

Ascension and Descent of Prophet Isa (AS)

Adopted from the Commentary of
the Holy Qur'an (Maariful Qu'raan)

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Commentary from Surah Al-e-Imran

وَمَكْرُوا وَمَكَرَ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ خَيْرُ الْمَكْرِينَ (٥٤) إِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَعْيسَىٰ إِنِّي مُتَوَفِّيكَ وَرَافِعُكَ إِلَيَّ
وَمُطَهِّرُكَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَجَاعِلُ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوكَ فَوْقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ ثُمَّ إِلَيَّ
مَرْجِعُكُمْ فَأَحْكُمُ بَيْنَكُمْ فِيمَا كُنْتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ

Translation:

'And they made a move, and Allah made a move. And Allah is the best of those who make moves. [54J

When Allah said: "O 'Isa, I am to take you in full and raise you towards Myself, and cleanse you of those who disbelieve, and place those who follow you above those who disbelieve, up to the Day of Doom. Then to Me is your return, whereupon I shall judge between you in what you have been differing in." [55J

Commentary

In these verses the miraculous event of the Ascension of Sayyidna 'Isa (Jesus Christ) has been mentioned. "And they made a move" refers to the evil designs of the Jews who planned to arrest him and to get him crucified.

The next sentence i.e. "and Allah made a move" refers to the plan designed by Allah Almighty to save his prophet 'Isa from their ill designs. They sent one of them to Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) to arrest him and Allah changed his face totally and made him resemble Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) and raised Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) to heavens, while that person was crucified under the mistaken identity. How Allah had planned to save Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) from their clutches was disclosed to him when his enemies came to arrest him. The details of these disclosures have been mentioned in verse 55.

Explanation of important words in the verse

Some sects which deny, contrary to the belief of the entire Muslim community, the Ascension of Sayyidna 'Isa (AS), his being alive in the heavens and his descension towards the later times, have worked through the words and meanings of these verses to open doors of distortion in the Qur'anic text. Therefore, it seems appropriate that these words be explained in some details.

Let us begin with **ط وَاللَّهُ خَيْرُ الْمَكْرِينَ** translated as 'and Allah is the best of those who make moves'. The word, makr in Arabic denotes a subtle and secret move or plan. If this is for a good purpose, it is good; and if this is for a bad purpose, it is bad. It was why the restriction of saiy **السَّيِّئِ** (evil) was placed with makr (**الْمَكْرُ** move, plan) in: **وَلَا يَحِقُّ الْمَكْرُ السَّيِّئُ إِلَّا بِأَهْلِهِ** (And evil plan besets none but its perpetrator - 35:43).

The Qur'anic word, makr, is used exclusively for conspiracy, evil plan and strategy in the everyday idiom of the Urdu language (in which this commentary was originally written), therefore, it should not be equated with the Arabic usage. This is the reason why Allah has been called: **خَيْرُ الْمَكْرِينَ** 'Khair al-Maikirin' here.

The verse means that the Jews started making a series of conspiracies and secret schemes against Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) going to the limit of convincing the ruler of the time that he was a heretic (God forbid) all bent upon changing the Torah and was going to make apostates of everybody. The ruler ordered the arrest of Sayyidna 'Isa (AS). While this was the scene on one side, the subtle and secret move made by Allah Almighty was countering their evil plans more effectively, which has been mentioned in the verses coming next.

The word, 'Mutawaffi' in **إِنِّي مُتَوَفِّيكَ** takes 'tawaffi' as its verbal noun with its root being 'wafyun.' Lexically, the word means 'to take in full'. This being its real meaning, its derivations wafa, ifa' and 'istifa' are used to convey that sense. In fact, the real meaning of tawaffi is 'to take in full' which is universally confirmed by all lexicons of the Arabic language. Since man completes his appointed time at the hour of death and the spirit or soul given by Allah is taken back fully and conclusively, it is in that context that this word is also used figuratively in the sense of death. A simple form of death is the daily sleep of human beings. For this too, the Holy Qur'an uses the same word when it 'says:

اللَّهُ يَتَوَفَّى الْأَنْفُسَ حِينَ مَوْتِهَا وَالَّتِي لَمْ تَمُتْ فِي مَنَامِهَا

'Allah takes away lives of the living at the time of their death and of those that do not die, in their sleep'. (39:42)

Hafiz Ibn Taimiyyah (RA) says in al-Jawab al-Sahih (v, 2, p. 83):

Al-tawaffi, in the Arabic language, means: to exact fully or take in full. It takes three forms; the first: to take in sleep; the second: to take in death; and the third: to take the soul and the body all together.

In Kulliyat Abu al-Baqa', it is said:

Al-tawaffi is putting to death and exacting of the soul in common usage while, in the classical usage, it is taking in full and the exacting of the due right.

Therefore, the majority of scholars have translated the word, **مُتَوَفِّيكَ** 'mutawaffika' in the verse under study in the sense of 'taking in full'. This means that Allah will not leave Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) in the hands of the Jews, rather. He would take him away which would be in the form that he would be risen unto Him in the heavens.

This is how the words 'I am to take you in full' have been interpreted by the majority of the scholars. However, some authentic commentators of the Holy Qur'an have interpreted these words in the sense of 'giving death' also, but they do not mean that the death of Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) will occur at the hands of his enemies. The true meaning of the verse, according to these commentators is as follows:

Allah Almighty said two things to comfort Jesus at a time when the Jews were bent on killing him:

- 1) That his death will come, not at their hands in the form of killing, but that it would be a natural death.
- 2) In order to rescue him from the evil designs of those people, Allah Almighty will, at that time, raise Jesus towards Him.

This explanation is exactly what has been reported from Sayyidna Ibn 'Abbas (RA) as quoted by al-Suyuti in his al-Durr al-Manthur v. 2, p. 36 on the authority of several narrators.

The gist of this tafsir or explanation is that tawaffi does mean giving death, but there is the element of precedence and sequence in the words used. The fact of **رَافِعُكَ** (I shall raise you) will come first and that of **مُتَوَفِّيكَ** (I shall give you death) later. Now at this point, the wisdom behind mentioning the phenomenon of the earlier lies in the hint that it gives about the events which are to come later on. It means that raising towards Allah will not last for ever; it would be temporary and then, he would return to the mortal world and prevail over enemies and later on, death will come to him in a natural way.

Thus, the event of his return from heaven and his death after having established his victory in the world was not only a miracle but a consummation of the honour and integrity of Jesus (AS). In addition to that, the unfounded Christian belief in the divinity of Jesus was also refuted. Had it not been so, the event of Jesus being raised towards the heavens alive would have further strengthened their false belief that he too was Living and Eternal like Allah. Therefore, by introducing the word **مُتَوَفِّيكَ** (pointing out to his death) first, all those misconceptions which might have arisen from 'raising of Jesus' have been refuted in advance.

The reality is that disbelievers and polytheists have always been vehemently opposed to prophets, (AS). And parallel to that there has been the customary practice of Allah - when a people unto whom a prophet has been sent stick to their own opinion, do not listen to the prophet and do not believe in him even after having witnessed the miracles, then, one of the following two counter-actions were taken:

- a) Either those people were annihilated through some natural calamity as was done with 'Ad and 'I'hamud and the peoples of Prophets Lut and Salih (AS);
- b) or, alternatively Allah would instruct His prophet to migrate from the habitat of disbelievers and go to some other place. It was there that they were provided with such power and glory that they finally achieved victory against the people whom they were sent to. For example Prophet Ibrahim(AS) migrated from Iraq and sought refuge in Syria. Similarly, Prophet Musa (Moses) (AS), migrated from Egypt and came to Madyan. Finally, the Last prophet, Muhammad migrated from Makkah and came to Madinah. It was from there that he finally attacked Makkah and conquered it. This raising of Jesus to the heavens to outmaneuver the threatening designs of the Jews was, in fact, an act of emigration in its own way following which he would return to this world and achieve total victory over the Jews.

Now comes the question as to why this emigration of his, quite separate from the rest, has the heavens as the destination? So, for that matter, Allah Almighty has Himself said about him that his case is like that of Adam, (AS) . The way in which Adam's birth differs from the normal birth of the rest of creation, (i.e., without a father and a mother) so it is that the birth of Jesus took a miraculous form different from the normal birth of human beings; and his death too, taking a unique and unmatched form, will materialize after hundreds of years following his return to the world unprecedented indeed. Why then, should one be surprised if his emigration too follows some such unique pattern?

These marvels of nature led the ignorant among Christians into believing and declaring that he was God, while deliberation into the various aspects of these very marvels, are clear proofs of his servitude as a human being to God, obedience to the Divine will and the demonstration of human traits. It is for this reason that the Holy Qur'an has made a pointed reference to the refutation of belief in the Godhood of Jesus on all such occasions. The raising towards the heavens would have made this doubt all the more strong. Therefore, by bringing the word *mutawaffika* (I am to take you in full) earlier, this doubt was totally eliminated. Thus we come to realize that this verse, no doubt, aims at negating the Jewish plans since they were all set to crucify and kill Jesus, (RA), and that Allah Almighty made their plans come to nothing. Moreover, this precedence and sequence of words became the mode of refuting the Christians as well, that Jesus was no God who was never to die but that a time will come when he too will meet his death.

In his Tafsir Imam al-Razi has said that such precedence and sequence occurs frequently in the noble Qur'an in order to cover similar expedient considerations under which an event due later has been mentioned first while an event due earlier has been placed after that. (al-Tafsir al-Kabir, v. 2, p. 48)

As for **رَأْفَعُكَ إِلَيَّ**; (And I shall raise you towards Me), the meaning is clear. Addressing Jesus here, it has been said: 'I shall raise you towards Me'. Everyone knows that Jesus is not the name of just the spirit but that of the spirit and the body of Jesus. Now taking the raising of Jesus in the sense that the act of raising was spiritual only, and not physical, is all wrong. As far as the word, raf" (رفع: raising) is concerned, there are occasions when it is also used to indicate raising of 'ranks it appears in the following verses of the noble Qur'an:

وَرَفَعَ بَعْضَكُمْ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ

And raised some of you in ranks over others (6:165).

يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ

" and Allah will raise up in rank those of you who believe and those who have been given knowledge (58:11).

So, it is obvious that the word, raf **رفع** : raising, in the sense of the raising of rank or status has been used figuratively in view of the context of the aforementioned verses. There is no reason here to ignore the real meaning and go by that which is figurative. Moreover, by using the word, ila: **إِلَيَّ** (towards) along with the word, raf (**رفع** : raising), at this particular place, the possibility of such a figurative meaning has been totally eliminated.

What is said in this verse is **رَأْفَعُكَ إِلَيَّ**: rafi'uka ilaiyya: I shall raise you towards Me. Then there is the verse

from Surah al-Ni sa' (4:158), which refutes the belief of Jews; there too, what was said is: **بَلْ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَيْهِ**

وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ يَقِينًا that is, the Jews certainly did not kill Jesus, instead, Allah raised him towards Himself. This later expression is used for nothing but the raising alive of the spirit and the body.

Explained this far were the words of the verse.

Allah Almighty's Five Promises to Jesus

In the verse under reference, Allah Almighty made five promises to 'Isa (AS) vis-a-vis the Jews:

1. The first promise was that his death will not come at the hands of the Jews through killing. It will be a natural death coming at its appointed time and that appointed time will come close to the Day of Doom, when 'Isa (AS) will come down from the heavens onto the earth as reported in details in sound ahadith transmitted through unbroken chains, part of which will appear later.
2. The second promise was to raise him towards the heavens in the existing situation. This was fulfilled right then. The report of this fulfillment was given in Surah al-Nisa' (4:158) by saying: **بَلْ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَيْهِ** **وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ يَقِينًا** Certainly, the Jews did not kill him, instead; Allah Almighty raised him towards Himself.
3. The third promise was: **وَمَطَّهْرُكَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا**, that is, to have him cleansed of false accusations brought on him by his enemies. That promise was fulfilled when the last of the prophets came and refuted all false accusations of the Jews. For instance, the Jews threw slanders on the parentage of Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) because of his having been born without a father. The noble Qur'an refuted this slander by declaring that he was born without a father because such was the power and will of Allah. And that too does not call for much of a surprise. More surprising is the birth of Adam since he was born without both a father and a mother.

The Jews accused Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) of claiming to be God. There are many verses in the noble Qur'an in which, contrary to this accusation, Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) has been reported to have' publicly confessed his being human and a servant and bondsman of Allah.

4. The fourth promise appears **وَجَاعِلُ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوكَ فَوْقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا** (and placed those who follow you above those who disbelieve) which means that his followers will be made to overcome those who deny and oppose him. This promise was fulfilled in the sense that following here means the belief in and confession of the prophethood of Sayyidna 'Isa (AS). The belief in and the practice of all injunctions ascribed to him is not a pre-condition. Thus the Christians and the Muslims both fall in this category as they believe in the prophethood and messengership of Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) . However, this is a different matter that holding this much of belief is not enough to bring forth salvation in the Hereafter. Instead, the salvation in the Hereafter depends on believing in all injunctions brought by Sayyidna 'Isa (AS). One of the instructions given by Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) was that his followers should believe and have faith in the last of the Prophets, who would come after Jesus departs. The Christians did not follow this instruction in matters of faith and belief, therefore, they deprived them selves of salvation in the Hereafter while Muslims acted in accordance with that too, therefore, they became deserving of salvation in the Hereafter. But, part of the promise which relates to having dominant authority over Jews was dependent on the prophethood of Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) only. That dominance in the world has always been the 'fate of Christians and Muslims vis-a-vis the Jews, and surely, so shall it be through the Day of Judgement.

From the time when Allah Almighty made this promise right upto now it has always been the case that the Christians and Muslims have dominated the Jews. The world has seen the establishment of their empires. The existence of the present state of Israel cannot make the truth of this position doubtful for several reasons. To begin with, and in reality, this state is no more than a manifestation of the military might of Russia and the Christians of Euro-American origin which they have established and maintained against Muslims. As soon as Russia, America and countries of Europe withdraw their patronage, the world will itself witness the instant collapse of this state and its disappearance from the map of the world. Therefore, people who can see the reality do realise the actual position of Israel or the Government of the Jews. It is by no means a manifestation of the domination of Jews. If; just for the sake of argument, it is taken to be their own state, even then, who would in his right frame of mind deny that, given the totality of Christians and Muslims, they are wielders of lesser influence and are much subjugated with fear. Even if we were to leave this aspect aside, we know that a temporary domination by the Jews close to the Day of Judgement has been reported in the authentic reports of the Holy Prophet . Now if this world is destined to exist for any considerable period of time and if the Day of Judgement is close, that domination too is not contrary to the reports which Muslims consider authentic. Moreover, such short-lived occupation cannot be given the name of a state or government especially when it is based on a conspiracy hatched by the Christians and the communists.

5. The fifth promise, that of giving a decision in respect of such conflicts in faith on the Day of Judgement will certainly be fulfilled on its appointed time as it has been indicated in the verse: **ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ مَرْجِعِكُمْ** **فَأَحْكُمُ بَيْنَكُمْ** Then, to Me is your return, whereupon I shall judge between you. (3:55)

JESUS: The question of his life and second coming:

The Jews are the only people in the world who say that Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) was crucified, killed and buried following which he never returned to life. What happened really and truly has been clarified in verse 158 of Surah al-Nisa' in the Holy Qur'an. Then, in **وَمَكْرُوا وَمَكَرَ اللَّهُ** (And they made a move, and Allah made a move.) of the present verse, it has been pointed out that Allah Almighty made the sinister move of the enemies of ' Is a

recoil upon those who had gone into the house to kill Sayyidna 'Isa (AS). It was one of them that Allah Almighty changed to look exactly like Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) and then He raised Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) alive onto the heavens. The words of the verse are as follows:

وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ وَمَا صَلَّبُوهُ وَلَكِنَّ شُبُهَةَ لَهُمْ

And they did not kill him and they did not crucify him, but they were deluded by resemblance (4:157).

Details regarding this will appear under the commentary on Surah al-Nisa'.

The Christians said that Jesus was, no doubt, killed on the cross but was brought back to life once again and raised onto the heavens. The verse under reference has refuted this false notion as well. It is stressed here that similar to the Jews who were rejoicing after killing their own man, the Christians fell a victim to the same mistaken identity by believing that it was Jesus who got killed on the Cross, and as such, the Christians too became the victims of mistaken identity. This is obvious from the Qur'anic statement **شُبُهَةَ لَهُمْ** (they were deluded by resemblance) just like the Jews were deceived by mistaken identity.

As opposed to the view of these two groups, there is the Islamic belief, stated here in this verse and in several other verses clearly, which says that Allah Almighty raised him alive onto the heavens in order to rescue him from the Jews. He was not to be killed and he was not to be crucified. He is in the heavens alive and it will be close to the Day of Judgement when he shall come down from the heavens, lead the Muslims to victory over the Jews, and finally, he will die a natural death.

There is a consensus of the entire Muslim community on this belief. Hafiz ibn Hajr, in his Talkhis al-Habir, has reported this consensus (page 319). This belief, and the consensus of the community on it, stands proved on the authority of several verses of the Holy Qur'an and reports from mutawatir ahadith transmitted through an unbroken chain of reporting. However, this is not the place for its detailed discussion, and not necessary either. The reason being that scholars of the community have already taken up this question in special books with full clarity giving detailed answers to those who dispute in the Ascension of the Christ. For instance, the Arabic work, 'Aqidatu l Islam fi Hayati 'Isa by Hujjatu l Islam Maulana Sayyid Muhammad Anwar Shah al-Kashmiri, Hayat-e-Isa, (the Life of Jesus) in Urdu by Sayyidina Maulana Badr 'Alam Muhajir Madan (RA), Hayat-e-Masih in Urdu by Maulana Sayyid Muhammad Idris and hundreds of other books or essays dealing with this question have been widely published and circulated. While carrying out the orders of his respected teacher, Maulana Sayyid Muhammad Anwar Shah al-Kashmiri, this writer had collected more than one hundred mutawaetir ahadith identified by him which prove in an undeniable manner that Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) was raised alive and that he will return close to the Day of Judgement. This collection in book form and entitled, At-Tasreeh Bima Tawatur Fi Nuzool Masih has been recently published from Beirut with marginal notes and commentary by 'Allama 'Abd al-Fattah Abu Ghuddah, a revered scholar of Aleppo, Syria.

Hafiz ibn Kathir while explaining the verse **وَأَنَّهُ لَعَلَّمَ السَّاعَةَ** of Surah AlZukhruf (43:61) has said:

There are ahadith from the Holy Prophet, narrated in an uninterrupted succession, that he proclaimed the coming of 'Isa (AS) before the Day of Judgment as a just leader.

