

This is about 6 pages in length. The author's name is Samy Tanogho. You can check his website at the end of this email. I hope you'll find it useful. -- God bless, Sharon

What the Qur'an and the Bible say about Paradise and how to get there.

If you are a Muslim, I know you have a sincere belief in God and a deep respect for the Qur'an. Many people who are not Muslim are not so sincere in their beliefs. You are to be commended.

The Qur'an tells us many things. I would like to remind you of some of them and of their significance.

First, the Qur'an tells us all have sinned. Abraham 14:34 "Surely man is sinful, unthankful."

Can anyone say he is free of sin? We are all a collection of forgetfulness, disobedience, and transgression. Are we not trapped in a life of sensuality and pleasure? Is it possible for us to do only good and no evil? A man's life can never be so pure as to be free from the stain of sin. We all were born with a sinful nature that is incapable of being fully in submission to God. The Qur'an confirms all men are sinful. Do you agree we all are sinful?

Second, the Qur'an tells us sin has eternal consequences. Cow 2:81 "Whoso earns evil, and is encompassed by his transgression - those are the inhabitants of the fire; **there they shall dwell forever.**" Mary 19:71-72 "There is not one of you who shall not pass through the confines of hell. That is a fixed ordinance of thy Lord. Then we shall rescue those who kept from evil, and leave the evil-doer crouching there."

These verses say **all** of us are sinful and sin brings us to the eternal fire - to hell - where we shall dwell forever. **No one** can say he has kept himself wholly pure and free from all evil-doing. Are you following?

Third, Islam offers no forgiveness of sin.

The Qur'an says salvation is by doing good deeds, doesn't it? But doesn't the Qur'an also say all who commit sin will be sent to the fire? And the Qur'an says all men are sinful? Therefore, doing good deeds does not produce forgiveness for my sin nor balance against my bad deeds. It does not bring me escape from the fire, does it? How can any person claim to be able to gain salvation by his good deeds when many religious leaders and great men have failed? And didn't the Prophet Mohammed say even he could not save himself nor any other person including his own daughter, but this is dependent on the grace and mercy of God?

Therefore, according to the Qur'an, it is impossible for any person to escape the fire and enter Paradise. Do you agree?

Can we find some cleansing for our sin - some way to receive the forgiveness of God through His mercy and grace? Islam offers no such forgiveness for sin, does it? How then can we be saved? How can our sin be removed so that we can receive the forgiveness of God **with assurance** and not be sent to the fire? Please read on for the answer.

The Kneeling 45:16 "Indeed, We gave the Children of Israel the Book, the Judgment, and the Prophethood, and We provided them with good things, and We preferred them above all beings."

The Table 5:46 "And We sent, following in their footsteps, Jesus son of Mary, confirming the Torah before him, and We gave to Him the Gospel, wherein is guidance and light, confirming the Torah before it, as guidance and admonition unto the god-fearing."

House of Imran 3:84 “Say, ‘We believe in God, and that which has been sent down on us, and sent down on Abraham and Ishmael, Isaac and Jacob and the Tribes, and that which was given to Moses and Jesus, and the Prophets, of their Lord; We make no division between any of them, and to Him we surrender.’”

These verses tell us God gave the Book [the Bible] and Jesus [Isa] as guidance, light, and admonition to the god-fearing. Therefore, Muslims are to believe in God and respect the Bible and Jesus. Have you considered the importance of this?

Fifth, the Qur’an tells us who Jesus is.

House of Imran 3:45 “When the angels said, ‘Mary, God gives you good tidings of a Word from Him whose name is Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary; high honored shall He be in this world and the next, near stationed to God.’”

Prophets 21:91 “But she [Mary] was guarded her virginity, so We breathed into her of Our Spirit and appointed her and her son to be a sign unto all beings.”

Cow 2:253 “...We gave Jesus son of Mary the clear signs, and confirmed Him with the Holy Spirit.”

These verses tell us Jesus is the prophesied Messiah [Christ], was born of the virgin Mary, and is confirmed by signs from God - confirmed because He performed many miracles that were humanly impossible. God caused Mary to be pregnant through God’s Spirit. This is the meaning of saying Jesus is the Son of God. Are you following so far?

The Qur’an tells us the significance of Jesus.

Mary 19:33,34 “Peace be upon me the day I was born, and the day I die, and the day I am raised up alive.’ that is Jesus, son of Mary, the Word of Truth, concerning which they are doubting.”

House of Imran 3:55 “When God said, ‘Jesus, I will make you die and will raise you to Me, and I will purify you of those who believe not. I will set your followers above the unbelievers till the resurrection day.’”

These verses confirm that Jesus was born, died in accordance with God’s will, was raised from the dead, and is “the Word of Truth.” These verses say Jesus’ followers are elevated above unbelievers. Where it says ‘the unbelievers,’ doesn’t this mean the unbelievers in Jesus?

The Qur’an therefore confirms that all men are sinners including Mohammed, but it records no sin for Jesus. It never records any transgression of Jesus, only His sinlessness. Isn’t this correct?

