

# CHRISTIAN ANSWERS

OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

CHRISTIAN DEBATER GUIDE VOLUME 4, NUMBER 4

## REACHING MUSLIMS FOR CHRIST - PART II



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

### PART 2

In this verse we find the cause of Jesus' unique sinlessness:

*Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever he does, that the Son does likewise."*

*John 5:19*

It is because Jesus is the Son of God that he is sinless. He taught that he and the Father are one (John 10:30) and he will, therefore, always do the will of his Father. If he did anything independently of the Father, he would no longer be one with him. One who is always doing the absolute will of his Father cannot sin against him. This is why he is sinless—because, as the Son of God, he too is absolutely holy and always does what is pleasing to the Father (John 8:29).

The next point of uniqueness is his **ascension to heaven**. The reason for this is implied in his virgin-birth and the texts we have already quoted from the previous newsletter. He ascended to heaven because he came from there in the first place. If he had returned to dust as all other men do, no Christian would believe that he was the unique Son of God. You can point out to Muslims that these unique features not only, with one accord, support his teaching that he is the Son of God, but that they are essential features if this

teaching is to be proved true. If he is the Son of God he must be born uniquely of a virgin to become man. He must be sinless and he cannot return to the dust. He must return to his Father in heaven. Conversely, if he is not the Son of God as the Qur'an teaches, these unique features have no meaning or relevance. By conceding them the Qur'an is unwittingly confirming Christian belief.

The Qur'an often speaks of the throne of God (Surahs 10:4, 7:54; 13:2 etc). This expresses the royal sovereignty which God enjoys over the whole universe. The Bible makes the same point but, to emphasize the unique ascension of Jesus to heaven and his ultimate place there, it declares that he sat down at his right hand as sons of kings in those days sat at their father's side, being the heirs to the throne. Many passages make this clear, such as:

*God accomplished his great might in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places.*

*Ephesians 1:20*

*Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven.*

*Hebrews 8:1*

When Stephen saw the heavens opened just before his martyrdom, he declared that he saw the Son of man standing at the right hand of God (Acts 7:56). Jesus also declared that he would grant to all who conquer the right to sit at his right hand, just as he had conquered and sat down with his Father on his throne (Revelation 3:21). The Qur'an speaks of the throne of God—the rightful place of Jesus after his ascension to heaven is at the right hand of Him who sits upon it.

Lastly, let us look at the

uniqueness of the **return of Jesus to earth**. Though he has been in heaven for almost two thousand years already, no Christian or Muslim expects him to return looking like an old man. He will return looking not a day older than when he left. Why will Jesus return to earth? As we have seen, Muslims expect him to establish a universal rule, become a follower of Muhammad, and be buried next to him after his death. You can well ask Muslims why Jesus should return to earth only to die and be buried. It makes no sense.

Jesus will return for a far greater reason. We need again to ask why there should be this unique feature in his life and why it is Jesus who will fulfill it. It is because he is the Son of God and, having died on the cross for sinners, he will bring both the salvation and judgment of God at the end of time. By becoming man the Son of God has also become the obvious medium of the judgment of God. Firstly, he revealed God to men. The Qur'an only professes to reveal the will and attributes of God. Jesus revealed God himself to men as this passage shows:

*All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.*

*Matthew 11:27*

Elsewhere Jesus taught that he who sees him sees the Father who sent him (John 12:45, 14:9) and that there was no way to the Father but by him (John 14:6). Being the Son of God in human form, he reveals the fullness of God to men.

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

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## 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

As with our previous newsletter, we are continuing to focus on evangelism to reach Muslims for Christ. You can't do much better on this subject than with the experienced Christian evangelist John Gilchrist of South Africa. John Gilchrist has accomplished decades of frontline missionary evangelism work among the Muslims in his native land. His books and audio lectures are some of the best material I've seen or heard on the subject of Islam and believe me, having been an evangelist now myself for over 25 years, I have seen and heard a lot.

