



NEW MUSLIM
ACADEMY

The Quran

Narrative vis-à-vis the Biblical Narrative



The Quran is the last testament and scripture of God. It is the final of God's divinely revealed books. For this reason, it contains all that humans need of spiritual light, guidance, and knowledge. It confirms the truth that is found in the previous scriptures, in addition to it being superior to them, as it is the final testament with universal application, not limited to time or space, and in the fact that God has preserved the Quran from alteration. God has chosen the Quran to abrogate all previous scriptures and to be His final word to mankind.



When looking at what remains of previous scriptures, like what is contained in the Bible, we follow a certain formula. If the Quran confirms that which is found in previous scriptures, then we confirm it due to its mention in the Quran. If, however, the Quran disagrees or gives a different command, we take the message of the Quran and disregard anything else. For this reason, the Messenger Muhammad told us to focus on the Quran and that it is sufficient for us. When his disciple Umar, was seen one day with some pages from the Torah, the Messenger Muhammad became angry. **He told Umar that the Quran was sufficient and that even if Moses himself was alive, he too would be required to follow the Messenger Muhammad** as God commands.

The previous scriptures have been altered over time. They are no longer in their original pristine form as revealed by God. Thus, they do not represent the actual divine books revealed to Moses or Jesus. One of the ways in which this is noticeable is in the stories of the messengers. For Muslims, the Messengers of God are the best of humans and never willingly disobey God or commit major sins. They are shining lights and role models to their people and humanity at large. However, this is not what is found in the Bible.





An example of this is found in the story of Noah. In the Quran, Noah is described as being a man of patience, steadfastness, and gratitude, and one of God's greatest Messengers. However, in the Biblical account, Noah is described as a winemaker and consumer. In one instance, he became drunk and slept naked, much to the consternation of his sons. This is an account that Muslims completely reject.



Another example is found in the story of Lot. In the Quran, Lot is praised by God on numerous occasions. His story is repeated as an example of a Messenger who struggled with his people and prevented them from immorality, indecency and debauchery. He cared deeply for their guidance and salvation and directed them to God's way and a moral upright life. He advised and admonished them, warned them of God's anger and punishment, and showed them ways that would be pleasing to God. In the Biblical account, Lot is described as a drunk and as someone who had intimate relations with his own daughters. These are just two examples to demonstrate the negative light by which the messengers are presented in the Bible, but there are a number of others.

According to the Bible, Aaron made a golden calf that would be worshipped beside God, thus breaking the central tenet and greatest commandment of Divine exclusivity in devotion to the One True God. Solomon is claimed to have worshipped false gods in order to please his pagan wives. David is claimed to have committed adultery. All of these are major sins and contravene the laws of God. The Quranic narrative mentions none of the above, instead proclaiming all of these Messengers as God's chosen and obedient servants and freeing them from the false claims and lies against them.



The Quran focuses on the central theme of worshipping God alone and devoting all forms of worship to Him exclusively. To this end, the Quran often speaks about God, His names and attributes, and His powers and abilities. Along with this topic, the theme of belief is a constant, as much of the Quran is about the other tenets of belief especially the Day of Resurrection and what comes after it of Paradise and Hell. This is not done to the same level and extent in the Biblical narrative.



The Quran also contains laws and commandments; things that God has obligated or prohibited. This includes acts of devotion, as well as laws pertaining to human life from food, drink, and clothing, to agriculture and trade, to marriage and divorce. The acts of devotion mentioned in the Quran differ from what is mentioned in previous scriptures. The Islamic concepts of daily ritual devotions, alms payments, fasting, and pilgrimage are not the same as found in the biblical narrative today. Similarly, the Quran details laws of marriage and divorce, inheritance, and other aspects of daily life, such as eating and drinking.



Although the Biblical narrative also contains aspects of worship and law, these differ in a number of details than the Quran. As mentioned previously, the Quran either confirms previous commands and laws or abrogates them. Therefore, the kosher food laws of Judaism are replaced by the halal laws pertaining to food and drink mentioned in the Quran. This would be the case for all of God's commands.

As such, because it is difficult to determine what from the previous scriptures is still in its original and pristine form, and therefore from God, we are taught that the Quran is sufficient, and contains all the guidance and knowledge we need. In fact, even if those scriptures were in their original form, the Quran supersedes what is found in them. Therefore, the Quran is sufficient guidance for all of mankind.

 **NewMuslimAcademy**

 **aftershahaadah**

 **NewMuslimAcadem**

www.newmuslimacademy.org