



Jesus

IN THE QURAN

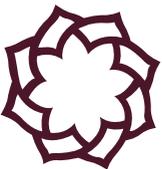
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Jesus

IN THE QURAN

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ISLAMIC OUTREACH
P R O J E C T

Published & Distributed by:
Islamic Outreach Project

First Print October 2017
2nd Edition Feb 2019
3rd Edition November 2019

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What does Holy Qur'an say about Jesus and Mary?

The Birth of Mary

Truly God chose Adam and Noah and the descendants of Abraham and of 'Imran above all mankind. - a people alike and the seed of one another. God; All-Hearing, All- Knowing.

[He also heard] when 'Imran's woman's said: "O Lord! Behold, unto You do I vow that the child in my womb is to be devoted (to Your exclusive service). Accept it, then, from me. Surely You alone are All-Hearing, All-Knowing." But when she gave birth to a female child, she said: "O Lord! I have given birth to a female"- and God knew full well what she had given birth to- "and a male is not the same as female. I have named her Mary, and commit her and her offspring to You for protection from Satan, the accursed."

Al- Qur'an 3: 33-36

The Childhood of Mary

"Thereupon her Lord graciously accepted Mary and vouchsafed to her goodly growth and placed her in the care of Zechariah. Whenever Zechariah visited her in the sanctuary, he found her provided with food. He asked her: "Mary, how did this come to you?" She said: "It is from

God. God provides sustenance to whom He wills beyond all reckoning.” *Al- Qur’an 3:37*

Mary, the Devout

Then came the time when the angels said: “O Mary! Behold, God has chosen you, and has made you, pure, and has exalted you above all the women in the world. O Mary! Remain devout to your Lord, and prostrate yourself in worship, and bow down with those who bow down (before him).”

[O Muhammad], We revealed to you this account from a realm which lies beyond the reach of your perception for you were not with them when they drew lots with their pens¹¹ about who should be Mary’s guardian, and you were not with them when they disputed about it.”

(Al-Qur’an 3:42-44)

Note: 7: Imran was the father of Moses and Aaron and has been mentioned in the Bible as Amran.

8: If “Imran’s women” is interpreted as the wife of Imran, this Imran must be different from the Imran just mentioned. He would rather be the father of Mary who was probably called ‘Imran. If this expression,

However, is interpreted to mean “a women of the house of ‘Imran,” it would mean that the mother of Mary belonged to the tribe of Imran.

The Good news of a new-born child

“And when the angels said: “O Mary! God gives you glad tidings of a command from Him, his name shall be Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary. He shall be highly honoured in this world and in the Next, and shall be one of those near stationed to God. And he shall speak to people in the cradle, and also later when he grows to maturity and shall indeed be among the righteous.” She said: “O my Lord! How shall I have a son when no man has ever touched me?” The angel answered: “Thus shall it be.¹² God creates whatever He wills. When He decides some thing, He merely says:“ Be, ”and it is. And God will teach him the Book, and wisdom, the Torah, and the Gospel, and he will be a Messenger to the Children of Israel.” [And when he came to them he said:] “I have come to you with sign from my Lord. I will make for you from clay the likeness of a bird and then I will breathe into it and by leave of God it will become a bird. I will also heal the blind and the leper, and by the leave of God I will bring dead to life. I will also inform you of what things you eat and what you treasure up in your houses. Surely this is a sign for you if you are true believers. And I have come to confirm the truth of whatever there still remains of the torah, and to make law full to you some of the things

which had been forbidden to you.¹³ I have come to you with a sign from your Lord; so be aware of God and obey me. Surely, God is my Lord and your Lord; so serve him alone. This is the straight way.” (*Al- Qur’an 3:45-51*)

Note: 12: Thus it was affirmed that a child would be born in a miraculous manner to Mary despite the fact that no man had touched her.

13: What Jesus wanted to impress upon them was that he would abolish prohibitive innovations which had infiltrated the original Divine Law [Shari ‘ah]. These innovations were the result of the superstitions of their ignorant commoners, the legal hair-splitting of their lawyers, and the exaggerations of their world-renouncing hermits. He also made it clear that in determining what is lawful and unlawful, he would be guided by the injunctions of God and not by the inventions of human beings.

