

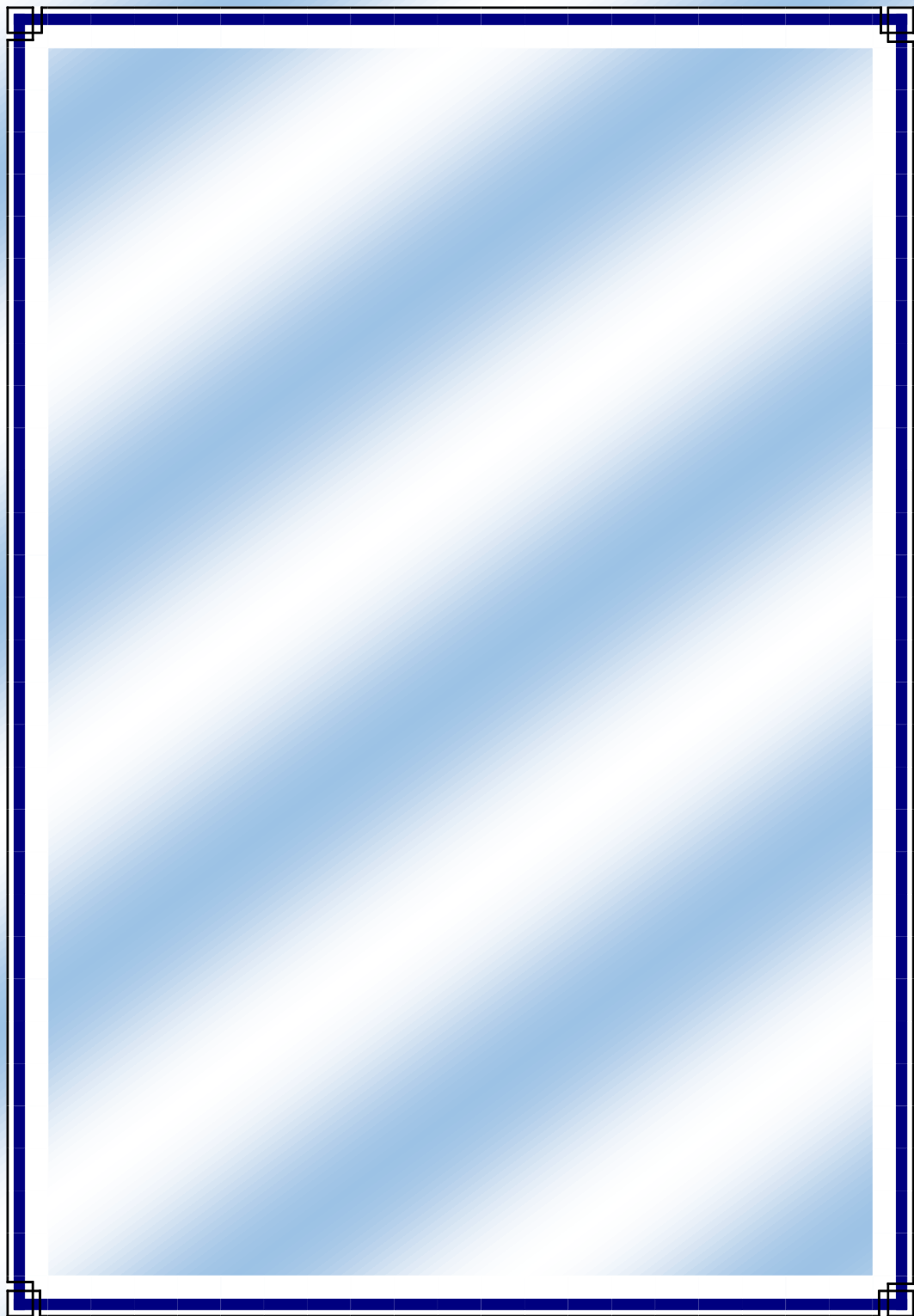
“Assuredly, in their narrative is a lesson for men of understanding...” (12:112)

Stories of the Prophets...

PROPHET JESUS

Peace be upon him

Publications Department - Lajna Ima'illah UK, 2023



“Assuredly, in their narrative is a lesson for men of understanding...”

(12:112)

Stories of Prophets

Prophet

Jesus^{AS}

By Publication Department Lajna Ima'illah UK, 2023



Stories of The Prophets

Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him)

Compiled by: Isha'at Department, Lajna Ima'illah UK
Cover Designed by: Atia tul Saboor Bhatti

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References to the Holy Quran contain the name of the surah [i.e. chapter] followed by a chapter:verse citation, e.g. Surah al-Jumu'ah, 62:4, and count Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Rahim ['In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful'] as the first verse in every chapter that begins with it.

The following abbreviations have been used: *sa* *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, meaning 'peace and blessings of Allah be upon him', is written after the name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sas).

as *'alaihi-salam*, meaning 'peace be on him', is written after the names of Prophets other than the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sas).

Glossary

Persecutor	a person who harasses or annoys someone persistently
Messiah	a saviour
Prophet	messenger of Allah
Holy Qur'an	the holy book for Muslims revealed to the Holy Prophet
Bible	the holy book for Christians
Torah	the compilation of the first five books of the Hebrew Bible
Priest	a religious leader
Temple	a building reserved for spiritual rituals

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

My dear children

I hope and pray that you read the series of books on the stories of prophets and learn from them.

