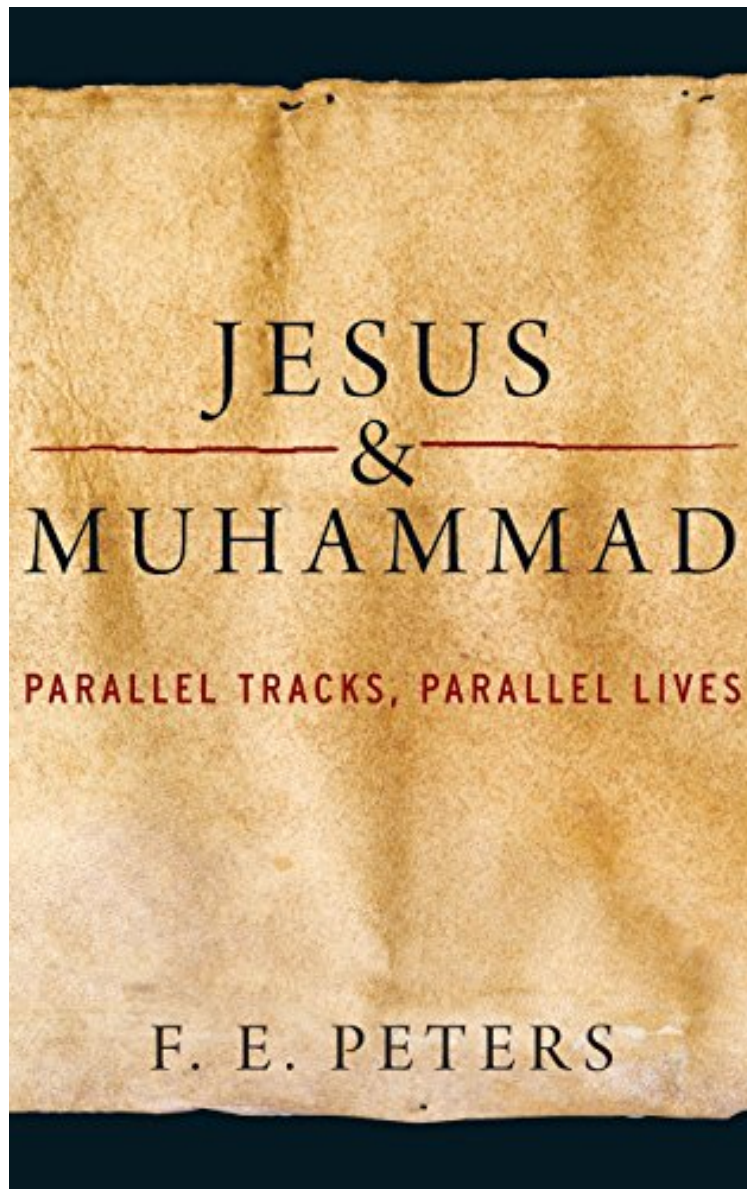


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Jesus and Muhammad: Parallel Tracks, Parallel Lives

F. E. Peters

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#1776923 in Books F E Peters 2010-11-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.40 x .90 x 9.20l, 1.05 #File Name: 0199747466240 pagesJesus and Muhammad Parallel Tracks Parallel Lives | File size: 55.Mb

F. E. Peters : Jesus and Muhammad: Parallel Tracks, Parallel Lives before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jesus and Muhammad: Parallel Tracks, Parallel Lives:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. To be read...By luigi pompiliMy mother language is not English and I am asking myself if it is a good idea to try a review of "Jesus and Muhammad" in a notperfectly mastered language.Anyway,I'll try to summarize my impressions as follows:- the work of prof.Peters is among the clearer,and

probably the clearest, of my readings in religions history;- the "portrait" of the Historical Jesus is fascinating: I read two or three written work on the matter, but with a less efficient synthesis, in my modest view;- I was happy to learn many aspects of Muslim Religion that I still ignored;- prof. Peters' work has the advantage of offering the reader the possibility of following the two "tracks" separately, reading first the intellectually preferred one and then the other one. But this approach has strong limits: the overall historical view will be lost. I would suggest to read the entire work and then to reconsider the "preferred" chapters or sections. Forgive my crude English.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent By Basel H Excellent book. Well presented, well researched. I have read the author's other book "The Children Of Abraham" and also found that book engrossing. Professor Peters has the ability to tackle the delicate subject of religion without offending believers. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Unique Enlightenment By Julie D.F. E. Peters examines and compares the historical profiles of Jesus and Muhammed to show us, from a historian's viewpoint, what we do and do not know about them. I actually am not exactly sure why the author wrote the book because he does not really draw any conclusions. However, I'm ok with that, as will be revealed at the end of this review. What Peters does is directly compare pieces of Jesus' and Muhammad's lives and ministries. The reader learns what historical context Jesus was born into and then the context for Muhammad, the infancy narratives for Jesus and then Muhammad, the words of Jesus and then Muhammad, and so forth. In each case, Peters considered sources, the historian's point of view, and the believer's point of view. The book jacket says that Peters finds surprising similarities between Jesus and Muhammad. I was disinterested in "surprising similarities" and more interested in learning facts. Specifically, I was interested in learning about Muhammad from an unbiased source, if such a thing exists. I already am familiar, with Jesus' life and identity from both a secular and Catholic point of view. Part of the test for Peters, naturally, was to see how his presentation of Jesus matched my own expectations. Since I knew next to nothing about Muhammad, I couldn't judge the truth of what I was being told other than to judge the truth of what Peters said about Christ. If he proved trustworthy there, then I felt he'd be equally trustworthy on Muhammad's behalf. I was impressed because the author was dispassionate in delineating history versus belief, while always being quite respectful of believers. This is not a quality we often see in historians speaking about religion. Usually they are rooting for one side or another. I commend Peters for doing such a clear job of research and writing. The painstakingly objective way he wrote about what Christians believe about Christ, led me to believe that I was being allowed as unbiased a look as I have ever been shown of Muhammad and how his followers have developed his words into the Quran and the Sira. And that was precisely what I was after. Highly recommended for those who would like similar enlightenment.

