

A Comparative Study of the Prophet Jesus Christ in the Bible and the Holy Quran

Karim Dad ⁱ

Mumtaz Khan ⁱⁱ

Abstract

For the guidance of humanity, Almighty Allah has sent prophets with His messages. These messages existed in the form of four major divine books (Torat, Zaboor, Gospel, and Quran) and about one hundred manuals (Sahaiifs). Prophet Jesus Christ has also been among these messengers. He was the last prophet of Jews and he was granted the Gospel. His religion is called Christianity and his followers are known as Christians. The Marry gave Him birth without copulation and was taken alive to the sky by Almighty Allah at the age of about thirty three. He will come down near the doomsday and will fight and kill the Antichrist. He will die afterwards and will be buried near the shrine of the prophet Muhammad (SAW). After his departure up to the sky, people innovated different baseless ideas about him. Different revealed books (Bible and Quran) have discussed this matter.

In this article, the same matter has been comparatively discussed in light of the arguments given in divine sources.

Introduction

Jesus Christ was the last prophet and messenger of the Jews. He was born about 570 years before the prophet Mohammad PBUH.¹ Almighty Allah revealed Gospel to him. He says in the Holy Quran; "And in their footsteps we sent Jesus the son of Mary, confirming the Law that had come before him: We sent him the Gospel: therein were guidance and light, and confirmation of the Law that had come before him: guidance and an admonition to those who fear Allah".²

Allah Almighty says in another place:

"We gave Moses the Book and followed him up by a succession of messengers; we gave Jesus the son of Mary Clear (Signs) and strengthened him with the Holy Spirit. Is it that whenever there comes to you a messenger with what ye yourselves desire not, ye are puffed up with pride? - Some ye called impostors, and others ye slay!"³ Then in the age of Thirty three years of old, God put him safely to the sky alive.⁴ He will come down near the Day of Judgment and will fight against the great deceiver and will kill him. After death the Jesus Christ will be buried near the shrine of the prophet Mohammad PBUH at Medina.

ⁱ Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic Studies, AWKUM

ⁱⁱ M.Phil Scholar, Department of Islamic Studies, AWKUM

Birth

Almighty Allah created Adam without mother and father while Jesus Christ without father as Allah says in the Holy Quran;

"The similitude of Jesus before Allah is as that of Adam; He created him from dust, and then said to him: "Be". And he was⁵."

When Almighty Allah gave Mary the good news of a child, she wondered and said:

O my lord! How I shall have a son while no human has even touched me. Allah said: "so (it will be) for Allah creates what he wills⁶."

Almighty Allah sent his angel Gabriel, who breathed in her collar and she got pregnant⁷."

Feeling the maternal pain she went to a remote place apart from the locality where she gave birth to Jesus Christ under a dried date tree. Due to the blessing upon her, the tree turned green. Allah says;

"So she was conceived and retired with him to a remote place. And the pains of delivery drove her to the trunk of a palm-tree: She cried (in her anguish): "Ah! Would that I had died before this! Would that I had been a thing forgotten and out of sight!" But (a voice) cried to her from beneath the (palm-tree): "Grieve not! For thy Lord hath provided a rivulet beneath thee: And shake towards thyself the trunk of the palm-tree: It will let fall fresh and ripe dates upon thee. So eat and drink and cool (thin) eye. And if thou dost see any man, say, 'I have vowed a fast to (Allah) Most Gracious, and this day will I enter into no talk with any human being⁸."

Similarities and Differences

The Holy Quran and the Bible both have discussed the matter of Jesus Christ's birth without copulation and both agree with the concept that due to the breathing of Gabriel, Mary got pregnant. Allah says in the Holy Quran:

(Relate in the Book (the story of) Mary, when she withdrew from her family to a place in the East, she placed a screen (to hide herself) from them; then We sent to her our angel, and he appeared before her as a man in all respects. She said: "I seek refuge from thee to (Allah) Most Gracious: (come not near) if thou dost fear Allah.". He said: "Nay, I am only a messenger from thy Lord, (to announce) to thee the gift of a holy son⁹."

