

## The Koran (III)

# Central issue in Islam: is the Koran the word of God?

If Muslims could prove Bible wrong, it would not prove Koran right.

Bible is the best attested and proven book in history.

# Circular reasoning abounds

“Mohammed is God’s prophet”

-- Why?

“Koran says so.”

--Why believe Koran?

“Because Mohammed is prophet of God”

# Circular reasoning abounds

“Koran is inerrant”

-- How do you know?

“Koran says so.”

--Why believe Koran?

“Because it is inerrant”

# I Muslims Claim Koran Is Perfect

**“Perfect Arabic”** – Sura 41:41

1. Many grammatical errors.

‘The Qur’an contains sentences which are incomplete and not fully intelligible without the aid of commentaries, foreign words, unfamiliar Arabic words, and words used with other than the normal meaning, adjectives and verbs inflected without observance of the concords of gender and number, illogically and ungrammatically applied pronouns which sometimes have no referent; . . .

# “Perfect Arabic” – Sura 41:41

## 1. Many grammatical errors.

‘ . . . and predicates which in rhymed passages are often remote from the subjects. To sum up, more than 100 Qur’anic aberrations from the normal rules and structure of Arabic have been noted’ – Ali Dashti, *23 Years*

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including Egyptian, Hebrew, Greek,  
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## Westcott-Hort summary, 564f

Most words of NT free from variation

Most variations only of antiquarian interest

“If comparative trivialities, such as change of order, the insertion or omission of the article with proper names, and the like, are set aside, the words in our opinion still subject to doubt can hardly amount to more than a thousandth part of the whole NT.”

- 1 3 Ἀγαπητοί, πᾶσαν σπουδὴν ῥοιοῦμενος Τ γράφειν 2P1,5  
 ὑμῖν περὶ τῆς κοινῆς ἡμῶν σωτηρίας ἁνάγκην ἔσχον  
 ῥάφαι ὑμῖν παρακαλῶν ἐπαγωνίζεσθαι τῇ ἁπαξ πα- 2T4,7; 1K11,2;  
 ραδοθείσῃ τοῖς ἁγίοις πίστει. 4 ῥαρεῖσέδυσαν γάρ τινες | G2,4  
 ἄνθρωποι, οἱ πάλαι προγεγραμμένοι εἰς τοῦτο ὅτ' ῥκρίμα,  
 ἄσεβεῖς, τὴν τοῦ θεοῦ ἡμῶν χάριτα μετατιθέντες εἰς  
 ἄσέλγειαν καὶ τὸν μόνον Τ δεσπότην ῥκαὶ κύριον ἡμῶν  
 Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν ἄρνούμενοι. 2P2,2 - Act 2,24; 2P2,1  
 1Hen 48,10  
 L12,9; p  
 2P1,12  
 5 Ὑπομνήσαι δὲ ὑμᾶς βούλομαι Τ, εἰδότας ῥυμᾶς ἁπαξ  
 πάντα ὅτι Ἰησοῦς λαὸν ἐκ ῥγῆς Αἰγύπτου σῶσας τὸ δεύ-  
 τερον τοὺς μὴ πιστεύσαντας ἀπώλεσεν, 6 ἀγγέλους τε  
 τοὺς μὴ τηρήσαντας τὴν ἐαυτῶν ἀρχὴν ἀλλ' ἀπολιπόντας  
 τὸ ἴδιον οἰκητήριον εἰς κρίσιν μεγάλης ἡμέρας δεσμοῖς Τ  
 αἰδίοις ὑπὸ ζόφον τετήρηκεν, 7 ὡς Σόδομα καὶ Γόμορρα  
 καὶ αἱ περὶ αὐτὰς πόλεις τὸν ὅμοιον ῥτρόπον τούτοις ῥἐκ-  
 πορνεύσασαι καὶ ἀπελθοῦσαι ὀπίσω σαρκὸς ἐτέρας, πρό-  
 κεινται δεῖγμα πυρὸς αἰωνίου δίκην ῥυπέχουσαι.  
 8 Ὅμοίως μέντοι καὶ ῥοῦτοι ἐνυπνιαζόμενοι σάρκα  
 ὁμὲν μαινοῦσιν ῥκυριότητα δὲ ἄθετοῦσιν ῥδόξας δὲ  
 βλασφημοῦσιν 9 Ὁ δὲ Μιχαὴλ ὁ ἀρχάγγελος, ῥὅτε τῷ 2P2,10;  
 Dn 10,13,21; 12,1 Ap  
 12,7 - AssMosis?

