

In this document some thoughts are presented regarding the influence of the Old Testament on Islam.

"Islam is nothing more nor less than Judaism plus the apostleship of Mohammad."

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1. Laws given to Moses

The following is a list of religious stipulations given to Moses, which are clearly paralleled in Islam. This indicates a strong influence of the Torah on the teachings of Mohammad. Some may be quite shocking, such as the killing of apostates, which Christians firmly condemn, but was an integral part of the Jewish faith.²

Taking off one's shoes when entering a holy place

Exodus 3:5 "Then he [the angel of the Lord] said [to Moses], "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."³

Joshua 5:15 The commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy."

Muslims take off their shoes before entering the mosque.⁴

Fulfilling one's religious duty at a later time

Numbers 9:10-11 "If any one of you or of your descendants is unclean through touching a dead body, or is on a long journey, he shall still keep the Passover to the LORD. In the second month on the fourteenth day at twilight they shall keep it."

During the month of Ramadan traveling Muslims and women who have their monthly period don't have to fast but are to make up at a later time.

Muslims who are unable to fast during Ramadan, must do that at a later time (Sura 2:184-185).

No eating of pork

Leviticus 11:7 and Deut 14:8 "... the pig, because it parts the hoof and is cloven-footed but does not chew the cud, is unclean to you."

Isaiah 65:3 God spoke about a people who provoked Him continually, sacrificing in gardens and making offerings on bricks; spending the night in secret places and eating pig's flesh. See also Isaiah 66:17.

Muslims are forbidden to eat pork (Sura 5:3).

Blood of animals may not be eaten

Leviticus 17:10 "If any one of the house of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn among them eats any blood, I will set my face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from among his people." See also the verses 11-14.

Sura 5:3 "Forbidden to you (for food) are: dead meat, blood, ..." ⁵

Sura 6:145 "Say: "I find not in the message received by me by inspiration any (meat) forbidden to be eaten by one who wishes to eat it, unless it be dead meat, or blood poured forth, or the flesh of swine,- for it is an abomination ..."

No drinking of wine before one prays

Leviticus 10:8-11 Aaron and his sons were not allowed to drink wine or strong drink when they went into the tent of meeting..

Sura 4:43 "O ye who believe! Approach not prayers with a mind befogged, until ye can understand all that ye say, ..."

By the way, the Qur'an also contains a verse that doesn't forbid alcohol at all and one that forbids it completely. For an explanation, please read section 2c "The teaching of abrogation" in the study "Is Islam a religion of peace or not?" at the website mentioned at the bottom of this page.

Someone dedicated to the Lord doesn't drink alcohol

Numbers 6:3-4 "He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink. He shall drink no vinegar made from wine or strong drink and shall not drink any juice of grapes or eat grapes, fresh or dried ... not even the seeds or the skins."

Judges 13:7 "Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death."

Total abstinence from alcohol expressed complete dedication to God.

Muslims may not drink alcohol (Sura 5:90-91).

Someone who is dedicated to God doesn't shave or trim his beard.

Leviticus 19:27 "You shall not round off the hair on your temples or mar the edges of your beard."

Numbers 6:5 "All the days of his vow of separation, no razor shall touch his head. ... He shall let the locks of hair of his head grow long."

Muslims let their beards grow in deference of their prophet and the traditions.⁶

Washing of body parts before prayer

Exodus 30:19-21 Aaron and his sons had to wash their hands and feet before entering the Tent of meeting.

Muslims must wash their hands and feet and face before prayer (Sura 5:6).

Men and women must wash after sexual intercourse

Leviticus 15:18 "If a man lies with a woman and has an emission of semen, both of them shall bathe themselves in water and be unclean until the evening."

Sura 4:43 "O ye who believe! Approach not prayers ... in a state of ceremonial impurity (Except when travelling on the road), until after washing your whole body. If ye are ill, or on a journey, or one of you cometh from offices of nature, or ye have been in contact with women ..."

In Islam this washing is called *ghusl* and based on the above verse and on several Hadith, such as Sahih Muslim # 616 and 620.

Do not marry people from another religion

Deut 7:1-4 "You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods."

Muslims are not allowed to marry non-Muslims. The only exception is that a male Muslim is permitted to marry a Jewish or Christian woman. However, the women must obey their husbands so they are expected to convert to Islam anyway.⁷

Circumcision of men

Genesis 17:9-14 God gave Abraham and his descendants the command to circumcise all men. Later this became the mark to know who was allowed to eat Passover and who wasn't (Exodus 12:43-49).