The Bible is of the opinion that Jesus Christ was born after his mother engaged.

With a person named Yusuf and before copulation she became pregnant through Gabriel's breath. So her husband decided to depart her secretly. The Allah's messenger prohibited him in dream to do so, and told him not to be afraid from any circumstances because what is in her womb is due to the angel Gabriel. She will give birth to a child, and you name him Jesus who will give salvation to his people from their sins. He got up and acted upon, whatever he was commanded by the messenger of God¹⁰.

In the Holy Quran the place of Jesus Christ's birth has not been clearly mentioned: only a hint is given that he was born on a high place in the desert beneath the dried date tree.¹¹ According to the Bible, when Mary got pregnant her fiancé Yusuf took her to the south west of Jerusalem and Jesus Christ was born in Bait-ul-Laham. Yusuf migrated to Egypt along with the child and Mary, because of the fear of Herodias Zoroastrian (ruler). When Herodias died, they came back and lived in "Nasira" city, situated about seventy miles in the north of Jerusalem.¹² Similarly in the Holy Quran there is no pedigree of Jesus Christ and he is mentioned with the name of "Isa bin Mary" (Jesus the son of Mary). While in the Bible, Yusuf is considered as the father of Jesus Christ and the whole lineage is given as follow:

Jesus bin Yusuf bin Yaqoob bin Mathan bin Al-Y'azar bin Hood bin Affine bin Sadooq bin A'azoor bin Al-Yaqeem bin Al-Hood bin Ardabil bin Sialti bin Yakoniah bin Yasaih bin Amoon bin Munsee bin Hizzia bin Aakhiz bin Youtam bin Azyah bin Yuram bin Yahosaft bin Aasa bin Abyah bin Rahbu A'am bin Solmen bin David bin Yassi bin Yobaidarooth bin Boez bin Solmen bin Nakhsoon bin Amezab bin Raam bin Hisrawan bin Fares bin Yahood bin Yaqoob bin Ishaque bin Abraham¹³.

Prophethood

All of the other prophets were given prophecy in the age of maturity while the Jesus Christ was awarded it in the childhood. When his mother Mary brought him to locality, the people began to accuse her, on that Mary pointed towards the child, so the child of a few days (infant) spoke away:

"I am indeed a servant of Allah: He hath given me revelation and has made me a prophet; And He hath made me blessed wheresoever's I be, and hath enjoined on me Prayer and Charity as long as I live; "(He) hath made me kind to my

mother, and not overbearing or miserable: So peace is on me the day I was born, the day that I will die, and the day that I shall be raised up to life (again)"! Such (was) Jesus the son of Mary: (it is) a statement of truth, about which they (vainly) dispute¹⁴."

Similarities and Differences

The Holy Quran and the Bible Both have discussed that Jesus Christ was the prophet and messenger of God, and he was awarded the book "Gospel". He gave the good news of kingdom of God to the people, after the arrest of Yuhannah. He proclaimed to the beat of drum and said:

"The time is over, and God's kingdom has come near. Repent and belief in Gospel. Jesus Christ told them to follow me, I will become you universal (world conquer)¹⁵"

In the Holy Quran it is mentioned that Jesus Christ talked in the cradle about his prophet hood and acquittal of his mother¹⁶, while in the Bible the discussion in Cradle is not given, particularly talking with wisdom in childhood. The parents of Jesus Christ used to go Jerusalem on Easter (Eid festival) every year. When he was about twelve years old, they went to Jerusalem according to their routine. On return, Jesus left them and they did not know. They searched him for three days in the relatives. Later on they found him in a temple sitting among the priests talking to them. Whoever listened him was much perplexed by his wisdom and way of talking¹⁷. It is also mentioned in the Bible that after the death of Youhannah, Jesus Christ announced his Prophethood and told the people to repent and believe in Gospel.¹⁸

Preaching

Jesus Christ asked the people to believe in God and follow him. He also told them that he had brought them the matter of philosophy and wisdom and they should afraid of Allah, because Allah is the Lord of all¹⁹.

