

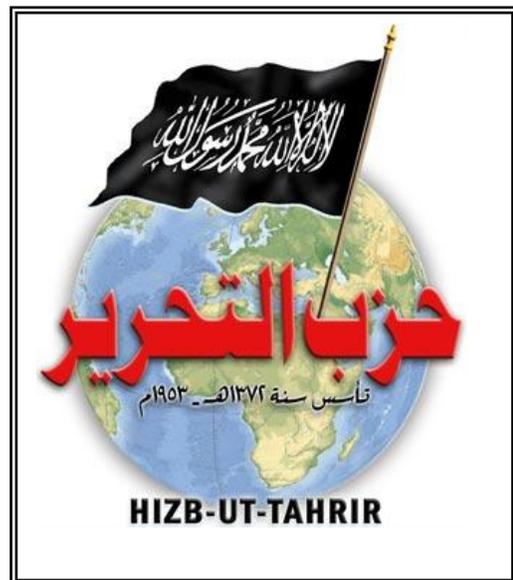
# SEEKING TO BRING JESUS THE MESSIAH<sup>1</sup> TO MUSLIM PEOPLE

## 1) Getting our Heads Straight

- A reminder from God's Word – "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16)
- A reminder from God's world – "I am not reaping the harvest; I can scarcely claim to be sowing the seed; I am hardly ploughing the soil; but I am gathering out the stones." Robert Bruce, 19<sup>th</sup> century missionary to Persia (quoted in *History of the Church Missionary Society*, vol.iii, p.125)
- How do the following make you feel?

"Many European cities are already one-quarter Muslim: just take Amsterdam, Marseille and Malmo in Sweden. In many cities the majority of the under-18 population is Muslim. Paris is now surrounded by a ring of Muslim neighborhoods. Mohammed is the most popular name among boys in many cities. In some elementary schools in Amsterdam the farm can no longer be mentioned, because that would also mean mentioning the pig, and that would be an insult to Muslims. Many state schools in Belgium and Denmark only serve halal food to all pupils. In once-tolerant Amsterdam gays are beaten up almost exclusively by Muslims. Non-Muslim women routinely hear 'whore, whore'. Satellite dishes are not pointed to local TV stations, but to stations in the country of origin. In France school teachers are advised to avoid authors deemed offensive to Muslims, including Voltaire and Diderot; the same is increasingly true of Darwin. The history of the Holocaust can no longer be taught because of Muslim sensitivity. In England sharia courts are now officially part of the British legal system." (Geert Wilders Speech "America-Last Man Standing" Hudson Institute, New York on September 25, 2008)

"We are here to stay, we are here to plant Islam in this part of the world and we must utilize everything in our power to make the word of Allah supreme" (Ismail R Faruqi, *The Path of Da'wah in the West*. London: UK Islamic Mission, 1986, p19)



<sup>1</sup> Jesus is known as 'Messiah' in the Qur'an (e.g. surah 4:171) and it can be more helpful to talk about 'Jesus the Messiah' rather than 'Jesus Christ'. 'Christ' is Greek and 'Messiah' is Hebrew for the same title 'Anointed One'. It is also important to remember that Jesus does have a title and it is respectful to use it.

- Three right thoughts, about:
  - God – He is in control of everything, so don't be anxious (e.g. Psalm 104, Matthew 6:25-34; Daniel 7:13f, Matthew 28:18; Isaiah 40)
  - Muslim people – they, like us, are made in God's image and are members of the fallen world God loves (e.g. Genesis 1:26f; Romans 1:18-3:20 & 5:12-21; John 3:16)
  - Our response – lovingly proclaim the good news of Jesus the Messiah (e.g. Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 10:25-37; Luke 6:27-36; Acts 4:12)

## 2) Understanding the Ground and Digging Out Stones

- Find out from a Muslim friend...

### 2a) 5 Pillars

1. *Shahadah*/profession (*surah* 2:255, 48:29, 64:8)
2. *Salat*/prayer (11:114)
3. *Zakat*/almsgiving (2:177)
4. *Hajj*/pilgrimage (22:26-33)
5. *Saum*/fasting (2:183-185)

### 2b) 6 Beliefs

1. The oneness of Allah
2. Allah's angels
3. Allah's messengers/prophets
4. Allah's revealed books (e.g. Torah to Moses, Zabur to David, Injil to Jesus and Qur'an to Muhammad)
5. The day of resurrection (physical and to judgement)
6. Allah's divine decree/sovereignty (surmised from *surah* 2:177, 285, *hadith*)

### 2c) 4 Objections

1. Jesus isn't Son of God/divine (4:171)
2. Trinity is wrong (4:171 cf 5:73, 75, 116)
3. Jesus didn't die (4:157)
4. The Bible has been CORRUPTED!
  - BUT, Qur'an says it confirms previous Scriptures (4:163-165, 5:44-47 cf 3:3-4, 21:7 & 48, 10:94)
  - AND, Allah doesn't allow his word to be changed (6:34, 6:115, 10:65, 15:9)
  - SO, previous Scripture is not corrupted, but misquoted and misinterpreted (2:75, 4:46 cf 5:13 & 41)



### 3) Sowing Some Seed

#### 3a) It's All About Jesus, Stupid

- What do Muslim people know of Jesus?
  - Jesus is a prophet, but *only* a prophet
  - We must teach that Jesus is a prophet, but *more than* a prophet
  
- Surah 4:171: “O People of the Book! Do not exaggerate in your religion nor utter anything concerning God except the truth. The Messiah, **Jesus son of Mary, was only a Messenger** of God, and His Word, which He conveyed to Mary, and a spirit from Him. So believe in God and His Messengers, and say not ‘Three’ – Cease! (It is) better for you! God is only One God. Far is it removed from His transcendent majesty that He should have a son. His is all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. And God is sufficient as Defender.” (*The Qur’an Translated – Message for Humanity*, based on the translation of M. Marmaduke Pickthall 2005).
  
