

Engaging with Islam

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MUHAMMAD - SESSION 8

PART 1: Preparation and Discussion

Here is a summary of what Muhammad taught about Jesus:

- Jesus' mother was Miriam/Mary the daughter of Amram and the sister of Moses and Aaron, Qur'an 3:35-51, 19:28 & 53, 66:12, the title of sura 3, Exodus 15:20, Numbers 26:59.
- Jesus was born of a virgin, Q. 3:45-47, and is like Adam with no natural father, Q. 3:59.
- Jesus spoke when he was a newborn baby, Q. 19:29-35, and later healed the blind, lepers, and raised the dead, Q. 3:49, 5:110.
- He came to the Israelites, Q. 43:59, confirms the law of Moses but brings a new covenant and scripture called the Gospel. Q. 3:50, 5:44-48, and came to give guidance, Q. 2:135-6.
- The Gospel is for all nations as non-Jews are called the *People of the Gospel* Q. 5:47, 3:3-4, 187, 21:91.
- Jesus taught Jihadist ideology, Q. 9:111, brought a book from God like Muhammad, 19:30, performed some of the Pillars of Islam, 19: 31, was just a prophet like Muhammad, 4:171, Jesus' disciples called themselves Muslims, 5:111, he foretold the coming of Muhammad, 61:6, and will return to teach the Qur'an, *Sahih al-Bukhari*: vol. 4, bk. 55, no. 658.
- Jesus only appeared to be crucified and die on a cross; he did not die nor was he crucified but ascended to God and is now alive, Q. 3:55, 4:157-158.
- He will come again to break all crosses, kill pigs and abolish the Jizya tax (ie. Bring the final jihad against all non-Muslims) *Sahih al-Bukhari*: vol. 3, bk. 43, no. 656.
- Muhammad intercedes to God for you better than Jesus. *Sahih al-Bukhari*: vol. 6, bk. 60, no. 3.
- He is a word and a spirit from God, Q. 4:171.
- Jesus is not lord or the Son of God or divine, Q. 19:35.
- Jesus made birds from clay and breathed the spirit of life into them, Q. 3:49, 5:110.
- The Holy Spirit came as a man and announced to Mary the birth of Jesus, Q. 19:17.
- There is no Trinity, Q. 4:171, 5:73.
- Jesus is the Messiah, Q. 3:45.
- No one can be called a son of God, Q. 5:18; you can only be a slave, 19:92-93. God is not father.

Q1. What can we say about Muhammad's understanding of history?

Q2. Does Muhammad understand the meaning of the titles: *Messiah* and *Word of God* or of the stories of Jesus?

Q3. Does Muhammad have an insider's or an outsider's understanding of Jesus and Christianity?

Q4. Muhammad teaches about many aspects of Jesus' life but what does he leave out?

Q5. What is Muhammad doing with the name of Jesus?

Q6. Would any of these verses from the Qur'an be a useful starting point for sharing the true Gospel with a Muslim?

Q7. Muhammad denies the death of Jesus and the fatherhood and sonship of God. This is a different gospel. Does it matter if Muhammad teaches a different gospel? See Galatians 1:6-10.

Muhammad in the Bible - The Qur'an says that Muhammad is foretold in the Bible:

Those who follow the messenger (Muhammad), the prophet of his community, whom they will find mentioned in the Torah and the Gospel in their possession. (Qur'an 7:157, Jones)

Q8. The Qur'an never quotes any verse from the Bible and says it refers to Muhammad. Instead Muslim leaders say the following verses predict the coming of Muhammad. Do you agree?

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. (Deuteronomy 18:18, NIV)

His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely¹. This is my lover, this my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem. (Song of Songs 5:16, NIV)

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever. (John 14:16, NIV)

1. The Hebrew word for "altogether lovely" is machamaddim (plural).

PART 2: Video Presentation (16 minutes) youtu.be/rDvHmrIL-3Q



Does the Qur'an confirm the previous scriptures?

Is Muhammad foretold in the Bible?

- Deuteronomy 18
 - The Satanic Verses: answering-islam.org/Green/satanic.htm
- Song of Songs 5:16
- John 14:16



The "Produce a sura like it" challenge.

Does the Qur'an have discrepancies and contradictions?

- Good and bad deeds on judgement day: doubled Q. 4:40, multiplied by ten Q. 6:160.
- answering-islam.org/Quran/Contra/index.html



How does the Bible tell us to test a prophet?

