

What do Muslims believe about Jesus the son of Mary?

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Host: Shaykh Muhammad at the beginning of this gathering we would like for you to speak to us concerning the belief of the Muslims regarding “Eesaa (Jesus) (عليه السلام)¹. And what is the ruling for those who say he was killed and crucified?

Shaykh al-Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)²: All praises belong to Allaah, and may the prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and his companions.

The belief of the Muslims regards ‘Eesaa (Jesus) the son of Maryam (عليه السلام), is that he is one of the noble Messengers; rather he is regarded as one of the five Messengers of strong will. And they are: Muhammad, Ibraaheem (Abraham), Moosa (Moses), ‘Eesaa (Jesus) and Nooh (Noah) (عليهم السلام)³. Allaah (سبحانه)⁴ has mentioned them (as a collective group) in two places in His Book. He said in Soorah al-Ahzaab:

وَإِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ مِيثَاقَهُمْ وَمِنْكَ وَمِنْ نُوحٍ وَإِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَى وَعِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ وَأَخَذْنَا مِنْهُمْ مِيثَاقًا غَلِيظًا
[And (remember) when We took from the Prophets their covenant, and from you (O Muhammad), and from Nooh (Noah), Ibraaheem (Abraham), Moosa (Moses), and ‘Eesaa (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary). We took from them a strong covenant.]⁵

And He said in Soorah ash-Shooraa:

شَرَعَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الدِّينِ مَا وَصَّى بِهِ نُوحًا وَالَّذِي أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ وَمَا وَصَّيْنَا بِهِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَى وَعِيسَى أَنْ أَقِيمُوا الدِّينَ وَلَا تَتَفَرَّقُوا فِيهِ

[He (Allaah) has ordained for you the same religion which He ordained for Nooh (Noah), and that which We have inspired in you (O Muhammad), and that which We ordained for Ibraaheem (Abraham), Moosa (Moses) and ‘Eesaa (Jesus) saying you should establish religion, and make no divisions in it.]⁶

¹ (عليه السلام) (‘alaihi-salaam) Peace be upon him

² (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

³ (عليهم السلام) Peace be upon them

⁴ (سبحانه) (Subhanahu) The Exalted

⁵ سورة الأحزاب - (Soorah al-Ahzaab [33:7])

⁶ سورة الشورى - Soorah ash-Shooraa [42:13]

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And 'Eesaa (Jesus) (عليه السلام) is a human from the children of Aadam; created from a mother without a father. And he is a slave of Allaah, and His Messenger. Thus he is a slave who his not to be worshipped, and he is a Messenger who is not to be disbelieved. And he does not possess any characteristics of Lordship at all. Rather he is, as Allaah (سبحانه) said:

إِنَّ هُوَ إِلَّا عَبْدٌ أَنْعَمْنَا عَلَيْهِ وَجَعَلْنَاهُ مَثَلًا لِبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ

[He ['Eesaa (Jesus)] was not more than a slave. We granted Our Favour to him, and We made him an example to the Children of Israaeel.]⁷

And he ('Eesaa-Jesus) did not order his people to take him and his mother as gods to be worshipped instead of worshipping Allaah (alone). Rather he only said to his people:

اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَرَبَّكُمْ

[Worship Allaah, my Lord and your Lord]⁸

And he ('Eesaa-Jesus) (عليه السلام) was created by the word of Allaah (سبحانه). As Allaah (سبحانه) said:

إِنَّ مَثَلَ عِيسَىٰ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ آدَمَ خَلَقَهُ مِنْ تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ قَالَ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ

[Indeed, the example of 'Eesaa (Jesus) to Allaah is like that of Aadam. He created Him from dust; then He said to him, "Be," and he was.]⁹

And there was no Messenger between 'Eesaa (Jesus) and the Prophet Muhammad, (عليهم السلام). As Allaah (سبحانه) said:

وَإِذْ قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ يَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيَّ مِنَ التَّوْرَةِ وَمُبَشِّرًا بِرَسُولٍ يَأْتِي مِنْ بَعْدِي اسْمُهُ أَحْمَدُ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ قَالُوا هَذَا سِحْرٌ مُبِينٌ

