

[Which is right, the Bible or the Quran?](#)

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Hey, welcome back to tough questions! This is Tim Perry, pastor of spiritual discovery at Christ Community Church. I want to pick up with my previous video about Abraham, Isaac and Ishmael. Who is this Ishmaelite who comes down the timeline of history long after the time of Abraham to reform the religious environment of his day? Well, his name is Mohammed and it is Mohammed the prophet, the founder of Islam. Some 600 years after the time of Christ, some 2,000 years after the time of Moses, who gave us the Hebrew scriptures that we are reading right now in the daily Bible along comes this prophet who claims to have had an encounter with the angel Gabriel. Gabriel tells him to recite and what he recites becomes what we call the Koran today. The word Koran simply means recite. The claim of the Koran is that the events recorded in the Koran are the same events that are recorded in the Pentateuch in the Hebrew scriptures so we ought to be able to compare the two and see where this "prophet" is coming from to see what kind of "divine revelation" he supposedly has received from God and how it updates and upgrades all of the revelation from God that had come previous. Lets take a look at it to see what counts and which do you think is telling the truth about the events of Isaac and Ishmael. Well, is it the Bible or is it the Koran is what it boils down to.

First of all, in the Genesis account, the Genesis account is produced by Moses in roughly 1400 B.C. Mohammed 2,000 years later in 610 A.D. has his encounter with the angel Gabriel and after that the Koran is recited. In the Genesis account, it is Abraham and Sarah who have given birth to Isaac and Isaac is the one who is going to be sacrificed on the mountain. While in the other account in the Koran, it is not Isaac, but Ishmael and Ishmael's mother is Hagar. This goes down at Mt. Moriah in the Bible, but in the Koran it happens at Mt. Mina. And instead of being on a mountain outside of Jerusalem, the holy city, it happens on a mountain outside of the Islamic holy city of Mecca. Isn't that convenient? Well in both cases it is a faith test for Abraham and Abraham passes the test. In the account in the Hebrew scriptures, a ram appears as a substitute and the ram is God's provision for a sacrifice instead of Isaac. Well the same provision takes place at the last minute for Ishmael over here, but because of the context of what is happening and what Mohammed is trying to do with his religious leadership, he is trying to close the door on pagan human sacrifice. So he views Abraham's sacrifice as being on another level altogether and his willingness to sacrifice Ishmael becomes then a permanent ban on any form of pagan human sacrifice in the future. So in a sense, this is looking backwards to the past and closing the door on what Mohammed was attempting to do in snuffing out the polytheism and paganism of his day. But over here, in the biblical account, things couldn't be more different. The sacrifice of this ram as a substitute for Isaac points to the future when another substitutionary

sacrifice is going to take place. The Muslims will commemorate this day in a celebration called 'Id-al-Adha. According to Surah 22:34 you can read about why it is that Ishmael's potential sacrifice on the mountain and Abraham's obedience become important to the Muslim faith.

But actually in Christianity and in Judaism, Leviticus 16 and 17 talk about the Day of Atonement, a celebration that would become a memorial on the part of the Jewish people to remember what God did to bring people out of captivity in Egypt and to remember this event that took place on Mt. Moriah where a substitute was sacrificed for a human. In Leviticus 16 and 17 it says things like this: "For the life of a creature is in the blood. I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar. It is the blood that makes atonement for one's life". Over here, in Islam, we are moving away from blood sacrifices, something that is a setup for the future. It is merely a commemoration of Abraham's faith test. Here, the Day of Atonement looks forward to a time when God is going to completely deal with man's sin problem through one sacrifice in the life of Jesus. Jesus, in Christianity, is God's son. His death is a permanent sacrifice. If you read Hebrews 9 and 10 it says things like "we have been made holy through the sacrifices of the blood of Jesus Christ once for all". Day after day the priest stands and performs his religious duties again and again and he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest, Jesus, had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. God's son, paying the sacrifice for sin through his own blood sacrifice and once and for all, all of the system of sacrifice out of the Old Testament is fulfilled and set aside.

But over here in Islam, which is supposed to be a positive development because of how much later it comes than the Old Testament, it actually doesn't affirm Jesus as God's son at all, but denies Jesus as God's son if you read Surah 5:109 out of the Koran. The deity of Jesus is resolutely denied in Islam and in order to do that another step of revision has to take place and in Islam the claim is there that Jesus didn't actually die because over here, within Judeo-Christian thinking, Jesus' death does make sense. It is the only way to be forgiven and to be made right with God. But over here, within Mohammed's system of working our way to God with the same kind of goodness that Abraham displayed, there is no longer any need for this blood sacrifice and Jesus, being God's son, the absolute answer to that is "no way". The absolute answer to Jesus' death is "no way"; "it couldn't have happened; "it didn't happen".

So as you look at the facts, as you look at the time frame of these events and how they are recorded so differently in the Koran from the Bible, I just urge you to make up your own mind about where you stand. Does the Bible tell the truth about what took place on Mt. Moriah with Abraham and his son or does the Koran seem to be telling the truth. I would say that the Koran seems to be a radical departure from the account of Genesis and the claims of Judaism and Christianity about the life and the significance of Isaac's potential sacrifice on Mt. Moriah. Check it out! Do your

own thinking. What kind of conclusion do you come to? Is it the Bible or the Koran?
It can't be both.

