

The Bible is considered as the most prominent sacred book most followed religion in today's world. The Quran and the Bible both are revealed books. A brief comparison of these two books in regards of authenticity has been drawn. So that the esteemed status of the Quran can be glorified. It will strengthen your faith that why we should believe only in the Quran.

How to verify the authenticity of any sacred Book

Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri has mentioned a criterion to verify the authenticity and originality of any revealed Book. This criteria is comprised on these three elements.

Genuineness

The 1st thing that should be examined is that the present complexion and state of the book is exactly the same as given and preached by the Founder of the religion. Had the founder of the religion himself given the book or he had compiled it in his direct supervision? Is the language of the book same? These points should be verified very easily.¹

Authenticity:

It should be checked that any modification or alteration has been made in the book or not? The main point which should be noticed is that either there are any contradiction, conflicts and errors in the text of the book or not? The scholars of every religion has discussed these points in great detail.

Integrity:

It should be verified that either any external content is included in the book by any follower of the book after the demise of the Founder of the book. It should also be checked that either any internal material is excluded by the followers of the Book with the passage of time.²

So the authenticity and credibility of any revealed book including the Qur'ān can be determined on the basis of these parameters. These

parameters are neutral and any follower of religion can verify the authenticity of any Religious Book. Now the view point of Christian scholars on the authenticity of the Bible will be observed. First of all the view point of author regarding the legitimacy of the Bible will be observed.

Compilation of the Bible:

A prominent contemporary Christian Scholar, Duncan Peter also admits that the Bible is not purely the word of God. He says in appendix A;

- The Injil is, in fact, both a divine and a human book.³
- This book is called 'Luke' after its human author.⁴
- However, other parts of the Scriptures are clearly human writings, such as Injil.⁵
- Hazrat Luke does the work of Historian.⁶
- Hazrat Luke has an idea 'it seemed good also to me'. He decides to set down his research in writing.⁷
- He selects and arrange his material.⁸

It can be seen that in these writings there is no where written that the Luke has been compiled on the instruction from God. He has collected and then arranged material on its own. So it is wrong to say that this is a Book of God.

Language of the Bible:

The original language of the Bible is also not confirmed. Duncan Peter says that "The original language of the written Injil is thus Greek".⁹ The historians holds totally a different view point. In the Cambridge History of the Bible, it is mentioned that Bible was not written in the era of Jesus neither he ordered to compile Bible in his earthly life time. Towards the beginning of the Christian era, Aramaic was divided into two main branches or dialects, West and East Aramaic. Jewish Palestinian Aramaic was spoken and written in

Palestine in the time of Christ and during the first centuries of the Christian era.¹⁰ It is impossible to comprehend or characterize within a single formula the complex nature of the language of the New Testament.¹¹ The biblical scripts were rendered in 4 languages;

- Early Hebrew,
- Square Hebrew,
- Greek
- and Latin.¹²

It can be clearly seen that the Bible was never compiled in the Aramaic the original language of Jesus. It was written in Hebrew and was given the name of the Bible. It was never written that it is a translation. In present days no authentic and complete Hebrew and Greek manuscript is present. The Bible is only available in English. The English Bible was rendered in 1525-1611 first time on the demand of people. It was not given title of translation rather it is believed as original language of the Bible.¹³ So originally it is not the Bible rather it is the translations of the different manuscripts of different languages. That is why there are different versions of the Bible. King James Version and many other version of one are available.

Language of the Quran:

The original language of the Holy Prophet ﷺ was Arabic and the Quran was also revealed in Arabic. Arabic is the official language of many countries today. It is not an obsolete language, it is practiced in almost every part of the world. The Quran has been translated into multiple languages but the original Arabic text is always written with it. Translation of the Quran is never claimed to be original text.

The Quran was written in direct supervision of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. There was a team of scribes who note down the Quran on the dictation of Holy Prophet ﷺ. The scribes recite the Quran in front of Holy Prophet ﷺ and he himself cross verify to eliminate the chance of

mistakes. This is why we don't find any distortion and difference of words in the Quran in any part of the world. The whole text is exactly the same. This is why there is no concept of different versions in regards of the Quran among Muslims.

The revelation of Quran was completed in the lifetime of Holy Prophet ﷺ. The arrangement of Suras and verses were also done on his direct supervision. He himself was the memorizer of the Quran and used to revise it with Angel Jibrael in every Ramadan. In the last Ramadan of his life he revised the Quran two times with the Angel. Thousands of Companions were Huffaz or memorizers of the complete Quran in his lifetime. Memorization of the Quran is one of the living miracles that affirm the authenticity of the Quran. Yusuf Estes, a converted Muslim (he was a Christian priest) testifies that no other book has been memorized in such a way as Muslims memorize the Quran.

