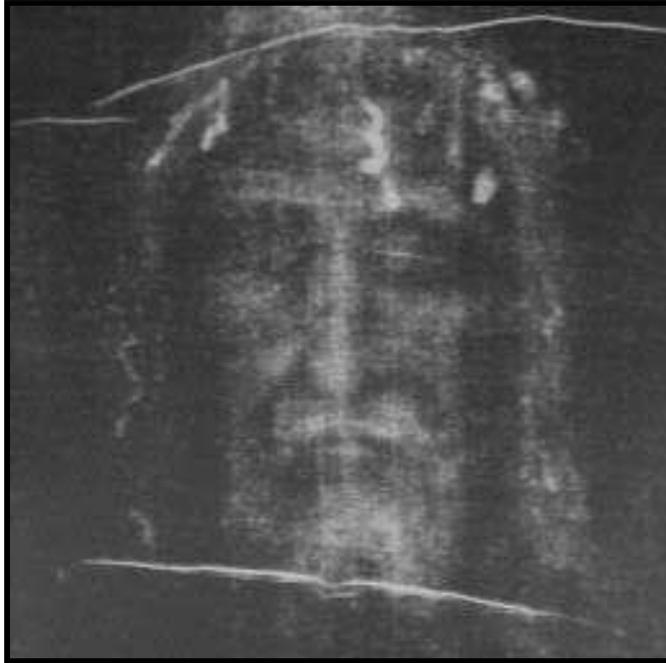




# Islam & World Events

## 7. ANSWERING ISLAMIC OBJECTIONS PART I: THE BIBLE



**Image from the Shroud of Turin, which many feel is proved to be the burial shroud of Jesus Christ**

For many Muslims the only view of the Bible and Christianity is what the Quran presents. Many of the concepts presented in the scripture do not make sense, because the teachings in the Quran are diametrically opposed to what the Bible teaches. For this reason, it is important for Christians to address the major objections Muslims have regarding the Bible and Christianity.

First as Christians, we must always remember there are areas where we can agree with our Muslim friends. Secondly, we must be aware God loves the Muslim people, their understanding of the God is wrong, so as Christians we must always be polite, understanding the battle is the Lord's, we are merely his messengers, bringing the Gospel to a lost world. By equipping ourselves to reach the Muslim world, God will send Muslims in our life, who are searching for the truth, found only in Jesus Christ.

Muslims have legitimate questions, regarding Jesus and the Bible;

many of these questions have simple answers, but require biblical knowledge. In this paper, we will answer some of the more basic questions, which a Muslim might raise regarding Jesus and the Bible.

The area of questions posed by Muslims could be divided into several categories, under three headings, 1. *Bible*, 2. *Theology* and 3. *Cultural Christianity*.

Under the heading of the Bible, Muslims have questions regarding translations, authority, whether it was corrupted and its nature. Regarding theology, there are many areas, where Muslims object, they include the concept of God, the nature of Jesus, His death and resurrection. The topic of Cultural Christianity is the perception of what Muslims perceive Christianity is, as opposed to Biblical Christianity, the Christianity of the Bible. These two aspects are often confused, with Muslims thinking Cultural aspects of Christianity are biblical, when they are not. Here, we will not be able to examine all the objections, only the major ones. Our goal is to help Muslims see the Gospel in a new light, rather than the one presented by the Quran and Islamic traditions.

### **The Bible**

#### **Is it Corrupted?**

The Bible is the foundation of Christianity and Judaism, through the written "word", God communicated to humanity. The prophets were the "pen" in the hand of God, as He revealed His words through men. Muslims will agree with this point, since they also see the Quran as the

“word” of Allah revealed through Gabriel to Mohammad. Muslims believe with the revelation of the Quran, the Bible, called the *Torah*<sup>1</sup>, *Ingil* and *Zabur*, have been set aside.

In reaching the Muslim, it is important for the Muslim to understand the Bible is the Word of God, and not set aside as Islam teaches. The Bible is the foundation of our knowledge about the LORD God, and His plan of redemption through His Son, Jesus Christ, the Muslim needs to know, why he should trust it.

### **Objection 1. Is the Bible Corrupt?**

*The Muslim:* “The books of the Christians and Jews have been corrupted, for this reason Allah revealed the Quran to Mohammad”

*Reply: The Christian:* First, we need to determine if the Bible was corrupted before or after Mohammad? Throughout the Quran, the Bible referred to as *Scripture*, placed alongside the Quran, as part of the revealed scripture.

The Christians and Jews, referred to as the *People of the Book*<sup>2</sup> are linked to what the Quran refers to as the Bible. Nowhere is the Bible, labeled corrupted during the time of Mohammad. On the contrary, the Quran claims to confirm the inspiration of the “Scripture” revealed before Mohammad. Allah tells Mohammad, look to the scriptures (The Bible) to “confirm” his revelation. In Surah 2, the Quran clearly indicates the “Scriptures” are in possession of the Jews, in the present tense. So when were they corrupted? (Surah 2:41,89,91,97,101; Surah 3:3,50,81; Surah 35:31; Surah 46:12,30 Surah 61:6)

94. And if thou (Muhammad) art in doubt concerning that which We reveal unto thee, then question those who read the Scripture (that was) before thee. Verily the Truth from thy Lord hath come unto thee. So be not thou of the waverers. Surah 10:94

40. O Children of Israel! Remember My favour wherewith I favoured you, and fulfil your (part of the) covenant, I shall fulfil My (part of the) covenant and fear Me.

