
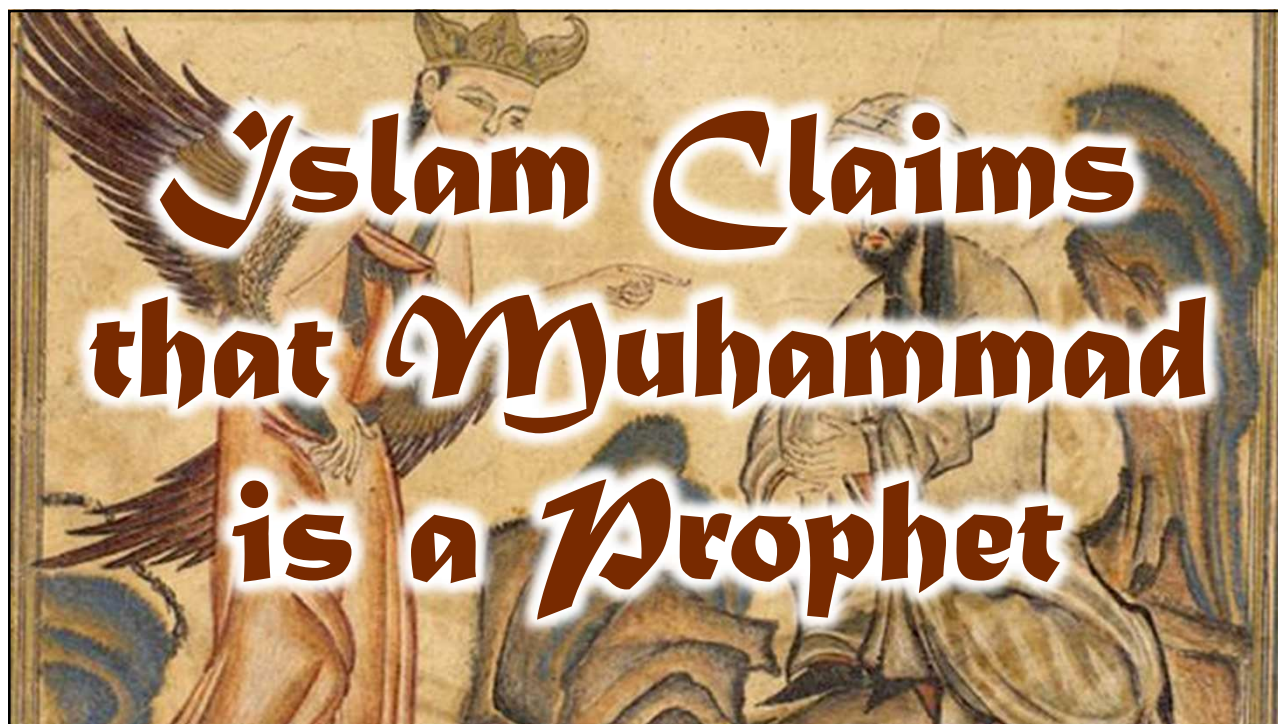
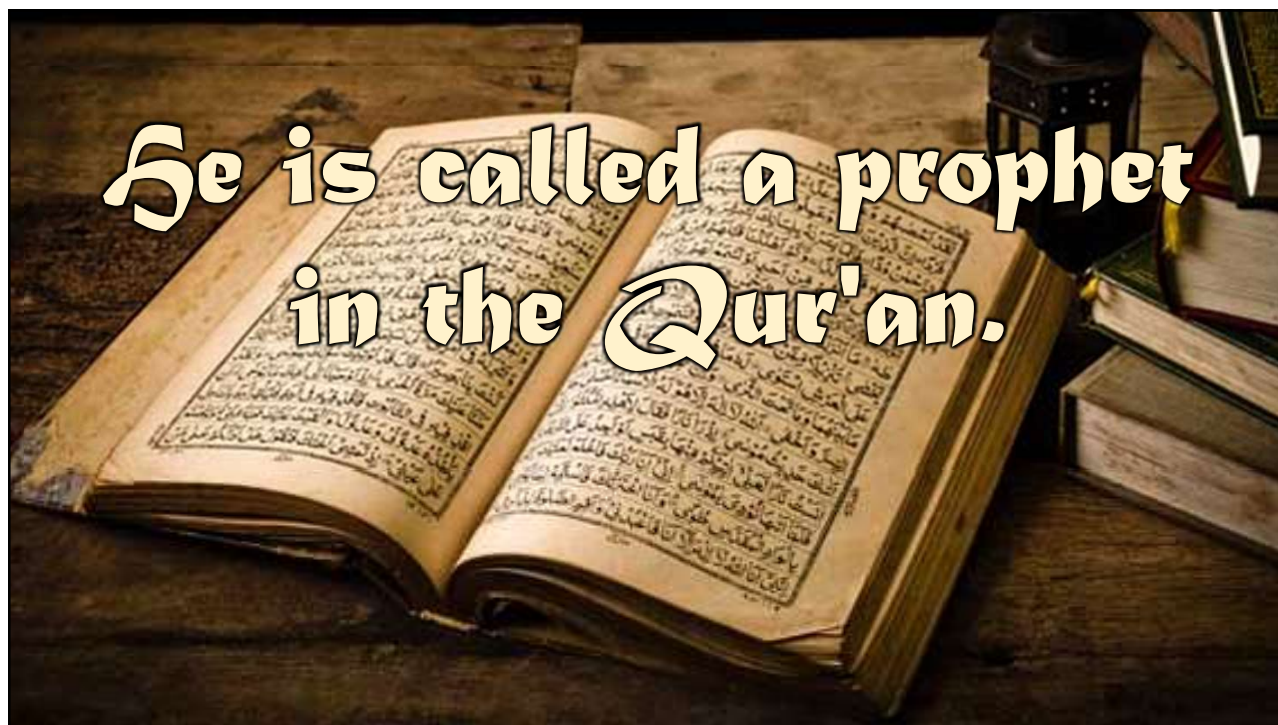


ANSWERING  
**ISLAM**  
THE CRESCENT  
IN THE LIGHT  
OF THE CROSS  
Norman L. Geisler & Abdul Saleeb

Updated & Revised  
ANSWERING  
ISLAM  
*The Crescent in Light of the Cross*  
  
NORMAN L. GEISLER  
ABDUL SALEEB



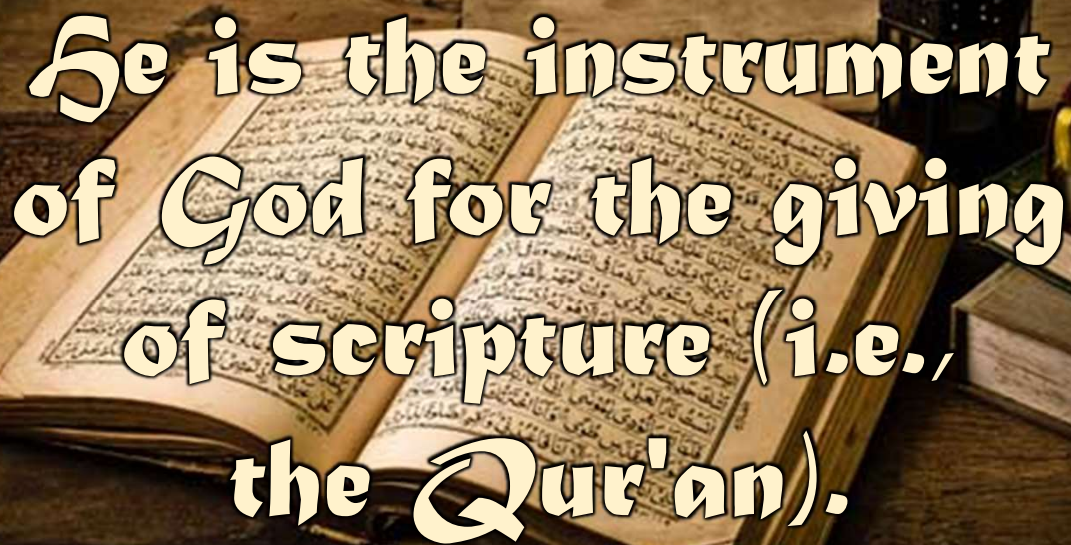
**Islam Claims  
that Muhammad  
is a Prophet**



