

Islam and Christianity

1. Mary and Jesus
2. Judaism and Christianity
3. Summary

Birth and Childhood of Mary

- ❑ Mary's mother dedicates her child to God, expecting a boy, asking for protection from Satan for her offspring.
- ❑ Girl born, unusual to serve in Temple
- ❑ Mary given to Temple to serve, in care of Zachariah, drew lots to be her guardian
- ❑ Zachariah finds Mary always has food, asks her, she says it is from God
- ❑ Zachariah in old age, prays for a son, told by angel of acceptance, sign that he can not speak for three days
- ❑ John the Baptist born, prophet, and also serves his parents

Birth of Jesus

- ❑ Mary grows up, a beautiful young girl
- ❑ Mary leaves temple, presumably at puberty, and goes to a secluded place away from people
- ❑ The angel Gabriel comes to her and tells her that God has chosen her that she will have a blessed son.
- ❑ She asks how, if no man has touched her? Gabriel says by the command of God.
- ❑ Jesus is a Word of God “Be”, and a spirit from Him
- ❑ She becomes pregnant, and when time comes, she goes through pangs of childbirth in pain and regret.
- ❑ She is only 12 years of age when Jesus is born, according to Christian tradition.

Jesus speaks in the cradle

- ❑ New-born Jesus speaks and comforts her and tells her to shake the palm tree for dates, and drink from the stream.
- ❑ She takes baby Jesus back to her people, she is told by Jesus to not speak, say she is fasting.
- ❑ Her people are astounded and question her, she points to baby Jesus.
- ❑ Jesus speaks to the people, saying that he is a prophet of God, blessed by God.
- ❑ Priests and rabbis slander her as an immoral woman, and question parentage of Jesus.

Jesus' preaching and miracles

- ❑ Jesus grows up and begins preaching at the command of God.
- ❑ He affirms the Torah and corrects the false beliefs and corruption introduced into the religion.
- ❑ He performs miracles healing the leper, blind, raising the dead, knowledge of stored things in people's houses, makes bird of clay and God turns it into a living bird.

Disciples

- ❑ Pharisees and priests disbelieve, declare him to be a magician, false prophet.
- ❑ He asks for helpers and the disciples respond, saying they are helpers and submit to God (Muslims)
- ❑ He and his disciples preach to the people and some follow him.
- ❑ Disciples ask him for a feast from Heaven as a sign
- ❑ Prays to God, sent feast with the condition that after this experience, whoever rejects faith will be punished severely

Ascension

- ❑ The priesthood rejects him., He curses them for their disbelief. The priesthood conspires to kill him.
- ❑ God tells him that He will raise Jesus up to Him, and will give the followers of Jesus superiority over the disbelievers till the Day of Judgment.
- ❑ The priesthood capture and crucify a person, thinking it is Jesus, but it was not Jesus.
- ❑ God raises Jesus up to Himself in Heaven, Jesus did not die.
- ❑ Jesus will return in a Second Coming

Mary and the Angel

Sura 19. Maryam Section 2

16. Relate in the Book (the story of) Mary when she withdrew from her family to a place in the East.
17. She placed a screen (to screen herself) from them: then We sent to her Our angel and he appeared before her as a man in all respects.
18. She said: "I seek refuge from thee to (Allah) Most Gracious: (come not near) if thou dost fear Allah."
19. He said: "Nay I am only a messenger from thy Lord (to announce) to thee the gift of a holy son."
20. She said: "How shall I have a son seeing that no man has touched me and I am not unchaste?"
21. He said: "So (it will be): thy Lord saith `That is easy for Me: and (We wish) to appoint him as a Sign unto men and a Mercy from Us': it is a matter (so) decreed."
22. So she conceived him and she retired with him to a remote place.

Mary and the Angel

23. And the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm-tree: she cried (in her anguish): "Ah! would that I had died before this! Would that I had been a thing forgotten and out of sight!"
24. But (a voice) cried to her from beneath the (palm-tree): "Grieve not! for thy Lord hath provided a rivulet beneath thee;
25. "And shake towards thyself the trunk of the palm-tree: it will let fall fresh ripe dates upon thee.
26. "So eat and drink and cool (thine) eye. And if thou dost see any man say `I have vowed a fast to (Allah) Most Gracious and this day will I enter into no talk with any human being.' "

Jesus speaks in the cradle

27. At length she brought the (babe) to her people carrying him (in her arms). They said: "O Mary! truly an amazing thing hast thou brought!"
28. "O sister of Aaron! thy father was not a man of evil nor thy mother a woman unchaste!"
29. But she pointed to the babe. They said: "How can we talk to one who is a child in the cradle?"
30. He said: "I am indeed a servant of Allah: He hath given me revelation and made me a prophet;
31. "And He hath made me Blessed wheresoever I be and hath enjoined on me Prayer and Charity as long as I live;
32. "(He) hath made me kind to my mother and not overbearing or miserable;
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)!"