[O Mohammad], recite in the book the account of Mary, when she withdrew from her people to a place toward east;⁴ and drew curtain, screening herself from people.⁵ Whereupon we sent to her Our spirit [i.e..Gabriel], and he appeared to her as a well-shaped man.

4: That is, in the eastern part Bayt al-Maqdis [Jerusalem]

5: That is, when she went into seclusion for the purposes of religious devotion.

Mary exclaimed: “I surely take refuge from you with the Most compassionate Lord, if you are at all god fearing.” He said: [the Gabriel] “I am just a message bearer of your Lord, I have come to grant you a most pure boy.”

Mary said: ‘‘How can a boy be born to me when no man has even touched me, nor have I ever been unchaste?’’ The angel said: ‘‘Thus shall it be.⁶: your Lord says, It is easy for Me; and We shall do so in order to make him a sign⁷ for mankind and a mercy from Us. And it is a matter [already] ordained.
(Al- Qur’an 19: 16-21)

Note 6: That is, you will bear a son though no man has touched you.

7: That is, We want this child to be a living miracle. Jesus is a sign of God’s power, where God showed people that, He could create Jesus without the need of a father, as He created Adam without any parents. Jesus is also a sign that, God is well able to resurrect all people after their death, since the one who creates from nothing is quite able to bring back to life.

The Immaculate Conception

‘‘And also recall the woman who guarded her chastity:¹⁴ [i.e., Mary], We breathed into her of Our spirit, and made her and her son a sign to the whole world.

(AL -Qur’an 21: 91)

Note: 14: This is allusion to Mary.

The Birth of Jesus

Then she conceived him, and she withdrew with him to a far-off place. Then the birth pangs drove her to the trunk of palm-tree. She said: ‘‘Oh, would that I had died before this and had been all forgotten.⁸’’ [*At this stage Mary was worried that people will think badly of her as she was not married.*] Thereupon the angel below her cried out: ‘‘Grieve not, for your Lord has caused a stream of water to flow beneath you. Shake the trunk of the palm- tree towards your self and fresh and ripe dates shall fall upon you. So eat and drink and cool your eyes; and if you see any person say to him: ‘Verily I have vowed a fast to most Compassionate Lord, so I shall not speak to anyone today. Then she came to her people, carrying her boy. They said: ‘‘O Mary! you have committed a monstrous thing. O sister of Aaron,⁹ your father was not a evil man, nor was your mother unchaste woman.’’ There upon Mary pointed to the child. [Jesus] They exclaimed: ‘‘How can we speak to one who is in the cradle a mere child?’’ The child cried out: ‘‘Verily I am Godservant.¹⁰ He has granted me the Book and has made me a prophet and has blessed me wherever I might be and has enjoined upon me prayer and *Zakah* [charity] as long as I live; and has made me Dutiful towards my mother.¹¹ He has not made me oppressive,

nor bereft of God's blessing. Peace be upon me the day I was born, and the day I will die, and the day I will be raised alive." 12

(Al- Qur'an 19:22-33)

8: if one remembers the gravity of the situation, it is easy to grasp that, she did not utter these words because of intense labour pains. Rather what tormented her was the awkward situation in which she found herself, and she did not know how she was going to come out of it. That is why she left her mother and other family members during her pregnancy to live alone at a distant location.

9: In accordance with Arabic Idiom, it may be taken to mean that she was a member of Aaron's house. For according to the known Arabic linguistic tradition, a person is referred to as the brother of the tribe to which he belongs. What enraged the public was that the apparently scandalous incident involved a girl who belongs to the most highly pious Israelite family- the house of Aaron.

10: This was the sign referred to in verse 21 above. The new-born baby began to speak while yet in cradle which made it manifest that he was not the result of any sin but a miracle by the God.

11: It is significant here that Jesus is not mentioned as one who is dutiful to his parents, but rather as one who is only dutiful to his mother. This in itself suggests that he did not have a father. An evidence which further corroborates this is that Jesus is invariably referred to in Qur'an as "Jesus, son of Mary."

12: The sign referred to above [see verse 21 above] is the person of the prophet Jesus [peace be on him] who was presented as a miracle before the Israelites. Thereafter, when that same child had attained maturity and claimed to be a prophet, those people not only refused to recognize him as a prophet but turned into his sworn enemies and did not hesitate to accuse his venerable mother of adultery. Then God inflicted upon them a punishment more severe than that suffered by any other people.