**He is called a prophet  
in the Qur'an.**



*Sura 66:1. O Prophet! Why do you ban (for yourself) that which Allah has made lawful to you, seeking to please your wives? And Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.*



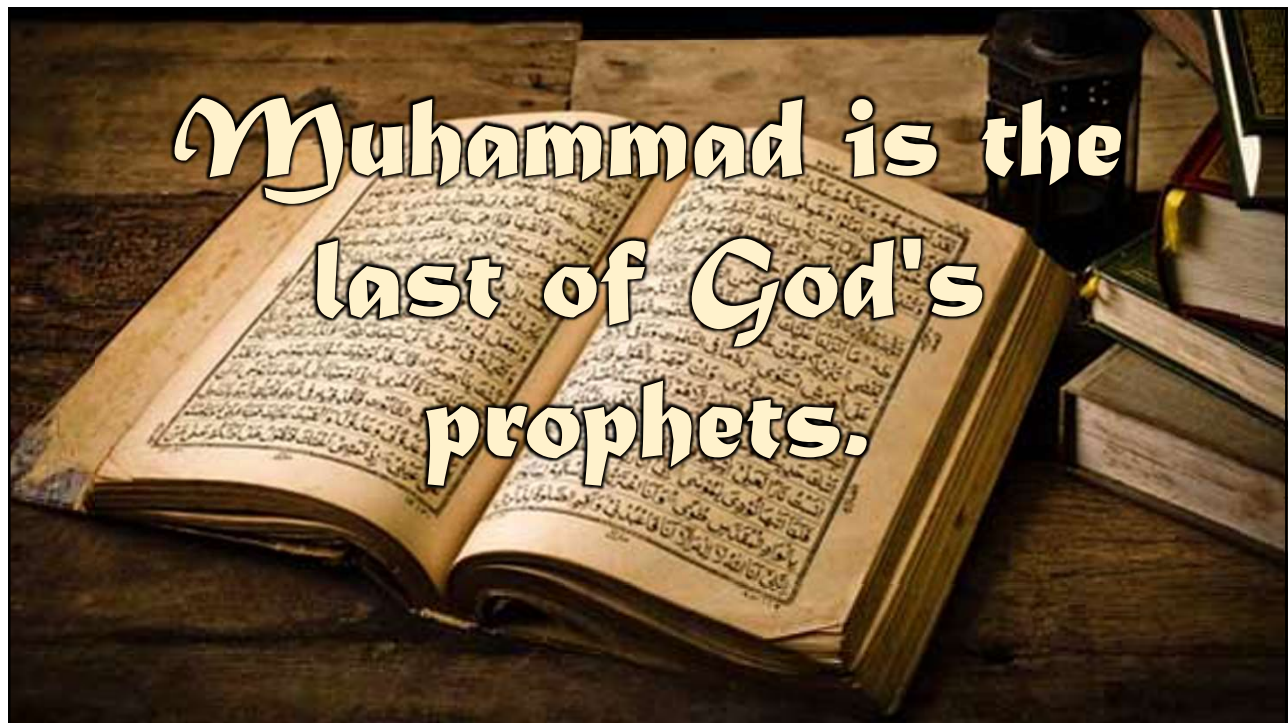
**He is the instrument of God for the giving of scripture (i.e., the Qur'an).**

*Sura 3:3, 7. It is He Who has sent down the Book to you with truth, confirming what came before it. And he sent down the Taurat (Torah) and the Injeel (Gospel). ... It is He Who has sent down to you the Book. In it are Verses that are entirely clear, they are the foundations of the Book, Al-Fara'id (obligatory duties) and Al-Hudud (legal laws for the punishment of thieves, adulterers, etc.); and others not entirely clear.*

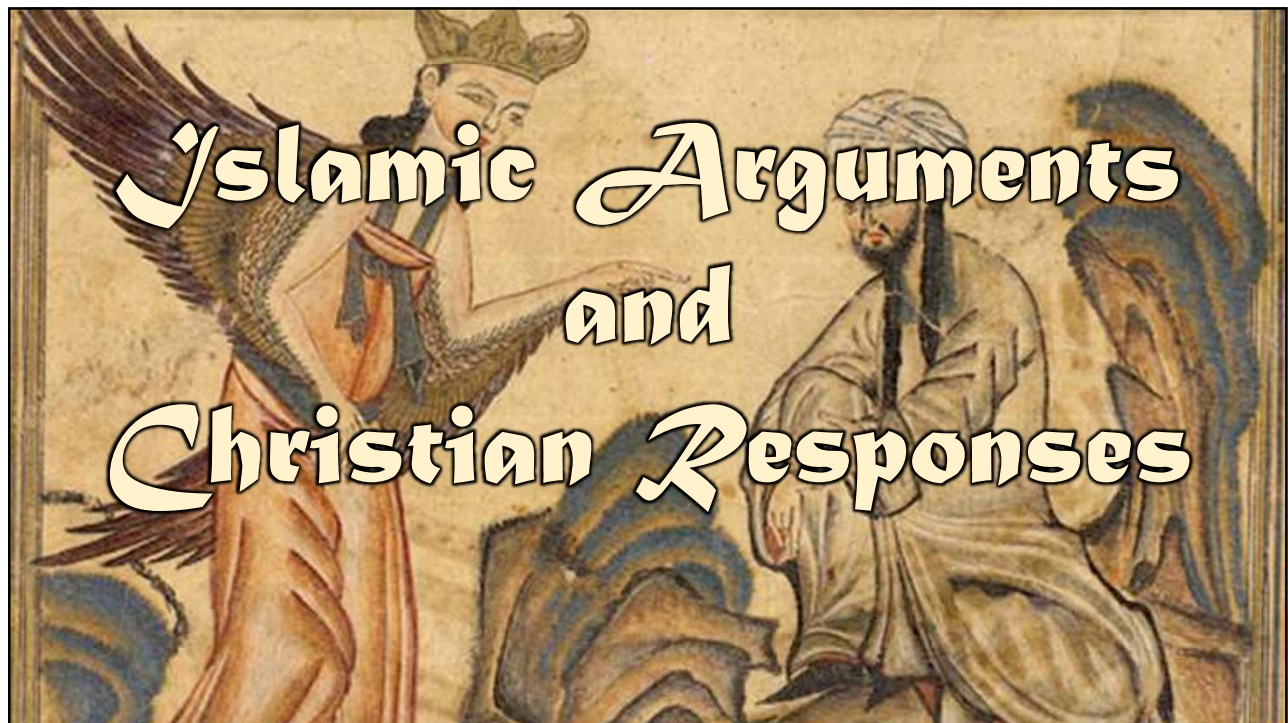
*Sura 5:15. O people of the Scripture! Now has come to you Our Messenger explaining to you much of that which you used to hide from the Scripture and passing over much. Indeed, there has come to you from Allah a light and a plain Book.*



*Sura 6:19. Say (O Muhammad ): "What thing is the most great in witness?" Say: "Allah is Witness between me and you; this Qur'an has been revealed to me that I may therewith warn you and whomsoever it may reach."*



*Sura 33:40. Muhammad is not the father of any man among you, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the last of the Prophets. And Allah is Ever All-Aware of everything.*





**Islam Claims the Bible  
Predicted the Coming of  
Muhammad in  
Deut. 18:15-18.**

☞ **Deut. 18:15-18** ☞

*"The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.' "And the LORD said to me: "What they have spoken is good. 'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.*



# Response

## ☞ Deut. 18:15-18 ☞

*"The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your **brethren**. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.' And the LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.' "*





## ☞ Deut. 18:15-18 ☞

*"The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your **brethren**. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the*

