

MARY AND JESUS IN THE QUR'AN

A Selection of verses from the Qur'an

By Vivienne Stacey

The verses are quoted from A. J. Arberry's translation of the Arabic, entitled "The Koran Interpreted". For your convenience the verses are here grouped according to content, and no longer follow the sequence in which they stand in the Qur'an.

1 THE BIRTH AND LIFE OF MARY

Sura 3. "The House of Imran". v.30-32

- 30: God chose Adam and Noah, and the House of Abraham and the House of Imran, above all things, the seed... one another; God hears, and knows.
- 31: When the wife of Imran said, "Lord, I have vowed to Thee, in dedication, what is in my womb. Receive Thou this from me; Thou hearest and knowest". And when she gave birth to her she said, "Lord, I have given birth to her, a female". (And God knew very well that she had given birth to: the male is not as the female). "And I have named her Mary, and I commend her to Thee with her seed, to protect them from the accursed Satan".
- 32: Her Lord received the child with gracious favour, and by His goodness she grew up comely, Zachariah taking charge of her. Whenever Zachariah went in to her in the Sanctuary he found her provisioned. "Mary", he said, "how comes this to thee?" "From God", she said. Truly God provisions whomsoever He wills without reckoning.

2 THE ANNUNCIATION

2.1 Sura 3. v. 37-43. omitting v.39

- 37: And when the angels said, "Mary, God has chosen thee, and purified thee; He has chosen thee above all women.
- 38: Mary, be obedient to thy Lord, prostrating and bowing before Him".
- 40: When the angels said, "Mary, God gives thee good tidings of a Word from Himself, whose name is Messiah, Jesus, Son of Mary; high honoured shall he be in this world and the next, near stationed to God.
- 41: He shall speak to men in the cradle, and of age, and righteous shall he be".
- 42: "Lord," said Mary, "how shall I have a son, seeing no mortal has touched me?" "Even so", God said, "God creates what He wills. When He decrees a thing He does but say to it 'Be', and it is."
- 43: And He will teach him the Book, the Wisdom, the Torah, the Gospel, to be a Messenger to the Children of Israel...

2.2 Sura 19, "Mary". v.16-22

- 16: And mention in the Book Mary, when she withdrew from her people to an eastern place, and she took the veil apart from them;
- 17: Then we sent unto her Our Spirit, that presented himself to her a man without fault.

18: She said, "I take refuge in the All-merciful from Thee, if thou fearest God..."

19: He said, "I am but a messenger come from thy Lord, to give thee a boy most pure".

20: She said, "How shall I have a son, whom no mortal has touched, neither have I been unchaste?"

21: He said, "Even so thy Lord said: 'Easy is that for Me; and that We may appoint him a sign unto men and a mercy from us: it is a thing decreed.'"

22: So she conceived him, and withdrew with him to a distant place.

3 THE BIRTH OF JESUS

3.1 Sura 19 v, 23-35

23: And the birthpangs surprised her by the trunk of the palmtree. She said, "Would I had died ere this, and become a thing forgotten".

24: But the one that was below her called to her, "Nay, do not sorrow! See, Thy Lord has set below thee a rivulet.

25: Shake also to thee the palm trunk, and there shall come tumbling upon three dates fresh and ripe.

26: Eat thereof, and drink, and be comforted; and if thou shouldst see any mortal, say,

27: "I have vowed to the All-merciful a fast, and today I will not speak to any man.

28: Then she brought the child to her folk, carrying him; and they said, "Mary, thou hast surely committed a monstrous thing.

29: Sister of Aaron, thy father was not a wicked man, nor was my mother a woman unchaste".

30: Mary pointed then to the child; but they said, "How shall we speak to one who is still in the cradle, a little child?"

31: He said, "Lo, I am God's servant; God has given me the Book, and made me a Prophet.

32: Blessed has He made me, wherever I may be; and He has enjoined me to pray, and to give alms, so long as I live.

33: and likewise to cherish my mother; He has not made me arrogant, unprosperous.

34: Peace be upon me, the day I was born, and the day that I die, and the day I am raised up alive".

35: That is Jesus, Son of Mary, in word of truth, concerning which they are doubting.

3.2 Sura 23, "The Believers". v.52

52: And we made Mary's son and his mother to be a sign, and gave them refuge upon a height, where was a hollow, or a "security" and a spring.

