



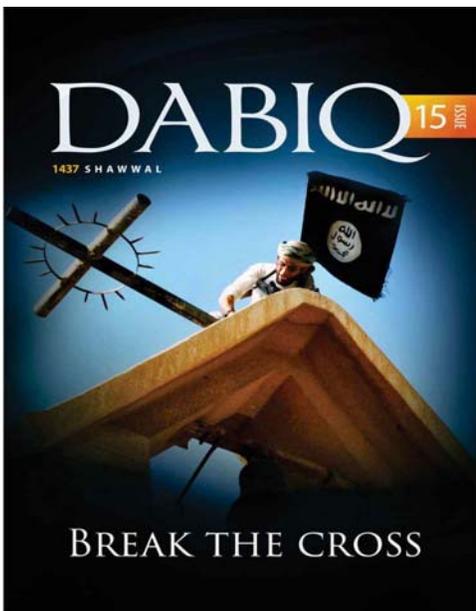
**“THEY PERISH BECAUSE THEY REFUSED TO LOVE THE TRUTH AND SO BE SAVED;
FOR THIS REASON GOD SENDS THEM A POWERFUL DELUSION”**

In the Bible the Apostle Paul tells why God is sending a strong delusion in the latter days: ***“They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness”*** (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

Soon after the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ, Paul was visited by Jesus on the road to Damascus. Paul (who was first called Saul) was dedicated to persecuting the early disciples of Jesus in the area of Jerusalem. Paul was traveling on the road from Jerusalem to Damascus on a mission to "arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem" (Acts 8-9) when Jesus appeared to him in a great light. He was struck blind, but after three days his sight was restored by Ananias of Damascus and Paul began to preach that Jesus of Nazareth is the true Son of God!



Paul Preaching the Gospel in Rome



Paul tells us that God will send a strong delusion to those who chose not to believe the truth of the Gospel of Jesus—the Son of God. But what group of people refused to love the truth? While this applies to anyone who mocks or rejects Jesus as the Son of God, Paul is specifically referring to the group of people who rejected the Gospel of Jesus preached by Paul, and are later deceived by the man of lawlessness when Satan revealed himself to the False Prophet Mohammad during 610-632.

This becomes clear when we look at Paul’s Biblical writings, the Koran and the history of Pre-Islamic Arabia. This also explains why Islam dislikes Paul so much.

Islam Attacks Paul as an “Imposter”

PAUL WENT TO ARABIA SHORTLY AFTER HIS CONVERSION TO PREACH TO THE GENTILES

Some of the authorities on the life of Paul seem to conclude that he spent two or three years in Arabia, directly after his conversion, to meditate and discern what Jesus was trying to tell him. Did Paul go to Arabia to meditate or preach? The better part of three years of secluded reflection in Arabia is an incredible anomaly in the early days of the first love, and the new-found joy of a converted Paul. Paul was a man of preaching—not a monk living on a mountaintop in solitude.

Galatians 1:15-17 (NIV)

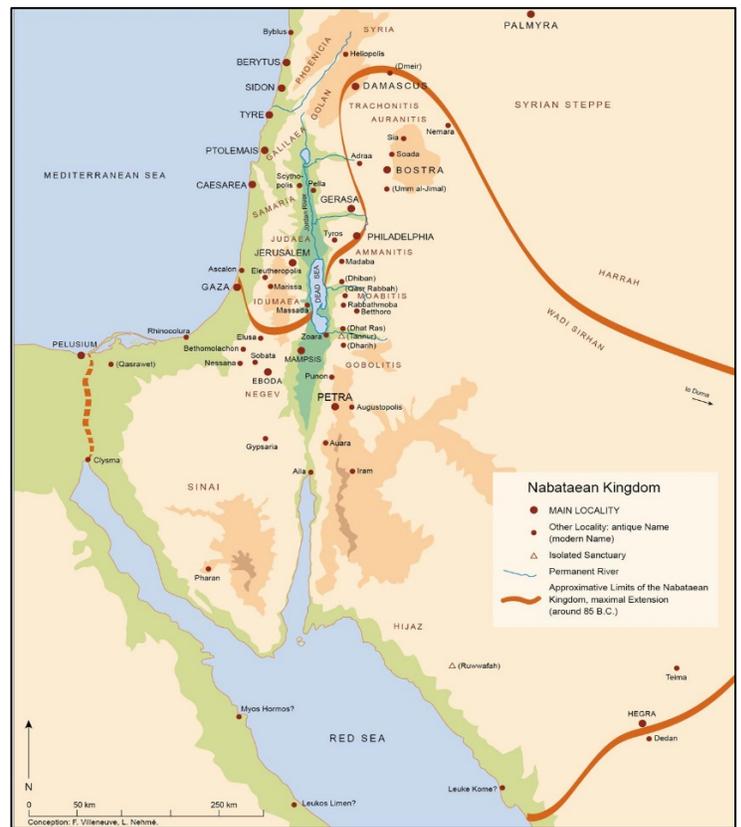
“But when God, who set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.”

