

## Exposing the Myth of the Islamic Jesus by Rashid Alamir

Muslims claim to honor Jesus even more than Christians do. They pretend to believe in Jesus to bluff the Christians and particularly the whites in order to convert them to their religion. In fact with conversion in mind, some Muslims will describe Jesus in great flowery language. The idea is to soften the Christian stance to Islam and convert them to Islam. Let us see what Islam has to say about Jesus Christ.

Jesus is known in Islam as Isa (prophet Isa). In the Islamic scriptures, Jesus is frequently called "Al-Masih" (Messiah) and at one time or another is also referred to as "the Word of God", "the Word of Truth", "a Spirit from Him", "the Messenger of God", "the Prophet of God", and "the Servant of God".

The Qur'an mentions quite a lot about Jesus Christ -- some of it truthful, and some of it utter bluffs.

Islam teaches the virgin birth of Jesus Christ.

"And Mary, daughter of 'Imran, whose body was chaste, therefore We breathed therein something of Our Spirit. And she put faith in the words of her Lord and His scriptures, and was of the obedient." (Quran 66:12)

"She said: 'How shall I have a son, seeing that no man has touched me, and I am not unchaste?' 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. So she conceived him, and she retired with him to a remote place." (Quran 19:20-22)

In both of these Quranic passages, we can see that orthodox Muslim teachings hold to the fact that Christ was conceived in Mary, despite her being a virgin. Further, it is taught that Mary's conception of Christ was a result of the action of the Spirit of Allah. The virginal conception of Jesus Christ is also explicitly stated to have been a sign to men and a mercy from Allah. Where Islam fails, though, is to understand what this sign pointed to and what the mercy of God through the Lord Jesus Christ really is.

The Qur'an also reports that Jesus Christ was sinless in His life on earth.

"He said: I am only a messenger of thy Lord, that I may bestow on thee a faultless son." (Quran 19:19)

Christ was therefore described to Mary as faultless, indicating that He would be sinless.

Some of the events surrounding the birth of the Lord are taught as well. The Qur'an reports that Jesus spoke at birth.

"But she pointed to the babe. They said: 'How can we talk to one who is a child in the cradle?' He said: 'I am indeed a servant of Allah: He hath given me revelation and made me a prophet'..." (Quran 19:29-30)

The Bible, though, makes no record of this event. Incidentally this event appears in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century Jewish book of fables, the Midrash. How did it appear in the 7<sup>th</sup> century Quran is anyone's guess?

In Islam, Jesus Christ is acknowledged as having performed many miracles. He raised people from the dead and healed the sick and infirmed. He had supernatural knowledge of things which people kept secret. He is also reported to have fashioned a bird out of clay, breathed into it, and it came to life.

"And appoint him a messenger to the Children of Israel, with this message: 'I have come to you, with a Sign from your Lord, in that I make for you out of clay, as it were, the figure of a bird, and breathe into it, and it becomes a bird by Allah's leave: And I heal those born blind, and the lepers, and I quicken the dead, by Allah's leave; and I declare to you what ye eat, and what ye store in your houses. Surely therein is a Sign for you if ye did believe;" (Quran 3:49)

Some of these miracles are true to the Biblical record; the miracle of the clay bird is not. However, we can note that Islam does record Jesus as having performed miracles, through the power of Allah, and that these miracles were for the purpose of serving as signs so that the people might believe.

Islam will even go so far as to teach that Jesus Christ was the Messiah from God, and that He was God's Word and mediator. In the Quran we see the Messianic nature of Jesus Christ supported,

"And remember when the angels said: O Mary! Lo! Allah giveth thee glad tidings of a word from him, whose name is the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, illustrious in the world and the Hereafter, and one of those brought near unto Allah." (Quran 3:45)

The Arabisation of the corresponding Syriac word, translated as "Messiah" is al-masseh, which literally means "the anointed one, the messiah", just as does the word Messiah in Hebrew.

As the Messiah of God, Jesus was then also reckoned by the Quran to be the Word of God.

"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 a messenger of Allah, and His Word, which He bestowed on Mary, and a spirit proceeding from Him..." (Quran 4:171)

So, does all this teaching about Jesus really honor Him, as Muslim apologists say?

I fear the answer is NO. What then about the claim that "Muslims honor Jesus more than Christians do"?

Although the Qur'an speaks highly of Christ and presents miraculous aspects of His life as already mentioned, it also categorically denies the two central teachings of the New Testament--His deity and His crucifixion--and radically misinterprets what they mean. Christ is seen to be a Prophet and Envoy of God (according to one Muslim writer the 2<sup>nd</sup> greatest of all the prophets after Muhammad), but only a man and nothing more. As a performer of exceptional miracles, he was rescued by God from an untimely end, was raised up to heaven, and (according to the Islamic traditions) will come back to earth again -- to kill Jews, destroy Christianity and setup an Islamic Kingdom in the end free of Jews and Christians! He is not the Savior of the world, and is certainly not God, or "the Son of God".