Similarities and Differences

Both the Holy Quran and Bible are of the opinion that Jesus Christ invited the Jews towards the true religion but they opposed him. Almighty Allah narrates in the Holy Quran:

"It is Allah Who is my Lord and your Lord; then worships Him. This is the straightway". When Jesus found disbelief on their part, he said: "Who will be my helpers to (the work of) Allah?" the disciples said: "We are Allah's helpers: We believe in Allah, and do thou bear witness that we are Muslims. Our

Lord! We believe in what Thou have revealed, and we follow the Messenger; then write us down among those who bear witness. And (the unbelievers) plotted and planned, and Allah planned too and the best of planners is Allah."And behold! I inspired the disciples to have faith in me and my Messenger: they said, 'We have faith and do thou bear witness that we bow to Allah as Muslims'²⁰.

As long as the Jesus Christ showed his rapid proceeding in his preaching the Jews leaders made him a bone of contention in the same matter. He used to make them understand and familiarize them with God's teachings. But they became his enemies in the consequent. The Jews priests told in the gathering of Supreme Court, what the story was: this person shows great wonders, if we leave him doing so, all the people will believe in him. They told Qiafa the great priest, it is better for you to die alone instead of the whole nation. So they decided to kill Jesus Christ due to this behaviour²¹.

Similarly both the Holy Quran and the Bible describes that only a few people believed in him. They are called Hawareen (the Helpers). Allah says in the Holy Quran:

"And behold! I inspired the disciples to have faith in me and Mine messenger: they said, We have faith, a do thou bear witness that we bow to Allah as Muslims²²."

In another place Allah says:

"O ye who believe! Be ye helpers of Allah: As said Jesus son of Mary to his Disciples, "Who will be my helpers to (the work of) Allah?" Said the disciples, "We are Allah's helpers!" then a portion of the Children of Israel believed, and a portion disbelieved: But We gave power to those who believed, against their enemies, and they became the ones who prevailed²³."

According to the Bible, that Jesus took his pupils to isolation addressed them and gave good news, that if they work for the sake of Allah, he will give the keys of the kingdom of sky to them. He encouraged his pupils and told them to do their work and should not be afraid because the victory will be in their feet²⁴.

The Miracles of Jesus Christ

Almighty Allah gave some symbols to each prophet which could not be competed by other human beings. Jesus Christ was honored with some miracles as:

- ✓*To talk in cradle (in early childhood).*
- ✓*To make the structure of bird from clay, blow in it and it became a living bird.*

✓To touch the born blind and leprosy affected person, making them healthy.

✓To make the dead bodies alive.

✓And having the knowledge of the meal stored in the houses of the peoples.

Allah says in the Holy Quran:

And (appoint him) a messenger to the Children of Israel, (with this message): "I have come to you, with a Sign from your Lord, in that I make for you out of clay, as it were, the figure of a bird, and breathe into it, and it becomes a bird by Allah's leave: And I heal those born blind, and the lepers, and I quicken the dead, by Allah's leave; and I declare to you what ye eat, and what ye store in your houses. Surely therein is a Sign for you if ye did believe"²⁵.

Almighty Allah Says in another place:

Then will Allah say:

"O Jesus the son of Mary! Recount my favor to thee and to thy mother. Behold! I strengthened thee with the Holy Spirit, so that thou didst speak to the people in childhood and in maturity. Behold! I taught thee the Book and Wisdom, the Law and the Gospel and behold! Thou makest' out of clay, as it were, the figure of a bird, by My leave, and thou breathest into it and it becomes a bird by My leave, and thou halest those born blind, and the lepers, by My leave. And behold! Thou bringest forth the dead by my leave. And behold! I did restrain the Children of Israel from (violence to) thee when thou didst show them the clear Signs and the unbelievers among them said: 'This is nothing but evident magic.