Although circumcision is nowhere commanded in the Qur'an, every Muslim considers it a duty in order to be part of the Islamic community.⁸

No interest may be asked from a fellow believer

Deut 23:19-20 "You shall not charge interest on loans to your brother, interest on money, interest on food, interest on anything that is lent for interest." See also Leviticus 25:36-37 According to several traditions, Muslims may not take interest from fellow-believers.⁹

A captured beautiful woman may be taken as wife

Deut 21:11-13 "When you go out to war against your enemies, and the LORD your God gives them into your hand and you take them captive, and you see among the captives a beautiful woman, and you desire to take her to be your wife, ... she shall be your wife."

Muslims are permitted to take captured women as slaves and to take them as wife (Sura 4.3, 4.24, 23.6, 33.50).¹⁰

Women are of less value than men

Leviticus 27:4-7 When paying a vow to the Lord the value of women differed from that of men.

- a male from twenty years old up to sixty years old shall be fifty shekels of silver, ... a female thirty.
- from five years old up to twenty years old, ... a male twenty shekels, a female ten
- from a month old up to five years old ... a male five shekels of silver, a female three.
- sixty years old or over a male shall be fifteen shekels, and a female ten shekels.

According to Islamic jurisprudence a woman receives a smaller inheritance than a man (Sura 4:11-12) and the testimony of a woman is worth half that of a man (Sura 2:282).

Cut off a hand in punishment

Deut 25:11-12 "When men fight with one another and the wife of the one draws near to rescue her husband from the hand of him who is beating him and puts out her hand and seizes him by the private parts, then you shall cut off her hand. Your eye shall have no pity."

Matthew 5:30 "And if your right hand causes you to sin (such as stealing), cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell." (also Mark 9:43)

According to Islamic jurisprudence, in certain cases the hand of a thief must be cut off (Sura 5:38).¹¹

Apostates must be killed

Christians completely reject this, following the teachings and deeds of the Lord Jesus, who never condemned anyone to death. To the contrary, He told the repentant murderer next to Him on the cross that he would be with Him in paradise. He said He had not come to judge but to save (Luke 9:56, 19:10, John 10:10).

The law of Moses, however, contained a clear command to kill the Israelites who followed other gods and those of them who enticed others to do so.

Deut 13:1-5 Kill the false prophet.

Deut 13:6-11 Stone the apostate. Your hand shall be the first to put him to death. v9

Deut 13:12-16 Kill the city or village that follows other gods.

Deut 17:2-7 Stone the person who begins to worship other gods, let there be at least two or three witnesses.

There are many examples in the Scriptures of the killing of apostates, either by the Israelites or by God himself. Several times God judged the unbelieving Israelites during their forty years in the desert. A later example is found in 2 Chronicles 15:12-13 during the reign of king Asa: "And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and with all their soul, but that whoever would not seek the LORD, the God of Israel, should be put to death, whether young or old, man or woman."

In the Qur'an the killing of apostates cannot be found directly. However, Sura 2:217 is seen as saying that the Qur'an provides in an earthly punishment for apostasy. The following Hadith of al-Bukhari are clear. Part 9.83.17 says, "Allah's Apostle said, "The blood of a Muslim who confesses that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and that I am His Apostle, cannot be shed except in three cases: In Qisas for murder, a married person who commits illegal sexual intercourse and the one who reverts from Islam (apostate) and leaves the Muslims." And 4.52.260, "... for the Prophet said, 'If somebody (a Muslim) discards his religion, kill him.'" ¹²

Stone the adulterer

Deut 22:23-24 "If there is a betrothed virgin, and a man meets her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry for help though she was in the city, and the man because he violated his neighbor's wife. So you shall purge the evil from your midst." Although the Qur'an states that adulterers must be whipped (Sura 24:2), the Hadith relates a number of adulterers who were stoned to death. The difference may be whether the adulterer was married or not. ¹³

Power in words that have been written down and then washed into a cup and drunk

Numbers 5:23-24 "The priest shall write these curses in a book and wash them off into the water of bitterness. And he shall make the woman drink the water of bitterness that brings the curse, and the water that brings the curse shall enter into her and cause bitter pain."

In Islam there is the custom of writing down Qur'an verses, wash them in water and then drink them. The basis for this can be found in Sura 17:82 and several Hadith.¹⁴

2. Judaism

Besides teachings found in the Law of Moses, there are laws and stipulations in Islam that can be traced to other Bible books or to Jewish tradition. This is not to say that all that the Israelites said and did was God's will.