Allah the Almighty has sent hundreds of thousands of prophets over the course of humanity for our benefit. All prophets have one main message and that is to bring their people closer to God.

There is so much to learn from these books like power of prayers, importance of being truthful and kind, how brave and resilient they were and much more.

May Allah enable you to read these books and learn from them for your own benefit and knowledge. All that you learn at this age helps your understanding of your faith and makes it stronger. These stories are also very inspiring and have many moral lessons to learn.

Please read them yourself or even better, with your parents.

Wassalam

Yours sincerely

Fariha Khan

Serving as Sadr Lajna UK

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

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First and foremost, our thanks and praise are due to Almighty Allah without Whose boundless Grace and Blessings none of our work would be possible.

Lajna Ima'illah UK is privileged to receive the nurturing support and direct advice of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V aba. This inspires us daily and we earnestly pray that we continue to enjoy this Grace of Allah for a very long time. Ameen

I am grateful to Sadr Lajna Ima'illah UK, Dr Fariha Khan Sahiba for her numerous prayers and steady guidance on this project, a team of Lajna members in the Ishaat department, co-ordinated by Mrs. Qudsia Ward worked together to produce this series of books for young children.

The following members of the writing team require a special mention for their splendid work together, sharing knowledge and experience in the process of producing these books. Mehwish Choudry; Aalia Rehman; Anusha Waheed; Bareera Saqib Mansoor; Fezia Ul Haq; Hanaa Khan; Humda Bilal; Khola Shah; Maryam Ahmad; Mufleha Saleem Ahmad; Saleha Bakhtiar; Siemah Ahmad; Atia Bhatti; Atifa Ahmad and Hadiqa Asma.

May Almighty Allah bless them all and enable them to continue to work successfully in the service of jamaat.

Mrs. Lubna Sohail

Serving as National Secretary Ishaat UK

Guide for Parents

This book, one of a series of books, produced by Lajna Ima'illah UK, is based on the stories narrated in the Holy Quran. The books are designed for children of primary school age who can read and try the activities independently.

It is intended that after reading and enjoying these stories you can help your children to find the stories in the Holy Quran and read them for themselves.

We hope that you will also be able enjoy sharing the stories with younger children by reading to them and discussing the story events. We also hope you will enjoy sharing the activities with your children.

May Almighty Allah enable us to follow the illuminating path of the righteous people who are a beacon of light for all humanity.

Let's learn about

**PROPHET
JESUS^{AS}**

PROPHET JESUS^{as}

Today we will be learning about Prophet Jesus^{as}, a prophet mentioned in the Holy Quran, who was sent to preach to the Children of Israel. The Children of Israel were blessed greatly by Allah. They were the descendants of Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} through his son Hazrat Ishaq^{as} and grandson Hazrat Ya'qub^{as}. They practised a faith called Judaism and their Holy Book was called the Torah.

Over time, prophets were sent to the Israelites to remind them of their faith. There were 12 Tribes in total, some of which were in Palestine.

A modern day map showing Palestine is shown below:



The children of Israel did not all remain in this area, some tribes had left to settle in different countries. Prophet Jesus^{as} was the final prophet who was sent only for the benefit of the Israelites, wherever they had settled. The Holy Quran tells us about Prophet Jesus^{as}:

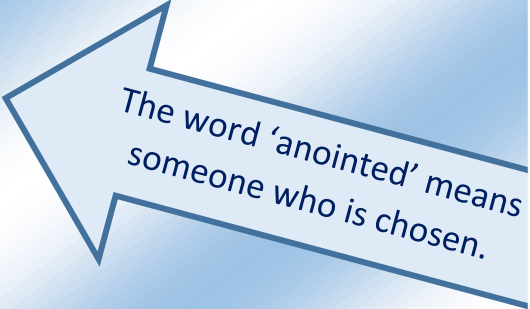
“And will make him a Messenger to the children of
Israel...”

Surah Aal-e-`Imran, verse 50

The Israelites were waiting at the time of Prophet Jesus^{as} for a prophet who would be their Messiah. They knew all the signs but did not know exactly who the prophet would be.

Surah Aal-e-`Imran, verse 46 of the Holy Quran gives Prophet Jesus^{as} the title of the Messiah. This has three meanings:

1. One who is anointed
2. One who travels a lot
3. One who is blessed



*The word 'anointed' means
someone who is chosen.*

THE EARLY LIFE OF HAZRAT MARYAM^{AS}

One of the most important parts of Prophet Jesus's story is his family. His story begins two generations before him with his grandmother and his mother Hazrat Maryam^{as}. His grandmother was a very pious lady called Hannah. The grandfather of Prophet Jesus^{as} was called Imran. When Hannah was expecting a child, she prayed.

رَبِّ إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لَكَ مَا فِي بَطْنِي مُحَرَّرًا فَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ

السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ-

“My Lord, I have vowed to thee what is in my womb to be dedicated to Thy Service. So, do accept it of me; verily, Thou alone art All Hearing, All knowing.”

