

Talking About Jesus with Muslim Friends

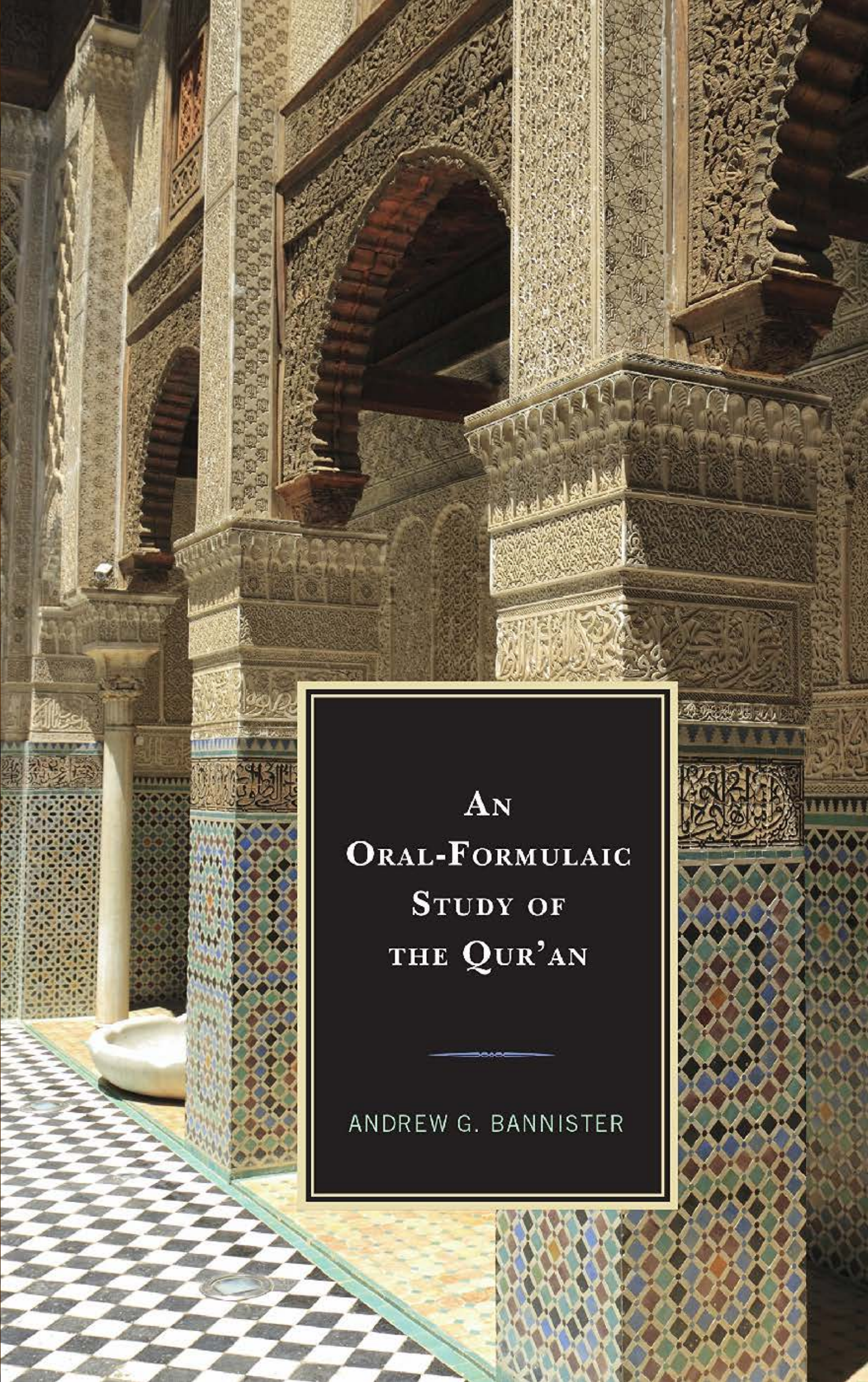
Dr. Andy Bannister

