

Sneaker's Corner presents

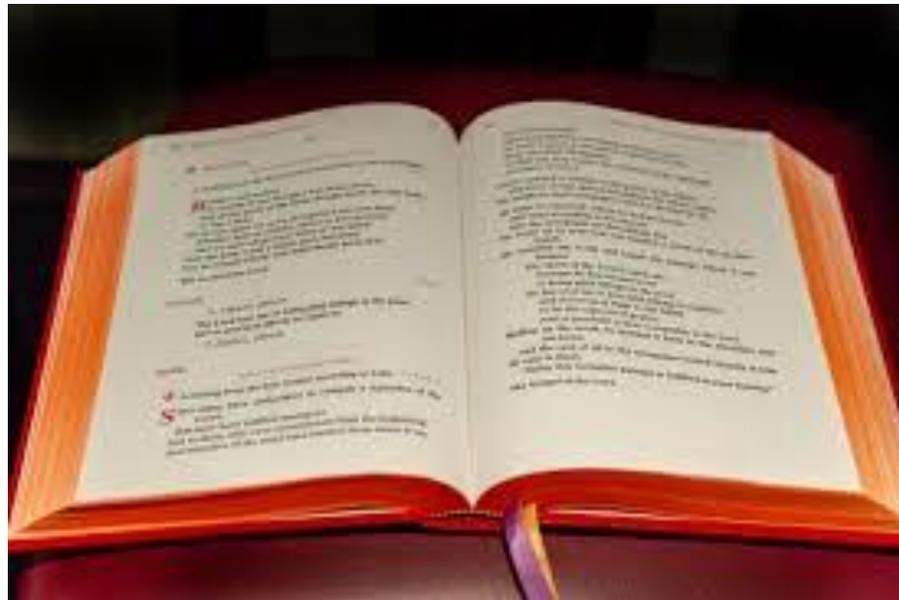
The Arabic Lectionary

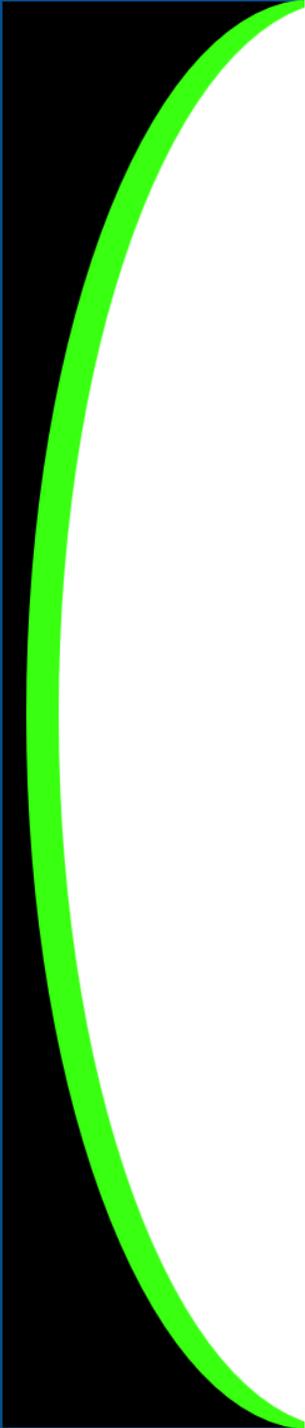
(Special thanks to Odon Lafontaine and Joe on whose work I'm drawing insight from.)



What do we mean by a lectionary?

A lectionary (Latin: lectionarium) is a book or listing that contains a collection of scripture readings appointed for Christian or Judaic worship on a given day or occasion.

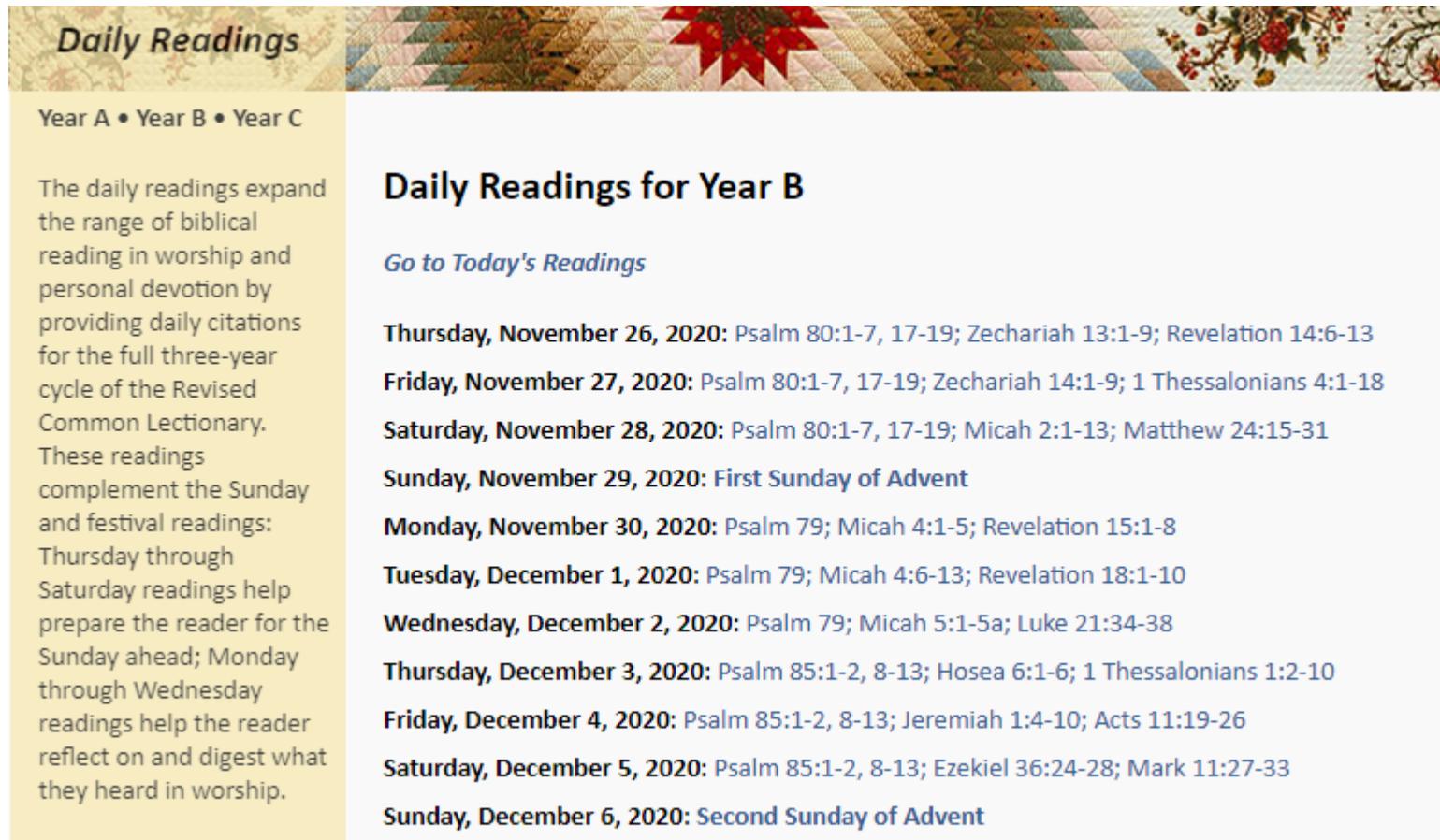




A lectionary is book that presents the contents of the Scriptures in such a way that portions of text can be read on particular days, for particular events, or in particular situations.

