

Why Is The 'Qur'an' Different?

By **Alexander Baron** - Jul 23, 2015



Oldest fragments of the Qur'an have been found by the University of Birmingham

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It is by no means unusual for an important document to be found sitting gathering dust on an archive shelf somewhere, but the recent discovery of fragments of the *Qur'an* is in a different class. Dated to the lifetime of The Prophet – peace be upon him – **according to** Professor David Thomas of Birmingham University, it may have been written by someone who actually knew the man himself. This is a truly amazing find, but what makes the *Qur'an* so special and how is it different from other holy books?

The *Qur'an* stands apart from in particular the Christian *Bible* for two reasons: The Prophet was a real, historical character, and the book was delivered to him directly by an Angel.

By contrast, there is no credible evidence that the central character of Christianity existed; Jesus may be a composite character, an entirely mythical one...at least one scholar thought he was **a mushroom**! On the other hand, we have direct physical evidence of the existence of Muhammad; there are copies of his seal extant.

The *Bible* consists of 66 books: 39 in the *Old Testament*; 27 in the *New Testament*. These were written by different people at different times and are not consistent either with each other or with the historical record. The four *Gospels*: *Matthew*, *Mark*, *Luke* and *John* in particular are not consistent. Some of the *Bible's* contradictions are trivial, others not so, but the fact that any of its books are considered part of the *Bible* itself is due to human intervention; in the 16th Century, the Council of Trent decided what would be included and what would not. There are for example many *Gospels* beside the regular four.

To be a true Christian, one must believe only in the Resurrection, ie the physical body of Jesus Christ overcoming death.

What though of the *Qu'ran*? Because it is believed to be not only divinely inspired but divinely authored, there can be no inconsistencies, no euhemerisms, no explaining anything away, for how can God be wrong?

Although it has now been translated into **many languages**, there is and can only ever be one *Qu'ran*. On account of this, all devout Moslems learn or try to learn at least some Arabic, because it is said the holiest of holy books can truly be understood only when read in Classical Arabic, the language of revelation.

There are two things even moderate, Westernised Moslems find abhorrent: any physical depiction of The Prophet and any profaning of the *Qu'ran*. In view of all the other profanity we have in the West, including nightly in our soap operas, that is really not a big thing to accommodate.