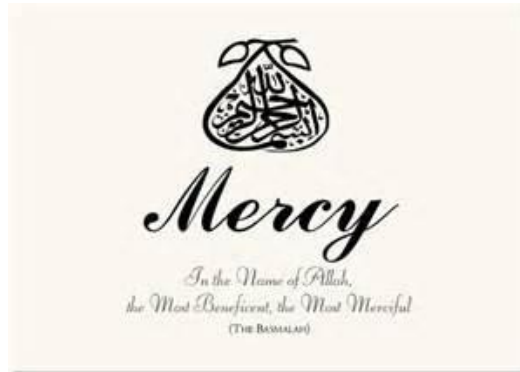




# Islam and



## I. Islam in the Bible and Quran

“In this Jubilee year, let us allow God to surprise us. He never tires of throwing open the doors of his heart and repeats that He loves us and wants to share his love with us....” The Year of Mercy “relates us to Judaism and Islam, both of which consider mercy to be one of God’s most important attributes.” *The Face of Mercy*, an Apostolic Letter by Pope Francis

As the end of this year of Mercy approaches, “let us allow God to surprise us” by looking at quotes from the Quran and/or the Bible related to mercy. Can you identify the lines which are from the Quran, the Bible, or both? The name of God or Allah is represented by a line; the dotted line is for answers.

- A. I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. ....
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ sends guardians, angels over you.
- C. The angels exalt \_\_\_\_\_ with praise of their Lord and ask forgiveness for those on earth. ....
- D. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. ....
- E. Any charity you give, or a charitable pledge you fulfill, \_\_\_\_\_ is fully aware. ....
- F. \_\_\_\_\_ forgives all sins for \_\_\_\_\_ is all forgiving, Most Merciful. ....
- G. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garments stained by the flesh. ....
- H. O my servants who have sinned, despair not of the mercy of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ forgives all sins. ....
- I. O \_\_\_\_\_! Let not our hearts swerve from the truth after you have guided us and bestow on us the gift of your mercy. You are the true giver of gifts. ....

J. \_\_\_\_\_ is good to all and his tender mercies are over all  
\_\_\_\_\_ works. \_\_\_\_\_

Answers can be found at the end of this document. Write answers on dotted line.

How did your answers match those provided?

Any surprises? Similarities? Differences between the lines found in the Quran and/or those taken from the Bible?

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## ***II. As a Young Muslim Sees Mercy***

There is a very gentle young Muslim woman who works at Assisi House. Her response to my questions about “mercy” in Islam rolled freely from her lips. Allah is most merciful and in following Allah I learn from his wisdom and knowledge. I, too, have to be merciful to others and receive and accept forgiveness. My mercy, however, cannot come from selfish motives. Allah is within me, within myself. My family prays five times a day if it is possible. In the evening before sunset, I kneel down with my mother and we pray together.

## ***III. Allah’s Mercy from different Articles***

Pope Francis observes in his letter on the (Year of Mercy) that, “There is an aspect of mercy that goes beyond the church. It relates to Judaism and Islam, both of which consider mercy to be one of God’s most important attributes...Among the privileged names that Islam attributes to the Creator are ‘merciful and kind.’” This invocation is often on the lips of faithful Muslims who feel themselves accompanied and sustained by mercy in their daily weakness. They, too, believe that no one can place a limit on divine mercy because “its doors are always open.” All but one of the 113 chapters (surahs) of the Quran are introduced with the phrase, “In the name of Allah, the most merciful, the dispenser of mercy.” Most of Allah’s names such as the acceptor of repentance, the compassionate, the forbearing one, the source of goodness, and the most generous suggest more of kindness and mercy than power or majesty. The Quran also asserts that Allah is with you wherever you go. Much like Psalm 139 in the bible, the Quran also asserts that Allah/God has knowledge of a person before birth.

The word mercy is used over 100 times in the Quran. The attributer of mercy as the one who forgives sins is often expressed in the Quran, “If anyone does evil or wrongs his own soul but afterwards seeks God’s forgiveness, he will find God Oft-forgiving, most merciful.” (The Noble Quran 4:110) It is also possible to increase the mercy given to an individual by Allah. This can be done, for example, by being a doer of good, repenting, showing mercy to others, following the teaching of justice and mercy, keeping up prayer, and paying the compulsory charity. Allah’s mercy and that of Muhammed, (“We have not sent thee save as a mercy to the worlds.”) includes the poor, the needy, and especially children. Allah also promises through the prophet Muhammad, “The merciful are shown merciful by the all-merciful. Show mercy to those on earth, and He who is in heaven will show mercy unto you.”

There are both similarities and differences between Christianity and Islam. Different scholars reach different conclusions. For example, about the place of love in the mercy of Allah. Is Christianity the only religion forgiving seven times seventy? There are many other examples. However, what is most significant is Pope Francis' call to fervent dialogue "so that we may know and understand each other better."

***For Prayer and Reflection***

***The First Chapter of the Quran***

***In the name of Allah (God) the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful***

1. In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.
2. Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds.
3. The Beneficent, the Merciful.
4. Owner of the days of Judgment.
5. You (alone) we worship; You alone we ask for help.
6. Show us the straight path.
7. The path of those whom you have favored; Not (the path) of those who earn your anger nor of those who go astray.

**Answers for Page One**

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|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| A. Exodus 23:20 | B. Quran 6:61. | C. Quran 19:55  | D. Acts 10:2   |
| E. Quran 2:270  | F. Quran 4:110 | G. Jude 1:22-23 | H. Quran 39:53 |
| I. Quran 3:8    | J. Psalm 145.9 |                 |                |