

Chapter 11

Issues Concerning the Koran and Islam

The Koran and Terrorism?

The Koran does not support terrorism. As you will see, the truth is that the verses in the Koran that seem to encourage violence against non-believers are either mistranslated or taken out of context by terrorists and Islam's Christian critics. It must be emphasized that the Koran repeatedly refers to Allah as a merciful God. In fact, Surah 2:190 states that Allah does not allow His followers to make unprovoked attacks; instead, they must only act defensively: "Fight in the way of God against those who fight against you, but do not begin hostilities, for God does not love aggressors." When Muslims fight, their defensive response must be in proportion to the crimes they suffered at the hands of their enemies.

The Koran even states that when an enemy seeks to end a war and to create lasting peace, true Muslims must give it to them (Surah 4:90; 8:61). In fact, Muslims are not allowed to kill children, monks, or rabbis even during times of war. If an enemy repents of his evil, observes devotion, shows humility and submission, and pays a tax they are to be let free (Surah 9:5-6, 29).

It is claimed that Islam was spread at the tip of the sword during Muhammad's lifetime. The Koran though teaches, "Let there be no compulsion in religion" (Surah 2:256). Thus the Koran teaches freedom of religion. This is shown by the fact that even though Muslims ruled Spain for about 800 years, they never forced their religion on the non-Muslim population. The Koran even allows a democratic government if the laws enacted do not conflict with Islamic doctrine.¹

Surah 9:29 says about Christians and Jews who lived in the seventh century, "Fight those people of the Book who do not believe in Allah . . . until they pay the jizyah [tax] with their own hands while they are subdued" (Brackets mine). The Christians and Jews were making unjust attacks on Muslims at this time. The Muslims thus defended themselves. They then conquered these Christians and Jews, who were allowed to live in peace if they paid a cheap tax, which gave them benefits and protections within the Muslim Empire. As mentioned, verses from other Surahs state that this fighting had to cease once these Christians and Jews sought peace.

Then there is Surah 2:191, and other similar verses like 4:89, which have been mistranslated and taken completely out of context. It states, "Kill them wherever you catch them . . ." The truth is that these verses concern terrorists who had murdered early Muslims. It authorizes the Muslims to kill those murderers wherever they were found. This does not give Muslims the right to kill Christians or members of any other religion.² In fact, many similar Old Testament verses when taken out of context seem to support violence against non-believers (Deuteronomy 7:16; 20:12, 14-15, 17, etc.). The Koran actually teaches that violence should be a last resort (Surah 2:192; 4:90). It also teaches that relationships with non-Muslim nations should be peaceful (Surah 49:13) and that there should be permanent peace (Surah 8:61; 10:25).

So, the Koran does not teach Muslims to kill non-Muslims. The truth is that it teaches defensive war against those who are murdering Muslims. The 9/11 hijackers thus had no right to kill almost 3,000 innocent people. The Koran has over 100 verses that make this clear. Indeed, Mohamed Elmasry wrote that, "The Prophet and his successors, whenever they sent out an army, gave soldiers clear instructions not to attack civilians—such as women, children, the elderly, and religious people engaged in worship—nor to destroy the enemy's property, crops or animals."³

The history of Islam and Muhammad shows that he was a prophet of God and that he did not spread his religion at the tip of the sword.⁴

The Koran and Women

Unfortunately, many people claim that the Koran teaches that men can abuse women. The truth though is that God's laws in the Koran about how men should treat women are no more harsh than those found in the Bible.⁵ The Koran even forbids unkindness to one's wife (Surah 4:19).

Surah 4:34 deals with this subject. It states:

Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has given the one more (strength) than the other. . . . As to those women on whose part you fear disloyalty and ill-conduct, admonish them (first), (next) do not share their beds, (and last) beat (tap) them (lightly); but if they return to obedience, seek not against them means (of annoyance) . . .

