

Seven Qur'anic Signs: Knowing, understanding, and using the seven signs mentioned in the Qur'an as a bridge to scriptural truth

I. The use of Signs: “We have detailed the Signs for those who receive admonition.” Sura 6:126

A. What is a sign?

A sign is a physical or external representation of an internal or spiritual truth. The most important level of truth lies beyond the natural terms in which the message is actually expressed.

B. What does it mean to reject God's Signs?

The person who rejects God's signs does not necessarily deny the fact of the sign, neither does he refuse to admit the direct act and power of God behind the sign, but rather he refuses to believe, to accept, and to apply to his own life the spiritual truth inherent in the sign.

C. What is the result of rejecting God's Signs?

Sura 7:36 “Those who reject Our Signs and treat them with arrogance, they are Companions of Fire, to dwell therein (forever).”

Sura 7:40 “To those who reject Our Signs and treat them with arrogance, no opening will there be of the gates of heaven, nor will they enter the garden until the camel can pass through the eye of the needle.”

Sura 7:9 “Those whose scale will be light will find their souls in perdition for that they wrongfully treated (suppressed) Our Signs.”

D. To whom did God give these Signs?

The signs we read in the Qur'an were given to certain prophets who are called Khaliifas.

E. What was a Khaliifa? (In English, “vicegerent”).

A Prophet who...is the spiritual leader of mankind during a particular period of human history.

... receives a special covenant or promise from God.

... receives a special Sign to help him explain spiritual truth.

“The perfect vicegerent is he who has the power of initiative himself, but whose independent action always reflects perfectly the will of his Principal.”

The Holy Qur'an, Yusuf Ali, pg 24, Note
#47

F. Why familiarize ourselves with the Signs and the Khaliifas?

1. We have to know more of the Qur'an in order to understand where our friends are coming from. Knowing the Signs can help us establish Common Ground with them for discussion and study.

2. The Qur'an is literally "one Sign after another" and yet, not all of the signs are clear in their significance and interpretation. Our being able to go from the Qur'an to the Bible, to help interpret the physical and spiritual significance of the signs, will open doors of communication.
3. We have to lay a foundation for others to understand man's need of repentance and need of a Savior. The Signs of the prophets help us to go through Bible history, noting consistently the theme of how God will save us from sin and the power of Satan.

II. Seven special SIGNS were given to seven major Prophets.

- A. Two Signs show what God will do for us.
 1. **Garment of Righteousness...**Adam
 2. **The Ark...** Noah
- B. Another two Signs show how God will do this work.
 1. **Circumcision.** Abraham
 2. **Protection.** Moses
- C. The other three Signs show us through whom God will do this work.
 1. **The Psalms.** David
 2. **The Sign of Jonah.** Jonah
 3. **Jesus the Messiah.** Jesus

III. Our PLAN to study these Signs

- A. Study the key verses in the Qur'an about each Sign.

What do **we need to know** about each Sign?
Choose a couple of these to use as initial learning, discussion, or "jumping off" points for the Sign...
- B. Study the key verses in the Bible that help to interpret this Sign.

Choose relevant verses to bring to our friends to discuss.
- C. Determine important questions to guide our discussion.
 1. What do **they need to know** from the bible's account of this Sign, that is not included in the Qur'an, to make their revelation of truth complete?
 2. What do **they need to know** about this Sign?
 - a. Its physical Importance

b. Its spiritual Importance

*“Learn everything you can about your people group.
Be a listener, but **always be prepared to give an answer.**” Kay Nelson, 10/98*

IV. The Seven special Signs in the Qur’an

A. Sign #1. Garment of Righteousness ...Adam

1. Key verses in the Qur’an

S. 2:30 Tells us that Adam was the first Khaliifa

Note the angels’ question and God’s response: “I know what you know not.” (in other words, God had a plan... lets’ discover God’s plan)

S. 20:115-123 Story of Adam and his wife

Note any “new” elements i.e., they began to sew, together, for their covering, leaves.

Note in vs 129, instead of God punishing Adam, God had mercy on him. Why? God's plan would still work even if Adam and mankind turned away.

S. 7:26 “Raiment of righteousness”

Note the “twofold purpose” of this garment

God bestowed raiment “but the raiment of righteousness--that is the best”
What is this “raiment of righteousness?”

2. Key verses in the Bible

Genesis 3 May want to read the Biblical account

Genesis 3:15. Note how God dealt with Satan for his part in Adam’s disobedience

- 1) “Enmity between your seed and her seed,
- 2) “He (her seed) shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel.”

This was to be a promise of hope for all mankind, and God wanted all mankind to understand His plan: that one day, He would send a special person born of the “seed” of woman to take away the power of sin and Satan.

Important: To help people recognize this special person, God gave Adam a

Sign

Genesis3:21 Tells the Sign

1) The Physical part of this Sign

First, death of an animal

Second, God made garments of skins to clothe them

Contrast this with Qur’anic account of what Adam and wife did with leaves

in S. 20:121 above.