At this stage I would like to draw the attention of the reader to a point which, if noticed even with a small measure of sanity and justice, would leave no room for any doubt regarding this question. The point is that in the eleventh section of Surah 'Al-'Imran, Allah Almighty while referring to past prophets deemed it sufficient to refer

to prophets Adam, Nuh, 'Al-Ibrahim and 'Al-'Imran briefly in one single verse. After that, it was in nearly three sections and twenty two verses that reference was made to Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) and his family with meticulous detail - something which has not been made in that manner even in respect of the Last of the prophets to whom the Qur'an was revealed. Note the detailed mention of the grandmother of Jesus, her pledge, the birth of his mother, her name, her upbringing, the conceiving of Jesus by his mother then the detailed narrative of his birth, followed by the description of what his mother ate and drank, after child birth, her return to the family with the newborn child, their blames and curses, first the gift of eloquence to the newborn as his miracle, then his growing up and call to his people, opposition faced and the help of disciples, the hostile attempts by the Jews to trap and kill him, his being raised alive onto the heavens - then complete details of his additional traits, his looks, physique, dress and its likes - these are accounts which have not been taken up in the whole spectrum of the Qur'an and Hadlth in respect of any prophet or messenger with that much of detail. This point is an open invitation to everyone to think as to why did this happen and what was the wisdom behind it.

Even a moment's reflection here makes it clear that the Last of the prophets, being the final prophet and messenger with no apostle to come after him, took special care to guide his community about conditions that it was going to face right through the Day of Judgement. He therefore, took upon himself to identify those who would be worthy of the community's following. He, as a matter of principle, described them with a profile of their general qualities. There were other blessed people whom he identified by name and emphatically asked the community to follow them. Other than these, he also marked out the astray and the deviating who posed a danger to the faith of the community.

Of the mischief-makers who were to come after the Holy Prophet the most notorious was Dajjal (the anti-Christ) the imposter of the Messiah, whose disturbing wickedness was terribly deviation-prone. Therefore, the Prophet related many tales of his profile, attending conditions and distinguishing traits, so that there remains no room for the community to doubt about his being a mischief monger whenever he appears. Similarly, among the later day religious reformers and power-worthy elders, Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) is the most distinguished whom Allah Almighty blessed with the station of prophethood, kept him alive in the heavens to come to the rescue of the Muslim community during the wicked period of Dajjal (anti-Christ) and appointed him to kill Dajjal close to the Day of Judgement. This is why it was deemed necessary that the community should be given the most clear indications of his person and qualities. as well, so that no human being remains in doubt while identifying Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) when he comes, the second time.

There are many elements of wisdom in this treatment.

Firstly, should the community find it difficult to identify Sayyidna 'Isa (AS), the very purpose of his coming will be negated. If the Muslim community will not identify and cooperate with him, how could he help and support them? Secondary, although Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) will not come into the world at that time designated as Prophet, but he would come to lead the Muslim community as the Khalifa (viceregent) the Holy Prophet, the personal station of prophethood that he has will not be taken from him. Instead, he would be like the governor of a province or state who continues to hold that position even if he has gone out to visit some other province or state for some reason. Therefore, even though he is not as a governor in that province, the office of the governorship has not been ipso facto taken away from him. Similarly, Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) will not be without his attribute of prophethood at that time, and the way the rejection of his prophethood was infidelity earlier, so infidelity it shall be at that time. Now the Muslim community which has already nursed and shown its faith in his prophethood as based on the guidance of the Qur'an would fall-into the grievous error of rejection, if it fails to recognize him when he comes. So, clarifying his signs and attributes in a greater measure was extremely necessary.

Thirdly, since the event of the coming of Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) will take place towards the later years of this mortal world, chances were given the ambiguity in his marks of identification that some other person could come up

with the claim of being Messiah, the son of Mary, in which case, these indicators will serve well to refute and reject any such claim. This is what happened in pre-partition India where Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian claimed that he was the promised Messiah. The scholars of the Muslim community refuted his claim on the basis of these very cited indicators.

In short, here and at other places, the very fact of such detailed description concerning Sayyidna 'Isa (AS) is in itself indicating that his reappearance is due close to the Day of Judgement and that he would return to the world. This humble writer has taken up this subject in full details in his Urdu treatise entitled Masih Maw'ud ki pahchan (Identifying the Promised Messiah) which may be consulted for these details.

Commentary from Surah Al-Nisa

فَبِمَا نَقَضْتُمْ مِيثَاقَهُمْ وَكَفَرْتُمْ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَقَتْلْتُمُ الْأَنْبِيَاءَ بِغَيْرِ حَقٍّ وَقَوْلْتُمْ قُلُوبُنَا غُلْفٌ بَلْ طَبَعَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهَا بِكُفْرِهِمْ فَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا (١٥٥) وَبَكُفْرِهِمْ وَقَوْلِهِمْ عَلَىٰ مَرْيَمَ بُهْتَانًا عَظِيمًا (١٥٦) وَقَوْلِهِمْ إِنَّا قَتَلْنَا الْمَسِيحَ عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ وَمَا صَلَبُوهُ وَلَكِنْ شُبِّهَ لَهُمْ وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ لَفِي شَكٍّ مِمَّا لَهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِلَّا اتَّبَاعَ الظَّنِّ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ يَقِينًا (١٥٧) بَلْ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَيْهِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا (١٥٨) وَإِنَّ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ إِلَّا لِيُؤْمِنَنَّ بِهِ قَبْلَ مَوْتِهِ وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَكُونُ عَلَيْهِمْ شَهِدًا

Translation

So, (they met their fate) for breaking their pledge, and for their disbelief in the verses of Allah, and for their slaying of the prophets unjustly, and for their saying, "Our hearts are sealed" - rather, Allah has set a seal over them for their disbelief. So, they do not believe but a little [155].

and for their disbelief and for what they said against Maryam as a grim imputation, [156]

and for their saying, "We have certainly killed the Masih; 'Isa (Jesus) the son of Maryam, the Messenger of Allah." And they did not kill him, and they did not crucify him, but they were deluded by resemblance. And those who disputed in this matter are certainly in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it, but they follow whims. And it is certain that they did not kill him, [157]

but Allah lifted him towards Himself. And Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise. [158]

And there is not one among the People of the Book but shall certainly believe in him (Jesus) before he (Jesus) dies, and on the Day of Doom, he shall be a witness against them. [159]

Like the earlier verses, the censure of Jews continues through the present ones. As a thematically coherent subject, their false ideas have also been refuted which have been discussed in detail in the following commentary.

Commentary

In the verse **يَعِيسَىٰ إِنِّي مُتَوَفِّيكَ وَرَافِعُكَ إِلَيَّ** ("O 'Isa, I am to take you in full and lift you towards Me ... 3:55) appearing in Surah 'Al-Imran, Almighty Allah had made five promises in connection with foiling the Jewish plans against Sayyidna Isa (AS) and protecting him from their hostile intentions. A detailed explanation of these has been given earlier on that occasion in Surah 'Al-Imran, One of the promises made there was that the Jews will not be allowed to have their way with their intention to kill Sayyidna Isa (AS). Instead of that, Allah will lift him towards Him.

In the present verses (157-158) of Surah al-Nisa', it has been made explicit that they did not kill nor crucify Sayyidna Isa (AS), rather, what actually happened was that they were deluded by resemblance.

How were the Jews deluded by resemblance?

While explaining the words of the Qur'an: **وَلَكِنْ شَبَّهَ لَهُمْ** (but they were deluded by resemblance), master exegete, Dahaak (RA) says: It so transpired that, following the intention of Jews to kill Sayyidna Isa (AS) his disciples assembled at a given place. Sayyidna Isa (AS) joined them there. It was Iblis who gave the address of Sayyidna Isa (AS) to the execution squad standing ready for the mission. Four thousand men surrounded the suspected house. Sayyidna Isa (AS) said to his disciples: 'Is one of you willing to go out and be killed and then be in Paradise with me?' One of them offered to do so. Sayyidna Isa (AS) gave him his shirt and head-cover. Then, cast on him was the resemblance of Jesus and as soon as he came out, the Jews, believing him to be Jesus, caught him and crucified him, and Sayyidna Isa (AS) was lifted. (Qurtubi)

According to some reports, the Jews had sent a person known to Arabs as Teetlanoos to kill Sayyidna Isa (AS). He did not find Sayyidna Isa (AS) in the house for he was already lifted by Allah towards Himself. So, when this person came out of the house, he had been made to resemble the looks of Sayyidna Isa (AS). The Jews took him to be Sayyidna Isa (AS). Thus, they took away their own man and killed him. (Mazhari)

There is room for whichever of the situations came to pass - the Holy Qur'an has not determined any particular situation. Therefore, Allah alone knows what really happened. However, this sentence of the Holy Qur'an seen with other exegetical reports does yield the common factor that the Jews and Christians were subjected to compelling delusion. The event as it took shape remained hidden from them, though they did advance all sorts of claims based on their conjectures which only landed them into mutual differences. This is what the Holy Qur'an points out to in the following words:

وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ اٰخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ لَفِي شَكٍّ مِّمَّا لَهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ اِلَّا اَتَّبَعَ الظَّنُّ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ يَقِيْنًا

And those who disputed in this matter are certainly in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it, but they follow whims.

It means that they do not have certitude based on any true knowledge. The diverse claims put forward by those who have differed in the case of Masih (AS) are simply based on doubt and conjecture. The truth of the matter is that they certainly did not kill Masih (AS), rather Allah lifted him towards Himself.

According to some other reports, when some of them woke up to what had happened, they said, 'We seem to have killed our own man, for the man we have put to death resembles (Masih (AS) in face only but not in the rest of the body. Now, if this man we have killed is Masih (AS) where, then, is our man? And if this is our man where, then, is Masih (AS) Verse 158, part of which was referred to immediately earlier, ends at (And Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise) carrying a significant message. It means that the planning of Jews to kill Sayyidna Isa (AS) was insignificant as matched against the Power of Allah who has taken it upon Himself to protect Sayyidna Isa (AS).. Might and mastery are His domain. If materialists in their single track isolation, remain incapable of understanding the reality of the 'lifting off of Sayyidna Isa (AS), that is their own limitation. As for Allah, He is All-Wise - everything He does is based on wisdom and fitness to whatever end is desired.