During the Caliphate of Hazrat Abu Bakr it was only compiled in the supervision of the Hazrat Zaid bin Thabit and Hazrat Umar. They collected verses after the Shahadah or witness of two Companions, so that every chance of mistake can be eradicated. During the Caliphate of Hazrat Usman the whole Muslim Ummah agreed upon a single copy of the Quran in Qureshi Dialect. This is an established fact and it can be verified from the University of Birmingham report on the basis of Carbon dating. The oldest manuscript of the Quran is present in the library of the University of Birmingham. The carbon dating procedure confirms that it was written in the era of Hazrat Usman. The goat on whose skin it was written was alive in the time period of Holy Prophet ﷺ. We also have other original copies of the Mushaf e Usman in Topkapı Museum, Istanbul, Turkey, Tashkent and other parts of the world.

Authenticity of the Bible:

The Duncan Peter and other Christian scholars claim that the Bible which is present in English language is the original Bible that was

revealed on Jesus. Many Christian scholars disagree with this point of view. They agree that we do not have the genuine Bible. The Bible is full of mistakes and distortions. Even it is written in the preface of Bible that this Book is a drama and when you read it consider it as a drama.¹⁴ The view point of some scholars has been mentioned as follows:

Dr. Graham Scroggie:

Dr. Graham Scroggie of the Mody Bible Institute Chicago, one of the most prestigious Christian Evangelical Mission in the world, while answering the question...

Yes, the Bible is not a revealed book it was compiled by the humans.¹⁵

Knennth Cragg:

Not so the New Testament... There is a condensation and editing, there is a choice, reproduction and witness. The Gospels have come through the mind of Church behind the authors.¹⁶

Cambridge History of the Bible:

The history of the development of the New Testament Canon is the history of the process by which books written for the most part for other purposes and from other motives come to be given this unique status...¹⁷

This study has of necessity become one largely of internal criticism of the New Testament documents themselves, because such external evidence on matter of origin, authorship, sources and date as has come down from second and succeeding centuries is very meagre, and, when itself subjected to critical examination, turns out to be of dubious value, if not worthless. ¹⁸

According to a report there are 50, 000 errors in the Bible. Jehovah's Witnesses frequently claim that the Bible contains "50,000 errors". The claim by Jehovah's Witnesses of 50,000 mistakes in the

Bible can be traced back to their magazine Awake! (8 September 1957).¹⁹

John Mill in the Encyclopedia of Americana estimated that there are 30,000 variations in the New Testament.²⁰

That is why there are many diatimies and scientific errors in the Bible.

Authenticity of the Quran

The Quran is the most authentic book on face of earth. It has been mentioned already that there are no different versions of the Quran. All the Muslims have only one Quran and there is no difference of even a single alphabet.

Conclusions:

The Injil was revealed on 'Īsā ﷺ but it was not compiled in his era. With the passage of time the Bible was rendered by the followers 'Īsā ﷺ and the content was included in it by several people. So, no one has the original Bible now. The Bible was not revealed for all the humanity but it was only revealed for the people of that particular era. Muhammad ﷺ is the Last Messenger and the Qur'ān is the Last Revealed Book for the guidance of the whole Mankind till the Day of Judgment. It is the only Book which is available in its Original form and no alterations have been fabricated in it. There is no way to seek the guidance and pleasure of Allah Almighty other than to believe and act according to the Qur'ān. So every human being should believe in the teachings of the Qur'ān to become successful in both worlds.

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- 1 Tahir-ul-Qadri, Dr., Islam and Christianity, Minhaj-ul-Quran Publications, Lahore, 2004, p. 64.
 - 2 Ibid, p. 65.
 - 3 Duncan Peter, Dr., Holy Injil Luke A New Translation, p. 247.
 - 4 Ibid p. 247.
 - 5 Ibid, p. 248.
 - 6 Ibid, p. 252.
 - 7 Ibid, p. 252.
 - 8 Ibid, p. 252.
 - 9 Ibid, p. 253.
 - 10 P.R Ackroyd and C.FEvans (eds.), The Cambridge History of the Bible from the Beginnings to Jerome, Cambridge University Press, 1975, vol. 1, p. 3.
 - 11 Ibid, p. 11
 - 12 Ibid, p. 3.
 - 13 Ibid, v. 3, p, 141
 - 14 Bible, The New International Version, Preface, iv
 - 15 Dr. Graham Scroggie, Is the Bible the word of God?, The Sunday School Times Company, Philadelphia, 1922 p. 15
 - 16 Kenneth Cragg: The call of the Minaret, Oxford University Press, New York, 1956, p. 277.
 - 17 P.R Ackroyd and C.FEvans (eds.), The Cambridge History of the Bible, v. 1, p. 234
 - 18 Ibid, p. 235
 - 19 http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/en_201202_06.pdf
 - 20 Encyclopedia Americana International Edition, v. 3 p, 646.