

Muhammad dictating the Quran to his followers.

to accept any new Gospel, even from an angel (Galatians 1:6-9). We are warned against false prophets (Matt. 24:11) and against false apostles (2 Corinthians 11:12-15).

To Christians, the testimony of one witness (in this case Muhammad) to a revelation (the Quran) is unacceptable without objective Divine proof, such as miracles and prophecy (as seen throughout Exodus before the giving of the Law, and in the Gospels before the giving of the New Covenant). Deuteronomy 18:21-22 demands fulfilled prophecy as a proof of Divine Authority for a prophet (see also Isaiah 41:21-23). Muhammad failed to fulfill any of these requirements (Surah 3:183; 6:37, 109, 124; 7:203; 17:59, 88, 93; etc.).

EVALUATING THE QURÂN

Edward Gibbon in his classic *"Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire"* evaluated the Quran in these words: "... an incoherent rhapsody of fable and precept and declamation which seldom excites a sentiment or an idea, which sometimes crawls in the dust and is sometimes lost in the clouds ... the use of fraud and perfidy, of cruelty and injustice, were often subservient to the propagation of the faith ... Muhammad commanded or approved the assassination of Jews ... Muhammad indulged the appetites of a man and abused the claim of a prophet. A special revelation dispensed him from the laws which he had imposed upon his nation. The female sex without reserve, was abandoned to his desires."

Philosopher David Hume in his *"An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding"* observed: "(Muhammad) bestows praise upon such instances of treachery, inhumanity, cruelty, revenge and bigotry as are utterly incompatible with civilized society. No steady rule of right seems there to be attended to, and every action is blamed or praised so far only as it is beneficial to (the Muslims) ..."

Thomas Carlyle, in *"On Heroes and Hero Worship"* described the Quran as: "A wearisome jumble, crude, incondite (with) endless iterations ... long-windedness ... nothing but a sense of duty could carry any European through the Quran."

Gerd Puin, a German scholar so skilled in Arabic that Yemen entrusted him with the analysis of extremely old copies of the Quran, wrote: "The Quran claims for itself that it is 'mubeen' or clear. But if you look at it you will notice that every fifth sentence or so simply doesn't make sense ... the fact is that a fifth of the Quranic text is just incomprehensible. This is what has caused the traditional anxiety regarding translation. If the Quran is not comprehensible - if it can't even be understood in Arabic - then its' not translatable ... And since the Quran claims repeatedly to be clear but obviously is not - as even speakers of Arabic will tell you - there is a contradiction."

Even some Muslim intellectuals such as the Iranian Ali Dashti have found the

literary style of the Quran to be defective: "The Quran contains sentences which are incomplete and unintelligible without ... commentaries ... illogically and ungrammatically applied pronouns which sometimes have no referent ... more than 100 Quranic aberrations from (Arabic's) normal rules have been noted."



An abandoned derelict mosque overgrown by the jungle in Southern Sudan.

CONCLUSION

Although Islam claims that the Quran is of divine origin, I can find no internal or external evidence to support this. On the contrary, after exhaustive investigation, and after reading the Quran and other sources, I can only conclude that Muhammad based his teachings on inaccurate and untrue interpretations of the Bible, derived from suspect sources. He was influenced by Eastern and Egyptian thought, Arabian customs, Jewish Talmudic writings, and legends and myths from heretical Christian sects. In addition, his teachings in the Quran are also based on revelations (which seem spiritist in nature), which he initially believed were demonic in origin.

The Quran claims to confirm the Law of Moses and the Gospel of Jesus, yet investigation shows this to be false. The Law was written about 2000 years before, and the Gospels 500 years earlier than Muhammad's time. We have enormous quantities of manuscripts of the Bible, dating long before the time of the Quran. We have enough historical and archeological evidence to support the Biblical accounts and enough manuscript evidence to show that the Bible we have today is authentically and accurately the same Word of God which was available in the time of Muhammad. Considering that the Quran accepts the Bible as the Revealed Word of God (Surah 2:136; 3:2-3; 4:136; 5:47-52, 71; 10:37, 94; 29:46; etc.), we can only assume that it is the younger Quranic accounts which are inaccurate and unreliable.

Not only does the Quran fail to bear out investigation as to whether it is of Divine origin or not, but it clearly comes from recognisable human sources at that. The misunderstandings and confusion of Quranic stories are embarrassingly obvious. Moreover, it fails to correspond with God's eternal Word revealed with many signs and wonders, detailed prophecies and confirmations in the 66 Books of the Bible.

The foundations of Islam are false and second-hand. Its sources are suspect and its roots are unreliable.

The challenge to us as Christians is that there are 1,200 million Muslims who are basing their religion on a false revelation. We are under obligation to give them the Eternal Living Word of God, as revealed in the Authoritative Written Word of God.

"Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations ..."

AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

In 1818, Captain Lyon of the Royal Navy reported that the Al-Mukani in Tripoli "waged war on all its defenceless neighbours and annually carried off 4,000 to 5,000 slaves... a piteous spectacle! These poor oppressed beings were, many of them, so exhausted as to be scarcely able to walk, their legs and feet were much swelled, and by their enormous size formed a striking contrast with their emaciated bodies. They were all borne down with loads of firewood, and even poor little children, worn to skeletons by fatigue and hardships, were obliged to bear their burden, while many of their inhuman masters with dreadful whip suspended from their waist... all the traders speak of slaves as farmers do of cattle... the defenceless state of the Negro kingdoms to the southward are temptations too strong to be resisted, a force is therefore annually sent... to pillage these defenceless people, to carry them off as slaves, burn their towns, kill the aged and infants, destroy their crops and inflict on them every possible misery... all slavery is for an unlimited time... none of their owners ever moved without their whips - which were in constant use... drinking too much water, bringing too little wood or falling asleep before the cooking was finished, were considered nearly capital crimes, and it was in vain for these poor creatures to plead the excuse of being tired. Nothing could withhold the application of the whip. No slaves dared to be ill or unable to walk, but when the poor sufferer dies, the master suspects that there must have been something 'wrong inside' and regrets not having liberally applied their usual remedy of burning the belly with a red-hot iron."

Records for Morocco in 1876 show that market prices for slaves varied from £10 (\$48) to £30 (\$140). Female slaves comprised the vast majority of sales with "attractive virgins" fetching between £40 to £80 (\$192 - \$386). It was reported that "a considerable majority of the slaves crossing the Sahara were destined to become concubines in North Africa, the Middle East and occasionally even further afield."

CHRISTIAN SLAVES - MUSLIM MASTERS

Segal also observed that: "White slaves from Christian Spain, Central and Eastern Europe" were also shipped into the Middle East and served in the "palaces of rulers and the establishments of the rich." He records that: "All slavish eunuchs... are castrated in that region and the operation is performed by Jewish merchants."

Serge Trifkovic in *The Sword of the Prophet* notes that in 781AD over 7,000 Greeks were enslaved by the Muslims after they conquered Ephesus. When the Muslims captured Thessalonica in 903AD over 22,000 Christians were sold into slavery. Similarly in 1064 when Muslims invaded Georgia and Armenia.

Historian Otto Scott in his book *"The Great Christian Revolution"*



Muslim slave raiders kidnapped women from Europe for harems in the Middle East.

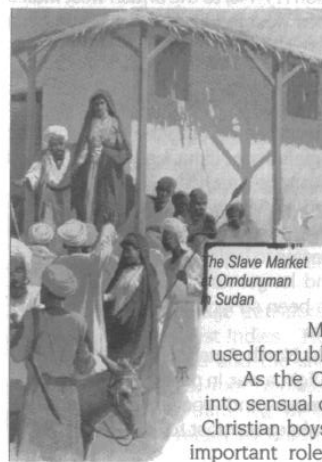
details how Suleiman and his Turkish army of 300,000 invaded Hungary in 1526 and carried off 200,000 Hungarian Christians into slavery. In 1571 thousands of Greeks on Cyprus were shipped to Constantinople as slaves.

Historian Robert Davis in his book "Christian Slaves, Muslim Masters - White Slavery in the Mediterranean, the Barbary Coast and Italy", estimates that North African Muslim pirates abducted and enslaved more than 1 million



More than a million Christian Europeans were enslaved by Muslim pirates.

Europeans between 1530 and 1780. These white Christians were seized in a series of raids which depopulated coastal towns from Sicily to Cornwall. Thousands of white Christians in coastal areas were seized every year to work as galley slaves, labourers and concubines for Muslim slave masters in what is today Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya. Villages and towns on the coast of Italy, Spain, Portugal and France were the hardest hit, but the Muslim slave raiders also seized people as far afield as Britain, Ireland and Iceland. They even captured 130 American seamen from ships they boarded in the Atlantic between 1785 and 1793.



The Slave Market at Omdurman in Sudan

According to one report, 7,000 English people were abducted between 1622 to 1644, many of them ship crews and passengers. But the Corsairs also landed on unguarded beaches, often at night, to snatch the unwary. Almost all the inhabitants of the village of Baltimore, in Ireland, were captured in 1631, and there were other raids in Devon and Cornwall. Many of these white, Christian slaves were put to work in quarries, building sites and galleys and endured malnutrition, disease and mistreatment at the hands of their Muslim slave masters. Many of them were used for public works such as building harbours.

As the Ottoman empire's ruling class degenerated into sensual overload, many of the intelligent kidnapped Christian boys from Europe came to play an increasingly important role as tutors, advisors, engineers and even