41. And believe in that which I reveal, confirming that which ye possess already (of the Scripture), and be not first to disbelieve therein, and part not with My revelations for a trifling price, and keep your duty unto Me. Surah 2:40-41

Therefore, for the Muslim to say the Scripture (The Bible) is corrupted is call Mohammad a false prophet, because Quran claims to “confirm” the scripture, the Torah and Injil. In addition, the Quran also teaches the revealed scripture existed in Mohammad’s day and possessed by Jews and Christians.

### **Objection 2. The Bible was changed after Mohammad**

*The Muslim.* “If the Bible was not corrupted before the Quran it was corrupted after Mohammad!”

Mohammad was born in the year A.D. 570 and his “call” came in A.D. 610, forty years later. Some have claimed, the Christians and Jews removed the prophecies about Mohammad, after he came to prevent people from knowing about him. The problem with this theory is that it is impossible, because there are manuscripts predating Mohammad by hundreds of years. In order for “Scripture” to be changed after Mohammad, would require someone to go back in time, and then reverse what existed before Mohammad was even born.

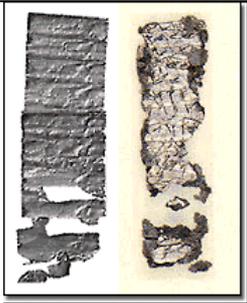
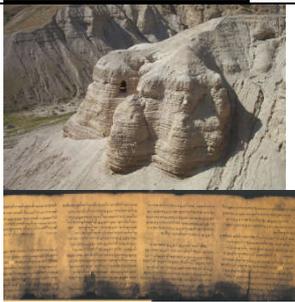
We have both Old and New Testament manuscripts, which predate Islam and the Quran, by hundreds of years. These manuscripts are not translations, they exist in the original languages. The New Testament manuscripts are in Greek, and the Old Testament manuscripts,

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<sup>1</sup> Torah are the books of Moses, the first 5, known as the Pentateuch, while the Ingil means Gospel and Zabur means Psalms.

<sup>2</sup> This term is used 34-times in the Quran to refer to the Jews and Christians, the people who have scripture. Mohammad was clearly under the impression, the Quran actually confirmed the scripture of the Jews and Christians.

in Hebrew and Aramaic<sup>3</sup>, the two languages found in the Old Testament. Below are some major manuscripts of the Old and New Testaments, all of which existed before Muhammad.

<b>New Testament</b>	
	(1) The Sinaitic ( <i>Codex Sinaiticus</i> ), written in the middle of the fourth century, about 270 years before the Hijrah of Muhammad. It contains the whole of the New Testament and a large part of the Old, and is preserved in the British Museum, London.
	(2) The Vatican ( <i>Codex Vaticanus</i> ), written early in the fourth century, nearly 300 years before the Hijrah. It contains the whole Bible, though the latter part of the New Testament (from Heb. ix. 14) is written in a later hand, and is in the Vatican Library at Rome.
	(3) The Alexandrian ( <i>Codex Alexandrinus</i> ), written early in the fifth century, more than 200 years before the Hijrah. It contains the whole Bible, except a few pages that have been lost, and is in the British Museum, London.
<b>Old Testament Manuscripts</b>	
	<b>Silver Amulets</b>
	These are the oldest existing Old Testament texts in existence. They were found in a grave, near St. Andrew's church of Scotland at Jerusalem, south of the walls of Jerusalem about one mile. They quote numbers 6:22-27, the priestly benediction, they are similar to the Masoretic Text. They are dated to about 850 B.C., amulets like these were worn as charms on the arms or neck to protect against evil. The fact they are made out of rolled thin silver preserved them to this point. The large one measures 4 inches by 1 inch, the other one is 1 inch by ½ inch.
	<b>Dead Sea Scrolls</b>
	In March 1947 a young Arab boy discovered in the caves of Qumran near the Dead Sea jars containing several leather manuscripts dating to the time of Christ. They belonged to the Essenes, the Essenes were a Jewish sect that settled the Judean desert, near Qumran. Other manuscripts were found over the next 10 years. Two copies of the book of Isaiah were found along with books and fragments from the whole Old Testament except for the book of Esther. <p>Prior to their discovery the oldest existing manuscript of the Hebrew Old Testament was dated to about 1000 AD. Carbon testing, among other proofs has dated the Dead Sea scrolls between 168 BC and 233 AD. Archaeology puts the dates between 150 BC to 100 AD.</p> <p>Gleason Archer observed that the two copies of Isaiah proved to be word for word, identical with our standard Hebrew Bible in more than 95% of the text. The 5% of variation consisted chiefly of obvious slips of the pen and variations in spelling. The scrolls gave an overwhelming confirmation of the Masoretic text. Some of the variants show parallels to the Greek text of the Septuagint (LXX). The Dead Sea Scrolls are owned by the Nation of Israel</p>

<sup>3</sup> A small portion of the Bible was revealed in Aramaic, mainly Daniel chapters 2 to 7, and part of Esther.

In addition to the manuscripts in the original languages, Bibles have also been translated into Greek, Aramaic, Coptic, Armenian, Gothic and Ethiopian all *before the birth of Mohammad*, these translations confirm both the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. The translations make it impossible for the Bible to be changed after Mohammad, because the scriptures were widespread even before Mohammad was born. These translations are delineated by William Tisdall.

