



BELIEF IN THE SCRIPTURES





In the Name of Allah,
the Most Gracious,
the Most Merciful



BELIEF IN THE SCRIPTURES

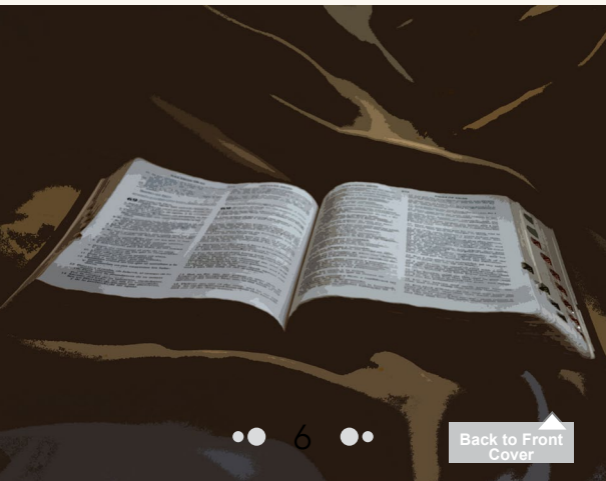
This article of faith refers to belief in all the scriptures as revealed in their original form by Allah to His messengers. Revealed scriptures form the enlightenment which the messengers received to show their people the right path to Allah. All the revealed books call to the worship

of Allah alone, and they forbid the worship of anything in place of, or in addition to, Him. They contain guidance for humankind in all aspects of life. They define right and wrong, and they offer human beings a complete system of beliefs and practices to govern all their affairs. The Creator alone knows best what is beneficial for His creation and what is not. Thus, the divine laws contained in those scriptures command and prohibit various acts and substances in order to protect the human spirit, human body, and human society from harm. Human beings need to abide by Allah's commandments, as documented in His revealed books, in order to fulfil their potential by living a righteous life.

The original texts of the revealed books do not differ from each other in their main doctrinal principles. However, due to the differences among nations in terms of time and place, there were some differences in the practical teachings (laws) of the scriptures, according to the wisdom of Allah. Their basic message, however, remains the same.

Muslims believe in the previous books as mentioned in the Quran: The Scripture of Abraham (peace be upon him), the Torah of Moses (peace be upon him), the Psalms of David (peace be upon him), and the Gospel of Jesus (peace be upon him). The following verse from the noble Quran emphasizes the fact that belief in all the previous scriptures sent by Allah is an integral part of the Islamic belief system:

{Say [O believers]: We have believed in Allah and what has been revealed to us and what has been revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the descendants and what was given to Moses and Jesus and what was given to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims [in submission] to Him.} (*Quran 2: 136*)



Long before the coming of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), all of these scriptures had been either lost or irrevocably corrupted by later generations, over the centuries, with myths, superstitions, idolatry, and irrational philosophical beliefs. The existing forms of those scriptures contain contradictions and hence cannot be described as Allah's revelation.

The Bible, for example, is composed of many books written by various authors. The scripture that was revealed to Jesus (peace be upon him) has undergone so many changes that today we have the four well-known Gospels instead of one Gospel.

These were written between 40 and 115 years after Jesus (peace be upon him) had left and are based on documents that have been lost. The

Gospel according to Mark was the first one written in Rome, at least 40 years after the disappearance of Jesus (peace be upon him). The Gospel according to Matthew was written in the Greek Language about 90 years after Christ. The Gospel according to Luke was written in Greece approximately 80 years after Christ. These three Gospels are called Synoptic because they originate from the same lost document and they have a lot in common. The Gospel according to John, on the other hand, has deep differences with the Synoptic Gospels. It is in this Gospel of John where the Divinity and pre-existence of Jesus (peace be upon him) was mentioned, even though Jesus himself never claimed this. This Gospel was written between the years 110 and 115 CE.

Analysis of these Gospels reveals the following:

01 There exist no written documents dating from the period of Jesus' lifetime that record his sayings, actions, or lectures.

02 The Gospels were written 40-115 years after Jesus' 'disappearance' and were based on documents that have since been lost. As a consequence, there was manipulation of the content.