Then comes the finale of the subject in verse 159 beginning with the words: **(١٥٨) وَإِنَّ مِنْ اٰهْلِ الْكِتٰبِ**

اِلَّا لَيُؤْمِنَنَّ بِهِ قَبْلَ مَوْتِهٖ (And there IS not one among the People of the Book but shall certainly believe in him {Jesus} before he (Jesus) dies, and on the Day of Doom, he shall be a witness against them). It means: Though, at this time, so blinded by malice and envy are these people that they are unable to see reality as it is, hold false ideas about Sayyidna Isa (AS) and, in addition to that, they are denying the prophethood of Sayyidna Muhammad al-Mustafa yet, a time is to come when their eyes will open up and they will realize that all their notions about Sayyidna Isa (AS) and Sayyidna Muhammad were totally false.

One explanation of this verse (159), which appears in Bayan al- Qur'an by Maulana Ashraf 'Ali Thanavi, is that the pronoun in the Qur'anic word **(مَوْتِهٖ)** mawtihi: his death) be attributed to the People of the Book. The verse, in

that sense, would mean that those Jews, when they see a glimpse of Barzakh (the state between death and resurrection) moments before their death, they will readily believe in the prophethood of Sayyidna Isa (AS) though, their believing at that point of time will be of no use to them, very much useless like the believing of Pharaoh which he did while drowning.

The second tafsir (explanation) which has been adopted by a large number of Sahabah and Tabi'in (the Companions and their Successors) and which also has the support of authentic Hadith. maintains that the pronoun in the word 'mawtihil' refers back to Sayyidna Masih (AS) and in that light, the verse means that the People of the Book of this time, be they Jews or Christians, do not believe in Sayyidna Isa (AS) in the real sense. The Jews just do not accept him as a prophet, rather, they accuse him of being, God forbid, a liar and imposter! As for the Christians, some of them despite claiming to believe in him, reached a level of ignorance which, like the Jews, led them to accept that Sayyidna Isa (AS) was crucified and killed. Then, there were others among them who, in their excess of belief, went out of the limits when they took him to be God and Son of God - but, says the verse of the Qur'an, though they do not believe in the prophethood of Sayyidna Isa (AS) at this time as they should; but the time will come, close to the Day of Doom, when he will reappear on this earth and all Peoples of the Book will believe in him genuinely and authentically. All Christians will become Muslims holding true beliefs. The hostile among the Jews will be killed, the rest will become Muslims. That will be the time when Kufr will be banished from the world along with whatever forms it may have. Islam will finally reign supreme on the earth.

Reproduced below is a report from Sayyidna Abu Hurairah (RA) :

"The Holy Prophet said: The son of Maryam shall definitely reappear as a just ruler. He will kill the Anti-Christ and the swine. He will break the Cross and worship shall be made for Allah alone, the one Lord of all the worlds. Then, Sayyidna Abi Hurairah said: Read, if you wish, the verse of the Qur'an; (159) which mentions that not one person from out of the People of the Book will remain without having believed in Sayyidna 'Isa before his death. Sayyidna Abi Hurairah, then, said with stress: 'Before the death of Isa (AS) and he repeated it three times. (Qurtubi)

This Tafsir (explanation) of the verse under reference stands proved from a highly venerated Companion such as Sayyidna Abu Hurairah (RA) on the added strength of sound chain of narrators. This report establishes that the 'Qur'anic words: **قَبْلَ مَوْتِهِ** (before his death) mean 'before the death of Sayyidna Isa (AS) and which explicitly determines that this verse is related to the coming of Sayyidna Isa (AS) close to the Qiyamah (Doomsday).

As based on this tafsir, this verse is a conclusive evidence that the death of Sayyidna Isa (AS) has not yet come to pass. In fact, when he is sent down from the heaven close to Qiyamah and the wise considerations of Almighty Allah working behind his coming reach their ultimate fruition, it will be only then that his death will occur on this very earth.

This is also supported by the following verse of Surah al-Zukhruf (43:61): **وَإِنَّهُ لَعِلْمٌ لِّلسَّاعَةِ فَلَا تَمْتَرُنَّ بِهَا** **وَاتَّبِعُونِ** (And he (Isa) is a source of knowledge of the Hour (the Day of Judgment); so do not be in doubt about it, and follow me. This is the straight way.) A larger number of commentators has said that the pronoun in the Qur'anic word at this point refers back to Sayyidna Isa (AS) and it means that Sayyidna Isa (AS) is a sign of Qiyamah (Doomsday). From here we learn that this verse reports the coming of the Masih (AS) , that is, he will appear close to the Qiyamah and his appearance will be one of the signs of it.

Also worth attention is yet another reading of the Qur'anic word (la'ilmun) in this verse (43:61) which is: la'alamun). According to this reading the meaning becomes all the more clear because the word ~ ('alam) with the fatha of lam means 'sign or symbol.' The following tafsir of Sayyidna 'Abdullah ibn 'Abbas (RA) lends added support to this view:

(About the verse: 43:61 - Sayyidna Ibn 'Abbas reported that it refers to Sayyidna Isa (AS) who will come before the Qiyamah (Ibn Kathir)

In short, if we combine the statement: 'Qabla mawtihi' (Before his death• 4:159) with the authentic hadith of Sayyidna Abu Hurairah and its explanation, the truth that Sayyidna Isa (AS) is alive and that he will reappear close to the Doomsday and overcome the Jews stands proved conclusively. Similarly, this view also becomes certain through the words: 'Surely, he (Sayyidna 'Isa) is a sign of the Doomsday,' as explained by Sayyidna Ibn 'Abbas (RA)

The master commentator, Ibn Kathir, while explaining the verse: "The sayings of the Holy Prophet in this connection have been reported through tawatur (in an uninterrupted succession) that he has conveyed the tidings of the coming of Sayyidna Isa (AS) in this world before the Day of Doom as a just ruler. (Ibn Kathir)

These narrations appearing in an uninterrupted succession (tawattur) were collected by my teacher and a great servant of Islam, Maulana Muhammad Anwar Shah al-Kashmiri, These were more than a hundred in number. This humble writer compiled this collection in Arabic and it was published way back under the title: "At-Tasreeh Bima Tawatur Fi Nuzooli Masih" as proposed by my 'respected teacher'. Recently, a major Syrian scholar, Al-'Allamah 'Abd al-Fattah Abu Ghuddah has published from the city of Beirut a deluxe edition of this work with additional explanations and notes. The belief in the coming of Sayyidna Isa (AS) towards the later times is absolute and unanimous as held by the Muslims and the denier of which goes out of the pale of Islam.

This subject has become clear enough from the discussion of verses in this part of the commentary. A more comprehensive treatment of the subject has already appeared in the commentary on Surah 'Al-'Imran which may be consulted. The discussions there also include answers to doubts raised by some so-called modernists of our time in order to hurt the credibility of this article of Muslim faith. Only Allah can guide whomsoever He wills.

Ahadeeth pertaining to the Descent of Sayyidina Isa (AS)

Hadeeth Number One:

Sayyidina Abu Huraira reports that the Prophet (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) of God said: "I swear by Him Who hath power over my life, the son of Mary shall descend among ye as a Just ruler. He will break the cross and kill the swine;[The implication of "breaking the Cross" and "killing of the swine" is that Christianity will become defunct as a religion. The whole edifice of the Christian religion is based on the belief that God crucified His only son (i.e. Sayyidina Isa (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) on the Cross and caused him to suffer this 'accursed' death so that he might thus expiate for the sins of man. Among the followers of God's Prophets, the Christians are unique in having rejected the entire Shariah of God and retaining this belief only. The swine has been declared unlawful by all the Prophets, but the Christians have gone as far as to make it lawful. Hence when Jesus(Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) will proclaim on his appearance, "I am not the son of God; I did not die on the Cross, nor did I expiate for the sins of anyone," the whole basis of Christian belief will be demolished. Similarly, the second distinctive characteristic of Christianity will vanish when Jesus(Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) will say: "I never declared the swine lawful for my followers nor did I proclaim them free from the restraints of Divine Law."] and he will put an end to war." (Bukhari, Kitab Ahadith al-Anbiya; Bab: Nuzul 'Isa Ibn Maryam; Muslim, Bab: Bayan Nuzul 'Isa; Tirmidhi, Abwab-al-Fitan; Bab Fi Nuzul 'Isa; Musnad Ahmad, Marwiyat Abu Huraira)

In another tradition the word jizya has been substituted for harb, "war", i.e., he will abolish the jizya on non-believers. [In other words this expression means that differences between the followers of various religions will vanish and the whole mankind will join the brotherhood of Islam. Consequently, there shall no longer be any war or cause for imposing religious tax on anyone. This interpretation is supported by Tradition No. 5 and 15 quoted hereafter.]

Hadeeth Number Two:

Another tradition reported by Sayyidina Abu Huraira says, "The Doomsday shall not be established before the descent of Jesus, son of Mary," and these words are followed by the text as given in the tradition above. (Bukhari, Kitab-ul-Muzalim: Bab: Kasr-ul- Salib Ibn Majah, Kitab-ul-Fitan al-Dajjal.)

