



# TALEEM MONTHLY FOCUS

---

*Mar 2015*



**THE BIBLE  
VS.  
CHRISTIANITY**

---

*Understanding The Differences*

*Mahir Osman (Detroit)*



# UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

---

- ❖ This is a first part of a 2-part series on bible
- ❖ In this part we will learn what is & what is not included in Bible
- ❖ History of it's compilation
- ❖ Some of the differences & contradictions
- ❖ In the next part we will analyze Christian arguments about divinity of Jesus, Salvation, etc. and how to counter those from the bible itself



# WHAT IS THE NEW TESTAMENT?

---

- ❖ Composed of 27 books
- ❖ 4 Gospels - which depict the ministry of Jesus Christ (as)
- ❖ Book of Acts – Historical accounts of Christ's disciples
- ❖ 21 Epistles - Letters written by various early ministers of faith
- ❖ Book of Revelations – Portrays the end of times and Day of Judgment

A decorative scrollwork border in white on a black background, framing the central text. The border features intricate floral and vine patterns, with a central crest-like element at the top and bottom.

# BOOKS NOT INCLUDED

---

- ❖ Gospel of Peter, Phillip and Mary Magdalene
- ❖ Acts of John and Paul
- ❖ Other Epistles of Paul
- ❖ Apocalypse of Peter – Gives us a tour of heaven and hell

A decorative border with intricate scrollwork and floral patterns surrounds the central text. The border is white and set against a dark background.

# LANGUAGES

- ❖ Jesus Christ (as) and his followers all spoke Aramaic
- ❖ Even though Latin was the language of the Romans, Greek was considered the “Universal Language” similar to today's English
- ❖ The original books of the New Testament were all written in Greek and later translated in other languages. For example Latin, Coptic, Syriac, Georgian, and Armenian



# HOW WAS THE BIBLE WRITTEN/DISTRIBUTED?

---

- ❖ They were translated into different languages and all written by hand by scribes because 90% of the ancient world was illiterate
- ❖ Copies were then copied again and distributed. Then those copies were copied and those copies were copied. They were all copied by hand. 1 page, 1 sentence, 1 word, 1 letter at a time
- ❖ Because they were written by hand and distributed, mistakes were made



# HOW WAS THE BIBLE WRITTEN/DISTRIBUTED?

---

❖ We have 5,700 manuscripts written in Greek and around 10,000 written in Latin

❖ These manuscripts are not full books. Most of the earliest manuscripts we have are all in fragments.

The oldest fragment we have is from the gospel of John and is the size of a business card. It is known as P52 and was written on papyrus. Dated to be around 150 AD.



# HOW WAS THE BIBLE WRITTEN/DISTRIBUTED?

---

- ❖ We do not have any full books and volumes dated prior to the year 200 AD - 170 years after the time of Jesus Christ (as)
- ❖ We did not start seeing numerous books until the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries
- ❖ It was at this time that most monks were spending their entire day copying manuscripts

A decorative border with intricate scrollwork and floral patterns surrounds the text. The border is white and set against a dark background.

# DIFFERENCES AMONGST THE MANUSCRIPTS

- ❖ Scribes in the ancient world were not too concerned with the differences within the texts
- ❖ First time someone noticed differences and errors was a scholar named John Mill in 1707. Mill wanted to compile different Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. Upon doing so, he noted and cited at the bottom of the pages, 30,000 differences amongst the texts he was working with



# ACCIDENTAL DIFFERENCES

---

- ❖ Misspelling of words
- ❖ Luke Chapter 12 verses 8-9. “He who confesses me before man, will be confessed before the angels of heaven. And he who denies me before man, will be denied before the angels of heaven.” Second line “Before the angels of heaven” is sometimes excluded simply because of eye skip.
- ❖ Genealogy of Jesus in the gospel of Luke

# INTENTIONAL DIFFERENCES

- ❖ Mark Chapter 1:2. “As it is written **in Isaiah the prophet**, "Behold, I am sending my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way”. The passage quoted is not Isaiah, its actually Exodus. So Scribes would change the text to read “As it is written in the prophets” rather than saying Isaiah specifically.
- ❖ Luke 23:24, “Lord forgive them for they know not what they do” This passage has been excluded from many texts because it seems like a prayer for the Jews. Christians at that time blamed Jews for the death of Christ so they did not want a prayer being said for them.
- ❖ Mathew 24:36. “No one knows the day nor the hour. Not the angels of heaven, nor even Son, but the father alone.” Kings James Version and may others exclude the line “nor even the Son”

# ADDITIONS TO THE BIBLE

- ❖ Mark 16:9 – 20. Additional 12 verses to the ending of Mark. Mark actually ends when the women visit the tomb
- ❖ John Chapter 7 and 8. The story of the woman taken in adultery was never in the original Greek text. It shows up in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century AD
- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:7 – 8. Concept of trinity. “And there are 3 that are recognized in heaven. The Father, the word, and the Holy Spirit. And these three are one” This verse is not found in any Greek text before the 14<sup>th</sup> century

# LOOKING AT THE GOSPELS

## ❖ **The synoptic gospels and John**

John does not include the following passages:

Baptism Story, Birth Story, Parables, Demon Casting, Temptation of the Devil and Last Supper

John is the only one to include salvation, water being turned into wine, and portraying Jesus as divine

- ❖ Mark and Luke – The crucifixion stories are completely different from another.
- ❖ Matthew and Luke – The birth stories are completely different from another.



# CONCLUSION

---

In no way is this information to be used as an attack on Christians or their faith. It should only be used to educate and present our views while using their holy text. In doing so, we may very well be able to put questions in their minds so that they may wish to seek answers. And with the help of Allah, they may be so inclined as to find truth within the Holy Quran and Islam.