

There is much confusion what Muslims believe and don't believe about Jesus. There is also much confusion among Muslims what Christians believe and don't believe about Jesus. Since Muslims believe the Qur'an to be God's final revelation to humanity, a work of divine guidance; what does it say about Jesus and what does it say about previous revelations?

Muslims believe that the Qur'an was orally revealed by God in Arabic to Muhammad through the angel Gabriel (Jibril in Arabic) over a period of 23 years about 600 years after the time of Jesus. Mohammed began receiving these revelations from Gabriel when he was about 40 years old from a cave near Mecca about 700 miles from Jerusalem. Mohammed would recite these revelations to his companions who would likewise memorize them. Following Mohammed's death these memorized revelations would be reviewed and compiled into what we have today as the Qur'an.

The Qur'an has much to say about Jesus also call Isa, which is Arabic for Jesus. Jesus is understood by Muslims to be one of the most important prophets of Islam. He is referred, directly or indirectly well over a hundred times, and thus, he is one of the most mentioned people in the Qur'an. The Qur'an teaches that Jesus was a prophet and messenger sent by God to guide the children of Israel and that he was born of a virgin named Mary, which in Arabic is Maryam. The Qur'an also teaches that Jesus had disciples, that he did many miracles including giving sight to the blind and raising the dead. The Qur'an says that the message of Jesus is called the gospel, or Injil in Arabic.

Christians believe that God's only plan of salvation is revealed exclusively in the Bible. The forgiveness of sins and life eternal is found only in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, since this is the greatest of all truths it will be the primary focus of this pamphlet.

Muslims who are presented this gospel by Christians recognize that Islam and the Qur'an denies these foundational truths of Christianity. Sincere Muslims looking for answers to this dilemma are pressured by their leaders that the Bible therefore must be corrupt. Unfortunately, if you think this through it suggests the possibility that the Qur'an could also be corrupt. If God could not protect the holy books that came before how do we know that the Qur'an has been preserved? Furthermore, if the Bible were corrupt when did this take place and exactly what parts are corrupt?

The Qur'an is clear that God gave the Jews and Christians revelations in the past that also existed during Muhammad's lifetime. As a matter of fact, rather than the Qur'an warning of the corruption of the "text" of these Holy books where the "text" itself has been altered and changed, we find just the opposite. The Qur'an consistently reveals that the Gospel, Torah, and the holy books that came before

have been kept from corruption and have been preserved and protected by God.

Surah 5:46 - "In their footsteps, We sent Jesus son of Mary, fulfilling the Torah that preceded him; and We gave him the Gospel, wherein is guidance and light, and confirming the Torah that preceded him, and guidance and counsel for the righteous." [**"guidance and light" are in the Gospel**]

Surah 5:47 "Let the people of the gospel judge by what Allah hath revealed therein, if any do fail to judge by (the light of) what Allah hath revealed, they are (no better than) those who rebel." [**how can you "judge" by what Allah has revealed if the revelations were corrupt?**]

Surah 5:68 - "Say, 'O Prophet, 'O People of the Book! You have nothing to stand on unless you observe the Torah, the Gospel, and what has been revealed to you from your Lord." [**you can "stand" on the words of the Torah and the Gospel**]

Surah 3:3,4 "He sent down to you the Book with the Truth, confirming what came before it; and He sent down the Torah and the Gospel. Aforetime, as guidance for mankind;..." [**Torah and Gospel confirms and is a guidance**]

Surah 18:27 "And recite what has been revealed to you of the book of your Lord. There is none who can change his words;..." [**the words of God cannot be changed**]

It is hard to imagine that for nearly 6 centuries before Mohammed Christians had been martyred for the belief that Jesus had been crucified on a cross and risen from the dead. Amazingly, Mohammed would reveal in the Qur'an that the crucifixion of Jesus never happened.

Jesus was NOT crucified

Surah 4:157 - "And for their saying, "We have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the Messenger of God." In fact, they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, but it appeared to them as if they did.... Certainly, they did not kill him."

God's unfolding plan of rescuing sinners through a suffering messiah, is the central theme of the Bible and is the only means whereby we can have forgiveness of sins and be reconciled to God. This plan of salvation would begin before creation in the mind of God and then progressively revealed in the scriptures through the prophets. The scriptures would describe this savior, the final prophet, priest, and king, who would be crucified and rise from the dead. 700 years before the birth of Jesus the prophet Isaiah would describe this suffering messiah who was to come:

"Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds

we are healed.... because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." Isaiah 53:4,5,12

On a number of occasions Jesus himself told his disciples that it was necessary that he be crucified and then rise from the dead:

"From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." Matthew 16:21

The main reason the disciples believed in the resurrection of Jesus is that they personally saw Him alive after He was crucified. Because of this great truth and its transforming power in their lives, many were willing to be martyred for this belief.