Set prayer times

Daniel 6:11 Daniel was in the habit of praying three times a day at set times.

Set prayer times also appear in the New Testament:

Acts 3:1 states that 3pm was a regular Jewish prayer time.

Acts 10:9 indicates that Peter prayed before lunch, which would have been around noon.

The five Islamic prayer times are paralleled in Orthodox Judaism in the five times of prayer on the yearly Day of Atonement.¹⁵

Set direction of prayer

For the Jews the direction of prayer was toward the temple in Jerusalem (1 Kings 8:38, 42, 44, 48 and Daniel 6:11)

Initially the Muslims prayed in the same direction (Sura 2:149-150. Later, however, it was changed to the Kaaba in Mecca (Sura 2:142-144 and several Hadith).

Pilgrimage

The Jews were commanded to appear before the Lord at the place which He chose three times a year (Exodus 23:14, Deuteronomy 16:16). For the first centuries that was the place where the tabernacle was situated, later it was the temple in Jerusalem.

Muslims are commanded to make at least one pilgrimage in their life time to Mecca (Sura 22, also called Surat al-Hajj).

Giving gifts to each other and to the poor during feasts

During the reign of the Persian king Ahasuerus, after the Jewish people had been saved from extermination, Mordecai instructed the Jews to celebrate Purim, "that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and gifts to the poor" (Esther 9:22).

During the Islamic feast of sacrifice, the Muslims are commanded to share the meat of the sacrifice with the people around them, both the well-off and the poor.

Sura 22:28 "... then eat ye thereof and feed the distressed ones in want."

Sura 22:36 "The sacrificial camels ... eat ye thereof, and feed such as (beg not but) live in contentment, and such as beg with due humility ..."

"One should eat the meat of the sacrifice, give it to relations and friends, (to non-Muslims also) and also to the poor in charity."¹⁶ Also, many Muslims give presents to each other during Eid-al-Adha en Eid-al-Fitr, the two most important Islamic feasts.¹⁷

Wives must obey their husband

In the book of Esther it is recorded how the Persian king Ahasuerus commanded all women to obey their husbands (Esther 1:19-22). Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord (1 Peter 3:6). Sura 4:34 "Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has given the one more (strength) than the other, and because they support them from their means. Therefore the righteous women are devoutly obedient, and guard in (the husband's) absence what Allah would have them guard. As to those women on whose part ye fear disloyalty and ill-conduct, admonish them (first), (Next), refuse to share their beds, (And last) beat them (lightly)¹⁸; but if they return to obedience, seek not against them Means (of annoyance): For Allah is Most High, great (above you all)."¹⁹

Women are more sinful than men

Numerous passages in Proverbs speak about the seductive woman (Proverbs 5, 7). Solomon concluded that among a thousand women there's not even one upright (Ecclesiastics 7:28). The picture of women being sinful is found in Zachariah 5:6-8 and in Revelation 17:3-6. This may have been the basis for Muhammad's statement that the majority of those in hell are women.²⁰

Men are allowed to marry several wives

Sura 4:3 says, "Marry women of your choice, Two or three or four; but if ye fear that ye shall not be able to deal justly (with them), then only one, or (a captive) that your right hands possess, that will be more suitable, to prevent you from doing injustice."

This forms the basis for the Islamic teaching that a man may have up to four wives. The background seems to be the examples of men with multiple wives in the Bible. Some patriarchs and many Israelite kings had several wives and concubines and even citizens.²¹

That doesn't mean God had commanded them to do so. To the contrary, He created only one wife for Adam (Genesis 2:18-25) and commanded him to cleave to *his wife*, not 'his wives' (Genesis 2:24). Jesus repeated this, saying it was God's will for marriage was one man with one woman. (Matthew 19:3-9). In the early Church only those men who had one wife were allowed to be chosen as leader (1 Timothy 3:2,12, Titus 1:6).

The Islamic prophet Muhammad ended up having many more than four wives, besides his concubines. He seems to have been inspired by the example of king Solomon, who took for himself some 300 wives and 700 concubines.

