



Jesus did not die on the cross – Really?

Dear Friend of Jesus to Muslims! As usual, many Muslims quote the Bible out of context to prove their point of view. Here we give one of the many examples: Hebrews 5:7 says “While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God.” Out of context, Muslims believe that verse means God rescued Jesus from such a horrific death, the crucifixion, and took him up to Himself in heaven without dying at all.

While orthodox Muslims say that Jesus was bodily taken up into Heaven and perhaps someone else was crucified in his place, the followers of the Ahmadiyya movement in Islam claim that his prayers were heard and that he suffered on the cross but did not die.

Context matters

When the Bible says Jesus was heard, it does not mean that God would prevent his death on the cross. God answered Jesus’ prayer by giving him the strength to go through such an agonizing death, to fulfill the promise of atonement for the sake of our souls, including Muslims and those in the whole world.

To endure separation from his Father and then be raised from death to life was God’s will for Jesus, thereby making assurance of salvation and forgiveness available to all believers. Jesus’ crucifixion, his sacrificial death and resurrection are all mentioned in Hebrews (9:11-28; 10:8-15; 13:9-12, 20). It is clear that the writer of Hebrews never intended to imply that Jesus escaped death. Jesus never tried to run away from death on the cross. Rather we see him deliberately going to Jerusalem to face death (Luke 9:51; Matthew 16:21; Mark 10:33).

It was God’s will that Jesus be crucified, in fulfillment of prophecy. In Gethsemane, Jesus ended his prayer with the words: “Not my will, but yours be done” (Luke 22:42). This showed that he did not oppose his Father’s will. In his humanity, Jesus did feel the agony of taking the sin of the world on his shoulders and being separated from God. His cry from the cross, using words of the prophecy in Psalm 22:1, “My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?” confirms this. However His obedience to the Father in perfect submission to His will, as our High Priest, confirms His divinity. Jesus did what He came to earth to do. He overcame His humanity and obeyed God because it was the only way to restore all mankind back to our love relationship with God as Adam first had in the garden. Now we get to walk with God and talk with God without the veil.

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Luke 24:44-47;
Revelation 1:18

The Climax of His mission

Jesus’ death and resurrection are the climax of his mission on earth. At the start of his ministry, Jesus said: “My time has not yet come” (John 2:4). Later he repeated this saying: “My time is not yet at hand” (John 7:6). Just before his crucifixion, he prayed: “Father! The time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you ... I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world” (John 17:1,6). Finally, on the cross, Jesus’ last words were: “It is finished.” His

We celebrate
the Victorious
Resurrected
Jesus not just
once a year
or one day a
week, but
every day!



mission on earth had been accomplished. The promise God had made to Abraham centuries before was fulfilled in the work of Jesus on the cross.

Jesus not only gave his life but also rose from the dead victoriously! The Bible interprets the death of Jesus, together with his subsequent resurrection, as a victory (2 Timothy 1:10). We should look not only at his crucifixion and death but also his victorious resurrection (Luke 24:44-47; Revelation 1:18)!

– Steven and Karen Masood

Ministry outreach highlights

Steven just finished writing 30 programs, about 10 minutes each, on the Christian faith based on the Bible in Urdu. (Around 80 million Muslims in Pakistan and India, about 2 million in Britain and about 4 million in the USA and Canada speak Urdu.) The program is called *Iman wa Amal*, literally meaning Faith and Action. This program is geared for busy Muslims to learn in 9 ½ minutes key areas of the Christian faith based on the Bible.

We have now recorded and edited the first 5 programs and offered them for broadcast to the South Asian division of Christian Broadcast Network. We intend to offer them to other Christian networks too, hoping some will come forward and broadcast them free of charge to bring souls to Christ.

We have also started another program on the Internet in Urdu to respond to objections raised in Muslim video presentations about Biblical doctrines. The program is called *Qindil* – the lamp, similar to the word candle. The program varies between 10 to 20 minutes long.

Other activities:

We continue to respond to queries, questions and objections from Muslims friends. In addition we travel to hold seminars and discussions to equip the body of Christ in their outreach to Muslims. We continue to help Muslim background believers in their spiritual journey with Christ. Most of this is done through counselling and other means.

Steven is considering writing a daily devotion to help new believers with Islamic backgrounds learn from the Bible how Jesus is the answer to Islamic dilemmas, how He is the end of the law and the only hope of assurance and path to eternal salvation and fellowship with God.

We thank you for all your support. Please remember us in your prayers as at times it becomes challenging with technology changes and getting the hands-on help needed. On that Great Day, may He remember all the help you provide to take the Good News to Muslims and equip fellow Christians to do the same!

Prayer and praise points:

- ❖ We pray for all those in the world who knowingly or unknowingly fight against God, that they will know true peace that comes in submitting to God's will in Christ.
- ❖ We thank God for the recording studio. We thank Him for the funds and resources He supplied through His precious people. We pray that the Lord will help us to use His precious time and energy He has given us to write and present messages with a Biblical perspective in Urdu, Pashtu, and a few other languages including English.
- ❖ We ask God to grant us continuous wisdom to equip the body and share the gospel in the simplest Biblical way with Muslims.
- ❖ We pray for all the resources received by attendees through seminars, conferences and the web-sites will be used for God's glory.

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, hold seminars to equip Christians, giving resources, as well as research and publish material for truth seekers.

Funds in total received:

February 2018: \$10,215

March 2018: \$ 8,049

Monthly Need is \$15,000. Please pray with us that the Lord will provide an extra \$425 a month for the next four years, to pay off our zero percent loan for the studio as well as our monthly need. PRAISE GOD FOR \$200 A MONTH OF THAT \$425 PAYMENT! If you are mailing your gift, please use the envelope provided. For online giving, please go to: www.JesusToMuslims.org and click on "Support". Donations are tax deductible.