



# Revelation-Now

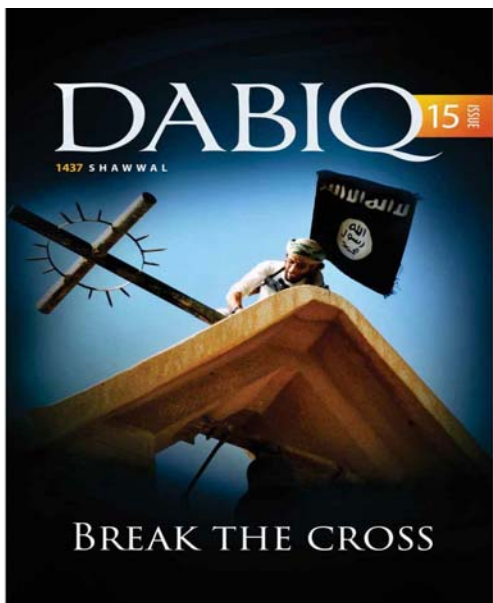
## WHY DOES ISLAM HATE THE APOSTLE PAUL? THEIR ATTACKS ARE WITHOUT MERIT

In the Bible the Apostle Paul tells why God is sending a strong delusion after the time of the Apostles: ***“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).

Sometime after the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ, Paul was visited by Jesus on the road to Damascus. Paul then began to preach that Jesus of Nazareth is the true Son of God! Shortly after this conversion, Paul went to Arabia for approximately three years but apparently accomplished very little there. 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 tours.



**Paul Preaching the Gospel in Rome**



**Islam Attacks Paul as an “Imposter”**

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 likely explains why Islam dislikes Paul so much.

## **ISLAMIC ATTACKS ON THE APOSTLE PAUL**

There are generally four areas whereby Islam “attacks” the Apostle Paul. None of these arguments contain any merit.

- Islam believes Paul and Jesus disagreed on the importance of fulfilling the “law”
- Islam believes Paul never met Jesus
- Islam believes Paul wrote most of the New Testament and “corrupted it”
- Islam believes Paul and Barnabas fell into disagreement

### **1. NO ONE CAN KEEP THE LAW—JESUS AND PAUL AGREE**

The most important Islamic argument against Paul involves the “law.” The unloving Allah of the Koran offers no atoning sacrifice, no savior and the only path in Islam to heaven is following sharia law. If it could be demonstrated that Paul and Jesus somehow disagreed on the law as the means to salvation, the Apostleship of Paul could be open to question. As it can be seen, Scriptures clearly indicate Paul and Jesus had the same teaching about the law. No one can follow the law, as the prophet Isaiah made clear. That is why the true loving God sent his Son. Jesus told us this.

#### **Isaiah 53:6 (NIV)**

**We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

#### **Isaiah 64: 5-6 (NIV)**

**How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.**

Jesus came to save (by taking our sins with his death and return to life) all those who will hear his words and keep them.

#### **Isaiah 53:10-12 (NIV)**

**Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.**

**After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**

In contrast to the Bible, the Koran offers no workable solution for salvation, other than perfectly keeping the law—which Isaiah said no one can do!! While it is true no human can offer an atoning sacrifice for another (Koran 6:164 “no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another”), Jesus said *“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”*

Koran 4:173

And as for those who believed and did righteous deeds, He will give them in full their rewards and grant them extra from His bounty. But as for those who disdained and were arrogant, He will punish them with a painful punishment, and they will not find for themselves besides Allah any protector or savior.

Koran 6:164

Say, "Is it other than Allah I should desire as a lord while He is the Lord of all things? And every soul earns no blame except against itself, and no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another."

**Matthew 19:23-26 (NIV)**

**Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”**

**When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”**

**John 3:17-18 (NIV)**

**For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.**

During the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew chapter five, Jesus said: *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”* Some have wondered did Jesus teach that we are still under the law despite his sacrifice at the cross? It is especially important to note how the words are used in Matthew. In this context, **“abolish”** is set in opposition to **“fulfill.”**

Jesus, the perfect Son of God, did not come to earth as an opponent of the law. Jesus came and completed all law, and fulfilled all prophecy concerning God’s promise of redemption.

## 2. PAUL DID MEET JESUS

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!

## 3. PAUL WROTE 27% OF THE NEW TESTAMENT—NOT ALL OF IT, AND DID NOT CORRUPT IT

Paul wrote 27% of all the words in the New Testament. His revelations came directly from Jesus. (Galatians 1:12 *"I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ."*) The 13 books in the New Testament that have Paul's name as the first word were written by the Apostle Paul. These books are known as Pauline epistles, Epistles of Paul, or Letters of Paul. Several of the Gospels (Matthew and Mark) were written before Paul's writings.

