

Muhammad (pbuh) in Bible Prophecies

By
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A respectable and enlightened Christian friend invited me to a retreat South of Denver for four days. I went there with expectations of fellowship, reconciliation and closer understanding between a follower of Jesus and this follower of Islam. While I never felt that any contradictions exist between the principles taught by the two, I knew that the people that follow them can have conflicting views. Hence my work for reconciliation is always aimed at building bridges and bringing the two groups closer together.

One evening we were having a conversation and at one point, I felt that as far as my learned friend is concerned the only true Book is the Bible and Jesus is the only truth that we need to accept for our salvation. He asked what new ideas Mohammad brought. The Qur'an, he said, is a collection of events based on the Old and the New Testament, which are inaccurately told. This statement left me in a state of shock.

I respect my friend's beliefs and recognize Jesus as Christ, a miracle and a sign from God. At the same time, my friend sees Mohammad as an imposter claiming to be a prophet that received revelations, while all along he was plagiarizing the Bible.

How can I ignore the fact that the Qur'an is a miracle given to Muhammad which mesmerized the Arabs every time they heard it recited, and that it still has the same influence today on people that understand Arabic, that its teachings still influence the lives of hundreds of millions around the world?

Most of my Christian friends, with whom I am continuously trying to build bridges of understanding, deny Mohammad's prophethood. The Old Testament has hundreds of prophets that Christians readily accept, without accurate knowledge of who they are, while they are not ready to even consider that Mohammad is a prophet. What is it exactly that prevents a perfectly reasonable person from seeing that this man, Muhammad, struggled for a life time to bring faith, in the One God, to a community of idol-worshipping Bedouins. Mohammad, was responsible for bringing into being a world-wide community of millions of believers who, on his authority, believe in God and the miraculous birth of Jesus, that Jesus is Christ (the Messiah¹), that he spoke as a new born², created a bird

¹ The word "Messiah" comes from the Arabic and Hebrew word masaha which means to rub, to anoint. The religious significance is "the one who is anointed". Priests and kings were anointed in consecration to their offices. Messiah translated Christ.

² The Qur an 19:25, 19:31

from clay, healed the blind and the leper and brought back the dead to life by God's permission³.

Suddenly I recalled many conversations with many Evangelical friends concerning whether Mohammad is mentioned in Biblical prophecies. During these conversations, I thought that I presented in a very convincing manner, that Mohammad was a prophet. But regardless of how convincing I was, my friends were not convinced. For Allah has told us in the Qur'an: "You cannot guide everyone you love to the truth; it is God who guides whoever He wills. He knows best those who will follow guidance"⁴. Enlightenment is His and He chooses those He wants to entrust with it. This actually convinced me to change my attitude. I know now that faith has very little to do with logic. I no longer hope to convince anyone; rather I use prayers and sincere wishes and hope for God's guidance (hidaya in Arabic).

Having said this, my faith in reconciliation and bridge building between Christians and Muslim in the United States is as strong as ever. We have to tolerate each other if we are to live in peace on this planet. We are neighbors and we both believe in the commandment to love God and to love neighbors. Hence the necessity to put forward, in front of my friends, my understanding of what the Bible says about Mohammad, hoping to further demonstrate the common foundation, the common ancestry and the message continuity from Judaism to Christianity and into Islam. The purpose is that we may all be exposed and to learn from the similarities between these Abrahamic faiths and to use these ideas to foster a reconciliation effort that can bring peace to all of God's children.

When I ask an Evangelical friend "What does the Bible say about Muhammad⁵?" The answer is usually "Nothing!"

The question is: "Why nothing? According to Evangelical interpretations, the Bible has so many things to say about everything to the extent that some believe it possible to know future events if you carefully consider its prophecies. Some claim that it foretold the fall of the Soviet Union, the invasion of Iraq and even the rebirth of the state of Israel and the second coming of Christ exact timing and place." They admit it does all of this but they say it says nothing about Mohammad!

