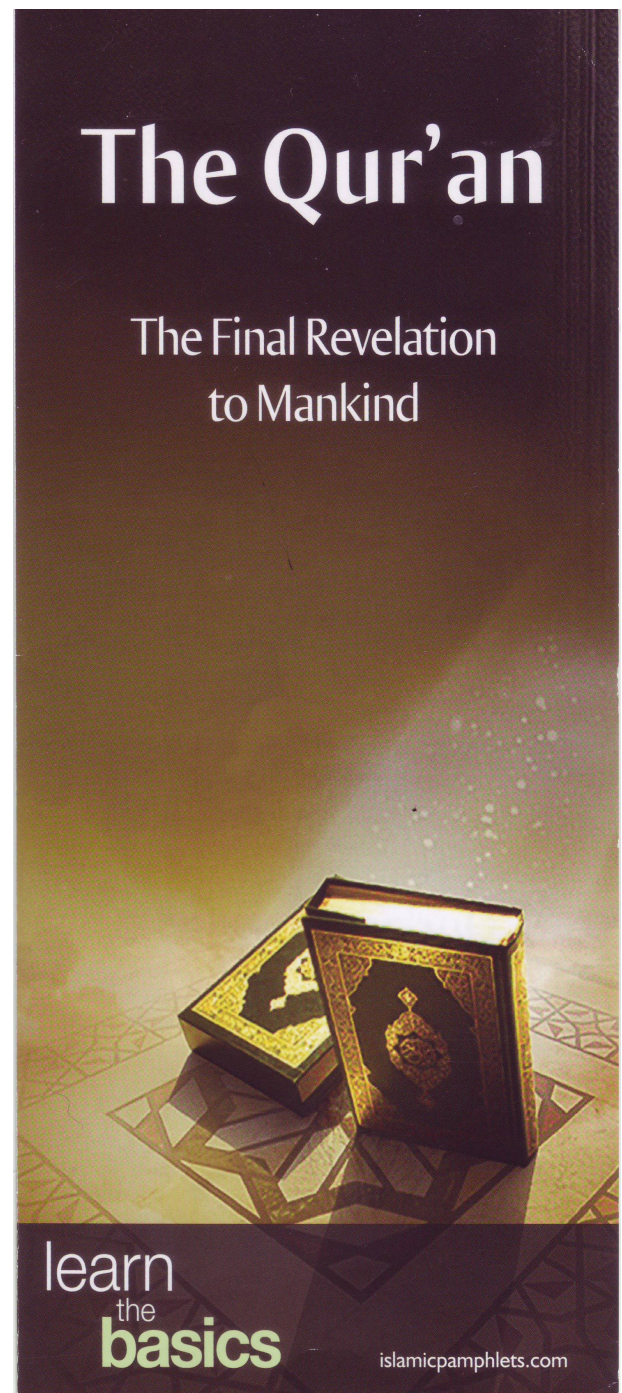


A reply to

The Qur'an
The Final Revelation to
Mankind

by
Rev. Samuel Green



This booklet is designed to printed on A4 paper size, landscape, double sided, then folded in half to make an A5 booklet.

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Introduction

Islamic organisations often set up public tables to promote Islam. On these tables are various leaflets, booklets, and Qur'ans. One of the leaflets I have seen is, *The Qur'an - The Final Revelation to Mankind*. This leaflet makes several comments against Christianity and makes claims about the Qur'an. In this booklet I will reply to the main ideas in this leaflet.

Attacking the Bible

In the first column, under the title of, *What is the Qur'an? - The Final Revelation*, the leaflet says:

The Qur'an is the last scripture revealed by Almighty Allah (God) confirming what little truth remains in parts of the previous scriptures and refuting and correcting fabrications and additions which have crept into current day versions of such scriptures.

"O you who have been given the Scripture! Believe in what we have revealed confirming what is (already) with you..." (Qur'an 4:47)

Here the leaflet accuses the Bible of being corrupt. Then it quotes Qur'an 4:47. I have two points to make in response.

Firstly, there is ample evidence to show that the Bible has been well preserved. We have ancient copies, ancient translations, and ancient quotes, and from these we can confirm that the Bible has been well preserved. In fact, the Qur'an says that the Gospel from Jesus is what Christians have.

We bestowed on him [Jesus] the Gospel in which is a guidance and light - confirming that which [had been revealed] before in the Torah - a guidance and an admonition to those who fear God. Let the people of the Gospel judge by what God has sent down in it. (Qur'an 5:46-47)

The Qur'an also commands Muslims to make no distinction between any of the holy books.

