

## Video Transcript: Why the Quran is Not the Word of God

1.

Muslims believe that Muhammad received the Quran as Allah's complete and final revelation for all mankind, and that its teachings supersede those of the Bible.

In this video, I show that the Quran fails abysmally to live up to these claims when subjected to critical examination.

2.

The Quran contains the sacred writings of the Islamic faith.

The Quran itself claims to be the final revelation of the God of the Bible, and Muslims believe that the teachings of the Quran are superior to, and supersede, those of the Bible.

Muslims believe that Allah wrote the Quran in heaven on a stone tablet the size of a table and handed it down to Muhammad.

They claim that because it was written in this way by Allah, and not by Muhammad, that the original manuscript was flawless.

If these claims are true, then this should be immediately evident from an examination of the text of the Quran.

3.

From historical accounts, we know that Muhammad himself did not write or prepare the final manuscript of the Quran.

His death was sudden and unexpected, and it was left to his disciples to try to piece together his teachings from memory and a few scattered records.

These records were written on whatever was handy when Muhammad fell into one of his trances. The *Concise Encyclopaedia of Islam* notes:

*The Koran was collected from the chance surfaces on which it had been inscribed: "from pieces of the papyrus, flat stones, palm leaves, shoulder blades and ribs of animals, pieces of leather, wooden boards, and the hearts of men" – The Concise Encyclopaedia of Islam (p. 230).*

4.

The Quran is as an entirely different kind of literature from that of the Bible.

Whereas the Bible is replete with historical narrative, the Quran contains very little.

Whereas the Bible explains unfamiliar terminology or territory, the Quran does not.

And while the Bible presents a consistent message of God's dealings with man from the beginning of creation to its end, the Quran presents a jumbled collection of mystical writings.

5.

The Scottish scholar Thomas Carlyle once said about the Quran:

*It is a toilsome reading as I ever undertook, a wearisome, confused jumble, crude, and incondite. Nothing but a sense of duty could carry any European through the Koran – Thomas Carlyle.*

The German scholar Solomon Reinach commented:

*From the literary point of view, the Koran has little merit. Declamation, repetition, puerility, a lack of logic and coherence strike the unprepared reader at every turn. It is humiliating to the human intellect to think that this mediocre literature has been the subject of innumerable commentaries, and that millions of men are still wasting time in absorbing it – Solomon Reinach.*

6.

The historian Edward Gibbon described the Quran as “an incoherent rhapsody of fable, and precept, and declamation, which sometimes crawls in the dust, and sometimes is lost in the clouds.”

The fact that the Quran claims to be a continuation of the Bible actually damages its own credibility.

In the final analysis, the Quran simply does not fit with the quality of the literature found in the Bible.

Most Western scholars have concluded that to go from the Bible to the Quran is to go from the superior to the inferior, from the greater to the lesser, from the real to the counterfeit.

7.

Muhammad used considerable legendary and fanciful material as sources for the Quran, and also incorporated stories from other religions.

As noted by Professor Jomier, one of France’s greatest Middle East scholars:

*Moslems receive these narratives as the word of God, without enquiring about their historical background. In fact we have there a popular, poetic form of legends, variants of religious themes known from other sources – Professor Jomier.*

Muhammad also adopted religious practices from the Sabeans, including worshipping at the Kabah, praying five times a day facing Mecca, and fasting for part of a day for an entire month.

8.

The Quran contains a number of convenient revelations for Muhammad’s personal benefit.

For example, when Muhammad wanted his adopted son’s wife, he conveniently received a revelation from Allah declaring that it was permissible for him to take another man’s wife (Sura 33:36-38).

When he wanted more wives, or wanted his wives to stop quarrelling, he got another convenient revelation for this (Sura 33:28-34).

And when people bothered him at his house, he received a revelation setting up rules concerning when people could visit him and when they should not bother him (Sura 33:53-58; 29:62-63; 49:1-5).

9.

The claim that the Quran is the final revelation of the God of the Bible can be easily refuted by noting the numerous contradictions between the Bible and the Quran.

These mistakes are too numerous to recount here, but a summary is provided in my article on this website.

By way of example, the Quran has Nimrod and Abraham, Harman and Moses, and Mary (the mother of Jesus) and Aaron as contemporaneous.

It also misunderstands the concept of the Trinity and the term “Son of God”.

The Quran also holds that Jesus was not the Son of God, did not die for our sins, was not crucified, was not divine as well as human, and is not the Saviour.

10.

The Quran also contradicts itself in many places.

For example, the Quran claims that God took six days to create the world (Suras 7:51 and 10:3), and also eight days (Sura 41:9-12).

It also provides four different accounts of how Muhammad received the Quran (Suras 53:2-18 and 81:19-24; cf. 16:102 and 26:192-194; cf. 15:8; cf. 2:97).

It also contains many conflicting instructions, such as when it is acceptable to fight (Suras 22:39; cf. 2:216-218; cf. 9:5,29).

Since the Quran claims to be free from all error as proof of its divine inspiration (e.g., Sura 85:21-22), the presence of just one error in the Quran is enough to falsify this claim.

11.

The Quran also contradicts secular history in some places.

For example, it claims that the Kabah was built by Adam and then rebuilt by Abraham.

It also claims that the Jews made the golden calf in the wilderness at the suggestion of the Samaritans, a people who didn't exist at the time (Sura 20:87, 95).

It also claims that Alexander the Great was a Muslim who worshipped Allah and lived to an old age (Sura 18:89-98).

And it claims that crucifixion was used in the time of Pharaoh (Sura 7:124).

12.

Perhaps the greatest indictment against the Quran is that it supports many practices which the Bible condemns as immoral.

The Quran supports acts of violence, robbery, slavery and adultery.

It is also racist, teaching that only people with white faces will be saved; people with black faces will be damned (Suras 3:106 and 107).

It also holds women in low regard, as discussed in the first video in this series.

The Quran promises a heaven full of wine and free sex (Sura 2:25; 4:57; 11:23; 47:15).

But if, according to the Bible, drunkenness and sexual immorality is sinful on earth, then it cannot be acceptable in Paradise.

This is yet more evidence that Islam is a reflection of the ideas and customs of seventh-century Arab culture, and not the will of God as described in the Bible.

13.

A comparison between the Bible and the Quran reveals that the Quran is not the inspired Word of God.

The Quran does not even come close to the Bible in the quality of its literature, its historical accuracy, or the consistency and morality of its teachings.

It contains many contradictions with the Bible, self-contradictions, convenient revelations, textual errors, and mythical stories.

Rather than being a part of God's continuing revelation to mankind, the Quran contains all the hallmarks of a man-made religion.