**Let’s talk about Burqas (boorkahs) and Hijabs (hejabs)**

“the view that women should be veiled is based on a single verse 24:31.

 30[ Prophet], tell believing men to lower their eyes and guard their private parts: that is purer for them. God is well aware of everything they do. 31And tell believing women that they should lower their eyes, guard their private parts, and not display their charms beyond what [it is acceptable] to reveal; a they should draw their coverings over their necklines and not reveal their charms except to their husbands, their fathers, their husbands’ fathers, their sons, their husbands’ sons, their brothers, their brothers’ sons, their sisters’ sons, their womenfolk, their slaves, such men as attend them who have no desire, or children who are not yet aware of women’s nakedness; they should not stamp their feet so as to draw attention to any hidden charms. Believers, all of you, turn to God so that you may prosper. 32Marry offb the single among you, and those of your male and female slaves who are fit [for marriage].c

The fact that the verse does not give explicit instruction on how women should be veiled explains the diverse veiling procedures in different Muslim countries” Graphic of options

 Telegraph.UK/muslim women reveal why they wear the veil

 *I wear it to promote feminism…*

Reddit user 'Captain Monkee' writes: “I like to use it to promote feminism, however it is very hard to express it because of how people view it. There ARE a lot of women who are forced to wear it, and I think that's really wrong, no matter how religious or what country. “The hijab is forced in some places in the world, or by certain people - especially men in many cases. I will not deny this. This is not feminism. I want to take this hijab and make it my own. First choose if I even want to cover or not. Define WHY and HOW. I will choose what colors I will wear. What materials. Not just black and white. “I control if I want to use hijab pins, rhinestones, lace, or brooches. When I will wear it, how I will tie it. When I choose to take it off. It is my right. Also I will choose WHY I wear it. NOT wear it because someone told me to.

 *I feel like men respect me more*

When I'm wearing a hijab it's much easier not to care when I'm getting leered at because what exactly is he looking at? My face?”

 *‘It’s part of being a Muslim’*

 “I wear the hijab because it is part of being a Muslim. It is a choice at the end of the day, but I prefer to wear it and identify myself as a Muslim. It's also a sign of modesty that I wear it, like I can't wear short or tight clothes with the headscarf. It definitely keeps away the male attention where they won't approach you to flirt etc. “It's a choice at the end. If you don't wear it, it doesn't make you a bad person or [a bad] Muslim.

 *‘I throw on a burqa when I don’t feel like changing’*

User 'Ducttapeme' writes: “I was forced to start wearing a hijab at the age of 13 and now find it hard and very uncomfortable to take it off in public. Having said that, I do not take it as seriously as I should, in the sense that sometimes in places where there aren't a lot of men around, I take it off because it gets all sweaty in around my head. The only times I wear a burqa - the black robe thing, is when I don't feel like changing so I just throw it on when going somewhere.”

 *People deal with me as an individual (not just looks)*

 *I must do what God tells me*

 *It is a beautiful, religious fashion statement*

They are in many ways/situations where we are…a single statement or verse now subjected to a long history of cultural opinion!

Our lesson is about the Quran as the source for Muslims/Islam. Want to try to keep holding Bible and Quran up side by side, same standards, same questions:

We talk about the fashion passages in 1 Peter 3:1,  *Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. 3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. 4 Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight. 5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, 6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. 7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.*

We do the same thing, discuss, dissect. Peter doesn’t use the adjective for *fine*, “fine clothes”. His original says your beauty should not come from wearing clothes…

Why understanding sources is so important!

Why we want to know the Bible, the setting, how any one verse fits into the entire Bible… You have to be able to wrestle with your source and handle it correctly..

Why I do wiring at home, but I don’t mess with the breaker box…If wrong, get killed! (respect the power)

why we have sessions about Muhammad and the Quran…

If going to understand Islam and Muslim beliefs and practices, we have to understand what they believe about Muhammad and how they view the Quran.

At the same time, our objective is two-fold… I want to know what they think about the Quran and why.. AND I want to understand why we disagree, what is wrong with their position?

For a visual wanted to have 2 pills in front of you. Ebola cure.. You have Ebola. Can only choose one pill:

Pill A is from a single doctor, well-intended, has done some good in local communities. Has a lot of Twitter followers. He is confident it is going to cure you.

Pill B is from a group of doctors. They have given the pill to others, seen lives saved, have FDA research approval…

Bible and Quran are in many ways competitors. Some common denominators, but at the end of the day, both can’t be true. Too many conflicts at the heart. We have to choose one or the other…

More I study and read it, less intimidating it is. Did you read the Sura? What did you think?