Surah Aal-e-`Imran, Verse 36

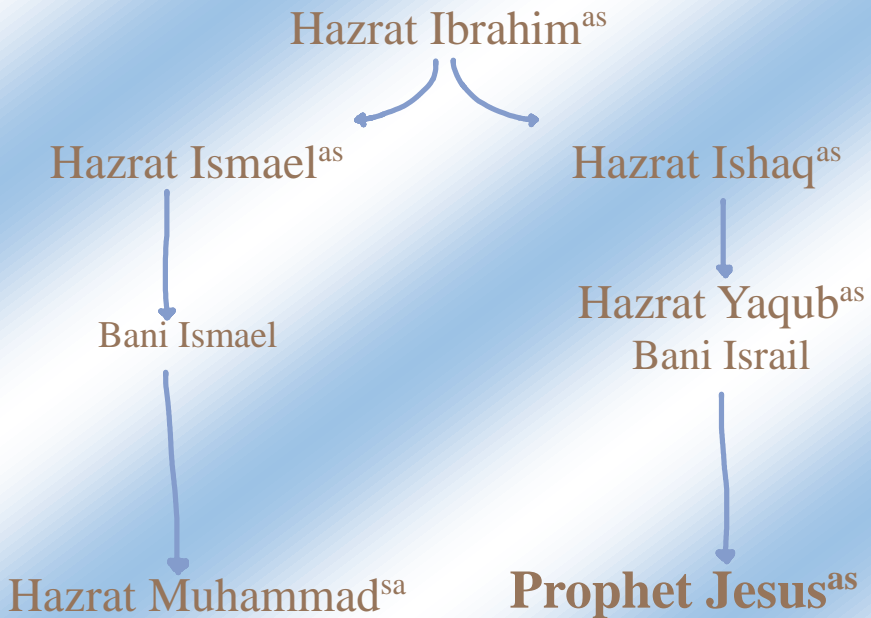
*Did you know that this verse
has been used in Waqfe Nau
logo?*

As Hannah had prayed to dedicate her child to the Jewish Temple, she was shocked and surprised when she was blessed with a baby girl.

This is because usually only boys would be dedicated to the Temple. As Hannah had prayed to dedicate her baby to the Temple, she hoped that she would have a boy.

However, a special exception was made for Hazrat Maryam^{as} and her service to the Jewish Temple was accepted. When Hazrat Maryam^{as} was dedicated to the service of the Temple, she also took a vow not to marry. This was the usual practice at the time.

Even before the birth of Prophet Jesus (as), the Holy Quran has told us that Prophet Jesus's mother & grandmother were righteous.



SERVICE AT THE TEMPLE

Hazrat Zachariah^{as} was given responsibility to look after Hazrat Maryam^{as} at the Temple. He was a Priest & Prophet. He was greatly impressed by the righteous nature of Hazrat Maryam^{as}. Her behaviour and speech always showed her to be righteous.

Indeed, the Holy Quran gives us an example of her righteous speech and actions. Whenever, Hazrat Zachariah^{as} visited her, he would find her with gifts. These gifts were probably from visitors who had come to worship at the Temple. When Hazrat Zachariah^{as} asked Hazrat Maryam^{as} about gifts, she replied that these are from Allah.

Hazrat Zachariah^{as} was deeply impressed by the righteous nature of Hazrat Maryam^{as}. When he heard

her reply, he immediately prayed for a righteous child. Later, Hazrat Zachariah^{as} was also given glad tidings of a son to be called Yahya.

Did you know...?

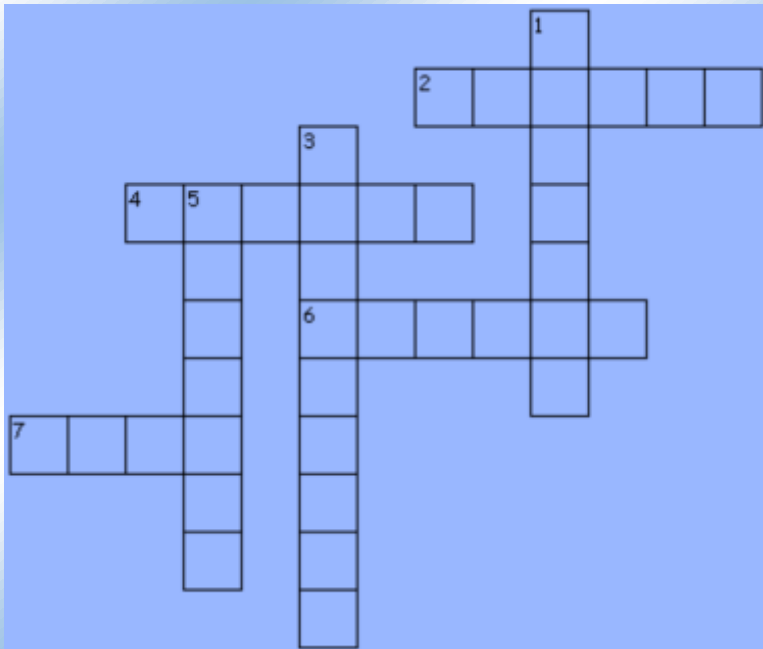
Surah Maryam is the only chapter of the Holy Quran named after a lady.

Hazrat Maryam^{as} is mentioned 70 times in the Holy Quran.

