

Jesus in the Quran

Lesson 1



Jesus' Ancestors

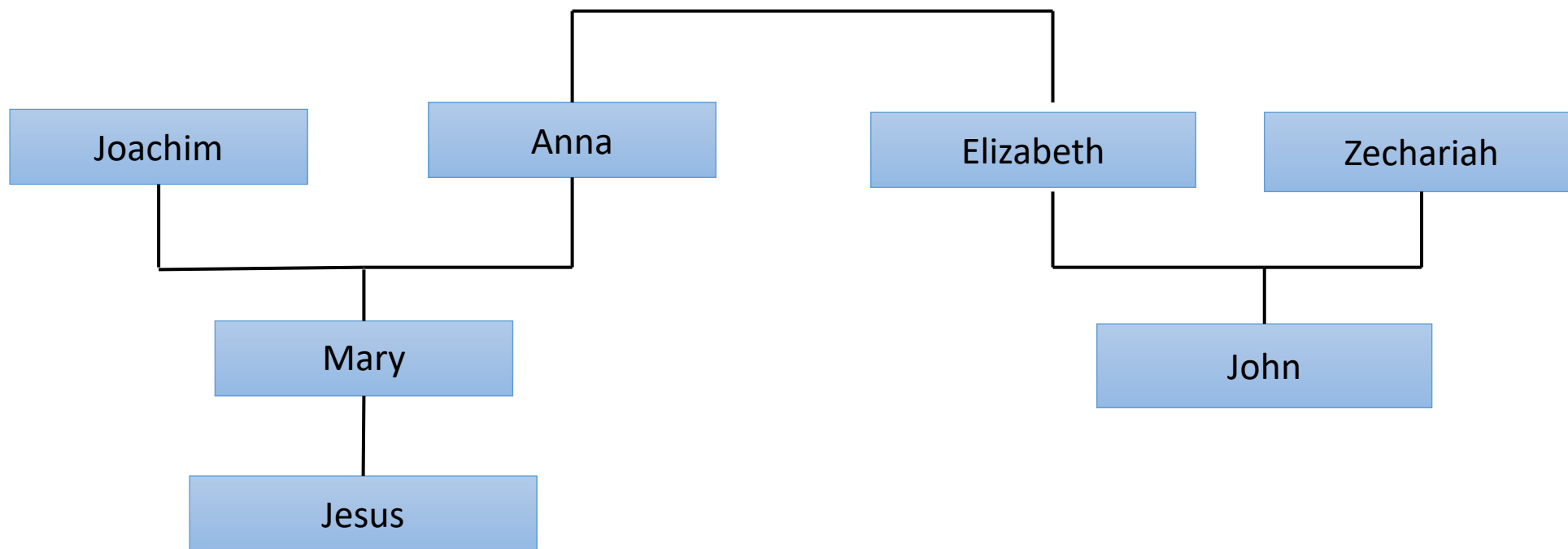
- According to the Islamic tradition, the story of Jesus' birth begins two generations before him.
- His grandmother Anna, or Hannah was married to Joachim who was one of God's chosen prophets and a messenger sent to the Israelites.
- The name "Joachim" is said to mean "God makes firm". It's possible that this was an honorific title since the Quran refers to him by the name "Imran".

Jesus' Ancestors

عن أبي بصير قال: سألت أبا جعفر عليه السلام، عن عمران أكان نبيا؟ فقال: نعم كان نبيا
مرسلا إلى قومه، وكانت حنة امرأة عمران وحنانة امرأة زكريا أختين،

Abu Basir said: I asked Abu Ja'far (Imam al-Baqir) about whether Imran was a prophet. The Imam said: Yes, he was a prophet sent to his people. His wife Anna and Elizabeth, the wife of Zachariah, were sisters."

