

Ministering To Muslims

Islam:

Islam & Christianity share a lot of the same characters. In fact the Quran counts both Jesus and the OT prophets as genuine prophets.

Let me be clear...I in no way believe that the Quran is truth but it's important to point out to Muslims that the Quran says to follow the Old & New Testament.

1. Surah 5:46 – Affirmation of the Gospel

“And We sent, following in their footsteps, Jesus, the son of Mary, confirming that which came before him in the Torah. And We gave him the Gospel, in which was guidance and light...”

(Surah 5:46, Sahih International)

- This verse affirms that the Gospel (Injil) was a divine revelation from God.
- It describes the Injil as containing “guidance and light.”

2. Surah 10:94 – Command to Consult the People of the Book

“So if you are in doubt, [O Muhammad], about that which We have revealed to you, then ask those who have been reading the Scripture before you.”

(Surah 10:94)

- Allah tells Muhammad to consult Jews and Christians (People of the Book) if he's unsure about revelation.
- This only makes sense if the previous scriptures were available and reliable at that time.

3. Surah 3:3 – The Quran Confirms Previous Scriptures

“He has sent down upon you the Book in truth, confirming what was before it. And He revealed the Torah and the Gospel.”

(Surah 3:3)

- The Quran is presented as a confirmation of the Torah and the Gospel—not a contradiction.

4. Surah 5:68 – Command to Uphold the Torah and the Gospel

“Say, O People of the Scripture, you are [standing] on nothing until you uphold the Torah and the Gospel and what has been revealed to you from your Lord.”

(Surah 5:68)

- The Quran rebukes Jews and Christians for not following their own scriptures faithfully, again suggesting those scriptures were valid and available.

The 5 Errors Of Islam:

1. Islam Argues That The Bible Has Been Corrupted.

A. They Site The Fact That There Is Different Translations

Point out that they are translations into other languages.

Let them know that just because it has been translated into a different language does not mean that it has been corrupted.

To say that is to also say that the Quarantine has been corrupted because neither the OT prophets or Jesus spoke Arabic...yet the Quran quotes them in Arabic. (Not always accurately btw)

B. There Is Overwhelming Evidence That The Bible Has Not Been Corrupted

The Old & New Testament has the most copies & is the best preserved document of antiquity.

Only 1% of the New Testament documents have any variance and none of them affect doctrine or the meaning of the text.

Plus the Quran says to follow the Bible with the same manuscripts in tact that we have now (why instruct this if it's been corrupted).

C. There Is Overwhelming Evidence That The Quran Has Been Corrupted

1. Multiple Early Versions of the Quran

- Early Islamic sources (like Sahih Muslim, Sahih Bukhari) admit there were differences in recitations (qira'at).
- Caliph Uthman (3rd Caliph) standardized the Quran around 650 AD and ordered all other versions to be burned.
- This means early variants of the Quran existed, which contradicts the idea of perfect preservation.

2. The “Ahruf” (Seven Modes) Problem

- Muhammad reportedly said the Quran was revealed in seven different ways (ahruf)—but Muslims today read only one.

- Scholars debate what these “seven modes” even were—and most have been lost.

3. Manuscript Evidence

- Ancient manuscripts (e.g., Sana'a manuscripts, discovered in Yemen) show textual variations.
- These include spelling differences, missing words, and even altered meanings—disproving inerrancy.

4. Oral Transmission Issues

- The Quran was passed down orally before it was written.
- Some companions of Muhammad forgot verses, and others reported different wordings, but Muslims deny that such variation ever happened.

Islamic Sources Admitting Variants

Even Islamic traditions recognize differences.

Sahih Bukhari (Volume 6, Book 61, Hadith 510)

Uthman ordered Zaid ibn Thabit to compile the Quran and burn all other materials.

People like Ibn Masud and Ubayy ibn Ka'b had different surahs and verses in their personal copies.

This proves there were multiple Quranic traditions, and standardization required eliminating competing versions.

5. Quarnic Tradition Says That On One Occassion Satan Filled Mohammeds Mouth

According to Ibn Ishaq and others:

- Muhammad was preaching in Mecca and wanted to win the favor of the Quraysh tribe.
- While reciting Surah 53 (An-Najm), he reportedly inserted lines praising the pagan Meccan goddesses—al-Lat, al-Uzza, and Manat: “These are the exalted cranes (gharaniq) whose intercession is to be hoped for.”
- Later, Muhammad retracted the verses, saying that Satan had deceived him, and God revealed a correction.

Surah 22:52 – Acknowledges Satan’s Interference

“And We did not send before you any messenger or prophet except that when he recited [the message], Satan threw into it [some misunderstanding]. But Allah abolishes that which Satan throws in; then Allah makes precise His verses...”

(Surah 22:52, Sahih International)

You can reason with Muslims that if he yielded to Satan before how do we know that he did not do it again?

D. The Quran is written 600 years after Jesus (its not as reliable as the eye witnesses)

Why should we believe what Mohammed said six centuries after Jesus who never met Him above the eye witnesses that did?

2. Islam Claims That Jesus Is Not Divine & That He Didn't Die & Rise Again

The New Testament Claims The Deity Of Jesus:

- A. Jesus said - Before Abraham Was I Am (John 8:58)
- B. Jesus - Called Himself The Son Of Man (Approximately 80 x's)
- C. God The Father Calls Him God (Hebrews 1:5-8)
- D. Word Was God & The Word Became Flesh (John 1:1,14)

The Quran Claims - Jesus was a prophet but not God

Islam Teaches

Jesus was not crucified; someone else was made to look like Him. He did not die for sins.

