

STUDY GUIDE

IS
JESUS
(PBUH)
GOD?

BY SHAIKH AHMED DEEDAT



AL HIDAAYAH

الهداية

The Guidance for Humanity

Based on the Clearest Qur'an and Authentic Hadith

COURSE TOPICS

1. Did Jesus (pbuh) die? Did he die as a man or God?
2. Did Jesus (pbuh) claim divinity for himself?
3. Jesus (pbuh) never claimed divinity for himself
4. "Either" questions
5. Muslims' belief about Jesus (pbuh)
6. Explanation of Jesus' saying, 'I and my Father are one'.
7. Jesus' (pbuh) reply to those who allege that he claimed divinity
8. The similitude of Jesus (pbuh) to that of Adam (pbuh)
9. Jesus (pbuh) performed miracles by the will of God
10. Greek and Roman influence on Christian theology
11. God's name in Semitic languages
12. The first commandment preached by Jesus (pbuh)

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Learn the truth about Jesus (pbuh) claiming divinity for himself
2. Ways of refuting the claims of those who attribute divinity to Jesus
3. The Muslims' belief about Jesus (pbuh)

QUESTION & ANSWER BUCKET

TRANSCRIPTS

ASSESSMENT

Multiple Choice Questions

Match the Columns

True or False

COURSE DURATION

Video - 2 hours 20 min

Study Guide - 45 min

Assessment - 10 min

Total Duration - 3 hours 15 min

COURSE OUTLINE



LESSON 1

DID JESUS (PBUH)

CLAIM DIVINITY?

Part 1

1



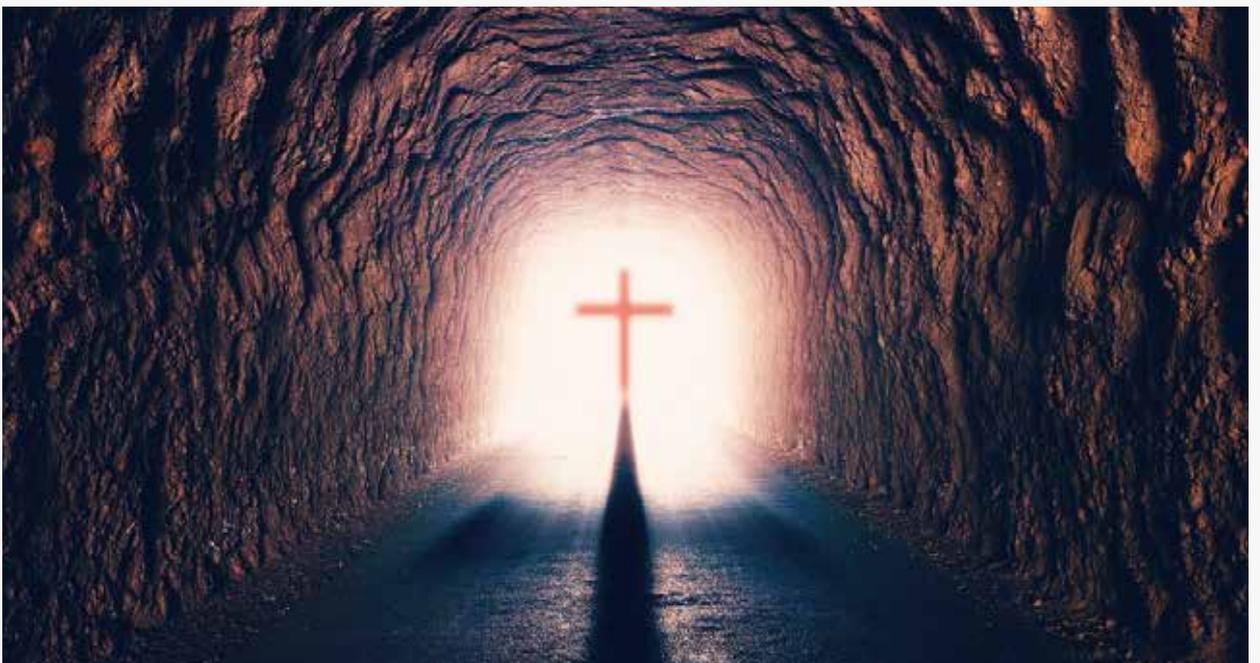
DID JESUS (PBUH) DIE? DID HE DIE AS A MAN OR GOD?

One of the most widely discussed subject is that of 'Is Jesus God' and that if he died, did he die as a man or as a God.



"They killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear 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."

Al Qur'an 4:157



According to the Muslim belief, Jesus (pbuh) was never killed or crucified, but he was saved from the Jews and raised up alive by Allah (swt). It was only made to seem to them that they had killed Jesus (pbuh).



Though one may agree for the sake of argument with the belief of the Christians that Jesus (pbuh) was killed, the important question that remains is that did he die as a human or as a God?



If he died as a man, the theological belief is useless because one man cannot carry the sins of the entire world, and therefore he must have died as a God.

But if they agree that he was crucified and died as a God, then according to them God himself died, which is contrary to the attributes of God.

2



DID JESUS (PBUH) CLAIM DIVINITY FOR HIMSELF?



In 1840, Thomas Carlyle, one of the greatest thinkers of the past century, explained that mankind has reached a stage of intellectual development, that he will not accept another human being as God anymore.