- (1) The **Septuagint** (Greek), which I have already mentioned. (@ 250 B.C.)
- (2) Three versions of the New Testament and one of the **Old into Syriac**. Of these, two are of especial value. The first of these is called the Curetonian, from the name of the discoverer of the ancient MS. which contains it. This version was made at latest in the second century after Christ: the MS. 1 was written in the fifth century. The second is the Peshippā, made at latest in the third century: the oldest MS. of it which we have was written in the fifth century. Even the third, or Philoxenian version, was made long before Muḥammad's time, in 508 A.D.
- (3) Three **Coptic** versions: the Buḥairic<sup>2</sup>, made in the second or third century; the Sahidic<sup>3</sup>, and the Bashmuric or Middle Egyptian, both probably of the same date. The oldest Coptic MSS. belong to the fourth or fifth century. These three Coptic versions are in the three chief dialects of ancient Egypt.
- (4) Two **Latin versions**; one the Old Latin, made in the second century. We have MSS. of it remains which date from the fourth and fifth centuries. The other is the Vulgate, a more correct translation made by Jerome A.D. 383-5. He translated the Old Testament from the Hebrew, whereas the Old Latin was translated from the Greek version. The oldest MS. of the Vulgate was written before A.D. 5464.
- (5) The Ancient **Armenian**, made by Mesrob and published in A.D. 436, just 186 years before the Hijrah<sup>1</sup>.
- (6) The **Gothic**, made by Ulphilas, who died A.D. 381. The MSS.<sup>2</sup> of it date from the end of the fifth to the middle of the sixth century.
- (7) The **Ethiopic**, made by Frumentius in the fourth century<sup>3</sup>.
- (8) Several **Aramaic versions** of the Old Testament made by Jews in the second and third centuries<sup>4</sup>.

Therefore, we can see the Quran, history and archeology demonstrate it is impossible for the scriptures to be changed, either before the birth of Mohammad or after the death of Mohammad.

### **Objection 3, The many different versions of the Bible**

The Muslim: *“How can the Bible be the Word of God when there are so many versions, some versions such as the Catholic’s have more books than the protestants, God would not confuse people with His word”.*

Christian Reply: The Bible in the original form is written in three languages, the Old Testament is in Hebrew and Aramaic, and the New Testament is in Greek. Since not everybody can read and write in these languages, translations are necessary for most readers. Translations are designed to convey the meaning of the original text into a language familiar with the reader. This being the case, there a couple of reasons translations may vary from translation to translation.

1. *Time period:* The King James translation was translated in A.D. 1611, since that time, the English language has changed words common then are not as common today. Therefore, newer translations exist, so people could read and understand the Bible, such as the *New International Version (NIV)*, *The New King James Bible (NKJV)*, *American Standard Version (ASV)*, and others.

2. *Purpose of translation:* Another reasons translations vary is because some translations attempt to translate word for word, while others translate thought (Idiom) for thought.

3. *Manuscript source:* Translations are based on a language, sometimes the base language of the manuscript source might be in another language. For example, if Septuagint (Greek Translation) of the Old Testament is used, the translation may vary from the Hebrew.

Islam faces a similar problem in its translations, because the Quran is originally in Arabic, and not everyone reads Arabic, therefore a translation is necessary to allow some one to

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<sup>4</sup> W. St. Clair Tisdall, *Christian Reply to Muslim Objections*. Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge London 1904

understand the Quran. There are many translations of the Quran into English, including the Pickthall, J.M. Rodwell, and Yosef Ali, English versions of the Quran, and the numerous foreign language versions.

In regard to the additional books in the Catholic Bible, the added books are derived from the Apocrypha, which the Catholics claim are inspired, while the Jews and Protestants reject. These books were written between the Old and New Testaments, and were only recently officially added to the Catholic Bible after the Council of Trent in 1545.

### **Is the Bible Inspired?**

#### **Objection 4. Why is there an Old and New Testament?**

The Muslim: *The Bible has an Old and New Testament, which version is the correct one, this is proof the Bible cannot be the Word of God, Did God change his Laws?*

Christian Reply: The Old and New Testaments are not two separate books, but two parts of the same book. In the Old Testament God prepares the world for redemption through the prophets, who foretell the coming of the Messiah, in the New Testament God records the fulfillment of the prophecies.

The Torah (The books of Moses) and the rest of the prophets pointed toward the coming of the Messiah who would die for the sins of the world, redeeming humanity. Jeremiah the prophet who lived 600 years before Jesus wrote about the coming of a New Covenant, which would be greater than the Covenant established by Moses. Jeremiah looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, who would pay for the sins of the World.

31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. 33 "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

The death of Messiah, paid for the sins of the world, the Messiah was God's sacrifice for sin. Jesus himself refers to His fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. Jesus did not come to subvert the law, but to fulfill the law.

17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. **Matthew 5:17-18**

The New Testament records the fulfillment of the prophets of the Old Testament, who established a New and greater Covenant would be in the future. The better translation of Testament is Covenant, referring to the Old Covenant established under Moses, and a New Covenant established by the death of Messiah (Jesus), who was our sacrifice.

We will cover the evidence for the death of the Messiah in detail later.

#### **Objection 5. The Quran is a miracle of Allah as opposed to the Bible**

Muslim Reply: *The Quran was revealed to Mohammad who was an illiterate man, demonstrating its miraculous nature, how can the Bible compare with such miracle?*

Christian Reply: Regarding Mohammed and his being illiterate, there are serious questions about this statement. What the Quran says, is that he Mohammad was an unlettered prophet, an *ummi*.

