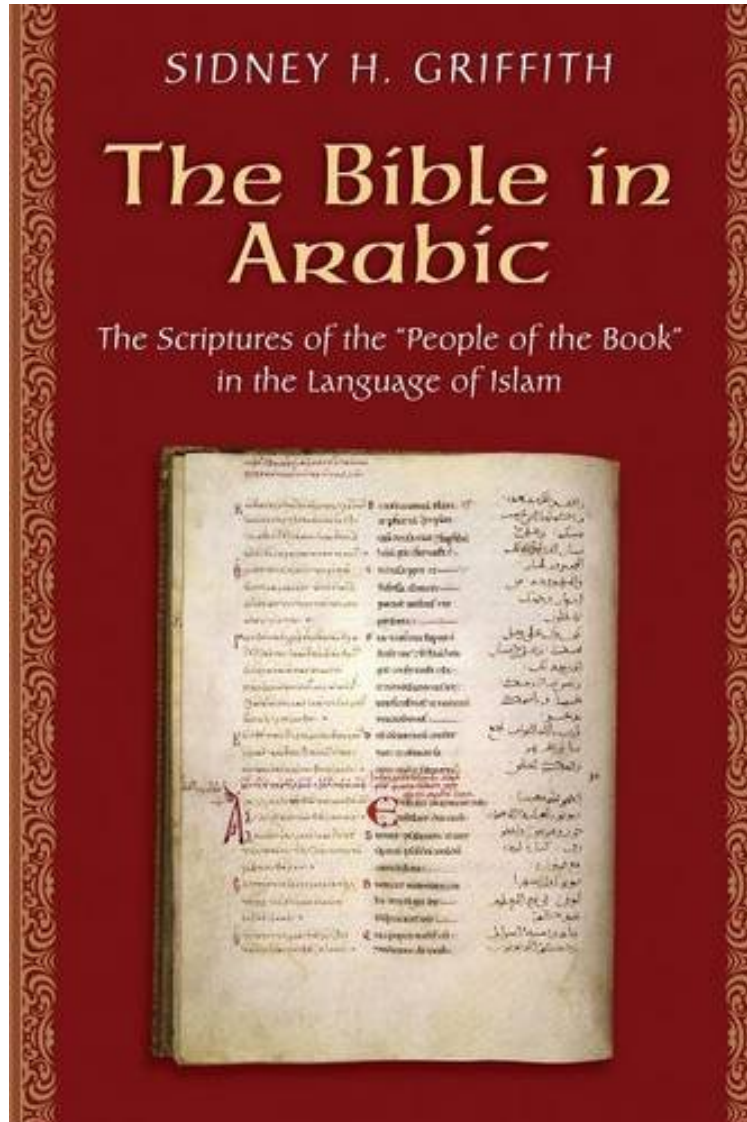


[Download pdf ebook] The Bible in Arabic: The Scriptures of the 'People of the Book' in the Language of Islam (Jews, Christians, and Muslims from the Ancient to the Modern World)

The Bible in Arabic: The Scriptures of the 'People of the Book' in the Language of Islam (Jews, Christians, and Muslims from the Ancient to the Modern World)

Sidney H. Griffith

DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#623851 in Books 2015-10-27Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.21 x .61 x 6.14l, .0 #File Name: 0691168083272 pages | File size: 18.Mb

Sidney H. Griffith : The Bible in Arabic: The Scriptures of the 'People of the Book' in the Language of Islam (Jews, Christians, and Muslims from the Ancient to the Modern World) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Bible in Arabic: The Scriptures of the 'People of the

Book' in the Language of Islam (Jews, Christians, and Muslims from the Ancient to the Modern World):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Read and LearnBy Stefano NikolaouSidney H. Griffith is an expert in Arabic Christianity. It was only natural that he should eventually write about the Bible in Arabic. Unlike the west, the East had no problem with vernacular Bibles so when Arabic started to replace Greek, Syriac, Palestinian Aramaic and Coptic it was only natural that Christians should start to translate the Bible into Arabic. The Jews in the Middle East soon followed but their Arabic Old Testaments were like 'study aids' as Hebrew remained their sacred language. This book has seven chapters. Each deals with a specific aspect of the topic of the Bible in Arabic. I - The Bible in Pre-Islamic Arabia II - The Bible in the Arabic Qur'an III - The Earliest Translations of the Bible into Arabic IV - Christian Translations of the Bible into Arabic V - Jewish Translations of the Bible into Arabic VI - Muslims and the Bible in Arabic VII - Intertwined Scriptures Griffith states in his introduction that the Arabic Bible has basically been ignored in scholarship but there is a growing interest in the topic. There are a massive number of manuscripts out there and translations were constantly being revised and compared so the origins of the first translations are unclear. What is certain is that (like English) there were multiple translations of the Bible, some dependant on previous translations and some not. Griffith concludes that there must have been some translations of the Gospels in Pre-Islamic Arabia (pages 47-53) but he admits the evidence is scanty. There is plenty of undisputable evidence of Christian Arabic tribes so it is only natural they improvised translations of portions of the Bible into their language. Chapter 2 is a bit strange. Griffith surveys how the Bible is used in the Qur'an. He states that the Qur'an presupposes a high level of knowledge of the Bible (or 'Biblical awareness' as he calls it, page 55). How exactly a supposedly pagan society in Mecca had so much knowledge of the Bible is never explained by Griffith. Without the subtext of the Biblical narrative the Qur'an is basically unintelligible. An interesting fact I learned was it was the Karaites who first translated the Old Testament for Jews (page 159). Eventually the famous Sa'adyah Gaon (882-942) produced a definitive translation of the Pentateuch, Isaiah, Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Lamentations, Esther and Daniel into Arabic based on the Massoretic Text. One of the byproducts of the Bible in Arabic was that Muslims started to read the Bible and all sorts of disputes arose over the authenticity of the text. Muslims were eager to prove that Muhammad was predicted in the Bible but they were also eager to show that the Bible had been corrupted (pages 177-178). I found this discussion informative. I should note that Griffith is not trying to be polemical so he just states the facts. He is not trying to 'prove' the authenticity of the Bible even though, as a Catholic priest, he must believe that. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good history. No translationBy Rusty Good history of Arabic translations. No Arabic scripture2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Arabic versions of the BibleBy Bassam Michael Madany Excellent work on an important topic, helpful for students of Christian Muslim relations as it clears up issues not fully covered in the past.

