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Parents Section (after p33)

Hannah

Our story starts with a very special lady called Hannah. She was a good, kind woman who worshipped Allah.

Hannah made a special dua to Allah for a child. She also made a promise to Allah that if she has a baby, she will put the child in the service of Masjid Al-Aqsa, in Jerusalem.

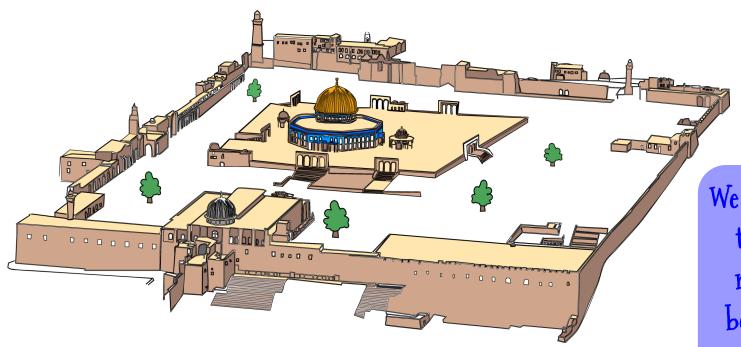
Allah answered Hannah's dua and soon Allah gave her a wonderful baby girl, whom she named Maryam ...
Hannah was so happy that her dua had come true.





However, Hannah was really worried because she had made a promise to Allah that she would put her baby in the service of Masjid Al-Aqsa.

In those days, girls were not given in service of Masjid Al-Aqsa. It was a tradition that it had to be a boy.



So this made Hannah very worried. How would she fulfil the promise she made to Allah?



Maryam William

Hannah took good care of her little baby girl - Maryam 🕮

Prophet Zakariah became Maryam's caretaker. He built her a small room joining on to the main Masjid Al-Aqsa. Maryam was allowed to stay there in the compound of Masjid Al-Aqsa.

There she spent her days worshipping and praying to Allah. She was so good, she had the most amazing manners, a beautiful character and she was loved by everyone.





Maryam was such a special lady that Allah mentions her story and character in the Qur'an many times.

Prophet Zakariah saw that Maryam would have fresh fruit that was out of season. He would see her with winter fruits in the summer and summer fruits in the

winter. This was a miracle!

Zakariah fonce asked Maryam , "Where did you get these fruits from?"

"It is from Allah!" She replied, "Allah gives to who ever He wants to."

Zakariah Xulli

Zakariah knew that Maryam was special and Allah had given her so many blessings and goodness. He had seen many amazing things with his own eyes!

Prophet Zakariah see also made a special dua that Allah gives him a noble child.

Even though Zakariah and his wife were very old, Allah blessed them with a special child - Prophet Yahya

Jibra'il Kallell

One day Maryam was alone and a man appeared before her. You can



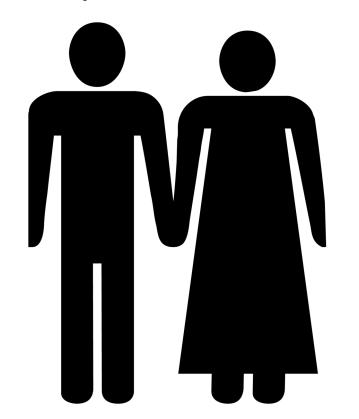
imagine how scared she was! She warned the man, "I seek protection in Allah from you".

This man was in fact Angel Jibra'il .

He had brought a message and some good news for Maryam from Allah.

Jibra'il told Maryam not to worry and that she was going to have a righteous son!

When Maryam heard this, she became even more shocked! She asked the angel how is it possible to have a child without a father?



The Angel said this baby would be a miracle. Just like Adam , who was created without a mother or a father, was a miracle. Your baby will be born without a father.

Baby Isa Mariell

When the time came near for Isa to be born. Maryam was very scared and worried. She really didn't want anyone to know.

Maryam decided to leave Masjid Al-Aqsa in Jerusalem and go to another city, far away from the people.