Jesus not begotten

34. Such (was) Jesus the son of Mary: (it is) a statement of truth about which they (vainly) dispute.
35. It is not befitting to (the majesty of) Allah that He should beget a son. Glory be to Him! When He determines a matter He only says to it "Be" and it is.
36. Verily Allah is my Lord and your Lord: Him therefore serve ye: this is a Way that is straight.
37. But the sects differ among themselves: and woe to the Unbelievers because of the (coming) Judgment of a momentous Day!
38. How plainly will they see and hear the Day that they will appear before Us! But the unjust today are in error manifest!
39. But warn them of the Day of Distress when the matter will be determined: for (behold) they are negligent and they do not believe!
40. It is We Who will inherit the earth and all beings thereon: to Us will they all be returned.

Mary – Example

Sura 66 Tahrim

10. Allah sets forth for an example to the Unbelievers the **wife of Noah and the wife of Lut**: they were (respectively) under two of Our righteous servants but they were false to their (husbands) and they profited nothing before Allah on their account but were told: "Enter ye the fire along with (others) that enter!"
11. And Allah sets forth as an example to those who believe the **wife of Pharaoh**: Behold she said: "O my Lord! build for me in nearness to Thee a mansion in the Garden and save me from Pharaoh and his doings and save me from those that do wrong";
12. And **Mary the daughter of `Imran** who guarded her chastity; and We breathed into her (body) of Our spirit; and she testified to the truth of the words of her Lord and of His Revelations and was one of the devout (Servants).

Jesus - attributes

Sura 4 Nisa

170. O mankind! the Messenger hath come to you in truth from Allah: believe in him: it is best for you. But if ye reject faith to Allah belong all things in the heavens and on earth: and Allah is All-Knowing All-Wise.
171. O people of the Book! commit no excesses in your religion: nor say of Allah aught but truth. Christ Jesus the son of Mary was (no more than) an Messenger of Allah and His Word which He bestowed on Mary and a Spirit proceeding from Him: so believe in Allah and His Messengers. Say not "Trinity": desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is One Allah: glory be to him: (for Exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens and on earth. And enough is Allah as a Disposer of affairs.

Jews and Christians

“Ahl-e-Kitab” People of the Book

- ❑ Believing Jews and Christians are not considered “infidels” but are considered “People of the Book” – “Ahl-e-Kitab”
- ❑ The Book refers to God’s message and guidance to mankind. The People of the Book are those who were given the Scriptures and sent Prophets from God.
- ❑ The Jews and Christians, as People of the Book, are treated very differently from those who do not believe in God
- ❑ Muslims may eat food of the Jews and Christians, and Muslim men may marry Jewish or Christian women

One God – Jews, Christians, Muslims

The God of Abraham

The God of the First Commandment

29.46. And dispute you not with the People of the Book except with means better (than mere disputation) unless it be with those of them who inflict wrong (and injury): but say *"We believe in the Revelation which has come down to us and in that which came down to you; Our God and your God is one; and it is to Him we are in submission (in Islam)."*

Mosaic covenant with Jews

Sura 2. Al-Baqara

40. O children of Israel! call to mind the (special) favor which I bestowed upon you and fulfil your covenant with Me as I fulfil My covenant with you and fear none but Me.
41. And believe in what I reveal confirming the revelation which is with you and be not the first to reject faith therein nor sell My Signs for a small price: and fear Me and Me alone.
42. And cover not Truth with falsehood nor conceal the Truth when ye know (what it is).

Favor bestowed on Jews

Sura 2. Al-Baqara

47. O children of Israel! call to mind the (special) favor which I bestowed upon You and that I preferred you to all others (for My message).
48. Then guard yourselves against a day when one soul shall not avail another nor shall intercession be accepted for her nor shall compensation be taken from her nor shall anyone be helped (from outside).

