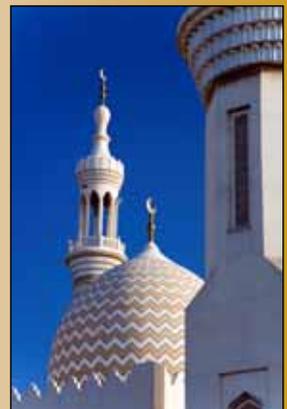


# An Overview of Islam...

Presented by:

MuslimsSeekingJesus.com



## About MSJ...

Muslims Seeking Jesus (MSJ) is a not-for-profit ministry dedicated to helping Muslims *and* Christians have a closer relationship with God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

MSJ began in 2006 and is made up of volunteers from all Christian denominations.

MSJ also provides information, referral services and moral support to those who are seeking to learn more about the Christian faith, but are not sure where to begin.

For more information, please visit: [www.msjsite.com](http://www.msjsite.com)



# About Islam...

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Islam strives to separate itself from the Christian influences of the world. For example, Islamic countries prefer using the "Islamic calendar" versus the "Christian" calendar of when Jesus was born (A.D. "Anno Domini" which is latin for, "Year of our Lord"). The Islamic calendar began during the year Muhammad emigrated to Medina. This emigration is called the "Hijra". The Hijra occurred in July 622AD making it the year 1429AH (Anno Hegirae) in "Islamic years" (2008AE/AD). The year runs from approximately January 9th to December 28th.

- Islam began in 609AD when Muhammad, the 7<sup>th</sup> century Islamic Prophet, claimed to receive revelations from Allah (God) through the angel Jibril (Gabriel) that he was to recite to his people
- Muhammad shared the revelations with his people over the next 23 years of his life. These revelations make up the holy book of Islam known as the Qur'an (Koran)
- The Qur'an and the Sunnah (a collection of the words and deeds of Muhammad) are the basis for Islamic law called, "Sharia"

## Islam is not a religion, but an entire way of life

- Unlike other countries where a separation of Church and State has been established, Sharia law is upheld throughout all areas of an Islamic society including all decisions made in the government, media, education and community planning
- There are approximately 1.8 billion Muslims worldwide. Islam is the fastest growing of all religions. This is partly due to the Muslim value of having large families
- Islam is the dominant religion in Africa and the Middle East, as well as in major parts of Asia. Indonesia has the largest Muslim population with over 200 million people. Large communities are also found in China, the Balkan Peninsula in Eastern Europe and Russia
- Almost all Muslims belong to one of two major denominations, the Sunni (85%) and Shi'a (15%). The schism developed in the late 7th century following disagreements over the religious and political leadership of the Muslim community

# Who was Muhammad?

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- Muhammad was born in Mecca in the summer of 570AD and died in 632AD. He was 40 years of age when he claimed to receive revelations from God
- During his life, Muhammad was a shepherd, merchant, military strategist and politician. He is known as the “Prophet of Islam” and the phrase “peace be unto him” (PBUH) is said every time his name is mentioned among Muslims
- Muhammad was first married at the age of 25 to his merchant employer, Khadijah who was 40 at the time. They are believed to have had six children (four daughters, two sons) with only Fatima surviving childhood. Muhammad had a total of 11 wives before he died
- As Muhammad grew in wealth he became more involved in political and social causes. As a general, his military strategies defeated many of his people’s enemies. As a politician, he successfully negotiated peace among disputing tribes. As the Prophet of Islam, he brought millions together in one religious consciousness in government, education, and social norms
- Muhammad is considered the last, and greatest prophet in Islam because Muslims believe he proclaimed the final word of God superceding the teachings of all the prophets before him (i.e., Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus). Like the prophets before him, Muslims believe Muhammad was only a human being

The Hadith (a collection of the words and deeds of Muhammad) reports he was a very generous man who greatly improved the lives of women, children and slaves. He was a humble man who did not hesitate to perform household chores. Muhammad attributed all his wealth and success to Allah and many Muslims view him as an example of how to live their lives as a good Muslim. Muhammad is quoted saying about himself, “Allah has sent me as an apostle so that I may demonstrate perfection of character, refinement of manners and loftiness of deportment.” (Malik, Mawatta; Ahmed, Musnad; Mishkat)

# What does the word “Muslim” mean?

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Almost all Muslims belong to one of two major denominations, the Sunni (85%) and Shi'a (15%). The schism developed in the late 7th century following disagreements over the religious and political leadership of the Muslim community. Shi'ites believe Ali ibn Abi Talib, Muhammad's cousin and husband of his daughter, Fatimah, was the first true successor of Muhammad and not Abū Bakr who was a close companion of Muhammad and father of his youngest bride, Aishah.

- In Arabic, when a warrior lays down his arms and surrenders because he knows he is defeated, the verb "aslama" is used. This word means, "he submits." The word "Islam" comes from this verb and means "submission"
- The word Muslim is derived from the same verb "aslama" and is taken to mean "one who has surrendered to God". Therefore, a devout Muslim is someone who has “surrendered their life to Allah” and follows the religion of Islam
- Some Muslims believe that anyone who submits their lives to God is a Muslim. Thus, the Qur'an refers to Noah, Lot and the disciples of Jesus as "Muslims" in the sense that they submitted themselves to God

“It is Allah Who is my Lord and your Lord; then worship Him. This is a Way that is straight.” 52. When Jesus found Unbelief on their part He said: "Who will be My helpers to (the work of) Allah." Said the disciples: "We are Allah's helpers: We believe in Allah, and do thou bear witness that we are Muslims. 53. "Our Lord! we believe in what Thou hast revealed, and we follow the Messenger then write us down among those who bear witness." 54. And (the unbelievers) plotted and planned, and Allah too planned, and the best of planners is Allah. 55. Behold! Allah said: "O Jesus! I will take thee and raise thee to Myself and clear thee (of the falsehoods) of those who blaspheme; I will make those who follow thee superior to those who reject faith, to the Day of Resurrection: Then shall ye all return unto me, and I will judge between you of the matters wherein ye dispute." (The Qur'an, Surah 3:51-55)

# What is the Qur'an (Koran)

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## **The Hadith:**

The Hadith is a collection of narrations of the words and deeds of Muhammad. It reveals his actions and life as directed by the Qur'an which constitute his Sunnah, or example in life. It is accepted by many Muslims as a chief source of Islamic belief and practice and is second in authority only to the Qur'an (Koran). The Hadith include provisions of law, discussions of theological matters, such as methods of fasting and prayer, and codes of personal, social, and commercial conduct.

