

What does the Quran say about violence? Is fighting only justified in self defence?

Sura 2

190. And fight in the cause of God those who fight you, but do not commit aggression; God does not love the aggressors.

191. And kill them wherever you overtake them, and expel them from where they had expelled you. Oppression is more serious than murder. But do not fight them at the Sacred Mosque, unless they fight you there. If they fight you, then kill them. Such is the retribution of the disbelievers.

192. But if they cease, then God is Forgiving and Merciful.

193. And fight them until there is no oppression, and worship becomes devoted to God alone. But if they cease, then let there be no hostility except against the oppressors.

194. The sacred month for the sacred month; and sacrilege calls for retaliation. Whoever commits aggression against you, retaliate against him in the same measure as he has committed against you. And be conscious of God, and know that God is with the righteous.

Sura 3

151. We will throw terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve, because they attribute to God partners for which He revealed no sanction. Their lodging is the Fire. Miserable is the lodging of the evildoers.

Sura 4

74. Let those who sell the life of this world for the Hereafter fight in the cause of God. Whoever fights in the cause of God, and then is killed, or achieves victory, We will grant him a great compensation.

75. And why would you not fight in the cause of God, and the helpless men, and women, and children, cry out, “Our Lord, deliver us from this town whose people are oppressive, and appoint for us from Your Presence a Protector, and appoint for us from Your Presence a Victor.”

76. Those who believe fight in the cause of God, while those who disbelieve fight in the cause of Evil. So fight the allies of the Devil. Surely the strategy of the Devil is weak.

89. They would love to see you disbelieve, just as they disbelieve, so you would become equal. So do not befriend any of them, unless they emigrate in the way of God. If they turn away, seize them and

execute them wherever you may find them; and do not take from among them allies or supporters.

90. Except those who join people with whom you have a treaty, or those who come to you reluctant to fight you or fight their own people. Had God willed, He would have given them power over you, and they would have fought you. If they withdraw from you, and do not fight you, and offer you peace, then God assigns no excuse for you against them.

91. You will find others who want security from you, and security from their own people. But whenever they are tempted into civil discord, they plunge into it. So if they do not withdraw from you, nor offer you peace, nor restrain their hands, seize them and execute them wherever you find them. Against these, We have given you clear authorization.

Sura 5

33. The punishment for those who fight God and His Messenger, and strive to spread corruption on earth, is that they be killed, or crucified, or have their hands and feet cut off on opposite sides, or be banished from the land. That is to disgrace them in this life; and in the Hereafter they will have a terrible punishment.

Sura 8

12. Your Lord inspired the angels: “I am with you, so support those who believe. I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. So strike above the necks, and strike off every fingertip of theirs.”

13. That is because they opposed God and His Messenger. Whoever opposes God and His Messenger—God is severe in retribution.

15. O you who believe! When you meet those who disbelieve on the march, never turn your backs on them.

16. Anyone who turns his back on them on that Day, except while maneuvering for battle, or to join another group, has incurred wrath from God, and his abode is Hell—what a miserable destination!

17. It was not you who killed them, but it was God who killed them. And it was not you who launched when you launched, but it was God who launched. That He may bestow upon the believers an excellent reward. God is Hearing and Knowing.

39. Fight them until there is no more persecution, and religion becomes exclusively for God. But if they desist—God is Seeing of what they do.

55. The worst of creatures in God's view are those who disbelieve. They have no faith.

56. Those of them with whom you made a treaty, but they violate their agreement every time. They are not righteous.

57. If you confront them in battle, make of them a fearsome example for those who follow them, that they may take heed.

60. And prepare against them all the power you can muster, and all the cavalry you can mobilize, to terrify thereby God's enemies and your enemies, and others besides them whom you do not know, but God knows them. Whatever you spend in God's way will be repaid to you in full, and you will not be wronged.

61. But if they incline towards peace, then incline towards it, and put your trust in God. He is the Hearer, the Knower.

65. O prophet! Rouse the believers to battle. If there are twenty steadfast among you, they will defeat two hundred; and if there are a hundred of you, they will defeat a thousand of those who disbelieve; because they are a people who do not understand.

Sura 9

5. When the Sacred Months have passed, kill the polytheists wherever you find them. And capture them, and besiege them, and lie in wait for them at every ambush. But if they repent, and perform the prayers, and pay the alms, then let them go their way. God is Most Forgiving, Most Merciful.