03 The historical record of the Gospels points to the fact that they were written by people who never knew, saw, heard, or met Jesus. (They are named as Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John, although their actual identities are not known.) What they narrated as the Gospels was actually

based on what they heard from the preceding generations. This points to the fact that the original message revealed to Jesus, which was in his possession, did not exist later (after his ascension). Otherwise, there would be no need for people to write it.

04 The Gospels were written in Greek, whereas Jesus (peace be upon him) spoke Aramaic; since they do not record his original speech, they cannot be the words of Allah.

05 For at least 100 years after the Gospels were written, they did not have any canonical authority. During this time, writers from different sects changed them in order to suit their own agendas.

06

The clearest evidence of biblical distortion is the revision of the Bible to the extent that every edition is different from the previous one.

07

There is a lack of authentication in documenting the original text of the Bible.



08 The present Gospels, seen as a whole, are full of contradictions.

These factors have been brought up here in order to demonstrate that the Gospel of Jesus (peace be upon him), meaning his original message that was revealed by Allah, has not reached us in its original form. It can be affirmed that the four Gospels included in today's Bible cannot be considered equivalent, or even similar, to the inspired message given to Jesus (peace be upon him). Based on these historical facts, these four Gospels should be treated as historical writings, like the other books in the New Testament, not as the true scripture (word of Allah) that was revealed to Jesus.



Distortion of the Old Testament

Moving to the Old Testament texts, there are many verses that describe the Lord with weak and negative attributes. Some of them are even curses! This clearly indicates that the Old Testament cannot be the word of God because the Lord would not undermine Himself in the books He revealed to His people. The Lord is perfect, and hence His book must be perfect and free from contradictions.

In the twelve passages cited below, a series of nine examples prove conclusively to the sincere researcher that the current Old Testament is not the true Old Testament, the revelation that was in Jesus' hands. It is the word of 'men', not the word of 'God', the Lord.

- 01** Here it says that the Lord acted as if he had slept and drunk wine! If this verse is true, then who controlled the universe while He acted this way?

Then the Lord **awoke** as from sleep, like a strong man shouting because of **wine**. (Psalm 78:65)

- 02** Here it says that the Lord will not hear. This is not an appropriate characteristic for Allah.

Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you **will not hear**? (Habakkuk 1:2)

03 Here it says that the Lord forgets.

How long, O Lord, Will you **forget** me forever? (Psalm 13:1)

04 Here the Bible says that the Lord was not strong enough to displace some people because their chariots were made of iron.

And the Lord was with Judah, and he took possession of the hill country, but **he could not drive out the inhabitants of the plain because they had chariots of iron.** (Judges 1:19)

05 Here it attributes more negative characteristics to the Lord. Therefore will I lament and howl: I will go **stripped and naked:** I will make a wailing like the dragons, and a mourning like the ostriches. (Micah 1:8)



06

These two verses say that the Lord got tired after creating the heavens and earth and then had to rest. This attribute fits the human being, not the Lord, Who is the Most Strong.

...In six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day **he rested** and was refreshed. (Exodus 31:17)

And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and **he rested** on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. (Genesis 2:2)

But the following verse contradicts the previous two verses:

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. **He does not faint or grow weary**; his understanding is unsearchable. (Isaiah 40:28)

07 Here it says that the Lord will sound the trumpet. Is this fit for the Lord?

...The Lord God **will sound the trumpet** and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south. (Zechariah 9:14)

08 Here it implies that the Lord has failed and is hurt.

For thus says the Lord: “Behold, I am slinging out the inhabitants of the land at this time, and I will bring distress on them, that they may feel it.” Woe is me because of my hurt! My wound is grievous. But I said, “Truly this is an affliction, and I must bear it.” My tent is destroyed, and all my cords are broken; my children have gone from me, and they are not; there is no one to spread my tent again and to set up my curtains. (Jeremiah 10:18-20)

Psalm 89:38-46 describes the Lord acting badly against Jesus!

