

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF JESUS?

Islam & Jesus: 9 questions especially for my Muslim friends

Rahman Myers, PhD
a follower of Isa

What do you think of Jesus [pbuh] ?

Two things depend on the answer that you give to this question: 1.) your happiness in this life, and 2.) where you will spend eternity. Soon Jesus [pbuh] Christ will return, and when He does He will ask you, as He asked the Pharisees who lived in His day, "What is your opinion of Me?"

I am a Christian, and I want to be your friend. I really want you to know who Jesus [pbuh] is, and it is most important that no one should mislead you about Him. Please don't think He is just one prophet among many. No, He is unique. He is incomparable.

There is no one like Him in this life or the next.

1. **What do you think of Jesus' wonderful birth?**
2. **What do you think of His life and character?**
3. **What do you think of His words and messages?**
4. **What do you think of His names and titles?**
5. **What do you think of His power?**
6. **What do you think of His sufferings? What do you think of His death?**
7. **What do you think of His victory over death?**
8. **What do you think of His ascension back into heaven?**
9. **What do you think of His return to this earth?**

#1

What do you think of His wonderful birth?

No one else was ever born as He was. He is Jesus the son of Mary. You call Ishmael the son of Abraham, John the son of Zaharias, and Muhammad [pbuh] the son of Abdullah. All other men take the name of their father. Why did Jesus take His mother's name? Because He had no earthly father. He was born of a virgin, Mary. He was born by the power of God apart from the intervention of a man.

Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah foretold in the Bible how He would be born. "The Lord Himself will give you a sign, a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a son: (Isa. 7.14). It happened exactly as the prophet said it would (Matthew 1:18-25). God created Adam our father from clay. All of us are children of Adam and so were all the prophets.

We are of the earth. The Lord Jesus came down from heaven. He is called Manzul: the One Who descended. He was pure and clean like the snow and rain. All others are like the earth: dirty, impure, and tainted with sin.

We read that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15). He came to a foreign place. Jesus was in God's presence before He was born of Mary. He chose to come to this world to save us.

I have read in the Qur'an [in English, of course] that Jesus is called the Word of God. The Bible also calls Jesus the Word of God. It says that He always existed. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him and without Him nothing was made. And the Word became (*human*) flesh and lived among us" (*John 1:1-3*). He took a human body and became man. He came from above.

Two men once fell into a deep pit. One said to the other, "Help me out. Please get me out of this dirt and mud." The other man said, "I can't help you; I'm in the same trouble you are." They were both in the pit and neither one could help the other. Just then a man looked down into the pit. When he saw their situation, he threw them a rope and pulled them out. Only the man who wasn't in the mud could help them. He brought help from above.

The very best of the prophets could not save us from the pit of sin, but Jesus did not inherit a sinful nature. He came from above. God sent the angel Gabriel to announce His birth.

No man was ever born like Jesus. He is unique and incomparable.

#2

What do you think of Jesus' life and character?

He was perfect. He never once sinned. He never even had to ask forgiveness (*astaghafir*). Every man who fears God must confess his sin and ask forgiveness. David did. Abraham did. In fact one prophet said that he asked forgiveness seventy times a day.

You can search the Bible and the Qur'an in vain to find a single verse where Jesus asked forgiveness. He did not need to be pardoned, for He was sinless.

His closest companions wrote about Him and said, "He committed no sin." God forgave the prophets when they confessed their sin, but Jesus needed no forgiveness. He was without sin. He could even say to His enemies: "Which of you can silence me by pointing out one sin that I have done?" (*John 8:46, Arabic*)

Not one of them could point out a single sin in Jesus' life. None of us would dare to make such a challenge to our enemies! The Jews brought Jesus before the judge Pilate and falsely accused Him, but Pilate could find nothing wrong, so he washed his hands and said, "I am innocent of the blood of this righteous person." There was never another man who was sinless. He is the only prophet who was sinless from birth.

He is unique and incomparable.

#3

What do you think of His words and messages?

