

THE PROPHETHOOD OF MUHAMMAD

EVIDENCE FOR



The Divine Calling of Muhammad

At the age of 40, Muhammad was visited by the angel Gabriel. Muhammad had spent years meditating and seeking God's guidance prior to Gabriel's visit. These visits were similar to those that Moses experienced and Muhammad was reassured that Gabriel's revelation was truly from God. He began to preach the message Gabriel was revealing to him and gained converts among friends, relatives, and then the world.

The Moral Example of Muhammad

Not only was Muhammad visited by an angel and given a revelation from God, he lived a morally pure life and is the best example of what man can "accomplish in the realm of excellence and virtue"¹. Some of the things that stand out in Muhammad's life include marrying a widow, adopting a son, being a great leader, being free from major sin, and being humble and generous. Muhammad's pure lifestyle confirms that he was truly a prophet from God.

The Success of Muhammad

Another reason to believe that Muhammad is a prophet of God is his success. Islam is the second largest religion in the world and it began with one person. If Muhammad was not truly a prophet of God, there would be no way that Islam would have spread throughout the world. This is especially convincing because Muhammad and his followers were the victims of intense persecution at the inception of Islam.

The Bible's Prophecies of Muhammad

If Muhammad were to have claimed to be a prophet without anything to back him up, there would be little reason to believe him. However, the Bible clearly prophecies about Muhammad on multiple occasions. Deuteronomy 18:15-18 speaks of a prophet that is to come. In John 14:16, Jesus spoke of a helper which again refers to Muhammad. Other prophecies regarding Muhammad include Isaiah 21:7, Matthew 3:11, and Deuteronomy 33:2.

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EVIDENCE AGAINST



The Divine Calling of Muhammad

There are some concerning elements of the calling of Muhammad that casts doubt on the claim that he was visited by an angel of God. The “angel” choked Muhammad almost to the point of death until he did as he was told. Muhammad contemplated suicide after these visits and thought he was being visited by a demon. His wife convinced him that this was an angel from God and not a demon. There does not seem to be anything divine about the calling of Muhammad.

The Moral Example of Muhammad

Although Muhammad is generally regarded as a fairly moral person, there are some questionable areas of his life that cast doubt on this claim. Muhammad had as many as 15 wives even though the Qur’an states that men can have only 4 wives.² Muhammad married a 6 year old when he was 53. He was violent towards people who disagreed with him.³ Muhammad also turned away a blind beggar who was seeking his help.⁴

The Success of Muhammad

Islam has spread throughout the entire world which does support the claim that Muhammad was very successful, however this is not as remarkable as it may seem at first. Muhammad originally lacked success with his ministry until he turned to violence to expand the Islamic faith. Muhammad and his followers resorted to violence when their message was not spreading and as a result many people converted to Islam in fear of enslavement, torture, or even death.

The Bible’s Prophecies of Muhammad

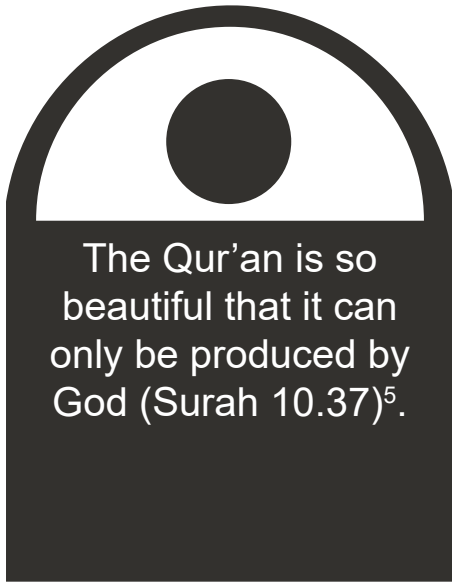
To put it simply, the Bible in no way prophesies about Muhammad. The verses that are often quoted as prophecies about Muhammad are clearly either taken out of context or simply refer to someone else. Deuteronomy 18:15-18 is referring to Jesus. John 14:16 is referring to the Holy Spirit. Muslims tend to quote the Bible when it fits their purpose. They will quote John 14:16 to defend their view that the Bible prophesies about Muhammad but then claim that Jesus’ claim to be God in John 14:9 has been changed and is no longer reliable.