Jesus in NOT the Son of God

The unforgivable sin in Islam is associating anyone with God and his divine attributes. This is called "Shirk." This is equal with idolatry. Although Jesus is held in high regard as a great prophet and messenger of God, he is not in a UNIQUE sense the only begotten eternal son of God.

The Qur'an is clear that God does not have a son and that the three (trinity) is not true:

"The Messiah, Jesus the son of Mary, was but a messenger of AllahSo believe in Allah and His messengers. And do not say, "Three"; desist - it is better for you. Indeed, Allah is but one God. Exalted is He above having a son." Surah 4:171

Muslims think if Jesus is the son of God then therefore God must have a wife. In reality, Christians believe God has no wife and that Jesus is the eternal, uncreated son of God. He has always existed with the Father in a loving relationship in the person of the son.

The holy books of scripture declare this great truth numerous times. When Jesus asked His disciples who do you say that I am? Peter declared "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:16.

Jesus responds in verse 17 by pronouncing a blessing on Peter for his comment and then tells him this understanding was revealed to him by "my Father," indicating himself once again that He is the son of God.

When Jesus was baptized by John, God spoke from heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17

The Bible says to have eternal life you must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God: "...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the

Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” John 20:31

This Jesus is not only the eternal son of God but the God-Man. When he walked this earth He was God in the flesh.

Colossians 2:9 describes it like this: “For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.”

The trinity is NOT true and Jesus is NOT God

Muslims have determined that since the trinity doesn't make sense it therefore cannot be true. We should always be mindful that we are the creature and limited in our understanding and must trust what our infinite God has revealed about himself.

The Bible does not use the name trinity but this teaching is clearly taught in scripture and helps in our description and understanding of God. There is but one true God in essence, eternally existing in 3 persons. Not 3 gods in one god or 3 persons in one person, but 3 distinct persons in the one true God. Christianity is adamantly monotheistic. A tri-unity.

The three persons are the Father, the Son, and the third person the Holy Spirit.

We actually are introduced to all three members of this triune God at the same time at the baptism of Jesus. Jesus is being baptized. The Father speaks from heaven. The Holy Spirit comes like a dove descending upon Jesus.

“And immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon Him; and a voice came from the heavens: “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.” Mark 1:10,11

Though we speak of the three persons as one God there is a distinctiveness in their roles. The Father sends the son. The son sends the Holy Spirit. The person Jesus would be crucified not the Father. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin. There is perfect harmony and unity within the trinity.

Jesus is both man and God. John 1:1-2 says that Jesus “was in the beginning with God” and He is “God.” John further reveals that this Jesus is the creator. “All things were made by him and without him was not any thing made that was made.” John 1:2

Jesus disciple Thomas said to Jesus you “are my Lord and my God” in John 20:28. Jesus replied that those who would believe this are “blessed.” Jesus was worshipped on a number of occasions and forgave sin. Jesus is truly God.

The Qur'an denies that Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead in three days. The Qur'an denies that Jesus is the unique and only begotten Son of God. The Qur'an denies the trinity and that Jesus is God. And the greatest error of Islam, that...

Jesus is NOT the only way of salvation

Muslims believe that to be saved you must become a Muslim which begins by reciting the “Shahada” in Arabic. In English it is “there is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger.” Based upon this profession of faith stated verbally in Arabic and accompanied by your desire to follow God and and then doing good deeds God may forgive you or not.

Christians have a radically different view. We believe the true God has preserved and protected His Word in the Bible. These scriptures speak clearly that we are sinners by nature from birth and that we willfully practice sin. The Bible reveals that God is Holy and Just and sins committed against Him deserve the wrath of God and punishment in hell. Because God is just justice requires punishment.

But God in His love and grace provided one way of salvation through the person and work of Jesus. He would obey the law perfectly which we could never do. He would be punished for sinners by shedding his blood on the cross as a substitute for all that would believe in Him. And the greatest truth of all Jesus would rise from the dead. Mohammed is still in the grave but Jesus has risen. God's justice would be satisfied and He can now offer mercy and forgiveness to sinners. This precious forgiveness cannot be earned and only comes as a free gift by the grace of God through a repentant faith in Jesus.

Ephesians 2:8,9 tell of this gift of God:

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Jesus tells us plainly that He is the only way:

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

The most well known verse in the Bible sums up the Bible's message:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

If this tract has been a blessing to you or you have questions or comments, please email jerryben@cox.net or write:

Challenge
MINISTRIES

P.O. Box 20195
El Cajon, California 92021

