

Does the Bible Predict Muhammad?

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The Qur'an claims that Muhammad was foretold in the Law of Moses (Torah) and the Gospel (Sura 7:157-158). Muslims contend that one such instance is where Moses foretells of a future prophet that would be like him (Deut. 18:15-18), and another is where Jesus tells of a coming "comforter" or "helper" that would be a guide into all truth (Jn. 14:16; 15:26; 16:7; 16:13). Could these possibly refer to Muhammad?

A Prophet Like Moses (Deut. 18:15-18)

Though Muslims would claim that the prophet like Moses is Muhammad, the New Testament contends that it is none other than **Jesus Christ** (Jn. 5:46; Acts 3:20-23). The following chart provides a brief comparison of the three.

Moses	Jesus	Muhammad
Born naturally (Ex. 2:1-2)	Born of a virgin (Matt. 1:18-25)	Born naturally
Israelite (Ex. 2:1, 11)	Israelite (Matt. 1:1-17; Heb. 7:14)	Arab
Married (Ex. 2:21)	Not married	Married (multiple wives)
Spoke directly from God (Ex. 3:13ff.)	Spoke directly from God (Jn. 1:14; 8:28; 12:49-50; 15:15)	Spoke though angel (Sura 2:97), Spoke presumptuously (Sura 53:19-20; cf. 17:73; 22:52-53)
Deliverance from Egypt (Ex. 3:8)	Deliverance from sin and death (Rom. 11:26; Heb. 2:15)	
Mediator (Ex. 32:32)	Mediator (Jn. 17:9; Gal. 3:19; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 9:15)	
Lawgiver (Ex. 20:1ff.; Jn. 1:17)	Lawgiver (Jas. 4:12)	Lawgiver (Sura 21:10; 28:85)
Predicted future events (Deut. 18:15-18; 28:49-53; 31:29)	Predicted future events (Jn. 2:19; 13:19; Matt. 24; Lk. 19:40-44; 21; Mk. 13)	No true prophecies (vague at best, Sura 30:2-4)
Performed miracles (Ex. 4:1ff.; 7-12; 14:15ff.; Deut. 34:10-12)	Performed miracles (Jn. 20:30-31)	No miracles (Sura 6:37; 13:7; 28:48) Former Scriptures and Qur'an should be enough (Sura 20:133; 29:50-51)
Died naturally (Deut. 34:5-7)	Crucified (Matt. 27:35-50)	Died naturally

Jesus is the only one that lives up to the key points of the prophecy, namely that the prophet would be from "from their midst" and "from their brethren" (i.e., an Israelite; cf. Deut. 18:2, 15, 18), would actually predict the future (Deut. 18:20-22), and perhaps most importantly, would perform miracles, which the book of Deuteronomy states is a key characteristic to being "like" Moses (Deut. 34:10-12). Muhammad does not fit any of these categories, and therefore cannot be the prophet like Moses.

The Comforter (Jn. 14:16; 15:26; 16:7; 16:13)

Muslims claim that Jesus predicted the coming of Muhammad, designated as the “comforter” in the New Testament. The name Muhammad means “praiseworthy” and another form of the name, Ahmad, means “praised one”, which is a name the Qur'an connects with the gospel (Sura 61:6). It is contended that the Greek word for “comforter” (*parakletos*) is incorrect, and should have been written as *periklytos* (glorious or admirable), and therefore refers to the name Ahmad. Aside from proving that *parakletos* is the accurate, and only, word found in the (over 5,000) Greek manuscripts, examining the context of the book of John will show that the “comforter” cannot be Muhammad.

- The comforter is the **Holy Spirit** (Jn. 14:26), the Spirit of Truth (Jn. 14:17; 15:26; 16:13)
- Muhammad did not and could not abide with the first century disciples forever (Jn. 14:16; 2 Tim. 1:14), because they died before he was born.
- Muhammad was seen and known by the world (Jn. 14:17)
- Muhammad could not have guided the apostles into all truth (Jn. 16:13), because they died before he was born.
- Muhammad was not a spirit (Jn. 15:26)
- First century disciples were not baptized with, nor did they receive power from, Muhammad (Matt. 3:11; Acts 1:5, 8; 2:4)
- Muhammad was not given to those who obeyed (Acts 2:38; 5:32)
- **Muhammad was not the Holy Spirit, i.e., God** (Acts 5:3-4; Matt. 28:19)

No Muslim would claim that Muhammad is God, but to say he is the “comforter” and “spirit of truth” foretold by Jesus necessitates that he is the Holy Spirit, and therefore God. Muhammad is not predicted in the New Testament!

Note: Though Muslims contend the Bible has been corrupted, and therefore *parakletos* should not be in the text, and though the Qur'an calls out Jews and Christians for twisting the Scriptures (cf. Sura 5:12-15), it **never charges the Bible with corruption**, but rather appeals to it for proof of Muhammad (Sura 5:43-47; 7:157-158). Yet, the only Greek manuscripts around during the time of Muhammad match up with those we have today!