

The Bible & Qur'an: what do they say and should I listen?

1 The Qur'an in its Own Words

- Eternal, sent down, complete and unchanged
- “By the Book that makes things clear – we have made it a Qur'an in Arabic, that ye may be able to understand. And verily, it is in the Mother of the Book in Our Presence, high, full of wisdom” (Surah 43 Al-Zukhruf, aya 2-4)
- “We have sent down to you a Book which is blessed, so that people may apply their minds to its revelations; and the men of wisdom may reflect” (38 Sad:29)
- “...Thereupon he caught me for the third time and pressed me, and then released me and said, 'Read in the name of your Lord, who has created, has created man from a clot. Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous.' (96 Al-'Alaq:1-3)...” from Bukhari, Vol 1, Book 1, No 3, see www.sahih-bukhari.com/Pages/results.php5
- No one can imitate it (2 Al-Baqara:23-24, 10 Yunus:38, 11 Hud:13) e.g. <http://www.hamzatzortzis.com/essays-articles/exploring-the-quran/the-inimitable-quran/>
- Guarded from corruption (15 Al-Hijr:9)
- One man, over 23 years, spoken partly in Mecca, partly in Medina, with later abrogating earlier (2 Al Baqara:106, 16 Al-Nahl:101) e.g. wine in 2 Al-Baqara:219, 4 Al-Nisa':43 & 5 Al-Ma'ida:90
- 114 surahs, assembled Uthman c650 (Bukhari Vol 6, Book 61, No 510)
- Like the Bible e.g. stories of Moses & Jesus, morals/laws, preaching etc.
- Unlike the Bible e.g. Noah's son not in ark 11 Hud:40-43, Mary/Mariam as Jesus' mother and Aaron's sister 3 Al-'Imran:33-45 and 19 Maryam:28, Gideon and Saul muddled 2 Al-Baqara:249ff, Pharaoh and Haman and Babel together 28 Al-Qasas:38

- Says “I’m basically good and should try harder”

2 To be a Little More Critical

- Allah only speaks Arabic?
 - How is this for all humanity?
 - What does this say about Allah?
- Eternally from God and protected?
 - Very specific to Muhammad’s life and his needs, e.g. “...Aisha said, "O Allah's Apostle! I do not see, but that your Lord hurries in pleasing you."” <http://www.alim.org/library/hadith/pdf/SHB/48/7> and 33 Al-Azhab:50-51; exonerates Aisha (24 Al-Nur:11-15), enables Muhammad to marry his adopted son’s wife (33 Al-Azhab:4-5, 37f)
 - What about Satanic influence in 22 Al-Hajj:52 re 53 Al-Najm:19-20, 62 cf Ibn Ishaq *Life of Muhammad*, p165?
 - More here: <http://www.answering-islam.org/Green/uthman.htm>
- Complete and unchanged?
 - Why is there a missing verse on stoning for adultery? http://wikiislam.net/wiki/Qur'an,_Hadith_and_Scholars:Stoning
 - How do we know Caliph Uthman got the right one?
 - We have no Qur’an from 7th Century and variants still exist, e.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5CQ5jQvIBw>
- Can’t be imitated?
 - Who would judge? How?
 - Abd al-Masih ibn Ishaq al-Kindi: “if you say that there is nothing like the Qur’an in point of style and ornamentation, we reply that the style of our great poets...is pure and chaste and from the choicest Arabic...The Qur’an on the other hand, is broken in its style; hybrid in its diction and, while high sounding, often destitute of meaning.” (*The Apology of al-Kindi*)
- No eyewitnesses
- Without beginning, end, order, structure, history or storyline

3 Trusting the Bible?

- The Qur’an and Muhammad accept it e.g. 5 Al-Ma’ida:43-46, 6 Al-An’am:92, 10 Yunus:37, 46 Al-Ahqaf:12
- God speaking through 35+ people, over 1,400 years e.g. 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 2:16-21
- The Bible as a consistent story says “I’m fallen and need rescuing”

Genesis 2: Blessings	Genesis 3: Curses	Revelation 21-22: Amazing Blessings
Intimate relationship with God v7-18 cf 3:8	Broken relationship with God v10-13	God will be with His people 21:3-4
Harmonious relationship with each other v22-24	Broken relationship with each other v6-7, 12, 16	No crying or pain 21:4, healed nations 22:2
In God’s land v8-15	Out of the land v23-24	In God’s city 21:1-3, 22-27
Pleasant work under God v15	Pain and suffering v16-19	No suffering, serving perfectly 21:4, 22:3
Eternal life v9 cf 3:22	Death v19, 22	Receive life, no curse of death 21:6, 22:3

- Jesus the Messiah is the fulfilment of God’s promises (Luke 24:36-49)
- People who first read the Bible could verify its words (Luke 1:1-4) – agrees with history and archaeology
- Challenges every culture so must come from outside human cultures
- Makes most sense of life and who we are
- Full of prophecies being fulfilled, e.g. Abraham and Sarah having Isaac (Genesis 17:15-19 & 21:1-5), Israel being enslaved in Egypt (Genesis 15:13-16 & Exodus 12:40), God’s righteous servant suffering for other people’s sins (Isaiah 52:13-53:12 & Luke 23:32-46), God’s Anointed One not decaying in the grave (Psalm 16:10 & Luke 24:45-47)
- So: read, turn, have certainty, and proclaim