

Are all God's Messengers Equal?

Nowadays more than any time before, we, at "Abraham's Children Ministries", feel that people all over the world, regardless of ethnicity, religion, creed, or any other distinction, are seeking a better understanding of who they are. The common denominator seems to always point in the direction of the Supreme Being, Creator of life in all its forms. This Supreme Being is known by many different attributes because He has not revealed His name to us. So some people refer to Him as God, others as Allah, yet some others as Elohim, and many other names, almost as many as all the languages and dialects spoken all over the world.

For the sake of time and space, we will use the English name "God" in this study. God created Adam and Eve perfect (sinless) and communicated with them face-to-face. He, God, gave them the freedom of choice because He wanted them to worship and serve Him out of love not compulsion. Satan (Shaitan, Iblis, and the Devil) tempted our father Adam and our mother Eve and they chose to believe his lies rather than God's truth. We all know the results of their disobedience. They were cast out of God's presence (the Garden of Eden/Paradise) into this barren world of ours, lost the blessing of communicating directly with God, and became mortal. This is when God chose certain faithful messengers to convey His Truth to all Mankind.

Some Prophets were for a certain time and a specific people, but most of them had a universal message which was not only for their time, but for all time.

For those of us who read God's inspired Word in His Holy Books, all the prophets are important and we need to believe in all of them, but if we want to be fair in

giving each messenger the place God meant for him, we need to look at their characteristics and how God sent them to us.

We will not make a point-by-point comparison, first because there are many prophets, second because through our studies (as imperfect human beings) we have come to the understanding that there is one messenger who has very unique and direct divine intervention in being sent to all mankind.

So let us start with the manner of birth, as we look at all the messengers we can tell who are their fathers and mothers. But there is one, like our father Adam, who did not have a man for a father. God created Adam from the dirt of the Earth, breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and Adam became a living soul. Some of us, especially those who speak English, use the phrase “our mother earth”, so if we say that Earth was Adam’s mother, who was his father? By virtue of being the Creator, God could be referred to as Adam’s Father. Now, there is only one other man who walked on this Earth who had no father and that is Jesus the Anointed One/Isa Al Massih/Yashua H-Mashia. He was God’s Word and a Spirit from Him who was conceived by Mary through God’s Spirit.

Why did God choose to send His Word in the form of a human being? All other messengers were carriers of God’s Word, only Jesus was GOD’S WORD in living flesh. He came to proclaim God’s Kingdom as no one else has done, neither before nor after him.

Jesus was perfect, sinless, the second Adam, and He succeeded where Adam failed by rejecting the Devil’s lies and adhering to God’s Truth. He was totally submitted to God and did not do anything for or of himself but did everything that God

instructed Him to do. He is the only one who had creator powers (the Quran says that as a child, He made birds from clay, breathed into them, and they started flying). He healed the sick and called the dead back to life. He is coming back as a sign of the Day of Judgment. Another very important distinction that Jesus has is the fact that He was able to say “Peace be upon me”! If we go to that Quranic text we will find some other very important facts about Him:

Qur’an, Surah Maryam 19:33

"So peace is on me the day I was born, the day that I die, and the day that I shall be raised up to life (again)!"

Waalssalamu AAalayya yawmawulidtu wayawma **amootu** wayawma obAAathu hayyan

وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيَّ يَوْمَ وُلِدْتُ وَيَوْمَ أَمُوتُ وَيَوْمَ أُبْعَثُ حَيًّا

As we look at this text we see that Jesus pronounced peace on himself the day he was born, the day he would die, and the day he would be raised up from the dead. Now is this something that happened in the past or is it something that will happen in the future? Let’s go back to the Holy Quran and see what God says:

Qur’an, Surah Al Imran 3:55

“Behold! Allah said: "O Jesus! I **will take** thee [*the literal translation is: I will indeed **cause thee to die***] and raise thee to Myself and clear thee (of the falsehoods) of those who blaspheme; I will make those who follow thee superior to those who reject faith, to the Day of Resurrection: Then shall ye all return unto me, and I will judge between you of the matters wherein ye dispute.”

lth qala Allahu yaAAesa **innee mutawaffeeka** warafiAAauka ilayya wamutahhirukamina allatheena kafaroo wajaAAilu allatheenaittabaAAooka fawqa allatheena kafaroo ila yawmialqiyamati thumma ilayya marjiAAukum faahkumubaynakum feemau kuntum feehi takhtalifoona

إِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَا عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ اذْكُرْ نِعْمَتِي عَلَيْكَ إِذْ أَرْسَلْتُكَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ إِذْ يَتَّبِعُوكَ فَوَقَّافًا فَتَقَدَّسْتَ فِي الْبُحُورِ الْمَوْجِئَاتِ أَلَمْ تَكُنْ مِنَ الْكَاذِبِينَ
 الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوكَ فَوْقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ ثُمَّ إِلَيَّ مَرْجِعُكُمْ فَأَحْكُمُ بَيْنَكُمْ فِيمَا كُنْتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ

Again the question is, did this happen in the past or will happen in the future? Let's go back to the Quran:

Qur'an, Surah Al Ma'ida 5:117

"Never said I to them aught except what Thou didst command me to say, to wit, 'worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord'; and I was a witness over them whilst I dwelt amongst them; **when Thou didst take me up** [the literal translation is: so when Thou didst **cause me to die**] Thou wast the Watcher over them, and Thou art a witness to all things."

Ma qultu lahum illa ma amartanee bihi ani oAAabudoo Allaha rabbee
 warabbakumwakuntu AAalayhim shaheedan ma dumtu feehim
falamma tawaffaytanee kunta anta alrraqeeba AAalayhim waanta AAalakulli
 shay-in shaheedun

مَا قُلْتُ لَهُمْ إِلَّا مَا أَمَرْتَنِي بِهِ أَنْ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَرَبَّكُمْ ۖ وَكُنْتُ عَلَيْهِمْ شَهِيدًا مَّا دُمْتُ فِيهِمْ ۖ فَلَمَّا تَوَفَّيْتَنِي كُنْتَ أَنْتَ الرَّقِيبَ عَلَيْهِمْ ۖ وَأَنْتَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ

Here we see that Jesus is speaking after He died and was resurrected from the dead because he said “when You caused me to die”. Is there any other messenger who died, was resurrected, and then spoke with God like Jesus did, and is now in God's presence? Jesus' tomb is empty!! Does anyone know of any other messengers who had all these attributes to be considered an equal to Jesus?

This is an invitation for anyone who reads this article to take it upon him/her to go back to God's written Word and study to learn God's Truth.

We welcome any and all comments because we believe that we are all seeking a better understanding of God's revelation as we follow His Straight Path.

May God's/Allah's peace and blessings be upon us all.

Please send your comments to acm.buildingbridges@gmail.com

All Qur'anic texts are from "The Meaning of The Holy Qur'an" by 'Abdullah Yusuf 'Ali