

In the Name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

“The similitude of Jesus before Allah is as that of Adam: He created him from dust, then said to him: “Be”: And he was. The truth (comes) From thy Lord alone: So be not of those who doubt”

[The Holy Qur'an 3 : 59-60]

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God's peace be upon him
**IN THE
QUR'AN AND
THE BIBLE**

ISLAMIC VISION

IPCI

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INTRODUCTION

1. Jesus is **A COMMON LINK** between Muslims and Christians. (Love and Respect)
2. Jesus' nature is the main area of **DIFFERENCE**.
3. Approaches to **COMPARATIVE** Christology
 - a) Examination of the Authority and Authenticity of the respective holy books.
 - b) Examination of **HISTORICALLY DEVELOPED** dogmas.
 - c) Examination of both holy books **AS THEY ARE**.
4. Let us focus on the third approach. There are two main questions:
 - a) What does the **QUR'AN** say about him?
 - b) What does the **BIBLE** say about him?

I. JESUS IN THE QUR'AN

- 1. PRAISE FOR MARY** (3:36,37,42 and 5:78). She is called sister of Aaron (19:28). In the Qur'an "sister of or brother of" means the "descendant of" or "of the clan of". Aaron, Moses brother, was the first in line of the Israelite Priesthood. Luke 1:5 calls Elizabeth, John's mother a daughter of Aaron. She was a relative (cousin) of Mary (Luke. 1:36). For other passages in the Qur'an where "brother of" is used in non-literal meaning see 7:65, 73,85; 11:50, 61, 84; 27:45; 29:36.
- 2. VIRGIN BIRTH** (3:45-47) Compared with Adam (3:59) and John the Baptist (19:1-9).
- 3. A WORD FROM ALLAH** (3:39, 45; 4:170). Word is not the "logos" or the second person in Godhead. It is the creative command of Allah "KUN" or "be" (see 2:117, 3:47, 59; 6:73, 16:40, 19:35, 36:82, 40:68). "Words of Allah" is used in (18:109, 8:7, 31:27) and elsewhere.
- 4. A SPIRIT FROM ALLAH** (4:171): the same is applied to other humans (15:29, 32:9, 38:72).
- 5. HONOURED** in this life and in the hereafter and among those nearest to Allah (3:45): used also for others (33:69, 56:11, 83:21, 28).
- 6. A PURE CHILD** (19:19) This is similarly used for John the Baptist (19:13). According to Islam, all children are born pure.

7. **STRENGTHENED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT** (2:87,253, 5:11): Holy Spirit means Gabriel, the Angel of Revelation (16:102).
8. **PERFORMED MIRACLES** by the permission of Allah (3:49, 5:113, 5:115-118).
9. **TAUGHT** what all prophets taught; worship of Allah alone (2:135-136, 5:116-120, 43:63-64).
10. **HIS OWN MISSION** was specifically **TO THE ISRAELITES** (3:49, 5:75, 61:6).
- II. **REJECTION** of all forms of deification of Jesus, including worship of Mary (5:116-120), claiming that Jesus is God (5:75) and Trinity (5:75, 4:171).
12. **REJECTED BY THE ISRAELITES** (5:81, 3:52).
13. **Conspiracy to CRUCIFY him FAILED** and Allah raised him up (4:157)
 - a) It was made to “appear to them” as such.
 - b) No relevance to “respect for prophets”; other Prophets were killed (2:61, 3:21, 112, 5:73).
 - c) “Mutawaffika” in (3:55) and “Tawaffaytani” in (5:120) refer to “completing” your term or mission on earth. “Tawaffi” is used also in the Qur’an for other than death (6:60, 39:42).
 - d) Reference to the “death” and “resurrection” of Jesus (19:33) must be understood in the light of (4:157).

It refers to the death after the second coming and resurrection on the Day of Judgement. Similar terms are used to refer to John the Baptist (19:13). Many sayings of Muhammad confirm this.

- 14. PROPHESED** the advent of the last Prophet Muhammad (61:6, 7:157)

JESUS IN THE BIBLE

There is no basis in the Old Testament for Trinity or “God-incarnate” and no conclusive uncontradicted statement by Jesus in the New Testament claiming to be God.

