

Contents

Preface xi Acknowledgments xv

A Brief Chronology xvii

Introduction xxi

CHAPTER 1

The Words of God: Revelation and Scripture 3

1. Who Wrote the Bible? / 2. The Divine Voice on Sinai / 3. Prophetic Inspiration / 4. Moses Writes the Torah / 5. Are the Prophets Torah? / 6. The Pre-Mosaic Prophets and Their Works / 7. David and the Psalms / 8. Writing Down the Prophecies of Jeremiah / 9. The Cessation of Prophecy in Israel after the Exile / 10. The Septuagint / 11. The Septuagint as a Supplementary Revelation / 12. The Scriptures and Piety (ca. 132 B.C.E) / 13. Josephus on the Biblical Canon (ca. 85 C.E.) / 14. Canon and Sanctity / 15. On the Status of the Christians' So-Called Scriptures / 16. Ezra Rewrites the Scriptures / 17. A Christian Insertion in a Jewish Work / 18. Early Testimony on the Gospels / 19. The New Testament Canon / 20. There Can Be Only Four Gospels / 21. The Historicity of the Gospels / 22. Did Paul Write the "Letter to the Hebrews"? / 23. The New Testament Canon in the Fourth Century / 24. Orthodox and Heretical Apocrypha / 25. Editing the Christian Scriptures / 26. The Latin "Vulgate" Translation of Scripture / 27. Jewish and Christian Tampering with Scripture: A Muslim Critique / 28. A Muslim History of Prophecy / 29. The Divine Origin of the Quran / 30. Muhammad's Ascension into Heaven / 31. The Night of Destiny / 32. The Heavenly Book / 33. The Quran: Created or Uncreated? / 34. "Bring a Sura Like It" / 35. The Earliest Sura / 36. The Heart of the Quran: The "Throne Verse" / 37. The "Satanic Verses" / 38. The Revelation and Its Copy / 39. Uthman's Recension of the Quran / 40. Who Put Together the Suras? / 41. The Seven "Readings" of the Quran / 42. Textual Corruptions? The Shi'ite View / 43. The Proofs of Prophecy / 44. Muhammad, the Seal of the Prophets / 45. Muhammad among the Prophets / 46. The Prophet-King of the Virtuous City / 47. The Prophet as Lawgiver / 48. Avicenna on the Prophethood of Muhammad / 49. Maimonides on Prophecy / 50. Moses Unique among the Prophets / 51. Muhammad on Moses and the Torah / 52. On the Inspiration of the Quran

CHAPTER 2

On Understanding Scripture

72

1. "In the Beginning": The Great Exegesis / 2. The Kabbala on Torah, Body and Soul / 3. The "Work of Creation" / 4. Ramban on Genesis / 5. A Muslim Creation Story / 6. The Divine Purpose in Creation / 7. Jacob's Pillow and Jacob's Ladder and Jacob's Thigh / 8. The Method of the Midrashim / 9. Legal Exegesis / 10. The Seven Rules of Interpretation / 11. The Conflict of Legal and Homiletic Exegesis / 12. The Scripture Interprets Itself / 13. "There Are Seven Paths in the Knowledge of the Torah" / 14. The Anthropomorphisms in Scripture / 15. An Allegorical Interpretation of the Promised Land / 16. The Pleasures of Paradise / 17. Exegesis by the Number / 18. The Literal and the Allegorical in the Bible / 19. Giving a Little Grace to the Scholars / 20. Dull Masses and Minds Tied Down to Sensibles / 21. Abraham and Sarah as Matter and Form / 22. The Past Foreshadows the Future / 23. Moralizing Exegesis / 24. Augustine on the Christian Interpretation of Scripture / 25. Origen on the Triple Sense of Scripture / 26. "Giving a Greek Twist to Foreign Tales" / 27. A Christian Meditation on the Psalms / 28. Explaining Away the Torah / 29. The Fleshly and the Spiritual Understanding of the Mosaic Law / 30. Jesus on Parables and Their Meaning / 31. A Parable of Muhammad / 32. How the Apostles Taught / 33. The Christian Is Instructed on How To Read Scripture / 34. The Catholic Interpretation of Scripture / 35. How the Muslim Reads the Quran / 36. Where Did the Muslim Commentators Get Their Information? / 37. The Clear and the Ambiguous in the Quran / 38. The Outer and Inner Meanings of the Quran / 39. Ghazali on the Sciences of Revelation / 40. Truth and Symbol / 41. Allegorical Interpretation as a Resolution of Apparent Contradictions

CHAPTER 3

Scripture and Tradition

157

1. "How Many Torahs Do you Have?" / 2. What Moses Received on Sinai / 3. The Unwritten Law as the Distinctive Mark of Israel / 4. The Transmission of the Oral Law / 5. The Pharisees and the Oral Tradition / 6. Jesus and the Pharisees on the Oral Law / 7. A History of the Tradition / 8. The Mishna / 9. The Talmud / 10. Safeguarding the Torah / 11. God Is Overruled by a Majority of the Rabbis / 12. Codifying the Oral Law / 13. The Debate on the Oral Law / 14. A Jewish Schism over the Oral Tradition / 15. Saadya on Scripture and Tradition / 16. A Karaite Rejoinder to Saadya on the Oral Law / 17. The Written and the Oral Tradition in the Church / 18. The Apostolic Tradition as the Criterion of Truth / 19. Jahiz on the Usefulness of Tradition / 20. Scripture, Tradition, and the Law in Islam / 21. The Inspiration of the Prophetic Traditions / 22. Transmission of the Prophetic Traditions /

