

Jesus in the Quran

Lesson 4



The Divine Plan for Jesus

إِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَا عِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ إِنِّي جَاعِلُكَ لِلدُّنْيَا آيَةً وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَيُجْعَلُ لَهُمْ آيَةً أَنَّ إِلَهُنَّ مَثَلُ عِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ كَمَا كَانُوا يُكْفَرُونَ
فَوَقَّعْنَا فِيهَا إِلَهًا آخَرَ تَتَلَفُونَ

“When God said, “O Jesus, indeed I will take you and raise you to Myself and purify you from those who disbelieve and make those who follow you superior to those who disbelieve until the Day of Resurrection. Then to Me is your return, and I will judge between you concerning that in which you used to differ.” Quran 3:55

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- Clarifying key phrases:
 - **مُتَوَفِّيكَ** - literally means to receive something in a complete way
 - **وَمُطَهِّرِكَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا** - purify you from the evil plots of the disbelievers
 - **وَجَاعِلُ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوكَ فَوْقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ** - the true followers of Jesus will have the upper hand over those who reject him until the Day of Judgement

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إِنَّ أَوْلَى النَّاسِ بِإِبْرَاهِيمَ لَلَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُ وَهَذَا النَّبِيُّ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَاللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

“Indeed, the people with the greatest claim to Abraham are those who followed him and this prophet, and those who believe. And God is the guardian of the believers.” Quran 3:68

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فَبِمَا نَقْضِهِمْ مِيثَاقَهُمْ وَكُفْرِهِمْ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَقَتْلِهِمُ الْأَنْبِيَاءَ بِغَيْرِ حَقٍّ وَقَوْلِهِمْ قُلُوبُنَا غُلْفٌ بَلْ طَبَعَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهَا بِكُفْرِهِمْ فَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا

“Therefore, for their breaking their covenant and their disbelief in the communications of God and their killing the prophets wrongfully and their saying: Our hearts are covered; nay! God set a seal upon them owing to their unbelief, so they shall not believe except a few.” Quran

4:155

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وَبِكْفُرِهِمْ وَقَوْلِهِمْ عَلَىٰ مَرْيَمَ بُهْتَانًا عَظِيمًا

"And [We cursed them] for their disbelief and their saying against Mary a great slander." Quran 4:156

The Divine Plan for Jesus

وَقَوْلِهِمْ إِنَّا قَتَلْنَا الْمَسِيحَ عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ وَمَا صَلَبُوهُ وَلَكِنْ شُبِّهَ لَهُمْ
وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ لَفِي شَكٍّ مِّنْهُ مَا لَهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِلَّا اتِّبَاعَ الظَّنِّ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ يَقِينًا

“And [for] their saying, “Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of God.” And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but [another] was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain.” Quran 4:157

The Divine Plan for Jesus

بَلْ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَيْهِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا

“Rather, God raised him to Himself. And God is ever Exalted in Might and Wise.” Quran 4:158

- God being عَزِيز means He cannot be defeated nor can His plan be thwarted.
- God being حَكِيم in this context means that there is a wise plan related to the ascension and descent of Jesus

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وَإِنَّ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ إِلَّا لِيُؤْمِنَنَّ بِهِ قَبْلَ مَوْتِهِ وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَكُونُ عَلَيْهِمْ شَهِيدًا

“And there is none from the People of the Book but that he will surely believe in Jesus before his death. And on the Day of Resurrection he will be against them a witness.” Quran 4:159

The Divine Plan for Jesus

عن الإمام الباقر عليه السلام قال: ينزل قبل يوم القيامة إلى الدنيا ، فلا يبقى أهل ملة يهودي ولا نصراني إلا آمن به قبل موته ويصلي خلف المهدي

“He will descend to the world before the Day of Judgement, and there will not remain a single Jew nor Christian except that they will believe in him before his death and he will pray behind the Mahdi.”- Imam al-Baqir (a)

How Do Souls Return

- 1. When a soul returns to the earthly life after death it is called رجة or return.
- There are a few examples of this in the Quran:

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَ أَحَدَهُمُ الْمَوْتُ قَالَ رَبِّ ارْجِعُونِ

“...until, when death comes to one of them, he says, "My Lord, send me back.” Quran 23:99

How Do Souls Return

وَكَاذِبٍ مَّرَّ عَلَى قَرْيَةٍ وَهِيَ خَاوِيَةٌ عَلَى عُرُوشِهَا قَالَ أَنَّى يُحْيِي هَذِهِ اللَّهُ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا فَأَمَاتَهُ اللَّهُ مِئَةَ عَامٍ ثُمَّ بَعَثَهُ قَالَ كَمْ لَبِثْتَ قَالَ لَبِثْتُ يَوْمًا أَوْ بَعْضَ يَوْمٍ قَالَ بَلْ لَبِثْتَ مِئَةَ عَامٍ

“(Or have you heard) of the one who, on passing through an empty and ruined town, said, “When will God bring it to life?” God caused him to die and brought him back to life after a hundred years and then asked him, “How long have you been here?” He replied, “One day or part of a day.” The Lord said, “No, you have been here for one hundred years...”