Obviously, not everyone is called to be what I like to call a "missionary evangelist," i.e., a person who feels called of God to actively engage in ongoing and continual evangelism efforts wherever he happens to find himself. This type of evangelist does not necessarily need to go to foreign countries to do his work for the Lord but can with vigor engage in this effort right in his hometown with whatever circumstances he is dealt with. An overseas passport is not required for this type of evangelism.

In my case, being married with four children (two of which are physically handicapped), I found that one does not have to go to far away countries to evangelize lost sinners. There are plenty of lost sinners here in my hometown of Austin, Texas. In fact, Austin is a very cosmopolitan city in the sense that the University of Texas is located here (I graduated from UT by the way) where thousands of foreign students from around the world come to study along with other students from all over Texas and other states. Not only is the state capital located here, but there is a major service center of the Internal Revenue Service and related federal facilities stationed here, along with many major businesses bringing with them many employees of Asian, Middle Eastern, Indian (referring to India), and Hispanic origins to name a few. Austin is so different because of these things from 30 years ago that it is astonishing! In other words, the world has come to Austin and as an evangelist I must be ready to deal with the many Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Taoists, and other religions now here as the Lord leads. As a matter of fact, not long ago I spent two hours in a barber shop witnessing for Christ to two Iranian barbers who were of the Baha'i World Faith!

What I'm talking about here is real Biblical evangelism much like you find the Apostle Paul doing in the Book of Acts, particularly Acts 17, in Athens. Unfortunately, many so-called "Christians" are too busy wasting their time and money on false prophet "Word-Faith" TV evangelists such as Benny Hinn (see our literature and video catalogues for documentation) to get a feel-good, "slain in the spirit" experience rather than earnestly studying the Bible and sharing God's Word with the lost (II Tim. 2:15).

Our ministry is here, by the grace of God, to help Christians who have a genuine love for God and are willing to put some effort into it. Alas, most people will put more effort into reading the newspaper or watching television than studying the Bible. What a man loves most, so he does.

Not every Christian is called to be a "missionary evangelist" but they are called by God to live their faith by knowing what the Bible teaches. Less informed Christians can still witness for Christ by handing out Christian tracts, CDs, DVDs, books, etc. to lost friends and neighbors, and financially helping ministries such as ours who do evangelism work every day. Blessings in Christ.

## WHAT IS CHRISTIAN ANSWERS ?

Our ministry name is derived in part from Peter 3:15 which states, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (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.

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" (2 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 (2 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 CDs, video DVDs, 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.

Once having lived on earth, no one can identify now with God other through him. This is the second reason why he is the medium of the judgment of God. He has brought men face-to-face with God. This comes out very clearly in another statement:

*For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself also, and has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of man. John 5:26-27*

This alone explains why Jesus will return to earth. He comes to save those who have been redeemed through his blood, and he comes to judge the rest. Thus the second coming harmonizes with the uniqueness of Jesus as the Son of God.

In the four unique features of Jesus' life you have tremendous evidence to witness to Muslims of who he is and why he came into the world and will return. What is fascinating, and supports your witness, is that the Qur'an and Hadith support these features and acknowledge them all! Despite denying the deity of Jesus, by admitting these features it is tacitly and unreservedly implying that he is indeed the Son of God. Even though he lived as a man on earth, everything we know about him ultimately places him on the level of deity, God the Son.

### The Son of God

We have looked at some of the unique features in the life of Jesus that distinguish him from all the other prophets of God and which, when considered together, show that he is far greater than all of them and is, indeed, the Son of God. We will now turn to three titles of Jesus which are found in both the Qur'an and the Bible and see how these, too, can be used in leading Muslims to the fullness of Christ. We will, in fact, be considering only one text from the Qur'an simply because all three titles appear in it and in a most interesting context. In fact, from a Christian point of view, this text is pivotal when assessing just who Jesus really is in Islam, for it shows a strong contrast, even a complete contradiction, between the Muslim dogma that Jesus is not the Son of God and the implications of this text that he most certainly

is! The text is:

*O People of the Scripture! Do not exaggerate in your religion and do not say anything of Allah than the truth. Verily the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, is only a messenger of Allah, and his Word which he bestowed on Mary, and a Spirit from him. So believe in Allah and his messengers. And do not say "Three"! Desist, it is better. Verily Allah is only One. Glorified be he, than that he should ever have a son. To him is everything in the heavens and on the earth. And sufficient is Allah as an overseer. Surah 4:171*