"Why nothing? Modern historians agree that Muhammad adopted various monotheistic traditions in an effort to replace the common polytheistic religions of the Arabian Peninsula, eventually gaining wide acceptance as a prophet. Modern western historians⁶, contrary to the traditional prevailing views in the west, have

³ Ibid 3:50

⁴ Qur'an Al Qasas 28:56

⁵ The original case was made by the late Ahmed Dedat in his book the Choice in 1993

⁶ Karen Armstrong, Muhammad: A Biography Of The Prophet. Harper Collins Publishers, 1993

concluded that Muhammad was both devout and sincere in his claim of receiving revelation, "for this alone makes credible the development of a great religion⁷."

Surely the Bible, must have something to say about this great leader of men who spoke so well of Jesus and his mother Mary?" (Peace be upon them both).

The usual reply is: "I've been reading the Bible for many years, and if there was any mention of him, I would have known it"

"Do you agree that there are hundreds of prophecies regarding the coming of Jesus in the Old Testament?" I enquire. "Yes, hundreds⁸." I continue, "The whole Muslim-world has already accepted Jesus without the testimony of any Biblical prophecy. We Muslims have accepted Jesus as the Messiah, The Christ, on the authority of the Qur'an, the book revealed to Muhammad, and there are, in the world today, over a billion of Muhammad's followers who love, respect and revere Jesus, without needing any Christian to convince them."

Out of the 'hundreds' of prophecies referred to, can you please find just one single prophecy where Jesus is mentioned by name? Is there a single prophecy where it says that the name of the Messiah will be JESUS, and that his mother's name will be Mary; that he will be born in the reign of Herod the King, etc? No! There are no such details! Then how is it possible to conclude that those hundreds of prophecies refer to Jesus?

Biblical Prophecies, as they were explained to me by my Christian friends, are predictions or word pictures of something that is going to happen in the future. When a particular event actually comes to pass, we will see vividly the fulfillment of what had been predicted in the past.

If we accept this assumption, we will actually be looking for interpretations, deductions, reasoning, putting one and one together. If this is what we have to do with 'hundreds' of prophecies to justify the claim with regards to Jesus, why should we not adopt the very same system for Muhammad? This should be a fair proposition and a reasonable way of dealing with the issue.

There is a well known argument Muslims scholars use to show what The Bible said about Muhammad. It was often presented in many contexts and I choose to present it as follows:

In Deuteronomy, chapter 18, verse 18 (the fifth Book of the Christian and Jewish Bibles) the English translation reads as follows:

"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren,

⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophet_Mohammad

⁸ there are more than 300 by most reputable accounts although Jewish rabbinical scholars recognized approximately 475 such passages.

***like unto thee,
and I will put my words in his mouth;
and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him⁹.***

(The BIBLE)

Deuteronomy 18:18

PROPHET LIKE MOSES

To whom does this prophecy about a future **prophet** refer? JESUS? Let us see, as his name is not mentioned here. Actually I assume that the most important words of this prophecy are “a prophet” and “like unto thee”, a prophet like Moses, is Jesus a prophet? And is he like Moses? In which way is Jesus like Moses?

In the first place Moses was Jewish, as was Jesus; secondly, Moses brought to his people the Torah, a new covenant between God and the Jewish people, while Jesus brought the Injeel¹⁰ (the Gospel) considered by the Christians a new covenant based on forgiveness and love.

Moses freed his people from slavery to the Egyptians while Jesus freed his people from slavery to sin and to a particular interpretation of the law.¹¹

However, after carefully considering the matter, my conclusion is that Jesus is most unlike Moses.

THREE DISSIMILARITIES

In the **FIRST** place, Jesus is not like Moses, because, according to Christians ‘JESUS IS (Son of?) GOD’, but Moses is not God, therefore Jesus is not like Moses!

SECONDLY, according to Christians — ‘JESUS DIED FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD’, but Moses did not have to die for the sins of the world. Therefore Jesus is not like Moses!

⁹ All Bible quotations are from: The holy Bible, King James version

¹⁰ Qur’an,5:046 And in their footsteps We sent Jesus the son of Mary, confirming the Law that had come before him: We sent him the Evangel: therein was guidance and light, and confirmation of the Law that had come before him: a guidance and an admonition to those who fear God.