2) The Spiritual part of this Sign

Points to the death of One who was yet to come, His death will provide a covering for sin and spiritual shame for all mankind. He would be the “raiment of righteousness.”

3. Questions, Thoughts and Conclusions

- a. Adam was head of the human race for a very long time, till the time of the father of Noah.
- b. During this time, those who had faith also carried out animal sacrifices. By offering a whole, burned animal sacrifice to God:
 - 1) They publicly declared their TRUST in God, and
 - 2) They publicly declared their TRUST in the ONE God would send to cover their sin and spiritual shame, as well as defeat Satan forever.
- c. Mankind increased rapidly, so did evil. People were so wicked that God decided to start over.

B. Sign #2. The Ark ... Noah

1. Key verses in the Qur'an

S. 11:36-48. Noah and the flood story ... note any “new” elements in this account.

S. 65:10. “A wife of Noah ... an unbelieving woman ... suffered the fate of the unbelievers.”

S. 37:75-83.. ‘Noah cried to us...and we delivered him...he was one of our believing servants.

Interpretation of this Sign:

1. Both deliverance (salvation) and destruction are carried out in one act of God.

S. 21:76,77...“Remember Noah ... delivered him ... helped him against people who rejected our signs ... drowned them all together.” (C.Ref. S.7:64)

2. This act of God is a Sign

S. 26:119-121. “So We delivered him and those with him, in the Ark filled (with all creatures). Thereafter We drowned those who remained behind. Verily this is a Sign.”

3. The cause of destruction is refusal to repent.

S. 29:14,15...“We sent Noah to his people ... the deluge overwhelmed them while they (persisted in) sin. But we saved him and the companions of the ark, and we made the (Ark) a Sign for all Peoples.”

4. The way in which God saved them is a Sign.

S. 36:41...“And a Sign for them is that We bore their race (through the flood) in the loaded Ark.”

S. 54:13,15...But We bore him on an (Ark) made of broad planks and caulked with palm fiber...and We left this as a Sign (for all time): then is there any that will receive admonition?”

The meaning of “bore”: Arabic “hamala”... to take upon oneself a burden for someone else, to carry or assume the burden.

2. **Key verses in the Bible**

Genesis 6:1-9:17...may want to read the whole Biblical account.

Biblical Highlights

1. God was grieved in His heart. Genesis 6:6-7, 11-13
2. God warned the prophet Noah about a great flood of water. Genesis 6:17
3. God told Noah how to build a large ship called an Ark. Genesis 6:14-17
4. It rained 40 days and forty nights and all flesh died that moved upon the earth.
Genesis 7:17-24
5. God saved the prophet Noah and those with him. Gen 7:23,8:16-19
6. The prophet Noah was a man of faith. Genesis 6:8,9
He believed the words of God about the coming flood.
Because he believed, he built the Ark and got into it.
7. The Injil speaks about the faith of Noah. Hebrews 11:7

3. **Importance of this Sign**

- a. The physical part of this Sign...The Ark of wood saved Noah and his family.
As a result, Noah became the first of a new line of people...righteousness which comes by faith.
- b. The spiritual part of this Sign . God will provide the way of escape from sin, the power of Satan, and from Hell.
He will do this by taking our burden (load of sin) upon Himself.
Those who trust Him to do this will become a new line of people, in the spiritual sense.

Genesis 8:20...The Torah says that, after the flood, Noah built an altar to God and

offered animal sacrifices.

1. He was one of those who publicly declared his faith in the One God who would cover the sin and shame of all those who believe.
2. When Noah demonstrated his faith by offering animal sacrifices, God made a covenant with Noah and his descendants consisting of three parts:
 - a. Genesis 8:21: I will never again curse the ground.
 - b. Genesis 8:21: neither will again destroy every living creature as I have done.
 - c. Genesis 8:22: He would never again totally destroy or annihilate the earth.
3. God confirmed His covenant with Noah by a beautiful Sign of the covenant, the rainbow. Genesis 9:12-17

4. **Questions, Thoughts and Conclusions**

S. 37:83...“One of those who followed his (Noah’s) way was Abraham.”

C. **Sign #3. Circumcision : Abraham**

1. **Key verses in the Qur’an**

S. 29:23,24

S. 37:83-113 The story of Abraham and his son...

S. 21:66-70

S. 29:31-35

S. 51:54

S. 19:41-50 Story of Abraham...man of truth, a prophet...

S. 11:69-73. Sarah laughs...

S. 15:51-56

S. 14:35-41 Prayer of Abraham

2. **Key verses in the Bible**

Genesis 15:1-6

Genesis 17:1-8

Genesis 17:9-11

Romans 4:11-12 Abraham received circumcision as a Sign or seal of the righteousness he had by faith.

Romans 4:16, 20-21

3. **Importance of this sign**

- a. The physical part of this sign
- b. The spiritual part of this sign

D. **Sign #4. Protection. "The Great Sign"** : Moses

1. **Key verses in the Qur'an**

S. 7:103. We sent Moses with our Signs to Pharaoh...

S. 7:103-160. The story of Moses...

Note anything "new" in the account and the use of "signs" (no Passover).

