

EDITORIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE EDITOR

Islam. It rides the crest of our daily news. But seldom are those headlines engaged theologically in the West, though recently some evangelicals have been opining on whether or in what way Christians worship the same God as Muslims. Surely understanding the Qur'an is more urgent now than ever. And Christians who insist on interpreting Scripture in its context will agree that the Qur'an should likewise be read in context.

We traverse a long distance to arrive at the Qur'an's origin in the oral culture of tribal nomads who roamed the burning sands of seventh-century Arabia. As a wise and seasoned guide, deeply familiar with the gentle folds and rugged features of the Qur'an's textual terrain, Mark Anderson takes us on that interpretive journey. Unfurling the worldview of the Qur'an, he helps us understand its theological claims and to compare them with those of Christian Scripture.

In *The Qur'an in Context*, Anderson listens seriously to the Qur'an, on its own terms, and responds in both grace and truth. Whether for academic study, for crosscultural mission or for personal interest, this is a carefully and thoughtfully crafted study that will reward its readers and call for repeated reference. It just might open up theological conversations between Christians and Muslims.

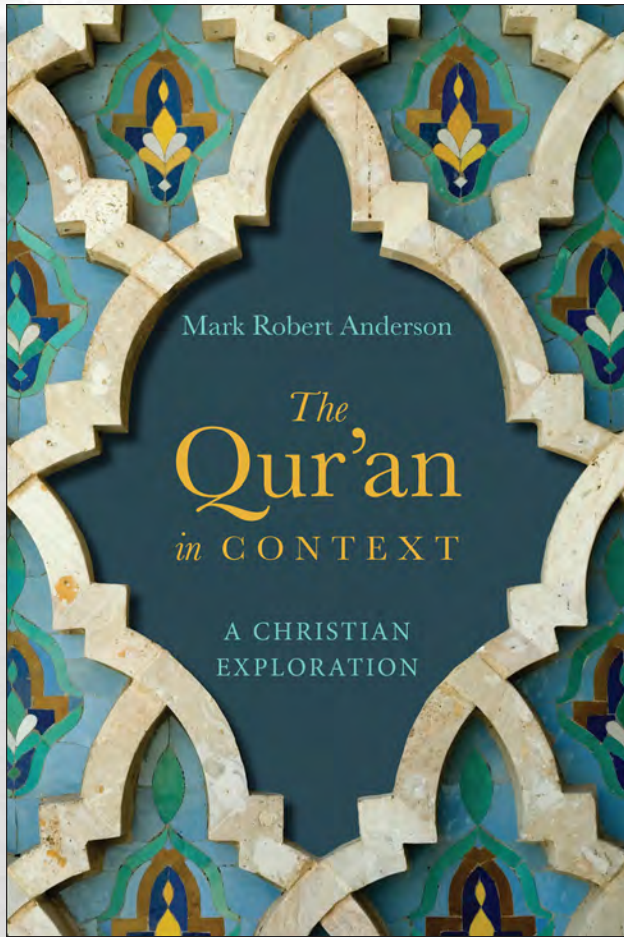


Daniel G. Reid

Editorial Director for IVP Academic

"Mark Anderson has produced an excellent, incisive, well-researched book highlighting similarities and distinctives between the Qur'an and the Bible. His research is impeccable and his conclusions will stand the test of scholarly investigation. Anderson avoids the pitfalls of inflammatory us-them polemics. He enters into the realities of the Muslim worldview by exploring the seventh-century context of the Qur'an, on which Muslim belief and behavior is built. Without reservation, I commend Anderson's work to all who desire to move beyond 'breaking news' and sensationalism and come to grips with the inside story of who Muslims really are."

—PHIL PARSHALL
SIM USA



INTERMEDIATE >>>

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Forthright in Christian conviction and yet sympathetically open to dialogue, *The Qur'an in Context* is a reliable guide for those who want to explore the holy book of Islam in its varied facets.

For Westerners the Qur'an is a deeply foreign book. Christians who venture within this sacred scripture of Islam encounter a world where echoes of biblical figures and themes resound. But the Qur'an speaks in accents and forms that defy our expectations. For it captures an oral recitation of an open-ended drama, one rooted in seventh-century Arabia. Its context of people, events and ideas strikes us not only as poetically allusive but also as enigmatic. And yet the Qur'an and its contested interpretations scroll in shadowed text between the headlines of our daily news.

In *The Qur'an in Context*, Mark Anderson offers a gateway into the original world and worldview of the Qur'an. With keen attention to the Qur'an's character, reception and theology, he opens up a hermeneutical space for Christians and others to engage its fabric of religious claims. The Qur'an's theology, anthropology, soteriology and spirituality as well as its portrayal of Jesus are all carefully examined. Finally, the Qur'an's claim to be the Bible's sequel is probed and evaluated.



"As well as providing a well-informed and nuanced introduction to the current scholarly debate over Islamic origins, The Qur'an in Context offers a substantial, theologically serious and at points provocative discussion on the Qur'an in its interface with the Bible and the core themes of the Christian faith."

—DAVID MARSHALL
Duke Divinity School

"While comparing and contrasting Qur'anic and biblical theology and the character of Jesus in the Qur'an and the Bible, [Anderson] shows how close and how far apart they are. This study provides an excellent foundation for an informed and sensitive discussion with Muslims."

—J. DUDLEY WOODBERRY
dean emeritus and senior professor of Islamic Studies,
Fuller Theological Seminary



MARK ROBERT ANDERSON studied theology at Westminster Theological Seminary and has an MA in Islamic Studies from McGill University. For nearly a decade he lived, taught and ministered among Muslims in Egypt and Jordan. He writes and lectures on Islam and the Qur'an and works at L'Arche community in Vancouver, British Columbia. Anderson is the author of *Faithsongs: Ancient Psalms for Today*.