

Sunday School—**LIKE NO OTHER**®

ONLY JESUS CAN BE THE ONLY MESSIAH

LESSON#3

Believers, Jews, Christians and Muslims who have viewed the previous 3 videos hopefully see this effort striving for peace with honor. Peace, through a credible validation the 3 part historical revelation, that is the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible, the New Testament and the Koran, as 1 message, making us family. Honor because we will not compromise the Word of God.

The next pair of clips will sound confrontational if you don't sense the traditional barriers to walking together are just that. Tradition. God walks a bright, straight path through all 3 of the historic volumes of revelation.

But a childlike need to read plain understandings from plain words and a cautious insistence that the entire revelation makes sense are 2 vital rules to follow the straight path. You can see the scripture references in the transcripts on this site also.

A major sticking point between Jews, Christians and Muslims is the question of how important is Jesus? Christians insist Muslims way undervalue him. Muslims counter that Christians over reach on who he is. Jews discount him altogether.

Careful analysis of what many believe to be contradictory positions using only the teachings found in the Word of God confirm a reality long ago abandoned by all of these three major world religions. This abandoned reality is one sincere believers from all three faiths can embrace.

Of course we won't be able to use the Koran to show anything to Christians who don't yet trust that book. . .just like Islam has become wary of Christian Bible interpretations about who Jesus really is.

But if both the Gospel and the Koran are shown to speak with one voice who the Messiah really is, then Jews will have a chance to see God breaking into history with a miraculous confirmation of everything the Hebrew Bible predicts about the Messiah (Psalm 2:2, and others).

Jesus is Messiah. The Messiah. This specifically means he's not just a prophet as in Islamic tradition. This specifically means he's not God's identical twin brother as in Christian tradition¹. We need to carefully look at scripture to see what it means to be Messiah.

First the radioactive hot button. The Christian part of the audience needs to hear me say: Yes, Jesus is divine. Although the Koran also confirms his divinity (002:087), we will carefully examine how his divine status does not violate the critical, valid concept of One God that Jews and Muslims hold dear.

To rightly value Jesus we need to know what it means to be Messiah—as referenced in the Old Testament and the Koran, or Christ, the Greek word for Messiah in the New Testament. Each of these 3 volumes contribute valuable insight. They all indicate that because he is the Christ, he is unique (Genesis 3:15, John 3:16, 003:042). Like no other. One and done.

To do what the Christ had to do, he had to be unique. A unique hybrid. The New Testament and the Koran both clearly teach this (Matthew 1:18, 002:087). He is not exclusively human, having a divine father. He is not exclusively God, having a human mother. He can't be only one or the other. He has to derive from both—the physical flesh of humanity restored to something even more than perfection. This hybrid is a physical spirit.

So he is not your brother like any other and he is not your god like The Other. That is why none of the rest of us can be the Christ. That is why God is not to be His Christ. Only Jesus has the qualifications to be the Christ—the uniquely divine one through whom God speaks the universe into existence (John 1:1-3, 003:045). Then the one whose death paves the way to God through a uniquely effective sacrifice (Hebrews 10:14, 037:107). And finally the one who is the interface through whom God sends His Holy Spirit into all believers (Romans 8:11, 001:007).

Comprehending this special state is crucial to appreciate Jesus as that son of God, as His Messiah. When you see him this way then you take this huge step toward worshiping God as Jesus tries to exemplify for us. You also take this critical step that lets you see and glorify and honor Jesus for the unique being he is. Arriving

here, you can sharply focus your worship on the almighty God, where it should be. Where Jesus wants it to be.

Nearly every Christian on the planet knows and loves this verse: “Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as it is in heaven” (Mathew 6:9, Koran correlate 001:001-007)).

This verse is known to be Jesus’ premier teaching about how to pray to God. Listen to what Jesus is saying. The “our”, “our Father”, means this is how he prays to his Father. It is God’s kingdom he is yearning to be in. It is God’s plan he will carefully follow. It is God he is worshiping.

And then Jesus’ full appreciation of his part in this is clearly revealed in another dearly loved verse where Jesus states his status as Christ: “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me”. (John 14:6, Koran correlate 001:006-007))

Do you hear that? He is the way. Not the goal. You commonly hear that someone has “found Jesus” or has “come to Jesus”. That sounds like they have arrived. Well, not according to what Jesus is teaching us here. You must not stop there. You must not look to Jesus as your goal. His face is not your focus. No, he would have you turn your eyes heavenward. The worship of God should be, as Jesus says, on earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10)

Rather Jesus focused on being a supremely humble servant (Philippians 2:6-8). Slave, even. The state of complete submission (“the perfect Muslim”). Taught us to mold ourselves after his example (Matthew 11:29, John 13:15). To worship and serve God from a position of utter dependency and awe (Matthew 6:9). Certainly we should see that his role and behavior as Messiah enables and defines our worship heavenward. Godward.

What you’ve just been hearing is all Bible. Not interpretations. Not someone’s guesswork when they say “this is what it really means”. These verses are completely plain and concise. Some may say they are being taken out of context or we need to complete them by looking at all the rest of the Bible.

Well, OK. Later in this Sunday school course we can cover any and all verses that seem to contradict or question this understanding. But we don't have time in this lesson. Instead I'll add just one more point to bullseye the status of Messiah. But this won't be a verse. It will be the longest book in the New Testament—in part 2.

1. Athanasian creed accepted by most of Christendom as definitive statement on 3 distinct yet completely equal persons making up "God" refer to multiple on line resources.