

Islamic Academy Coventry

The Importance of 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ in Islām Presentation Notes

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Slide 1 – Introduction

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلوة والسلام على سيد المرسلين و على اله و صحبه اجمعين اما بعد

رب اشرح لي صدرى ويسر لي امرى واحلل عقدة من لساني يفقهوا قولى

سبحانك لا علم لنا الا ما علمتنا أنك انت العليم الحكيم

My dear respected brothers and sisters, Assalāmu ‘Alaykum Wa Raḥmatullāhi Wa Barakātuhū. And welcome to Part 1 of the Presentation on the Importance of ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ in Islām.

I begin by praising Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى Lord of the Worlds and sending Peace and Salutations on our beloved Messenger Muḥammad صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

I would like to thank you all for taking time out of your schedules to attend today’s session. I pray that Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى makes it a means for us to learn something new and confirm our beliefs on a very important topic.

Housekeeping:

I just wanted to go through a few housekeeping rules before we begin:

Try and watch the presentation on a desktop or laptop, as lots of information on the screen.

1. Please pay attention and listen with the intention of learning and acting upon what we learn today.
2. If you have any questions throughout the workshop, then please put them in the chat window and I can try and answer later
5. There will be questions throughout this Workshop so please participate and put your answers in the chat windows
6. Finally, please ensure you all have a pen and paper if you want to take notes. I will share the screens once we have finished.

My name for those who do not know me is Ebrahim and without Further Ado let’s start today session.

Slide 2 – The Islamic Aqīdah

As Muslims it is very important that we are completely clear in our beliefs. The word used for our beliefs in Islām is Aqīdah. So we need to be clear on all matters relating to our religion i.e. how we should believe in:

- Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى,
- in His Angels,
- in His books
- and His Prophets
- on The Day of Judgement
- Fate
- And Life after Death

So as Muslims we have specific beliefs about all of the above and much more and it is obligatory upon each and every one of us to learn about them.

Slide 3

In our country we have a variety of religions, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, and many more. All of these religions have a different set of beliefs. In many cases there will be certain aspects of each religion which will be common, however the belief in that aspect will be different for each religion. For example, we all believe in God, but the way we believe in him is different. Many of the religions believe in the same books, in the same Prophets, in Life after Death, but the way we believe in those aspects will be different.

Many of our Children attend Christian Faith based Schools and they will be taught from a Christian perspective on aspects of faith. So when they talk about God, they will talk about the way they believe in him. When they talk about Jesus or عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ 'Isā as we call him, they will be taught the Christian narrative.

Therefore, it is very important that we educate our children in what our Islamic beliefs are with regards to these common themes, so they can differentiate between what Islām teaches and what other religions teach. And in order to do educate them, we must educate ourselves first, meaning the Adults. So when our children come and ask us, we will know the correct answer.

Also many Christian people are unaware of the important role عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ 'Isā plays in our religion as well as his mother Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا. So if we get the opportunity and we have Christian friends then it is good to tell them about how both of them are highly revered

and respected in our religion of Islām. And when they find out about this, they will realize how many similarities there are, and this will Inshā'Allāh bring them closer to Islām.

Many people come from Christian backgrounds and also many still have family members who are Christian. This will Inshā'Allāh help bridge the gap in understanding. One of the main issues is that people do not have a true understanding about Islām and how close it is to their own beliefs. If we educate ourselves, we can educate them and again bring them closer to Islām.

Slide 4 – Common Names Quiz

Lets Just have a quick look on some of the many common Aspects. I have already mentioned we have common Prophets, Angels and Books. We have names for them in Islām, and they also have names in Christianity and Judaism.

Angels

Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ	Gabriel
Mikā'il عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ	Michael

Books

Torah	Old Testament - Torah
Injīl	Bible
Zabūr	Psalms

The Old Testament is also known as the Pentateuch, the first 5 books which are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

The we have the Pslams

Prophets

Ādam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ	Adam
Nūh عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ	Noah
Ibrāhīm عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ	Abraham
Ismā'il عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ	Ishmail
Ishāq عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ	Isaac
Yāqūb عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ	Jacob
Yūsūf عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ	Joseph

Ayyūb عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ	Job
Mūsā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ	Moses
Dāwūd عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ	David
‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ	Jesus

So you can see just how many common characters there are between the religions.

Slide 5 – Points of discussion

Today’s presentation will discuss an Important aspect of our faith. We will discuss what is our Aqīda, our belief with regards to ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ or Jesus in. We will also talk about the family of ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ and show how important they are in Islām as well. During this discussion we will also discuss the main differences in belief.

The main difference I want to talk about during this are:

- What is the status of ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ in the 3 main monotheistic Religions, Islām Judaism and Christianity?
- The birth of Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا
- What at our differences in belief regarding the birth of ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ
- What at our differences in belief regarding the death\resurrection of ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.

Slide 6 – The Status of ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ in the three monotheistic Religions.

Now let us take the 3 main Abrahamic religions, which are Judaism, Christianity and Islām. They all come from Ibrāhīm عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ. What are their beliefs with regards to ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ, what is his status?

