

The Bible and the Qur'an: A Comparative Study . So much in common so far apart

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What would you like to know about the Qur'an? How is it different from, and similar to, the Bible? How does the Qur'an portray Abraham, Moses, Mary and Jesus? The answers to these questions, and many more, will surprise and engage you.

Written in poetic and rhythmic language, the Qur'an comprises 114 suras ("chapters"). To Christians, its structure can at first seem unusual. Indeed, while it is also considered to be the Word of God by adherents of an Abrahamic religion, the Qur'an differs in many ways from our Christian scriptures. As you study the Qur'an, however, you will gain a deep appreciation for the beauty and importance of this religious text revered by 1.7 billion Muslims around the world.

In this course, you will receive a general introduction to the Qur'an, paying particular attention to its relationship with the Bible. Professor Gabriel Reynolds guides you through the history, interpretation, and structure of the Qur'an. By embarking on this exploration, you will more deeply understand Islam and its conversation with Christianity.

The first part of The Bible and the Qur'an: A Comparative Study will introduce you to the life of Muhammad, the structures and literary genre of the Qur'an, and its historical context. After looking closely at the themes of the Qur'an, you will explore its portrayals of Jesus and other biblical figures, as well as how Christianity has interacted with it throughout history. Then, you will look at academic controversies and traditional Islamic teachings on the Qur'an. Finally, you will examine how Muslims approach the Qur'an in the modern world.

To Muslims, the Qur'an is the eternal, uncreated Word of God—not an inspired scripture like the Bible, but rather the literal divine Word descended from heaven to earth. They consider it perfect in regard to its literary qualities, accounts of nations and prophets, and scientific information. Thus, learning about the Qur'an is essential to understanding the relationship between Islam and Christianity—and between Muslims and Christians—in our own age and throughout history.

The DVD video series consists of 21 lectures each about 25 minutes long.

Lecture 1. Introduction to the Life of the Prophet

Lecture 2. The Structure of the Qur'an

Lecture 3. The Historical Development of the Qur'anic Text

Lecture 4. The Punishment Stories

Lecture 5. The Afterlife and The Blessings of Nature

Lecture 6. Angels, Demons, and the Cosmos

Lecture 7. The God of the Qur'an

Lecture 8. Adam in the Qur'an

Lecture 9. Abraham and Moses in the Qur'an

Lecture 10. Jesus in the Qur'an

Lecture 11. The Qur'an on the Bible
Lecture 12. A Christian Interpretation of the Qur'an?
Lecture 13. The Uncertainty of the Muslim Exegetes
Lecture 14. Reconsidering the Qur'an and the Life of the Prophet
Lecture 15. The Qur'an's Self-Understanding
Lecture 16. The Development of Exegesis in Islamic Tradition
Lecture 17. The Qur'an and Islamic Law
Lecture 18. The Qur'an and Islamic Mysticism
Lecture 19. The Qur'an and Society
Lecture 20. The Qur'an, Marriage, and Sex
Lecture 21. The Qur'an, Violence, and Peace

We will cover two videos each week forming 11 classes, plus one additional class for a guest Imam. A total of 12 classes.

Just the facts:

Schedule: classes start at 10:00 am . All classes on Zoom

Meeting ID : 822 7656 1085
PW: StBarts

The schedule:

January 11, 18, 25
February 1, 8, 15,
February 22 (Ash Wed; NO Class)
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
April 5 (Easter week; NO CLASS),
April 12 (last class)