Christian Response

- The crucifixion is a historically documented event, affirmed by Christians and secular historians.

Ancient Historians that confirm that Jesus died:

A. Tacitus (c. AD 56–120)

Source: Annals (Book 15, Chapter 44)

Quote:

“Christus, from whom the name [Christians] had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus...”

Significance:

- Roman historian.
- Confirms that Jesus (Christus) was executed by crucifixion under Pontius Pilate, during Emperor Tiberius's reign.
- Corroborates the Gospel timeline.

B. Josephus (c. AD 37–100)

Source: *Antiquities of the Jews* (Book 18, Chapter 3, Paragraph 3)

Quote (partial):

“Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man... He was [the] Christ... Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross...”

Significance:

- Jewish historian writing for a Roman audience.
- Mentions Jesus, His crucifixion, and growing Christian movement.
- While some parts of the quote are debated as Christian interpolations, most scholars accept that Josephus originally mentioned Jesus's crucifixion under Pilate.

C. Lucian of Samosata (c. AD 125–180)

Source: *The Death of Peregrinus*

Quote (paraphrased):

“The Christians... worship a man to this day—the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account...”

Significance:

- A Greek satirist, mocking Christians.
- Affirms that early Christians worshiped a crucified man.
- Confirms belief in Jesus's crucifixion as central to the faith.

D. Mara bar Serapion (c. late 1st to early 3rd century)

Source: Letter to his son

Quote:

“What advantage did the Jews gain from executing their wise King...? Nor did the wise King die for good; he lived on in the teaching which he had given.”

Significance:

- Syrian philosopher, writing in a non-Christian context.
- Refers indirectly to Jesus as the “wise King” of the Jews.
- Acknowledges His execution and the lasting impact of His teachings.

E. The Babylonian Talmud (Jewish Rabbinic Writings)

Source: Sanhedrin 43a

Quote:

“On the eve of the Passover, Yeshu [Jesus] was hanged...”

Significance:

- “Hanged” is a common Jewish euphemism for crucifixion.
- Confirms Jewish acknowledgment of Jesus’s death during Passover.
- Hostile source, yet affirms core details.

Six centuries later the Quran says that Roman, Jewish, Greek, Syrian, and Babylonian sources are wrong and that Mohammed alone is right.

3. Islam Disputes The Trinity

Islam claims that we believe in three Gods

The Bible however clearly teaches the trinity. (Matthew 28:19, John 1:1, 2 Corinthians 13:14)

4. Islam Teaches Muhammad Is The Perfect Example

Islam Teaches

Muhammad is the final prophet (Seal of the Prophets). He is the perfect example for mankind.

Christian Response

- Jesus lived a sinless life (the Quran also teaches this); Muhammad did not (even Islamic texts admit he needed forgiveness).
- Jesus performed miracles, forgave sins, and claimed divine authority—Muhammad did not.

- Jesus rose from the dead—Muhammad died and remains in the grave.
- Final authority belongs to Jesus as Savior, Judge, and Lord (John 5:22, Philippians 2:9–11).
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5. Mohammed Was Unsure If He Would Make It To Heaven

Muhammad made several statements in Hadith (Islamic traditions) that show a lack of personal assurance about his salvation—which stands in contrast to the Christian understanding of confidence in eternal life through Christ.

Here are the key sources:

A. Sahih al-Bukhari (Vol. 5, Book 58, Hadith 266)

Narrated Umm al-‘Ala’:

“The Messenger of Allah entered upon me after the death of my son, and I said:

‘May Allah have mercy on you, O Abu Salamah. I bear witness that Allah has honored you.’

The Prophet said:

‘And how do you know that Allah has honored him? Perhaps he spoke something that he had no right to speak, or perhaps he did something which he was not supposed to do?’

...Then he added:

‘By Allah, though I am the Messenger of Allah, I do not know what Allah will do to me.’”

This is perhaps the clearest and most striking admission:

Muhammad swore by Allah that he himself did not know his final destiny.

B. Surah 46:9 (The Quran)

“Say [O Muhammad]: I am not something original among the messengers, nor do I know what will be done with me or with you.”
(Surah 46:9, Sahih International)

This Quranic verse shows that even during his mission, Muhammad claimed no assurance of salvation.

C. Sahih Muslim (Book 1, Hadith 398)

Abu Huraira reported:

The Messenger of Allah said:

“None of you will enter Paradise because of his deeds alone.”

They asked, “Not even you, O Messenger of Allah?”

He replied:

“Not even me, unless Allah grants me His mercy.”

This hadith is frequently quoted to emphasize the Islamic doctrine that salvation depends entirely on Allah's mercy, not on works—even for Muhammad.

D. Muhammad's Prayer for Forgiveness

Multiple hadiths record Muhammad asking Allah for forgiveness:

- Sahih Bukhari, Vol. 8, Book 75, Hadith 319:
“By Allah, I ask for forgiveness from Allah and turn to Him in repentance more than seventy times a day.”

This shows that Muhammad himself believed he was in need of forgiveness daily, further showing uncertainty.

Christian Apologetic Insight:

This stands in contrast to:

- Jesus, who had full authority and confidence in His heavenly destiny:
“I am the way, the truth, and the life...” – John 14:6
“No one comes to the Father except through Me.”
- Believers in Christ are promised assurance of eternal life:
“That you may know that you have eternal life...” – 1 John 5:13

Conclusion:

Muhammad never claimed certainty of entering Paradise, even though he was considered the greatest prophet in Islam. Instead, he expressed reliance on Allah's mercy and uncertainty about his own standing.

This fact presents a strong evangelistic bridge:

“If even your prophet wasn't sure of heaven, wouldn't you want to know how you can be sure?”