A lectionary could be as simple as a list of references which could then be looked up in a Bible, the beginning and end of the appointed portion marked, and then the reading read from there. However, **for convenience these portions are better printed as such, and then arranged in sequences with all the readings (Old Testament, psalm, epistle, gospel) for a particular liturgy all gathered in one place.**

Here you can see how a modern lectionary might divide out Biblical readings over a period of time – here a 3 year cycle is used



Daily Readings

Year A • Year B • Year C

The daily readings expand the range of biblical reading in worship and personal devotion by providing daily citations for the full three-year cycle of the Revised Common Lectionary. These readings complement the Sunday and festival readings: Thursday through Saturday readings help prepare the reader for the Sunday ahead; Monday through Wednesday readings help the reader reflect on and digest what they heard in worship.

Daily Readings for Year B

[Go to Today's Readings](#)

Thursday, November 26, 2020: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Zechariah 13:1-9; Revelation 14:6-13

Friday, November 27, 2020: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Zechariah 14:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

Saturday, November 28, 2020: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Micah 2:1-13; Matthew 24:15-31

Sunday, November 29, 2020: **First Sunday of Advent**

Monday, November 30, 2020: Psalm 79; Micah 4:1-5; Revelation 15:1-8

Tuesday, December 1, 2020: Psalm 79; Micah 4:6-13; Revelation 18:1-10

Wednesday, December 2, 2020: Psalm 79; Micah 5:1-5a; Luke 21:34-38

Thursday, December 3, 2020: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Hosea 6:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Friday, December 4, 2020: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 11:19-26

Saturday, December 5, 2020: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Ezekiel 36:24-28; Mark 11:27-33

Sunday, December 6, 2020: **Second Sunday of Advent**

It will likely come with a table of contents to guide you the correct readings for the calendar

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An example: this is a week day example, from a Catholic lectionary in Canada.

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

175 MONDAY

FIRST READING – YEAR A

Isaiah 4.2-6

The branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The vision that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

- 2 On that day the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and glory of the survivors of Israel.
- 3 Whoever is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem.
- 4 once the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning.
- 5 Then the Lord will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over its places of assembly a cloud by day and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night. Indeed over all the glory there will be a canopy.
- 6 It will serve as a pavilion, a shade by day from the heat, and a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 9-10 (R.1)

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

- 1 I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
- 2 Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. *R.*
- 3 Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together.
- 4 To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. *R.*
- 5 As was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
- 6 For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David. *R.*
- 7 For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, "Peace be within you."
- 8 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your good. *R.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.*
Come and save us, Lord our God;
let us see your face, and we shall be saved.

See Psalm 80.4

GOSPEL

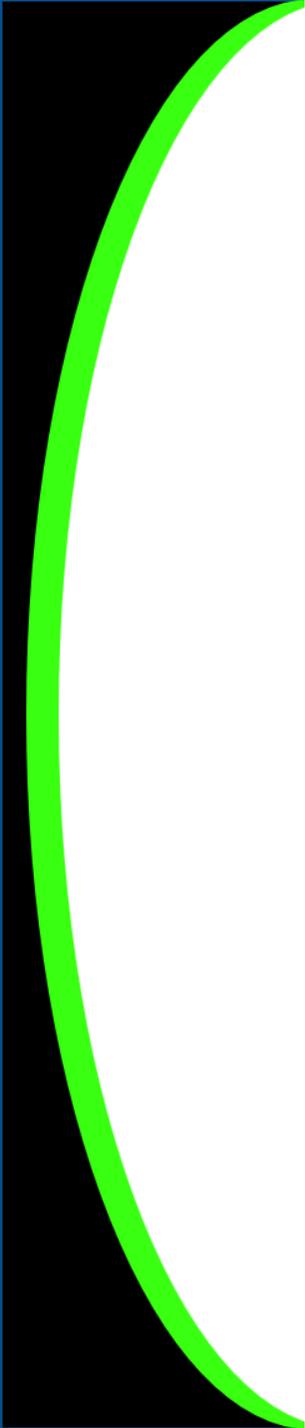
Matthew 8.5-11, 13++

Many will come from east and west to the kingdom of heaven.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

- 5 When Jesus entered Capernaum,
6 a centurion came to him,
7 appealing to him and saying,
8 "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed,
9 in terrible distress."
10 And Jesus said to him,
11 "I will come and cure him."
12 The centurion answered,
13 "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof;
14 but only speak the word,
15 and my servant will be healed.
16 For I also am a man under authority,
17 with soldiers under me;
18 and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes,
19 and to another, 'Come,' and he comes,
20 and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it."
21 When Jesus heard him,
22 he was amazed and said to those who followed him,
23 "Truly I tell you,
24 in no one in Israel have I found such faith.
25 I tell you, many will come from east and west
26 and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob
27 in the kingdom of heaven.
28 To the centurion Jesus said
29 "Go; let it be done for you according to your faith."
30 And the servant was healed in that hour.

The gospel of the Lord.



For most Christians down through the centuries their primary way of the hearing the Bible read would be through the lectionary.

So for them, it would be crucial that they get a good, clear translation because the Word of God is salvific if accurately rendered.

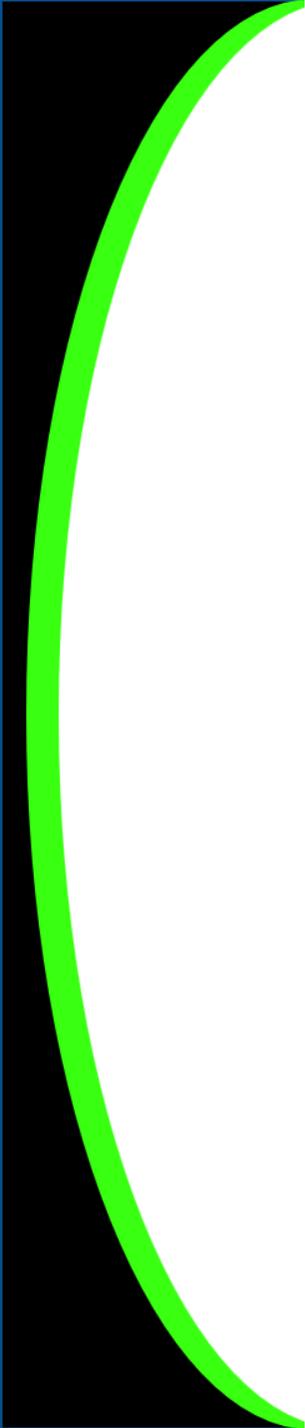
The Syriac word for lectionary is Qeriana

This word in Arabic becomes Qur'an.

