

THE TOPIC OF INSPIRATION

When discussing inspiration in regard to any document, it should be agreed upon that God is all-knowing (omniscient), and therefore cannot make mistakes. Neither can error be attributed to lies, because it is against God's nature to lie (Num 23:19, Tit 1:2)

There are many verses from the Bible which declare God's omniscience, but we will list just a few.

“Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?” (Isaiah 40:13-14)

“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding.” (Isaiah 40:28)

“Great *is* our Lord, and of great power: his understanding *is* infinite.” (Psalms 147:5)

“And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all *men*, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,” Acts 1:24)

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:29)

The Qur'an also claims God is omniscient. Let's look at just a few of the verses from the Qur'an which state Allah is all-knowing.

The Arabs of the desert are the worst in Unbelief and hypocrisy, and most fitted to be in ignorance of the command which God hath sent down to His Apostle: But God is All-knowing, All-Wise. (Surah 9:97)

As Mercy from thy Lord: for He hears and knows (all things); (Surah 44:6)

O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise (each other). Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of God is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And God has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things). (Surah 49:13)

Additionally, According to Islam today:

Allah's name al-`Alīm (the All-Knowing) is an emphatic form of the word ālim (knower). It appears 157 times in the Qur'an. For example: “Indeed You are the All-Knowing, the Wise. (Surah 2:32)

And He is the All-Knowing, the All-Powerful. (Surah 30:54)

That is the determination of the Mighty, the All-Knowing. (Surah 6:96)

Now that we have proven with both the Bible and Qur'an, that God is all-knowing (omniscient), we must now address the issue of discrepancies in the Qur'an. The Qur'an is not the only document which has stated it was written by inspiration, but is filled with error. The Apocryphal books which are included in the Catholic versions of the Bible have been shown to have historical, geographical, and numerous other discrepancies which easily refute the claim of inspiration by Catholic Scholars. Likewise, the Qur'an also is filled with discrepancies which show it is not inspired by God, as God is all-knowing, and would not lie. To demonstrate that the Qur'an is not divinely inspired we will address some of these discrepancies.

The Qur'an and the Earth

The Quran does not accurately describe the form of the earth, whereas the Bible correctly describes the earth's form as Science confirms today.

And the earth We have spread out (like a carpet); set thereon mountains firm and immovable; and produced therein all kinds of things in due balance. (Surah 15:19)

Have We not made the earth as a wide expanse, And the mountains as pegs? (Surah 78:6-78:7)

The Qur'an declares that Allah created the earth flat like a carpet, and further that the mountains were created to anchor the earth. The belief in a flat earth existed from an early age amongst many different people, and was widely accepted by many even as late as the 18th century. However the Bible has always declared accurately that the earth is round.

“It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:” (Isaiah 40:22)

“He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.” (Job 26:7)

Tafsir al-Jalalayn is a commentary of the Qur'an and was initially composed by Jalal ad-Din al-Mahalli in 1459. It was later completed by his student Jalal ad-Din as-Suyuti in 1505. It is recognized by Muslims as one of the best written and most popular commentary on the Qur'an today. Jalalayn stated:

In his phrase, 'how it is spread', he denotes that the earth is flat. All the scholars of Islamic law agree upon this. It is not round as the physicists claim" (Jalan, p. 509). This great Muslim commentator further stated "It is also well-known that the Qur'an proclaims that there are seven earths—not just one (Jalalan, p. 475-476).

The teaching of seven earths was common in Greek science, and was based on the seven planets in the known solar system at the time. These seven planets included the moon and sun, but not the earth.

God is He Who created seven Firmaments and of the earth a similar number. Through the midst of them (all) descends His Command: that ye may know that God has power over all things, and that God comprehends, all things in (His) Knowledge. (Surah 65:12)

As we showed earlier, God can not lie and is all knowing. The Bible declares that the earth is round, and the Qur'an declares that the earth is flat. The Qur'an declares God created seven earths, whereas the Bible declares God made one. Scientific evidence shows that the Qur'an is not divinely inspired.

The Creation of Man

The description of the creation of man found in the Quran is filled with problems, which an all-knowing God would not have authored, and which disagrees with understood science.

Then We made the sperm into a clot of congealed blood; then of that clot We made a (fetus) lump; then we made out of that lump bones and clothed the bones with flesh; then we developed out of it another creature. So blessed be God, the best to create! (Surah 23:14)

The Qur'an declares that man was created in the following order:

Sperm was created and turned into a clot of blood (fertilization process).

Creation of a Fetus or cell formation began

Bones were created

Flesh was created to cover the bone

This "formation" of man causes all sorts of issues for the Muslim who tries to defend the Qur'an against the facts of known science. In the Biblical account, God created man and woman, and they produced offspring in the same physical manner as we do today. This causes no problems with science. The Biblical account makes sense and is introduced in a manner which shows God's omniscience in regard to man and woman and their physical design for each other. However, the account in the Qur'an is both unreasonable and contradicts the known scientific laws. In looking at many different translations of the Qur'an and commentaries, many have gone out of their way to insert words to try and make this verse line up with known science, yet the un-tampered text without commentary speaks for itself to the unbiased reader who is aware of science and embryonic development. In fact, the formation of flesh begins prior to the formation of bone.

