

## According to the Qur'an, the Bible expects Muhammad

Reuven Firestone  
Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles

### Sura 7 (The Heights)

<sup>157</sup>Those who follow the messenger, the *ummi* prophet, whom they will find written in their Torah and Gospel that they have with them, commanding the right and forbidding the wrong. He will allow for them all good things and prohibit for them the foul. He will relieve them of their burden and the shackles that were upon them. So those who believe in him and support and help him, and follow the light that was brought down with him – these are the ones who will prosper.

### سُورَةُ الْأَعْرَافِ

الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ الرَّسُولَ النَّبِيَّ الْأُمِّيَّ الَّذِي يَجِدُونَهُ  
مَكْتُوبًا عِنْدَهُمْ فِي التَّوْرَةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ يَأْمُرُهُمْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ  
وَيَنْهَاهُمْ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُحِلُّ لَهُمُ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَيُحَرِّمُ عَلَيْهِمُ  
الْخَبَائِثَ وَيَضَعُ عَنْهُمْ إِصْرَهُمْ وَالْأَغْلَالَ الَّتِي كَانَتْ  
عَلَيْهِمْ فَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِهِ وَعَزَّرُوهُ وَنَصَرُوهُ وَاتَّبَعُوا النُّورَ  
الَّذِي أُنزِلَ مَعَهُ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ {157}

### Deut. 18 [God speaking through Moses]

<sup>18</sup>I will raise up a prophet for them from among their own people, like yourself: I will put My words in his mouth and he will speak to them all that I command him; <sup>19</sup>and if anybody fails to heed the words he speaks in My name, I myself will call him to account. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who presumes to speak in My name an oracle that I did not command him to utter, or who speaks in the name of other gods – that prophet shall die.”<sup>1</sup> <sup>21</sup>And should you ask yourselves, “How can we know that the oracle was not spoken by the Lord?” – <sup>22</sup>If the prophet speaks in the name of the Lord and the oracle does not come true, that oracle was not spoken by the Lord; the prophet has uttered it presumptuously: do not stand in dread of him.

### דברים יח

(יח) נביא אקים להם מקרב אחיהם  
כמוך ונתתי דברי בפיו ודבר אליהם  
את כל אשר אצונו :  
(יט) והיה האיש אשר לא ישמע אל  
דברי אשר ידבר בשמי אנכי אדרש  
מעמו : (כ) אך הנביא אשר יזיד לדבר  
דבר בשמי את אשר לא צויתיו לדבר  
ואשר ידבר בשם אלהים אחרים וימת  
הנביא ההוא :  
(כא) וכי תאמר בלבבך איכה ידע את  
הדבר אשר לא דברו ידוד :  
(כב) אשר ידבר הנביא בשם ידוד ולא  
יהיה הדבר ולא יבוא הוא הדבר אשר  
לא דברו ידוד בידון דברו הנביא לא  
תגור ממנו :

<sup>1</sup> See Acts 3:22-23 for a Christian interpretation that this prophesies the coming of Jesus.

<p>Isaiah 42  <sup>1</sup>This is my servant, whom I uphold, My chosen one, in whom I delight. I have put My spirit upon him; he shall teach the true way to the nations. <sup>2</sup>He shall not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. <sup>3</sup>He shall not break even a bruised reed, or snuff out even a dim wick. He shall bring forth the true way. <sup>4</sup>He shall not grow dim or be bruised till he has established the true way on earth; and the coastlands shall await his teaching.</p>	<p><b>ישעיהו מב</b>  (א) הן עבדי אתמך בו בחירי רצתה נפשי נתתי רוחי עליו משפט לגוים יוציא:  (ב) לא יצעק ולא ישא ולא ישמיע בחוץ קולו:  (ג) קנה רצון לא ישבור ופשתה כהה לא יכבנה לאמת יוציא משפט:  (ד) לא יכהה ולא ירוץ עד ישים בארץ משפט ולתורתו אים יחילו: פ</p>
---	---

<p>Isaiah 42:19  Who is so blind as My servant, so deaf as the messenger I send? Who is so blind as the chosen one, so blind as the servant of the Lord?</p>	<p><b>ישעיהו מב</b>  יט מי עור כי אם-עבדי וחרש פמלאכי אשלח מי עור כמשלם ועור כעבד יהוה</p>
--	--

Abdullah عبد الله = עבד יהוה; *al-rasul* رسول = מלאך; *al-mustafa* مُصْطَفَى = בחירי. For cognate parallel, see also *Muhammad* مُحَمَّد = מחמד in I Kings 20:6; Ezek.24:16, 25; Hoshea 9:6.