Many critics of Islam claim that this verse states that Muslim men can hit their wives in some situations. The correct translation of Surah 4:34-35 and other verses in the Koran and the authentic *Ahadith* (plural of *Hadith*) teach that a man should never hit his wife. He may though give her a symbolic tap if she repeatedly commits wicked and rebellious acts. Such acts are much worse than common marital disagreements.^{6 7} The authentic *Ahadith* teach that one cannot strike a woman's face or cause her bodily harm. A husband is not even supposed to get verbally abusive. Any strike that leaves any type of mark violates God's Law. This light tap is a symbolic gesture to bring attention to the gravity of the problem. But this is no longer part of God's Law as Bahá'u'lláh has revealed it.

The prophet Muhammad taught that a husband should not hit his wife. He is the exemplar of the faith, so, since he never resorted to such an act himself, Muslims certainly should do as he did.⁸ The prophet also taught that a man should look for the good in his wife, instead of dwelling on her faults (*Sahih Muslim*). If the symbolic tap does not work, verse 4:35 instructs Muslims to get help from other family members. Surah 2:231 even states: “. . . retain them in kindness or set them free with kindness and retain them not for injury so that you exceed the limits. And whoever does this, he indeed wrongs his own soul” (*English Translation of the Holy Quran*, by Muhammad Ali). The prophet Muhammad actually taught that a man must be most kind and courteous to his wife.⁹ Indeed, if a husband does injure his wife, she can take him to court, and, if she has just cause, she may even divorce him.

Critics also claim that Islam forbids the education of women. The Koran though does not forbid it. In fact, some Muslim writings state that women are to be educated. For instance, in the *Sayings of the Prophet* it states: “He who has a slave-girl and teaches her good manners and improves her education and then manumits [frees] and marries her, will get a double reward; and any slave who observes Allah's right and his master's right will get a double reward” (See also: Surah 35:28; 39:9). Consider also how slavery was eliminated in places where Islam spread. Indeed, the true Muslim religion allows women to attain the highest degree of education they desire.¹⁰

The truth is that the Mosaic Law, in the Torah, has a number of very shocking teachings in it,

and yet, Christian ministers do not complain about them. 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 says women should keep quiet in church. The laws in the Koran are thus like those in the Torah and the New Testament. The truth is that the Koran does not teach that women are to be dominated by men. Surah 58:1 even teaches that a woman has the right to tell an authority that her husband is abusive.

The Koran and the Bible

The Koran was given to mankind for an important purpose. Some scholars though claim that the Koran contradicts the Bible. The truth though is that most of the examples they cite are in harmony with the Bible. Although there seem to be some contradictions, this is probably because the Bible is in error or the statements are taken literally, when they were probably meant to be understood in a symbolic manner.

It is true that many of the laws in the Koran are different from those in the Bible; however, this is because—as mentioned—different times, places, peoples, and astrological periods can require different religious systems. Recall, for instance, that Jesus set forth a different set of laws for mankind than Moses did for the Israelites. In fact, it makes sense that some people are not ready for certain teachings and responsibilities. This does not mean that there is no absolute truth. It means that teachings have been withheld until humanity is ready for them. It is the milk before meat concept found in 1 Corinthians 3:2 and Hebrews 5:12-13.

Humanity itself has been gradually maturing. Look at the knowledge of technology, science, history, and so on, that man has gained. Yet also look at how mankind has misused it. Still, we will gain far more knowledge in the future. But we must learn to use it properly, instead of using it for death and destruction.

The Bible seems to contradict the Koran about Jesus' birth, purpose, and nature. There are also accounts of Jesus in the Koran that are not found in the Bible. But this does not mean that they are false. For example, Surah 19:23-27 says that Mary gave birth to Jesus under a palm tree. However, this is not actually a problem. Certainly, Jesus could have been born in a cave used as a stable, which had a palm tree growing over it.¹¹

The Koran though does not mention that Joseph was with Mary when she gave birth to Jesus. But Joseph was still with her. It also states: "And if thou meetest any mortal, say: Lo! I have vowed a fast unto the Beneficent, and may not speak this day to any mortal" (Pickthal). Joseph was still with her. She did not meet Joseph that night. They met long before. She did meet shepherds that night. She thus did not speak with them. The Koran also states that Mary went to a remote place after she conceived Jesus. This just refers to her journey from Nazareth (where she conceived Jesus) to Bethlehem.

