

Jesus as the Word of God in Islam

Introduction

God is never without a witness. Even when a new religion springs up that attacks Christian nations and threatens Christian people if they refuse to be Dhimmis, God ensures that there is a testimony to Jesus. Perhaps Muhammad never fully understood what he actually recited, at least not the fulness of it. Nevertheless, Jesus is recognised as the Word of God and Islamic scholars understand this.

Let's unpack this.

The virgin birth

The Qur'an accepts that Jesus was born of God through the virgin birth of Mary. It recognises that the angel Gabriel conveyed what God was doing to Mary. It also accepts that the divine Word became Jesus. The Word, in Islam, is revelation.

In contrast the Talmud speaks wickedly of Mary the mother of God, calling her a whore and other names. Jesus is the offspring of prostitution.

The Word of God

The theology of the Qur'an is determined by the teachings that Muhammad picked up on his various travels, caravanserais to various places where he mixed with people from other religions. His theology was influenced by Arabic paganism (Allah was originally the Arabic moon god), Judaism, Christianity, and Christian heretical sects, such as Arians, Nestorians and others.

Jesus is effectively called *Kalimat Allah* in the Qur'an (the Word of God). He is also called *kalimat min Allah* (a word of God).

There is no direct reference to Jesus as *al-kalimah Allah* (the Word of God) but Islamic scholars accept that the assertion that Jesus is the Word of God is justified because other expressions imply this; such as *kalimat min Allah* and *kalimatuhu* (his word). Such expressions are used of Jesus exclusively amongst men.

Allah gives you the good news of John, as a confirmer of a Word from God, eminent and chaste, a prophet, among the righteous.

Qur'an, 3:39.

Oh Mary, Allah gives you the good news of a Word from Him, whose name is Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary,

Qur'an, 3:45-48.

That is Jesus, son of Mary, a Saying of the Truth [*al-Haqq*, i.e. God], concerning they are in doubt.

Qur'an, 19:34.

It must be said that Jesus is not spoken of as God in the flesh but as a creation of God. This is similar to the Arian teachings that Muhammad had picked up on his trading travels. In other words, Jesus is the first of God's creative acts.

The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was only an apostle of Allah, and His Word that he cast toward Mary and a spirit from Him.

Qur'an, 4:171.

This is similar to modalist theology that Muhammad would also have picked up. That is, Jesus was an expression or a mode of God (*'a spirit from him'*) but not God. Jesus did not have life in himself (aseity).

Islamic scholars do not accept the theology of Jesus as the Logos (Word) in the Johanine sense (Jn 1). The Islamic view is creative not generational,¹ nevertheless very important. Jesus is a Word (revelation) from God, not God himself in human form (Logos). Jesus is a prophet from God, an apostle of God, a spirit from God, but is not Yahweh. Nevertheless, Jesus is accepted by Islamic scholars to be called 'the Word of God'.

Allamah Tabataba'i, for example, stresses that there is an important connection between the 'Word of God' as a title for the Messiah, and the creative word of God because Jesus is directly created by the command of God with no human father. Both Sunni and Shi'a commentators agree upon this. Therefore, in both of the main streams of Islam, Muslim scholars accept that Jesus is the Word of God (even if they mean something different to Christian theology).

Conclusion

It is curious that Islam shows respect to Jesus as the Messiah and as the Word of God. This is despite having an Arian viewpoint that he is a superlative created being.

This is in complete contrast to Talmudic Judaism which blasphemes Jesus multiple times and says the most foul things about him; such as that he is in hell boiling in excrement. It also castigates Mary, calling her a whore.

It is shocking to me that many modern Christians, following Dispensational heresies, advocate support of Jews and Judaism with no understanding of its Babylonian demonic origins. Even when Jews openly blaspheme Christ in public, expressing rabbinic teachings opposing the Lord, foolish 'Christians' continue to support Jews without question.

The fact that Islam considers Jesus to be the Word of God ought to be a stepping stone in witnessing to Muslims, explaining that this is true but that it means much more. That the truth is the Word of God is the Son of God, equal to God and part of the creation process. Creation is to, through and for him.

Bibliography

- The Qur'an.
- Al-Islam.org, Muhammad Legenhausen, Jesus as Kalimat Allah.

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¹ That is Jesus is a created being not the Son of God and equal with him.