The word in the Quran does not mean illiterate, because the Quran itself was written in Arabic, so the Arab's were not illiterate. What the word means is they did not have "Scripture" and were therefore unlettered, not having scripture. Mohammad was sent to those with no scripture, but they were still a "literate" people with Arabic script.

78. Among them are unlettered folk who know the scripture not except from hearsay. They but guess. Surah 2:78

2. He it is Who hath sent among the unlettered ones a messenger of their own, to recite unto them His revelations and to make them grow, and to teach them the Scripture and Wisdom, though heretofore they were indeed in error manifest, Surah 62:2

Secondly, many portions of the Quran are clearly copies of earlier writings in the land surrounding Mecca and Medina. For example the Surah 27:20-45 The Ant is nearly a direct copy from the Aramaic work called the *II Targum of Ester*. This among many other parts of the Quran demonstrates Mohammad's literacy, since these books, which the Quran borrows from are not considered inspired by either the Jews or Christians.

### **Objection 6: Evidence the Bible is the Word of God**

Muslim Reply: *"What evidence exists showing the Bible to be Allah's Word?"*

Christian Reply: The Bible very clearly demonstrates itself as the word of God by using supernatural evidence. Super natural means outside of nature, for example if a person claimed to be a prophet and told you an event about an event in the past, an event that already occurred, nobody would be surprised. If the same person told you about an event in the present, still nobody would react or think it special because knowing the past and the present are natural.

If the same person, however were to talk about future events, clearly foretelling the future, then this would be "supernatural" because it is outside of nature.

This is the kind of evidence the Bible a uses, demonstrating it is a supernatural book, not one contrived by human effort, the Bible in fact points to this as evidence in the book of Isaiah.

22 "Let them bring forth and show us what will happen: Let them show the former things, what they were, That we may consider them, And know the latter end of them; Or declare to us things to come. 23 Show the things that are to come hereafter, That we may know that you are gods; Yes, do good or do evil, That we may be dismayed and see it together. Isaiah 41:22-23

3 "I have declared the former things from the beginning; They went forth from My mouth, and I caused them to hear it. Suddenly I did them, and they came to pass. 4 Because I knew that you were obstinate, And your neck was an iron sinew, And your brow bronze, 5 Even from the beginning I have declared it to you: Before it came to pass I proclaimed it to you, Lest you should say, 'My idol has done them, And my carved image and my molded image Have commanded them.' Isaiah 48:3-5

The Bible is filled with supernatural evidence, foretelling events revolving around the nation of Israel, the Messiah and things to come in the *last days*. Specifically the Bible declares future events hundreds and thousands of years before they occur. (see chart below)

Prophecy in the Old Testament looked forward to the coming of the Messiah (Christ) showing he would be killed and rejected by the nation of Israel 700 years before his birth (Isaiah 52:12-53:13). Daniel foretold the exact day Messiah would be cut off, 539 years before his birth (Daniel 9:24-27) and what would happen to Jerusalem and the Temple after Messiah is killed.

Zechariah foretold 2500-years ago the central focus of Jerusalem in the last days, as the nations gather together against it (Zechariah 12:1-3).

2 "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. 3 "And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it. Zechariah 12:2-3 (520 B.C.)

Ezekiel foretold of the nation of Israel, gathered together in the last days, from the nations after a long period of desolation, after Israel is gathered the nations would attack it.

8 "After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely. 16 "You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes." Ezekiel 38:8,16

Description of Evidence	Significance	Super-natural nature
 <p><b>Greatness of Abraham</b>  <b>Genesis 12:2-3</b> Abraham Was promised to:            * Be source for a great nation            * Have a great name            * All peoples on the earth to Be blessed through Him.</p>	<p>Genesis was written about 1450 BC Abraham, was just one of Many people who lived on the Earth. over ½ the Earth's 6 billion People claim a connection to Abraham including Muslims, Jews and Christians. Both Jews and Arab's Claim Abraham as the source their national identity.</p>	<p>Both Muslims, Christians and Jews Claim descent and connection to Abraham. This prophecy was written Well before the growth of Christianity And Islam. Abraham name became great after Christianity spread 100 AD and Islam after 632 AD. If 15 billion people lived since the beginning of the Human race, the odds Of one man have a name of world wide Distinction is 1 out of 15 billion. If the Promise was recorded 3400 years Before the event it is super-natural.</p>
 <p><b>Israel Scattered</b>  <b>Deuteronomy 28:64</b>            3450 years ago in the Bible Israel as a nation is told they will be dispersed throughout the world and suffer as a people for being Disobedient.</p>	<p>Two times in Israel's history they Were scattered as a nation, first During the Babylonian captivity (605, 598 and 587 BC) Jer 51. Second, during the time of Roman Occupation. 54 BC-638 AD</p>	<p>For a people to be scattered is a A common event throughout history As one people group takes land and Settles in territory belonging to another. Israel as a nation is scattered and Gathered and then scattered again. The condition of the people in their Scattered condition is described in Detail, yet they remain a distinct people In the land of their captivity</p>
 <p><b>Israel Gathered</b>  <b>Deuteronomy 30:3</b>            3450 years ago Israel is promised to be gathered back into the land promised to Abraham after being scattered.            The gathering of Israel as a Nation from the nations is repeated throughout the scriptures Isaiah 11, Isaiah 14:1-2, Isaiah 56:8, Jeremiah 30-31, Ezekiel 36-37, Zechariah 10:6-12            ...</p>	<p>Two times Israel has been gathered, Once following the Babylonian Captivity after the Persian defeat Of Babylon in 539 BC by Cyrus The second in our day with the Creation of the state of Israel as Jews from Europe, Africa, Asia, North and South America founded the state of Israel</p>	<p>The creation of the state of Israel was Result of two world wars. First the Muslim powers were defeated and Only after ½ the world's Jewish Population was killed in the Holocaust Would the nations agree to allowing A Jewish state to exist, in May 1948 Israel came into existence the first time A Jewish state existed in 2000 years. For a people to maintain national Identity after 1900 years and to be Gathered back into their land is Amazing enough...But for the event To be written about even before they Were a nation is super-natural.</p>
 <p><b>Jerusalem Focus Of World Attention</b>            Zechariah 12:3 foretells Jerusalem as the Center of worldwide Attention</p>	<p>We are told that Jerusalem will Be a burden for the world and the Object of conflict. The nations of the World will be at war with the Descendents of Israel.</p>	<p>Over ½ the Earth population view Jerusalem as spiritually significant. 2500 years ago when Jerusalem was just a small regional city Zechariah told about the coming day when all then nations will burden themselves with the possession of the city.</p>
 <p><b>Temple destroyed</b>            The destruction of the Jewish temple following The death of Jesus was Foretold in Daniel 9:26            And Matthew 24:2</p>	<p>In 70 AD the Roman empire destroys The Jewish Temple. Every stone Was throne down as Roman soldiers Looked for melted gold. The destruction of the Temple along each stone being Taken down was recorded 600 years Before this event, Messiah was to Be cut off.</p>	<p>600 years before the event we are told about the destruction following the cutting off of the Messiah. Jesus claimed to be Messiah and as a result 2 billion people, 1/3 of the earth's population are connected to the city of Jerusalem. How Daniel could know the details of the Temple's destruction as well as it being Connected with the Messiah being "Cut Off" is super-natural.</p>