✓And about the descending of "Readymade meal" from the Heaven, said Jesus the son of Mary:

"O Allah our Lord! Send us from heaven a table set (with viands), that there may be for us - for the first and the last of us - a solemn festival and a sign from thee; and provide for our sustenance, for thou art the best Sustainer (of our needs)." Allah said: "I will send it down unto you: But if any of you after that resisteth faith, I will punish him with a penalty such as I have not inflicted on any one among all the peoples"²⁶.

Similarities and Differences

The Holy Quran as well as the Bible has the same view about the miracles of Jesus Christ. The Bible expresses that whenever Jesus used to go out for preaching in the public, the blinds the lepers and the disables crowded over him and got recovery with his hand touch.²⁷

Reaction of Jews and Jesus Christ Arrest

When Jesus called upon the Jews that he has been sent as a messenger of Allah, the majority turned against him except a few people. They blamed Jesus Christ and motivated the king against him. They proved Jesus guilty on the basis of arguments beyond reality. The enemies convinced the king that Jesus was an atheist and wanted to make amendments in Torah. He has been trying to misguide the peoples from the right faith. This impressed the king and he ordered to arrest the Jesus Christ²⁸. As the Bible argues, the king gathered a group of people who rushed to arrest him. Jesus Christ warned the Hawarieen of the danger and advised them to leave the place, as the time of his imprisonment had come near. In the meantime the Yahoood arrived to arrest the Jesus Christ. He got control on Jesus Christ and fastened him. They took him to "Hanan", father-in-law of the great magician "Qiafa", who advised the Jews to kill him. The great magician and all the people of Supreme Court were searched the false witness against the Jesus Christ to kill him²⁹.

Crucifixion

Qiafa and other Jews leaders struggled a lot to take decision of the death of Jesus. For this purpose they presented many falls witnesses that the Jesus told that:

"I could destroy and remake the Fort of God in three days", but they were different in their comments. Then Qiafa told the Jesus: "I am giving you the swear of alive God, Oh! Jesus, tell us whether you are"the son of God"? The Jesus Christ told him, that you yourself said that "I am the son of God", But I am telling you that from now you will see the son of human [Jesus Christ] sitting with God and coming on the clouds of the sky. On this reply Qiafa tore off his clothes, that he has committed disbelief and now, we have no need of witness. Look! You heard this unbelief now. Jesus Christ was accused of disbelief and his crucifixion was decided³⁰.

Similarities and Differences

Quran and Bible both agree upon that Jews leaders and magicians made up multifarious plots against Jesus Christ. They provided such false information to the king against Jesus Christ that he decided the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ³¹.

Then, it is written in the Bible that Jesus was crucified along with two young sinners.³² Hence, Bible explains that at the evening of Friday, where Saturday begins, in which doing

routine works were religiously prohibited. Jesus was buried quickly without normal rituals (to offer funeral in the morning of Sunday).³³ While Quran says that the Jesus was not crucified, but a man from the Jews was made similar to Jesus and the Jews crucified and killed him.

Allah says in the Holy Quran:

"That they said (in boast), "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah"; - but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not:-Nay, Allah raised him up unto Himself; and Allah is Exalted in Power, Wise³⁴.