***The term 'brethren' must mean 'fellow Israelite' and thus cannot be referring to Muhammad.***

***Compare Deut. 17:15 where 'brethren' is contrasted with 'foreigner'.***

## ☞ Deut. 17:15 ☞

*"You shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; one from among your **brethren** you shall set as king over you; **you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.**"*

☞ Deut. 17:15 ☞

*"You shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; one from*

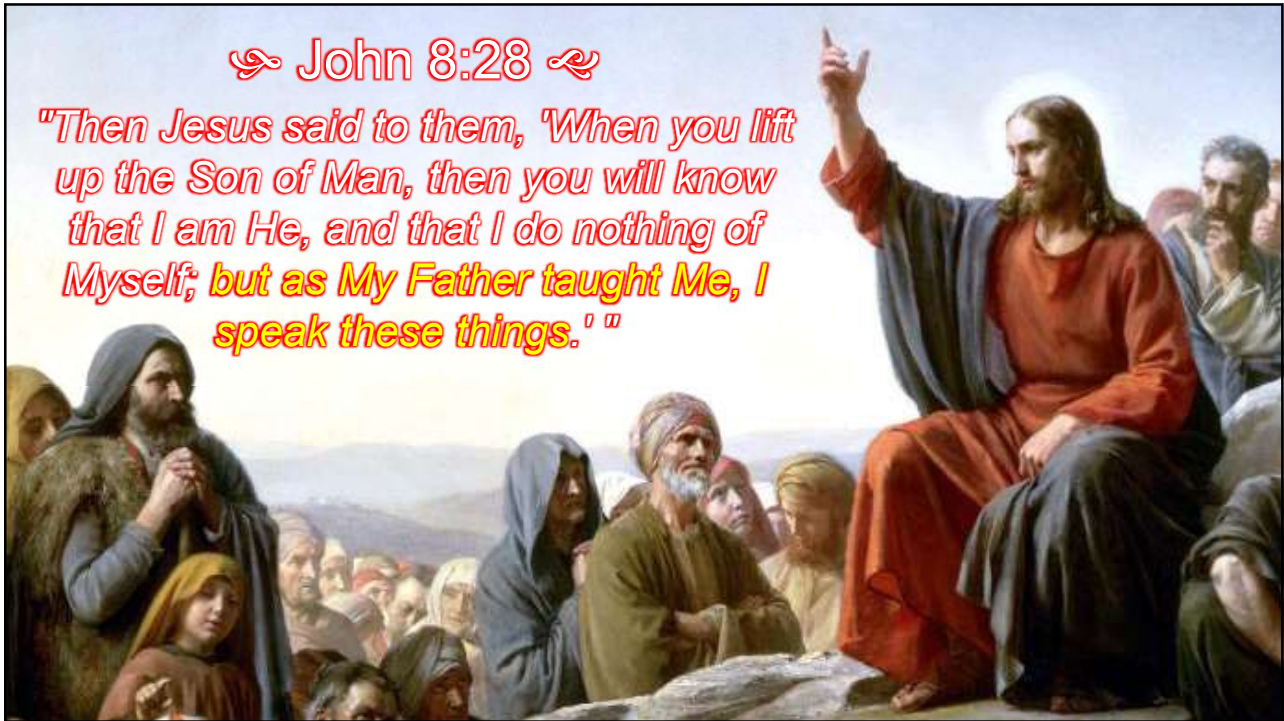
***The term 'brethren' must mean 'fellow Israelite' and thus cannot be referring to Muhammad.***

***Compare Deut. 17:15 where 'brethren' is contrasted with 'foreigner'.***

***This verse was fulfilled by Jesus who was a fellow Israelite.***

☞ John 8:28 ☞

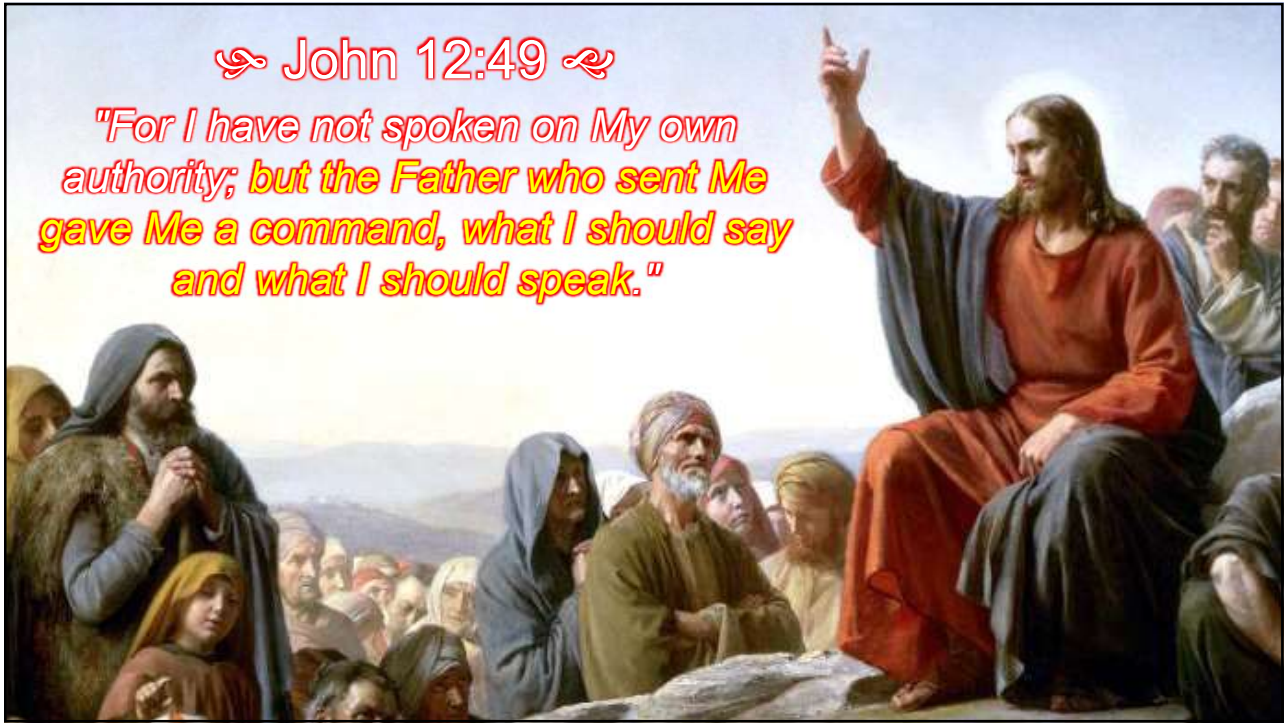
***"Then Jesus said to them, 'When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.' "***



