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JEDDAH DAWAH CENTER



ISLAMIC VIEW OF JESUS (PEACE BE UPON HIM)

نظرة الإسلام للمسيح
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ISLAMIC VIEW OF JESUS

The Islamic view of Jesus lies between two extremes. The Jews, who rejected Jesus as a prophet of God, called him an impostor and the modern day Christians who consider him to be the Son of God and worship him as if he is the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth. Islam considers Jesus to be one of the great prophets of God. Muslims hold Jesus in very high esteem, as well as all of the prophets of God, including Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Muhammad to name a few. This is in conformity with the Islamic view of the oneness of God, the oneness of divine guidance, and the complementary role of the subsequent mission of God's messengers.

The essence of Islam - willful submission to the will of God - was revealed to Adam, who passed it on to his children. All following revelations to Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and finally Muhammad were in conformity with that message, comprising/including some elaboration to define the relationships between man and God, man and man, and man and his environment. Thus, any contradictions among revealed religions are viewed by Islam as a man-made element introduced into these religions. The position of Jesus in Judaism and Christianity is an example of this.

Non-Muslims may be surprised to find that Jesus is mentioned in several verses of the Qur'aan. The Qur'aan highlights the important aspects of Jesus' birth, his mission, and his ascension to heaven. It, likewise, passes judgments on the Christian beliefs concerning him.

GRANDMOTHER OF JESUS

The Qur'anic account of Jesus actually starts with the story of his grandmother, the wife of Imran:

“When the wife of Imran said: ‘O My Lord, I have vowed to You what is in my womb to be dedicated for You, so accept this from me. Verily, You are the All-Hearer, the All-Knowing. Then when she delivered her (child Mary),’ she said: “O My Lord! I have delivered a female child, -- and Allaah knew better what she delivered, -- “And the male is not like the female, and I have named her Mary, and I seek refuge with You for her and for her offspring from Satan, the outcast. So her Lord accepted her with goodly acceptance...”

(Qur'aan 3: 35-37)

MARY AND THE ANGEL

When Mary became a woman, the Angel Gabriel appeared to her as a man, bringing her the news of a son. We read the following dialogue in the Qur'aan between Mary and the angel:

She placed a screen (to screen herself) from them; then We sent to her Our Ruh [angel Jibrael (Gabriel)], and he appeared before her in the form of a man in all respects. She said: "Verily! I seek refuge with the Most Beneficent (Allâh) from you, if you do fear Allâh." (The angel) said: "I am only a Messenger from your Lord, (to announce) to you the gift of a righteous son." She said: "How can I have a son, when no man has touched me, nor am I unchaste?" He said: "So (it will be), your Lord said: 'That is easy for Me (Allâh): And (We wish) to appoint him as a sign to mankind and a mercy from Us (Allâh), and it is a matter (already) decreed, (by Allâh).'" (Qur'aan 19:17-21)

MARY GIVES BIRTH

There is a chapter in the Qur'aan named after Mary, Surah Maryam. In this chapter Allaah tells us how Mary gave birth to her son and how the Jews accused her when she brought the child home:

"Then she brought him (the baby) to her people, carrying him. They said, 'O Mary! You have surely done an unprecedented thing. O sister of Aaron, your father was neither man of evil, nor was your mother an unchaste woman 'But she pointed to the child. They said, 'How shall we talk to one who is a child in the cradle? 'He said, 'I am indeed a slave of Allaah. He has given me revelation and made me a prophet. And He has made me blessed where ever I maybe, and He has enjoined on me prayer and the giving of due to the poor as long as I live. And (He has made me) dutiful to my mother, and He has not made me a wretched tyrant. And peace is on me the day I was born and the day I will die and the day I am raised alive (day of judgment).'" (Qur'aan 19: 27-34), this is one of the miracles of Jesus, he spoke as a baby in the cradle.

IS JESUS THE SON OF GOD?

One of the main differences that have arisen between Christianity and Islam is the status of Jesus as the Son of God. From the above verses it is clear that Muslims and Christians are in agreement about the miraculous Virgin Birth of Jesus. However, does a man being born from a virgin really mean that he is the begotten son of the Creator? Jesus is not the first man to be created without a father. God says in the Qur'aan: "Truly the likeness of Jesus in Allaah's sight is the likeness of Adam. He created him of dust, then (He) said to him, "Be!" and he was. (This is) the truth from your Lord, so be not of those who doubt." (Qur'aan 3:59-60)

So in God's view, the Creation of Jesus is no different than the Creation of Adam. When God wants to create something, He only says "Be!" Muslims could easily argue that Adam has more right to be called the