Maryam was resting against a date palm tree. She heard a voice telling her don't worry, Allah has provided a stream of water for you.

If you shake the date tree, fresh fruit will fall from the tree for you. The voice told her to eat and drink and

put her heart at ease.

Maryam ate the dates and drank the water. This was all from Allah.

Maryam a gave birth to baby Isa was. He was a very special baby because he was a noble prophet and messenger of Allah.

Now Maryam had to face the people and tell them, about baby lsa



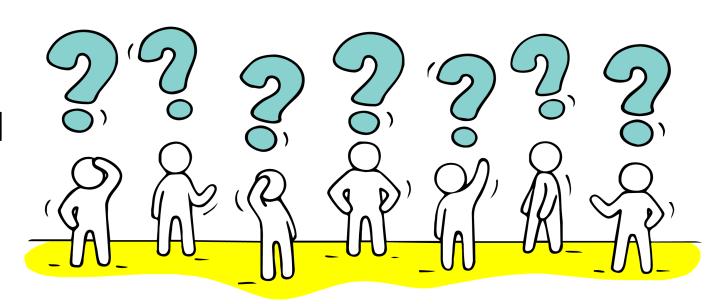
The time had come to return to Jerusalem with baby Isa . Maryam was worried at what the people might say.

Return to Jerusalem

Allah had instructed Maryam 👜 not to speak.

Maryam a carried baby Isa in her arms back to Jerusalem. People saw Maryam a coming from afar and were already looking in shock.

Word had quickly spread around and people started to gather around her.





They were very surprised. People wanted to know where she got this baby from. They were looking for answers.

Maryam pointed to baby Isa Will.

This is when an amazing miracle happened. Baby Isa spoke to the people and told them that he is a slave of Allah and Allah has made him a prophet. Allah has told him to pray to Allah and give charity to the poor. Allah also told him to love his mother.



After seeing this miracle, the people could see that Prophet Isa was someone special and that this was a miraculous birth.

Prophet Isa grew up in and around Jerusalem. From a

Allah gave miracles to some prophets so that the people would believe that Allah had sent them.

young age he began to tell people to obey Allah, to be good and honest. He told them to be kind and not to fight.

He told them to pray to Allah and be good Muslims.

Miracles

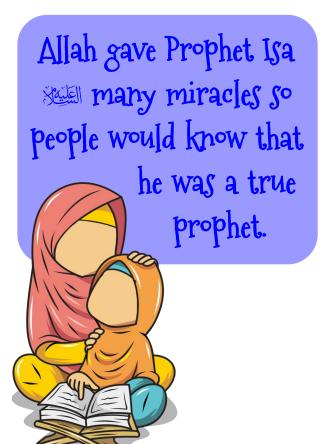
To help Prophet Isa Allah gave Isa some powers to perform amazing miracles. This was to show people that Prophet Isa was a true prophet of Allah.



Prophet Isa would heal people that were very ill. He would heal the lepers who no one could heal.

Not many people followed Prophet Isa

Prophet Isa would heal people that were blind so that they could see. Even people who were born blind could see again, who no one else could heal.



Again, not many people followed Prophet Isa

Prophet Isa made dua for a person who had died. That person came back to life. This was something no one else could do.

Again, not many people would follow Prophet Isa



Prophet Isa would make birds out of clay. When he blew on them, they would fly away. This was something no one else could do.

Again, not many people followed Prophet Isa

After all these miracles, only some people followed Prophet Isa Well. Many of his followers were poor

and weak people.

He called the people saying,
"Who will help me in
Allah's cause?"

The people that came forward were known as his disciples (Hawariyyin).

Early Followers

The disciples helped Prophet Isa in telling people to be good and to obey Allah.

One day, the disciples asked Prophet Isa to ask for a special favour from Allah. They wanted a special meal from Heaven to be sent to them. This would make their belief even stronger.



Prophet Isa see refused the first time but the disciples asked again and again so Prophet Isa see asked Allah to give them this special feast.