THE FAMILY OF PROPHET JESUS^{AS}

- REVISION-

Can you complete this Cross word puzzle, using the clues below..?



Across:

2. The number of tribes Prophet Jesus^{as} guided
4. The children of...
6. The grandmother of Prophet Jesus^{as} was...
7. Hazrat Yahya^{as} is known in the Bible as...

Down:

1. The title given to Prophet Jesus^{as}
2. The prophet who looked after Hazrat Maryam^{as}
5. The number of times Hazrat Maryam^{as} is mentioned in the Holy Quran

QUICK RECAP

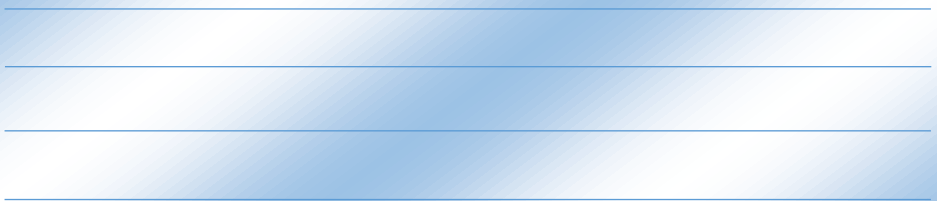
According to the Holy Quran, Prophet Jesus^{as} was a Messiah. What does this mean?



In Surah Aal-e-`Imran, Allah is described as 'All-Hearing' and 'All-Knowing'. Can you find the Arabic of these divine attributes?



What are some things you have learnt so far about Hazrat Maryam^{as}?



GLAD TIDINGS!

Hazrat Maryam^{as} would spend lots of time in the remembrance of God. One day as Hazrat Maryam^{as} was quietly praying and spending time in the remembrance of God, Allah sent Angel Gabriel to her and he appeared to her as a man in a vision. Hazrat Maryam^{as} was surprised and afraid. She was taken aback and sought refuge with Gracious God.

To this however, the Angel assured her and said:

“...Allah gives thee glad tidings of a word from Him; his name be the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, honoured in this world and in the next, and of those who are granted nearness to God.”

So Hazrat Maryam^{as} received a revelation of good news from the Angel Gabriel that she would have a baby son!

Remember children, when a person served in the Jewish Temple, they promised not to marry so that they could focus on the work. So, imagine, the confusion, and shock that Hazrat Maryam^{as} felt when she received this news.

How could she possibly have a son when she was not married? She had promised not to marry for the rest of her life! The Angel gave Hazrat Maryam^{as} a comforting reply:

‘Thus it is’. But says thy Lord, ‘it is easy for Me; and we *shall do* so that We may make him a Sign unto men, and a mercy from Us, and it is a thing decreed.”

Surah Maryam, Verse 22

So, Hazrat Maryam^{as} was destined to have a baby son without a father. This was indeed a great miracle of Allah.

What is a miracle?

A miracle is something amazing that happens and it seems impossible that it could have happened to the people that witness it.

However, for a miracle to happen Allah uses the laws of nature that man doesn't know about, so it is possible. When a miracle happens, those who are true believers recognise it as a sign from Allah.

QUICK RECAP

Can you fill in the blanks?

Prophet Jesus^{as} was a _____, who was sent to preach to the _____. In total there are 12 tribes who practise a faith called _____ and the name of their Holy Book is _____. Hannah, the _____ of Prophet Jesus^{as}, was a very _____ lady. She offered everything she had to Allah, including the _____ she was going to have.

Hazrat Maryam^{as} dedicated her life to the _____. Here, she was looked after by Hazrat Zachariah^{as}, who was a _____ and a _____. Hazrat

Zachariah^{as} had a son called _____, who is known as John the Baptist in the _____.

Grandmother, Priest, Bible, Children of Israel, Jewish Temple, Pious, Messiah, Prophet, Judaism, Child, Torah, Hazrat Yahya^{as}

THE BIRTH OF PROPHET JESUS^{AS}

The priests at Temple were very concerned and worried! Hazrat Maryam^{as} and the new baby would need care and support. They were also very worried what people would say because they could not explain why Prophet Jesus^{as} did not have a father.

The priests disagreed with each other as to who should take care of Hazrat Maryam^{as}. To arrange a marriage for her they cast arrows. This means that they settled their disagreement in a way that is like picking straws or choosing a name from a hat.

According to the Bible, Hazrat Maryam^{as} had a marriage arranged for her with Joseph. Sometime

before the birth of Prophet Jesus^{as}, Joseph took Hazrat Maryam^{as} from Nazareth and left for Bethlehem which was about 70 miles away. Bethlehem is a town which is on a rock and high above the sea. The Town is surrounded by lots of date palm trees and fountains of water.

Nazareth, located in northern Israel, close to Lebanon



The birth of Prophet Jesus^{as} was a very difficult time for Hazrat Maryam^{as}. She sought shelter under a palm tree on a hill.

An angel called out to her from the side of the hill and comforted her. The angel guided her to water from the fountains in the area and to the dates:

...Grieve not thy Lord has placed a rivulet below thee; And shake towards thyself the trunk of the palm-tree; it will cause fresh ripe dates to fall upon thee.

Surah Maryam, Verse 25, 26

Fascinating Fact!