	<p><b>Jews from Ethiopia Gathered.</b> In the Second gathering Jews living in Ethiopia are Foretold to be gathered to Israel ,2700 years ago in Isaiah 11:11 this gathering was written about.</p>	<p>Operation Solomon in 1980 and Exodus in 1991 rescued Jews living in Ethiopia from extermination and persecution. The Jews there have been traced back over 2000 years ago.</p>	<p>Isaiah 11:11 specifically mentions Jews From Cush (Ethiopia) as part of the Gathering from the nations. 2700 years Before the event</p>
	<p><b>Exact month &amp; year Messiah is killed.</b> <b>70 Weeks of Daniel</b> is a very specific prophecy foretelling the rejection and cutting off of Messiah 570 years before the event. Daniel 9:24-27</p>	<p>The 70 weeks of Daniel foretells the Exact time Messiah would be cut-off. Following a 483 year period (69 Weeks) after a command to rebuild The walls and streets of Jerusalem Was given to Nehemiah.</p>	<p>The Christian faith is the largest faith in The World and centers on the Messiah Being killed for the sins of the world. 570 before the death of Jesus, Daniel foretold the exact time of Messiah being cut-off with the Temple's destruction following his death.</p>

God demonstrates the supernatural nature of His word by proclaiming the events before they happen.

### Jesus

#### Objection 7. Jesus did not die on the cross!

Muslim reply: *The Quran teaches Jesus did not die on the cross but was caught up into heaven, Allah would not allow His prophets to be killed in such a manner! The Quran is very clear on this issue, for Jesus to die on the cross would mean the Quran is wrong!!*

157. And because of their saying: We slew the Messiah Jesus son of Mary, Allah's messenger They slew him not nor crucified, but it appeared so unto them; and lo! those who disagree concerning it are in doubt thereof; they have no knowledge thereof save pursuit of a conjecture ; they slew him not for certain.  
Surah 4:57

Christian Reply: I can understand your passion for your prophet, but we need to understand both Christianity and Islam cannot be correct on this issue, one of us has to be wrong. Now the evidence you have is the testimony of Mohammad who lived over 600 years after Jesus, and hundreds of miles from Bethlehem.



The Bible clearly foretells of the death of the Messiah, who would die as the sacrifice for the sins of humanity. Jesus Christ's death is recorded in the New Testament, by eyewitnesses who both knew Jesus and were there when he was crucified. This included the apostle John who wrote the *Gospel of John*, the *Epistles of John* and the *Book of Revelation*. Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of John, told John to watch over this mother, before He died. His death is not only recorded in John, but also in Luke 23:46, Matthew 27:50 and Mark 15:37

26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" 27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. 28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" 29 Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. 30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. John 19:26-30

The Gospels look upon the death of Jesus as fulfilling scripture, which means before Jesus was even born, in the Old Testament, the Jewish prophets foretold the death of Messiah, who would die for the sins of the world. The Messiah would die for the sins of the world as a sacrifice for sin.

There are two pictures of the Messiah in scripture; one picture is that of a "Suffering Servant", who dies for the sins of the world. The other is a "Conquering King" who rules the world in glory and power. The Muslims like the Jews have rejected the death of Messiah as an atonement for sin, and therefore fulfilled what scripture would say about Messiah's death, asking

the question “*Who has believed our report?*”. Remember what you are about to read, was written 700-years before Jesus was even born.

