

ANSWERING MUSLIM OBJECTIONS

“Corruption of the Bible” & “Sonship of Jesus Christ”

1) Corruption of the Bible

The Objection: God revealed throughout history four holy books containing God’s holy Words: Torah, Psalms, Gospel & Quran. But the Bible (Torah, Psalms & Gospel) was corrupted. Quran came to correct what was corrupted.

Background: We must realize that the Quran clearly refers to the Torah, Psalms & Gospel of Jesus Christ as originating with God and directs people to read them in order to confirm the Quran.

- **The Christian Scriptures:** S. 5:68 – *“Say: “O People of the Book! ye have no ground to stand upon unless ye stand fast by the Law, the Gospel, and all the revelation that has come to you from your Lord.” It is the revelation that cometh to thee from thy Lord, that increaseth in most of them their obstinate rebellion and blasphemy. But sorrow thou not over (these) people without Faith.”* (see also 10:94 ; 29:46)
- **Torah (Tawrat) :** S. 3:3-4 *“He has revealed to you ‘O Prophet’ the Book in truth, confirming what came before it, as He revealed the Torah and the Gospel previously, as a guide for people, and ‘also’ revealed the Standard ‘to distinguish between right and wrong’.¹ Surely those who reject Allah’s revelations will suffer a severe torment. For Allah is Almighty, capable of punishment.”* (see also 5:44, 66, 68)
- **Psalms (Zaboor) :** S. 17:55 *“And it is your Lord that knoweth best all beings that are in the heavens and on earth: We did bestow on some prophets more (and other) gifts than on others: and We gave to David (the gift of) the Psalms.”* (see also 4:163 / 21:105)
- **Gospel (Injil) :** S. 5:46 *“And in their footsteps We sent Jesus the son of Mary, confirming the Law that had come before him: We sent him the Gospel: therein was guidance and light, and confirmation of the Law that had come before him: a guidance and an admonition to those who fear Allah. Let the people of the Gospel judge by what Allah hath revealed therein. If any do fail to judge by (the light of) what Allah hath revealed, they are (no better than) those who rebel.”* (see also 3:3 / 5:66,68 / 57:27)

Problem: Since there are discrepancies between the Quran and Bible, the Muslims automatically assume that the BIBLE must’ve been corrupted & tampered with.

- SOME VSS. IN QURAN THAT THEY REFER TO ABOUT CORRUPTION:
 - S. 2:79 *“So woe¹ to those who distort the Scripture with their own hands then say, “This is from Allah”—seeking a fleeting gain! So woe to them for what their hands have written, and woe to them for what they have earned.”*
 - S. 3:78 *“There are some among them who distort the Book with their tongues to make you think this ‘distortion’ is from the Book—but it is not what the Book says. They say, “It is from Allah”—but it is not from Allah. And ‘so’ they attribute lies to Allah knowingly.”*

Christian’s Response:

- Why doesn’t God preserve His Word?
 - ❖ **The Quran’s declaration about God’s immutable Revelation:**
 - S. 18:27 *“And recite (and teach) what has been revealed to thee of the Book of thy Lord: none can change His Words, and none wilt thou find as a refuge other than Him.”*
 - 10:64 – *“For them are glad tidings, in the life of the present and in the Hereafter; no change can there be in the words of Allah. This is indeed the supreme felicity.”*
 - (see also 5:48 / 15:9)
 - ❖ **The Bible’s declaration about God’s immutable Revelation:**
 - Ps. 12:6-7 – *“The words of the LORD are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times. You shall keep them, O LORD, You shall preserve them from this generation forever.”*

- Is. 40:6-8 – “The voice said, “Cry out!” And he said, “What shall I cry?” “All flesh *is* grass, And all its loveliness *is* like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people *are* grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”
 - Matt. 5:17-18 – ““Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.” (also Matt. 24:35)
 - Luke 24:44-47 – “Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me. And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
 - Rev. 22:18-19 – “For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.”
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- Why would God direct people to read a corrupt book & judge the Quran by a corrupt book?
 - WHO? WHEN? HOW? WHAT changed? Portions, verses, words, stories?
 - THE BIBLE has overwhelming manuscript evidence. It has the most of any written document in history! We have MSS of the NT that pre-date 632 AD, showing us that it conflicts & disagrees with the Quran.

2) Son of God

The Objection: Allah has no children, so Jesus can't be the Son of God!

Background: The Quran strongly emphasizes the oneness of God and condemns the belief that Jesus is the Son of God.