- The Qur'an is the central religious text of Islam. Muslims believe the Qur'an to be the book of divine guidance and direction for mankind. Muslims believe the only reliable source for understanding God's word is the Qur'an
- Muslims believe the Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad by the angel Jibril (Gabriel) in the year 609AD while Muhammad was meditating in the cave "Hira" on a mountainside outside the city of Mecca. Muhammad was told by the angel to "recite" to his people what was being told to him. The word "Qur'an" is Arabic which literally means, "recite"
- Muhammad recited what was revealed to him over the next 23 years until his death in 632AD. Followers of Muhammad recorded what he recited through memorization and by writing down the revelations on parchments, stones, wood, etc.—whatever was available at the time
- No single copy of the "Qur'an" existed during Muhammad's life. It took 20 years after his death before all of the revelations were collected and verified from hundreds of scribes and assembled into today's version of the Qur'an

# The Five Pillars of Islam

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Muslims believe your reward in the afterlife is directly related to how many good deeds you have done in this life.

“Yawm al-Qiyāmah” is the “the Day of Resurrection” in Islam and parallels the Christian “Judgment Day” when God’s will make His final assessment of all humanity.

Those who believed Muhammad was the final prophet of Allah; and lived according to the Five Pillars of Islam will enter Jannah. Those who were evil, will be engulfed in hellfire.

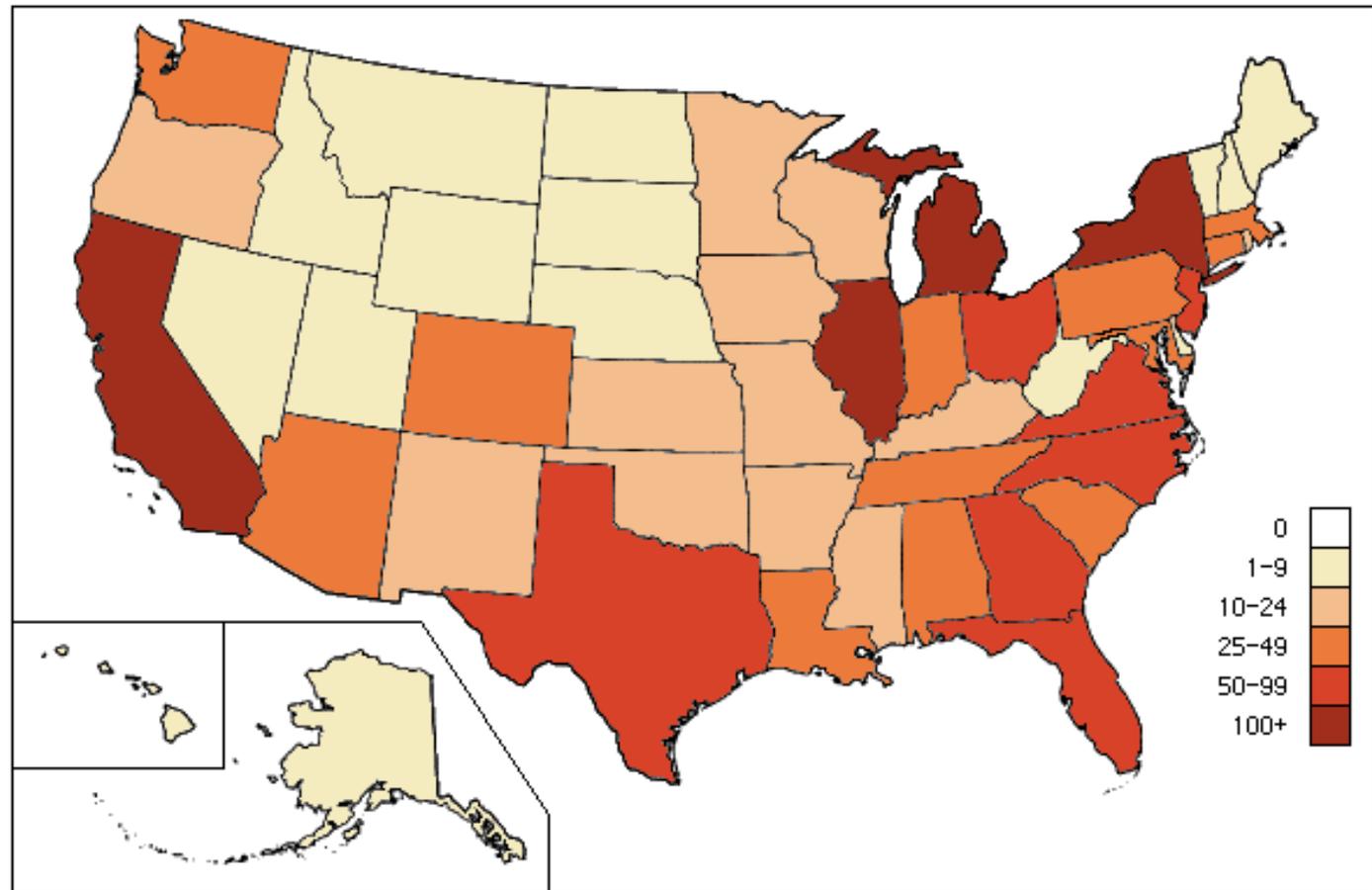
- The teachings of the Qur’an and Sunnah are consolidated in what is referred to by Muslims as the “Five Pillars of Islam”. They pillars are:
  1. Shahada: Faith or belief in the Oneness of God and the finality of the prophethood of Muhammad
  2. Salat: Establishment of the daily prayers
  3. Saum: Concern for and almsgiving to the needy
  4. Zakat: Self-purification through fasting
  5. Hajj: The pilgrimage to Mecca for those who are able
- The Pillars are the core beliefs of the individual Muslim. The Muslim who fulfills the Five Pillars of Islam; sincerely repents for their sins; and remains in the faith of Islam will make it to “Jannah” (paradise). If one performs the Five Pillars but does not remain in the religion of Islam, he will not be saved
- Jannah is the Islamic conception of paradise. According to Islamic belief, after death, one will reside in the grave until the appointed resurrection on Yawm al-Qiyāmah (“Day of Resurrection” or “Day of Judgment”)