- Qur’anic “Positives”:
  - 4:171: Christ/Messiah, Messenger/prophet, Word of God, Spirit of God
    - Prophet – Deuteronomy 18:15-22, 1 Kings 19:16, John 1:45, Acts 3:22-26, Hebrews 1:1-2
    - Priest – Exodus 28:40-41, Leviticus 21:10-12, Zechariah 3, Hebrews 3-10
    - King – 1 Samuel 16:11-13, 2 Samuel 7:1-7, Psalm 2, Matthew 16v13-17, Acts 2
    - The Word – John 1
    - The Spirit – link with virgin birth (Luke 1:35 cf surah 3:42 and 3:47 – what is the significance of the virgin birth?), anointed by (Isaiah 61:1, Luke 3:21f), brings life (John 6:63, 1 Corinthians 15:45), brings freedom (2 Corinthians 3:17)
  - Loads of Jesus’ works included too, e.g. created life, healed the sick and raised the dead (5:110), came with clear revelation (43:63), a sign and mercy (19:21, 21:91), will come back for judgment (43:61)
  
- So, what do you think of Christ (Matthew 22:41f)?
  - His birth?
  - His character?
  - His words?
  - His titles?
  - His power?
  - His sufferings?
  - His victory over death?
  - His demands on you?
  
- E.g. R and demons who cursed her coriander

### 3b) Begin at the Beginning

- Resurrection revision lessons (Luke 24:27 and 24:44-48, also see Romans 1:1-6)
  - So, go to the Torah/Pentateuch

#### 3bi) E.g. Adam and Eve in Genesis 2-3

- The serious nature of sin:
  - Doubting God's word and His goodness (3:1b-3)
  - Rejecting God's word and therefore His rule (3:6)
  - Reversing the created order (3:4-6)
  - Wanting to be like God (3:5)
- Sin leads to punishment from God:
  - Ruining relationship with God (3:8)
  - Ruining relationships with one another (3:16)
  - Being expelled from God's place (3:23-24), cursed and sentenced to death (3:17-19)
- But, there is a promise in 3:17...Jesus the Messiah is the True Adam who brings life:
  - Son of Adam, Son of God (Luke 3:23-38), unlike Adam, does not yield to temptation (Luke 4:1-13)
  - Ultimately defeats Satan (e.g. John 12:31, Matthew 25:41)
  - Second Adam (cf surah 3:59-60) who brings life and righteousness (Romans 5) and certain hope (1 Corinthians 15:20-49)
- E.g. I@SOAS

#### 3bii) Compare and contrast Bible and Qur'an stories

- 7:10-32 (Meccan) – Humanity given authority on earth. Satan refused to bow to Adam and was thrown out of paradise. Satan then led Adam astray, and seeks to do this for all humanity. He caused Adam and Eve to uncover their private parts by eating the forbidden tree. God provided clothing for outside of paradise. Humanity is to learn from this and not let Satan deceive people into showing their private parts [cf 17:61-64, 20:115-124, both Meccan].
- 2:30-39 (Medinan) – Man created to rule under God. Adam has superior knowledge to the angels, and Satan refuses to bow to him [cf 18:50, Meccan]. Adam and Eve then dwell in paradise until Satan somehow manages to get them banished (called a "slip" from paradise). Adam is given God's words [in 7:23, Meccan] and forgiven.
- 3:33 (Medinan) – Adam was chosen by God.
- 3:59 (Medinan) – Adam and Jesus are alike because both given life by God's word.

- Is using the Qur'an selling out? Not necessarily...
  - To teach the Bible's big picture
  - To emphasise to seriousness of sin and God's goodness
  - To show how Jesus fulfils God's purposes
- E.g. M@Interfaith, N@Speakers Corner

#### 4) **Some Final Thoughts**

- “The quickest way to a Muslim's heart is through a million cups of tea.” Greg Livingstone
- Pray lots and lots and lots – “O that I could converse and reason, and plead, with power from on high. How powerless are the best-directed arguments, till the Holy Spirit renders them effectual.” Henry Martyn, 1781-1812, missionary to Muslim people in India and Persia (*Journals and Letters of Henry Martyn*, ed S. Wilberforce, vol, 2 p.373).

#### 5) **Any Questions?**

#### 6) **Some Further Reading**

If you're not that interested, but feel you should read something...Tony Payne, *Islam in our Backyard* (Kingsford, NSW: Matthias Media, 2002).

If you're interested in Islam and want to find out more than this handout's skating across the surface...something good to read is Steve Bell, *Friendship First, The Manual – Ordinary Christians discussing good news with ordinary Muslims* (Market Rasen: Friendship First Publications, 2003).

If you really want to get into the text and authenticity of the Qur'an...try Steven Masood, *The Bible and the Qur'an: a Question of Integrity* (Carlisle: Authentic Lifestyle, 2002), can be hard to find but is available from “Word of Life” in Oldham (Google it).

If you want to plant churches among Muslim people...Greg Livingstone, *Planting Churches in Muslim Cities* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1993).