If we take Judaism, they do not consider ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ to be a Prophet at all. In actual fact they consider him to be a false Prophet.

In Christianity, the majority of Christians believe that ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ is the Son of God. That he is part of a Trinity, there is a father, a son and a holy ghost, and all three are in essence one. So they have raised the status of ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ to the son of God and a part of God as well. There are however some denominations who do not believe in the Trinity, they Non-Trinitarian, like the Jehovah’s Witnesses.

In Islām, we correctly believe ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ is a Prophet of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, not the son of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. Our belief with regards to Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى is that he has no family. In Sūrah Al-Ikhlāṣ Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى says, lam yalid wa lam yūlad, he is not born, nor does he beget, so Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى was not born from anyone nor is anyone born from him.

So you can see that in Judaism he has no position, in Christianity, they have elevated his position and in Islām, we maintain his position correctly as a highly respected Prophet of Allāh **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**.

Slide 7 – The Lineage of ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

Now let’s go back a little bit and talk about the family of ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ. ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was a Prophet from the Banu Isrāīl, the children of Israel. His ancestor Yaqūb عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ who is known as Jacob in Judaism and Christianity was also known as Isrāīl. So the lineage of ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ goes back up to Ibrāhīm عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ through his son Ishāq عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ and then his son Yāqūb عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ etc.

Let’s see what the Qur’ān has to say about the ancestors of ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.

The 3rd Surah in the Qur’ān is called Sūrah Āl-Imrān. Which means the family of Imrān.

Many of us have this name, but how many of us know who he was?

Imrān was an Imām of Baitul Maqdis and the father of Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا.

Question: What is the name of Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا father in Christianity?

Answer: In Christianity he is known as Joachim.

Imrān passed away even before Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا was born. So let’s first see what the Qur’ān says about the birth of Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا.

Slide 8 – The Birth of Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا

Allāh **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** mentions in the Qur’ān in Surah Āl-Imrān verse 35

إِذْ قَالَتِ امْرَأَتُ عِمْرَانَ رَبِّ إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لَكَ مَا فِي بَطْنِي مُحَرَّرًا فَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

(Remember) when ‘Imrān’s wife said: “O my Lord, I have vowed that what is in my womb will be devoted exclusively for You. So, accept (it) from me. You, certainly You, are the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.”

Imrān’s wife’s name was Hannah

Question: What is the name of Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا mother in Christianity?

Answer: Her name was Anne

In the previous times, one mode of worship would be to free one of your children from all worldly services and devote them to the worship of Allāh **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**. So if a child was born

in your family, you would say that this child will serve Allāh **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**. They will not grow up and work like the other children and take up a trade. And this would be for the male children.

So Imrān's wife Hannah had made this vow.

Slide 9 - The Birth of Maryam **رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا**

In verse 36, Allāh **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** says:

فَلَمَّا وَضَعَتْهَا قَالَتْ رَبِّ إِنِّي وَضَعْتُهَا أُنْثَىٰ وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا وَضَعْتَ وَلَيْسَ الذَّكَرُ كَالْأُنْثَىٰ وَإِنِّي سَمَّيْتُهَا مَرْيَمَ وَإِنِّي أُعِيذُهَا بِكَ وَذُرِّيَّتَهَا مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

So, when she delivered her, she said: “O my Lord, I have delivered her, a female child.” And Allāh knew better what she had delivered, and the male was not like the female. “I have named her Maryam, and I place her and her progeny under Your shelter against Satan, the rejected.”

Slide 10 – The Birthplace of Maryam **رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا**

Some time ago I was blessed to go and visit Palestine, the Holy Land. Alḥamdulillāh, 15 members of my family went, out of which 9 were children. I have to say, after the Ḥaramayn it is the most fascinating place on earth. I would encourage all of you visit, but before you go educate yourselves on Palestine.

The picture in front of you in the Church of St Anne, which is near the Lions Gate in Al-Qudṣ. This is where according to Christian beliefs, Maryam **رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا** was born. Other Christian opinions are that she was born in Nazareth.

Slide 11 – Maryam **رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا**

Now Imrān's wife, Hannah, had made a vow while she was pregnant that she would offer her child for the service of Bayt al-Maqdiṣ thinking that she would have a boy. Now when she gave birth to a girl, she got upset thinking that her child will not be able to perform this duty but Allāh **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** accepted her and in this way, this child was made different to all of the other females. And who was this girl? It was Maryam **رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا**. Or as Christians call her, Mary.

Maryam **رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا**, is the only woman to have a whole Sūrah named after her in the Qur'ān. Imagine if we told our Christian friends this fact, they would be amazed.

Her name is mentioned 34 times in the Qur'ān. That's is more than any other woman.

Many of us even name our children after. So you can see what an important and pivotal role she plays in Islām.

Slide 12 – The Upbringing of Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا

So now Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا mother Hannah, took her daughter to the caretakers of Bayt al-Maqdis and told them to look after her as she had vowed to give her child to the service of Bayt al-Maqdis. Bayt al-Maqdis was where the people of the time used to worship.