Jesus and Muhammad are two of the best known and revered figures in history, each with a billion or more global followers. Now, in this intriguing volume, F.E. Peters offers a clear and compelling analysis of the parallel lives of Jesus and Muhammad, the first such in-depth comparison in print. Like a detective, Peters compiles "dossiers" of what we do and do not know about the lives and portraits of these towering figures, drawing on the views of modern historians and the evidence of the Gospels and the Quran. With erudition and wit, the author nimbly leads the reader through drama and dogma to reveal surprising similarities between the two leaders and their messages. Each had a public career as a semi-successful preacher. Both encountered opposition that threatened their lives and those of their followers. Each left a body of teaching purported to be their very words, with an urgent imperative that all must become believers in the face of the approaching apocalypse. Both are symbols of hope on the one hand and of God's terrible judgment on the other. They are bringers of peace--and the sword. There is, however, a fundamental difference. Muslims revere Muhammad ibn Abdullah of Mecca as a mortal prophet. Although known as a prophet in his day, the Galilean Jew Jesus was and is believed by his followers to have been the promised Messiah, indeed the son of God. The Quran records revelations received by Muhammad as the messenger of God, whereas the revelations of the Gospels focus on Jesus and the events of his life and death. A lasting contribution to interfaith understanding, Jesus and Muhammad offers lucid, intelligent answers to questions that underlie some of the world's most intractable conflicts.

From Publishers Weekly Peters, New York University professor emeritus, adds this short book juxtaposing the lives of the central figures of Christianity and Islam to his already prolific offerings on comparative religion. Most chapters address one aspect of each prophet's life: the setting for Jesus' life and then Muhammad's in chapter one, a brief biographical background on Jesus and then Muhammad in chapter two, and so on. Natural similarities and potentially enlightening differences appear (such as Muhammad's becoming the sovereign of his own Islamic nation while Jesus, who never held a governance position as Muhammad did, was a "man-God, a human voice with the gravity of the Divine"), but not much more is done with them. Peters seems particularly and inexplicably dismissive of certain commonly held beliefs among Muslims and Muhammad biographers, among them Muhammad's age (Muslim tradition says he was 40); the circumstances of his marriage to his first wife, Khadija (most sources say it resulted from Khadija's own proposal); and Peters's stubborn habit of describing the Qur'an as poetry and Muhammad as a poet, although such a view is anathema in Islam or Islamic studies. Besides being somewhat dull, the book is short on

useful conclusions. (Nov.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. From Booklist Combining Schweitzers famous quest for the historical Jesus with Sprengers less-well-known quest for the historical Muhammad, Peters advances a provocatively original comparison. Mining the Bible, the Antiquities of Josephus, and various apocryphal texts, Peters develops a portrait of Jesus that strikingly resembles the image of Muhammad emerging from the Sirach, the Quran, and the prophetic traditions of the Sahih. Peters depicts the careers of both religious leaders as two-act dramas: a first act concluding amid threats and danger; a second act unfolding a stunning denouement. But beyond the similarities, Peters discerns differences, none more important than that separating Muhammad as a prophet delivering a message from God and Jesus as the anointed messiah who was Gods incarnate message. And readers will recognize the enduring political consequences springing from the contrast between Jesus as a decidedly apolitical teacher and Muhammad as a militantly political general. Himself unmoved by the passions that sustain the Christian and Islamic faiths, Peters delivers a painstakingly objective analysis of the historical profiles of their founders. --Bryce Christensen "Frank Peters has courage! In his latest book, this seasoned and knowledgeable scholar unravels the multiple layers of the interpretations surrounding the lives, contributions, and significance of no less than Christ and Muhammad. In a lucid and clear style, he manages to explain the enormity and variety of the debates that have flourished around every aspect of the reality and legends surrounding Christ and Muhammad, and to do so while retaining the depth of interpretation and of analysis that such a complex topic requires. It takes decades of reflection and of study to reach the level of sophistication yet clarity that this book achieves." --Leila Fawaz, Issam M. Fares Professor of Lebanese and Eastern Mediterranean Studies and Founding Director of the Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies, Tufts University "This comparative work shows how faith can forge bonds even when the faiths are quite different. Frank Peters's extensive familiarity with these two faiths bears exceptional fruit in this extended comparison." --David Burrell, C.S.C., Professor of Ethics and Development, Uganda Martyrs University and Hesburgh Professor Emeritus in Philosophy and Theology, University of Notre Dame "Peters' work is both clearly structured and written, showing considerable knowledge of both faiths."--Journal for the Study of the New Testament