

Sources:

This pamphlet refers to the earliest and most reliable Islamic sources: the Qur'an, (Q), and commentaries written by Al-Qurtubi, Al-Tabari, Al-Shārawy and Ibn Kathir. The quotes from the Qur'an can be found in: www.searchtruth.com

The Ibn Kathir's commentariy can be found at www.qtafsir.com, and the rest at www.altafsir.com

There is a belief among some Muslims that the Torah, the Zubur (the Psalms) and the Injeel (the Gospel) are unreliable sources since they have been tampered with. They claim that some verses in the Qur'an point to this.

We will show what the Qur'an and key Muslim scholars actually say about the authenticity of the Bible and whether there is any reference to its corruption.

The Qur'an affirms that the Bible is revealed by Allah

"To thee We [i.e. Allah] sent the Scripture in truth, confirming the scripture that came before it, and guarding it in safety: so judge between them by what Allah hath revealed, and follow not their vain desires, diverging from the Truth that hath come to thee." (Q.5:48)

Al-Tabari said that the first "scripture" word in this verse is the Qur'an, while the second one is the Torah and Gospel. The confirmation, Al-Tabari said, is the confirmation that the Torah and Gospel are true as they were revealed. The Arabic word "guarding" refers to Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam, as being a guardian of those books before him.

"Say: 'We believe in Allah, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to prophets from their Lord: We make no difference between one and another of them: And we bow to Allah.'" (Q.2:136)

Both Al-Tabari and Ibn-Kathir said that the Torah and the Gospel are books revealed from God, and Muslims are commanded to believe in them just as they do in the Qur'an.

"And in their footsteps, We sent Jesus, son of Mary, confirming the Torah that had come before him, and gave him the Gospel, in which was guidance and light and confirmation of the Torah that had come before it, a guidance and admonition for the pious. Let the people of the Gospel judge by what Allah has revealed therein. And whosoever does not judge by what Allah has revealed, such people are rebellious to Allah." (Q.5:46,47)

So, according to the Qur'an, the Gospel was guidance and light (not falsehood, corruption and lies!!). That is why Allah asked Muhammad to leave Christians to judge themselves by the True Gospel Allah Himself has revealed to Jesus.

True Muslims must believe in all Revealed Books

"O you who believe! Believe in Allah and His Messenger Allah, and the scripture which He hath sent to His Messenger and the scripture which He sent to those before (him). Any who denies Allah, His angels, His Books, His Messengers, and the Day of Judgment, hath gone far, far astray." (Q 4: 136) Also Q.3:119

The Arabic word for "gone far, far astray" is "*Kafir*" which means infidel! Allah considers

anyone who disbelieves in the books He has sent down as infidels. See also Q.2:285

"And dispute ye not with the People of the Book, except with means better (than mere disputation), unless it be with those of them who inflict wrong (and injury): but say "We believe in the revelation which has come down to us and in that which came down to you; Our Allah and your Allah is one; and it is to Him We Bow (in Islam)." (Q.29:46)

If Allah is telling Muhammad to say to the Christians: "I believe in your Gospel", how could this Gospel be corrupted?

Eighteen times, the Qur'an states that it confirms (*muSaddiqan*) the books which came before it (Q.2:41,89,91,97,101; 3:3,50,81; 4:47; 5:46,48; 6:92; 10:37; 12:111; 35:31; 46:12,30; 61:6)

Revealed Books could not change

The Qur'an also affirms that NO ONE can change Allah's revealed books!!

"For they are glad tidings, in the life of the present and in the Hereafter; no change can there be in the words of Allah. This is indeed the supreme victory." (Q 10:64)

"The word of thy Lord doth find its fulfilment in truth and in justice: None can change His words: for He is the One who hearth and knoweth all." (Q.7:115)

So, the ruling of the Qur'an is this, Since the Bible is a revealed Book from Allah Himself, that is light and guidance, and since can there be no change in the Words of Allah, then the Bible is preserved.

But what about Q.5:13 and Q.2:79?

Some Muslims claim that Q.5:13 refers to the corruption of the Bible.

"But because of their breach of their covenant, We cursed them, and made their hearts grow hard; they change the words from their (right) places and forget a good part of the message that was sent them, nor wilt thou cease to find them-barring a few-ever bent on (new) deceits; but forgive them, and overlook (their misdeeds): for Allah loves those who are kind." (Q.5:13)

So, let us examine what key Muslim scholars say about this verse.

Al-Tabari: They would write with their own hands what is not in Allah's books and say to those who have no knowledge: "These are Allah's words."

Al-Qurtubi: They would interpret Allah's words in the wrong way, and tell those who have no knowledge that their interpretations are correct.

Al-Shārawy: They come with words and sayings claiming they are from Allah, while they are not.

According to these important scholars no one tampered with the original text: it is preserved as Allah declared. Those spoken of in Q.5:13 have written, or interpreted what is not in the Bible to deceive some ignorant people. Their writings never crept into the Bible. They merely claimed that their false ideas were found in the Bible, which they are not.

"Then woe to those who write the Book with their own hands, and then say: "This is from Allah," to traffic with it for miserable price! Woe to them for what their hands do write and for the gain they make thereby." (Q.2: 79)

This verse is self-explanatory in the light of the interpretation of Q.5:13 above. Let us still look at what Muslim thinkers say about it

Al-Tabari: People who have little knowledge of Allah's Books wrote a book according to their own interpretations to sell it to some ignorant people claiming it was from Allah, in order to make a small profit.

Ibn-Kathir: People who think they know Allah's Books, but they don't, and say and teach what is not in Allah's Books.

Al-Shārawy: They are people who are either illiterate (with Allah's Books), or have some knowledge of them, but they write what is not in them. They write with their own hands and claim it is from Allah hoping for some kind of authority. Possibly, they may also be Jewish or Christian priests who issue (Fatwas) to please people.

Conclusions

The Torah and the Gospel (contained in the Bible) are divinely revealed books from Allah. The Prophet of Islam, as well as every Muslim, has been commanded to believe in them.

It is a clear ruling in the Qur'an that Allah's Words cannot change or be tampered with: no one could change them.

Q 2:79 and Q 5:13 do not say that the Bible has been tampered with. They claim that some people wrote things which were not in the Bible and claimed that they were. Such people are regarded as cursed. Since, according to the Qur'an, the Bible is Allah's Word, it could not have changed.

Melbourne University's Professor Abdullah Saeed notes:

"Since the "authorized" scriptures of Jews and Christians remain very much today as they existed at the time of the Prophet, it is difficult to argue that the Qur'anic references to Tawrat and Injil were only to the "pure" Tawrat and Injil as existed at the time of Moses and Jesus, respectively... The wholesale dismissive attitude held by many Muslims in the modern period towards the scriptures of Judaism and Christianity do not seem have the support of either the Qur'an or the major figures of tafsir." **The Charge of Distortion of Jewish and Christian Scriptures**
Muslim World Fall 2002, Vol. 92 Issue 3/4, p.419

Has the Bible been changed?

Is the Bible Corrupted? What Does the Qur'an Really Say?



"The word of thy Lord finds its fulfilment in truth and in justice: None can change His words: for He is the one who hears and knows all."

(The Qur'an: Sura Al-An'am 6: 115)

وَتَمَّتْ كَلِمَتُ رَبِّكَ صِدْقًا وَعَدْلًا
لَا مُبَدَّلَ لِكَلِمَاتِهِ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