

New Muslims Class

LESSON 7

Isa^{AS} and the People of the Book



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Muslim Community Association
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Today's Agenda

- Review of Last Week's Lesson (Lesson 6 - Ibrahim)
- Part 2: Lesson Seven – Isa and the people of the Book
 - Benefits of studying life of Prophet 'Isa ^{AS}
 - Review Islamic and Christian similarities
 - Learn about the special status of the family of Imran and 'Isa
 - Review the story of Mary and the virgin birth
 - Understand how Islam is connected to the people of the book
 - Give an overview of the life of the prophet 'Isa ^{AS}
 - Discuss the distinguished mission of 'Isa ^{AS} - why he was sent
 - Discuss how his companions reacted to his mission
 - Review the miracles and signs that prove 'Isa ^{AS} was a prophet
 - Review the traits and characteristics of 'Isa ^{AS}

Islamic Historical Context: Relating 'Isa ^{AS}

- Muslims were oppressed by Meccans and a group traveled to Abyssinia to escape persecution.
- Abyssinia ruled by a just Christian king who questioned their affair.
- Meccans falsely accused them in the king's court.
- The disbelievers tried to create fitna by telling him to ask them about 'Isa ^{AS}
- Jafar ibn Abi Talib (a companion of prophet) defended themselves by reciting Quranic verses describing Maryam and the birth of 'Isa to the Abyssinian king (the Negus).
- The Prophet ^{SAW} prayed the Negus' funeral prayer remotely from Madina because he knew that the Negus believed in Islam in his heart. (The prophet's prayer was a proof to the Negus' Islam)

Benefits of Studying the Life of 'Isa AS

- To understand the connection to the People of the Book (more in common than may realize)
- To understand the traits he was known for—lack of attachment to the material world, forbearance, steadfastness
- To understand how people reacted to his message and how to avoid the pitfalls of those people (the responsibility of the believer)

General Commonalities

- Concept of oneness of God - "*Tawheed*"
- Prophets
- Angels
- Divinely Inspired Books
- Day of Judgment
- Eternal Abode (Heaven or Hell)
- Purpose of life - worship and uprightness
- Only one life – no reincarnation
- Love for the Prophet 'Isa ^{AS}

Family of Imran

- Family that had a high status in the society among the children of Israel
- Family is among the blessed groups of people

The Qur'an says:

“Allah chose Adam, Noah, the Family of Abraham and the Family of ‘Imran above mankind. They are offspring of one another”

- The latter two groups mentioned above included multiple people of good including Zakariyya ^{AS} and Yahya ^{AS}
- The second longest surah (chapter) in the Qur'an

The vow of Hanna, the mother of Mary

Qur'an:

فَلَمَّا وَضَعَتْهَا قَالَتْ رَبِّ إِنِّي وَضَعْتُهَا أُنْثَىٰ وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا وَضَعْتَ وَلَيْسَ الذَّكَرُ كَالْأُنْثَىٰ وَإِنِّي سَمَّيْتُهَا مَرْيَمَ وَإِنِّي أُعِيذُهَا بِكَ وَذَرَيْتَهَا مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
فَتَقَبَّلَهَا رَبُّهَا بِقَبُولٍ حَسَنٍ وَأَنْبَتَهَا نَبَاتًا حَسَنًا وَكَفَّلَهَا زَكَرِيَّا كُلَّمَا دَخَلَ عَلَيْهَا زَكَرِيَّا الْمِحْرَابَ وَجَدَ عِنْدَهَا رِزْقًا قَالَ يَا مَرْيَمُ أَنَّىٰ لَكِ هَذَا قَالَتْ هُوَ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَرْزُقُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ

(Remember) when the wife of 'Imran said: My Lord I have vowed unto Thee that which is in my belly as a consecrated (offering). Accept it from me. Lo! Thou, only Thou, art the Hearer, the Knower!