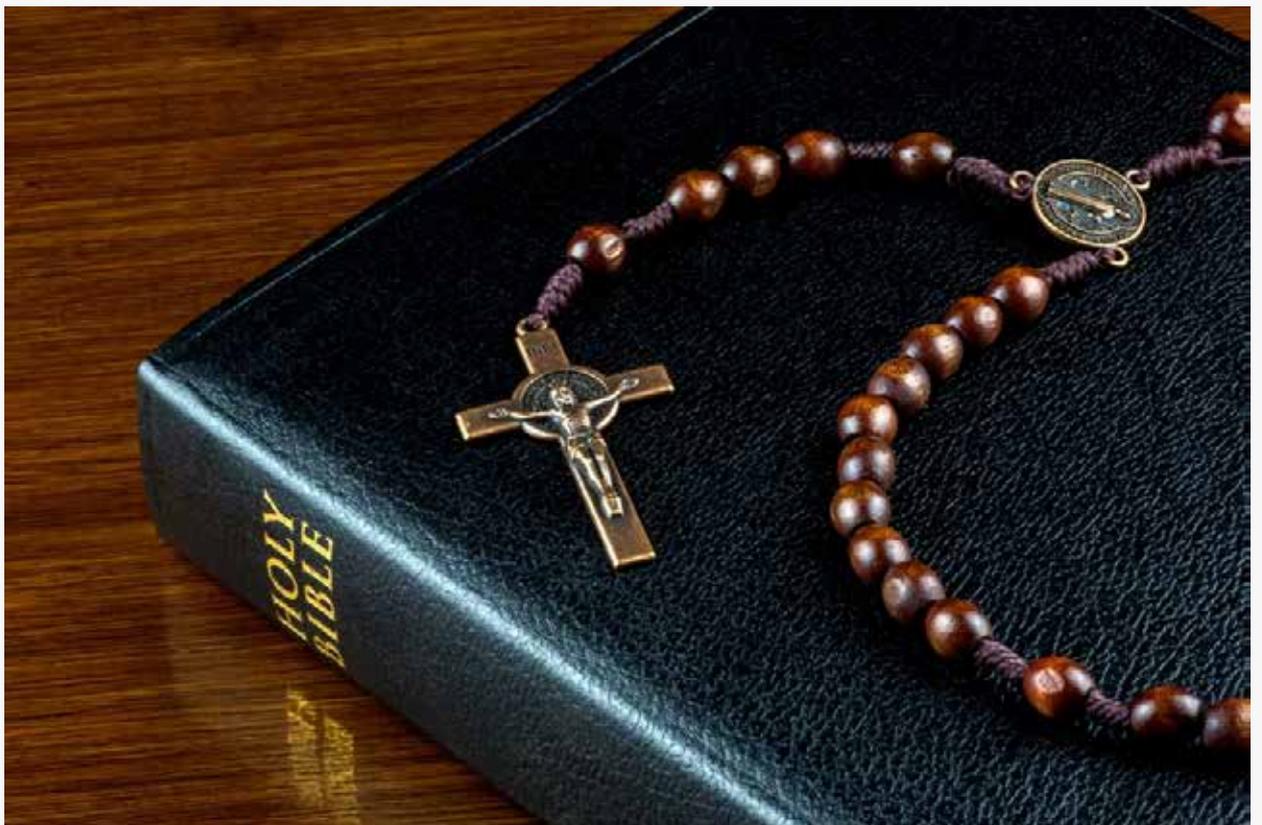
There are many people in the world who claim and believe in the incarnation of God (meaning God coming down to earth when the need arises, He delivers the message, and he dies, or somebody kills him. And when the need arises, He comes again).



For example, in the system of re-incarnation, the Hindus believe that Rama was the seventh incarnation of God, Krishna was the eighth, Buddha was the ninth, Kalki Avatar was the tenth, and Mahatma Gandhi was the eleventh incarnation of God.

The main question that one needs to ask people who claim that Jesus(pbuh) is God is whether he himself claimed to be God, or whether he said, 'worship me'.

Similarly with the Hindus, or people of other religions, if Gandhi himself said that 'I am god', or 'worship me'.



If the answer to the question is 'No', then there remains no point or justification for arguing about something the person himself never claimed.

In fact, there is not a single unequivocal statement anywhere in the Bible (73 books of the Roman Catholics or 66 of the Protestants) where Jesus (pbuh) himself says 'I'm God', or where he says, 'worship me'.



LESSON 2

DID JESUS (PBUH)

**CLAIM
DIVINITY?**

Part 2

3



JESUS (PBUH) NEVER CLAIMED DIVINITY FOR HIMSELF

One may ask any rational person that did any set of human beings present during the time of Jesus (pbuh) ever really think that the man they saw standing beside them as a God, the Maker of this universe.



“And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called Jesus, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.”

The Bible – Luke 2:21

Did the barber who circumcise him on the eighth day think that he was circumcising his God?





Did his teacher when he went to school think that he was teaching his God?

When the Roman soldier punched him in the stomach, did he think he was punching his God?

When a soldier lanced him on the side with his spear, did he think he was lancing his God?

The contemporaries of Jesus (pbuh), did they think the man they saw was their God?

The simple answer is that none of the above-mentioned people or anyone else during his time think of him as God.

In fact, in the Qur'an Allah (swt) absolves Jesus (pbuh) from any type of association that he claimed to be God.



“And behold! Allah will say: "O Jesus the son of Mary! Did you say unto men, worship me and my mother as gods in derogation of Allah'?" He will say: "Glory to Thee! never could I say what I had no right (to say). Had I said such a thing, You would indeed have known it. You know what is in my heart, though I know not what is in Yours. For You know in full all that is hidden.

Never said I to them aught except what You did command me to say, to wit, 'worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord'; and I was a witness over them while I dwelt amongst them; when You did take me up You were the Watcher over them, and You are a witness to all things."

Al Qur'an 5:116-117



In fact, Jesus (pbuh) was so humble that he didn't even let people call him as a good master.