### Muslims beliefs about Jesus Christ

All of the Muslim believes about Jesus Christ come from the Islamic scriptures. They believe in what the Islamic scriptures have to say about Jesus Christ.

According to the Quran, Jesus' true name was Isa. He was a Muslim prophet. His message was pure Islam - surrender to Allah. (Quran 3:84). Isa's original disciples were also true Muslims (Quran 5:111). Like other messengers of Islam before him, Jesus was given a book (the gospel - called the Injil in Islam) by Allah (Quran 6:90, 5:46). Allah also gave the Torah to Moses and the Zabur (Psalms) to David. (Note that Allah says he gave the Torah to Moses and the Psalms to David. He does not say they wrote the books as history tells us. Today it has been found that the Psalms have several authors - all Jewish prophets or rabbis including Moses). Since the books were given to Moses and Jesus, Jews and Christians are called "People of the Book" in the Quran. The one religion revealed in these books was Islam. (Quran 3:18). However, after Jesus the Injil was lost in its original form. Today the Quran is the only sure guide to the teachings of Jesus. To justify why the Torah, the Psalms and the Bible contradicts the Quran on almost every page, the Quran says that the Christians and Jews have corrupted their scriptures (Quran 3:74-77, 113). Although Christians believe Jesus died on the cross and Jews claimed they killed him, in reality he was not killed or crucified, and those who said he was crucified lied (Quran 4:157). According to the Quran, Jesus did not die, but ascended to Allah. (Quran 4:158). It further says that, on the day of Resurrection Jesus himself will be a witness against Jews and Christians for believing in his death. (Quran 4:159). Therefore it asks Christians to accept Islam peacefully. It also commands Muslims to fight and slay the Christians (who do not accept Islam peacefully) until all Jews and Christians become Muslims. (Quran 5:35, 9:30)

The Islamic beliefs about Jesus can be briefly summarized as follows:

1. Muslims believe in the miraculous virgin birth of Jesus Christ to Mary.
2. Believe in Jesus being the Messiah and Word of God (These are just titles given for Jesus and do not have any actual meanings like in the Bible).
3. Believe in Jesus as a prophet and messenger of God
4. Believe that Jesus was born without sin
5. Believe he did lot of miracles
6. Deny that he is the promised Jewish Messiah
7. Deny that he is God in the flesh.
8. Deny his crucifixion and Resurrection.
9. Deny that he claimed to be God.
10. Deny that the gospels were written by the Apostles. According to Islam, Allah gave the gospel to Jesus and the followers of Jesus have corrupted this gospel and converted it into 4 gospels.
11. Believe that he will come again. But the belief is not like Christianity. Islamic sources say Jesus will come again with the sword to kill Jews and Christians and convert the whole world to Islam.

Muslims believe that Jesus was the son of Mary, and was conceived without the intervention of a human father. The Quran describes that an angel appeared to Mary, to announce to her the "gift of a holy son" (Quran 19:19). She was astonished at the news, and asked: "How shall I have a son, seeing that no man has touched me, and I am not unchaste?" (Quran 19:20). When the angel explained to her that she had been chosen for the service of God, and that God had ordained the matter, she devoutly submitted herself to His will.

In the Quran and other Islamic sources, there is no mention of Joseph the carpenter, nor any recollection of the inn and manger story. On the contrary, the Quran describes that Mary retreated from her people (outside the city), and gave birth to Jesus underneath a remote date palm tree. The tree miraculously provided nourishment for her during labor and birth (Quran Chapter 19). Incidentally these stories from Allah's 6<sup>th</sup> century Quran are also found in the book of Jewish folk tales namely the Midrash Rabbah written in between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries CE.

In spite of the miraculous birth, however, the Quran repeatedly reminds us that Adam, the first human being, was born with neither a human mother nor a human father. Therefore, Jesus' miraculous birth affords him no higher standing or presumed partnership with God. In fact many Muslims believe Adam was greater than Jesus as he was born without a father or mother.

For all that the Qur'an says about Jesus, it still in the main denies His divinity.

"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 a messenger of Allah, and His Word, which He bestowed on Mary, and a spirit proceeding from Him: so believe in Allah and His messengers. 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." (Quran 4:171)

Muslims use this passage as a source for their arguments against the divinity of Jesus. Pointing to this, they will say that Jesus was no more than a messenger of Allah, that He was not part of the Trinity, and that Allah is far exalted above having a son, so hence Jesus was not the Son of God.

Another Quranic verse which Muslims use to deny the Trinity is Quran 5:116.