38 But now you have cast off and rejected; you are full of wrath against your anointed.

39 You have renounced the covenant with your servant; you have defiled his crown in the dust.

40 You have breached all his walls; you have laid his strongholds in ruins.

41 All who pass by plunder him; he has become the scorn of his neighbours.

42 You have exalted the right hand of his foes; you have made all his enemies rejoice.

43 You have also turned back the edge of his sword, and you have not made him stand in battle.

44 You have made his splendor to cease and cast his throne to the ground.

45 You have cut short the days of his youth; you have covered him with shame.

46 How long, O Lord? Will you hide yourself forever? How long will your wrath burn like fire?

10 Here is the cursing of a prophet (Balaam) in the Bible! Could this be the word of God? Could it happen that God sends a prophet and then rebukes him for his transgressions and then accuses him of not being in his right mind?

but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. (2 Peter 2:16)

11 Genesis 19:30-38 narrates a very wicked story about a prophet (Lot). According to this, his daughters got him drunk and then had sexual relations with him while he was unaware of it; they both bore children as a result. Even a very indecent person would not do this.

12 Here is a Biblical curse for the Prophet Solomon:

Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.” Solomon clung to

these in love. He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. So, Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord, as David his father had done. (1 Kings 11: 1-6)

There are hundreds of verses in the Bible which are against logic and common sense.



Biblical proofs of the Bible's distortion

The Old Testament itself clearly testifies that it was altered by humans. God (Allah) is quoted as saying:

How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us'? But behold, the lying pen of the scribes has made it into a lie. (Jeremiah 8:8)



Who distorted the Bible (Old and New Testaments)?

Dr Bilal Philips has explained:

About five years after the end of Jesus' ministry, a young rabbi by the name of Saul of Tarsus, who claimed to have seen Jesus in a vision, began to change Jesus' way. Paul (his Roman name) had considerable respect for Roman philosophy and he spoke proudly of his own Roman citizenship.

His conviction was that non-Jews who became Christians should not be burdened with the Torah in any respect. The author of Acts 13:39 quotes Paul as saying: And by him every one that believes is freed from everything which you could not be freed by the Law of Moses. It was primarily through the efforts of Paul that the Church began to take on its non-Jewish character. Paul wrote most of the New Testament letters (epistles), which the Church accepts as the official doctrine and inspired Scripture. These letters do not preserve the Gospel of Jesus or even represent it, instead, Paul transformed the teachings of Christ into a Hellenic (Greco-Roman) philosophy.

Based on these facts, it can easily be concluded that the Bible in its present form is no more than a collection of historical books written by various

writers over many years. The accounts of the life of Jesus were written after his ascension, by men who never met him. (They are named as Mark, Matthew, Luke and John, although their actual identities are not known.) These are partial accounts, which contradict each other and have no authentication. The current version(s) of the Bible does not represent the original revelations and cannot be described as the word of God (Allah).



Many Christians have found that when they do research to discover the true teachings of God, the Bible cannot answer their questions. Dr David Liepert is a Canadian physician who began learning about Islam in order to convince Muslim co-workers that his Christian beliefs represented the truth. As he combed through the Bible, however, he was surprised to find that it did not contain the evidence for his beliefs that he had assumed was there. After a great deal of soul-searching, and extensive research into Islam, he realized that it had the strongest evidence supporting it, and he embraced Islam as the true religion. His story is described in his book *Choosing Faith*.

Although the original revelations were not preserved and have been replaced with the current Bible (including

the four Gospels attributed to Luke, Matthew, John, and Mark), the Old and New Testaments still contain some remnants of the original truth. The Quran confirms these parts, because it confirms the truth and denies all falsehood. Islamic teachings set out a criterion for either accepting or rejecting passages from the Bible, as described in the following verse:

{And We have revealed to you [O Muhammad] the book in truth, confirming that which preceded it of the scripture and as a criterion over it...} (Quran 5: 48)



This verse emphasizes two main aspects of the Quran:

- 01** The Quran confirms only those teachings or passages of the previous scriptures whose meaning have remained intact.
- 02** The Quran is the final, complete, authoritative, and authentic revelation from Allah. It is the final arbiter and the only criterion to correct any inaccuracy or misinterpretation which might

have occurred in the transmission of scriptures throughout the ages. It helps us to discover, expose, and disclose human additions to, or interpolations of, previous revelations. Indeed, one of the names of the Quran is al-Furqan (the criterion which distinguishes between right and wrong, truth and falsehood).

