

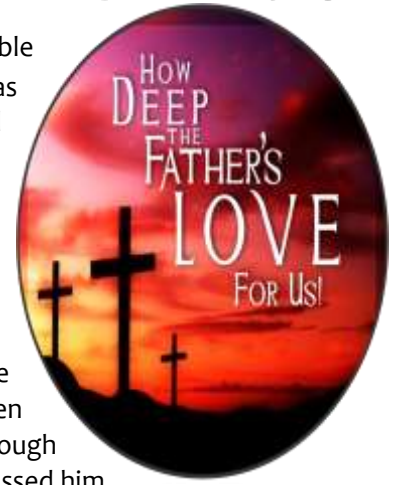


# Sharing the Father's love with Ishmael

**Dear Friend in Jesus!** February is a month Americans celebrate 'Love' on Valentine's Day. The Bible teaches us to Love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and love our neighbor as ourselves. God is love. Love is kind, generous, doesn't boast ... faith, hope and love abide and the greatest of these is love (I Cor 13:1-13). We can do all kinds of things as works but if we have not love we are like a gonging symbol. God's unconditional love sent His only Son, Jesus to restore our intimate love relationship back to Himself.

His love is a redeeming love. Offense prevents us from loving like Jesus. Let us consider from Genesis, a tale of 2 sons, the son of Covenant, Isaac and the son man's hand forced,

Ishmael. Isaac was God's promised son sent to Abraham to show God's love for Abraham, mandating he would be the father of many nations. Abraham's wife Sarah had been barren almost a century. Although a child born out of man's plan through Sarah and Abraham, Ishmael was still allowed to live. God blessed him in another way through riches and many descendants but warned; his hand and the hands of the 12 tribes descended from him would always be against their brothers. So, we see today, many of the Muslim nations against Israel.



## Imagine Ishmael saying ...

**I was born of the bondwoman and the law cast me out, but the grace of Jesus Christ has brought me back in.**

**I grew up without a father, but now your God is my Father.**

**I had no inheritance from my Father, but now I have obtained an inheritance because I am a son and heir of God through Christ.**

- Faisal Malick, *Here comes Ishmael*, p.53

### **In opposition to the spirit of rejection**

Isaac was blessed by God so much so that we call God the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Ishmael was thrown out of his father, Abraham's house and so carried a 'spirit of rejection' for generations. That 'spirit of rejection' was doubly manifested further in the generations to come, when one of Ishmael's daughters married Esau.

Looking into the context of Genesis 25:27-34, we find Esau's birth right was sold to Jacob for stew. As a result, Esau carried on the 'spirit of rejection'. The 'spirit of rejection' is an offense and when offense is not taken to the cross it will wreak havoc in many different ways as it is wrongly taken out on other people throughout one's life. It is a heavy burden that can even be manifested through illness in one's own body if not healed by repentance and forgiveness through the blood of Jesus. Jesus is our great physician.

Jesus died for offense and all sins so that it will no longer cause hurt and pain in us and against others. God reconciled mankind's love relationship back to Himself by sending Jesus to pay the ultimate price to restore us back with our Father. This reconciliation of love took place through Christ's blood rather than our blood. It includes all the children of Ishmael and all his descendants through Muhammad's line and even the followers of Islam.

### **God is calling back Ishmael**

Although Ishmael's earthly father threw him out of his home as a teenager at that time in history for Isaac's sake, today our heavenly Father, through Jesus is coming to the descendants of Ishmael to draw them into His royal Kingdom. The name Ishmael means,

'God hears'. God hears Muslim's sincere heart cry even in their memorized prayers asking Him, yet not knowing Him, 'Show us the way' (Sura 1:7). Many Muslims are seeing visions and dreams of Jesus being that way. The door of salvation is wide open to the children of Ishmael today because of the Love of our Father who desires all to be saved. The Father wants you and me to be part of His work and share His heart so that the Gospel is shared with all including Muslims.

Muslims certainly challenge Christ's followers by asking deeper questions. At least they have Belief in God. While in the West, our younger generations have been marred by Darwinism taught as facts, in a majority of schools and colleges so to shut their minds and hearts. As a result Christians have to work on the basic foundations with them so to believe God exists and they have value in God's eyes. However, Muslims already believe God sent guidance through prophets and His scriptures. Our Father's heart is to bring all people including the descendants of Ishmael into His kingdom. Christ's command in Matt 28 is to go into all the world and share the gospel which includes Muslims also. If God Himself is going to Muslims personally to call them to the Kingdom, how much more does He desire you and I to share the truth about Jesus being their assurance of eternal life.

