

# CHRISTIAN ANSWERS

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## USING THE WORD OF GOD IN MUSLIM EVANGELISM



John Gilchrist

Christian expert on the Islamic religion, speaks and reads Arabic, and is a published author of numerous books.

### PART 1

Muslim evangelism is one of the toughest fields of Christian witness. During the last two centuries Christians have sought to win Muslims to Christ, only to find that it is extremely difficult to persuade the sons of Islam that Jesus Christ should be their Lord and Savior. In recent times mission agencies and Christian evangelists have proposed numerous methods guaranteed to make Muslim evangelism work, namely, to bring about the desired results. Friendship evangelism, relational evangelism, contextualization, felt-needs approaches—they're all part of a catalogue of methodologies presented as the best way of effectively reaching Muslims for Christ. Planting churches among Muslims has become a subject of study, discussion and practical expression in many areas before any form of evangelism has even started. Results are the desired goal and, if possible, in sufficient numbers to establish Muslim convert churches.

Different methods of evangelism are one thing, promoting these in turn as the *only* ways Muslims can be reached is another. On the back cover of her book *Waging Peace on Islam* Christine Mahhouhi says, "When Muslims are skeptical of our creed, confused by our message and wounded by our warfare, the most credible witness left is our lives. Muslims need to see

Jesus, and the only way most of them will see him is in us." Bill and Jane, missionaries in a Islamic environment who are not further identified, state in Phil Parshall's book *The Last Great Frontier*: "If the status quo is to change, a new way must be found whereby Muslims can come to Christ in the context of their own culture and community" (p. 178).

The intense resistance of most Muslims to the Gospel has driven many Christians to finding alternative ways of reaching them for Christ, ways that appear more likely to produce the desired results. In consequence a variety of different methods have been proposed, invariably coupled with dogmatic assertions, such as "this is the only way" or, alternatively, "we need a new way!" While the simple preaching of the Gospel has won over many millions of Hindus and other people to Christ, it seems to hit a brick wall with Muslims, hence the search for other methods apparently more guaranteed to bring about the desired end.

I recently listened to a Sunday morning sermon in my home church where the preacher stated very simply, "You cannot build the kingdom of God. Only God can. You can only reflect it through your witness and life." That, to me, puts it in a nutshell. As the Psalmist put it so straightforwardly:

*Unless the Lord builds the house,  
they labor in vain who build it.*  
-Psalm 127:1

The field of Muslim evangelism tries and tests Christians very severely at this point. Are they going to trust God to do his own renewing work in calling out the sons of Ishmael to faith in Jesus Christ, or are they going to force the issue by finding human ways of persuading Muslims to become believers, often through methodologies

which seem to dilute the costs of true discipleship? The Apostle Paul was very conscious of the fact that only God, through His Spirit, can draw anyone to Himself and so he said to the believers in Corinth:

*I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.*  
-I Cor. 3:6

Jesus Christ Himself delivered a parable which makes the very same point. While surrounded by his twelve disciples and many others who listened favorably to his teachings, He said:

*The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed upon the ground, and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he knows not how. The earth produces of itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.*  
-Mark 4:26-29

God alone can give the growth. God alone can build the house. The man who plants, waters and reaps knows not how the seed sprouts and grows. God alone knows. Muslim evangelism needs a return to the simple witness of the Gospel, a one-on-one sharing of the great truths of the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. There is a biblical means of sharing the Gospel with Muslims. You can use the Word of God to effectively communicate the great truths of our faith to willing Muslim hearers. It guarantees no results, however, it will show how to witness to the grace of God in Jesus Christ from the pages of Scripture. The results are left up to God.

Over twenty years, in the

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*"exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9)*

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Publisher
CHRISTIAN ANSWERS OF AUSTIN, TX
P.O. Box 144441
Austin, TX 78714
Phone (512) 218-8022
Director/Editor
Larry Wessels
Director of Research
Steve Morrison, Ph.D.
E-mail Address:
cdebater@aol.com
Websites:
www.biblequery.org
www.historycart.com
www.muslimhope.com

