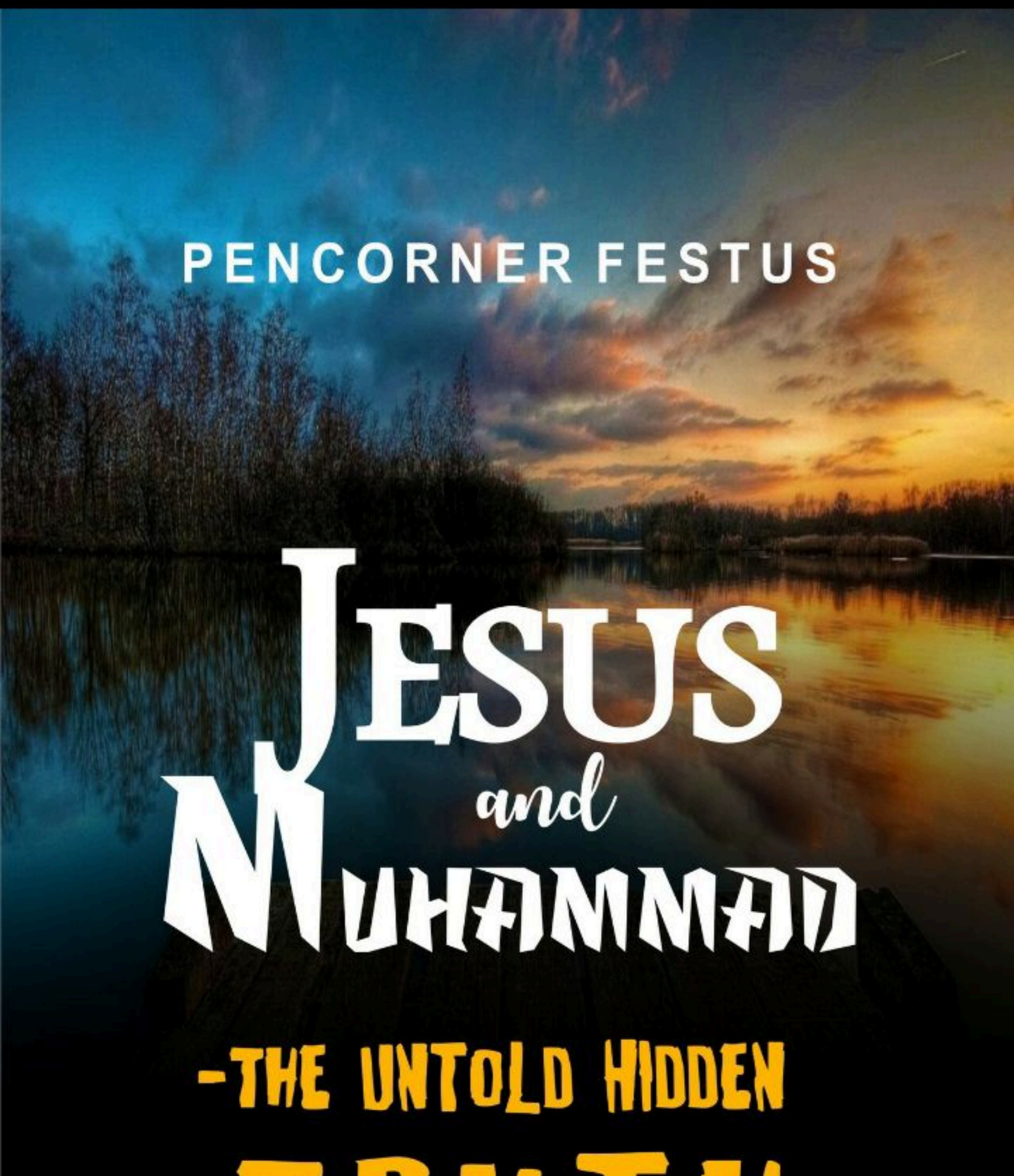

PENCORNER FESTUS
JESUS
and
MUHAMMAD
-THE UNTOLD HIDDEN
TRUTH

JESUS AND MUHAMMA

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-The Untold Hidden Truth

A Review on the Islamic and Christian Holy Books, Untold Facts about Jesus and Muhammad.

Pencorner Festus

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PREFACE

Dear Reader,

In a world with different beliefs and ways of thinking, it's important to learn more and uncover hidden truths. "Jesus and Muhammad - The Untold Hidden Facts" does just that. This book shares new information about the lives of Jesus and Muhammad, two important figures.

It reveals things that aren't well-known and shows how the scriptures are connected in surprising ways. By reading this book, we can gain a fresh perspective and appreciate their impact. Let's explore their stories, discover hidden truths, and come to understand these remarkable individuals better.

Will you join me in a personal exploration of the truth?

Hope you will!

Pencorner Festus.

1

YOUNG MUHAMMAD

In the Hejaz Province of Arabia, on 2 August 570 A.D., a baby boy was born in the city of Mecca. His name was Muhammad, which means "praise worthy" in Arabic. Sadly, his father Abdullah passed away before Muhammad was born, leaving him as an unborn child. Abdullah was the son of Abdul Muttalib, who was a descendant of Ishmael, the first son of Ibrahim (Abraham). Muhammad's mother, Aminah, was the daughter of Wahb Ibn Abdu Manaf from the Zarah family.

Tragically, Muhammad's mother also passed away before he reached the age of six, making him a double orphan. His care was entrusted to his grandfather, Abdul Muttalib, who held a position of authority in Mecca. However, just two years later, Muhammad's grandfather also passed away. On his deathbed, Abdul Muttalib secretly requested his son, Abu Talib, to take responsibility for caring for the young orphan, Muhammad.

At the age of twelve, Muhammad embarked on a trading journey to Syria alongside his uncle, Abu Talib. This journey lasted for several months. While they were in Busra, they encountered a highly respected Christian monk or priest named Bahira, who recognized the potential greatness in Muhammad. Bahira advised Abu Talib to protect Muhammad from any harm, as he foresaw a significant future for the young boy.

Upon their return home, Muhammad continued to grow in stature and displayed good manners, earning the respect of his neighbors. Unlike many youths in Mecca, he did not engage in improper behavior. Muhammad diligently took care

of his uncle's business and gained valuable experience in trade.

Eventually, he began managing the business affairs of a wealthy Christian widow named Khadija. Impressed by his honesty and competence, Khadija proposed marriage to Muhammad, who accepted. At the time of their marriage, Muhammad was 25 years old, while Khadija was possibly around 40 years old.

One day, Muhammad entered a cave where he encountered an angel named Jibril (Gabriel) in the form of a radiant light. The angel conveyed to him that he had been chosen as a prophet by God. Initially frightened, Muhammad rushed back home, trembling with fear. His wife provided comfort and took him to her cousin named Warqa, who was a knowledgeable Christian scholar. Warqa recognized the signs and informed Muhammad that God might be calling him to an important assignment.