¹¹ The New Testament, Mark 2:27, Matthew 12:12, John 7:23. The Qur’an, 003.050
“(I have come to you), to attest the Law which was before me. And to make lawful to you part of what was (Before) forbidden to you;

THIRDLY, according to Christians - '*JESUS WENT TO HELL FOR THREE DAYS*¹²', but Moses did not have to go there. Therefore, I conclude that Jesus is not like Moses!

These however, are not hard facts; they are arbitrarily chosen matters of belief. Let us now consider eight common sense, simple arguments that others will have no difficulty in following and accepting. These eight arguments are well know by Muslims that are familiar with interfaith discussions and used widely by them they are as follows:

COMMON SENSE ARGUMENTS

1. **“FATHER AND MOTHER:** Moses had a father and a mother. Muhammad also had a father and a mother. But Jesus had only a mother, and no human father.

THEREFORE JESUS IS NOT LIKE MOSES. BUT MUHAMMAD IS LIKE MOSES!

2. **MIRACULOUS BIRTH:** Moses and Muhammad were born in a normal, natural course, i.e. the physical association of man and woman; but Jesus was created by a miracle.

We are told in the Gospel of Matthew 1:18:

"... BEFORE THEY CAME TOGETHER, (Joseph the Carpenter and Mary) SHE WAS FOUND WITH CHILD BY THE HOLY GHOST."

And Luke tells us that when the good news of the birth of a holy son was announced to her, Mary reasoned:

"... HOW SHALL THIS BE, SEEING I KNOW NOT A MAN? AND THE ANGEL ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HER, THE HOLY GHOST SHALL COME UPON THEE, AND THE POWER OF THE HIGHEST SHALL OVERSHADOW THEE ..." (Luke 1:34,35).

The Holy Qur'an confirms the miraculous birth of Jesus, in nobler and sublime terms. In answer to her logical question: *"My Lord! How shall I have a son when no man has touched me?"* the angel said in reply: *'This is how God creates what He will: when He has ordained something, He but says "BE", and it is!'* (Qur'an 3:47). It is not necessary for God to plant a seed in Mary. He merely wills it and it comes into being. This is the Muslim conception of the birth of Jesus.

¹² ...He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison (1 Pet 3:18-19)

The Apostle's Creed. A portion of the creed affirms Jesus descent into hell

Jesus, in fact, was born miraculously as against the natural birth of Moses and Muhammad.

THEREFORE JESUS IS NOT LIKE MOSES, BUT MUHAMMAD IS LIKE MOSES.

3. **MARRIAGE TIES:** Moses and Muhammad married and begot children, but Jesus remained celibate all his life.

THEREFORE JESUS IS NOT LIKE MOSES, BUT MUHAMMAD IS LIKE MOSES."

4. **JESUS WAS REJECTED BY HIS PEOPLE:** Moses and Muhammad were accepted as prophets by their people in their very lifetime. No doubt the Jews gave endless trouble to Moses, but as a nation, as a whole, they acknowledged that Moses was a Messenger of God sent to them. The Arabs too made Muhammad's life impossible. He suffered at their hands. After 13 years of preaching in Mecca, he had to emigrate from the city of his birth. But in Medina, the Arabs as a whole accepted him as the Messenger of God.

But according to the Bible: *'HE (Jesus) CAME UNTO HIS OWN, BUT HIS OWN RECEIVED HIM NOT.'* (John 1:11). And even today, after two thousand years, his people — the Jews, as a whole, have rejected him.

THEREFORE JESUS IS NOT LIKE MOSES, BUT MUHAMMAD IS LIKE MOSES.

5. **"OTHER-WORLDLY" KINGDOM:** "Moses and Muhammad were prophets as well as kings. By prophet I mean one who receives divine revelations for the guidance of his people and maybe humanity in general depending on what God reveals and this guidance he conveys as received without any addition or deletion. While a king is a ruler who has the power to rule over his people. It is immaterial whether the person wears a crown or not, or whether he was ever addressed as king or monarch: if he has the prerogative of ruling his people based on a recognized set of laws, he is a king.

Moses possessed such a power. Do you remember the Israelite who was found picking up firewood on the Sabbath Day, and Moses had him stoned to death? (Numbers 15:36). Muhammad too, had the power to rule his people.