Description of sexual intercourse as a man who sows in his field

Leviticus 18:20 "And unto the wife of thy fellow thou dost not give thy seed of copulation, for uncleanness with her" (Young's Literal Translation). The Hebrew text contains the term "to sow." The following is taken from the Interlinear Scripture Analyzer.²²

וְאֵל	- אִשְׁתּוֹ	עֲמִיתְךָ	תִּתֶן - לָא	שְׂכַבְתָּךְ	לְזָרַע
u-al	- ashth	omith·k	la - ththn	shkbth·k	l-zro
and-to	woman-of	companion-of	you not	you-shall-give	emission-of
				you	to-seed

Similarly, the picture of a woman as a garden is found in Song of Songs. "A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a spring locked, a fountain sealed" (4:12) and "A garden fountain, a well of living water, and flowing streams from Lebanon. Let my beloved come to his garden, and eat its choicest fruits" 4:15-16). The locked garden points to the bride still being a virgin.²³ Sura 2:223 says, "Your wives are as a tilth unto you; so approach your tilth when or how ye will."

Forty days of rest after delivering a baby

In some Muslim nations the mother is allowed to rest for 40 days after the delivery. During that time she stays at her parental home, so that her mother or other relatives can take care of her. Possibly this originates from the law, mentioned in Leviticus 12:2-4 that stipulates a woman was unclean for 40 days 'in the blood of her purifying.' In order avoid the woman making someone else unclean, it was best if she was kept in seclusion.

Honor killing

The Bible gives a clear example of honor killing in Genesis 34:1-31. When Jacob's daughter Dinah was raped by the Hivite Shechem, Jacob's sons were enraged because their sister had been dishonored. In order to restore their honor, they thought up a plan and in the end Simeon and Levi, two full brothers of Dinah, killed Shechem and a number of Hivites. This honor killing had not been commanded by God.

Islamic websites, such as www.answering-christianity.com, present other examples of honor killings in the Bible, such as: the son who curses his father or mother, must be killed (Exodus 20:17, Leviticus 20:9). However, these are different situations where the honor of God is at stake, rather than human honor. Besides, this and other commands from the laws of Moses do not apply today, because Jesus Christ fulfilled the law, by carrying the curse of the law (Galatians 3).

Although honor killings aren't commanded in the Qur'an, they aren't explicitly forbidden either. Many Muslims claim that honor killings have nothing to do with Islam and are even forbidden.²⁴ At the same time most of the honor killings worldwide are committed by Muslims and these perpetrators always refer to the Islamic law to validate their murders.²⁵

A holy building on earth a replica of a building in heaven

God commanded Moses to construct a tent that would serve as His dwelling place among the Israelites. On Mount Horeb God showed him a tabernacle, so that he knew exactly how to make it (Exodus 25:40, Numbers 8:4, Hebrews 8:5). This tabernacle was in heaven (Hebrews 9:11). The writer of the letter of Hebrews also mentions a temple in heaven, that Jesus entered the holy of holies to bring about forgiveness for the sins of all mankind (Hebrews 9:12-28). In his visions the apostle John saw the temple in heaven in his visions (Revelation 11:19, 14:17, 15:5 en 16:17).

According to the traditions, Muhammad saw the heavenly Kaaba, where the angels come to pray, during his miraj.²⁶ This building is called 'bait al-a'mur' in Arabic and is mentioned in Sura 52:4.²⁷ According to the Islamic dictionary "the "Frequented House" is situated in the 7th heaven, directly above the Ka'aba on earth. The angels make hajj to this House like we make

hajj to Ka'aba. The Ka'aba on earth is a replica of it." ²⁸ And, "Tradition goes that the Kaaba was ordained by Allah to be built in the shape of the House in Heaven called Baitul Ma'amoor. Allah in his infinite Mercy ordained a similar place on earth and Prophet Adam was the first to build this place." ²⁹

The center of the world

In the following verses, Jerusalem is described as the center of the world. Ezekiel 5:5 "Thus says the Lord GOD: This is Jerusalem. I have set her in the center of the nations, with countries all around her." and Ezekiel 38:12 "the people [the Jews] who were gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell at the center of the earth." These passages point to Jerusalem as the religious and political center of the world.

Politically Israel is one of the most important and controversial lands on earth. No nation or city enjoys more attention in the media worldwide.

One day Jerusalem is going to be the center of a huge conflict in which all the nations of the earth are going to participate. This has been foretold by the Old Testament prophets. See for instance Zechariah 12:3 "On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it." And 14:2 "I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken ..." and 14:12 " And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples that wage war against Jerusalem: ..."

Economically Jerusalem is uniquely situated. For many centuries, it lay at the crossroads of the trade routes from Egypt to Assyria (Africa to Asia) and from Turkey to Arabia (Europe to the Arabian Peninsula).