Say, "We believe in God and in what was revealed to us [the Qur'an] and in what was revealed to Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob and the tribes, and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and in what was given to the prophets from their

Lord. We make no distinction between any of them.” (Qur’an 2:136)

Yet, the Muslims who wrote this leaflet make a distinction and attack the Bible.

Secondly, the leaflet quotes this verse,

O you who have been given the Scripture! Believe in what we have revealed confirming what is (already) with you. (Qur'an 4:47)

What is this verse saying? This verse is speaking to Christians and Jews, and asking them to believe the Qur’an because the Qur’an confirms the Bible. That is, the Bible is appealed to as an authority to know that the Qur’an is from God. The Qur’an in no way attacks the Bible the way the authors of this leaflet do.

Claims about the Qur’an

In columns two and three, there is the heading, *How do we know it [the Qur'an] is from God?* Various claims are made. I will consider a some of them.

Preservation

The Qur'an is the only religious sacred text that has been in circulation for a lengthy period, and yet remains as pure as the day it was revealed. Nothing has been added, removed or modified from it, since its revelation over 1400 years ago.

Not only has the Qur'an been preserved in written form, but also in the hearts of men, children and women. Today, millions of people have memorised the Qur'an from cover to cover.

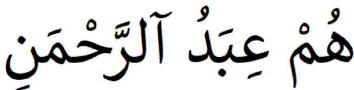
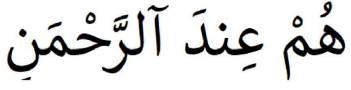
The claim here is that the Qur’an has been perfectly preserved and that millions of people have memorised it. I have three comments.



Firstly, this claim about the Qur’an is not true. Early in Islam’s history the Qur’an was being recited differently by different groups. The third caliph, Uthman, solved this problem by making one standard Qur’an and destroying the earlier versions of the companions.

Narrated Anas bin Malik: Hudhaifa bin Al-Yaman ... was afraid of their [the Muslims of Syria and Iraq] differences in the recitation of the Qur'an, so he said

to 'Uthman, "O chief of the Believers! Save this nation before they differ about the Book (Quran)" ... 'Uthman sent to every Muslim province one copy of what they had copied, and ordered that all the other Qur'anic materials, whether written in fragmentary manuscripts or whole copies, be burnt. (Sahih al-Bukhari 4987; vol 6, bk 61, no 510)

Secondly, even today there are different Arabic versions of the Qur'an. They are called the *qira'at*. The most common is the Qur'an according to Imam Hafs. These have different words and different numbers of words. Here are two examples.

The qira'a of Imam Hafs	The qira'a of Imam Warsh
 <p>They are slaves of the Most Gracious. Q43:19</p>	 <p>They are with the Most Gracious.</p>
The middle word has the dot in a different position, and different vowels. This changes the meaning of the verse significantly.	

The qira'a of Imam Hafs	The qira'a of Imam Warsh
 <p>And many a prophet killed. 3:146</p>	 <p>And many a prophet was killed.</p>
There are different vowels in these words which change the meaning from the active to the passive.	

Thirdly, the leaflet claims that the Qur'an has been memorised, but this is the opposite of what the Qur'an and Hadith say. First, the Qur'an speaks about parts of it being forgotten by Allah's will.

We will make you recite, [O Muhammad], and you will not forget, except what Allah should will. (Qur'an 87:6-7)

We do not abrogate a verse or cause it to be forgotten except that We bring forth [one] better than it or similar to it. (Qur'an 2:106)

The Hadith also speaks about Muhammad forgetting the Qur'an.

Narrated Aisha: The Prophet heard a man reciting the Qur'an in the mosque and said, "May Allah bestow His Mercy on him, as he has reminded me of

such-and-such verses of such a Surah." (*Sahih al-Bukhari* 5037; vol 6, bk 61, no 556)

Narrated Abdullah ibn Mas'ud: ... [Muhammad said] I am only a human being and I forget just as you do; so when I forget, remind me ... (*Sahih al-Bukhari* 401; vol 1, bk 8, no 394)

The Hadith also records that entire suras were forgotten.