Hadeeth Number Three:

Sayyidina Abu Huraira reports that the Apsotle (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) of Allah observed: "What will you be like when the son of Mary shall descend among ye and a person among ye will discharge the office of Imam (leader in Prayers)."[The implication is that Jesus(Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) will not act as the leader of Prayers. He will offer Prayers behind the already existing Imam of Muslims.] (Bukhari, Kitab Ahadith Anbiya, Bab: Nuzul Isa; Muslim, Nuzul Isa; Musnad Ahmad, Marwiyat Abu Huraira)

Hadeeth Number Four:

Sayyidina Abu Huraira reports the Apsotle (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) of Allah having said: "Christ, son of Mary, will then kill the swine and remove the Cross. A congregation for prayer will be held for him. He will distribute such an enormous quantity of goods that none will be left in need of anything. He will abolish taxes. He will encamp at Rauha (a place situated at a distance of 35 miles from Medina) and from there, set out to perform Hajj or Umrah or both." (The reporter is in doubt as to which of these two had been mentioned by the Holy Prophet (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam). (Musnad Ahmad, Silsila Marwiyat Abi Huraira; Muslim, Kitab-ul-Hajj; Bab Jawaz-ul-Tamatttu fil-Hajj wa-al-Qir'an)

Hadeeth Number Five:

Sayyidina Abu Huraira relates that the Prophet (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) of God after mentioning the exile of Dajjal said: "The Muslims will be preparing for war with Dajjal and they will be falling in line in preparation for offering Prayers and the Takbir will have been said for Prayers when in the meantime Christ (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam), son of Mary, will descend and lead Muslims in Prayer. The enemy of God, Dajjal, on seeing him will start melting like salt in water. If Christ (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) would leave Dajjal alone, he would melt and die anyway, but God will cause Dajjal to be slain at the hand of Christ (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) and Christ will display his spear strained with the blood of Dajjal to the Muslims." (Mishkat, Kitab-ul-Fitan, Bab: al-Malahim, quoted by Muslim)

Hadeeth Number Six:

Sayyidina Abu Huraira reports that the Apostle (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) of Allah affirmed: "No Prophet shall come during the period between me and Jesus (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam). And Jesus shall descend. Recognize him when you see him; he is a man of medium height and of a rudy, fair complexion. He will be dressed in two pieces of yellow garment. The hair of his head will appear as if water is trickling out of them, though his hair would not be wet. He will fight for the cause of Islam. He will break the Cross into pieces. He will slay the swine. He will abolish the Jizya on non-believers. In his time God will put an end to all other faiths except the religion of Islam. And Christ will kill Dajjal. He will live on this earth for a period of forty years and at the end of this period he will pass away. The Muslims will offer the funeral prayers of Christ (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam). (Abu Dawud, Kitab-ul-Malahim, Bab: Khuruj-ul-Dajjal; Musnad Ahmad, Marwiyat Abu Huraira)

Hadeeth Number Seven:

Sayyidina Jabir bin Abdullah reports that he heard the Prophet (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) as saying: "Then Christ, son of Mary, will descend. The leader of the Muslims will say to him, "Come, lead us in Prayer," but he will reply, "No be thou your own leaders in prayer." [The implication of this observation of Christ (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) is that "Someone from amongst you should act as your leader."] He will say this out of respect for the dignity that God has bestowed on the people of Islam." (Muslim, Bayan Nuzul Isa ibn Maryam; Musnad Ahmad, Basilsila Marwiyat Jabir bin Abdullah)

Hadeeth Number Eight:

In connection with the episode of Ibn Sayyad, Jabir bin Abdullah relates that Umar bin Khattab (RAA) submitted: "O Apostle of God, allow me to slay him. In reply the Prophet of God observed, "If indeed this man is he (referring to Dajjal), then he shall be slain by Christ, son of Mary. You shall not slay him. But if this man is not he (Dajjal), then you have no right to kill an individual from amongst those with whom we have guaranteed protection (Dhimmies)." (Mishkat, Kitab-ul-Fitan, Bab: Qissa Ibn Sayyad, quoted by Shara al-Sunnah al-Baghawi).

Hadeeth Number Nine:

Jabir b. Abdullah relates that while narrating the episode of Dajjal, the Holy Prophet (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) observed: "At that time Christ, son of Mary, will suddenly descend among the Muslims. A congregation will be assembled for prayer and he shall be asked: " O Spirit of God, come forward and lead (us in Prayer)." But he will say, 'No, your own Imam shall step forward and act as the leader.' Thus when the Muslims will have offered the morning Prayer, they will set out to do battle against Dajjal. When that liar will look on Christ (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam), he will start melting like salt in water. Christ (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) shall advance towards him and slay him. And it will come to pass that every stone will cry out: 'Spirit of Allah, this Jew is hiding behind me.' Not a single follower of Dajjal will escape slaughter." (Musnad Ahmad, Basissila Riwayat Jabir b. Abdullah)

Hadeeth Number Ten:

Sayyidina an-Nawas b. Sam'an (while relating the story of Dajjal) reports: "Meantime when Dajjal will be engaged in perpetrating such deeds, God shall send Christ, son of Mary. Christ (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) will descend

near the white tower in the eastern quarter of Damascus, wearing two pieces of yellow garment and resting his hands upon the arms of two angels. When he will bend his head, it would seem that drops of water would fall down from his head and when he will raise his head it would seem as if pearls would be trickling in the form of drops. Any infidel who will be within reach of the air of his breath, and the air of his breath will reach as far as his eye would see - will not escape death. Later the son of Mary will pursue Dajjal and will overtake him at the gate of Lydda [Please note that Lod (modern Lydda) is situated at a distance of few miles from Tel Aviv, the capital of the State of Israel in Palestine. The Jews have built a large air-base at this place.] and put him to death." (Muslim, Dhikr Dajjal; Abu Dawud, Kitab ul-Malahim, Bab: Khuruj; Dajjal; Tirmidhi, Abwab-ul-Fitan; Bab: Fi Fitna al-Dajjal; Ibn Majah, Kitab ul-Fitna, Bab: Fitna al-Dajjal)

Hadeeth Number Eleven:

Abdullah b. Amr b. al-As says that the Apostle of God (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) observed: "Dajjal will arise in my people and will survive for forty (here the reporter is not certain whether the Prophet mentioned forty days or forty months or forty years). Then God shall send Christ, son of Mary, unto the world. He will resemble in appearance with 'Urwa b. Masud (a companion of the Prophet). Christ will pursue Dajjal and put him to death. Following this for a period of seven years the state of the world will be such that a quarrel between two individuals will be unknown." (Muslim, Dhikr-ul-Dajjal)

Hadeeth Number Twelve:

Hudhaifa b. Usaid al-Ghifari reports that "once the Holy Prophet(PBUUH) visited us when we were sitting in company and talking to each other. The holy Prophet(Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) enquired: "What are you talking about?" The people said,"we were talking about the doomsday." The holy Prophet(Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) observed : "Doomsday shall not be established before the appearance of ten signs. He then enumerated those signs as:

- 1) Smoke
- 2) Dajjal
- 3) Daabba (Beast)
- 4) Rising of the sun in the West
- 5) The descent of Christ son of Mary (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam)
- 6) Appearance of Yajuj and Majuj
- 7) Formation of three huge cavities or landslide on the earth, one in the east,
- 8) Second in the west,
- 9) and third in the Arabian Isles,
- 10) Finally, a huge conflagration which will arise in Yemen and drive people towards the plain of Doom."

(Muslim, Kitab ul-Fitan wa Ashtrat-us Sa'h:Abu Dawud, Kitab ul- Malahim, bab: Amarat ul-Sa'h).

Hadeeth Number Thirteen:

It is reported by Thauban, the freed slave of the Holy Prophet that the holy Prophet (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) observed: "God will grant protection from Hell-fire to two groups from among the people of my Ummah. One group consists of those who will invade India; the other group will consist of those who will align themselves with Christ, son of Mary(Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam)." (Nasa'i,Kitab ul-jihad;Musnad ahmad, Bisilsila Riwayat Thauban)

Hadeeth Number Fourteen:

Mujamme b. jaria Ansari reports: "I heard the Holy Prophet(Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) as saying: Christ, son of Mary will slay Dajjal at the gate of Lod(Lyddda)." (Musnad Ahmad , Tirmidhi, Abwab-ul-Fitan).

Hadeeth Number Fifteen:

Abu Umama al-Bahli (mentioning Dajjal in the course of a long tradition) reports "Exactly when the Imam of the Muslims will step forward to lead the morning prayers, Christ son of Mary (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) will descend among them. The Imam will retreat to make room for Christ to lead the prayers. But Christ patting the Imam in the middle of his shoulders will say "Nay thou shall act as leader, for this congregation has assembled to follow you in prayer." Hence the Imam will lead the prayers. When the prayer is over Christ (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) will command, 'Open the Gate.' The gate shall be thrown open.

