

"and we are his true children." (John 8:41)

Atonement

This is the belief that the entire creation, including the Messengers, are sinful. The Almighty then sent His 'son' to die to "atone" for the sins of mankind. So the Jewish notion that Jesus (peace be upon him) was crucified and murdered was readily accepted. This was not for his sake or in vain but for the salvation of mankind. This belief destroys any need for a person to do any good.

The Quran teaches that belief in God and good deeds are the only road to salvation:

"Indeed, those who believe (in Islam), and those of Judaism, and the Christians, and the Sabians - whoever (among them truly) believes in the Almighty and in the Last Day and does good deeds- shall have their reward with their Lord; and there shall be nothing to fear ..." (Quran 2:62)

If a person believes in the Almighty and does good actions they will be successful. On the other hand, even if a person is born in a Muslim home but does not follow the Quranic prescription for salvation, he cannot be successful. None can atone for the sins of others.

Crucifixion

Muslims believe that Jesus did not die, he was not crucified, nor was he killed. He was raised to the heavens alive.

"... And they did not kill him nor did they crucify him... .. but Allah raised him to Him. Allah is the Mighty, the Wise." (Quran 4:157-158)

Summary

Muslims believe that Jesus was a messenger of the Almighty, they respect and revere him, and await his second coming. His mother had a virgin birth and he is according to Muslims, one of the greatest Messengers of God.

The Quran describes the Annunciation as follows:

"Behold! the Angel said, the Almighty has chosen you, O Mary, the Almighty gives you good news of a Word from

Him, whose name shall be the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, honoured in this world and the Hereafter..."

She (Mary) said: My Lord! How shall I have a son when no human being has touched me? He (the Almighty) said: So shall it be! The Almighty creates whatever He so wills. When He decrees a matter, He but says to it, 'Be!' and so it is." (Quran, 3:47)

Jesus (peace be upon him) was born miraculously through the same power which had brought Adam (peace be upon him) into being without a father:

Indeed, the likeness of (the creation of) Jesus, with respect to the Almighty, is as the likeness of (that of) Adam. He created him of dust. Then He said to him, 'Be!' and he was. (Quran, 3:59)

During his prophetic mission, Jesus (peace be upon him) performed many miracles. The Quran tells us that he said: *"Truly I have come to you with a sign (of my commission) from your Lord, that I, indeed form for you from the mud (of the earth), a bird-like figure. Then I blow into it and so it becomes a bird- by the Almighty's permission. I heal the born-blind and the leper; and I give life to the dead by the Almighty's permission. (Quran, 3:49)*

Neither Muhammad (peace be upon him) nor Jesus (peace be upon him) came to change the basic doctrine of monotheism, but to confirm it. In the Quran, Jesus (peace be upon him) is reported as saying:

"And I am to confirm what has preceded me of (the Commandments of) the Torah and to make lawful for you some of what has been (previously) prohibited to you. I have come to you with a sign (of my truth) from your Lord. So fear the Almighty, and obey me." (Quran, 3:50)

Muslims believe that Jesus (peace be upon him) was not crucified but he was raised up to the heavens. When the Almighty decides, He will send him down to earth once again.



JESUS **(PEACE BE UPON HIM)**

What do Muslims believe about Jesus (peace be upon him)?

Are the Christian beliefs of Trinity and Atonement compatible with Islam?

What does the Bible say about these beliefs?



For more information on Islam, or to obtain more pamphlets like this one, please contact:

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Islamic Belief

Muslims believe that God sent Messengers to humans as models of excellence commissioned to guide mankind. He sent many Messengers; from Adam through Abraham, Moses, Jesus and finally Muhammad (peace be upon them). Their mission was to establish justice upon the earth. (Quran 57:25) and were embodiments of righteousness: "And Zachariah, John, Jesus and Elias; all are of the righteous." (Quran 6:85)

The struggle and legacy of the Messengers (peace be upon them) serve as universal guides, excellent examples and as sources of hope and inspiration for all Muslims. Jesus (peace be upon him) is one of these great, highly ranked Messengers He has been mentioned in 13 chapters of the Gracious Quran.