However, the Qur'an – the book Muslims read - isn't a lectionary because it doesn't contain readings from the Bible in the way we have just explained.

According to the SIN, the Qur'an came down in chunks over a 22 year period. It was never complete in Muhammad's supposed lifetime.

However, the Qur'an does refer to a book called a "qur'an" that the author claims was translated into Arabic...



For the purposes of revealing what was really going on we will look at the many instances of when this lectionary was referred to. I will give its original Syriac meaning lectionary so that you can more easily see what is going on...

Preliminary points...

- Don't assume that all parts of a surah were originally together as a unit.
- While these passages are likely from the same person, don't assume that it is the same author throughout the whole of the Qur'an.
- These passages may have originally been part of written correspondence, ie epistles, by a preacher to other preachers & by extension to their respective audience. Or were part of a Targum, a manual for those preachers. (I think it is more likely the former as the repetition would indicate.)
- The author is somewhat peeved that his Arabic translation has not received the welcome he was hoping for. The insinuation is made that it isn't a good translation because he is foreign, perhaps Persian.

Preliminary points...

According to Maximilien de la Fayette in **Vol.1. ETYMOLOGY, PHILOLOGY AND COMPARATIVE DICTIONARY OF SYNONYMS IN 22 Dead and Ancient Languages, p28**

Rabaaniyin is derived from the Aramaic/Syriac word “Rabbani” Rbn, which means a teacher. Rabbani is also used as Rabi.

This is open to confusion as the Arabic Rabb means Lord in the sense of God. In some circumstances, we could use the word “teacher” so there is a lot of scope for confusion as a result.

In the translation, Usama Dakdok translates it as “lord”, but I am going to substitute the word teacher instead on the grounds that the Syriac word was what was originally meant.

However, given the context, I think in most instances it is referring not to God, but to the human teachers, especially the “chief teacher” leading the group and authoring these passages.

Those labelled **thus** are part of his preaching fraternity.

Surah 2:185 The shahr (month) of Ramadan, in which the **LECTIONARY** was sent down a guidance to the people and proofs of the guidance and of the distinguisher, so whoever among you witnesses the month, so let him fast it. And whoever was sick or traveling, so a like number of days. Allah desires the ease for you and does not desire the difficulty for you and that you complete the number. And that you may Kaber Allah for his guidance, and perhaps you may be thankful. 186 And if my servants ask **you** about me, so surely I am near. I answer the call of the caller, if he calls me, so let them answer me and believe in me, perhaps they may be guided.

Synonyms for the lectionary are in green.

Surah 3:2 Allah, there is no god but him, the living, the self-subsisting, 3 has sent down on you the **book** [the lectionary] with the truth, confirming what is between his hands, and has sent down the Taurāh and the Ingeel, 4 before a guidance to the people, and has sent down the discrimination. [Interpretation given by the preachers.]

Two components of the preachers' arsenal: the Arabic lectionary and the sect's related preaching or tafsir, called a discrimination.

What is between his hands refers to the bible.

Here is **they** who have sent down the Arabic lectionary

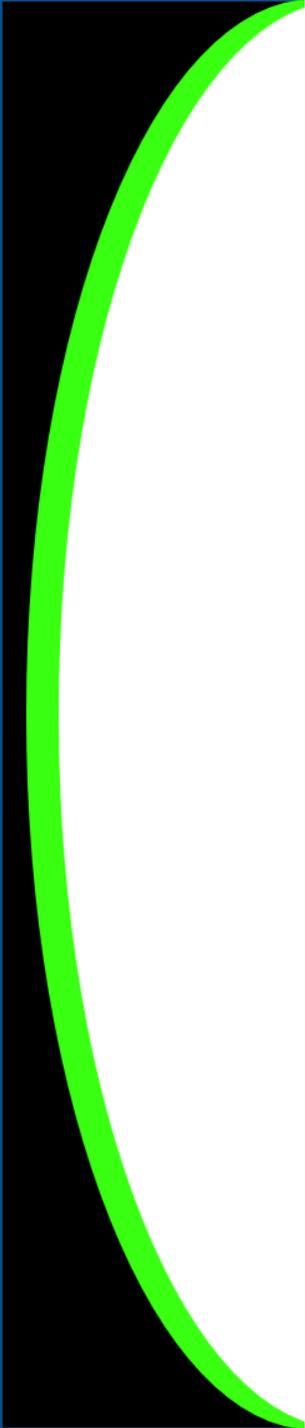
Surah 4:47 O you who have been given the **book**, believe in what **we have sent down** confirming what is with you before we hide faces and turn them on their backs or curse them as we cursed the companions of the Sabbath. And the command of Allah was accomplished.

Customer service advice...

Surah 4:82 Do they not consider the **LECTIONARY**? If it was from other than Allah, they would have found in it many inconsistencies. 83 And when matters come to them, either of the security or the fear, they spread it abroad. But if they would report them to **the messenger** and to those who are substantial in the affair, then those among them who desire information would learn it from them. And were it not for the bounty of Allah on you and his mercy, you would have followed Satan except for a few.

He is saying that relatively speaking it isn't a bad translation but they did use the Bible for the passages.

Our customer representative – the messenger - would be happy to respond to your complaints about the lectionary. PTO



My paraphrase: If it wasn't from God, you'd find a lot more mistakes in it. But when there are concerns regarding its reliability or even just doubts/fears, they gossip about it instead of reporting these to the local preacher or to the hierarchy in charge of creating it: if they had done that, those who wanted information and reassurance would have got it..

Dealing with those who have rejected the lectionary...

Surah 5:15 O People of the **Book**, indeed, our messenger came to you to clear up much that you were hiding from **the book** and pardons you much. Indeed, a light and a clear **book** came to you from Allah. 16 Allah will guide with it the one who will follow his pleasure to the ways of peace, and he will bring them out of the darkness to the light by his permission. And he will guide them to a straight way

My understanding: our local representative/preacher/messenger came to you to clear up misunderstandings regarding the book that you were shying away from...

[I'm offering this alternative sense of People of the Book, normally thought of as Jews and Christians, but this is more specific, those Jews and Christians who have been approached with this lectionary.]

The lectionary and the Bible

Surah 5: 48 And to you we have sent down **the book** with the truth, confirming what is between his hands of the book and as guardian over it. So judge between them by what Allah has sent down, and do not follow their desires about what came to you of the truth. To every one of you we have given a law and a clear way. And if Allah willed, he would have made you one nation but to test you in what he has given to you. So hasten [doing] the goods. To Allah you will all return. So he will inform you about what you were differing

The lectionary and the Bible

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I'm your teacher, boy...