4 THE MISSION OF JESUS

4.1 Sura 57, "Iron", v. 26-27

26: And we sent Noah and Abraham, and We appointed the Prophecy and the book to be among their seeds and some of them are guided, and many of them are ungodly.

27: Then we sent, following in their footsteps, Our Messengers; and We sent, following, Jesus, Son of Mary, and gave unto him the Gospel.

4.2 Sura 5, "The Table", v.50-51

50: And we sent, following in their footsteps, Jesus Son of Mary, confirming the Torah before him: and We gave him the Gospel, wherein is guidance and an admonition unto the godfearing.

51: So let the People of the Gospel judge according to what God has sent down therein. Whosoever judges not according to what God has sent down, they are the ungodly.

4.3 Sura 3, "The House of Imran", v.43-44

43: "I have come to you with a sign from your Lord.

44: confirming the truth of the Torah that is before me, and to make lawful to you certain things that before were forbidden unto you. I have come to you with a sign from your Lord; so fear you God, and obey you me. Surely God is my Lord and your Lord; so serve Him. This is a straight path.

81: And we gave to Moses the Book, and after him We sent succeeding Messengers and We gave to Jesus, Son of Mary, the clear signs, and confirmed him with the Holy Spirit

254: And we gave Jesus, Son of Mary, the clear signs, and confirmed him with the Holy Spirit.

4.4 Sura 43, "Ornaments", v.63-64

63: And when Jesus came with the clear signs, he said, "I have come to you with wisdom, and that I may make clear to you some of that whereon you are at variance; so fear you God, and obey you me.

64: Assuredly, God is my Lord and your Lord; therefore serve Him; this is a straight path".

4.5 Sura 61, "The Ranks", v.6

6: And when Jesus, Son of Mary, said: "Children of Israel, I am indeed the Messenger of God to you, confirming the Torah that is before me, and giving good tidings of a Messenger who shall come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad."

4.6 Sura 43, "Ornaments", v.61

61: He (Jesus)* is a sign ** of Hour (i.e. last Judgement); doubt not concerning it, but follow. This is a straight path".

* Arberry translates "I"

** Arberry translates "knowledge"

4.7 Sura 4, "Women", v.157

157: There is not one of the People of the Book but will assuredly believe in him (i.e. Jesus) before his death, and on the Resurrection Day he will be a witness against them.

5 THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

5.1 Sura 3. "The House of Imran", v.43-44

43: I Have come to you with a sign from your Lord. I will create for you out of clay as the likeness of a bird; then I will breathe into it, and it will be a bird, by leave of God. I will also heal the blind and the leper, and bring to life the dead, by the leave of God. I will inform you too of what things you eat, and what you treasure up in your houses. Surely in that is a sign for you, if you are believers".

5.2 Sura 5. "The table". v.109-110

109: When God said, "Jesus, Son of Mary, remember My blessings upon thee and upon thy mother when I confirmed thee with the Holy Spirit, to speak to men in the cradle, and of age; and when I taught thee the Book, the wisdom, the Torah of the Gospel; and when thou createst out of clay, by My leave as the likeness of a bird, and thou breathest into it, and it is a bird, by My leave; and thou healest the blind and the leper, by my leave, and thou bringest forth the dead, by My leave."

5.3 Sura 5. v. 112-115

- 112: And when the Apostles said, “O Jesus, Son of Mary, is thy Lord able to send down to us a table out of heaven?” He said, “Fear you God, if you are believers”.
- 113: They said, “We desire that we should eat of it and our hearts be at rest; and that we may know that thou has spoken true to us, and that we may be among its witnesses”.
- 114: Said Jesus, Son of Mary, “O God, our Lord, send down upon us a table out of heaven, that shall be for us a festival, the first and the last of us, and a sign from thee. And provide for us; Thou art the best of providers”.
- 115: God said, “Verily I do send it down to you; whose of you hereafter disbelievers, verily I shall chastise him with a chastisement wherewith I chastise no other being”.

6 THE DEATH OF JESUS

6.1 Sura 19, “Mary”, v. 34

- 34: “Peace be upon me, the day I was born, and the day I die, and the day I am raised up alive”.

6.2 Sura 4. “Women”, v.157

- 157: There is not one of the People of the Book but will assuredly believe in him before his death, and on the Resurrection Day he will be a witness against them.