There is a threefold denial of the deity of Jesus in this verse. Firstly, Christians are commanded not to believe in Jesus as one of three gods (an allusion to the Trinity). Secondly, Allah is only one God, thus Jesus cannot be another. Finally, the glory of Allah is too great for him to ever have a Son. (The Qur'an, on the few occasions it refers to the Trinity in whatever form Muhammad comprehended it, denounces it as a combination of Jesus and his mother Mary as two gods alongside Allah –cf. Surah 5:76-78; 5:110.)

Other passages of the Qur'an reject the deity of Jesus and the Christian belief in him as the Son of God equally emphatically (Surahs 9:30, 19:35), but the text quoted has perhaps the most comprehensive denial of all. What more can you want than a threefold repudiation? Yet, as we shall see, when you consider the titles of Jesus in the same verse, you find a threefold confirmation that Jesus is indeed the eternal Son of God!

Debating the subject purely as an either/or-he was or he wasn't the Son of God-rarely leads to anything more than further polarization between Christians and Muslims as they fall back on their predetermined dogmatics. Yet, when you can analyze the meanings of the unique titles given to Jesus in this text, it becomes far easier to witness to Muslims of who Jesus really is and it is this theme that we will be pursuing. Once again, from common ground between us, you can witness to the glory of Jesus.

#### Al-Masih: Jesus the Messiah

This title is one of the vital contact points between Christians and Muslims when we consider who Jesus really was. but here we will consider it

solely in its context as it appears in Surah 4:171.

Firstly, Jesus alone is called *the Messiah* in the Qur'an. No other prophet, patriarch or priest is given this title. In Arabic it is simply al-Masih. The Qur'an makes no attempt to define the title but it does award it to Jesus on no less than eleven occasions. Sometimes it is simply al-Masih, "the Messiah" (Surah 5:72), elsewhere it is al-Masih Isa, "the Messiah Jesus" (Surah 4:157), while it also appears as al-Masihubnu Maryam, "the Messiah son of Mary" (Surah 5:17). It is a unique title, given to no one else, but applied to Jesus nearly a dozen times.

If you were to ask a Muslim what it means, he really could not tell you other than to say, "Jesus the Messiah." The title actually has no meaning in Islam and is not derived from any Arabic word. It is an arabised form of ha-Mashiah, the Hebrew title which does have a meaning, namely "the Anointed One." The Jews had long awaited this coming figurehead, especially after his advent had been announced through all the prophets. It was Daniel, however, who first gave the coming Son of David the express title Messiah (Daniel 9:25). Without an explanation in Islam one has to go to the Jewish and Christian scriptures to find its meaning.

Surah 4:171 says Jesus was no more than a messenger but all Jews and Christians know that this specific title, *the Messiah*, speaks of a man who stands out above all other men, including the other messengers of God. The Old Testament prophecies, and many more, show that he would be possessed of a regality, majesty, splendor and excellence above all other men. While denying that Jesus is the Son of God, the Qur'an, nevertheless, is giving him a title that implies that he is the ultimate man of human history and the holy one who was to be the final expression of the revelation of God to men. "God was in the Messiah, reconciling the world to himself" (II Cor. 5:19).

The most important issue here, in considering Surah 4:171, is to show Muslims that while the Qur'an denies that Jesus is the Son of God, it is giving him a title that proves unreservedly that he is! In Biblical times the expressions Messiah and Son of God were synonymous

Let us look at some key texts to prove the point.