The Bible, like the Qur’an, tells us about sin and its eternal consequences.

Romans 3:23, 6:23 “...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;” “The wages of sin is death...”

Since we are trapped by our sin, we cannot free ourselves from its penalty no matter how many good deeds we do. We are condemned to death for our sin. This is the same as the Qur’an says, isn’t it? But the story does not end here.

The Bible, unlike the Qur’an, tells us God has provided a remedy for our sin.

The Bible goes further by giving the answer to the problem of sin. It continues and explains how God offers forgiveness of sins so we can enter Paradise with assurance. This is the part of the story you may not have

heard. Please read the following carefully and see how it completes the story about sin and Paradise begun in the Qur'an but not completed.

Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Why is there no condemnation for those who believe in Jesus? Here is the answer.

Matthew 20:28 "the Son of man [referring to Jesus] came not to be served, but to serve, and to **give his life as a ransom** for many."

We are all indeed condemned for our sin, as both the Qur'an and the Bible have confirmed. But God provided a remedy for our sin. That remedy is the death of Jesus Christ who was sinless, who took our sins on Himself, and who became the ransom for us to free us from condemnation.

Why does God offer forgiveness of sins?

The Bible says God loves us and wants a relationship with us as a loving, caring, heavenly Father. But God is holy and will not associate with sin or sinners, and simply will not allow sinners into Paradise. However, God still loves us and made a wonderful provision for us. He has provided the remedy for our sin that takes it away and makes us clean so we **can** enter Paradise even though we are sinners. Read about God's love and His remedy for our sin as follows.

John 3:16, 17 "For God so loved the world [including you and me] that He gave His only begotten Son [Jesus Christ], that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

God does not wish to condemn anyone to the fire, but that they would be saved by believing in Jesus Christ. Faith in Christ brings freedom, not bondage; forgiveness of sins, not fear - because God loves us.

Romans 5:8,9 "But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners **Christ died for us**. Since, therefore, we are now justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God."

Before we were even born, God knew us and loved us. He had already provided the remedy for our sins through the death of Jesus. It is true that the Jews did not crucify Jesus, but the Romans did - as God required for our forgiveness. And there was no substitute for Jesus on the cross because He was **our** substitute. He took **our** sins on Himself.

1 Peter 2:24 "He himself [Jesus] bore our sins in his body on the tree [the wooden cross]..."

God loves you so much He sent Jesus Christ to die for you and bring you forgiveness of sins.

John 6:40 Jesus said, "For this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son **and believes in Him** [the Son, Jesus] should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Do you believe God loves you as He said in the Bible? If you have doubts, let me ask you this. Why do you feel you are not worthy of God's love?

Here is what the Bible says about those who respond to God's love and receive His offer.

John 1:12,13 "But to all who received Him [Jesus], who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

Receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior means being born into new life - this time into the eternal family of God. Imagine being born into the eternal family of God and becoming His child forever. It means having a new heart within you that is forgiven and free from condemnation. It means you will go to Paradise when you die. You will have a loving personal relationship with the God who gave you life.

So, what do you have to do to receive God's forgiveness and enter Paradise? How many good deeds do you have to do? Here is the answer.

Ephesians 2:89 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God - not because of works, lest any man should boast."

Grace is generosity we don't deserve. God wants to be gracious to us because He loves us. Works are who you are and what you do. This verse says you are saved by God's grace through faith, and **not** because of works. Therefore, you can do **nothing** to earn your way into Paradise. Good deeds do not bring salvation. It is a **gift** received by **faith**. You don't deserve it. You can't work for it. You must simply receive it as a gift from God by faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus is alive today in Paradise as our advocate with God when we sin. In Islam, there is no such advocate. Read what the Bible says.

1 John 2:1,2 "I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation [cleansing, healing] for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world [for those who receive it]."

Jesus calls to you to receive God's forgiveness and rest. But, you must receive it to have it.

Matthew 11:28,29, John 6:37 Jesus said, "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me; and him who comes to Me I will not cast out."

Jesus Christ receives **all** who come to Him in belief, no matter how guilty or damaged they are. We all need rest for our souls, and only Jesus Christ can give perfect rest. Won't you accept God's love and the forgiveness of sins through the death of Jesus for you? God has offered this to you because He loves you and wants a loving relationship with you.

Is the Bible true? Can it be trusted?

Perhaps you have heard that the Bible when originally written was true but has been changed by Christians. Well, think about this for a minute. Muslims believe the Qur'an is the Word of God, don't they? If a Muslim changed even one thing in the Qur'an, would not all Muslims consider him to be a heretic and denounce this? But, Christians believe the Bible is the Word of God as Muslims do the Qur'an. If a Christian changed even one thing in the Bible, would not other Christians treat him as a heretic and denounce what he has done? Do you consider Christians to be dishonest and fear God so little they would deceive the world by changing the holy Scriptures even if they could? Do you think Christians who seek to honor God would dishonor God and profane their holy Scriptures by changing them? Textual analysis shows the text of the Bible has been accurately preserved over the centuries because of many parallel copies and distributions in the beginning. The Dead Sea scrolls have silenced numerous critics in this respect.

