

Promise maker? Promise Keeper!



Big picture: Both the Bible and Quran state that God makes promises and keeps them. If God didn't protect his transmission of promises, how would we know he has kept them, especially when considering promises about Muhammed for example?

1. The Bible and Quran claim God makes and keeps promises

The fact that God makes and keeps promises is foundational to the Bible. The Old Testament is full of examples where God says he will do something in the future, which is then later fulfilled. In the context of sharing the Gospel with our Muslim friends, [Genesis 3:15](#) is a good example. God promised that a Saviour would come and defeat Satan, and the New Testament is a record of God fulfilling this promise through the death and resurrection of Jesus. There are many other prophesies about Christ that were recorded in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New. [Micah 5:2](#) for example, foretells where Jesus was to be born, [Psalms 22](#) and [Isaiah 53](#) contain many details about the Crucifixion of Jesus, and [Psalms 16:10](#) predicts that he would rise from the dead¹.



Someone making the claim that the Bible has become corrupted, however, is inadvertently stating more about the character of God than of the Bible, because, as was pointed out in a previous article², a changed Bible raises questions over either the power of God or his love and care for us.

Claiming the Bible has become corrupt also fails to understand that God is a God who makes and keeps promises and, without access to the God's original promise there is no way of assessing if God has indeed kept his word, fulfilling his promise.

In the Quran, Allah is known as one who makes and keeps promises. [Quran 39:20](#) states that he "never breaks a promise". Even forgiveness is "promised" in verses like [Quran 2:268](#), although, always in payment of good works, and in [Quran 9:111](#) God promises guaranteed entrance into heaven if one dies actively engaged in Jihad. These promises in the Quran are made in the context of looking forward to judgement.

2. The Quran claims the Bible speaks of Muhammad's coming

One area where the Quran mentions God's promises in the previous Scriptures is the coming of Muhammad. In the Quran Allah states: "They are the ones who follow the Messenger, the unlettered Prophet, whose description they find in their Torah and the Gospel." [Quran 7:157](#)

At this point, we could raise the following question with our Muslim friends: If God took the trouble to make the coming of a future prophet known in the previous Scriptures, why would he allow these promises to become corrupt?

3. Why would God allow such important declarations to become corrupt?

The question of when the scriptures became corrupt is also relevant here. [Quran 7:157](#) clearly states that in the time of Muhammad, his 'coming' was evident, which forces the view that the scriptures were corrupted after the 7th century. (See "before Muhammad, After Muhammad")

Related to this is [Quran 2:146](#), which some Muslims claim refers to the fact that the coming of Muhammad was exceptionally clear, in fact "as clear as they recognise their own sons". (Note however, the context of 2:146 seems to be referring to the direction of prayer rather than Muhammad)

See notes on [Deuteronomy 18:15-18](#), [Acts 3:20-22](#), [Isaiah 21:13-17](#), [Song of Solomon 5:9-16](#), [John 1:19-21](#), [John 14:15-17](#) and [John 16:12-14](#) for verses that Muslims claim speak of the coming of Muhammad³.

4. The claim that the Bible is still partly uncorrupted (where it agrees with the Quran) ignores textual evidence and doesn't explain the Bible's coherent message

When Muslims appeal to the Bible to support the message of Islam, they often claim that the Bible still “contains” the words of God. In other words, the Bible is corrupted, but still contains portions that have not become corrupted. How do you know what is corrupt and what isn't? They claim that where the Bible agrees with Islam it is incorrupt, but where it disagrees it has become corrupt.

This approach, however, ignores the overwhelming textual support for the Bible's careful transmission as mentioned in previous articles and doesn't explain why verses they claim speak of Muhammad⁴ fit clearly into the wider context in the Bible. For example, read [John 14:16](#) and [John 16:17](#) in the context of verses such as [John 1:33](#), [Joel 2:28-32](#), [Ezekiel 36:33-36](#) and [Acts 2](#). For Scripture to become so corrupt and yet retain such coherence across revelations is very unlikely.

This is a good opportunity to show your Muslim friends the assurance that we have when it comes to God's promises for us. Interestingly, although the Quran 'promises' forgiveness and paradise, these are all conditional and dependent on their performance as a Muslim. Therefore when you ask a Muslim friend if they know what will happen to them after they die, they will always say they do not. This is a great opportunity to show the amazing assurance of salvation in the Christian faith, which is not based on anything we have done but on what Christ has done for us.

References

1. ¹ See <https://jewsforjesus.org/answers/top-40-most-helpful-messianic-prophecies/> for more examples.
2. ² See “God the all-powerful and most loving”
3. ³ The Quran Project's al-Mehri notes also claims that [Isaiah 42:1-17](#) is a prophecy of Muhammad.
4. ⁴ See “Abundant NT manuscript evidence” and “Old Testament carefully copied and affirmed by Jesus”