The Holy Quran provides guidance as to when Prophet Jesus^{as} was born. Hazrat Maryam^{as} was told to eat the dates from the trees. Dates are a fruit that are found on trees during the months of August - September. This means that Prophet Jesus^{as} was born around this time.

After the birth of Prophet Jesus^{as}, Hazrat Maryam^{as} was instructed to fast. The fast would have helped Hazrat Maryam^{as} to spend more time in the remembrance of Allah.

THE CHILDHOOD OF PROPHET JESUS^{AS}

Sadly, when Hazrat Maryam^{as} returned to her home she was not treated well by people. They did not understand why Prophet Jesus^{as} did not have a father and said many unkind things to her. However, Hazrat Maryam^{as} did not reply, instead, she pointed to Prophet Jesus^{as}. Upon this the people who spoke unkind words reacted to this and said that they are not going to talk to a child in the cradle. Whereas the Holy Quran claims that Prophet Jesus^{as} was a wise young child who was guided and protected by God.

“And he shall speak to the people in the cradle and when of middle age, and he shall be of the righteous.”

Surah Aal-e-`Imran, Verse 47

This means that Prophet Jesus^{as} was a wise young child who was close to God and would grow up to be a righteous man as well.



PROPHETHOOD

How do you think the Israelites reacted to Prophet Jesus^{as} when he began to preach as a prophet of God?

Every prophet that has walked this Earth has always faced opposition.

This is exactly what happened to Prophet Jesus^{as}. He was rejected by many people in the early days of his preaching. There were however some righteous people who understood the message of Prophet Jesus^{as} and accepted him. The disciples were amongst the first followers of Prophet Jesus^{as}. They stayed close to him to benefit from his company.

Prophet Jesus^{as} told his disciples that:

“...I will announce to you what you will eat and what you will store up in your houses. Surely, therein is a Sign for you, if you be believers.. And I *come* fulfilling that which is before me, namely, the Torah ; and to allow you some of that which was forbidden you;...”

Surah Aal-e-`Imran, Verses 50-51

This means that Prophet Jesus^{as} told his disciples to earn an honest living and that they should spend in the way of Allah to store up spiritual treasures in the next life. Prophet Jesus^{as} was very clear that he did not bring any new laws for the Israelites. His job was to teach them the right way to practice the laws that they already had been given through Moses^{as}. For example, the Israelites had forbidden themselves food that they were actually allowed to eat.

MIRACLES & SIGNS OF PROPHET JESUS^{AS}

Dear Children, The Holy Quran tells us about 3 signs in particular that Prophet Jesus^{as} showed:

1. He created birds out of clay and breathed into them a new spirit, so that they would fly high by the command of Allah.
2. He healed the night-blind and the leprous.
3. He brought the dead to life

But what does this mean?

The Birds

This did not mean that Prophet Jesus^{as} would physically make birds. Only Allah is The Creator.

الْخَالِقُ

Al-Khaliq

The meaning of this sign is that Prophet Jesus^{as} would guide people to a new spiritual life in which they could really reach high levels.

The Night Blind and Leprous

They had lost their way and Prophet Jesus^{as} guided them to the right path.

This miracle meant that Prophet Jesus^{as} healed those who were spiritually sick.

He Brought the Dead Back to Life

Of course, this does not mean that Prophet Jesus^{as} brought anyone back to life **physically**.

Teachings of Prophet Jesus^{as} brought a transformation to those who accepted his guidance so that they had a new **spiritual** life.

A PLOT AGAINST PROPHET JESUS^{AS}

The teachings of Prophet Jesus^{as} became popular and people were inspired by his message. However, those that did not believe him, plotted against him.

So, what was their plan? How did Allah counteract their plan? Dear Children, always remember that the enemies of prophets spare no efforts to challenge and silence a prophet. However, history tells us that they are never, ever successful.

The enemies of Prophet Jesus^{as} were determined to end his preaching once and for all. They planned to put Prophet Jesus^{as} to death by crucifixion. However,

the ingenious way in which Allah caused their plans fail shows how Allah protects his servants.

The Holy Quran states:

...whereas they slew him not, nor crucified him, but he was made to appear to them like one crucified; and those who differ therein are certainly in a state of doubt about it; they have no definite knowledge thereof, but only follow a conjecture; and they did not convert this conjecture into a certainty;

Surah An-Nisa, Verse 158

Now the Holy Quran very clearly tells us that the enemies of Prophet Jesus^{as} thought that they had killed him, but they had not. It just looked as if he had been crucified. But how could this be possible?

Well Dear Children, how Prophet Jesus^{as} survived the cross is a truly amazing miracle of Allah which humans still wonder at today.

What is Crucifixion?

Crucifixion was a type of punishment which was used to execute a person, when death was the punishment for a crime.

Crucifixion meant that a person was hung on a large wooden cross with the hands and feet nailed to the wooden planks of the cross. This type of punishment

was very cruel because it was extremely painful, and the victim would die very slowly. It could sometimes take few days for the victim to die in this way.

Allah protecting Prophet Jesus^{as} from death is another great miracle. Despite all the hate he received, Prophet Jesus^{as} remained steadfast, and knew Allah would protect him. He knew this because Allah is given the attribute Al-Hafeez, The Protector and Guardian.