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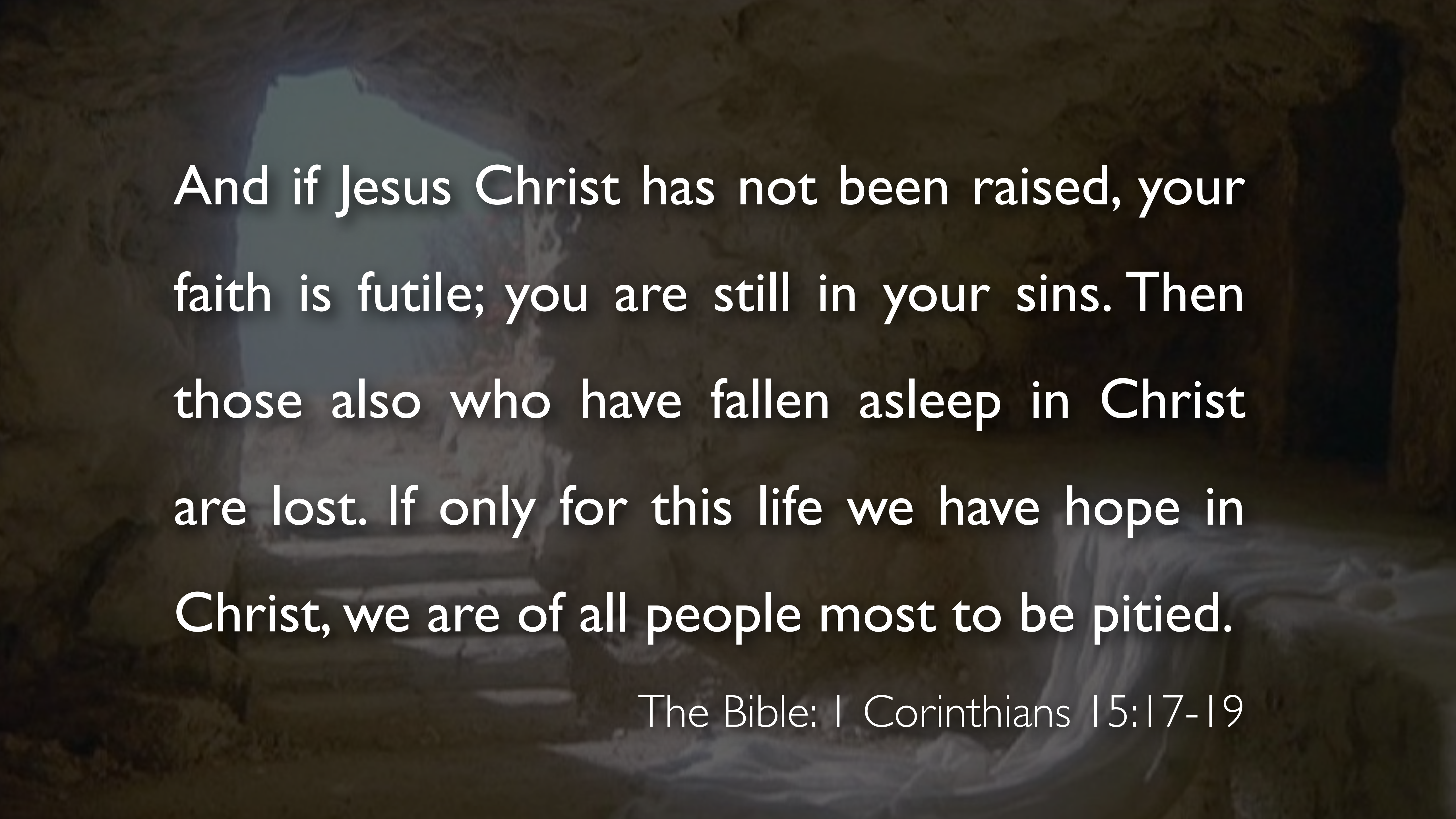
@andygbannister