There are five major grounds for claimed divinity:

i) OTHER PEOPLE CLAIMED DIVINITY FOR HIM:

Many were deified without claim on their part. Insufficient ground for such a serious matter. Other early witnesses did not share the notion of divinity for Jesus.

ii) IT IS SAID THAT HE CLAIMED DIVINITY

Spiritual, Language and Allegory

For example:

- 1. THE WAY, THE TRUTH** (John 14:6): applies to every prophet in his time:-
- 2. I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE** (John 10:30): Oneness in purpose, not in essence (John 17:11, 20-23)

3. **SEEING HIM IS LIKE SEEING THE FATHER** (John 14:19): Seeing means knowing, as God cannot be seen (Exod 33:20, John 1:18, 5:37, 14:7).
4. **BEFORE ABRAHAM I AM** (John 8:58): All existed in the foreknowledge of Allah.
5. **ACCEPTED WORSHIP** (Mark 14:3): worship means also intense love (worship of money,...). Jesus himself did worship God (Luke 5:16).
6. **WAS CALLED SON OF GOD:** So was Adam (Luke 3:38), Israel (Jer. 31:9) and (Exod 4:22), David (2 SAM 7:14), Solomon (1 Chron 22:10). More than one prophet was called “first born” (eg. Abraham, Jacob, David). See for example Psalms 2:7. “Only Son” is not used literally in the Bible (Gen 22:2, cf. Gen 16:1-16). “Sons of God” was also used (Gen 6:2, Deut. 14:1, Hos 1:10).
7. **HE CALLED GOD “FATHER” AND “ABBA”:**
He said also ‘my Father and your Father’ (John 20:17). Others may call God “ABBA” (Rom, 8:14-15, Gal.4:6).
8. **HE WAS CALLED MESSIAH:** Means an annointed one. So was David (Psalms.2:2), and Cyrus (Isa 45:1).
9. **HE WAS CALLED SAVIOUR:** So was Jeho’ahaz (II Kings 13:5). Used in plural (Obad.Verse 21, and Nehem 9:27).
10. **HE WAS CALLED LORD:** The term does not necessarily mean God. It is used in the New Testament to mean “teacher” or “master”.

11. HE WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT:

So was Zacharias (Luke 1:67), also Barnabas (Acts 11:24).

12. HE SAID THAT HIS WORDS WILL NOT PASS AWAY:

He also said that whatever he said was not his, but the Father's (John. 14:24).

13. HE SAID THAT ALL AUTHORITY WAS GIVEN TO HIM:

He who gave authority is greater (ie. his God).

14. HE WAS CALLED "MY LORD AND MY GOD"

(John.20:28): Could have been an expression of excitement or "you are God-like". Distinction between "Lord" and "God" is made in I Cor. 8:6

15. JEWS TRIED TO STONE HIM FOR BLASPHEMY

(John. 10:29-33): Jews were to indict him "by hook or by crook", regardless of what he said. They may have considered him a false "Messiah". Jesus' answer was revealing (John 10:36).

In Psalms 82:6, humans are called gods, allegorically. Moses was sent as "god" to the Pharaoh (Exod. 7:1).

II. JESUS ALWAYS EXPRESSED HIS
SUBORDINATION TO HIS GOD
AND CREATOR

1. HE DID NOTHING ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY (John

5:30, 14:31, Matt 20:23).

2. HE SPOKE NOT OF HIS OWN AUTHORITY (John

14:10, 8:28-29).

3. **HE SAID THAT THE FATHER IS GREATER THAN HIMSELF** (John. 14:28, 13:32, Matt 24:36).
4. **HE WAS TEMPTED** (Matt 4:1-11): But God cannot be tempted (James 1:13).
5. **HE DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNSEEN** (Mark 13:32, Matt 24:36).
6. **HE WAS SUBJECT TO CHANGE** (Luke 2:21,52): But God is Immutable.
7. **HE DID NOT ACCEPT TO BE CALLED GOD AND DEFERRED TO GOD** (Mark 10:18).
8. **HE PRAYED TO GOD** (Mark 14:32, Luke 5:16)
9. **HE REFERRED TO HIMSELF AS A PROPHET** (Luke 13:33, 34). Others also called him a prophet. (Luke 7:16, 24:19, John 6:14, 29, Heb 3:1). Referred to as servant of God (Acts 3:13, 4:27, 30, Matt 12:18).
10. **HE MADE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE FATHER** (Matt 23:8-10).
11. He referred to himself frequently as **SON OF MAN** (eg. Matt 8:20). In the book of Acts (2:22), he is described as “a man approved of God”. While he is called Son of God nearly 68 times, not once was he called **GOD THE SON**. The difference between the two expressions is like the difference between the Prophet Jesus of history and the **CHRIST** created in the image of the Church.