29. Fight those who do not believe in God, nor in the Last Day, nor forbid what God and His Messenger have forbidden, nor abide by the religion of truth—from among those who received the Scripture—until they pay the due tax, willingly or unwillingly.

111. God has purchased from the believers their lives and their properties in exchange for Paradise. They fight in God's way, and they kill and get killed. It is a promise binding on Him in the Torah, and the Gospel, and the Quran. And who is more true to his promise than God? So rejoice in making such an exchange—that is the supreme triumph.

123. O you who believe! Fight those of the disbelievers who attack you, and let them find severity in you, and know that God is with the righteous.

Sura 47

4. When you encounter those who disbelieve, strike at their necks. Then, when you have routed them, bind them firmly. Then, either release them by grace, or by ransom, until war lays down its burdens. Had God willed, He could have defeated them Himself, but He thus tests some of you by means of others. As for those who are killed in the way of God, He will not let their deeds go to waste.

Sura 66

9. O prophet! Strive hard against the disbelievers and the hypocrites, and be stern with them. Their abode is Hell. What a miserable destination!

Commentary:

It is often argued by Muslim scholars that Allah only commands Muslims to fight in self defence, and it is true there are verses in the Quran (as shown above) that direct Moslems to fight those who fight them, and to cease fighting if the attackers cease attacking them. But do the verses above only point to fighting in self defence?

Even if only self defensive fighting was in view, does not 'God' (Allah) clearly indicate to Moslems that:

- It is right that they fight and kill and be killed (it is in the cause of God).
- God will send them to hell if they retreat from fighting.
- They are to be as violent with their attackers, as the attackers were with them.
- Their attackers are to be brutally dealt with, even crucified, or have hands and feet cut off from opposite sides.

Is this not a God who directs his followers to engage in extreme violence, even if only under certain conditions!

But again, is it only in self defence that Muslims are to fight? From the Quran verses above, it is clear that God hates disbelievers, and not only will send them to hell in the next life, but intends to punish them in this life. How are they to be punished in this life? In Sura 9:29 God directs Moslems to 'fight those who do not believe in God'. In Sura 9:5 God directs Moslems to 'kill the polytheists wherever you find them'. In Sura 66:9 God calls Mohammad to 'strive hard against the disbelievers and be stern with them.' God makes it clear that he wants to 'strike terror in their hearts'.

Surely this is a violent God who wants violent followers! Surely this is a violent God who has garnered violent followers all though Islamic history, starting with Mohammad and his followers. Mohammad fought many battles, plundering and enslaving. He is recorded as saying that he would rid the Arabian peninsula of Christians and Jews. This is far more than self defensive action. After Mohammad's death the Moslem Arabs invaded lands not their own, east and west, even into Spain and India. The Moslem Ottomans only continued this violent aggressive action, invading into eastern Europe over centuries, on 2 occasions almost conquering Vienna. Moslem Barbary pirates for centuries raided European coastlines, looting and enslaving over a million people. The Moslem ambassador of Tripoli informed Thomas Jefferson in 1786 that it was right for them as Moslems to attack and plunder the 'infidels'. Ultimately only increased European strength came to hold Moslem aggression at bay for a time.

In recent decades Islamic violence and aggression has risen again with the likes of Al Qaeda, Isis, the Taliban, Hamas, and Hezbollah. Moslem dominant countries largely suppress religious freedom, discriminate against non-Moslems, and often fail to protect their non-Moslem minorities. Moslem migrants in Europe desecrate churches and synagogues, and are the main perpetrators of 'honour' killings. When Mohammad or the Quran are ridiculed, they will riot, destroy and even kill.

Islam has a violent God, a violent prophet, a violence inciting Quran (& Hadith), and a violent history which still continues.

In complete contrast to the Quran, the New Testament of the Bible does not instruct Christians to kill or to be violent. What it does say is that because the world hates Jesus, Jesus's followers will also be hated and killed. This has regularly occurred in history, and is occurring today at unprecedented rates. Most of the Christians being killed for their faith in Jesus are being killed by Moslems. **The Moslem God, the Allah of the Quran, hates Jesus the Son of God.**

Violence in the Quran & in Islamic history

