

Scrutinizing Claims Muslims Make About the Qur'an

While Christians believe the Bible to be the Word of God, we accept that the authors are human, but inspired by the Holy Spirit to write. Muslims believe the Qur'an was authored by Allah, who keeps an original copy in heaven. The Qur'an is apparently perfect in every respect, unchanged and unchangeable, miraculous, superior in its Arabic language and eloquence. Finally, they claim the Qur'an is Allah's last message to humanity. In this session, all these claims and more are put to scrutiny using logic, historical, geographical, arithmetic and manuscript evidence.

Emil Shehadeh was born in Israel and educated mainly in the UK achieving BSc Hons (Medical Biology), MSc (Biochemistry), MB ChB (Medicine), a Diploma in Dermatology and MRCP. Growing up in Israel he accompanied his parents all over Galilee spreading the Gospel amongst all communities including Muslims. He also worked with Child Evangelism Fellowship and OM. In the early 1990s he co-founded an Arabic Church in Cardiff, S Wales. He practiced as a GP (Family Physician and a trainer) until 2016. Upon retirement, he dedicated his time to writing and speaking on the subject of Islam and evangelizing Muslims. He supports evangelistic work amongst Muslims in The Balkans, North Africa and Nigeria. Emil has a PhD in Islamic Studies from Logos University and is engaged in another piece of research, at LST, Northwood, on Causes and Consequences of Muslim Conversions to Christianity. He believes that the expansion of the Kingdom of God must be the chief concern of the people of God.

I. Introduction

- A. To Muslims, the Quran is more than what the Bible is to Christians
- B. Did Muhammad accept that the Qur'an was a revelation from Allah?
- C. The role of Waraqah ibn Nawfal and Khadijah in the "Revelation" of the Qur'an
- D. How did Muhammad view the Bible?

II. General Points

- A. What is the Qur'an and how did it come to be?
- B. Sunni vs Shiites
- C. What percentage of Muslims can read the Quran?
- D. 20% of the language of Quran is Aramaic
- E. Example/Group work: How many of the five pillars of Islam are fully described in the Quran?

III. Claims and Counterclaims

Workshop 1 : Why do Muslims need Sirah, Hadith and Tafsir?

- A. Is the Qur'an God's Last Word to mankind?
- B. Is the Qur'an free of contradiction?
 - 1. What is Naskh? How did Jesus come into this world?
- C. Is the Quran a linguistic miracle?
- D. Is the Quran a clear Arabic Qur'an مبينا عربيا قرأنا.
- E. Tanzil: المحفوظ اللوح
- F. Is the Qur'an complete?
- G. Only one Qur'an?
 - 1. Qur'an of Omar, Aisha and Ali, Ibn Masud etc...
- H. Revelation. Did Allah speak only to Muhammad?

IV. Survey results

Workshop 2 : How to engage Muslims on this subject

V. Q&As