And when she was delivered she said: My Lord! Lo! I am delivered of a female--Allah knew best of what she was delivered--the male is not as the female; and Lo! I have named her Mary, and Lo! I crave Thy protection for her and for her offspring from Satan the outcast.

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3:36-37

Maryam (Mary)

- Daughter of ‘Imran
- When Maryam’s mother was pregnant, she vowed that what was in her womb was for Allah (1)
 - Intended to be devoted to Masjid al-Aqsa—not thinking of *dunya* in doing this.
 - But was a woman—could not be a caretaker.
- She grew up in the worship of Allah.
- Was commanded by Allah to be upright and “*make ruku’ with those who make ruku’*”.
- One of the four perfect women of history.

Maryam (Mary)

- She was taken care of by Zakariyya ^{AS} (may have been her brother-in-law or her uncle)
- He noticed that she had provisions with her whenever he visited her (Angels brought her food)

Right graciously did her Lord accept her: He made her grow in purity and beauty: To the care of Zakariya was she assigned. Every time that he entered (Her) chamber to see her, He found her supplied with sustenance. He said: "O Mary! Whence (comes) this to you?" She said: "From Allah. for Allah Provides sustenance to whom He pleases without measure."

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3:37

- Based on seeing this, Zakariyya ^{AS} asked Allah for the provision of a son although he and his wife were beyond the time of having children.

The birth of 'Isa AS

- Maryam took refuge to the east to contemplate and separate herself from the people.
- We sent her our *ruh* (spirit).
- Kept her pregnancy a secret—would shame her family.
- When it was time to give birth she took refuge in Bethlehem.
- She was accused by the children of Israel of being unchaste, of having the child with a carpenter.
- Allah told her not to speak (don't try to explain the child).

Description of 'Isa AS

- Medium height with brown complexion, long hair, and small face
- Had no desire for the material world
- Steadfast: Longed for the next world and eager to worship Allah
- Compassionate and extremely tender hearted
- Walked barefoot
- Took no home
- Did not have adornment
- Did not have possessions
- Only kept his daily provision

Mission of Isa ^{AS}

- The people of his time were practicing the “letter of the law” and were very legalistic
- He came to bring a revival to their hearts, not to just follow lists of laws
- His message was a spiritual message - link hearts back with their Lord and revive values and morals
- He came to confirm that which was in the Torah
- That was his message—to bring the children of Israel back to the true way of the law of the Torah

Miracles of 'Isa AS

- Performed miracles by the permission of Allah, not his own abilities
- Spoke as an infant
- Shaped bird figure of clay—breath life into it
- Gave sight to the blind
- Gave speech to the mute
- Cured Leprosy and illness
- Brought dead back to life
- Brought a table spread down from Heaven

Al-Hawariyyoon—the Disciples

- Needed proof of Jesus' Prophethood
- They together with Jesus were the helpers of Allah (Q: 61:14)
- Inspired by Allah to believe in Jesus and his message (Q: 5:111)

The Crucifixion

- Decree was issued that he should be executed by crucifixion with a crown of thorns around his head.
- Neither was he killed, nor was he crucified, but it was made to appear as such
- ‘Isa was raised up to heaven— was not killed.
- Will return towards the end of time to live out the rest of his life.

Final Words

- The life of 'Isa ^{AS} is not just a story
- Why would the Prophet Muhammad ^{SAW} teach us so much about his predecessor?
- What can we do to emulate the example of 'Isa ^{AS} ?

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LESSON 7 Appendix



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Glossary

Mihrab: Niche let into the *Qibla* (q.v.) wall of many Mosques to indicate the direction of prayer. During the time of Maryam, it was a place where people were secluded into worship.

Masjid: A mosque. Literally means a place to make sujood (prostration). It is a place dedicated to the worship of Allah.

Dunya: 'This world'. The opposite of *Akhira* (q.v.). *Dunya* is the realm of action; *Akhira* is the place of requital for action. This life versus the hereafter.

Ruku: The act of bowing in the prayer.

Ruh: 1. Man's soul. 2. The angel Gabriel i.e. *Ruhu'l Qudus* - the Holy Spirit.