### **I. Jewish believers in Jesus**

The Jewish disciples of Jesus freely used the two titles, Messiah and Son of God, interchangeably. (Although the Greek texts use the word Christos, the Greek word for Messiah meaning "Christ," we will use the original Hebrew designation as it makes the point more forcefully). Simon Peter was one of the first Jewish followers of Jesus to do so:

***You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Matthew 16:16***

Nathaniel was another who simultaneously called Jesus the Son of God and the King of Israel, another synonym for Messiah (John 1:49). Martha, the sister of Lazarus and Mary, also used the two titles simultaneously in her expression of belief in Jesus:

***I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world. John 11:27***

### **2. Caiaphas, the Jewish High Priest**

When Jesus was brought before Caiaphas, the High Priest of Israel, on the night of his trial, Caiaphas also used the titles synonymously when placing Jesus on oath to declare whether he was the Son of God:

***I adjure you, by the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God. Matthew 26:63***

### **3. The Early Christian Gospel Writers**

The closest followers of Jesus during his lifetime, and others who followed him shortly after his resurrection and ascension to heaven, also used the titles together in various contexts to declare who Jesus really was. Here are two examples:

***The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. Mark 1:1 These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31***

### **4. Demons Who Recognized Him**

Even demons who were chased out of many they had possessed knew that Jesus was both the Messiah and the Son of God. They knew him from all eternity as the eternal Son from the Father and recognized him in human form when he commanded them with authority to depart.

***And demons also came out of many,***

***crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them, and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Messiah. Luke 4:41***

From all these texts we can see how unique the title Messiah is. It is no ordinary title, it is one of the highest eminence and only the Son of God in human form could claim it. This much is obvious from the texts we have quoted. Both the followers of Jesus and his enemies knew who the Messiah really would be.

By admitting that Jesus is the Messiah and by confirming his own emphatic declaration to this effect (John 4:25-26), the Qur'an has duly given Jesus a title which implies that he is the very person that the Qur'an is otherwise at such pains to deny, the Son of God himself.

### **Kalimatu-hu-The Word of God**

In the same verse, Surah 4:171, Jesus is also called, "His Word." In Surah 3:45 the Qur'an states that the angels, when announcing the unique conception of Jesus to Mary, told her that Allah was giving her good tidings "of a Word from him." The expression here used, in the original Arabic, is kalimatim-minhu. Broken up, it means kalmia (word), min (from), hu (him). Note this, Jesus is the only human being who ever lived who is called a Word from God. The same title is applied to him in the Christian Bible:

***He is clad in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is the Word of God. Revelation 19:13***

Once again Jesus is given a title in the Qur'an which the Bible gives him as well. Like the Messiah, this is a very distinctive and remarkable title. It is important to emphasize two specific features of this title in your witness to Muslims. Jesus himself, in his actual person, is the Word. Secondly, the source of this Word is God. Neither book says that he delivered the word of God as other prophets did, of that he was learned in it, or that he embodied and represented it. He is expressly declared to be a Word from God, or the Word of God. Other prophets received the messages of God but Jesus, in a unique way, is himself the message of God to the world.

As with the title Messiah, the Qur'an attempts no explanation of the

title. You may be countered with the suggestion that this is no more than a definition of how Jesus was conceived in the first place when Allah simply said, "Be, and he came to be" (Surah 3:47). According to the whole verse, however, this is how anything is created by God. The full text reads, "If he decrees a thing, he but says to it Be! And it comes to be." This response is over-simplistic, especially when we read a similar text which says:

***Lo! The likeness of Jesus with Allah is as the likeness of Adam. He created him from dust and said to him: "Be!" and he came to be. Surah 3:59***

So, according to the Qur'an, Jesus was created by the word of God in the same way Adam, and by implication, all men are. The title "His Word" and the similar ascription "a Word from Him" are unique, however. Adam is not called the Word of God in the Qur'an, nor are the angels, nor is any other creature. Jesus alone, as in the Bible, is called the Word of God. The title, in its context, applies to him alone.

There is obviously something about the person of Jesus himself that makes him the Word of God in a way no other man has ever been or ever will be. You need to point out to Muslims that key to understanding the title is the emphasis of deity as its source. The Word is from God. He himself is the communication and revelation of God to men. He does not merely bring the word of God, he IS the Word of God. We have to turn to the Bible to find the ultimate meaning of the title in view of the fact that the Qur'an attributes it to Jesus without explanation. We go to the very beginning of John's Gospel where this subject is treated in more detail. It commences with these words:

***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 through him and without him was not anything made that was made. John 1:1-2***

When we amplify or paraphrase these words we get a clear picture of the meaning of the title. In the beginning, before God ever began to create, the Word already existed. Far from being part of the created order, the Word was in the realm of God and

indeed the very nature of the Word was God. When God first began to fashion the created order, the Word already existed in the divine order. He himself was not created but all other things were created by God through him as agent. Because he alone is the Word of God, and is therefore the ultimate means of communication between God and his creatures, nothing was created without being created by him.

