



Eternal Life: A Biblical answer to Islamic Dilemma

Dear Friends, the Bible and the Qur'an generally stand for the Creation by God, but the creation narrative is different. Both books refer to Adam's fall and exit, although with glaring disagreements. Both agree that because of our condition, only God can rescue us – why? The Islamic Perspective here and there agrees that humans have fallen to the degree that if God punishes them, no one will be spared. The Qur'an states: 'If Allah were to punish people for their wrongdoing, He would not leave, on earth, a single living creature' (Sura 16:61; 35:45). Even Muhammad realized this, and he is reported to have said, 'Satan runs in the body of Adam's descendant as his blood circulates in it.' (Sahih Bukhari, vol. 8, 238).

The Bible's perspective about creation is that 'all God made was 'very good.' It was when the Adamic Covenant was broken, the result was to leave the presence of God. The consequence is the inherent leaning of the human being towards wrong; thus, as the Bible states, all have sinned (Romans 3:23).

The Islamic perspective of sin and solution is that there are minor and major sins. The solution is Guidance – laws – *Shari'a*, to help humanity understand what to do and not do so to be restored one day to the paradise of God. In other words, Salvation is through good works. Are Muslims sure of it? No. On Judgment day, we will know. Although the Qur'an mentions that paradise is guaranteed for *Jihad* martyrs, the question is, whose war is it? How does one decide that a war is for God? It could be a geo-political war.

In reality, a Muslim does not know the measurement as to if he has enough good deeds or conduct required to save him from hell. Even Muhammad did not know. The Qur'an states that God asked him to tell people: "I do not know what will be done with you or with me" (Sura 46:9). Although Islam is a faith based on works, we see Muhammad saying to his followers: 'No one of you will enter Paradise through his good works.' They asked: 'Not even you, O Apostle of God?' 'Not even I,' he replied, 'unless God covers me with His grace and mercy.' (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith No. 5309; Sahih Muslim, 15:39:6764).

A Biblical Answer: While Islam does not give a clear solution – the Bible does. The Biblical Perspective about Jesus is, 'Through Him, all things were made (John 1:3,10; Colossians 3:16-17). This aspect of Jesus is crucial to know because the opportunity of restoration and reinstatement of people back to God is provided through him (1 Cor 15:28). This subject/good news is the theme of the Bible but is missing from the Qur'an. God sent Jesus, the Christ (*Isa al-Masih*) as the second Adam, the restorer of the Covenant and the source of the gift of eternal life (Romans 5:15). By believing in Jesus, we can freely choose the gift of eternal life.

God's Grace & Mercy plan

Islamic Equation

Faith + Works + Divine Mercy (if Allah wills) = Salvation

Biblical Equation

Divine Mercy + Faith = Salvation

- A Muslim follows the law of Muhammad, hoping to enter paradise
- A Christian follows the law of Christ in thankfulness for assurance already granted



We are so overwhelmed by the love you have shown us through your prayers and practical help! We thank the Lord for His continuous presence in all circumstances. While some of our dear supporters departed us to join eternity and others left due to various reasons and responsibilities, many joined us at the last minute to uplift the calling of outreach and to share the gospel of assurance (Acts 17:3).

We send you our warm *Christmas Greetings* and wish you a *Happy New Year*.

Jesus to Muslims: Financial Aspects

This ministry relies solely on the generosity of our donors, to continue daily operations, expand outreach, do seminars to equip Christians and research and publish material to reach truth seekers.

We thank you and praise God for those loyal in support and being steadfast with us in your calling as we fulfill our calling in reaching Muslims and equipping Christians.

At present we need your help to close the deficit of \$17,000 by December 31st 2022.

Monthly goal: \$18,500

Total funds received:

October 2022: \$ 9,270

November 2022: \$10,398

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

Prayer and Praise Points

- ❖ Although we are a small ministry, we financially support several missionaries in the Middle East and South East Asia. Please join us in praying for them that they will boldly continue to obey the call of the Great Commission to reach the lost in their neighborhoods.
- ❖ Pray for those who have embraced Christ that they will continue to be strengthened in their faith. Pray for those who are being discipled.
- ❖ Please pray that all the discussions and communications with our Muslim friends and others across the globe will continue to bear fruit. We are thankful to the Lord as more of our resources are being translated and dubbed into more languages spoken by Muslims. We thank the Lord for partners who bore the cost of publishing our books and postal expenses.
- ❖ Please pray for fruit from the equipping appointments we have fulfilled this year. We pray that God will continue to use us in the coming year and beyond according to His will.
- ❖ Pray for God's protection over the new face-to-face contact between believers and their Muslim friends in the Middle East and other places.

While Muhammad was unsure of his message and purpose, Jesus was very confident about his claim, plan, and purpose. He knew 100% where he came from and where he was going. "I know where I came from, and I know where I am going" (John 8:14). According to the Bible, our hope for eternal life is based upon Jesus' sacrificial death alone rather than our deeds. Jesus offers eternal life to those who love and trust Him (Matthew 19:29). This eternal life is not by way of sensual delights but rather the joy of being in an intimate relationship with our creator, the living God and his people forever (Revelation 21:3-5).

The Bible declares: "... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), but then it gives the good news that as believers in Jesus' redemptive plan, we "... are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24).

While Islam presents God's grace and mercy in the 'future' and with terms like *Inshallah* (if God wills), the Bible reveals the Day of Salvation is now, and its complete fulfillment is in the hereafter. The Bible encourages us 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 fulfill his attribute of being the judge but also to be merciful. 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). The Islamic perspective cannot be from God, who revealed the Bible. The Qur'an accepts the fall and the condition of human beings but does not give a clear solution. Jesus is the Biblical answer for all humanity. – **Steven Masood.**

Do you Know?

- It is estimated that there are 1.8 billion Muslims in the world today. More Muslims live "outside" the Middle East and North Africa in countries like Iran, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Malaysia.
- All Muslims do not speak Arabic. Muslims living outside Middle East may study Arabic to understand the Qur'an, however, they speak native languages like Urdu, Farsi, Pushto, Dari, Punjabi, Indonesian, Hindi, Chinese and many other languages and dialects.
- Muslims make up nearly 25% of the world's population and comprise 53% of the non-Christian world. Sadly only 1% of all the Christian mission efforts is directed towards them. Please pray how you may help to increase the Gospel outreach to Muslims. The Father's heart is that all may be saved (1 Timothy 2:4-6).