THE QUR'AN: DIVINE INSPIRATION

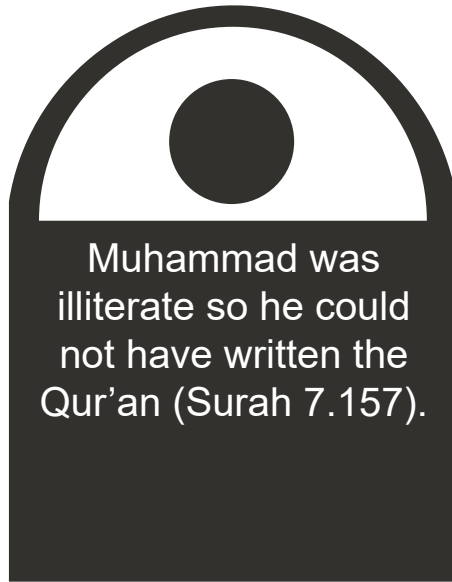
EVIDENCE FOR



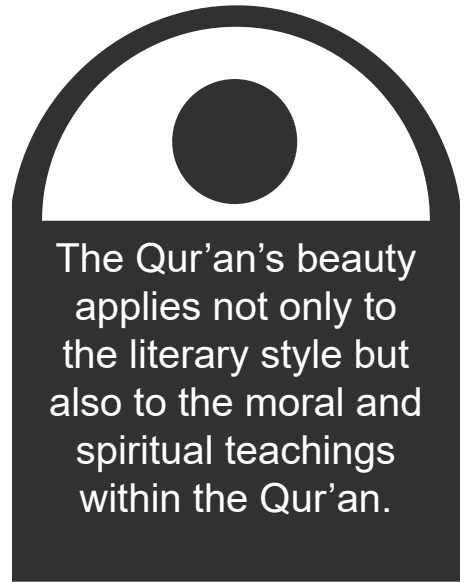
The Beauty of the Qur'an



The Qur'an is so beautiful that it can only be produced by God (Surah 10.37)⁵.



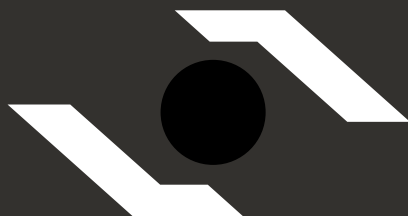
Muhammad was illiterate so he could not have written the Qur'an (Surah 7.157).



The Qur'an's beauty applies not only to the literary style but also to the moral and spiritual teachings within the Qur'an.

The Preservation of the Qur'an

The Qur'an has not been changed or corrupted at any point of its history. The Qur'an that we possess today is the same Qur'an that was revealed to Muhammad. Suzanne Haneef writes, "the Holy Quran is the only divinely-revealed scripture in the history of mankind which has been preserved to the present time in its exact original form."⁶



Other Evidence For the Qur'an

The Impact of the Qur'an

The Qur'an has changed the lives of so many of its readers.

The Unity of the Qur'an

There are no contradictions in the Qur'an (Surah 4.82)⁷

The Scientific Foresight of the Qur'an

The Qur'an contains scientific facts that were not discovered until years after the Qur'an was written.



THE QUR'AN: DIVINE INSPIRATION

EVIDENCE AGAINST



Evaluating the Beauty of the Qur'an

The claim of the beauty of the Qur'an is only able to be tested in the original Arabic which makes the "best" argument for the Qur'an untestable by the majority of people.⁸

Beauty does not prove that something is inspired by God. Paintings, poems, and other works of art are considered beautiful yet nobody claims that they are divinely inspired.

Beauty is a matter of opinion and is hardly able to be used as evidence. Many Arabic scholars even debate the beauty of the Qur'an compared to other Arabic texts.

The Preservation of the Qur'an

Perfect preservation does not prove divine inspiration, only that we have the original Qur'an. The Qur'an cannot even claim perfect preservation because there were many copies of the Qur'an in circulation before all but one were destroyed and distributed.

The Impact of the Qur'an

Although the Qur'an has changed the lives of many of its readers, there are many texts that have impacted its readers as much or even more so than the Qur'an. For instance, Christians can make the same claims about the Bible.

The Unity of the Qur'an

Critics of the Qur'an point to countless contradictions in the Qur'an that disprove the claim of unity. Even if the Qur'an were free of contradictions, this is not proof of its divine origin. Again, Christians make the same claims about the Bible.