# Islam in America

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- Muslim immigration in some parts of the world, such as Western Europe and the Americas, is growing. In 2005, more people from Islamic countries became legal permanent United States residents than in any year in the previous two decades
- The Council on American-Islamic Relations quotes that 6-7 million Muslims live in America while Encyclopedia Britannica Book of the Year reports 5.4 million
- According to research from Harvard University, the majority of Muslims live in the Washington-Boston corridor, Michigan, Houston, and southern California areas. Over one million Muslims are believed to live in the New York City metro area
- As of 2004, there were approximately 1,209 mosques in the United States with the nation's largest mosque, the Islamic Center of America, located in Dearborn, Michigan

## The map below illustrates the concentration of Mosques in America:



Source - The Pluralism Project at Harvard University: Directory of Religious Centers © 2004  
<http://www.pluralism.org/directory>

# “People of the Book”

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## Contradicting views of “People of the Book”

110: Ye are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in Allah. If only the People of the Book had faith, it were best for them: among them are some who have faith, but most of them are perverted transgressors. (Surah 3:110)

Not all of them are alike: Of the People of the Book are a portion that stand (For the right): They rehearse the Signs of Allah all night long, and they prostrate themselves in adoration. 114. They believe in Allah and the Last Day; they enjoin what is right, and forbid what is wrong; and they hasten (in emulation) in (all) good works: They are in the ranks of the righteous. (Surah 3:113-114)

- In the Qur’an, Jews and Christians are referred to as, the “People of the Book”:

Do they seek for other than the Religion of Allah.-while all creatures in the heavens and on earth have, willing or unwilling, bowed to His Will (Accepted Islam), and to Him shall they all be brought back. 84. Say: "We believe in Allah, and in what has been revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and in (the Books) given to Moses, Jesus, and the prophets, from their Lord: We make no distinction between one and another among them, and to Allah do we bow our will (in Islam)." 85. If anyone desires a religion other than Islam (submission to Allah., never will it be accepted of him; and in the Hereafter He will be in the ranks of those who have lost (All spiritual good). (Surah 3:83-85)

Allah. There is no god but He,-the Living, the Self-Subsisting, Eternal. 3. It is He Who sent down to thee (step by step), in truth, the Book, confirming what went before it; and He sent down the Law (of Moses) and the Gospel (of Jesus) before this, as a guide to mankind, and He sent down the criterion (of judgment between right and wrong). 4. Then those who reject Faith in the Signs of Allah will suffer the severest penalty, and Allah is Exalted in Might, Lord of Retribution. (Surah 3:2-4)

Mankind was one single nation, and Allah sent Messengers with glad tidings and warnings; and with them He sent the Book in truth, to judge between people in matters wherein they differed; but the People of the Book, after the clear Signs came to them, did not differ among themselves, except through selfish contumacy. Allah by His Grace Guided the believers to the Truth, concerning that wherein they differed. For Allah guided whom He will to a path that is straight. (Surah 2:213)

We gave Moses the Book and followed him up with a succession of apostles; We gave Jesus the son of Mary Clear (Signs) and strengthened him with the holy spirit. Is it that whenever there comes to you an apostle with what ye yourselves desire not, ye are puffed up with pride?- Some ye called impostors, and others ye slay! (Surah 2:87)

# Allah's dissatisfaction with "People of the Book"

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- In the centuries that followed the beginning of the Church, there was confusion and controversy among those who had difficulty understanding, or accepting Jesus as the Messiah. There were also "Christian" communities who claimed to be followers of Jesus but were still openly living a pagan and sinful life. They enjoyed the idea of having a Savior who died for their sins, but ignored God's teachings of what it meant to be a true follower of Christ.
- When Muhammad recited the teachings of the Qur'an he felt Jews and Christians everywhere would welcome what he was revealing. He believed this would end the controversy among the "people of the Book" since he was claiming to have received the "final word" from God:

Ye People of the Book! Why dispute ye about Abraham, when the Law and the Gospel Were not revealed Till after him? Have ye no understanding? 66. Ah! Ye are those who fell to disputing (Even) in matters of which ye had some knowledge! but why dispute ye in matters of which ye have no knowledge? It is Allah Who knows, and ye who know not! 67. Abraham was not a Jew nor yet a Christian; but he was true in Faith, and bowed his will to Allah's (Which is Islam), and he joined not gods with Allah. 68. Without doubt, among men, the nearest of kin to Abraham, are those who follow him, as are also this Messenger and those who believe: And Allah is the Protector of those who have faith. 69. It is the wish of a section of the People of the Book to lead you astray. But they shall lead astray (Not you), but themselves, and they do not perceive! 70. Ye People of the Book! Why reject ye the Signs of Allah, of which ye are (Yourselves) witnesses? 71. Ye People of the Book! Why do ye clothe Truth with falsehood, and conceal the Truth, while ye have knowledge? 72. A section of the People of the Book say: "Believe in the morning what is revealed to the believers, but reject it at the end of the day; perchance they may (themselves) Turn back; (Surah 3:64-72)

