

# **“The Jews say the Hand of God is Chained”: Q 5:64 and the Rewritten Bible**

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In one of the more well-known taunts against the Jews in the Qur’ān, the Qur’ān accuses the Jews of making a very serious false and blasphemous claim regarding God. Namely, reproaches the Qur’ān in 5:64, the Jews claim that God’s hand is tied and thus He is miserly and ungenerous. Yet mystifyingly, no statement of any sort regarding a closed hand of God can be found in the Hebrew Bible. From where then does the Qur’ān derive such a claim? This paper will suggest that that origin of this Qur’ānic accusation can be found in a motif regarding God’s empathetic identification with the exiled Nation of Israel in the “rewritten Bible”, the midrash.