"And behold! Allah will say: "O Jesus the son of Mary! Didst thou say unto men, take me and my mother for two gods beside Allah.?" He will say: "Glory to Thee! never could I say what I had no right (to say). Had I said such a thing, Thou wouldst indeed have known it. Thou knowest what is in my heart, Thou I know not what is in Thine. For Thou knowest in full all that is hidden." (Quran 5:116)

You might be wondering how can Allah who claims to be the absolute God make such a blunder? The Christian doctrine of the Trinity is not as what these verses demonstrates. The Trinity certainly does not consist of three separate gods. The Trinity does not consist of God, Jesus, and Mary. (Quran 5:116 clearly demonstrates that the Quran is not from God. Else, how an all-knowing God could commit such a blunder).

Islam denies the deity of Jesus, and reduces him to the status of a prophet only like Daniel or Jeremiah.

"He (Jesus) spake: Lo! I am the slave of Allah. He hath given me the Scripture and hath appointed me a Prophet." (Quran 19:30)

Islam acknowledges His sinlessness, His virgin conception, and that He was indeed from God (as far as being a prophet is concerned). Muslims see and believe that He performed many miracles, and that He is the Messiah who intercedes before God on behalf of man (Muslims believe that Muhammad is a greater interceder than Jesus in front of Allah). Yet, they turn back at understanding and believing what this all means. Christ's virgin birth and sinlessness point to His deity. His position as the Messiah, who was to die for the sins of the world, made Him the only one who could be the spotless sacrifice for man's sin. God Himself was the only acceptable sacrifice to God to take away man's sin guilt, as He is the only one who has never sinned, and thus is spotless and righteous in His own right. Yet Islam denies this very crux of the issue.

Islam also denies the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Muslims believe that Jesus survived his crucifixion, and later died on earth of natural causes. The Quran says Jesus was not crucified but was raised up to heaven by Allah. In a hadith later on Muhammad clarified that it was Judas Iscariot and not Jesus who was crucified.

Islam talks of the second coming of Christ. But there is a problem here. According to Islamic scriptures (Sunan Abu Dawud, 37:4310, Sahih Muslim 287), Christ will come again with the sword to kill swine's (Jews), destroy crosses (Christianity), abolish the poll-tax (start Jihad) and establish Allah's Kingdom on earth. He will start a Jihad after abolishing the poll tax against those who refuse to accept Islam. All those who refuse to convert to Islam will be slaughtered. At the end of the slaughter the only people to remain on earth will be Muslims and they will become very wealthy. It will be a paradise on earth. The Islamic Jesus will marry, have children and be buried in Medina beside Muhammad in the fourth grave reserved for him.

Under Islamic law the poll-tax buys the protection of the lives and property of conquered 'people of the Book'. (At-Taubah 9:29) The abolition of the poll-tax means Jihad is restarted against Christians (and Jews) living under Islam, who should convert to Islam, or else be killed or enslaved. The abundance of wealth refers to booty flowing to the Muslims from this conquest. This is what the Muslim Jesus will do when he returns in the last days.

According to the Islamic scriptures, on the day of the judgment Muhammad will intercede for Muslims in front of Allah. Muhammad's intercession will be binding on Allah. On judgment day, Muhammad will sit on the throne beside Allah and will decide who goes to heaven and who to hell. In short the role of Jesus in Islam is that of John the Baptist in the Bible. The role of Muhammad in Islam is that of Jesus in the Bible.

### The Gospel of Barnabas

No discussion of the Islamic Jesus is complete without a mention of the so-called "Gospel of Barnabas" (not to be confused with the "Epistle of Barnabas", a recognised exhortatory epistle of a second century Christian author). This work is an extra-biblical book which claims to be an account of the life and work of Christ. Muslims love this book, and cite it often in support of the Islamic view of Christ. The reason for this is because the book conforms very much to Islamic theology concerning Jesus Christ. The Gospel of Barnabas denies that Jesus claimed deity, denies that He was the Son of God, and denies His death on the cross. Muslims say that this book was considered authoritative by the early church, but this claim is contradicted by the fact that no church fathers ever cited it in their writings, and that the earliest textual evidence for this book is a sixteenth century Italian manuscript. Some apologists claim that the Gospel of Barnabas is mentioned in "The Gelasian Decree" of pope Gelasius (492-495 AD). Now, a "Gospel in the name of Barnabas" is discussed in that decree, but is rejected along with

a host of other writings as spurious and apocryphal, which had been attributed to various Apostles and other first generation Christians<sup>4</sup>. However, this apocryphal gospel was dismissed at the end of the 5th century, while the Gospel of Barnabas preferred by Muslims shows much internal evidence of having originated at a much later date.

