



# To whom do we belong?

**Dear Friend in Jesus!** Growing up as a Muslim, like others I was taught certain phrases to say when certain things happen or in circumstances. In meeting others I should say 'Salamu-alykum' (peace to you) or reply to others with words like 'wa-alykum' (and to you too). Hearing someone sneeze I should say, 'Yarhakum allah' (may God's mercy be on you). However, one phrase that left a great impression on me was when one hears about someone's death then one should say 'Inna lil-laah wa inna alyhi rajioon' (we belong to God and to Him is our return). It is a passage from the Qur'an (Sura 2:156).

While learning how to read, recite and memorize the Qur'an, whenever I saw elders would bring a body in a funeral carrier for prayer they would recite many verses including the above verse.

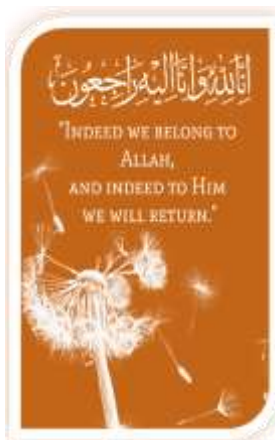
Our teacher had taught us well that our lives belong to God and one day we would return to Him. Even at age 10-12, I used to wonder: Have I done enough deeds that will please God. Especially at funerals I would wonder, "What will God feel and say when He welcomes back the believers at their final return?" I used to repeat the Qur'anic words, "To God we belong and to Him is our return" and I would wonder: Will this "return" be joyful?

Like the Bible, the Qur'an, in its own way, recognizes that our first parents, Adam and

Eve, enjoyed intimate fellowship with God while they lived in Paradise. Then by Satan's cunning deception they fell from innocence. Their disobedience against God caused them to be driven out of Paradise and banished. They had to live the rest of their lives in a world of enmity (Surah 2:36-38) and corruption. So both the Bible and the Qur'an refer to Adam's fall and exit. Both agree that because of the state we are in, only God can rescue us. However, to reunite humanity back to God the Qur'an talks about Guidance through laws (*Shari'a*). He sent prophets with His message to be followed. Thus Salvation is through good works. Are we sure? No. Only on that Great Day we will know.

A Muslim does not know Allah's measurement of good deeds or conduct required to save him from hell. Even Muhammad, the prophet of Islam admitted: 'I do not know what will be done with me or with you. I do but follow that which is inspired in me, and I am but a plain warner...' (Sura 46:9). Muhammad however recognized that by works we cannot enter the paradise of God. He is mentioned in traditions to have said: 'No one of you will enter Paradise through his good works.' People asked him: 'Not even you, O Apostle of God?' 'Not even I,' he replied, 'unless God covers me with His grace and mercy' (*Sahih al-Bukhari*, Hadith No. 5309; *Sahih Muslim*, 15:39:6764).

The Islamic Equation of God's plan for people is that they should have faith, they should work and perhaps God will grant divine mercy on that Great Day. In other words there is no assurance of eternal fellowship with God. I am thankful to God for bringing people in my life who helped me to know that while Islam does not give a clear solution – the Bible does. God sent Jesus, the Christ, as the second Adam, the restorer of the covenant and the source of the gift of eternal life (Romans 5:15).



## 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:**

**April: \$51,178**

**May: \$ 8,895**

**Monthly Need is \$15,000. We praise God for the lump sum gift received in April to meet some of the expenses of a few projects left on the back burners.**

**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.**

By believing in Jesus, we can have the gift of eternal life. I learned that while Muhammad was not sure of His message and purpose, Jesus was (John 5:24; 8:14). Our hope for eternal life is based upon Jesus' sacrificial death alone, rather than our own deeds. The Bible declares: "...all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). However it also says: We "...are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24).

