



Prophet Muhammad in the Bible

“Those unto whom We gave the Scripture recognize him (Muhammad) as they recognize their sons. But verily, a party of them conceal the truth while they know it” The Qur’an, al-Baqarah(2):146

Three distinct prophecies:¹

In the Bible we read of the test that the Jews applied to Jesus (pbuh) in order to ascertain his truthfulness. The Jews had a prophecy that required Elias to come before Jesus (pbuh): **“Elias verily cometh first”** Mark 9:12. They had not seen Elias yet so they doubted the claim of Jesus (pbuh). Jesus, however, responded to them that Elias had already come but that they did not recognize him. In Matthew 17:12-13 we read: **“But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not.....Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.”** John, however refutes the claims of Jesus (pbuh). This is one of the Christian's “dark sayings of Jesus” that their scholars have tried to reconcile for centuries. We will leave this matter for them to work out among themselves (This matter is resolved in the Gospel of Barnabas, but that is a topic for another day).

Now, in John 1:19-21 we read **“And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.”**

We notice that there are three distinct prophecies here: 1) Elias, 2) Jesus, 3) That prophet. The Jews were not waiting for two prophecies, but three. This can be further clarified by reading John 1:25: **“And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be:**

- a) **not that Christ,**
- b) **nor Elias,**
- c) **neither that prophet?”**

If “that prophet” were Jesus (pbuh) wouldn't the third question in both verses be redundant? Further, we must remember that “That prophet” can not apply to any prophet before the time of Jesus (pbuh) because at the time of Jesus (pbuh) the Jews were *still waiting for all three*. Notice how when we let the Bible speak for itself, without forcing the holy spirit or other supernatural meanings on it in the commentary, or forcing three questions to be only two, how clear these verses become. For much more evidence in this regard, please read chapter 15 regarding the Dead Sea Scroll prophecies of “two messiahs” and how the Jews who wrote the scrolls and who were waiting for the coming of Jesus (pbuh) clearly state in these scrolls that they were waiting for not one, but *TWO* messiahs, the first of which would be announced by an eschatological prophet.

¹ Taken from the Book: “What Did Jesus Really Say” by Misha'al al-Khadi

Foretells the story of the chapter of “Al-Alak”:

Isaiah 29:11-18 **“And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which [men] deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, [I pray thee]: and he saith, I cannot; for it [is] sealed: And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, [I pray thee]: and he saith, I am not learned. Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near [me] with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, [even] a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise [men] shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid. Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us? Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding? [Is] it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest? And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness”.**

Muhammad (pbuh) was illiterate. He could neither read nor write when the Qur'an was delivered to him, or after. The exact circumstances of this first revelation were as follows: It was the habit of Muhammad (pbuh) to frequently remove himself from the midst of his fellow Arabs and their heathenistic actions and spend many days secluded in the cave of “Hiraa” in the mountains of Makkah where he would pray to God according to the religion of Abraham (pbuh). After many years of this, and having reached the age of forty (610AD), the angel Gabriel suddenly appeared before him and ordered him to “*Iqraa!*” (read, recite, repeat, proclaim). Muhammad (pbuh), in his terror thought he was being asked to read, so he stammered: “*I am unlettered*”. The angel Gabriel again ordered him to “*Iqraa!*”. Muhammad (pbuh) again replied: “*I am unlettered*”. The angel Gabriel now took a firm hold of him and commanded him “*Iqraa in the name of Allah who created!*”. Now Muhammad (pbuh) began to understand that he was not being asked to read, but to recite, to repeat. He began to repeat after him, and Gabriel revealed to him the first verses of the Qur'an, those at the beginning of the chapter of Al-Alak(96): **“*Read(Iqraa): In the name of your Lord who created, Created man from a clot. Read(Iqraa): And your Lord is the Most Bounteous, Who teaches by the pen, Teaches man that which he knew not*”.**

As mentioned above, the actual word Angel Gabriel used to address Muhammad (pbuh) was the Arabic word “Iqra”. It is derived from the Arabic root word “qara”. However, if we were to go back to the original Hebrew form of the verses of Isaiah 29:11, we would find that the actual word which is translated into English as **“*Read this [I pray thee]*”** is the Hebrew word qara', {kaw-raw'}. Is it not an amazing coincidence that the Hebrew text used not only a word with the same meaning, but the exact same word itself?