Once His enemies sent the police to arrest Him. They listened to His teaching and then came back without having arrested Him, saying in amazement, "No man ever spoke the way this man speaks" (*John 7:46*). Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (*John 8:12*).

An old man once explained what Jesus meant. He said, the prophets are like the moon. The moon shines in the night, and the prophets brought God's light to this poor dark world. The crescent moon is just like a prophet. It shines more each evening until it is a full moon and then wanes dimly. But never fear, a moon will come again in its place. So the prophets came one after another. One gave his message, died and passed on, then left his place to another. Every nation has some light from God.

Men's religions are like the light of a candle or the moon.

But who uses these lesser lights when the sun has risen? Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" (*John 8:12*). He is the sun of righteousness. Have you ever seen the sun grow dim and die? No, it never dies: it is for every man, in every land. Jesus is like the sun, and He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (*John 14:6*).

Now the prophets all came to point the way back to God. They said: "Obey these rules." "Do this." "Follow this teaching." "Keep the commandments." But Jesus said, "I am the way. Believe in Me."

A small boy lost his way in a big town. He was from another land and was unable to express himself clearly. He asked a policeman to tell him the way home. The police officer said to him. "Go up this Street, take the second left, then the third right, cross the bridge, go around the park and up the main road. . . ."

The boy burst into tears. The policeman had told him the right way, but the boy was too confused and scared to follow the instructions. Just then a man from the boy's village came along. He took him by the hand. When the boy was too tired to walk any longer, the man picked him up and carried him to his home. The officer showed the way, but the second man was the way.

Jesus said, "I am the way." He is the way to the Father's house.

What do you think of His wonderful invitation? He said, "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (*Matthew 11:28*). Isn't that great? No man ever spoke like this. He is unique and incomparable.

There is no one else like Him in heaven or on earth.

#4

What do you think of His names and titles?

Every prophet has his own peculiar name. In the Christian Bible Abraham is called "the friend of God." Moses is called the spokesman with God. In the Gospel (Injil) God says, "This is My beloved Son: hear Him" (*Luke 9:35*). Now whom does a man love most, his friend or his son? Right. His son.

To distinguish Him from all others, God called Jesus His Son. What did He mean? We say the son is the very image of his father. When we see Jesus, we know more about God (*John 14:9*). A son can stand in his father's place and represent him. He can speak for his father. This is what Jesus did when He was here. That is why He is called the Word of God. God spoke through Him (*Hebrews 1:3*).

**His titles are unique.
He is incomparable.**

#5

What do you think of His power? He can do everything.

All power and authority are given to Him. In fact, there is no work of God that Jesus did not do when He was on earth.

Who can raise the dead but God? Jesus raised the dead. Who can heal the leper but God? Jesus cured and cleansed the lepers. Who can walk on water? Jesus did. Who can open the eyes of the blind but God? Who can forgive sins but God? When they brought a cripple to Him, He said, "Your sins are forgiven."

The people objected, of course, So Jesus said, "In order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," then He said to the paralytic, "Rise, take up your bed and go home" (*Matthew 9:6*), and the man walked!

Jesus did all this. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life" (*John 11:25*).

The day is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice and come out. You will come out of the tomb if you are dead, so will Moses and Abraham and every other prophet. Jesus has the power over death; no other man has this power. Jesus can give you new life. What do you think of His mighty power?

**He is unique, all-powerful,
incomparable.**

#6

What do you think of His sufferings? What do you think of His death?

Do you know where you will die? Here or in another country? On the highway or in an airplane or in your bed? Do you know how you will die? Will it be through illness or by accident or by natural death? You don't know how you will die. Then perhaps you can tell be when you will die? How old will you be? On what day of the month will it be? Then what will happen after your death? You and I must admit that we do not know any of these things. God decides it all.

But the Lord Jesus knew and foretold where He would die—
at Jerusalem.

He told how He would die—
He would be murdered.