If only they had believed in Allah, in the Messenger, and in what hath been revealed to him, never would they have taken them for friends and protectors, but most of them are rebellious wrong-doers. 82. Strongest among men in enmity to the believers wilt thou find the Jews and Pagans; and nearest among them in love to the believers wilt thou find those who say, "We are Christians": because amongst these are men devoted to learning and men who have renounced the world, and they are not arrogant. 83. And when they listen to the revelation received by the Messenger, thou wilt see their eyes overflowing with tears, for they recognize the truth: they pray: "Our Lord! we believe; write us down among the witnesses. 84. "What cause can we have not to believe in Allah and the truth which has come to us, seeing that we long for our Lord to admit us to the company of the righteous?" 85. And for this their prayer hath Allah rewarded them with gardens, with rivers flowing underneath,- their eternal home. Such is the recompense of those who do good. 86. But those who reject Faith and believe our Signs,- they shall be companions of Hell-fire. (Surah 5:81-86)

Say: "O People of the Book! Why reject ye the Signs of Allah, when Allah is Himself witness to all ye do?" 99. Say: "O ye People of the Book! Why obstruct ye those who believe, from the path of Allah, Seeking to make it crooked, while ye were yourselves witnesses (to Allah's Covenant)? but Allah is not unmindful of all that ye do." 100. O ye who believe! If ye listen to a faction among the People of the Book, they would (indeed) render you apostates after ye have believed! 101. And how would ye deny Faith while unto you are rehearsed the Signs of Allah, and among you Lives the Messenger. Whoever holds firmly to Allah will be shown a way that is straight. (Surah 3:98-101)

# Muslims believe the “book” (Bible) was corrupted by mankind and is not reliable

## However, was the “Book” corrupted, or not?

If only the People of the Book had believed and been righteous, We should indeed have blotted out their iniquities and admitted them to gardens of bliss. 66. If only they had stood fast by the Law, the Gospel, and all the revelation that was sent to them from their Lord, they would have enjoyed happiness from every side. There is from among them a party on the right course: but many of them follow a course that is evil. 67. O

Messenger. proclaim the (message) which hath been sent to thee from thy Lord. If thou didst not, thou wouldst not have fulfilled and proclaimed His mission. And Allah will defend thee from men (who mean mischief). For Allah guideth not those who reject Faith. 68. Say: “O People of the Book! ye

have no ground to stand upon unless ye stand fast by the Law, the Gospel, and all the revelation that has come to you from your Lord.” It is the revelation that cometh to thee from thy Lord, that increaseth in most of them their obstinate rebellion and blasphemy. But sorrow thou not over (these) people without Faith. 69. Those who believe (in the Qur’an), those who follow the Jewish (scriptures),

and the Sabians and the Christians, - any who believe in Allah and the Last Day, and work righteousness, - on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve. (Surah 5:54-69)

## ■ To Muslims, the Qur’an reveals how the “book” became “corrupted”:

And there are among them illiterates, who know not the Book, but (see therein their own) desires, and they do nothing but conjecture. 79. Then woe to those who write the Book with their own hands, and then say: “This is from Allah,” to traffic with it for miserable price! - Woe to them for what their hands do write, and for the gain they make thereby. (Surah 2:78-79)

And when there came to them an apostle from Allah, confirming what was with them, a party of the people of the Book threw away the Book of Allah behind their backs, as if (it had been something) they did not know! (Surah 2:101)

There is among them a section who distort the Book with their tongues: (As they read) you would think it is a part of the Book, but it is no part of the Book; and they say, “That is from Allah,” but it is not from Allah. It is they who tell a lie against Allah, and (well) they know it! 79. It is not (possible) that a man, to whom is given the Book, and Wisdom, and the prophetic office, should say to people: “Be ye my worshippers rather than Allah’s”: on the contrary (He would say) “Be ye worshippers of Him Who is truly the Cherisher of all: For ye have taught the Book and ye have studied it earnestly.” (Surah 3:78-86)

## ■ However, some parts of the Qur’an state the “book” is from God and is Truth:

Say: “We believe in Allah, and in what has been revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Isma’il, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and in (the Books) given to Moses, Jesus, and the prophets, from their Lord: We make no distinction between one and another among them, and to Allah do we bow our will (in Islam).” 85. If anyone desires a religion other than Islam (submission to Allah., never will it be accepted of him; and in the Hereafter He will be in the ranks of those who have lost (All spiritual good). (Surah 3:83-85)

It was We who revealed the law (to Moses): therein was guidance and light. By its standard have been judged the Jews, by the prophets who bowed (as in Islam) to Allah’s will, by the rabbis and the doctors of law: for to them was entrusted the protection of Allah’s book, and they were witnesses thereto: therefore fear not men, but fear me, and sell not my signs for a miserable price. If any do fail to judge by (the light of) what Allah hath revealed, they are (no better than) Unbelievers. (Surah 5:44)

We ordained therein for them: “Life for life, eye for eye, nose or nose, ear for ear, tooth for tooth, and wounds equal for equal.” But if any one remits the retaliation by way of charity, it is an act of atonement for himself. And if any fail to judge by (the light of) what Allah hath revealed, they are (No better than) wrong-doers. 46. And in their footsteps We sent Jesus the son of Mary, confirming the Law that had come before him: We sent him the Gospel: therein was guidance and light, and confirmation of the Law that had come before him: a guidance and an admonition to those who fear Allah. 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. 48. To thee We sent the Scripture in truth, confirming the scripture that came before it, and guarding it in safety: so judge between them by what Allah hath revealed, and follow not their vain desires, diverging from the Truth that hath come to thee. To each among you have we prescribed a law and an open way. If Allah had so willed, He would have made you a single people, but (His plan is) to test you in what He hath given you: so strive as in a race in all virtues. The goal of you all is to Allah. it is He that will show you the truth of the matters in which ye dispute. (Surah 5:45-48)

# Muslims believe Jesus was not the Son of God; God has no children

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- The Christian belief that God is our “Father” is blasphemy to a Muslim. They do not recognize our connection with God through the Holy Spirit; references to mankind being the “sons of God” in passages like Genesis 6:1-4; or Jesus being the Son of God and referring to us as his brothers and sisters (Matthew 12:48-50).