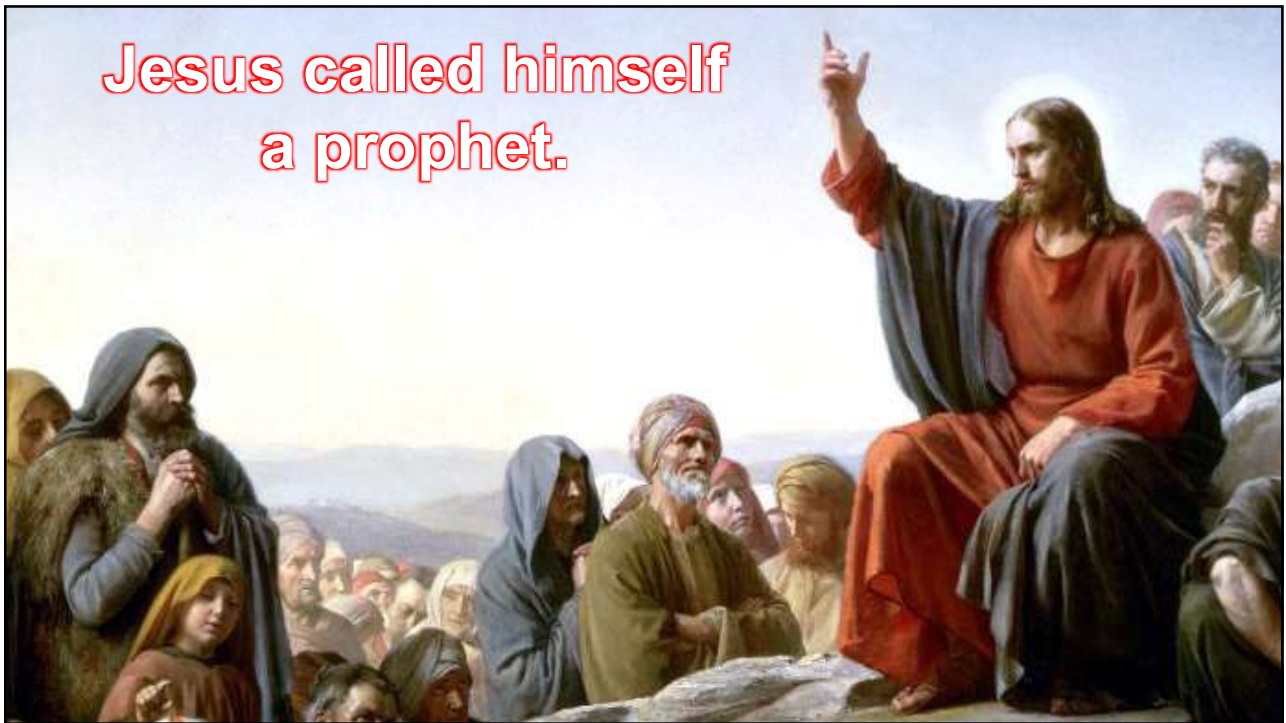


☞ John 12:49 ☞

*"For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak."*

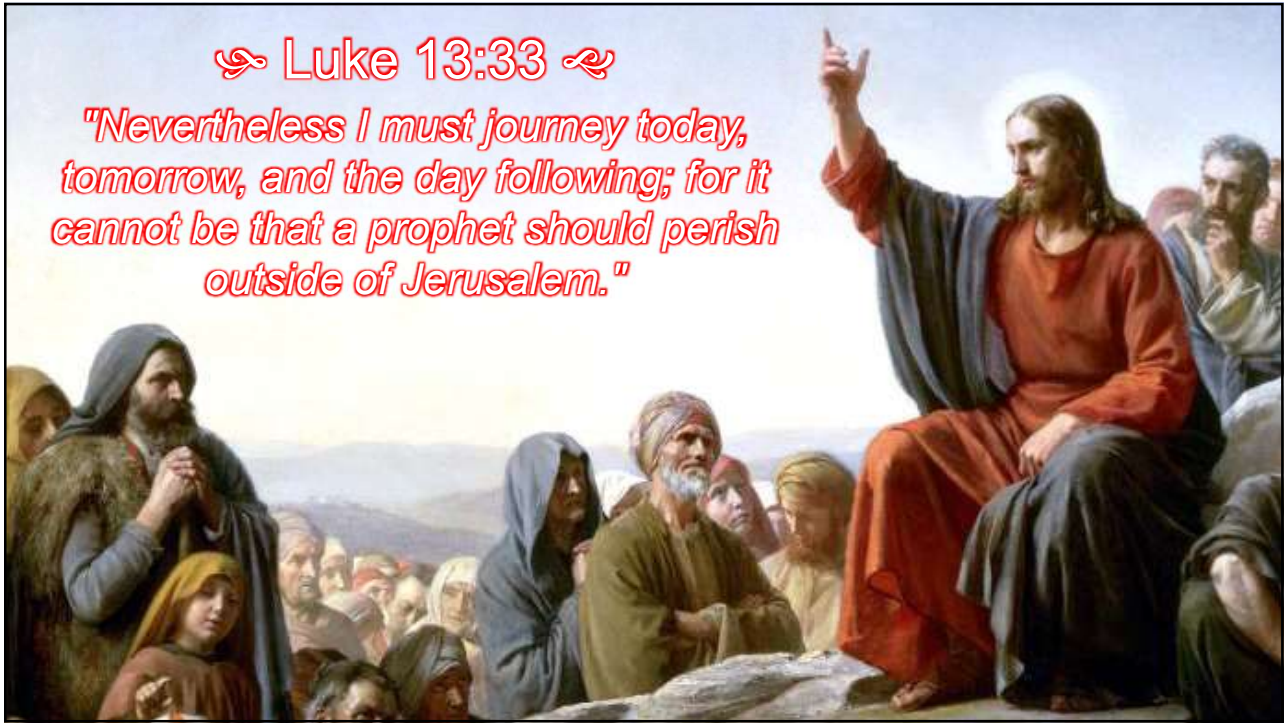


Jesus called himself  
a prophet.

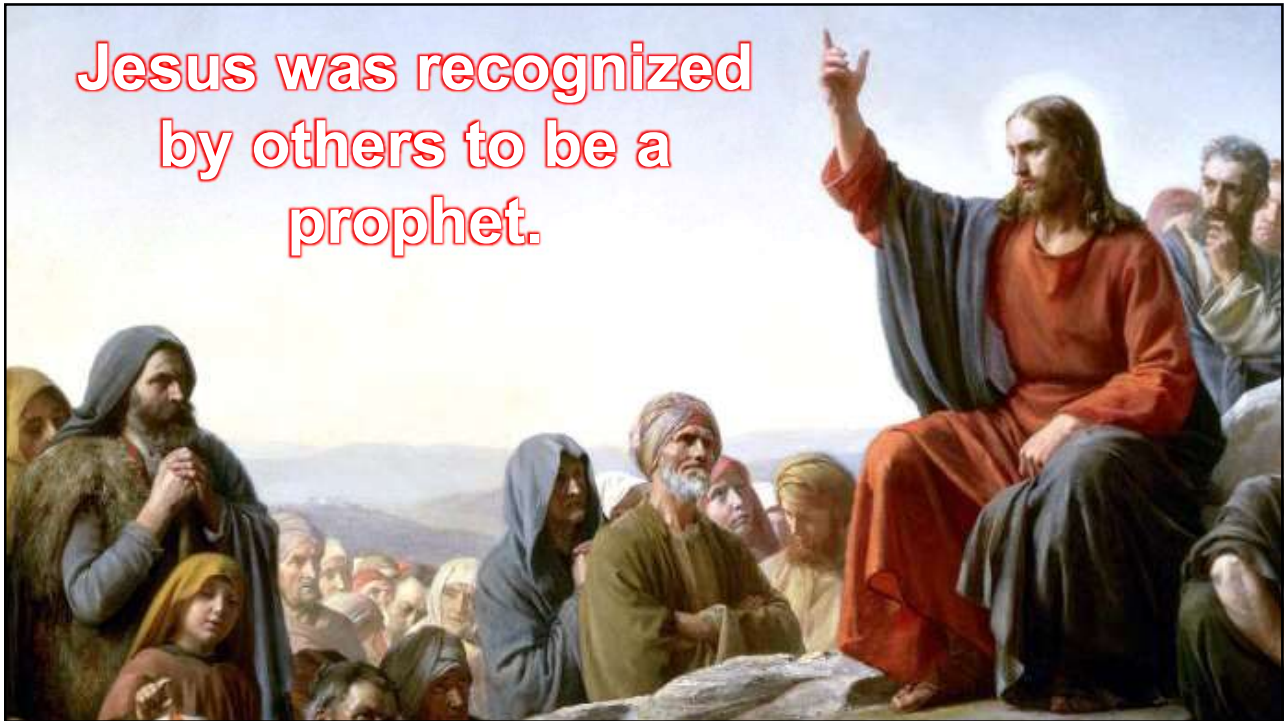


☞ Luke 13:33 ☞

*"Nevertheless I must journey today,  
tomorrow, and the day following; for it  
cannot be that a prophet should perish  
outside of Jerusalem."*