One of these caretakers was Zakariyyā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.

Zakariyyā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was married to the sister of Hannah, Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا mother, so that made him her uncle. Now one might ask the question, if Imrān was the father of Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا and an Imām of the Masjid, why did he not look after her?

The answer is, like we mentioned before, that he had passed away during his wife's pregnancy. Even though Zakariyyā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was the closest relative of Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا the other caretakers also insisted on looking after her.

Slide 13 – Who will look after Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا ?

So how were they going to decide on who would look after her?

The Qur'an mentions this in verse 44 of Surah Āl-Imrān:

وَمَا كُنْتَ لَدَيْهِمْ إِذْ يُلْقُونَ أَقْلَامَهُمْ أَيُّهُمْ يَكْفُلُ مَرْيَمَ وَمَا كُنْتَ لَدَيْهِمْ إِذْ يَخْتَصِمُونَ ﴿٤٤﴾

“You were not with them when they were casting their pens (to decide) who, from among them, should be the guardian of Maryam, nor were you with them when they were quarrelling.”

It was decided that all the people who wanted to look after Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا would throw their reed pens, the ones which they used to write the Torah with into the water, and whichever pen floats against the current, the owner of that pen will look after Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا.

So they all threw their pens into the water and Zakariyyā's عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ pen floated against the current. So he was given the responsibility of looking after Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا.

Slide 14 – Fruits from out of Season

Zakariyyā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ kept Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا in a house which was near Bayt al-Maqdis and he used to lock the door when he used to leave her. This was to keep her safe.

In the Qur'ān, it mentions.

كُلَّمَا دَخَلَ عَلَيْهَا زَكَرِيَّا الْمِحْرَابَ وَجَدَ عِنْدَهَا رِزْقًا قَالَ يَمْرِئُ أُنَى لَكَ هَذَا قَالَتْ هُوَ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَرْزُقُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ (٣٧)

“Whenever Zakariyyā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ visited her at the place of worship, he found food with her. He said: “Maryam, from where did you have this?” She said: “It is from Allāh. Surely, Allāh gives whom He wills without measure.”” (37)

What an amazing Miracle. Firstly the door was locked from the outside, so no one could get in. Secondly, the fruits that she had been given, were impossible to have at that time of the year. Proving this must have come from Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى and showing she held a special status.

Slide 15 – The Supplication of Zakariyyā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

Zakariyyā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ saw that Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا had fruits which were out of season. There was no possible way for her to have these fruits, unless they were given to her by Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. Zakariyyā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was old and his wife was also old, they had never had any children themselves. When he saw that Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا was able to get out of season fruits from Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, he made a supplication to Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, that maybe they could be granted fruits from out of season? This means, maybe Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى could bless them with a child in their old ages, which was out of season.

The Qur'ān tell us

هُنَالِكَ دَعَا زَكَرِيَّا رَبَّهُ ۖ قَالَ رَبِّ هَبْ لِي مِنْ لَدُنْكَ ذُرِّيَّةً طَيِّبَةً إِنَّكَ سَمِيعُ الدُّعَاءِ (٣٨)

Thereupon, Zakariyyā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ prayed to his Lord. He said: “O my Lord, grant me from Your own (power) a goodly progeny. Verily, You are the One who listens to the prayer.”

It so happened that Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى granted Zakariyyā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ his Du‘ā and gave him a son, who was named Yaḥyā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.

Question: What is the name of Yaḥyā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ in Christianity?

Answer: He is known as John the Baptist.

This makes Yaḥyā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ and Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا first cousins.

Slide 16 – The Visit from the Angel

Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا continued to live under the guardianship of Zakariyyā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ until one day she was visited by Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ, the Angel Gabriel.

What did Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ say to her? The Qur’ān tells us about this encounter.

وَإِذْ قَالَتِ الْمَلَكَةُ يَمْرَيْمُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَاكِ وَطَهَّرَكِ وَأَصْطَفَاكِ عَلَى نِسَاءِ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٤٢﴾

And when the angels said: “O Maryam, Allāh has chosen you and purified you and chosen you over the women of all the worlds”

يَمْرَيْمُ اقْنُتِي لِرَبِّكِ وَأَسْجُدِي وَأَرْكَعِي مَعَ الرَّاكِعِينَ ﴿٤٣﴾

“Oh Maryam, stand in devotion to your Lord and prostrate yourself and bow down in Rukū‘ with those who bow”

These verses show how Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى had chosen her for one thing which no other woman had been chosen for, and what was that?

Slide 17 – Glad Tidings of a Child

إِذْ قَالَتِ الْمَلَكَةُ يَمْرَيْمُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُبَشِّرُكِ بِكَلِمَةٍ مِّنْهُ اسْمُهُ الْمَسِيحُ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ وَجِيهًا فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَمِنَ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ ﴿٤٥﴾

Remember the time) when the angels said: “O Maryam, Allāh gives you the good news of a Word from Him whose name is Masīh ‘Īsā , the son of Maryam (the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary) a man of status in this world and in the Hereafter, and one of those who are near (to Allāh).