Both Moses and Mohammad were given laws to rule their people as kings in earthly kingdoms.

However, there are instances in the Bible of persons who were given the gift of prophecy, but they chose or maybe they were required to be passive and not to take aggressive actions. Some of these prophets who decided not to take aggressive action in the face of stubborn rejection of their message were the prophets Lot, Jonah, Daniel, Ezra and John the Baptist. They chose to only deliver the message. Jesus chose to fulfill his destiny and did not resist his oppressors.

The Gospel clearly confirms this. When Jesus was dragged before the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, charged with sedition, Jesus' defense was simply to inform his foes that his kingdom is not of this world:

'MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD': IF MY KINGDOM WERE OF THIS WORLD, THEN WOULD MY SERVANTS FIGHT, THAT I SHOULD NOT BE DELIVERED TO THE JEWS; BUT NOW IS MY KINGDOM NOT FROM HENCE' (John 18:36).

This convinced Pilate (a pagan) that Jesus was not a danger to his rule. Jesus claimed a spiritual kingdom only.

THEREFORE JESUS IS NOT LIKE MOSES BUT MUHAMMAD IS LIKE MOSES.

6. **NO NEW LAWS:** Moses and Muhammad brought new laws and new regulations for their people. Moses not only gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites, but a very comprehensive ceremonial law for the guidance of his people. Muhammad came to people steeped in ignorance. They married their step-mothers. They buried their daughters alive. Drunkenness, adultery, idolatry and gambling were the order of the day. The fact is that Muhammad gave his people a system of laws including jurisprudence/shari'a, economic, political as well as a system of worship that they had never had before.

As for Jesus, the Jewish political leaders felt suspicious of him that he might threaten their privileged position with the Romans while the religious leaders felt that he might pervert their teachings. Jesus took pains to assure them that he had not come with a new religion; no new laws and no new regulations.

'THINK NOT THAT I AM COME TO DESTROY THE LAW, OR THE PROPHETS: I AM NOT COME TO DESTROY, BUT TO FULFIL. FOR VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, TILL HEAVEN AND EARTH PASS, ONE JOT OR ONE TITTLE SHALL IN NO WISE PASS FROM THE LAW. TILL ALL BE FULFILLED; (Matthew 5:17-18).

In short, he did not bring a new law like Moses and Muhammad but he was the fulfillment of the law.

THEREFORE JESUS IS NOT LIKE MOSES BUT MUHAMMAD IS LIKE MOSES.

7. **HOW THEY DEPARTED:** Both Moses and Muhammad died natural deaths, but according to Christianity, Jesus was violently killed on the cross and was resurrected and he is now alive in heaven.

THEREFORE JESUS IS NOT LIKE MOSES BUT MUHAMMED IS LIKE MOSES.

8. **HEAVENLY ABODE:** "Moses and Muhammad both lay buried in earth, but according to the Bible, Jesus rests in heaven.

THEREFORE JESUS IS NOT LIKE MOSES BUT MUHAMMAD IS LIKE MOSES".

Further Proofs

ISHMAEL THE FIRST BORN

"So far what I have done is to prove only one point out of the whole prophecy — that is proving the phrase "**LIKE UNTO THEE**", 'like you', 'like Moses.' The prophecy is much more than this single phrase which reads as follows:

"I WILL RAISE THEM UP A PROPHET FROM AMONG THEIR BRETHREN LIKE UNTO THEE ..."

The emphasis is on the words — "**From among their brethren.**" Moses and his people, the Jews, are here addressed as a racial entity, and as such their 'brethren' undoubtedly are the Arabs. The Holy Bible speaks of Abraham as the "Friend of God". Abraham had two wives — Hagar and Sarah. Hagar bore Abraham a son — HIS FIRSTBORN:

'... And Abram' called HIS SON'S name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael.' (Genesis 16:15).

'And Abraham took Ishmael HIS SON ...' (Genesis 17:23).

'And Ishmael HIS SON was thirteen years old, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.' (Genesis 17:25).

