

BEIT TEFILLAH



The Role of Abrogation in Islam...and Christianity

Abrogation

Sûrah 2. Al-Baqarah

Part 1

21

الجزء ١

سورة البقرة ٢

106. Whatever a Verse (revelation) do We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, We bring a better one or similar to it. Know you not that Allâh is able to do all things?

﴿ مَا نَنْسَخْ مِنْ آيَةٍ أَوْ نُنسِهَا نَأْتِ بِخَيْرٍ
مِّنْهَا أَوْ مِثْلَهَا أَلَمْ تَعْلَمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ
عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴾ (١٠٦)

The concept of “abrogation” in Islam is first encountered in the Quran, Surah 2: 106.

Abrogation in the Quran

The basic concept, simplified

- **The basic concept: Passages written chronologically later abrogate passages written earlier (in the event of a conflict).**
- **In the first half of the Quran revealed to Mohammed (prior to the *hijrah*, the move from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE), Allah was not teaching or commanding violence.**

Abrogation in the Quran

The basic concept, simplified

- **After the *hijrah*, Allah commands “the believers” to fight unbelievers, kill the infidel, and kill those that do not follow Islam’s rules.**
- **There are not any verses in the second half of the Quran (chronologically) in which mercy is shown to unbelievers.**

Abrogation in the Quran

The basic concept, simplified

- **Thus, the statements by Western politicians asserting that “Islam is a religion of peace” might be true if only speaking of the first part of the Quran (before “strike the neck of the infidel” cancelled that out).**

From a Chronological Quran

Sura 9 is the 2nd Latest Sura

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Abrogation Examples

The first column throughout shows the Abrogated Verses, in the order in which they occur in the Koran. Opposite each verse is given the Abrogating verse, in the Second Column.

The Sword Verse (S 9 V. 5) occurs so frequently as an Abrogating Verse that it is quoted in full the first time only, afterwards giving the reference to it, without text.¹

كتاب الناسخ والمنسوخ في القرآن

لما كانت آية السيف المذكورة في السورة ٩ : ٥ ناسخة لكثير من الآي القرآنية فقد اكتفينا بكتابة نصها أول مرة أما في الأخرى فقد وضعنا أمام شاهدها "آية السيف" منعاً للتكرار وجعلنا في الحاشية بيان الفرق بين المحكم والمنسوخ أو الناسخ في الآية الواحدة تسهيلاً للدارسين.

[Since the Sword Verse, which is mentioned in Sura 9:5, abrogates many of the Qur'anic verses, we will cite this verse the first time, then we put the words "Sword Verse" instead, to avoid redundancy. To facilitate the readers, we set forth the differences below.

The exact verse (*Muhkam*, مُحْكَم) and abrogated verse (*Mansūkh*, الْمَنْسُوح), and abrogating verse (*Nāsikh*, النَّاسِخ) are given for every passage.]

Abrogation Examples

سورة البقرة

SURA 2. "THE COW"

Abrogated Verse المنسوخ	Verse الآية	Sura السورة	Abrogated By الناسخ	Verse الآية	Sura السورة
<p>إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَالَّذِينَ هَادُوا وَالنَّصَارَى وَالصَّابِئِينَ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَلَهُمْ أَجْرُهُمْ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ</p>	٦٢	٢	<p>وَمَنْ يَتَّبِعْ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ</p>	٨٥	٣
<p>Those who believe (in the Qur'an), and those who follow the Jewish (scriptures), and the Christians and the Sabians,- any who believe in Allah and the Last Day, and work righteousness, shall have their reward with their Lord; on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.</p>	59[62]	2	<p>If anyone desires a religion other than Islam (submission to Allah), never will it be accepted of him; and in the Hereafter He will be in the ranks of those who have lost (All spiritual good).</p>	79[85]	3

The Verse of the Sword

Chapter 9 - Repentance

9:1 Freedom from obligation (is proclaimed) from Allah and His messenger toward those of the **IDOLATERS** with whom ye made a treaty. [Cancelled by verse 9:5]³⁸¹

9:2 Travel freely in the land four months, and know that ye cannot escape Allah and that Allah will confound the **DISBELIEVERS** (in His Guidance).

9:3 And a proclamation from Allah and His messenger to all men on the day of the Greater Pilgrimage that Allah is free from obligation to the **IDOLATERS**, and (so is) His messenger. So, if ye repent, it will be better for you; but if ye are averse, then know that ye cannot escape Allah. Give tidings (O Muhammad) of a painful doom to those who **DISBELIEVE**,

9:4 Excepting those of the **IDOLATERS** with whom ye (**MUSLIMS**) have a treaty, and who have since abated nothing of your right nor have supported anyone against you. (As for these), fulfil their treaty to them till their term. Lo! Allah loveth those who keep their duty (unto Him).