With this realization, Muhammad began publicly preaching the revelations he received. He proclaimed the oneness of God, emphasizing that complete submission to God (Islam) was the righteous path of life.

Muslims believe that Muhammad received these revelations, which form the basis of the Islamic faith, in the cave of Hira. Muslims consider the Quran, the holy book of Islam, to be the word of Allah, revealed to Muhammad through the angel Gabriel (Jibril). Reciting the Quran is an important act of worship for Muslims.

Khadija, Muhammad's wife, later embraced Islam and became the first convert to the faith. She remained a steadfast supporter of Muhammad, especially during challenging times. The couple was blessed with two sons and four daughters,

although sadly, both of their sons passed away in infancy.

Prophet Muhammad held a deep affinity for Christians and Jews because they worshipped the same God as Abraham, to whom he had familial ties. Those days, through Muhammad's trading journeys, the Arabs had interactions with Christians and Jews along the caravan trade routes. These encounters allowed the Arabs to hear Bible stories passed down through oral tradition, which might not be very reliable in terms of biblical accuracy. However, during that era, Islam was a new faith and faced resistance from different religious scholars in Medina. Muhammad encountered rejection due to his religious beliefs. Nevertheless, he remained steadfast in his new understanding of God, particularly as he observed the divisions between Jews and Christians.

During that time, the people of ancient Mecca practiced wickedness and oppression. They worshipped the 360 idols placed around the Ka'aba, their sacred site.

Mohammad's revelations and teachings were not accepted by many people in Mecca initially, and only a few became his followers. Despite this, Muhammad's influence gradually began to grow within the communities, which also led to increased persecution. Following the passing of his first wife, Khadija bint Khuwaylid, the Prophet married a total of twelve women and experienced the sorrow of losing another son in infancy. These women, based on Quran 33:6, are affectionately referred to as the "Mothers of the Believers of Islam" by Muslims.

The turning point came when Muhammad and his followers faced an attack by the pagans in Mecca, prompting their escape to Medina. This significant event marked the start of the Muslim calendar, known as the "Hegira" or the departure,

which took place on July 16, AD 622. In Medina, Muhammad found many new followers who joined him, further expanding his influence. He was appointed as the ruler of Medina, effectively managing both religious and political affairs to establish greater authority in the region.

The leaders of Mecca declared war against the Muslims, prompting Prophet Muhammad to order his followers to engage in a defensive struggle, known as Holy War or Jihad, against Mecca. After several battles, the Muslims successfully captured Mecca. This conquest marked Mecca as the religious and political capital of Islam. These actions were in response to Mecca's animosity towards the Muslim community. As part of the transformation, Prophet Muhammad ordered the removal and destruction of idols within the Kaaba, the traditional place of pilgrimage in Mecca, which then became the holiest shrine of Islam.

Islam expanded through conquest, and many individuals in Mecca chose to embrace the faith for various reasons. Prophet Muhammad granted Jews and Christians protection and equal rights alongside Muslims, encouraging them to embrace Islam. He saw them as fellow recipients of the Abrahamic revelation, known as the People of the Book. However, despite this invitation, neither Jews nor Christians accepted Muhammad as a prophet from their respective religious texts. When Muhammad believed that some Jewish tribes had violated the peace agreement, some were beheaded and others were exiled.



THE SHRINE AT MECCA

Before Muhammad's conquest of Mecca, the Ka'aba served as a central place of worship for numerous idols and demons. It held great significance in the religious practices of ancient Mecca. However, after the city was captured by Muhammad and the Muslims, the Ka'aba underwent a significant transformation, according to Muslim historians. It became the revered shrine of Islam, serving as a pilgrimage site within the precincts of the grand Mosque, located in present-day Saudi Arabia. This change marked a profound shift in the religious landscape, as the focus of worship shifted from the multitude of idols and demons to the worship of *Allah*–the One True God in the Islamic faith.

The Ka'aba holds immense reverence and draws countless pilgrims from around the world who come to fulfill their spiritual obligations and engage in acts of devotion. Muslim pilgrims must go round the flat roofed building 7 times, and then kiss the Black Stone, which was said to have been given to Adam on his fall from Paradise. Muslims all over the world face its direction while praying, and every able Muslim is expected to make a pilgrimage to the Ka'aba at least once in his or her lifetime.



A female Muslim (Muslimah) praying.

Males and females do not stay and pray together.

2

THE DEATH OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD

The Prophet Muhammad made his final visit to Mecca during the annual pilgrimage, where he delivered a lecture on Islamic traditions and principles. Approximately a year later, Muhammad passed away in Medina after a brief illness on Monday, 8 June 632, at the age of 62 or 63.

He took his last breath in the house of his wife, Aisha, and was buried there. By the time of his death, Muhammad had successfully unified the entire Arabian region under the banner of Islam.

Following his demise, Muslim armies continued to engage in Holy War (Jihad) against other nations that rejected Islam, such as the Byzantine Empire. In 1453 A.D., the Muslim armies, led by Sultan Mehmet II, achieved a significant victory by capturing the Byzantine Empire, which was a Christian domain. Through these fierce conquests, Islam expanded into new territories, and Muslims established some of the greatest empires in history.

Islamic traditions, also known as Hadith, were meticulously memorized by followers of Islam. The Quran, the holy book of Islam, was later collected and arranged in its current order. It consists of 114 chapters called Surahs, which are further divided into verses known as Ayahs.

Many Historians consider Muhammad, the esteemed Prophet of Islam, to be one of the greatest leaders who ever lived, leaving an indelible impact on the world.

Following the death of Prophet Muhammad, the Muslim community faced several challenges

and troubles. Here is a brief summary of some key difficulties:

- Succession Disputes: Disagreements arose regarding the rightful successor to Prophet Muhammad. This led to divisions within the Muslim community and ultimately resulted in the Sunni-Shia split, which continues to impact the Muslim world to this day.

- Political Instability: The early period after Muhammad's death saw political unrest and power struggles among various factions within the Muslim community. This instability led to conflicts and even armed battles, such as the Battle of Jamal and the Battle of Siffin.

- Apostasy and Rebellion: Some tribes and individuals who had converted to Islam during Muhammad's lifetime renounced their faith and rebelled against the authority of the new Muslim leadership. These apostasy movements posed significant challenges to the nascent Islamic state.

When Prophet Muhammad passed away, the fate of Christians and Jews varied depending on the specific circumstances and regions. Here are some general points:

1. Protection and Dhimma: Muhammad's approach towards non-Muslim religious communities, particularly Christians and Jews, was based on the concept of "dhimma." Dhimma offered protection to these communities in exchange for payment of a tax called jizyah and adherence to certain rules and regulations. In many cases, Christians and Jews were allowed to practice their faith under Muslim rule.