Surah 5:65 And if the People of the **Book** believed and feared, we will surely atone their evils from them and will admit them to the gardens of bliss. 66 And if they perform the Torah and the Gospel and what has been sent down to them from their **teacher**, they will surely eat from above them and from under their legs. Among them is a nation who acts right, but many of them, evil is what they do. 67 O you **messenger**, proclaim what has been sent down to you from your **teacher**, and if you do not do, so his message will not be delivered. And Allah will protect you from the people. Surely Allah will not guide the infidel people. 68 Say, "O People of the **Book**, you have nothing until you perform the Torah and the Gospel and what has been sent down to you from your **teacher**." And what is sent down to you will increase rebellion and infidelity in many of them. So do not grieve over the infidel people. 69 Surely those who believed and those who are Jews and the Sabians and the Nasara (Christians), whoever believed in Allah and in the last day and did a good deed, so there is no fear on them. And they will not grieve.

Impatient people...

Surah 5: 101 O you who have believed, do not ask about things which, if they were revealed to you, it would be harmful to you. And if you ask of it when the **LECTIONARY** is sent down, it will be revealed to you. Allah will pardon you for this. And Allah is forgiving, forbearing. 102 The people before you asked such questions, and by them they became infidels. 103 Allah has not made any Bahira nor Saiba nor Wasila nor Hami, but those who became infidels forge the lies against Allah, and most of them do not understand.

My understanding: the people are asking when their lectionary will be ready and sent down. Allah is forbearing even if the people are impatient about getting their copy.

A reply to common objections...

Surah 6:19 Say, "What thing is a bigger testimony?" Say, "Allah is witness between me and you, and this **LECTIONARY** has been revealed to me to warn you with it and whoever it reaches. Do you witness that there are other gods with Allah?" Say, "I will not witness." Say, "Surely he is only one god, and I am innocent from what you partner." 20 Those to whom we gave the book, they know it as they know their own sons; those have lost themselves, so they will not believe.

Here, the head preacher is giving scripted answers to common objections. This is a reply to FAQ.

Dealing with the people's rejection...

Surah 6:25 And **some of them who listened to you**, and we made covers on their hearts that they understand it and a deafness in their ears; and if they see every sign, they will not believe in it until when they come to you. **They dispute with you**. Those who became infidels say, "This is nothing but asātīr [legends] of the ancients." 26 And **they will forbid it and depart from it**. And they do not destroy anyone except themselves, and they do not feel. 27 And if you see when they stood over the fire, so they said, "O we wish to return and we will not deny the verses of our **teacher** and we will be of the believers." 28 Yet it appeared to them what they were hiding before. And if they return, they will go back to what they were forbidden, and surely **they are liars**. 29 And they said, "It is only our life of this world, and we will not be raised." 30 And if you see when they stand before their **teacher**, he said, "Is not this the truth?" They said, "Yes, [we swear] by our **teacher**." He said, "So taste the torment because you were infidels." 31 Indeed, those who denied the meeting [7] with Allah are lost until when the sā'a [hour] comes suddenly on them. They said, "O our regret of what we neglected of it." And they will carry their burdens on their backs. Is not evil what they carry? 32 And the world's life is not except a sport and fun, and the home of the hereafter is better for those who fear. Do you not understand? 33 Indeed, we know what they say will surely grieve **you**. So surely they do not deny you, but the unjust disbelieve in **the verses of Allah**.

His argument “this is God’s word, so they are fighting against God...”

Surah 6:92 And this **book** which we have sent down is blessed, **confirming what is between his hands**, and that you may warn the mother of the villages [Petra] and who are around it. And those who believe in the hereafter will believe in it, and they are keepers of their prayers. 93 And who is more unjust than one who forged a lie against Allah, or said, "It has been revealed to me," when nothing was revealed to him. And who said, "I will send down like that which Allah has sent down"? And if you see when the unjust are in the floods of death and the angels reach forth their hands, "Get your souls out." Today you will be rewarded with a humiliating torment because of what you were saying against Allah without the truth, and you were proud against his **verses**

Some people recognise that there is knowledge behind the preaching... some are like jinn

Surah 6:105 And likewise, we expound on **the verses**, and they will say, "You studied." And we show it to knowing people. 106 Follow what has been revealed to you from your **teacher**. There is no god but him, and turn away from the polytheists.

Surah 6:130 "O assembly of the jinn and the humans, have not **messengers** come to you from among yourselves relating **my verses** to you and warning you of the meeting of this your day?" They said, "We bore witness against ourselves." And the world's life deceived them, and they bore witness against themselves that they were infidels.

Prepared sermons

Surah 7:145 And **we wrote for him** in the alwah [wooden tablets] from everything, a **sermon** and an **exposition of everything**: "So take it with strength and command your people to take the best part of it. I will show you the home of the transgressors. 146 I will turn away from my signs those who are proud on the earth without the truth, and if they see every sign, they will not believe in it. And if they see the way of guidance, they will not take it a way. And if they see the way of error, they will take it a way. This is because they denied our signs, and they were unaware of them. 147 And those who denied our signs and the meeting of the hereafter, their work will be in vain. Will they be rewarded, except for what they were doing?"

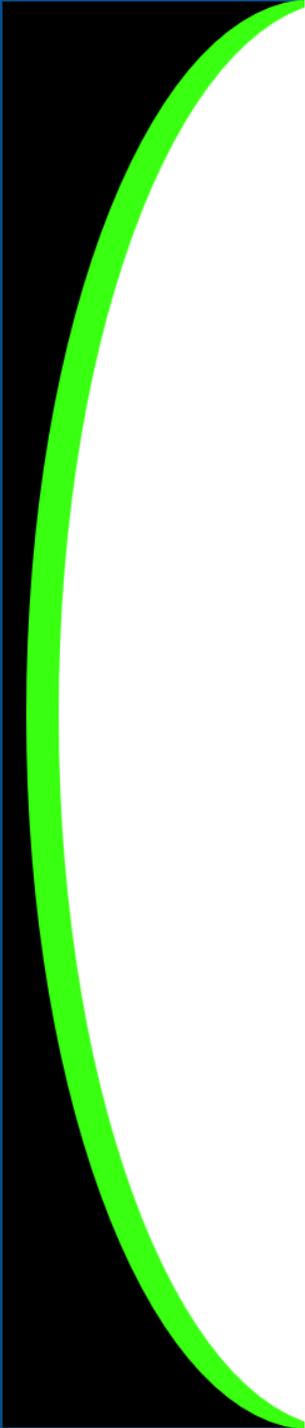
He instructs his preachers to say it comes from their Rabbani (teacher), ie him.

7:203 And if you did not bring a sign to them, they say, "Were it not that you had invented it?" Say, "Surely, I only follow what is revealed to me from **my teacher**. This is proof from **your teacher**, and guidance and mercy to a believing people." 204 And when the **LECTIONARY** is read, then listen to it and hear, perhaps you may receive mercy. 205 And remember **your teacher** within yourself, imploring and fearing and in a voice not loud, in the morning and the evening, and do not be of the unaware. 206 Surely those who are with **your teacher** are not too proud to serve him. And they praise him, and to him they worship.