Son of God than Jesus, being that God created Adam with no mother or father! Also, God created Eve, the first woman with no mother. God created Jesus with no father, and God created you and me with a mother and a father. God can create anyway He pleases. God asks a question:

“Are you more difficult to create or is the heaven (above) that He (Allaah) constructed? On high He has its canopy raised, and He hath given it order and perfection.” (Qur’aan 79: 27-28)

In this modern age we have space telescopes that can see farther than ever imagined. The size and the perfection of the universe is difficult for the human mind to comprehend. God answers the question in another verse:

“The creation of the heavens and the earth is indeed greater than the creation of mankind, yet most of mankind know not.” (Qur’aan 40: 57)

Think about the creation of the heavens and the earth: all those billions and billions of stars; the perfection of them is truly amazing to anyone who looks up on a clear night. We can see that the creation of one man, without a mother, without a father, or with a mother and a father is a simple matter for the One who created the heavens and the earth!

IS HAVING A SON BEFITTING OF GOD?

The rejection of the very idea of God having a son is stated clearly strongly in the Qur’aan: **They say: “The Most Gracious has betaken a son!”** Indeed ye have put forth a most monstrous thing! As if the skies are about to burst, the earth to split asunder, and the mountains to fall down in utter ruin that they attributed a son to the Most Gracious. For it is not consonant with the Majesty of The Most Gracious that He should beget a son. There is not even one of the beings in the Heavens and the Earth except that he must come to The Most Gracious as a slave.” (Qur’aan 19:88-93)

God says in another verse:

“Such is Jesus, son of Mary (it is) a statement of truth about which they doubt (or dispute). It befits not (the Majesty of) Allaah that He should beget a son. Glory be to Him. When He decrees a thing, He only says to it. ‘Be’, and it is.” (Qur’aan 19: 34-35)

THE CONCEPT OF THE TRINITY

The Qur’aan rejects the concept of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit as strongly as it rejects the concept of Jesus as the son of God. This is because GOD IS ONE. Three cannot be one.

God revealed: "They disbelieve who say: Allaah is one of three (in a trinity) for there is no god except One God..." (Qur'aan 5:73)

In another chapter: "Say: He is Allaah, the One. Allaah, the Eternal, Absolute. He begets not, nor is He begotten. And there is none equivalent to Him." (Qur'aan 112:1-4)

Also: "And your God is One God. There is no god but He, Most Gracious, Most Merciful." (Qur'aan 2:163)

WHO IS JESUS?

God has stated clearly in the Qur'aan, who exactly Jesus is: "O People of the scripture do not commit excess in your religion or say about Allaah except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, was but a messenger of Allaah and His word which He directed to Mary and a soul (created at a command) from Him. So believe in Allaah and His messengers. And do not say, "Three"; Desist! It is better for you. Indeed, Allaah is one God. Exalted is He above having a son. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. And sufficient is Allaah as Disposer of affairs." (Qur'aan 4: 171)

In yet another verse: "The Messiah, son of Mary, was not but a messenger; (other) messengers have passed on before him. And his mother was a supporter of truth. They both used to eat food. Look how we make clear to them the signs; then look how they are deluded. Say, "Do you worship besides Allaah that which holds for you no (power of) harm or benefit while it is Allaah who is the Hearing, the Knowing?" (Qur'aan 5: 75-76)

JESUS ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

The denial of Jesus' divinity (and, for that matter, of Mary's divinity) is presented in the Qur'aan in the form of a dialogue between the Almighty and Jesus which will take place on the Day of Judgment. All the messengers and their nations will be gathered before God and He will ask the messengers how they were received by their people and what they said to them. Among those who will be questioned is Jesus: "And (beware the Day) when Allaah will say, "O Jesus, Son of Mary, did you say to the people, 'Take me and my mother as deities besides Allaah?' He will say, "Exalted are You! It was not for me to say that to which I have no right. If I had said it, You would have known it. You know what is within my self, and I do not know what is within Your self. Indeed, it is you who is Knower of the unseen. I said not to them except what You commanded me - to worship Allaah, my Lord and your Lord. And I was a witness over them as long as I was among them; but when you took me up, You were the Observer over them, and You are,

over all things, Witness. If You should punish them - indeed they are Your slaves; but if You forgive them - indeed it is You who is the Exalted in Might, the Wise.”