Jesus' Family Tree



The Prophecy of Jesus' Birth

عن أبي عبد الله عليه السلام قال: إن الله تعالى أوحى إلى عمران أني واهب لك ذكرا سويا، مباركاً، يبرئ الأكمه والأبرص ويحيي الموتى بإذن الله، وجاعله رسولا إلى بني إسرائيل،

“God communicated to Imran: I shall bestow upon you a blessed male child who will heal the blind and the leprous and revive the dead by God’s permission. I shall make him a messenger to the Israelites.” -
Imam al-Sadiq (a)

The Prophecy of Jesus' Birth

- Anna soon became pregnant and as the pregnancy progressed, Imran reassured Anna saying: “God has promised to grant me in this very month a child who will be a prophet.”
- Imran, however, died less than a month before the child's birth.
- The Quran quotes the supplication of Anna as she carried the child in her womb:

The Prophecy of Jesus' Birth

إِذْ قَالَتِ امْرَأَةُ عِمْرَانَ رَبِّ إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لَكَ مَا فِي بَطْنِي مُحَرَّرًا فَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ
الْعَلِيمُ

“And when the wife of Imran said: ‘My Lord, I dedicate to you what is in my womb as one free to serve you, so accept him from me. You are the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.’” Quran 3:35

Mary is Born

- When she bore a girl, she was utterly confused and perplexed:

فَلَمَّا وَضَعَتْهَا قَالَتْ رَبِّ إِنِّي وَضَعْتُهَا أُنْثَىٰ وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا وَضَعْتَ وَلَيْسَ الذَّكَرُ كَالْأُنْثَىٰ وَإِنِّي
سَمَّيْتُهَا مَرْيَمَ وَإِنِّي أُعِيذُهَا بِكَ وَذُرِّيَّتَهَا مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

“But when she delivered her, she said, “My Lord, I have delivered a female.” And God was most knowing of what she delivered, “And the male is not like the female. And I have named her Mary, and I seek refuge for her in You and [for] her descendants from Satan, the expelled [from the mercy of God].” Quran 3:36

Mary

- Without her father, Mary was an orphan with no male guardian.
- Zechariah, as her maternal aunt's husband, and more importantly a prophet of God was naturally the best candidate.
- There were several Rabbis within the temple who felt they were more worthy of serving as Mary's guardian, so they decided to cast lots.
- The winner would be the official guardian and caretaker of Mary

Mary

وَمَا كُنْتَ لَدَيْهِمْ إِذْ يُلقُونَ أَقْلَامَهُمْ أَيُّهُمْ يَكْفُلُ مَرْيَمَ وَمَا كُنْتَ لَدَيْهِمْ إِذْ يَخْتَصِمُونَ

“And you were not with them when they cast their lots as to which of them should be responsible for Mary. Nor were you with them when they disputed.” Quran 3:44

- Zechariah's lot was drawn and he become the guardian of Mary.

Mary

- For the entire duration of her childhood, as per her mother's dedication, Mary remained in the temple and never set foot out of it.
- Her work was to serve the worshipers and priests alongside the other girls and boys who had been dedicated.
- In the presence of priests, especially her guardian, Zechariah, she gained a deep knowledge of God and the Sacred Law.
- This state of affairs continued as long as Mary was a child. It was when she came of age that her continued service to the male worshipers became problematic as she had developed into a beautiful woman.

Mary

تؤتى بالمرأة الحسناء يوم القيامة التي قد افتتنت في حسنها، فتقول: يا رب حسنت خلقي حتى لقيت ما لقيت، فيجاء بمريم عليها السلام فيقال: أنت أحسن أو هذه؟ قد حسناها فلم تفتتن،

“Attractive women will be brought on the Day of Judgement who believed their inordinate beauty justified their sexual indecency. Then [God] will present Mary to them and ask, ‘Are you more beautiful or she? We made her beautiful, yet she was not tempted.”- Imam al-Sadiq (a)

Mary

- Mary was about to begin menstruation, and it was against the Sacred Law for a woman in that state to remain in the temple. Thus, for the first time, since the day she was born, she left the temple.
- She had lost her mother at this time and thus she stayed with Zechariah and Elizabeth.
- In their house, she spent a week or ten days until she was clean. Then she withdrew from her new foster family to return to the temple.

Mary

وَأَذْكُرُ فِي الْكِتَابِ مَرْيَمَ إِذِ انْتَبَذَتْ مِنْ أَهْلِهَا مَكَانًا شَرْقِيًّا

And mention, in the Book Mary, when she withdrew from her family to a place to an easterly place.” Quran 19:16

- This easterly place was the most sacred part of the temple.
- Zechariah took it upon himself, as her guardian, to find her a suitable place to worship away from the prying eyes of strange men.
- Only Zechariah was permitted to enter her private quarters.