Say: "O People of the Book! come to common terms as between us and you: That we worship none but Allah. that we associate no partners with him; that we erect not, from among ourselves, Lords and patrons other than Allah." If then they turn back, say ye: "Bear witness that we (at least) are Muslims (bowing to Allah.s Will). (Surah 3:64)

In blasphemy indeed are those that say that Allah is Christ the son of Mary. Say: "Who then hath the least power against Allah, if His will were to destroy Christ the son of Mary, his mother, and all every - one that is on the earth? For to Allah belongeth the dominion of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between. He createth what He pleaseth. For Allah hath power over all things." 18. (Both) the Jews and the Christians say: "We are sons of Allah, and his beloved." Say: "Why then doth He punish you for your sins? Nay, ye are but men,- of the men he hath created: (Surah 5:17-18)

Christ the son of Mary was no more than an apostle; many were the apostles that passed away before him. His mother was a woman of truth. They had both to eat their (daily) food. See how Allah doth make His signs clear to them; yet see in what ways they are deluded away from the truth! 76. Say: "Will ye worship, besides Allah, something which hath no power either to harm or benefit you? But Allah,- He it is that heareth and knoweth all things." 77. Say: "O people of the Book! exceed not in your religion the bounds (of what is proper), trespassing beyond the truth, nor follow the vain desires of people who went wrong in times gone by,- who misled many, and strayed (themselves) from the even way. 78. Curses were pronounced on those among the Children of Israel who rejected Faith, by the tongue of David and of Jesus the son of Mary: because they disobeyed and persisted in excesses. 79. Nor did they (usually) forbid one another the iniquities which they committed: evil indeed were the deeds which they did. 80. Thou seest many of them turning in friendship to the Unbelievers. Evil indeed are (the works) which their souls have sent forward before them (with the result), that Allah.s wrath is on them, and in torment will they abide. (Surah 5:75-80)

O People of the Book!  
Commit no excesses in  
your religion: Nor say of  
Allah aught but the truth.  
Christ Jesus the son of  
Mary was (no more than)  
an apostle of Allah, and  
His Word, which He  
bestowed on Mary, and a  
spirit proceeding from  
Him: so believe in Allah  
and His apostles. Say not  
"Trinity" : desist: it will be  
better for you: for Allah is  
one Allah. Glory be to  
Him: (far exalted is He)  
above having a son. To  
Him belong all things in  
the heavens and on  
earth. And enough is  
Allah as a Disposer of  
affairs. (Surah 4:171)

# Muslims believe there is no “Trinity” of God

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Muslims think Christians  
are Polytheist

Those who reject (Truth), among the People of the Book and among the Polytheists, were not going to depart (from their ways) until there should come to them Clear Evidence,-

2. An apostle from Allah, rehearsing scriptures kept pure and holy: 3. Wherein are laws (or decrees) right and straight.

4. Nor did the People of the Book make schisms, until after there came to them Clear Evidence. 5. And they have been commanded no more than this: To worship Allah, offering Him sincere devotion, being true (in faith); to establish regular prayer; and to practice regular charity; and that is the Religion Right and Straight. 6.

Those who reject (Truth), among the People of the Book and among the Polytheists, will be in Hell-Fire, to dwell therein (for aye). They are the worst of creatures. 7. Those who have faith and do righteous deeds,- they are the best of creatures.

8. Their reward is with Allah. Gardens of Eternity, beneath which rivers flow; they will dwell therein for ever; Allah well pleased with them, and they with Him: all this for such as fear their Lord and Cherisher. (Surah 98:1-8).

## ■ Muslims outright reject the idea of God existing in three forms:

They do blaspheme who say: "(Allah) is Christ the son of Mary." But said Christ: "O Children of Israel! worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." Whoever joins other gods with Allah,- Allah will forbid him the garden, and the Fire will be his abode. There will for the wrong-doers be no one to help. 73. They do blaspheme who say: Allah is one of three in a Trinity: for there is no god except One Allah. If they desist not from their word (of blasphemy), verily a grievous penalty will befall the blasphemers among them. 74. Why turn they not to Allah, and seek His forgiveness? For Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful.

75. Christ the son of Mary was no more than an apostle; many were the apostles that passed away before him. His mother was a woman of truth. They had both to eat their (daily) food. See how Allah doth make His signs clear to them; yet see in what ways they are deluded away from the truth! 76. Say: "Will ye worship, besides Allah, something which hath no power either to harm or benefit you? But Allah,- He it is that heareth and knoweth all things."

77. Say: "O people of the Book! exceed not in your religion the bounds (of what is proper), trespassing beyond the truth, nor follow the vain desires of people who went wrong in times gone by,- who misled many, and strayed (themselves) from the even way. 78. Curses were pronounced on those among the Children of Israel who rejected Faith, by the tongue of David and of Jesus the son of Mary: because they disobeyed and persisted in excesses. 79. Nor did they (usually) forbid one another the iniquities which they committed: evil indeed were the deeds which they did. 80. Thou seest many of them turning in friendship to the Unbelievers. Evil indeed are (the works) which their souls have sent forward before them (with the result), that Allah's wrath is on them, and in torment will they abide. (Surah 5:72-80)

# The Holy Spirit of God

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If ye two turn in repentance to Him, your hearts are indeed so inclined; But if ye back up each other against him, truly Allah is his Protector, and Gabriel, and (every) righteous one among those who believe,- and furthermore, the angels - will back (him) up. (Surah 66:4)

Say: Whoever is an enemy to Gabriel-for he brings down the (revelation) to thy heart by Allah's will, a confirmation of what went before, and guidance and glad tidings for those who believe, 98. Whoever is an enemy to Allah and His angels and apostles, to Gabriel and Michael,- Lo! Allah is an enemy to those who reject Faith. (Surah 2:97-98)

- The “holy spirit” is mentioned by name in the Qur’an four times. However, Muslims claim the “holy spirit” is another name for the angel Jibril (Gabriel).