وَيُكَلِّمُ النَّاسَ فِي الْمَهْدِ وَكَهْلًا وَمِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ ﴿٤٦﴾

He shall speak to people while (he is still) in the cradle, and also later, when he is of mature age; and he shall be one of the righteous.”

Imagine her surprise when she was told she is going to have a child. What was her reply?

Slide 18 - Glad Tidings of a Child

قَالَتْ رَبِّ أُنَّى يَكُونُ لِي وَلَدٌ وَلَمْ يَمَسِّنِي بَشَرٌ قَالَ كَذَلِكَ اللَّهُ يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ إِذَا قَضَىٰ أَمْرًا فَإِنَّمَا يَقُولُ لَهُ و كُنْ فَيَكُونُ ﴿٤٧﴾

She said: “O my Lord, how shall I have a son while no human has ever touched me?” Said He: “That is how Allāh creates what He wills. When He decides a matter, He simply says to it ‘Be’, and it comes to be.

In Surah Maryam, Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى then tells us in more detail what actually happened.

Slide 19

وَأذْكَرُ فِي الْكِتَابِ مَرْيَمَ إِذِ انْتَبَذَتْ مِنْ أَهْلِهَا مَكَانًا شَرْقِيًّا ﴿١٦﴾

“And mention in the Book (the story of) Maryam, when she secluded herself from her people to a place towards East”

فَاتَّخَذَتْ مِنْ دُونِهِمْ حِجَابًا فَأَرْسَلْنَا إِلَيْهَا رُوحَنَا فَتَمَثَّلَ لَهَا بَشَرًا سَوِيًّا ﴿١٧﴾

“Then she used a barrier to hide herself from them. Then, We sent to her Our Spirit, (Jibrīl رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا) and he took before her the form of a perfect human being.”

Slide 20

So Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى sent down Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ in the form of a man and when Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا saw him, she got scared about his intentions as she did not know who he was, so she said

قَالَتْ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِالرَّحْمَنِ مِنْكَ إِنْ كُنْتَ تَقِيًّا ﴿١٨﴾

“I seek refuge with the All-Merciful (Raḥmān) against you if you are God Fearing.

قَالَ إِنَّمَا أَنَا رَسُولُ رَبِّكِ لِأَهَبَ لَكِ غُلَامًا زَكِيًّا ﴿١٩﴾

“He said “I am but a message bearer from your Lord sent to give you a boy purified.””

Slide 21 – Sūrah Maryam

The Sūrah carries on and tell us:

قَالَتْ أَنَّى يَكُونُ لِي غُلَامٌ وَلَمْ يَمَسِّنِي بَشَرٌ وَلَمْ أَكُ بَغِيًّا ﴿٢٠﴾

She said, “How shall I have a boy while no human has ever touched me, nor have I ever been unchaste?”

قَالَ كَذَلِكَ قَالَ رَبُّكَ هُوَ عَلَيَّ هَيِّئٌ وَلِنَجْعَلَهُ آيَةً لِلنَّاسِ وَرَحْمَةً مِنَّا وَكَانَ أَمْرًا مَقْضِيًّا ﴿٢١﴾

He said, “So it is; your Lord said, ‘It is easy for Me, and (We will do this) so that We make it a sign for people and a mercy from Us, and this is a matter already destined.’”

فَحَمَلَتْهُ فَانْتَبَدَتْ بِهِ ۖ مَكَانًا قَصِيًّا ﴿٢٢﴾

So she conceived him (meaning 'Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ) and went in seclusion with him to a remote place.

Slide 22 – The Birth of 'Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

So Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا conceived a child and became pregnant. When the time of the child's birth arrived, she went to a remote place.

Question: What it's the name of the place where 'Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was born?

Answer: It is a widely held belief that this place was called Baitul Laḥm or Bethlehem.

If you go to Bethlehem today, according to Christian beliefs, the place of his birth is now where the Church of the Nativity is. This is the oldest Christian place of worship. Just outside the church in Manger Square. You can see the church from this picture. You enter inside through this door, called the 'Door of Humility'

Inside the Church is the Grotto of the Nativity which is under the main altar. And there is a silver star which marks the place of the birth of 'Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ according to Christians.

Now let's go back to what the Qur'an tells us about his birth.

Slide 23 – The Birth of 'Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

When the time came for Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا to give birth, Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى tells us:

فَأَجَاءَهَا الْمَخَاضُ إِلَى جِذْعِ النَّخْلَةِ قَالَتْ يَلَيْتَنِي مِثُّ قَبْلِ هَذَا وَكُنْتُ نَسِيًّا مَّنْسِيًّا ﴿٢٣﴾

Then the labour pains brought her to the trunk of a palm-tree. She said, "O that I would have died before this, and would have been something gone, forgotten."

فَنَادَاهَا مِنْ تَحْتِهَا أَلَّا تَحْزَنِي قَدْ جَعَلَ رَبُّكِ تَحْتَكِ سَرِيًّا ﴿٢٤﴾

Then he called her from beneath her: "Do not grieve; your Lord has placed a stream beneath you.