Mary

- Mary was a woman of supreme spiritual excellence. She was granted the special privilege by God of being able to hear and converse with angels:

وَإِذْ قَالَتِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ يَا مَرْيَمُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَاكِ وَطَهَّرَكِ وَاصْطَفَاكِ عَلَى نِسَاءِ الْعَالَمِينَ

“And when the angels said, “O Mary, indeed God has chosen you and purified you and chosen you above the women of the worlds.” Quran

3:42

Mary

كُلَّمَا دَخَلَ عَلَيْهَا زَكَرِيَّا الْمِحْرَابَ وَجَدَ عِنْدَهَا رِزْقًا قَالَ يَا مَرْيَمُ أَنَّى لَكِ هَذَا قَالَتْ هُوَ مِنْ عِنْدِ
اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَرْزُقُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ

“Every time Zechariah entered upon her in the prayer chamber, he found with her provision. He said, “O Mary, from where is this [coming] to you?” She said, “It is from God. Indeed, God provides for whom He wills without account.” Quran 3:37

Mary

فدخل عليها زكريا فإذا عندها فاكهة الشتاء في الصيف، وفاكهة الصيف في الشتاء

“Zechariah entered [her prayer chamber] and found with her winter fruits in the summer and summer fruits in the winter.”- Imam al-Ridha
(a)

Mary

- One day as she was worshiping in her temple, a handsome man appeared.

فَاتَّخَذَتْ مِنْ دُونِهِمْ حِجَابًا فَأَرْسَلْنَا إِلَيْهَا رُوحَنَا فَتَمَثَّلَ لَهَا بَشَرًا سَوِيًّا قَالَتْ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِالرَّحْمَنِ
مِنْكَ إِنْ كُنْتَ تَقِيًّا

So she took a veil (to screen herself) from them; then We sent to her Our spirit, and there appeared to her a well-made man. She said, "Indeed, I seek refuge in the Most Merciful from you, [so leave me], if you should be fearing of God." Quran 19:17-18

Glad-Tidings

قَالَ إِنَّمَا أَنَا رَسُولُ رَبِّكِ لِأَهَبَ لَكِ غُلَامًا زَكِيًّا قَالَتْ أَنَّى يَكُونُ لِي غُلَامٌ وَلَمْ يَمْسَسْنِي بَشَرٌ وَلَمْ
أَكُ بَغِيًّا قَالَ كَذَلِكَ قَالَ رَبُّكِ هُوَ عَلَيَّ هَيِّنٌ وَلِنَجْعَلَهُ آيَةً لِلنَّاسِ وَرَحْمَةً مِنَّا وَكَانَ أَمْرًا مَّقْضِيًّا

“He said, “I am only the messenger of your Lord to give you [news of] a pure boy. She said, “How can I have a boy while no man has touched me and I have not been unchaste?” He said, “Thus [it will be]; your Lord says, ‘It is easy for Me, and We will make him a sign to the people and a mercy from Us. And it is a matter [already] decreed.’ “ Quran 19:19-21

The Miraculous Conception

- With the power invested in Gabriel by God, he breathed into the womb of Mary the spirit of life-the same spirit that had given Adam life- and the embryo of Jesus was conceived.
- Mary was hailed and congratulated by delegations of angels:

إِذْ قَالَتِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ يَا مَرْيَمُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُبَشِّرُكِ بِكَلِمَةٍ مِّنْهُ اسْمُهُ الْمَسِيحُ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ وَجِيهًا فِي
الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَمِنَ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ

“And when the angels said, "O Mary, indeed God gives you good tidings of a word from Him, whose name will be the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary - distinguished in this world and the Hereafter and among those brought near [to God]. Quran 3:45

The Birth of Jesus

- How long did her pregnancy last?