Ascending of Jesus to the Heaven

The Jesus was at the age of Thirty three years, when the Jews planned to kill him, but on the spot Allah saved him and safely lifted him to heaven alive. The Holy Quran and the Bible both agreed upon the point that the Jesus was taken up safely to heaven alive and will come back near the Day of Judgment at Bait-ul-Muqaddas in "Jerusalem". He will fight against Dajjal, accompanying Imam Al- Mehdi. After killing Dajjal, he will die afterwards and will be buried beside the Holy tomb of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

When the Jews brought the Jesus into the home where he had to be crucified, Almighty Allah lifted him alive safely to Heaven and they killed their friend instead. If the Jesus is neither crucified nor murdered then where came the view of burying and resurrection³⁵? According to Bible: the Jews killed and hung the Jesus in a house situated in a garden.³⁶ Some well-wishers of the Jesus put his dead body down and buried him in a fresh vacant grave in velvet clothes along with perfumes in that garden³⁷. On the third day, he stood alive, met and talked on the mountain of Jalil and later on Allah took him up to the sky.³⁸ It is written when Saturday passed, at the dawn of Sunday, Maryum Majadli, mother of Yaqoob and Saloom took perfumes and therefore he is remembered with the name of Jesus son of Mary. Came at the grave of the Jesus to meet him, talking to each other that who will put up the stone on the Holy grave. By coming near, they became so amused to see him alive. Jesus told him: you search for the Jesus Christ, the hanged. He has resurged, he is not present here. Now you go and say to his

novices that he has gone earlier than you go to Jalil. The women returned with frightened mood, did not tell anything to anyone³⁹. The eleven novices went to Jalil and found the Jesus Christ alive there. The Jesus talked to them and told them that the sovereignty of sky and earth has been given to me. So, you go and make novice all nations and baptize them with the name of father, son and the Holy Spirit [Gabriel "Arch angle" and teach them that act upon all those teaching /saying /preaching for which I have ordered you and see/listen, I am with you till the end of the universe.⁴⁰ After the Jesus Christ was taken up to sky and sat in the right side of God. The novices spread his preaching to the people⁴¹.

Glory of the Jesus

Jesus was a glorious prophet and messenger like other prophet. He was a human being and servant of Allah like other prophets. He was esteemed, respectable and free of sin. He was born without father from Mary.

Similarities and Differences

The Holy Quran and Bible both agree upon the prophet hood of Jesus Christ. In spite of this, Bible writes that Jesus is the son of Allah because he has called himself the son of Allah and Johanna also declared Jesus the son of Allah and witness of the return of Jesus, in this regard, Jesus is also declared God⁴².

In another place in the Bible it is written that after resurrection of Jesus from grave, he met his eleven novices at the mountain of Jalil. They prostrated to Jesus and he told the novices: that the sovereignty has been given me. So, you go and advise them to make novice to all nations and baptize them with the name of father, son of Gabriel "Arch Angle" and suggest them to obey my preaching, look! I will be with you till the end of the universe⁴³.

But according to the Holy Quran, that Jesus is not Allah but he is the son of Mary, though his birth like Adam was different from other humans but those who believe him the son of Allah, is strongly condemned by Allah. The Holy Quran says:

"O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: Nor say of Allah aught but the truth. Christ Jesus the son of Mary was (not more than) a messenger of Allah, and His Words, which he bestowed on Mary, and a spirit proceeding from Him: So believe in Allah and His messengers. Say not

"Trinity": desist, it will be better for you: for Allah is One: Glory be to Him: (far exalted is He) above from having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens and on earth. And Allah is enough as a Disposer of affairs".

Jesus himself did not feel any shame to be the servant of Allah. Allah says:

"Christ disdained nor to serve and worship Allah, nor do the angels, those nearest (to Allah): those who disdain His worship and are arrogant, He will gather them all together unto Himself to (answer) ⁴⁴".

All those who tell that the Jesus is the son of Allah is strictly warned:

"The Jews called 'Uzair the son of Allah and the Christians called Christ the son of Allah. That is a saying from their mouth; (in this) they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. Allah's curse is on them: how they are deluded away from the Truth! They take their priests and their anchorites to be their Lords in derogation of Allah, and (they take as their Lord) Christ the son of Mary; yet they were commanded to worship but One Allah: there is no god but He. Praise and glory to Him: (Far is He) from having the partners they associate (with Him) ⁴⁵."