The preachers used the legends of the ancients as interesting material

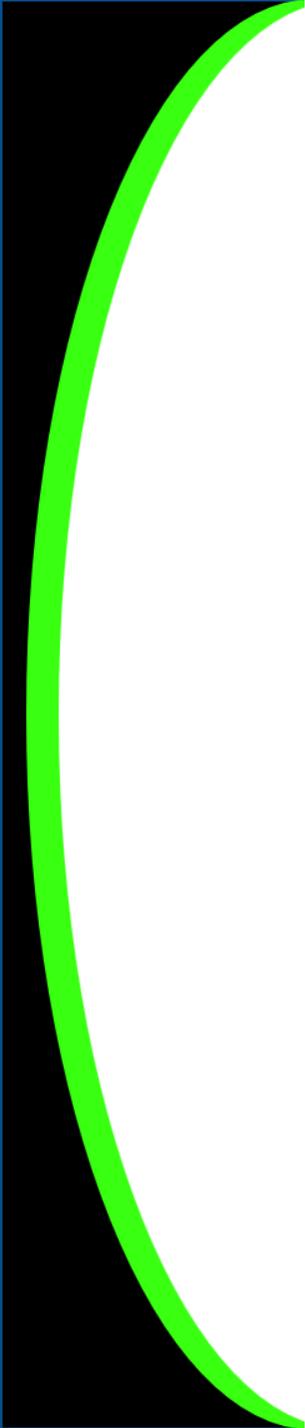
Surah 8:30 And when those who became infidels deceive you to detain you or to kill you or to expel you. And they deceive, and Allah deceives. And Allah is the best deceiver. 31 And when **our verses** are recited to them, they said, "Indeed, we have heard. If we wanted to, we could say like it, this is nothing but the **legends of the ancients**.*"

*My thoughts: Here, they are referring to the preaching's content, not the lectionary itself.

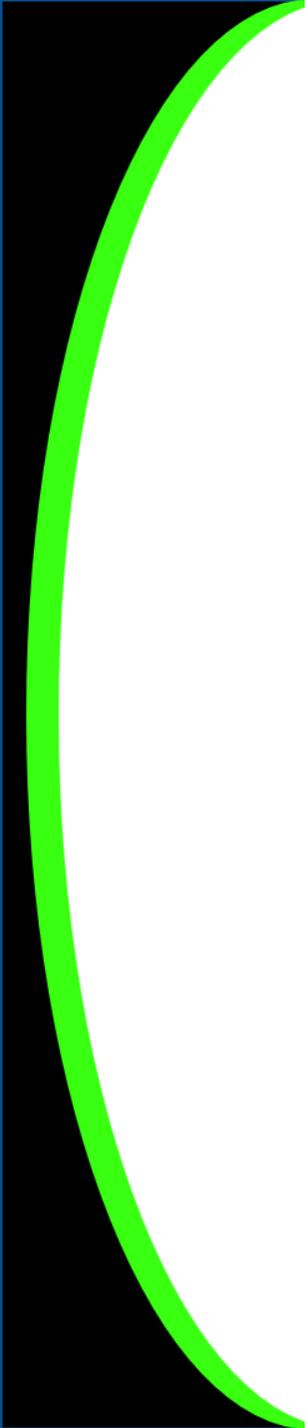


Surah 9:111 Surely Allah has purchased from the believers their souls and their money so that they may have the garden. They engage in war for the sake of Allah, so they kill and are killed; a promise of this is true in the Torah and in the Gospel and in the **LECTIONARY**. And who is more faithful to his covenant than Allah? So receive the good news in your pledge which you have pledged with, and this is the great triumph. 112 The repenters, the servants, the praisers, the travelers, the kneelers, the worshipers, those who command what is right, and those who forbid from the evil, and the keepers to the bounds of Allah. And give the good news to the believers. 113 It was not for the prophet or those who believed to ask forgiveness for the polytheists, even though they were closest relatives, after it has been made clear to them that they are the companions of hell.

Surah 10: 37 And this **LECTIONARY** was not forged [produced] without Allah, but it confirms what was between his hands and is an exposition of **the book** [the bible]; there is no doubt in it from the **teacher** of the worlds. 38 Or do they say, "He has forged it"? Say, "So bring a portion of a revelation like it, and call on whom you can rather than Allah, if you were truthful." 39 Yet, they deny what they do not have knowledge of, and the interpretation of it has not come to them. Likewise, those who were before them denied. So look how was the end of the unjust. 40 And some of them who believe in it, and some of them who do not believe in it. And your **teacher** knows best those who vandalize. 41 And if they deny you, so say, "To me my work and to you your work. And you are innocent of what I do, and I am innocent of what you do." 42 And some of them who hear you; can you make the deaf to hear even though they were not understanding? 43 And some of them who look at you, but can you guide the blind even though they were not seeing? 44 Surely Allah will not deal with the people unjustly anything. But people deal unjustly with themselves. 45 And a day he gathers them, they will seem as though they had waited but an hour of the day, recognizing each other. Indeed, those who denied the meeting with Allah have lost, and they were not guided. PTO



My thoughts: In dealing with those who doubt that the translation of scriptures in the lectionaries is good or reliable, the response is bring a portion of a revelation like it. OK, take a passage from the scripture and tell us how you would translate and let's compare them then, if you think our translation is lousy. They claim that their translations are trustworthy, ie that they are innocent of any wrongdoing: they made an honest attempt to translate it faithfully. The dispute may be over whether to translate it literally or to retain the meaning in the translation. Some prefer one method or others.

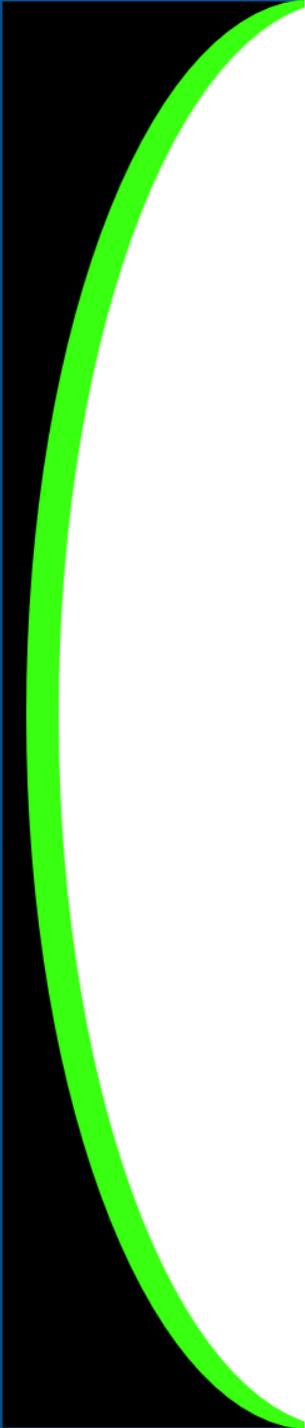


Surah 11: 13 Or they say, "He has forged it." Say, "So bring ten forged portions of a revelation like it, and call on whom you can rather than Allah if you were truthful." 14 So if they did not answer to you, so know that it is only sent down by Allah's knowledge and that there is no god except him. So are you Muslims?