From the first centuries of Islam to well into the Middle Ages, Jews and Christians produced hundreds of manuscripts containing portions of the Bible in Arabic. Until recently, however, these translations remained largely neglected by Biblical scholars and historians. In telling the story of the Bible in Arabic, this book casts light on a crucial transition in the cultural and religious life of Jews and Christians in Arabic-speaking lands. In pre-Islamic times, Jewish and Christian scriptures circulated orally in the Arabic-speaking milieu. After the rise of Islam--and the Qur'an's appearance as a scripture in its own right--Jews and Christians translated the Hebrew Bible and the Greek New Testament into Arabic for their own use and as a response to the Qur'an's retelling of Biblical narratives. From the ninth century onward, a steady stream of Jewish and Christian translations of the Hebrew Bible and New Testament crossed communal borders to influence the Islamic world. The Bible in Arabic offers a new frame of reference for the pivotal place of Arabic Bible translations in the religious and cultural interactions between Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

"[M]eticulous but eminently lucid."--Eric Ormsby, Literary "Griffith offers an exhaustive yet engaging discussion of the history of translations of the Bible."--Choice "This book by Sidney Griffith is of great value to whoever is interested in the complex issue of relationship between Hebrew-Christian Scriptures and Muslim ones. . . . Griffith depicts in a synthetic but very valuable way the relationship between respective Scriptures, mirror of relationships between respective communities."--Valentino Cottini, Islamochristiana "Griffith's book is a welcome introduction to the field and is written in an accessible style, directed to a broad audience. . . . The Bible in Arabic will hopefully inspire much needed further research."--Ronny Vollandt, Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations "The Bible in Arabic is an important contribution not only as a corrective to inter-religious debate in the twenty-first century, but also because it succeeds in drawing the Bible into a dialectical tradition of exchange that has become severely hampered by dominant discourses on identity politics that fill the spectrum between cultural clash and calls for tolerance."--Rana Issa, SCTIW "The Bible in Arabic: The Scriptures of the People of the Book in the Language of Islam . . . marks a high point in the author's academic scholarship. This comprehensive exploration demonstrates his ability not only as a biblical scholar but also as an adroit historian of religion, able to apply an advanced hermeneutic approach to the

primary sources."--S.M. Hadi Gerami, *Al-Bayan*"There is no other book that offers so much on the general subject of the Bible in Arabic in so slim a volume and with so many potential avenues for future research. Enough work still remains for a host of scholars in preparing editions and studies of the texts touched on here and those still in manuscript, but Griffith's book will remain a worthy guide well into the execution of that forthcoming scholarly enterprise."--Adam Carter McCollum, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*From the Back Cover"This book opens up a new world. With consummate learning and characteristic intellectual courtesy, Sidney Griffith reveals an Arabic civilization of unexpected diversity, where Muslims, Jews, and Christians continued to debate, for a thousand years, the conflicting messages of their three, intricately intertwined scriptures. We emerge the richer for this generous vision of the religious texture of the medieval Middle East."--Peter Brown, author of *Through the Eye of a Needle*"The Bible in Arabic represents the work of a scholar at the height of his powers. Griffith demonstrates widespread mastery of his subject: his expertise spans not only Christian Arabic translation and interpretation of the Bible, but also Jewish and Islamic Arabic literature as well. The result is a book that fills a conspicuous gap in our knowledge: it will surely become a standard in the field."--Stephen Davis, Yale University"Sidney Griffith is the ideal scholar to take on this important topic. Starting in pre-Islamic Arabia, he traces the career of the Bible in the Arabic-speaking world. It is a fascinating tale, involving the early transformation of Biblical figures within the Qur'an, various Arabic translations of the Bible, and relations between Muslims, Jews, and Christians as reflected in what they had to say about each other's scriptures. Anyone interested in the historical roots of Islam's attitude to the West, as well as in this relatively neglected part of the Bible's own career, will find this book essential reading."--James Kugel, author of *How to Read the Bible*"This outstanding book gives a detailed view of the critical role played by the first translations of the Bible into Arabic among Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities in the Arabic-speaking world of premodern times. A tour de force."--Meira Polliack, Tel Aviv University

About the Author Sidney H. Griffith is Ordinary Professor in the Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literatures at the Catholic University of America. His books include *The Beginnings of Christian Theology in Arabic* and *The Church in the Shadow of the Mosque* (Princeton).