

# Jesus in the Quran

## Lesson 2



# Gifts from the East

- After the birth of Jesus, a delegation of Zoroastrians arrived and sought out Mary's house and requested a private audience with her.
- These scholars were experts in astrology and witnessed heavenly signs that a great prophet of God has been born.
- When they met Mary and her son, they presented him with unique gifts which resembled certain aspects of him.
- They gifted him with gold, myrrh and frankincense.

# Gifts from the East

- They brought **gold** because it is the leader of all commodities, and similarly, Jesus would be the leader of all people.
- They brought **myrrh** because it is a potent medicine for wounds, and similarly, Jesus with God's permission would cure wounds, diseases, insanity, and all ailments.
- And they brought **frankincense** because its smoke rises into the sky like nothing else, and similarly, Jesus would be ascended into the heavens like no other contemporary.

# Jesus' Childhood

- During Jesus' first seven years, Mary and Jesus returned to the land where he had been born.
- According to traditions, they lived for a time in Baratha and for a time in Kufah on the banks of the Euphrates. They also spent some part of these years in Egypt.

# Jesus' Mission

فلما بلغ عيسى سبع سنين تكلم بالنبوة والرسالة حين أوحى الله تعالى إليه، فكان عيسى  
الحجة على يحيى وعلى الناس أجمعين،

When Jesus reached the age of seven he spoke with prophethood and messengerhood when God revealed to him. Jesus, thus, became [God's] proof over John and all of humanity.”- Imam al-Baqir (a)

# Jesus' Mission

أول نبي من بني إسرائيل موسى، وآخرهم عيسى وستمائة نبي

“The first prophet [sent to the Israelites] from among the Israelites was Moses and the last among them is Jesus and between them is 600 prophets.”- The Prophet (s)

# Jesus' Mission

و أنزل على عيسى في الإنجيل مواعظ وأمثال وحدود ليس فيها قصاص ولا أحكام حدود ولا فرض موارد، وأنزل عليه تخفيف ما كان نزل على موسى عليه السلام في التوراة

“God revealed the Evangel to Jesus containing admonishments, parable, penal code, but it did not contain retaliatory laws, or inheritance laws. And [God] revealed to him certain laws that were less burdensome than what was revealed to Moses in the Torah.”- Imam al-Sadiq (a)

# Jesus' Mission

وَلِأُحِلَّ لَكُمْ بَعْضَ الَّذِي هُرِّمَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَجِئْتُكُمْ بِآيَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا

“...and to make lawful for you some of what was forbidden to you. And I have come to you with a sign from your Lord, so fear God and obey me.” Quran 3:50



# Jesus' Mission

أنزل الإنجيل لثلاث عشرة ليلة خلت من شهر رمضان

“God revealed the Evangel on the thirteenth of Ramadan.”- The Prophet (s)

# Jesus' Mission

- To establish his credibility among people, God equipped him with miracles:

وَرَسُولًا إِلَىٰ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَنِّي قَدْ جِئْتُكُمْ بِآيَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ أَنِّي أَخْلُقُ لَكُمْ مِّنَ الطِّينِ كَهَيْئَةِ الطَّيْرِ فَأَنْفُخُ فِيهِ فَيَكُونُ طَيْرًا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَأُبْرِئُ الْأَكْمَهَ وَالْأَبْرَصَ وَأُحْيِي الْمَوْتَىٰ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَأُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا تَأْكُلُونَ وَمَا تَدْخِرُونَ فِي بُيُوتِكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً لَّكُمْ إِن كُنْتُمْ مُّؤْمِنِينَ

*“And [make him] a messenger to the Children of Israel, [who will say], 'Indeed I have come to you with a sign from your Lord in that I design for you from clay [that which is] like the form of a bird, then I breathe into it and it becomes a bird by permission of God. And I cure the blind and the leper, and I give life to the dead - by permission of God. And I inform you of what you eat and what you store in your houses. Indeed in that is a sign for you, if you are believers.’” - Quran 3:49*

# God's Teachings to Jesus

- God spoke to Jesus throughout his life through the following means as outlined in the Quran:

وَمَا كَانَ لِبَشَرٍ أَنْ يُكَلِّمَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَّا وَحْيًا أَوْ مِنْ وَرَاءِ حِجَابٍ أَوْ يُرْسِلَ رَسُولًا فَيُوحِيَ بَأْذَنِهِ مَا يَشَاءُ إِنَّهُ عَلَىٰ حَكِيمٍ

“It is not fitting for a man that God should speak to him except by inspiration, or from behind a veil, or by the sending of a messenger to reveal, with God’s permission, what God wills: for He is Most High, Most Wise.” Quran 42:51

# God's Teachings to Jesus

- Once God told him:

“O Jesus! I do not forget those who forget Me, so how could I possibly forget those who remember Me? And I am not stingy with those who disobey Me, so how can I possibly be stingy with those who obey Me?”

# God's Teachings to Jesus

- God also told him:

“It is ironic that My believing servant is saddened when I withhold worldly pleasure from him even though that is potentially when he is most beloved and nearest to Me. And he exults when I lay forth worldly pleasure for him even though that is potentially when he is most despicable and furthest from Me.”

Source: Jesus Through Shi'ite Narrations, p. 286

# God's Teachings to Jesus

God once said to him:

“O Jesus! If I am angry with you, the pleasure of those who are pleased with you will not benefit you, and if I am pleased with you, the anger of those who are angry with you will not harm you.”

# God's Teachings to Jesus

- God once revealed to him:

“O Jesus! How numerous are the people and how few is the number of the patient. The trees are numerous, but those that are good among them are few. Do not be deceived by the beauty of a tree until you taste its fruit.”

# God's Teachings to Jesus

- Once Jesus passed by a grave and witnessed angels of chastisement punishing the person in it. When he passed by the same grave again, he witnessed angels of mercy and streams of light around the grave. He was surprised to see this and he asked God about it.
- God told him, "O Jesus! This person was a sinner. He left his wife pregnant. She bore and raised his child until he grew up. She turned him over to the charge of the scribes to be educated. His teacher instructed him to say, 'In the Name of God, the All-Beneficent, the Ever-Merciful.' Because of this, I felt embarrassed that I was chastising this man with fire in the bowels of the earth while his child was remembering my name on the surface of the earth.
- Source: Jesus Through Shi'ite Narrations, p. 300



# Prophecy of Ahmad

وَإِذْ قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ يَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيَّ مِنَ  
التَّوْرَةِ وَمُبَشِّرًا بِرَسُولٍ يَأْتِي مِنْ بَعْدِي اسْمُهُ أَحْمَدُ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ قَالُوا هَذَا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ

*"And [mention] when Jesus, the son of Mary, said, "O children of Israel, indeed I am the messenger of God to you confirming what came before me of the Torah and bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name is Ahmad." But when he came to them with clear evidences, they said, "This is obvious magic." Quran 61:6*

# Prophecy of Ahmad

الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ الرَّسُولَ النَّبِيَّ الْأُمِّيَّ الَّذِي يَجِدُونَهُ مَكْتُوبًا عِنْدَهُمْ فِي التَّوْرَةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ يَأْمُرُهُمْ  
بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَاهُمْ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُحِلُّ لَهُمُ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَيُحَرِّمُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْخَبَائِثَ وَيَضَعُ عَنْهُمْ  
إِصْرَهُمْ وَالْأَغْلَالَ الَّتِي كَانَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ فَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِهِ وَعَزَّرُوهُ وَنَصَرُوهُ وَاتَّبَعُوا النُّورَ الَّذِي  
أُنزِلَ مَعَهُ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

*“Those who follow the Messenger, the Gentile prophet, whom they find written in what they have of the Torah and the Evangel, who enjoins upon them what is right and forbids them what is wrong and makes lawful for them the good things and prohibits for them the evil and relieves them of their burden and the shackles which were upon them. So they who have believed in him, honored him, supported him and followed the light which was sent down with him - it is those who will be the successful.” Quran 7:157*

# Jesus' Character

- Jesus' behavior was impeccable. He never did anything the least bit reprehensible, he never turned away an orphan, he never laughed boisterously, he never even shooed a fly from his face, and he never held his nose in aversion to a rotten smell for fear of offending the one who was responsible for it.

