

**THE QURAN OR THE NEW TESTAMENT?
2 Timothy 3:12-17**

Introduction:

1. To learn if a religion is of Divine origin, we must examine its source of authority.
2. The truthfulness of the Christian religion must be determined by the reliability of the Bible, specifically the New Testament.
3. The truthfulness of Islam also must be determined by its source of authority.
4. Islam rests upon three main sources:
 - a. The hadiths - sayings and traditions of Muhammad not found in the Quran.
 - b. The sunna - traditions of Muhammad's behavior not found in the Quran but in the Sirah (early biographies of Muhammad).
 - c. The Quran - the principal source of authority.
5. Islam stands or falls on the Quran just as the religion of Christ stands or falls on the New Testament.
6. If the Quran does not bear the marks of Divine inspiration, then Islam is a false religion!

Discussion:

- I. HOW DID THE QURAN COME INTO EXISTENCE?
 - A. Muslims maintain the Quran existed in Heaven from eternity.
 1. They also claim the Arabic Quran is a perfect replica of the one in Heaven.
 2. They further say that translations of the Arabic Quran do not truly represent the message of the original.
 - B. "Quran" means "the thing read or recited."

1. According to Muhammad, when the angel Gabriel appeared to him in the cave, he gave him a writing and commanded him to read it.
 2. When he protested he could not read, the command was repeated until Muhammed took it and read it.
- C. According to Islam, the Quran was revealed to Muhammad from 610, when Gabriel first appeared to him, to his death in 632.
1. It was said he would break out in a sweat or go into a “trance” whenever he had a “revelation.”
 2. Hearers would write down what he said on paper, leather, stones, bones or whatever was at hand.
 3. Many of Muhammad’s contemporaries memorized his “revelations” and quoted them when occasion required.
 4. In time, the number of these men declined because of being killed in battle, or simply dying of natural causes.
 5. Efforts were then made to collect them in a single book.
- D. Several versions which varied considerably were in circulation.
1. The first caliph, Abu Bakr, gathered the teachings of Muhammad from various sources to produce the first official Quran.
 2. The third caliph, Uthman, commissioned several men to establish a standard text for the Quran.
 3. Once this was completed, all other copies of the Quran were officially gathered up and burned.

II. WHAT IS THE QURAN LIKE?

- A. The Quran is about two thirds the size of the New Testament.
1. It is divided into 114 chapters called “suras.”
 2. The suras are not arranged in chronological or topical order but according to length from the longest to the shortest.
- B. Allah is the chief speaker in the Quran.

1. He frequently uses the threat of Hell fire for those who do not believe in Muhammad, or accept the Quran's teaching.
2. The Quran is largely negative and denunciatory.
3. It does not possess the depth and the beauty of the Bible.

C. The Quran claims it succeeds all earlier revelations just as Muhammad succeeds all earlier prophets.

1. The Torah (Law), the Psalms of David, and the Injil (the Gospels) are accepted as revelations from Allah.
2. However, Muslims claim they have been corrupted and therefore are not reliable.
3. Many Biblical patriarchs and prophets are mentioned in the Quran.
4. Old Testament stories are recounted, but differ greatly from the Bible indicating they came from the Talmud.
5. New Testament stories of Jesus are also garbled indicating they came from the apocryphal gospels.

III. WE MUST BE AWARE OF CERTAIN FACTS TO UNDERSTAND THE QURAN CORRECTLY.

A. The Quran was "revealed" during three distinct periods.

1. The first Meccan period dealt with judgment and the nature of Allah and his rule on earth.
2. The second Meccan period dealt with doctrines and contained garbled stories from the Pentateuch.
3. The Medina period dealt mainly with government and ethics (Caner & Caner: Unveiling Islam; pp. 84,85).

B. The principle of abrogation must be understood in order to interpret the Quran correctly.

1. This simply says that if there is a contradiction between two verses, the later verse cancels out the one given first.
2. The passages in the Quran which are peaceful belong to the early Meccan period when Muhammad sought to make converts by simply preaching.

3. Later warlike passages belong to the Medina period when Muhammad actively spread his faith by the sword.
 4. The later warlike passages cancel out (abrogate) the earlier peaceful passages.
- C. The “Satanic verses” are an example of abrogation.
1. In his early Meccan period, Muhammad compromised with his opponents on idolatry.
 2. He conceded that three idols, Al-Lat, Al-Uzza, and Al-Manat, daughters of Allah, could also be worshipped.
 3. immediately there was an outcry from Muhammad’s followers saying he had violated monotheism.
 4. Muhammad said Satan had deceived him into writing these verses advocating worshipping the three idols.
 5. Therefore, Allah inspired him to replace the lines which advocated worshipping them (Sura 53:21-23).

IV. IN CONTRAST TO THE QURAN, THE BIBLE BEARS THE MARKS OF DIVINE INSPIRATION.

- A. The Bible’s amazing unity proves it is from God.
- B. Its hundreds of fulfilled prophecies prove it is from God.
- C. The Bible’s pre-scientific foreknowledge proves it is from God.
- D. The Bible’s historical accuracy proves it is from God.
- E. The Bible’s influence on morals, civilization, democracy, and the lives of individuals proves it is from God.
- F. The Bible’s survival, despite every effort its enemies have made to destroy it, prove it is from God.

Conclusion:

1. The New Testament shows us the way to salvation through Christ.
2. Become a follower of Jesus today (John 8:24; Luke 13:3; Mark 16:16).