Quran 2:259

How Do Souls Return

- 2. When a soul returns to the body after sleep it is called إرسال or release:

اللَّهُ يَتَوَفَّى الْأَنْفُسَ حِينَ مَوْتِهَا وَالَّتِي لَمْ تَمُتْ فِي مَنَامِهَا فَيُمْسِكُ الَّتِي قَضَىٰ عَلَيْهَا الْمَوْتَ وَيُرْسِلُ الْأُخْرَىٰ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى

“God takes the souls at the time of their death, and those that do not die [He takes] during their sleep. Then He keeps those for which He has decreed death and releases the others for a specified term...” Quran

39:42

How Do Souls Return

3. When a person descends from a higher realm down to the earthly world it is called نزول or descent.

كيف بكم (أنتم) إذا نزل عيسى بن مريم فيكم وإمامكم منكم

“What will be your condition when Jesus son of Mary descends among you while your Imam is from you.”- The Prophet (s)

Prophet Jesus and Imam Mahdi

يَا مَسِيحَ اللَّهِ صَلِّ بِنَا، فيقول: بل أنتَ فَصَلِّ بِأَصْحَابِكَ فقد رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْكَ، فَإِنَّمَا بُعِثْتُ وَزِيرًا
وَلَمْ أُبْعَثْ أَمِيرًا

Imam al-Mahdi will say to Jesus:

“O blessed one of God! Lead us in prayer. Jesus will reply: You lead your companions for God is pleased with you. Indeed, I have been sent as a helper and not a leader.”

Prophet Jesus and Imam Mahdi

- Jesus is absent at the moment from this earthly world whereas Imam Mahdi is present and plays an active role in the affairs of humanity.
- In Dua Nudba, we read:

أَيْنَ السَّبَبِ الْمُتَّصِلُ بَيْنَ الْأَرْضِ وَالسَّمَاءِ

“Where is the connective link between the earth and heaven.”

Prophet Jesus and Imam Mahdi

- One important activity that we must focus on during the occultation is to build a relationship with the People of the Book.

ويحكم بين أهل التوراة بالتوراة وبين أهل الإنجيل بالإنجيل، وبين أهل الزبور بالزبور وبين
أهل القرآن بالقرآن،

“and he will judge between the people of the Torah with the Torah and between people of the Evengel with the Evangel and between the people of the Psalms with the Psalms and the people of the Quran with the Quran.”-
Imam al-Baqir (a)

Muslim and Christian Relations

قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ تَعَالَوْا إِلَى كَلِمَةٍ سَوَاءٍ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ أَلَّا نَعْبُدَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ وَلَا نُشْرِكَ بِهِ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضًا أَرْبَابًا مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ فَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَقُولُوا اشْهَدُوا بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ

“Say: ‘People of the Book! Come now to a word common between us and you, that we serve none but God, and that we associate not aught with Him, and do not some of us take others as Lords, apart from God.’

And if they turn their backs, say: ‘Bear witness that we are Muslims.’”

Quran 3:64

Muslim and Christian Relations

وَلَتَجِدَنَّ أَقْرَبَهُمْ مَّوَدَّةَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّا نَصَارَىٰ ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّ مِنْهُمْ قِسِيَّيْنَ وَرُهَبَانًا
وَأَنَّهُمْ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ

“...and you will find the nearest of them in affection to the believers those who say, "We are Christians." That is because among them are priests and monks and because they are not arrogant.” Quran 5:82

Muslim and Christian Relations

وَإِذَا سَمِعُوا مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَى الرَّسُولِ تَرَى أَعْيُنُهُمْ تَفِيضُ مِنَ الدَّمْعِ مِمَّا عَرَفُوا مِنَ الْحَقِّ يَقُولُونَ
رَبَّنَا آمَنَّا فَاكْتُبْنَا مَعَ الشَّاهِدِينَ

“And when they hear what has been revealed to the Messenger, you see their eyes overflowing with tears because of what they have recognized of the truth. They say, “Our Lord, we have believed, so register us among the witnesses.” Quran 5:83