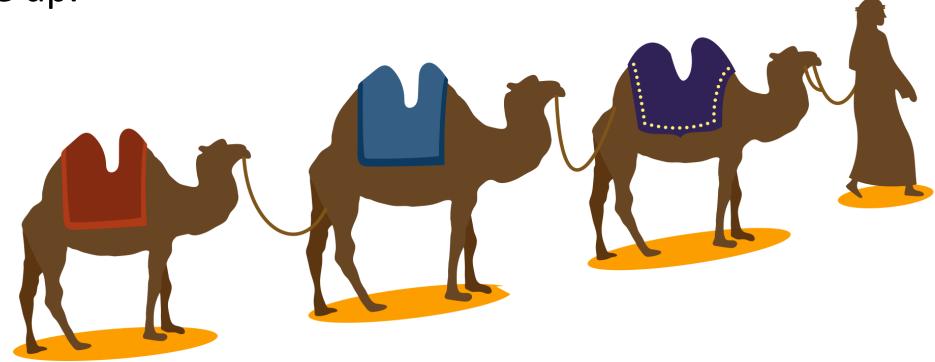
The disciples enjoyed this amazing food from Heaven.

Allah warned them that, now that they had eaten this

food, they must believe in Allah or they would be punished.

This story is mentioned in the Holy Qur'an.

They continued to tell people to follow Allah and be good. Prophet Isa went from village to village and he didn't give up.



His enemies saw that more and more people were following Prophet Isa . He was starting to get popular with the people. They wanted to stop him.

Evil Plan

They made an evil plan to kill him. But they forgot that Allah is All-Powerful and Allah knows everything. Allah sent angel Jibra'il to tell Prophet Isa about their wicked plan.

Allah saved Prophet Isa but the people thought they had killed him.

They boasted, "We killed the son of Maryam, the messenger of Allah."

But little did they know that Prophet Isa was not dead but safe in the heavens. Allah is the best of planners.

When Allah decides, he will send Prophet Isa to Earth again but not as a prophet but instead as a good Muslim. He will bring peace and invite people to be good again.

The Disciples

After Prophet Isa , his early followers continued to worship
Allah. They would follow the teachings of their beloved teacher and Prophet, Isa . They continued to be good people.

The message of Prophet Isa , the Injeel, was gradually forgotten and lost. People changed the message by adding things and taking things out.

However, some people began to believe that Prophet Isa was the son of God and others began to worship Prophet Isa was.

Allah tells us in the Qur'an in Surah Ikhlas that Allah does not have any children or partners. He is One.

When someone worships anyone or anything other than

Allah this is a major sin (shirk).

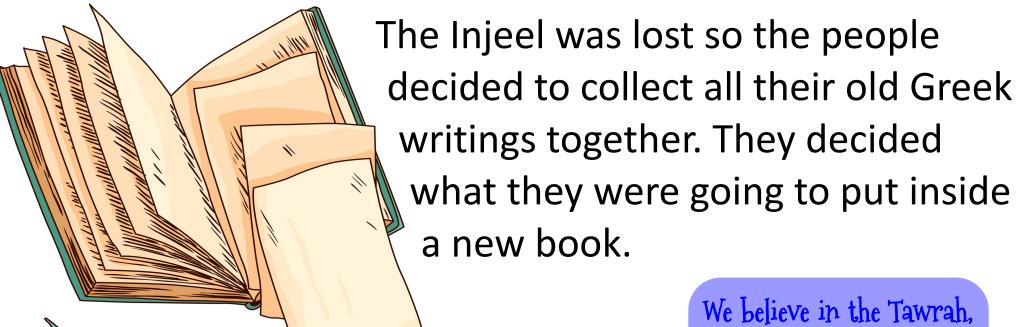
Some believed Prophet Isa was God whilst some continued to try and hold onto his original teachings.