PROPHET JESUS^{AS}

ACTIVITY PAGE

Around which months was Prophet Jesus^{as} born?

How do you know this?

Which attribute of Allah mean 'The Creator'?

How is it possible that Prophet Jesus^{as} brought the dead back to life?

What was Hazrat Maryam^{as} commanded to do after giving birth?

AN ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE

The Israelite priests arrested Prophet Jesus^{as} whilst he was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane and he was questioned by the religious council. Here, he was accused of blasphemy.

What is Blasphemy?

Blasphemy is when you act or speak in a way which is insulting to religion. In the Torah, punishment for blasphemy was death.

The Jewish priests could not punish Prophet Jesus^{as} themselves. This is because they were ruled by the Romans. Only the Romans could give permission for punishment. So, Prophet Jesus^{as} was taken to Pontius Pilate. Pontius Pilate was the Roman Governor of Jerusalem.

Did you know...?

Jerusalem, located in the Middle East, is a very Holy land for Jews, Christians and Muslims.

The Jewish priests accused Prophet Jesus^{as} of blasphemy, and for stirring unrest amongst the people. They wanted Prophet Jesus^{as} to be put to death by Pontius Pilate. Pontius Pilate was reluctant to punish Prophet Jesus^{as} with death penalty. Indeed, during Prophet Jesus's trial with Pontius Pilate, the wife of Pontius Pilate had dreamt about Prophet Jesus^{as}. She sent a message to Pontius Pilate not to have anything to do with Prophet Jesus^{as}.

This influenced Pontius Pilate, although he was under a lot of pressure from the priests to punish Prophet Jesus^{as} by the death penalty.

The trial of Prophet Jesus^{as} before Pontius Pilate took place on a Friday. The next day was a Saturday and Saturday is known as the Sabbath in the Jewish faith. It is their Holy or Sacred Day each week.

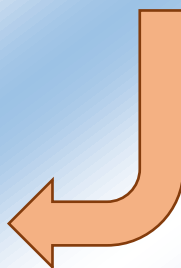
Any person hung on the cross could not be left on the cross on the Sabbath. Pilate gave his judgment three hours before the start of Sabbath. So, Prophet Jesus^{as} was only put on the cross only for three hours. Pontius Pilate knew full well that if Prophet Jesus^{as} was only put on the cross for three hours, he was unlikely to die on the cross.

Pontius Pilate took additional care to see that Prophet Jesus^{as} was given wine or vinegar mingled with myrrh to make him less sensitive to pain. After three hours' he was taken down from the cross in an unconscious state. Although he was not awake, there were many signs that he was still alive, including:

Prophet Jesus^{as} did not have his bones broken, when he was taken down.

When Prophet Jesus^{as} was taken down from the cross, one side of his body was pierced with a spear, causing blood and water to gush out

This shows that his heart was still beating, meaning he was still alive



Joseph of Arithmea was a respected member of the Israelite community. He was also a friend of Pontius Pilate. Joseph requested Pontius Pilate to take Prophet Jesus^{as} down from the cross, to whom granted permission. Prophet Jesus^{as} was then placed in a spacious room, cut down in the side of a rock, known as a 'sepulchre'.

An ointment, which is now famously known as Marham-e-'Isa, (Ointment of Prophet Jesus^{as}) was prepared and applied to Prophet Jesus's wounds, whilst he was there.

Did you know...?

Marham e Isa is well known in
hundreds of medical textbooks!

After Prophet Jesus^{as} had recovered, he left the tomb and met some of his disciples. They ate together then walked the whole distance from Jerusalem to Galilee in Israel, by foot.

The escape of Prophet Jesus^{as} from death on the cross in this subtle and brilliant way was a turning point in his life.

TRAVELS!

Remember, Prophet Jesus^{as} was known as the Messiah- this means he was someone that would travel a lot. So, once he escaped from his crucifixion, he began to travel around to neighbouring countries! Up until he was put on the cross, Prophet Jesus^{as} had only preached to the tribes of Israel that were present in Palestine. Thus, he began to travel around the world visiting and preaching to people in Persia, Afghanistan and even India, where some of the Children of Israel had settled. The map below shows the journey in modern day:



It seems these tribes were receptive to the glad tidings given by Prophet Jesus^{as} and they accepted him readily.

The Holy Quran has mentioned about the shelter provided to Prophet Jesus^{as} during his difficult time, saying,

“And we made son of Mary and his mother a sign; and gave them shelter on an elevated land of green valley and springs of running waters.” (23:51)



This is a suitable description of the valley of Kashmir.

Continuing his mission until the age of 120 years, Prophet Jesus^{as} passed away in Kashmir, where he was buried.

The tomb of Prophet Jesus^{as} is known as Yus Asaf which means Jesus the Gatherer. The tomb is

visited by people around the world. Indeed, the Holy Quran states:

مَا الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ وَ

أُمُّهُ صِدِّيقَةٌ كَانَا يَأْكُلَنِ الطَّعَامَ

The Messiah, son of Mary, was only a Messenger. All messengers have passed away before him. And his mother was a truthful woman. They both used to eat food.

