

**YOUR  
QUESTIONS  
ANSWERED**

—A REPLY TO  
MUSLIM FRIENDS

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## **How to read Bible references**

Matthew 24:35 = The Gospel of Matthew,  
chapter 24, verse 35

# Introduction

## ‘Assalamou Alaikoum’

THESE WERE THE WORDS JESUS USED TO GREET HIS DISCIPLES. They mean, ‘Peace to you.’ In fact his purpose in coming to this world was to bring us peace *with* God and the peace *of* God. One of the prophets called Jesus ‘the Prince of Peace’. Jesus was a peacemaker, and he taught his followers to act in the same way. They must be at peace with others and should show love, not only to those closest to them, such as their families and other Christians, but also to their neighbour—that is, everyone they meet. Jesus even taught that his followers should love those who disagree with them!

So it is with a spirit of love and respect that I write this book. I write not as someone cleverer or more intellectual than you, but only as someone whom God pitied; whose eyes God has opened to see the wonder of the truths contained in his Holy Word. I had rejected the Bible for years. In fact, I hated everything to do with Christianity. I was taught that the Bible had been changed and therefore there was no need for me even to pick it up. But God had mercy on me. One day I was given an Arabic Injil (New Testament). I said to myself, ‘Why can’t I read this book? Even the Qur’an recommends it to me. Let me read it and see what the people of the book (Christians) believe.’

And so, with many presuppositions, such as, 'The Bible has been changed', 'Christians worship three gods', 'God could never have a son', 'The immorality of Western society is caused by Christianity', I started studying the Injil. Later I was surprised to learn that Christians also have the Tawrat (the Pentateuch) and Zabur (the Psalms) in their Bible! They have all of God's Holy Scriptures. This was a major discovery for me.

As I meet with Muslims I find that they often have many misunderstandings about the Christian faith. They are asking questions similar to those that I had. It is such questions that I want to address and answer in this book. I am aware that many Muslims ask and discuss with an open mind. You may be one of them. If you are sincerely seeking the truth, then to you I address this small work.

My prayer is that God will be glorified as you read on. I give praise to our loving, holy, just, gracious and merciful God, of whom this book endeavours to speak. God alone is worthy, and so to him be all praise and worship, both now and for ever.

# 1

## What is the Bible?

**T**HROUGHOUT THE AGES, GOD HAS GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO MAN concerning how he should live and how to find the way to paradise.

The word 'Bible' is of Greek origin and simply means *the book*. It is a collection of sixty-six books written by about forty authors, in three different languages, over approximately 1600 years (between 1500 BC and AD 100). It is the most widely circulated book of all time, and it has now been translated, in whole or in part, into well over 2000 languages and dialects.

The Bible is inspired and without error. God spoke through his Holy Spirit to men, and they wrote as the Holy Spirit breathed upon them. The Bible says, 'No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit' (Injil, 2 Peter 1:20–21). The apostle Paul said, 'All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness' (Injil, 2 Timothy 3:16). This means that the Bible is the Word of God and it is without error in every subject it addresses.

The Bible contains many different styles of writing, such as poetry, narration, history, law and prophecy. It is the foundation of the Christian faith, and teaches the Christian how to apply God's Word to his life. It is divided into two major sections: the Old Testament, written before the birth of Jesus Christ in Hebrew (with a few passages in Aramaic); and the New Testament, written in Greek in the first century after Jesus died.

### **The Old Testament books**

These were written by prophets such as Moses, David and Isaiah. There are thirty-nine books:

**Torah (Tawrat)**—5 books of Moses:

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

**Historical**—12 books:

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.

**Poetical**—5 books:

Job, Psalms (Zabur), Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon.

**Prophetical**—17 books:

*Major Prophets*—Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel;

*Minor Prophets*—Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

### **The New Testament books**

The second part of the Bible is often known as the gospel, a word taken from Greek which literally means *good news*. In the singular (the gospel), it refers to the message of Jesus Christ. However, the plural (the Gospels) is used to indicate the four books which give accounts of Jesus' life on earth. Thus the gospel of Jesus is told in the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, as well as in the rest of the New Testament writings.

The New Testament contains twenty-seven books that were written