13 Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently: He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. 14 Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; 15 So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider. Isaiah 52:13-15

1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?  
3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.....8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. 9 And they made His grave with the wicked-But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. 10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors. **Isaiah 53: 1,3-5, 8-12**

Isaiah wrote 700 years before the birth of Jesus, and clearly foretells the death of the Lord’s “Servant”, who will be highly exalted (Isaiah 52:13) after being humbled and marred more than any man. This same servant’s nature was concealed, later to be revealed (Isaiah 52:15) in the future, in glory and power. The kings of the earth will shut their mouth at him, according to Isaiah who wrote 700-years before the birth of Jesus. Later we find in the 53<sup>rd</sup> chapter the following points regarding this “Righteous Servant” (53:11).

- He is rejected and despised (Isaiah 53:3)
- His suffering is payment for our sins (Isaiah 53:4,5,8)
- He is killed and dies (Isaiah 53:8,9,12)
- His death was an offering for sin (Isaiah 53:10)
- He is the “Righteous Servant” who justifies many (Isaiah 53:11)
- He is the one who intercedes for the transgressors (Isaiah 53:12)

In addition to Isaiah 53, clearly prophesying the death of the Messiah, Daniel openly proclaims not only that the Messiah would die, but also when he would die, 539 years before he is born. This prophecy known as the *Seventy Weeks* establishes the time of Messiah’s death, and foretells the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple after Messiah is killed.

26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. Daniel 9:26

The Psalm of David also pictures the crucifixion, 1000-years before the event. Here David described Messiah being pierced and the dividing of his garment, both events fulfilled on the day he was put on the cross.

16 For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; 17 I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. 18 They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots. Psalm 22:16-18

Therefore, the death of messiah was no surprise in scripture, both the Old Testament and New Testament contradict the Quran. Both Old and New Testaments succinctly proclaim the necessity to trust in the Messiah who pays for the sins of the world, by His death.

### **Objection 8. Jesus cannot be God, he is only a man!**

Muslim reply: *How can Christians believe such a blasphemous belief, to believe Allah became a man is beyond reason. This is what the Quran say,*

72. They surely disbelieve who say : Lo! Allah is the Messiah, son of Mary. The Messiah (himself) said : O Children of Israel, worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. Lo! whoso ascribeth partners unto Allah, for him Allah hath forbidden Paradise. His abode is the Fire. For evildoers there will be no helpers. Surah 5:72

Christian Reply: Again, regarding the nature of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, it is not up to us to determine the nature of who the Messiah should be, but God. God through the prophets, who lived before Jesus birth, over 1000-years before Mohammad, revealed who the Messiah would be. The prophets proclaimed His nature, family line and death.

The prophets tell us the Messiah would be a descendent of King David and sit on the throne of David. (2 Samuel 7:13). Isaiah also clearly spoke regarding the Messiah, he would not just be a man, but fully God. Notice, 700-years before Jesus, the Messiah would be born a child, but also be Mighty-God, he would rule over the earth forever, not 40-years as Islam teaches.

6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6-7

Jesus came to die for the sins of the world to redeem us back to Himself. The concept of God appearing in Human form is throughout the Old Testament. So if God could appear in human form in the Old Testament, why is it so impossible for Him to enter the world in the body of a man and die on the cross for our sins? He appeared in human form to Moses, Joshua and Ezekiel. Why not again?

#### *Did God appear as a man?*

To many Jews and Muslims the idea of God coming into the physical world as Man seems repulsive. However, from the early chapters of Genesis it is clear that God took upon Himself human form. In the very first chapter, man is made in the image of God. Not God in the image of Man but Man in God's image, later we see God walking with Adam and Eve in the Garden. In fact, there are several places in scripture, where God is described as having human form. So if God could come in human form in the past, why is it so hard to believe it could not be so at the time of Christ?

- God appears at Abraham's tent as a Man
- God wrestles with Jacob as a Man
- Moses and the Elders of Israel see God in Human form
- God declares that Moses speaks to God in Human form,
- God stands before Joshua as a Man
- God in Daniel is called the Ancient of Days and is described in Human form.
- Ezekiel describes the Glory of the LORD as a Man

## **A. Did God appear as a Man?**

### **1. In the Garden**

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over <sup>□</sup>all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."  
**Genesis 1:26**

<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

## Genesis 3:8

### 2. At the Tent with Abraham

<sup>1</sup>Then the LORD appeared to him by <sup>□</sup> the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw *them*, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, <sup>3</sup>and said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant. <sup>4</sup>Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant."

They said, "Do as you have said."

They said, "Do as you have said.".... <sup>16</sup>Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. <sup>17</sup>And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,.... <sup>22</sup>Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. **Genesis 18: 1-5, 16-17, 22**

<sup>1</sup>Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw *them*, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. **Genesis 19:1**

### 3. Jacob wrestled with a Man

<sup>24</sup>Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. <sup>25</sup>Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

<sup>27</sup>So He said to him, "What is your name?"

He said, "Jacob."

<sup>28</sup>And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but <sup>□</sup> Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.".....

<sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the name of the place <sup>□</sup> Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

**Genesis 32:24-28,30**

### 4. Moses and the Elders of Israel See God

<sup>9</sup>Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, <sup>10</sup>and they saw the God of Israel. And *there* was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in *its* clarity. <sup>11</sup>But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank.

<sup>12</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them."

**Exodus 24:12**

<sup>11</sup>So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.

..... <sup>22</sup>So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by.

<sup>23</sup>Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

**Exodus 33:11, 22-23**

### 5. God talks to Moses about his appearance

<sup>6</sup>Then He said,

"Hear now My words:

If there is a prophet among you,  
I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision;

I speak to him in a dream.