2. Continuation of Communities: Christian and Jewish communities continued to exist in various regions under Muslim rule. They were allowed to maintain their places of worship and practice their religious rituals, albeit with certain restrictions

and regulations imposed by the Islamic authorities.

3. Conversion and Integration: Over time, some Christians and Jews chose to convert to Islam for various reasons, including social and economic factors. The process of conversion and integration into the Muslim community varied, and individuals' experiences were influenced by local conditions and societal norms.

4. Interfaith Relations: Interactions between Muslims, Christians, and Jews continued in different contexts, ranging from peaceful coexistence and mutual cooperation to occasional tensions and conflicts. Intellectual exchanges and debates between scholars from different religious backgrounds also took place during this period.

5. Local Variations: It is important to note that the treatment of Christians and Jews varied across different regions and rulers within the expanding Islamic empire. Some rulers maintained a more tolerant approach towards non-Muslims, while others imposed stricter regulations or engaged in occasional persecution.

6. Evolution of Islamic Law: With the passage of time, Islamic legal scholars developed a comprehensive legal framework, known as Sharia, which encompassed various aspects of governance, including the rights and obligations of non-Muslim communities living under Muslim rule.

It is crucial to recognize that these general statements provide an overview, and the experiences of Christians and Jews under Muslim rule were diverse and influenced by numerous factors, such as the prevailing political climate, local customs, and the attitudes of individual rulers.



3

THE YOUNG CHILD, JESUS

Mary was engaged to Joseph, a descendant of King David and Isaac, the son of Abraham. However, before their marriage, Mary discovered that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit, without having been intimate with any man. Joseph, being a righteous man, did not want to publicly shame Mary as required by the Law of Moses. He was troubled by the situation until an angel of God appeared to him in a dream, assuring him that the child was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

The angel Gabriel instructed Joseph to marry Mary and name the baby "Yehoshua" or "Jesus," which means "Jehovah is Saviour" in Hebrew.

Mary gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem, in a humble setting like a cattle ranch, because there was no room for them in the inn. A week later, following Jewish tradition, the baby was circumcised and given the name as foretold by the angel. Jesus is also known as Immanuel, meaning "God with us," according to the Christian Bible.

When Jesus reached the age of 12, he amazed the teachers in the Jewish temple with his knowledge and wise answers, leaving everyone astonished.

At the age of 30, Jesus began preaching to the public, sharing the message of God's kingdom and showing compassion by healing and feeding those in need.

He proclaimed himself as the Messiah, the chosen one to redeem humanity from sin. However, some top Jewish religious leaders rejected his teachings and grew envious of his popularity and miracles. They were not happy because Jesus was making a paradigm shift in the way people live. So they conspired against him and influenced Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, to betray him. Jesus was arrested and brought before Pontus Pilate, a Roman judge who unjustly sentenced him to death to appease the religious political cabals of that time.

Jesus was led by Roman soldiers to Golgotha, an execution site located outside the gates of Jerusalem, called Golgotha.

4

THE DEATH OF JESUS

On the day of the crucifixion, a large crowd had gathered at Golgotha, including people who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Many among the crowd taunted and jeered Jesus, saying, "He saved others, himself he cannot save." Despite their insults, Jesus responded with a prayer, asking God to forgive them.

The Roman soldiers subjected Jesus to a merciless flogging before nailing him to a wooden cross at Golgotha, also known as Calvary, according to the New Testament Bible accounts. Crucifixion was a brutal form of punishment employed by

the Romans, involving the piercing of the victim's feet and palms with nails, securing them to the cross. The victim is left half naked, open to the icy wind of the night and the blazing heat of the day till he dies. Crucifixion was intended to be a public spectacle, witnessed by passers-by who often mocked the victims.



Jesus died on the cross alongside two thieves in the month of April, AD 30, at the age of 33.

On the same day, a wealthy disciple named Joseph approached Pilate and requested Jesus' body. Pilate granted Joseph's request, and he took the body down from the cross, wrapping it in a clean linen cloth. Joseph then placed the body in his own newly carved tomb, hewn from solid rock, which had not been previously used.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

The crucifixion of Jesus is a significant event in Christian belief, with various historical accounts and evidence supporting its occurrence. According to the New Testament accounts, Jesus was arrested and brought before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea. Pilate found no fault in Jesus but yielded to the demands of the Jewish religious leaders and the crowd, who called for his crucifixion.

Jesus was then subjected to the Roman method of execution known as crucifixion. Historical ev-

idence suggests that crucifixion was a common form of punishment during the Roman Empire. The crucifixion involved nailing or binding the victim to a wooden cross and leaving them to die by asphyxiation and exhaustion.

Multiple historical sources, including the writings of early Christian leaders such as Paul and the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, provide accounts of Jesus' crucifixion. These texts describe the events leading up to the crucifixion, including Jesus carrying the cross, being nailed to it, and eventually dying. The New Testament also records the presence of witnesses, including Jesus' disciples, women followers, and Roman soldiers, during the crucifixion.

Outside of the Christian sources, there are references to Jesus and his crucifixion in non-Christian historical texts as well. For instance, the Jewish historian Josephus, in his work "Antiquities of the Jews," mentions Jesus and his crucifixion briefly. Although some scholars debate the authenticity and later Christian additions to Josephus' writings, it provides external evidence of Jesus' crucifixion.

Archaeological discoveries have also shed light on crucifixion practices during the time of Jesus. In 1968, the discovery of an ossuary (bone box) containing the remains of a crucified man in Jerusalem provided tangible evidence of this form of execution.

Overall, the crucifixion of Jesus is widely accepted as a historical event based on the accounts in the new historical sources, and archaeological findings. Ancient Jewish texts contained prophecies of Jesus' crucifixion. See the page for "Old Testament Prophecies about Jesus".

On the following day, which was the Sabbath, the priests and Pharisees approached Pilate and requested that soldiers be stationed at the tomb to prevent Jesus' followers from taking his body. The

tomb was sealed with a large stone, and guards were placed to keep watch over it.

As the Sabbath came to an end and the dawn of Sunday approached, two women who were followers of Jesus went to the tomb. Suddenly, there was a great earthquake, and an angel of God descended from heaven, rolling away the stone and sitting upon it. The angel's appearance was dazzling, like lightning, and his garment was white as snow.

The guards were overcome with fear and became like lifeless beings. But the angel reassured the women, saying, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, just as he said. Come; see the place where he lay. And go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead. He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. Behold, I have told you."

According to the Bible, Jesus had foretold his death and resurrection, and it is believed that he rose to life on the third day.

He appeared to more than 500 of his followers before his ascension to heaven, which took place on the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:9-12; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6). However, some Jewish leaders who had placed soldiers at the tomb of Jesus gave bribe to them so they could peddle a different story about the resurrection. They said: *"... Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept." (Matthew 28:13).*

"Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch (soldiers) came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers. Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by

night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day." (Matt. 28:11-15).

