

1. Does the Qur'an Teach That the Holy Bible Is the Word of God?

Yes. The places that demonstrate this in the Qur'an are numerous. For example (Pickthall's translation):

2:53 "We gave unto Moses the Scripture, and the Criterion (of right and wrong), that ye might be led aright."

-- similarly 2:87, 2:121, 2:146, 3:3, 3:84, 4:54, 4:150, 7:145, 11:110, etc., etc. In Surah 9:111 the teaching of the Torah and the Gospel is binding even on Allah.

Both Testaments, the Old and the New, are from God:

2:136 "Say (O Muslims): We believe in Allah and that which was revealed unto us and that which was revealed unto Abraham, and Ishmael, and Isaac, and Jacob, and the tribes, and that which Moses and Jesus received, and that which the Prophets received from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and unto Him we have surrendered."

4:136 "O ye who believe! Believe in Allah and His messenger and the Scripture which He hath revealed unto His messenger, and the Scripture which He hath revealed aforetime. Whoso disbelieveth in Allah and His angels and His scriptures and His messengers and the Last Day, he verily hath wandered far astray."

4:150,151 "Lo! those who disbelieve in Allah and His messengers, and seek to make a distinction between Allah and His messengers, and say: We believe in some and disbelieve in others, and seek to choose a way in between; Such are disbelievers in truth; and for disbelievers We prepare a shameful doom."

Compare the last two references. The Qur'an says that anyone who believes the Qur'an but not the Bible is truly a disbeliever, awaiting a shameful doom.

2. Can the Word of God be Changed or Lost?

The Qur'an says: "Perfected is the word of the Lord in truth and justice. There is naught that can change His words." (Surah 6:116)

"There is no changing the words of Allah." (Surah 10:65)

The Bible also affirms that its words will never change or be lost:

Isaiah 40:8 (also First Peter 1:25), NIV: "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."

Matt. 5:18, NIV: "I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."

Matt. 24:35 & Luke 21:33, NIV: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away" (spoken by the Messiah).

Luke 16:17, NIV: "It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law."

John 10:35, NIV: ". . . the Scripture cannot be broken."

Yet Moslem tradition is that the word of God in the Torah and Gospel has been lost or changed.

Beware of following such traditions of men.

"And when it is said unto them: Follow that which Allah hath revealed, they say: We follow that wherein we found our fathers. What! Even though their fathers were wholly unintelligent and had no guidance?" (Surah 2:170)

"You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!" (Injil (Gospel) as recorded by Mark, 7:9, NIV)

3. Were the Old and New Testaments Lost in Muhammad's day?

Surah 2:40,41 "O children of Israel . . . believe in that which I reveal, confirming that which ye possess (of the Scripture) . . ."

5:43,44 "how come [the Jews] unto thee [Muhammad] for judgement when they have the Torah, wherein Allah hath delivered judgement (for them)? . . . Lo! We did reveal the Torah."

62:5 ". . . those who are entrusted with the Law of Moses . . ."

54:52 "And every thing they did is in the Scripture." These show that the Jews had their Scriptures in Muhammad's day. Regarding the Christians:

5:47 "Let the people of the Gospel judge by that which Allah hath revealed therein."

5:68 "Say: O people of the Scripture! Ye have naught (of guidance) till ye observe the Torah and the Gospel . . ."

How could Christians observe something that was lost or corrupted? The Bible was not lost in Muhammad's day. Many Bible books have been preserved from well before Muhammad's time. These early texts are used to make sure that modern translations are accurate.

21:7 "And We sent not (as Our messengers) before thee other than men whom we inspired. Ask the followers of the Reminder [the Jewish Scriptures] if ye know not."

29:46 "And argue not with the People of the Scripture unless it be in (a way) that is better, save with such of them as do wrong; and say: We believe in that which hath been revealed unto us and revealed unto you; our God and your God is one, and unto Him we surrender."

It would be foolish to ask questions of the Jews or Christians if they did not have their Scriptures, or if their Scriptures were not to be trusted. Not only was Muhammad to ask questions of them, but he was to believe in the revelation that the Jews and Christians (the People of the Scripture) possessed. Muslim tradition, however, teaches that both the Torah and the Injil (Gospel) have been corrupted and lost. This is not what the Qur'an teaches. Beware of following the traditions of men.

"And when it is said unto them: Follow that which Allah hath revealed, they say: We follow that wherein we found our fathers. What! Even though their fathers were wholly unintelligent and had no guidance?" (Surah 2:170)

"They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men." (The Injil (Gospel) as recorded by Mark, 7:7, NIV)