Dajjal will be present outside the gate with a host of seventy thousand Jewish troops. As soon as Dajjal catches the sight of Christ (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam), he will say to him, "I shall strike you with such force that you will not survive the blow." Christ (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) will pursue and overtake him at the Eastern gate of Lod (Lydda). God will cause the Jews to be defeated. Earth shall be filled with Muslims as a vessel is filled to the brim with water—the entire world shall recite the same Kalima and worship shall be offered to none else except God Almighty." (Ibn Majah, Kitab-ul-Fitan ; Bab : Fitan Dajjal)

Hadeeth Number Sixteen:

Uthman b. Abi al-As reports that he heard the Prophet of God (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) as saying: "And Christ son of Mary will descend at the time of morning prayer. The leader of the Muslims will say to him, "O spirit of God, Be thou our leader in prayer." He will answer "The people of this Ummah are leaders unto each other." At this, the leader of the Muslims shall step forward and lead the prayers. When the prayer is over, Christ (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) will take hold of his weapon and advance towards Dajjal. Dajjal, on seeing Christ shall start melting like lead. Christ (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) will slay him with his weapon. The companions of Dajjal will be defeated. They will flee away, but will not find a hiding place anywhere. Even the trees will cry out, "O pious, this infidel is hiding behind me," and the stones will say, "O pious, this unbeliever has taken cover behind me." (Musnad Ahmad, Tabarani, Hakim)

Hadeeth Number Seventeen:

Samura b. Jundub (in a long tradition) ascribes this saying to the Holy Prophet (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam): "Then at morning time Christ, son of Mary, shall descend among the Muslims. And Allah shall cause Dajjal and his hosts to suffer a most crushing defeat. Even the walls and roots of the trees will cry out, "O pious, this infidel is hiding behind me. Come and strike him to death." (Musnad Ahmad, Hakim)

Hadeeth Number Eighteen:

A tradition related to Imarn b. Husain says that the Prophet of God (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) observed: "There will always be a group of people among my followers who will keep firm faith in right and they shall overwhelm their opponents till God issues a decree and Christ son of Mary (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) descends upon earth." (Musnad Ahmad)

Hadeeth Number Nineteen:

With reference to the episode of Dajjal, Sayyidina 'Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) reports that "Sayyidina 'Isa (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) will descend and slay Dajjal. After this Sayyidina 'Isa (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) shall rule over the earth as a just leader and a benevolent sovereign for a period of forty years." (Musnad Ahmad)

Hadeeth Number Twenty:

Safina, the freed slave of the Apostle of God (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) reports (in connection with the episode of Dajjal) that "Sayyidina 'Isa (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) will descend and God shall put an end to the life of Dajjal near the slope of Afiq." [Afiq known as Fiq in modern times is a city in Syria, situated on the borderline between Syria and Israel. There is a lake called Tibriya a few miles toward the west of the city. This lake is the source of river Jordan. Towards the southwest of this lake, there is a path between the mountains which descends two

thousand feet to the point in the lake of Tibriya where the river rises. This mountainous path is called the slope of Afiq.] (Musnad Ahmad)

Hadeeth Number Twenty One:

Sayyidina Hudaifa b. Yama relates (with reference to Dajjal), "When the Muslims will fall in lines to offer prayers, Christ son of Mary (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) shall descend from heaven before their eyes. He will lead the prayers. When the prayers are over he will say to the people: "Clear the way bewtween me and this enemy of God." God will give victory to the Muslims over the hosts of Dajjal. The Muslims will inflict dire punishment upon the enemy. Even the trees and stones will cry out, "O Abdullah, O Abdul Rahman, O Muslim, come, here is a Jew behind me, kill him." In this way God will cause the Jews to be annihilated and Muslims shall be the victors. They will break the Cross, slaughter the swine and abolish Jizya (levied on non-Muslims)." (Mustadrak Hakim - A brief version of this tradition has been recorded in Muslim. Hafiz Ibn Hajar in Fath-ul-Bari Vol. VI, p. 450 declares this tradition to be authentic.)

Summary

The above are twenty-one traditions which have been transmitted on the authority of fourteen companions of the Holy Prophet and have been recorded with correct references in the most authoritative books on Hadith. In addition to these, there are numerous other traditions relating to the same subject, but we have not reproduced them here for the sake of brevity. We have taken as example only those traditions which are sound and authentic as regards chain of transmission.

Aqeedah of Ahlus-Sunnah Wal Jammah regarding descent of Sayyidina Isa (AS)

وَتُؤْمِنُ بِأَشْرَاطِ السَّاعَةِ مِنْهَا: خُرُوجُ الدَّجَالِ، وَنُزُولُ عِيسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ، وَبَطْلُوعِ الشَّمْسِ مِنْ مَغْرِبِهَا، وَخُرُوجِ دَابَّةِ الْأَرْضِ مِنْ مَوْضِعِهَا.

We believe in the signs of the Hour such as the appearance of the Antichrist (*dajjal*) and the descent of `Isa ibn Maryam, peace be upon him, from heaven, and we believe in the rising of the sun from where it sets and in the emergence of the Beast from the earth.

As quoted in Aqeedah Tahawiyya i.e. the Creed of Ahlus-Sunnah Wal Jamaah

Jesus (Sayyidina Isa (AS)) & his second coming in Islam (By Mufti A. H. Elias)

Jesus (AS) In Islam:

Muslims do believe that Isa (AS) was sent down as a Prophet of Allah (God), but he (Jesus) is not God or Lord, nor the son of God. Muslims do not believe that Isa (AS), also known as Jesus by Christians and others, is dead or was ever crucified. We believe that he was raised to heaven and is there, and will descend at the appointed time, end all wars, and bring peace to the world. Like Jesus (AS), Muhammad (Peace be upon him) is also a Prophet and Messenger. Muhammed (Sallaho Alaihe Wassallam) is the last Prophet, though, and there is none after him. Hence, Islam is the last religion, complete, with the Holy Qur'an as the unchanged and perfect word of God for over 1400 years, as God promised to preserve it till the last day for all of humankind, unlike sacred texts of other religions which have multiple versions and are "revised" periodically. God, or Allah in Arabic, is Divine and Supreme Being and Creator.

What the Holy Qur'an says about Jesus:

They slew him not, nor did they crucify him but it was made dubious to them. (Holy Qur'an, Surah Nisaa, Verse 157)

Hadhrat Isa (AS) himself told of the coming of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him). In the Bible, Jesus (AS) says,

If you love me, Keep my commandments. And I will pray to the Father and He shall give you another comforter that he may abide with you forever.(Bible, John 14-15/16)

But when the comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the spirit of Truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me, and he also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.(Bible, John 15-26/27)

I have yet many things to say unto you, but you cannot bear them now. How be it when he, the spirit of Truth will come, he will guide you into all truth, for he shall speak not of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that he shall speak, and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me, for he shall receive of mine, and he shall show it unto you.(Bible, John 16-12/14)

Ulema (learned scholars in Islam) have said that the person who is described by Hadhrat Isa (AS) to come after him - in the above verse - does not comply with any other person but Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him).

In this case, the "comforter" he mentions is none other than Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) and his laws and way of life (Shariah) and Book (Holy Qur'an) are those that Hadhrat Isa (AS) asks his followers to abide by.

The "person" whom Jesus (AS) prophesied will come after him, is called Pargaleeta in the Bible . This word was deleted by interpreters and translators and changed at times to "Spirit of Truth" and at other times, to "comforter" and sometimes "Holy Spirit." The original Greek and its meaning is "one whom people praise exceedingly." The sense of the word, then, is applicable to the word Muhammad in Arabic, since Muhammad means "the praised one."

Jesus (AS) also says in the Bible,

... and a little while and you shall not see me; and again a little while, you shall see me because I go to the Father. (Bible, John 16:16)

... and the Holy Qur'an says,

And surely they slew him not. But Allah (God) raised him unto Himself. (Holy Qur'an, Surah Nisaa, Verse 157-158)

As such, Muslims believe that Hadhrat Isa (AS) was raised to heaven. According to Hadith, he is on the second heaven. Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam=Peace be upon him) mentioned, "During the Meraj (Ascension), I met Hadhrat Isa (AS) on the second heaven. I found him of medium stature, reddish white. His body was so clean and clear, that it appeared as though he had just performed ghusal (ablution, cleansing of the entire body) and come." In another Hadith, Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) mentioned to the Jews that, " Hadhrat Isa (AS) is not dead, he will most surely return to you before Qiyamat (the Day of Judgement)."

May Allah Guide all people to the Truth. Aameen.

Hadhrat Isa's (AS) Descension The Physical Features of Hadhrat Isa (AS):

He will resemble the famous Sahabi (AS) Hadhrat Urwa bin Masoodi (R.A.). He will be of average height and red and white in colour. His hair spread to the shoulders, straight, neat and shining as after a bath. On bending his head, it will seem as if pearls are falling. He will have an armour on his body. He will be wearing two pieces of cloth light yellow in color.

His Descent:

He will descend on a Jamaat (group) that will be righteous at the time and comprising of 800 men and 400 women. The people will be preparing for war at the time against Dajjal (the anti-Christ). It will be time for Fajr prayers, and Imam Mahdi will be the Amir (leader). From the darkness of the dawn, a sound will suddenly be heard that "one who listens to your pleas has come" -- the righteous people will look everywhere and their eyes will fall on Isa (AS). Briefly, at the time of Fajr, Isa (AS) will descend. When descending, Isa (AS)'s hands will be on the shoulders of two angels (according to another source (Kab Abrar), a cloud will carry him). On their insistence Hadhrat Isa will introduce himself. He will inquire about their enthusiasm and thoughts on Jihad against Dajjal. Hadhrat Isa (AS) will descend on the eastern side near the Minaret in Damascus (or in Baitul-Muqaddus by Imam Mahdi). At the time Imam Mahdi will have proceeded forward to lead the Fajr Salaat. The Iqamat of the Salaat would have been said (already recited) and Imam Mahdi will call Hadhrat Isa (AS) for Imamat (to lead the prayer), but he (Hadhrat Isa (AS)) will instead tell Imam Mahdi to lead the prayer since the Iqamat of that Salaat has already been said for him. Thus Imam Mahdi will lead the prayer, and Hadhrat Isa (AS) will follow him. After the ruku, he will make this statement: "Allah has killed Dajjal and the Muslims have appeared."

The Killing of Dajjal (anti-Christ) and the Victory of the Muslims:

After the completion of Fajr Salaat (congregational dawn prayers), Hadhrat Isa (AS) will open the door behind him where Dajjal accompanied by 70,000 Yahudis (Jews) will be. He will indicate with his hand to move away between him (Hadhrat Isa (AS)) and Dajjal. Dajjal will then see Hadhrat Isa (AS). At that time every Kafir on whom the breath of Hadhrat Isa (AS) will reach, will die. His breath will reach up to the distance of his eyesight. The Muslims will then come down from the mountains and break loose on the army of Dajjal. There will be war, Dajjal will retreat, and Hadhrat Isa (AS) will pursue Dajjal. Hadhrat Isa (AS) will have two flexible swords and one shield with him and with these he will kill Dajjal at the Gate of Hudd. He will show the Muslims the blood of Dajjal which will get on his shield. Eventually the Yahudis will be selected and killed. The swine will be killed and the cross broken. People will revert to Islam. Wars will end, and people will return to their respective countries. One Jamaat (group) of Muslims will remain in his service and companionship.