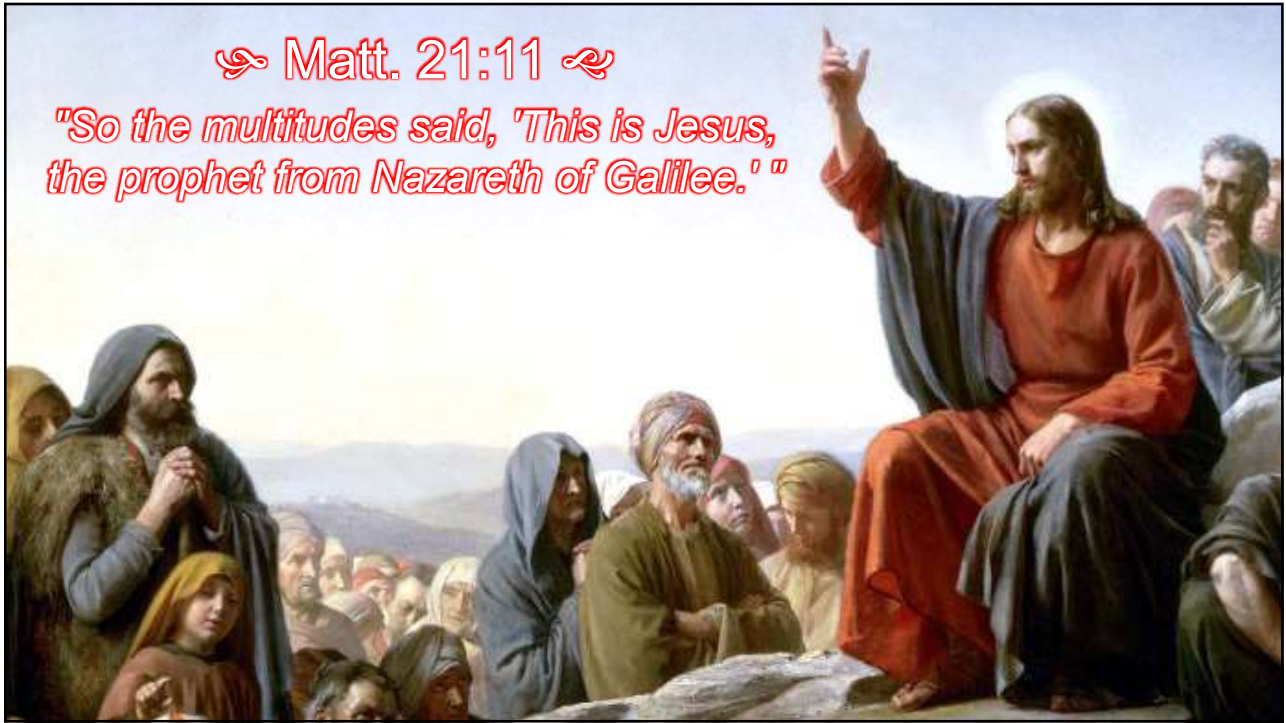
**Jesus was recognized  
by others to be a  
prophet.**



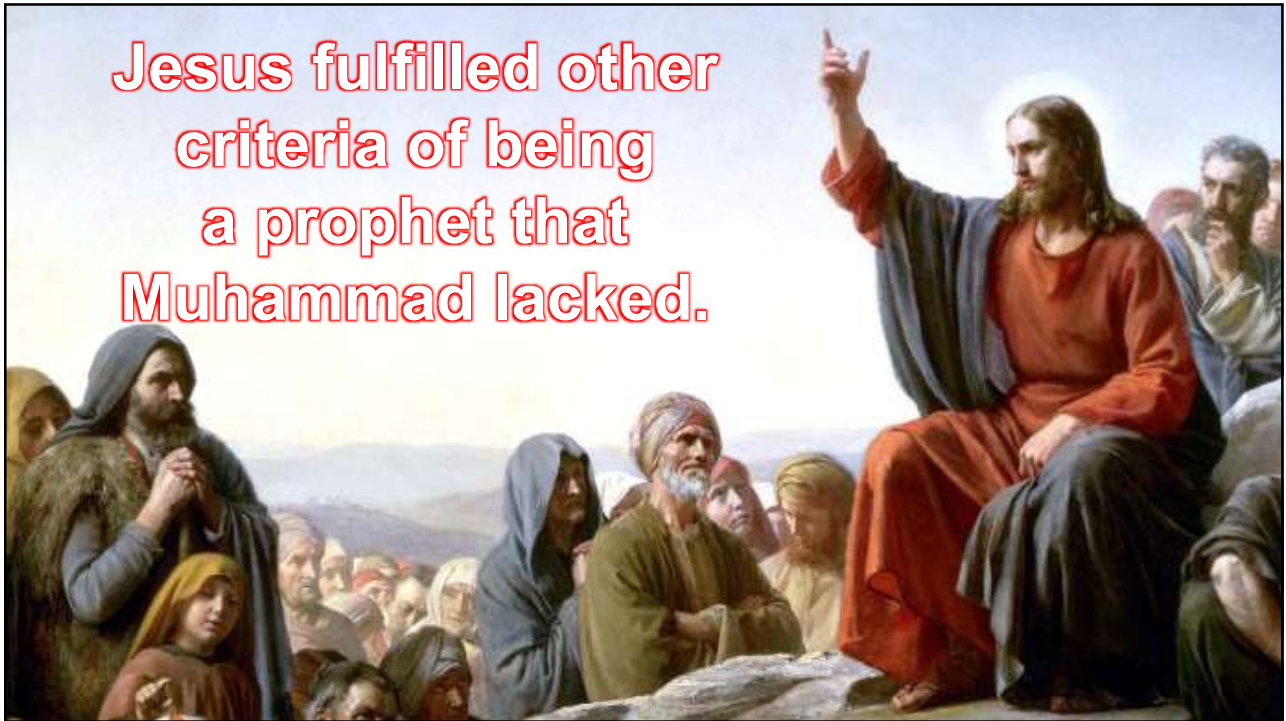


✧ Matt. 21:11 ✧

*"So the multitudes said, 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.' "*

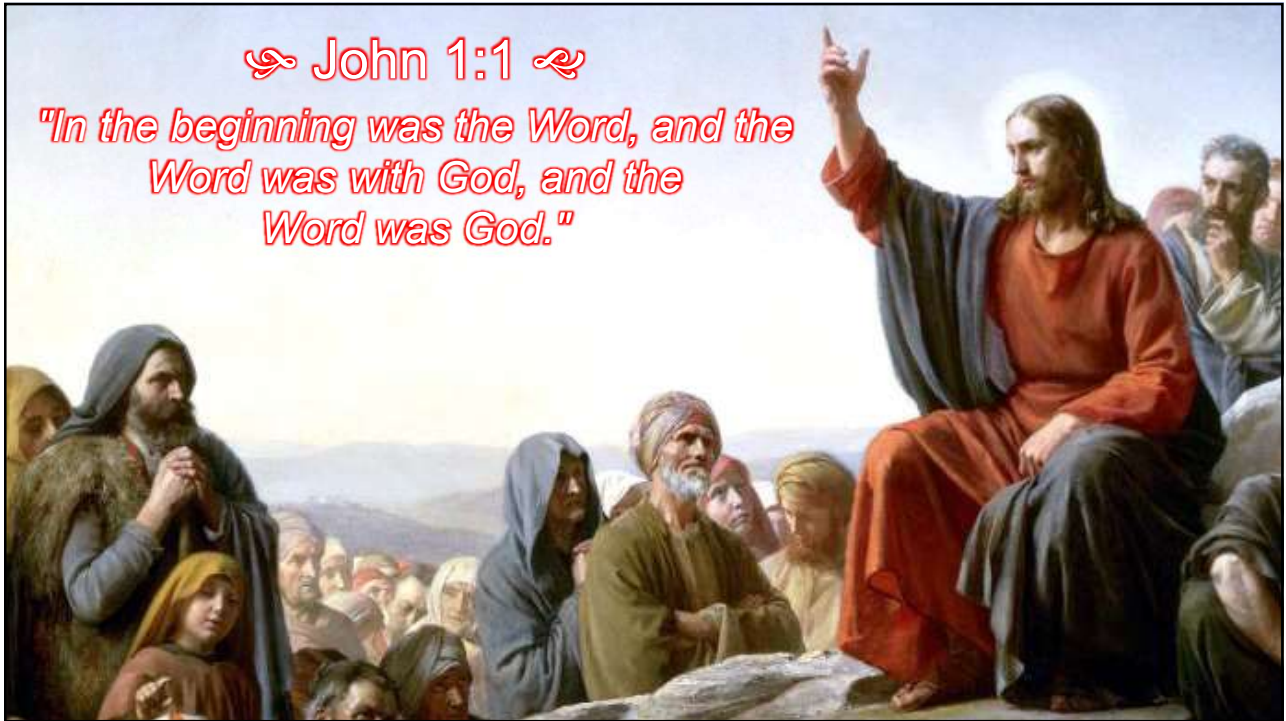


Jesus fulfilled other  
criteria of being  
a prophet that  
Muhammad lacked.