III. HIS MIRACLES PROVED DIVINITY?

He stated that they were not by his own power

(John 5:30, 14:31).

All had parallels in the Old Testament.

For example:

- 1. BORN WITHOUT A FATHER** (Heb 7:3, Gen 14:18).
- 2. FED THE MULTITUDES** (2 KINGS 4:38, 44)
- 3. WALKED ON WATER:** Similar to (Exod 14:21, 2 Kings 2:14)
- 4. HEALED THE LEPERS AND BLIND:** So did others (2 Kings 5:14, Acts 3:7, 5:15-16).
- 5. BROUGHT THE DEAD TO LIFE:** So did others (1 Kings 17:22, 2 Kings 4:34, 13:21).
- 6. CAST OUT DEVILS:** He said others can too (Matt 7:22, 12:27, LK 11:19), (Acts 5:16).
- 7. ROSE FROM THE DEAD:** Others did (e.g. Ezek 37:1-14).
- 8. ASCENDED TO HEAVENS:** Other prophets did (Gen 5:24, Heb 11:5, 2 Kings 2:11-12). This seems to be inconsistent with John. 3:13.

IV. CHRISTIAN SALVATION

1. **ASSUMES INITIAL PERFECTION** OF ADAM AND OUR INHERITANCE OF SIN, which is inconsistent with Deut 24:16, Ezek 18:20 and Matt 7:2.
2. **ASSUMES NECESSITY OF BLOODSHED** FOR FORGIVENESS. This is inconsistent with Hos. 6:6, Psalms 30:5, 18:23, 24, Matt 9:13.
3. **SACRIFICES BY ISRAELITES OR BY ABRAHAM** are irrelevant to the concept of the “Crucified God”.
4. **WHO DIED ON THE CROSS?** God never dies and the death of one man cannot atone for all mankind.
5. God’s mercy and justice can be reconciled without bloodshed. He is Most Merciful and Forgiving.

V. MYSTERY AND EXPERIENCE

1. **HOW DIFFERENT** from other religions or even cults? Experience alone is not an indicator of ultimate **truth**.
2. Difference between **plausible** but not fully understood religious truth (e.g. eternity of God) and man made, **self contradictory and untenable dogmas** in the name of mystery. The infinite and finite can’t be one and the same.

3. **WHY ACCEPT MEN'S INTERPRETATIONS** if evidence is overwhelming that Jesus was a great yet finite human? *Why change the RELIGION OF JESUS into a RELIGION ABOUT JESUS?*

CONCLUSION

1. The Bible, Old Testament, warns against **associating others with God** in His divine attributes. (e.g. Ex 20:3, Deut 5:6, 7, Deut 6:4).
2. Jesus confirmed the same and called the "**Father**" "**My God**" (John 20:17)
3. The RSV (Revised Standard version) of the Bible published in 1952, translated from the most ancient manuscripts by thirty two highly eminent scholars, describes the KJV (King James version of the Bible) as containing serious defects. The KJV:- John 3:16, describes Jesus as the begotten son of God. In the RSV it has been taken out, **AS FABRICATION**.
I John 5:8, relating to trinity has been taken out, **AS FABRICATION**.
Mark 16:19 and Luke 24:51 relating to Ascension, have also been taken out **AS FABRICATION**.
4. Only through the last divine revelation (The Holy Qur'an) can confusion be removed and pure monotheism restored.

A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History

**Who is
number
ONE?**

GALILEO · EINSTEIN · MUHAMMAD · JESUS
FROM · NEWTON · EDISON · LAVOISIER
THE PARADAY · BECQUEREL
100 PIZARRO · CONFUCIUS

**A RANKING OF
THE MOST INFLUENTIAL
PERSONS IN HISTORY**

Michael H. Hart

BOLIVAR · MICHELANGELO · LAVOISIER · VAN N
ARISTOTLE · PETER · MUHAMMAD · LADON
LENIN · PICASSO · EDISON · BECQUEREL · PARADAY · BECQUEREL · P
CYRUS · GENGE · PIZARRO · CONFUCIUS · VASCO DE GAMA · P
ST PAUL · COLUMBUS · BUDDHA

MUHAMMAD
No. 1

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all else is wind in comparison..." Thomas Carlyle

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