My thoughts: produce a translation for 10 portions of scriptures and call on anyone you like to assess your work...

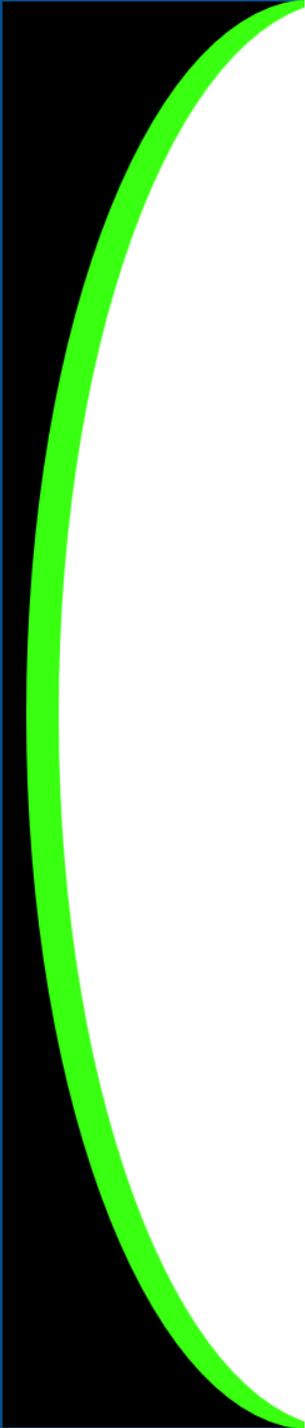
Surah 10: 61 And you will not be in any affair, and you do not recite from it, from the **LECTIONARY**, and you do not do any work except we were witnesses over you when you engage in it. And not even the weight of an atom on the earth or in the heaven, or smaller than that or bigger, escapes **your teacher** except it is in a clear book.

Surah 10:94 So, if you were in doubt concerning what we have sent down to you, so ask **those** who are reading **the book** before you; indeed, the truth came to you from **your teacher**, so do not be of the doubters. 95 And do not be of those who denied **the verses of Allah**, so you will become of the losers.



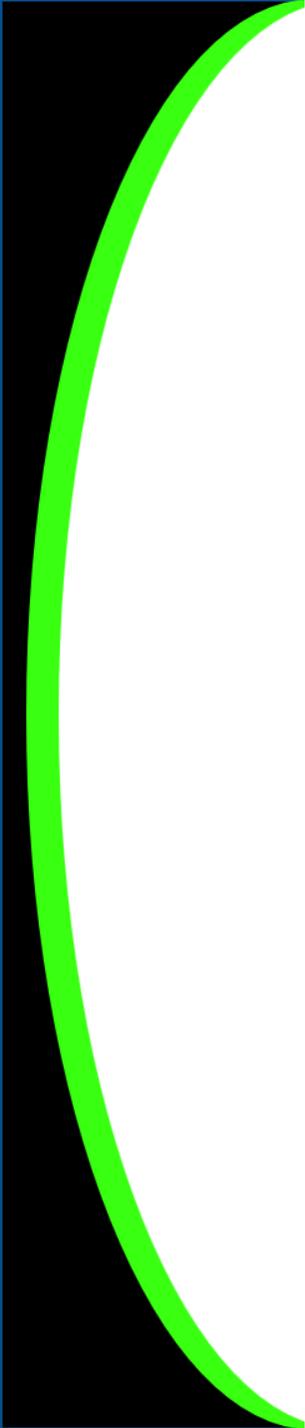
Surah 12:1 These are verses of the **clear book**. 2 Surely we have sent it down, an Arabic LECTINARY, perhaps you might understand. 3 We narrate to you the best of the stories by which we reveal to you this LECTINARY, and before it you were among the unaware.

My thoughts: it is saying this lectionary has got a great cross-section of the best bible stories. We have even produced it in Arabic, how convenient is that!



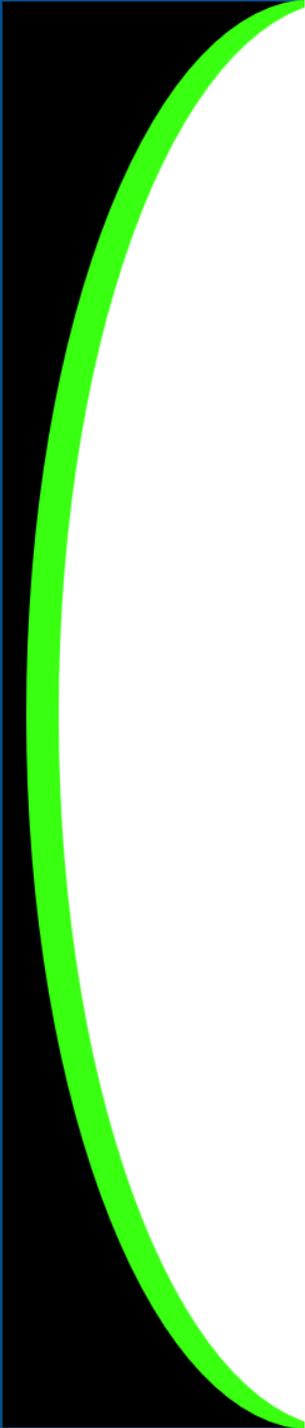
Surah 13:31 And if there is a LECTINARY by which the mountains could be made to move or the earth to be cut by it or the dead spoken to by it, yet to Allah is all the affair. Did not those who believed despair that if Allah wills he would guide all the people? And still those who became infidels will be afflicted with calamity because of what they have done, or disaster may fall closer to their homes, until the promise of Allah comes. Surely Allah does not change the promise.

My thoughts: Why do you think God wouldn't want a lectionary in the vernacular language of Arabic so you could better understand it?



Surah 13:37 And likewise, we have sent it down, a **judgment in the Arabic**, and if you follow their desire after what came to you from knowledge, you will not have any friend or protector from Allah. 38 And indeed, we sent **messengers** before you, and we gave them wives and descendants. And it was not for a messenger to bring a sign except by Allah's permission. For every period is a **book**.