“And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?”



And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness...”

The Bible – Matthew 19:16-18



When Jesus was asked about what one should do to have eternal life, he asked them to follow the commandments sent down by God. There was no mention of him dying for the sins of the world or worshipping him as God.

4



“EITHER” QUESTIONS

Often the born-again Christians try to corner Muslims by using ‘either’ questions, wherein they can’t agree to either option.

For example, they say that either Jesus is God or a liar? Or say that either Jesus is God or a lunatic?

A Muslim would never agree that Jesus (pbuh) was God, but he /she would also never say that he was a liar or a lunatic because we believe that he was a true messenger of God.

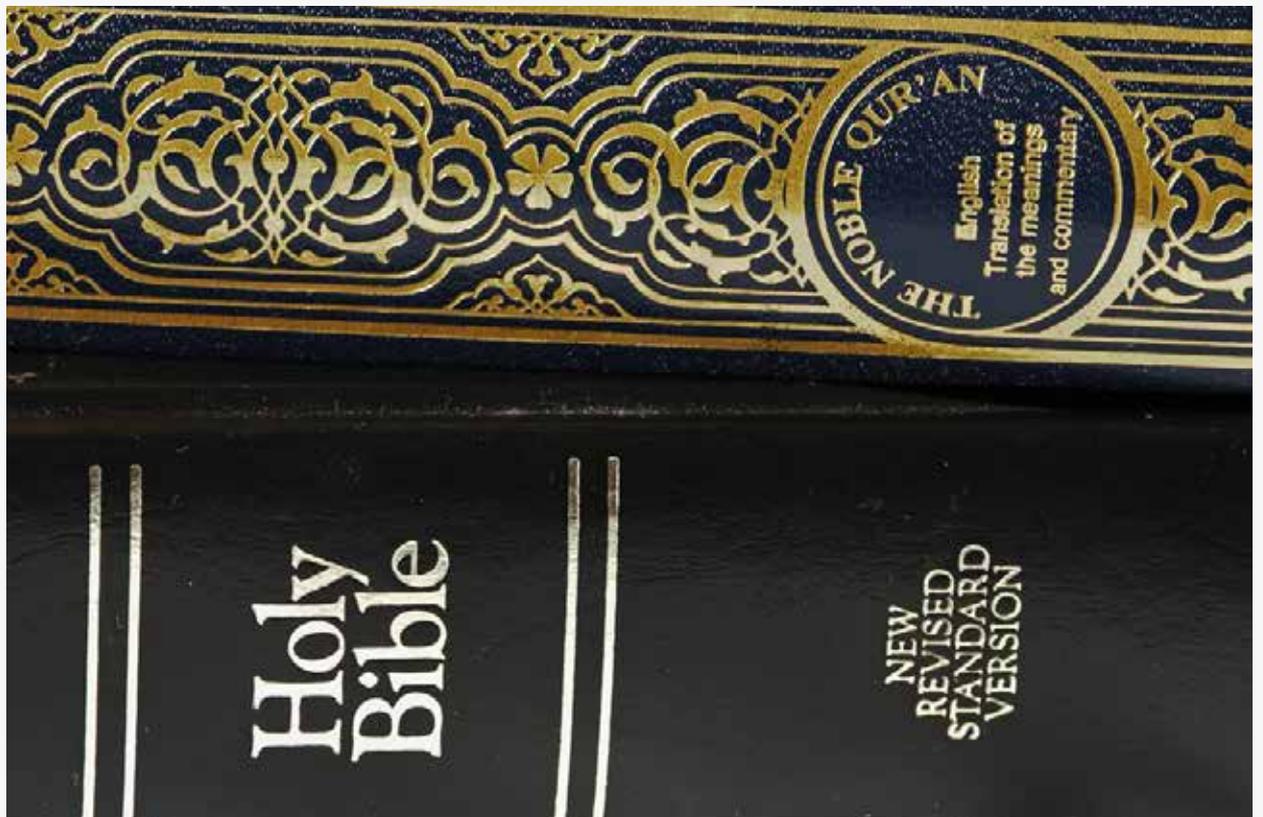


Also, why must one restrict to one of the two options. Not everything is black or white, sometimes there could be grey or red or pink.