<sup>7</sup>Not so with My servant Moses;

He *is* faithful in all My house.

<sup>8</sup>I speak with him face to face,  
Even plainly, and not in dark sayings;

And he sees the form of the LORD.

Why then were you not afraid

To speak against My servant Moses?" **Numbers 12:6-8**

### 6. Commander of the Lord's Army appears to Joshua

<sup>13</sup>And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?"

<sup>14</sup>So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come."

And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?"

<sup>15</sup>Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.. **Joshua 5:13-15**

### 7. Ancient of Days & Son of Man

<sup>9</sup> "I watched till thrones were put in place,  
And the Ancient of Days was seated;  
His garment was white as snow,  
And the hair of His head was like pure wool.  
His throne was a fiery flame,  
Its wheels a burning fire;  
<sup>10</sup> A fiery stream issued  
And came forth from before Him.  
A thousand thousands ministered to Him;  
Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.  
The court was seated,  
And the books were opened.  
<sup>13</sup> "I was watching in the night visions,  
And behold, One like the Son of Man,  
Coming with the clouds of heaven!  
He came to the Ancient of Days,  
And they brought Him near before Him.  
<sup>14</sup> Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,  
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.  
His dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
Which shall not pass away,  
And His kingdom *the one*  
Which shall not be destroyed.

**Daniel 7:9-10,13-14**

8. <sup>26</sup>And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. <sup>27</sup>Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around.  
**Ezekiel 1:26-27**

In the New Testament era, God was incarnated into humanity, and took a body to become our redeemer, who would die for our sins.

#### Objection 9. How can God have a son?

Muslim Reply: *For God to have a Son is against his nature, Allah is not associated with anything!*

Christian Reply: The word "Son" does not mean the product of sexual relations, the word "Son" here means one of same nature. God becoming man, is what God did in the time of Abraham, he appeared to Abraham in the form of a man. In the New Testament God veiled Himself in human flesh, to take upon Himself the sins of humanity.

#### *Is the "Son of God" God?*

Nathan the prophet in 2nd Samuel 7:14 first introduces the idea of the Messiah being the "Son of God" to David: The LORD through Nathan tells David the Messiah would come through his family line and the kingdom of David's descendent would be forever. Nathan also informs David the coming King would also be the "Son of God". Some interpreters have tried to explain the idea of "Son of God" in a metaphorical sense, the Messiah proceeded from God therefore he was the "Son of God" in the same way Adam was the first created Human and is called in Luke the son of God. (Luke 3:38).

However, in Psalm 2 this relationship between the Messiah and the LORD is unique. The whole world will one day submit to the "King" the LORD installs. We told to "Kiss" the "Son";

further, we are told all who put their "Trust" in Him will be blessed. In Isaiah, the "Son given" is called "Mighty God", "Prince of Peace" and "Everlasting Father". All terms which if applied to a human being would be blasphemous if the person was not in fact God.

The nature of Messiah, being the Son was prophesied over 1000-years before Jesus was even born. God prepared the world for the coming of the Messiah, who would be called "Son of God" when he came. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Psalm, the Messiah (Anointed) is clearly in focus, as the king earth, who will one day rule the nations with a rod of iron (vs. 9).

The nations rage against the "Anointed", meaning Messiah, and the LORD. The Messiah is here declared "Begotten"<sup>5</sup>, when he comes into the world. John 3:16, qualifies the word "Begotten"<sup>6</sup> with "Only", meaning that the "Son of God" is of the same nature of the Father. One thousand years before Jesus, is even born, the kings of the earth are told to "Kiss" the Son lest they perish in His wrath. God demanded the earth worship the Son, even before the Son was born.

<b>C. Son of God</b>	
<p><b>1. The Messiah will be the Son of God</b></p> <p><sup>12a</sup>When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup><u>He will be his Father, and he shall be My son.</u> If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. <sup>15</sup>But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. <u>Your throne shall be established forever.</u>""  <b>2 Samuel 7:12-16</b></p>	
<p><b>2. The Son of the LORD reigns over the nations</b></p> <p><b>Psalm 2</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup> Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?  <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed<sup>7</sup>, saying,  <sup>3</sup> "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away <u>Their cords from us.</u>"  <sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision.  <sup>5</sup> Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:  <sup>6</sup> "<u>Yet I have set My King</u> On My holy hill of Zion."  <sup>7</sup> "I will declare the decree: The LORD has <u>said to Me, 'You are My Son,</u> Today I have begotten You.  <sup>8</sup> Ask of Me, and I will give <u>You The nations for Your inheritance,</u> And the ends of the earth for Your possession.  <sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."  <sup>10</sup> Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth.  <sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.  <sup>12</sup> <u>Kiss the Son,</u> lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. <u>Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.</u>  <b>Psalm 2:1-12</b></p>	
<p><b>3. The Son of the LORD is called Might God</b></p> <p><sup>6</sup> For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a <u>Son is given;</u> And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, <u>Mighty God,</u> Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of <i>His</i> government and peace <u>There will be no end, Upon the throne of David</u> and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, <u>even forever.</u>  The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.  <b>Isaiah 9:6-7</b></p>	
<p><b>4. The will grieve over the "Firstborn" Son who was pierced</b></p> <p><sup>10a</sup> And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will</p>	

<sup>5</sup> יָלַד *Yalad* (yaw-lad'); Verb, Strong #: 3205, to bear, bring forth, beget, gender, travail (Qal) to bear, bring forth of child birth.

