

Sacred texts

Christians

- The four gospels were written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- They are the first four books of the New Testament in the Bible, written down between 66 and 110 AD, after originally being passed down orally.
- The gospels tell stories of Jesus's life and through this, they teach Christians how they should live their own lives.
- The synoptic gospels are those of Matthew, Mark and Luke – they are all very similar. The Gospel of St John concentrates more on showing that Jesus and God are the same being.



The Bible



The Qur'an



Muslims

- Muslims believe that the Holy Qur'an (Koran) is the unchanged word of God, given orally by Allah to Muhammad, through the archangel Jibril. Therefore, it is highly respected. It was written around 609-632 AD.
- The Qur'an is Muhammad's most important miracle and proof of his prophethood.
- Muslim beliefs and instructions on how they should live and worship are given in the Qur'an. Every word and phrase is sacred.
- In a mosque, the Qur'an is placed on a special wooden stand to be read.
- The Qur'an explains the five pillars of Islam: prayer, alms, fasting, pilgrimage and profession of faith (there is no other god than Allah).
- It is written in Arabic. Children have to learn to read it and then recite it by heart. There are 114 chapters (surahs), divided into shorter verses.

Key Vocabulary

Jibril	Gabriel is the Christian name of this angel
alms	Giving money to the poor
fasting	Going without food
synoptic	Written in a similar way about a similar subject
gospel	Literal meaning is "Good News". Nowadays means truth.
Old/New Testaments	The two parts of the Bible. Old = before life of Jesus New = life and teaching of Jesus Christ.