AN
ORAL-FORMULAIC
STUDY OF
THE QUR'AN

ANDREW G. BANNISTER



And if Jesus Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

The Bible: I Corinthians 15:17-19



90 verses

in the Qur'an talk about Jesus

25 verses

in the Qur'an mention him by name

“(Remember) when God said, ‘Jesus, son of Mary! Remember My blessing on you and on your mother, when I supported you with the holy spirit, (and) you spoke to the people (while you were still) in the cradle, and in adulthood. And when I taught you the Book and the wisdom, and the Torah and the Gospel. And when you created the form of a bird from clay by My permission, and you breathed into it, and it became a bird by My permission, and you healed the blind and the leper by My permission. And when you brought forth the dead by My permission, and when I restrained the Sons of Israel from (violence against) you. When you brought them the clear signs, those among them who had disbelieved said, “This is nothing but clear magic.”””

Qur’an: Surah *al-Mā'idah* 5:110

The Qur'an and Jesus

- A major emphasis on the Virgin Birth of Jesus (Q. 3:42-48 and Q. 19:16-34)
- Jesus brings a book called 'The Gospel' (*injl*)
- Jesus performs amazing miracles
- Incredibly lofty titles are applied to Jesus

The Messiah

... the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary ... (Q. 4:157)

A Word from God

... a Word from Allah whose name is Jesus ... (Q. 3:45)

A Spirit from God

The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was only the Messenger of God, and His Word that He committed to Mary, and a Spirit from Him (Q. 4:171)



The Muslim Jesus
is a Polemical Jesus

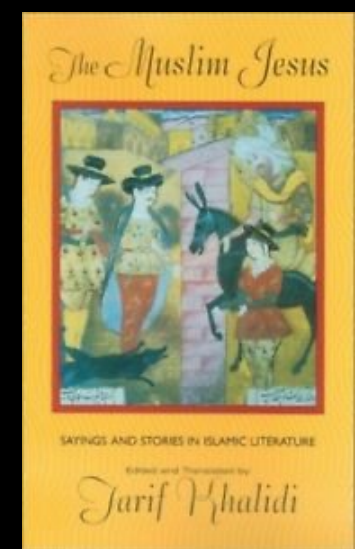
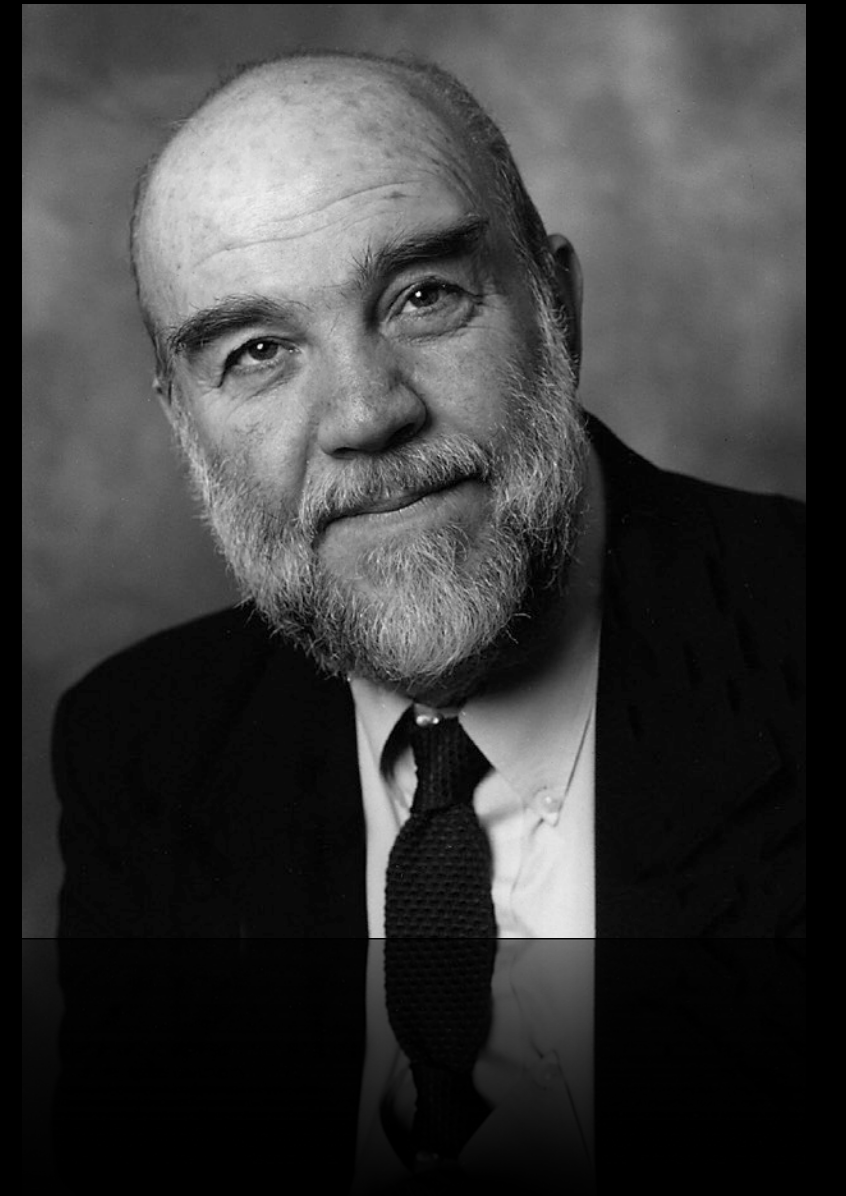
Certainly they have disbelieved who say, ‘Surely God – He is the Messiah, son of Mary,’ when the Messiah said, ‘Sons of Israel! Serve God, my Lord and your Lord. Surely he who associates (anything) with God, God has forbidden him (from) the Garden, and his refuge is the Fire. The evildoers have no helpers.’