THE GOSPEL IN BRIEF

There is one, and only one, eternal, true, holy God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Matt 28:19). He created everything by His word. God has told us the truth about Himself in the word He has given us, the Bible, which He commands us to obey. God is compassionate and just to all. God is pure and Holy; sin is destroyed in His presence (Numbers 14:18). However, we have all sinned, falling short in the evil we do, and the good we fail to do. Yet our problem is not just what we do, but also who we are; we are selfish, corrupt, and estranged from God. Because God is just, He will punish sin impartially, yet God still bestows his love to all men. So our Savior, Jesus, the only begotten Son of God (the God-man, John 1:1,14), was graciously sent to suffer and die on the cross for our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness by the sacrifice of His body and blood. He was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and was physically raised from the dead and ascended into heaven. Jesus will physically return to judge the world. God commands everyone to repent and to believe in Him. God's Spirit lives in each of us who believe in Him to guide us into truth, convict us of our sins, and to work in us to sanctify us to live a more holy life, pleasing our Lord. God's children will dwell forever with God, and those who reject Jesus will suffer eternal torment. There is no other way for anyone to come to God except through Jesus (Jn. 14:6). Please do not depend on anyone else, your own efforts, your religion, but simply put your faith in Christ our Master. So as Rom. 10:9 says, "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart the God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." You are urged not to despise God's mercy but call out to the Lord and trust ONLY in Him.

(See also Acts 10:36-43)

THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR



Larry Wessels

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ! Finally, since the start of this ministry back in the summer of 1994, I have desired to put out a newsletter that covered the religion of Islam. Islam, as most know, is one of the world's fastest growing religions. In fact, demographic studies indicate that by the year 2050, there will be more Muslims in Western Europe than all other religions. Globally, Islam continues to spread not only in Europe but everywhere.

Soon, it seems, there will be more mosques in Europe than traditional Christian churches. Part of the reason for this is that birth control is severe among European non-Muslims while the Muslims themselves continue to have lots of kids. Pure escalating population statistics give the Muslims the advantage.

Also crucial to this situation is the fact that the existing European Christian church is weak and impotent, hardly devoted to sound Biblical doctrine or principles, let alone being able to deal effectively with alien religions and worldviews. Since this shallow "Christian" church can barely convince its own people that Christianity is true and valid, it follows that it is likewise too beggarly to convince anyone else of the truth of the Christian Gospel. Thus Islam marches on ever expanding with limp religious opposition.

One reason I have delayed putting out a newsletter on this subject for so long is simply because I wanted to amass a volume of quality Christian apologetic material to properly arm the Christian evangelist or layperson to be able to do an effective witness for Christ with the Muslim community. Over the years we have been able to produce over 40 hours of Christian television programming just dealing with the topic of Islam alone. Steve Morrison, our Director of Research, has created an amazing website dealing with Islam entitled, www.muslimhope.com. We now have in place tracts, pamphlets, CDs, DVDs, books, etc. to help equip the saints for ministry in the Islamic field.

As you read the newspaper or watch the news on TV you can see that the world in general is becoming increasingly anti-Christian and more paganized. Christians should get in the battle for the cause of Christ and truth. Why sit on the sidelines and do nothing while the world goes to hell? If you do not want to get involved personally you can at least financially help us or others who do the work and thereby partake in this mission.

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN ANSWERS ?

Our ministry name is derived in part from I Peter 3:15 which states, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." (KJV). This is the goal of Christian Answers in an increasingly anti-Christian society here in America and throughout the world; giving answers and reasons why the Christian faith can be trusted and believed. Christians are to know what they believe and why they believe it.

The Biblical commands to "fight the good fight of faith" (I Tim. 6:12), to be "set for the defense of the gospel" (Phil. 1:17), to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3), to "be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9), to "put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not" (Rev. 2:2), to "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matt. 7:15), to "examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good" (I Thess. 5:21), "with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth" (? Tim. 2:25), to follow the example of Paul and Apollos who "vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was Christ." (Acts 18:28). These are but a few of the marching orders for the call to ministry, discernment and evangelism.

The inerrant Word of God (? Tim. 3:16-17) whereby the gospel is preached, which is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth" (Rom. 1:16), is the weapon of our evangelism. As Hebrews 4:12 states, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow: it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." This is the evangelical missionary methodology of Christian Answers— to bring the Biblical perspective to a culture that is almost completely ignorant of it; to bring Christian truth, Christian answers to those who, as the prophet Isaiah said, have made "lies...and falsehood" their refuge (Isa. 28:15); to smash lies and falsehoods with the "hammer" of God's word (Jer. 23:29); see also Proverbs 30:5-6, Psalm 138:2b, Isaiah 40:8, John 5:39-47, I Cor. 14:37, and Acts 17:11.

Christian Answers utilizes all outreach that God allows us including television, radio, audio cassettes, video tapes, speaking engagements, and the printed page. The materials we have been able to produce have been used by churches, Bible teachers, Christian apologists, laymen and others as well as those seeking life in Christ.