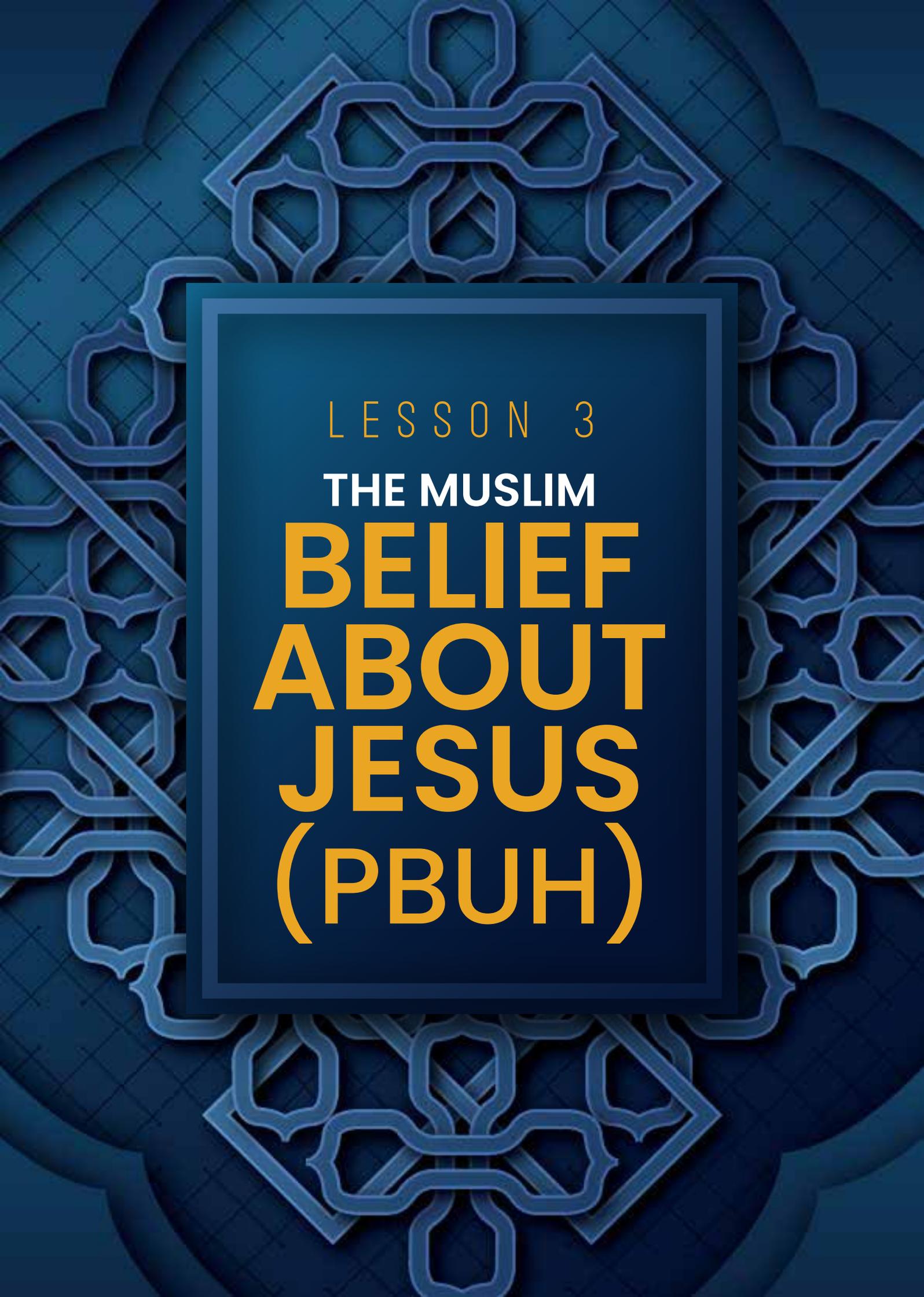
You should turn the tables on them and rather ask them that Jesus isn't a liar or a lunatic, but where does he say that he is God, or asks us to worship him?

The Qur'an says that he never made any such claim, and the Bible agrees to the same.



“They do blaspheme who say: ‘Allah is Christ the son of Mary.’ But said Christ: ‘O Children of Israel! worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord.’ Whoever joins other gods with Allah, – Allah will forbid him the garden, and the Fire will be his abode. There will for the wrongdoers be no one to help.”

Al Qur'an 5:72



LESSON 3

THE MUSLIM

**BELIEF
ABOUT
JESUS
(PBUH)**

5



MUSLIMS' BELIEF ABOUT JESUS (PBUH)

Among some of the most important beliefs that Muslims have about Jesus (pbuh) are:

- i** We as Muslims believe that Jesus Christ was one of the mightiest messengers of God
- ii** We know and believe that he was the Messiah.
- iii** We believe that he was born miraculously without any father.
- iv** We believe that he gave life to the dead by God's permission, and that he healed those born blind and the lepers by God's permission.

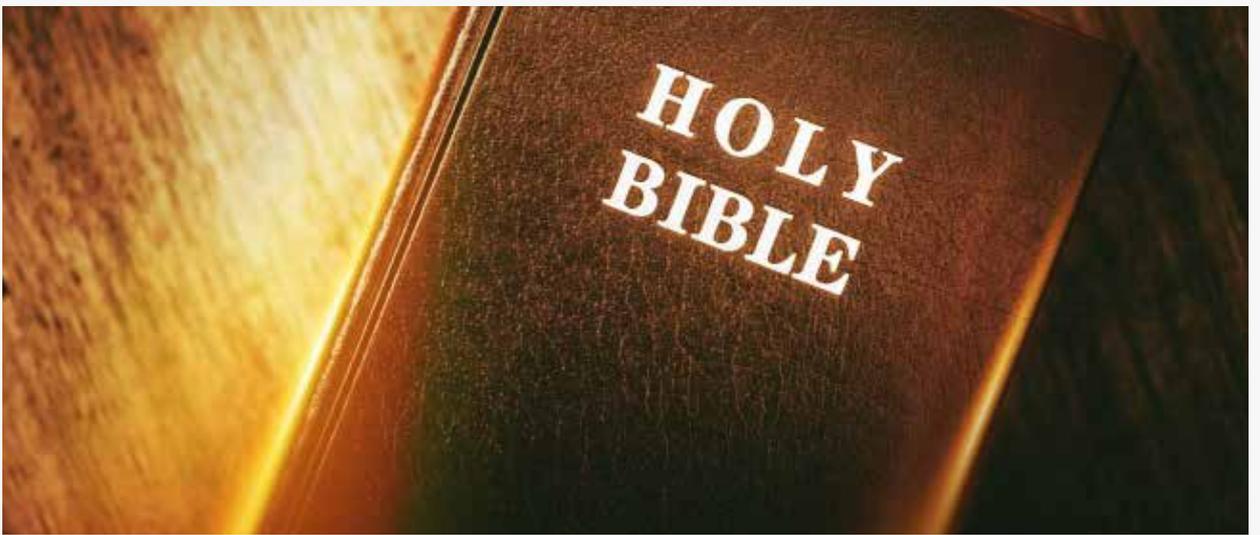
The point of difference between the Christians and the Muslims about their beliefs of Jesus (pbuh) is that the Christians believe him to be God and a begotten son of God, whereas the Muslims believe him to be a Messenger of God.



