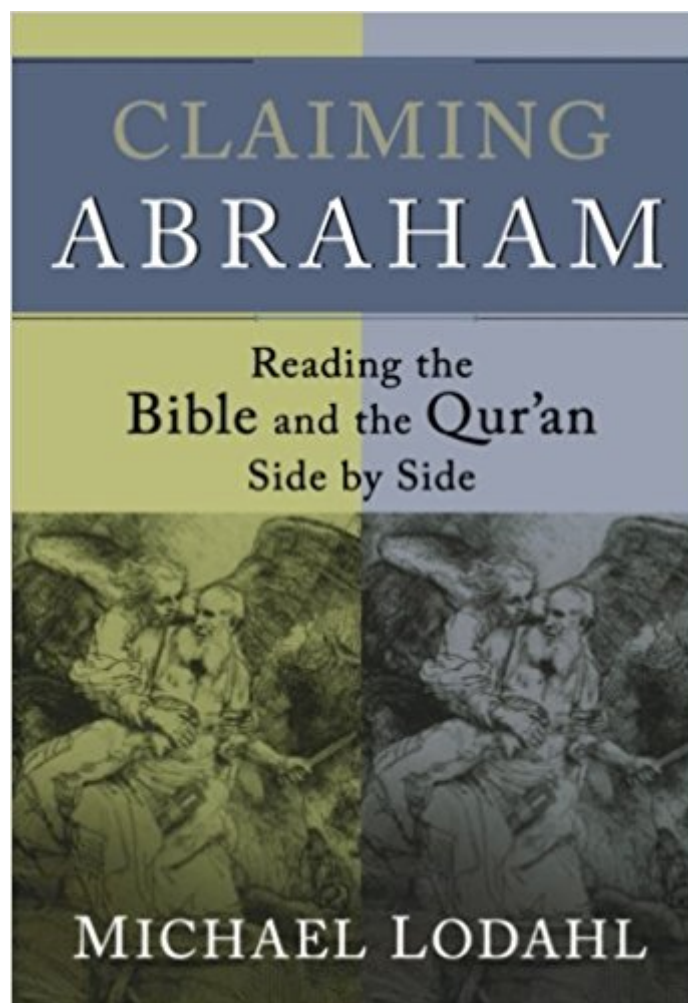


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# Claiming Abraham: Reading The Bible And The Qur'an Side By Side



## Synopsis

Many of the Bible's characters and stories are also found in the Qur'an, but there are often differing details or new twists in the Qur'an's retelling of biblical narrative. In this compelling book, seasoned theologian Michael Lodahl explores these fascinating divergences to discover the theological difference they make. Writing from a Christian perspective that is respectful of the Islamic tradition, Lodahl offers an accessible introduction to Muslim theology and to the Qur'an's leading themes to help readers better understand Islam. Lodahl compares and contrasts how the Bible and the Qur'an depict and treat certain characters in common to both religions, including Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. He offers theological reflection on doctrines held in common by Christians and Muslims, such as creation, revelation, and the resurrection of the body. Lodahl also explores the Jewish tradition as an important source for understanding the Qur'an.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Michael Lodahl reads the Qur'an alongside the Bible he professes and also the rabbinic commentary he admires. Through the pages of this lovingly crafted book, all Abrahamic believers are invited to feast together on God's word."--Peter Ochs, University of Virginia  
"Claiming Abraham is a lively and succinct theological presentation of religious traditions from the point of view of their own exponents. Lodahl offers the reader the considerable assets of personal sensitivity along with a clear exposition of ideas and concepts. A work of acute reflection that combines integrity with charitableness."--Lamin Sanneh, Yale Divinity School; director, World Christianity Initiative at

Yale "In a novel approach to interreligious dialogue, Lodahl puts the Bible and the Qur'an in conversation with one another. The result is a fascinating study that shows how the two scriptures often draw upon and reshape the same pool of traditions. A fine guide for those interested in exploring the shared scriptural heritage of Jews, Christians, and Muslims and its implications for the future."--John Kaltner, Rhodes College

"Claiming Abraham offers readers an introduction to the relationship between the Bible and the Qur'an that is both easy to understand and rich in detail. Most impressively, Lodahl avoids cliché and superficial assumptions by illustrating how these religious traditions are more often in disagreement than in agreement over figures such as Adam, Abraham, and Jesus. Ultimately, Lodahl presents an account of these matters that is marked by candor, clarity, and a firm grounding in Christian theology."--Gabriel Said Reynolds, University of Notre Dame

"Scholars will find this book brimming with comparative/interreligious and exegetical/intertextual insights. For all other readers, including those wondering if it is possible to acknowledge the revelatory status of the Qur'an while remaining committed to faith in Christ, Claiming Abraham accessibly engages the theological matters at stake in ways that, if taken seriously, will both deeply inform Christian faith in a pluralistic world and transform the next generation of Christian-Muslim relations."--Amos Yong, Regent University School of Divinity

"Claiming Abraham has recourse to a fine repertoire of skills in reading scripture and in theological interpretation, to lead us on a journey of discovery of the similarity-in-difference that characterizes the ways Christianity and Islam can be seen to relate to one another. 'Similarity-in-difference' is the key, for each will prove illuminating in understanding the other. . . . Our conversation does indeed go on . . . and the better so in the wake of careful comparative studies like this one."--David Burrell, CSC, Uganda Martyrs University

Michael Lodahl (Ph.D., Emory University) is professor of theology at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, California, and has studied extensively in Israel and Jordan. He is an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene and has served congregations in three states. Lodahl is the author of several books, including *The Story of God: A Narrative Theology*.

Dr. Lodahl's book does a great job "peeling the layers of the onion" of the Qu'ran. Why did Muhammad introduce subtleties and nuances not found in the Biblical text? Lodahl brilliantly surveyed Rabbinical commentary from the first few centuries AD and even some of the gnostic gospels. Their influence on the Qu'ran cannot be understated. What is even more awesome, however, is that Lodahl is respectful through the entire book. he is always gentle when dealing with

disagreements, and he always tried to preach peace (even though our doctrines really are irreconcilable). I highly recommend the book for anyone with an open mind who is interested in understanding more of the Qu'ran's theological foundation.

Great primer for those interested in learning more about Islam and how Muslims view the Qur'an and Christianity. Essential read prior to reading the Qur'an.

The author writes in a very deft way that draws parallels and comparisons between the two cultures. It is enlightening and very informative, giving depth and understanding for the readers.

Book Review for Michael Lodahl, *Claiming Abraham: Reading Bible and Qur'an Side by Side*, Brazos Press, 2010 by Dr. Walter Ziffer, a.k.a. "Religious Skeptic." >Read more

Every time I've read through the Qur'an, some of the stories seemed just bizarre and nonsensical. Lodahl's book gives me some understanding of why the Quranic stories are so different from their Biblical counterparts: in many cases, Mohammad was not basing his stories on the Biblical accounts at all, but rather on later Jewish & Christian interpretive developments which came about either because these interpreters didn't feel comfortable with the anthropomorphic God presented in Scripture, or because they couldn't resist elaborating and embellishing the Biblical accounts with details that, for whatever reason, the original writers didn't include. But this book isn't just about the Qur'an; by looking carefully at how the Jewish & Christian were interpreting Scripture prior to and during the time of Mohammad, Lodahl raises some excellent questions for Bible readers today. Many modern-day Christians unknowingly hold views of God that seem more like the Qur'anic portrait than the biblical portrait. Reading this book can help you regain a more authentically biblical view of God.

Good product!

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