

## CHRISTIAN REPLY TO MUSLIM OBJECTIONS

### I. “The Bible As We Have It Is Not God’s Word”

#### The Testimony of the Quran to the Bible

The Taurat and the Injil (Old Testament and the New Testament) were given by God to Moses, the Prophets and Jesus and they are guidance, light and admonition: S. 5:47-52, 71-71, 5:59, 6:91, 3:3

Muslims are to believe in the revelations give to Abraham, Moses, Jesus, etc. There is no difference in revelations. S.2:136, 29:46, 4:136, 2:285

The Quaran confirms former revelations: S. 10:37, 46:11, 35:31

The Injil and the Taurat were available during the time of Mohammed: S. 21:7, 10:94, 3:93, 4:47, 2:42, 29:46.

The Word of God cannot be changed by men S. 6:34, 10:64

Mohammed was sent to guard Scriptures from before in safety: S 5:51

#### Testimony of the Bible as to its Inspiration

2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:16-21.

Jesus testified to the inspiration of the Old Testament: Matt. 4:4-7, 11:10, Mark 14:27, Luke 4:4-12, Matt. 5:18, John 10:35, Mark 7:13, Luke 11:49

Evidence in the Old Testament: 1 Sam. 9:27, 1 Chron. 17:3, Isaiah 4:

Evidence in the New Testament: Matt. 13:9, Luke 3:2, Acts 8:25, 1 Peter 1:10-11

Jesus commissioned His apostles as teachers and promised them supernatural aid: Matt 28:19-20, 10:7, 19, 20, John 14:26, 15:26-27, 16:13, 17:8, 20:22, 12:49-50, 8:40

The apostles testified to the reception of the Holy Spirit and His teachings: 1 Cor. 2:10, 13, 11:23, 14:37-38, Gal. 1:12, 1 Thess. 4:2, 8, 1 Peter 1:10-12, 2 Peter 3:2, 15-16, 1 John 5:10, Jude 3

The testimonies of the prophets and apostles were supported by signs, miracles and prophecy: Matt. 10:1, 1 Cor. 13:12. The writers of the New Testament regarded their writings as having universal authority: 1 Cor. 1:2, Col. 4:16, 2 Peter 3:1-16

The testimony of the believers: It works! God’s promises are reliable! Unpredictable

prophecies have been given and were fulfilled in great detail.

### Conclusions

The Quran testifies to the inspiration of the Bible and attests its existence at the time of Mohammed.

The Bible testifies to its divine origin, though different from the “nazil” concept of Islam.

There is an abundance of Bible manuscripts in our possession. Thousands date back to pre-Islamic times. They are identical to our Bible today.

### We can ask Muslims:

When was the Bible changed and corrupted?

Why was it corrupted and changed?

By whom was it changed and corrupted?

What was the response of all the other believers when it was discovered?

If there was an “original” Bible, where is it that we can compare it?

## **II. “God Has No Son; Jesus Cannot Be God”**

S. 19:35: “It is not benefiting to the Majesty of Allah that he should beget a son.”

S. 112:3: “He begetteth not, nor is He begotten.”

S. 5:19: “In blasphemy indeed are those that say that Allah is Christ, the son of Mary.”

S. 23:91: “No one did Allah beget, nor is there any God along with Him.” See also 9:30, 10:68, and 2:116

### **Yet:**

Jesus was born of a virgin. (S. 19:16-35)! Who takes the father role? After Mary’s question, “How shall I have a son, seeing that no man has touched me, and I am not unchaste?” the Angel replied, “Thy Lord says, ‘That is easy for me!’”

“And remember her who guarded her chastity. We breathed into her of Our Spirit.” (S. 21-91). The father role is taken by God. He initiated the conception. (S. 19:21-22)

The Bible teaches just that! The word “begotten” (John 3:16) is a false translation. It should be “only born” (Greek mono-genis). See Matt. 1:18-23, Luke 1:26-35. (Note the similarity of v. 35 with S. 19:19.)

The Quran teaches that Jesus was:

Born of a virgin (S. 19:16-35)

The Messiah (S. 4:171)

The Word of Truth (S. 19:34)

Holy (S. 19:19)

Illustrious in the world and hereafter (S. 3:45)

A sign to all men (S. 21:91, 19:21)

A creator of life (S. 3:49, 5:113) (see S. 22:73)

Mercy from God (S. 19:21)

A Spirit from God (S. 4:171)

The Word of God (S. 4:171). Is the Word of God (thought, mind of God) part of Him or a separate entity?

Raised to heaven (S. 4:158)

Will return for judgment (S. 43:61 with Mishkat IV p.78-80)

A miracle worker (S. 3:49)

Was there any other prophet or man ever, who united these or any two of the above attributes in him?