People were confused because of many legends and different beliefs that had grown around Prophet Isa

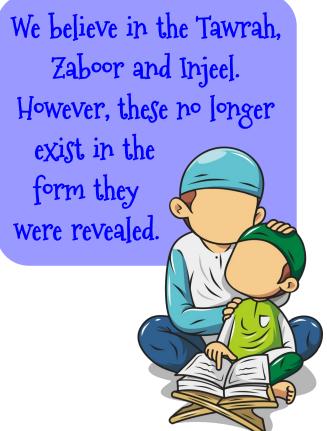
Centuries later, people got together and decided exactly what (they were going to believe.



These were not from the teachings of the Prophet Isa or the earliest followers. There were many arguments and disagreements. They started the idea of the trinity.



They chose from the many old writings they had. None of these were in Aramaic that Prophet Isa and his followers spoke. This book is known as the Bible (New Testament).



The Final Prophet

Allah sent Prophet Muhammad and gave him the Holy Qur'an. Allah would preserve this message and it will tell all the people the truth about the Prophets.



Prophet Muhammad se came with a message for all mankind until the Day of Judgement. Prophet Muhammad was the Last and Final messenger to mankind.

Prophet Muhammad was born in Makkah where people had begun to worship idols. However, in Makkah there was a very special building called the Ka'bah.

Prophet Ibrahim had built the Ka'bah as a place to worship Allah alone. The Ka'bah was a place of pilgrimage where people came for Hajj.

It was a very special and holy place.

Sadly, people had put idols in and around the Ka'bah. Prophet Muhammad stold the people to worship Allah and to leave idol worship. He told them that Allah is One and to only worship Allah.

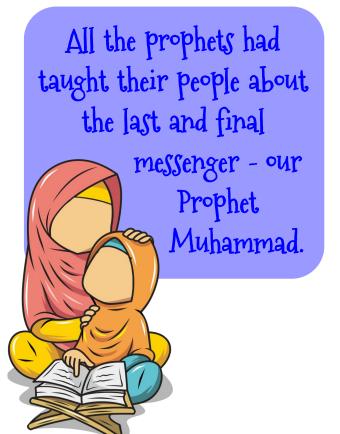
Finally, after much hardship and struggling, the people began to worship Allah alone. They began to follow Prophet Muhammad and became good people.

In fact, they became the best of people - the Sahabah



Many Jews and Christians also accepted Islam. All the old prophets had taught the people that Prophet Muhammad www would come and they must follow him.





The Christians that had accepted Islam, stopped worshipping Prophet Isa and instead returned to worshipping Allah.

Just as Prophet Isa Will had taught them.

Many people didn't accept Islam and Christianity continued to grow and change. People added new practices, thoughts and types of worship.

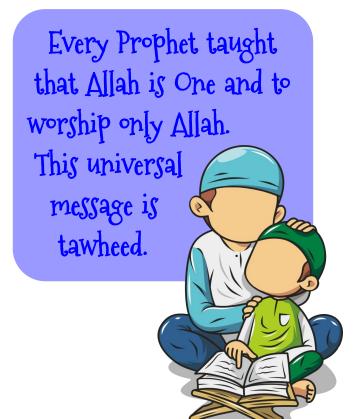
People continued to have different ideas

about what Prophet Isa itaught.

Different ideas about who Prophet Isa

was.

The majority of people believed that Prophet Isa taught that Allah is one and they agree that Prophet Isa only worshipped Allah.



For Parents

This section is about Christmas and some other beliefs that differ from Islam. Please teach this to your children in a manner you feel is appropriate for your children.

We are aware that the situation varies for different children. It often depends on their friendship with non-Muslim friends and the child's maturity.

We need to be sensitive to the community that we live in so we leave this to your discretion.

contents for Parents

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The Birth of Isa Muli

The birth of Prophet Isa was miraculous - this means that he was born without a father. This is a fact that both Muslims and Christians believe in.

The Qur'an tells us that whenever Allah decides a matter he says BE! And it happens. Allah just wills it into existence. Allah is All Powerful and has created everything that exists - the seen and the unseen.

Allah reminds us that Prophet Adam was created without a mother or father.

With regards to the historic records at the time of Prophet Isa will, modern Christian scholars agree on a number of facts around his birth.