Although Paul penned or dictated these letters, he makes it clear that he is speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Peter and the other apostles, as well as the early church, accepted these letters as words from God (2 Peter 1:20–21; 3:14–16). Jesus Himself told Paul that he was sending him as a witness of all God would teach him (Acts 26:16–18). Therefore, we can rest assured that Paul's words to the churches are inspired by the Holy Spirit and relevant for us today.

### 2 Peter 3:14-16 (NIV)

**So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.**

The Books of the New Testament were written soon after the resurrection of Jesus. Most scholars list James as first around 44-49 AD, then Galatians--49-50, Matthew--50-60, Mark--50-60, 1 Thessalonians—51, 2 Thessalonians--51-52, 1 Corinthians—55, 2 Corinthians--55-56, Romans—56, Luke-- 60-61, Ephesians--60-62, Philippians--60-62, Philemon--60-62, Colossians--60-62, Acts—62, 1 Timothy--62-64, Titus--62-64, 1 Peter--64-65, 2 Timothy--66-67, 2 Peter--67-68, Hebrews--67-69, Jude-68-70, John--80-90, 1 John--90-95, 2 John--90-95, 3 John--90-95, and Revelation--94-96.

The most important point here is that several of the Gospels (Matthew and Mark) are generally before Paul's writings, and Paul could not have influenced them or somehow "corrupted" the text.

#### **4. PAUL AND BARNABAS DID NOT DISAGREE ON DOCTRINE**

Paul (Saul of Tarsus) had been such a vicious persecutor of Christians that even after his conversion the brethren were still afraid of him. When Paul eventually returned to Jerusalem following his conversion to Christ, Barnabas had to persuade the disciples to let the apostle fellowship with them (Acts 9:26). Because of this intercession, a wonderful friendship between Paul and Barnabas was formed.

On their first missionary journey together, John Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10), accompanied them. Along the way, however, John Mark decided to return to his home in Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). The reason for his departure is not specified in the Bible. Later on, when a second campaign was planned, Barnabas proposed taking Mark as a helper, but Paul resisted the idea. The New Testament record indicates that a “sharp contention” developed between them (Acts 15:36-41). They could not reach an agreement, and so they split up.

This dissension between Paul and Barnabas was not over a doctrinal issue. The rupture involved a personal dispute based upon a judgment call. To their credit, neither Paul nor Barnabas let the conflict distract them from their respective efforts of spreading the gospel. The segmentation of their work did not disrupt permanently the love and respect that Paul and Barnabas entertained for one another. Paul would later affectionately mention Barnabas as being worthy of monetary support in his work of proclaiming the Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:6).

The fact that this personal conflict is openly displayed on the pages of the New Testament is evidence that the Holy Spirit guided the writer, Luke, in producing this narrative. Natural inclination would have led Paul’s friend to omit this potentially embarrassing incident!

#### **DOES THE KORAN HINT ABOUT PAUL’S TIME IN ARABIA? “SAUL AND SALIH”?**

There is another reason to hold with Jerome and later writers that Paul went to a tribe in Arabia where his mission was unsuccessful. 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.

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”, spelled not much different than ‘Saul’.

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 ("Saul")? 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? We know that Paul preached the true Gospel of Jesus and was mostly rejected in Arabia.

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 Arabia refusing to love the truth? **Note how Paul writes in 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 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.**

The Koran has corrupted or removed entirely the most important information about Jesus. **Jesus is the only path to heaven since no one can keep the law.** The Bible says Jesus is the Son of God. The Bible says Jesus was crucified for our sins and rose to life on the third day. The Bible warns against worship and prayer to the Islamic beast and its Kaaba image. Pray for every Muslim who takes the mark and worships the image that they will learn the truth of Jesus. Jesus is not a prophet. Jesus is the Son of God and he was raised from the dead. Jesus is returning soon.

### False Stories in the Koran

Truth	Bible Verse	Bible Text	Koran Verse	Opposite and False Koran Text
<b>Jesus is the Son of God.</b>	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."
<b>Jesus was crucified.</b>	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.
<b>Jesus rose from the dead.</b>	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.
<b>Jesus is the only path to heaven.</b>	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.
<b>The worst sin is blaspheming the Holy Spirit.</b>	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.
<b>God first loved us.</b>	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.
<b>Jesus is the only begotten (unique, one of a kind) Son of God.</b>	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.
<b>Jesus promised he would send the Holy Spirit-the spirit of truth.</b>	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]."