Verse 11 of Isaiah tells us that the final book (the Qur'an) was revealed to previous prophets, however, they could not read it. It was “sealed” for them because it was meant for the last prophet, and until the last prophet's time came, the people would not yet be able to “bear” this message (John 16:13). It was also sealed for them because it was revealed in Arabic. **“*A Book whereof the verses are explained in detail; a Qur'an in Arabic for people who have knowledge*”** The Qur'an, Fussilat(41):3

“Had We made this as a Qur'an (in a language) other than Arabic, they would have said: ‘Why are not its verses explained in detail? What! not Arabic and Arabic?’ Say: ‘It is a Guide and a Healing for those who believe; and for those who disbelieve, there is a heaviness (deafness) in their ears, and it is blindness in their (eyes): They are as those who are called from a place far distant (so they neither hear nor understand)’” The Qur'an, Fussilat(41):44

For more details on why the Arabic language was selected as the language of the Qur'an, please read chapter 12.

Indeed, the Qur'an was revealed to a man who could neither read nor write so that it might be apparent to mankind that he could not have received it from the writings of man, but only from God almighty.

“Neither did you (O Muhammad) read any book before it, nor did you write any book with your right (hand). In that case, indeed, the followers of falsehood might have doubted Nay, it is but clear signs in the breasts of those endowed with knowledge: and none but the unjust reject Our signs.” The Qur'an, Al-Ankaboot(29):48-49.

As we see in the above verses of Isaiah, by the time Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) received this book from God, mankind will have been reduced to worshipping God in words alone, while their hearts shall be far removed from true belief. They will have forsaken the true belief in God in favor of **“the precept of men”** (the laws of men). We have already seen the confirmation of this in chapter one where we learned how “St. Paul” totally corrupted the message of Jesus (pbuh), and how the followers of Paul forced their new books upon the first Christians, burned Gospels that were known to be authentic and Canonical within the Christian Church, and butchered all Christians who did not “convert”. We also saw how St. Paul managed to reduce the message of Jesus (pbuh) to mere “words” of “faith” with no concrete actions or commandments required of them.

Verse 14 now goes on to explain how when mankind accepts this situation, then the wisdom of the wise men shall perish and all that shall be left is mankind's corruption. Once again, we have seen this in chapter one, where we learned the historical details of how the followers of Jesus (pbuh) and the apostles were murdered and their books destroyed.

This is indeed the same situation described by Muhammad (pbuh) in one of his sayings. In Sahih Al-Bukhari (1.100) we read that Abdullah ibn Amr ibn al-'As said:

“I heard Allah's Apostle (pbuh) saying, ‘Allah does not take away the knowledge, by taking it away from (the hearts of) the people, but takes it away by the death of the religious learned men till when none of them remain, people will take as their leaders ignorant persons who when consulted will give their verdict without knowledge. So they will go astray and will lead the people astray.’”

In verse 15, we are told that there will remain among those corrupt individuals those who shall know the truth but shall strive to hide it from becoming known. Once again, we have seen this in chapters, one, and two. For more, see chapter 15. Once again, when the Qur'an was revealed, it confirmed this situation, we read:

“Those unto whom We gave the Scripture recognize (this revelation) as they recognize their sons. But lo! a party of them conceal the truth which they themselves know.”The Qur'an, Al-Baqara(2):14

“And whether you hide your word or publish it, He certainly has (full) knowledge, of the secrets of (all) hearts.” The Qur’an, Al-Mulk(67):13

Verses 16 goes on to tell us how this treachery, concealment of the truth, and “overturning” of verses, laws, and obligations shall be exposed, and the wicked shall be held accountable for their deeds. Yet again, in the Qur’an we read:

“That Day shall We set a seal on their mouths. But their hands will speak to us, and their feet bear witness, to all that they used to do” The Qur’an, Ya-Seen(36):65

“And (remember) the day that the enemies of Allah shall be gathered to the Fire so that they will (all) be collected there. Till, when they reach it, their hearing and their eyes and their skins will testify against them as to what they used to do. And they will say to their skins ‘Why did you testify against us?’ They will say: ‘Allah has caused us to speak, (for He is) the One who caused all things (which He willed) to speak, and He created you the first time, and unto Him you are returned”. The Qur’an, Fussilat(41):19-21.