Finally, Jerusalem is the very location where Jesus the Messiah will descend from heaven to earth. Zechariah 14:4 "On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east" and Acts 1:9-12 " ... This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven ..."

Muslims believe that Mecca, and in particular the Kaaba, forms the spiritual center of the world.³⁰

There are Muslims who claim it is scientifically proven that the Kaaba is also the geographical center.³¹ Sadly for them, the latter is scientifically impossible, because the earth is in the shape of a ball and so the center of the planet lies in its heart.

3. Islamic teaching that can be traced to the Bible in general

Saying "if God wills" when making a statement about future actions

Proverbs 27:1 "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring." James 4:13-15 "Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "*If the Lord wills*, we will live and do this or that" (italics added).

Sura 18:23-24 "And never say of anything, 'I shall do such and such thing tomorrow, except (with the saying), 'If Allah wills!' "³²

Saying bismillah ("in the name of God") before any action

Although not specifically commanded in the Quran, Muslims are taught to say "in the name of Allah" before many actions. Also, Every Sura in the Quran except one, begins with Bismillah.³³ The website <http://www.islamictreasure.com> states, "Bismillah is recommended before starting any halaal (permissible in the Islamic Shariah) action or deed." It explains that, "To begin any intellectual or physical endeavor "in the name of Allah" is to formulate properly one's intention and, therefore, to link that act deliberately to our worship, of Allah and nothing else." and it claims "Beginning all matters of concern with the name of Allah is a feature unique to Islam."³⁴ This teaching seems to originate from the apostle Paul's instruction in his letter to the believers in Colosse, to whom he wrote, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, *do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus*, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17 (italics added)

Any meat not dedicated to God is haram

In the early church some of the believers were unable to eat meat that was offered to idols because of their conscience. Paul addressed the issue in the letters to the Romans (chapter 14) and the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 8 and 10). See especially 1 Cor 10:20, which says, "I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons."

Muslims are only allowed to eat meat upon which the name of God has been invoked. Only when this has been done during the slaughtering, the meat is halal.

Sura 6:145 "Say: "I find not in the message received by me by inspiration any (meat) forbidden to be eaten by one who wishes to eat it, unless it be dead meat, or blood poured forth, or the flesh of swine,- for it is an abomination - or, what is impious, (meat) on which a name has been invoked, other than Allah's" "

Sura 22:36 "The sacrificial camels we have made for you as among the symbols from Allah: in them is (much) good for you: then pronounce the name of Allah over them as they line up (for sacrifice): when they are down on their sides (after slaughter), eat ye thereof ..."

Miraculous journey to heaven

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 "I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter." Here the Apostle Paul describes a journey to heaven, of which Bible commentators point out (based on verse 7) that he himself was the one who had this experience.³⁵

Sura 17:1 "Glory to (Allah) Who did take His servant for a Journey by night from the Sacred Mosque to the farthest Mosque,³⁶ whose precincts We did bless,- in order that We might show him some of Our Signs: for He is the One Who heareth and seeth (all things)." According to this Sura, Muhammad made a night journey from the mosque in Mecca to the Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, from which he ascended to the third heaven. The journey to heaven is called the Miraj.³⁷

Cornerstone

Psalm 118:22 says, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.' Jesus Christ quoted this and applied it prophetically to Himself and to the Pharisees who rejected Him as the Messiah (Matthew 21:42, Mark 12:10, Luke 20:17).

The apostle Paul wrote the believers in Ephesus, saying, 'you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone' (Ephesians 2:19-20).

Muslims believe that the rock mentioned in Daniel 2:45 refers to the black stone in the Kaaba. 'The stone which the builders refused is become the head-stone of the corner. Ishmael was looked on as being rejected by God, or so the Israelites believed. Yet it was a progeny of Ishmael that the Last Prophet, the 'head-stone of the corner' was to arise.'³⁸

The black stone has been placed a a cornerstone in the eastern corner of the Kaaba.³⁹

4. Basic Doctrines

A number of key doctrines of the Jewish (and Christian) faith are also found in Islam, such as:

- Creation of the world in six days
- Existence of Heaven and Hell and Satan
- Angels, notably Gabriel and Michael, and demons
- The unity of God⁴⁰
- Adam and Eve the first people on earth, placed in paradise
- Final Day of Judgment

Islamic teaching that is more clearly in the New Testament, but also to be found in the Old Testament:

- Virgin birth of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 7:14)
- Return of Jesus at the end of time (Zechariah 14:4)
- The coming of the Antichrist (Zechariah 11:17)⁴¹

Though the exact details of these doctrines often differs, one can conclude that the Muslims have more in common with the Jewish (and Christian) faith than with any other religion or belief system.