We used to recite a surah which resembled in length and severity to (surah 9) Bara'at. I have, however, forgotten it with the exception of this which I remember out of it: "If there were two valleys full of riches, for the son of Adam, he would long for a third valley, and nothing would fill the stomach of the son of Adam but dust." (*Sahih Muslim* 1050; bk 5, no 2286)

'Abdullah bin 'Umar reportedly said: "Let none of you say, 'I have got the whole of the Qur'an.' How does he know what all of it is? Much of the Qur'an is gone. Let him say instead, 'I have got what has survived.'" (Jalal ad-Deen as-Suyuti, *al-Itiqan fee 'Uloom al-Qur'an*, Cairo: al-Halabi, 1935, vol. 2, p. 25)

Why are the authors of this leaflet ignoring what the Qur'an and Hadith say and making exaggerated claims about the Qur'an?

Scientific Miracles

The leaflet says,

One of the most remarkable aspects of the Qur'an is that it contains many verses which accurately describe natural phenomenon in various fields such as embryology ...

The claim of the leaflet is that the Qur'an has scientific knowledge unknown at the time of Muhammad, in particular with embryology. However, read this verse from the Qur'an.

Then We [Allah] created of the drop [of semen] a clot then We created of the clot a tissue then We created of the tissue bones then We garmented the bones in flesh (Qur'an 23:14)

This description of human development is wrong. Bones are not created from tissue and then clothed in flesh, instead the bones grow within the flesh.

Uniqueness

The leaflet says,

Ever since its revelation, no person has been able to produce a single chapter like that of the Qur'an in its beauty, eloquence, splendour.

The argument here is that the Qur'an must be from God because nobody can make anything as beautiful and eloquent as it. I have three points in reply.

Firstly, beauty and eloquence are no measure of truth. It is a ridiculous argument. A woman's physical beauty is no indication of her wisdom.

Secondly, the people of Muhammad's time said they could make something like the Qur'an.

When Our signs [the Qur'an] are recited to them [the Meccans], they say, "We have heard. Were we to wish, we could say something like this." (Qur'an 8:31)

Thirdly, when people today make something that sounds like the Qur'an they get into significant trouble with Islamic authorities. Muslim leaders do not allow people to imitate the Qur'an, and Muslims dare not try, so how can you say there is nothing like the Qur'an?

No Contradictions

The authors of the leaflet claim that the Qur'an has no contradictions and this proves it is from God. I have two points in reply.

Firstly, just because a book has no contradictions, this does not mean it comes from God. This is an illogical argument. Many books have no contradictions.

Secondly, there are contradictions. There are minor contradictions as we have already seen between the different versions/qira'at of the Qur'an. And there are major contradictions, for instance, the Qur'an claims that Abraham and Ishmael built the Ka'bah in Mecca (Qur'an 2:127), and they were both prophets who were sent with scripture (Qur'an 2:136, 87:18-19). Therefore, according to the Qur'an, the people of Mecca had prophets with scripture among them in the past. Yet, in verses 34:44 and 36:6 the Qur'an claims that the Meccans had no prophet sent to them in the past, and this is why Muhammad came with the

Qur'an.

Be We have given them [the Meccans] no Scriptures to study, nor have We sent to them any warner before you [Muhammad]. (Qur'an 34:44)

For you to warn a people whose forefathers were not warned, and who are heedless. (Qur'an 36:6)

Couldn't Muhammad have authored it?

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was known in history to be illiterate; he could not read or write.

The authors of the leaflet claim that Muhammad was illiterate and therefore he could not have written the Qur'an. But again, this argument is nonsensical. Kings and rulers have always had scribes to read and write for them. The Hadith records that Muhammad had scribes who wrote for him. Again, this argument proves nothing.

What is the Bible?

The Bible is not one book but a collection of many books from many prophets. It contains the Law of Moses (Torah), the Psalms of David (Zabur), the books of Solomon, the books of the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, and others. It has the Gospel (Injeel) of Jesus recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and the writings of the apostles of Jesus.

THE BIBLE			
Old Testament			New Testament
Law of Moses	The Books of the Prophets	The Psalms	The Gospel
<----- c. 1500 years ----->			

Christians accept all the prophets and make no distinction between them, therefore, they have all these books in the Bible so they can read them.

Secondly, God has spoken to us through many prophets. Their books build on each other and they are meant to be read together, and together they give us God's complete message. What Christians believe about God comes from reading all of the books of the prophets. What Christians believe about Jesus comes from reading all of the books of the prophets.

Conclusion

I have written this reply because the Islamic leaflet attacks Christianity and makes false claims about the Bible and Qur'an. The leaflet misrepresents both Christianity and Islam. Instead of doing this, we should seek to understand each person's religion on its own terms and then have an informed discussion.

Grace and peace
Rev. Samuel Green.