The Holy Quran announced that the path of truth was only one and that Jesus (peace be upon him) was a human being born of Mary (peace be upon her). He was a true messenger of the Almighty. Those who went to both extremes, either branding him a liar or the son of God are in error.

The Holy Quran teaches that as the Almighty is one, so is His truth. This truth does not belong to any particular nation but was conveyed to every nation. Based on this teaching, the Holy Quran confirms the lofty status of Jesus (peace be upon him) and that the Injeel (New Testament) is a divinely-inspired scripture of God. The Qur'an explains that the New Testament has been altered to consist of beliefs that deviate from the true monotheistic message of Jesus.

A Noble Messenger

The Qur'an speaks of the high status of Jesus refuting the blasphemy of the Jews, but indicates towards a moderate path.

Jesus (peace be upon him) said, "Indeed, I am the servant of the Almighty. He gave me the Scripture and He has

made me a Messenger ... may all peace be upon me, the day I was born, the day I die and the day I am raised to life (in the Hereafter). (Quran 19:30-33)

"As for Jesus peace be upon him), he, (like his mother Mary), is not but a servant of the Almighty upon whom We have bestowed grace ... We made him a (miraculous) exemplar for the Children of Israel ... But when (Jesus peace be upon him, returns), he shall most surely, be a portent (of the imminence) of the Hour (of Doom) ... (Quran 43:59-61)

And behold! Jesus (peace be upon him), son of Mary said: O Children of Israel, I am indeed the messenger of the Almighty (sent) to you, as a confirmation of (the truth) that has preceded me (in the law) of the Torah (Old Testament) and as a bearer of glad tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad. (Quran 61:6)

Jesus (peace be upon him) is not a Deity

Very truly they have disbelieved who say: Indeed, the Almighty, Himself, is the Messiah, son of Mary. Say (to them): Who then would be able to do against the Almighty if He so willed to destroy the Messiah, son of Mary, and his mother and everyone in the earth all together? For to the Almighty alone belongs all dominion over the heavens and the earth and all that is between them... (Quran 5:17)

Yet (still) they say: "The Almighty has taken for Himself offspring." Highly exalted is He (far above this)! (Quran 2:116)

O people of the Scripture, do not exceed the bounds (of revealed faith) in (the creed of) your religion. Nor say about the Almighty other than the truth. The Messiah Jesus (peace be upon him), the son of Mary is the messenger of the Almighty and His word which He placed on Mary (that is, he came into existence without a father from the womb of Mary). And he is His spirit. Believe in the Almighty and His messengers and do not say three (trinity). Refrain from it, it will be better for you. The Almighty is only one deity. He is pure from having any offspring ... (Quran 4:171)

The Messiah, son of Mary was only a (mortal) messenger. Truly before him, messengers have passed away. And his mother too was a (mortal) woman of (faith and) truth. Both of them used to eat food (that is, they were in need of material needs like other human beings). (Quran 5:75)

Trinity

Although today's New Testament has been altered and changed, it does not make the slightest reference to the belief of trinity in any verse.

A senior person may refer to a younger person as "son" and a junior may refer to his senior as father. These references are not made literally and the real meaning of father and son are not meant. Considering this, perhaps the word 'Father' in the Bible was used in this sense to refer to the Creator while the word, 'son' refers to Jesus (peace be upon him) because he was the beloved and accepted messenger of the Almighty. Just as there is a strong bond of love between father and son, so is there a stronger bond between the Almighty and His messenger. The Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him) also used this type of metaphor by saying, "The creation is the family of the Almighty." Muslims believe Jesus (peace be upon him) was God's messenger.

In John, Chapter 13, Jesus calls himself a Messenger: *I am telling you the truth: slaves are never greater than their master, and messengers are never greater than the one who sent them. (John 13:16)*

Seeing this miracle that Jesus had performed, the people there said, "Surely, this is the Messenger who was to come in the world!" (John 6:14)

Similarly, if we have to take the reference of Jesus being the "son" literally we should also consider the following verse of Matthew:

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they truly are the children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

The following is mentioned in the Gospel of John: *"God himself is the only Father we have," they answered,*