This wrong propaganda was still being believed by some Jews till the era of the Prophet Muhammad.

The teachings of Jesus were recorded by his disciples in a book known as the New Testament, which includes the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The New Testament also contains other writings called Epistles or Letters, comprising a total of 27 books. The Old Testament, on the other hand, consists of 39 books, making a total of 66 books in the Bible. These books contain prophecies, teachings, and accounts of Jesus Christ and his twelve apostles.

After the death of the early Christian disciples, Christianity spread across many countries through the preaching and miracles of the apostles. However, historical events reveal that there were instances where Roman Catholic kings and Protestant kings sought to protect their empires and uphold the Christian faith. They formed armies composed of Christian knights and participated in Crusades, such as those led by Richard the Lion heart and Charlemagne (or Charles the Great).

These military campaigns aimed to fight against Muslim invaders and regain territories that were lost. It is important to note that while these military actions sometimes resulted in conversions to Christianity; political motivations likely played a significant role in these endeavors.

Religious wars persisted for centuries between Christian Europe and the Arab Muslim world, showcasing the intricate interplay between religion and politics during that era.



A Crusader



5

ISLAMIC DOGMAS

Islamic teachings and beliefs can be summarized in the following articles of faith:

1. Belief in Allah: Muslims believe in the existence of Allah, the only One God, and in Muhammad as His Prophet.

2. Monotheism: Associating partners with Allah is considered the greatest sin in Islam. Muslims believe in the oneness of Allah and reject polytheism.

3. Prophets: Muslims hold the belief in the prophethood of six messengers: Abraham, Noah, Moses, David, Jesus (referred to as Isa in the Quran), and Muhammad as the last Prophet. These prophets are revered for their guidance from Allah.

4. Slave and Master Relationship: Muslims view their relationship with Allah as that of a slave to a master, emphasizing submission and obedience.

5. Paradise and Hell: Muslims believe that those who follow and obey Allah and the Prophet Muhammad will be rewarded with Paradise (Jannah), while those who oppose them will face punishment in Hell (Jahannam). Salvation is believed to be earned through righteous deeds.

6. Angels and Holy Spirit: Muslims believe in the existence of angels who carry out Allah's commands. The Holy Spirit (also known as Gabriel or

Jibril) plays a vital role in the creation of life, providing divine guidance, and empowering believers.

7. Holy Books: Muslims believe in the divine origin of various Holy Books, including the books revealed to Moses (the first five Books of the Bible) and the scriptures of Jesus, David, Abraham, and Muhammad.

8. Destiny: Muslims believe in the concept of destiny, affirming that people's destinies are predetermined by Allah and cannot be altered or improved by human effort.

9. Day of Judgment: Muslims believe in the Day of Judgment when all people, including Prophet Muhammad, will be held accountable for their actions. The phrase "peace be upon him" (PBUH) is added as a mark of respect when mentioning the Prophet Muhammad.

10. Belief about Jesus: Muslims regard Jesus as a great Prophet, not the Son of God. They believe that he was not crucified or killed on the cross but was saved by Allah. Muslims anticipate his return in the future for the final judgment. The miracles of Jesus are mentioned in the Quran.

It is important to note that these beliefs are a summary and may vary in interpretation among different Muslim communities.

THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

Every Muslim has obligations to Allah, which include the following:

1. Shahada: Muslims are required to believe in the oneness of Allah and acknowledge Muhammad as His Prophet. The Shahada is a declaration of faith stating, "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is His Prophet." The name Muhammad means "praise worthy" in the Arabic language.

2. Salah: Muslims are obligated to perform five daily prayers, known as Salah or Salat. These prayers are performed at specific times throughout the day and involve physical movements, recitation of verses from the Quran, and supplication to Allah.

3. Zakat: Muslims are encouraged to give Zakat, which is the act of giving alms to the less fortunate. It is considered a duty and a means to purify one's wealth. The belief is that by giving to those in need, one accumulates treasures in heaven.

4. Sawm: Muslims are required to observe fasting during the month of Ramadan, which is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Fasting involves abstaining from food, drink, and other physical needs from dawn until sunset. It is a time of self-discipline, reflection, and increased devotion to Allah.

5. Hajj: Muslims who are physically and financially capable are obligated to perform the pilgrimage to Mecca, known as Hajj, at least once in their lifetime. Hajj takes place during specific days of the Islamic lunar month of Dhu al-Hijjah. It involves performing a series of rituals, including circumambulating the Kaaba, standing on the plains of Arafat, and symbolic stoning of pillars representing Satan.

These obligations are considered fundamental acts of worship for Muslims and serve as a means to strengthen their faith, seek closeness to Allah, and fulfill their religious duties.



ISLAMIC SECTS

Islam, with over 1.8 billion followers, (as of 2021) has various sects or denominations, with over 150 different groups. The two major groups are Sunnis and Shiites, which originated in the 7th century A.D. due to a dispute over the succession of the Caliphate (religious leadership) after Prophet Muhammad, leading to a Muslim civil war.

- Sunnis: Sunni Islam represents the majority, comprising around 90 percent of Muslim believers worldwide. Sunni Muslims generally follow the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad and emphasize the consensus of the community (ummah) in matters of religious interpretation and governance.

- Shiites: Shiism is the minority sect, with approximately 120 million followers. Shiites believe that Ali, the cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad, should have succeeded him as the first Caliph, and subsequent Caliphs should be his descendants. They hold specific beliefs regarding the imamate (leadership) and the role of religious authorities.

- Kharijites: The Kharijites were an early sect that emerged during the Islamic civil war. They advocated a strict interpretation of Islam and believed in the legitimacy of rebelling against unjust rulers.

Over time, the Kharijites fragmented into various smaller groups.

- Ahmadiyya: The Ahmadiyya sect was founded in 1889 by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad in India. It split into two branches: Qadiani and Lahore. Ahmadis consider Mirza Ghulam Ahmad to be the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, which is rejected by mainstream Muslim scholars.

- Sufis: Sufism is a mystical tradition within Islam. Sufis focus on seeking a personal connection with Allah through spiritual practices, such as meditation, chanting, and devotion. They emphasize the inner dimensions of Islam and aim for spiritual purification.

- Wahhabis: Wahhabism is a conservative movement that emerged in the 18th century, founded by Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab in present-day Saudi Arabia. It advocates for a strict adherence to the interpretation of Islamic doctrine and opposes practices deemed as innovations (bid'ah).

It is important to note that there are many other sects and movements within Islam, each with their own distinct beliefs and practices. Some sects, like Babism, Baha'i Faith, Sikhism, Yazidi, and others, are not considered Islamic by most Muslims.

While Sunni Islam remains the most widely accepted and followed branch of Islam, it is crucial to recognize the diversity of beliefs and practices within the Islamic faith.