(Surah's have been quoted in the Qur'an from "THE MEANINGS OF THE HOLY QUR'AN: BY ABDULLAH YUSUF ALI" which is known as a conservative translation. Let's now compare this verse in its original wording, as compared to "ALI UNAL'S INTERPRETATION: A NEW APPROACH" which has been modified to try and agree with science.)

Original text

Then We made the sperm into a clot of congealed blood; then of that clot We made a (foetus) lump; then we made out of that lump bones and clothed the bones with flesh; then we developed out of it another creature. So blessed be God, the best to create! (Surah 23:14)

Modified text by Ali Unal, made to line up with science

Then We created of the fertilized ovum a clot clinging (to the womb wall), and (afterwards in sequence) We created of the clinging clot a (chew of) lump, and We created of (a chew of) lump bones, and We clothed the bones in flesh. Then We caused it to grow into another creation. So Blessed and Supreme is God, the Creator Who creates everything in the best and most appropriate form, and has the ultimate rank of creativity. (Surah 23:14)

It should be apparent from the comparison of the text that the Muslim commentators see an issue with this verse and have tried to rearrange, modify, and insert additional text to make the Quran agree with science. In Surah 23:14 it states "then we developed out of it another creature", which most Muslim commentators state is the baby being born of the mother. If the process of birth from the mother matches known science, why does the formation of the baby not agree with science?

Contradictions

There are many numerical contradictions in the Qur'an which demonstrate again that it is not divinely inspired, as the creator heaven and earth would not make mistakes with simple mathematics. For example, how many days did it take to create the heavens and earth according to the Qur'an? Not even the Qur'an knows for sure.

Your Guardian-Lord is God, Who created the heavens and the earth in six days, and is firmly established on the throne (of authority): He draweth the night as a veil o'er the day, each seeking the other in rapid succession: He created the sun, the moon, and the stars, (all) governed by laws under His command. Is it not His to create and to govern? Blessed be God, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds! (Surah 7:54)

Verily your Lord is God, who created the heavens and the earth in six days, and is firmly established on the throne (of authority), regulating and governing all things. No intercessor (can plead with Him) except after His leave (hath been obtained). This is God your Lord; Him therefore serve ye: will ye not receive admonition? (Surah 10:3)

There are additional verses in the Qur'an which declare the heavens and the earth were created in 6 days. However, let's now notice the verses below which will contradict these prior verses due to mathematical error.

Say: Is it that ye deny Him Who created the earth in two Days? And do ye join equals with Him? He is the Lord of (all) the Worlds. (Surah 41:9)

He set on the (earth), mountains standing firm, high above it, and bestowed blessings on the earth, and measure therein all things to give them nourishment in due proportion, in four Days, in accordance with (the needs of) those who seek (Sustenance). (Surah 41:10)

So He completed them as seven firmaments in two Days, and He assigned to each heaven its duty and command. And We adorned the lower heaven with lights, and (provided it) with guard. Such is the Decree of (Him) the Exalted in Might, Full of Knowledge. (Surah 41:12)

Notice the erroneous math: 2 days (for creation of earth) + 4 days (for nourishment of earth) + 2 days (for creation of heavens) = 8 days; and not 6 days. It is not possible for God to make a mistake!

We have simply looked at a few discrepancies which are found in the Qur'an, but keep in mind that one discrepancy, erroneous fact, or contradiction is enough to show that the Qur'an is not divinely inspired, and therefore did not originate from God. We must be discerning in our reading and thought, and if any document which claims inspiration can be shown to contain error, we must conclude it is not inspired by God, for God is all-knowing.

Review Questions

Question 1) By the Qur'an stating that Allah is all knowing, explain the necessity of the infallibility of the Qur'an (that which came from Allah)?

Question 2) If the Qur'an is not infallible, did divine inspiration occur in its delivery?

Question 3) What does the Qur'an teach regarding the properties of the earth? Is this teaching infallible based upon science, photography, and Biblical scriptures?

Question 4) How many earths does the Qur'an say exist? Is this claim infallible?

Question 5) What is the Qur'an's record of man being created? Is this teaching infallible?

Question 6) What are the various claims from the Qur'an regarding the number of days it took to create earth? Are these claims infallible among themselves or compared to the Bible?

Works Cited

“The Holy Bible”, King James Version. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Bible. 2003. Print. (All Scriptures taken from this version unless otherwise noted.)

“The Meanings Of The Holy Qur’an By Abdullah Yusuf Ali. New Dehli: Millat Book Centre, 2011. Print

