

## Jesus vs. Isa

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*“But who do you say that I am?” (Matt. 16:15)*

Both the Bible and the Qur'an address the most important question that we can ask, “Who is Jesus?”, yet the answers provided are irreconcilably in conflict. The Bible presents Jesus as the Son of God who died on the cross for the sins of mankind (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 1:4; 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:1-4), while the Qur'an identifies Him as a prophet, no different than any who had come before, who did no such thing (Sura 2:136; 4:157). Both cannot be true.

Jesus	Isa
Born of virgin Mary, wife of Joseph (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:16-25) In Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2; Matt. 2:1-6)	Born of virgin Mary (Sura 3:45-47; 19:20), daughter of Amram (Sura 3:35-36; 66:12; cf. 19:28)
Worked miracles (Jn. 2:23; 3:2; 6:2; 7:31; 10:37; 11:47; 15:24; 20:30; Acts 2:22)	Gave clear signs (Sura 2:87, 253; 5:110; 61:6)
Prophet (Matt. 13:57; 14:5; 21:11; Lk. 7:16; 13:33; Jn. 7:40) Preached repentance and kingdom (Matt. 4:17; Mk. 1:15) Confirmed and fulfilled Law of Moses (Matt. 5:17; Lk. 24:44)	Prophet (Sura 2:136; 19:30) Preached cause of Allah (Sura 3:52) Given gospel wherein is guidance and light (Sura 5:46) Confirmed Torah (Sura 3:50; 5:46; 61:6)
Sinless (Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 1:19; 2:22)	Faultless (Sura 19:19)
Crucified (Matt. 20:19; 27:35; Mk. 15:24; Lk. 23:33; Jn. 19:16; Acts 2:36; 1 Cor. 2:2; Gal. 3:13; 1 Pet. 2:24; Rev. 11:8)	Only appeared to be crucified (Sura 4:157) Foretold his death (Sura 19:33) Yet to die (Sura 4:159) Died? (Sura 5:117, Asad trans.)*
Paid for our sins (Acts 20:28) Forgiveness of sins (Matt. 26:28; Rom. 5:6-9; 1 Cor. 15:3; Eph. 1:3, 7; Col. 1:14; 1 Jn. 1:7)	No payment needed
Resurrected from the dead (Matt. 16:21; 17:9; 20:19; 26:32; 28:6; Mk. 8:31; 10:34; Lk. 18:33; 24:6-7; Jn. 20:9; 21:14; Acts 2:32; 3:15; 4:33; 5:30; 13:33; Rom. 1:4; 6:9; 1 Cor. 15:4; 1 Pet. 1:3) Ascended to heaven (Acts 1:9)	Will be raised up (Sura 19:33)* Already taken up to Allah (Sura 3:54-55; 5:117)
Son of God (Matt. 14:33; 16:13-16; Mk. 1:11; Lk. 1:32; Jn. 1:18; 3:16; 20:31; Acts 3:13; Rom. 1:4)	Son of Mary (Sura 2:87; 3:45; 4:157; 4:171; 5:17) Just a messenger (Sura 2:136; 4:171; 5:75; 43:59) Allah begets not (Sura 2:116; 9:30; 10:68; 112:3)

God in the flesh (Isa. 9:6; Mk. 2:5-9; Jn. 1:1-3, 14; 10:30; 20:28; Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:8)	Allah has no sons (Sura 6:100-101) Not divine (Sura 5:72)
Creator (Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16)	Created (Sura 3:59)
Eternal (Mic. 5:2; Jn. 8:58; Rev. 1:8, 11; 21:6; 22:13)	Allah could have destroyed him (Sura 5:17)
Priest (Heb. 2:17), King (1 Tim. 6:15), Lord (Acts 2:36), The Word (Jn. 1:14), The Lamb (Jn. 1:29), Savior (Jn. 4:42), Messiah (Matt. 16:16)	Messiah (3:45; 5:75)
Sent the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:26; 15:26), who supported the apostles (Jn. 16:13)	Supported by the holy Spirit (Sura 2:87, 253) Foretold of Muhammad (Sura 7:157; 61:6)
The Way (Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12) To be obeyed (Jn. 14:15; Heb. 5:9) Hear Him (Matt. 17:5)	A way? (Sura 2:62; 5:47, 69) To be obeyed (Sura 3:50) Described Muhammad, who shows the way (7:157)
Judge (Jn. 12:48; 2 Cor. 5:10)	Sign of judgment (Sura 43:61, Ali trans.) Witness against People of the Book (Sura 4:159)

### Conclusion

The Old Testament foretells of a coming Savior who would die for the sins of mankind (Isa. 53), whom the New Testament reveals as Jesus Christ (Jn. 4:42; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; 1 Pet. 2:24-25). While the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is the very definition of the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4), the Qur'an denies these things (Sura 4:157), and at the same time claims it is a confirmation of the gospel (Sura 3:3; cf. 5:46-47).

Since the Biblical text we have today is the same as that which was available during the time of Muhammad, one has to wonder to which "gospel" he was referring (cf. Gal. 1:8). Whatever his source, it was not the Word of God, and therefore the Qur'an, with its contradictory teachings about Jesus, cannot be either.

\*Many Muslims believe that Jesus (Isa) ascended to heaven without dying and will return again at the end of time, at which point he will die, then be raised up again.