



# The Great Sacrifice, Christianity and Islam

**Dear Friend in Jesus!** October 4, 2014 was this year's date of the festival of Eid al-Adha, also known as the Feast of Sacrifice. Celebrated by Muslims with great feeling, *Eid al-Adha* focuses on the test that God gave to Abraham by telling him to sacrifice his son. While Genesis 22 of the Bible states that Isaac was this son, Muslim exegetes claim it was Ishmael. Several early Muslims however believed it was Isaac and not Ishmael. (Ibn Jarir al-Tabari (d. 923), *Tafsir al-Tabari*, vol. 10, pp. 510-517, Beirut: Dar al-Kutub al-Ilmiyah, 1999)

In the Qur'an we read that Abraham said: "O my dear son, I have seen in a dream that I must sacrifice thee" (Sura 37:100-102). Referring to this incident, the Qur'an states: "For this was obviously a trial - and We ransomed him with a momentous sacrifice" (Sura 37:106-107). Muslim commentators usually say that this great/momentous sacrifice refers to the ram God provided to be sacrificed in place of Abraham's son. But would a ram truly be a great sacrifice in comparison to Abraham's son? Note that the son, not Abraham, was ransomed by the provision of the ram. Therefore, "the great sacrifice" must refer to another sacrifice to ransom Abraham himself. Was God pointing towards a Momentous Sacrifice in the future?

In the Bible, these events are recorded in detail from beginning to end. With God's Spirit, one may learn the background of Abraham's test and the relevance of God's supreme sacrifice for all people, including Abraham. When asked by his son Isaac, Abraham confidently answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son" (Genesis 22:8). Abraham was speaking about Jesus Christ, not just about a ram.

John the Baptist (known as Yahya in the Qur'an) said of Jesus, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1.29). On the cross Jesus fulfilled Isaiah 53, including verses 7-8: "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished." Jesus did not stay in the grave; he rose from the dead (Isaiah 53:11)!

Abraham looked forward to the coming of Jesus to redeem the world from sin. It is for this reason that one of Jesus' titles is *Ibn Ibrahim*, "the Son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1). Jesus Christ is the Redeemer, the one foreshadowed in the test with Abraham and Isaac centuries earlier. Both Jesus and Isaac are descended from Abraham according to the promise. As God considered Isaac to be the only son of Abraham (Genesis 22:2), the reflection shows Jesus to be the only Son of God (Isaiah 9:6-7, John 3:16, Psalm 2:7).

This fulfills what God told Abraham, "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves" (Genesis 12.2-3). When some Jewish people who did not believe in him argued with Jesus, he answered: "Your father Abraham rejoiced that he was to see my day; he saw it and was glad" (John 8.56). Abraham had vested his hopes not in his

**Once a year, Muslims commemorate Abraham's deep, wondrous love for God, shown in his willingness to obediently sacrifice his own son. Every day of the year, true believers in Jesus remember God's deep, magnificent love for people, shown in His sacrificial Love through His own son Jesus Christ - the Word and Spirit of God. He did this to prove once for all His eternal love for us! He desires that we should not perish but through faith receive His gift of eternal life by accepting Jesus. He is our Savior and assurance**

(Matthew 20:28; John 3:16;  
Hebrews 9:28;  
1 Timothy 2:4; 1 John 4.14)

immediate physical offspring but rather in his greater son after the flesh - Jesus the Son of God according to the Spirit.

Let us share with Muslims the Good News that they are also invited to inherit God's blessings in Jesus, the real *al-Masih* (Messiah/Christ)! By putting their whole faith in Him, the Momentous Sacrifice of God, they too can have the assurance of eternal life in the Paradise of God!

## Prayer and praise points

Please pray for a good attendance to our local Seminar '**A Christian Response to the Islamic Challenge**' being held at Village View Community Church in Summerfield, FL  
October 17 (6:30 PM) & October 18 (8:30 AM).

We thank God for our brothers and sisters reaching Muslims with the Gospel and praise Him for salvations!

- ❖ Pray that as God turned the heart of Saul (who killed Christians), He will do miracles in the lives of Muslims terrorist groups: ISIS, Al-Qa'da, Muslim Brotherhood, Hizballah, Hamas, BookoHaram, Lashkar Tayyabah, & Taliban.
- ❖ Please pray for Christians and other minorities in the Middle East who are in danger from Muslims that strive to obey Islam (Sura 9:27-30) to wage war against non-Muslims.
- ❖ Pray for the safety of those who have come out from Islam and still living in predominantly Muslim communities.
- ❖ Pray for us and our Administrative help in the office to be effective and productive.
- ❖ Please pray with us for
  - God's Anointing: as we witness to Muslims and equip believers.
  - God's Protection: Spiritual warfare becomes fierce against us when Muslims start listening to Jesus as the only source of Salvation.
  - God's Provision: that the Lord will convict the hearts and minds of His people to join us in meeting the needs of this ministry.
  - Open doors in churches to equip

Please pray with us as we launch our refurbished new website for our Muslim friends ([www.itl-usa.org](http://www.itl-usa.org)), that the Lord will use all the conversations for His glory and that many will come to know Jesus, the only Savior.



Dear Friends, we need Bibles in Arabic, Farsi and Urdu. The mission is not just a thousand miles away; it is on our door steps too right here in the United States. Please pray with us that the Lord will open hearts to support such a venture and that we will be able to give Bibles to our Muslim friends as free gifts on behalf of Jesus. The cost per Bible is \$15.

## Jesus to Muslims: Financial Aspects

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

We thank and praise God for your continuous support. Thank you for being steadfast with us in your calling as we fulfill our calling in reaching Muslims and equipping Christians. Please pray for our need to be met.

Funds in total received:

August 2014: \$8312

September 2014: \$5575

Monthly Need is \$15,000

God has promised to be faithful and we praise Him for His blessings!

If you are mailing your gift, please use the envelope provided. For online giving go to: [www.JesusToMuslims.org](http://www.JesusToMuslims.org) and click on 'Support'.