6



EXPLANATION OF JESUS' SAYING, 'I AND MY FATHER ARE ONE'



“And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch. Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and you believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.”

The Bible – John 10:23-30



Jesus (pbuh) saying 'I and my Father are one' is not talking about his omnipotence, his omniscience, but rather in the context of the purpose. If a man accepts the true faith, God sees to it that the man remains believer until his/her death, and same is the work of the prophets, be it Moses, Jesus, Muhammad (pbut), or anyone who preceded them.



7



JESUS' (PBUH) REPLY TO THOSE WHO ALLEGE THAT HE CLAIMED DIVINITY

The Jews allege that Jesus claimed to be God, the Christians say that he was entitled to be called God because he was God, but what was Jesus' (pbuh) reply to the allegations about him claiming divinity?



“Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken...”

The Bible – John 10:31-35



He sarcastically remarks back at them that it is mentioned in your own scriptures that all of you are gods and children of god.



“I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.”

The Bible – Psalms 82:6



“And the Lord said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.”

The Bible – Exodus 7:1

The language of the Torah is such that it seems that God Himself called them (the Jews who received the message at that time) gods and He called the prophets who came down with His message as gods.





But what the Bible means by claiming God sent Moses as a god to Pharoah is that He sent him as a messenger to Pharoah with God's message and disobedience to the message would be disobedience to God Himself.



"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 "Trinity": desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is one Allah: Glory be to Him: (far exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens and on earth. And enough is Allah as a Disposer of affairs."

Al Qur'an 4:171





LESSON 4

THE POSITION
OF JESUS (PBUH)

IN THE
SIGHT OF
GOD

8



THE SIMILITUDE OF JESUS (PBUH) TO THAT OF ADAM (PBUH)

The Christians claim that since Jesus was born without any father, therefore God is his father.

However, if one goes by this logic, Adam (pbuh) would have a better claim to divinity than Jesus (pbuh) since he had no father or mother.



"The similitude of Jesus before Allah is as that of Adam; He created him from dust, then said to him: "Be". And he was."

Al Qur'an 3:59

Allah (swt) clears out the misconception of the Christians that though Jesus (pbuh) was born without a father, in the sight of Allah (swt), he is similar to that of Adam (pbuh). Both were created out of dust and by the command of Allah (swt).

Further, the Christians used to claim that Jesus was the only begotten son of God, but that didn't make sense because the act of begetting is an attribute of humans and animals. Such an act cannot be attributed to the Majesty of a God. He creates by His Act of Will, but the act of begetting cannot be attributed to Him.





Further, according to the Bible, not only Jesus was considered as the son of God, but rather God had multiple sons.



“Which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.”

The Bible – Luke 3:38



“When the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bear children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.”

The Bible – Genesis 6:4



“Israel is my son, even my firstborn.”

The Bible – Exodus 4:22





Israel referred to in the Bible is Yaqub (pbuh)



“For I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.”

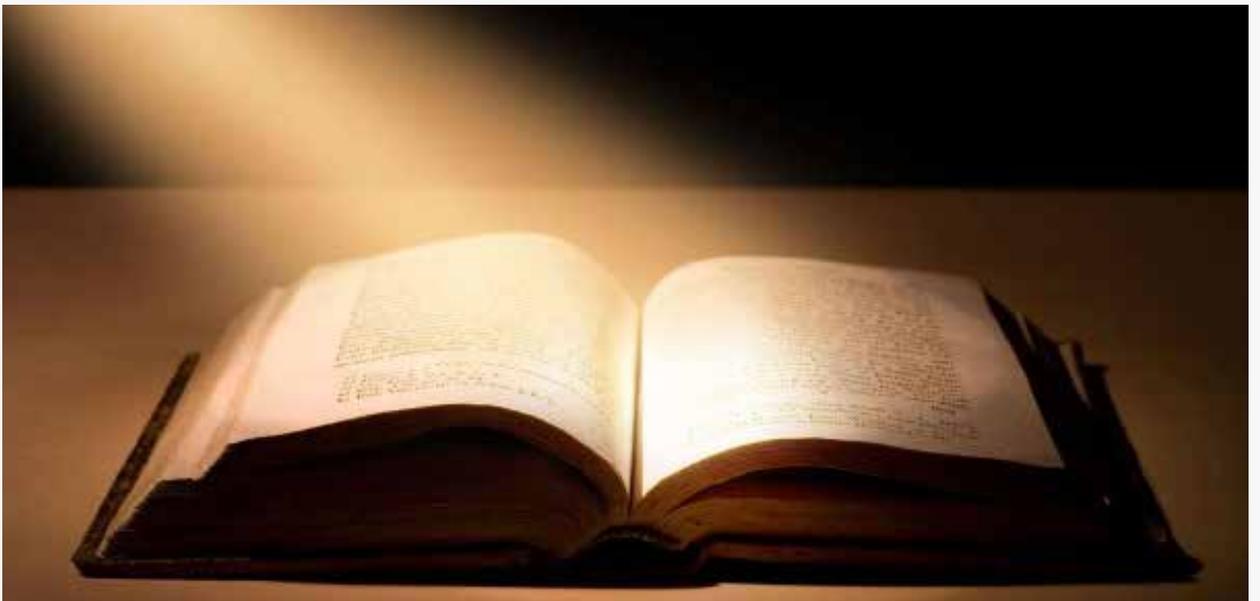
The Bible – Jeremiah 31:9

In the Psalms, God speaks to David:



“I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.”

