



## **THE TRUE GOD FIRST LOVED US AND IS JUST JESUS RECONCILED US BACK TO GOD**

Various views about God exist in our culture, but if there is one belief that people hold in common across religious lines, it is that “God is love.” This would not be a problem if the belief that God is love were defined by biblical content, for Scripture does indeed reveal that God is a loving God. Not only is the true God loving, God first loved us while we were still sinners. In Romans 5, the Bible clearly says: *“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* The spirit claiming to be “God” in Islam has a much different outlook. Salvation in Islam is an uncertain concept and unobtainable.

### **Romans 5:6-8 (NIV)**

**You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

### **1 John 4:19 (NIV)**

**We love because he first loved us.**

### **Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV)**

**The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.”**

Can God love us while we were still undeserving sinners and be just at the same time? God does not need to change, make concessions, or find some middle ground of cooperation with us. We are the ones that need changing. For many people, the idea that God is love means that our Creator overlooks or somehow ignores our sin.

Is the forgiveness from God unconditional, demanding no payment for our transgressions? If God is just, God cannot simply overlook sin, and there is a condition that must be met if we are to be forgiven. For while Scripture talks often about the love of God, it is just as emphatic that God is just.

### **Deuteronomy 32:3-4 (NIV)**

**I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He.**

## **GOD'S ATONING SACRIFICE SHOWS HE IS JUST AND LOVING AT THE SAME TIME**

The Lord who is revealed in the pages of the Bible does not allow sin to go unpunished. He does not *"leave the guilty unpunished."* God does not simply wipe the slate clean when He forgives a person. His forgiveness is costly; the only question is who will pay the cost.

### **Isaiah 5:16 (NIV)**

**But the Lord Almighty will be exalted by his justice, and the holy God will be proved holy by his righteous acts.**

### **Numbers 14:18 (NIV)**

**The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.**

At the same time, the Apostle Peter tells us the true God also tells us that He is merciful, *"not wanting anyone to perish."* He wants to justify His people, to declare them righteous so that they can live forever. And yet He must do so in a manner that preserves His justice.

### **2 Peter 3:8-9 (NIV)**

**But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

The word "atonement" in the Bible is often translated as "reconciliation." It can also be thought as a payment or reparation to make up for an offense. In other words, atonement allows us to move past our sins and back to God. But it can never be done by works. Good works cannot overcome sin. Even one sin is one too many and causes us to fall short of the glory and holiness of God.

### **Romans 3:23 (NASB)**

**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**

Thankfully God gave us a solution! He gave us his own Son. In his death on the cross, Christ atoned for the sins of humanity such that God is satisfied, and reconciliation is accomplished for all who will be redeemed. The atonement of Jesus Christ is the sacrificial work of Jesus for sinners. The obedience and death of Christ on behalf of sinners is the ground of redemption.

**The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." Matthew 28: 5-6 (NIV)**



**Isaiah 53:4-6 (NIV)**

**Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

Jesus Christ is both the subject and fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. In the events that unfolded during His trial, crucifixion, and resurrection, Jesus was the Suffering Servant on our behalf. Though innocent of all sin, Jesus stood in our place to take our punishment, shedding His blood to atone for us. *"He entered the most holy place once for all, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption"* (Hebrews 9:12). *"By the sacrifice of Himself"* (Hebrews 9:26) Jesus satisfied God's wrath against sin.

That atonement finds its culmination in Jesus Christ is put beyond question by John the Baptist who, seeing Jesus, proclaimed, *"Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* (John 1:29).

## **SALVATION IN ISLAM IS UNCERTAIN AND NONEXISTENT**

### **ALLAH REQUIRES YOU TO FIRST LOVE HIM**

The spirit that revealed the Qur'an to Mohammad has a much different view on mercy, love and salvation. The Bible says the true God first loved us while we were still sinners. The Qur'an is much different. In Islam, Allah only loves those who first love him and obey the prophet Mohammad.

Qur'an 2:276

Allah does not love any sinful ingrate.

Qur'an 3:31

Mohammad Say, "If you love Allah, then follow me, and Allah will love you, and will forgive you your sins."

Qur'an 30:45

So that Allah may reward those who have believed and done the righteous deeds out of His bounty. Indeed, Allah does not love the ungrateful.

The Qur'an also states that Allah will only be merciful to those who first obey him.

Qur'an 3:142

And obey Allah and Mohammad, that you may obtain mercy.

Qur'an 9:71

They perform regular prayers, and practice regular charity, and obey Allah and His Messenger Mohammad. These—Allah will have mercy on them.

### **SAYING "JESUS IS GOD" IS THE ONE SIN ALLAH WILL NOT FORGIVE**

There is one sin which Allah will never forgive. That is the sin of "shirk", which is the sin of associating another with Allah. No one guilty of shirk, will enter heaven, but will be cast into the hellfire. By definition, a Christian who believes that Jesus is the Son of God and worships the Triune God is guilty of shirk. In the Qur'an, Allah wants to be left alone!

Qur'an 5:72

They disbelieve those who say, "Allah is Jesus the Messiah, the son of Mary." But Jesus himself said, "O Children of Israel, worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." Whoever associates others with Allah, Allah has forbidden him Paradise, and his dwelling is the Fire. The wrongdoers have no saviors.