Paul’s writings in Romans, Galatians, and his speeches quoted in Acts, and his efficient career as a missionary, all indicate that Paul's conversion was not a process of unsettling, but of bringing order and light where before there was uncertainty and the darkness of a great, deep unrest and contradiction of soul; that his spirit, baffled by the hopelessness of legalism, was liberated by a vision of the heavenly Messiah. Paul immediately went to preach the Gospel truth to the Gentiles.

Paul went to the land of Ishmael. Paul went to the Nabatean kingdom. And Ishmael did in fact, analogous to Isaac's son Jacob, produce twelve sons—that is, twelve tribes.

According to Genesis 25:13, Ishmael's firstborn was “Nebaioth”. Josephus in the first century AD viewed Ishmael's oldest son as the progenitor of the Nabateans. That is why, according to Josephus, the entire territory from the Euphrates to the Red Sea is called Nabatene.

We know how in Paul's time, “Arabia” referred to the Nabatean land stretching from modern-day Jordan, extending to Damascus in the north and to the western part of what we now call Saudi Arabia. The Nabatean kingdom provided Paul with ample opportunity to preach.



Nabatean Kingdom During Paul’s Time

DESPITE PAUL’S PREACHING TO THE ISHMAELITE GENTILES IN ARABIA, THE POPULATION WAS MOSTLY POLYTHEISTIC WHEN SATAN WAS REVEALED TO MOHAMMAD IN 610

Paul tells us he was sent to preach to the Gentiles in far-away places such as Arabia. But he had little success there and wrote no letters to them. Some Muslims have suggested Paul went to Arabia to look for the “Spirit of Truth” promised by Jesus in John 14-16, which they falsely believe was Mohammad. But Mohammad was not the Spirit of Truth. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit from God.

Acts 22: 17-21 (NIV)

“When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance and saw the Lord speaking to me. ‘Quick!’ he said. ‘Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about me.’ “‘Lord,’ I replied, ‘these people know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.’ “Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’ ”

Despite spending about three years in Arabia, it appears that Paul made little progress there spreading the Gospel truth and Jesus the Son of God. Most Arabs continued to worship multiple idols. Muslims refer to the state of religion in Pre-Islamic Arabia as the “times of ignorance.” The Arabs before Islam were the devotees of a variety of “religions” which can be classified into the following categories in the following order.

1. Idol-Worshippers or Polytheists. The vast majority of Pre-Islam Arabs were polytheistic idolaters. Polytheism is the worship of or belief in multiple deities, which are usually assembled into a pantheon of gods and goddesses, along with their own religions and rituals. The people of Arabia worshipped numerous idols and each tribe had its own idol or idols and fetishes. They visited the Kaaba in Mecca as a heathen pantheon housing 360 idols of stone and wood—one for each day of the year.

The high prevalence of idol worshipper explains Daniel’s (Daniel 11:37-39) prophecy about Umar—“The king will do as he pleases.” After listening to Mohammad, Umar suddenly converted from the longstanding polytheism of his ancestors to the new religion of Islam and Allah the fortress god.

Daniel 11:37-39 (NIV)

He will show no regard for the gods of his ancestors or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his ancestors he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price.

2. Atheists. This group was composed of the materialists and believed that the world was eternal.

3. Zindiqs. They were influenced by the Persian doctrine of dualism in nature. They believed that there were two gods representing the twin forces of good and evil or light and darkness, and both were locked up in an unending struggle for supremacy.

4. Sabines. The Sabines had seven temples dedicated to the seven planets, which they considered as intermediaries to be used in their relationship to God. Each of these temples had a characteristic geometric shape, a characteristic color, and an image made of one of the seven metals. They had two sects, star and idol worshippers.

5. Jews. When the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70, and drove the Jews out of Palestine and Syria, many of them found new homes in Hijaz in Arabia. The Jews had centers in several towns in Arabia including Yathrib (Medina today). Before the advent of Islam, the Islamic city of Medina in Saudi Arabia was known as “Yathrib.”