We are not afraid to stand up for Jesus Christ in public forums or wherever the Lord leads. Of course this type of ministry is not for the faint of heart and very often leads to the same type of suffering and persecution that we find in the book of Acts. But as the old saying goes, "one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last," and as Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:14), knowing this mortal life is short and God's eternity is only a moment away for all.

Our ministry is "exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501 (c) (3) by the Internal Revenue Service". Donations to our ministry are tax deductible, therefore those who contribute will receive a donation receipt good on your US income tax. This applies to donations only, not sales. We are legally registered in the state of Texas.

nineteen-seventies and eighties, I was privileged to be part of a special group of Christians seeking to share the Gospel with Muslims in our province in South Africa, the Transvaal. The province no longer exists for the provincial maps of South Africa have dramatically changed in the past ten years, but the Transvaal was the northernmost province sandwiched between Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. About 50,000 Muslims lived within its borders and we visited them from home to home in every city and town, covering virtually every Muslim home in the province excepting Lenasia near Johannesburg, where the largest Muslim community lives, which we only partially evangelized. There were results, but the theme is using the Word of God effectively in reaching Muslims for Christ.

*For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.* -Hebrews 4:12

We also learned, however, from the pages of Scripture itself, that the most constructive way of using the Bible in witnessing to Muslims is to base our witness on the points of belief that we share in common with them, and to build a Gospel message on these subjects of common ground. We will now look at this in more detail.

### Paul's Examples from the Book of Acts

When Paul went into the Jewish synagogues scattered throughout Greece and Asia Minor, he was able to freely argue with all present, explaining and proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah. When he arrived at Athens, however, and looked around the city, he found himself in a very different environment. The city was full of idols and its markets were frequented regularly by Epicurean, Stoic and other philosophers. He was no longer on his own turf. How did he evangelize people from a totally different nation, culture and religious heritage? When he stood on the great Areopagus and was challenged to present his message to the locals who regarded what he had already preached as a strange new teaching, he began:

*Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.* -Acts 17:22-23

There are two important lessons to be grasped from this brief passage. Firstly, Paul made himself acquainted with the beliefs of the people he sought to evangelize. The best way of getting the impact of this principle is to accentuate certain words in his first sentence: "I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription." Paul took time to familiarize himself with the background of the people he wished to reach. He perceived, as he passed by he also observed, and as he did so he found an altar.

In Muslim evangelism the Christian must learn as much as he can about the beliefs and practices of those he desires to reach. It is essential to learn the Muslim Qur'an and important parts of the Islamic Hadith. Then he can communicate sensitively, effectively and intelligently with them.

The second point, which arises out of the first one, is the need to seek for common ground with Muslims in their beliefs, especially those which agree with our own beliefs and scriptural teachings. Paul did this and you will find much power in witnessing when you do the same. "What you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you," Paul declared.

A very fine example of how Jesus himself used this approach is found in his famous conversation with the woman of Samaria. She came every day from the town of Sychar to draw water from Jacob's well which was some distance away from it. Like the other inhabitants she had no choice. Samaria is a semi-desert region and the well was the town's lifeblood. When Jesus spoke to her of his own life-giving powers:

*Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst, the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.* John 4:13

Jesus spoke right into the con

text of her immediate presence. She had to come every day to the well to draw water (this very routine testified to the well's limited usefulness,) but Jesus could place within her a well of limitless resources which would carry her through to eternal life. Here you can see how well the Gospel can be communicated when it is presented against the background of what the Muslim already believes and the various religious contexts in which you may find him.

There is also a third important lesson we can learn from Paul, this time in his arguments with the Jews in the local synagogues. He argued with them from the scriptures (Acts 17:2). He did not resort to illustrations, theological discourses or human reasoning, useful though these may be at times. He based his messages on the Word of God which, as we have already seen, is the best foundation for a positive witness. It is the sword of the Spirit, it is living and active, it penetrates the very depths of soul and spirit, and it is God's best instrument for drawing unbelievers to the Gospel of his Son.

A word in closing at this point seems appropriate. Paul worked from the power of his best source, the Word of God, with the Spirit of God as his witness to confirm his message, but he did this in the way the Bible itself does it. Our holy book, as Hebrews says, pierces to the division of souls and spirit, of joints and marrow. Primarily the Christian witness is not an attempt to persuade people to believe in the truth of the Gospel, it is, first and foremost, a call to men and women everywhere to be reconciled to God in their inner beings through faith in Jesus Christ. The Word of God x-rays the human heart, it analyses our emotions, it challenges our indulgent distractions, it reshapes our hearts and minds, and it confronts the inner man.

