

The Quran and its Message

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Joseph A Islam www.quransmessage.com

سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ

Salamun Alaikum (Peace be upon you)

SAINT CATHERINE'S MONASTERY, MOUNT SINAI, EGYPT

Joseph A Islam

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EXCERPTS FROM MY TRAVEL BLOG

It is common knowledge amongst Muslims (and non-Muslims) that Prophet Moses^(pbuh) was summoned at a mountain called Sinai which is located in the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt.

What is unknown to many is that the authenticity of the site linking it to the Biblical narrative has long been debated by not only Judaic and New Testament Biblical scholars of the past, but also modern day scholars.

The location of Mount Sinai at its popular location in the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt is based on **late Christian traditions many centuries after the death of Prophet Jesus.**^(pbuh)

The present day Mount Sinai seems unsupportable from both the Biblical and the Quranic text for many reasons. Many academics and scholars also cite the location of the true Sinai at Jabal al-Lawz (in the area of ancient Madyan) in Saudi Arabia as a possible candidate based on Biblical evidence.

Please see the following article for further insight into this topic: [Mount Sinai - Behind the Translations](#)

ST CATHERINE'S MONASTERY, SINAI, EGYPT

Regardless of the Christian traditions that link the site at Sinai to the Biblical narratives, the fact that it retained religious significance for early Christian communities is apparent from a brief survey of the location. This is clearly attested by the presence of a fortified monastery as well as an invaluable source of ancient manuscripts that are housed within its confines.

"The library at St. Catherine's Monastery claims 4,000 manuscripts, about 3,000 of them in Greek. There are several hundred texts in Arabic, Syriac, Gregorian, Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopian and even Slavic. The library also has about 5,000 books, some of them dating back prior to the printing press.

St. Catherine's also boasts one of the world's richest collections of icons, representing some of the finest works of the early Byzantine period". [1]

Its presence as a working monastery and its fortified compound remaining in tact remains testimony that the religious sanctuary was afforded some kind of protection by different Muslim rulers throughout its existence. Please see the related Q&A mentioned in a link below.*

[Fortified precincts of the St. Catherine's Monastery amidst Wadi (valley) el Dier and close to Jabal Musa (a.k.a. Mount Sinai)]



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"Now when Moses had fulfilled the term and was travelling with his family, he perceived a fire in the direction of 'Tur'. He said to his family: Stay here, indeed I perceive a fire, perhaps I will bring you from there some information or a brand of fire, so that you may warm yourselves. But when he came (to) it, he was called from the right side of the valley from a tree in hallowed ground: "O Moses! Verily I am God, the Lord of the Worlds"

[Besides the monastery walls]



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[Inside the monastery]



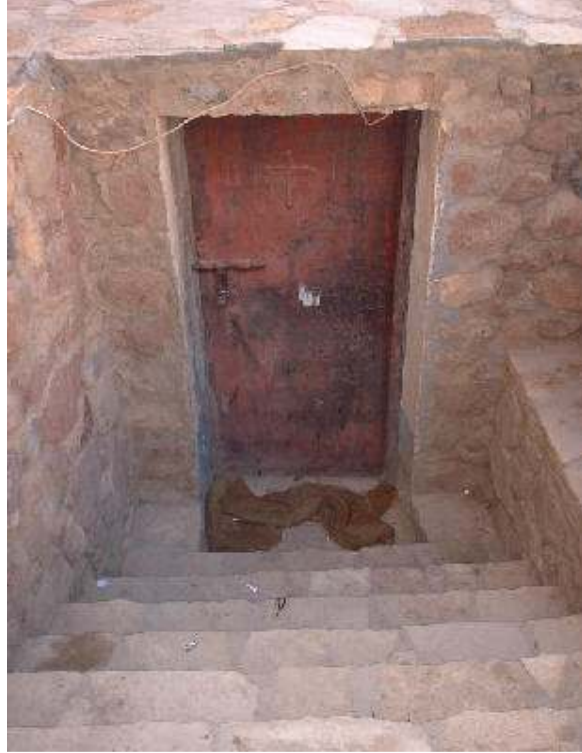
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The presence of marked locations which allegedly link to the Biblical narratives can also be seen at the site surrounding the monastery.



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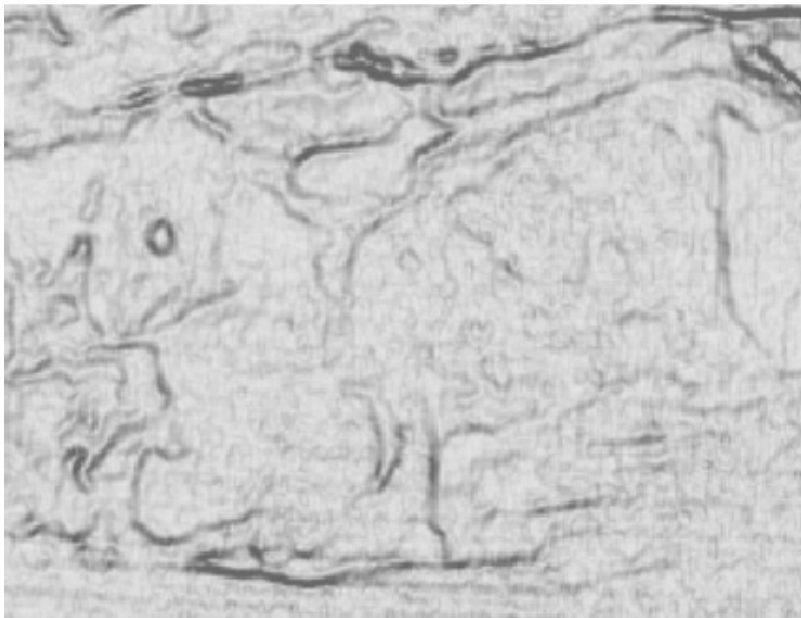


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* The pictures above are also shared as part of a response to a relevant question on this site's forum which can be accessed from the following link below.

PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S LETTER TO THE CHRISTIAN MONKS

<http://quransmessage.com/forum/index.php?topic=317.0>

REFERENCES

[1] SAAD EL-DIN. M, Sinai, The Site & the History, Introduction: The Splendor of Sinai, Published by New York University Press, 2nd Edition produced by Words at Play Editorial & Creative Services, Page 19.

Related Article:

(1) [Mount Sinai - Behind the Translations](#)

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