The Banu Qurayza were a Jewish tribe which lived in northern Arabia, at the oasis of Yathrib, until the 7th century, when their conflict with Mohammad led to their massacre. In 622, the prophet Mohammad arrived at Yathrib from Mecca and reportedly established a pact between the conflicting parties. While the city found itself at war with Mohammad's native Meccan tribe of the Quraysh, tensions between the growing numbers of Muslims and the Jewish communities mounted.

In 627, when the Quraysh and their allies besieged the city in the Battle of the Trench, the Qurayza initially tried to remain neutral but eventually entered into negotiations with the besieging army, violating the pact they had agreed to years earlier.

Subsequently, the tribe was charged with treason and besieged by the Muslims commanded by Mohammad. The Banu Qurayza eventually surrendered and all their men (about 800) were beheaded.



The spoils of battle, including the enslaved women and children of the Banu Qurayza tribe, were divided up among the Islamic warriors that had participated in the siege and among those from Mecca—who had depended on the help of the Muslims native to Medina.

6. Christians. There is little evidence of sustained Christianity in Arabia until about the fourth century. Paul seems to have had little direct impact during his time in Arabia. Jerome suggests (written about the year 378) that “Paul visited a tribe in Arabia but that his mission was unsuccessful.” In the Bible there are no records of churches planted in Arabia, nor did any fellow workers from there accompany him on his western tours.

It is possible that Christian missionaries next entered Arabia during the reign of the Roman Emperor Constantine II (334–361) from the recently converted kingdom of Aksum in the horn of Africa and possibly from Syria at the same time.

The Romans had some success in converting some of the north Arabian tribe of Ghassan to Christianity. This occurred several centuries after Paul. Some clans of Ghassan had migrated to and had settled in Hijaz. In the south, there were many Christians in Yemen where the creed was originally brought by the Ethiopian invaders. Their strong center was the town of Najran.

Mohammad died in 632. It was not until the conquest of Iraq, Jerusalem, Syria and Egypt that Islamic caliphs after Mohammad (Abu Bakr, Umar and Uthman) came in contact with large numbers of Christians. Damascus surrendered in 635, Iraq in 637, Jerusalem in 638, and Alexandria in 641. Iraq, Jerusalem, Syria and Egypt were predominantly Christian at the time of the conquest.

In dealing with an overwhelmingly Christian population, Arab commanders and Caliph Umar followed the example set by Muhammad in Arabia. Thus, Khalid ibn al-Walid, the Islamic commander to whom Damascus capitulated, issued the following declaration to the people of Damascus:

“In the name of Allah, the compassionate, the merciful. This is what Khalid ibn al-Walid would grant to the inhabitants of Damascus if he enters therein: he promises to give them security for their lives, property, and churches. Their city shall not be demolished, neither shall any Muslim be quartered in their houses. Thereunto we give them the pact of Allah and the protection of his Prophet, the caliphs, and the believers. So long as they pay the poll tax, nothing but good shall befall them.”

The Koran provides its own prophetic critique, not only of polytheist Meccan Arabian society, but a Satanic theological argument against the beliefs of the few remaining Arab Jews and Arab Christians. This probably explains why, unlike other early Christian communities, the Bible was never translated into the vernacular of the Arabs. What little Christianity there was in Arabia ceased to exist for all practical purposes after the appearance of the Islamic Four Horsemen (Mohammad, Abu Bakr, Umar, and Uthman).

DOES THE KORAN HINT ABOUT PAUL'S TIME IN ARABIA?

There is a story in the Koran about a messenger that was rejected in Arabia before the time of Mohammad. Is this story connected to Paul in Arabia? The location is the same area. When Satan was revealed to Mohammad during 610-632, he gave many false stories about Jesus to Mohammad. While the false stories were primarily given to distort the Gospel truth, it is just as likely other false stories in the Koran could be about the Apostles seeking to spread the Gospel truth.