Perhaps you have some wrong ideas about the Bible because you honestly don't know its teachings and are accepting what other people say about it. I would like to explain it briefly.

The Bible contains sixty-six books written through forty writers over a period of about 1400 years under the inspiration and guidance of God. It is a coherent unity that explains God's dealings with people through history and God's plan for us now and for eternity. It is authenticated through hundreds of accurately fulfilled prophecies, archeology, secular history and its impact on millions of people's lives for their good. It explains how we are to relate to God, to each other and to ourselves.

The Bible has an amazing statement about how God has authenticated the Bible as His Word.

Isaiah 42:9 and 44:7 "Behold, the former things [which I previously predicted] have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them. Who is like Me? Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be."

God here says He gave prophecy in the Bible for the purpose of showing He is God and His Words, the Bible, is true. The Bible contains many fulfilled prophecies that cannot be explained naturally. The Bible is the only book in the world that is authenticated through accurately fulfilled prophecies.

For example, Jesus was born of a virgin, as stated in Prophets 21:91 quoted earlier. In the Torah (the Bible), this virgin birth was prophesied by the prophet Isaiah seven centuries before the birth, as shown in Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign; Behold a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."

We see the historical fulfillment of this prophecy in the Gospel of Matthew 1:22-25 "Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet; 'Behold the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which translated means, 'God with us'. And Joseph...took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus."

As another example, prophecy said the Messiah (Jesus) would be crucified.

Psalms 22:16 "For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet."

Zechariah 12:10 "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him."

Read Isaiah chapter 53 for an amazing prophecy of Messiah's (Jesus) death for our sins with resurrection.

There are too many prophecies in the Bible that have been fulfilled to list here. God has shown that His Word, the Bible, is true because of fulfilled prophecies. This, among many other things, proves the Bible is truly God's Words. The Bible is therefore trustworthy. You can depend on it as the Word of Truth from God.

The Qur'an confirms Jesus and the Bible

The Qur'an confirms that Jesus is the only sinless person, was born of a virgin to be a sign from God unto all people, and is the Word of Truth. The Qur'an confirms that the Bible [the Book] is a gift from God wherein is guidance and light. The Bible, as guidance and light, confirms that Jesus is sinless and was sent by God to take our sins on Himself and die for us so we can be forgiven for our sins. Jesus is your only hope for forgiveness of your sins.

Now, are you ready to believe in Jesus and follow Him? Then ask God to forgive your sins in the name of Jesus. And then follow Jesus.

How does God want us as followers of Jesus to live? God loves us and wants us to love Him and to love one another. True love overcomes fear and hate.

God gave us life to be enjoyed, but in the right way. But, each of us has learned some wrong thinking by what has happened to us and by the places where we've been. God wants to cleanse our thinking and make it right in His sight - to make our thinking into what is truly the best for us according to God's will. Here is what the Bible says:

Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

You see, Christ came from heaven, where God is, to earth where we are, to show us the way. Following Jesus Christ to learn and do what He says after we believe in Him is how we build our relationship with God and renew our thinking. Jesus said in Matthew 7:24 "Every one who hears these words of mine and **does** them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock."

A house founded on bedrock stands secure, even in a raging storm, Jesus is our Rock. Are you following?

Jesus' teaching and our faith apply to all parts of our life. Our choices in life have consequences. We need to be careful to choose good and not evil in all our ways. So, we need to put limits on our choices - on what we do and who we associate with, and how we associate with them. It is healthy to avoid relationships that are harmful and lead us in the wrong way. God wants us to choose **His** way in **all** our ways. For example,

Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Kindness and forgiveness are secrets of good relationships. Christ set the example of kindness to **all** people. Are kindness and forgiveness at work in your life? Is there someone you need to forgive? God said forgiveness is important because He has forgiven you. God wants us to learn to be loving in all our relationships - with unfailing love. And that brings more joy and peace to us, too.

There are many other important principles from the Bible for a better life after we receive Jesus Christ into our hearts and life. God does not promise this life on earth will be easy, but He does promise to go with us through it and help us. When Jesus is truly the Lord of your life, everything else will fall into place. Once we see Jesus for who He truly is and what He has done for us, we will gain new spiritual eyes and a new life. And remember to thank Him every day for what He has done for you. Gratitude is important in our lives. Will you do that?

Please read the Bible to find out the truth for yourself. Read Matthew first, then John to the end.

Dear friend, God loves you so much and wants to embrace you as a loving father embraces his child. He wants you to have a relationship with Him based not on fear but on mutual love, and to experience His forgiveness and divine presence. He designed us in such a way that we will never be completely satisfied without experiencing His love, joy, peace, and hope for our lives.

God says, "You will see Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." (the Torah, Jeremiah 29:13)

Now, please read this again to help you understand these important principles more clearly. Then pass it on to someone else who needs it. And may the God of love who gave you life be with you, bless you, and give you peace.

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