5. Stories and Legends

Many Biblical characters are mentioned in the Qur'an

Qur'anic names are given in brackets

Adam (Adam), Enoch (Idris), Noah (Nuh), Terah (Azar), Abraham (Ibrahim), Lot (Lut), Ishmael (Isma'il), Isaac (Ishaq), Jacob (Yaqub), Joseph (Yusuf), Job (Ayub), Pharaoh (Firaun), Moses (Musa), Aaron (Harun), Korah (Qarun), Saul (Talut), David (Dawud), Goliath (Jalut), Solomon (Sulaiman), Elijah (Ilyas), Elishah (Al-Yasa), Jonah (Yunus), Ezra (Uzair), John (Yahya), Mary (Maryam), Jesus (Isa).

The following names do not appear in the Qur'an but are mentioned in the Islamic traditions: Eve (Hawa'), Abel (Habil), Cain (Qabil) and Elisabeth (Al-Usabat).

Stories

Many Biblical narratives are found in the Qur'an. Some of these are:⁴²

Adam naming the animals	Sura2:30-33
Fall of Adam and Eve	Sura 2:35-39, 7:18-23, 20:120-123
Cain and Abel	Sura 5:27-31
Jonah and the fish	Sura 10:98 (=Sura Yunus) 37:139–148
Abraham visited by angels	Sura 11:72, 15:51
Joseph's history	Sura 12:4-102 (=Surat Yusuf)
Creation of the world	Sura 28:76, 29:38, 40:25
Abraham offering his son	Sura 37:102-111
Creation of man	Sura 32:6-9, 3:59
Noah and the flood	Sura 71:1-28 (=Sura Nuh), 11:25–48

It must be noted that the narratives in the Qur'an do not appear in chronological order,⁴³ that they are concise⁴⁴ and often confusing⁴⁵ or even contradictory.⁴⁶

6. Hebrew words in the Qur'an

In 1833 the German rabbi Abraham Geiger wrote the book "Judaism and Islam." Geiger describes the ideas and doctrines in Islam and the stories and legends in the Quran that come from the Old Testament as well as from Rabbinic sources. He lists fourteen Hebrew words in the Qur'an that represent Jewish ideas not found in pagan Arabia or among the heathen Arabs. They are:

1. Tabut (ark)
2. Torah (Pentateuch)
3. Jannatu Adn (paradise, Garden of Eden)
4. Jahannam (Gehinnom)
5. Ahbar (teacher)
6. Darasa (reach deep meaning by careful study)
7. Rabbani (teacher)
8. Sabt (Day of rest)
9. Sakinat (presence of God)
10. Taghut (error)
11. Furqan (deliverance, redemption)
12. Ma'un (refuge)
13. Masani (repetition)
14. Malakut (government; God's rule)

"Those fourteen words, which are clearly derived from the later, or Rabbinical Hebrew, show what very important religious conceptions passed from Judaism into Islam"⁴⁷

The English translation of Geiger's book can be downloaded at <http://answering-islam.org/Books/Geiger/Judaism/>

7. Conclusion

There are many similarities between the Qur'an and the Torah. On top of that, many Islamic teachings can be traced back to Biblical stories or teachings.

The Muslims consider the Qur'an the perfect revelation from God, which they believe was necessary because the Jews and Christians had changed the previous revelations.

For the non-Muslim, the logical conclusion is that of Zwemer: Muhammad took much from the Jews and also adopted a number of beliefs of the Christians, such as the virgin birth of Jesus and some of His names, like "word of God", "spirit of God" and "messiah."

However, there are also key differences. As Christian Schirrmacher wrote, "To emphasize only these similarities would reflect just a superficial understanding of both religions. Especially when it comes to Jesus Christ, the main important differences between Qur'ân and Bible become obvious."⁴⁸

Afterword:

As the Old Testament is full of religious stipulations, so is the Qur'an. Hebrews 9:9-10,14 says, "According to this arrangement [the Mosaic law], gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, but deal only with *food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body* imposed until the time of reformation. But ... Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, will purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God" (italics added).

That means that God uses the laws of Moses, also those found in Islam, to draw the people to Jesus Christ. This is explained clearly in Galatians 3.