He told His disciples when He would die—
*on the feast day when everyone would be killing
a lamb to celebrate the Passover.*

He said He would die as the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world. He told them that three days after He died He would rise again. All of this happened exactly as He said it would. He knew. He was not like other men. We don't know.

But Jesus said, "No one has taken (*My life*) . . . away from me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again " (*John 10:18*). He never sinned and therefore was not compelled to die.

If Adam had not sinned, he never would have died. Jesus could have gone up to heaven without dying. But He chose to die for the sake of others. He gave His life for us. He died that we might be forgiven. He died for you. He is the Good Shepherd and He gave His life for the sheep (*John 10:11*). No man ever died as He died.

He is incomparable and unique among men.

#7

What do you think of His victory over death?

He died and men buried Him. His enemies did their best to keep Him in the tomb. They rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the grave. They sealed the stone and then surrounded the grave with armed guards (*Matthew 27:62-66*). There was no doubt that He was dead. His own mother, Mary, watched Him die. His enemies did their best to keep Him in the grave. But He arose again from the dead and showed Himself to be alive to His disciples, to Peter, to Mary, and then to over 500 people (*1 Corinthians 15:3-8*).

He rose just as He had told them He would and on the exact day He had said. God wanted everyone to know that He had accepted the death of Jesus [*pbuh*] as a substitute for our sins. After He rose from the dead, He lived among His friends for 40 days (*Acts 1:3*) and then ascended through the clouds into heaven (*Acts 1:9*). He had eaten with them and talked with them. They had touched Him and He showed them the wounds in His hands and side (*John 20:27-29*).

Death is the great enemy. You and I must die someday. The prophets died and remain dead, but Jesus (praise be to God) has conquered death. He is alive today. He is able to save all those who come to God through Him because He lives in heaven to intercede for the men he created (*Hebrews 7:24-25*). Is there any other prophet living today after having died? Christ alone rose from the dead. He is unique and incomparable.

There is no one like Him either on earth or in heaven.

#8

What do you think of His ascension?

If I were to ask a group of Jewish men whom they would like to occupy the highest place in heaven, they would all say Moses, If I were to ask Muslims, they would say Muhammad. If I were to ask Christians, they would say Jesus. However, God did not consult either Jews, or Muslims, or Christians.

Jesus ascended into heaven after He rose from the dead. He is with God in heaven today.

God has sovereignly exalted Jesus and given Him the one Name that is above every Name (*Philippians 2:9-11*). The Name Jesus means "God, Who Saves."

Every proud knee must bow to Him.

#9

What do you think of His return to this earth?

He is coming back again. He said so. "In My Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you; and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again. . . .that were I am there you may be also" (*John 14:2,3*). The angels also said that He would return! "This same Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, will return in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven" (*Acts 1:11*).

All true Christians are waiting for Him. Muslims know that He is coming back to reign. He is coming to take His own people (umma) to be with Him in heaven. He is coming to reign over the whole earth; He is our king. He must reign until all enemies have been put under His feet for 1000 years (*Revelation 20:3*)! The Bible says so.

Everyone will then admit that He is King. You and I will stand before Him. He will be the Judge. When we see Him face to face,

He will ask us: "What do you think of Me?" What will you say? If you say, "You are just one of the many prophets," you will be condemned (*John 3:18*) because you have believed that He is just a man when really

He is incomparable.

What will you tell Jesus when He returns to earth?

God will ask us if we have trusted in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins or whether we have sought to buy forgiveness with our good deeds and prayers.

He is the only Savior. The Lord Jesus is the Judge and He is coming back. God raised Him from the dead and He ascended to heaven. Every eye will see Him.

He is unique.

What will you do with this man, Jesus? If you believe that He loves you and died in your place to pay for your sins, you have eternal life with Him in the Father's house. He is your Savior.

If you reject Him and call Him a mere man, He comes as your judge.

written by Dr. Rahman Myers, a follower of Isa.
*My Arabic name was given to me by
 my Muslim friend, Imam Ibrahim.
 In Indonesia, Rahman means "blessing."*

based on a lecture by Dr. Charles Marsh.