The Bible – Psalms 2:7



9



JESUS (PBUH) PERFORMED MIRACLES BY THE WILL OF GOD



“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”

The Bible – Matthew 28:18



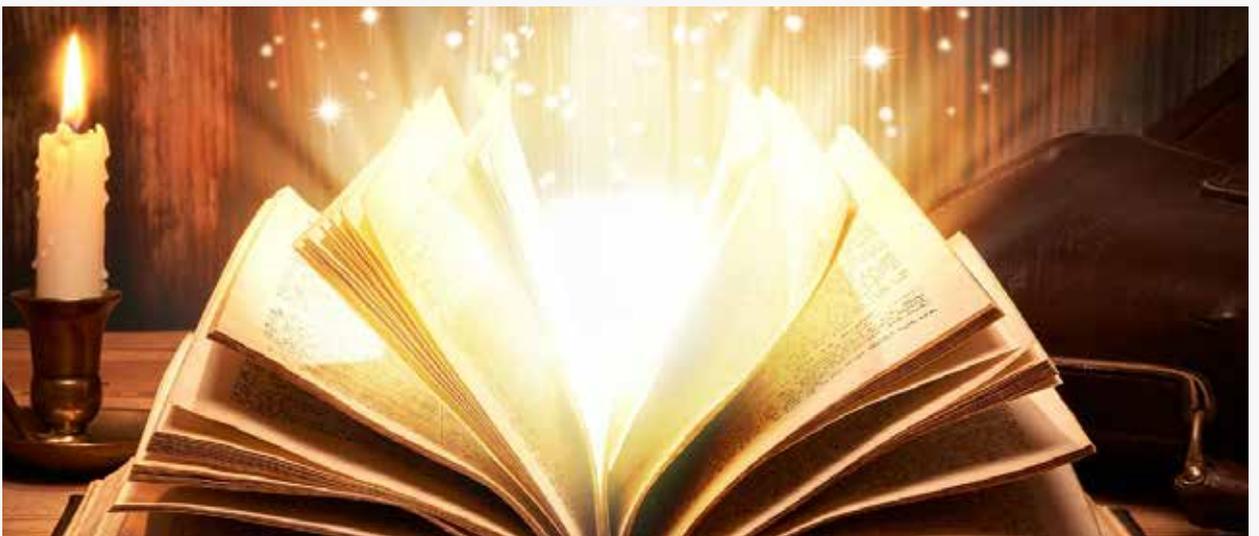
“But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.”

The Bible – Matthew 12:28



“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”

The Bible – John 5:30





"I with the finger of God cast out devils."

The Bible – Luke 11:20



"Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:"

The Bible – Acts 2:22

All the above verses of the Bible are an evidence and point towards truth of Jesus' (pbuh) miracles. Jesus himself said that the miracles he performed were not his own, but by the will and power God bestowed upon him. In fact, according to the Bible, when Jesus was crucified on the cross, he cried out,



"Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

The Bible – 27:46

If Jesus was God, or performed miracles with his own power, why would he call out to someone else to save him. How can a God let Himself down?



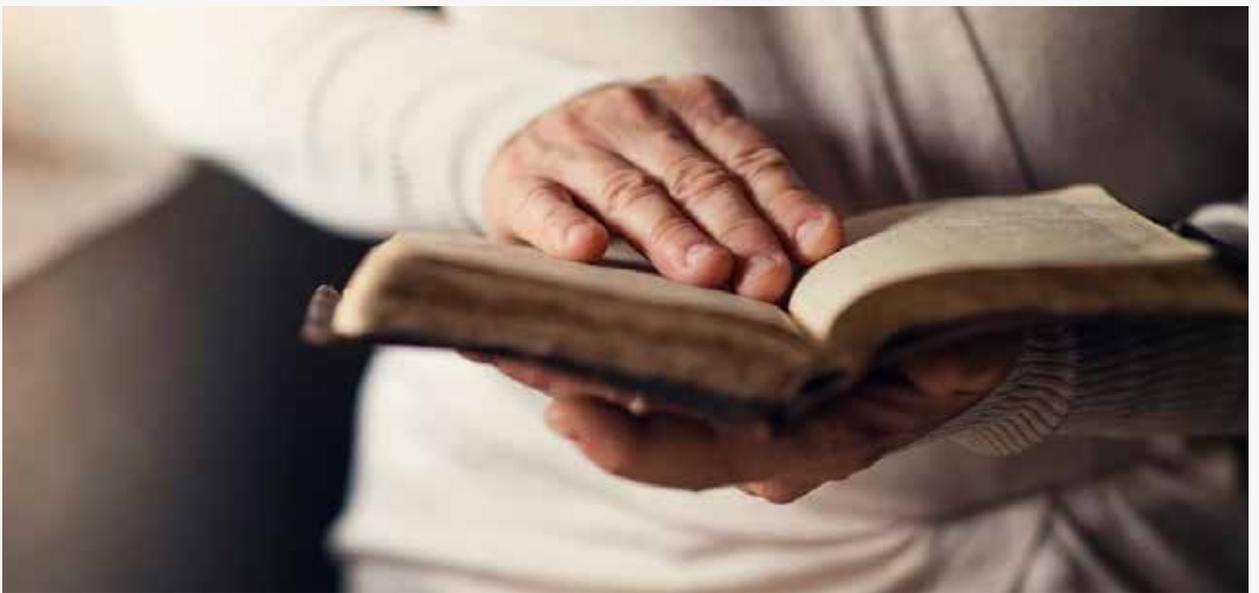
LESSON 5

**WHAT IS
HIS
NAME?**

10



GREEK AND ROMAN INFLUENCE ON CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY



The Bible is an Eastern book full of metaphors and similes, and the very first people who came in touch with this book were the Greeks and the Romans.