23. Tendentious and Sectarian Traditions / 24. The Criticism of Traditions / 25. The Categories of Traditions / 26. The Companions of the Prophet / 27. Contradictory Traditions / 28. The Canonical Collections / 29. A Tradition Summa: The "Forty" of al-Nawawi

CHAPTER 4

The Law of God

201

1. Moses Receives the Torah / 2. "The Covenant Is in These Words" / 3. Moses on Sinai: The Quranic Version / 4. That Moses Was the Best of Lawgivers and His the Best Constitution / 5. The Precepts of the Law and the Great Commandment / 6. There Was, There Will Be, Only One Law / 7. The Laws after Moses / 8. How the Law Worked / 9. The Codification of Torah Law / 10. Two Classes of Laws: The Rational and the Revelational / 11. Maimonides and Aquinas on the Purposes of the Law / 12. The Example of Circumcision / 13. Rules without Reason / 14. The Divine Ruse of the Law / 15. Crimes and Their Penalties in the Torah / 16. Crimes and Their Penalties in the Quran / 17. The Quran on Jewish Infidelity to the Law / 18. Muslim and Christian Infidelity to the Torah / 19. Maimonides on the Counterfeit Children of Abraham / 20. The Observance of the Sabbath / 21. The Sabbath and the Humanitarian Intent of the Mosaic Law / 22. Maimonides on the Sabbath / 23. Mountains Hanging by a Hair: The Sabbath Prescriptions / 24. Jesus on the Sabbath / 25. A Gate in the Fence around the Law: The Erub / 26. The Dietary Laws / 27. From Torah to Code on a Point of Law / 28. Jesus and the Dietary Laws / 29. Clean and Unclean in the Christian Conscience / 30. The Quran and the Prophet on Dietary Laws / 31. "What I Tell You Is This" / 32. Contract or Sacrament: The Case of Divorce / 33. Divorce in Islamic Law

CHAPTER 5

The New Covenants

267

1. Jesus as the Fulfillment of the Law / 2. Paul on Torah, Sin, and Redemption / 3. The Rabbis on Justification through the Law / 4. "The Laws of the Torah Shall Never Be Abrogated" / 5. Augustine on Symbol and Reality in the Law / 6. The Law of Fear and the Law of Love / 7. When Did the Ceremonial Precepts of the Torah Cease To Be Binding on Christians? / 8. Old Testament Morality in New Testament Times / 9. Priests and Sin / 10. On the Nature of Sin / 11. Penalties and Penances / 12. Canons and Canon Law / 13. The Derivation of God's Commands: The Muslim View / 14. On Consensus / 15. Personal Initiative in the Law / 16. Legal Knowledge and Legal Obligations / 17. The Collective Obligation / 18. The Evolution of Islamic Jurisprudence / 19. The Classical Schools / 20. The End of the Age of the Fathers / 21. Abrogation in Islamic Law / 22. The Case of the Woman Taken in Adultery / 23. An

Instance of Abrogation: Stoning in Text and Tradition / 24. Controversial Questions / 25. Legal Reasoning on the Prohibition of Wine / 26. The Fast of Ramadan / 27. The Menstruant / 28. A Christian Appraisal of the Islamic Law

CHAPTER 6

One God, One Faith, One Community

328

1. Unity and Heresy / 2. The Rule of Faith / 3. Constantine Summons a Council of the Whole Church / 4. A Christian Statement of Belief: The Creed / 5. How the Council Proceeded / 6. Excommunication from the Church Catholic / 7. The Catholic Church / 8. The Holy War against Heresy / 9. The Jews and the Church in the Middle Ages / 10. "There Is Only One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church" / 11. The People of the Book / 12. The Errors of the Jews / 13. The Jews Warned by Their Own Prophets / 14. The Jewish Falsification of Scripture / 15. The Error of the Christians / 16. Jews and Christians Compared / 17. The Muslim Community / 18. An Arabic Quran / 19. The Five Pillars of Islam / 20. "Catholic" Islam: Staying Close to the Tradition / 21. A Shi'ite View of the Community / 22. The Prophet Warns against Heresy / 23. Wrong Belief and Unbelief / 24. The Excommunication and Execution of Unbelievers / 25. "That Was Gabriel. He Came To Teach You Your Religion" / 26. Moral Islam / 27. Faith and Good Works In Islam / 28. Alms and Charity / 29. Militant Islam: War in the Sacred Month / 30. The Sixth Pillar: War in the Path of God / 31. The Prophet's Instructions on the Holy War / 32. Just War and Homicide / 33. "There Is No Compulsion in Religion" / 34. The People of the Book: War and Tribute / 35. Guidelines for Christian Behavior under Islam / 36. A Christian Dress Code for the Other Peoples of the Book

Short Titles 383

Index 387