

Similarity between the Bible and the Qur'an

Answer to question posed by a teacher in the Islamic school

Verses in the Qur'an similar to verses in the Bible in Corinthians 1, chapter 13, verses 4-8

Verse 4 talks about charity, and discusses the following concepts:

- To give charity or do a charitable act is not easy
- It is an act of kindness
- We should not envy others regarding what they are capable of giving
- We do not give charity to be recognized or praised by others

The Qur'an talks about similar concepts

Chapter 2, verses 262, 263 & 264:

“Those who spend their wealth in the cause of Allah (God), and follow not up their gifts with reminders of their generosity or with injury, for them their reward is with their Lord, on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve. Kind words and covering of faults are better than charity followed by injury, Allah is free of all wants, and He is most forbearing. O you who believe cancel not your charity by reminders of your generosity or by injury”

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 262-264

From these verses we learn:

- It is recommended that we give in charity in the cause of God
 - When we give charity and do not follow our good deed with reminders of our generosity we are rewarded by God: we shall not be sad or afraid during the Day of Judgment
 - If we offend others and remind them of our charity then we cancel our good deeds
 - If we have nothing to give, then a kind word or a prayer on behalf of those we were not able to help will be sufficient. It will be considered a charity on our behalf.
- Charity is not just giving money, but it involves our efforts to help others, as well as the advice we give and the good example that we set in our character and behavior

Verse 5 in chapter 13, Corinthians 1 talks about the manner of giving charity:

- Our behavior should be right
- We should not give charity to propagate something wrong
- We should not allow ourselves to be provoked
- It is our duty to help those who need our help

The Qur'an talks about similar concepts:

“O you who believe give of the good things which you have honorably earned, and of the fruits of the earth which We have produced for you, and do not aim at anything which is bad, out of it you may give away something, when you yourselves would not receive it except with closed eyes, and know that Allah is free of all wants, worthy of all praise”

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 267

We learn from this verse:

- We should in charity out of what we earned through lawful means, not by stealing or cheating others because then it will not be accepted
- We should give the best of what we have, not aiming to get rid of those things that are bad and we ourselves would not accept
- Allah can certainly provide for all; He is giving us a chance to redeem ourselves and do what is right

And in Chapter 2 in the Qur'an:

“If you disclose acts of charity, even so it is well; but if you conceal them, and make them reach those in need that is best for you, and it will remove from you some of your evil; for Allah is well acquainted with everything that you do”

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 271

In Corinthians 1, chapter 13, verse 6 it talks about doing what is right and rejoicing in the truth, not in iniquity. The Qur'an explains this concept that charity is done with the goal of getting close to God and seeking His good pleasure:

“Whatever of good you give benefits your own souls, and you should only do so seeking the pleasure of Allah; and whatever good you give shall be rendered back to you, and you shall not be dealt with unjustly”

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 272

Verse 7 in Corinthians 1 talks about faith and that it should endure and never loses hope. The Qur'an explains that charity is not easy and we will not attain proper faith until we give in the cause of God the things that we love and cherish the most:

“You shall not attain righteousness unless you give of that which you love; and whatever you give Allah knows it well”

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3: 92

The Qur'an explains on the tongue of Prophet Jacob (Israel) that those who have faith in God never give up hope of His mercy:

“Do not give up hope of God's soothing mercy, for only those who have no faith ever give up hope of God's mercy”

Yusuf (Joseph) 12: 87

And on the tongue of Prophet Abraham, the Qur'an states:

“And who despairs of the mercy of his Lord but such as go astray”

Al-Hijr (The Rocky tracts) 15: 56

Verse 8 in Corinthians 1, talks about what will endure and remain versus the things that will vanish:

- Charity and good deeds shall remain and will never fail
- Words will fall silent
- Prophecies will fail
- Knowledge may be fleeting

The Qur'an confirms these concepts:

“Thus does Allah show the truth and falsehood; for the scum disappears like froth cast out, while that which is for the good of mankind remains on the earth; thus does Allah set forth parables”

Ar-Ra'd (The Thunder) 13: 17

The truth in the Bible and the Qur'an are apparent to those who wish to learn. This truth comes from Divine revelation, and both the Bible and the Qur'an came from the same source: the One and Only God. The Qur'an confirms the origin of these Divine books:

“It is He who sent down to you in truth the Book, confirming what went before it, and He sent down the Torah and the Gospel before this as a guide to mankind, and He sent down the Criterion (of judgment between right and wrong)

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3: 3 & 4