Then there is Surah 19:88-92. It states that Jesus is not God's "son." Christians, of course, claim that this contradicts the biblical doctrine that Jesus is the "Son of God." But what the Koran is actually saying here is that the egg Jesus came from was not fertilized by God's sperm through sex, or any other means. So, what does the Bible mean when it says that Jesus is the Son of God?

The Bible states that Jesus is not God's only son, for it refers to the angels as the "sons of God" (e.g., Genesis 6:2; Job 38:7). In fact, Luke 3:38 calls Adam God's "son," and John 1:12 says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name . . ." (KJV). Romans 8:14-19 even says that Christians are the heirs of God. The Bible also calls the nation of Israel God's "son" (Exodus 4:22). Jesus was

God's firstborn Son in heaven, as documented in Chapter 12. This means that Jesus Christ was the first being created by God. This creation though did not happen through sexual intercourse.

Now, some important doctrines in the Koran that may surprise you are: Jesus was a true prophet of God, was born of a virgin, and would come again in the future; the Torah is God's word along with the Gospels and Psalms; and the Koran says that Jesus prophesied about the coming of Muhammad.¹² The Koran even tells Muslims to read the Bible.¹³ However, there is still one major difficulty: Christians often claim that Surah 4:157 states that Jesus was not crucified. The correct translations of this verse though based on certain biblical and historical facts show that that idea is false.

The Koran: the Crucifixion and the Resurrection

Here is the verse in question, which concerns the crucifixion:

. . . and for [the Jews] saying, "We killed the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, the Apostle of Allah"—though they did not kill him nor did they crucify him, but so it was made to appear to them. Indeed those who differ concerning him are surely in doubt about him; they do not have any knowledge of that beyond following conjectures, and certainly they did not kill him." (Surah 4:157 'Ali Quli Qara'i)

Unfortunately, most Muslims claim this verse states that Jesus was not crucified. The truth though is that the nails were driven into his body while his consciousness was outside of it. He thus made his body look during that time like his mind was still within it. The Christ then became crucified when he entered his body while it was hanging upon the cross. Manifestations of God are thus not confined to their bodies. They can leave them to travel throughout the universe, and then return to them at will. Jesus Christ was killed by the spiritual weight of sin and death that was upon him. He did not die from natural causes. Thus the Jews did not kill him. Normally, it took two or three days to die on a cross, yet Jesus died in just three hours.

The four Gospels and Paul's writings state that Jesus died on the cross. Some people claim though that Jesus survived his crucifixion, but that as you will see was not possible. Others claim that Jesus' disciples stole his body from the tomb, but that also as you will see was not possible. Here is the evidence:

First off, if Jesus survived the crucifixion, he would have been in such a bad state of health that he could not have convinced anyone that he had been resurrected from the dead. He also could not have stood and walked with his disciples only three days after his crucifixion and the spear wound to his side. Furthermore, leading forensic pathologists have shown that he could not have survived the combination of being flogged, beaten, crucified, and stabbed by a spear. This spear wound was fatal because it caused pericardial and pleural effusion, a liquid that looks like "water," and then a lot of blood to come out from his heart being punctured (John 19:34). Not only that, any Roman soldier who took a person down from a cross before that person was actually dead would himself be killed for doing so.¹⁴

And eyewitnesses give more evidence for the resurrection. The New Testament states that hundreds of people testified that they saw Jesus ascend into heaven after his resurrection. These accounts cannot be explained as hallucinations or group think on the part of the witnesses, and they are far too early to be due to legends. Paul even wrote that these eyewitnesses continued to testify to other Christians and investigators for many years and in many cases for decades after

the crucifixion. Even Jesus' non-believing brother James and the Jewish persecutor of Christians named Saul (later known as Paul) were transformed by their encounters with the risen Lord. These people, in fact, had no motive to invent a false story about the resurrection. This is because their testimonies brought upon them suffering, persecution, imprisonment, and martyrdom.¹⁵

Did the disciples of Jesus steal his body from the tomb? Some people claim that the tomb of Jesus was found in 1980 in the Talpiot suburb of Jerusalem. Dating to the first century, it contained ossuaries inscribed with names in Aramaic, Hebrew, and Greek, which a few scholars claimed referred to Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Jesus, and a few other theoretical family members. However, this theory has since been debunked by the scholarly community.¹⁶