Qur’an: Surah *al-Mā'idah* 5:72

“The Qur’anic Jesus is embroiled in polemic ... [he] is in fact an argument addressed to his more wayward followers.”

Tarif Khalidi

The Muslim Jesus: Sayings and Stories in Islamic Literature (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001)





**The Muslim Jesus is a
Jesus Who Doesn't Fit**

It would at this very time that Allah will send Jesus, son of Mary, and he will descend at the white minaret in the eastern side of Damascus, wearing two garments lightly dyed and placing his hands on the wings of two angels. When he will lower his head, there would fall drops of water from his head, and when he will raise it up, drops like pearls would scatter from it. Every non-believer who would smell the odour of his self would die and his breath would reach as far as he would be able to see. He would then search for him (Al-Dajjal) until he would catch hold of him at the gate of Ludd [a village near Jerusalem] and will kill him. Then a people, whom Allah will have protected, will come to Jesus, son of Mary, and he will wipe their faces and inform them of their ranks in Paradise.

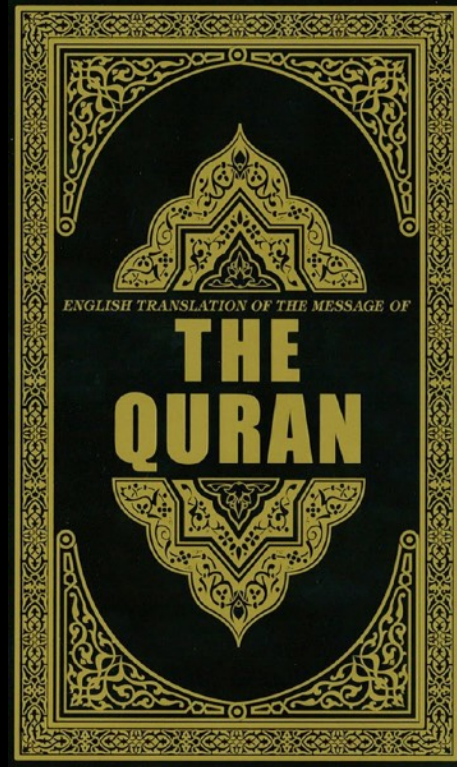
Sahih Bukhari Book 41, Number 7015

The Islamic Jesus and His Problems

- No Islamic reason why he was born of a virgin
- His names (*'Word of God'*; *'Spirit of God'*) seem to suggest something more than just a prophet
- The title 'Messiah' caused early Muslim scholars lots of problems
- Miracles unlike any other qur'anic prophet
- His role on the Day of Judgement







The Muslim Jesus doesn't fit

The image shows the front cover of a book titled 'HOLY BIBLE'. The cover is black with a textured, leather-like appearance. The words 'HOLY BIBLE' are printed in gold, serif capital letters in the upper left corner. The cover is framed by a decorative border.