Up to the age of THIRTEEN Ishmael was the ONLY son and seed of Abraham, when the covenant was ratified between God and Abraham. God grants Abraham another son through Sarah, named Isaac, who was very much the junior to his brother Ishmael.

ARABS AND JEWS

If Ishmael and Isaac are the sons of the same father Abraham, then they are brothers. And so the children of the one are the **brethren** of the children of the other. The children of Isaac are the Jews and the children of Ishmael are the Arabs — so they are **BRETHREN** to one another. The Bible affirms:

'AND HE (ISHMAEL) SHALL DWELL IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL HIS BRETHREN.' (Genesis 16:12).

'AND HE (ISHMAEL) DIED IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL HIS BRETHREN.' (Genesis 25:18).

The children of Isaac are the **brethren** of the Ishmaelites. In like manner Muhammad is from among the **brethren of the Israelites** because he was a descendant of Ishmael the son of Abraham.

This is exactly as the prophecy has it — '**FROM AMONG THEIR BRETHREN**'. (Deut. 18:18). There the prophecy distinctly mentions that the coming prophet who would be like Moses, must arise NOT from the 'children of Israel' or from 'among themselves', but from among their brethren. **MUHAMMAD WAS FROM AMONG THEIR BRETHREN!**

WORDS IN THE MOUTH

The prophecy proceeds further: '**...AND I WILL PUT MY WORDS INTO HIS MOUTH ...**'. What does it mean when it is said, 'I will put my words in his mouth'? If I asked some one to open Deuteronomy, chapter 18, verse 18 and if I ask him to read, would I be putting my words into his mouth? Of course not. But, if I teach some one a language like Arabic about which he has no knowledge, and if I asked him to repeat after me what I utter;

"قل هو الله احد"

SAY: HE IS ALLAH THE ONE AND ONLY;

الله الصمد

ALLAH, THE ETERNAL ABSOLUTE;

لم يلد ولم يولد

HE BEGETTETH NOT, NOR IS HE BEGOTTEN:

ولم يكن له كفوا احد"

AND THERE IS NONE LIKE UNTO HIM.
(SURA IKHLAS) Holy Qur'an 112:1-4

Would I not be putting these words of a foreign tongue which he utters, into his mouth?" Well, the words of the Holy Qur'an, the revelation given by the Almighty God to Muhammad were revealed in an identical manner.

History tells us that Muhammad was forty years of age and was meditating like he used to do every Ramadan¹³ in a cave on top of a mountain some three miles north of the City of Mecca called Ghar Hira'. It was the 17th night of the month when the Holy Spirit¹⁴ commands him in his mother tongue: *أقرأ* which means RECITE or READ. Muhammad, like some of the Hebrew prophets, who were also deeply reluctant to utter the Word of God, refused¹⁵. "I am not a reciter!" he insisted. But the angel simply "whelmed me in his embrace until I had reached the limits of my endurance¹⁶".

For the third time, the angel continues: *أقرأ باسم ربك الذي خلق* "Recite in the name of thy lord and cherisher, who created".

Now, Muhammad, grasps, that what was required of him was to repeat! To rehearse! And he repeats the words **as they were put into his mouth:**

أقرأ باسم ربك الذي خلق

*"RECITE! IN THE NAME OF THY LORD AND CHERISHER, WHO
CREATED-*

خلق الانسان من علق

CREATED MAN, FROM A (MERE) CLOT OF CONGEALED BLOOD:

أقرأ و رب الاكرم

RECITE! AND THY LORD IS MOST BOUNTIFUL, —

ألذي علم بالقلم

HE WHO TAUGHT (THE USE OF) THE PEN, -

علم الانسان ما لم يعلم

TAUGHT MAN THAT WHICH HE KNEW NOT."
(SURA 'ALAQ) Holy Qur'an 96:1-5

"With this revelation, Mohammad joined that group of individuals whom Semitic faiths acknowledge as divinely inspired messengers or prophets of God. Muhammad continued to receive divine revelations over a period of twenty-two years (610-632). These messages were finally collected and written down in the Qur'an (The Recitation"), Islam's sacred scripture¹⁷".

¹³ Ramadan is the 9th month of the Hijri year.