[And [mention] when 'Eesaa (Jesus), the son of Maryam, said, "O children of Israaeel, indeed I am the messenger of Allaah to you confirming what came before me of the Torah and bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name is Ahmad (i.e. Muhammad)." But when he came to them with clear evidences, they said, "This is obvious magic."]¹⁰

And no person's faith will be complete until he believes that 'Eesaa (Jesus) is a slave of Allaah and His Messenger, and that he is free and clear of what the Jews attribute to him; those who say that he is the son of an unchaste women and he was born of fornication. We seek refuge in Allaah from such as evil statement. Allaah (سبحانه) has exonerated him from that.

And the Muslims are free from the Christians, those who have strayed as it relates to the true understanding concerning 'Eesaa (Jesus) son of Maryam; such that they have taken him and his mother as gods to be worshipped instead of worshipping Allaah (alone). And some

⁷ سورة الزخرف - Soorah az-Zukhruf [43:59]

⁸ سورة المائدة - Soorah al-Maa'idah [5:117]

⁹ سورة آل عمران - Soorah Aale-Imraan [3:59]

¹⁰ سورة الصف - Soorah as-Saff [61:6]

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of them have said he is the son of Allaah. And some of them have said: Allaah is the third of the trinity.

As it relates to his killing and crucifixion; Allaah (سبحانه) has surely negated that he was killed or crucified, with a clear absolute negation. Allaah (سبحانه) said:

وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ وَمَا صَلَبُوهُ وَلَكِنْ شُبِّهَ لَهُمْ وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ لَفِي شَكٍّ مِنْهُ مَا لَهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِلَّا اتِّبَاعَ الظَّنِّ
وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ يَقِينًا * بَلْ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَيْهِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا * وَإِنَّ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ إِلَّا لِيُؤْمِنَنَّ بِهِ قَبْلَ مَوْتِهِ
وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَكُونُ عَلَيْهِمْ شَهِيدًا

[And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but [another] 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. Rather, Allaah raised him to Himself. And ever is Allaah (سبحانه) in Might and Wise. And there is none from the People of the Scripture except that he must believe in him before his death. And on the Day of Resurrection he will be against them a witness.]¹¹

Thus whoever believes that 'Eesaa (Jesus) son of Maryam (عليه السلام) was killed and crucified has disbelieved in the Qur'aan, and whoever disbelieves in the Qur'aan has disbelieved.

Thus we believe that 'Eesaa (Jesus) (عليه السلام) was not killed and he was not crucified; rather we say verily the Jews have upon them the sin of killing and crucifying, as they think they killed the Messiah 'Eesaa (Jesus) the son of Maryam, the Messenger of Allaah. And they did not kill him in reality; rather they killed someone who was made to resemble him. As Allaah placed his resemblance upon one of them, thus they killed and crucified him. And they said: verily we killed the Messiah 'Eesaa (Jesus) the son of Maryam. Thus the Jews have the sin of killing and the sin of crucifixion based upon their assertion upon themselves that they did such.

And Allaah (سبحانه) freed the Messiah 'Eesaa (Jesus) son of Maryam from that, and He protected him, and raised him upon to Himself in the heavens.

And he will return to the earth during the last days and he will judge by the legislation of the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)¹². The he will die on the earth and be buried in it. And he will be raised from it just like the rest of the children of Aadam.

مِنْهَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ وَفِيهَا نُعِيدُكُمْ وَمِنْهَا نُخْرِجُكُمْ تَارَةً أُخْرَى

[From it (the earth) We created you, and into it We will return you, and from it We will extract you another time.]¹³

And His statement:

فِيهَا تَحْيَوْنَ وَفِيهَا تَمُوتُونَ وَمِنْهَا تُخْرَجُونَ

[Therein you shall live, and therein you shall die, and from it you shall be brought out]¹⁴

¹¹ سورة النساء - Soorah an-Nisaa [4:157-159]

¹² (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

¹³ سورة طه - Soorah TaaHaa [20:55]

¹⁴ سورة الأعراف - Soorah al-'A'raaf [7:25]