

This book is a most welcome addition to the relatively limited number of works that mediate the primary sources of early Islamic tradition to English-speaking audiences. By concentrating on the central Qur'anic theme of God's prophets and messengers from Adam to Muhammad, it offers a rich but focused selection of original passages from both the Qur'an itself and other early Islamic texts. Selected and translated with thoughtfulness and care, the contents are accessible to beginning students in conjunction with secondary literature on the Qur'an and early Islam; the collection can serve also as a useful quick-reference handbook for scholars interested in the treatment of a particular prophetic figure in the Qur'an and early Muslim interpretation.¹

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Who is the 'Two-Horned-One' who holds back Gog and Magog until the Day of Judgement? What was the name of Noah's son who did not survive the Flood? Why do Pharaoh and Haman build the Tower of Babel? For what reasons does Moses travel to the meeting of the waters? These are some of the questions answered in the oral sources and Quran commentaries on the stories of the prophets as they are understood by Muslims. Designed as an introduction to the Quran, with particular emphasis on parallels with Biblical tradition, this book provides a concise but detailed overview of Muslim prophets from Adam to Muhammad. Each chapter is organized around a particular prophet, with an English translation of the relevant verses of the Quran and a wide selection of classical and later Muslim commentaries on those verses. Quran commentaries include Sunni and Shi'i sources from Spain, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa. An extensive glossary provides an annotated list of all scholarly transmitters and cited texts, with suggestions for further reading.

This is an excellent book for undergraduate courses, and students in divinity and seminary programmes. Comparisons between the Quran and Bible, and among Jewish, Christian and Islamic exegesis can fruitfully be drawn. Oral sources, references adapted from apocryphal and pseudepigraphical works, and inter-religious debate are all evident throughout these stories of the prophets. This material shows how the Quran and its interpretation are integral to a fuller and more discerning understanding of the Bible and its place in the history of religion.

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