

What proof exists that Jesus was crucified?

His mother, Mary watched him die on the cross:

But there were standing by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. [26] When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, **"Woman, behold thy son!"** ¹ [27] Then saith he to the disciple, **"Behold, thy mother!"** And from that hour the disciple took her unto his own home. (The Gospel, John 19:25-27)

Also, the Gospel tells us that the Roman soldiers confirmed Jesus' death:

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **"It is finished:"** and he bowed his head, and gave up his spirit. [31] The Jews therefore, because it was the Preparation, that the bodies should not remain on the cross upon the sabbath (for the day of that sabbath was a high day), asked of Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. [32] The soldiers therefore came, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other that was crucified with him: [33] but when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: [34] howbeit one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and straightway there came out blood and water. [35] And he that hath seen hath borne witness, and his witness is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye also may believe. [36] For these things came to pass, that the scripture might be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. [37] And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced. [38] And after these things Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked of Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took away his body. (The Gospel, John 19:30-38)

Can the Bible be trusted? ²

Muslims believe that because different versions and translations of the New Testament exist (i.e., American Standard, King James, New Living Testament, Douay Rheims, etc.), the different word choices used in various scripture of each translation has somehow altered, or "corrupted" the meaning behind the teachings of Jesus Christ. It has not.

Anyone comparing and analyzing scripture between the various modern translations of the Christian Bible can see for themselves that even though different word choices are used in some versions, it obviously has not corrupted or changed the *meaning* behind the teachings. For proof that the teachings of Jesus Christ are the same in every Christian Bible, we can refer to the earliest translations of the New Testament from the original Greek manuscripts that recorded the words of Jesus. Although the complete original manuscripts on "parchments" do not exist today, they are referenced by St. Paul in his 2nd Letter to Timothy. Paul wrote this letter to Timothy in 66 or 67AD while he was imprisoned in Rome for preaching the Gospel.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: [8] henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day; and not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing. [9] Give diligence to come shortly unto me: [10] for Demas forsook me, having loved this present world, and went to Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. [11] Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee; for he is useful to me for ministering. [12] But Tychicus I sent to Ephesus. [13] The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, bring when thou comest, and the books, especially the parchments. (The New Testament, 2 Timothy, 4:7-13)

1. It is very important to note that the word "woman" had a very different meaning in the days of Jesus, than it does today. Back then, "woman" was a term of endearment and respect. It was the word used to describe "Eve", the first woman of God: "And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." (Genesis, 2:23)

2. For more information on this topic, please see, "Proof from the Qur'an the Bible is not Corrupt" at www.MuslimsSeekingJesus.com.

From the books and parchments that St. Paul refers to, as well as the oral tradition of teaching the Gospel, a complete record of the Gospel was written in Greek by the followers of Jesus—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Matthew and John were two of the original 12 Apostles Jesus chose to follow him and were eyewitnesses to Jesus' teachings, death and resurrection.

In 382AD, Pope Damasus I at the Council of Rome oversaw the assembly of the first complete book of the Holy Bible. He commissioned Saint Jerome to produce a reliable and consistent text by translating the original Hebrew text (Tanakh) and Greek text (Septuagint) of the Old and New Testament into Latin. This "Latin Vulgate Bible" became the definitive and officially promulgated Latin version of the Bible of the Roman Catholic Church.³

In 1582, the Roman Catholic Church translated the Latin Vulgate version of the New Testament into English. The Old Testament version of the Latin Vulgate was translated into English from 1609-10AD. The complete Latin Vulgate translation into English is known as the "Douay-Rheims Bible" which was updated in 1752 by Roman Catholic Bishop, Richard Challoner. The updated version included the elimination of the obscure and literal translations from the Latin in which the original version abounds, the alteration of obsolete terms and spelling, and minor text substitutions for such phrases as "the Lord" for "our Lord". The translation of the Douay-Rheims Bible is still considered to be the most authentic translation of the Latin Vulgate Bible in use (see, <http://www.drbo.org/>).

The Jewish Bible and Old Testament are one in the same.

It is important to note that the books that make up the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh) and the books that make up the Christian Old Testament are one in the same. There are numerous matching scriptures found in historical documents like the Dead Sea Scrolls and Nash Papyrus that confirm this. These documents are proof that the Jews have meticulously protected the record of the Word of God for over 4000 years. And although certain words used in modern translations of the Tanakh and Old Testament may differ, this does not alter the basic teachings of what has been recorded and passed down throughout the generations.⁴

The Hebrew Bible or Tanakh, refers to the common portions of the Jewish and Christian books (canons) found in the Old Testament. The Tanakh, which is a combination of the books of the Torah, Nevi'im and Ketuvim, total twenty-four books in all. These twenty-four books are the same books found in the Christian Old Testament, but the order of the books is different. The enumeration differs as well as Christians count these books as thirty-nine, not twenty-four. This is because Christians view all the books individually, while Jews consider several books to be part of one book.

It is important to note that Catholic and Orthodox Bibles of the Old Testament contain six books not included in the Tanakh. These books are called the deuterocanonical books. The deuterocanonical books come from the Septuagint which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) made during the 3rd to 1st centuries BC. The Septuagint is the oldest and most important complete translation of the Hebrew Bible made by the Jews and still exists to this day. However, some early Jewish leaders disputed the accuracy of the deuterocanonical books and thus omitted them from the Tanakh. However, it is agreed upon by Jewish and Christian scholars that the remaining 39 books of the Christian Old Testament contain the same teachings and prophecies as the 24 books of the Tanakh/Hebrew Bible.⁵

3. Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vulgate>.

4. Source: http://www.wordiq.com/definition/Dead_Sea_Scrolls.

5. Source: <http://www.wordiq.com/definition/Septuagint>.