

Abrogation in the Quran and example of verses that were abrogated

In the Quran, Allah contradicts himself multiple times and replaces old commandments with new ones, all within a span of 23 years through one person, Muhammad. This contradiction was made into a doctrine in Islam and is called abrogation. It is taught as part of Allah’s way of improving upon his first commands.

Abrogation as a legal term means to repeal or abolish a law or agreement. Abrogation in Islamic terms reflects the doctrine of Allah changing a command or law that he had previously "given" to Muhammad.

Allah affirms abrogation

Allah Contradicts himself about replacing verses: Allah affirms that “Nothing of our revelation (even a single verse) do we abrogate or cause be forgotten, but we bring (in place) one better or the like thereof. Knowest thou not that Allah is Able to do all things?” 2:106

Muhammad is not the one replacing the verses, it is Allah: “And when We substitute a verse in place of a verse - and Allah is most knowing of what He sends down - they say, "You, [O Muhammad], are but an inventor [of lies]." But most of them do not know.” 16:101

Allah is free to make any changes: “Allah doth blot out or confirm what He pleaseth: with Him is the Mother of the Book.” 13:39

Example of Quranic verses that have been abrogated.

Original Teaching	New Teaching
<p>Living peaceably with non-Muslims “Many of the people of the Scripture long to make you disbelievers after your belief, through envy on their own account, after the truth hath become manifest unto them. <u>Forgive and be indulgent (toward them)</u> until Allah give command. Lo! Allah is Able to do all things.” Quran 2:109</p>	<p>Fighting against non-Muslims <u>“Fight against such of those who have been given the Scripture as believe not in Allah</u> nor the Last Day, and forbid not that which Allah hath forbidden by His messenger, and follow not the Religion of Truth, until they pay the tribute readily, being brought low.” Quran 9:29</p>
<p>No Compulsion in Religion <u>“There is no compulsion in religion.</u> The right direction is henceforth distinct from error. And he who rejecteth false</p>	<p>Kill the non-Muslim unbeliever “And when the sacred months have passed, then <u>kill the polytheists</u> wherever you find them and capture</p>

<p>deities and believeth in Allah hath grasped a firm handhold which will never break. Allah is Hearer, Knower.” Quran 2:256</p>	<p><u>them and besiege them and sit in wait for them at every place of ambush.</u> But if they should repent, establish prayer, and give zakah, let them [go] on their way. Indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.” Quran 9:5</p>
<p>Wine is acceptable and has some “utility” “They question thee about strong drink and games of chance. Say: <u>In both is great sin, and (some) utility for men;</u> but the sin of them is greater than their usefulness. And they ask thee what they ought to spend. Say: that which is superfluous. Thus Allah maketh plain to you (His) revelations, that haply ye may reflect.” Quran 2:219</p>	<p>Wine is forbidden “O ye who believe! <u>Draw not near unto prayer when ye are drunken, till ye know that which ye utter, nor when ye are polluted,</u> save when journeying upon the road, till ye have bathed. And if ye be ill, or on a journey, or one of you cometh from the closet, or ye have touched women, and ye find not water, then go to high clean soil and rub your faces and your hands (therewith). Lo! Allah is Benign, Forgiving.” Quran 4:43</p>
<p>Jews and Christians entitled to heavenly rewards. <u>Those who believe (in the Qur'an), and those who follow the Jewish (scriptures), and the Christians and the Sabians,- any who believe in Allah and the Last Day, and work righteousness, shall have their reward with their Lord;</u> on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve. 2:62</p>	<p>Only Muslims will be accepted in the afterlife. <u>If anyone desires a religion other than Islam (submission to Allah), never will it be accepted of him;</u> and in the Hereafter He will be in the ranks of those who have lost (All spiritual good). 3:85</p>
<p>Feeding the poor can be substituted for prescribed fasting. “(Fasting) for a fixed number of days; but if any of you is ill, or on a journey, the prescribed number (Should be made up) from days later. <u>For those who can do it (With hardship), is a ransom, the feeding of one that is indigent.</u> But he that will give more, of his own free will,- it is better for him. And it is better for you that ye fast, if ye only knew.” Quran 2:184</p>	<p>If fasting is not possible during Ramadan it must be made up for later. “Ramadhan is the (month) in which was sent down the Qur'an, as a guide to mankind, also clear (Signs) for guidance and judgment (Between right and wrong). So every one of you who is present (at his home) during that month should spend it in fasting, but <u>if any one is ill, or on a journey, the prescribed period (Should be made up) by days later.</u> Allah intends every facility for you; He does not want to put to difficulties. (He wants you) to complete the prescribed period, and to glorify Him in that He has guided you; and perchance ye shall be grateful.” Quran 2:185</p>
<p>Do not wage war in sacred months.</p>	<p>Wage war whenever necessary</p>