A male Muslim praying.

6

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES

Generally Accepted Christian Beliefs:

1. Monotheism: Christians believe in one Supreme God, often referred to as "Jehovah" in Hebrew, translated as "Lord" in English.

2. Jesus Christ: Christians believe in God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who is seen as the Savior and the Anointed One (Messiah).

3. Trinity: Most Christians believe in the concept of the Trinity, which states that God is one, but He reveals Himself through the Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit—not three Gods—but One God in three personalities.

4. Salvation through Jesus: Christians believe that salvation is obtained through faith in Jesus Christ, who died to atone for the sins of humanity, was buried, resurrected on the third day, and ascended to heaven.

5. Relationship with God: Those who believe in Jesus are considered as children of God, emphasizing a personal relationship with Him rather than a slave-master relationship.

6. Second Coming: Christians anticipate the return of Jesus to earth, where He will gather the saved believers to be with Him in heaven before the Great Tribulation occurs.

7. Final Judgment: Christians believe in a final judgment, where all individuals who rejected God's salvation will face judgment for their sins and receive eternal punishment in the lake of fire (Gehenna).

8. Salvation by Grace: Christians believe that salvation is not earned through good deeds but is

received through faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Good deeds are seen as a natural outcome of genuine repentance.

9. Atonement through Jesus' Blood: Christians believe that faith in the blood of Jesus provides cleansing and forgiveness of sins.

10. The Bible: Christians consider the Bible, including the Old and New Testaments, as the inspired Word of God, containing teachings, prophecies, and accounts of the life of Jesus and His followers.



These beliefs are generally accepted by most Christian denominations, although specific interpretations and emphasis may vary among different traditions and groups within Christianity.

CHRISTIAN ORDINANCES

Compulsory Commands for Christians:

1. Water Baptism: Christians are commanded to be baptized in water, symbolizing their identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

2. Evangelism: Christians have the responsibility to share the good news of God's kingdom with others, spreading the message of salvation to the world.

3. Holy Communion: Christians are instructed to partake in the symbolic act of consuming bread and wine (or grape juice), representing the body

and blood of Jesus Christ. This serves as a reminder of His sacrifice and the anticipation of His return.

4. Giving: Christians are commanded to give offerings in their churches and provide aid to the poor.

Some Christians practice tithing, offering 10 percent of their income to their church as an act of obedience and to support the work of God. However, not all Christian groups adhere to the concept of tithing.

5. Fasting and Prayer: Christians are encouraged to engage in fasting and prayer as spiritual disciplines. The specific timing, frequency, and duration of fasting may vary among individuals and churches. Fasting may be practiced for specific spiritual purposes, such as the weeks leading up to Easter or the New Year.

6. Teaching and Discipleship: Christians are called to continually grow in their understanding of the Bible and the teachings of Jesus. They are encouraged to receive instruction from knowledgeable and inspired Bible teachers to establish their faith and be equipped to share the gospel with others.

It is important to note that these obligations are not means of earning salvation or forgiveness of sins. Instead, they are expressions of faith and obedience to God, as well as ways to grow in one's relationship with Him and fulfill the commands of Jesus.

CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS

Christianity is ranked as the largest religion in the world, with an estimated 2.3 billion followers. There are more than 38,000 Christian denominations in the world. 33 percent of the world's population is said to be Christians according to update in September 2021.

The three major Christian denominations are: The Christian landscape is indeed comprised of the Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church, and various Protestant denominations. Here is some additional information:

1. Roman Catholic Church: The Roman Catholic Church is the largest Christian denomination in the world, with over 1.3 billion adherents. It traces its origins back to the time of Jesus Christ and claims apostolic succession from the Apostle Peter. The Pope, based in Vatican City, serves as the spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church.

2. Eastern Orthodox Church: The Eastern Orthodox Church emerged as a separate branch from the Roman Catholic Church in the East around the year 1054 AD. It encompasses several autocephalous (self-governing) churches, including the Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, and Serbian Orthodox Churches, among others. The Eastern Orthodox Church has around 260 million followers worldwide.

3. Protestant Churches: The Protestant Reformation, which began in the 16th century, led to the establishment of numerous Protestant denominations. Martin Luther, an influential figure during the Reformation, protested against certain teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. This ultimately resulted in the formation of various Protestant groups, such as Lutheranism, Calvinism (Reformed tradition), Anglicanism, Baptists, Methodists, Pentecostals, and many oth-

ers. Protestantism encompasses a wide range of theological perspectives and has diverse denominations worldwide.

The history of Christianity includes significant events such as the Inquisition, which was a period of intense persecution and questioning of beliefs, as well as the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, marked by theological debates, conflicts, and attempts at reform within the Church.

It is important to note that while there have been historical tensions and conflicts between Catholicism and Protestantism, the relationships between different Christian denominations have evolved over time, with increased dialogue and efforts towards understanding and unity.

That's correct! There are indeed several Protestant denominations, each with its own distinct history and beliefs. Here are some additional details:

1. Lutherans: Lutheranism traces its roots back to the 16th-century Reformation led by Martin Luther. Lutherans emphasize the doctrine of justification by faith alone and the authority of Scripture. The Lutheran Church was officially founded in 1579 in Germany.

2. Anglican Church: The Anglican Church, also known as the Episcopal Church in the United States, originated in the 16th century in England. It was established by King Henry VIII after his break with the Roman Catholic Church. Anglicanism combines elements of Protestantism and Catholicism and has a diverse range of theological perspectives.

3. Baptists: The Baptist tradition emerged in the early 17th century. John Smyth and Thomas Helwys are considered key figures in the early Baptist movement. Baptists emphasize the practice of

adult baptism by immersion and the autonomy of local congregations.

4. Methodists: The Methodist movement began within the Anglican Church and later developed into a separate denomination. John Wesley and his brother Charles Wesley played significant roles in the formation of the Methodist Church. Methodists emphasize personal holiness and social justice.

5. Presbyterians: The Presbyterian Church traces its roots to the teachings of John Calvin and the Reformed tradition. It was officially established in 1560 in Scotland by John Knox. Presbyterian churches are characterized by their representative system of church government and their adherence to Calvinist theology.

In addition to these denominations, there are various Pentecostal and Evangelical churches that have emerged from the Protestant tradition. These include the Foursquare Gospel Church, Assemblies of God, Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA), Apostolic Church, Gospel Faith Mission, Deeper Life Bible Church, The Redeemed Evangelical Mission (TREM), and many others. Each of these groups has its own distinct practices and beliefs within the broader Protestant framework.