Just as we had to confront our own sinfulness and repent of it to become true disciples of Jesus, so Muslims too must come to him in true repentance. It is not simply a shift of allegiance from Muhammad to Jesus. It is also a turning from darkness to light, from self-centeredness to Christ-centeredness, from spiritual death to eternal life. Ever since the fall of Adam the call of God has been to renewal, and a genuine Biblical witness will expose the Muslim

heart as well as his mind and redirect him to a living hope in God's perfect Savior, his Son Jesus Christ. With a love for Muslims and the power of God's Word in your hands, you too can be God's own messenger to bring many of them to salvation, the saving grace of God which we know is found in the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

## Jesus, Unique in the Qur'an and the Bible

### 1. The Virgin-Birth of Jesus

The Bible records the unique conception of Jesus by a virgin woman, Mary, as a fulfillment of a prophecy, seven centuries earlier, that such an event would occur and that the son to be born would be known as Immanuel, namely "God with us" (Isaiah 7:14). The annunciation to Mary is recorded:

*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O Favored one, the Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at the saying and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus."*  
-Luke 1:26-31

When Mary replied, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" the angel explained that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and that the power of the Most High would overshadow her, giving her the miracle of a virgin-birth. Matthew's Gospel also covers this subject, though here it is Joseph's role that is focused on after Mary had already become pregnant. When he thought she had been unfaithful to him and resolved to put her away quietly, the Angel Gabriel also appeared to him and confirmed that she had conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18-21).

The Qur'an also records the vision to Mary and the virgin-birth of Jesus in two passages. The first reads: *When the angels said, "O Mary! Allah announces to you a Word from himself, whose name is the Messiah, Jesus, son*

*of Mary, and to be honored in this world and the hereafter, and of those who draw near. He will speak to the people in his infancy and in maturity, and will be one of the righteous." She said, "How shall I bear a son when no one has touched me?" He replied, "Even so, Allah creates what he wills. When he decrees a matter, he only says to it Be! And it comes to be." Surah 3:45-47*

In the second passage, the annunciation is dealt with in more detail and Mary is promised that her son will be a revelation for mankind and a mercy from Allah (Surah 19:16-22). If one had to ask why Jesus should be born in such a unique way, as no other human being has ever been so conceived, the Qur'an gives a clear answer. She was to conceive Jesus in a special way because there was to be something unique and special about her son. The virgin-birth is given constant emphasis in the Muslim scripture in the title it gives consistently to Jesus, namely *ibn Maryam*, the son of Mary. No other woman is named in the Qur'an.

### 2. The Sinlessness of Jesus

According to the Bible Jesus is the only person who ever lived who was entirely without sin. The book charges all men, from Adam onwards, as being under the power of sin (Romans 3:9) and as having sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Only Jesus is excepted. A typical passage declaring his absolute integrity read:

*He committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips. -I Peter 2:22*

Other passages confirm this. God made him to be sin, who knew no sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him (II Corinthians 5:21). We know that Jesus appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin (I John 3:5). The Qur'an, too, declares that Jesus was without sin. When the Angel Jibril (Gabriel) appeared to Mary to announce her conception of Jesus, he said:

*I am only a messenger of your Lord, to announce to you a faultless son.*  
-Surah 19:19

The words used in Arabic to describe him are *ghulaaman-zakiyyan*, "a most-holy boy." The word *zakiyya*, meaning "blameless," appears only twice in the Qur'an. The other occasion is in a story about Moses in which he was on

a journey with an unnamed companion who had been sent to guide him into deeper knowledge and understanding. At length they met a young man and his companion, known in Islam as al-Khidr, "the Green One," a mysterious figure who is said to appear to holy men from time to time, immediately slew him without giving any reason for doing so. Moses asked why he had slain an innocent person who had not slain anyone else? The companion ordered him to be patient, to which Moses responded that he should not have questioned him."

The word for "innocent," in this context again meaning blameless, is *zakiyya*. Moses was only referring to the young man's innocence of any crime deserving death, but, in Jesus' case, the angel was describing his whole personality and character before he was even born. "Faultless," or blameless, clearly means without sin. So the Qur'an confirms the Biblical teaching that Jesus was the only sinless person who would ever live as the Qur'an nowhere described anyone else in this way. On the contrary, the Qur'an acknowledges the sins of the other prophets and specifically refers to the sins of Adam (Surah 7:23), Abraham (26:82), Moses (28:16), Jonah (37:142) and Muhammad (47:19, 48:2). In the case of Muhammad the Qur'an expressly commands him to ask forgiveness (*wastaghfir*) of his sins (*dhanbika*). The words used are employed throughout the Qur'an in the same context and there can be no doubt about their meaning, despite the subtle attempts of many Muslim commentators to reduce them to less imposing terms (such as to ask for "protection" from his "shortcomings").