For example they agree that:

- 1. There was never a census that forced Joseph and Maryam to travel to Bethlehem before Prophet Isa was born.
- 2. There wasn't a mysterious star that guided the wise men from the East.
- 3. King Herod didn't kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem.
- 4. Maryam and her family did not flee to Egypt for a few years.

These and many other stories are considered oral stories and legends that were passed down and written by later generations. However, according to modern historic scholars, there is no support for them in any historic records or archaeological finds.

The Prophets

The prophets were people that Allah selected to deliver the message to their people. They taught their people about Allah and how to be good in this life. They taught them about Jannah and Jahannam.

Every nation was sent a prophet (from Qur'an) and many prophets were sent to earth, about 124,000 prophets (from Hadith).

Some people accepted their prophet and his message whilst others rejected it. Some people even persecuted and killed their prophets.

As time went on, people would change the message by adding and removing things until the original message was lost. Allah would send another prophet to guide the people.

Miracles

Allah gave miracles to some prophets so the people would believe that they were sent by Allah. These miracles helped convince the people that the prophets were sent by Allah.

For example, Prophet Musa And had a staff that turned into a snake and parted the sea. Prophet Sulaiman And had the ability to speak to animals, control the jinn and the wind. Prophet Muhammad Away was given many miracles but the most amazing miracle is the Holy Qur'an.

There were many healers at the time of Prophet Isa Well. When they saw the miracles of Prophet Isa Well, they knew that he was a true prophet. Similarly, when the magicians at the time of Prophet Musa Well saw his miracles they knew that Musa Well was a true prophet.

Prophet Ibrahim

Prophet Ibrahim was truly an exceptional prophet. Through his children we have some of the greatest prophets. We also have the two holiest sites - the Ka'bah in Makkah and Masjid Al-Aqsa in Jerusalem. Prophet Ibrahim built both of these sacred places of worship.

Prophet Ibrahim in had two sons, Prophet Ismael in and Prophet Ishaq in They were from Hajar and Sarah respectively.

Through Prophet Ismael's see children, we have the final Prophet Muhammad see who came with guidance (al-Qur'an) for all mankind.

Through Prophet Ishaq's see children, we have many great prophets including Yusuf, Yaqoob, Musa, Dawud, Sulaiman, Yahya and Isa ().

Allah or God?

When referring to God Almighty, we prefer to use the word Allah. This is the same word that Jews and Christians use that live in Muslim countries. Even before the birth of Prophet Muhammad **56,** the Arabs used the word Allah for God Almighty.

We also prefer to use the word Allah because it can't be altered or corrupted like the word 'God'. For example, we can have god, goddess, godfather... It is not possible to do that with the word Allah.

When Prophet Isa prayed, he prayed to Allah. In fact, all the prophets prayed to Allah and all the followers of these prophets also prayed to Allah. In other words, when Jews, Christians, Muslims and many other faiths talk about the one true God they refer to Allah.

Tawheed

The core message of every prophet was Tawheed - Allah is One. Allah doesn't have any partners or family. Nothing shares in His dominion or power. Allah is the One and Only true God of mankind.

We know Allah through His 99 names (attributes) which brings us closer to Allah. E.g. Allah is the Most Merciful - His mercy showers down on all creation. Allah is All Knowing - He knows everything, even what is inside a person's heart. Allah is Eternal - without a beginning or end. Allah is All Powerful - nothing can happen unless Allah allows it.

We direct our worship only to Allah. We pray to and ask from Allah alone. Everyone has a direct connection with Allah so there is no need for any intermediary - a saint, prophet, object or anything else.

Books of Allah

Allah sent Wahi to some prophets in the form of books. For example, Prophet Musa was given the Tawrat; Prophet Dawud was given the Zaboor; Prophet Isa was given the Injeel and Prophet Muhammad was given the Qur'an.

The people who followed the earlier books altered their books. They removed and added information. The books no longer exist in their original form and much of the message is lost.