## Using the Word off Life Armor

This nation and the world are at war! The spirit of death has been running rampant in 2020. It's time we take up our full armour and engage in this battle by speaking the word of life to all people groups. Comfort is no longer an option. We are warriors for God to go to every tribe and nation here in our own Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria (city, state & nation) to bring hope to the lost. Satan through the spirit of lies, deception and death is fighting against the truth, freedom and life so to take as many people to hell with him as possible.

## Sharing the Gospel of Christ

We have God's peace, love and truth which is the answer to fear, lies and hatred. The bride of Christ is being beckoned by God to bring all our offenses to the cross for our healing. Then we can wake up and rise up and pour out His unconditional love upon the lost, the fearful and the angry so these and bound Muslims will be set free to know God and know their assurance of eternal life. There is no fear in love. Stand with us to bring the message of hope and love to the hopeless as prophecy unfolds before our eyes! - Karen Masood

## Prayer and Praise points

- ❖ We continue to pray for the persecuted church. We pray for boldness in all circumstances to share the gospel.
- ❖ We are thankful to God for using our several seminars on Islam and a Biblical Approach available now online. Please pray with us that Christians will be equipped in their outreach to Muslims. We are thankful that the Lord is using us to teach Christians from

all ages how to reach Muslims. Our hearts are full of thanks seeing young men and women being trained to be missionaries.

## Jesus to Muslims: Financial Aspects

**Jesus to Muslims relies solely on God through the generosity of our donors to: reach Muslims with the Gospel, expand our outreach, and hold seminars to equip Christians, give resources, as well as research and publish material for truth seekers.**

**Funds in total received:**

**December: \$16,602**

**January: \$ 6,665**

**Monthly Need is \$15,000.**

**Please pray about how God may use you to help fill this huge gap. We had to put several projects on the back burners last year. If you are mailing your gift, please use the envelope provided. For online giving, please go to:**

**[www.JesusToMuslims.org](http://www.JesusToMuslims.org)**

**and click on "Support".**

**Donations are tax deductible.**

❖ We are facing some financial and technical challenges in the producing of the half hour program 'Agla Qadam' – Next Step and ask for your prayer to sort them out soon. The main purpose of this program is to teach the new Muslim background believers how to stand firm in faith as followers of Christ and how to interact with family, friends, church, fellowship, work, community, country and with those in authority.

❖ We are thankful for the freedom we have in Christ and for bringing us out of darkness and into the Light of His Son. We are thankful for our friends who support this ministry. We lift them to the Lord in prayer.

❖ The pandemic problems have caused many Muslims to ask us questions about Christ's return, life eternal, salvation, assurance and God's judgment. We thank the Lord for granting us wisdom in responding to Truth seekers and helping us put the serious ones in contact with other Christians around the world.

❖ We pray for all the resources we use in the ministry to be well used by receivers for outreach and not catch dust in bookcases or remain in boxes.

❖ We pray that Christians will be set free of offenses to love like Christ. As many prophecies of the last days are being played out before us, we pray that Christians will be reassured and strengthened further to believe in the integrity of God's Word. We pray that the Lord will continue to grant us how we may respond to the agendas that evil brings against us all without fear (1 Tim 1:7).

## Eschatology

As Christians anticipate the future, the Bible predicts the activity of the Antichrist and False Prophet during the tribulation, and the coming of Jesus to the earth at the end of the tribulation. It is interesting that Muslims are also looking for 3 personalities: the Mahdi, the "Muslim Jesus", and the *Dajjal*. I wonder if Muslims will see the Antichrist and False Prophet and associate them with the personalities they are looking for.

The *Dajjal* is evil in hadith sources. There are a number of descriptions of the *Dajjal*. He is said to have one eye, and will be followed by Jews and woman. There is a word written in his forehead meaning "infidel", he claims to be Lord, and he performs miracles. In Islam, he is the antichrist fighting against the "Muslim Jesus" and the *Mahdi*.

As I consider the *Dajjal*, I think of verses from the Bible:

*"And then shall the Wicked be revealed, who the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish: because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them a strong delusion that they should believe a lie; that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness"* (2 Thess. 2:8-12).

When the biblical Antichrist is revealed, will Islam identify him as the *Dajjal*?

— David Corbett