Additionally, the Gospel of Barnabas contains many historical mistakes and anachronisms which date to medieval Europe and which would not have existed in the first century AD, and the many Islamic influences in the work seem to indicate the "Gospel" is the work of a medieval European convert to Islam. The style of quotations from the Old Testament found in this work are from the Latin Vulgate, which was not even translated until the very end of the 4th century, and which remained the standard Roman Bible for most of Roman Catholic history to the present. This "Gospel" also contains several references to medieval elements such as wooden wine casks and romanticised duals between lovers, which did not exist in 1st century Palestine. Most revealing are the numerous references to Mohammed (in chapters 44, 54, 97, 112, 163, etc.) which reveals a post-Islamic origin for the work.

In fact, the dating for the creation of the Gospel of Barnabas can positively be placed between 1300 and 1350. This is because of the use by its author of a centennial Year of Jubilee. In chapter 85, the Gospel of Barnabas states, "...Years of the Jubilee, which now cometh every 100 years". In the Old Testament, the Year of Jubilee was set for every fifty years, and this remained the practice (at least in word even if the Jubilee was not kept) throughout the subsequent history of both the Jews and the early and medieval Christian church. Yet, the Gospel of Barnabas says that the Jubilee was changed to being every 100 years. Why? Gairdner supplies the answer by noting that after celebrating this year in 1300, Pope Boniface VII altered the Jubilee to a centennial event. However, his successor Pope Clement VI reversed this decision and celebrated the next Jubilee in 1350. Only a person living in that period between 1300 and 1350 would have considered the year of Jubilee as being changed to come every 100 years. Further evidence for dating the "Gospel" to at least this date lies in that it actually, on several occasions, quotes the works of Dante Aligheri (1265-1321)! All of these evidences, plus many, many more which will not be listed here for the sake of space, point to the Gospel of Barnabas as being a complete and utter forgery, produced by an individual steeped in Muslim theology and tradition, yet who was also at least marginally knowledgeable of the "Christianity" of his day. For much more detailed expositions on the reasons why the Gospel of Barnabas can be nothing but a forgery, read the section from their book *Answering Islam: The Crescent in the Light of the Cross* which deals with the Gospel of Barnabas, by Norman Geisler and Abdul Saleeb, and also the essay on this subject by Gerhard Nehls.

## Problems in the Islamic version of Jesus

When comparing the Christian and the Islamic versions of Jesus, there are problems galore with the Islamic version of Jesus.

The Quran calls Jesus the word of God and the Messiah. But these have no meaning in Islam? What is the use of such titles? The Quran that Muslims swear to be "Complete" is seemingly "most incomplete" in this regard. On the other hand the Bible gives the same titles to Jesus and fulfils them. The life of Jesus as described in the Bible explains in detail the meaning of these titles.

The Quran speaks of the virgin birth of Jesus. But why was it necessary? The Quran speaks of the sinlessness of Jesus both in birth and during his life. What was the justification for this sinfulness? What was its purpose? The Quran falters in answering this question? The Bible on the other hand gives the concise explanations.

The Quran describes that Mary retreated from her people (outside the city), and gave birth to Jesus underneath a remote date palm tree. The tree miraculously provided nourishment for her during labor and birth. This story is given in the quranic surah named "Mary" (Quran chapter 19). Incidentally this was one of the most popular fables floating in Arabia from the third century onwards. It finds its entry in the Midrash Rabbah, a book of Jewish fables. This is not the only fable in the Quran. There are many others. Like for instance, Jesus making clay birds when he was young and giving life to them, Jesus speaking in his cradle when he was an infant, Abraham destroying his fathers idols, Abraham coming out of the fire unscathed and so on. All these fables are found in the Midrash and the other Jewish apocryphal works. What are such fables doing in the Quran? I leave this question for my fellow Muslims to answer.

Similarly, Islam denies that Jesus is God's Son, using Quran 4:171 where it says that Allah is exalted above having a son. Most Muslims on this consistently think that this idea refers to God physically having a son, in the same way which a mortal human being would, i.e. through sexual procreation. However, they fail to understand that the virgin birth of Christ renders this argument moot. God miraculously caused Mary to conceive, through the overshadowing action of His Holy Spirit, and thus Jesus was born without a human father. This is important, also, in that it confirms His sinless perfection. As Christ was not born through the means of passing the seed of man down, Christ did not inherit in the human part of His nature the sinfulness which afflicts the mortal human race.

Islam denies the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the sins of mankind. Many fairy tales have been put forth over the years by Muslims wishing to deny the crucifixion of Christ. They say that he really swooned on the cross, did not really die, and was taken down, after which He woke up again. Muslims will claim that it was really Judas who died on the



cross, instead of Jesus. They will say that angels removed Him from the cross before He died. Any number of stories are told to get around the simple fact, as seen from all four Gospels and secular sources as well, that Jesus Christ died upon the cross at Calvary. Muslims will make the argument that saying Jesus died on the cross dishonors God as it presumes that one of God's servants would be killed by sinner. The fact notwithstanding that God's Word the Bible records MANY of God's faithful servants who were killed for serving Him faithfully, this argument demonstrates the ignorance of Muslims as to the PURPOSE of Christ's death on the cross. The argument that they think is honoring Jesus Christ really dishonors Him as it denies the very reason He even came among mankind as the God-man. Jesus Christ incarnated to mankind for the specific purpose of dying on the cross! It was His whole reason for coming, to consummate God's plan of salvation for man by serving as the ultimate, final sacrifice for man's sin.

