation, James 2:10, 'For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.'

Let those who truly fear God then, rely upon the words of Jesus, for Jesus it is who will judge all men on Judgment Day. '[Jesus] gives knowledge of the Hour [of judgment]: do not doubt it. Follow Me for this is the right path; do not let Satan hinder you, for he is your sworn enemy. When Jesus came with clear signs He said, “I have brought you wisdom: I have come to clear up some of your differences for you. Be mindful of God and obey me: God is my Lord and your Lord. Serve Him: this is the straight path.” (Surah 43:61-64). Also John 5:22, “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son.”

Jesus further explains, “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.” (John 12:48)

Jesus brought the gospel of the Kingdom of God, Mark 1:14, 'Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God.' The central proclamation of this 'good news' is that He is the only way to eternal life in God's kingdom [paradise], which He will establish here on this earth (read about it in the Book of Isaiah) on His return, John 3:36, 'He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.' To believe in Him is to follow His truth, John 14:6, 15. 'Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.' 'If you love Me, keep My commandments.' There is no other way to salvation ! Acts 4:12, 'Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.'

To be saved we must also accept that Christ died for us and rose again, Romans 10:9, 'that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.' We must then, turn from our sins, be baptised and live by God's Laws, recognizing that our salvation is an unearned gift from God. Acts

2:28, 'Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.' (the mark of salvation!)

You may believe the words of Jesus and the Injil and escape the lake of fire, or not. It is your choice, though He wants all men and women to gain salvation, 2 Peter 3:9, 'The Lord is..... longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.'

However, when you bow before Jesus Christ on Judgment Day, ('..for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, .. says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God, Romans 14:10-11) as all men will, remember that you were warned by Surah 14:22, "Satan will [then] say, 'God gave you a true promise. I too made promises but they were false ones: I had no power over you except to call you, and you responded to my call, so do not blame me blame yourselves. I cannot help you, nor can you help me. I reject the way you associated me with God before. For wrongdoers there must be a Grievous Penalty.'" (Surah 14:22)

Why does Satan here boast that he deceives Muslims in the Qur'an? The answer is found in 2 Corinthians 11:14!

May the God of Abraham help you to receive your Saviour's true words.

A messenger.