The Bible states that Jesus' body never decayed. For instance, Acts 2:31 states that, "[concerning] the resurrection of the Christ, . . . he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption . . ." (RSV, See also: Acts 13:34-37). Thus, because the New Testament says there were guards posted at the tomb of Jesus, as confirmed by ancient Jewish writings, his disciples probably did not steal his body from it.¹⁷ This is supported by the fact that the earliest Christians used terminology to refer to the resurrection of Jesus Christ that meant a literal bodily resurrection from the dead. It thus could not have referred to a spiritual resurrection. This was also taught in creeds that date within a few years after the crucifixion.¹⁸

Furthermore, during the early to mid-first century, each Jewish convert to Christianity would have been rejected not only by his family but also by the entire community. They also had been taught by their rabbis that they would go to hell if they left the Jewish faith. Also, the early Christian Church was headquartered in Jerusalem, where many people lived who had heard Jesus teach and had seen him work miracles. Certainly, if the early Church had taught falsehoods about his teachings and miracles, many of these eyewitnesses would have attacked the early Church—but remarkably they did not.¹⁹

The Shroud of Turin: Proof that the Messiah was Crucified

According to forensic evidence on the Shroud of Turin—the cloth that the body of Jesus was wrapped in for three days in the tomb—Jesus was dead from right before his spear wound until his resurrection on the first day of the week.²⁰ Although there has been much debate about this shroud's date of origin, the scientific studies show that the shroud is, indeed, from the early first century. Historical sources even prove that there was a shroud with the image of Jesus upon it that existed from the first century clear into the fourteenth century.^{21 22}

The first example of scientific evidence that the shroud is authentic is that it contains pollen spores that are only found in Palestine (such as, *Nyoscyamus aureus*, *Artemisia herba-alba*, and *Onosma syriacum*). It also contains traces of the type of cotton found in the Middle East, but not in Europe. These traces of cotton came from the preceding work done upon the loom the shroud was made upon, which had left a detectable residue. The shroud is even made of linen with the dimensions expected for such a cloth made in Palestine at the time of Jesus. It even has the twill design of first century Syrian weave.²³

The shroud was carbon-14 dated in 1988 to about the fourteenth century. But it was proven in 2005 that the sample taken from it to be radiocarbon dated was from an area that was repaired during the sixteenth century. The section that was radiocarbon dated was thus composed of a mixture of first century and sixteenth century fibers that gave an average date of about the fourteenth century. Because the shroud's lignin lacks vanillin, the shroud is probably between

1,300 and 3,000 years old and no less than 840 years old.²⁴ Also, two chemical tests that measured the degradation of the cellulose in the shroud's fibers and one mechanical test that measured the compressibility and strength of those fibers date the shroud to between 218 B.C. and A.D. 283.²⁵

The original debate involved the color of the stains. This is because normal blood would not have left a reddish stain on the shroud; instead, it would have left a brownish stain. This problem has been resolved though because under extreme torture, like that Jesus went through, the body will produce a high amount of bilirubin, which will then mix with mehaemoglobin in the blood, and this would cause such a stain to remain a reddish color over time, instead of the brownish color that would normally occur. This claim was confirmed by tests that detected a very high level of bilirubin in the shroud's bloodstains.

Furthermore, in 1995, Genoa's Institute of Legal Medicine determined that the stains contained DNA, which gave the final proof that they were indeed from blood. After this, Dr. Victor Tyron and Nancy Tyron of Texas University's Center for Advanced DNA Technologies were not only able to prove that this DNA was indeed human but also that it came from a male. These stains even show how the person wrapped in the shroud died. It is seen that every detail about Jesus' torture and crucifixion is confirmed by the nature of these stains. There is even no natural explanation for how the image on the shroud could have been made. This suggests that the image was made supernaturally when Jesus was resurrected.²⁶

The Divine Nature of Jesus

The Koran states that Jesus was a prophet like Muhammad. And it also states that Jesus was not the same person as God the Father, but was instead a Lens through which His light was focused. This does not contradict the Bible. Chapter 12 proves that the Bible states that Jesus Christ is not God the Father and that instead Jesus Christ is His firstborn Son.