 Initial reactions?

We chose the one Sura at random, I told you how many of the themes are repeated…Dr. Beverly lists the main teachings…

We’ll list them for reference, then study the one Sura kinda like we break down Bible passages and see if any of the themes are expressed and how that stacks up against our Bible…

**Major Teachings of the Quran**

James Beverly submits 12 major themes that are repeated over and over again (Amen to that brother!!)

1) Allah is the one true God

affirm one God as opposed to pagan pantheism (or even the Christian trinitarian God)

Muslims have no patience for any notion of different persons in the Godhead. The most serious sin in Islamic doctrine is *shirk*, the evil of giving God any partners…

2) Muhammad is the final prophet of God.

 according to the Quran:

 gift of grace to the world (28:46-47)

 inspired of God (18:110)

 model for moral conduct (33:21)

apostle of Allah (48:29)

 seal of the prophets (33:40)

 ministry prophesied by Jesus (61:6) and Moses (46:10)

46:10? “Say, ‘Have you thought: what if this Qur’an really is from God and you reject it? What if one of the Children of Israel testifies to its similarity [to earlier scripture] and believes in it, and yet you are too proud to [do the same]? God certainly does not guide evildoers.’”

Jesus predicted the coming of Muhammad?

61:6, “Jesus, son of Mary, said, ‘Children of Israel, I am sent to you by God, confirming the Torah that came before me and bringing good news of a messenger to follow me whose name will be Ahmad.’ b Yet when he came to them with clear signs, they said, ‘This is obviously sorcery.’

Answering islam.org…*To postulate a later messenger to supersede Jesus stands in utter contradiction to the entire message of the Bible, Old and New Testaments. Looking at the historical evidence, Surah 61:6 is merely one of several alleged sayings of Jesus that the author of the Qur'an fabricated in order to give support to the claim that Muhammad is a messenger from God. No more and no less.*

3) Quran is the true revelation of Allah

About the size of the New Testament…

Claims are that the original Arabic is beautiful and that it does not translate well… (I submit the Gospel translates very well!)

economist.com: The Koran is not only the most widely read book in the Islamic world but also the most widely recited (“Koran” means “recitation”). There is no higher goal in Muslim life than to become a human repository of the Holy Book; there is no more common sound in the Muslim world than the sound of Quranic recitation. Reciting the Koran is the backbone of Muslim education. One of the most prized honorifics in Islamic society is “hafiz” or “one who has the entire scripture off by heart”. Do so in Iran and you get an automatic university degree. The great recitors compete in tournaments that can attract audiences in the hundreds of thousands—the world cups of the Islamic world. The winners'CDs become instant bestsellers.

 hundreds of self-referential statements…

I always love and appreciate the archeology and science that verifies Biblical claims…

 Steven’s article on the “seal of Hezekiah”

“Although seal impressions bearing King Hezekiah’s name have already been known from the antiquities market since the middle of the 1990s—some with a winged scarab (dung beetle) symbol and others with a winged sun—this is the first time that a seal impression of an Israelite or Judean king has ever come to light in a scientific archaeological excavation,” Eilat Mazar said in the Hebrew University press release.

4) Those who follow Allah and His prophet are true believers

 Delivered in a time of great strife and pressure…

 Picture of division between those who are “in” and those who are “out”

Increasing anxiety in the text between believer and enemy is a clear reflection of the contours of Muhammad’s life.

Earlier suras are more optimistic in tone, before Muhammad faced scorn and ridicule of Meccan opponents.

5) Joys of Heaven await true followers of Allah

 Garden with rivers…(43:69-71)

6) Eternal fire awaits all unbelievers

 100’s of references to Heaven, even more to Hell!

Some Christians try to erase hell from the NT doctrines (Francis Chan’s book that exposes same)…impossible for Muslims to do so, the depictions are graphic!

4:56, *We shall send those who reject Our revelations to the Fire. When their skins have been burned away, We shall replace them with new ones so that they may continue to feel the pain: God is mighty and wise.*

7) Message of Quran given to Jews and Christians but they have distorted

Believe roots are in Adam, Abraham, prophets, Jesus, then to Muhammad as last and greatest!

Most attention (in terms of space) to Abraham, then Moses, then Jesus, then Noah, Jospeh…

8) God has given clear signs to validate his revelations

 Creation and rain and weather are cited a lot…camels a couple of times..