وَهُزِّي إِلَيْكِ بِجِذْعِ النَّخْلَةِ تُسْقِطُ عَلَيْكَ رَطْبًا جَنِيًّا ﴿٢٥﴾

Shake the trunk of the palm-tree towards yourself and, it will drop upon you ripe fresh dates.

Slide 24 – The Birth of ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

فَكُلِّي وَأَشْرِبِي وَقَرِّي عَيْنًا فَمَا تَرِينَ مِنَ الْبَشَرِ أَحَدًا. فَقُولِي إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لِلرَّحْمَنِ صَوْمًا فَلَنْ أُكَلِّمَ
الْيَوْمَ إِنْسِيًّا ﴿٣٦﴾

So eat, drink and cool your eyes. Then if you see any human being, say (to him), “I have vowed a fast (of silence) for the All-Merciful (Allāh,) and therefore, I shall never speak to any human today.”

So Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا took shade under a date palm and Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى placed a stream beneath her so she could drink and if she needed food, she could shake the date palm and the dates would fall.

Slide 25 – The Birth of ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

These were again Miracles of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, a date palm is a very firm tree and not one which can be easily shaken, so for a heavily pregnant woman to be able to shake it and that to an extent where the dates would fall would only be possible with Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى help.

Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا was told that if you see anyone then tell them you have vowed a fast of silence so you will not speak to anyone today.

She now gave birth to ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ and came to her people carrying the child. When they questioned her about the child she pointed towards the baby. They said how can we speak to someone who is yet a child in the cradle.

Then ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ spoke, while he was still in the cradle. He said “Inni ‘Abdullāh”, I am the servant of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. He further said that Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى has given him a book and made him a Prophet and he has made me blessed wherever he may be and enjoined upon him prayer and Zakāh – Charity as long as he remained alive.

Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى made a baby talk in its cradle, a complete Miracle.

Slide 26 – Differences between religions

During Christmas time each year, our children at school are taught about the Nativity which is the story of the birth of ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ. It is important that we learn the differences between our belief and the Christian belief. Let’s look at the differences between the Islamic and Christian beliefs around the birth of ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.

There are some major differences which are as follows:

Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا gave birth to 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ in Baitul Laḥm, otherwise known as Bethlehem. There is no reference in Islām to Joseph who features in the Christian narrative. When she gave birth to 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ, people made a false accusation against her. The Qur'ān mentions that 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ spoke when he was in the cradle. So when the people made the accusation the baby 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ spoke up to prove his mothers innocence.

The birth of 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ in Islām was indeed miraculous, he was similar to Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ in that, Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ had no parents at all and 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ only had a mother. This is our belief as Muslims. We do not believe his father was Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. So he is not the son of God.

You will have seen in the nativity plays, in the Christian version, 3 wise men come to Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا after she had given birth bearing gifts of Gold, Frankincense or Myrrh. There is no mention of this in Islām.

Therefore there is no mention of them following a star.

And the place where she gave birth, the Christian narrative says it was a manger which is a structure used to hold food to feed animals, that's why you see lots of animals in the little models they make. In the Qur'ān it clearly says she was under the trunk of a date palm and there was a stream under her.

So that in effect explains the miraculous birth of 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.

Slide 27 – End of Part 1

That bring us to the end of Part 1.

Alḥamdulillāh, we discussed many things today:

- The importance to learn about 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ
- The lineage of 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ
- The birth of Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا
- The upbringing of Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا
- The Supplication of Zakariyyā 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ
- Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا encounter with an Angel
- The Birth of 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

Inshā'Allāh, tomorrow we will discuss his raising, so we will be talking about Easter.

Slide 28 – Part 2

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلوة والسلام على سيد المرسلين وعلى اله وصحبه اجمعين اما بعد

رب اشرح لي صدري ويسر لي امرى واحلل عقدة من لساني يفقهوا قولي

سبحانك لا علم لنا الا ما علمتنا أنك انت العليم الحكيم

My dear respected brothers and sisters, Assalāmu ‘Alaykum Wa Raḥmatullāhi Wa Barakātuhū. And welcome to Part 2 of the Presentation on the Importance of ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ in Islām.

I begin by praising Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى Lord of the Worlds and sending Peace and Salutations on our beloved Messenger Muḥammad صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

I would like to thank you all for again taking time out of your schedules to attend today’s session. Inshā’Allāh we will today discuss the death and resurrection of ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.

Slide 29 – Recap from Session 1

Let’s have a few Questions before we start today’s session to recap the previous session.

Question: Where does the lineage of ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ meet Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ?

‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ lineage meets the lineage of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ at Ibrāhīm عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.

Question: Who was given by her mother in the service of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى

We then discussed the birth of his mother Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا and how she was given in the service of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى by her mother Hannah. Her father Imrān had passed away before her birth.

Question: Who looked after Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا at Bayt al-Maqdis?

She was looked after by Zakariyyā’ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

Slide 30 – Recap from Session 1

Question: For what reason did Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى choose Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا?

She was chosen by Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى to have a child without a father.