Surah 19:30 states: "Jesus says, 'I am the slave of Allah! He hath given me the Scripture and hath appointed me a prophet.'" Surah 5:75 states, "The Messiah, son of Mary, was only a messenger; messengers before him had indeed passed away." But the Koran also states that Jesus died and was "raised to life" (Surah 19:33, See also: 3:54). These verses thus teach that although Jesus was but a prophet and a messenger (like unto those who came before him), he was also the "Messiah." The Old Testament calls each angel of God a "messenger," and Chapter 12 proves that Jesus is indeed an angel (the "messenger of Yahweh"), who incarnated to save mankind.

Is Allah God?

Now, the name Allah throughout its history has been used to refer to the one Supreme God and Creator; therefore, it is a fitting Arabic name for the True God. Of course, some Christians claim that Allah is a Pagan moon god, but that idea is false, as the following verse from the Koran confirms, "Adore not the sun and the moon but adore Allah who created them . . ." (Surah 41:37). Furthermore, Allah was never identified with any of the 360 idols of the pre-Muslim Arab Pagans. These people knew the Supreme Being as Allah.

Also, the Koran states that Abraham condemned the worship of plural gods (Surah 6:74-79). It should also be pointed out that the lunar calendar of the Muslims had nothing to do with moon worship. It was just their way of measuring time—as was the lunar-solar calendar of the Jews.²⁷ One of the biblical names for God is Elohim in Hebrew, Alaha in Aramaic, and Allah in Arabic.

Arabic Christians thus called God “Allah,” even before the time of Muhammad. This section thus proves that Allah is God.²⁸

Science and the Koran

The Koran contains scientific facts that were unknown when it was written during the seventh century. Thus this witnesses that the Koran is God’s word. For instance, it states that the female bee leaves the hive in search of food (Surah 16:68-69). This is surprising because it takes modern science to distinguish between a male and female bee. Furthermore, Surah 55:19-20 mentions two seas that meet but do not intermingle, and only recently was it discovered that the Mediterranean Sea is separated from the Atlantic Ocean by a natural water barrier, due to the fact that they each have a different temperature, salinity, and density. The Koran even has information on human embryology that has startled some scientists.^{29 30}

Moreover, Surah 53:45 says that a man’s semen determines the sex of a child. And although this was written long before genetics was understood, it is still correct: for the male provides the X or Y chromosome that determines sex, not the woman. Surah 41:11 even states that the universe came from a “gaseous material,” and science has since proven that the universe was formed from huge clouds of hydrogen and helium. Surah 21:30 even describes the Big Bang, and Surah 51:47 states that the universe is expanding.³¹

Many other surprising scientific facts are in the glorious Koran, which also gives many remarkable prophecies that later came to pass. But these matters will not be addressed any further in this book.³²

The Miraculous Number Code of the Koran

The Koran has surprising sacred number codes in it in Arabic that are just as startling as those that Bonnie Gaunt and others have found within the Bible in Hebrew.³³ The number nineteen in the Koran like the number nine in the Bible points to the Bahá’í Faith. This is because it points to the Bahá’í system of Feasts every nineteen days (once every Bahá’í month), to the nineteen months of the Bahá’í year, and to the nineteen years of the Bahá’í cycle, each year having a different name. So here are some examples of how the number nineteen is encoded in the Holy Koran:

The first verse of the Koran has 19 letters. Interestingly enough, the Koran also has 114 different Surahs and 19 multiplied by 6 equals 114. Then there is the total of 6,346 verses in the Koran, which is 19 multiplied by 334, and numerologically 6,346 adds up to 19 ($6 + 3 + 4 + 6 = 19$). Furthermore, the first revelation in the Koran has 19 words and 76 letters and $19 \times 4 = 76$. When the Surahs are placed in chronological order, the first one has 19 verses and is the first of the last 19 Surahs as ordered in the Koran. This Surah also has 304 letters, which is 19×16 . There are even thirty different numbers in the Koran, and they add up to 162,146, which is $19 \times 8,534$.