The apostle Paul wrote that the purpose of the law was so that people would know what sin is (verse 19). He made it clear that no one can enter heaven by keeping the law. "All who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them" " (verse 10). Because no human being is able to keep the whole law all of his life, God has provided another way to be saved. Abraham, seen as the father of all believers by the Jews, Christians and Muslims alike, trusted in God and therefore he was accepted by God (verse 6). All those who put their trust in God like Abraham, will be blessed along with him (verse 9).

This may raise the question whether God's law and His promises aren't contradictory to each other. Paul explains, "Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe" (verses 21-22). This means believing that Jesus Christ took the curse of the law upon himself, as mentioned in verse 13, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"

So, God gave us the law in order that we would know His will. God knew that nobody is able to keep the whole law. Jesus the Messiah was sinless from birth and therefore able to take the curse of condemnation upon himself, by dying on a wooden cross. Everyone who believes this, just as Abraham believed, becomes a son or daughter of God and shall be with Him forever.

¹ Zwemer, S. *Islam, A Challenge to Faith*. New York, 1908.p.17

² It must be noted that the command was given to the Jews to be applied among themselves only and never to kill the heathen elsewhere in the world

³ This and all other verses are taken from the *English Standard Version*, © 2001, 2007, 2011 by Crossway Bibles, accessed in *e-Sword*, version 10.1.0, Rick Myers

⁴ Interestingly, according to a strict Islamic source there is no verse in the Qur'an or Hadith for it. Instead, a Bible reference is given. http://www.answering-christianity.com/taking_shoes_off_in_mosques.htm

⁵ This and all other Qur'an verses are taken from the Yusef Ali translation of the Qur'an, accessed at <http://tanzil.net>

⁶ http://www.answering-christianity.com/growing_beards.htm

⁷ http://www.answering-christianity.com/marriage_islam.htm

⁸ <http://convertintoislam.com/circum.html>

⁹ <http://www.onislam.net/english/ask-about-islam/faith-and-worship/aspects-of-worship/168450-why-is-usury-prohibited-in-islam.html>

¹⁰ The traditions sometimes explain how this happened. See Bukhari, Vol. 3, Book 46, # 717 and Vol. 5, Book 59, # 512; The History of Tabari, vol. 8, p. 29-30

¹¹ For an extensive explanation, see http://www.answering-islam.org/Authors/Arlandson/hands_off.htm

¹² http://www.sahih-bukhari.com/Pages/Bukhari_4_52.php

¹³ http://www.thereligionofpeace.com/Quran/001-adultery_punishment.htm

¹⁴ See for instance <http://islamqa.info/en/645> and

<http://www.islamweb.net/emainpage/index.php?page=showfatwa&Option=FatwaId&Id=7852>

¹⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_prayer#Biblical_origin

¹⁶ <http://www.islamawareness.net/Eid/azha.html>

¹⁷ <http://islamqa.info/en/130948>

¹⁸ Note that the word 'lightly' has been added by the translator. In Arabic the Qur'an simply says 'beat'

¹⁹ See for instance also <http://www.islamweb.net/emainpage/index.php?page=articles&id=149397>

²⁰ "I looked into Paradise and I saw that the majority of its people were the poor. And I looked into Hell and I saw that the majority of its people are women." (al-Bukhari, 3241; Muslim, 2737) <http://islamqa.info/en/21457>

accessed on 26/3/2014

²¹ For instance Jacob and Esau, king David, king Solomon, Gideon, Elkanah

²² Interlinear Scripture Analyzer ISA basic 2.1.5 Copyright © 2011 André de Mol.

²³ See Bible commentator Clarke about Song of Songs 4:12 'A garden enclosed - a spring shut up, a fountain sealed - Different expressions to point out the fidelity of the bride, or of the Jewish queen. See the outlines. She is unsullied, a chaste, pure virgin. None has ever entered into this garden; none has yet tasted of this spring; the seal of this fountain has never been broken.'