False Stories in the Koran

Truth	Bible Verse	Bible Text	Koran Verse	Opposite and False Koran Text
Jesus is the Son of God.	John 14:13	"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son."	Koran 17:111	And say, "Praise to Allah , who has not taken a son and has had no partner in his dominion and has no need of a protector out of weakness; and glorify Allah with great glorification."
Jesus was crucified.	Matthew 27:35-37	When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.	Koran 4:157	And for their saying, "Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah ." And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but another was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain.
Jesus rose from the dead.	Matthew 28:5-6	The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."	Koran 3:55	Allah said, "O Jesus, indeed I will take you and raise you to Myself and purify you from those who disbelieve and make those who follow you in submission to Allah alone superior to those who disbelieve until the Day of Resurrection. Then to Me is your return, and I will judge between you concerning that in which you used to differ.
Jesus is the only path to heaven.	John 14:6	Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. "	Koran 4:59	O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey his Messenger [Mohammad] and those in authority among you. And if you disagree over anything, refer it to Allah and the Messenger, if you should believe in Allah and the Last Day. That is the best way and best in result.
The worst sin is blaspheming the Holy Spirit.	Matthew 12:31-32	"And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come."	Koran 4:171	O People of the Scripture, do not commit excess in your religion or say about Allah except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, was but a messenger of Allah and His word which He directed to Mary and a soul created at a command from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers. And do not say, "Three"; desist - it is better for you. Indeed, Allah is but one God. Exalted is He above having a son.
God first loved us.	1 John 4:19	We love because he first loved us.	Koran 51:56	And I did not create the jinn [angels] and mankind except to worship Me.
Jesus is the only begotten (unique, one of a kind) Son of God.	John 3:16	"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."	Koran 112:3	Allah begets not, nor is He begotten.
Jesus promised he would send the Holy Spirit-the spirit of truth.	John 14:26	"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."	Koran 61:6	Jesus, the son of Mary, said "O Children of Israel! Truly I am the Messenger of God unto you, confirming that which came before me in the Torah and bearing glad tidings of a Messenger to come after me whose name is Ahmad [Mohammad]."

There is another reason to hold with Jerome and later writers that Paul went to a tribe in Arabia where his mission was unsuccessful. The ‘Salih’ story in the Koran could be re-interpreted to be about Paul. The Koran speaks of a pre-Islamic prophet before Mohammad that was rejected by the Thamud people who did not believe. Scholars believe this person was generally between 100 BC and 100 AD. This fits the time of Paul. This was not “Isa” or Jesus. It is someone else named “Salih.”

There was in the Nabatean region of Arabia, according to the Koran, to whom a missionary came with a new and strange message which was not favorably received, and yet whom and whose message those Arabs could not forget? The Arabs remembered it so well that Satan had to “spin” the story many years later in the Koran. The Mada’in Saleh is the place where the tribe of Thamud lived. That they rejected the teachings of the Prophet Salih is one of the well-known stories of Islam; however, they were also known for being able to make beautiful homes in the mountains.



Ancient Nabatean kingdom homes in Saudi Arabia carved in rock by the Thamud tribe

The Mada'in Saleh ("Cities of Saleh"), also called "Al-Hijr" or "Hegra", is an archaeological site located in western Saudi Arabia. This is an area Paul could have likely visited. A majority of the remains date from the Nabatean kingdom (1st century AD). The site constitutes the kingdom's southernmost and largest settlement after Petra, its capital. Traces of Lihyanite and Roman occupation before and after the Nabatean rule, respectively, can also be found.

In the Koran is a curious legend about the Nebi Salih or "good prophet," who came to the people of Thamud. Salih (or Saleh) was a prophet of pre-Islamic Arabia mentioned in the Koran who prophesied to the tribe of Thamud. The preaching and prophecy of Salih is linked to the Islamic story of the She-Camel of Allah, which was the gift given by Allah to the people of Thamud when they desired a miracle to confirm the truth of the message Salih was preaching.

Koran 11:61

And to Thamud we sent their brother Salih. He said, "O my people, worship Allah; you have no deity other than Him. He has produced you from the earth and settled you in it, so ask forgiveness of Him and then repent to Him. Indeed, my Lord is near and responsive."

Koran 7:93

So he turned away from them, saying, "My people, I delivered my Lord's messages to you and gave you sincere advice, so why should I grieve for people who refused to believe?"

Koran 11:62

"O Salih! You have been among us as a figure of good hope and we wished for you to be our chief, till this, new thing, which you have brought that we leave our gods, and worship your God alone! Do you now forbid us the worship of what our fathers have worshipped? But we are really in grave doubt as to that which you invite us to monotheism."

Was Salih really Paul? Did Satan "spin" the story of Paul in Arabia to make it look like a pre-Islamic prophet was calling the people to Islam and Allah—but who was rejected? Is this Paul's' real message to us in Second Thessalonians about the coming man of lawlessness being revealed as a punishment from God for refusing to love the truth? **Note how Paul writes in the past tense: "they refused to love the truth and so be saved", and "who have not believed the truth."**

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 (NIV)

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing.

They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

PAUL WRITES TO THE THESSALONIAN CHURCH

THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS WILL BE REVEALED

The First Letter from the Apostle Paul to the Thessalonians was likely the first written letter of the New Testament in the Bible. Most scholars believe Paul wrote First Thessalonians in 51 AD, and Second Thessalonians from Corinth within months of writing the first letter, around 51-52 AD. Paul wrote these letters after his unsuccessful preaching in Arabia, but successful preaching elsewhere.