THE ALADURA GROUPS

The Aladura movement is a religious movement that originated in Nigeria and emphasizes prayer, divine healing, and spiritual deliverance. Here is a list of some notable Aladura churches:

1. Christ Apostolic Church (CAC)
2. Celestial Church of Christ (CCC)
3. The Apostolic Church
4. The Cherubim and Seraphim Society (C&S)
5. The Eternal Sacred Order of the Cherubim and Seraphim (ESOCS)

6. The Aladura Church

7. The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star

8. The Evangelical Church of Yahweh

9. The Celestial Church of Christ Worldwide

10. The Sabbath Church (with Red and white garment dressing).

10. The Faith Tabernacle Congregation (The Church of the Lord)

There are numerous Aladura churches and independent branches within the Aladura movement.

ALADURA PENTECOSTALS

These include

- Christ Apostolic Church,

- The Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) (during its early years)

- Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries, etc. (all were founded in Nigeria).

Lastly, many orthodox Christians consider the following groups as sects, and each one has different teachings and practices, namely:

- Seventh-day Adventist Church: Observes the Sabbath on Saturdays and places an emphasis on the imminent Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

- Jehovah's Witnesses: Known for their door-to-door evangelism and distinctive beliefs, including the denial of the Trinity and rejection of blood transfusions.

- Latter-day Saints (Mormons): Founded by Joseph Smith, they believe in additional scriptures such as the Book of Mormon and have distinctive doctrines such as eternal progression.

- Christian Science is a religious movement that was founded in the late 19th century by Mary Baker Eddy. It is based on her teachings and writings, particularly her book called "Science and

Health with Key to the Scriptures." Key beliefs of Christian Science include:

1. Non-materialism: Christian Scientists believe that the material world is an illusion, and ultimate reality is spiritual.

2. Denial of the reality of sin, sickness, and death: Christian Scientists view sin, sickness, and death as illusions that can be overcome through spiritual understanding etc.

- Eckankar is a modern spiritual movement that emphasizes personal experiences of divine light and sound as a means of spiritual growth and self-realization.

- The Grail Message, also known as "In the Light of Truth," was founded by Abd-ru-shin, a spiritual teacher and author who wrote the foundational texts of the Grail Message.

- The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star is a religious organization founded by Leader Olumba Olumba Obu in Nigeria, which combines elements of Christianity and African traditional beliefs, emphasizing love, peace, and unity among all people.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list, and there are numerous other Christian sects, denominations, and independent churches with their own unique beliefs and practices.



Christians pray to God in Jesus Christ's Name. Males and females may pray and worship together in the Church.

7

THE BIBLE AND

THE QU'RAN

While Christianity and Islam are distinct faiths, there are indeed commonalities and shared elements between them. Here are some key points:

1. Abrahamic Faiths: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism are often referred to as the "Abrahamic faiths" because they trace their origins back to the figure of Abraham. They all believe in the worship of one God (monotheism) and share a common heritage.

2. Lineage: Jesus Christ, central to Christianity, is believed to be a descendant of Abraham through the lineage of Isaac. Muhammad, the central figure of Islam, is traced back to Abraham through the lineage of Ishmael. This lineage connection highlights a historical link between the two faiths.

3. Middle Eastern Origins: Both Christianity and Islam originated in the Middle East, with Christianity emerging earlier, approximately 550 years before the start of Islam. Palestine and Arabia served as the birthplaces of these religions, shaping their early development.

4. Jesus in Islam: The Quran mentions Jesus (referred to as Prophet Isa) in 25 verses. Islamic theology recognizes Jesus as the Messiah (al-Masih) and emphasizes his miraculous birth to the Virgin Mary.

In the Quran, there are references to the belief that Jesus (Isa) was taken up to heaven and will return in the future alongside Imam Al Mahdi (the Guided Leader) to establish peace and justice.

Surah Al-Ma'idah (5:116). Here are some verses that allude to this belief:

1. Surah Al-Nisa (4:159):

"And there is none from the People of the Scripture but that he will surely believe in Jesus before his death. And on the Day of Resurrection, he will be against them a witness. For wrongdoing on the part of the Jews, We made unlawful for them [certain] good foods which had been lawful to them and for their averting from the way of Allah many [people]."

This verse suggests that even the People of the Scripture (including Jews) will eventually believe in Jesus before their death, indicating his return and the acceptance of his message.

2. Surah Al-Zukhruf (43:61):

"And indeed, Jesus will be [a sign for] knowledge of the Hour, so be not in doubt of it, and follow Me. This is a straight path.

"Here, Jesus is referred to as a sign of knowledge of the Hour, indicating his role in the events leading to the Day of Judgment.

3. Surah Al-Saff (61:6):

"And [mention] when Jesus, the son of Mary, said, 'O children of Israel, indeed I am the messenger of Allah to you confirming what came before me of the Torah and bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name is Ahmad.' But when he came to them with clear evidences, they said, 'This is obvious magic.'"

The sixth verse of Surah Al-Saff recounts the message of Jesus to the children of Israel. Jesus confirms his role as a messenger of Allah and prophesies the coming of a subsequent messenger named Ahmad. Despite presenting clear signs and performing miracles, some of the people rejected Jesus' message and attributed his abilities to magic.

It's worth mentioning that according to some scholars, the term "Ahmad" mentioned in this verse is believed to be an additional name of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). This mention highlights the prophethood of Muhammad and affirms the continuity of the divine message from Allah throughout history. One passage that is sometimes associated with the idea of Muhammad is found in the Gospel of John, where Jesus speaks about the coming of the "Helper" or "Comforter." Muslims interpret this Helper or Comforter as a reference to Prophet Muhammad. The relevant passages are: Deuteronomy 18:15-18; John 14:16-17.

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." (John 14:16-17). Also read Deuteronomy 18:15-18.

Muslims argue that the term "Helper" or "Comforter" mentioned in this passage is a translation of the Greek word "Parakletos," which they interpret as a reference to Prophet Muhammad.

In the Bible, the term "Paraklete" or "Comforter" is mentioned in the Gospel of John, specifically in John 14:16, 14:26, 15:26, and 16:7. It is used to refer to the Holy Spirit, who Jesus promised to send to his disciples after his departure. The Holy Spirit is described as the helper, advocate, or counselor who would come to guide and empower the believers. The term "Paraklete" is often translated as "Comforter" or "Helper" in different versions of the Bible.

It's important to note that the interpretation of the term "Helper" or "Comforter" as referring to the Holy Spirit does not apply to human beings such as an apostle or prophet. Jesus made this clear when he said:

"And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." (Luke 24:49)

Jesus was referring to the divine Holy Spirit who would empower the apostles for impactful ministry when he would leave them physically.

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. " (Acts 2:1-4).

The coming of the Holy Spirit actually happened in the Upper Room few days after Jesus' ascension to heaven.

"Therefore Jesus said again, "'Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep (Christian believers). All who have come before me (in my absence or when I'm gone) are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.'" (John 10:7-10 NIV).