²⁴ See for instance <http://www.questionsaboutislam.com/women-in-islam/islam-honour-killing.php>

²⁵ http://www.islam-watch.org/syedkamranmirza/honor_killing.htm

²⁶ 'The Messenger of Allah sws said narrating about the journey of 'Isra wal Miraaj, "Then I was shown Al-Bait-al-Ma'mur (i.e. Allah's House). I asked Gabriel about it and he said, This is Al Bait-ul-Ma'mur where 70,000 angels perform prayers daily and when they leave they never return to it (but always a fresh batch comes into it daily)." Sahih Bukhari and Muslim Source: <http://islamic-dictionary.tumblr.com/post/9536470321/baitul-mamur-arabic-or>

²⁷ Translated by Yusef Ali as 'the much-frequented Fane'

²⁸ <http://islamic-dictionary.tumblr.com/post/9536470321/baitul-mamur-arabic-or>

²⁹ <http://www.al-islam.org/story-of-the-holy-kaaba-and-its-people-shabbar/kaaba-house-allah>

³⁰ See for instance <http://muslimmatters.org/2012/11/15/ten-things-you-didnt-know-about-the-kaaba/>

³¹ <http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/07/23/227981.html>

³² <http://www.alquranclasses.com/importance-inshaallah/>

³³ <http://www.islamic-dictionary.com/index.php?word=bismillah>

³⁴ <http://www.islamic-treasure.com/212-bismillah-clearing-the-confusion/>

³⁵ See for instance Barnes, Gill and Jamieson, Fausset & Brown

³⁶ In Arabic 'المَسْجِدُ الْأَقْصَى' Many Muslims believe this refers to the Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem. The Quran, however, only speaks of the 'farthest mosque' (Aqsa mosque is in Arabic 'مسجد الأقصى'). According to the Islamic sources, the journey took place in 621 AD, when Muhammad still lived in Mecca. At that time the Islamic faith had hardly spread, making it impossible for the farthest mosque at that time to have been built so far away and in territory where no Muslims lived.

³⁷ See for instance

<http://www.alim.org/library/biography/stories/content/SOP/26/30/Muhammad%20%28Muhammad%29/The%20Miraj>

³⁸ <http://www.crystalinks.com/blackstone.html>

³⁹ <http://redicecreations.com/article.php?id=17158>

⁴⁰ The Islamic Creed begins with "There is no God but God." Muslims are taught that the Christians believe in the existence of three separate gods and that the trinity exists of God, Mary and Jesus. The Bible clearly teaches the oneness of God in both the Old and New Testament. See for instance Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one." And James 2:19 "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!"

⁴¹ See also references, such as Micah 5:5 and Daniel 7:8, 8:25 and 9:26. <http://gracethrufaith.com/ask-a-bible-teacher/the-anti-christ-in-the-old-testament/>

⁴² For an extensive list of Biblical stories in the Qur'an, see <http://www.answering-islam.org/Index/Stories/>

⁴³ The Bible begins with the creation of the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1-2) and how evil came into the world (Genesis 3) and finishes with the end of evil on earth (Revelation 20) and the new heaven and earth after the Day of Judgement (Revelation 21-22). Everything in between is also laid out orderly, with the Torah (Genesis – Deuteronomy) describing the history of mankind up until Moses and containing the Laws God gave to Moses, history books (Joshua-Esther), books that contain mainly wisdom (Job-Song of Songs), the books of the prophets (Isaiah – Malachi), The history of Jesus the Messiah by witnesses of His life (Matthew-John) and the history of the early church (Acts), letters to the followers of Jesus (Romans-Jude) and a prophetic book about the future (Revelation). The Qur'an, however, is arranged according to the length of the Suras, beginning with the longest and ending with the shortest. Several Suras bear the name of a Biblical person, but these Suras deal mostly with other people or issues. For example, Sura 10 or Sura Yunus, named after Jonah, contains only one verse about him, while the rest deals with Muhammad, Noah (v71-73) and Moses and Aaron with Pharaoh (v75-92).

⁴⁴ For instance, the narrative of Jonah takes up a whole Bible book, which contains 4 chapters and a total of 48 verses. In the Qur'an, on the other hand, the story of this prophet is told in only 10 short verses.

⁴⁵ For example, it is not clear what God created Adam out of. Adam would have been made out of nothing (Sura 19:67), dust (3:59), earth (11:61), clay (23:12), water (25:54), sperm (75:36).

⁴⁶ For instance, the creation of man is described in contradictory ways. On the one hand, God would have said, "Be! and he was" (3:59 Ali), on the other hand man would have been shaped (also 3:59). According to Sura 71:14 God did that in phases. According to Sura 23:13-14 these were: sperm, a clot of congealed blood, a lump, bones, covering the bones with flesh and, finally, developed into another creature (Ali)

⁴⁷ <http://answering-islam.org/Books/Geiger/Judaism/chap11.htm>

⁴⁸ [http://www.worldevangelicals.org/resourc/pdf/Qur%27an and Bible Compared.pdf](http://www.worldevangelicals.org/resourc/pdf/Qur%27an%20and%20Bible%20Compared.pdf)