3 ῥοιησαμενος Π72 | Τ του Π72 & Ψ | ῥημων ζωης 1611 sy<sup>ph</sup> mss. h; ῥημων σωτηριας και  
 ζωης & Ψ | σωτηριας P 642. 1175. 1448. 2492 Byz | Λ Λ Π72 A B 5. 81. 88. 307. 436. 442.  
 1243. 1735. 1739. 2344<sup>vid</sup> vg<sup>mss</sup>; Cyr Lcf | ῥγραφειν & Ψ 1735 • 4 ῥαρεδυσαν 1735 |  
 ο Π72 • | ῥκηρυγμα Ψ | Τ ημων Π72; Lcf | ῥκαι κυριον Ιησουν Χριστον ημων Π72 |  
 κυριον ημων Ιησουν Χριστον Π72 co | θεον και κυριον ημων (- 83) Ιησουν Χριστον  
 P<sup>vid</sup> Ψ 5. 88. 1175. 1448. 1611. 1735. 2492 Byz sy | Λ Λ & A B C 33. 81. 307. 436. 442. 642.  
 1243. 1739. 2344 vg • 5 ῥουν C Ψ 1243. 1739. 2492; Lcf | ῥαδελφοι Π78 | ῥυμας παντα  
 οτι κυριος απαξ & | υμας απαξ τουτο οτι ο κυριος 1175. 1448 Byz | απαξ παντα  
 (τουτο 5) οτι ο θεος C<sup>2</sup> 5 vg<sup>mss</sup> | απαξ τουτο οτι ο κυριος 307. 436. 642 | παντα οτι ο  
 θεος απαξ 442. 1243. 2492 vg<sup>mss</sup> sy<sup>ph</sup>; (C1) | παντα οτι ο (- Ψ) κυριος απαξ Ψ 1611 lat  
 sy<sup>h</sup> | απαξ παντα (παντας Π72\*) οτι θεος Χριστος Π72 | απαξ παντα οτι (+ ο 33\*)  
 Ιησους A 33. 81. 2344 vg | παντα οτι ο Ιησους απαξ 88 sa<sup>ms</sup>? bo? | παντα οτι Ιησους  
 απαξ 1739<sup>lat</sup> sa<sup>ms</sup>? bo?; Or<sup>17,20mg</sup> | απαξ τουτο οτι κυριος Ιησους 1735 | παντα απαξ  
 γαρ Ιησους 1739<sup>lat</sup> | Λ Λ B | ῥτης Ψ sy<sup>ph</sup> • 6 ῥαλυτοις και 33. 2344 • 7 ῥτουτοις  
 τροπον 307. 436. 642. 1175 Byz vg<sup>mss</sup>; Lcf | τροπον αυτοις Ψ | τροπον 88 vg | ῥεπε-  
 χουσαι Π78 1611 (sa<sup>ms</sup>) | υπεχουσιν & • 8 ῥομως A | ῥαυτοι Π78 1735 | ο Π72 2344  
 bo<sup>pl</sup> | ῥκυριωτητας & Ψ vg<sup>mss</sup> sy<sup>ph</sup> mss sa; Prisc | ῥδοξαν Π78<sup>vid</sup> 5 vg<sup>cl</sup> ww sy<sup>ph</sup>; C1<sup>lat</sup>  
 • 9 ῥοτε B (cf ῥ) | ῥτοτε B

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  - b. Westcott / Hort –
  - c. Jeffrey: 90 pgs. of variant readings in Koran. Sura 2: more than 140.
  - d. Variant readings still exist in Koran

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4. Verses missing. A Sura of 200 vss in days of Ayesha now has 73.
  - a. Abdollah Sahr gave Mohammed suggestions...
  - b. Abdollah renounced Islam...