¹⁴ Arch angel Gabriel

¹⁵ Karen Armstrong, Muhammad, A Biography of The Prophet. Pp. 83

¹⁶ Muhammad ibn Ismai'l al-Bukhari, quoted in Martin Lings, Muhammad: His Life Based on the Earliest Sources (London, 1983) pp. 43-4

¹⁷ Islam The straight path, John L. Esposito Oxford University Press 1988 Pp. 8

This encounter with the Archangel Gabriel left Mohammad utterly terrified. "Mohammad came to himself in a state of terror and revulsion. The idea that he had, against his will, probably become possessed *Kahin* filled him with such despair, says the historian Tabari that he no longer wanted to go on living"¹⁸.

THE FAITHFUL WITNESS

Immediately after the angel had departed, Muhammad rushed down the mountain to his home. Terrified, shivering and sweating all over, he asked his beloved wife Khadija to 'cover him up!' He lay down, and she watched by him.

When he had regained his composure, he explained to her what he had seen and heard. She assured him of her trust that God would not allow any harm to come to him.

During the next twenty-three years of his prophetic life, words were '**put into his mouth**', and he uttered them. They made an indelible impression on his heart and mind: and as the volume of the Sacred Scripture (Holy Qur'an) grew, they were recorded on palm-leaf fiber, on skins and on the shoulder-blades of animals; and in the hearts of his devoted disciples. Before his demise, these words were arranged as per the order of the Holy Spirit not in the order they were revealed but in the order in which we find them today in the Holy Qur'an.

The words (revelation) were actually **put into his mouth**, exactly as foretold in the prophecy under discussion: '**AND I WILL PUT MY WORDS IN HIS MOUTH.**' (Holy bible) Deut. 18:18.

UN-LETTERED PROPHET

Muhammad's experience in the cave of Hira, later to be known as Jabal-un-Noor — The Mountain of Light, and his response to that first Revelation is the exact fulfillment of another Biblical prophecy. In the Book of Isaiah, chapter 29, verse 12, we read: "**AND THE BOOK**" (al-Kitaab, al-Qur'an — the 'Reading', the recitation') "**IS DELIVERED TO HIM THAT IS NOT LEARNED,**" *النبي الامي* the unlettered Prophet, Holy Qur'an 7:158)

"SAYING, READ THIS, I PRAY THEE:" (the words "I pray thee", are not in the Hebrew manuscripts, compare with the Roman Catholics' "Douay Version" and also with the "Revised Standard Versions") "**AND HE SAITH, I AM NOT LEARNED.**" ("**I am not learned.**" is the exact translation of the words *ما انا بقارئ* which words Muhammad uttered twice to the Holy Spirit¹⁹ — the Archangel Gabriel, when he was commanded "READ!").

¹⁸ Karen Armstrong, Muhammad, A Biography of The Prophet. Pp. 83

¹⁹ The Holy Spirit and The Trustworthy Spirit are terms used in the Qur'an to refer to the angel Gabriel.

Let me quote the verse in full without a break as found in the "King James Version," or the "Authorized Version" as it is more popularly known:

"AND THE BOOK IS DELIVERED TO HIM THAT IS NOT LEARNED, SAYING, READ THIS. I PRAY THEE: AND HE SAITH, I AM NOT LEARNED." (Holy bible) Isaiah 29:12.

It may be noted that there were no Arabic Bibles²⁰ in existence in the 6th Century of the Christian era when Muhammad lived and preached! Besides, he was absolutely unlettered and un-learned. No human had ever taught him a word. His teacher was his Creator —

*"HE DOES NOT SPEAK (AUGHT), OF (HIS OWN) DESIRE
IT IS NO LESS THAN INSPIRATION SENT DOWN TO HIM:
HE WAS TAUGHT BY ONE MIGHTY IN POWER,"*
Holy Qur'an 53:3-5

Without any human learning, 'he put to shame the wisdom of the learned'.

GRAVE WARNING

The prophecies fit Muhammad like a glove. We do not have to stretch prophecies to justify their fulfillment in Muhammad.