Do Muslims really believe in Jesus Christ?

Muslims mention Jesus and claim to revere him, so we ask the question, "Do Muslims believe in Jesus?" "Muslims believe in Jesus" is a claim which many Muslims in Western nations will often make, so as to encourage greater "dialogue" and openness toward Islam. Because Jesus Christ is mentioned in the Qur'an, it is said to follow that the Qur'an honors Him. Islam acknowledges that Jesus Christ was a prophet, that He was born of a virgin, and even that He was sinless. However, simply giving lip service to these facts does not necessarily mean that Muslims understand the significance of these points, or that they are therefore reverencing Jesus. This is because, in the process of mentioning the teaching about Jesus, Islam rejects and denies the central truths about Jesus Christ which are of vital importance.

Just imagine for a moment a group of people who claim to believe in Mahatma Gandhi. They do not deny they Gandhi ever lived. But they deny that he ever visited South Africa, they deny his non-violent movement against the British, his fight for the independence of India and his death at the hands of Godsingh. They deny that the Mahatma is the father of the nation! Can we really claim that this group believes in the Mahatma? I hope you get the picture.

Muslims deny the most important points of the life of Jesus Christ – his divinity and his crucifixion on the cross. Muslims deny the deity of Jesus Christ. They deny that Jesus Christ was God in the Flesh. They also deny that Jesus Christ died for the sin of mankind, was crucified and was resurrected from the dead.

The fact of the matter is that Muslims do not really believe in Jesus Christ. From all this we have seen that while Islam says that they reverence and honor Jesus Christ as a prophet of God, they really call Him a liar and dishonor Him. The Quran came out of the mouth of Muhammad and the

hadith collections are also from the mouth of the same person. It is the word of one person - Muhammad on one side against the word of the gospel writers and disciples like Peter and Paul on the other side. Whom would you rather believe?

Christ died to serve as the sacrifice for man which would atone for man's sins. Man cannot save himself through his good works or religious rituals. Christ, who was completely righteous, took the place of every man, woman, and child who ever lived and will ever live. The Muslim claims that Christ did not die is an attempt to negate this. While they think they are honoring Him, they are in fact denying Him, calling Him a liar, and leaving themselves with no hope of eternal salvation. Likewise, the resurrection of Christ from the dead demonstrated His triumph over death and hell, and gives promise of eternal life to all who trust in Him. Without the resurrection of Christ, which Muslims deny implicitly when they deny His death, there is no hope for any man to be saved. Paul realized this and wrote,

"And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." (I Corinthians 15:14)

#### The Truth about the Islamic Jesus

The Islamic Jesus is the brain child of Muhammad. The rest of the Jewish prophets converted and projected as Muslim prophets were the deeds of the same person. Muhammad dreamt of himself as a Biblical prophet and maybe even the Jewish messiah. But for him to be a Biblical prophet he had to be connected to Abraham. Hence he Islamicized Abraham and Abraham's succeeding generations. Muhammad projected all of the Jewish prophets including Abraham, Adam, Jacob and Moses as Muslims talking in the name of Allah. Jesus too was cast in a role of a forerunner to Muhammad setting the stage for the coming of Muhammad. To explain the biblical differences with the Quran, Muhammad purported that the Bible was corrupted by the Jews and the Christians.

It was vital for Muhammad to make Jesus a Muslim prophet worshipping Allah. Jesus was the "Father of miracles" and a friend of the poor. Muhammad himself could do no miracles to prove his prophet hood, no walking on water, no rising from the dead or any such like deeds that the Jewish prophets routinely performed to demonstrate their divine authority. All Muhammad could do was to talk about the miracles of Jesus and of the Jewish prophets.

It was also vital for him to deny Jesus' mission on earth, his crucifixion and subsequent resurrection. Jesus had pronounced himself as "God in the flesh" and the last of the Jewish line of prophets. His mission on earth was to save sinners and die for their sins. Muhammad had to deny it. Else there was no need for Muhammad's revelations; no one would believe in him being a prophet.

To project himself superior to Jesus, Muhammad cooked up the myth of Jesus being a Warner to him (Muhammad), an announcer giving the good news of the coming of Muhammad.

There is plenty of evidence in the Islamic scriptures to show that the picture of the Islamic Jesus as given in the Islamic scriptures is a myth from the mouth of Muhammad, the self professed Islamic prophet. Muhammad is the only source of the Quran. We believe in the Quran solely on his word. There were no special events or deeds to prove his prophet hood. The entire religion of Islam and of the Islamic Jesus hangs on the testimony of one man, Muhammad. As you will see in the article titled, Was Muhammad a Prophet?, Muhammad was no prophet at all.