<p><b>Sura 2 (The Cow)</b>  <sup>79</sup>Woe to those who write the Scripture with their [own] hands and say, “This is from God,” in order to buy with it some small gain! Woe to them for what their hands have written, and woe to them for what they pile up!</p>	<p><b>سورة البقرة</b>  قَوْلٍ لِلَّذِينَ كَتَبُوا الْكِتَابَ بِأَيْدِيهِمْ ثُمَّ يَقُولُونَ هَذَا مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ لِيَشْتَرُوا بِهِ ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا قَوْلٍ هُمْ مِمَّا كَتَبَتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَوَيْلٌ لَهُمْ مِمَّا يَكْسِبُونَ {79}</p>
--	--

<p><b>Sura 3 (Family of Imran)</b> [context. ref. to Jews]  <sup>78</sup>Among them is a group that twist the Book with their tongues so you will think it is from the Book when it is not from the Book. And they say, “This is from God” when it is not from God. They knowingly speak lies about God!</p>	<p><b>سورة آل عمران</b>  وَإِنَّ مِنْهُمْ لَفَرِيقًا يَلُؤُونَ أَلْسِنَتَهُم بِالْكِتَابِ لِتَحْسَبُوهُ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَمَا هُوَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَيَقُولُونَ هُوَ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ وَمَا هُوَ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ وَيَقُولُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ {78}</p>
--	--

### Qur'anic references to Muhammad

<p>Sura 3 (The Family of Imran)  <sup>144</sup>Muhammad is only a messenger. There were messengers before him. If he died or were slain, will you then turn back on your heels? If any did turn back on his heels, he would do not harm to God, but God will reward those who are grateful.</p>	<p>سورة آل عمران  وَمَا مُحَمَّدٌ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ أَفَإِنْ مَاتَ أَوْ قُتِلَ انْقَلَبْتُمْ عَلَى أَعْقَابِكُمْ وَمَنْ يَنْقَلِبْ عَلَى عَقْبَيْهِ فَلَنْ يَضُرَّ اللَّهَ شَيْئًا وَسَيَجْزِي اللَّهُ الشَّاكِرِينَ  {144}</p>
<p>Sura 33:40 (The Clans)  <sup>40</sup>Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but (he is) a messenger of Allah, and the seal of the prophets. God has full knowledge of all things</p>	<p>سورة الاحزاب  مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا {40}</p>
<p>Sura 47 (Muhammad)  <sup>2</sup>But those who believe and do good deeds and believe in what was sent down to Muhammad - for it is the truth from their Lord,- He will remove from them their evil and improve their condition.</p>	<p>سورة محمد  وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَآمَنُوا بِمَا نُزِّلَ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَهُوَ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ كَفَّرَ عَنْهُمْ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ وَأَصْلَحَ بَالَهُمْ {2}</p>
<p>Sura 48 (The Victory)  <sup>29</sup>Muhammad is the messenger of God; and those who are with him are strong against the deniers, (but) compassionate among one another. You will see them bow and prostrate themselves seeking the goodness of God and satisfaction. Their marks on their faces are from the traces of their prostration. This is like in the Torah and in the Gospel, like a seed which sends forth its blade, then makes it strong; it then becomes thick, and it stands on its own stem, (filling) those who sow with wonder and delight. As a result, it fills the Unbelievers with rage at them. God has promised forgiveness and a great reward to those of them who believe and do good deeds.</p>	<p>سورة الفتح  مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ أَشِدَّاءُ عَلَى الْكُفَّارِ رُحَمَاءُ بَيْنَهُمْ تَرَاهُمْ رُكَّعًا سُجَّدًا يَبْتَغُونَ فَضْلًا مِنَ اللَّهِ وَرِضْوَانًا سِيمَاهُمْ فِي وُجُوهِهِمْ مِّنْ أَثَرِ السُّجُودِ ذَلِكَ مَثَلُهُمْ فِي التَّوْرَةِ وَمَثَلُهُمْ فِي الْإِنْجِيلِ كَرَزِعٍ أُخْرِجَ شَطَاطُهُ فَازْرَهُ فَاسْتَعْلَظَ فَاسْتَوَى عَلَى سُوقِهِ يُعْجِبُ الرُّزَّاعَ لِيغِيظَ بِهِمُ الْكُفَّارَ وَعَدَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ مِنْهُمْ مَغْفِرَةً وَأَجْرًا عَظِيمًا {29}</p>