Surely, in the sight of God the similitude of the creation of Jesus is as the creation of Adam whom He created out of dust, and then He said “Be,” and he was.¹⁷ (*Al- Quran 3: 59*)

Note 17: This means that if Jesus’ miraculous birth is sufficient proof that he should be regarded either as God or the son of God then there are even stronger grounds to apply this to Adam. For, while Jesus was born without a father, Adam was born without any father and mother.

And We made Mary’s son and his mother, a sign, and We gave them a refuge on a lofty ground, a peaceful site with springs flowing in it. (*Al- Qur’an 23:50*)

The Excellence of Mary

God has set forth for the believers the parable of Pharaoh’s wife. She prayed: ‘My Lord, build for me a house with you in paradise and deliver me from pharaoh and his misdeeds; and deliver me from the iniquitous people.’ God has also set forth the parable of Mary, the daughter of Imran,¹¹ Who guarded her chastity,¹² and into whom We breathed of Our spirit,¹³ and who testified to the words of her Lord and His Books. And She was among the obedient.¹⁴ (*Al- Qur’an 66: 11-12*)

Note 11: It is possible that the name of Mary's father was Imran, or that she was called 'daughter of Imran' because she belonged to Imran's family.

12: This refutes the Jews' allegation that Jesus' birth was, God forbid, the result of a sin committed by his mother. The Qur'an refutes this charge and calls it 'a monstrous calumny'. [see also Al-Qur'an 4: 156

13: That is, Mary conceived Jesus without there having been any physical contact between her and any male. It took place simply because God breathed into her womb a spirit from himself.

14: Mary's case is mentioned here to emphasise a point; although God tested her by causing her to become miraculously pregnant, despite her virginity, she still exercised great patience and willingly submitted to God's will.

Jesus the Prophet

Say: 'We believe in God and in what has been revealed to us and to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the descendant [of Jacob] and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and in what was the other prophets received from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are those who submit to God (*Al- Qur'an 2: 136*) [O Muhammad], We revealed to you as We to Noah and the prophets after him. And We revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the offspring of Jacob, and Jesus, and Job, and Jonah, and Aaron and Solomon, and We gave to David Psalms. (*Al- Qur'an 4:163*)

The Messiah, son of Mary, was not more than a messenger, before whom many messengers have passed away; and his mother adhered wholly to truthfulness, and they both eat food [as other mortals do]. See how We make our signs clear to them; and see where they are turning away!⁴⁴ (*Al- Qur'an 5: 75*)

Note 44: In these few words the Christian doctrine of the divinity of Jesus Christ is repudiated. The true nature of the Messiah is clear from the indication given here; he was merely a human being, he was one born from the womb of a woman, who had known genealogy, who possessed a physical body, who was subject to all the limitations of a human being and had all the attributes characteristic of human beings. Jesus slept, ate, felt the discomfort of heat and cold and so human that he was even tested by Satan. How could any reasonable person believe that such a being was either God or a Partner or associate of God.

‘‘He [Jesus] was no more than a servant [of Ours,] one upon whom We bestowed Our favour and whom We made an example [of Our infinite power] for the children of Israel. *Al- Qur'an 43: 59*

The Message of Jesus

‘‘And We sent Jesus, the son of Mary, after those prophets, confirming the truth of whatever there still remained of the Torah. And We gave him the Gospel, wherein is guidance and light, and which confirms the

truth of whatever there still remained of the Torah, and guidance and admonition of the God conscious.

Al- Quran 5: 46

“People of the Book! Do not exceed the limits in your religion,⁹⁷ and do not attribute to God anything except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was only a messenger of God and his command that He conveyed unto Mary,⁹⁸ and a spirit from Him,⁹⁹ [which led to Mary’s conception]. So believe in God and in His Messengers and do not say: “[God is a] trinity.”¹⁰⁰ Give up this assertion; it would be better for you. God is indeed just One God. Far be it from His glory that He should have a son. ¹⁰¹ To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and in the earth. God is sufficient for Guardian. Neither did the Messiah disdain to be a servant of God nor do the angels who are near- stationed to Him; and whoever disdains to serve Him, and waxes arrogant, God will certainly muster them all to Himself. *Al- Qur’an 4: 171-172*

Note: 97; The expression “people of the book” refers here to the Christians and the word ghuluw denotes the tendency to exceed the limits of propriety in supporting one doctrine or another. While the fault of the Jews was that they had exceeded the limits of propriety in rejecting and opposing Jesus, the mistake of the Christians was that they had gone beyond the proper limits in their love for and devotion to Jesus and held him to be son of God, nay God himself.