Likewise, the word “Koran” occurs in the holy record 57 times and $19 \times 3 = 57$. Also, Surahs 42 and 50 each have the same number of Q’s (57); indeed, each Surah has initials, and only these two Surahs have initials that contain the letter Q. The Koran, in Surah 50, calls itself *Majid*, which has a gematric value of 57. Surah 50 also has 45 verses. Those two numbers thus add up to 95, which again points to 19 since $19 \times 5 = 95$. Furthermore, Surah 42 has 53 verses, and those

two numbers also add up to 95. Also, when the number of Q's in each verse 19 are summed, the total is 76 and $19 \times 4 = 76$. In fact, "God" is found 2,698 times in the Koran and $19 \times 142 = 2,698$. And finally, the Koran uses the word *Wahid*—meaning "one"—to refer to God's unity 19 times.

The number 19 though is also special for other reasons: For instance, it is a prime number that is only divisible by 19 and 1. It also represents the "beginning and end" of our number system (1 and 9)—two numbers that also imply unity (as Bahá'u'lláh stood for). How the number 1 implies unity is obvious. Nine, on the other hand, implies the highest form of unity because it is the highest single digit number. These two numbers even look similar in all of the world's languages (unlike the other numbers). Also, in the three scriptural languages of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Arabic, the words for "one" each have a gematria value of 19.³⁴

The number 19 is even found throughout the universe. For instance, there are 38 weeks (266 days) on average from conception to birth, and both of these numbers are divisible by 19 ($19 \times 2 = 38$ and $19 \times 14 = 266$). Also, the human skeleton has exactly 209 individual bones and $19 \times 11 = 209$.³⁵ Then there is the fact that all life on earth is formed from 19 types of left handed amino acids and one type that is neutral. And when the number of protons in each of the 81 stable elements are summed, it equals 3,382 protons and $19 \times 178 = 3,382$. Also, elements 43 and 61 are not found in nature and are unstable when synthesized in the lab. This is then reflected in Surahs 43 and 61, which are also very unique (along with only one other—Surah 13). Indeed, the sum of the number of verses in Surahs 43 and 61 plus their Surah numbers are each multiples of 19 (19×7 and 19×4 , respectively). Moreover, counting inclusively, there are 19 elements from the unstable element 43 to the unstable element 61.

Now, some elements come in only one isotope. Therefore, more evidence that the Koran is from God is that there are only 19 such elements, which all have odd atomic numbers. Likewise, some elements come in only two isotopes, and interestingly enough, there are again only 19 such elements, which also all have odd atomic numbers. Also, Potassium, which is the 19th element on the Periodic Table, is the only odd element that has more than two isotope forms. Likewise, Surah 19 is preceded by an initial that is more complicated than any of the others. Also, it is the only Surah that goes into some detail about the virgin birth of Jesus. And finally, 38 elements have both more than two isotope forms and even atomic numbers ($19 \times 2 = 38$). Again, more examples could be given. This section thus proves that the number 19 is hidden in many places in the Koran.³⁶

Surah 74:30-31 explains why the number nineteen is so important. It states:

Above it are nineteen. We have appointed only angels to be wardens of the fire [Hell], and their number have We made to be a stumbling-block for those who disbelieve; that those to whom the Scripture hath been given may have certainty, and that believers may increase in faith; and that those to whom the Scripture hath been given and believers may not doubt; and that those in whose hearts there is disease, and disbelievers, may say: What meaneth Allah by this similitude? Thus Allah sendeth astray whom He will, and whom He will He guideth. None knoweth the hosts of thy Lord save Him. This is naught else than a Reminder unto mortals. (*The Meaning of the Glorious Koran, An Explanatory Translation, by Mohammed Marmaduke Pickthall, Brackets mine*)

This means the number nineteen in the Koran would be a sign to future generations. Indeed, this number is encoded in the Koran to point to Bahá'u'lláh's system of feasts every nineteen days, his nineteen month year, and his nineteen-year cycle. Thus this number is encoded in the Koran to point to the Bahá'í Faith. This religion is the New Jerusalem that will create world peace; indeed, the Koran and the Bible point to this religion.

