

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

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The first and the last Jesus: The truth

There is a book titled The Third Jesus by Deepak Chopra. According to some critiques, it is a sensitive treatment of Jesus from one outside the Christian and Western traditions, and it helps to move religion itself out of its tribal past and into what must surely be a universal future. Below are some excerpts that one can find on the internet regarding this book.

In The Third Jesus, Chopra tries to provide an answer to the question of who Jesus is. There is not one Jesus, he writes, but three.

First, there is the historical Jesus, the man who lived more than two thousand years ago and whose teachings are the foundation of Christian theology and thought. Next there is Jesus the Son of God, who has come to embody an institutional religion with specific dogma, a priesthood, and devout believers. And finally, there is the third Jesus, the cosmic Christ, the spiritual guide whose teaching embraces all humanity, not just the church built in his name. He speaks to the individual who wants to find God as a personal experience, to attain what some might call grace, or God-consciousness, or enlightenment.

When we take Jesus literally, we are faced with the impossible. How can we

truly "love thy neighbor as thyself"? But when we see the exhortations of Jesus as invitations to join him on a higher spiritual plane, his words suddenly make sense.

Ultimately, Chopra argues, Christianity needs to overcome its tendency to be exclusionary and refocus on being a religion of personal insight and spiritual growth. In this way Jesus can be seen for the universal teacher he truly is—someone whose teachings of compassion, tolerance, and understanding can embrace and be embraced by all of us.

It sounds good, but what about the truth about Jesus, his teachings, his mission and his identity? We will refer to God's revelations in the Quran, the Final Testament for clarification because there is no conjecture in it. The Quran contains nothing but God's words, as we now have the physical proof in the form of its mathematical structure to prove it. Therefore, when God relates to us the history of the messengers, we know that it is the truth. When God talks about Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus or Muhammad, it is the truth. Thus the Quran is the dispute resolver.

[16:64] *We have revealed this scripture to you, to point out for them what*

they dispute, and to provide guidance and mercy for people who believe.

Although the previous scriptures of God contain the truth, inevitably one has to sift through the confusing and conflicting elements to get it. So, if there is any discrepancy in the message because of human injection or any dispute on specific matters, the Quran is the ultimate reference.

[5:48] *Then we revealed to you this scripture, truthfully, confirming previous scriptures, and superseding them. You shall rule among them in accordance with GOD's revelations, and do not follow their wishes if they differ from the truth that came to you. For each of you, we have decreed laws and different rites. Had GOD willed, He could have made you one congregation. But He thus puts you to the test through the revelations He has given each of you. You shall compete in righteousness. To GOD is your final destiny - all of you - then He will inform you of everything you had disputed.*

(Continued on page 2)

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The Truth

When God says in the Quran that Jesus was born to Mary without a father, then that is the truth. When He says that Jesus is not His only begotten son but His servant, like every other messenger, then there is nothing to argue about.

[19:34-7] *That was Jesus, the son of Mary, and this is the truth of this matter, about which they continue to doubt. It does not befit GOD that He begets a son, be He glorified. To have anything done, He simply says to it, "Be," and it is. He also proclaimed, "GOD is my Lord and your Lord; you shall worship Him alone. This is the right path." The various parties disputed among themselves (regarding the identity of Jesus). Therefore, woe to those who disbelieve from the sight of a terrible day.*

Note that Jesus preached to worship God alone, which is something all messengers of God did. He performed miracles as part of the proofs for his messengership, but he attributed them all to God.

[3:49] *As a messenger to the Children of Israel: "I come to you with a sign from your Lord - I create for you from clay the shape of a bird, then I blow into it, and it becomes a live bird by GOD's leave. I restore vision to the blind, heal the leprous, and I revive the dead by GOD's leave. I can tell you what you eat, and what you store in your homes. This should be a proof for you, if you are believers.*

He was the Word of God. He spoke as an infant. It is still unbelievable for some, but it was the truth then, it is the truth now. Once we know the scripture is from God, all miracles come alive.

[3:45-6] *The angels said, "O Mary, GOD gives you good news: a Word from Him whose name is 'The Mes-*

siah, Jesus the son of Mary.' He will be prominent in this life and in the Hereafter, and one of those closest to Me. He will speak to the people from the crib, as well as an adult; he will be one of the righteous."

[5:110] *GOD will say, "O Jesus, son of Mary, remember My blessings upon you and your mother. I supported you with the Holy Spirit, to enable you to speak to the people from the crib, as well as an adult. I taught you the scripture, wisdom, the Torah, and the Gospel. Recall that you created from clay the shape of a bird by My leave, then blew into it, and it became a live bird by My leave. You healed the blind and the leprous by My leave, and revived the dead by My leave. Recall that I protected you from the Children of Israel who wanted to hurt you, despite the profound miracles you had shown them. The disbelievers among them said, 'This is obviously magic.'*

There was no magic about what Jesus performed. He did what his Lord, God Almighty asked him or allowed him to do. He delivered God's message that He alone is the Lord. He never asked people to idolize himself and put him next to God.

[5:116] *GOD will say, "O Jesus, son of Mary, did you say to the people, 'Make me and my mother idols beside GOD?' "He will say, "Be You glorified. I could not utter what was not right. Had I said it, You already would have known it. You know my thoughts, and I do not know Your thoughts. You know all the secrets.*

Did Jesus die for our sins? The answer is no. There is no easy way to get out of our responsibilities. That is completely wishful thinking. God tells us that no soul can bear the sins of another soul (53:38). Every human being is responsible for his own works (53:39). The messengers do not have the power of intercession and they themselves are worried about their own necks.

[21:28] *He knows their future and their past. They do not intercede, except for those already accepted by Him, and they are worried about their own necks.*

Termination of Jesus' Life

How about the cross? Did they crucify Jesus? The answer is in the Quran. Yes, they put the body of Jesus on the cross, but not until after God raised his soul to Him, thus ridding him of the disbelievers.

[4:157] *And for claiming that they killed the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, the messenger of GOD. In fact, they never killed him, they never crucified him - they were made to think that they did. All factions who are disputing in this matter are full of doubt concerning this issue. They possess no knowledge; they only conjecture. For certain, they never killed him.*

[4:158] *Instead, GOD raised him to Him; GOD is Almighty, Most Wise.*

[3:55] *Thus, GOD said, "O Jesus, I am terminating your life, raising you to Me, and ridding you of the disbelievers. I will exalt those who follow you above those who disbelieve, till the Day of Resurrection. Then to Me is the ultimate destiny of all of you, then I will judge among you regarding your disputes.*

This is the truth about Jesus narrated in the Quran by God. It is the first and the last Jesus. The true Jesus.

[18:29] *Proclaim: "This is the truth from your Lord," then whoever wills let him believe, and whoever wills let him disbelieve...*

Thank God for giving us the truth and the absolute freedom in deciding what to do with it.

Peace

Abdullah

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Comments from a Submitter

Salamun alaykum,

Just like to say, thank you very much for all the effort you add to the site, newsletters, Friday sermons... it's a blessing—God is the Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

God willing may many more people seek, understand and correct themselves towards the righteous path—seeking, asking God for guidance and then to continue to stay on the path that has been shown.

May God watch over us all, bring further unity, strive in the best manner through the tests we are given. May we continue to praise God alone, trust in God in His great wisdom.

I hope those submitters/people in need, their circumstances improve for the better inshallah (God willing)—my prayers with you all.

Inshallah may a time come where I can do more than just give you my prayers/support.

Peace to all. God bless.

Azur

[Ed.'s note: Thank you and God bless you for your encouragement, support and prayers.]