The Qur'an has been guarded from changes. The message is there for everyone until the Day of Judgement. The Qur'an is also the criteria (Al Furqan) which means it differentiates between right and wrong. It helps us understand which teachings from previous books are true.

Follow the Prophet!

We get our knowledge about all the prophets from the Qur'an. The final revelation from Allah to His creation. This story about Prophet Isa was taken from the Qur'an. The Qur'an is the best source of knowledge for us. It is preserved and doesn't have mistakes.

All the prophets foretold their people that Prophet Muhammad & would come. They told their followers that Prophet Muhammad would be the last and final prophet. They taught their followers that they must follow Prophet Muhammad & when he comes.

There were many people who accepted Islam because of this. They were waiting for Prophet Muhammad **s** to come. They knew all about him, they knew his description, about his life and so much more.

Written Records

Wahi or revelation is the word of Allah, literally it is understood as a dictation. This means that these are the exact words that was given to the prophets by Allah through Angel Jibra'il - word for word.

Hadith are records of the events in the life of our Prophet . A hadith includes the name of the person who saw or witnessed the event. How it was transmitted from the witness to the person who wrote it down (Sanad). It is a record of what happened or what was said.

Scripture (Christian) is a document which a group of people agree upon as being inspired. This does not have criteria such as who is the author, where the information came from or even the accuracy of the information. The New Testament is considered scripture by Christians.

The Injeel & the Gospels

The Injeel is the original message of Prophet Isa . It has been lost and the only records we have are the accounts in the four gospels found in the New Testament and other, often conflicting, manuscripts.

History tells us these gospels were written anonymously, decades after Prophet Isa's time. We don't know who wrote these accounts and where they got the information (sanad). It is clear that they were not eye witness accounts.

Over a century later, these four were chosen and assigned to Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. This was to give the accounts authority because of the high respect given to the early generation. However, this doesn't make these writings the Injeel of Prophet Isa

The Injeel & Scripture

There are 27 books (or documents) which combine together to make the New Testament. These books were selected by people centuries after Prophet Isa . It was debated for a long time afterwards about which books should be included. Some church authorities also have a different number of books e.g. Greek Orthodox and the Catholic.

The most popular author in the New Testament is Paul who came after Prophet Isa . He was a very influential and respected teacher. It was accepted that he wrote 13 of these books. Most modern Biblical scholars consider that only 7 of them were actually written by Paul.

The First Followers

The first followers of Prophet Isa were the Hawariyyin (the disciples). They followed the message of Prophet Isa and also taught the people to do the same. They would pray regularly to Allah and also follow all the laws, just as Prophet Isa had.

This community was a deeply religious community who tried very hard to follow the will and command of Allah.

Many years after Prophet Isa was taken to the heavens, people became very confused. Paul became a very respected teacher who had never met Prophet Isa in real life. He told the people that he met Prophet Isa in a vision or dream. Paul taught many new things that were very different from what the first followers believed and did.

'Son of God'

The 'Son of God' is a term used in the bible many times and it refers to lots of different people. This has led to misunderstanding and confusion amongst many people. This term 'Son of God' is sometimes taken literally and other times taken figuratively.

The Qur'an doesn't use such ambiguous terms so that people are clear on what the Qur'an is saying.

In a similar way, Allah has 99 names or attributes. This helps people get closer to Allah. There are no ambiguous names such as 'father' used to describe Allah. Again, the language of the Qur'an helps people understand the message clearly rather than some people getting confused.

Myths & Legends

There are many practices that came much later after Prophet Isa (Lenturies later. For example, Santa Claus or Father Christmas, with the many stories attached to it, was started around 200 years ago.

In reality, Santa Claus is a fictional character based very loosely on the historic St Nicolas. People have been adding more and more legends to this until we have the present day Santa Claus. However, it remains a work of fiction which is still promoted amongst youngsters within our communities.

The main question is should we, as Muslims, be repeating this to our children when we know that it is not true? Bear in mind, the enormous amount of emphasis we put on telling the truth.