Contrary to popular belief, Islamic scriptures do not project Muhammad as a godly man. They project him as a lustful sadistic warmonger. Muhammad during his lifetime authorized between 75 terrorist raids on innocent civilians (26 of which he lead himself) and tortured and butchered thousands in genocidal rage. When he was fifty three, Muhammad married a six-year-old child and took her to bed when she was nine. Then he stole his son's wife using Quranic scripture to justify it. After forcing young girls to watch his men execute their fathers, Muhammad raped them. In ten years, he ordered a score of assassinations and used the sword to force Arabs into submission and used the slave trade to finance Islam. He used Quranic scripture to justify some of the most horrific behavior imaginable - pedophilia, incest, rape, torture, assassinations, thievery and mass murder. It is all there in the Islamic scriptures. Kindly read it. The Islamic scriptures in brief are given at the end of this booklet.

Muslims will tell you that Muhammad married several widows. What they won't tell you is how they became widows? They also won't tell you what was the age of the widows? I will tell you. Most of them became widows as Muhammad man killed their husbands during the terrorist raids. Many of Muhammad's wives were captives of war. Most of Muhammad's wives were in the prime of their age (age less than 35). Only two of them were over the age of 50.

Now who would you rather believe? The 32 writers of the Bible or the alleged revelations to Muhammad? Were Abraham, Moses and Jesus Muslims or Jews? Did they speak in the name of Yahweh or Allah? Imagine a situation that has happened hundreds of years back and many writers of the time have written it down. But one fine day a thousand years later a man comes who claims to be a prophet and gives his own version of the situation? Would you believe him?

The Islamic Jesus was nothing but a figment of imagination of Muhammad to further his own interest!!

## Appendix A - What Islamic Scriptures say about Jesus & Christians

In the Quran, Allah talks of destroying Jesus Christ. Incidentally in the Bible Satan talks of destroying Christ.

"...Say (Muhammad): 'Who then has the least power against Allah, if His will were to destroy Christ, the Messiah, the son of Mary, his mother, and everyone else on earth?'" (Quran 5:17)

Allah/Muhammad defines infidels in Quran 5:17,

"Verily they are disbelievers and infidels who say, 'The Messiah, son of Mary, is God.'" (Quran 5:17)

Allah/Muhammad command Muslims to fight against the Christians on earth and promises the Christians them everlasting torture in hell.

"Believers, fear Allah and seek the way to approach Him, striving hard, fighting Jihad with all your might in His Cause that you may be successful. As for the disbelievers [previously defined as Christians], if they had everything on earth, two times over, to give as ransom for the penalty of the Day of Doom, it would never be accepted from them. Theirs will be a painful torment. They will desire to get out of the fire, but they shall not be released from it. They shall have an everlasting torture." (Quran 5:35)

Not only does Allah command Muslims to fight and destroy the Christians, he himself (Allah) fights against the Christians destroying them.

"The Jews call Uzair the son of Allah, and the Christians say that the Messiah is the son of Allah. That is their saying from their mouths; they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. Allah's (Himself) fights against them, cursing them, damning and destroying them. How perverse are they!" (Quran 9:30)

The Quran states that Allah created Jesus just like the created Adam.

"This is what We rehearse to you of the Signs and Message, a wise reminder. The similitude (likeness) of Jesus before Allah is as that of Adam; He created him from dust, then said to him: 'Be.' And he was." (Quran 3:58)

For a small book (Formatting like the Bible, the Quran is slightly smaller than the New Testament), the Quran contains surprisingly a large number of verses directed against Jesus Christ and Christians. Here is a sampling of a few of these statements.

"Believers, take not Jews and Christians for your friends. They are but friends and protectors to each other." (Quran 5:51)

"They are surely infidels who blaspheme and say: 'God is Christ, the Messiah, the son of Mary.' But the Messiah only said: 'O Children of Israel! Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord.'" (Quran 5:72)

"Fight those who do not believe in Allah or the Last Day, who do not forbid that which has been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, or acknowledge the Religion of Truth (Islam), (even if they are) People of the Book (Christians and Jews), until they pay the Jizyah tribute tax in submission, feeling themselves subdued and brought low." (Quran 9:29)

"If anyone disputes with you about Jesus being divine, flee them and pray that Allah will curse them." (Quran 3:62)

"From those, too, who call themselves Christians, We made a covenant, but they forgot and abandoned a good part of the message that was sent them: so we estranged them, stirred up enmity and hatred among them to the Day of Doom. Soon will Allah show them the handiwork they have done." (Quran 5:14)