### 3. The Ascension of Jesus to Heaven

The New Testament teaches, again, that after his resurrection from the dead, Jesus ascended to heaven in bodily form. The narrative recording this even reads as follows:

*And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way*

*as you saw him go into heaven.”*

*-Acts 1:9-11*

In other passages the New Testament teaches that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God (Colossians 3:1), that God made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule, authority, power and dominion (Ephesians 1:21) and that he taught that he was to return to heaven whence he had originally come (John 6:62, 16:28). The Qur'an only has one statement to confirm the ascension of Jesus but it has been enough to convince Muslims throughout the world that he is there to this day, alive in the very presence of Allah. The text reads:

*But Allah took him up to himself.*

*Surah 4:158*

This statement is made in contrast to the claim of the Jews that they had killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, and Muslims believe he was rescued from crucifixion and taken to heaven without dying. Despite the different circumstances, both the Qur'an and the Bible teach the ascension of Jesus, alive and in bodily form, from earth to heaven. Significantly, the only Hadith records mentioning the destiny of Jesus agree without exception that Jesus was taken to heaven.

#### 4. The Second Coming of Jesus

The last significant feature about Jesus, where the Qur'an and the Bible are in agreement, is his return to the earth from heaven at the end of time. It is one of the grandest and most extensive subjects of the prophetic texts of the New Testament as the following quotes show:

*Then will appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.* -

*Matthew 24:30*

*For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.* -

*I Thess. 4:16*

*Behold he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, everyone who pierced him; and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. -Revelations 1:7*

According to the Bible Jesus will return from heaven at the end of

time in his glory, with all His holy angels with Him, and will bring the Day of Judgment. All the nations will be gathered before Him and He will separate them, to glory or destruction, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:32). The Qur'an, once again, only deals with this subject in one verse but it has led to a consensus throughout the Muslim world that Jesus will one day return from heaven to earth. The text reads:

*And he shall be a sign for the hour.*

*-Surah 43:61*

The verse can be literally translated, "And there is knowledge (ilm) of the hour (saah)" and it can be argued that the return of Jesus is rather arbitrarily read into the text, yet many of the companions of Muhammad in his lifetime confirmed that he taught that there is a specific allusion to the return of Jesus shortly before the hour of judgment in this verse, including Ibn Abbas, Hasan and Qatawa. Hadith records confirm the return of Jesus, one of which teaches that he will institute a reign of peace (Sahih Muslim, Vol. 1, pg. 93). Another teaches that Jesus will return to receive the homage of all the peoples: Jews, Christians and Muslims, in fulfillment of Surah 4:159 (Sahih al-Bukhari, Vol. 4, pg. 137).

Yet another teaches that he is alive in heaven, will return as a ruler of the whole earth, and will then die like all other living beings (Ibn Sa'd, *Kitab al-Tabaqat al-Kabir*; Vol. 1, p.47). Muslims, generally, believe that he will land on a minaret of the great mosque in Damascus, that he will lead the whole world to follow Islam, will die after forty years, and will be buried next to Muhammad in his grave in Medina. There are once again differences between Christianity and Islam in their interpretations of what will happen when Jesus returns, but both believe in the second coming and base that belief on the teachings of the Bible and the Qur'an respectively.

#### Implications of the Uniqueness of Jesus

We have outlined four features in the life of Jesus which are taught in both books. What can we learn from them, and can Christians find effective points of witness here to Muslims? I personally believe that this gives the best foundation from the New Testa

ment. These four features show, firstly, that Jesus was quite unique in the history of mankind and, secondly, that this uniqueness implies singular greatness such as no other prophet or figurehead has ever possessed.

The **virgin-birth** of Jesus was unique. No one else was ever born without a father. What, we need to ask, was the reason for this exceptional birth? God, surely, does not do unusual things arbitrarily if they are unnecessary. Something must have required that Jesus be born in this way. To put it simply, there must have been something unique about Jesus himself. In both the Bible and the Qur'an Mary is described as the greatest among women:

*Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.*

*Luke 1:42*

**And when the angels said, O Mary!**

**Surely Allah has chosen you and purified you, and preferred you above the women of the world. Surah 3:42**

Why is Mary exalted in these passages above all other women? It is because she was the mother of Jesus, because she mothered the greatest among men. There was something unique about her son that made it necessary for him to be born of a virgin woman. The reason was given by Jesus himself. He was not an ordinary man born in the normal course of procreation. He taught, he had existed in the heavens before the foundation of the universe and had witnessed the fall of Satan (Luke 10:18).

