

The Quran, Part 2

In my article, The Quran, Part 1, we discussed the noble Quran, the sacred Book of Islam, its message, and how it was preserved. Today, we continue our discussion of the Holy Book of Islam and start by mentioning its authenticity.

AUTHENTICITY: Many people mistakenly believe that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the author of the Quran. The Quran is God’s preserved speech. One might ask, which proofs indicate that the Quran is God’s Word and not Muhammad’s (pbuh) writings?

It is a well-known fact that Prophet Muhammad was illiterate. Thus, he could not have read any previous scriptures or written the Quran. God affirms this by addressing him, “You never recited any Scripture before We revealed this one to you; you never wrote one down with your hand” [Quran 29: 48].

The Prophet Muhammad was remarkably regarded in his society for his superior character and exceptional manners, earning him the title: “the Truthful One.” Even after his prophethood, the elite of Mecca were ready to make him their leader, so long as he allowed them to continue their pagan lifestyles. Yet, he was willing to forego all worldly glory to fulfill his mission. As a result, he suffered patiently through

persecution and exile before ultimately succeeding in revolutionizing the entire Arabian Peninsula and, later, the world.

Through it all, God kept on revealing the Quran to him piecemeal. Occasionally, the revelations stopped temporarily, reminding him and others that he had no control over them. Once, when rabbis posed some questions to him, he (Muhammad, pbuh) replied, “Tomorrow I will tell you.” He expected God to inspire his answers through revelation and waited for Angel Gabriel. However, the revelation did not come during the next two weeks, even as Meccans taunted him. Finally, God sent him the response while admonishing him, “Do not say of anything, ‘I will do that tomorrow; without adding, “God willing” [Quran 18: 23-24]. If he had written the Quran, he would have saved himself from humiliation from his adversaries.

The Quran was revealed at a time when the Arabs excelled in oral poetry. They were known as the kings of eloquence. However, despite his intelligence, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was not skilled in composing poetry—a fact known to everyone in his era. Yet, when the Quranic verses were recited, they stunned even the most acclaimed poets in society. Deeply moved by the rhythmic tone, literary merit, and penetrating wisdom of



Guest Column

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the Quran, many rejected the worshiping of idols and embraced Islam.

It is interesting to know that the best description ever given to the Quran was given by one of the fiercest enemies of the Prophet and Islam. Al-Waleed ibn Al-Mugheera said when the Prophet recited the Quran to him, (By God, his words [i.e., the Quran] indeed possess a sweetness, and they are adorned with elegance. They are fruitful in their upper reaches and abundantly flowing below. They ascend, are unsurpassed, and shatter all beneath them.) Why Al-Waleed did not accept Islam was for the sole reason of fearing losing his position among other tribes as one of the few leaders, and he knew Islam makes all people equal! The Quran says, “(1) Alif, Lam, Ra. (2) These are the verses of the clear Book. (3) Indeed, We have sent it down as an Arabic Qur’an that you might understand. We relate to you, [O Muhammad], the best of stories in what We have revealed to you of this Qur’an although you were, before it, among the

unaware.” [Quran 12: 1-3]. And “And We have sent down to you the Book in truth, confirming what preceded it of the Scripture and as a criterion over it.” [Quran 5: 48] Then, “To Allah is your return all together, and He will [then] inform you concerning that over which you used to differ.” [Quran 5: 48]

Miraculous GLIMPS-ES: The Quran mentions phenomena that were unknown at the time. Many were only recently discovered by modern science. This can be said about some other Scriptures, but the accuracy of these “scientific hints” is overwhelming.

For example, God describes the stages of human development in the womb: “We created man from an essence of clay, then We placed him as a drop of fluid in a safe place, then We made that drop into a clinging form, and We made that form into a lump of flesh, and We made that lump into bones, and We clothed those bones with flesh, and later We made him into other forms — glory be to God, the best of creators!” [Quran 23: 12-14].

Professor Keith Moore (1925 - 2019), a prominent scientist of anatomy and embryology at the University of Toronto, Canada, has stated, “It has been a great pleasure for me to help clarify statements in the Quran about human

development. It is clear to me that these statements must have come to Muhammad (pbuh) from God because almost all of this knowledge was not discovered until many centuries later?”

The Quran also clearly describes the expansion of the universe: “And it is We who have built the universe with (Our creative) power; and verily, it is We who are steadily expanding it” [Quran 51: 47. It was not until 1925 when Edwin Hubble provided evidence of receding galaxies, that the expanding universe came to be accepted as a scientific fact.

Professor Alfred Kroner, a world-famous geologist, explained: “Thinking about many of these questions and thinking about where Muhammad (pbuh) came from, he was, after all, a Bedouin; I think it is almost impossible that he could have known about things like the common origin of the universe because scientists have only found out within the last few years with very complicated and advanced technological methods that this is the case.”

