

Folks/Guys/People:

Below are random excerpts from the three holy books of the three religions I have asked you to read about at BBC.com. The books are the *Bible*, the *Torah*, and the *Qur'an*. Which excerpt is from which holy book? Well, that's for you to figure out. (The purpose here is to give you a small taste of how these books sound.) Do not print this page; instead make a few notes about the subject of each excerpt.

EXCERPT 1

1 And G-d blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them: 'Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth.

2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, and upon all wherewith the ground teemeth, and upon all the fishes of the sea: into your hand are they delivered.

3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be for food for you; as the green herb have I given you all.

4 Only flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

5 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it; and at the hand of man, even at the hand of every man's brother, will I require the life of man.

EXCERPT 2

16. Relate in the Book
(The story of) Mary,
When she withdrew
From her family
To a place in the East.

17. She placed a screen
(To screen herself) from them;
Then We sent to her
Our angel, and he appeared
Before her as a man
In all respects.

18. She said: "I seek refuge
From thee to (G-d)
Most Gracious: (come not near)
If thou dost fear G-d."

EXCERPT 3

¹ The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation.

² Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate,

³ and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth.

⁴ Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made."

6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of G-d made He man.

7 And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; swarm in the earth, and multiply therein.'

8 And G-d spoke unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying:

9 'As for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you, and with your seed after you;

10 and with every living creature that is with you, the fowl, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that go out of the ark, even every beast of the earth.

11 And I will establish My covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of the flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

19. He said: "Nay, I am only
A messenger from thy LORD,
(To announce) to thee
The gift of a holy son."

20. She said: "How shall I
Have a son, seeing that
No man has touched me,
And I am not unchaste?"

21. He said: "So (it will be):
Thy LORD saith, "That is
Easy for Me: and (We
Wish) to appoint him
As a Sign unto men
And a Mercy from Us":
It is a matter
(So) decreed

⁵ And Noah did all that G-d commanded him.

⁶ Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth.

⁷ And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood.

⁸ Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground,

⁹ male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as G-d had commanded Noah.

¹⁰ And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.