Surah Al-Ma'idah, Verse 76

CHRISTIANITY TODAY

When Prophet Jesus^{as} left Palestine to continue his message to the remaining tribes of Israel outside of Palestine, his true followers continued preaching his message to the Israelites in Palestine. Without Prophet Jesus^{as} himself guiding them, they began to divide amongst themselves.

At the same time, Paul, one of the major persecutors of Prophet Jesus^{as} and his followers, accepted the teachings of Prophet Jesus^{as}.

So, the Israelites of Palestine, were divided between the leadership of James the righteous and Paul. James who was a close follower of Prophet Jesus^{as} peached the real teachings of Prophet Jesus^{as}. Paul on the other hand emerged with a completely new faith. He

had never been taught the true teachings of Prophet Jesus^{as}, in fact he openly persecuted them while Prophet Jesus^{as} was still in Palestine.

The followers of James had endured hardship since the beginning, while the followers of Paul wanted a life of ease. So, instead of encouraging people to change their sinful way, Paul changed the religion to fit what people wanted to do. This made it easier for Paul to gain more followers because no one had to change their behavior or sinful ways.

Paul's incorrect teachings of Prophet Jesus^{as} created a fictional 'Christ' and lost all the teachings that God wanted the Israelites to follow. This version of the religion triumphed and spread across the world. Today, it is known as Christianity.

THE MESSIAH

Prophet Jesus^{as} was born to Hazrat Maryam^{as} who was a very pious woman. Prophet Jesus^{as} followed in these footsteps and grew up to be a wise and righteous man. He followed the laws of Hazrat Musa^{as} and was eventually blessed with revelations from God Almighty. This means he was a Messiah – someone who came to re-teach the lost teachings of a previous prophet. He was not a law bearing prophet and did not bring a new religion.

Hazrat Musa^{as} was a prophet who was also sent to the Israelites. At the time, the Israelites were held in captivity in Egypt, and they had become cowards. Hazrat Musa^{as} taught them the

importance of standing up for themselves and fighting for their rights and beliefs.

Eventually, they became hard hearted and were set in their ways. They wanted everything to work in their favour and they were unforgiving for anything else. Prophet Jesus^{as} taught them the importance of forgiveness to soften their hearts. So, as the Messiah of Hazrat Musa^{as}, Prophet Jesus^{as} wanted to re-teach the kind laws of Hazrat Musa^{as}. The original rules and laws of Hazrat Musa^{as}'s religion were not changed – they were re-taught to soften their hearts.

Prophet Jesus^{as} had the responsibility of teaching all the lost tribes. So, when he had spread his message and gain sufficient followers, he moved on to the next country to find the remaining

Israelites. Righteous followers like John spread Prophet Jesus's true teachings which made people change their ways. Paul however, made changes to these teachings and allowed the Israelites to behave as they already were.

The life of Prophet Jesus^{as} is full of extraordinary events. Despite all the challenges Prophet Jesus^{as} faced, he was successful in his divine mission to preach to the 12 Tribes of Israel.

STATUS OF PROPHET JESUS^{AS}

There is a lot of controversy prevalent about his status.

The Holy Quran states that Prophet Jesus^{as} was born miraculously to pious and virgin Hazrat Maryam^{as}. He

was a human being and his virtuous mother trained him in the ways of God. He was gifted with wisdom and spoke words of wisdom in his youth as well as in old age. God appointed him as a prophet for the Israelites alone. He followed the laws of Hazrat Musa^{as} and was blessed with revelations from God. His revelations corrected those portions of the Old Testament that were tempered with by human hands during long passage of time. His revelations are mentioned as Injeel, that is, glad tidings. They do not include new laws, they are rather reformatory and as commentary to the laws of the Old Testament.

PROPHECIES ABOUT THE FUTURE

Toward the close of his mission, Prophet Jesus^{as} made some prophecies about future.

The Holy Quran states that Prophet Jesus^{as} affirmed the prophecies of Hazrat Musa^{as} about the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was raised from the progeny of Hazrat Ismael^{as}. The kingdom of God was taken from the Israelites and given to the Ismaelites. The glory of God was manifested through him. He is the spirit of truth. He said nothing out of his own accord, rather whatever he heard from God conveyed to the people in perfect purity.

Thus according to the divine guidance the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa} is the sole guide for all mankind. So his leadership was to continue in one form or other till the end of times. About the latter days, scriptures of all religion mention many similar signs and appearance of a guide through whom mankind would be united.

Prophet Jesus^{as} also gave good news about the coming of a prophet like himself. (The Holy Quran 61:7)

The belief of non-Ahmadi Muslims regarding Prophet Jesus^{as} is that as soon as the Jews resolved to lay hold on him, God raised Prophet Jesus^{as} to Heaven, and in place of him, caught hold of one of his enemies and, making him in the same appearance as Prophet Jesus^{as}, had this enemy of Prophet Jesus^{as} put on the

Cross instead of Prophet Jesus^{as} himself. They further believe that he is still in Heaven since his ascent, without undergoing any change, and this very Prophet Jesus^{as} will descend for the reformation of the Muslims, and to make Islam dominate over all other religions.

This concept of the non-Ahmadies is entirely against the Holy Quran, the Traditions of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be on him) and the consensus of the early scholars of Islam.