We gave Moses the Book and followed him up with a succession of apostles; We gave Jesus the son of Mary Clear (Signs) and strengthened him with the holy spirit. Is it that whenever there comes to you an apostle with what ye yourselves desire not, ye are puffed up with pride?- Some ye called impostors, and others ye slay! (Surah 2:87)

Those apostles We endowed with gifts, some above others: To one of them Allah spoke; others He raised to degrees (of honour); to Jesus the son of Mary We gave clear (Signs), and strengthened him with the holy spirit. If Allah had so willed, succeeding generations would not have fought among each other, after clear (Signs) had come to them, but they (chose) to wrangle, some believing and others rejecting. If Allah had so willed, they would not have fought each other; but Allah Fulfilleth His plan. (Surah 2:253)

Then will Allah say: "O Jesus the son of Mary! Recount My favour to thee and to thy mother. Behold! I strengthened thee with the holy spirit, so that thou didst speak to the people in childhood and in maturity. Behold! I taught thee the Book and Wisdom, the Law and the Gospel and behold! thou makest out of clay, as it were, the figure of a bird, by My leave, and thou breathest into it and it becometh a bird by My leave, and thou healest those born blind, and the lepers, by My leave. And behold! thou bringest forth the dead by My leave. And behold! I did restrain the Children of Israel from (violence to) thee when thou didst show them the clear Signs, and the unbelievers among them said: 'This is nothing but evident magic.' (Surah 5:110)

Say, the Holy Spirit has brought the revelation from thy Lord in Truth, in order to strengthen those who believe, and as a Guide and Glad Tidings to Muslims. (Surah 16:102)

- The angel Gabriel is mentioned at least three times in the Qur’an and not once associated with the name “Holy Spirit”. Gabriel is simply referred to as an “angel.”

# Muhammad in the Bible?

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- The following excerpt comes from an essay written by a well known Islamic scholar in Turkey by the name of “Fethullah Gülen. In his essay, Gülen claims the Gospel provides proof of the coming of Muhammad:

*Another reference to the Prophet, upon him be peace and blessings, is found in the Gospel of John: Who is "the Paraklit, the Spirit of Truth," referred to by Jesus in the following verse:*

But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Paraklit will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. (John 16:7-8)

*In these verses, Prophet Muhammad, upon him be peace and blessings, is referred to as Paraklit, a Greek word meaning "the Distinguisher between Truth and Falsehood." Christian interpreters have given this word different meanings, such as "Counselor" (Gideon's International), "Helper" (American Bible Society), or "Comforter" (The Company of the Holy Bible), and claimed that it refers to the Holy Spirit. But they have never been able to establish whether the Holy Spirit came and did what Jesus foretold it would do.*

*If, according to Christians, the Holy Spirit is Archangel Gabriel, he came many times to Prophet Muhammad to bring Divine Revelation. Further, Jesus mentioned and predicted the Paraklit with various names, but always with the same function, as seen in the following verses:*

When the Paraklit comes—the Spirit of Truth—who comes from the Father, he will testify about me. (John 15:26)

I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of Truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking what is mine and making it known to you. (John 16:12–14)

*These are only a few of the Bible's allusions to Prophet Muhammad, upon him be peace and blessings. The late Hussayn Jisri found 114 such allusions and quoted them in his Risala al-Hamidiya...*

*- Prophet Muhammad in the Bible, by Fethullah Gülen,  
Friday, 14 September 2001*

"Almost all previous Prophets predicted Prophet Muhammad, upon him be peace and blessings. Despite the distortions suffered by the Torah, the Psalms, and the Gospels, we find indications of his coming. For example, the Torah promises the coming of the Prophet Muhammad, upon him be peace and blessings:"

The Lord said to me [Moses]: "What they say is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you among their brothers; I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. If anyone does not listen to My words that the Prophet speaks in My Name, I will Myself call him to account." (Deuteronomy 18:17–19)\*  
by: Fethullah Gülen

NOTE: \*In John 6:14, John 7:40, of the Gospel, it is clear that Jesus is the "Prophet" that Moses spoke of. Also, Jesus professed he was the Son of God. And since the Bible and the Qur'an both agree Jesus was without sin and did not lie, then Jesus' claim must be true. Jesus fulfilled both the prophesy of being the true Prophet that Moses spoke of, and the Messiah of the house of David.

# The “unbelievers” of Islam

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- As much as the Qur’an speaks of mercy and forgiveness, it also advocates punishing and slaying those who are considered “unbelievers”. Some Muslims define “unbelievers” as anyone who does not believe in God, while other Muslims define “unbelievers” as anyone who does not follow Islam, or even their particular Islamic beliefs. The common name Muslims use today to describe an unbeliever is “kafir”.
- The Qur’an instructs Muslims not to associate with “unbelievers”. This may help to explain violence against “kafirs”.

The Jews call 'Uzair a son of Allah, and the Christians call Christ the son of Allah. That is a saying from their mouth; (in this) they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. Allah’s curse be on them: how they are deluded away from the Truth! 31. They take their priests and their anchorites to be their lords in derogation of Allah, and (they take as their Lord) Christ the son of Mary; yet they were commanded to worship but One Allah. there is no god but He. Praise and glory to Him: (Far is He) from having the partners they associate (with Him). 32. Fain would they extinguish Allah’s light with their mouths, but Allah will not allow but that His light should be perfected, even though the Unbelievers may detest (it). 33. It is He Who hath sent His Messenger with guidance and the Religion of Truth, to proclaim it over all religion, even though the Pagans may detest (it). (Surah 9:30-33)