Neither Jesus nor his disciples expected another "prophet after Jesus". The apostles never mentioned it in their Epistles to the Christian community that a prophet like Jesus was coming. In fact, Paul told some Christians:

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you (Salvation only through Christ), let him be accursed." (Galatians 1:8).

Overall, neither Jews nor Christians expected another holy prophet after John the Baptist and Jesus. "For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John." (Matthew 11:13).

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;" (Hebrew 1:1-2).

Jesus is considered as the Alpha and Omega—the final Word and Revelation of God!

Jesus said:

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." (Revelation 22:13).

MARY (MARYAM), THE MOTHER OF JESUS

IN THE QURAN:

"Angel Jibril (Gabriel), and he appeared before her in the form of a man in all respects. She said: "Verily I seek refuge with the Most Beneficent [God]".

The Angel said ' I am only a messenger from your Lord, [to announce] to you the gift of a righteous son. She said: “How can I have a son when no man has touched me nor am I unchaste?” He said: “So [it will be], your Lord said: That is easy for me [God]: And [We wish] to appoint him a sign to mankind and a mercy from us [God] and it is a matter [already] decreed [by God].” -Surah Maryam (Chapter 19) in the Quran specifically verses 17-21.

“Behold! the angels said: "O Mary! Allah hath chosen and purified thee- chosen thee above the women of all nations”. - Quran 3:42

The Bible’s similar texts:

"Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" - (Luke 1:28)

“Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?” And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.” - (Luke 1:30-35)

Quran:

“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”. – Surah Al 'Imran (Chapter 3), verse 45 in the Quran.

Bible’s similar Text:

“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." – Matthew 1:21.

JESUS' SINLESS LIFE IN THE QURAN:

“He said: "Nay, I am only a messenger from thy Lord, (to announce) to thee the gift of a holy son”. - Quran 19:19.

“And Zakariya [Zachariah] and John and Jesus [Isa] and Elias [Elijah]; are in the ranks of the right-eous” – (Chapter 6), verse 85 in the Quran.

Bible’s similar Text:

“And you know that He [Jesus] was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.” - 1 John 3:5.

JOHN THE BAPTIST/YAHYA (ZACHARIAH’S SON)

“O John [Yahya], you shall uphold the scriptures strongly”. We endowed him with wisdom, even in his youth”. –Surah Maryam (Chapter 19), verse 12 in the Quran.

Bible’s similar Text:

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”.–John 1:29

WHAT JOHN (YAHYA) SAID ABOUT JESUS

“And he [John] preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will bap-tize you with the Holy Spirit.” - Mark 1:7-8.

JESUS AS THE WORD OF GOD:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." (John 1:1-2 NIV).

This passage from the Gospel of John speaks of the Word (Logos), which is understood by many Christians to refer to Jesus Christ. It states that the Word existed from the beginning, was with God, and was God. It highlights the eternal nature of the Word (Jesus) and His unity with God.

BELIEF IN ISA (JESUS) IS ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED IN THE QURAN:

Quran, Surah Al-Baqarah (2:136):

"Say, [O believers], **"We have believed in** Allah and what has been revealed to us and what has been revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the Descendants and what was given to Moses and **Jesus** and what was given to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims [submitting] to Him."

This verse emphasizes that belief of Muslims in Allah (God) without the acceptance of all the revelations given by His various messengers such as Jesus, will result in incomplete belief.

In the Bible as well as in the Quran, Jesus is often referred to as a "messenger" of the Lord. This does not make Jesus equal with all other prophets of God. This position is one of his functions on earth, being in human form. Two examples of this can be found in the Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 53:11:

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight

in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts." (Malachi 3:1).

"He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant (or messenger) justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities." (Isaiah 53:11).

The position of Jesus as a servant or messenger does not diminish his office as the Messiah and Savior. In Christian belief, Jesus is not only a servant of God but also the promised Messiah and the Savior of humanity. While Jesus demonstrated his servant-heart and carried out the will of the Father during his earthly ministry, his ultimate purpose was to fulfill the role of the long-awaited Messiah, who came to save humanity from sin and offer eternal salvation. His identity as the Messiah and Savior remains central to the Christian faith, highlighting the profound significance of his life, death, and resurrection in bringing redemption to all who believe in him.

"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:" (Philippians 2:6, 7, 9).

The above text reveals that Jesus, who was in the form of God, willingly took on human form as a servant in order to save us, for the laws of Earth necessitate a human body to operate within its legal framework; otherwise, being God, He could not have experienced death on our behalf.

Comprehending God and His ways requires divine revelation, as His nature and plans are far deeper and more profound than our limited human understanding can fathom.

In summary, while Jesus is acknowledged as a servant and messenger of God, it is important that we believe in his divine appointment as the Chosen Messiah and Savior. Jesus' exalted status as more than a prophet remains unaltered, unaffected by His humble title as a servant or messenger.

Jesus' role as the "Sent One" was to deliver all of humanity from divine condemnation, as stated in Romans 6:12.

JESUS' ASCENSSION TO HEAVEN IN THE QURAN

Quran, Surah Al Imran (3:55):

"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.'" (Quran 3:55)

Please note that this passage in the Quran refers to the concept of Jesus being raised and taken to heaven by Allah, although it does not specifically use the term "ascension" as described in Christian beliefs. The concept of the ascension of Jesus is found in the New Testament of the Bible, particularly in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 24:50-53) and the Book of Acts (Acts 1:9-11).

Bible's similar Text:

"Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, which also said, ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in

like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. " – Acts 1:9-11.

In Islam, it is believed that Jesus was raised to heaven by Allah without experiencing death and will return back to the earth before the Day of Judgment. The prophecies in the Old Testament Bible, accepted by both Jews and Muslims, foretold with clarity that Jesus would sacrificially die as the ultimate atonement for the sins of humanity, fulfilling God's plan of redemption and offering reconciliation between God and mankind. This sacrificial death of Jesus is seen as the culmination of God's love and mercy, providing forgiveness and salvation to all who believe in him.

Here are a few Old Testament Bible texts that are often referenced in relation to Jesus' death and atonement:

1. Isaiah 53:5-6 (NIV):

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

2. Psalm 22:16-18 (NIV):

"Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment."

3. Zechariah 12:10 (NIV):

"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son."

These verses, among others, are seen by Christians as foreshadowing or prophesying the suffering, crucifixion, and atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. They are understood as pointing towards the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan through Jesus' death and the forgiveness of sins offered through his sacrifice.

Going by the above prophecies, therefore, Jesus could not have been taken up to heaven without first completing the redemptive work he came to fulfill. His sacrificial death on the cross is considered essential for the forgiveness of sins and reconciliation between God and humanity. The concept emphasizes that Jesus accomplished the mission entrusted to him by the Father, offering salvation and eternal life to all who put their faith in him. His ascension to heaven signifies the triumph and completion of his work, and also serves as a reminder of his continued presence and intercession on behalf of believers.