Seal of the Prophets

The Koran states that Muhammad was the “Seal of the Prophets” (Surah 33:40). According to Muslims, this means that God would not send another prophet after Muhammad. But this is not true. A seal is an authenticating stamp in wax on a written document to show who sent it and to make it obvious if it had been opened by the wrong person. His nature was like a seal that proved that he was sent by God.

What about the verses from the *Ahadith* that say: “The prophethood and the institutions of Divine Messengers has come to an end with me; there will be after me neither any messenger nor any apostle or any prophet”? And, “I am the last prophet and the mosque I am constructing is the last mosque”? Well, the truth is that the *Ahadith* are not inerrant. The first quote though probably refers to how the Christian Church had come to an end in A.D. 570. Also, until the end of the Naros cycle that began with Muhammad, there would be “after [him] neither any messenger nor any apostle or any prophet.” Likewise, just as the Bible refers to Christianity as a “temple,” the second quote refers to the religion of Islam as a “mosque”—the “last mosque” or true religion of the Naros cycle that began with Muhammad. Muhammad was thus the “last prophet” of that Naros cycle.

The Koran supports these claims. It states that there would be messengers of God after Muhammad: “O Children of Adam! there shall come to you Apostles from among yourselves, rehearsing my signs to you” (Surah 7:34). This translation is correct. Also, the other interpretations have been disproven. The Koran even states that the Age of Muhammad would be finite (Surah 7:33; 13:38; 23:43). Indeed, the Koran states that Muhammad was equal to the past Manifestations of God. This suggests that, like them, he would be followed by future prophets (Surah 2:136, 285; 3:84; 4:152).³⁷

Bahá'u'lláh taught that all of the Manifestations of God were the “Seal of the Prophets”:

And were they [the Manifestations of God] all to proclaim: “I am the Seal of the Prophets,” they verily utter but the truth, beyond the faintest shadow of doubt. For they are all but one person, one soul, one spirit, one revelation. They are all the manifestation of the “Beginning” and the “End,” the “First” and the “Last” . . .
(*Kitáb-i-Iqán*, p. 179)

Each Manifestation of God is like a mirror that reflects the Light of God. And although each Manifestation of God is a different mirror, the same image of God is seen in each of them. There is only one Christ, and It has been seen in the flawless mirror of each Great Prophet's soul. All the Manifestations of God are the Christ. The Christ is their nature, or Seal, that proves that they were sent by God.

They are all thus the “image of God” mentioned in Colossians 1:15 and 2 Corinthians 4:4. They are all mirrors reflecting God's Light, as is made clear in 2 Corinthians 3:18, which says, “.

. . . as in a mirror the glory of the Lord [may be seen] . . .” (NKJV Brackets mine). In fact, Hebrews 1:3 also supports this by saying that, “[Jesus] reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature . . .” (RSV). But they did not just reflect God’s Light; they also each emanated inner Divine Light.

Conclusion

True Islam is a peaceful religion. Muhammad did not spread his religion at the tip of the sword. That was done by Muslims after his death. Women in true Islam are treated well and are allowed to attain an education. The Koran has scientific support, and Allah is the Arabic name for God. The Koran has a code based on the number nineteen, which points to the Bahá’í Faith. There are no significant contradictions between the Bible and the Koran. The Koran even states that Jesus was the Messiah, and it does not deny that he was crucified. Muhammad was the Seal of the Prophets, but this does not mean that he was the last prophet.

The Shroud of Turin dates to the time of Jesus. Forensic evidence even proves that it came from Palestine, as first century to fourteenth century accounts confirm. The Bible and the Shroud of Turin prove not only that Jesus died on the cross but also that he was resurrected. This was when resurrection was considered to be impossible. The word resurrection used in the New Testament even meant a bodily resurrection, not a spiritual one. The witnesses to Jesus Christ’s resurrection received no earthly reward for their testimonies. Instead, they faced persecution, imprisonment, and death.

¹ John L. Esposito, “Does the Quran Condone Terrorism?” *What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), 119-122.

² Ansar Al Adl, “Misquotes of Quran? Corrected!” *Islamic News Room*, 17 March 2014, Retrieved from: <http://islamnewsroom.com/news-we-need/329-quranmisquotes#1> 17 August 2014

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