98: What is meant by sending the “command” to Mary is that God ordered Mary’s womb to become impregnated without coming into contact with the

human seed. In the beginning the Christians were told that this was the secret of the fatherless birth of Jesus. Later on, under the misleading influence of Greek philosophy, they equated this with the Logos, which was subsequently interpreted as the divine attribute of speech. The next step in this connection was the development of the notion that this Divine attribute entered into the womb of Mary and assumed the physical form of Jesus. Thus there developed among the Christians the false doctrine of the Godhead of Jesus, and the false notion that out of His attributes, God had caused His attribute of speech to appear in the form of Jesus.

99: Here Jesus himself is called ‘‘a spirit from God’’. The same idea is also expressed elsewhere in the Qur’an: ‘‘And We supported him with the spirit of holiness’’ [Surah al- Baqarah 2:87]. The import of both verses is that God endowed Jesus with pure, impeccable soul. He was therefore, embodiment of truth, veracity, righteousness, and excellence. This is what the Christians had been told about Christ. But they exceeded the proper limits of veneration for Jesus, the ‘‘spirit from the God’’ became the ‘‘spirit of God’’, and the spirit of holiness’’ was interpreted to mean God’s own spirit which became incarnate in Jesus. Thus, along with God and Jesus, there also developed the third person of God- the Holy Ghost.

100: It is urged that the Trinitarian doctrine, whatever its forms, should be abandoned. The fact is that Christians subscribe simultaneously to the unity and the trinity of God. The statements of Jesus on this question in the Gospels, however, are so categorical that no Christian can easily justify anything but the clear, straightforward doctrine that God is One and that there is no god but He. The Christians, therefore, find it impossible to deny that monotheism is the very core of true religion. But the original confusion that in Jesus the Word of God became flesh, that the spirit of God was incarnate in him, led them to believe in the Godhead of Jesus and of the Holy Ghost along with that of God [the father]. This gratuitous assumption gave rise to an insoluble riddle: how to combine monotheism with the notion of trinity.

101: This is the refutation of the fourth extravagance in which the Christians have indulged. Even if the reports embodied in the New Testament are considered authentic, the most that can be inferred from them, [particularly those embodied

in the first three Gospels], is that Jesus likened the relationship between God and His servants to that between father and his children, and that he used to employ the term “father” for God. The Old Testament is full of examples of this usage. Jesus obviously employed this expression in conformity with the literary usage of his people. Moreover, he characterized God not merely as his own father but as the father of all human beings. Nevertheless, the Christians exceeded all reasonable limits when they declared Jesus to be the only begotten son of God.

“That is Jesus, the son of Mary; and this is the truth about him concerning which they are in doubt. It is not befit God to take for himself a son. Glory be to Him! When He decrees a thing He only says: “Be” and it is.¹¹ [Jesus had said]: “Indeed, God is my Lord and your Lord, so serve him. This is the straight way. But different parties began to dispute with one another. A dreadful woe awaits on that great Day for those that reject the truth.

Al- Qur’an 19: 34- 37

Note: 11: This is yet another argument to show that the Christian belief in Jesus being God’s son is false. A miraculous birth by itself is no reason for the child to be considered God’s son.

“ When Jesus came with Clear Signs and said: “I have brought wisdom to you that I may make plain to you some of the things you differ about. So fear God and follow me. God is my Lord and your Lord; therefore, serve Him. That is the straight way.”¹² Then the factions fell apart among themselves.¹³ so woe to the wrong-doers from the chastisement of a grievous day.

Al- Qur’an 43: 63-65

Note: 12: Regardless of what the Christians might have said or done, Jesus did not lay claim to be God or the son of God, nor did he ask anyone to worship him. On the contrary, he called people exactly to what the previous prophets had called to and to which the prophet Muhammed [peace be on him] was calling, viz. To exclusively serve and worship the One true God.