Why is he the Word of God, however? In what way was Jesus uniquely the communication of God in himself to mankind? We go a bit further down the first page of John's Gospel and find these words:

*And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.*

*John 1:14*

The title signifies two unique things about the Christian Savior and distinguish him from all other prophets of God. They are:

#### **EVERY WORD OF JESUS WAS THE WORD OF GOD**

All the prophets who went before him spoke the Word of God when moved by the Holy Spirit, but in general conversation their speech was entirely their own. Muslims themselves, believing Muhammad to be the last prophet, distinguish between the Qur'an, which he received and conveyed as the word of God, and his own teachings which are recorded in the Hadith as inspirational but not divine. Jesus, however, at all times spoke the word of God, whether in public preaching or in private conversation. He confirmed this on various occasions: *I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has given me commandment what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has bidden me. John 12:49-50*

*The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. John 14:10*

On other occasions Jesus referred to the word of God which he was proclaiming as his own word. Being the Word of God, there was no distinction. For example, he said that those who do not love him do not keep his words, adding that they were ultimately not his (John 14:24). Other examples are:

**"He who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life" (John 5:24); "If you continue in my word you are truly my disciples (John 5:24); and "Yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name" (Revelation 3:8).**

#### **2. JESUS HIMSELF IS GOD'S FINAL MESSAGE TO MANKIND**

Being the Word of God, Jesus himself is the final and complete revelation of God to the human race. The following text expresses this perfectly:

*He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things and in him all things hold together. Col. 1:15-19*

Jesus himself is the Word of God. There is no independence, therefore, between God and His Word. In human form Jesus embodied the divine being. He was not a created messenger; he is, and for all eternity will be, the eternal Word of God.

Surah 4:171 tells Christians not to exaggerate in their religion and to say nothing of Allah but the truth. Yet, in view of these unique titles we are considering, it is hard to see where the exaggeration is. The text has a threefold denial of the deity of Christ, yet, in the titles it applies to him, it simply affirms the very thing it is at such pains to deny! We have already seen that the titles Messiah and Son of God are synonymous. The title Word of God is also interchangeable with the title Son of God. If anything this title is more emphatic and suggestive of deity as it implies no submission on the part of the Word of God as the expression Son to Father does.

The most important thing, however, is to use this title to witness to what it ultimately means in the context of God's message to mankind. The word that we proclaim is the Gospel, the good news of God's saving grace in Jesus Christ. The crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus is God's message. He died to save us from our sins and rose from the dead to give us an assured hope of one day doing likewise. Instead of being raised to face the judgment, we

will be glorified and will share his perfect holiness and righteousness forever. Our sins will not be counted against us. We receive this if we become committed believers in Jesus. This is where you have an open door to witness to Muslims as to why Jesus himself is the Word, God's final message to mankind.

#### **Ruhullah— The Spirit of God**

In Islam Jesus is given the title, Ruhullah, meaning "Spirit of God." It comes from the same text, Surah 4:171, where Jesus is called waruhun-minhu, "a spirit from him." The same structure is used as for the Word from God: ruh (spirit), min (from), hu (him). In this case we do find some evidence in the Qur'an that helps us to define the title. The expression occurs again:

*These are those in whose hearts he has inscribed faith, and strengthened them with a spirit from himself. Surah 58:22*

The same words are used as in Surah 4:171, Ruhun-minhu, "a spirit from him." Nowhere else in the Qur'an does this expression occur. In his commentary on the Qur'an, Yusuf Ali says that the "phrase used is stronger" than that for the Holy Spirit (Ruhul-Quds) in the Qur'an who is identified in Islam as the Angel Gabriel. He implies that this Spirit from God is greater than the mighty angel identified and says it is, "the divine spirit which we can no more define adequately than we can define in human language the nature and attributes of God."