Calling Jesus and his mother to be God, is prohibited and this action is consider disbelief [Kufar] Allah Almighty says:

"In blasphemy indeed are those that say: Allah is Christ, the son of Mary. Say:

"Who then hath the least power against Allah, if His will were to destroy Christ the son of Mary, his mother, and everyone that is on the earth? For to Allah belonged the dominion of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between. He created what He pleased. For Allah hath power over all things ⁴⁶."

As Jesus and his mother were not the creators and this is narrated by Jesus:

"And behold! Allah will say: "O Jesus the son of Mary! Didst thou say unto men, worship me and my mother as gods in derogation of Allah ?" He will say: "Glory to Thee! Never could I say what I had no right (to say). Had I said such a thing, thou wouldst indeed have known it. Thou knowest what is in my heart, Thou I know not what is in Thine. For Thou knowth in full all that is hidden ⁴⁷."

References

- 1 *Al-Quran*, 3:49. Also see Muhammad Taqi Uthmani, *Esaiat Kya Hy ?*, Karachi, Dar-ul-Isha'at , pp 9 . and see Prof. Sajid Meer, *Esaiat, Tajzia Wa Mutali'a*, Lahore, Dar-ul-Salam,2001 A.D,PP 38.
- 2 *Al-Quran*, 4:46
- 3 *Ibid.*, 2:87
- 4 *Al-Quran*, 4:158, & also see *Esaiyat tajzia wa mutali'a*, pp 40
- 5 *Al-Quran*, 3:59
- 6 *Al-Quran*, 3:47
- 7 *Jalal-ud-Din Al-Syuti, Tafsir Jalalain, Beirut, Maktaba:Al-Rushd,1320H, Vol:1, pp 399.*
- 8 *Al-Quran*, 19:22-26
- 9 *Ibid*, 19:19
- 10 *Gospel of Mathew, Pakistan ,Good sons, International,2002 A.D, 2:18-25*
- 11 *Al-Quran*, 19:22-26
- 12 *Gospel of Mathew*, 2:14,15
- 13 *Ibid*, 1:1-14
- 14 *Al-Quran*, 19:32-34
- 15 *Gospel of Mathew*, 3:13-17
- 16 *Al-Quran*, 19:29 & 3:46
- 17 *Gospel of Mathew*, 2:40-48
- 18 *Ibid*, 3:13-17
- 19 *Al-Quran*, 43:63,64
- 20 *Ibid*, 3:51-54
- 21 *Gospel of Mathew*, 18:23-27
- 22 *Al-Quran*, 5:111
- 23 *Ibid*, 61:14
- 24 *Gospel of Mathew*, 10:6-10
- 25 *Al-Quran*, 3:49
- 26 *Ibid*, 5:110,114,115
- 27 *Al-Quran*, 3:48. And also see *Gospel of Mathew*, 21:12-16
- 28 *Al-Quran*, 3:54
- 29 *Gospel of Mathew*, 26:50-56
- 30 *Ibid*, 26:61-66
- 31 *Al-Quran*, 4:157 and see *Gospel of Mathew*, 26:50-56
- 32 *Gospel of Mathew*, 27:33-35
- 33 *Ibid*, 33:50-55
- 34 *Al-Quran*, 4:157,158
- 35 *Ibid*
- 36 *Gospel of Mathew*, 27:33-35
- 37 *Ibid*, 23:50-55
- 38 *Ibid*, 28:3-16
- 39 *Ibid*, 24:1-7
- 40 *Ibid*, 28:16-20
- 41 *Ibid*, 24:8-12
- 42 *Ibid*, 3:15-19

43 *Ibid*, 28:16-30

44 *Al-Quran*, 4:171,172

45 *Ibid*, 9:30,31

46 *Ibid*, 5:17

47 *Ibid*, 5:116