Christians and the Gospel

5:47 Let the people of the Gospel Judge by what Allah hath revealed therein. If any do fail to judge by (the light of) what Allah hath revealed they are (no better than) those who rebel.

Compassion and Mercy ordained for Christians

Sura 47 Hadid

27. Then in their wake We followed them up with (others of) Our Messengers: **We sent after them Jesus the son of Mary and bestowed on him the Gospel; and We ordained in the hearts of those who followed him Compassion and Mercy.** But the monasticism which they invented for themselves We did not prescribe for them: (We commanded) only the seeking for the Good pleasure of Allah; but that they did not foster as they should have done. Yet We bestowed on those among them who believed their (due) reward but many of them are rebellious transgressors.

Quran guards Torah and Gospel.
Each prescribed a way. Compete in doing good

Sura Maida 5

5:48 **To you We sent the Scripture in truth confirming the scripture that came before it and guarding it in safety; so judge between them by what Allah hath revealed and follow not their vain desires diverging from the truth that hath come to thee. *To each among you have We prescribed a Law and an Open Way. If Allah had so willed He would have made you a single people but (His plan is) to test you in what He has given you: so strive as in a race in all virtues. The goal of you all is to Allah; it is He that will show you the truth of the matters in which you dispute.***

Quran confirms, overrides and abrogates Torah and Gospel

5:15. O People of the Book! there hath come to you Our Messenger revealing to you much that ye used to hide in the Book and passing over much (that is now unnecessary): There hath come to you from Allah a (new) Light and a perspicuous Book.

God will judge

Sura Maida 5

69. Those who believe (in the Qur'an) those who follow the Jewish (Scriptures) and the Sabians and the Christians any who believe in Allah and the Last Day and work righteousness on them shall be no fear nor shall they grieve.

Sura Hajj 22

17. Those who believe (in the Qur'an) those who follow the Jewish (scriptures) and the Sabians Christians Magians and Polytheists Allah will judge between them on the Day of Judgment: for Allah is witness of all things.

Affection?

Sura Maida 5

5:82 Strongest among men in **enmity** to the believers wilt thou find the **Jews and Pagans**; and nearest among them in **love** to the believers wilt thou find those who say: "We are **Christians**:" because amongst these are men devoted to learning and men who have renounced the world and they are not arrogant.

Similarities in religious beliefs

	Judaism	Christianity	Islam
There is only One God, the Creator of the Universe, who is All-Powerful, Gracious and Merciful.	Yes	Yes	Yes
The First Commandment: One God	Yes	Trine	Yes
The similarity of the commonly used name of God in the Semitic languages (Hebrew, Aramaic and Arabic)	Elaha	Alaha	Allah
Moses is a Prophet of God, and the Torah is God's Word.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jesus is a Prophet of God, and the Gospel is God's Word.	No	Yes	Yes
Muhammad is a Prophet of God, and the Quran is God's Word.	?	?	Yes

Similarities in religious beliefs

	Juda ism	Christ ianity	Islam
Mary is the most blessed woman in Creation	No	Yes	Yes
Jesus was born to Mary by the command of God, a Virgin Birth, a Word (to Mary), and a Spirit from Him	No	Yes?	Yes
Jesus healed the lepers and blind and raised the dead by God's power	No	Yes	Yes
The disciples followed Jesus and preached his Gospel	No	Yes	Yes
God raised Jesus up to Heaven	No	Yes	Yes
Jesus will return in a Second Coming	No	Yes	Yes

Other aspects not addressed

- ❑ The similarity in practices: worship, fasting, charity
- ❑ Political, military, legal and social aspects
- ❑ Rights of religious minorities, and their responsibilities
- ❑ The significant differences in religious beliefs
 - ❑ Divinity of Jesus
 - ❑ “Begotten” Son of God (Nicean & Apostles Creed)
 - ❑ Trinity – Three persons in one godhead essence
 - ❑ Crucifixion and death of Jesus
 - ❑ Atonement of sins by death of Jesus, Salvation
 - ❑ Jesus The Only Way to the God of Abraham
 - ❑ The Paraclete (Comforter, Advocate)
 - ❑ Paul’s teachings and later Church creeds and doctrines
 - ❑ The Second Coming

Much in common between Islam and Christianity,
especially regarding Mary and Jesus, where
Judaism differs from Christianity