Hadhrat Isa (AS) will go to Fajr Rawha and perform Haj or Umrah (or both) from there. He will also go to the grave of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) and present his greetings and Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) will reply. People will live comfortable lives. The wall of Yajooj and Majooj (Gog and Magog) will then break.

The Blessings of Hadhrat Isa (Jesus) (AS):

1. Hadhrat Isa (AS) will descend and stay on earth.
2. His descension will be in the last era of the Ummat.
3. He will be a just ruler and a fair judge.
4. His ummat will be the Khalifa (deputies) of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam).
5. He will act himself and instruct others on the Qur'an and Hadith (Shariat/Tradition of Islam).
6. He will lead people in Salaat (Prayer).
7. He will stay on earth for a period of 40 years after descending. The will be the best era of the Ummat after the first era of Islam.
8. Allah will protect his companions from Jahannam.
9. Those who will save the Deen of Islam by associating themselves with Hadhrat Isa (AS) will be amongst the most loved by Allah Ta'ala.
10. During this period all other religions and mazhabs besides Islam will perish, hence there will be no kuffaars (non-believers) in the world.
11. Jihad will be stopped.
12. No Khiraaaj will be taken.
13. Nor Jizya (protection tax) money from the kafirs (non-believers)
14. Wealth and property will be in surplus to such an extent that there will be no one to accept the wealth of the other (everyone will be independent).
15. Receiving Zakaat (Alms-giving, Charity to poor) and Saadaqa will be discarded (as there will be no poor to receive them!).
16. The people will love the sajda (prostration to God) more than the world and what it consists of.
17. All types of Deeni (religious) and worldly blessings will descend on earth (many halaal (lawful) things will be created).
18. There will be peace, harmony and tranquility during the time of Hadhrat Isa (AS)'s stay in the world.
19. There will be no animosity for a period of seven years, even between two persons.
20. All hearts will be free from miserliness, envy, hatred, malice and jealousy.
21. For a period of forty years no one will fall ill or die.
22. Venom will be taken out of all venomous animals.
23. Snakes and scorpions will not harm anyone to the extent that if a child put his hand in its mouth, he will not be harmed.

24. Wild animals will not harm anyone.
25. If a man will pass a lion, he will not be troubled or harmed, or even if any girl will open its mouth to test if it will do anything.
26. The camels will graze among lions, cheetahs with cattle and the jackals with goats.
27. The fertility of the land will increase to such an extent that even if a seed is planted in a hard rock, it will sprout.
28. A pomegranate will be so huge that a jamaat will be able to eat it and the people will use its peel as shade.
29. There will be so much barakaat (blessing) in milk that a camel will suffice for a huge jamaat, a cow for a tribe and a goat for a family.
30. In short, life will be most pleasant after the descension of Jesus (AS).

His Marriage, Death and Deputies:

After his descension on earth, Hadhrat Isa (AS) will marry. He will have children, and he will remain on earth 19 years after marriage. He will pass away and Muslims will perform his Janaza Salaat and bury him next to Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam). (Tirmidhi)

Return of Prophet Jesus (AS) (By Shaykh Ahmed Ali)

Brief History of Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him)

Due to the fact that the Jews had become deaf and blind to the words of God and deviated from the teachings of Moses and the right path, Allah honoured Jesus (Peace be upon him) with Prophethood and sent him as a messenger to the children of Israel. Bearing all hardships Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) spent all day and night conveying the message of Allah. Unfortunately, in spite of his tremendous effort the children of Israel did not respond and accept the message. Seeing that the poor and weak were becoming inclined towards him and fearing they would lose their leadership the Jews secretly tried to kill him. However Allah saved Prophet Jesus Peace be upon him from their wicked scheme and gave him greater dignity by raising him alive to the heavens.

Allah says in the Quran, "They did not kill him and nor did they crucify him but the resemblance of him (Jesus Peace be upon him) was put over another man and those who differ there in, are in doubt. They have no certain knowledge. They are following nothing but conjecture for surely they did not kill him but Allah raised him up to him." (Surah Nisa)

Allah says in the Quran "When Allah says, Jesus; I will take thee to me and I will purify thee of the unbelievers" (Surah A'li-Imran)

These verses clearly prove that the Jews did not kill Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) and that he was raised alive to the heavens. It is due to verses like those mentioned above and many authentic Ahadith we Muslims believe that Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) is alive in heaven at this moment in time. We further believe due to the following verses and authentic Ahadith that Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) will return before Qiyamah and his return is a major sign of Qiyamah.

Allah says in the Quran, "And he (son of Mary) shall be a known sign for (the coming of) the hour." (Surah Zukhruf)

Ibne Abbas has said that the meaning of this verse is that Prophet Jesus's Peace be upon him descent before Qiyamah is a sign of Qiyamah. (Ibne Abbas/ Musnad)

Allah says, "There is not a single section of the people of the book that will certainly believe in Jesus before his death and on the Day of Resurrection he will be a witness against them." (Surah Nisa) This verse clearly indicates that before the demise of Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) everyone from the people of the book will believe in him. The Jews will disappear as Jews after his demise but at the present the Jews are very much there. The conclusion is clear that the Prophet Jesus Peace be upon him has not died; if so all the Jews would have become believers, which they have not. He will return before Qiyamah and it is then that all the people of the book will believe in him.

Jabir (RA) reported that the Messenger of Allah said, "A party of my followers will not cease to fight for victory until the Day of Resurrection. He said, then Jesus, son of Mary, will come down. Their Imaam will say, "Come and lead our prayer" He will reply, "Some of you are rulers over others on account of divine honour upon these people." (Muslim)

Abu Huraira (RA) reported that the Messenger of Allah Peace and blessings be upon him said, "By the one whose hands my life is in, surely the son of Maryam (Peace upon her) will descend amongst you as a just ruler. He will destroy the cross, kill the swine and abolish the tax." (Bukhari)

Hadrat Hudaifah-b-Osaid reported: The Holy Prophet Peace and blessings be upon him suddenly came to us while we were talking. He asked, "What are you talking about?" They replied "We were talking about the last hour." Prophet (s) said, "It will never come until you see ten signs before it," He then mentioned the Smoke, the Dajjal, the Beast, the Rising of the Sun in its place of setting, the Descent of Jesus son of Mary and Yajuj and Ma'juj. (Muslim)

Prophet Jesus's (Peace be upon him) Tasks

Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) will have three main tasks, when he descends on the Earth for the second time:

- 1) The first and most important will be that he will destroy the Dajjal.
- 2) Protect the Muslims from the barbarous tribes of Yajuj and Majuj by taking them to Mount Tur and then Praying for their (Yajuj and Majuj's) destruction.
- 3) Reign as a Khalifh according to the Quran and Sunnah and elevate Islam.

Prophet Jesus's Peace be upon him descent and the killing of Dajjal

The Dajjal having failed to enter the holy city of Madinah will proceed to Syria gathering his forces on the way.

Imaam Mahdi will have arranged the Muslim army and will be on the verge of leading the Muslims in the morning prayer (Abu Umamah / Ibne-Majah) when Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) will descend to the white Minaret (Nawwas-b-Samaan/Muslim) in the east of Damascus, wearing two garments dyed with saffron, placing his hands on the wings of two angels.

All those that are present will recognise him, as he will look exactly like the description of the Prophet Peace and blessings be upon him. Resembling the Sahabi Urwa bin Masood (Abu- Huraira/ Muslim) the colour of his skin will be reddish white (Ibne Abbas/ Bukhari), he will be well built and his hair will be soft and reach his ears. When he lowers his head, beads of perspiration will fall from it and when he raises his head, beads like pearls will scatter from it. (Nawwas-b-Samaan/Muslim).

Every Kaafir who smells his sweet breath will die and his breath will reach as far as he can see. On seeing prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him). Imaam Mahdi will take a couple of steps backwards so Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) can lead the prayer however Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) will place his hands on the Imaam's shoulder and will say, "Go forward and lead the prayer as the Iqamah was made for you" thus Imaam Mahdi will lead the prayer. (Abu Umamah/ Ibne-Majah).

After the prayer Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) will say, "Open the gate". The gate will be opened and the Dajjal will be waiting behind it accompanied by an army of 70,000 Jews, each armed with a sword and shield. The Dajjal on seeing Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) among the Muslims will begin to dissolve like salt in water and will begin to flee. Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) will say to him, "You will remain alive until I strike you with my spear, "He will catch up with him at the Eastern gate of Ludd (Ludd is a mountain in Syria. Some say that it is a village in Jerusalem, and some say that it is a village in Palestine) and then Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) will kill him with a small spear.

The Muslims will thereafter defeat and wipe out Dajjal's army. The Jews will not be able to hide behind anything on that day. Every time they try to hide behind a stone, a wall, a tree (except a boxthorn tree), or animal. Allah will make these things speak and they will say, "O servant of Allah there is a Jew hiding behind me. come kill him."