The Muslim commentator has, unintentionally but very impressively, given a precise definition of the Holy Spirit as we know him in the Bible. He is the "divine spirit" who cannot be defined in human language with terminology other than that used for God Himself. Yet the Qur'an, in the only other place where this expression occurs, applies this same divine title to Jesus. Exactly the same words are used.

So you have a third title in Surah 4:171, Spirit from God, which attributes divine features to Jesus just as the titles Messiah and Word of God do. Significantly they are synonymous with titles used in the Bible for Jesus to further express his profile towards mankind as the eternal Son from the Father. The Qur'an, in the very passage which contains a threefold denial of the deity of Jesus ("Do not say Trinity!

God is only one God. Far be it from his glory to have a son”), paradoxically attributes three titles to him which affirm the very same thing! He is the Anointed Son of God, the Messiah; he is the divine Word of God, and he is a Spirit coming from God. Jesus was not just another prophet called to office at an appropriate point in time. He is the message of God, he came from God, his very spirit is the Spirit of God.

You have remarkable material here for a positive witness to Muslims of the fact that Jesus is the Son of God and God’s divine messenger, his last word, to the human race. Uniquely, however, you can take this last title further with Muslims. The Qur’an, in its use of the expression ruhun-minhu unwittingly affirms the Trinity!

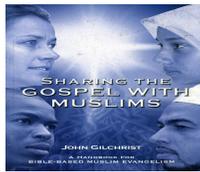
Yusuf Ali freely concedes that this is no created spirit of which the book teaches but the divine spirit, which comes from God, and must be defined in the same terms as God. Twice the Qur’an uses the expression, once for Jesus Christ, and once for the Spirit which comes from God, and must be defined in the same terms as God. Twice the Qur’an uses the expression, once for Jesus Christ, and once for the Spirit which comes from God and strengthens believers. A closer definition of the Trinity you could hardly hope to find. Surah 58:22 defines the Spirit from God in terms synonymous with those applied to the Holy Spirit in the Bible while Surah 4:171 expressly nominates Jesus in the same terms.

As with the title Word of God, you have here a golden opportunity for witness. God is spirit, Jesus taught, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). The trouble with all men and women is that sin has deadened the spirit in us and a rebirth is necessary to come into a living relationship with God. Islam is, in practice, primarily a religion of forms and rituals. Not only are the fives times of daily prayers prescribed but so is every detail of the prior ablutions and, thereafter, the performance of the salaah. The Hajj Pilgrimage is also prescribed down to the last detail. Once a man turns to God and believes in Jesus, the Spirit of God enters into him and unites him to God. He is now strengthened by the power of God’s Spirit to become the person God really wants

him to be. He enters into a living relationship with God and comes to know him personally. This is certainly what the Bible teaches when it reveals that Jesus was a spirit from God, sent to redeem us, and that the Holy Spirit from God enters into our hearts to make us become the living children of God.

The Qur’an gives to Jesus titles, especially those we have considered in Surah 4:171, which are synonymous with similar titles given to Jesus in the New Testament. You now have common ground with Muslims and a wonderful opportunity to witness to them of who Jesus really is – God’s anointed deliverer, His own Word, and a spirit proceeding directly from His Own being.

*More articles by John Gilchrist will be appearing in future Christian Debater Guides.*



**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)**

**THE DAUGHTERS OF ALLAH & ISLAMIC HOLY WAR- JIHAD**

*“These are the exalted cranes (intermediaries) whose intercession is to be hoped for.” -Sura 53:21-22*

Two major topics are covered on one DVD. Dr. Steve Morrison and Larry Wessels analyze the famous “Satanic Verses” as found in Sura 53: 21-22 of the Quran in program #1. Show #2 discusses the war-like trends of Islam based on its own history and theology (particularly chapters 8 & 9 of the Quran).