Expansion & Cultures

When Christianity spread, people from many different cultures began to accept Christianity. This resulted in many existing cultural thoughts and beliefs influencing Christianity.

This same phenomena is true for any faith that expandes into lands who had different languages and thoughts. It stands to reason that some old practices still have an impact on the lives of those converts.

This is perhaps the reason that Christmas has so many practices that were new to Christianity. Many are rooted in ancient myths and cultural (often Pagan) practices. This includes Christmas trees, Yule log, Mistletoe, 25th December (Winter Solstice) and so on. Everyone now accepts that Prophet Isa was not born on 25th December.

The 'Death' of Isa

The Qur'an tells us that Prophet Isa wasn't killed, nor was he crucified but they thought they had killed him.

This tells us that Prophet Isa was saved, even though the people believed that he had been killed. This is what we believe and it is enough for us to know that Allah saved Prophet Isa ...

Many Christians believe that Prophet Isa was killed. They believe that he needs to die for our sins to be forgiven.

In Islam, all people are born without sin. When we do a bad deed (Gunah) Allah will forgive us without a person needing to be sacrificed. Forgiveness means real forgiveness and every child is born pure.

The Trinity

After Prophet Isa went to the heavens, the people had many different beliefs. As time went on, people tried to make sense of all the many different beliefs they had.

Finally, three hundred years after Prophet Isa they had a meeting and started to debate and formalise their beliefs. This is when the first ideas of trinity were beginning to formulate.

The Qur'an tells us clearly that Allah is one and that Prophet Isa didn't ask the people to believe anything different. Prophet Isa himself would pray to Allah. Prophet Isa clearly said that Allah is One and he taught his followers exactly this.

Character of Maryam

When we look at the life and character of Maryam . We realise that she was indeed a woman of great virtue. Her kindness and dedication to worshipping Allah gives us a great insight into her noble character.

She was from the descendents of Prophet Ibrahim through Prophet Ishaq . She dressed modestly with her head covered (hijab) which was and still is a sign of modesty and dedication to Allah. She prayed and worshipped at Masjid Al-Aqsa. She avoided all types of haram food. She fasted and gave generously in charity to the poor.

When the Angel Jibra'il appeared to her, it is no surprise the way she reacted because she hadn't been alone in the presence of a man.

Maryam is a positive role model for practising women of all faiths.

Status of Maryam

Maryam (a respectful form of the name Mary) is the mother of Prophet Isa . She is held in the highest esteem in Islam. She has a respected and lofty position, considered amongst the best of women.

Maryam is held in such a high regard that a chapter in the Qur'an is named after her. It describes her as a woman of piety and taqwa.

In Christianity, Maryam is given a very high and respectful status. She is loved and respected by the followers of Prophet Isa . Later, Christian authorities (431CE) made her the 'Mother of God' and began to worship her (Theotokos). Many Christians no longer agree with this.

In Islam, we only worship Allah and make dua only to Him.

Eid & Christmas

Allah has given us two celebrations - Eid ul Fitr and Eid ul Adha. These Eids were celebrated by Prophet Muhammad and the Sahabah. They have a strong rooting in Islam and are observed by Muslims throughout the world.

In some communities, Muslim parents are often torn to what degree they should follow or observe Christmas. Should Muslims also celebrate Christmas? After all, Prophet Isa is our prophet as well.

There is a strong case that Christmas has very little to do with Prophet Isa or his teachings. Maybe Christmas has changed so much that even the earliest followers of Prophet Isa would reject it. Perhaps many Christians would also endorse the above sentiments.

Respect & Knowledge

In Islam, we still show respect to people with views that are different from us. This has been demonstrated throughout Islamic History. The golden age of Judaism was in the Muslim world where they enjoyed freedom and religious tolerance not seen under any other nations.

Overall, Islamic history bears testimony to the peace, harmony and tolerance the Muslim communities had. When the Muslims practised Islam, they were indeed the torch bearers of justice, goodness, education and progress.