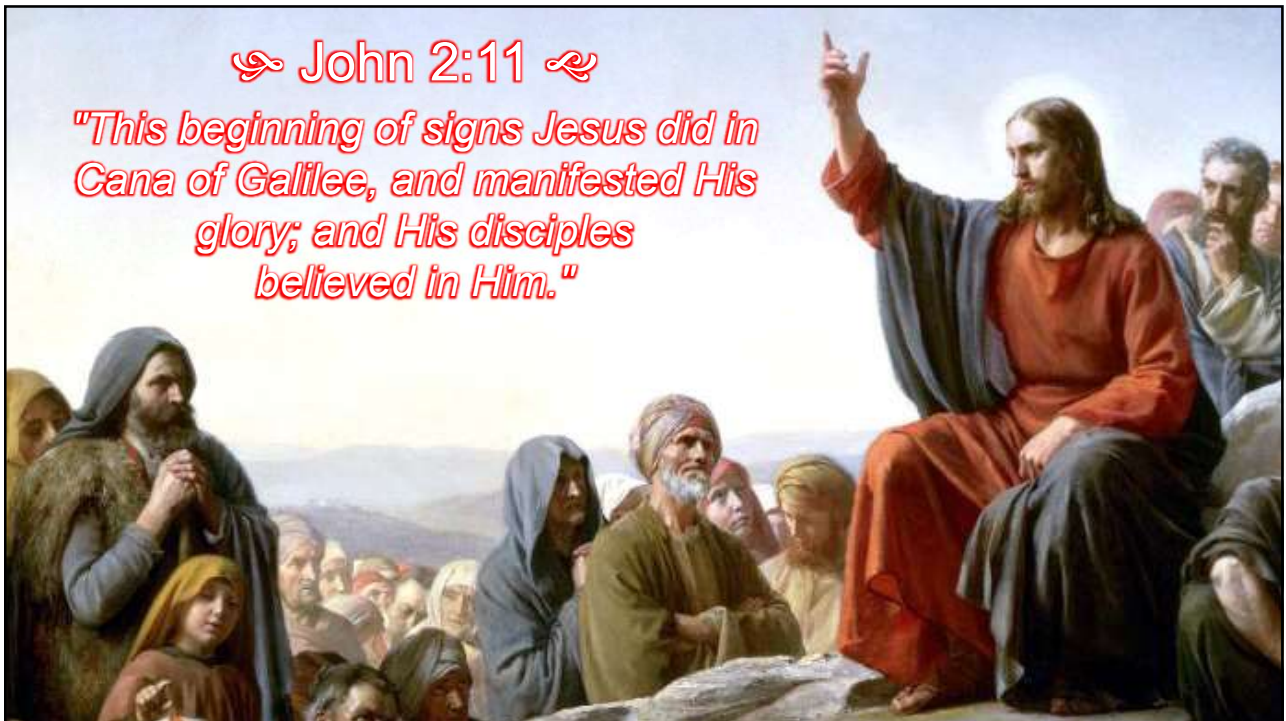
☞ John 1:1 ☞

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*



☞ John 2:11 ☞

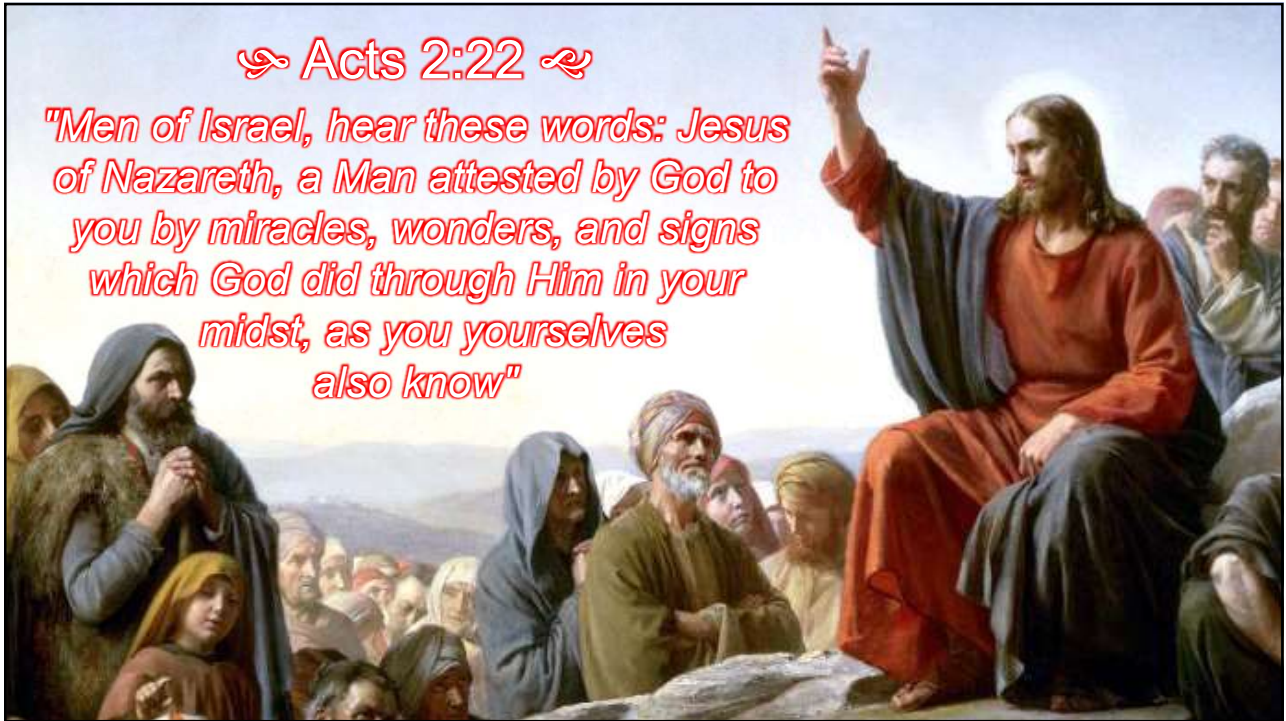
*"This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him."*





☞ Acts 2:22 ☞

*"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know"*



**Islam Claims the Bible  
Predicted the Coming of  
Muhammad in Deut. 33:2.**

☞ Deut. 33:2 ☞

*"And he said: 'The LORD came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, and He came with ten thousands of saints; from His right hand came a fiery law for them.' "*

*Sinai = God*

*Seir = Jesus*

*Paran = Muhammad*



**Response**



Deut. 33:2

*"And he said: 'The LORD came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, and He came with ten thousands of saints; from His right hand came a fiery law for them.'"*

*Paran and Seir are near Egypt in the Sinai peninsula, not Palestine where Jesus ministered nor Mecca where Muhammad ministered.*

Deut. 33:2

*"And he said: 'The LORD came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, and He came with ten thousands of saints; from His right hand came a fiery law for them.'"*

*Sinai = God*

*The verse speaks of the Lord coming, not Muhammad.*

*Paran = Muhammad*

☞ Deut. 33:2 ☞

*"And he said: 'The LORD came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, and He came with ten thousands of saints; from His right hand came a fiery law for them.' "*

*Verse 1 shows that this prophecy was given through Moses to be a blessing to the children of Israel. But Islam has been a constant enemy to Israel.*

