

In their attempts to prove the prophethood of Muhammad, Muslim scholars have turned to the Bible. They search for his name or even a reference to it.

Two of their most popular claims are that:

(1) Moses forecast about a Prophet who would come after him, and

(2) Jesus predicted the coming "Comforter."

(1) **Moses' Prophecy**: Moses said to the Israelites:-

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him."

(Deuteronomy 18:15)

Muslims claim that this prophecy was fulfilled by Muhammad who, like Moses, was a lawgiver, a prophet, and a military leader. In addition, he came of the house of Ishmael, the brother of Isaac and the son of Abraham. Let us analyse that claim.

i) Deuteronomy 18:16 gives the reason for the verse before it. The Israelites said to Moses. "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die."

The Israelites were asking for a mediator, someone to stand between them and God like Moses did. The passage comfortably fits Jesus. He is described as "the Only Mediator between God and man," (1 Timothy 2:5). On the other hand, Muhammad was told by Allah to say to the Arabs: "I am only a human being like you. It is revealed to me that your God is One God, therefore take a Straight Path to Him and Obedience to Him, and seek forgiveness of Him," (Q.41:6).

This is not the language of a mediator!

ii) 'a prophet like me' : Moses was characterised by two things: God spoke to him face to face, and Moses performed miraculous signs and wonders (Deuteronomy 34:10,11; Numbers 12:6-8). Muhammad did neither of these things – he never saw God, and he performed no miraculous signs. But Jesus fulfilled both of them (John 1:18; Luke 9:28-36; John 10:25)

iii) Moses says that God would raise up a prophet "from among your brothers." He is talking to Israelites, so this prophet would be from the people of Israel. Muhammad was not Jewish. Jesus, on the other hand, was born and raised in Israel.

iv) Muslims often claim that the term "brothers" must refer to the Ishmaelites, but this claim is false. The term "brothers" is used when referring to other Israelites. God told the Jews to choose a king "from among your brothers ... not a foreigner" Dt.17:15 This meant a fellow Jew. Muhammad and Muslims would refuse to be identified as Jews.

God had been very clear that His promise and the covenant would be fulfilled through Isaac and the Jews, not through Ishmael and the Arabs (Genesis 17:18-21; 21:10-12). The Qur'an also confirms that the prophethood was given to the Jews: Q.45:16.

v) Others realised that this verse applied to Jesus. Jesus said that Moses "wrote about me" (John 5:46). Some Jews recognised Jesus as "the prophet who is coming into the world" (John 6:14), and Peter preached that this verse was about Jesus (Acts.3:22)

Jesus and the Coming Comforter: Jesus promised another "Comforter" to come after his ascension to heaven: "I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows him: but you know him; for he dwells with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." (John 14:15-18). See also John 15:26 and 16:7, 13 and 17.

i) Muslims draw this prophecy from the Gospel of John which begins by declaring that Jesus is God and that he created all things (John 1:1-3). Jesus claims to have existed before Abraham (8:58) and that he is One with God (10:30). It is in this same book that Muslims search to find a reference to Muhammad in fulfilment of Q.61:6. Muslims are thus forced into grasping at anything that will help them vindicate Muhammad's claim.

ii) The three passages from John repeatedly identify the Comforter as the Holy Spirit (or the "Spirit of Truth"). Yet Muslims argue that these verses simply cannot refer to the Holy Spirit: "The terms of the prophecy do not warrant the conclusion that they are applicable to the Holy Spirit," they argue. "If I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you" are words too clear to need any comment. The Gospel says that John was filled with the Holy Spirit even before he was born. Then it speaks of Jesus himself as receiving the Holy Spirit in the shape of a dove. Thus the Holy Spirit used to visit men before the time of Jesus as well as in his own time.

This argument clearly misses the point of Jesus' prediction. Jesus acknowledges that the Spirit was already with them: "... for he dwells with you," he said. The prophecy was that the Spirit would be in them and dwell with them forever. This was something entirely new, and it was by no means invalidated because the Spirit was already in Jesus.

iii) Jesus said that the Comforter would be with his disciples forever. Muhammad was never even once with Jesus' disciples, let alone with them permanently.

iv) According to the prophecy, the world cannot receive the Comforter because it cannot see him. Tens of thousands of people saw Muhammad during his lifetime, for he was visible. Thus, the invisible Comforter cannot be the visible Muhammad.

v) Jesus tells the disciples that the Comforter was already with them. While the Holy Spirit was with Jesus' disciples, Muhammad was to be born more than five centuries later, and therefore could not have been with them.

vi) The Comforter was to be in the disciples. Muhammad is not in Jesus' followers and never will be. The Holy Spirit, on the other hand, filled the believers at Pentecost (Acts 2:4) and has been in Christians ever since (1 Corinthians 3:16).

vii) Jesus said that he would send the Comforter from the Father. Muslims do not believe that Muhammad was sent by Jesus; they believe that Muhammad was sent by God. So, unless Muslims are willing to admit that Jesus is God, they should not accept this as a prophecy about Muhammad.

viii) Prior to his ascension, Jesus predicted that his followers would "be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence" (Acts 1:5). The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers shortly after his ascension to the Father, not more than 500 years later!!

ix) Some Muslims claim that Jesus spoke of the *periclytos* 'praised one', which is the meaning of 'Muhammad' instead of *parakletos* 'comforter'. The Greek text, unlike Arabic & Hebrew, contains all the vowels. Yet not a single one of the 5,366 manuscripts of the New Testament existing today has the word *periclytos* in its text.

Conclusions

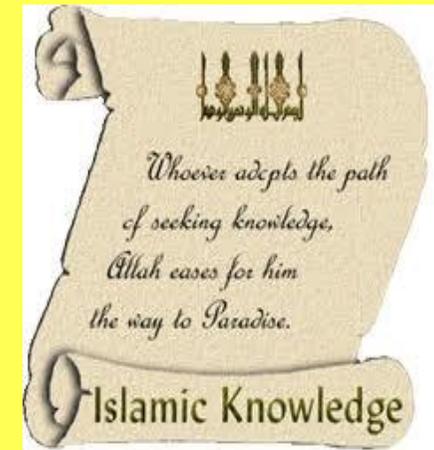
Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam, could not have been the fulfilment of the prophecy in Deuteronomy 18:15. He was not a mediator between God and the people; he was not from the Israel or from its people. It is only Jesus who matches all these descriptions perfectly.

Muhammad could not also have been the Comforter prophesied about in the Gospel of John. He was not with or in the apostles. He was not with them forever, nor invisible, nor sent by Jesus, and he did not come quickly, as Jesus said the Comforter would. Neither of these verses apply to Muhammad. Yet the Holy Spirit matches these criteria perfectly.

You can learn more about the Bible and Jesus Christ at: www.mylanguage.net.au

Is Muhammad prophesied in the Bible?

(Part 1 of 2)



And when Jesus the Son of Mary said: "O Children of Israel! I am the Messenger of Allah to you confirming the Torah before me, and giving glad tidings of a Messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad. But when he came to them with clear proofs, they said: 'this is plain magic.'" (Q.61:6)

"وَأَذَّ قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ يَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيَّ مِنَ التَّوْرَةِ وَمُبَشِّرًا بِرَسُولٍ يَأْتِي مِنْ بَعْدِي اسْمُهُ أَحْمَدٌ ۖ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ قَالُوا هَذَا سِحْرٌ مُبِينٌ." (الصف 6)