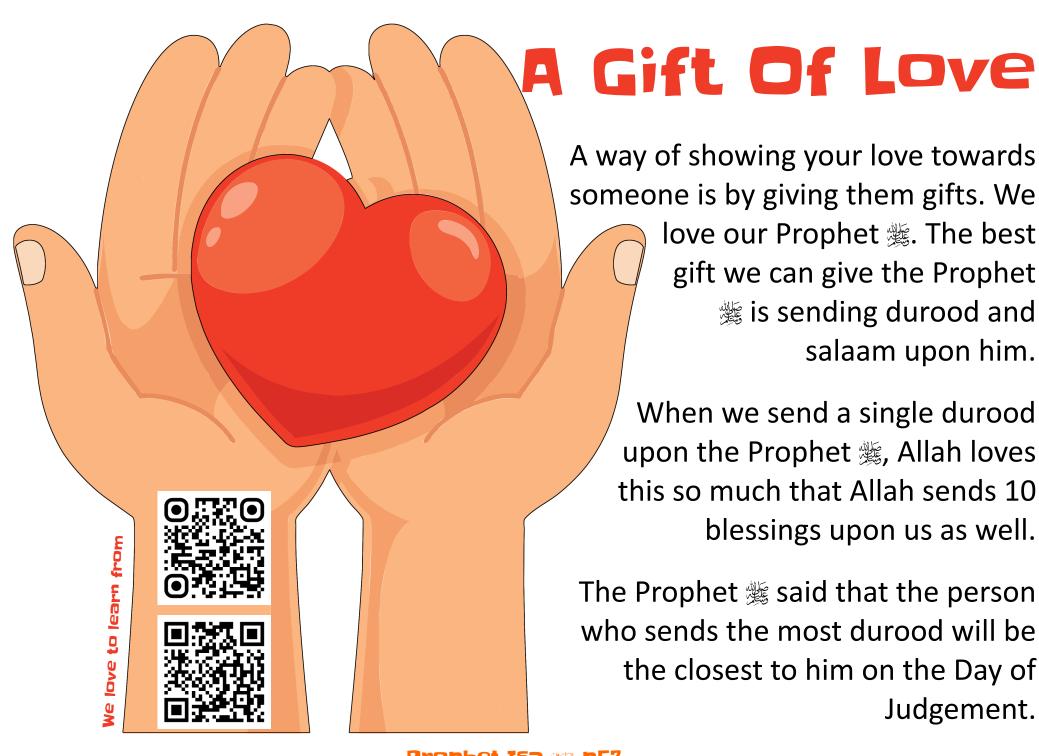
People who don't study their history often fall into the trap of following popular thoughts, promoted by media and social media. They fail to see below the surface and grasp real understanding.

It is important that we take a step back from chasing Dunya and learn authentic knowledge. We must have a learning mindset and make our life a journey of knowledge and understanding (life-long learning).

With this knowledge, the spiritual aspects shouldn't be neglected so we should practise what we have learned. We should apply it to our lives. We should spend so much time in Ibadah and reflection.

When our kids study hard at school and university, they will be rewarded with being the engineers and doctors of the future. This will give them a comfortable life in this world, InshaAllah.

When our children study hard in Islamic knowledge, they are rewarded with Jannah which is worth more than anything they could hope to attain in this life. They become a means of reaching Jannah for their parents and a source of guidance and barakah for their community.



A way of showing your love towards someone is by giving them gifts. We love our Prophet . The best gift we can give the Prophet

> When we send a single durood upon the Prophet , Allah loves this so much that Allah sends 10 blessings upon us as well.

is sending durood and

salaam upon him.

The Prophet said that the person who sends the most durood will be the closest to him on the Day of Judgement.



Allah blessed the world with great personalities and people of such excellent character and virtue. These people were of course the prophets.

These pure and guided souls were selected by Allah and were tasked with teaching the people about Allah. They taught their people how to reach their potential by being upright, kind, just and honest people; having the best of character and manners; worshipping their Creator and following the divine teachings.

Much of the message of these prophets was lost in time but is

preserved in the pages of the Qur'an - the Final revelation for all humankind.

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