Question: Who did she give birth to?

She gave birth to ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ under a palm tree and how Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى looked after her sustenance in this state.

Question: How did she prove her innocence from accusation of her having a child without a husband?

We finally discussed how 'Īsā spoke in his cradle to prove his mother's innocence from false accusations.

Slide 31 – Facts about 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

Some other facts about 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ and the differences in Aqīdah between us and the Christians.

- 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ is the final Prophet who came before Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ
- He was given the Injil
- We do not believe 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was the son of God or part of the trinity as Christians do, we believe that he was a great Prophet of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى.
- 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was also given several miracles by Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, he could cure the leper, he could cure the person who was born blind and he could make birds out of clay which would then fly.
- We also believe he will come back before the end of days

This is whole new subject in itself which we can Inshā'Allāh discuss on another occasion.

Slide 32 The Raising of 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

As well as the birth of 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ, his raising or his death is also highly debated and there is a difference of opinion among the 3 major religions with regard to this.

So let's look at the opinion of all 3 religions, we will start off with the simplest, the Jews believe he was arrested and crucified on a cross, they do not believe he was a Prophet so there is no question about him being raised or resurrected.

The Christians version of events is quite detailed and as I have said it is all linked to Easter time. So Christmas is related to the birth of 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ and Easter is related to the death and resurrection of 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ according to Christian belief. The Christian belief is that he was arrested then crucified, so he died. And then he was resurrected, he came back to life.

The Islamic belief is that he was not killed but raised up to Heaven by Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. And he will come down again once more before the end of days.

Slide 33 – The Festival of Easter

So let's look at Easter, what is Easter all about, Easter is the oldest festival which is celebrated or commemorated by the Christians and focuses around their belief that Jesus, **إِسَاء عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام** was crucified and then he was resurrected, he was brought back to life.

Easter is also known as Pasch.

Remember as Muslims, our belief is that **إِسَاء عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام** was not crucified, therefore he was not resurrected. We believe he was raised to heaven by Allāh **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** and will come down to earth again.

Many of the customs during this period have a connection with the Christian Religion, and many of us take part in these traditions as well without realizing. We have to be careful as Muslims to not celebrate other religious occasions.

Question: Why do we have Easter Eggs?

Answer: Eggs are a symbol of life, renewal and rebirth dating back long ago. The egg was adopted by early Christians as a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter. The hard shell of the egg represents the tomb and the emerging chick represents Jesus, whose resurrection conquered death.

The tradition of eating eggs on Easter is tied to Lent, the six-week period before Easter during which Christians traditionally abstained from all animal products, including meat, dairy and eggs.

Since chickens continue to lay eggs throughout Lent, people would hard boil the eggs, decorate them and save them for Easter. The modern tradition of eating chocolate eggs at Easter is supposed to be a fun, kid-friendly twist on this ancient religious ritual, which originated in Europe during the early-19th century.

Nowadays we have Easter eggs all year round, and there is no harm in eating them as our intention is not to commemorate the Resurrection of Jesus.

Slide 34 – Why does the date of Easter Change each Year?

Question: Why does the date of Easter change every year

Answer: This is because it is based on the lunar calendar.

Easter Sunday is celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon, on or after March 21st. So after March the 21st, the full moon can occur on any day according to the Moon Phases. As soon as it occurs, the following Sunday will be Easter Sunday.

So this year (2020) the full moon fell on the 8th of April so the first Sunday after that date is the 12th of April which will be Easter Sunday.

Slide 35 – What is Lent

Now many of the days during the Easter period have special names, and this holy period actually starts before Easter, it begins with Lent. Lent is supposed to mirror the period when the Christians believed Jesus, 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ stayed in the desert for 40 days and fasted.

Lent is a period where Christians are supposed to busy themselves in three things, prayer, fasting and almsgiving, giving in charity. Sounds very similar to Ramaḍān!

But nowadays instead of totally fasting many people give up one thing which they consider as a vice, for example, chocolate or biscuits.

As mentioned before, Lent lasts for 40 days. This excludes Sundays, as this marks the day, they believe 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was resurrected so on that day fasting would be inappropriate.

This year Lent began on February the 26th and will finish Saturday April 11th

Slide 36 – Shrove Tuesday

Question: What do people normally make on Shrove Tuesday?

Answer: They make pancakes.

The day before Lent begins is called Shrove Tuesday, or as we know it as Pancake Day.

On this day people used to eat to their full, fatten themselves up before Lent, therefore they used to make pancakes. Many people from our community also make them on this day without realizing the significance it has in Christianity. So the next time we make them on this day, remember that we are actually commemorating a Christian Festival which we should not do. We can make pancakes any time of the year!

Nowadays, people just make and eat pancakes on this day.

Here is a good recipe: <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/perfect-pancakes-recipe>

Slide 37 – Ash Wednesday

The following day on which Lent begins is called Ash Wednesday.

Why is it called Ash Wednesday? This is based on a practise where Palm leaves are burnt on the Palm Sunday the previous year. We shall talk about Palm Sunday in the next slide.