**VT or DVD-85, \$6.00 (2 hrs)**

## Islam Update

- **Canada faces “jihad generation.” 17 terror suspects arrested in Toronto.**
- **Saudi textbooks continue to promote intolerance of other religions.**
- **Iran arrests of Baha’is reported on the rise.**
- **Persecution of Christians on the rise - at least 55,000 Christians are killed for their faith every year.**
- **1000 Muslim women killed by relatives each year in Pakistan.**
- **Jewish, Christian and Muslim groups employ technology to try to speed a Messiah’s arrival.**

*Those wishing to obtain the full articles to these headlines may order them by sending \$3.00 + shipping & handling, and requesting “Islam Update, Vol. 4, #4.*

## JOHN GILCHRIST SPEAKS

John Gilchrist lectures on these subjects:

\* **The Sinlessness of the Prophets of Islam?**  
All of the prophets of Islam, including Muhammad, were sinners yet Jesus Christ was not.

**AC-346 (or CD), \$3.00, (60 Min.)**

\* **The Gospel of Barnabas - Its Origin and Sources**

Muslims use this false gospel all of the time to attack the Christian faith.

**AC-347 (or CD), \$3.00, (60 Min.)**

## THE FACTS ON ISLAM

A brief yet thorough analysis of basic Islamic beliefs and history. This booklet was put together by nationally known writers John Ankerberg and John Weldon.

**BK-67 \$5.00 (64 pages)**

## Ministry Funding

*We hate to ask for money from our readers. Unfortunately, if we do not make known our financial needs to our dear brethren in the Lord then ultimately we receive very little funding to cover our basic expenses. If you can help us financially in any small way it is greatly appreciated. All donations are tax deductible.*

## UNDERSTANDING MUSLIMS AND THE ISLAMIC FAITH

An introductory series by Dr. Steve Morrison and Larry Wessels on the following topics: 1. **Understanding Muslim Minds,** 2. **Understanding Muslim Hearts,** 3. **Proving that Jesus is God,** 4. **Jesus, Mohammed and Fatherhood.** This series is useful for Bible study groups, evangelism classes, individual study, a handout to those interested in Islam, etc.

**VT or DVD-82, \$12.00 (4 hrs)**

## 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)

## WHAT ISLAM REALLY SAYS ABOUT WOMEN

### Most Hell-Dwellers are Women

*Bukhari* 2:161; 1:301, and quoting from 1:28; "The Prophet said, 'I was shown the Hell-fire and that the majority of its dwellers were women.'" (Most were ungrateful to their husbands.) *Sahih Muslim* 2:1926, p.417 also says most of the women were "fuel for hell." When a woman asked why Mohammed said this, he replied that women showed ingratitude to their spouse. See also *Sahih Muslim* 4:6596-6600, p.1431.

### Wife Beaters are Muslims in Good Standing in Islam

Fatima bint Qais was divorced from her husband and received three marriage proposals, from Mu'awiya, Abu Jahm, and Usama bin Zaid. Mohammed mentioned that Mu'awiya was poor and without property, and Abu Jahm "is a great beater of women" in *Sahih Muslim* 2:3526, p.772. See also *Ibn-i-Majah* 3:1869, p.129. Notice that in both references Mohammed himself publicly recognized that he knew Abu Jahm was a great beater of women, but Abu Jahm was not punished. He was not even told to stop!

### Salvation For Wives in Islam Depends On Pleasing Their Husbands

Any woman who dies while her husband is pleased with her is promised Paradise. *Ibn-i-Majah* 3:1854, p.119; 3:2013, p.212. Men on the other hand, do not have to please their wives to go to Paradise. The God of the Bible denies this. Salvation is through faith by grace in Jesus Christ. (See John 3:18, Ephesians 2:8-10)

An example of the many power point charts used in this presentation.

The religion of Islam makes very clear statements about women and their roles. Islam is definitely not politically correct on this subject! Dr. Steve Morrison and Larry Wessels show the contradiction between the Islamic concept of women and the Biblical one. Program titles are: 1. **Islam is a Man's Religion**, 2. **Islamic Sex and Violence**, 3. **Wife Beating and Islamic Rules**, 4. **Islamic Cultural Oppression**.