While the Qur'an tells about grace and mercy of God in the 'future' in 'maybe' terms – *Inshallah*, the Bible, on the other hand, clarifies that it is now and its full fulfillment is in the hereafter. Indeed, we are created by God and for Him but to have eternal fellowship with Him is available only through Jesus. He is the answer to the Islamic dilemma. For many people who do not embrace Jesus as our hope, the thought of returning to God is a frightening prospect - an unavoidable appointment. The Bible encourages us as believers in this very life to "approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace" (Hebrews 4:16).

God sent Jesus not only to fulfil his attribute of being judge but also His mercy. This is why the Bible states, "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17; Also read Titus 3:4-7; Ephesians 2:3-9). Let us not only pray for Muslims but also share with them that yes, God has appointed one day for each of us to die, but we can face it with peace and confidence through Jesus. — **Steven Masood**

### **Prayer and Praise points**

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ We are thankful to the Lord for granting us continuously wisdom in responding to Truth seekers and helping them to be put 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 and not just catch dust in bookshelves.
- ❖ We thank God for the generosity of believers that in turn this ministry supports several missionaries and new believers in needs, along with leaflets and Scriptures.
- ❖ We are grateful to the Lord for friends across the world that are part of the network providing spiritual guidance to seekers who write to us or contact us through other methods.
- ❖ We pray that the Lord will continue the flow of friends who desire to be equipped in outreach to Muslims. Remember, it is people who know us that God uses to open the doors for these equipping Seminars.
- ❖ Our websites and e-mail systems are attacked relentlessly so to hinder us from sharing the gospel of Jesus. We thank the Lord that in spite of such situations, we do come through all hurdles.
- ❖ Pray with us as we are in the process to add more video presentations and study material in various languages to help seekers to know Jesus as the only Hope in these challenging times.

### **Eschatology**

In May 2021, for 8 days, Hamas directed about 3,440 rockets from Gaza into Israel. Israel responded in self-defense by bombing Hamas targets embedded in the residential areas of Gaza. Often Israel would warn the residents that a target would be bombed unlike the rockets from Gaza. By the time a ceasefire was called, at least 10 souls in Israel and 200 in Gaza had perished. If it was not for the "Iron Dome" and bomb shelters in Israel, more would have perished.

Today, there is a fragile ceasefire while waiting for another excuse to attack Israel. Consider the historical record; in 2014 there was a similar skirmish. Also, let us not forget the 6-Day War in June 1967 and the conflict during 1973. Next, recall that when Israel declared independence in 1948, that very day Muslim Arabs attacked Israel. Why such animosity? Maybe the answer is in the Qur'an. In the Qur'an we read the Jews, "...are those whom Allah has cast aside and on whom His wrath has fallen and of whom He has made some as apes and swine..." (5:60). In the covenant of Hamas we can read about anti-Semitism. Article 7 declares that the Day of Judgment will not happen until Muslims fight Jews and kill them. Therefore, it is no wonder that Iran funds Hamas and other terrorist groups. Often we hear of the leadership of Iran desiring to destroy Israel. During the recent 2021 attack on Israel rockets were also fired from Lebanon.

During the Trump administration the United States Government tried to sideline Iran. That was not so during Obama's Administration when he famously sent Iran a plane loaded with cash. The Biden Administration wants to engage with Iran again and I wonder, how much cash the United States Government will send to Iran? No matter what the United States does, Russia and China have signed agreements with Iran over oil. Pakistan is also involved with a pipeline that will run to Russia.

It seems that as money will flow, terrorism against Israel will be funded and a major war is all but inevitable. Such a war is predicted in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39. Did you know that most of the countries listed there, by their ancient names, are Islamic? However, Magog which refers to Russia, is not Islamic, but is listed as the "guard" (Ezekiel. 38:7) of the invading army into Israel. It seems to me, we need to keep one eye on the Middle East as we watch prophesy unfold, and the other on the sky, for the return of Jesus Christ! With our mouths, we need to warn humanity that the end of the age is nearing. — **David Corbett**