Remember my wise and enlightened friend who invited me to go with him to the Colorado retreat and never even considered giving Mohammad the benefit of the doubt? He and other Christian friends would say "All your hypothesis sound very nice, but they are of no real consequence, because we have Jesus Christ the "incarnate" God, who has redeemed us from the bondage of sin! I am saved because I gave my life to Jesus who died on the cross to ransom me. Your claims are not important. Why do we need another prophet when all the prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus?"

"Not important?" God did not think so! He went to a great deal of trouble to have His warnings recorded. God knew that there would be people who will take lightly His words, so He followed up Deuteronomy 18:18 with a dire warning in the very next verse:

"AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS," (it is going to happen) "THAT WHOSOEVER WILL NOT HEARKEN UNTO MY WORDS WHICH HE SHALL SPEAK IN MY

²⁰ There are today Arabic Bibles in fifteen different scripts and dialects for the Arabs alone. See "The Gospels in many tongues", a reproduction, in Book 1 of Vol. II under the heading "A MUSLIM DICTIONARY OF THE BIBLE."

NAME, I WILL REQUIRE IT OF HIM." (In the Catholic Bible the ending words are — "I will be the revenger", — I will take revenge!).

God Almighty is threatening revenge! This should really terrify any believer.

"MIRACLE OF MIRACLES

In the verse 19 of Deuteronomy chapter 18, we have a further fulfillment of the prophecy in Muhammad! Note the words - '**... MY WORDS WHICH HE SHALL SPEAK IN MY NAME,**' In whose name does Muhammad speak?" If one opens the Holy Qur'an, we will discover that every chapter starts with:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ **"IN THE NAME OF GOD, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL."** They all start with the same recitation²¹.

And what did the prophecy demand?"... **WHICH HE SHALL SPEAK IN MY NAME,**' and in whose name does Muhammad speak? **'IN THE NAME OF GOD. MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL.'** The Prophecy is being fulfilled in Muhammad to the letter!

"Every chapter of the Holy Qur'an except the 9th begins with the recitation

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ **IN THE NAME OF GOD, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL.'** The Muslim begins his every lawful act with the Holy recitation. But the Christian begins: "In the name of the Father, the son and the holy ghost."²²

We have listed so far fifteen reasons to prove that Deuteronomy chapter eighteen, prophecy refers to Muhammad and NOT to Jesus.

The New Testament Also Confirms

JOHN THE BAPTIST

In New Testament times, we find that the Jews were still expecting the fulfillment of the prophecy of 'ONE LIKE MOSES'; refer John 1:19-25. When Jesus claimed to be the Messiah long awaited by the Jews, the Jews began to enquire about Elias? The Jews had a parallel prophecy that before the coming of the Messiah, Elias must come first in his second coming. Jesus confirms this Jewish belief:

²¹ Except one; At Tawba chapter 9

²² Most Anglo Saxon Christian theologians are ignorant of even the "name of God. Because "God" is not a name. Allah is the name used in Arabic by Christians & Muslims or Elohim in Hebrew. Allah is a proper name & is more appropriate when we refer to the Creator.

*"... ELIAS TRULY SHALL FIRST COME, AND RESTORE ALL THINGS. BUT I SAY UNTO YOU. THAT ELIAS IS COME ALREADY, AND THEY KNEW HIM NOT ... THEN THE DISCIPLES UNDERSTOOD THAT HE SPAKE UNTO THEM OF **JOHN THE BAPTIST.**" (HOLY BIBLE) Matthew 17:11-13.*

According to the New Testament the Jews were not the ones to easily swallow the words of any would-be Messiah. In their investigations, they underwent intense difficulties in order to find their true Messiah. And this, the Gospel of John confirms:

"AND THIS IS THE RECORD OF JOHN (the Baptist)" "WHEN THE JEWS SENT PRIESTS AND LEVITES FROM JERUSALEM TO ASK HIM, WHO ART THOU? AND HE CONFESSED AND DENIED NOT; BUT CONFESSED, I AM NOT THE CHRIST." (This was only natural because there can't be two Messiahs' at the same time. If Jesus was the Christ then John couldn't be the Christ!) "AND THEY ASKED HIM. WHAT THEN? ART THOU ELIAS? AND HE SAITH, I AM NOT."