UNIVERSALITY: “This is the Scripture in which there is no doubt, containing guidance for those who are mindful of God, who believe in the unseen” [Quran 2: 2-3]. The Quran’s message is relevant to every nation

and era—another proof that the Quran is truly the Word of God. God designed this Book to remain a source of guidance, inspiration, wisdom, and healing for all of humanity, transcending the bounds of time.

The Quran’s divine message applies to all aspects of life and rises above the superficial differences among humans. Its teachings guide the spiritual, social, and intellectual needs of humanity. It encourages us to remember God often, to humble ourselves before Him, to fulfill our promises, to work together as a community, and to remain patient and perseverant in times of hardship. Quranic stories teach us the importance of placing our trust in God, speaking the truth in the face of injustice and dealing with fellow humans with mercy.

In a world starved of love and compassion, the Quran’s universal message solves the collective despair of the human condition. We invite you to open it and receive this Book’s great benefits.

This is a blessed Book which We sent down to you [Muhammad] for people to ponder its message and for those with understanding to be reminded. [Quran, 38: 29]

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Peace must be a priority, say Catholic leaders on anniversary of priests’ violent deaths in Mexico

MEXICO CITY – Two years have passed since a leader of one of Mexico’s organized crime gangs stormed into a Catholic church in the remote Tarahumara mountains and fatally shot two Jesuit priests.

Among many faith leaders nationwide, the pain unleashed on June 20, 2022 – when the Revs. Javier Campos Morales, 79, and Joaquín César Mora Salazar, 80, were murdered by a local gang leader – has not faded. Nor their quest for

peace.

“The murders of Fathers Javier and Joaquín has allowed us to redefine the pain that lives in the hearts of many corners of the country,” the Catholic bishops conference of Mexico skaid in a news release Thursday. “To build a shared movement that has peace as its horizon and the victims of violence as its starting point.”

Organized crime has long controlled swaths of territory in states such as Guerrero,

Guanajuato and Michoacan. Many people have been displaced from rural villages in Chiapas by warring cartels.

Some two dozen candidates were killed ahead of June 2 elections, when Mexicans elected Claudia Sheinbaum as their first female president.

In remembrance of the 2022 murders, the bishops conference, Jesuits of Mexico and some other national religious organizations announced Thursday a third stage of the

“National Peace Dialogue.” They demanded concrete actions to address nationwide violence.

For the past two years, the initiative has brought together civil society, academics, violence victims and businesspeople who search for solutions to achieve justice, security and peace. More than 60,000 testimonies have been gathered.

The relationship between President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and the Cath-

olic Church has been tense ever since the murder of the Jesuits priests. Bishop Ramón Castro, secretary general of the bishops conference, said ahead of June elections that he wished for a deeper dialogue between the government and the church.

Lopez Obrador has said that religious leaders are “cynical” and “hypocrites” for criticizing him but not his predecessors.

– AP

Worship at the church of your choice this week

You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.



Revelation 3:17

Stillwater Bible
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JB Bond, Senior Pastor

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G.R.O.W. Groups9:45 a.m.
Worship Service11:00 a.m.
Kids' Church11:20 a.m.

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www.fumcstw.org
400 W. 7th • 372-5854

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Sunday School10:00am
Closer Walk10 am Family Life Center

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4th & Knoblock • 372-2744

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9 am
Worship Service
8 am & 10:30 am

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Thursday7:30pm

723 E. 17th

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524 S. Duncan • 405-372-5580
www.stillwaterfpc.org

Sunday Worship

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - in person, online
On KSPI radio AM 780 & FM 94.3
and the Stillwater FPC Facebook page

Sunnybrook Christian Church

421 E. Richmond Rd • 377.0923
www.sunnybrookccc.org

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1223 S. Perkins Rd.

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YOUTH & ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6:30

Paul Hutchinson – Pastor
Address – 1223 S. Perkins, Rd.
Phone: 408-372-2411
Email: southsidestillwater@gmail.com

The Islamic Society of Stillwater

616 N. Washington St.
Friday (Weekly) Prayers
1:40 PM - 2:10 PM
For Daily Prayer Times
www.icstillwater.org

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

711 N. Country Club Rd.

Sunday Mass 8:30 | 11:15 a.m.
1 p.m. (en español)
Tue & Thu Mass 12:10 p.m.
Wednesday Mass 12:10 p.m.
6 p.m. (en español)

Friday Mass 12:10 p.m.
Saturday Mass 9 a.m. | 5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)
Confessions
Tues-Fri | 11:30-12 p.m.
Wednesday | 5 p.m.
Saturday | 9:45-11 a.m.

405-372-6886 www.sfxstillwater.org

Zion Lutheran Church - LCMS

Sunday - 8:00, 10:30 AM

www.zionlutheranstw.org

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