

Is the Qur'an from God or from Man?

Muslims have always used four criteria to support the notion that the Qur'an is uniquely a book from God and not from man. These are 1) that it is eternal (i.e. 'uncreated'), 2) that it was sent down to a man named Muhammad between 610 – 632 AD, 3) that it was compiled completely under the auspices of the caliph Uthman in 650 AD, and 4) that the Qur'an we have today is unchanged from that original 7th century *Uthmanic* manuscript. Since the first two suppositions are historically subjective, Jay will confront the last two historical claims by looking at some new research which has just been carried out on the earliest 6 major Qur'anic manuscripts, proving that no longer can Muslims claim the above four, suggesting that the Qur'an indeed is simply a book written by men, and not God, and most importantly, that Muhammad had little or nothing to do with it.

Jay Smith has worked with Muslims since 1983. He has two masters' degrees and will complete his PhD in Islamics and Polemics by the summer of 2015. Jay is one of Christianity's principal public evangelists and debaters to the Muslim world. He travels extensively teaching Apologetics for those exploring ministry to Muslims and engages the movers and thinkers of Islam on a weekly basis. He is the founding member of the 'Hyde Park Christian Fellowship', a weekly evangelism ministry to Muslims in London's public places, as well as a co-founder for the 'Pfander Centre for Apologetics'.

I. Introduction

A. The Muslim's claims for their Qur'an

1. It is eternal (Sura 85:22)
2. It was sent down to Muhammad between 610 – 632 AD
3. It was compiled completely under the authority of the caliph Uthman in 650 AD
4. It has been unchanged for 1400 years

B. Assessing the six major Qur'anic Manuscripts

1. The Topkapi in Istanbul, Turkey
2. The Sammarqand in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
3. The Housseini in Cairo, Egypt
4. The Ma'il in London, England
5. The Petropolitanus in Paris, France
6. The San'a in San'a, Yemen

C. Dan Brubaker's Newest research on the early Corrections

1. Tappings
2. Insertions
3. Erasures
4. Erasures Overwritten
5. Overwriting (without erasure)
6. Selective Covering
7. Selective Covering Overwritten

II. Conclusions

- A. It is NOT eternal, NOR sent down, NOR compiled completely, NOR unchanged
- B. Therefore, who is Muhammad, and what is his purpose?
- C. Who then is 'eternal', 'sent down', complete', and 'Unchanged'?...JESUS

Suggested Readings/Viewings:

As some of this material is brand new (i.e. less than a year old), nothing yet has been published.

However, for an introduction to the topic please see Pfanderfilms Youtube videos 'Can we talk about it':

<https://www.youtube.com/user/PfanderFilms>

To see how Jay used this material in a debate with Islam's greatest debater, Shabir Ally, and how he responded to it, go to: 'The Classic Debate: The Bible or the Qur'an' between Dr. Ally and Jay Smith in:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWHV9VnOJtc>