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5. Verses abrogated. E.g.: 'satanic verses'

## II The Bible And The Koran

**Koran claims to be continuation of Bible and will not contradict it. Sura 2:136**

Early Suras speak often / highly of Scriptures...

Sura 2:75, Bible is 'the word of Allah' thus cannot be changed

If so, Bible has not been corrupted. 2 Co.1:13

Early Suras describe Jews and Christians as 'the people of the Book,' or 'of the Scripture,' or 'of the Gospel'

Yet, Muslims claim Bible is corrupt

The lowly bat – Lv.11:13...18

Section on birds . . . bat: 'Bible is wrong.'

But Mohammed said this would not happen ... Is the Koran wrong?

# The lowly bat – Lv.11:13...18

1. Hebrew word: winged creature that can fly (Gn.1:20); winged insect (20-21)
2. '...flying creatures' – Swanson; BDB
3. *Fowl, bird*. It is used in Biblical Hebrew collectively for 'flying creatures'  
–Menahem Mansoor, *Biblical Hebrew II*, 25
4. Modern taxonomy: Carl Linnaeus (d. 1778)
5. Arabs classified bats as birds –K-D (I) 365



# Mary, mother of Jesus . . .

1. ...is Miriam, sister of Aaron – Sura 19:...28
2. ...Jesus is not Son of God – Sura 19:35

# III Much Of The Koran Is Legend

## Claims Alexander the Great was Muslim, Sura 18:83-89

- 'His (Muhammad's) account of Alexander introduced as 'the two horned one' (18:83) is derived from the Romance of Alexander which was current among the 'Nestorian Christians' of the 7<sup>th</sup> Century in a Syriac version' – Ency. Brit., 15.479
- Yusuf Aliu admits reference to Alexander

# Muhammed made up speeches...

- Used words that did not come into being for hundreds of years later.
- “Islamic Monotheism” – Sura 16:123  
(words of Abraham??) Muslim?

# Koran claims Alexander found place where sun sets, Sura 18:83-86

- Muddy spring

Rip Van Winkle story, Sura 18:9-26

Men slept 309 years

# Village turned into apes, Sura 7:163-166

- Broke sabbath by fishing

# Abraham Geiger / Abraham Katsh

- Document Koran's Jewish legends
- Talmud –
  - Palestinian form: AD 400
  - Babylonian form: AD 530
    - Predate Mohammed
    - Describe many Bible characters in strange ways

## Burial of Abel, Sura 5:27-32

- Abel's dog watched grave
- Crow dug up body
  - Taken from various Jewish legends



God made man die for 100 years,  
Sura 2:259ff

- Jewish fable

God raised Mt. Sinai, held it over  
heads of Jews, Sura 2:63; 7:171

- Jewish book, Abodah Sarah

## Sura 2:106

‘Whatever a verse (revelation) We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, We bring a better one or similar to it; know you not that Allah is able to do all things?’

- Wrong! Tit.1:2
- What does this say about Allah’s communication skills?
- Nowhere does Koran identify the verses He as repealed or destroyed. **How could a Muslim know which verses are legitimate and which are not?**

Jesus made clay birds that flew,  
Sura 5:110

- From *Infancy Gospel of Thomas* (2<sup>nd</sup> Century)

God made four slaughtered birds  
to get up and fly, Sura 2:260

- Popular fable in time of Mohammed
  - 'The gospel was known to him chiefly through apocryphal and heretical sources' – Ency. Brit., 15:648

“In some cases the ‘material’ which forms the substance of Quranic narrative, details of the creeds of Christianity & Judaism for ex., does not correspond to those religions own understanding of their beliefs. This could be said, for example, of the notion of the Trinity found in the Quran, the story of Satan’s refusal to bow down to Adam, the Docetist view of the crucifixion, all of which can be traced to the dogmas of Gnostic sects, which are heretical in relationship to orthodox Christianity and Judaism. The Trinity ‘seen’ in the Quran is not the Trinity of the Apostles Creed, or of the Nicene Creed’ – Concise Dictionary of Islam, 229f.