

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



ALI 351 – Session 2
**Nabi 'Isā/Jesus (a) in the
Quran**
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Quranic Ayat 19: 29 - 34

فَأَشَارَتْ إِلَيْهِ ۗ قَالُوا كَيْفَ نُكَلِّمُ مَنْ كَانَ فِي
الْمَهْدِ صَبِيًّا ﴿٢٩﴾ قَالَ إِنِّي عَبْدُ اللَّهِ آتَانِي
الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلَنِي نَبِيًّا ﴿٣٠﴾ وَجَعَلَنِي مُبَارَكًا
أَيْنَ مَا كُنْتُ وَأَوْصَانِي بِالصَّلَاةِ وَالزَّكَاةِ مَا
دُمْتُ حَيًّا ﴿٣١﴾ وَبَرًّا بِوَالِدَيْهِ وَلَمْ يَجْعَلْنِي
جَبَّارًا شَقِيًّا ﴿٣٢﴾ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيَّ يَوْمَ وُلِدْتُ
وَيَوْمَ أُمُوتُ وَيَوْمَ أُبْعَثُ حَيًّا ﴿٣٣﴾ ذَلِكَ
عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ ۗ قَوْلَ الْحَقِّ الَّذِي فِيهِ
يَمْتَرُونَ ﴿٣٤﴾

Translation verses 19: 29 - 34

So she pointed to him. They said, “How can we speak to one who is yet a child in the cradle?” (29) He said, “Indeed, I am the servant of Allah. He has given me the Book and made me a prophet. (30) And He has made me blessed wherever I am and has enjoined upon me prayer and zakat as long as I remain alive (31) And to be dutiful to my mother, and He has not made me a wretched tyrant. (32) And peace is to me the day I was born and the day I die and the day I am raised alive.” (33) That is Jesus, son of Mary, a Word of Truth/Real about which they are in dispute. (34)

Tafsīr on verses Q 19: 29 -34

Allah (swt) makes 'Isā to defend his mother
Child in the cradle could mean in the lap of mother
'Isa's first testifies to his servanthood (see 4:172)
Muhammad was also a servant (Q17:1,25:1, 53:10)
Given me the Book i.e. Injil – it was either inspired
whilst in the womb or will be taught in future
He was made a prophet while he was still a child
Made me blessed= source of spiritual benefit
Prayer & zakat often mentioned together as good
practices in Islam serving God and His creatures

About Suratu Maryam

This sūra is titled Maryam whose story runs from verses 16 – 40; shows the high status of Mary

This is the only sūra named for a female person

Mary is the only woman mentioned by name in HQ

She is also covered in verses Q 3: 35 – 48.

Ja'far b. Abi Talib (d. 7 AH) recited these verses in the court of Negus. Upon hearing Quran, the king & the religious leaders began to weep profusely & refused to hand over the Muslims to Makkans

67 of its 98 verses end with same final sound

Third of all instances of *al-Rahman* (besides Basmalah) in the Quran are located in this surah.

Q: How many times *al-Rahman* in HQ & in ⁵this sūra?

Nabi 'Īsā (a) in the Quran

Jesus is mentioned 25 x by name, in the Quran. He is referred to in ninety three verses in fifteen sūras. Islam corroborates that Jesus was born to a virgin, was sinless, performed miracles, and was superior to other prophets. Yet, Islam teaches that Jesus was no more than a prophet. It denies the central message of Christianity by denying Jesus' divinity, crucifixion, and resurrection. Yet, among the major world religions, Islam is the only non-Christian faith that recognizes the person of Jesus (Abdullah Yusufali, *The Glorious Quran*).

An Imam compared with Jesus

Safwān b. Yahyā narrates: I said to [Imam Ali] al-Ridhā (a): “We used to ask you before Allah gave you Abu Ja‘far (about your son) and you would say: *‘Allah will grant me a son.’* We ask Allah never to show us the day (of your death) but if something happened, to whom (will the Imamate belong)?” He pointed to Abu Ja‘far with his hand while he was standing in front of him. I said: “May I be your ransom, this is a child of 3 years.” *‘That does not harm him,’* he replied. *‘Jesus gave evidence (of his mission) when he was under 3 years old’* (Al-Mufid, *Kitāb al-Irshād*, p. 481)

Nabi 'Isā (a) in Islam

There are five Ulul 'Azm prophets:

Nabī Nuh (Noah); Nabī Ibrāhim (Abraham)

Nabī Musā (Moses); Nabī 'Īsā (Jesus)

Nabī Muhammad. In Hadith: these prophets abrogated their preceding Laws and are the foremost of all the prophets of Allah. *Ulul 'azm* = having a strong will, i.e. possessing strong will, clemency & perseverance in the fulfillment of their Divine mission. May be applied to all prophets, but the five most resolute under all circumstances.

Jesus is similar to Adam

إِنَّ مَثَلَ عِيسَىٰ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ آدَمَ ۖ خَلَقَهُ مِنْ تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ قَالَ لَهُ
كُنْ فَيَكُونُ ﴿٥٩﴾ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكَ فَلَا تَكُن مِّنَ الْمُمْتَرِينَ ﴿٦٠﴾

Indeed, the example of Jesus to Allah is like that of Adam. He created Him from dust; then He said to him, “Be,” and he was. (3:59) The truth is from your Lord, so do not be among the doubters. (3:60)

Then Allah asked the Prophet to invite the Christians from Najran for a Mubahila.

Jesus was not killed nor crucified

وَقَوْلِهِمْ إِنَّا قَتَلْنَا الْمَسِيحَ عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ وَمَا صَلَبُوهُ
وَلَكِنْ شُبِّهَ لَهُمْ ۚ وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ لَفِي شَكٍّ مِّنْهُ ۚ مَا لَهُمْ بِهِ
مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِلَّا اتِّبَاعَ الظَّنِّ ۚ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ يَقِينًا ﴿١٥٧﴾

And [for] their saying, “Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah.” And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but so it was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain. (157) Rather, Allah raised him to Himself. And ever is Allah Exalted in Might and Wise.

Allah sent a table spread

قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّنَا أَنْزِلْ عَلَيْنَا مَائِدَةً مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ تَكُونُ
لَنَا عِيدًا لِأَوَّلِنَا وَآخِرِنَا وَآيَةً مِّنكَ ۖ وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الرَّازِقِينَ
﴿١١٤﴾ قَالَ اللَّهُ ابْنِي مُنَزَّلُهَا عَلَيْكُمْ ۖ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بَعْدُ مِنكُمْ فَإِنِّي
أُعَذِّبُهُ عَذَابًا لَا أُعَذِّبُهُ أَحَدًا مِّنَ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١١٥﴾

Said Jesus son of Mary, 'O Allah!, our Lord! Send down to us a table from the sky, to be for us a festival for us, for the first one and the last ones among us, and a sign from You. And provide for us, and You are the best of providers.'" (5:114) Allah said, "I will indeed send it down to you. But should any of you disbelieve after this, I will indeed punish him with a punishment by which I have not punished anyone among the worlds." (5:115)