One day the Messenger of God went out looking for Zayd. Now there was a covering of haircloth over the doorway, but the wind had lifted the covering so that the doorway was uncovered. Zaynab was in her chamber, undressed, and admiration for her entered the heart of the Prophet. (Al-Tabari, *The History of al-Tabari*, vol. viii, p. 4)

All adoptions cancelled Q. 33:4-5. Zaynab given to Muhammad Q. 33:37-38.

... You shall not covet your neighbor's wife ... (Exodus 20:17)

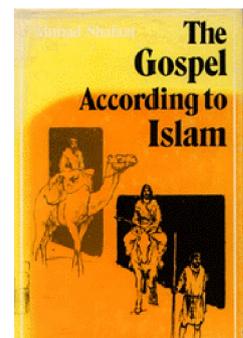
PART 3: Discussion

Q9. Do you have any comments about the video?

Rewriting the Gospel - Some Muslims have rewritten the Gospel. There is *The Gospel According to Islam* (1979) and the *Gospel of Barnabas* (14th Century). You can buy these at Islamic bookshops.

To understand what the authors of these books are doing read this part of the Bible.

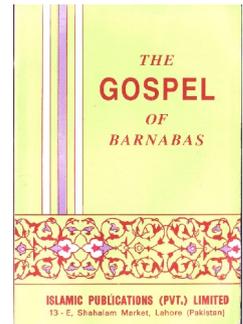
Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ." They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John replied in the



words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" (John 1:19-23, NIV)

Now read this part of the *Gospel of Barnabas*.

(T)hey sent the Levites and some of the scribes to question him, saying: "Who are you?" Jesus confessed, and said the truth: "I am not the Messiah." They said: "Are you Elijah or Jeremiah, or any of the ancient prophets?" Jesus answered: "No." Then said they: "Who are you? Say, in order that we may give testimony to those who sent us." Then Jesus said: "I am a voice that cries through all Judea, and cries: "Prepare you the way for the messenger of the Lord," even as it is written in Esaias (Isaiah)." (chap. 42)



Q10. What has the author of the *Gospel of Barnabas* done?

Q11. Why has the author of the *Gospel of Barnabas* done this?

Q12. Do Christians need to rewrite the Old Testament so that Jesus can fulfil it?

Answers

Q1. Muhammad has a poor understanding of history because he says Moses' sister was Jesus' mother yet they lived 1500 years apart.

Q2. No. The Messiah is the son of God and the saviour yet Muhammad denies these roles to the Messiah. The title Word of God, is a title of divinity yet Muhammad denies Jesus' divinity. Jesus making living creatures from the dust of the earth is a fable to show Jesus is God yet Muhammad denies that God is God.

Q3. Muhammad has an outsider's view of Christianity and Jesus.

Q4. There are no parables of Jesus which are a major part of his ministry. Muhammad does not pass on the teaching of Jesus.

Q5. Muhammad is using the name of Jesus for his own cause.

Q6. Yes. Jesus being called the Word of God is a title of divinity. Jesus making living creatures from clay in exactly the same way that God created Adam (15:28-29) shows his divinity.

Q8. Deuteronomy 18:18 is about a brother Israelite who speaks in the name of Yahweh not Allah. Song of Songs 5:16 is not using the word as a name or prediction. For John 14-16, the context and rest of the Bible make it clear that Jesus is speaking about the Holy Spirit and not Muhammad. Surprisingly the Qur'an describes the Holy Spirit in much the same way as John 14-16, and it never quotes John 14-16 in reference to Muhammad.

Q10. He has rewritten the original account to make it agree with the Qur'an: Instead of John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus, Jesus now prepares the way for Muhammad.

Q11. He has done this because the Qur'an claims Muhammad is foretold in the Bible but he is not. Therefore this Muslim author has rewritten the Bible so that now it does.

Q12. No, because Jesus and the Gospel truly fulfil the Old Testament scriptures. Rejoice Christian, you follow the truth and do not have to rewrite the scriptures!

Further Reading answering-islam.org/Green/barnabas.htm



PART 4: Activities

Have you done the following? Circle an answer.

- Smile at a Muslim. Greet the Muslims you know. Yes/No.
- Pray privately, and publicly at church, for the Islamic world and the Muslims you know, and for Christians who are suffering under Islam. Yes/No.
- Ask a Muslim if they know what books are in the Bible. Yes/No.
- Ask a Muslim if they believe in the Day of Judgement. If they do ask if they have done enough good deeds. Yes/No.
- Invite a Muslim to read Matthew and then meet with them and talk about it using the Matthew outline presented in session 7. Yes/No.
- Have you done your group activities? Yes/No.