*Islam Claims the Bible  
Predicted the Coming of  
Muhammad in  
John 14:16*

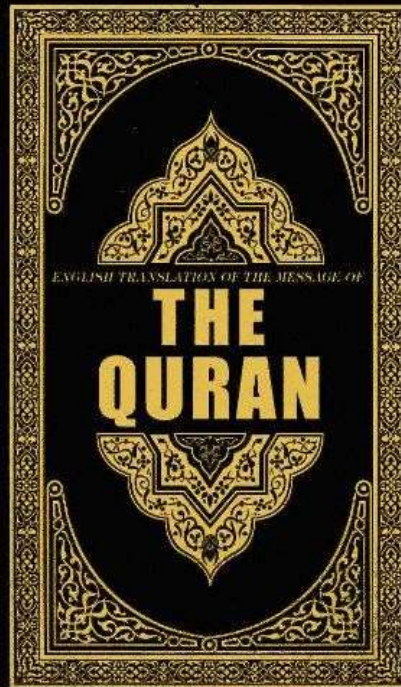


🌀 John 14:16 🌀

*"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever"*



*Regarding the John 14:16 passage, Muslims argue that in Sura 61:6, Muhammad is claimed to be a "praised one."*



*Regarding the John  
14:16 passage,  
Muslims argue that  
in Sura 61:6,  
Muhammad is  
claimed to be a  
"praised one."*

### **Sura 61:6**

*And when 'Iesa (Jesus),  
son of Maryam (Mary), said:  
"O Children of Israel! I am  
the Messenger of Allah unto  
you confirming the Taurat  
(Torah) before me, and  
giving glad tidings of a  
Messenger to come after  
me, whose name shall be  
**Ahmed** (much praised). But  
when he (i.e. Muhammad )  
came to them with clear  
proofs, they said: "This is  
plain magic."*

### *🌀 John 14:16 🌀*

*"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you  
another Helper, that He may abide  
with you forever"*





## 🌀 John 14:16 🌀

*"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another **Helper**, that He may abide with you forever"*

Some Muslims claim that the Greek word here should be pericleitos (περικλειτός) meaning "far-famed" (from the verb "celebrate far and wide") instead of paracletos (παράκλητος) meaning "one who appears in another's behalf, mediator, intercessor".



*"Some scholars believe that what Jesus (peace be upon him) said in his own Aramaic tongue in these verses represents more closely the Greek word "Periklytos" which means the admirable or glorified one. This word corresponds exactly to the Arabic word "Muhammad" which also means the "admired one" or "glorified one." In other words, "Periklytos" is "Muhammad" in Greek.*

[from <http://www.answering-christianity.com/prediction.htm>, accessed 03/04/23]

## Sura 61:6

*And when 'Iesa (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary), said: "O Children of Israel! I am the Messenger of Allah unto you confirming the Taurat (Torah) before me, and giving glad tidings of a Messenger to come after me, whose name shall be **Ahmed** (much praised). But when he (i.e. Muhammad) came to them with clear proofs, they said: "This is plain magic."*

## 🌀 John 14:16 🌀

*"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another **Helper**, that He may abide with you forever"*

Other Muslims claim that the both pericleitos (περικλειτός) meaning "far-famed" (from the verb "celebrate far and wide") and paraclētos (παράκλητος) meaning "one who appears in another's behalf, mediator, intercessor" were originally in the text.



*"It is also quite possible that both words were contained in the original text but were dropped by a copyist because of the ancient custom of writing words closely packed, with no spaces in-between them. In such a case the original reading would have been: "and He will give you another comforter(Parakletos), the admirable one(Periklytos)"*

[from <http://www.answering-christianity.com/prediction.htm>, accessed 03/04/23]

## Sura 61:6

*And when 'Iesa (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary), said: "O Children of Israel! I am the Messenger of Allah unto you confirming the Taurat (Torah) before me, and giving glad tidings of a Messenger to come after me, whose name shall be **Ahmed** (much praised). But when he (i.e. Muhammad ) came to them with clear proofs, they said: "This is plain magic."*



# Response

↪ John 14:16 ↪

*"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever"*

*There not only is no manuscript evidence that pericleitos (περικλειτός) should occur in John 14:16 instead of paracletos (παράκλητος), but there is also no manuscript evidence that both words ever appear in the text.*

*The term pericleitos (περικλειτός) does not occur anywhere in the NT nor in any other early Christian literature.*

☞ John 14:16 ☞

*"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever"*

*The helper Jesus promised would abide with them "forever" but Muhammad did not.*

*Jesus said the helper would be "in you" but Muhammad could not have been "in" the disciples since they lived 600 years before Muhammad.*

**Islam Claims that  
Muhammad's Angelic  
Visitations and Visions  
Confirm His Call**





*Muslim's claim that Muhammad was visited by an angel and had numerous visions.*

*Response*



- ❖ *Muhammad himself questioned the experience. Some feared that he had been visited by a demon or even Satan.*
- ❖ *Some of Muhammad's experience seemed to involved contact with the dead, an occult practice.*
- ❖ *Right after the supposed "call" Muhammad went through a period of silence during which he fell into the depths of despair, even contemplating suicide.*



- ❖ *According to some biographers, Muhammad set forth some revelations that he later recanted. (cf. Sura 53:19-23)*
- ❖ *Other religions claim visitations from angels. The spirits must be tested. (1 John 4:1)*

🌀 1 John 4:1 🌀

*"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."*



**Islam Claims that  
Muhammad's Miracles  
Confirm His Call: The  
Miracle of the Qur'an**



*Muhammad claimed that the language and teaching of the Qur'an were proof that his message was from God.*

### **Sura 10:37.**

*And this Qur'an is not such as could ever be produced by other than Allah, but it is a confirmation of which was before it [i.e. the Torah Gospel], and a full explanation of the Book wherein there is no doubt from the Lord of the 'Alamin (mankind, jinns, and all that exists).*





# Response

- ❖ *The writing style of the Qur'an, though beautiful, is not perfect or unparalleled.*
- ❖ *The contents of the Qur'an are not especially unique.*
- ❖ *Such an argument would "prove" that Shakespeare or Homer were inspired.*





*While many Muslims claim that the "miracle" of the Qur'an is Muhammad's only miracle, some claim that the Qur'an records that Muhammad did other miracles.*

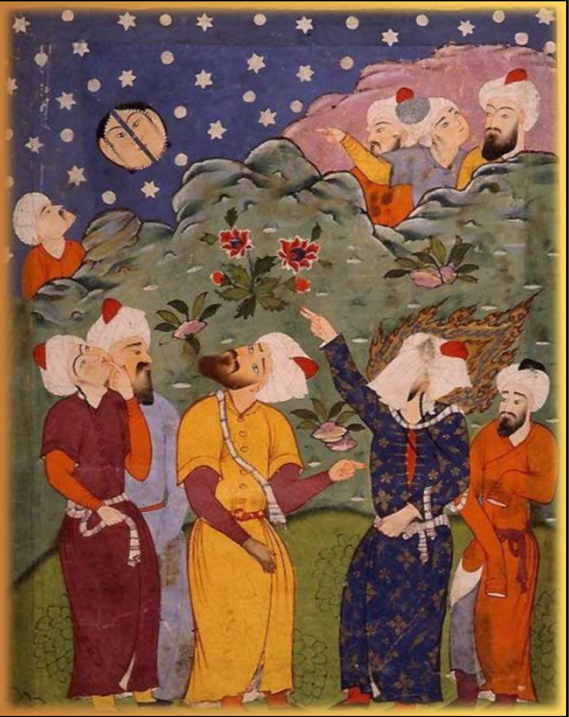




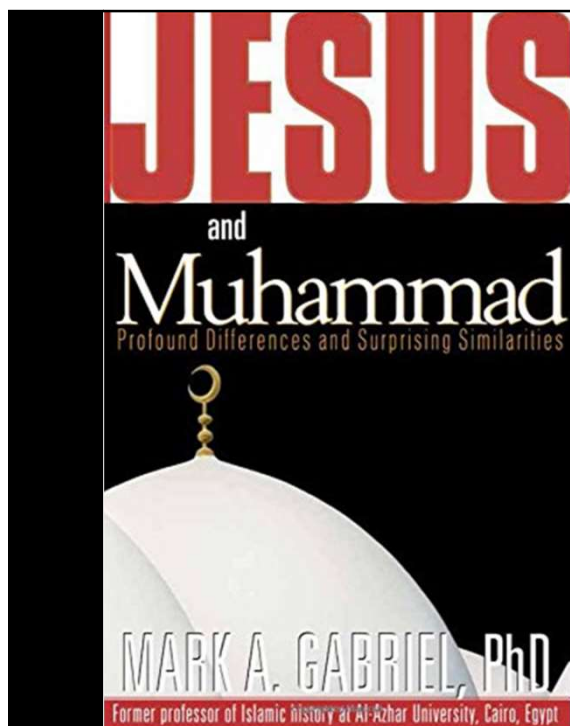
*The Splitting of the  
Moon: Sura 54:1-2*