13: People went to extremes both in supporting and opposing Jesus [peace be on him]. Those who opposed him went so far as to blaspheme him, branding him illegitimate. At the other end of the spectrum were those who exaggerated Jesus' status and exalted him to the point of deifying him. But then the question of how a human being could also be God became extremely complicated. The result was that all subsequent efforts to solve the problem have proved futile and all attempts to resolve the issue gave rise to a number of schisms and sects.

“And call to mind when Jesus, the son of Mary, said: ‘O Children of Israel, I am God’s messenger to you,⁴ I verify the Torah which has come before me, and I give you the glad tidings of a messenger who shall come after me, his name being Ahmad.’⁵ Yet when he came to them with Clear Signs, they said: ‘This is sheer trickery.’⁶”

Al- Qur’an 61: 6

Note: 4: This refers to the second instance of Israel’s disobedience. The first instance belongs to the early period of their glory, whereas the second belongs to a time that marks the end of that period where after they were overtaken by God’s enduring scourge. The main purpose of narrating these instances is to warn the Muslims against the dire consequences of behaving in the manner the Israelites had behaved.

5: This refers to an unambiguous prediction by Jesus [peace be on him] regarding the coming of prophet Muhammed [peace be on him].

6: The actual word used is *sahr* which signifies, in the present context, trickery and fraud rather than magic or sorcery. It may be noted that in Arabic literary usage

the meaning of the word Sihr is not confined to magic. The use of this word in the sense of deceit is also well- established. The verse, therefore, means that when the prophet Muhammed [peace be on him], whose coming had been foretold by Jesus, did indeed come, his claim to prophet hood was denounced as sheer fraud and deception by the Israelites and the followers of the prophet Jesus [peace be on him].

The Miracles of Jesus (pbuh)

“There upon Mary pointed to the child. [i.e.,Jesus] They exclaimed: ‘How can we speak to one who is in the cradle a mere child?’” The child [i.e.,Jesus] cried out. Verily I am God’s servant.¹⁰ He has granted me the Book and has made me a prophet. And has blessed me wherever I might be and has enjoined upon me prayer and zakah [charity] as long as I live; and has made me dutiful to my mother.¹¹ He has not made me oppressive, nor bereft of God’s blessings. Peace be upon me the day I was borne and the day I will die, and the day I will be raised up alive.”¹²

Al- Quran 19: 29-33

Note: 10: This was the sign referred to in verse 21 above. The new borne baby began to speak while yet in the cradle which made it manifest that he was not the result of any sin but a miracle wrought by God. Surah Al Imran 3: 46 and surah Alma’ idah 5: 110 also mentioned Jesus as uttering these words as a new-born baby in his cradle.

11: It is significant here that Jesus is mentioned here as one who is dutiful to his parents, but rather as one who is only dutiful to his mother. This it self suggests

that he did not have a father. An evidence which further corroborates this is that Jesus is invariably referred to in the Qur'an "Jesus son of Mary".

12: The "Sign" referred to above [see verse 21 above] is the person of the prophet Jesus [peace be on him] who was presented as a miracle before the Israelites. Thereafter, when that same child had attained maturity and claimed to be a prophet, those people not only refused to recognize him as prophet but turned into his sworn enemies and did not hesitate to accuse his venerable mother of adultery. Then God inflicted upon them a punishment more severe than that suffered by any other people.

The Table Spread [of food] from Heaven by God's permission

"Also recall ⁵⁶ when the disciples asked: "Jesus, son of Mary, has your Lord the power to send down to us a repast from the heaven?" thereupon Jesus said: "Fear God if you do indeed have a faith." They said: " We desire to partake of it that our hearts be satisfied and we know that you did speak the truth to us, and that we are its witnesses." Jesus, son of Mary, then prayed: "O God our Lord, send down to us a repast from the heavens that shall be a festival for the first of us and for the last of us and a Sign from You. And provide us with sustenance for You are the Best Provider of sustenance." God said: "I shall indeed send it down to you; then I shall afflict whoever among

you disbelieves with a chastisement wherewith I will afflict none [else] in the world. *Al- Qur'an 5: 112-115.*

Note: 56: Since the disciples have been mentioned here, the continuity of the subject is interrupted for a moment in order to introduce another incident connected with the disciples. This clearly shows that Jesus' s direct disciples considered him merely a human being and a servant of God; they did not entertain any notion that their master was either God or God's partner or son. Jesus, too, had presented himself to them as servant of God and made no claim to having Divine status or authority.