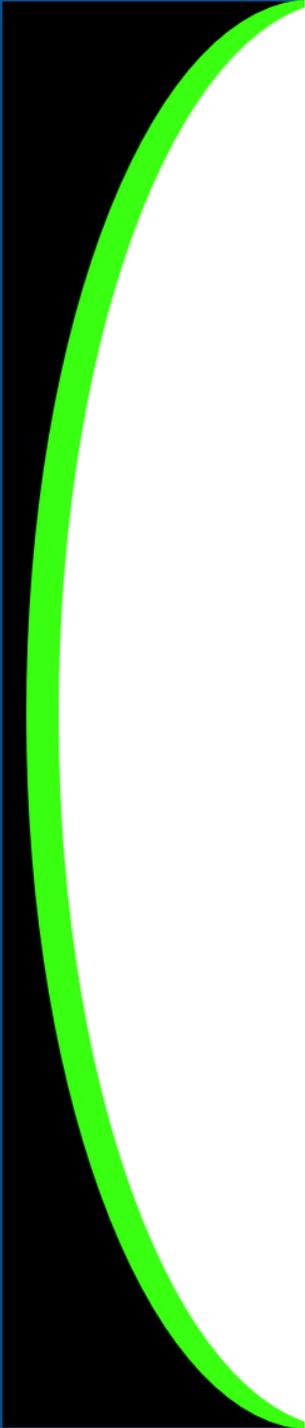
My thoughts: he is saying "Get with the times. It is now the right time to produce a lectionary in Arabic!".



Surah 13:39 Allah erases what he wills and confirms, and with him is the mother of the book (master copy: ie the Bible). 43 And those who became infidels say, "You are not a missionary." Say, "Allah is a sufficient witness between me and you, and whoever has knowledge of the book."

Surah 15:1 These are the verses of the **book** and a clear **LECTIONARY**.

Surah 15: 87 And indeed, we have given you seven of the mathānī [repeated/repetitions] and the great **LECTIONARY**. 88 Do not yearn with your eyes on the wives that we gave to them to enjoy. And do not grieve for them, and lower your wing for the believers. 89 And say, "Surely I am a clear warner." 90 Like we send down on the dividers, 91 those who made the **LECTIONARY** into parts. 92 So by your **teacher**, we will surely ask them all 93 about what they were doing. 94 So declare what **you** are commanded, and turn away from the polytheists.



Surah 16:24 And when it is said to them, "What did **your teacher** send down?" They said, "The legends of the ancients."

SURAH 16: 98 So when you recite the **LECTIONARY**, so seek refuge with Allah from the stoned Satan.

Who dare a Persian produce an Arabic lectionary! The cheek of him!

SURAH 16:101 And if we exchange **one verse** in a place of another **verse**, and Allah knows what he sent down, they said, "Surely you are only a forger." Yet most of them do not know. 102 Say, "The holy spirit from your **teacher** has sent it down with the truth so that he may strengthen those who have believed and guidance and good news to the Muslims." 103 And indeed, we know that they say, "Surely only a human teaches him." But the tongue of him at whom they hint is foreign while this language is clear Arabic. 104 Surely those who do not believe in the verses of Allah, Allah will not guide them, and to them is a painful torment. 105 Surely they only forge the lie, those who do not believe in the verses of Allah. And those are the liars.

My thoughts: The head of translation claims guidance from the holy spirit in the work of translation. This is orthodox! The people are aware that the person leading this is Ajami - Persian! What would he know about translating anything into Arabic!

The lectionary...

Surah 17: 9 Surely this **LECTIONARY** guides to that which is most upright, and it gives good news to the believers who do good deeds that they will have a big wage.

surah 17:41 And indeed, we have expounded in this **LECTIONARY** so that they may remember, and it will not increase them except in aversion.

Surah 17:45 And when you read the **LECTIONARY**, we have made a hidden veil between you and those who do not believe in the hereafter. And we made covers on their hearts that they understand it and a deafness in their ears, and if you mention your **teacher** in the **LECTIONARY** alone, they turn their backs in aversion.

The lectionary of the dawn?

Surah 17: 77 Custom of whom we sent before you from our messengers, and you will not find to our custom alteration. 78 Perform the prayer from sundown until the darkness of the night, and the **LECTIONARY** of the dawn. Surely the **LECTIONARY** of the dawn was witnessed. 79 And during part of the night, so pray with it as an extra ordinance to you. Perhaps your **teacher** will raise you to a praised position. 80 And say, "My **teacher**, admit me with a truthful entry, and get me out with a truthful exit. And grant to me an authority to help." 81 And say, "The truth came, and the vanity has vanished. Surely the vanity was vanishing." 82 And we send down from the **LECTIONARY** what is a healing and a mercy to the believers and will not increase the unjust except a loss.

A great lectionary...

Surah 17:88 Say, "Surely if the humans and the jinn gathered so that they might bring forth the likeness of this **LECTIONARY**, they cannot bring forth the likeness of it, even if they were backing one another." 89 And indeed, we have expounded to the people in this **LECTIONARY** from every parable, so most people reject but infidelity.

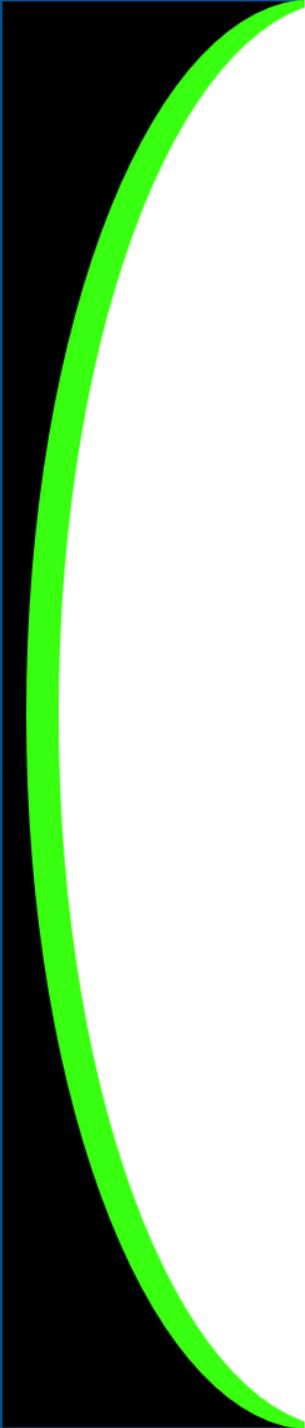
My thoughts: He is saying, "oh you critics, you think you are so smart but the whole lot of you couldn't produce as good a lectionary as this. Have a go if you think you are hard enough."

A lectionary definition...

Surah 17: 106 And a **LECTIONARY** we divided so that you may recite it to the people by small increments, and we sent it down, descending. 107 Say, "Believe in it, or do not believe it. Surely those who have been given the knowledge before it, when it is recited to them, they will fall on their chins worshipping."

Surah 24: 1 A **portion of a revelation** we have sent down and made mandatory, and we sent it down in very **clear verses**, perhaps you may remember.

My thoughts: this is a good description of what a lectionary: it only gives a portion of the bible.



Surah 18: 27 And recite what had been revealed to you from **the book of your teacher**; no one can change his words, and you will not find a refuge other than him. 28 And let yourself be patient with those who call on their teacher at morning and evening, desiring his face. And do not let your eyes wander away from them, desiring the beauty of the world's life. And do not obey him whose heart we have made careless of our remembrance. And who follows his own desire, and whose affair was unbridled.