HOLY
BIBLE

The Jesus of the Bible makes
sense and the pieces all fit

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

The Bible: Mark 8:27-29



“Why do Christians worship Jesus?”

Allah said, “O Jesus son of Mary, didst thou say unto men, ‘Take me and my mother as gods, apart from God?’”

Jesus said, “To Thee be glory! It is not mine to say what I have no right to.”

The Qur’ān: *Surah al-Nisā* 4:171





“Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the centre of the throne ...”

The Bible: Revelation 5:6



“At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
in heaven and on earth ...”

The Bible: Philippians 2:10

“When they saw Jesus, they
worshipped him ...”

The Bible: Matthew 28:17



Either Jesus was the most useless
religious teacher ever ... or he
really did claim to be God and his
followers understood him

Who Did Jesus Think He Was?

Who Did Jesus Think He Was?

I. Jesus's attitude to the Old Testament

“You have heard that it was said [quotes Old Testament] ... but I say to you.”

Matthew 7:21, 27, 31-32, 33, 38-39, 43-44

“Jesus’s attitude to Torah makes me want to ask him: ‘Who do you think you are? God?’”

Rabbi Jacob Neusner

Cited in N.T.Wright, ‘The Biblical Formation of a Doctrine of Christ’ in Donald Armstrong, ed., *Who Do You Say That I Am? Christology and the Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999) p63

Who Did Jesus Think He Was?

1. Jesus's attitude to the Old Testament

2. Forgiving sin

“When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”.”

Mark 2:5-7

Who Did Jesus Think He Was?

1. Jesus's attitude to the Old Testament
2. Forgiving sin
3. Jesus's view of the power of his own name

“For where two or three are assembled in my name, I am there among them.”

Matthew 18:20

“I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

John 14:13

Who Did Jesus Think He Was?

1. Jesus's attitude to the Old Testament
2. Forgiving sin
3. Jesus's view of the power of his own name
4. Lord of the Sabbath

Jesus said: "So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

Mark 2:28

For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

John 5:18

Who Did Jesus Think He Was?

1. Jesus's attitude to the Old Testament
2. Forgiving sin
3. Jesus's view of the power of his own name
4. Lord of the Sabbath
5. Called himself "the Son of Man" (a divine title from the Old Testament)

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power.

Daniel 7:13:-14

Jesus Uses ‘Son of Man’ for Himself 80 Times

Matt 8:20; 9:6; 10:23; 11:19; 12:8, 32, 40; 13:37, 41; 16:13, 27–28; 17:9, 12, 22; 19:28; 20:18, 28; 24:27, 30, 37, 39, 44; 25:31; 26:2, 24, 45, 64; Mark 2:10, 28; 8:31, 38; 9:9, 12, 31; 10:33, 45; 13:26; 14:21, 41, 62; Luke 5:24; 6:5, 22; 7:34; 9:22, 26, 44, 58; 11:30; 12:8, 10, 40; 17:22, 24, 26, 30; 18:8, 31; 19:10; 21:27, 36; 22:22, 48, 69; 24:7; John 1:51; 3:13–14; 5:27; 6:27, 53, 62; 8:28; 9:35; 12:23, 34; 13:31

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

“I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

They all condemned him as worthy of death.