The purpose of the second letter was to prepare Christians for the return of Christ. Christians apparently believed that it was useless to work because the end of the world was close at hand. Paul's second letter explained that the final day will not arrive until sometime after the man of lawlessness is revealed and proclaims himself God. Christians must consequently continue "to earn their own living" (2 Thessalonians 3:12), as did Paul himself in Thessalonica, who "did not eat any one's bread without paying" (2 Thessalonians 3:8). The letter contains a whole chapter regarding the second advent of Christ, among other themes and instructions.

From the inference of 2:1–2, the Thessalonians were faced with a false teaching, saying that Christ had already returned. This error is corrected in chapter 2 (2:1–12), where Paul tells the Thessalonians what must occur before Christ's return.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NIV)

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

Paul says in First Corinthians we are the temple. Satan wants to be worshipped in the hearts of deceived people. The man of lawlessness (Satan) does not enter the physical temple in Jerusalem. Satan wants to be in people's hearts.

1 Corinthian 3:16-17 (NIV)

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

Seeing as how this series of events had not yet happened in the time of Paul, his argument reads, Christ cannot have returned yet. He then expresses thanks that his readers were the elect of God, chosen for salvation and saved by His grace through faith, and thus not susceptible to the coming deception of the "Rebellion", or "Great Falling Away" in 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4.

The Great Apostasy Paul tells us about is a great falling away from the true Gospel of Jesus. This means falling away from the truth that Jesus was the Son of God. Since the Satanic spirit of the man of lawlessness was revealed to Mohammad, some 5 billion souls have been lost to false Islamic teaching about Jesus. Widespread across the Christian Middle-East was the falling away after the spirit appeared to Mohammad.

This language *“He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God”* repeats Daniel’s prophecy of the Islamic caliph Umar, when Umar converted from Arab polytheism to the Islamic Allah.

Daniel 11:36-39 (NIV)

The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place.

He will show no regard for the gods of his ancestors or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his ancestors he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price.

This is to be understood as included in what the Apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:9 calls "signs and wonders that serve the lie", as among the things by which "a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie" would be characterized, and by which he would be sustained. Paul illustrates the striking and impressive pretended miracles of Mohammad the False Prophet would claim to perform.

2 Thessalonians 2:5-10 (NIV)

Don’t you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing.

PAUL WARNED SATAN WILL DECEIVE AND APPEAR AS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT

Satan wanted to be worshipped and to become ruler of heaven. But he was cast out and hurled to earth. Satan deceives by appearing as an angel of light. Therefore, Satan claimed to be the “Angel Gabriel” when he was revealed to Mohammad.

Isaiah 14:13-14 (NIV)

You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit.

Not only did Satan want to rule heaven, he wanted to be “like the Most High” or be in the place of God and to be over the angels in authority or rule them. To “sit enthroned on the mount of assembly” means to be in charge of or rule over. A mount or mountain almost always refers to a dominion. When Jesus said that He saw “Satan fall like lightning” He may have been referring to the time that he was cast down from heaven (Luke 10:18).

How does Satan disguise himself as an “angel of light”? Paul warned Satan would appear as an angel of light and give a false gospel about Jesus. The Koran is a false gospel about Jesus. It is a “different gospel.”



2 Corinthians 11:3-4 (NIV)

But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

2 Corinthians 11:12-15 (NIV)

And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

PAUL WRITES TO THE GALATIAN CHURCH

THE CHILDREN OF ISHMAEL “WILL NEVER SHARE IN THE INHERITANCE”

The Bible in Genesis 21:1-21 tells us Ishmael mocked Isaac and Sarah demanded that he be expelled. Ishmael was 14 years old when Isaac was born. He mocked when Abraham proclaimed a great feast in celebration of the day that Isaac was weaned. Mohammad is a descendent of Ishmael (the skillful archer) and this is illustrated when the first of the Four Horsemen in Revelation 6:2 carries a bow.

Paul uses the story of Abraham’s offspring to communicate his point against the Galatian’s misunderstanding of the law of God. According to their ideology, gentile Christians must first become Jews (by way of circumcision) in order to become true children of God. To put it in other terms, they believed that the children of God by promise must first become children of God by the flesh, so that they can be true children of God. Paul vehemently disagrees.

Galatians 4: 21-31 (NIV)

Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.

These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written:

“Be glad, barren woman, you who never bore a child; shout for joy and cry aloud, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband.”

Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. But what does Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.” Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

When Paul writes: “These things are being taken figuratively” he is obviously referring to the different accounts of Ishmael and Isaac. Paul is not denying the actual historical narrative, but is using it in a figurative or allegorical sense to illustrate his point for the benefit of his readers who are tempted to place themselves under the burden of the Law. He puts a secondary meaning on the narrative.

Note that Paul says “Mt. Sinai in Arabia.” This has caused confusion to many researchers who had previously believed Mt. Sinai was in the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt. The Sinai Peninsula is situated between the Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Red Sea to the south, and is a land bridge between Asia and Africa. Following Paul’s lead, Ron Wyatt first proposed the idea that Mt. Sinai was at Jebel al-Lawz in Saudi Arabia. He has found at this location in Saudi Arabia a split rock and a mountain covered with soot. This corresponds to Bible passages about Moses in the book of Exodus.

Exodus gives a description of water from a split rock and a mountain covered in smoke at Mt Sinai.

Exodus 17: 5-7 (NIV)

The Lord answered Moses, “Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”



The split rock at Jebel al-Lawz in Saudi Arabia

Exodus 19: 16-19 (NIV)

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.



The mountain covered in soot at Jebel al-Lawz in Saudi Arabia

Hagar and her son Ishmael represent the covenant at Mount Sinai and those who are in bondage to its burdensome “law and method.” (Koran 5:48) Islam provides no Savior, and Mohammad said the path to Heaven is through “Shariah Law,” just as in a similar futile ways Jews were trying to follow the Law of Moses.

Koran 5:48

And we have revealed to you, o Mohammad, the Book in truth, confirming that which preceded it of the Scripture and as a criterion over it. So judge between them by what Allah has revealed and do not follow their inclinations away from what has come to you of the truth. To each of you we prescribed a law and a method.

PAUL'S PROPHECY MAY EXPLAIN WHY ISLAM SO DISLIKES THE APOSTLE PAUL

Paul gave prophecy of the “man of lawlessness” being revealed, a great “falling away”, Ishmael will not receive the inheritance, and that Satan will appear as an “angel of light” with a false gospel about Jesus. All of these things happened to Mohammad with the birth of Islam in 610. In Romans, Paul shows the contrast between the true God of love, and the Islamic Allah incapable of loving first.

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Koran 51:56

“And I did not create the jinn [angels] and mankind except to worship me.”

Muslim scholars teach that “Christianity” did not come from Jesus, but through the teachings of a Jew by name of Saul, who later changed his name to Paul. They teach Paul “was a liar” when he claimed to be a “prophet” sent from God Almighty, that he was inspired by the Holy Spirit. Ironically, they teach the only spirit that inspired Paul was Satan. Yet it was their false prophet Mohammad who was visited by Satan. Muslims refer to Paul as ***“Paul the False Apostle”*** and ***“Paul the Imposter.”***



Paul Of Tarsus: The False Apostle According To Islam

BY MOHD ELFIE NIESHAEM JUFERI OCTOBER 7, 2005

ISLAM, PAUL OF TARSUS 4 COMMENTS

Juferi Article quote: “So what do the early Muslim theologians say about Paul? The reality is that the early Muslims theologians recognized that Paul was a hypocrite and the corrupter of the religion we know today as Christianity.”

We know polytheism was the dominate religion in Arabia despite Paul's preaching because the conversion of the second caliph Umar ("the king will do as he pleases" in Daniel 11) from polytheism ("the gods of his ancestors") to Allah ("god of fortresses") is a prophecy given in the Book of Daniel. In Daniel 11:36-39 we learn that the king (Umar the second caliph after Mohammad) will change from the polytheism of his ancestors to the new fortress god of Islam.

Daniel 11:36-39 (NIV)

"The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. He will show no regard for the gods of his ancestors or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his ancestors he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price."

Satan tries to imitate Christ with the concept of Shariah. Shariah is the law of the Koran and literally means "a path to life giving water." Note in John 7:37-39 that Jesus first said he gives living water.

John 7:37-39 (NIV)

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Paul was an apostle (messenger) of God (Romans 1). Muslims are opposed to this since Mohammad was their messenger from God. Islam believes Mohammad is the last prophet and there is no other prophet between Jesus and Mohammad. Thus they see Paul as an "imposter." Paul makes clear in Galatians that no other Gospel cannot be true—even if from an angel. It is like Paul was describing Islam far in advance. Paul directly refutes what would come 600 years later from Mohammad and the "Angel Gabriel." Paul says in the later days people will follow teachings from demons.