No need for Muhammad to perform miracles (They didn’t listen to the prophets of old who did them anyway…)

Muslims say that the Arabic is obviously divine and that no human could write such a book. The lack of miracles in the life of Muhammad is explained by reference to the Quran as the greatest miracle of Islam…

(arguments about moles on Muhammad’s back…I want bigger signs!!)

9) Salvation comes to those who accept Allah’s ways and obey His laws

So much in here about doing good works…never being assured, God is capricous!

*“salvation is attained by human obedience to the law of God”*

23:102-104, *those whose good deeds weigh heavy will be successful, 103but those whose balance is light will have lost their souls for ever and will stay in Hell— 104the Fire will scorch their faces and their lips will be twisted in pain.*

10) It is imperative to join the battle on behalf of Allah and His prophet

It is somewhat of a stretch to justify the modern ISIS Jihad…but there are a number of “protect the faith” passages…

Spiritual battle in the hearts and this sometimes justifies physical war…

11) Quran gives guidelines on the way of righteousness and goodness.

 Pray facing Mecca…

 Pilgrimage at least once in lifetime…

 Generosity

 Purity (especially for women)

12) Muhammad is the model for moral and spiritual conduct

Surah 42 says the prophet is the guide to the straight path…

Emphasis on Muhammad caused Muslims to record their memories of him and now these give moral, spiritual and legal guidelines on topics not specifically addressed…

Consider that in the wake of the facts that Muhammad is the one source for Islam and we took a detailed look at his life and choices last week…

He’s dead and buried. Jesus lives on high.. Who you gonna believe?

**Our consideration of Sura 43**

Did you read? Initial thoughts?

 How easy to understand?

“Most Christians have not read in full, find it boring and incomprehensible…”

 How make you feel?

Vs 1—Ha Mim?

*Hamim* is an Arabic name for boys that means “close friend”, “devoted friend”. It is used 20 times in the Quran.

 “This entry from Wickipedia is a stub. You can help by expanding it.

Vs 4—Quran claimed to be the authoritative source above all others! (claim # above? claim #3)

The Haleem translation of the Qur'an (One we are reading!) includes that this phrase is also referring to the ‘Preserved Tablet’ that is referenced in sura 13:39[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Az-Zukhruf#cite_note-25) and 85:22[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Az-Zukhruf#cite_note-26) as well. This subtle reinterpretation suggests that the Qur'an is the ‘mother’ of and therefore superior to all of the books revelation. It suggests that the Qur'an is more reliable and possesses more truth than the [Torah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torah) and the [Gospels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospels) and it suggests that the Qur'an should be revered above all revelations that came before it.

Vs 11—sign of what? (Rain, again needed to resurrection time and location) Claim #8

Vs 16-17—speaking against the common culture that daughters were not as desirable as sons…

Vs 26—That position regarding Abraham starts out as correct…(maybe claim #7?)

Vs 30-31-32, People did not accept Muhammad’s words because he wasn’t rich and powerful?

 In Scripture, does God ever work in, through poor servant people?

 Examples? (Jesus, Peter, beggars, Amos)

 Does God ever work through rich people?

 Abraham—Job--Solomon—Lydia!

Vs 35—Yes, we agree that God has better in store for servants in eternity. We realize the short nature of some of the stuff of this life, the trinkets. (claim #5)

Vs 36-39 seem to indicate that God sends bad comrades to keep people from knowing, returning to grace? (claim #6?)

Vs 40-44—Hold firm to this path (self-authenticated again), you will be *questioned!* (claim #9)

Vs 46-56—Section seems fairly accurate in its treatment and summary of the account of Moses coming with signs. Each more powerful.. Pharaoh and company didn’t see Moses as rich and famous? (So they doubted him like the locals doubt Muhammad, so God drowned them all!)

 Paul also uses them as examples 1 Corinthians 10:1ff

 I wish I knew this answer: Are these *revelations* in response to treatment?

the sura was revealed during the Second Meccan Period, a time in which Muhammad and his followers were increasingly subject to opposition from the [Quraysh tribe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quraysh_tribe).(Powerful merchant tribe said to be descended from Isamel)

Why important? (not timeless prophecy, but timely ammunition)

 Claim #10?

**BUT*,***  says Beverly…if you are going to claim to be in line with previous messages, you can’t change gears regarding the context of the story…

 Can’t be in agreement with Abraham and Moses and then deny Jesus!