The Greeks and the Romans already had gods and sons of gods in their mythology, and therefore when they came across a new religion and read the Bible mentioning Jesus as son of God (Jupiter – the god of heaven, Pluto – the god of hell, Vulcan – the god of fire, Neptune – the god of the sea, Mars – the god of war, and Zeus – the father of all Gods), they took it in the literal meaning.

So, what was metaphorical to the Jews was understood as literal by the Greeks and they became the pioneers of the message that Jesus is the son of God.

11



GOD'S NAME IN SEMITIC LANGUAGES



"Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

The Bible – Matthew 27:46

There is no difference in the meaning of the words Eli, Elohim, and Allah, except that of the language.

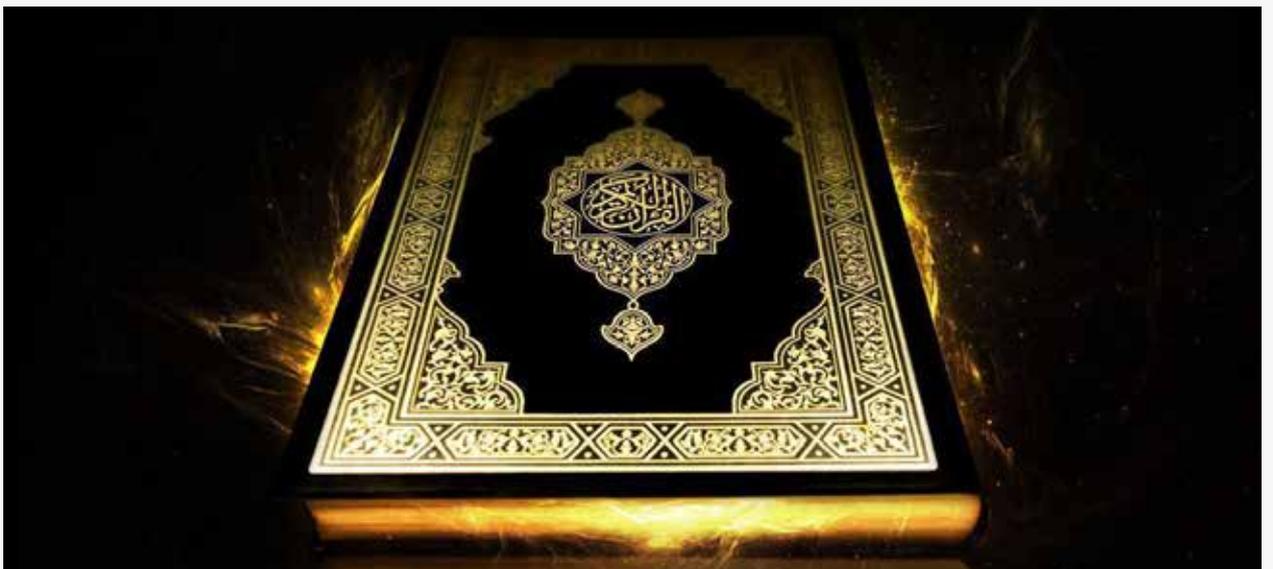
In Hebrew, 'Eli' and 'Elohim' both mean God, as 'Allah' in Arabic means God. Though generally, 'im' in Hebrew is meant for plural, the beauty of the semitic languages is that they have two types of plurals in the language: a plural of respect and a plural of numbers.

For example, though the Qur'an describes God as –



"Say: He is Allah, the One and Only."

Al Qur'an 112:1





Yet it uses the words 'We' otherwise to describe Allah (swt).