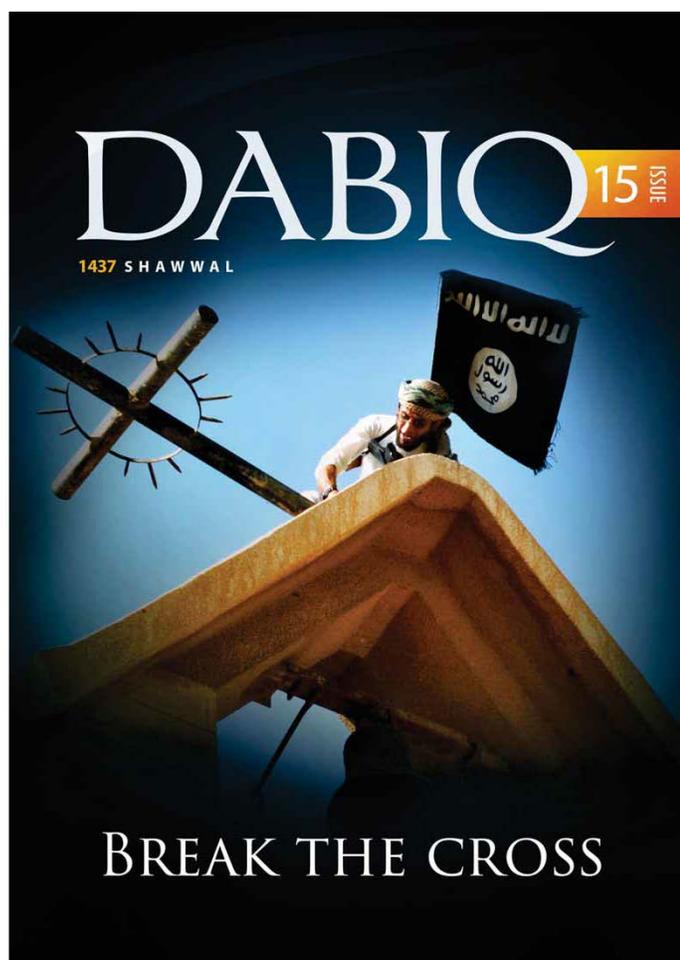
Romans 1:1-4 (NIV)

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Displayed below are excerpts from the *“Paul the Imposter”* in the 2016 ISIS publication *Dabiq*. Their writings about Paul are false. They claim Paul invented Christianity by taking Jesus the prophet and changing it to Jesus the Son of God. When they attack the Apostle Paul, they fulfill further prophecy in Revelation 13 about slandering “those who live in heaven.”

Revelation 13:5-6 (NIV)

The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.



2016 ISIS Dabiq article “Paul the Imposter”

- "While Christians claim to be followers of Christ, one finds their doctrines are overwhelmingly supported by Pauline writings."
- "Paul intentionally sought to deviate the monotheistic Nazarenes in order to tarnish Jesus' name – even if it meant Paul's own persecution – as is the way of the treacherous Jews, who are famous for corrupting the Scripture."
- "As for being a liar, Paul testified against himself, saying, 'For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.'"
- "If Paul did in fact see something then it was not Jesus whom he saw on the road to Damascus, but Satan, he who inspired unto Paul to permit what was forbidden, abandon the Law, and worship Christ instead of Allah."
- "It is remarkably written in their own texts that Jesus said, “For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.” (Matthew 24:5)

Paul was very clear about what was coming in Second Thessalonians. In addition, many of Paul's writings also point out the false teaching of Islam that would come some 600 years after Paul.

2 Corinthians 11:4 (NIV)

For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (NIV)

For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

Galatians 1: 6-9 (NIV)

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

1 Timothy 4:1-2 (NIV)

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV)

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

2 Timothy 3:12-13 (NIV)

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

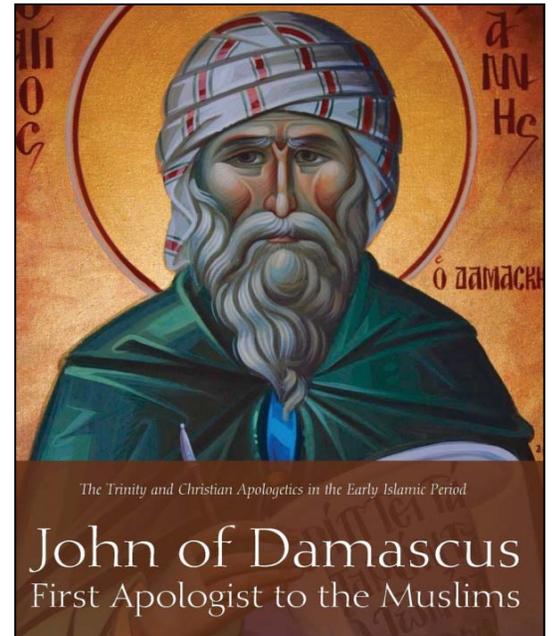
YEARS LATER THE PROPHECY OF PAUL CAME TRUE