We Muslims are really interested in the last question posed to **John the Baptist** by the Jewish delegation – *"ART THOU THAT PROPHET? AND HE ANSWERED, NO."* (HOLY BIBLE) John 1:21.

THREE QUESTIONS!

Let us please note that three different and distinct questions were posed to John the Baptist and to which he gave three emphatic "no's" as answers. To recapitulate:

- (1) Art thou the Christ?
- (2) Art thou Elias?
- (3) Art thou that prophet²³?

But Christian scholars somehow only see two questions implied here. To make doubly clear that the Jews definitely had T-H-R-E-E separate prophecies in their minds when they were interrogating John the Baptist, let us read the remonstrance of the Jews in the following verses:

"AND THEY ASKED HIM, AND SAID UNTO HIM, WHY BAPTIZEST THOU THEN, IF THOU BE

- (a) NOT THAT CHRIST,*
- (b) NOR ELIAS.*

²³ John 6:14-15 after the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is that Prophet who is to come into the world."

(C) NEITHER THAT PROPHET?"
(HOLY BIBLE) John 1:25

The Jews were waiting for the fulfillment of THREE distinct prophecies: One, the coming of CHRIST. Two, the coming of ELIAS, and Three, the coming of THAT PROPHET.

"THAT PROPHET"

If we look up any Bible which has a concordance or cross references, then we will find in the marginal note where the words "the prophet", or "that prophet" occur in John 1:25, that these words refer to the prophecy of Deuteronomy 18:15 and 18. And that 'that prophet' — 'the prophet like Moses' — "LIKE UNTO THEE", we have proved that he was Muhammad and NOT Jesus!

Muslims do not deny that Jesus is the "Messiah", which is translated as "Christ". We do not contest the "hundreds of prophecies" which the Christians claim abound in the Old Testament foretelling the coming of the Messiah. What we say is that Deuteronomy 18:18 does not refer to Jesus Christ but it is an explicit prophecy about Prophet Muhammad!

COME LET US REASON TOGETHER!

**SAY: "O PEOPLE OF THE BOOK!
COME TO COMMON TERMS AS BETWEEN US AND YOU:
THAT WE WORSHIP NONE BUT GOD;
THAT WE ASSOCIATE NO PARTNERS WITH HIM;
THAT WE ERECT NOT. FROM AMONG OURSELVES,
LORDS AND PATRONS OTHER THAN GOD."
IF THEN THEY TURN BACK,
SAY: "BEAR WITNESS THAT WE (AT LEAST)
ARE MUSLIMS (BOWING TO GOD'S WILL)."**
(SURA al 'IMRAN) Holy Qur'an 3:64

"PEOPLE OF THE BOOK" is the respectful title given to the Jews and the Christians in the Holy Qur'an. The Muslim is here commanded to invite — "O People of the Book!" — O Learned People! O People who claim to be the recipients of Divine Revelation, of a Holy Scripture; let us gather together onto a common platform — "**that we worship none but God**", because none but God is worthy of worship, not because *'THE LORD THY GOD IS A JEALOUS GOD VISITING THE INQUITY OF THE FATHERS UPON THE CHILDREN UNTO THE THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATION OF THEM THAT HATE ME.'* (Exodus 20:5).

But because He is our Lord and Cherisher, our Sustainer and Evolver, worthy of all praise, prayer and devotion.

The Creed of Islam is given to us here in a nutshell:

say, 'We believe in God and in what was sent down to us and what was sent down to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and what was given to Moses, Jesus, and all the prophets by their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we devote ourselves to Him.' (SURA BAQARA) Holy Qur'an 2:136.

The Muslim position is clear. Muslims do not claim to have a religion peculiar to them and different from other revelations given to Jews and to Christians. Islam is not a sect or an ethnic religion. On the contrary, it views all religion as one, for the Truth is one.

"IT WAS THE SAME RELIGION PREACHED BY ALL THE EARLIER PROPHETS". (Holy Qur'an 42:13).

It was the truth taught by all the inspired Books. In essence, it amounts to a consciousness of the will and plan of God and a joyful submission to that will and plan.

End