"They are surely disbelievers who blaspheme and say: 'God is one of three in the Trinity for there is no Ilah (God) except One, Allah. If they desist not from saying this (blasphemy), verily a grievous penalty will befall them - the disbelievers will suffer a painful doom.'" (Quran 5:73)

"We [Jews] killed the Messiah, Jesus,' but they killed him not, nor crucified him. It appeared so to them (as the resemblance of Jesus was put over another man and they killed that man). Nay, Allah raised him up unto Himself. Those who differ with this version are full of doubts. They have no knowledge and follow nothing but conjecture. For surely they killed him not." (Quran 4:157)

"When Allah's Apostle became seriously sick, he started covering his face with a woolen sheet. When he felt short of breath, he removed it, and said, 'That is so! Allah's curse be on Jews and Christians.'" (Bukhari:V5B59N727)

"Allah's Apostle said, 'On the night of my Ascension to Heaven, I saw Jesus with a red face as if he had just come out of a bathroom. And I resemble Abraham more than any of his offspring.'" (Bukhari:V4B55N607)

"O people of the Book (Christians), do not be fanatical in your faith, and say nothing but the truth about Allah. The Messiah who is Isa (Jesus), son of Mariam, was only a messenger of Allah, nothing more. He bestowed His Word on Mariam and His Spirit. So believe in Allah and say not Trinity for Allah is one Ilah (God)...far be it from His Glory to beget a son." (Quran 4:171)

"Allah forgives not that partners [Christ as God] should be set up with Him; but He forgives anything else, to whom He please; to set up partners with Allah is to devise a sin most heinous." (Quran 4:48)

"O you who believe! Take not into your intimacy those outside your religion (pagans, Jews, and Christians). They will not fail to corrupt you. They only desire your ruin. Rank hatred has already appeared from their mouths. What their hearts conceal is far worse. When they are alone, they bite off the very tips of their fingers at you in their rage. Say unto them: 'Perish in your rage.'" (Quran 3:118)

## Appendix B - The Islamic Scriptures

Muhammad, Allah, Mecca, and the formation of Islam are completely unknown to secular history. All we know of them is derived from the Islamic Scriptures. The official works of Islam include the Quran (meaning recital), Ishaq's Sira (biography of Muhammad), Al-Tabari's Tarikh (history of Islam) and the works of Muslim and Al-Bukhari. Nothing is known about Muhammad and his creation, Islam, apart from these five books. They represent the only surviving written record scribed within 250 years of the prophet's life. They, and only they, represent Islam. There is no other valid source from which Muhammad can be seen, or Islam can be interpreted, differently. All other writing on Islam are derived from these five books.

Islamic scripture can be broadly classified into two types, the Quran and the Sunnah. What makes the Quran different from the Sunnah is its form. Unlike the Sunnah, the Quran is quite literally the Word of Allah, whereas the Sunnah (which is comprised mostly of hadith) was inspired by Allah but the wording and actions are the Prophet's. The works of Bukhari, Muslim, Ishaq, and Tabari - Islam's earliest and more trusted sources together form the Sunnah. Most of the Sunnah is made up of Hadiths. Hadiths are reports and anecdotes on Muhammad. The Hadith feature chains of reporters, and they are in sync with other Collections and with the Quran.

The center point of Islam is the Quran. What Jesus is to Christianity is the Quran to Islam. But Allah's Book, the Quran, lacks context and chronology, so to understand it, Muslims are dependent upon the Sira, Tarikh and the hadith collections of Muslim and Al-Bukhari. (Each Hadith is tied to a verse in the Qur'an. Since the Quran lacks context and chronology, the hadiths are extremely important in deciphering the Quran.) Going through the Quran is not as easy as going through the Bible. The Bible is ordered chronologically. In the Bible Abraham precedes Moses and succeeds Noah. Similarly Jesus comes in a later part of the Bible compared to Jacob and Isaiah. It is not so in the Quran. Verses are arranged randomly without any relation to the preceding or succeeding verses. Similarly it is extremely difficult to make out the context of most statements in the Quran. It requires the utmost sense of duty and attention on the part of Muslims to plough through the Quran to search for relevant verses.

For Muslims the most important of all Islamic scripture is undoubtedly the Quran. It is the uncorrupted word of Allah devoid of all errors. Muslims believe that the Quran has not been expressed using any human words. Its wording is letter for letter fixed by Allah. The Quran is made up of 114 surahs or chapters which were allegedly revealed to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel over a period of 20 years. The surahs are differently named. For instance the 2<sup>th</sup> Surah is named "The Cow" (al-Baqarah), the 8<sup>th</sup>, "The Spoils of War" (al-Anfal) and the 54<sup>th</sup>, "The Moon" (al-Qamar). Each surah is divided into verses. There are in total 6666 verses in the quran. There are a number of English translations of the Quran. The Quran is named according to the

name of the person who has translated the Quran to English. Hence we have Yusuf Ali Quran, Noble Quran, Pickthall Quran, the Ahmed Ali Quran, Shakir Quran and so on. The texts of these Qurans differ slightly due to the different translators (just like in the case of the Bible).