The idea of Jesus' ascension to heaven without dying for redemption is not in line with the truth revealed in the scriptures. Jesus, driven by immense love, could not ascend to heaven without fulfilling His primary purpose on Earth, which is beautifully expressed in Romans 5:8.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

ABOUT THE FINAL JUDGEMENT IN THE QURAN

Muslims believe Jesus will return to earth again to judge the world, According to Islamic belief, Prophet Muhammad will also be subject to judgment on the Day of Judgment, despite his exalted status as the messenger of Allah. However, it is important to note that the judgment of Prophet Muhammad, according to Islamic teachings, will

be different from that of ordinary individuals. He will be granted a special intercession on behalf of his followers and the entire Muslim community, seeking Allah's mercy and forgiveness for them.

In Islamic belief, it is taught that Jesus will come back to the world as a fair and righteous ruler, known as the Mahdi, like I mentioned earlier. When Jesus returns, he is expected to bring peace, justice, and goodness to the Earth. Although the Quran does not directly say that Jesus will judge the world, but that he will have a crucial role bring about a righteous government during that time.

THE BIBLE'S POSITION ON LAST JUDGEMENT:

"For the Father [Almighty God] judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son [Jesus]". – John 5:22.34.

Jesus will judge the world:

"Behold, he (Jesus) cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." - Revelation 1:7.

"Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on

his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords."

- Revelation 19:11-16:

This passage vividly depicts Jesus' majestic return to the world, riding a white horse as the righteous Judge. He is described as having eyes like fire, wearing many crowns, and clothed in a robe dipped in blood, symbolizing His victory over sin and death through His sacrificial death on the cross. Accompanied by the heavenly armies, He comes to execute judgment and establish His reign as the King of kings and Lord of lords.



8

HOLY BOOKS CONSIDERED BY MUSLIMS TO HAVE BEEN REVEALED BY ALLAH:

In Islam, there are important books believed to be messages from God. The Quran is the most significant one. It is considered God's literal word revealed to Prophet Muhammad through the angel Gabriel. Muslims believe the Quran is the final and complete guide for faith, worship, and daily life.

Muslims also accept other sacred books such as:

1. The Taurat or Torah: God's revelations to Prophet Moses, guiding the Children of Israel.

2. The Psalms: Prayers and hymns given to Prophet David.

3. The Gospel: Revelations guiding early followers of Prophet Jesus. Though the content is debated, Muslims believe in the original message of Jesus as a prophet. Muslim scholars hold the belief that over time, the original message of Jesus may have been tampered with or altered (rahrif) after his ascension.

Muslims recognize these scriptures but believe they may have been altered or corrupted over time. The Quran is considered the most accurate and final revelation by Muslims.

Every discerning reader, at this point, might wonder: If the New Testament Scriptures of the Bible were indeed corrupted, then it would seem illogical for Muslim scholars to use these texts as evidence to support their claims that Muhammad was mentioned by name in the New Testament, as the coming One. Christians believe that all Bible scriptures were given by the inspiration of God—and nothing is corrupted! 2Tim. 3:16.

It is important to note that, the Quran may appear similar to the Bible in many aspects, but it is considered a distinct and independent religious scripture by Muslims. While there are shared narratives between the two texts, the Quran contains its own teachings, stories, and laws.

25 PROPHETS IN THE QURAN AND THE BIBLE

Here is a list of 25 prophets mentioned in the Quran along with their Bible names:

Bible / Quran

1. Adam – Adam
2. Noah - Nuh
3. Abraham - Ibrahim
4. Ishmael - Isma'il
5. Isaac - Ishaq
6. Jacob - Ya'qub
7. Joseph - Yusuf
8. Job - Ayyub
9. Moses - Musa

10. Aaron - Harun

11. David - Dawud

12. Solomon - Sulaiman

13. Elias - Ilyas

14. Elisha - Al-Yasa'

15. Jonah - Yunus

16. Zechariah - Zakariya

17. John the Baptist - Yahya

18. Jesus – Isa (pbuh)

19. Hud - Hud

20. Saleh - Salih

21. Shuaib - Shu'ayb

22. Lot - Lut

23. Ezra - Uzair

24. Ezekiel - Dhul-Kifl

25. ..... - Muhammad (pbuh)

The name of the Prophet Muhammad is not explicitly mentioned in the Bible. However, some Muslims (not all) believe that there are references or references to the coming of Prophet Muhammad in the Christian Bible, as mentioned earlier. They interpret certain descriptions and prophecies in the Bible as being indicative of the characteristics and mission of Prophet Muhammad. One such interpretation is the belief that Prophet Muhammad is indirectly mentioned as "Ahmad" in the Bible.

The names of prophets in Islam may differ depending on different interpretations and sources. Some prophets have similar names in both the Quran and the Bible, but there are also prophets mentioned in the Quran who are not found in the Bible, and their stories may have differences between the two sources.

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS:

Christians believe that the Old Testament Scriptures point to the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament Bible contains several prophecies that are believed to foretell the coming of Jesus as the Messiah. These prophecies, written hundreds of years before Jesus' birth, are seen by Christians view these prophecies from the Old Testament as evidence of Jesus' fulfillment of the messianic role. Here are some examples:

1. Isaiah 7:14: This prophecy points to the virgin birth of Jesus, which is mentioned in Matthew 1:18-23 and Luke 1:26-35.

2. Micah 5:2: This prophecy foretells that the Messiah will come from Bethlehem, which is mentioned in Matthew 2:1-6 and Luke 2:4-7.

3. Isaiah 9:6: This verse describes the titles and attributes of the Messiah, including Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

4. Psalm 22:16-18: These verses are seen as a prophecy of the crucifixion of Jesus, which is mentioned in Luke 23:33, 39-43 and John 19:16-18, 34-37.

5. Zechariah 9:9: This prophecy foretells the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, which is mentioned in various accounts in the Gospels.

There are several other prophecies in the Old Testament that Christians believe point to Jesus as the Messiah, such as being born of a virgin, being a descendant of David, suffering and rejection, betrayal by a friend, being sold for thirty pieces of silver, being crucified and pierced, being resurrected from the dead, and ascending to heaven.

These prophecies are seen as evidence of God's plan and the fulfillment of His promises through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of prophecies about Jesus in the Bible, but it provides some examples of prophecies from the Old Testament and their fulfillment in the New Testament.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus Christ holds a central position in God's message throughout history. All the prophets, through their messages, ultimately point to the singular God and the direction that leads to Jesus as the chosen One sent by God to redeem humanity, regardless of their diverse backgrounds and nationalities. Without acknowledging Jesus as Lord and Savior, one's faith remains incomplete.

It is essential to repent for wrongdoing and make Jesus the Lord of your life, embracing Him as the source of salvation and the guide for a transformed and purposeful existence.

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