Mark 14:60-64





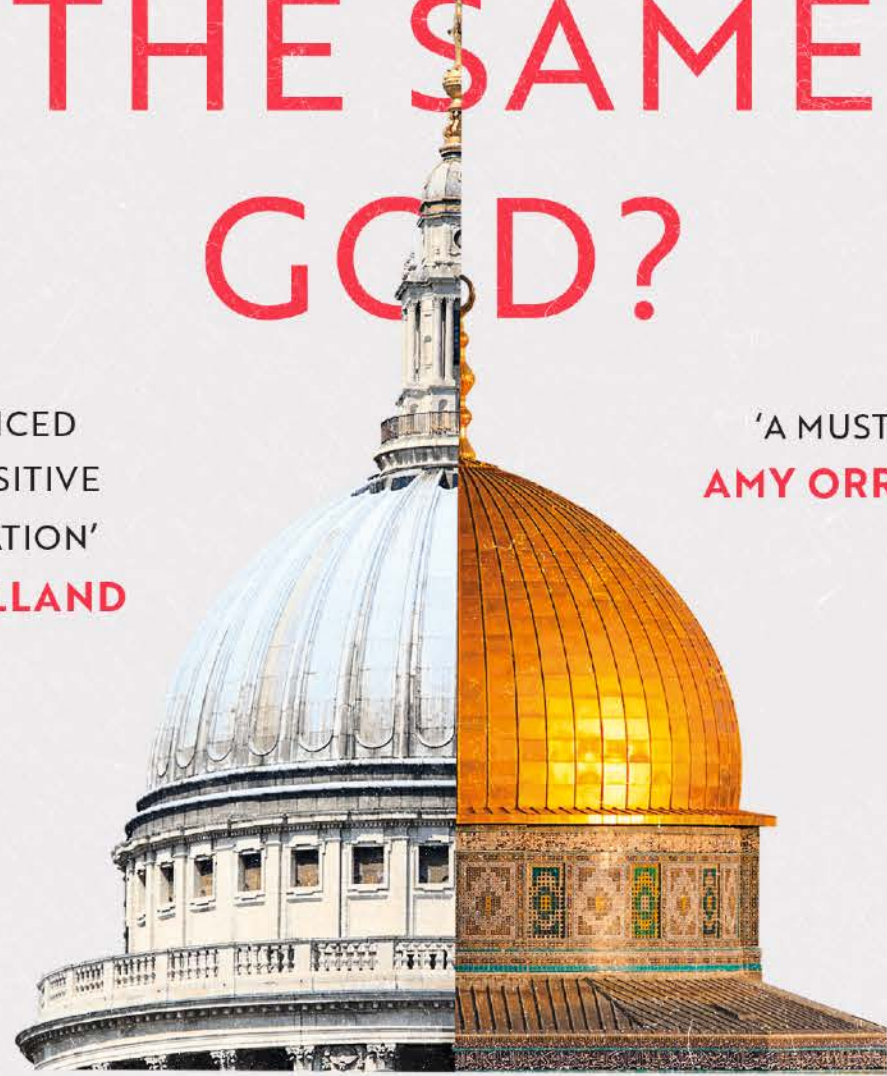
Practical Steps for Sharing Jesus with Muslim Friends

Talking About Jesus With Muslim Friends

1. Pray
2. Go where Muslims are
3. Friendship
4. Be honest about the differences
5. Ask good questions
6. Don't be afraid of disagreement
7. Keep centred on Jesus

ANDY BANNISTER
**DO MUSLIMS
AND
CHRISTIANS
WORSHIP
THE SAME
GOD?**

'A NUANCED
AND SENSITIVE
EXAMINATION'
TOM HOLLAND



'A MUST-READ'
AMY ORR-EWING

www.solas-cpc.org/islam

HOW TO
TALK ABOUT
JESUS
WITHOUT
LOOKING
LIKE AN
IDIOT

A PANIC-FREE GUIDE TO
HAVING NATURAL CONVERSATIONS
ABOUT YOUR FAITH

ANDY BANNISTER

www.solas-cpc.org/httaj

Discussion Questions

- How many Muslims do you know?
- Have you ever spoken to a Muslim about your faith?
- How might you start building relationships with Muslims?