9:5 Then, when the sacred months have passed, slay the idolaters [kill the non-Muslims] wherever ye find them, and take them (captive), and besiege them, and prepare for them each ambush. But if they repent and establish worship and pay the poor-due, then leave their way free. Lo! Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

Abrogation Examples

And dispute ye not with the People of the Book, except with means better (than mere disputation), unless it be with those of them who inflict wrong (and injury): but say, "We believe in the revelation which has come down to us and in that which came down to you; Our Allah and your Allah is one; ...	45[46]	29	Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, (even if they are) of the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued.	29	9
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9:29 Fight against such of those who have been given the Scripture [Jews and Christians] as believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, and forbid not that which Allah hath forbidden by His messenger, and [who] follow not the Religion of Truth, until they pay the tribute [protection money] readily, being brought low [made submissive].

9:30 And the *JEW*s say: Ezra is the son of Allah, and the *CHRISTIAN*s say: The Messiah is the son of Allah. That is their saying with their mouths. They imitate the saying of those who *DISBELIEVED* of old. Allah (Himself) fighteth against them. How perverse are they!

Abrogation Examples

سورة الكافرون

SURA 109. "UNBELIEVERS"

لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ	٦	١٠٩	آية السيف	٥	٩
To you be your Way, and to me mine.	6	109	The "Sword" verse.	5	9

“Islam is a religion of peace” might be true if only speaking of the first part of the Quran (before being abrogated by passages such as the Verse of the Sword and Sura 9:29).

Ultimately, Abrogation Explains Jihad

Top 10 Quran verses for Understanding ISIS
Dr. David Wood



Not Abrogated, but Misquoted

It is often said by Muslim apologists that taking a life is against the teachings of Islam. This comes from Sura 5, so it is the 3rd latest sura (chronologically):

(W)hoever slays a soul, unless it be for manslaughter or for mischief in the land, it is as though he slew all men; and whoever keeps it alive, it is as though he kept alive all men (from Sura 5:32)

Not Abrogated, but Misquoted

There's a minor problem. The full sura reads:

For this reason did We prescribe **to the children of Israel that whoever slays a soul, unless it be for manslaughter or for mischief in the land, it is as though he slew all men; and whoever keeps it alive, it is as though he kept alive all men; and certainly Our apostles came to them with clear arguments, but even after that many of them certainly act extravagantly in the land. (Sura 5:32)**

What's the reference?

The Quran is Referencing Mishneh and Talmud

...FOR THIS REASON WAS MAN CREATED ALONE, TO TEACH THEE THAT WHOSOEVER DESTROYS A SINGLE SOUL OF ISRAEL, SCRIPTURE IMPUTES [GUILT] TO HIM AS THOUGH HE HAD DESTROYED A COMPLETE WORLD; AND WHOSOEVER PRESERVES A SINGLE SOUL OF ISRAEL, SCRIPTURE ASCRIBES [MERIT] TO HIM AS THOUGH HE HAD PRESERVED A COMPLETE WORLD....(Mishneh, Sanedrin 4:5; Talmud Bavli, 37A).

Not Abrogated, but Misquoted

And, Sura 5:32 is quoted, but NOT 5:33-34

[5:33]The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His apostle and strive to make mischief in the land is only this, that they should be murdered or crucified or their hands and their feet should be cut off on opposite sides or they should be imprisoned; this shall be as a disgrace for them in this world, and in the hereafter they shall have a grievous chastisement, [5.34] Except those who repent before you have them in your power; so know that Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

Christians Also Believe in Abrogation

The Christian doctrine of abrogation **defines** Christianity, and is the key concept that explains how we differ from Christianity.

“Ceremonial Law” Abrogated

One great design of Christ's coming, was, to **set aside the ceremonial law which God made**, and to put an end to it; to make way for which he begins with the ceremonial law which men had made, and added to the law of God's making, and **discharges his disciples from the obligation of that**; which here he doth fully, upon occasion of the offence which the Pharisees took at them for the violation of it.
(Matthew Henry Commentary on **Mark 7**)

“Biblical Holidays” Abrogated

He arose after the Jewish sabbath, and it was the passover-sabbath; all that day he lay in the grave, to signify the **abolishing of the Jewish feasts and the other parts of the ceremonial law**, and that his people must be dead to such observances, and take no more notice of them than he did when he lay in the grave. (Matthew Henry Commentary on **Matthew 28:1**)

Clean vs. Unclean Meat: Abrogated

God had, for reasons suited to the Old-Testament dispensation, restrained the Jews from eating such and such meats, to which, while that dispensation lasted, they were obliged in conscience to submit; but he has now, for reasons suited to the New-Testament dispensation, **taken off that restraint**, and set the matter at large--**has cleansed that which was before polluted to us**, and we ought to make use of, and *stand fast in, the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free*, and **not call that common or unclean which God has now declared clean**

(Matthew Henry commentary on **Acts 10:15**)

My Conclusions

“**Abrogation**” is the key concept that explains Islamist Jihad, as well as Christian doctrines against keeping the Biblical Feast Days, Sabbath, and the instructions primarily found in Vayyiqra/Leviticus 11.