O ye who believe! take not the Jews and the Christians for your friends and protectors: They are but friends and protectors to each other. And he amongst you that turns to them (for friendship) is of them. Verily Allah guideth not a people unjust. 54. O ye who believe! if any from among you turn back from his Faith, soon will Allah produce a people whom He will love as they will love Him,- lowly with the believers, mighty against the rejecters, fighting in the way of Allah, and never afraid of the reproaches of such as find fault. That is the grace of Allah, which He will bestow on whom He pleaseth. And Allah encompasseth all, and He knoweth all things. 55. Your (real) friends are (no less than) Allah, His Messenger, and the (fellowship of) believers,- those who establish regular prayers and regular charity, and they bow down humbly (in worship). 56. As to those who turn (for friendship) to Allah, His Messenger, and the (fellowship of) believers,- it is the fellowship of Allah that must certainly triumph. 57. O ye who believe! take not for friends and protectors those who take your religion for a mockery or sport,- whether among those who received the Scripture before you, or among those who reject Faith; but fear ye Allah, if ye have faith (indeed). (Surah 5:51-57)

Therefore, when ye meet the Unbelievers (in fight), smite at their necks; At length, when ye have thoroughly subdued them, bind a bond firmly (on them): thereafter (is the time for) either generosity or ransom: Until the war lays down its burdens. Thus (are ye commanded): but if it had been Allah’s Will, He could certainly have exacted retribution from them (Himself); but (He lets you fight) in order to test you, some with others. But those who are slain in the Way of Allah,- He will never let their deeds be lost. 5. Soon will He guide them and improve their condition, 6. And admit them to the Garden which He has announced for them.” (The Qur’an, Surah 47: 4-6)

The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger, and strive with might and main for mischief through the land is: execution, or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet from opposite sides, or exile from the land: that is their disgrace in this world, and a heavy punishment is theirs in the Hereafter; 34. Except for those who repent before they fall into your power: in that case, know that Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful. (The Qur’an, Surah 5:33-34)

# The Virgin Birth of Jesus, Mary in the Qur'an

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## Mary chosen to give birth to the Son of God

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. [31] And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.

[32] He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: [33] And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. [34]

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

[35] And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. (The Gospel, Luke 1:30-35)

- The Bible records the unique conception of Jesus by a virgin woman, Mary, as a fulfillment of a prophecy made seven centuries earlier. See Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:26-31; and Matthew 1:18-21. The Quran also records the vision to Mary and the virgin-birth of Jesus in two passages. See Surah 3:45-47, and Surah 19:16-22:

Behold! the angels said: "O Mary! Allah giveth thee glad tidings of a Word from Him: his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held in honour in this world and the Hereafter and of (the company of) those nearest to Allah. 46. "He shall speak to the people in childhood and in maturity. And he shall be (of the company) of the righteous." 47. She said: "O my Lord! How shall I have a son when no man hath touched me?" He said: "Even so: Allah createth what He willeth: When He hath decreed a plan, He but saith to it, 'Be,' and it is! (Surah 3:45-47)

- No other woman is named in the Quran. No other woman is given such veneration as it says in Surah 3:42, "Behold! the angels said: "O Mary! Allah hath chosen thee and purified thee—chosen thee above the women of all nations." Surah 19 in the Qur'an is devoted to the birth of Jesus and even titled "Maryam" (Mary). Why is Mary so prominent in the Qur'an?

Relate in the Book (the story of) Mary, when she withdrew from her family to a place in the East. 17. She placed a screen (to screen herself) from them; then We sent her our angel, and he appeared before her as a man in all respects. 18. She said: "I seek refuge from thee to ((Allah)) Most Gracious: (come not near) if thou dost fear Allah." 19. He said: "Nay, I am only a messenger from thy Lord, (to announce) to thee the gift of a holy son. 20. She said: "How shall I have a son, seeing that no man has touched me, and I am not unchaste?" 21. He said: "So (it will be): Thy Lord saith, 'that is easy for Me: and (We wish) to appoint him as a Sign unto men and a Mercy from Us':It is a matter (so) decreed." 22. So she conceived him, and she retired with him to a remote place. (Surah 19:16-23)

# Jesus is referred to in the Qur'an as "al-Masih" (Messiah)

- Messiah (Hebrew: מָשִׁיחַ, standard Mašiah, Arabic: المسيح, al-Masīh) literally means "The Anointed (One)". In Jewish messianic tradition and eschatology, Messiah refers to a future King of Israel from the David line, who will rule the people of united tribes of Israel and herald the Messianic Age. Christians believe that prophecies in the Torah refer to a spiritual savior and believe Jesus to be that Messiah (Christ). In the (Greek) Septuagint version of the Old Testament (Torah), khristos (Christ) was used to translate the Hebrew word Mašiah. In Islam, Jesus (Isa) is also called the Messiah (al-Masih), but as in Judaism he is not considered to be the Son of God in a literal sense. (Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messiah>)

And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. [17] So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations. [18] Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. [19] Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. [20] But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. [21] And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. [22] Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, [23] Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. (The Gospel, Matthew 1:16-23)

Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: behold, the young woman shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Curd and honey shall he eat, when he knoweth to refuse the evil, and choose the good. (The Torah, Isaiah 7:14-14)

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (The Torah, Isaiah 9:5-6)

- Jesus alone is called the Messiah (Christ) in the Quran. No other prophet is given this title. In Arabic it is simply al-Masih. The Quran awards this title to Jesus on eleven separate occasions. Below is one example:

Behold! the angels said: "O Mary! Allah giveth thee glad tidings of a Word from Him: his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held in honour in this world and the Hereafter and of (the company of) those nearest to Allah. 46. "He shall speak to the people in childhood and in maturity. And he shall be (of the company) of the righteous." (Surah 3:45-46)

NOTE: Because Mary was a virgin when she became pregnant, Matthew lists Joseph only as the husband of Mary, not the father of Jesus. Matthew's genealogy gives Jesus' legal (or royal) lineage through Joseph. Mary's ancestral line is recorded in Luke 3:23-38. Both Mary and Joseph were direct descendants of David.