وروي أنه عليه السلام مر مع الحواريين على جيفة فقال الحواريون: ما أنتن ريح هذا الكلب! فقال عيسى عليه السلام: ما أشد بياض أسنانه!

“Once he passed by the rotting corpse of a dog with his disciples and they said exclaimed in disgust, “How rotten is its smell!” Jesus calmly noted, “How brilliantly white are its teeth.”

# Jesus' Character

وَإِنْ شِئْتَ قُلْتُ فِي عِيسَى بْنِ مَرْيَمَ (عليه السلام)، فَلَقَدْ كَانَ يَتَوَسَّدُ الْحَجَرَ، وَيَلْبَسُ الْخَشْنَ، وَ يَأْكُلُ الْجَشِبَ، وَكَانَ إِدَامُهُ الْجُوعَ، وَسِرَاجُهُ بِاللَّيْلِ الْقَمَرَ، وَظِلَالُهُ فِي الشِّتَاءِ مَشَارِقَ الْأَرْضِ وَمَغَارِبَهَا، وَفَاكِهِتُهُ وَرِيحَانُهُ مَا تُنْبِتُ الْأَرْضُ لِلْبَهَائِمِ، وَلَمْ تَكُنْ لَهُ زَوْجَةٌ تَفْتِنُهُ، وَلَا وَلَدٌ يَحْزِنُهُ، وَلَا مَالٌ يَلْفِتُهُ، وَلَا طَمَعٌ يُذِلُّهُ، دَابَّتُهُ رِجْلَاهُ، وَخَادِمُهُ يَدَاهُ!

“If you desire I will tell you about Jesus son Mary. He used a stone for his pillow, put on coarse clothes and ate plain bread flavored only by the intensity of his hunger. At night, his lantern was the light of the moon. In winter, his shelter from the cold was the open lands of the east and west. His fruits and vegetables were what the earth produced for beasts. He did not have a wife to infatuate him, nor a child to cause him regret, nor wealth to distract him, nor greed to abase him. His mount was his legs. And his servant was his own two hands.”- Imam Ali (a)

# The Disciples

- As with all prophets sent to guide the children of Israel, Jesus faced staunch opposition from many of the Israelites.
- He needed to distinguish between his supporters and enemies, so he asked them who among them would be his helpers:

فَلَمَّا أَحَسَّ عِيسَى مِنْهُمُ الْكُفْرَ قَالَ مَنْ أَنْصَارِي إِلَى اللَّهِ قَالَ الْحَوَارِيُّونَ نَحْنُ أَنْصَارُ اللَّهِ آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَأَشْهَدُ بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ

*“But when Jesus felt [persistence in] disbelief from them, he said, “Who are my supporters for [the cause of] God?” The disciples said, “ We are supporters for God. We have believed in God and testify that we are Muslims [submitting to Him].” Quran 3:52*

# The Disciples

رَبَّنَا آمَنَّا بِمَا أَنزَلْتَ وَاتَّبَعْنَا الرَّسُولَ فَاكْتُبْنَا مَعَ الشَّاهِدِينَ

*“O Lord! We believe in all that You have sent down, and we follow your messenger, so record us among those who testify that he fulfilled his duty.” Quran 3:53*

- From this verse, we can infer that even prophets are not exempt from interrogation on the Day of Judgement.

# The Disciples

- The disciples of Jesus are twelve and they came to be known as the “disciples” الحواريّون . Imam al-Ridha was asked why the disciples of Jesus were called “hawariyyun”:

قال: أما عند الناس فإنهم سموا حواريين، لأنهم كانوا قصارين يخلصون الثياب من الوسخ بالغسل وهو اسم مشتق من الخبز الحوار وأما عندنا فسمي الحواريون الحواريين، لأنهم كانوا مخلصين في أنفسهم ومخلصين لغيرهم من أوساخ الذنوب بالوعظ والتذكير

“According to people, they were called hawariyyun because they were washermen-they used to purify clothes of dirt by washing them. It is a word derived from white bread baked with flour that has been sieved multiple times. According to us, they were called hawariyyun because they themselves were pure and they purified others of the filth of sin by admonishing and reminding them.”

Source: U'yun Akhbar al-Ridha, v. 1, p. 85