

Muslim Objection	Christian Response
<p>1. The Bible has been corrupted. <u>Underlying Muslim Belief:</u> The Qur'an is written by Allah himself and given to Muhammad, the "unlettered prophet." The Bible is a fallible, human work, written by 40 different authors over hundreds of years.</p>	<p>What part of the Bible was changed, and was it changed before or after Muhammad (AD 570-632)?</p> <p>a. If changed before Muhammad...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Qur'an attests to the soundness of the Bible. (Q5:44, Q5:46, Q5:68, Q10:91) ▪ Wouldn't Allah be powerful enough to protect the Bible from error, as he did the Qur'an? (Q15:9, Q6:34, Q10:64) ▪ We have ample evidence that God does preserve His Word. (2 Pet 1:19-21; Is 40:8; Matt 24:35) <p>b. If changed after Muhammad...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How could the thousands of copies from around the world and in many different languages be gathered and changed all in the same way? ▪ Biblical manuscripts predating Muhammad align with the Bible we have today.
<p>2. Christians worship three gods, and God has no son. <u>Underlying Muslim Belief:</u> Christians worship three gods: God the Father, Jesus, and Mary. God had physical relations with Mary, and she had Jesus. (Q6:101-102, Q5:116, Q4:171, Q5:17, Q19:35, Q4:48, Q9:30) How did Muhammad come to this understanding?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Bible had not yet been translated into Arabic (not until AD 720). ○ Groups denying the deity/ Hypostatic union of Christ lived in the Arabian region, such as Maryamia/Choloridians, Ebionites, and Nestorians. <p>Note the uniqueness of Jesus in the Qur'an. (Q21:91, Q3:49)</p>	<p>a. We believe that God is One.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Old Testament – Deut 6:4; Ps 86:10; Is 44:6; Is 46:9; Is 37:20; Is 43:10; Is 45:5,14,21-22) ▪ New Testament – 1 Cor 8:4; John 17:3; John 5:44; Gal 3:20; 1 Thess 1:9; 1 Tim 1:17, 1 Tim 2:5; 1 John 5:20-21 <p>b. We believe that one God exists in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who share in all the attributes of God:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Omnipresence (Matt 19:26; Matt 28:18-20; Ps 139:7) ▪ Omniscience (Rom 11:33; Matt 9:4; 1 Cor 2:10) ▪ Omnipotence (1 Pet 1:5; Matt 28:18; Rom 15:19) ▪ Holiness (Rev 15:4; Acts 3:14; John 16:7-14) ▪ Eternal Nature (Ps 90:2; Mic 5:2; John 1:2; Rev 1:8,17; Heb 9:14) <p>Matthew 28:19</p>
<p>3. The Atonement is unnecessary: God forgives us when we confess our "mistakes." <u>Underlying Muslim Belief:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salvation is through works. (Q5:9, Q11:114, Q29:7, Q23:102-103) • One person's sin cannot be transferred to another. (Q17:15, Q39:7) • Man is fundamentally good, but is feeble and prone to forget (no concept of original sin). • Allah makes arbitrary decisions on the matter of salvation. 	<p>a. God cannot be merciful and just if He overlooks sin. (Is 45:21; Deut 32:4; Col 3:5-6)</p> <p>b. Man is not just feeble and prone to forget, but spiritually dead and separated from God. (Rom 3:10-18,20,23; Rom 5:12,19; Eph 2:1-2; Ps 51:5; Eccl 7:20; Job 15:14-16; Mark 7:21-23)</p> <p>c. No amount of good works can save us. (Is 64:6)</p> <p>d. God will judge our inner thoughts as well as our external acts; nothing will escape his notice. (Matt 22:18; 1 Cor 4:5; Rev 2:23; Heb 4:13)</p> <p>e. The Qur'an mentions a sacrifice provided as an atonement. (Q37:102-107) Abraham's sacrifice represents a greater sacrifice that God provided to ransom us from our sin. (Lev 17:10; Heb 9:22) Jesus came as the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world. (John 1:29; 2 Cor5:21; Matt 20:28; Eph 1:7; Ps 32:1-2; Heb 10:17-18; Ps 103:11-12)</p>

Resources

Answering-islam.org

Reasoning from the Scriptures with Muslims, Ron Rhodes (Harvest House Publishers)

A Christian's Response to Islam, William Miller

What Every Christian Needs to know about the Qur'an, James White

Christianity vs Islam: A Muslim and a Christian Debate 6 Crucial Questions, White & Ally

Muslims and Christians at the Table: promoting Biblical understanding Among North American Muslims, McDowell & Zaka

Answering Islam: The Crescent in Light of the Cross, Geisler & Saleeb