

THE CROSS OR THE CRESCENT
A Study of Islam in Light of the Scriptures

1. Christianity is the largest religion in the world with Islam a close second.
2. In these five discussions we propose to learn more about Islam and examine the differences between Christianity and Islam.
3. To aid in our understanding of Islam, a few word definitions are in order.
 - a. Allah: The Arabic word for God (literally “the God”)
 - b. Islam: “Submission to Allah”
 - c. Ka’bah: means “cube” and refers to the central shrine of Islam in Mecca to which pilgrimage is made.
 - d. Mosque: In Arabic “place of prostration” the building in which Muslims worship
 - e. Muslim: One who submits to Allah.
 - f. Quraysh: The Arabian tribe that included Mohammed’s family.
 - g. Shahada(s) The confessions made by Muslims affirming the oneness of Allah & the role of Muhammed as Allah’s messenger.
 - h. Sura: One of 114 “chapters” in the Quran
 - i. Quran: means “the recital” the holy book of Islam
4. We intend to present these discussions in a spirit of love and an attitude of fairness, relying heavily on facts rather than opinion.
5. The Bible and the Quran are entirely different kinds of literature and both claim to be the guide for their followers.
6. The Bible is the source for Jews and Christians.
7. The Quran is the source for Muslims.
- 9 A look at the two books

The Bible claims to be God’s final revelation to man. “All scripture given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16,17) (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)

The Quran claims to be Allah’s final revelation to man. “And that those on whom knowledge has been bestowed may learn that the (Quran) is the Truth from thy Lord, and that they may believe therein, and their hearts may be made humbly (open) to it: for verify Allah is the Guide of those who believe, to the Straight Way” (Sura 22:54).

The Bible claims to be given by inspiration. “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come. He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak: and He will tell you things to come” (John 16:13)

The Quran was revealed to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel: “Say: Whoever is an enemy to Gabriel—for he brings down the (revelation) to thy heart by Allah’s will, a confirmation of what went before, and guidance and glad tidings for those who believe” (Sura 2:97)

The Bible was revealed to over 40 different writers over a period of 1500 years

The Quran was received by Muhammad from the angel Gabriel in visions over a period of 23 years.

The Bible consists of 66 books divided into the Old and New Testaments.

The Quran consists of one book divided into 114 Suras (chapters).

The Bible was written in 3 different languages, Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

The Quran was written in Arabic (supposedly perfect Arabic "It is a Quran in Arabic, without any crookedness (therin): in order that they may guard against Evil. (Sura 39:28)

The Bible consists of different kinds of literature (Poetry, History, Prophecy, Law, Apocryphal)

The Quran is a recitation given by the angel Gabriel in visions over a period of 23 years.

The Bible overall is chronological beginning with the creation account and ending with Christ's final words to man in the book of Revelation

The Quran has suras that are in no particular order as to when they were written.

The Bible has a central message of salvation. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The Quran has a central message of submission to Allah (Islam means submission to Allah)

The Bible has been translated in hundreds of different languages.

The Quran claims the only correct copy is in perfect Arabic (Sura 39:28)