S. 7:133. Signs openly self explained.

S. 7:182

S. 14:5

S. 20:9-104. "Story of Moses ... the child into the river ... Pharaoh (no Passover)
...cross Red Sea".

S. 79:15-26. The story of Moses (no Passover).

S. 79:20. "Moses did the great sign"

What was the Great Sign?

S. 20:20?

S. 20:22,23?

S. 20:70-73?

No, it was the Last Sign that Moses did. Look to the Torah's account to see this clearly.

3. **Key verses in the Bible**

Exodus 11:4-5. All first born in Egypt shall die.

Exodus 12:13-14. Safety from the angel of death ... blood on the doors of homes.

Exodus 12:29-30. At midnight, the Lord smote the first born.

Exodus 12:31-32. Pharaoh summoned Moses, "Rise up, go forth, serve your God ... be gone."

3. **Importance of this Sign**

- a. The physical part of this Sign
- b. The Spiritual part of this Sign

E. **Sign # 5. The Psalms:** David

1. **Key verses in the Qur'an**

S. 4:163. Inspiration ... to David we gave the Psalms...

S. 17:55

S. 21:105. Before this we wrote in the Psalms...

S. 35:25. 'Came their apostles with:
Clear Signs
Dark Prophecies
The Book of Enlightenment"

S. 38:26. "O David, we did indeed make thee a vicegerent on earth."

S. 34:10. "We bestowed GRACE aforetime on David from ourselves."

David is special in God's plan for two reasons:

1. God gave him the Book of Psalms (S. 4:163)
2. God gave him a special GRACE

What was this Grace? Look to the Torah to find the answer...

2. **Key verses in the Bible/Importance of this Sign**

II Samuel 7:8-17. The Davidic Covenant ... God's promises to David...

II Samuel 7:16. "Your house ... your throne established forever..."

- a. Physical part of this sign. One hundred years later David's physical kingdom was divided, but has endured through tumultuous years.
- b. Spiritual part of this Sign. David became the head of the family through whom the Messiah would come.

Isaiah 9:6-7. "To us a child is born ... of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David.

Matthew. 1:1-6, 17-18. The genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Luke 1:31-33. You shall conceive ... bear a son ... Jesus ... and the Lord will give to him the throne of his father David.

F. Sign #6. The Sign of Jonah : Jonah

1. Key verses in the Qur'an

S. 4:163. "We have sent them inspiration...Jonah."

S. 6:86-87. "Jonah...to all we gave favor above the nations...chose them...guarded them to a straight way."

S. 10:95-98. "Nor be of those who reject the Signs of God...except the people of Jonah... (footnote #1478 good)

S. 21:87-88. "remember Zunnun (*the man of the fish or the whale*)...warned Assyrian capital of Nineveh...he cried through the depths of darkness...we delivered him."

S. 37:139-148. Story of Jonah. (This is a good account, but it does not mention the three days). Other "new".

S. 68:48-50. Application from Jonah's life: "So wait with patience for the command of the Lord... Jonah ... made him ... righteous."

2. Key verses in the Bible

Jonah 1-4. Would you like to read the full account in the Torah?

Jonah 1:17. In the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Why is this important?

Matthew 12:38-40. "Teacher, we wish to see a Sign from you".
"An evil generation seeks a Sign."
"No Sign shall be given it but the Sign of Jonah".

3. Importance of this Sign

a. Physical part of this Sign. God's plan was to send Jonah to warn Nineveh, so that they might repent. Jonah repented.

b. Spiritual Part of this Sign. Matthew 12:40. "As Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, so will the son of man be... Something greater than Jonah is here ... something greater than Solomon is here. What was it?"

G. Sign # 7. The Messiah : Jesus

1. Key verses in the Qur'an (11 times)

S. 3:45. Angels said, “glad tidings of a word from him, his name is Christ Jesus.”

This Messiah came to fulfill the spiritual truth behind all these signs...how?

- a. By fulfilling the Sign of Jonah.

God would cause him to die.

God would raise him up from the dead.

Those who put their trust in this act of God and in His Messiah would be counted as men of faith and join ranks with all those who before had experienced righteousness by faith.

- b. By fulfilling the promises in the Torah about being the ONE whom God would send to be a sacrifice and take away our sin by the shedding of His blood.

S. 3:55. The Qur'an talks about this. “O Jesus ... cause thee to die” (clear in Arabic)
“Raise thee to myself”.

“Make those who follow you superior to those who reject faith on the day of resurrection.”

(Jesus the Messiah is more than a prophet who received a Sign; he not only received a sign. but He IS A SIGN!)

S. 21:91 . “Her who guarded her chastity (Mary), we breathed into her our Spirit... We made her and her son a SIGN FOR ALL PEOPLES.”

(Jesus is also the only SIGN yet to come).

S. 43:61. “Jesus shall be a Sign (for the coming) of the hour (of judgment).”