6.3 Sura 4, 155-156

- 155: And for their unbelief (i.e. the Jews). And their uttering against Mary a mighty calumny, and for their saying:
- 156: “We slew the Messiah, Jesus the Son of Mary, the Messenger of God”- yet they did not slay him, neither did they crucify

him, but only a likeness of that was shown to them. * Those who are at variance concerning him surely are in doubt regarding him; they have no knowledge of him except the following of surmise, and they slew him not of a certainty – no indeed; God raised him up to Him; God is All-mighty, All-wise.”

*Variant translations of this difficult Arabic phrase are: -

- Only a likeness of him was shown to them
- The matter was rendered obscure to them.

6.4 Sura 3, “The House of Imran”. v.48-49

- 48: When God said, “Jesus, I will take thee to me, and will raise thee to Me, and I will purify thee of those who believe not. I will set thy followers above the unbelievers till the Resurrection Day. Then unto Me shall you all return, and I will decide between you, as to what you were at variance upon.
- 49: As for the unbelievers, I will chastise them with a terrible chastisement in this world and the next; they shall have no helpers.

6.5 Sura 5, “The Table”, v.117-118

- 117: And I (i.e. Jesus) was a witness over them while I remained among them; but when Thou didst take me to Thyself, Thou wast Thyself the watcher over them; Thou Thyself art witness of everything.
- 118: If Thou chastisest them, they are Thy servants; if Thou forgivest them, Thou art the All-merciful, the All-wise”.

7 THE RELATIONSHIP OF JESUS TO GOD

7.1 Sura 43, “Ornaments”, v.57-59

57: And when the Son of Mary is cited as an example, behold, thy people turn away from it and say,

58: “What, are our gods better, or he?” They cite not him to thee, save to dispute, nay, but they are a contentious people.

59: He is only a servant We blessed, and We made him to be an example to the Children of Israel.

7.2 Sura 3, “The House of Imran”, v.52

52: Truly, the likeness of Jesus in God’s sight is as the likeness of Adam; He created him of dust, then said unto him “Be”, and he was.

7.3 Sura 19, “Mary”, v.35-36

35: That is Jesus, Son of Mary, in word of truth, concerning which they are doubting.

36: It is not for God to take a son unto Himself. Glory be to Him. When He decrees a thing, He but says to it “Be”, and it is.

7.4 Sura 9, “Repentance”, v.30

30: The Jews say, “Ezra is the Son of God”, the Christians say, “The Messiah is the Son of God”. That is the utterance of their mouths, conforming with the unbelievers before them. How they are perverted!

7.5 Sura 5, “The Table”, v.19

19: They are unbelievers who say, “God is the Messiah, Mary’s Son! Say: Who then shall overrule God in any way if He desires to destroy the Messiah, Mary’s son, and his mother, and all those who are on earth?”

7.6 Sura 4, “Women”, v.169-170

169: People of the Book, go not beyond the bounds in your religion, and say not as to God but the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, Son of Mary, was only the Messenger of God, and His word that He committed to Mary, and a Spirit from Him. So believe in God and in His messengers, and say not “Three”. Refrain, better is it for you. God is only one God. Glory be to Him – that He should have a son!★ To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and in the earth; God suffices for a guardian.

170: The Messiah will not disdain to be a servant of God, neither the angels who are near stationed to Him.

★“Far exalted is He above having a son”- Ali translation.

7.7 Sura 5, “The Table”, v. 76-79

76: They are unbelievers who say, “God is the Messiah, Mary’s son”. For the Messiah said, “Children of Israel, Serve God, my Lord and your Lord. Verily whosoever associates with God anything, God shall prohibit him entrance to Paradise, and his refuge shall be the Fire; and wrongdoers shall have no helpers”.

77: They are unbelievers who say, “God is the Third of Three”. NO God is there but one God. If they refrain not from what they say, there shall afflict those of them that disbelieve a painful chastisement.

78: Will they not turn to God and pray His forgiveness? God is All-forgiving, All-compassionate.

79: The Messiah, Son of Mary, was only a Messenger; Messengers before him passed away; his mother was just a woman; they

both ate food. Behold, how We make clear the signs to them; then behold, how they are perverted!

7.8 Sura 5, v.116-117

116: And when God said, "Oh Jesus, Son of Mary, didst thou say unto men, 'Take me and my mother as gods, apart from God?' He said, "To Thee be glory! It is not mine to

say what I have no right to. If I needed said it, Thou knowest it, knowing what is within my soul, and I know not what is within Thy soul, Thou knowest the things unseen.

117: I only said to them what Thou didst command me: "Serve God, my Lord and Your Lord".