- S. 112:1-4 *"Say: He is Allah, the One and Only; Allah, the Eternal, Absolute; He begetteth not, nor is He begotten; And there is none like unto Him."* (see also below S. 19:35 / 23:91)
 - 19:34-35 – *"That is Jesus, son of Mary. 'And this is' a word of truth, about which they dispute. It is not for Allah to take a son! Glory be to Him. When He decrees a matter, He simply tells it, 'Be!' And it is!"*
 - 23:91 – *"Allah has never had 'any' offspring, nor is there any god besides Him. Otherwise, each god would have taken away what he created, and they would have tried to dominate one another. Glorified is Allah above what they claim!"*
- S. 9:30-31 *"The Jews call 'Uzair a son of Allah, and the Christians call Christ the son of Allah. That is a saying from their mouth; (in this) they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. Allah's curse be on them: how they are deluded away from the Truth! They have taken their rabbis and monks as well as the Messiah, son of Mary, as lords besides Allah,¹ even though they were commanded to worship none but One God. There is no god 'worthy of worship' except Him. Glorified is He above what they associate 'with Him'!"* (see also below 4:171 / 6:101 / 10:68-69 / 17:111)
 - 4:171 – *"O People of the Book! Do not go to extremes regarding your faith; say nothing about Allah except the truth.¹ The Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, was no more than a messenger of Allah and the fulfilment of His Word through Mary and a spirit 'created by a command' from Him.² So believe in Allah and His messengers and do not say, "Trinity." Stop!—for your own good. Allah is only One God. Glory be to Him! He is far above having a son! To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. And Allah is sufficient as a Trustee of Affairs."*
 - 6:101 – *"He is 'the Originator of the heavens and earth. How could He have children when He has no mate? He created all things and has 'perfect' knowledge of everything." [Quran obviously is assuming "children" in relation to God are only in the physical sense.]*
 - 10:68-69 – *"They¹ say, "Allah has offspring."² Glory be to Him! He is the Self-Sufficient. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. You have no proof of this! Do you say about Allah what you do not know? Say, 'O Prophet, 'Indeed, those who fabricate lies against Allah will never succeed."*
 - 17:111 – *"And say, "All praise is for Allah, Who has never had 'any' offspring;¹ nor does He have a partner in 'governing' the kingdom;² nor is He pathetic, needing a protector.³ And revere Him immensely."*
- IMPORTANT NOTE IN ARABIC LANGUAGE: In every one of these verses from the Quran, the Arabic word which is used in reference to "son" or "beget" or "offspring" is the Arabic word WALAD. Only one verse, Surah 9:30, uses a different Arabic word, which is IBN.

Christian's Response:

- Ask Muslims: "What do you think Christians mean when we say Jesus is the Son of God?"
- Physical sonship : Christians everywhere agree completely with Muslims!
- "Son of God" is a term that describes a unique & spiritual relationship between God the Father and God the Son, that is: two facets of God's single essence. The term in the Bible "son of" can mean "same nature as" & "equivalence with". This term doesn't ALWAYS carry a literal or biological meaning. It can also carry a metaphorical meaning.

A. Examples in the Arabic & English Languages

- ❖ *"Ibn Asabee"* in Arabic means "wayfarer" or lit. "son of the road or path", which is found in the Quran.
 - S. 2:177 – "It is not righteousness that ye turn your faces Towards east or West; but it is righteousness- to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers; to spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer...."

- ❖ **“Son of Egypt” in Arabic “Ibn Masr”** , similarly, means a man from Egypt – not a man begotten from the marriage of Turkey and Iran.
- ❖ **“Oum al-Dounya” in Arabic “Mother of the World”**, is an expression referring to Egypt & all the country’s achievements.
- ❖ **“Son of Satan” in Arabic “Ibn Shaitan”**, which isn’t literal, but means a person is behaving like or has the nature of Satan.
- ❖ **The Quran itself uses metaphorical language for Jesus**, calling him a “Word” from God. Surah 3:45 *“Behold! the angels said: “O Mary! Allah giveth thee glad tidings of a Word from Him: his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held in honour in this world and the Hereafter and of (the company of) those nearest to Allah;”*
- ❖ **The Arabic language has two words for “son”:** *ibn* (metaphorical) and *walad* (literal). Jesus is a Son in the *ibn* sense.
- ❖ **The Quran affirms that God could have a son, if desired:** S. 39:4 *“Had Allah wished to take to Himself a son, He could have chosen whom He pleased out of those whom He doth create...”* Though S. 6:101 appears contradictory – implying that it would be impossible for God to have a son – 39:4 still remains.
- ❖ **“Brainchild” term in English** , means a product of one’s creative effort; an original plan or invention...for ex. The iPhone is the brainchild of Steve Jobs.

B. **The Bible is full of metaphorical statements.** (*“Metaphor”* = Websters: : a figure of speech in which a word or phrase literally denoting one kind of object or idea is used in place of another to suggest a likeness or analogy between them (as in drowning in money); figurative language

- ❖ Isaiah 64:8 - But now, O LORD, You are our Father, We are the clay, and You our potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand.
- ❖ Psalm 62:2 - He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken.
- ❖ Jn. 8:42-44 - Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. “Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.
- ❖ Revelation 19:7 - "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."
- ❖ The seven “I AM” self-descriptive statements about Jesus. (revealing His deity)
 - >>> QURAN ALSO CONTAINS MANY METAPHORICAL STATEMENTS <<<
 - S. 20:5 – “(Allah) Most Gracious is on the throne (of authority).”
 - 3:73 – ““...All bounties are in the hand of Allah: He granteth them to whom He pleaseth:...”
 - 2:115 – “To Allah belong the east and the West: Whithersoever ye turn, there is the presence (face) of Allah. For Allah is all-Pervading, all-Knowing.”

C. **The OT and NT gives clear testimony that God has a Son. The Son of God is recognized as worshipped, with honor, majesty...thus, as God in nature.**

- ❖ 2 Sam. 7:12-15 : by Samuel
- ❖ Ps. 2:1-12 : by David
- ❖ Prov. 30:1-4 : by Agur
- ❖ Isaiah 9:6-7 : by Isaiah
- ❖ Dan. 3:23-25 : by Daniel
- ❖ Matt. 3:17 : God the Father speaks
- ❖ Mk. 5:5-7 : by demons
- ❖ “ 15:38-39 : by centurion soldier
- ❖ Lk. 1:26-33 : by angel Gabriel
- ❖ Heb. 1 : superiority of Jesus

- D. Jesus most often described Himself as the “Son of Man” referring to his human nature, not sinful, but also a term in Dan. 7:13-14 referring clearly to God, yet distinct in persons.**
- ❖ Mark 10:45, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."