*The Miracle of the  
Miraj: Sura 17:1*

*The Splitting of  
Muhammad's Breast  
Sura: 94:1-2, 8*



**Response**



"Whether Muhammad performed healings and miracles is a controversial topic among Muslims. Muslims accept that *Jesus* performed miracles (as supported by the Quran), but not everyone agrees on whether Muhammad performed miracles.





"This is because of contradictions between the Quran and the hadith (the record of Muhammad's teachings and actions)."

[Mark A. Gabriel, *Jesus and Muhammad: Profound Differences and Surprising Similarities* (Lake Mary, FL: Charisma House Book Group, Front Line, 2004), 107, emphasis in original]



*The Qur'an seems to deny the occurrence of miracles confirming Muhammad.*

## **Sura 29:50-51**

*And they say: "Why are not signs sent down to him from his Lord? Say: "The signs are only with Allah, and I am only a plain warner." {51} Is it not sufficient for them that We have sent down to you the Book (the Qur'an) which is recited to them? Verily, herein is mercy and a reminder (or an admonition) for a people who believe.*

## **The Splitting of the Moon**

### **Sura 54:1-2**

*"The Hour has drawn near, and the moon has been cleft asunder. {2} And if they see a sign, they turn away, and say: 'This is continuous magic.' "*



- ❖ *Muhammad is not mentioned in the passage.*
- ❖ *It is not called a miracle.*
- ❖ *If it was a miracle by Muhammad, it would contradict Sura 3:181-184 which denied such nature miracles to Muhammad.*

## **Sura 3:181-184**

*"To those that declare: 'Allah has commanded us to believe no apostle unless he brings down fire to consume an offering,' say: 'Other apostles before me have come to you with veritable signs and worked the miracles you asked for. Why did you slay them, if what you say be true?'*

*If they reject you, know that other apostles have been rejected before you, although they worked miracles and brought down psalms and the light-giving Scriptures."*

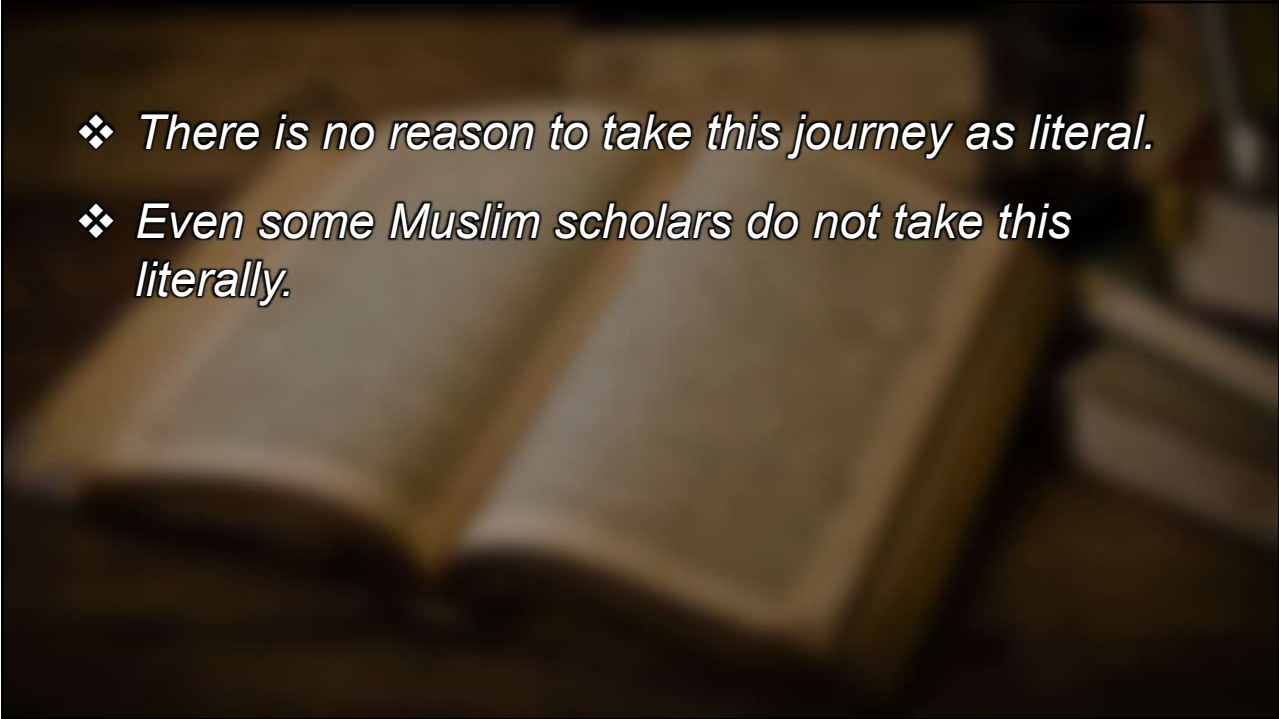
- ❖ *Muhammad is not mentioned in the passage.*
- ❖ *It is not called a miracle.*
- ❖ *If it was a miracle by Muhammad, it would contradict Sura 3:181-184 which denied such nature miracles to Muhammad.*
- ❖ *Some Muslim scholars say this is referring to the resurrection of the last days, not a miracle in Muhammad's day.*

## **The Miracle of the Miraj**

### **Sura 17:1**

*"Glorified be He Who took His slave for a journey by night from Al-Masjid-al-Haram to the farthest mosque (in Jerusalem), the neighborhood whereof We have blessed, in order that We might show him of Our Ayat (proofs, evidences, lessons, signs, etc.). Verily, He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer."*



- 
- ❖ *There is no reason to take this journey as literal.*
  - ❖ *Even some Muslim scholars do not take this literally.*

**What is more, this event does not meet the criteria that Muslim scholars set forth for an act to be a miracle, to wit:**

- ❖ *is an act of God that cannot be done by any creature;*
- ❖ *is contrary to the customary course of things in that class;*
- ❖ *is aimed at proving the authenticity of that prophet;*
- ❖ *is preceded by the announcement of a forthcoming miracle;*
- ❖ *proceeds in the exact manner it was announced;*

**What is more, this event does not meet the criteria that Muslim scholars set forth for an act to be a miracle, to wit:**

- ❖ *occurs only through the hands of the prophet;*
- ❖ *in no way disavows Muhammad's prophetic claim;*
- ❖ *is accompanied by a challenge to reduplicate it;*
- ❖ *and cannot be followed by a duplication by anyone present.*

[The *Encyclopedia of Islam*, s.v. "Mudjiza," as cited in Norman L. Geisler and Abdul Saleeb, *Answering Islam: The Crescent in the Light of the Cross* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993), 160]

## **The Splitting of Muhammad's Breast**

### **Sura 94:1-3**

*"Have We not opened your breast for you? 2. And removed from you your burden, 3. Which weighed down your back?"*





❖ *Most conservative Muslim scholars take this as a figure of speech describing Muhammad's anxiety in his early years at Mecca.*