Siddeeqa (Siddeeq): An upright woman (or an upright man)

Nafs: 'Self', The Qur'an tells of 3 principal types of *nafs*:

1. *An-nafs al-ammara* (12:53), the lowest, animal self, "commanding to evil".
2. *An-nafs al-lawwama* (75:2), the self which feels torn between right and wrong, the "reproachful self".
3. *An-nafs al-mutma'inna* (84:27), the "tranquil self" which has overcome it's lower aspects.

Kalimatullah: Literally, The Word of Allah. It is one of the names of Jesus, pbuh, to mean that he was created by the word of Allah, like Adam. Be and it Is.

Injeel: The Gospel.

Zuhd: Asceticism; leaving behind worldly concerns, having no desire for the material world and longing for the next world, dedicating life to the worship of Allah.

Glossary

Al-Hawariyyoon: The disciples of Jesus (pbuh).

Eid: A festival. Two are recognized in Islam today. 1. Eid ul-Fitr is celebrated on the day following the month of Ramadan (The 9th month of the Islamic calendar also the fasting month) i.e. the end of fasting. 2. Eid ul-Adha or Eid ul-Kabir is celebrated on the 10th of the month of Dhu'l-Hijja (the 12th month of the Islamic calendar) and commemorates the end of the Hajj season. It commemorates the sacrifice of Ismael by Abraham. Thus it is the Festival of Sacrifice.

Rizq: The provision or sustenance given to a person by Allah. Each person's provision, or rizq, is determined as a part of his or her fate.

Ayah: Literally: a sign. Usually means a verse of the Qur'an, such as Ayatu'l Kursi, the Throne verse. The Qur'an also speaks of natural phenomena such as the sun, trees, sea, etc., as being among the 'Signs of God'. We cannot see Him directly but we may come to know Him through His signs in what He has created and what He has revealed in the Qur'an.

Sahabah: The companions of the Prophet Muhammed ^{SAW}

Shaheed: a martyr. Someone who dies in the way of Allah.

Shari'ah: Divine Law. The formal principles of the Islamic Way of Life, which includes guidance on questions of worship, behavior, personal law, criminal law and the conduct of state.

Jizya: a tax paid by non-Muslims living in a Muslim State. Since the non-Muslims are exempt from military service and taxes imposed on Muslims, they must pay this tax to compensate. It guarantees them security and protection. If the State cannot protect those who paid jizyah, then the amount they paid is returned to them.

Sajda: The act of prostration in the prayer cycle.

Ummah: The Community of Believers. Its basis is common faith in Allah the Almighty and allegiance to His Messenger Muhammad (PBUH).

FAQs

Was 'Isa AS the son of God?

- No. 'Isa AS was not the son of God. Muslims believe that Allah is One and does not have any offspring.
- Qur'an: **“He neither begets nor was He begotten”**
- Muslims believe that Jesus was created as Adam was created, by the word of Allah. Allah said, “Be” and it Was.
- Jesus is regarded as one of the most honorable prophets in Islam.

FAQs

If 'Isa ^{AS} did not die on the cross, who did?

There are two opinions.

1. There is a weak narration that says that Jesus asked his disciples who will sacrifice himself in place of 'Isa^{AS}, and a young man volunteered. When asked again, the young man was again the only one who volunteered. He was given the look of 'Isa.
2. The majority opinion is that one of the Jews was made to look like him.

In either case, 'Isa ^{AS} was raised up to heaven and was not killed.

- Allah said he would take 'Isa ^{AS} completely, body and soul.
Qur'an: (And remember) when Allah said, "Oh Jesus! I am gathering you and causing you to ascend to Me, and am cleansing you of those who disbelieve, and am setting those who follow you above those who disbelieve until the Day of Resurrection. Then to Me you will all return, and I shall judge between you as to that in which you used to differ."
- 'Isa ^{AS} will return towards the end of time to live out the rest of his life.

References

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