Jesus and His Disciples

“And recall when I revealed to the disciples, believe in Me and in My Messenger, they said: “We do believe, and we bear witness that indeed we are the ones who submit to God”
Al- Qur'an 5: 111

Believers, become God's helper, as Jesus, son of Mary, said to the disciples: “Who is my helper in [calling people] to God” The disciples had responded by saying: “We are God's helpers.” Then a section of the children of Israel believed and a section rejected the call. Thereafter we aided the believers against their enemies, and they prevailed.¹⁰ *Al- Qur'an 61: 14*

Note: 10: Those who did not believe in Jesus were the Jews. As for those who believe in him, they are Christians as well as Muslims. God first made the Christians prevail against the Jews, and later that Muslims too prevailed against

them. Thus, those who disbelieved in Jesus [peace be on him] were overcome by both Christian and Muslims.

“In their wake, We sent a succession of Our Messengers, and raised Jesus, son of Mary, after all of them, and bestowed upon him Evangel, and We set tenderness and mercy in the hearts of those that followed him. As for monasticism,¹⁸ it is they who invented it; We did not prescribe it for them. They themselves invented it in pursuit of God’s good pleasure, and then they did not observe it as it ought to have been observed. So We gave their reward to those of them that believed. But many of them are wicked. Believers! have fear of God and believe in His Messenger, and He will grant you a two-fold portion of His Mercy, and will appoint for you a light whereby you shall walk; and He will forgive you. God is Most Forgiving, Most Compassionate. [you should do this] so that the people of the Book know that they have no control over God’s bounty, and that all bounty is in God’s hand; He bestows it on whomsoever He pleases. God is the Lord of abounding bounty. *Al- Qur’an 57: 27-29*

Note: 18: Rahbaniyah [monasticism] signifies world-renunciation, withdrawal from the affairs of mundane life, and retreat to mountains and forests or to life of seclusion and solitude.

The Passion of Christ

“And when Jesus perceived their leaning towards unbelief, he asked: ‘Who will be my helper in the way of the disciple¹⁴ said ‘‘We are the helpers in the way of God¹⁵ We believe in God and be our witness that we have submitted ourselves exclusively to God. Our Lord! We believe in the commandment You have revealed and we obey the Messenger; make us, then, one of those who bear witness [to the truth].’’ Then they schemed [against the Messiah], and God countered their schemes by schemes of His own. God is the best of schemers. [And it was part of His scheme] when God said. ‘‘O Jesus! I will recall you¹⁶ and raise you up to Me and will purify you [of the company] of those who disbelieve, and will set your followers above the unbelievers till the day of resurrection. Then to Me shall all of you return, and I shall judge between you regarding whatever you differed among yourselves. *Al-Qur’an 3: 52- 55*

Note: 14: The word Hawari means approximately the same as the word ansar in the Islamic tradition i.e. helpers and supports.

15: That is, they are his allies in the cause of directing people to the path of God.

16: The expression used is mutaffika. The original meaning of tawaffa is to take and receive. To ‘‘seize a person’s soul constitutes the figurative rather than the literal meaning of the word.

“And their saying: ‘‘We slew the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary,’’ the Messenger of God⁹¹ -whereas in fact they had neither slain him nor crucified him but matter was made dubious to them⁹²- and those who differed about it too were in state of doubt. They have no definite knowledge of it, but merely follow conjecture; and they surely slew him not, but God raised him to himself. God is All-Mighty, All-Wise. *Al- Qur’an 4: 157- 158*

Note: 91: Their criminal boldness reached such proportion that they even attempted to put an end to the life of the person whom they themselves knew to be a prophet, and subsequently went around boasting of this achievement . Were we to refer to Surah Maryam 19: 16-40, along with the relevant notes, it will be clear that the Jews recognised Jesus to be a Prophet. Despite this, they carried out the crucifixion of someone who, in their belief, was none other than Jesus.