The Holy Quran States:

يَعِيسَىٰ إِنِّي مُتَوَفِّيكَ وَرَافِعُكَ إِلَيَّ وَمُطَهِّرُكَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا

وَجَاعِلُ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوكَ فَوْقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ ۗ

ثُمَّ إِلَيَّ مَرْجِعُكُمْ فَأَحْكُمُ بَيْنَكُمْ فِيمَا كُنْتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ۔

“O Jesus! indeed I will cause thee to die and exalt thee to Myself, and will clear thee of (the charges of) those who disbelieve, and will place those who follow thee above those who deny thee, until the Day of Resurrection.” (3:56)

There are 4 promises made in the verse:

1. I will cause thee to die
2. Exalt thee to Myself,
3. Will clear thee of (the charges of) those who disbelieve,
4. Will place those who follow thee above those who deny thee, until the Day of Resurrection.

The words `exalt thee' or `raise thee' come after the words `cause to die'. We have no right to change the order of the Holy Quran. Here the exaltation is the exaltation of the soul of which the Jews were trying to deprive him by putting to death through crucifixion, but Allah frustrated them in their evil designs.

REMEMBER

Whenever the word *Rafa'a* is used by Allah for a human being, it always connotes exaltation of ranks and spiritual nearness. *Rafa'a* has never been used in the entire Holy Quran nor in the Traditions of the Holy Prophet^{sa} as a connotation of physical ascension to heaven.

**Do you know that the word “descend”
is used in different ways:**

Peace is descended

Cattles are descended

Raiment is sent down to you

Iron is sent down

A Reminder is sent down

Second coming of the Messiah means coming of a follower of the Holy Prophet^{sa}, the first Messiah died in the normal way.

Ahmadies believe that a follower of the Holy Prophet^{sa} has appeared amongst us as the Promised Messiah.

Objection is raised on this belief.

However, the truth is that the second coming of the Messiah has been held from before the time of Islam.

In Islam the second coming of the Messiah has been taught so systematically and determinately that we are obliged to regard it as one of the important beliefs of Islam. Factors which have strengthened and systematized the Islamic belief are the following:

1. The Promised Messiah^{as}, according to Islamic teaching, was to come at a time marked also by the advent of a Mahdi
2. The advent of the Messiah is described in Muslim Traditions as the advent of a new era in the advancement of Islam.
3. The Messiah and the Mahdi being one and the same person, the coming of the Messiah has seemed like the coming of the Holy Prophet^{sa} himself, the first believers in the Messiah like the first believers in the Holy Prophet.
4. The Promised Messiah^{as} was to render Islam a great service at a time of great difficulty. The time is described in the most fearful terms in the Hadith. A time of

unparalleled danger, it was to shake Islam to its very foundations; then was the Promised Messiah^{as} to come and make Islam secure against its enemies.

There are certain signs of the Promised Messiah as narrated by the Holy Prophet^{sa}.

- The sign of Christian dominance is not only a sign among signs but a sign of special importance.
- ‘Islam at the time will be very weak and poor.’
- The state of morals in the time of the Promised Messiah is the increase in sexual immorality
- Excessive **gambling**
- An increase in the use of **alcoholic drinks**.

- **Regard for parents will decline and regard for friends will increase**
- A plague epidemic would appear in the world.
- **Women would outnumber men**
- The old methods of transport would disappear and their place would be taken by swifter vehicles and methods.
- **Practices of taking and giving of interest**
- **‘Muslims will become like Jews’.**
- **Gog and Magog**, would assume such tremendous power
- **the rise of the labouring classes.**
- **Eclipses of the sun and the moon** on certain dates of the month of Ramadhan.

Have all these signs, which the Holy Prophet^{sa} foretold as the signs of the Promised Messiah, occurred

together in the past, or are they likely to occur together in the future?

The answer is no. Such a large variety of signs cannot come together again and again.

The Promised Messiah is to be preceded by the Dajjal, and if it is true that the advent of the Promised Messiah is to be marked by the dominance of Christianity.

- The Dajjal is the name of a large party which, through force of numbers, will spread over the whole earth, and according to some authorities, it is **the name of a party which keeps moving from one part of the world to another the goods and material in which it trades.**

- The one-eyed Dajjal is a group or party of men devoid of spiritual vision.
- The right side in spiritual symbolism indicates religion and virtue.
- If the Dajjal is without his right eye, he symbolizes men incapable of spiritual understanding and a spiritual view of things
- The donkey of the Dajjal symbolizes the railway, the most typical of modern means of transport.
- Clouds of smoke were to be seen in front of the animal and behind it

All the signs have been fulfilled and The Promised Messiah has come blessed are indeed those who believe in him who came after Jesus (peace be upon him) in the name of the Lord.

If you want to learn more about what happened to Prophet Jesus^{as} after the crucifixion, you can read the book *Jesus in India* by The Promised Messiah^{as}. This book puts forward the view that Prophet Jesus^{as} survived crucifixion, left Judea and migrated eastward in order to continue his mission to the 'Lost Tribes of Israel', traveling through Persia and Afghanistan and eventually dying a natural and honourable death in Kashmir at an old age. The Promised Messiah^{as} applied textual analysis of both the Gospels and Islamic sources – the Quran and hadith – and also drew upon medical and historical material, including ancient Buddhist records, to argue his case.

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