It follows, therefore, that Muslims have no reason to reject the essence of any passage in the Bible if such a passage is confirmed by the Quran. For example, we read in the New Testament a reiteration of one of the Ten Commandments:

Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. (Mark 12:29)

Muslims who read this passage in the Bible can find no objection to its essence. After all, the Quran confirms:

{Say: He is Allah, [Who is] One.}
(Quran 112: 1)

{They have certainly disbelieved who say, “Allah is the Messia-h, the son of Mary,” while the Messiah has said, “O Children of Israel, worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord.” Indeed, he who associates others with Allah – Allah has forbidden him Paradise, and his refuge is the fire. And there are not for the wrong doers any helpers.} (Quran 5: 72)

If, however, Muslims read in the Bible (or in other previous scriptures, for that matter) accusations of major moral sins levied against great prophets, or doctrines which are totally negated in the Quran, they can accept only the Quranic version as the original unadulterated truth, revealed by Allah.



Distorting revelations is the biggest sin

The Quran has emphasized, in more than one verse, that distorting Allah's revelation is a severe sin.

{So woe to those who write the 'scripture' with their own hands, then say: This is from Allah-in order to exchange it for a small price. Woe to them for what their hands have written and woe to them for what they earn.}
(Quran 2: 79)

An important note

It should be noted that those who followed the scriptures in their pure and unadulterated forms, and then died before hearing the message of Islam, are considered to be on the right religion; they will have nothing to fear on the Day of Judgement.

Revelation of the Quran

Following the distortion of the previous scriptures, Allah, the Most Compassionate, did not leave human beings to go astray without an unadulterated reference. Indeed, He revealed the Quran as the final revelation to humankind, and He promised to preserve it for all time. It is the word of Allah, which He revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) through the angel Gabriel

(peace be upon him). It was revealed in parts (fragments) of different lengths over a period of twenty-three years. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) recited the revelation to his Companions, who wrote it down during his lifetime on palm leaves, parchment, animal bones (the shoulder-blades of camels made a good writing surface), and flat stones. When he recited it to them, he indicated precisely where each revealed section belonged within the body of the complete revelation. In addition, the Quran was memorized by hundreds of Prophet Muhammad's Companions. One year after the death of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in 632 CE, the first caliph, Abu Bakr (d. 634 CE, may Allah be pleased with him), instructed the Prophet's Companions to collect the whole Quran in one volume. Later, the

third caliph, Uthman (d. 656 CE, may Allah be pleased with him), prepared several copies from the original text and sent them to the major centres of the Islamic civilization. One of these reproductions can still be found in Istanbul, Turkey.

From that time onwards, for more than 1400 years, the same Quranic text has been in use, with the exact same wording, order, and language (Arabic). Not a single word of its 114 chapters, 6200 verses, and approximately 80,000 words has been changed since it was revealed.¹ Indeed, Allah has promised to preserve it forever:

{Indeed, it is We who sent down the Quran and indeed, We will be its guardian.} (Quran 15: 9)

Just ponder over the fact that the Quran, in its entirety, is memorized by

millions of people, regardless of age, sex, social class, or ethnicity! It is the only book that has been thus preserved, not only on the shelf but in the hearts of humankind.

The Quran supersedes all previous scriptures. Allah has said to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) about it:

{And We have revealed to you [O Muhammad] the Book in truth, confirming that which preceded it of the scripture and as a criterion over it...} (Quran 5: 48)

An essential point to understand about the Quran is that it is a miracle in terms of both its revelation and its content. Since the time of its revelation, there have been those who denied the divine and miraculous nature of the Quran, saying that Muhammad (peace be

upon him) was either taught by others or that he wrote it by himself! In order to counteract this claim, Allah has presented a challenge to the whole of humankind:

{And if you are in doubt about what We have sent down upon Our slave [Muhammad], then produce a chapter the like thereof and call upon your witnesses other than Allah, if you should be truthful.} (Quran 2: 23)



This is one of the prophecies which the Quran accurately foretold, for no one, from the time of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) until this day, has been able to produce the like of one chapter or even one verse of the Quran. As such, Muslims do not need any other scriptures to base their faith on, either fully or partially. The Quran remains clear and easily understood by anyone who has a good command of the Arabic language, and even when the meanings of its words are translated into any of the world's other languages, all of its legal injunctions and instructions are clear.



