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MERF News

Middle East Reformed Fellowship—“Declaring the Whole Counsel of God”

February 2020



What Muslims Admire about Christ



Titles of the Christ - Online Radio Series

The celebration of Christmas is widely watched and discussed by urban Muslims. Some even join in decorating their homes and exchanging gifts. In major Arab cities with Muslim majorities, it is not unusual to even hear Christmas music and songs played in shops and malls. As with most cultural Christians, most Muslims understand Christmas to be the dazzling and sentimental social event. Yet, some do give it deeper thought and ask daring questions.

Some of those responding

to gospel programmes over the radio or internet, share their thoughts:

TJ of Iraq - *I do realize that the birth of Jesus (Issa) is a very important event for Christians. The fact that heavenly and supernatural happenings accompanied it makes me ask the question - Why didn't the Jews believe in him?*

The staff brainstorm about how to best answer such questions. In this context, it was vital to point out that most of the early followers of Christ were Israelites who believed the message

of the Old Testament and recognized that Christ had fulfilled it. Sadly, the majority lacked sufficient knowledge of their Scriptures or held preconceived religious and political ideas that blocked their understanding.

SA of Bahrain had a different question: *It is true that Jesus' birth was miraculous, but it doesn't make sense that God would become man in him. Please explain this.*

This is a very common Muslim reaction to some Christian teachings. It

requires an honest biblical response. This time it was helpful to respond in part with the words of a convert from **Khartoum**:

God is the Creator of man. So, because He truly loves man and wants him restored to Himself, He decided to do what is required [for restoration]. Because He is God, He can do anything, including becoming man.

It is encouraging how others react:

MM of Egypt wrote: *It does make sense that God is able to come to us as one of us to save us.*



طُوبَى لِلْجِيَاعِ وَالْعَطَاشِ إِلَى الْبِرِّ،
لَأَنَّهُمْ يُشْبَعُونَ.



issa-almasih.com

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness

— Matthew 5:6

AK of Yemen writes: *Sure, we do know and believe the Gospel (al-Injil) which clearly shows that Jesus (Issa) was not only human, but also divine.*

FO, a North African lady says: *I have often wondered about the celebration of Christmas that I see on TV from all over the world....*

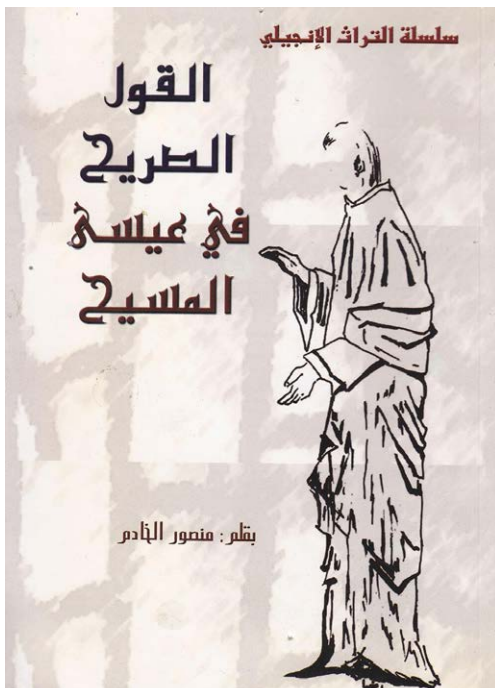
She went on to talk about Christ as the most uniquely intriguing person in history. She pointed out His influence on those who follow Him: *Gentle and positive....* She goes on to say: *Nobody else in humanity resembles him in contributions to the good of the world... I am amazed that in our own Koran, neither our Prophet Mohammed nor any other prophet named is endowed with such unique titles ...*

She lists many Koranic statements that set Jesus apart from all others: *born of a virgin without man... the very Word of God... uttered directly by the Spirit of God... all-knowing... morally*

perfect... infallibly sinless (unlike all other prophets)... Satan could not entice Him (unlike all other prophets)... manifested power to create and control the elements of nature... healed the sick... raised the dead... defeated death itself.

Finally she quotes a Koranic statement of Christ's promise to His followers of eternal blessing, as the one who alone will judge all humans. She concludes: *I call on all people, including our Muslim people, to love Him and celebrate His birth. I do love him dearly.*

We thank God that over the internet many more Muslims are exposed to the gospel. Now it is so much easier, even than just a few years ago, to promptly connect to answer their questions. The METF Arabic gospel sites also provide many free resources for download. Detailed answers are available for seekers and spiritual nourishment for new and mature believers. Please pray for the faithful staff and volunteers involved and that the Lord continues to bless these vital media ministries.



Straight Talk on Jesus the Christ is one of many free downloads at the Issa-alMasih gospel website.

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