He taught that he had come down from heaven (John 6:62), and that he came from the Father into the world and would leave the world and return to the Father (John 16:28).

This is why he was born of a virgin woman. He pre-existed his earthly life, had come into the world from heaven and had assumed human form. He had, therefore, a unique beginning to his life, just as it would end in a unique way. He came from heaven and would return there. Jesus himself drew a sharp contrast between himself and all other men when he said to the Jews, "You are from below, I am from above. You are of this world, I am not of this world" (John 8:23). Here you can show Muslims that Jesus is different from, and, indeed, superior to, all the prophets who went before him.

In

what way, however, was he greater than all other men? The Angel Gabriel gave the answer when he said to Mary:

*He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High...therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. Luke 1:32, 35*

Adam was created from dust and all other men, prophets and patriarchs included, have been made from the same dust. Jesus, however, was conceived solely by the Spirit of God because he is the Son of God. Here you can show Muslims very emphatically why Jesus had to be born of a virgin woman. Muslims can give no other answer to his unique birth than to say it was by the power and the word of God (Surah 3:59). They cannot explain the reasons why Jesus, and particularly Jesus, alone should be born so uniquely. It was a very unique event and must have had a unique cause.

That cause is the fact that Jesus is the eternal Son of God, who pre-existed all men, who became the Son of man, the man Christ Jesus.

He was also unique in his sinlessness. Not only does the Bible regard all other human beings who have ever existed as sinners, implicated in the sin of the first man Adam, but the Hadith records also state that Muhammad regarded all human beings as sinners other than Jesus. In the first chapter we met his statement "Every son of Adam is a sinner" (Sunan Ibn Majah, Vol. 5, pg. 489) and here is another to the same effect:

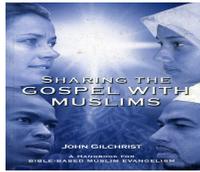
*Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (saw) as saying: The satan touches every son of Adam on the day when his mother gives birth to him with the exception of Mary and her*

*son.*

*Sahih Muslim, Vol. 4, pg. 1261*

Why would Jesus alone be sinless among men? Again the Muslim world can give no reason for this. Muslims may respond by saying to you that all prophets had some unique features, but, in the case of Jesus, we find that his uniqueness is personal to himself, that is, that he himself is unique in his birth, sinlessness, ascension and second coming. There is no comparison here with any other prophet. All of these unique features, spanning the origin of his life, its conclusion and final destiny, are found in him alone. You need to impress Muslims with these unique distinctions concerning Christ.

**This article will be continued in the next Christian Debater Guide**



### **SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH MUSLIMS**

(by John Gilchrist)

John Gilchrist writes from over twenty years of personal outreach to Muslims in South Africa. He has always believed that the most effective way of reaching Muslims with the Gospel is to base our witness on the Word of God which is living and active, sharper than any two-edge sword. The examples given in this book were learned and shared in hundreds of Muslim homes during this period.

*Sharing the Gospel with Muslims* takes you on a journey through the Bible, revealing ways of effectively witnessing to Muslims from points of common ground between our respective faiths. This is truly a Biblical manual of resources for Muslim evangelism.

**BK-65 \$16.00 (160 pages)**

### **JOHN GILCHRIST SPEAKS**

John Gilchrist lectures on these subjects:

\* **Heaven in the Bible and In the Qur'an**

The Biblical heaven is much different than the "paradise" mentioned in the Qur'an.

**AC-344 (or CD), \$3.00, (60 Min.)**

\* **The Textual History of the Qur'an- Early Evidences of its Collection**

How was the Qur'an put together?

**AC-345 (or CD), \$3.00, (60 Min.)**

### **WITNESSING TO MUSLIMS**



Angry Muslim students debate Christian speakers on campus.

Larry Wessels hosts an introductory presentation on the subject of Islam. The "Pillars of Islam" and other Muslim basics are revealed to help the Christian better understand how to witness to Muslim friends, neighbors, and others. Fascinating debate footage with Muslim students on a college campus is included.

**VT or DVD-46, \$6.00 (2 hrs)**

### **ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY**

This laminated pamphlet compares basic beliefs between Islam and Christianity.

