



Prophet Muhammad in the Bible

“Those unto whom We gave the Scripture recognize him (Muhammad) as they recognize their sons. But verily, a party of them conceal the truth while they know it” The Qur’an, al-Baqarah(2):146

Introduction¹

Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered Prophet whom they find written in the Torah and the Gospel with them. He enjoins upon them that which is right and forbids for them that which is evil. He makes lawful for them all things that are good and prohibits for them all that is foul and he relieves them from their burden and the fetters that they used to wear. Then those who believe in him, honor him, assist him, and follow the light which is sent down with him: they are the successful” The Qur'an, Al-A'araf:157.

“And when there came to them a messenger from Allah, Confirming what was with them, a party of the people of the book threw away the book of Allah behind their backs as if (it had been something) they did not know” The Qur'an, Al-Baqarah(2): 101

“And because of their breaking of their covenant, We have cursed them and made hard their hearts. They change the words from their context and they forget a portion thereof” The Qur'an, Al-Maida(4): 13.

Before starting this topic, let me first clear up a common misconception. Many Christians require of all Muslims to either accept all of the Bible or to reject all of the Bible. Therefore, they sometimes find a Muslim’s attitude towards the Bible bewildering. For this reason, I will explain how a Muslim is commanded to deal with the Bible.

A Muslim is told that Allah almighty sent down an “Injeel” upon Jesus (pbuh). The Qur’an then goes on to describe how mankind later changed this “Injeel” and corrupted it. For this reason, Muhammad (pbuh) told all Muslims to deal with the Bible with respect since it started out as the true word of God. Muhammad (pbuh) told his followers that if they were to reject the whole book, then they might be rejecting words that remain the true word of God. He told them that the Qur’an had been sent down to “rectify” that which was corrupted by mankind in the Bible and to return it to the original teachings of God through it’s own “guardianship.” We read this in the Qur’an: *“And unto you (O Muhammad) have We revealed the Scripture (Qur’an) with the truth, confirming whatever Scripture was before it, and a watcher/corrector over it. So judge between them by that which Allah has revealed, and follow not their desires away from the truth which has come unto you..”* Al-Maidah(5):48. For this reason, Muhammad (pbuh) commanded them to accept only that which is verified by the Qur’an and to reject that which contradicts the Qur’an.

Muslims believe that the “people of the book” at the time of the Muhammad (pbuh) had been expecting a new prophet to be coming soon. There are many historical reports to this effect. We are told that the Jews of Yathrib (Al-Madinah Al-Munawarah) were constantly threatening it's Arab citizens with his impending arrival and that they would follow him and slaughter them in a similar manner as A'ad and Iram where slaughtered, and this was

¹ Taken from the Book: “What Did Jesus Really Say” by Misha’al al-Khadi

one of the major reasons that the Arabs of Yathrib followed Muhammad (pbuh) so quickly. To beat the Jews to him. There are also other similar stories, such as the story of Salman Al-Farisi, the story of the monk Bahira, and the story of Al-Najashi, the king of Ethiopia.

There are many predictions of the coming of Jesus (pbuh) in the Old Testament. Many Christians have even told us that the Bible has predicted much of what has occurred after the time of Jesus (pbuh) including the Pope and Israel. Unlike the Jews, Muslims do not contest the claimed prophecies of the coming of Jesus (pbuh) since the Qur'an commands them to believe in him. However, if we ask the Christians whether they can find any mention of Muhammad (pbuh) in the Bible, their immediate response is an emphatic "No!" But if the Bible has predicted all of these other things then we must ask: why does it have absolutely nothing at all to say about the man who single-handedly convinced many billions of people over the ages to believe in the miraculous birth of Jesus (pbuh), his message, the piety and chastity of his mother Mary (pbuh), the miracles of Jesus (pbuh), and the fact that he was one of the greatest messengers of God for all time?

There is not a single prophecy in the Old Testament that mentions Jesus (pbuh) by name. Messiah, translated "Christ" is not a name. It is a description, a *title*. It means "the anointed one." Even "Jesus" is not Jesus' true name. "Jesus" is a Latinized version of the Hebrew name "Yeshua," which is the shortened form of "Yehoshua" - God Saves. When the Christians claim that a verse professes the coming of Jesus (pbuh) what they have done is to compare *the description* found in that verse to Jesus (pbuh) and if it fits him then they say that it speaks of him. Using the Christian's same system we claim that there is indeed not one, but more than TEN verses in the Bible that speak of the coming of Muhammad (pbuh) as God's last messenger, but that previous commentators have misunderstood them (just as the Christians tell us that the Jews have done with the Old Testament prophecies of Jesus, pbuh). The reader will notice that in what is to follow the verses are explained very simply, using the obvious meanings of the words themselves without having to resort to forced abstract and metaphysical meanings for these verses. These verses speak about *major* events, locations, and milestones in Islamic history as well as the characteristics of both Islam and Muhammad (pbuh).

Some people believe that it would be impossible for the Christian clergy to misinterpret a single verse of the Bible. For this we only need to look back at a very regrettable period in Christian history. A period when people were forcibly kidnapped from Africa and sold as slaves to live out their lives like animals, enduring subjugation, torture, and humiliation. White church-going Christians were told that this was the command of God and were quoted such verses as Genesis 9:25, Joshua 9:23, 1 Timothy 6:1, and Titus 2:9. When Christians began to realize that this was a misinterpretation of the Biblical verses, they stood up for what was right against those who had misrepresented the words of God. They went to war and placed their lives on the line in order to abolish slavery. No decent human being today believes that God commanded mankind to enslave an entire race of people just because their skin is black. But in that day, this was the established belief of the masses and was believed to be the "inspiration" of God.