JOHN OF DAMASCUS WROTE: “A SARACEN FALSE PROPHET NAMED MOHAMMAD”

John was born in Damascus on or around the year 675. John was born to a Christian family in Damascus, Syria, when Syria was under Muslim control (Syria was conquered by Muslim forces in 630). He wrote the first apology to Muslims and made clear out Mohammad was deceived by the “Angel Gabriel” and was a false prophet.

John of Damascus prefixed to his great work *De Fide Orthodoxa* a compendium of one hundred heresies. His arguments pointing out the false teaching of Islam and Mohammad are listed below.

- There is also the superstition of the Ishmaelites which to this day prevails and keeps people in error, being a forerunner of the Antichrist.
- They are descended from Ishmael, who was born to Abraham of Hagar, and for this reason they are called both “Hagarenes” and “Ishmaelites.” They are also called “Saracens”, which is derived from Sarras kenoi, or destitute of Sara, because of what Hagar said to the angel: “Sara hath sent me away destitute.”
- These used to be idolaters and worshiped the morning star and Aphrodite, whom in their own language they called Khabár, which means great.
- And so down to the time of Heraclius they were very great idolaters.
- From that time to the present a false prophet named Mohammad has appeared in their midst.
- This man, after having chanced upon the Old and New Testaments and likewise, it seems, having conversed with an Arian monk, devised his own heresy.
- Then, having insinuated himself into the good graces of the people by a show of seeming piety, he gave out that a certain book [the Koran] had been sent down to him from heaven.
- He had set down some ridiculous compositions in this book of his and he gave it to them as an object of veneration.
- He says that there is one God [Allah], creator of all things, who has neither been begotten nor has begotten.
- He says that the Christ is the Word of God and His Spirit, but a creature and a servant, and that He was begotten, without seed, of Mary.
- And he says that the Jews wanted to crucify Him in violation of the law, and that they seized His shadow and crucified this. But the Christ Himself was not crucified, he says, nor did He die, for Allah out of His love for Him took Him to Himself into heaven.



- And he says this, that when the Christ had ascended into heaven God asked Him: ‘O Jesus, didst thou say: “I am the Son of God and God”?’
- And Jesus, he says, answered: ‘Be merciful to me, Lord. Thou knowest that I did not say this and that I did not scorn to be thy servant. But sinful men have written that I made this statement, and they have lied about me and have fallen into error.’
- And Allah answered and said to Him: ‘I know that thou didst not say this word.’”
- There are many other extraordinary and quite ridiculous things in this book which he boasts was sent down to him from Allah.
- But when we ask: ‘And who is there to testify that God gave him the book? And which of the prophets foretold that such a prophet would rise up?’—they are at a loss.
- And we remark that Moses received the Law on Mount Sinai, with God appearing in the sight of all the people in cloud, and fire, and darkness, and storm. And we say that all the Prophets from Moses on down foretold the coming of Christ and how Christ God (and incarnate Son of God) was to come and to be crucified and die and rise again, and how He was to be the judge of the living and dead.
- Then, when we say: ‘How is it that this prophet of yours did not come in the same way, with others bearing witness to him? And how is it that God did not in your presence present this man with the book to which you refer, even as He gave the Law to Moses, with the people looking on and the mountain smoking, so that you, too, might have certainty?’—they answer that God does as He pleases.
- ‘We know, but we are asking how the book came down to your prophet.’ Then they reply that the book came down to him while he was asleep.

In Revelation, Jesus says the False Prophet takes five actions:

1. The False Prophet will attempt to look like, claim to be connected to, or associated in some way to the lamb. (Revelation 13:11)
2. The False Prophet deceives the world. (Revelation 13:14)
3. The False Prophet sets up an image of false worship to the false god. (Revelation 13:14-15)
4. The False Prophet gives a mark, or statement of faith, to the false god. (Revelation 13:16-18)
5. Demonic spirits and messages come out of the False Prophet mouth. (Revelation 16:13-14)

Mohammad fulfilled all five of the warnings Jesus gave us about the False Prophet.

Listen to the true words of Jesus. Paul was correct and not an imposter!