The Wisdom in the Descension of Prophet Jesus Peace be upon him

The Ulama of the Ahlus - Sunnah have given many different reasons in the returning of Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) to this world or the second time. A few are listed below:

1) The Jews believe that they had killed Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him), Allah will send him before the end of time to prove that they had not killed him and that he is alive. It is he who will kill the Jews and their leader Dajjal. (Fathul - Bari)

2) Some Ulama have said that Prophet Jesus Peace be upon him found many virtues of the followers of Prophet Muhammad Peace and blessings be upon him in the bible and thus he prayed to Allah to make him amongst the Ummah of Prophet Muhammad Peace and blessings be upon him. Allah answered his prayer and he will return for the second time as one of the followers of Prophet Muhammad Peace and blessings be upon him. (Ibne-Khathir)

3) It is the Law of Allah that anything that is created from the Earth has to be buried in the Earth and not the Heavens. Thus he will return to the Earth for the second time, kill the Dajjal, live for a period of time and then he will die a natural death and will be buried with the Prophet Peace and blessings be upon him. (Ashratus-Sa'ah).

Prophet Jesus (as) and the Ya'juj Ma'juj (Gog Magog)

A short period after Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) has killed the Dajjal, the two mighty tribes of Yajuj and Ma'juj will appear, causing murder, pillage and devastation wherever they go. The emergence of Ya'juj and Ma'juj is also another major sign of Qiyamah. Through the invocation of Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) they will be destroyed. (Nawwas-b-Samaan-Muslim).

More detail regarding them follows in the next sign.

Prophet Jesus Peace be upon him as a Ruler

The Prophet Peace and blessings be upon him said, "By him whose hands my life is in, surely the son of Maryam will come down amongst you as a just ruler. He will break the cross, kill the pigs, and abolish the tax. Wealth will be in such abundance that none will care about it and a single prostration in a Prayer will be better than the world and all that is in it." (Abu Huraira/Bukhari, Muslim)

The above hadith clearly indicates that when Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) returns to the world for the second time he will not reign as a Prophet no, will he bring a new Shariah or Deen, as Islam is the last religion, the Quran is the last book to be revealed and our Prophet Muhammad Peace and blessings be upon him is the last Prophet. There is no Prophet to come after him and the Quran has made this fact very clear.

Allah says in the Qur'an, "Muhammad (Peace and blessings be upon him) is not the father of any of you but is the Messenger of Allah and the last of the Prophets (Surah-Al-Ahzaab)

When Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) returns for the second time he will reign as a Khalifah and not a Prophet, follow the Qur'an and Sunnah and rule according to it. He will break the cross the Christians worship (indicating that he will bring Christianity to an end), elevate and spread Islam through out the world.

He will also kill the pig which the Christians consider Halaal to eat (and use) and abolish the Jizya (tax). In Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) reign they will not pay this tax because he will not accept anything but Islam for the non believers and they will all believe in him. The Qur'an says, "There is not a single section of the people of the book (Jews and Christians) but will believe in him and on the Day of Resurrection he will be a witness against them." (Surah-An-Nisa)

Secondly there will be an abundance in wealth, so much so that it will flow like water and there will not remain anybody who could be given this money, thus this tax will be abolished.

Blessings at the time of Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him)

All types of spiritual and worldly blessings will descend on Earth in his time. Wealth will flow like water, everyone will be independent and have surplus wealth and property to the extent that nobody will be in the need of Zakat and Sadaqa thus receiving of Zakat and Sadaqa will be discarded.

All hearts will be free from misery, envy, malice, and jealousy. Each harmful animal will be made harmless. Camels will graze with the lions and the cheetahs with cattle. A little girl will chase a lion and make it run away from her like children chasing a puppy and this lion will not harm her.

Venom will be taken out from all venomous animals, a little boy will put his hand in a snake's mouth, but it will not harm him. The Jackal will live with the sheep and protect them as if it were a sheep dog. Peace, harmony and tranquillity will prevail in the world.

People will be in complete agreement, wars will cease, the earth will be filled with peace like a silver basin and it will sprout with vegetation like at the time of Prophet Adam Peace be upon him. The fertility of the land will increase to the extent that if a seed is planted in a rock, it will sprout. 700 mudd of wheat will sprout without ploughing the land. The earth will produce so much fruit that a large group of people will sit to eat a bunch of grapes or a pomegranate and they will be satisfied and use its peel as an umbrella. There will also be blessing in milk. The milk of a single she camel will be sufficient to satisfy the hunger of a large group of people. A cow will produce what is sufficient for a tribe of people, and a sheep will produce milk, which is sufficient for a family of people. Horses will be cheap as they will be never ridden in war and bulls will be expensive, as they will be needed to plough the land.

Life will be very pleasant and enjoyable after his descension and the Muslims will live in comfort in his reign as a Khalifah. (Nawwas-b-Sarnaan-Muslim/Abu Umamah-Ibne Majah)

Marriage

Many Ahadith specify that after his descension he will get married and have children and remain on the earth for a period of 19 years after his marriage. (Al-Fitan Nuaim bin Hammad).

Death

Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) after his return to the Earth for a second time will live for a period of time (some scholars have mentioned 40 years in the light of a hadith which can be found in Abu Daud) and thereafter will die a natural death. The Muslims will perform his Janaza (funeral prayers) and according to the hadith narrated by Abdullah bin Amr in Mishkat he will be buried next to the Holy Prophet Peace and blessings be upon him.

See also: The Prophet I'sa (Jesus) Peace be upon him Comparative Analysis from an Islamic, Christian & Qadiani (Ahmadiyya) perspective by Shaykh Rashid Ali Seth

Was Mirza Ghulam the Promised Messiah as he claimed?

Nourished by the British, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad the impostor from Qadiyan (Northern India) made many ridiculous claims in his lifetime. Besides claiming to be a Prophet and revivalist he also claimed to be the Mahdi and the Promised Messiah though he was nothing but a liar. Thus it was thought necessary to include a short summary which will act as a comparison between Mirza Ghulam and the real Messiah so that no Muslim is misled into believing him.

Mirza Ghulam and the True Messiah

We learn from the Hadith of Nawwas bin Sam'an (RA), which can be found in Muslim and from the Hadith of Abu Umamah Al-Bahilee (RA) which can be found in Ibne Maja the following regarding the Promised Messiah: -

- 1) The Promised Messiah's name is Jesus and his mother's name was Maryam Peace upon her.
- 2) The Mahdi and the Dajjal will already have appeared before his descension.
- 3) He will descend from the heavens to the white minaret in the east of Damascus wearing two garments slightly dyed with Saffron and his hands will be placed on the wings of two angels.
- 4) Every Kaafir who smells his breath will die and his breath will reach as far as he can see.
- 5) He will kill the Dajjal at the Eastern gate of Ludd.
- 6) The barbarous tribes of Yajuj and Ma'juj will appear in his time and the promised Messiah will take the believers to Mount Tur for their protection.
- 7) He will elevate Islam by breaking the cross, bringing an end to Christianity.
- 8) The Jews and Christians will believe in him before his death.
- 9) He will kill the pig that the Christians consider halal to eat and the non- muslims will not have to pay tax.
- 10) Wars will cease in his time, as everybody will be in complete agreement with one another.
- 11) There will be so much wealth that the receiving of Sadaqa will be discarded as everybody will have enough wealth of his own.
- 12) In his time all harmful animals will be made harmless and the venom will be taken out of all venomous animals. A child will put his hand in a snake's mouth and it will not harm him, a little girl will be able to chase a lion away and it will not harm her.
- 13) The earth will sprout with vegetation and will produce fruit in such abundance that a large group of people will gather to eat a bunch of grapes or a pomegranate and it will suffice them.
- 14) From the hadith of Abu Harith in Muslim we learn that the Promised Messiah will perform Hajj and Umrah from a place called Rawha.
- 15) From the Hadith of Abdullah bin Amr we learn that he will be buried next to the Holy Prophet Peace and blessings be upon him.

Mirza Ghulam fulfilled NONE of the above conditions. His name was Ghulam Ahmad and not Jesus; he was the son of Chiragh and not Maryam. The Mahdi and the Dajjal did not appear before him and thus there was no question about him killing the Dajjal. He did not descend from the heavens and nor did any Kaafir die from his breath. The tribes of Ya'juj and Ma'juj did not appear in his time nor did the Jews and Christians believe in him before his death. He did not elevate Islam but insulted it by claiming to be the Mahdi, the Messiah, and a Prophet. He did not kill the pig but enjoyed eating it. Wars did not cease in his time as the Muslims were fighting with the British in India. The receiving of Sadaqa was not discarded nor was the venom taken out of venomous animals in his time. He never performed Hajj or Umrah and he died in a toilet. I am sure by now you have easily come to the conclusion that Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was not the Promised Messiah but an impostor and a liar, who's aim and purpose in life was to keep the British content.

Ya'juj Ma'juj (Gog and Magog)

The emergence of the mighty tribes of Ya'juj and Ma'juj is also a major sign of Qiyamah.

Allah says in the Qur'an, "When Ya'juj and Ma'juj are let loose (from their Barrier) and they swiftly swarm from every mound" (Surah Al-Anbiya)

Allah says in the Qur'an, " (Zulqarnain) said, 'This is a mercy from my Lord, but when the promise of my Lord comes, He shall level it down (the barrier) to the ground. And the promise of my Lord is ever true.'" (Surah Al-Kahf)

Zainab-b-Zahash says: "Once the Prophet Peace and blessings be upon him awoke from such a sleep that his face was red and these words were on his tongue, "There is none worthy of worship but Allah. Destruction is upon the Arabs on account of that evil which has come close to them. Today a hole as big as this has opened in the wall of Yajuj and Ma'juj. (The Prophet Peace and blessings be upon him indicated the size of the hole with his finger and thumb)" (Bukhari/Muslim)

In the lengthy Hadith of Nawwas-b-Saman it has been mentioned, "And Allah will send Yajuj and Ma'juj and they will come from every lofty place." (Muslim)