Vs 59—Jesus as only a servant God favored? (Who is we? If God is one, who is *We* Allah and Muhammad?) (Claim #2)

 Vs 64—God is my Lord and your Lord? (Not true of Jesus)

These verses reveal that while Jesus was a favored Prophet, he does not possess but is only the messenger of the eternal wisdom of God. He is not the Son of God, nor is he God himself. God is his Lord and the only one that should be served and venerated is Him.

Hebrews 1:1ff, *In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.*

Colossians 1:15-20, *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

Vs 61—Self-authenticating again…(claim #3)

 Bible does that too, but backs it with divine proofs and signs and prophecies..

 Same claims, but so much more than one man’s voice…

TODAY’S proof for your consideration: Here are all the books I have on my stack to read. Try to read for about an hour in the morning…Betty gives this Glory Days to Clarice who is next in line.. Go ahead and bump that one up.

Reading this morning: p. 31, But, we wonder, is the Bible really inspired? Can we believe Paul’s assessment that “all Scripture is inspired by God”? Here is why I think we can…

 *It is remarkable in composition*. Composed over sixteen centuries by forty authors. Written by soldiers, shepherds, farmers, and fishermen. Begun by Moses in Arabia and finished by John on Patmos. Penned by kings in palaces, shepherds in tents, and prisoners in prisons.

Would it be possible for 40 writers, largely unknown to each other, writing in three different languages and several different countries, separated in time by as much as sixteen hundred years, to produce a book of singular theme unless behind them there was one mind and one designer? (Quran has one author over 22 years)

*It is remarkable in durability*. It is the single most published book in history. Translated into at least twelve hundred languages by an army of translators (never hear that it only makes sense in Greek). It has outlived all its opponents. Bibles have been burned by governments and banished from courtrooms, but God’s Word endures. The death knell has been sounded a hundred times, but God’s Word continues.

*It is remarkable in prophecy*. Its pages contain more than 300 fulfilled prophecies about the life of Christ, yet they were all written at least 400 years before he was born. What are the odds? Imagine if something similar occurred today? If we found a book written in the year 1900 that prophesied two world wars, a depression, an atomic bomb, and the assassination of a president and a civil rights leader, wouldn’t we trust it?

Vs 66—Threat of hell for unbelievers.. (claim #6)

Vs 67b-68ff—Paradise for the married believers? (garden and fruit and all things pleasing) (claim #5)

While many suras of the Early Meccan periods make references to wide-eyed, full-bosomed and yet to be de-flowered maidens upon arrival into Paradise, sura 43 explicitly states, "Enter Paradise, you and your spouses: you will be filled with joy" (43:70).[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Az-Zukhruf#cite_note-30) Sensuous imagery of virgins and "wide-eyed houris" (N41/E46) are characteristic of the Early Meccan suras with the intention of capturing the attention of the Meccan pagans.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Az-Zukhruf#cite_note-31) This enticing imagery slowly phased out as suras continued to be revealed into the Late Meccan and Medinan periods in order to prevent the faithful from misunderstanding and such sensuous descriptions were replaced by references to spouses. The inclusion of verse 43:70 indicates that this sura was revealed in the later Meccan period at which point there existed an emphasis on family. At the time of this sura's revelation, there was less of a concern convincing Meccan pagans to convert and more of a concern developing a law-abiding community centered upon worshipping God's will.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Az-Zukhruf#cite_note-32)

Bait and switch? (we’ll entice you into the faith with the lure of voluptuous virgins, then later, after we have a crowd, say you’ll be with your wives in Paradise?

Vs 74ff—Hell for the unbelievers again… (claim #6)

Vs 80—in light of all the privacy talk and phones and wiretapping…messengers recording everything they say! (live in fear!) (claim #9)

Vs 82—He is far above—God is unattainable! (Claim #1)

 Bible calls us His children, sons…

John 1:12, *Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—*

Romans 8:14-17, 4*because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory*

I John 3:1-2, *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him,*

Vs 89—Saying we should turn away and not try to convert? Or if we turn away, then they will come to know? (Hard, Hard, hard to understand!!)

**My Notes**

**Major Teachings of the Quran**

1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the one true \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the final prophet of God.

3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the true revelation of Allah.

4) Those who follow Allah and His prophet are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5) Joys of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ await true followers of Allah.

6) Eternal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ awaits all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

7) The Message of the Quran was given to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but they have distorted.

8) God has given clear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to validate his revelations.

9) Salvation comes to those who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Allah’s ways and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ His laws.

10) It is imperative to join the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on behalf of Allah and His prophet.

11) The Quran gives guidelines on the ways of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

12) Muhammad is the model for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ conduct.