**PAM-26, \$6.00, (12 pages)**

## **ISLAM UPDATE**

**Libyan leader Mu'ammar Al-Qadhafi declares that Europe and the U.S. should agree to become Islamic or else declare war on the Muslims.**

**A Turkish film, "Valley of the Wolves" is drawing hundreds of thousands of viewers by promoting racist, anti-American and anti-Semitic rhetoric.**

**Pakistani immigrant convicted in plotting to blow up one of Manhattan's busiest subway stations.**

**Islamists using U.S. video games in appeal to have Muslim youths take up arms against the U.S.**

**Sheik Nasser bin Suleiman Al-Omar on Arab satellite network Al-Jazeera declares global Jihad against the U.S. and says soon Islam will comprise one-third of the earth's population.**

*Those wishing to obtain the full articles to these headlines may order them by sending \$3.00 + shipping & handling, and*

### **Can Believing in the Muslim Religion Send Someone to HELL ?**

Steve Morrison, PhD and Larry Wessels take the viewer through the following topics: 1. **The Origins of Islam**, 2. **Is the Quran From God?**, 3. **Bukhari Hadiths of Islam**, 4. **Answering Muslim Questions**, 5. **Questions Christians Ask**, 6. **Is Islam a Religion of Peace?**, 7. **The Changes in the Quran**, 8. **The Forgery of the Gospel of Barnabas**.

An indepth review of well documented key aspects of Islam from a Christian perspective. This series has played on public access television since 2001 and has not been challenged by the Muslim community as of yet. Excellent for use with study groups and Evangelism teams.

**VT or DVD-80, \$24.00 (8 hrs)**

### **TRACT PACK: MUSLIMS, ISLAM**

This tract pack includes the following:

**Is the Quran from God #1-3, Origins of Islam, Answers to Response from Origin of Islam tract, The Bukhari Hadiths, The 'Alewites, Battery-Powered Messiah, The Fallen Nature of Man in Islam and**

**Challenging the Quran, The Gospel of Barnabas.**

## TOPICAL VIDEOS

Hear experts and apologists analyze these topics (perfect for study groups or as a witnessing tool to share with others). You may choose any four of the 30 minute videos below for the single price of \$6.00. Catalog identification is CATV. For example, if you wish to order Bahaism, "Church of Christ", Mormonism, and Islam; list on order form as CATV- 1, 13, 8, and 2. Four videos on one VHS tape for one low price of \$6.00. DVD copies of these topics are only available in increments of 4: #1-#4, #5-#8, #9-#12, #13-#16, #17-#20, #21-#24 only, with no variation, \$6.00 each.

1. Bahaism (Dr. Frank Beckwith)
2. Islam (Dr. Samuel Shahid)
3. Buddhism (Steve Morrison)
4. Hinduism/Reincarnation (Mark Cass)
5. Roman Catholicism (Richard Bennett)
6. Jehovah's Witnesses #1 (Larry Wessels)
7. Jehovah's Witnesses #2 (Larry Wessels)
8. Mormonism (Robert McKay)
9. Word-Faith Heresy #1 (Dr. Michael Horton)
10. Word-Faith Heresy #2 (Dr. Michael Horton)
11. Seventh-day Adventism #1 (Wallace Slattery)
12. Seventh-day Adventism #2 (Wallace Slattery)
13. The "Church of Christ" (Bob L. Ross)
14. Liberal Christianity #1 (Morrison & Wessels)
15. Liberal Christianity #2 (Morrison & Wessels)
16. Atheism (Larry Wessels)
17. Nation of Islam (Wilford Darden)
18. United Pentecostals (Steve Morrison)
19. Unification (Moonies) (Morrison & Wessels)
20. Demon Possession (Dr. Thomas Ice)
21. Roman Catholicism #1 (Rob Zins)
22. Roman Catholicism #2 (Rob Zins)
23. The Da Vinci Code (Morrison & Wessels)
24. Darwin's Evolution Religion (Dr. M. Girouard)

## THE SAHIIH MUSLIM HADITHS

Dr. Steve Morrison and Larry Wessels expose little known teachings as found in one of Islam's authoritative hadith collections, the *Sahih Muslim*. Amazing doctrines concerning legalism, lost surahs, women, and other topics are revealed. Islamic teachings clearly indicate that the Islamic god is not the Biblical God.

**Program #1: Legalism, Lost Suras, And Women.**

**Program #2: Muslim Miscellaneous**

**VT (VHS) or DVD-87, \$6.00 + S&H, 2 Hrs.**

These two audio tapes (or CDs) are free with \$25 order or donation (check boxes if you want them):

- Parable of the Ten Virgins— Gerstner (RP-76)       Discussions with Mormon Missionaries (AC-45)

## Legalism In Islam

You have to take off your shoes in a specific order. *Sahih Muslim* 3:5231, p.1154.

Do not drink while standing, unless it is Zamzam water. *Sahih Muslim* 3:5014-5027, p.1116-1118.