Matthew traced the genealogy back to Abraham, while Luke traced it back to Adam. Matthew wrote to the Jews, so Jesus was shown as a descendant of their father, Abraham (Matthew 1:1-16). Luke wrote to the Gentiles, so he emphasized Jesus as the Savior of all people.

-Life Application Notes, "The Genealogy of Jesus".

God is without sin; Jesus is without sin. How could any person be without sin unless they were begotten from God?

Jesus answered them, "I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

[26] But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. [27] My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: [28] And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. [29] My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. [30] I and my Father are one."

[31] Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. [32] Jesus answered them, "Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?"

[33] The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. [34] Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? [35] If He called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

[36] Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? [37] If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. [38] But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him."

(The Gospel, John 10:25-38)

## The sinlessness of Jesus

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- According to the Bible, Jesus is the only person who ever lived who was entirely without sin. The book charges all men, from Adam onwards, as being under the power of sin (Romans 3:9), and as having sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Only Jesus is excepted. Several passages record the sinlessness of Jesus including 1 Peter 2:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 3:5, etc.

And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. (The New Testament, 1 John 3:5)

- The Quran too declares that Jesus was without sin. When the Angel Jibril (Gabriel) appeared to Mary to announce her conception of Jesus, he said:

I am only a messenger of your Lord, to announce to you a faultless son. (The Qur'an, Surah 19:19)

- The words used in Arabic to describe Jesus are ghulaaman-zakiyyan, "a most-holy boy." The word zakiyya, meaning "blameless" appears only twice in the Quran. The other occasion is in the story about Moses in which he met a young man who is described as being innocent. But in this case, the word was only referring to the young man's innocence of any crime deserving of death. In Jesus' case, the angel was describing his whole personality and character before he was even born. "Faultless" or "blameless" clearly means without sin. So the Quran confirms the biblical teaching that Jesus was the only sinless person who ever lived as the Quran nowhere describes anyone else in this way.

- On the contrary, the Qu'ran does acknowledge the sins of the other prophets and specifically refers to the sins of Adam (Surah 7:23), Abraham (Surah 26:82), Moses (Surah 28:16), Johan (Surah 37:142) and Muhammad (Surah 47:19, 48:2).

Know, therefore, that there is no god but Allah, and ask forgiveness for thy fault, and for the men and women who believe: for Allah knows how ye move about and how ye dwell in your homes. (Surah 47:19, titled "Muhammad")

That Allah may forgive thee thy faults of the past and those to follow; fulfil His favour to thee; and guide thee on the Straight Way; (Surah 48:2)

# The ascension of Jesus into heaven

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- The New Testament teaches that after his resurrection from the dead, Jesus ascended to heaven in bodily form. The narrative recording this event reads as follows:

And when he had said these things, as they were looking, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. [10] And while they were looking stedfastly into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; [11] who also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye looking into heaven? this Jesus, who was received up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye beheld him going into heaven. (The New Testament, Acts 1:9-11)

- In other passages, the New Testament teaches that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God (Colossians 3:1); that God made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule, authority, power and dominion (Ephesians 1:21); and that Jesus was to return to heaven whence he had originally come (John 6:62, 16:28).
- The Qur'an confirms the ascension of Jesus into heaven and that he is still alive and in the very presence of Allah. The text reads:

That they said (in boast), "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah, but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not: 158. Nay, Allah raised him up unto Himself; and Allah is Exalted in Power, Wise; 159. And there is none of the People of the Book but must believe in him before his death; and on the Day of Judgment he will be a witness against them. (Surah 4:157-159)

## Jesus will Rule the Earth

Several Hadith narrations teach that Jesus is alive in heaven, will return as a ruler of the whole earth, and will then die like all other living beings (Ibn Sa'd, Kitab al-Tabaqat al-Kabir, Vol.1, p.47). Muslims, generally, believe that he will land on a minaret of the great mosque in Damascus, that he will lead the whole world to follow Islam, will die after forty years, and will be buried next to Muhammad in his grave in Medina. There are once again differences between Christianity and Islam in their interpretations of what will happen when Jesus returns, but both believe in the second coming and base that belief on the teachings of the Bible and the Qur'an respectively.

# The second coming of Jesus

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- Both the Qur'an and the Bible teach Jesus will return from heaven at the end of time:

Then will appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (The Gospel, Matthew 24:30)

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. (The New Testament, 1 Thessalonians 4:16)

Behold he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, every one who pierced him; and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. (The New Testament, Revelation 1:7)

- According to the Bible Jesus will return from heaven at the end of time in his glory, with all his holy angels with him, and will bring in the Day of Judgment. All the nations will be gathered before him and he will separate them, to glory or destruction, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:32).

- The Qur'an only deals with this subject in one verse but it has led to a consensus throughout the Muslim world that Jesus will one day return from heaven to earth. The text reads:

And (Jesus) shall be a Sign (for the coming of) the Hour (of Judgment): therefore have no doubt about the (Hour), but follow ye Me: this is a Straight Way. (Surah 43:61)

- Many Hadith records confirm the return of Jesus, one of which teaches that he will institute a reign of peace (Sahih Muslim, Vol.1, p.93). Another teaches that Jesus will return to receive the homage of all the peoples: Jews, Christians and Muslims, in fulfillment of Surah 4:159:

And there is none of the People of the Book but must believe in him before his death; and on the Day of Judgment he will be a witness against them. (Surah 4:159)

## Next week's discussion...

### What Muslims believe:

- What is salvation for Muslims?
- What do Muslims believe about sin and purification?
- Why do Muslims believe Jesus was never crucified?

### Similar teachings between Muslims and Christians:

- We are to love God above all things
- God is merciful and forgiving
- The sinlessness of Jesus
- The virgin birth of Jesus
- Jesus ascended into heaven

### How to respond to Muslims questions about:

- The Trinity, the Holy Spirit
- Jesus as the Son of God
- God as our Father
- The resurrection of Jesus
- Purification of our hearts and souls through Jesus
- The Bible and it not being corrupt
- The denominations of Christianity

