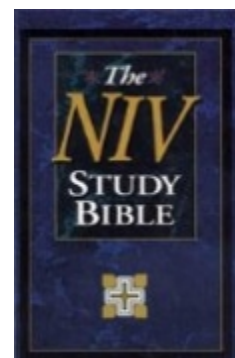


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Do Muslims and Christians Have the Same Jesus?



.... I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. Jude 1:3 NIV

Do Muslims and Christians Have the Same Jesus?

Throughout the history of mankind, one of the most controversial men to have ever lived was Jesus of Nazareth. In Fact, if you asked one hundred people, non-Christian and Christian who they thought Jesus was, you'd be shocked at how many differing opinions you would come away with. For example, if you asked a Mormon, a Jehovah's Witness or a Muslim who they thought Jesus was, you would get three different Jesus'. To the Mormon, Jesus is the spirit brother of Lucifer. To the Jehovah's Witness, Jesus is the Archangel Michael. To the Muslim, Jesus was one of the many prophets or messengers of Allah. Although there are many differing opinions as to who Jesus was, we would like to in this work review what the Bible says about Jesus as compared to what Muslims say about Jesus. For the sake of space, we will limit our study to 3 key observations.

Key Observation # 1 – The Deity of Jesus.

The Bible is emphatically clear that Jesus pre-existed as God before becoming man. John 1:1 says, "*In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God **and the word was God.***" (The clear statement from John 1:1 is that the word was with God and the word was God. This supports the belief in the trinity.) John 1:14 says, "*The **word became flesh** and made his dwelling among us...*" (See also, Colossians 2:9; John 20:28; Titus 2:13; Acts 20:28; John 10:30-33; John 5:17-18, Isaiah 9:6 and Hebrews 1:3) For the Christian, belief in the deity of Jesus is essential to their salvation. Romans 10:9 says, "*That if you confess with your mouth, **Jesus is Lord**, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*"

Muslims/The Quran a) Teaches that Jesus was no more than a messenger. Sura 5:75 says, "*Christ the son of Mary was **no more than a messenger**; many were the messengers that passed away before him...*" b) Jesus denied claiming to be God. Sura 5:116 says "*And behold! Allah will say: "O Jesus the son of Mary! Didst thou say unto men, take me and my mother for two gods beside Allah?" He will say: "Glory to Thee! **Never could I say what I had no right (to say)**. Had I said such a thing. Thou wouldst indeed have known it..."*" c) There is no trinity. Sura 5:73 says, "***They disbelieve who say: Allah is one of three (in trinity) for there is no god except one God.** If the desist not from their word (of blasphemy), verily a grievous chastisement will befall the disbelievers among them.*"

Key Observation #2 – The Resurrection and Crucifixion of Jesus.

The Bible is emphatically clear when it says Jesus was crucified, died and rose from the dead. Mark 15:22-24 says, "*They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of the skull) then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it, **and they***

crucified him...” As a result of the crucifixion, Jesus died. **Luke 23:46** says, “*Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”* **When he had said this, he breathed his last.**” The first day of the week (Sunday), Jesus rose from the dead. **Luke 24:4-5** says, “*While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!...*” (See also **1 Corinthians 15:3-5, Luke 9:22 and Matthew 28:16-20**) In addition, since Muslims believe Jesus was a messenger/prophet of Allah (**Sura 5:75; 4:171**), then they should believe his prophetic references to his crucifixion and resurrection. In **John 2:19-21** Jesus said, “*....destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days...but the temple he had spoken of was his body.*”

Muslims/The Quran – According to some Muslim traditions, Jesus did not die on the cross. It is believed that Jesus either miraculously substituted Judas Isacariot for himself on the cross, or that God miraculously delivered him from the hands of the Romans and Jews before he could be crucified. **Sura 4:156-158** says, “*They that rejected the faith; that they uttered against Mary a grave false charge; that they said (in boast), “We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah”; but they killed him not, nor crucified him. Only a likeness of that was shown to them. And those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not: nay, Allah raised him up unto himself; and Allah is exalted in power, ...*”

Key Observation #3 – Jesus Said He Was the Son of God.

The “Son of God” is the same as claiming to be God in substance and essence. **John 19:7** says, “*The Jews insisted, we have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.*” The law the Jews referred to is found in **Leviticus 24:16** “*Anyone who blasphemes the name of the Lord must be put to death...*” Jesus, by claiming to be the Son of God, in their minds, was bringing God down to the level of man. They were correct in their understanding of Jesus’ claim to be the Son of God as actually claiming to be God. (See also **John 10:36, John 5:17-18 and John 3:16-17**)

Muslims/Quran – Teaches God Does Not Have A Son.

Sura 4:171 says, “*O people of the book! Commit no excesses in your religion: nor say of Allah aught but the truth. Christ Jesus the son of Mary was (no more than) a messenger of Allah, and his word, which he bestowed on Mary, and a spirit proceeding from him: So believe in Allah and his messengers. Say not “three” desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is one God: Glory be*

*to him: (far exalted is he) above having a son. To him belongs all things in the heavens and on earth. And enough is Allah as a disposer of affairs.” **Sura 19:35** says, “It is not befitting to (the majesty of Allah) that he should beget a son. Glory be to him! When he determines a matter, he only says to it, “be, and it is.”*

In fairness, the Quran/Muslims teach that Jesus was sinless, (**Sura 3:46**) he performed miracles (**Sura 3:49; Sura 5:110**) and was a messenger of Allah (**Sura 4:171; 157**). However, the most essential biblical teaching on Jesus’ deity, crucifixion and resurrection is denied by Muslims, making Christians and Muslims like oil and water, they will never mix. However, as Christians we are taught to live at peace with everyone. **Romans 12:18** says, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” So we should make every effort to live at peace with Muslims while not embracing their unbiblical teaching on Jesus.

Unfortunately, many pastors have shared their pulpit with Muslims as a means of keeping peace with other religions. However, keeping peace should never involve compromise with any religion that preaches a different Jesus from the Bible. The answer to the question “Do Muslims and Christians have the same Jesus” is obviously NO! Make no mistake, Muslims have a completely different Jesus.

In closing, I’m reminded of the words of the apostle Paul in **1 Corinthians 15:2-5**, “By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the twelve.”

God Bless,
Pastor D. M. Duncan

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