“O People of the Scripture! Now has Our messenger come unto you, revealing to you much of that which you used to hide in the Scripture, and forgiving much. Now has come unto you light from Allah and plain Scripture,” The Qur’an, Al-Maidah(5):15

“They did not estimate Allah with an estimation due to Him when they said: “Nothing did God send down to man (by way of revelation)” Say: “Who then sent down the Book which Moses brought?- a light and guidance to man: But you make it into (separate) sheets for show, while you conceal much (of its contents): and (by which) you were taught that which you knew not yourselves nor (did) your fathers (know it)?.” Say: “God (sent it down)”: **Then leave them to plunge in vain discourse and trifling.”** The Qur’an, Al-An’am(6):91

Finally, we read in Isaiah 18 that when this final message is revealed to this “unlettered” prophet, those who have been lost in darkness and ignorance through the work of the corrupt shall be brought out of their ignorance and their darkness and shall be returned to the true message of God.

“Wherewith God guides all those who seek His good pleasure unto paths of peace. He brings them out of darkness unto light by His decree and guides them unto a straight path.” The Qur’an, Al-Maidah(5):16

“And that those who have been given knowledge may know that it is the truth from thy Lord, so that they may believe therein and their hearts may submit humbly unto Him. Lo! Allah verily is guiding those who believe unto a right path.” The Qur’an, Al-Hajj (22):54

The complete story is narrated by Aisha (pbuh) in Sahih Al-Bukhari (1.3):

“The commencement of the Divine Inspiration of Allah's Apostle was in the form of good dreams which came true like bright daylight, and then the love of seclusion was bestowed upon him. He used to go in seclusion in the cave of Hira where he used to worship (Allah alone) continually for many days before wishing to see his family. He used to take with him provisions for the stay and then come back to (his wife) Khadijah to eat his food again as before.

One day suddenly the Truth descended upon him while he was in the cave of Hira. The angel came to him and asked him to read. The Prophet (pbuh) replied, "I do not know how to read." The Prophet (pbuh) added, "The angel caught me (forcefully) and pressed me so hard that I could not bear it any more. He then released me and again asked me to read and I replied, "I do not know how to read." Thereupon he caught me again and pressed me a second time until I could not bear it any more. He then released me and again asked me to read but again I replied, "I do not know how to read (or what shall I read)?" Thereupon he caught me for the third time and pressed me, and then released me and said, "Read in the name of your Lord, who has created (all that exists), has created man from a clot. Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous."(96):1-3.

Then Allah's Apostle (pbuh) returned with the Inspiration and with his heart beating severely. He went to Khadijah bint Khuwaylid and said, "Cover me!" They covered him until his fear was over. After that he told her everything that had happened and said, "I fear that something may happen to me." Khadijah replied, "Never! By Allah, Allah will never disgrace you. You keep good relations with your kith and kin, help the poor and the destitute, serve your guests generously and assist the deserving people afflicted with calamities."

Khadijah then accompanied him to her cousin Waraqah ibn Nawfal ibn Asad ibn AbdulUzza, who, during the pre-Islamic period became a Christian and used to write in the Hebrew alphabet. He would write from the Gospel in Hebrew as much as Allah wished him to write. He was an old man and had lost his eyesight.

Khadijah said to Waraqah, "Listen to the story of your nephew, O my cousin!" Waraqah asked, "O my nephew! What have you seen?" Allah's Apostle described that which he had seen. Waraqah said, "This is the one who keeps the secrets (angel Gabriel) whom Allah had sent to Moses. I wish I were young and could live until the time when your people will turn you out." Allah's Apostle asked, "Will they drive me out?" Waraqah replied in the affirmative and said, "Anyone (man) who came with something similar to that which you have brought was treated with hostility; and if I remain alive until the day when you will be turned out then I should support you strongly." But after a few days Waraqah died and the Divine Inspiration also paused for a while."