One of the most important to note about the Quran is that the Surahs are not in chronological order (like in the Bible for instance). They are randomly placed in the Quran. What this means is that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Surah may not be revealed earlier than the 8<sup>th</sup> Surah or the 54<sup>th</sup> one. Another important things to note is the language of the Quran. The Quran was revealed in two phases – at Medina and at Mecca thereby called the Medina surahs and the Meccan surahs. The Medina surahs were revealed first. The Meccan surahs were revealed after the hijra to Mecca. The Medina surahs by and large preach tolerance while the Mecca surahs are extremely intolerant of other religions.

The Quran also lacks context. At many places it is very difficult to make out who is talking to whom or what Allah is saying in the Quran. Fortunately for Muslims the Sira and Tarikh come to the rescue of the Quran. Ishaq and Tabari chose Hadith that could be presented in the order they occurred. In fact, without Ishaq and Tabari, Islam would not exist and Muhammad would be unknown. They alone provide the religion's skeleton, its context and chronology. Without this grounding in place and time, the Quran is indecipherable.

Islamic scholars tell that the "Quran is literally the word of Allah" and that the "Sunnah was inspired by Allah." They say this because there are hundreds of commands in the Quran ordering Muslims to obey Muhammad, to believe in him, to follow his example. Since the Quran is supposed to be "Allah" speaking, the only way to obey Muhammad, to believe in and follow him, is to know what he said and did. The Hadith represents the sole repository of these words and deeds. So, Muslims believe that the Hadith is divinely inspired scripture directly from Allah. To realize how important is the Sunnah and the Hadiths to Islam, realize that the five pillars of Islam are nowhere found in the Quran. They are found in the Sunnah. In addition each Hadith is tied to a verse in the Qur'an. Since the Quran lacks context and chronology, the hadiths are extremely important in deciphering the Quran. They give meaning to the Quran. Without the hadith collections, it is virtually impossible to make sense out of the Quran. It can correctly be said that without the hadiths, the Quran is not fit to be even toilet paper.

Ibn Ishaq's Sira, or biography, called Sirat Rasul Allah, provides the lone account of Muhammad's life and the formation of Islam written within 200 years of the prophet's death. The Sira's chronological presentation is similar in style to the Christian Gospels.

The Ta'rikh is the oldest, most trusted and comprehensive history of Islam's formation and Muhammad's example, called Sunnah. It was written by Tabari. His History of al-Tabari is formatted like the Bible. It begins with



Islamic creation and ends with the acts of Muhammad's companions. Tabari is a compilation of Hadith quotes and Quran passages. The reports of the Prophet's sayings and deeds are called Hadith. Muslims believe that Hadith were inspired by Allah, making them scripture.

Ishaq's biography and Tabari's history are comprised in their entirety of Hadith. Ishaq collected Islamic scripture a century before others. But sadly, Ishaq's original has been lost. What remains was edited by Ibn Hisham sixty-five years later. And Hisham said: "I am omitting things which Ishaq recorded in this book. I have omitted things which are disgraceful to discuss and matters which would distress certain people." That is why Tabari is essential. He had a copy of Ishaq's Sirat Rasul Allah when he composed his monumental history. Rather than editing it, he referenced Ishaq's Sira each time his Hadith shed additional light on any subject - especially Islamic creation and the Satanic Verses. The narrative and chronological Hadith compiled by Ishaq and Tabari were required to provide the Quran with the context of circumstance, time, and place that it otherwise lacked.

The "Sahih Al-Bukhari" comes in nine volumes, and contains thousands of Hadiths. Al Bukhari is accepted by all Muslims as the authentic words of Muhammad. It is the most accepted book of Islam after the Quran.

The works of Imam Muslim "Sahih Muslim" contain hadith collections like that of Bukhari. Apart from Hadiths, the works of Al-Bukhari and Muslim contains the explanation of important Islamic themes and ideas.

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## About Rashid Alamir

Rashid Alamir "Brother Rashi" was born to Muslim parents in a small village on the outskirts of Srinagar, Kashmir in 1969. He came to the Lord during the May of 1995 while doing his MS degree in the States. Alamir is the founder of Muslims for Jesus movement in India and one of the pillars of the Byzantine Orthodox Church of India (BOCI). He is extremely fluent in Arabic and Urdu and has been instrumental in bringing several thousand lost souls to the Lord both in India and the Arabic speaking Asian and African countries.

If you are a new Christian or have any questions about the Christian faith, then you can write to Rashid Alamir at the email address [yahwehcalls@yahoo.co.in](mailto:yahwehcalls@yahoo.co.in)

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