The Bible also teaches that Jesus:

Had command of the natural elements (Mark 4:37-41, Matt 14:25)

Forgives sins (Luke 7:48-49, John 1:29)

Is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and no man can come to God except through Him. (John 14:6)

Was Co-Creator and is the keeper of the universe (John 1:1-14, Col. 1:15-20, Heb. 1:1-3)

Was God in the flesh (John 5:26-29, Dan 7:13, John 5:18, Rom. 9:4-5, 2 Cor. 4:4, Acts 20:28, Titus 2:11-14)

Himself said He was God ("I Am") (Rev. 21:6-7, John 14:6-10, 10:30-33, 20:27-29)

Replied it to the High Priest: (Matt. 26:63) Muslims object, that Jesus said not "Yes" but "Yes you say so."  
Compare 26:25.

Is God as prophesied by Isaiah (7:14, 9:6)

He was pre-existent (Micah 5:2; see also John 8:58)

The very name Jesus means SALVATION!

### III. "God is One, Not Three"

S. 4:171 "Say not Trinity; desist, it will be better for you, for Allah is one Allah."

S. 5:76 "They do blaspheme who say: Allah is one of three in a Trinity, for there is no god except Allah".

S. 5:119 views the Trinity as consisting of God, Mary and Jesus. This is a misunderstanding.

#### The Bible Teaches the Trinity of the One God Only by Implication

The names of God in the Old Testament, besides His title Yahweh (Jehovah, Lord):

EL	the mighty one	God 224 times
ELOAH	the object of worship	God 56 times
ELAH	the object of worship	God 89 times
ELOHIM	the object of worship	God 2222 times

Elohim is the plural form of Eloah.

Is any explanation given?

Gen. 1:26 “Elohim said: Let **Us** make man.”

Gen. 11:7 “The Lord said...come, let **Us** go down...”

Note: There is no “pluralis majestatis” in Hebrew.

Deut. 6:4 “The Lord our God is one Lord” (Hebrew: Yahweh Eluhenu Yahweh echad)

Literal translation: “The Lord our Gods in one Lord”.

Isa. 44:6 “Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last and besides me there is no God.

Isa. 63:7-10 “I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord (Yahweh). . . and He became their Jeshua (Jesus, which is the English form thereof). In all their affliction He was afflicted and the angel of His presence save them; in His love and His pity He redeemed them . . . but they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit. . .”

#### How Can God Condescend to Take on Human Form?

It is indeed a mystery as God Himself is a mystery, eternal, infinite, etc. But God through His prophet announced this event 750 years before: Jesus would be “Immanuel, God with us” (Isa. 7:14, 9:6) (See also, “Jesus Cannot Be God”, below)

#### Christians Believe in One God

We believe in One God who in time and history chose to clothe Himself in human form in Jesus. Jesus was God through His miraculous conception, man through his birth from a woman. Being man, He had all our human needs and many limitations; being God, He retained His sinless nature, performed miracles, and had perfect knowledge.

### **IV. “Jesus Was Not Crucified”**

#### Teaching of the Quran

S. 4:157-158 “They killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them . . . of a surety they killed him not; nay, Allah raised him up unto himself.”

Against this, we read in S. 19:33:34, where Jesus says, “Peace is on me the day I was born, **the day I die** and the day I shall be raised up to life. Such was Jesus, the son of Mary, the Word of Truth about which they dispute.”

What explanation is given for the contradiction? Muslims say Jesus will die after He returns to earth again to destroy Al-Dajjal, the anti-Christ, when He will be buried next to Mohammed in Medina. However, v. 15 of the same Surah uses the same words of John the Baptist.

S. 3:55 adds to the mystery: “O, Jesus, I will cause thee to die and raise thee to myself.”

### What Evidence Supports the Islamic Claims?

The testimony of one man who lived close to 600 years after the event and did not have access to the documented reports.

### Biblical Position

The Bible reports the crucifixion, death and resurrection in many places (Matt. 27:32-54; Mark 15:22-39; Luke 23:33-47; John 19:17-30; Acts 2:22-24; 7:52; 10:39-40; 13:28-33; Rom. 5:6-8; 1 Cor. 15:3-6; Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 7:27; 10:10; 12:2; 1 Pet. 2:24; Rev. 1:5-7; Rev. 5:9; and many more.

### Which Evidences Support the Biblical Claims?

Eye witness reports (“CCCC” p 7-9 and “Christians Answer Muslims” p. 54-56). (2 Pet. 1:16-21; 1 Jn. 1:1-3a; 1 Cor. 15:3-7, note that of more than 500 witnesses, most were alive to be questioned; Lk. 1:1-4; Acts 5:30-32.) When Peter addressed thousands of Jews 50 days after the crucifixion, he accused them of crucifying and killing Jesus (Acts 2:22-24). No one denied it! They responded with repentance. Paul also said, “I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped [King Agrippa’s] notice, for this was not done in a corner.” (Acts 26:26)

History records the crucifixion, though mostly by hostile historians (“CCCC” p. 9-10 and “Christians Answer Muslims” p. 98-104). Pliny, Cornelius Tacitus, Thallus, and particularly Josephus, a Jewish general who defected to the Romans and wrote for them the Jewish history.

“Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many Jews, and Gentiles. He was the Christ (Messiah). And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal amongst us, had him condemned to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.” (Antiquitates Iudaicae, Vol 18. 111:3)

The Old Testament predicted the event (“CCCC” p 11-23 and “Christians Answer Muslims” p. 43-53). With regard to the crucifixion see Zech. 11:12-13; Mark 14:10-11, 17-21, 43-46; Isa. 52:12-53:12; Ps. 22:1, 7-9, 13-18; John 18:36-19:37. Muslims question “the sign of Jonah” (Matt. 12:38-40). See “Christians Answer Muslims” p. 105-106.

## **“Jesus Was Only a Prophet to Israel, and Mohammed was the Universal One.”**

Matt. 15:24, 10:5-6; Mark 7:26 with Matt. 1:21 (His people)

### Christian Reply

Prophecies regarding Jesus in the Old Testament was only known to the Jews. Having God’s revelation, only Israel was ready to understand the Messiah and His purposes. Although most rejected Him, being intimidated by their leaders, He had many who followed Him. The apostles were prepared by Jesus and commanded by Him to go into all the world to bring the gospel of salvation to all mankind (Matt. 28:18; Mark 16:15-18; John 14:6; Acts 4:12, etc.). So Jesus indeed went only to Israel, but to prepare His disciples to go into all the world.

The Quran underlines this, saying Jesus came as a sign to all peoples (S. 21:91; 19:21).

## **“The Gospel of Barnabas is the Real Gospel”**

This is no Gospel, but was written by a Muslim about 1300-1350 (See “Christians Answer Muslims” p. 119ff).

The author did not know the geography of Israel. From Nazareth at the shore of Lake Galilee, Jesus is said to go **up** to Capernaum, the lowest town on the earth’s surface! He also is said to have gone by boat to Jerusalem!

The author did not know the local or historical situation. For example: Jesus and His disciples observed the 40 days of Lent (a tradition started 400 years later). Romans gathered an army of 3 x 200,000 men at Mizpeh. (The whole Roman army was 300,000). Jesus was born when Pilate was governor. (Pilate ruled A.D. 26-27). Jesus observed five daily prayers. (Not a Jewish custom and not reported.) “Virgin” is given as a title to Mary (done only 400 years later). Mount Moria was the Mount of Transfiguration. (No one knows; this is a tradition of the third century.) Four archangels are mentioned. (Not in the Bible; also a later tradition.) One denarius is 60 minuti (coins). (Minuti were used only under Khalif Abdul Malik, A.D. 685.) Soldiers rolled away like barrels. (Barrels were unknown at that time in Israel.) Mohammed was called “Messiah” (Both the Bible and the Quran call Jesus the Messiah.) The Year of Jubilee was every 100 years. (Lev. 25:11, every 50<sup>th</sup> year; changed only once, in 1300.) Eve ate the apple in paradise. (The Bible calls it fruit; the apple tradition came much later.) Ishmael was offered on the alter by Abraham. (Gen. 22:2 Isaac was offered. The offering of Ishmael is an Islamic tradition.) Many quotes are taken from the works of Dante, who lived 1245-1321.

Barnabas was not a disciple of Jesus, but became a Christian after His death.

## **“Mohammed Was Foretold in the Bible”**

See “Is Mohammed foretold in the Bible?” by J. Gilchrist and “Christians Answer Muslims” p. 110-116.

### Where?

S. 61:6 “Jesus said, ‘I am indeed the messenger of Allah to you . . . giving good tidings of a messenger who shall come after the praised one.’”

Muslims say this is based on John 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:7, references to the “Comforter,” the Holy Spirit (Greek, *paracletos*). Muslims hold it should read *pericletos*—the praised one—who is Mohammed. There is no evidence for this reading.

### Christian Reply

This passage refers to a Spirit. He was promised to the apostles and would remain forever. The apostles knew Him (John 14:17) and He was to dwell in them. The promise was fulfilled in Acts 2, to those who believed (John 7:39).

### Where?

Deut. 18:18 “I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren; and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all I command him.”

Muslims say this prophet is Mohammed, resembling Moses fully. “. . . from among their brethren” refers to the brethren of the Israelites, i.e., the Ishmaelites.

### Christian Reply

“. . . from among their brethren” means out of their midst. See Deut. 18:1-2 (their brethren), v. 15 (from among **you**). The prophet had to come from Israel. The Bible states Jesus is that prophet (Acts 3:17-23).

The attempt to fit Mohammed into the role of Jesus (or liken him to Moses) is just a desperate move to “fulfill” the saying of S. 61:7 and 7:157. In making this claim, Muslims admit the validity of the Bible in one place, but deny it elsewhere.