(Qur'aan 5:116-118)

REAL MISSION OF JESUS

What, according to the Qur'aan, was the real mission of Jesus? The answer is that Jesus was a link in a long chain of prophets and messengers sent by God to various nations and societies whenever they needed guidance or deviated from His teachings. Jesus was especially prepared by God to be sent to the Jews, who had deviated from the teachings of Moses and other messengers. As he was miraculously supported by God in his conception, birth, and childhood, he was also supported through numerous miracles to prove that he was a messenger from God. The Qur'aan attributes to Jesus miracles not mentioned in the Bible. However, the majority of the Jews rejected his ministry.

“And (make Jesus) a messenger to the Children of Israel, (who will say). ‘Indeed I have come to you with a sign from your Lord in that I design for you from clay (that which is) like the form of a bird, then I breathe into it and it becomes a bird by permission of Allaah. And I cure the blind (from birth) and the leper, and I give life to the dead - by permission of Allaah. And I inform you of what you eat and what you store in your houses. Indeed in that is a sign for you, if you are believers. And (I have come) confirming what was before me of the Torah and to make lawful for you some of what was forbidden to you. And I have come to you with a sign from your Lord, so fear Allaah and obey me. Indeed, Allaah is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him. That is the straight path.’” (Qur'aan 3: 49-51)

THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS

It is a sad fact of history that not many are following the “straight path” to which people were called by Jesus. He was only followed by a few disciples inspired by God to support him. The non-believers plotted, but God had a better plan for him and his followers, as the Qur'aan tells us: “But when Jesus felt (persistence in) disbelief from them, he said, ‘Who are my supporters for (the cause of) Allaah?’ The disciples said, ‘We are supporters for Allaah. We have believed in Allaah and testify that we are those who are Muslims ‘submitting to His will’. Our Lord, we have believed in what You revealed and have followed the messenger (i.e. Jesus) so register us among the witnesses (to truth).’ And they (i.e., the disbelievers) planned, but Allaah planned. And Allaah is the best of planners.” (Qur'aan 3: 52-54)

The word “Muslim” means one who submits himself to God’s will.

CRUCIFIXION

Jesus was taken and raised to heaven. He was not crucified. It was certainly the plan of the enemies of Jesus to put him to death on the cross, but Allaah saved him and someone else was crucified:

“And for their disbelief and their saying against Mary a great slander; And (for) their saying indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allaah. ‘And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, but (another) was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain. Rather Allaah raised him to Himself. And ever is Allaah Exalted in Might and Wise.” (Qur’aan 4: 156-158)

DOUBLE REWARD

Countless Christians have embraced Islam after reading the Qur’aan and the life of prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). What they found is that they didn’t have to give up their belief in Jesus to become a Muslim. The prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) explained this:

“Three persons will have a double reward, (the first of which is) A Person from the people of the scriptures who believed in his prophet (Jesus or Moses) and then believed in the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) (i.e. has embraced Islam).” (Sahih Bukhari 1:97A)

ENTER HEAVEN WITH ONLY A FEW DEEDS...

The prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, “If anyone testifies that none has the right to be worshipped but Allaah Alone, Who has no partners, and that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is His Slave and His Apostle, and that Jesus is Allaah’s Slave and His Apostle and His Word which He bestowed on Mary and a Spirit created by Him, and that Paradise is true, and Hell is true, Allaah will admit him into Paradise with the deeds which he had done even if those deeds were few.” (Junada, the sub-narrator said, “Ubada added, ‘Such a person can enter Paradise through any of its eight gates he likes.’ ”) (Sahih Bukhari 4:644)

Note: Allaah is the proper Arabic name of God

Edited and revised by

Hamadi Al-Aslani

Manager of Editing and Translation

Benefit

Praise be to Allaah, the Almighty, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the Universe, and peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), last of the Prophets, and upon all those who adhere to his example until the Day of Judgment.

Faith is the foundation upon which the whole structure of nations is based. Therefore, the progress of each nation is dependent upon the maintenance of its faith and ideology. Thus, all Prophets (peace be upon them) have called for true faith. Every Prophet told his people from the very beginning, "**Worship Allaah, the Almighty. You have no other god but Him**". "**We assuredly sent amongst every people an Apostle, (with the command), Serve Allaah and eschew evil**". This is because Allaah the Almighty created all people to worship Him alone and set up no associate to Him. "**I have only created jinns and men that they may worship Me**"

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المملكة العربية السعودية - جدة - حي السلامة
ص.ب. ٦٨٩٧ جدة ٢١٤٥٢ - هاتف : ٦٨٢٨٨٨٨ فاكس : تحويلة ١١١
Saudi Arabia - P.O.Box 6897 Jeddah 21452
Tel. 6828888 Fax. Ext. 111 www.jdcidawah.org