92: This verse categorically states that Jesus was raised on high before he could be crucified, and that the belief of both Jews and the Christians that Jesus died on the cross is based on a misconception. Before the Jews could crucify him, God raised Jesus up to the heavens. The person whom the Jews subsequently crucified was someone else rather than Jesus, someone who for one reason or another was mistaken as Jesus.

The Followers of Jesus

“Tell whoever disputes with you on this matter after true knowledge has come to you: ‘Come, let us summon our sons and your sons, and our women and your women, and ourselves and yourselves, then let us pray together and invoke the curse of God on those who lie.’ This is the true story. There is no God but Allah[God], and assuredly Allah [God] is All-Might, All-Wise. And if they turn their backs, truly God knows those who cause mischief. Say: ‘People of the Book! Come to a word common between us and you: that we shall serve none but God and shall associate none with Him in His Divinity and that some of us will not take others as lords other than God.’ And if they turn away [from accepting this call], tell them: ‘Bear witness that we are the ones who have submitted ourselves exclusively to God.’ *Al- Qur’an 3: 61- 64*

“Indeed those who said: ‘Christ, the son of Mary, he indeed is God,’ were guilty of unbelief. Say, [O Muhammad]: ‘Who could have overruled God had He so willed to destroy Christ, the son of Mary, and his mother, and all those who are on earth?’ For to God belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth and all that is in between them; He creates what He wills.²⁰ **God is All- Powerful.** The Jews and the Christians say: ‘We are

God's children and His beloved ones." Ask them: "Why, then, does He chastise you for your sins?" You are the same as other human beings He has created. He forgives whom He wills and chastises whom He wills. And to God belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them. To Him is the eventual return. *Al-Quran 5: 17-18*

Note: 20: That is, why had started believing that Jesus was God just because he was conceived without a father, although God creates whomsoever He wills in the manner He pleases. Divinity cannot be claimed for anyone simply because God has created him in an extraordinary way.

"And surely they disbelieved when they said: "Christ, the son of Mary, is indeed God"; whereas Christ, had said: "Children of Israel! Serve God Who is your Lord and my Lord." God had forbidden Paradise to those who associate anything with Him in His Divinity and their refuge shall be the fire. No one will be able to help such wrong-doers. Those who said: "God is one of the three," certainly they disbelieved, for there is no God save the one God. And if they do not give up this claim, all who have disbelieved among them shall be subjected to painful chastisement. Will they not, then, turn to God in repentance, and ask for His forgiveness? God is All-Forgiving, All Compassionate.

Al- Qur'an 5: 72-74

“The Jews say: ‘Ezra [Uzayr] is God’s son,” and the Christians say: ‘The Messiah is the son of God.’ These are merely verbal assertions in imitation of the sayings of those unbelievers who preached them. May God ruin them. How do they turn away from the Truth? They take their rabbis and their monks for their lords apart from God,¹⁵ and also the Messiah, son of Mary, whereas they were commanded to worship none but the One True God. There is no god but He. Exalted be He above those whom they associate with Him in Divinity. *Al- Qur’an 9: 30- 31*

Note: 15 As reported in tradition, ‘Adi b. Hatim, a Christian convert to Islam once requested the Prophet [peace be on him] to explain the following Qur’anic statement: ‘They [i.e. the Jews and the Christians] take their priests and monks as lords apart from God. ‘In reply the Prophet [peace be on him] asked him: ‘Is it not so that you consider unlawful whatever your priests declare to be unlawful, and consider lawful whatever your priests declare to be lawful?’ Adi confirmed that such was the practice of the Jews and the Christians. Thereupon the Prophet [peace be on him] told him that doing so amounted to ‘taking them as lords apart from God’. This means, according to the Qur’an that those who declare things to be lawful or unlawful without any sanction in the Book of God, in fact place themselves in the position of God. Similarly, those who accept the right of such persons to make laws according to their will also take them as their lords.

“Believers! Many of the rabbis and monks wrongfully devour mankind’s possessions and hinder people from the way of God. And there are those who amass gold and

silver and do not spend it in the way of God. Announce to them the tidings of painful chastisement. *Al- Qur'an 9: 34*

The Second Coming

“There are none among the people of the Book but will believe in him before his death,⁹³ and he will be a witness against them on the day of resurrection. *Al-Qur'an 4: 159*

Note: 93: The text lends itself to two meanings. We have adapted the first in our translation. If we accept the alternative meanings, the verse would mean: “There is no one among the people of the Book who, before his death, will not believe in Jesus.”

