

is given to living beings and not dead ones.

Perhaps the clearest evidence of survival from death on the cross is the fact that Jesus (peace be upon him) actually met his disciples afterwards, showed them his wounds and ate food (Luke Ch.24 Vs 36-43).

In fact Jesus (peace be upon him) had prayed in Gethsemane (Mark Ch.14 V.36) to be saved from death on the cross and God accepted his prayers to uphold the honour of His Prophet (Hebrews Ch.5 V.7). All this supports the Islamic perspective that Jesus (peace be upon him) survived the crucifixion and that this was a sign of his truth.

And their saying, 'We did kill the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah;' whereas they slew him not...' (Ch.4: V.158)

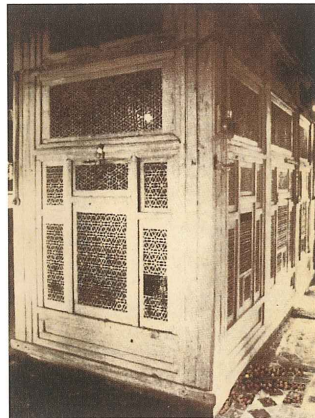
In Search of the Lost Tribes

Having survived the crucifixion, Jesus (peace be upon him) set about to complete his Divine mission. For this, he had to travel eastwards as of the 12 tribes of Israelites, only two lived in Palestine at that time and the remaining tribes were scattered across Persia, India and Kashmir.

As well as the historical evidence linking the people of Afghanistan, Kashmir and neighbouring regions to Israelite ancestry (including the languages, folklore, customs and traditions), the presence of Jesus (peace be upon him) in India is also recorded in the ancient Indian literature and records of Kashmir.

In that literature, it states that Jesus (peace be upon him) was known as Yusu (Jesus) of the children of Israel and a great number of people recognised his holiness and piety and became his disciples.

Ahmadi Muslims believe that after completing his Divine mission, Jesus (peace be upon him) died a natural



The tomb of Yus Asaf (Jesus) in Srinagar, Kashmir

death in Kashmir, India around the age of 120. His tomb still exists today in the Khanyar quarter of the city of Srinagar, Kashmir. It is known as the tomb of Prophet Yus Asaf [meaning Jesus the Gatherer] and it has been venerated for centuries. The local inhabitants also refer to the tomb as Rozabal, meaning "The Honoured Tomb". This is a fitting tribute to a very special prophet who placed his faith in God, survived terrible ordeals and lived to complete his Divine mission to preach his message of peace.

Sayings of the Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him)

Unity of God

"And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord."
(Mark, Ch.12 V.29)

Peace

Peace, I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. (John Ch.14 V.27)

Neighbourliness

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
(Matthew Ch.22 V.39)

Mercy

From the Sermon on the Mount
Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in

heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God..
(Matthew Ch.5.Vs.7-9)

Kindness

But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again, and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be children of the Highest.
(Luke Ch.6 V.35)

Love

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you...
(Matthew Ch.5 V.43-44)

The Bible includes prophecies – including those made by Jesus (peace be upon him) himself – about the Holy Founder of Islam, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as well as the second (metaphorical) advent of Jesus (peace be upon him) in the latter days. Ahmadi Muslims believe that their founder, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be upon him), fulfilled the prophecies relating to the second advent of Jesus (peace be upon him). To find out more please visit our websites or contact us.



Jesus Christ

(Peace be upon him)

An Islamic Perspective

Prophet of God

According to Islam God sent His Prophets to different parts of the world and at different times to guide people to Him and to create peace amongst mankind. In Islam it is obligatory for Muslims to believe in all Prophets without exception and to refer to them all with respect and honour. Jesus (peace be upon him) was one such Prophet and he is respected and held in very high regard in Islam as a true prophet of God.

Whenever Muslims mention the name of Jesus, or any other Prophet of God, they always recite the prayer 'peace be

upon him' out of respect and as required by Islam.

Jesus (peace be upon him) is one of the few Prophets who are referred to by name in Islam's holy book, the Holy Qur'an. In Ch3 V46 it states:

...his name shall be the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, honoured in this world and in the next, and of those who are granted nearness to God.