The entire Quran is a proclamation of monotheism

- 01 Some of the verses inform us about Allah: His names, attributes, acts, and speech. Those verses indicate the Oneness of Allah with respect to His most excellent names, essence, and perfect attributes.
- 02 Other verses point to the necessity of worshipping Allah alone, without any associate or partner, and of renouncing the worship

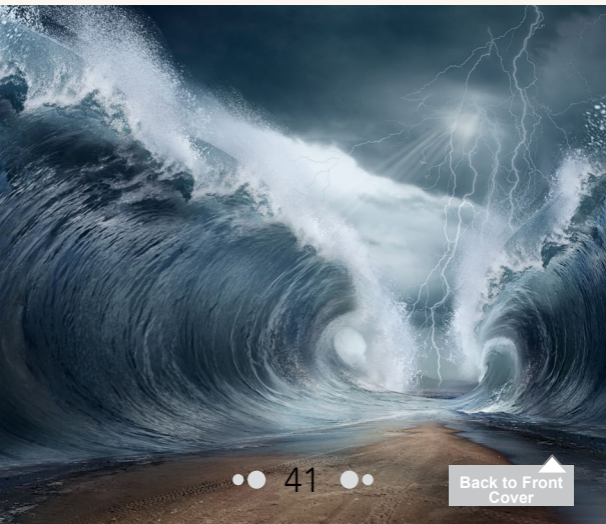
of anything other than Him. These verses indicate the focus of worship and the necessity for people to single out their Lord in their intentions, when requesting His help and when turning to Him in repentance, for example.

03 The Quran also contains injunctions and prohibitions; doing something that has been enjoined or refraining from what has been prohibited is the fulfilment and perfection of the affirmation of the Oneness of Allah.

04 The Quran includes stories and information about prophets and other righteous people of true and sincere belief. It tells about their immediate rewards in the life of this world as well as the immense rewards reserved for them in the hereafter.

05

The Quran also contains stories about those who associate partners with Allah. It describes their punishment in this life and the punishment they are promised in the hereafter. These are the just deserts for those who deviate from the affirmation of Allah's Oneness.



The Prophet's teachings

The teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) are the second source of Islamic knowledge, after the noble Quran. They explain and elaborate on the Quranic verses. They also explain, in minute detail, the manner of worship as performed by the Prophet (peace be upon him). The Prophet's statements provide further clarification and details as to how to fulfil what Allah has ordered and refrain from what He has forbidden. These teachings have been meticulously collected and reported by the Prophet's Companions (may Allah be pleased with all of them).



Preservation of Islamic teachings

Preventing Islamic teachings from alteration does not stop at the preservation of the Quranic text; it is also forbidden to introduce into the Prophet's guidance (by saying or writing) anything that is contrary to its premise, values, or teachings.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

«Whoever introduces into this matter (the Islamic teachings) something that does not belong to it, shall find it rejected. » (Recorded by Bukhari and Muslim)

«One of the Prophet's Companions said: The Prophet (peace be upon him) gave us a highly effective admonition, such that many of us were tearful and felt our hearts shudder.

Someone said to him: O Messenger of Allah! This sounds like the admonition of someone bidding his audience farewell. Please outline for us what you recommend.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: I urge you to always remain conscious of Allah (God-fearing), and to listen to and obey your leaders, even if the leader is an Abyssinian slave. Any of

you who lives long will witness much strife and conflict, so hold tight to my way and the way followed by the Rightly-Guided Caliphs.¹ Hold on to it and bite it with your molars (do not let go of it), and steer away from any innovation (in religious affairs and laws), for such innovations are deviations (from the right path).» (An authentic hadith recorded by Ibn Hibban, Abu Dawood, and Tirmidhi)

Thus, in matters of religion, one is not permitted to change fundamental principles of Islamic teachings. Whatever is contrary to them is wrong and unacceptable. With this strict protection, Islam has been kept as it was revealed, pure from myths and superstitions as well as from changes that reflect the whims of people and leaders.

This is an excerpt
of a larger book titled
“The Beautiful Teachings of Islam”
by Majed S. Al-Rassi.

To download and read the complete book,
click on the cover picture here.





For more information about Islam



To download this book and other books
in different languages



Chat in your language about Islam



[Back to Front Cover](#)