The ashes from these palm leaves are then sprinkled on the heads of the people or a cross is marked on their foreheads with the ashes, while the following words are recited.

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”.

This again sounds again very similar to the supplication we make when are lowering the deceased into the grave.

Slide 38 – Palm Sunday

The period for Lent continues and finishes before Easter Sunday. This leads me onto the Holy week which is the week before Easter Sunday.

The Holy week starts with Palm Sunday. So, this is the Sunday before Easter Sunday. According to Christian beliefs ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ came to Jerusalem on the back of a donkey and crowds of people welcomed him laying palm branches in the road.

When ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ came to Jerusalem, there were many people who were conspiring against him and did not like his message. They decided that they would arrest him and put him to trial.

Slide 39 – Maundy or Holy Thursday

Now the Thursday before Good Friday is known as Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday, and it is on this day ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ is said to have had the last supper with his disciples.

After the meal, he went with his disciples to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. You can see the picture of this garden on this slide.

One of his disciples called Judas Escariot betrayed him for 30 gold pieces. The soldiers wanted to identify Jesus, so he told them that the person he kisses is Jesus. When he went up to Jesus and kissed him, the soldiers recognized Jesus and arrested him.

Jesus was then taken to stand trial in front of a Jewish Judicial body called the Sanhedrin for certain claims that he was said to have made like saying he was the son of God. (As Muslims we do not believe he made any such claims). He was then condemned to death, but they did not have the authority to kill him so they had to get official approval from the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate.

The governor was reluctant to pass the sentence but gave in, when the crowds put him under pressure.

Slide 40 – Good Friday

So, what is the significance of Good Friday? It is also known as Holy Friday

On Good Friday, the Christians believe that Jesus, 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was crucified.

Question: What do Hot Cross Buns signify?

Answer: Many of you will see if you go to the Supermarkets that there will be Hot Cross Buns. The cross on top of the buns is a reminder for them that 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was crucified on a cross.

A 12th-century monk introduced the cross to the bun. The origins of hot cross buns may go back as far as the 12th century. According to the story, an Anglican monk baked the buns and marked them with a cross in honour of Good Friday. Over time they gained popularity, and eventually became a symbol of Easter weekend

The Christian belief was that he made to carry his cross and then crucified on that cross, in a place called Golgotha, which means place of the skull. It is also known as Calvary.

After he was crucified, he was taken off the cross and shrouded.

He was then buried in a cave tomb and a large rock was placed on the opening of the cave.

Slide 41 – Jerusalem Via Dolorosa

If anyone has been to Palestine, in the old city they will see a street called Via Dolorosa which is believed to be the path Jesus had to walk. The path contains 14 stations of the Cross where a significant event took place. This is a place of pilgrimage for many Christians as they retrace the final steps, they believe Jesus took.

Just a reminder here, this is not what Muslims believe, as we do not believe 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was crucified, more on this later.

Slide 42 – The Church of the Holy Sepulchre

The Final Station is the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. This church was built by the emperor Constantine in 336 CE on the site where Christians believe Jesus was crucified and then buried.

As you can see from the middle picture, the actual church houses the rock of Golgotha which is where they believe the crucifixion took place and also his tomb.

It is a fascinating place with lots of smaller grottos and chapels inside and the Holiest Christian site in the world.

Slide 43 – Easter Sunday

According to Christian beliefs, Jesus was crucified on the Friday.

Jesus was then left on the day of the Sabbath, which was Saturday. The following day, which was Easter Sunday, is when his disciples went to his tomb and found that the rock had moved and his body not there.

According to Christian belief, he had been resurrected and brought back to life.

Slide 44 – Summary of Christian Narrative.

To summarize the Christian narrative, Jesus came to Jerusalem, where he was arrested and stood trial. He was sentenced to death and crucified. He died on the cross and was buried in a cave tomb. He was then resurrected, meaning he came back to life and he will come back down to earth before the end of days.

Slide 45 – What does Islām say about the death of ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

We have gone over in great detail what the Christian narrative is related to the death of Jesus, ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.

What does Islām say about the death of ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ? In Sūrah Āl-Imrān, Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى says:

إِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَٰعِيسَىٰ إِنِّي مُتَوَفِّيكَ وَرَافِعُكَ إِلَىٰ وَمُطَهِّرُكَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَجَاعِلُ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوكَ فَوْقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ مَرْجِعِكُمْ فَأَحْكُمُ بَيْنَكُمْ فِيمَا كُنْتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ

(٥٥)

When Allāh said: “O ‘Isā, I am to take you in full and to raise you towards Myself, and to cleanse you of those who disbelieve, and to place those who follow you above those who disbelieve up to the Day of Doom. Then to Me is your return, whereupon I shall judge between you in that over which you have differed.

