

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Is Our Bible Corrupt?

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Muslims believe and claim that our Bible is corrupt. So, one cannot trust the teachings contained within as emanating from God. Of course, this assertion of corruptness is designed to clear the way for the Koran. . You can supposedly trust it for Allah has not allowed it to be corrupt. Is Jehovah less powerful are less observant to let such a thing happen with His revelation?

Was the Bible corrupted before or after the Koran's origination in the seventh century? If a Muslim claims it was corrupted before the Koran, why does Allah guide his prophet to commend the Bible? In Surah 5, aya 46-47 we read: *“And We sent after them in their footsteps Isa, son of Marium, verifying what was before him of the Taurat and We gave him the Injeel in which was guidance and light, and verifying what was before it of Taurat and a guidance and an admonition for those who guard (against evil). [5.47] And the followers of the Injeel should have judged by what Allah revealed in it; and whoever did not judge by what Allah revealed, those are they that are the transgressors. Allah commends the Gospel of Christ as “Injeel” -*

the word or revelation of God, describing it as “guidance and light” and consistent with the Old Testament's teachings through Moses. How could Allah through Mohammed justly call men transgressors by a standard that was corrupt? Surely a Muslim cannot believe that the Bible (Old and New Testament) was corrupted before the seventh century when Allah through Mohammed commended the Bible and trusted in it to justly determine who the transgressors were.

If a Muslim asserts that the Bible was corrupted after the seventh century, then he or she has to face the abundant manuscript evidence that dates back to before the seventh century. Over 5,000 Greek manuscripts are extant indicating that our Bible has not been corrupted. The Codex Sinaiticus (350 A.D.) contains most of the New Testament, and the Codex Vaticanus (325-350 A.D.) along with the Codex Alexandrinus (400 A.D.) contain nearly all of the Bible in each collection. The John Ryland Mss., containing a portion of the Gospel of John, is dated 130 A.D. placing it less than 50 years from the original. Having so many manuscripts, if one were to try to corrupt the Bible they

would have to change thousands of manuscripts located in different places.

Besides this, over 9,000 existing copies of ancient versions of the Bible dating from the third to the fifth centuries give a textual basis showing our Bible has not been corrupted. We also can produce most of the New Testament simply by putting together the quotations of the New Testament from church leaders of the early second and third centuries such as Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Origen, Tertullian and Eusebius.

Synods in the fourth century such as the counsel of Hippo (393 A.D.) and the synod of Carthage (397 A.D.) declared that the 27 books of our New Testament were God's word. These Synods were summoned to officially declare what had been already recognized for two centuries. That which we have in our Bibles is *“in truth the word of God” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)*. Apparently Allah did not believe it had been corrupted before the seventh century, and manuscript evidence will manifest our Bible's lack of corruption for ever.