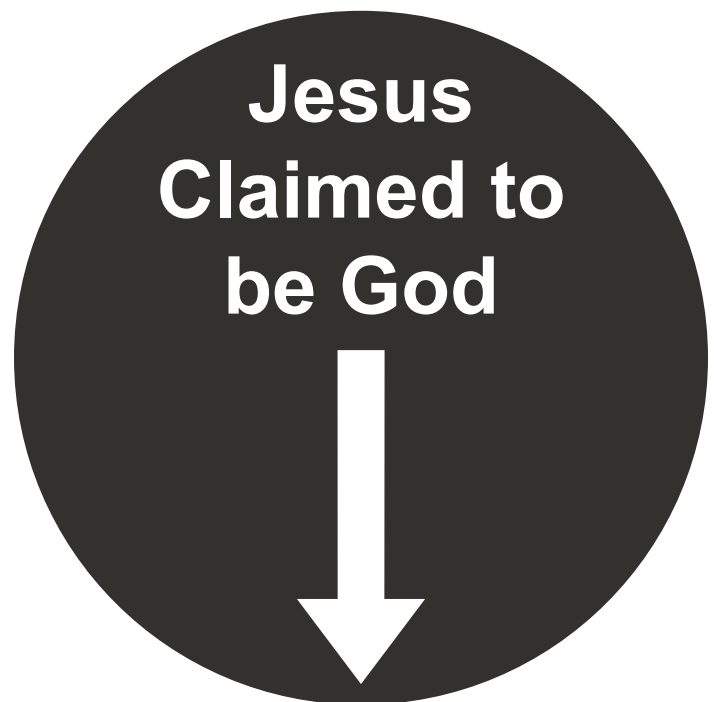
The Foresight of the Qur'an

As with all of the other arguments, scientific foresight does not prove the divine inspiration of a text. Unfortunately for the Qur'an's case, the scientific foresight is widely debated and the passages that are referenced are oftentimes too vague to support the claim.



DID JESUS CLAIM TO BE GOD? ISLAMIC AND CHRISTIAN VIEWS

- Jesus never claimed to be God (Surah 5.116-117)
- John's gospel was written later than any other gospel and is therefore the least reliable, however all of them have been corrupted to some extent.
- There are many verses that deny Jesus' deity (Mark 10:18, 6:5, 13:32, John 17:3, 14:28, 5:19)
- Jesus never clearly said "I am God" even when he was given opportunities to do so (see John 10:33-36).



- John's gospel slowly reveals that Jesus claims to be God (3:35; 5:21-23; 8:24,58; 14:1,8,13; 18:36-37; 20:28-29).
- Jesus clearly claimed to be God, even in Mark's gospel (Mark 14:61-64), which led to His crucifixion.
- Jesus used phrases such as "I am" and "son of man" which may not mean much to us, but the audience He was speaking to clearly recognized that Jesus was in fact claiming to be God by saying these things about Himself (just look at their reactions to Him saying these things).



DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS? ISLAMIC AND CHRISTIAN VIEWS

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Surah 4.157

That they said (in boast), “We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah” But they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them...

”

Theory #1 Swoon Theory

- Jesus did not die on the cross, instead he passed out and appeared dead.
- Jesus’ disciples misunderstood what happened and claimed Jesus rose from the dead.
- If God can perform the miracle of raising Jesus from the dead, He can surely perform the lesser miracle of saving him from death in the first place.

Evaluating the Swoon Theory

- See Appendix 1 for evidence against the Swoon Theory.
- Surah 4.157 says that Jesus was not even crucified.
- If Jesus survived the crucifixion, He would have been so disfigured and weak that His disciples could not have come to the conclusion that He rose from the dead.

Theory #2 Substitute Theory

- Jesus did not die on the cross, instead God switched the appearances of Jesus with either Judas or Simon of Cyrene and they were crucified in his place.
- Jesus appeared to have died, when in reality he did not.
- The accounts in the gospels contradict one another and therefore are unreliable.

Evaluating the Substitute Theory

- If God switched the appearances of Jesus with someone else, God is the cause of the Christian faith and has deceived billions to worship a false god.
- There is no historical evidence to support this claim.

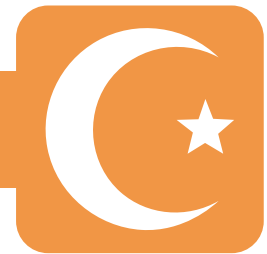
DID JESUS RISE FROM THE DEAD?

ISLAMIC AND CHRISTIAN VIEWS



- Jesus did not die so therefore he did not rise from the dead.
- Jesus ascended into heaven (Surah 4.157-158).
- The disciples were righteous men who are superior to those who reject faith (Surah 3.52,55).
- The Christian doctrines on the deity, death, and resurrection of Jesus were corrupted shortly after Jesus ascended to heaven.
- Paul is the one who corrupted the Christian teachings about Jesus.
- Paul and the other disciples were in conflict (Galatians 2:11) and Paul's false gospel was accepted over the truth.
- Paul never even met Jesus and therefore is a less reliable source than the disciples.

Jesus Did Not Rise From the Dead



- See Appendix 1 for a thorough examination of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.
- A short summary is given below⁹:
- Jesus died by crucifixion.
- Jesus' death caused His disciples to abandon all hope and hide in fear for their lives.
- Jesus' tomb was found empty a few days after His death by crucifixion.
- Jesus' disciples had experiences which they believed were real appearances from the resurrected Jesus.
- Jesus' disciples were changed from skeptics who were afraid to be associated with Jesus, to bold proclaimers of His resurrection.
- James and Peter were skeptics of Jesus but converted to Christianity after they claimed to see the resurrected Jesus

Jesus Rose From the Dead