**VT (VHS) or DVD-111, \$12.00 + S&H, 4 Hrs.**

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

- Sunni Muslims -Morrison and Wessels (AC-323)**  **Why You Should Believe the Trinity -Bowman (RP-42)**

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## Inside This Issue:

### Topic: Reaching Muslims

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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



Dear www.muslimhope.com,

Thank you so much for your reply. Anything you give me will be most helpful and will be used in discretion. I am currently doing a research degree in the early history of Islam and have minimal but increasing knowledge about methodologies in missions. I feel the Lord is moving me in this direction.

Nice website by the way. Showing Muslims their own (authoritative) traditions such as ones by al-Bukhari has been an effective way for me to show them the unattractive quality of Islam. It surprises me how little Muslims know what is in their literature. Many Blessings.

V.B. (from the web)

Dear Larry,

Thanks for the letter reply in reference to my call concerning the “Iglesia Ni Cristo.”

I have found very informative websites that I highly recommend checking into for references. www.letusreason.org

www.carm.org

The first site has useful information on the “Iglesia Ni Cristo” cult.

Please pass the above information to “all believers” as well as “non believers.” Sincerely in Christ.

J.N. (Ontario, CA)

P.S. Please pray for me, my apologetic research and for my “mail ministry” (sending Gospel messages by mail throughout the world, placing ads in newspapers, etc.).

Dear Christian Answers,

I would like to have your paper on the Seventh-Day Adventist church. I go to the church in Cherokee, IA but I have a very big problem with some of their doctrine. Also I would like the paper on “Church of Christ” and Catholic information. Enclosed is my check for \$10.00. Sincerely.

C.S. (Cherokee, IA)

Dear Christian Debater,

I came across your information while reading a copy of the “Media Spotlight” magazine which has “Terrorism in America” as the headline of the edition I had read. As you can see, I

am incarcerated and very involved in the church here at this institution. If it's possible, would you please bless me with information concerning the *Bukhari Hadith of Islam, Parts I and II*, so that I may share with the brethren here in order to shed light on the corrupt and false teachings of Muhammad and his followers. This information will help me help the others in our study of Muslims and what they believe in order to be able to minister God's grace and truth to them. I thank you in advance for the consideration of blessing me with the aforementioned information. Your brother in Christ.

D.H. (Coal Township, PA)

Dear Larry,

(I am the person you sent the great videos on abortion and I spoke with you on the phone too, to help you remember who I am.)

Larry, I just wanted to tell you your series with Bob Ross regarding religions and false prophets is great. I have seen parts 1 and 2 so far and do not know if there are any more parts.

I was wondering if I might make a donation and obtain that fold out chart you hold in your hand when doing that series?

Our only chance of living “supernaturally,” that is, above our deceitful wicked “nature” is to give our full holy allegiance to the Almighty God of all. God bless you in the name of Jesus Christ Who is Truth.

J.K. (Austin, TX)

To Christian Answers,

Donation-Thank you for a great ministry!

M.K. (Evansville, IN)

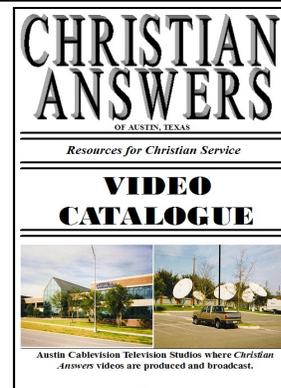
Dear brothers Larry and Steve,

Praise the Lord. Thank God for you and your parcel just received. God is faithful, and we are so thankful that we can trust Him with all our needs, great or small, and that He has promised to supply ALL of our needs through His precious Son, Jesus Christ. Yours in His loving kindness and wonderful grace.

J.A. (Cameroon, Africa)

*Christian Debater Guide*

## MINISTRY ALERT!



At long last our ministry has finally updated our video catalogue! The catalogue is 24 pages long and lists all *Christian Answers* videos produced over the last 20 years.

Subjects are listed alphabetically and cover Abortion and Atheism to Unpopular Bible Doctrines to World Religions and everything in between.

The compilation of this catalogue took a herculean effort but praise God it was accomplished. Those wishing to obtain a video catalogue may simply call, write or e-mail us for a free copy.

*Unlike much of our literature in the past, this catalogue is in color and packed with pics (a welcome relief).*