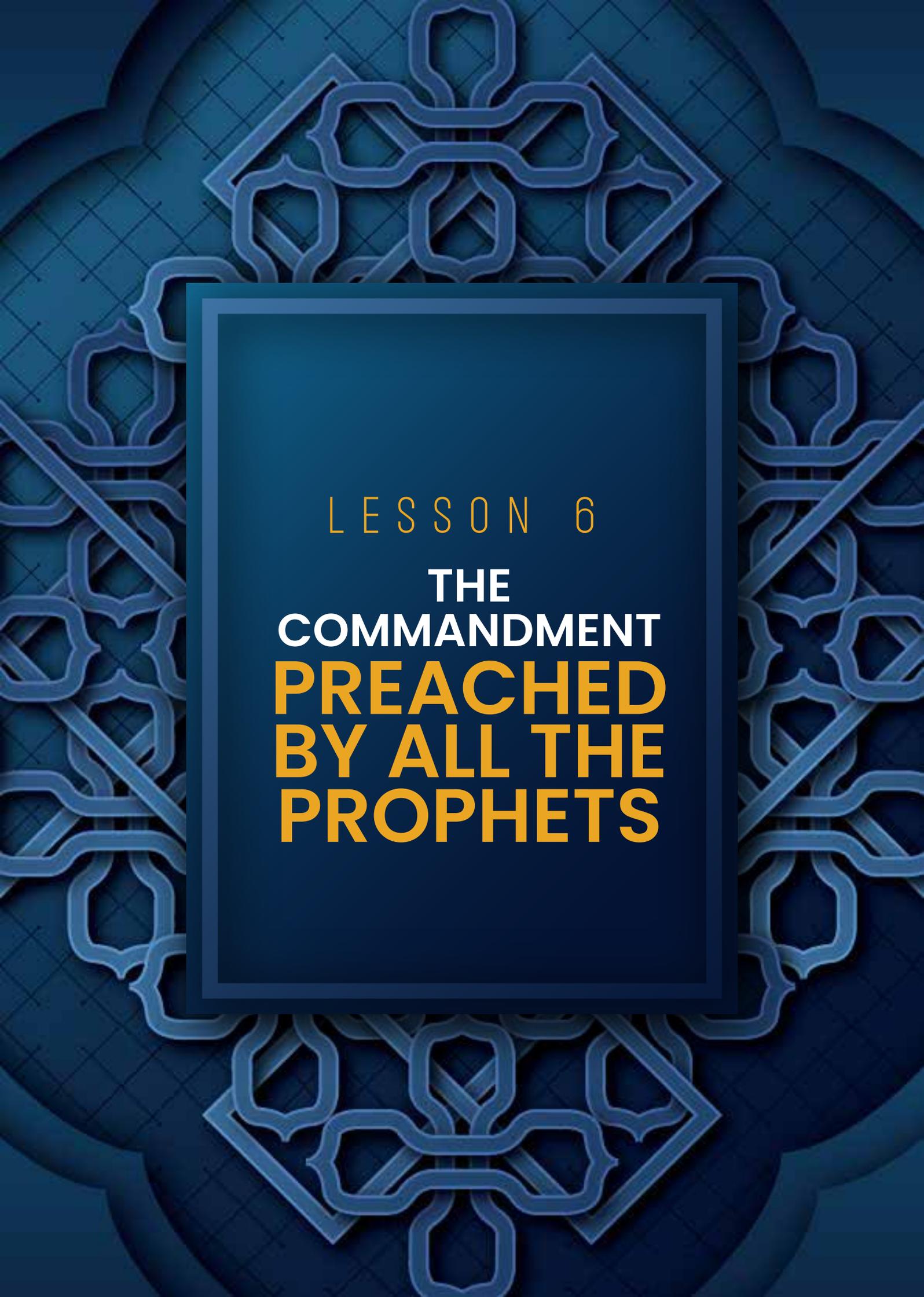


"We send not the angels down except for just cause: if they came (to the ungodly), behold! no respite would they have!"

Al Qur'an 15:8

The 'im' in Elohim is meant as plural of respect for God similar to the 'Nahnu – We' used in the Qur'an.





LESSON 6

THE
COMMANDMENT
**PREACHED
BY ALL THE
PROPHETS**

12



THE FIRST COMMANDMENT PREACHED BY JESUS (PBUH)



“And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord.”

The Bible – Mark 12:28-29



When a learned man comes to Jesus and asks him about the first commandment, he answered him that it is ‘Shama Israel, Adnallahyno Ila Ikhad – Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord.’

He repeated the same message that was preached by Abraham (pbuh), Moses (pbuh), David (pbuh) and the prophets before them leading upto Adam (pbuh).



And the same message is repeated by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as mentioned in the Qur'an:



"Say: He is Allah, the One and Only."

Al Qur'an 112:1

If he wished and wanted to claim divinity for himself, he could have claimed what "John" alleges about him a century after he left his earthly abode:



"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."

The Bible – 1 John 5:7





**QUESTION
AND
ANSWER
BUCKET**

Q1



QUOTE THE VERSES OF THE QUR'AN WHEREIN ISA (PBUH) SAYS BEFORE ALLAH (SWT) THAT HE NEVER CLAIMED DIVINITY OR ASKED PEOPLE TO WORSHIP HIM INSTEAD OF ALLAH (SWT).

Ans: Allah (swt) mentions in the Qur'an in Surah Ma'idah –



“And behold! Allah will say: ‘O Jesus the son of Mary! Did you say unto men, worship me and my mother as gods in derogation of Allah?’ He will say: ‘Glory to Thee! never could I say what I had no right (to say). Had I said such a thing, You would indeed have known it. You know what is in my heart, though I know not what is in Yours. For You know in full all that is hidden.’”

“Never said I to them aught except what You did command me to say, to wit, ‘worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord’; and I was a witness over them while I dwelt amongst them; when You did take me up You were the Watcher over them, and You are a witness to all things.”

“If You do punish them, they are Your servants: If You do forgive them, You are the Exalted in power, the Wise.”

Al Qur'an 5:116-118

Q2



MENTION THE STORY OF THE MIRACLE OF JESUS (PBUH) GIVING LIFE TO THE DEAD ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE.

Ans: According to the Bible, the story of the miracle of Jesus (pbuh) giving life to the dead is that one of his disciples (Lazarus) died, and Jesus (pbuh) wasn't there to help him in his Sakaraatul Mawt (death pangs). Four days had already passed by when Jesus (pbuh) reached, and Lazarus was put in a Sepulchre in a separate room in his chamber.

The story mentioned in the Gospel of John is –

“When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled.

And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.

Jesus wept.

Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!

And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?

Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.





And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him."

The Bible – John 11:33-45

Q3



WHAT IS THE MANNER OF WORSHIP DESCRIBED IN THE BIBLE THAT WAS FOLLOWED BY JESUS (PBUH) AND THE OTHER MESSENGERS OF GOD?

Ans: Jesus (pbuh) showed his followers the way to worship in the Garden of Gethsemane, and set an example for them.



“Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.”

The Bible – Matthew 26:36



“And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed.”

The Bible – Matthew 26:39

Further, the other prophets who came before Jesus (pbuh) prayed to God in a similar way.



“And Abraham fell on his face and prayed to God.”

The Bible – Genesis 17:3



“And Moses and Aaron fell on the faces and prayed to God.”

The Bible – Numbers 20:6



“And Joshua fell on his face and pray to God.”

The Bible – Joshua 5:14

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