

THE LORD JESUS...WORD OF GOD MADE FLESH?

The Quran speaks very highly of the earlier Holy Books, saying they are words God said and that these Holy Books are in the hands of the Jews and the Christians.

“The Jews changed their Holy Book,” people say but the verses in the Quran on this subject speak differently. When taken together with the verses near to them in the Quran they do not mean that the Jews actually changed their Holy Book.

The Quran says, “The Christians forgot or hid their Holy Books.” The Quran does not say the Christians actually changed their Holy Book.

The early Muslim writers and some modern ones say, “The Jews and the Christians did not change their Holy Books.”

The Quran says, “The earlier Holy Books were in the hands of Jews and Christians at the time of the beginning of Islam.” It is impossible you must agree that all Jews and Christians [including many good people] would decide together later to change all their copies.

Also there is no mention in the Quran of any Holy Books going up to Heaven or being replaced by others.

In the Taurat it says, “A Person like God and a suffering Servant will come [in the future].” Examples of the words in the Taurat on this subject are:

A child is born to us. A son is given to us. And he will be our ruler. He will be called, “Wonderful Counsellor [Guide],” “Mighty [Great] God,” “Eternal [Going on forever] Father,” “Prince of Peace.”

Because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole [healed] by the blows he received....The Lord says, “It was my will that he should suffer; his death was a sacrifice [an offering to God] to bring forgiveness. And so he will see his descendants [children, grand-children and so on]; he will live a long life and through him my purpose [plan] will succeed....My devoted [faithful] servant, with whom I am pleased, will bear the punishment of many and for his sake [because of him] I will forgive them.”

In the Injil Jesus said, “I come not to be served but to serve and to give my life to redeem [buy forgiveness for] many people.” Jesus said he was the suffering servant the prophet Isaiah spoke about in the Taurat.

Jesus said, “This is what is written in the Taurat: The Messiah must suffer and must rise from death three days later, and in his name the message about repentance [obeying God] and the forgiveness of sins must be preached [told] to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem.”

Jesus did not need to die, he offered to die so that God could forgive our sins. He said, “The Father loves me because I am willing to give up my life, in order that I may receive [get] it back again. No one takes my life away from me. I give it up of my own free will. I have to right to give it up, and I have the right to take it back. This is what my Father has commanded [ordered] me to do.”

The thing we need to understand here is that through the death of Jesus, God offers us forgiveness for all our wrongdoing. Jesus died as punishment for our sins. The reason why the death of Jesus Christ can obtain for us forgiveness is because of who Jesus is.

In the Injil it says: Before the world was created [made], the Word already existed; He was with God and he was the same as God....Through him God made all things. The Word was the source [starting place] of life, and this life brought light to mankind....The Word became a human being and full of grace [mercy] and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father’s only Son. [Christians do not mean that God has a son by the virgin Mary as a man has a child by a woman. They mean that the Word of God, part of God himself, became a human being and that Jesus was a Person like God].

Jesus said that he was related [connected] to God in a way that no one else was. He said that God was his Father. He claimed the right God possesses to forgive sins, to give us God’s Spirit and to judge all men. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life, which only a Person like God could do. He did the kind of miracles [wonderful things], such as healing blind people and raising dead people to life, that only a Person who was more than an ordinary human being could do.

The Jewish leaders thought that Jesus spoke against God because he declared that he was a Person like God. This is why those men killed him. They did not understand their own Holy Book with all the suggestions in it about the coming to this world of a Person like God. Because Jesus came as a Servant they did not recognise him. He will return as King to rule the world. Soon, we know.

But God showed who Jesus Christ was by the great sign of raising him from death to live again. This sign is what started the Christian religion. This sign showed that Jesus really was the Person like God whom God had sent, and whose death really was good enough to pay for all our sins.

So began the message of forgiveness of sins and how we can be made right with God. We know being made right with God also protects the follower of the Lord Jesus from the power of evil spirits.

The Injil says: The Good News was promised long ago by God through his prophets, as written in the Holy Writings [the Taurat]. It is about his Son [meaning the Person like God whom God sent], our Lord Jesus Christ: as to his humanity [human nature], he was born a descendant of David; as to his divine holiness [being a Person like God], he was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from death. Through him God gave me [Paul] the privilege [honour] of being an apostle for the sake of Christ in order to lead people of all nations to believe [trust in] and obey [him]...Christ was without sin, but for our sake God made him share our sin [be punished for our sins] in order that in union with him [joined to him] we might share the righteousness of God [be made right with God].

You and I can experience union with Jesus when we trust in the death of Jesus Christ to make us right with God. This is possible because Jesus has already been punished for our sins instead of us. Union with Jesus Christ is only possible however when we obey the commands of Jesus about how to live and behave. These commands are written in the Injil.

Christians do not believe in three Gods. They believe in one God. This one God is three Persons or centres of consciousness. Each of the three Persons is able to know the thoughts, feelings and will of the others without needing to ask. The three Persons are God, God's Word and God's Spirit.

The Bible [which I suggest you read] can be tested to see if it is true.

We possess many very old hand written copies of the Bible in which the words of the Taurat, Zabur and Injil you can compare with the words in the copies of the Bible we now possess. They are the same.

The stories we find all through the Bible men have compared with other history books and found that they are exactly right. Also things men have dug up from the ground in places where the Bible stories happened show that the Bible stories are true. All this proves that the writers possessed good knowledge of what they were writing about and that they wrote down the stories at or soon after the time they happened.

The Bible's scientific statements are right. The things the Bible says would happen have come true exactly [there are many things said about towns and nations in the Middle East].

Also the legal [lawyer's] rules for testing if stories are true show the Bible is true. For example, no one can invent stories about public teachings and events and get people at the time to believe them because people will say, "We did not see these things happen." Also no one can get people living later to believe that these things happened before they were born, because they will say, "No one has handed this down to us from the people living before us."

Some sayings of the Lord Jesus:

I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never be thirsty [need drink].

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.

I am the resurrection [rising from death to live again] and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

I am the way, the truth and the life; no one goes to the Father, except by me.

Come to me, all you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke [control over you] and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble [kind] in spirit; and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light.

Isa in the Bible and the Quran <http://www.urdusouthasian.org>
<http://www.gujaratisouthasian.org>
<http://www.banglasouthasian.org>