لم يولد لستة أشهر إلا عيسى بن مريم، والحسين ابن علي عليهما السلام

“No child has been born at six months except for Jesus son of Mary and Hussien son of Ali, peace be upon them both.”- Imam al-Sadiq (a)

The Birth of Jesus

فَحَمَلَتْهُ فَانْتَبَدَتْ بِهِ مَكَانًا قَصِيًّا فَأَجَاءَهَا الْمَخَاضُ إِلَى جُذْعِ النَّخْلَةِ قَالَتْ يَا لَيْتَنِي مِتُّ قَبْلَ هَذَا
وَكُنْتُ نَسِيًّا مَنْسِيًّا

“So she conceived him, and she withdrew with him to a remote place. And the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm tree. She said, “Oh, I wish I had died before this and was in oblivion, forgotten.”

Quran 19:22-23

The Birth of Jesus

- Then, in that barren plain, with no one to help her, or even to hear he cries, without even the shade of a tree, on Tuesday, the 25th of Dhul Qi'dah, Mary gave birth.
- From the ground where he lay, Jesus, son of Mary, called out to his mother with strength and comfort saying:

فَنَادَاهَا مِنْ تَحْتِهَا أَلَّا تَحْزَنِي قَدْ جَعَلَ رَبُّكِ تَحْتَكِ سَرِيًّا

“Then he called her from below her, “Do not grieve; your Lord has provided beneath you a stream.” Quran 19:24

The Birth of Jesus

وَهَزِّي إِلَيْكَ بِجِذْعِ النَّخْلَةِ تُسَاقِطُ عَلَيْكَ رَطْبًا جَنِيًّا فَكُلِي وَاشْرَبِي وَقَرِّي عَيْنًا فَمَا تَرِينَ مِنْ
الْبَشَرِ أَحَدًا فَقُولِي إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لِلرَّحْمَنِ صَوْمًا فَلَنْ أَكَلِمَ الْيَوْمَ أَنسِيًّا

“And shake toward you the trunk of the palm tree; it will drop upon you ripe, fresh dates. So eat and drink and be contented. And if you see from among humanity anyone, say, 'Indeed, I have vowed to the Most Merciful a fast, so I will not speak today to [any] person.’” Quran 19:25-

Allegations

- On the very evening of her delivery Mary returned to the city with Jesus in her arms.

فَأْتَتْ بِهِ قَوْمَهَا تَحْمِلُهُ قَالُوا يَا مَرْيَمُ لَقَدْ جِئْتِ شَيْئًا فَرِيًّا يَا أُخْتَ هَارُونَ مَا كَانَ أَبُوكِ امْرَأً
سَوْءٍ وَمَا كَانَتْ أُمُّكَ بَغِيًّا

“Then she brought him to her people, carrying him. They said, “O Mary, you have certainly done a strange thing. O sister of Aaron, your father was not a man of evil, nor was your mother unchaste.” Quran 19:27-28

Jesus Speaks

فَأَشَارَتْ إِلَيْهِ قَالُوا كَيْفَ نُكَلِّمُ مَنْ كَانَ فِي الْمَهْدِ صَبِيًّا قَالَ إِنِّي عَبْدُ اللَّهِ آتَانِيَ الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلَنِي
نَبِيًّا وَجَعَلَنِي مُبَارَكًا أَيْنَ مَا كُنْتُ وَأَوْصَانِي بِالصَّلَاةِ وَالزَّكَاةِ مَا دُمْتُ حَيًّا

“So she pointed to him. They said, "How can we speak to one who is in the cradle a child?" [Jesus] said, "Indeed, I am the servant of God. He has given me the Book and made me a prophet. And He has made me blessed wherever I am and has enjoined upon me prayer and almsgiving as long as I remain alive.” Quran 19:29-31

Jesus Speaks

وَبَرًّا بِوَالِدَتِي وَلَمْ يَجْعَلْنِي جَبَّارًا شَقِيًّا وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيَّ يَوْمَ وُلِدْتُ وَيَوْمَ أَمُوتُ وَيَوْمَ أُبْعَثُ حَيًّا
ذَلِكَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ قَوْلَ الْحَقِّ الَّذِي فِيهِ يَمْتَرُونَ

“And [made me] dutiful to my mother, and He has not made me a wretched tyrant. And peace be upon me the day I was born and the day I will die and the day I am raised alive. That is Jesus, the son of Mary - the word of truth about which they are in dispute.”