After eating you should not wipe your hand until you have either licked your fingers or give them to someone else to lick. *Sahih Muslim* 3:5037-5042, p.1119-1120.

Spit to the left, not right. *Sahih Muslim* 4:7149b, p.1546.

An example of one of the hundreds of power point charts used in our many Islam videos. Specific documentation of all Islamic sources and teachings are provided in this way.

# Christian Answers Order Form

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**Topic: Reaching Muslims**  
page 1: Muslim Evangelism #1  
page 2: Thoughts from Director  
page 6: Islam Update  
page 8: Letters from the Frontline

*“exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict” (Titus1:9)*

**LETTERS FROM THE FRONTLINE**

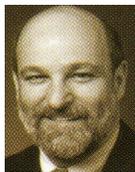


To whom it may concern,

Please mail a free copy of the Atheist Debate (catalog VT-130). \$2.00 enclosed is for shipping & handling. Thank you for your wonderful ministry. Keep up the good work. Jesus bless you.  
S.W. (Nampa, ID)

Hello Larry,

Thank you for continuing to send me your *Christian Answers* paper. I always read and benefit from it. I'm wondering if I might have your permission to quote and/or BRIEFLY excerpt part of Steve Morrison's article on "The Da Vinci Code vs. The Facts" in one of our upcoming thoughtletters, with proper credit of course. I tried to open it on your biblequery.org site but got an error message for some reason. Perhaps you can e-mail me just the text of the article. Thank you for all the work that you and Steve are doing. In the service of Christ our Lord.  
D.W. (from the web)



**Darrell L. Bock, Ph.D.**  
Professor of New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary and author of *Breaking the Da Vinci Code* and *Those Other Gospels*.

Dr. Bock will be speaking at Dayspring Chapel, 5500 Avenue G, in Austin, Texas on September 22 (Friday night, 7:00-9:00pm) and 23 (Saturday morning, 9:00am-2:30pm with lunch break). This will be a seminar directed toward defending the Bible's trustworthiness, answering the charge of a church "cover-up" about Jesus (a la *The Da Vinci Code*), and demonstrating the lack of credibility of the newly discovered Gnostic so-called "gospels." This seminar is free and all are welcome. Please call (512) 451-0116 for directions to the building or for more information.

Dear Larry,

"I love your TV programs. You know a whole lot about the Bible. You should be very proud. Thank you very much. God bless you."  
A.L. (Austin, TX)

Brothers in Christ,

"I received your "Weeklong Church of Christ Debate" with Bob L. Ross vs. Bill Jackson last week and I just wanted to let you know that it is very good! Keep up the great work.  
M.R. (Newark, CA)

Dear Christian Answers,

As the song *Peace in the Valley* says, "As I am weary I must go along," remember this as you battle for the truth. Remember even only one soul saved is worth a life of sacrifice.  
B.K. (Austin, TX)

To: www.biblequery.org,

What a joy it was to find this site! I am relieved and encouraged by the answers to the many questions. I have had questions and I am enjoying reading everything! Please keep up the great work and may God bless you. Know this: the Bible states that "today is the day of salvation". Which way will you choose? Smoking or Non-smoking? Jesus is the only way to make Heaven your home.  
A.H. (from the web)

Dear Christian Answers,

We notice "Seventh-Day Adventism" listed in your list of videos. Recently a good friend joined this group. To us it seems erroneous. What is really wrong with this religion?

Do you have any literature on Seventh-Day Adventism?

We have a desire to be educated on this topic but we do not have a video viewer or DVD player - we would like printed information. Thank you. In service for Christ.

M.N. (Curtiss, WI)

Christian Answers' Website CD is free for the asking.

*Christian Debater Guide*

**Ministry Alert**



**Volume 4, Number 2**  
*Christian Debater Guide.*

It has come to our attention that a significant number or our mailing list readers did not receive our *Da Vinci Code* newsletter which was mailed out by the thousands in early May of this year. We have become greatly concerned about this since each newsletter we mail out usually generates enough finance in terms of contributions and orders to offset expenses involved in producing and mailing the newsletter. Unfortunately, this particular mailing, we experienced a serious shortfall of revenue which has hindered our standard operations.

Our bulk mailer informed us that he was missing hundreds of names in the last mail out but he could not tell us who these names were or why this event even occurred. We will be carefully monitoring this situation for future mailings.

We depend on our faithful supporters to help us out financially but how can they if they do not receive our correspondence? If you did not receive the *Da Vinci Code* newsletter back in May, please call, write, or e-mail us and we'll send you a free copy. God bless you all. Thank you kindly for any help that may be rendered also.