My thoughts: we haven't anything funny to it, we just translated into Arabic. You can trust, we are holy men, we pray morning and evening.

Surah 18: 54 And indeed, we have expounded in this **LECTIONARY** to the people from every parable, and the human was the most contentious thing. 55 And nothing prevents people from believing when the guidance comes to them and asking forgiveness from their **teacher**, except that the customs of the ancients come to them or the torment will come to them face-to-face. 56 And we do not send the **messengers** except as bearers of good news and warners, and **they** dispute with those who became infidels with vanity to refute with it the truth. And they took **my verses** and what they were warned with as a scoff. 57 And who is more unjust than he, who when he is reminded of the verses of his **teacher**, so he turns away from them and forgets what his hands have wrought. Surely we made covers on their hearts that they understand it and a deafness in their ears, and if you call them to the guidance, so they will not be guided then forever.

They don't like the translation...

Surah 20:113 And likewise, we sent it down to you an Arabic **LECTIONARY**, and we expounded in it some of the warnings, perhaps they may fear, or that it may be a reminder for them. 114 So Allah is exalted, the king, the truth. And do not hasten by the **LECTIONARY** before its revelation is completed to you, and say, "My **teacher**, increase me in knowledge."

Surah 21:5 "Yet," they said, "it is the **medley of dreams**, yet **he** forged it. Yet **he** is a poet. So let him bring to us with a sign as the ancients were sent."

My thoughts: A lectionary is a medley of passages from the Bible. Why people called it of dreams is unclear: maybe he chose the more fantastical from the bible or his translation was poor. Why the "yet he is a poet"? Maybe their issue is that he went for a poetic translation over a literal one for the bible passages in the lectionary.

Surah 25: 4 And those who became infidels said, "This is but a fraud of his own devising and other people assisted him." So indeed, they came unjustly and with falsehood. 5 And they said, "The legends of the ancients that he has written down, so it is dictated to him morning and evening." 6 Say, "He has sent it down, who knows the secrets of the heavens and the earth. Surely he was forgiving, merciful." 7 And they said, "What sort of messenger is this? He eats food, and he walks in the aswaq. [streets] Were it not that an angel had been sent down, so he will be a warner with him; 8 or a treasure would be cast to him or to him was a garden, he eats from it." And the unjust said, "That you are following but bewitched man!"

My thoughts: what is the fraud? It could be the lectionary but here I think it might be the whole sect and its beliefs. The legends of the ancients seems to refer to all of the preaching material that the author instructs his messengers to talk about. It appears to be that his underlings are getting it in the neck for some of the preaching material, it was dictated to him morning and evening and he wrote it down. The big guy's response is tell them: "what of it? I sent these suggestions down to you."

Interestingly, people are saying that the messengers had no divine sign such as the revelation of angel, had there been at least that, they might have believed it, but nothing.

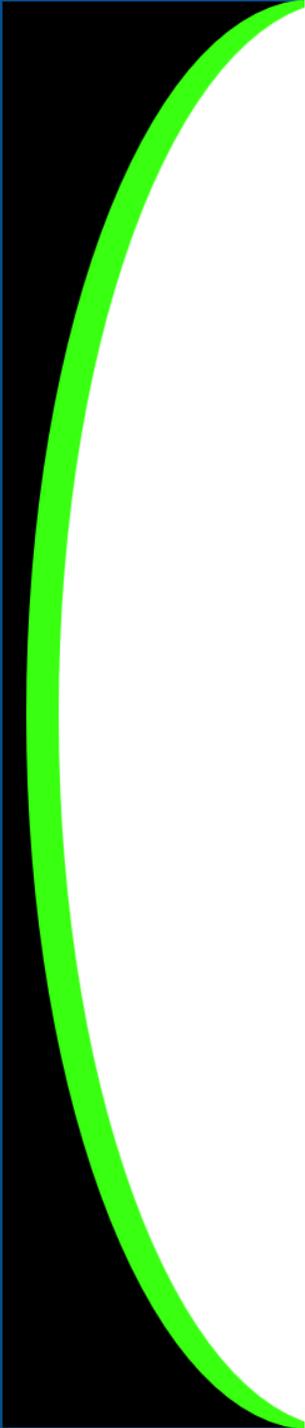
Surah 25: 30 And the messenger said, "O **my teacher**, surely my people have considered this **LECTIONARY** to be deserted." 31 And likewise, we have appointed to every prophet an enemy among the criminals. And **your teacher** is sufficient as a guide and a helper. 32 And those who became infidels said, "Were it not that the **LECTIONARY** had been sent down on him all at once." Likewise, we strengthened your heart with it, and we chanted it, chanting. 33 And they will not bring to you a parable, but we bring to you the truth and the best **tafsīr**.

My thoughts: the teacher is the guy in charge, not God. He is the group's guide. The lectionary appears to be given in a piecemeal fashion, which is not the normal way of doing things. The group's leader had two main objectives: to defend the group's use of his translated lectionary and to guide them how to preach: the preaching was an exposition on the bible passages, which gave their theological teaching. This teaching is the tafsir.

“Lord of the Worlds” is found on rock inscriptions so Lord is justified here.

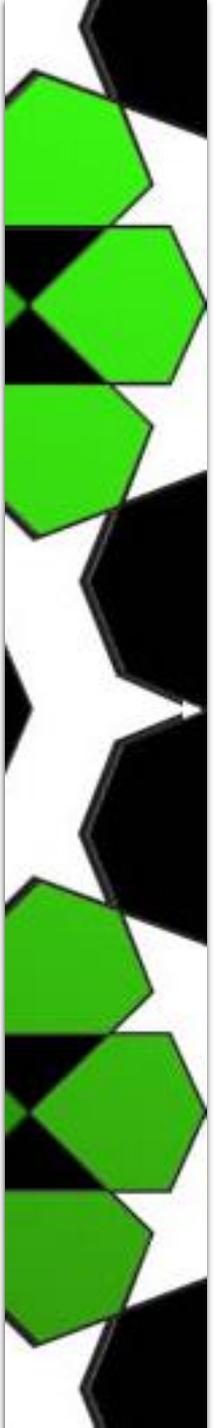
Surah 26: 192 And surely this is descended from the Lord of the worlds, 193 descended by the faithful spirit 194 on your heart so that you may be among the warners, 195 with a clear Arabic tongue. 196 And surely it is in the ancient scriptures. 197 Or was it not a sign to them that the scholars of the children of Israel know it? 198 If we had sent it down on some foreigner, 199 so he had read it to them, and they were not to believe in it.

My thoughts: He is again reiterating, this lectionary is straight up the Word of God, it is vouchsafed by the Holy Spirit and translated into Arabic. Is he suggesting that he is a scholar from among the children of Israel? He seems to be arguing if it had been given by a foreigner to them, then he could understand why they reject it but it was given by one of their own...



Surah 84: 21 And when the **LECTIONARY** is recited to them, they do not worship.

My thoughts: a lectionary is meant to be used in worship, in a liturgy.



Summary

- Thanks for watching!