“Verily he [i.e., Jesus] is a portent of the hour. So be in no doubt concerning it,¹¹ and follow Me. This is the straight way. *Al- Qur'an 43: 61*

Note: 11: This can also be translated as follow: “He is a means to the knowledge of the resurrection.” Here a question arises: In what sense has Jesus Christ been called a sign or means of knowledge of the resurrection? Many Qur'anic commentators say that this refers to the second coming of the Prophet Jesus which has been foretold in a large number of traditions, but this meaning is contradicted by the very next verse. For Jesus' second coming can be means of knowledge of resurrection only for those who are alive at that time or are born thereafter. So how can we be regarded as a means of knowledge for the Makkan unbelievers who are being asked not to have any doubt about it? Therefore, in our opinion, the true meanings of the verse is the one given by some other Qur'anic commentators, according to whom the Prophet Jesus' fatherless conception and his making a bird out of clay and his raising the dead back to life are presented as proof of the possibility of resurrection. So God's directive here

would mean this: “Why do you think it is impossible for God to raise you and all mankind from death, when He can create a child without a father and if His servant can breathe life into a clay image and raise the dead back to life.

Jesus on the Day of Resurrection

“Imagine, then, when God will say: Jesus, son of Mary, recall My favour upon you and your mother, and when I strengthened you with the spirit of holiness so that you talked to people in the cradle and also when you became of age; and when I taught you the Book and wisdom, and the Torah and the Gospel; and when, by My leave, you fashioned from clay the likeness of a bird and you breathed into it, and by My leave it became a bird, and you healed, by My leave, the blind by birth and the leprous; and when, by My leave, you caused the dead to come to life.⁵⁵ And recall when I restrained the Israelite from you when you came to them with clear proofs whereupon those of them who disbelieved said: “This is nothing but plain magic.” *Al- Qur’an 5: 110*

Note: 55: That is, with God’s command Jesus restored people to life from the state of death.

for gods beside God?', 57 and he will answer: ' Glory be to You! It was not for me to say what I had no right to. Had I said so, You would surely have known it. You know all what is within my mind whereas I do not know what is within Yours. You, indeed You, fully know all that is beyond the reach of perception. I said to them nothing except what You commanded me, that is: 'Serve God my Lord and your Lord. I watched over them as long as I remained among them; and when You did recall me, then You Yourself became the watcher over them. Indeed, You are witness over everything. If You chastise them, they are Your servants; and if You forgive them, You are the All- Mighty, the All-Wise,' Thereupon God will say: 'This day truthfulness shall profit the truthful. For them are Gardens beneath which rivers flow. There they will abide for ever. God is well pleased with them, and they well-pleased with God. That indeed is the mighty triumph.' To God belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth and all that is in them and He has full power over every thing.

Al- Qur'an 5:116-120

Note: 57 The Christians were not content merely with defying Jesus and the Holy spirit. They even turned Mary, the mother of Jesus, into a full-fledged object of worship. The Bible does not contain even the remotest suggestion that Mary was in any way either divine or superhuman. During the first three centuries after the Messiah, such a concept was totally alien to Christian thinking. Towards the end of the third century of the Christian era, however, some theologians of Alexandria

employed, for the first time, the expression ‘‘Mother of God’’ in connection with Mary. Subsequently, belief in Mary’s Divinity and practice of Mariolatry spread among Christians.

*Based On English translation and the notes used from
Toward understanding the Qur’an*

Abridged version of Tafhim al- Qur’an

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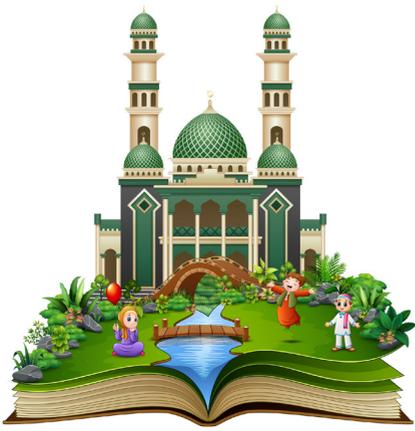
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