

MIRACLE SCRIPTURES

by Darrell Sutton

As of late, there have been various biographies, essays and articles published for the purpose of allowing the reader greater access to the founder of Islam, Muhammad. In many ways, these publications have drawn attention not only to the sources of Islamic thought & practice but also to the formative days of the Quran. The claim of the Muslim is that the Quran is a miracle that cannot be duplicated. In fact, a verse in Surah 14:1 (Abraham) gives a pretty good picture of what is believed by all in mosques, generally speaking:

“{This is} the book we have sent down to you in order to bring man out of darkness and toward the light; by the command of their Lord, to the path of the Almighty, the most praised.”

The idea is that the Quran had its origin in Heaven. Whence, God chose to cause it to descend unto man in the Arabic language, the tongue chosen by God to convey His truth. At this point, the reader of the Quran is instructed to believe that “this book” will lead one out of darkness to some form of light. It is true that the Quran is an Arabic document. It is not true that it originated in this form in heaven. The Quran was not even compiled until just after Muhammad’s death. Their scriptural portrait is relatively clear. Long before the worlds were created, “Muhammadan revelations existed in the mind of God, awaiting the appropriate time to be revealed.” Seriously folks, the materials that make up the Quran are bits and pieces of Bible stories cut up and pasted together to form the supposed revelations (*already revealed hundreds of years prior to Jews and Christians*) called the Quran. Written over a period of 22 years or so, it was then, committed to memory and after a major battle, a process was initiated that, rather than allow those who have memorized it to die off, it would be better to take these oral revelations and put them into a more suitable form. Apart from its literary charm there is no claim in it at all for the supernatural as a confirmable event for all time, merely, a blind faith in Muhammad as the successor to the other two religions of the book.

If we contrast the making of the Quran with the compilation of both, the Old and New Testaments as given to the Jews and Christians our picture changes radically; divine inspiration produced writings over a period of 1400 years, by men who were of diverse backgrounds. *Yet, in all of the Old Testament books, the prophecies outline the coming of a Messiah (Christ) who would bring liberty and freedom by the power of the Holy Ghost.* The New Testament carries all of this to its foregone conclusion as Luke beautifully narrates the story of the beginnings of the early church. His precision in historical matters rivals that of the classical authors, Thucydides & Herodotus for detail. ***His penetrating insight into the myriad cultures of imperial Rome show an Apostle named Paul traveling throughout with the banner “miracles, signs and wonders” in full view. But, notice, that those things, which were accomplished in the book of Acts at that time, are still carried out by Jesus’ body today.*** We hear of no Islamic revivals where the lame are healed, there are no Islamic song services {unless you count the agonizing whining of the men who issue the call to prayer}, no soul searching, heart convicting messages of sin & redemption, at all! Still, I do find a few men ranting and raving about American and Israeli issues who desire to stir up wrath, strife and hatred against forward thinking nations who broke off the shackles of mediocrity and marched into the era of the industrial revolution.

The Church on the other hand, is gracefully carrying out her assignment to prepare each generation for the coming of the Lord. With visions of heaven before her and the horrors of hell in the background, she pushes on preaching a Gospel based upon inspired scriptures that are confirmed even to this day with the aid of God, the Holy Ghost. The Triune Godhead is stretching forth his mighty right arm to minister the Word with signs following. From the Andes mountains of South America to the jungles of Burma, the hand of the Lord is at work in saving souls, healing the sick & casting out devils and also, in baptizing believers with the Holy Ghost which is evidenced by speaking in other tongues. Back in 1992, I sponsored a meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. I gathered together some underground churches for a great Easter meeting in the Consulate auditorium and had a friend of mine preach the service. Oh, the miracle working power of God that was on display there. It would take many more pages than I am given to go through my journal and annotate it all. But, the point is simple enough; ***only a few miles from Mecca, in the shadow of Islam's main pilgrimage site, we saw miracles in the desert.*** A meeting put on by Americans, sanctioned by our Consulate General, the honorable Mr. Griffith, and well attended by people from many nations, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for a brief moment in time, walked the dusty streets of Arabia and his power was present to heal.

With so many persons worried about a growing religion like Islam, we must remind ourselves each day that for us and us alone, Jesus lives. He arose from the grave to manifest infallible proofs to an unbelieving world that He is Lord. The prophecies of scripture and of the coming of the Lord should continue to comfort us during these last hours. Each time I read through the chapters of the Quran I am reminded that all of the figures mentioned within its pages are DEAD! Their memories, though, have become the basis for the radical teachings of Islamic theologians and we must counter these teachings with the pure Words of God as located in Bible. You know, reader, Dad is right when he reminds us in each newsletter that there is no doom and gloom for the believer, and that the wonderful, marvelous, thrilling & majestic book of revelation contains a central message about Jesus Christ. But to not know that the Lord means business when he says "Behold I come quickly" will be very costly.

Finally, let us remember the words of the great apostle Peter who said "**...We have not followed cunningly devised fables when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.**" God's Word, my friend, is the only text of miracle scripture in existence today and without the Bible in general, and Jesus, in particular, there is no help for mankind today.