<p>They ask thee <u>concerning fighting in the Prohibited Month. Say: "Fighting therein is a grave (offense);</u> but graver is it in the sight of Allah to prevent access to the path of Allah, to deny Him, to prevent access to the Sacred Mosque, and drive out its members." Tumult and oppression are worse than slaughter. Nor will they cease fighting you until they turn you back from your faith if they can. And if any of you Turn back from their faith and die in unbelief, their works will bear no fruit in this life and in the Hereafter; they will be companions of the Fire and will abide therein." Quran 2:217</p>	<p>"Lo! the number of the months with Allah is twelve months by Allah's ordinance in the day that He created the heavens and the earth. Four of them are sacred: that is the right religion. So wrong not yourselves in them. And <u>wage war on all of the idolaters as they are waging war on all of you.</u> And know that Allah is with those who keep their duty (unto Him)." Quran 9:36</p>
<p>Make sure widows are provided for for a full year. <u>"Those of you who die and leave widows should bequeath for their widows a year's maintenance and residence;</u> but if they leave (The residence), there is no blame on you for what they do with themselves, provided it is reasonable. And Allah is Exalted in Power, Wise." Quran 2:240</p>	<p>Specific portions of inheritance to be left to widows. <u>"In what ye leave, their share is a fourth, if ye leave no child; but if ye leave a child, they get an eighth; after payment of legacies and debts.</u> If the man or woman whose inheritance is in question, has left neither ascendants nor descendants, but has left a brother or a sister, each one of the two gets a sixth; but if more than two, they share in a third; after payment of legacies and debts; so that no loss is caused (to any one). Thus is it ordained by Allah; and Allah is All-knowing, Most Forbearing." Quran 4:12</p>
<p>Isolation as punishment for adultery <u>"If any of your women are guilty of lewdness, Take the evidence of four (Reliable) witnesses from amongst you against them; and if they testify, confine them to houses until death do claim them, or Allah ordain for them some (other) way.</u> If two men among you are guilty of lewdness, punish them both. If they repent and amend, Leave them alone; for Allah is Oft-returning, Most Merciful." Quran 4:15-16</p>	<p>Flogging as punishment for adultery "The woman and the man guilty of adultery or fornication,- flog each of them with a hundred stripes: Let not compassion move you in their case, in a matter prescribed by Allah, if ye believe in Allah and the Last Day: and let a party of the Believers witness their punishment." Quran 24:2</p>
<p>Do not marry unbelievers</p>	<p>Marriage to Christians is allowed</p>

<p><u>“Do not marry unbelieving women (idolaters), until they believe: A slave woman who believes is better than an unbelieving woman, even though she allures you. Nor marry (your girls) to unbelievers until they believe: A man slave who believes is better than an unbeliever, even though he allures you. Unbelievers do (but) beckon you to the Fire. But Allah beckons by His Grace to the Garden (of bliss) and forgiveness, and makes His Signs clear to mankind: That they may celebrate His praise.”</u> Quran 2:221</p>	<p>“This day are (all) things good and pure made lawful unto you. The food of the People of the Book is lawful unto you and yours is lawful unto them. <u>(Lawful unto you in marriage) are (not only) chaste women who are believers, but chaste women among the People of the Book, revealed before your time,</u> - when ye give them their due dowers, and desire chastity, not lewdness, nor secret intrigues if any one rejects faith, fruitless is his work, and in the Hereafter he will be in the ranks of those who have lost (all spiritual good).” Quran 5:5</p>
<p>Repentance is accepted by Allah <u>“Allah accepts the repentance of those who do evil in ignorance and repent soon afterwards; to them will Allah turn in mercy: For Allah is full of knowledge and wisdom.”</u> Quran 4:17</p>	<p>Repentance is of no effect <u>“Of no effect is the repentance of those who continue to do evil, until death faces one of them, and he says, "Now have I repented indeed;" nor of those who die rejecting Faith: for them have We prepared a punishment most grievous.”</u> Quran 4:18</p>

More Sources for information about abrogated verses:

<http://answering-islam.org/Quran/abrogatedverses.html>

http://www.muhammadanism.org/Quran/abrogation_koran.pdf

http://answering-islam.org/Authors/Farooq_Ibrahim/abrogation.htm

http://answering-islam.org/Quran/abrogating_satan.htm

<https://calloflove.org/blog/islam-beliefs/abrogation-in-islam>

If you have more questions about Islam, please check out our Free Resources page or Call of Love Blog.