<sup>6</sup> μονογενής *Monogenes* (mon-og-en-ace'); Word Origin: Greek, Adjective, Strong #: 3439single of its kind, only

<sup>7</sup> מָשִׁיחַ *Mashiyach* (maw-shee'-akh); Noun Masculine, Strong #: 4899

look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his only son*, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. <sup>11</sup>In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

Zechariah 12:10-11

### Objection 10. Christians believe in three Gods

Muslim Reply: *The Quran clearly teaches Christians believe in three Gods, with Jesus being a third of the three.*

73. They surely disbelieve who say: Lo! Allah is the third of three; when there is no God save the One God. If they desist not from so saying a painful doom will fall on those of them who disbelieve. Surah 5:73

Christian Reply: The Christian doctrine of the Trinity does not deny the oneness of God. In the first place, the Quran has an incorrect understanding of the Christian doctrine. The Quran teaches Jesus, Mary and Allah is the "Trinity", which is incorrect. Mary was never considered a goddess in Christianity or part of the trinity as quoted in Surah 5:116

116. And when Allah saith: O Jesus, son of Mary! Didst thou say unto mankind: Take me and my mother for two gods beside Allah? he saith: Be glorified It was not mine to utter that to which I had no right. If I used to say it, then Thou knewest it. Thou knowest what is in my mind, and I know not what is in Thy mind. Lo! Thou, only Thou art the Knower Surah 5:116

Both in the Old and New Testament the oneness of God is affirmed, Jesus in Mark 12:29 quotes from Deuteronomy 6:4, declaring the oneness of God.

29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Mark 12:29

The Old Testament and the New reveal the nature of who God is, The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In the Prophets, God prepared the world for the incarnation of the Son, and these prophets declared the Son to be God. God in scripture has chosen to reveal Himself in three persons, The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

#### *Holy Spirit*

The term *Spirit of the Lord* is used 23-times and the term *Spirit of God* used 14 times in the Old Testament to identify the Holy Spirit. Here Ezekiel is told by the Spirit to speak.

Then the Spirit of the Lord fell upon me, and said to me, "Speak! Thus says the Lord: "Thus you have said, O house of Israel; for I know the things that come into your mind. Ezekiel 11:5

From the very first verses of Genesis, the Holy Spirit is seen in the creation of the world, Genesis 1:2, and later in chapter one in (verse 26) Genesis, God says let "Us" make man in our image.

2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. Genesis 1:1-2

The presence of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, is the same in the New, at the start of Jesus ministry, we see the Holy Spirit descend upon Jesus in the form of a dove, and the Father proclaim the His love for the Son.

22 And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." Luke 3:22

Jesus also identified the distinct nature and person of the Holy Spirit, in John 14, the Spirit is identified as "He". The ministry of the Spirit is distinct from the Son, yet the Spirit is God. The Father sends the Holy Spirit in the name of the Son. One God, who has revealed Himself in three distinct persons, this is the essence of the Trinity.

16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. John 14:16-17,26

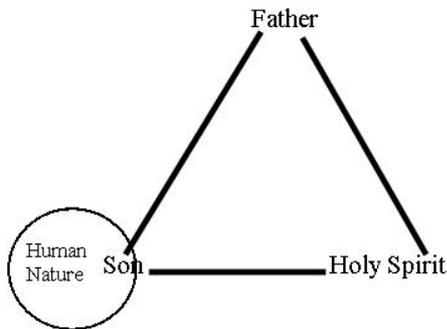
### The Son

As the Holy Spirit in both Old and New Testaments is demonstrated as God, so is the Son. As noted above, in the book of Isaiah (9:6) God revealed the Son as the "Mighty God". The nature of Jesus as fully God and yet man is affirmed in both the Old and New Testaments. From the very first verses of John in the New Testament, the nature of Jesus is proclaimed.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. John 1:1-3

According to the Gospel of John, all of creation was made through Jesus through who was God and with God in the beginning, before He entered the world in the body of Man. The book of Isaiah illustrates this by calling the Messiah, the *Arm of the Lord*.

In Isaiah 53:1 and 59:16, the descent of God into the world as Messiah is foretold, 700-years before the event. Jesus is identified as the "Arm of the Lord" who enters the world to



Isaiah 59:16-17

Redeem humanity, because there is nobody else who could fulfill the task. In Isaiah 53, the very first verse asks the question, "*To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?*". Isaiah then describes the sacrifice of the Messiah, who dies for the sins of the world.

In Isaiah 59, the Arm of the Lord is identified as God Himself,

16 He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him. 17 For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.

The illustration of the Arm of God is an illustration for us to understand the concept of the Trinity. For example, when two people meet and shake hands, the hand is the extension of the person. When flesh of one hand makes contact with the other. This is exactly what occurred in the New Testament, God made contact in the world, through the incarnation, entering the world in the body of man.



We can further illustrate this with a couple of questions. Let use a cup for example. If I asked you the question, Can I enter the cup? Most people would say no, you are much bigger then the cup, how can you enter it? Well, I can extend my arm and stick my hand in the cup. I would then be in the cup. All of me is much larger then the cup, but part of me, my hand could enter the cup. The same point could be used regarding a fish tank. Can I enter the community of fish in a 10 gallon tank? All of me is too large to enter the tank, but I can extend my arm into the tank.

In the same way, God is bigger than the Universe, it is impossible for us to comprehend God, so he made Himself comprehensible in the Incarnation of the Son. God literally stuck Himself into our world, and communed with His creation.