So here we can see that Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى said he will raise him

Slide 46 - What does Islām say about the death of ‘Isā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

In Surah an-Nisā’ Verse 157, Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى says,

وَقَوْلِهِمْ إِنَّا قَتَلْنَا الْمَسِيحَ عِيسَىٰ ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ وَمَا صَلَبُوهُ وَلَٰكِن شُبِّهَ لَهُمْ وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ لَفِي شَكٍّ مِّنْهُ مَا لَهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِلَّا اتِّبَاعَ الظَّنِّ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ يَقِينًا (١٥٧)

And for their saying, “We have certainly killed the Masih ‘Īsā the son of Maryam, the Messenger of Allāh”, while in fact they did neither kill him, nor crucify him, but they were deluded by resemblance. Those who disputed in this matter are certainly in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it, but they follow whims. It is absolutely certain that they did not kill him.

The following points are clear from this verse:

1. ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was not killed or crucified
2. Someone else resembled him

Slide 47 - What does Islām say about the death of ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

Our Islamic belief is that ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was not crucified at all. We believe that he was raised up and another person was made to bear a likeness to him was crucified instead. So, if our belief is that he was not crucified, then automatically we do not believe in his resurrection. Our belief is that he will come back before the Day of Judgment, as a part of the Ummah of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ and kill Dajjāl when he comes.

In Tafsīr Ibn Kathīr, it explains the Events from an Islamic point of view. There are 2 opinions.

When Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى sent ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ with the clear proofs and guidance, some of the leaders of the Jews became jealous on what Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى had given to ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ with regard to Prophet Hood and the miracles he could perform. He could cure the leper and the born blind. He could bring back the dead to life with Allāh’s permission. He could make birds from clay then blow into them and make them fly with the permission of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى etc.

Now the Sanhedrin who were the Jewish Judicial body grew jealous. They informed the king in Damascus that there is a person who is causing corruption in the land and making the people go astray. When the King heard this he got angry and sent a letter to his representative in Bayt al-Maqdis to find this person and crucify him to put a stop to him troubling the people.

When the representative received this letter, he went with a group of Jews to the house where ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was with his disciples. It was on the day of Jum‘āh after ‘Aṣr Salāh, the night before the Sabbath.

When ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ saw that these people were going to enter or there was no way for him to exit, he asked his companions, which of you will volunteer to be made to look like me, and he will be my companion in Jannah? A young disciple agreed to do this, but he was very

young. 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ asked again and again and both times only the young disciple agreed so Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى made him look like 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ. 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was then raised up to the heavens.

After 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was raised, the group came out and the people waiting for him thought the youth was 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ so they took him and crucified him.

In Ibn Kathīr it also mentions in another narration that the name of the disciple was Sarjas. Judas was made to identify 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ because no one knew who he was from his disciples, and this was done for 30 dirhams. He said to them that 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ will be the one I kiss, when he entered 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ had been raised up and he saw Sarjas in the appearance of 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ so he went and kissed him, and he was taken.

In Ibn Kathīr it also mentions that some Christians claim that it was Judas who was made to look like 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ and he was crucified, he was saying I am not the person who you want but the person who was going to point him out to you.

In any case, in whichever way it happened, Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى knows best. We do know categorically from the Qur'ān that Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى said that they did not kill him, or crucify him, but someone who resembled him. Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى also said to 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ that he will raise him, so these are the things we can be sure about.

Slide 48 – Differences in Beleaf

Let us now summarize wall that we have covered in the last 2 sessions.

We can see the difference in belief, Christians believe, 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ, Jesus is the son of God, part of the trinity, something which he never claimed

Our Islamic belief is that he is a great prophet of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى

He had a miraculous conception without a father.

He was given several miracles by Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, he could cure the leper and the born blind, and he could make birds out of clay and raise the dead with the permission of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى.

There is no proof that he was born on the 25th of December and you will see other Christian denominations celebrating his birthday other dates.

Christian's believe he was crucified; we believe he was raised to Heaven and someone else was killed in his place.

Christian's believe he was resurrected, but we believe he has not even died yet so could not have got resurrected.

When 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ comes back again, he will come as part of the Ummah of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ and establish a just and prosperous rule according to the rule of our Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

Slide 49 - Conclusion

Subḥān'Allāh, so from what we have discussed in the last two sessions, we can see the high status of 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ in Islām. As Muslims, we believe he was a Prophet of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى who was given the Injīl, the true Bible, which no longer exists today. He was born miraculously without a father. He is not the son of Allāh, nor did he ever claim to be. He was the son of Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا. He was not crucified, and he didn't die. Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى raised him up and he will come back again before the Day of Judgment.

May Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى give us all the love of the prophets, may he give us the ability to learn about them and use their lives as examples for us. We should all try and educate ourselves about the lives of not only 'Īsā سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى but all of the Prophets as there are so many great lessons to Learn.

Try and inform our Christian colleagues and friends and family of this unique relationship we have with 'Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ and Maryam رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا as many do not know and Inshā'Allāh this could be a means of Da'wah and guidance for them as well.

Let us go and visit these places, like Palestine, Jordan, Sinai, Turkey, Spain and above all Makkah and Madīnah. Let us take our children there so they can see what we believe in with their own eyes. Everything will become so much more personal and Inshā'Allāh, this will strengthen ours and their Imān.

May Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى accept all of our efforts.

Jazākamullāhu Khayra for attending