

## CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM - WHERE TO START

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Where do we start to learn about Islam? With Islam? With Christianity?

### CHRISTIANITY IN THE QUR'AN

A. They said (in boast), "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Apostle of God"; but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ about this are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of certainty they killed him not. (Qur'an 4:157, Yusuf Ali)

B. They are unbelievers who say, "God is the Third of Three". No god is there but One God. ... The Messiah, son of Mary, was only a Messenger; Messengers before him passed away; his mother was just a woman; they both ate food. (Qur'an 5:73-75, Arberry; & 5:116)

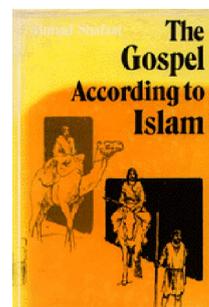
C. It is not fitting for the Merciful (Allah) to take to himself a son. There is none in the heavens and the earth who will not come to the Merciful (except) as a slave. (Qur'an 19:92-93, Jones)

The Bible - rejected. Muslim leaders write false gospels.

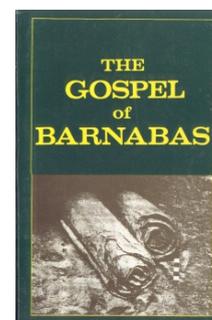
D. [Permitted to Muslim men in marriage] are the chaste women of the believers (Muslims) and the chaste women of those what have been given the Scripture before you (Christians and Jews). (Qur'an 5:5, Jones)

E. (Y)ou will certainly find the nearest in friendship to those who believe (to be) those who say: We are Christians ... (Qur'an 5:82, Shakir, 60:8)

F. Fight those who believe not in God and the Last Day and do not forbid what God and His Messenger (Muhammad) have forbidden - such men as practise not the religion of truth, being of those who have been given the Book (Christians and Jews) - until they pay the tribute (jizyah) out of hand and have been humbled. The Jews say, 'Ezra is the Son of God'; the Christians say, 'The Messiah is the Son of God.' That is the utterance of their mouths, conforming with the unbelievers before them. God assail them! How they are perverted! ... It is He who has sent His Messenger with the guidance and the religion of truth, that He may uplift it above every religion. (Qur'an 9:29-33, Arberry, 48:28-29, 61:9)



1979



14<sup>th</sup> Century

What about Islam in the Bible?

- The Result

Conclusion

- Understand our context.
- A challenge to the church.
- An opportunity because we can know what to prepare for.
- An opportunity for learning your own faith better.

## SHARING THE GOSPEL AND ANSWERING QUESTIONS

Do we just share the gospel? Yes and no.

### 1. We believe all the prophets.

G. (B)ut righteous is he who believes in Allah and the Last Day and the angels and the Scripture and the prophets. (Qur'an 2:177, Pickthall)

Torah & Gospel (Qur'an 3:3, 5:68, 53:36) books of the prophets (2:136, 285, 3:84, 4:136), Psalms (4:163, 17:55, 21:105)

### 2. The Bible is corrupt.

Just saying "Bible" can start an argument.

### What does this mean for how we present the gospel to Muslims?

It means we have to present the gospel in such a way that it shows Muslims that they do not believe all the prophets and that the Bible is preserved.

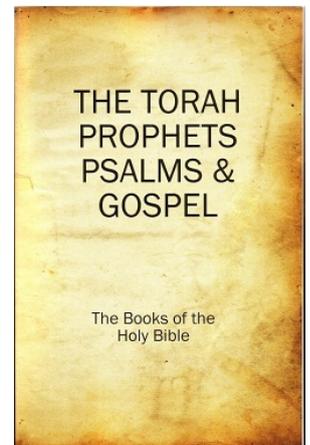
Muslims believe Muhammad not the prophets.

What is the Bible?

Stop saying "Bible" and say Torah, Prophets, Psalms, and Gospel instead. This shows Christians not Muslims believe the prophets.

How to reading our Scriptures with a Muslim

- What is the Bible? Leaflet. Table of contents.
- Leaflets and booklets
- <http://engagingwithislam.org/evangelistic-resources/>
- Your favourite parts.
- Invite to read Matthew (Engaging with Islam session 7)



### Answering Questions - Unity of Scripture

Son of God  
Incarnation  
Death of Jesus  
Trinity

- Say: it not a Christian idea.
- Christians did invent.
- The message of all the prophets.
- The Gospel is the fulfilment of the prophets.

BIBLE				QUR'AN
Old Testament		New Testament		Muhammad
Torah	Prophets	Psalms	Gospel	
<----- c. 1500 years ----->				23 years
Humanity is created in the image of God.				No
The Fatherhood & Son of God				No
God comes to dwells with his people.				No
Humanity is corrupted by sin.				No
Priesthood & Sacrifice of Atonement for Sin				No
Covenants of Noah, Abraham, Moses, & David				No
One Story of Redemption				No

This shows that the message of the Bible has not changed.

Christians believe all the prophets and make no distinction between them, therefore they read them all and what Christians believe about God comes from all of the prophets. The prophets build on each other and are meant to be read together.

### **Application Summary**

1. Understand that Islam prepares Muslims so don't be naive. Islam is a challenge and opportunity for the church.

- Ask: *What have you learned about Christianity?*

2. Sharing the Gospel and talking about Christianity

- Do not use the word Bible but say Torah, Prophets, Psalms, and Gospel.
- Give a *What is the Bible?* Leaflet.
- Show them the table of contents.
- Give a Torah, Prophets, Psalms, and Gospel Bible.
- Invite to read Matthew (*Engaging with Islam* session 7)

3. As we need to explain what Christians believe show that it is the message of all the prophets.

4. Do the Engaging with Islam course if you want to know more.