This is a clear reflection of the noble status of Jesus (peace be upon him).

Son of Man

The Holy Qur'an affirms the virgin birth of Jesus (peace be upon him) whilst defending the honour of his mother Mary (peace be upon her), about whom the Holy Qur'an states:

'...O Mary, Allah has chosen thee and purified thee and chosen thee above the women of all peoples.' (Ch.3:V.43)

The Holy Qur'an makes clear that whilst the birth of Jesus (peace be upon him) was unusual, as he was born without the agency of a father, it did not break the laws of nature. Scientific research has shown that whilst virgin births are very rare, they are possible.

The Holy Qur'an further states that such a rarity did not make Jesus (peace be upon him) in any way a Divine being, as God is unique with no equal.

Say, 'He is Allah, the One; Allah, the Independent and Besought of all. He begets not, nor is He begotten. And there is none like unto Him.' (Ch.112 :Vs2-5)

The Holy Qur'an also notes that Jesus (peace be upon him) never considered himself Divine but always preached the Unity of God. This is supported by

the Bible for when the Bible does refer to Jesus (peace be upon him) as the 'son of God', such references are consistent with similar statements about other people and prophets who are also referred to as the children of God. For example the Bible states that:

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." (Matthew Ch.5 V.9)

Such references refer to the spirituality of such people and not their divinity. According to Islam, Jesus (peace be upon him) was, therefore, a human being like all other prophets of God.

Divine Mission

According to the Holy Qur'an, Jesus (peace be upon him) was the Messiah who was promised to the Jews by the Prophet Moses (peace be upon him). Jesus's (peace be upon him) Divine mission was the revival of the Mosaic Laws and the spiritual rejuvenation of the Israelites. The Holy Qur'an states:

And remember when Jesus, son of Mary, said, 'O children of Israel, surely I am Allah's Messenger unto you,...' (Ch.61 :V.7)

This is consistent with the Bible in which Jesus (peace be upon him) states:

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy but to fulfil." (Matthew Ch.5 V.17)

Furthermore Jesus (peace be upon him) made clear that his mission was



View of part of the Ladakh landscape - a region of India in the state of Jammu and Kashmir

for the Israelites alone, stating that,

"..I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matthew Ch.15 V.24)

The Bible tells us that Jacob (peace be upon him) – the grandson of Abraham (peace be upon him) – had twelve sons whose progeny became the twelve tribes of Israel. These were the people for whom Jesus (peace be upon him) was sent, to bring them closer to God.

Death on the Cross?

According to the Holy Qur'an, Jesus (peace be upon him) was certainly placed on the cross, but he did not die on the cross. Regarding this, the Holy Qur'an states:

"...but he was made to appear to them like one crucified;..." (Ch.4: V.158)

This means that as a result of the terrible torture that was inflicted upon Jesus (peace be upon him) before and during the ordeal of crucifixion, he fell unconscious. Death by crucifixion was a very long and painful process, which sometimes took days to bring about death, but Jesus (peace be upon him) was on the cross only for about three to six hours – as he was put on the cross on a Friday and, in accordance with Jewish law, he had to be taken down before sunset, as that marked the beginning of the Sabbath.

His survival was also prophesied by Jesus (peace be upon him) himself as he had said to his people that the sign of his truth would be similar to the sign of Prophet Jonah (peace be upon him) for as Prophet Jonah (peace be upon him) had spent three days and three nights in the belly of the fish so Jesus (peace be upon him) would also spend three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (Matthew Ch.12 V.40). The key point here is that just as Jonah (peace be upon him) had remained alive during his miraculous ordeal, Jesus (peace be upon him) too would remain alive during the miraculous ordeal that was destined for him.

Further evidence of survival can be found in the Biblical narrative that notes that a physician named Nicodemus took medicinal herbs to the place where Jesus (peace be upon him) was placed after he was taken down from the cross. The Bible states that:

"And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pound weight." (John Ch.19 V.39)

This large quantity of herbs brought by Nicodemus shows that they were to be used for healing purposes over the next few days, as such treatment



View of Jerusalem from Olive Mountain