

Sunday School—LIKE NO OTHER[©]

ONLY JESUS CAN BE THE ONLY MESSIAH PART 2 LESSON#4

Devout Jews and Muslims know God has a Messiah. But they don't know what the Messiah is or does. Their information about the Messiah in both the Old Testament and the Koran is incomplete. Those volumes, and the ability to understand them becomes complete when you include the "good news" which is what the word Gospel, injeel, the Koran's word, means.

This lesson will highlight what God did when His Messiah came to be. This lesson will allow all believers to be on the same page. Believers knowing and believing the whole and interconnected message from their God.

The New Testament's book of Hebrews goes to great lengths to make sure Jewish, Christian, Muslim, all believers don't misunderstand who Jesus is. What his role is. The Old Testament is very careful to define what it takes to be the high priest and what his role is (Exodus 27-30 and others). Goes to great lengths to define what it takes to be an acceptable sacrifice and what its role is (Leviticus chapters 1-4 and others).

The book of Hebrews showcases the Messiah as both the great high priest (Hebrews 5:5-10) and the priestly wondrous sacrifice (ibid 9:14, 10: 5-10). At the same time. Both these roles necessary to create the only Way to God. The straight way mentioned throughout the Koran (001:006, et al.). Remember who said "I am the way" and "no one comes to the Father but by me"?

Hebrews 1:2 reveals the Messiah as this super being. As God's Son so he is the logical "heir (inheritor) of all things". How can that be!? God is eternal and can never die to need an heir and He's a spirit so can never physically sire a child¹.

But God tells us in the next few words what He means. Namely, the super human ingredient that raises Jesus to Messiah is the uncreated, creative hand of God, as the Koran puts it (002:087)². And as both John's gospel (John 1:1) and the Koran (002:117) put it, this Messiah incorporates the Word of God by which God speaks everything into existence. "Be" and it is (002:117).

So the universe and everything and everyone in it are existing from God by and through His creative Word: Jesus, as the Messiah. So, by rights and by scripture, when the last day dawns, Jesus will be as king of the new heavens and the new earth (Revelation 3:21) that are created and sustained through him—being given to him as a form of inheritance from his Father, God (1Corinthians 15:24-28).

Having this super human, divine attribute, the Messiah “reflects the glory of God” (Hebrews 1:3). No man can view the true God, or even His Glory, and live (Exodus 33:20) but we can behold what the Bible calls His reflection. His heir. His son.

The book of Hebrews affirms the Messiah is stamped with the nature of God (Hebrews 1:3, Koran correlate 002:087). The original Greek word implying he was sculpted by God to be that precise representation. The book of Genesis states Adam was created “in the image of God” (Genesis 1:27). The Hebrews account implies the Messiah is a better—a perfect image (also Colossians 2:15-20). Someone engineered to be God’s ideal. And so to be able to be that perfect sacrifice. What the Koran calls the wondrous, the stupendous sacrifice (037:107).

This chosen one, this Messiah, possesses a critical ingredient. A divine ingredient that Adam didn’t have. Couldn’t have—the sculpting, upholding hand of God making Christ a perfect entity, a perfect man. A continuous divine perfection incorporated into his every breath. Our Messiah, the Messiah of the Hebrew Bible and the Gospel and the Koran, is held up by the hand of God. Given the divine strength to resist evil and every imperfection all the time (Hebrews 4:15, 019:019).

This makes Jesus our effective and only Way to God as well as God’s only way to us. Do not think that the universe would have existed for a nanosecond after Adam fell into sin. Our infinitely perfect God does not abide sin. At all. Were it not for the foregone role of the Messiah to be the sin quenching sacrifice, God would have scrapped everything. Judgment day would have dawned that very next instant.

Enough already, you say? Why am I doing this high pressure emphasis on Messiah-hood? It’s because Jews, Christians and Muslims alike all have their own different distorted picture of Jesus that doesn’t account for what revelation shows he really is.

Let me first address Christians, asking them to view Jesus as the Messiah he is and remove a major stumbling block for Jews and Muslims, many of whom might otherwise look carefully at their favored portions of God's Word to see the Messiah as the true grace of God.

In today's world the Christian's Jesus is none other than God himself. Equal to. God's high priest equal to God, the son equal to His Father. Precisely equal beings. Both having the infinite eternal self-existent Holy awe of the Ancient of Days who alone is God (I Corinthians 15:28).

The idea of Messiah. The concept of mediator, a concept that requires someone, something able to truly take in and extinguish the sin of man—sin which Holy God cannot abide, much less take on (Hebrews 9:13-15). That being is lost. Removing our bridge to heaven's throne. Sure, the church doctrines say Jesus is God and man. Both at the same time. But looking carefully at those doctrines you have Jesus the twin brother to God. A different god person who has the job of being Jesus.

The status of what would actually be a son—as the Bible describes him—is not to be found. Rather the idea of a man elevated to the exact same level as the Father, God. And that is how he is worshiped and prayed to and recognized by the average Christian believer. The God and Father of Jesus (2 Corinthians 11:31, John 20:17), that person, barely recognized, if at all.

I'm not kidding. Listen to what is said in most all churches during worship services. Jesus is certainly saddened and angered by man's amazing drive to worship anything but the one true God. The reflection and exact image of God designed to steer men to God is instead now the Christian's idol. Substituting a reflection and image—even the perfect reflection and exact image of Hebrews for the real thing is what? The Bible calls it idolatry.

Believers can worship their God more and better than before if they worship Him through this understanding of the Messiah. That is through this Messiah. Amen and amen.

1. The Koran uses plain Arabic to carefully distinguish and define what family and biologic relationship the meseeH has to God through the “walid” and “ibn” word forms. This will be covered in a future lesson.
2. The verse in the Koran that describes what happened in the virgin Mary when she conceived is different than the general term found in the Gospels (Matthew 1:18, Luke 1:35). The Koran uses a specific verb from the Arabic root for “hand” to indicate the inception and support of what was conceived in her. The implication being that the Messiah is what he is through an ongoing and inherent mechanism “handled” by God.