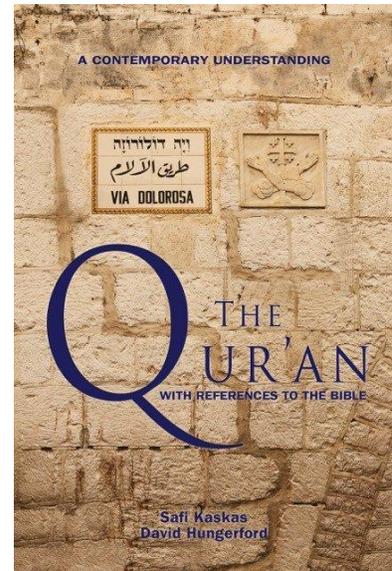


Q. Why the need for this new translation?

A. The authors' mission in developing "The Qur'an – with References to the Bible, A Contemporary Understanding" was to create a book that is easy to read and easy to understand. There is much tension within Muslim and Christian relations because of misunderstandings about the beliefs found in their respective scriptures. Many individuals are not aware that there are more than 3,000 parallel biblical passages to verses in the Qur'an. As an organization, the desire is to help bridge the gap to help people of each faith understand that while there are differences between Islam and Christianity, there are also similarities in their teachings and texts.



Q. What is your hope for this project?

A. We hope it will lead people to understand that there is largely a tremendous gap in understanding and relationship between Muslims and Christians that needs to be bridged in order for people of both traditions to be faithful to the command of Jesus to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We want this accessible modern English translation of the Qur'an to be a tool of reconciliation between Muslims and the followers of the other Abrahamic religions. In the current environment of polarized tension around the globe, working for reconciliation and peace is long overdue.

Q. Are you hoping for conversions out of this project?

A. No, our intent and purpose is about bridge building, not conversion from one faith to another or to create a syncretic new religious system. But despite the theological differences between the two faith traditions, each can benefit from knowing about the common ground among the three Abrahamic faiths that is rarely discussed – among either Muslims or Christians. Most individuals are surprised and astounded at the similarities between teachings in the Qur'an and the biblical text, which we would help readers recognize and acknowledge.

Q. How much area of similarity is there between the Qur'an and the Bible?

A. Many of the stories and teachings found in the Bible – the Creation of the Universe and the beginning of mankind; the historical events recorded in the Bible, including stories of Noah, Abraham, Moses, the life of Jesus and others – are repeated in the Qur'an. Additionally, of the more than 3,000 references to the Bible included in "The Qur'an – with References to the Bible, A Contemporary Understanding," more than 100 mentions of Jesus (Esa), whose life and teachings are cherished by both Muslims and Christians in their own traditions as a paramount part of their respective faiths.

Q. Is this project trying to equate Christianity and Islam?

A. No, this project is not intended to change a reader's faith system or merge the two religions into one. The authors of this translation are Dr. Safi Kaskas, a practicing Muslim, and Dr. David Hungerford, a practicing Christian, each of whom respects the other's beliefs and recognizes the differences that exist.

Q. So you believe a Muslim and a Christian can be friends without fearing or trying to convert one another?

A. Yes, we don't need to live in fear of or enmity with each other. The Qur'an mentions that the closest people to Muslims will be the Christians. For the first time in history, individuals of both faiths can read the Qur'an and the Bible and compare their teachings and texts. We believe this could be the start of a movement that will bring people who may not agree on everything closer together in mutual respect and understanding.