## THE QUR'AN FOCUSES ON PAINFUL HELL; THE BIBLE ON GOD LOVING HIS CHILDREN

Next to the doctrine of monotheism and denying Jesus is the Son of God, the doctrine of hell and punishment receives more attention than any other doctrine in the Qur'an—maybe even more than monotheism. The Qur'an is unbalanced in its almost constant emphasis on fire, torment, and eternal punishment. In contrast Jesus said: ***“Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.”*** (Revelation 21:7)

The Qur'an contains 114 surahs, or chapters, and the word “hell” occurs 102 times in 54 surahs (47%). The word “fire” is often used in place of hell, or combined to the word “hellfire.” “Fire” occurs 161 times in 65 surahs (57%). “Punish/punishment” occurs 115 times in 43 surahs (37%). “Doom” occurs 215 times in 62 surahs (54%), and “painful” is used 68 times in 48 surah (42%). This means that the Qur'an refers to hell, fire, doom, pain and punishment in 92 of its 114 surahs—which is 80 percent of the Qur'an!

Word	Usage	Surah	Total Surah	Percent of Surah
"Hell"	102	54	114	47.4%
"Fire"	161	65	114	57.0%
"Punish"	115	43	114	37.7%
"Painful"	68	48	114	42.1%
"Doom"	215	62	114	54.4%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>661</b>			

Example of the constant emphasis by Allah on painful punishment are shown below:

Qur'an 4:18

But repentance is not available for those who commit evils, until when death approaches one of them, he says, “Now I repent,” nor for those who die as disbelievers. These—We have prepared for them a painful torment.

Qur'an 16:104

Those who do not believe in Allah's revelations—Allah will not guide them, and for them is a painful punishment.

Qur'an 77:31

Allah admits into His mercy whomever He wills. But as for the wrongdoers, Allah has prepared for them a painful punishment.

In sharp contrast, the New Testament—which approximates the Qur’an in length—uses the word “hell” (gehenna) only 12 times (Matthew 5:22,29,30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15,33; Mark 9:43,45,47; Luke 12:5; James 3:6). While the Bible certainly emphasizes the certainty and inevitability of eternal punishment, it places the subject in proper perspective and provides a divinely balanced treatment.

The Qur’an, on the other hand, is thoroughly preoccupied with incessant threats from Allah of punishment ad infinitum. Its inordinate fixation on hell, fire, torment, and punishment is another proof of its demonic origin.

Comforting words such as “reconcile”, “sacrifice”, “love”, “mercy” and “paradise” are used sparingly in the Qur’an. The most common are “love” (22% of surah) and “mercy” (40% of surah). However, love and mercy from Allah are always conditional and to receive these you must first love and obey Allah. Even then Allah’s actions are uncertain and unpredictable.

Word	Usage	Surah	Total Surah	Percent of Surah
"Reconcile"	5	3	114	2.6%
"Sacrifice"	2	2	114	1.8%
"Love"	55	25	114	21.9%
"Mercy"	135	45	114	39.5%
"Paradise"	35	21	114	18.4%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>232</b>			

The Qur’an verses below show Allah’s mercy is conditional on first having righteous deeds and belief in the Shahada. The Qur’an 3:74 also says Allah gives mercy to “whomever He wills”. Allah gives salvation in an unpredictable and capricious way.

Qur’an 46:30

As for those who believed and did righteous deeds, their Lord will admit them into His mercy. That is the clear triumph.

Qur’an 7:52

We have given them a Scripture, which We detailed with knowledge—guidance and mercy for people who believe.

Qur’an 3:74

Allah specifies His mercy for whomever He wills. Allah is Possessor of Sublime Grace.

## **IN ISLAM SALVATION IS BY WORKS, OR THE SHAHADA, OR ALLAH'S WHIM ?**

Salvation in Islam might come from 1) works, 2) saying the Shahada (*"There is no God but Allah, and Mohammad is his messenger"*), the mark of the beast, or 3) Allah's whim, or 4) none of the above!

The most common illustration of this is scales or a balance on the day of judgment. The person who is heavy in good works will be saved; the person without enough good works will be damned to hellfire.

Qur'an 7:8-9

The scales on that Day will be just. Those whose weights are heavy—it is they who are the winners. But as for those whose weights are light—it is they who have lost their souls, because they used to mistreat our revelations.

A different Qur'an verse says that belief (saying the Shahada) is also needed.

Qur'an 32:19

As for those who believe [the Shahada] and do righteous deeds, for them are the Gardens of Shelter—hospitality for what they used to do.

Yet a third verse indicates Allah is whimsical and may or may not save you

Qur'an 5:18

In fact, you are humans from among those He created. Allah forgives whom He wills, and He punishes whom He wills. To Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth and what lies between them, and to Him is the return.

If you are killed in combat for Allah, he will save you.

Qur'an 61:4

Allah loves those who fight in His cause, in ranks, as though they were a compact structure.

Qur'an 9:111

Indeed, Allah has purchased from the believers their lives and their properties in exchange for that they will have Paradise. They fight in the cause of Allah, so they kill and are killed.

Thus in Islam, no person has a guarantee of salvation. A key Hadith that addresses the issue is the following: Sahih Bukhari 8:76:470: Allah's Apostle (Mohammad) said, "The deeds of anyone of you will not save you from the hellfire." The Muslims asked, "Even you will not be saved by your deeds, O Allah's Apostle?"

Mohammad said, "No, even I will not be saved unless and until Allah bestows His mercy on me. Therefore, do good deeds properly, sincerely and moderately, and worship Allah in the forenoon and in the afternoon and during a part of the night, and always adopt a middle, moderate, regular course whereby you will reach your target."

### **IN ISLAM ALL MUSLIMS WILL FIRST ENTER THE HELLFIRE**

Islamic Hadith and the Qur'an assert that a host of Muslims will end up in hell, and even experience torment while there, even though they genuinely believed that there is no god besides Mohammad's spirit deity. How long the faithful Muslim will wait in hell is not specified. The Qur'an indicates it is Allah goal to fill hell with humans and angels ("jinn").

Qur'an 19:71

It is the inevitable decree of your Lord that every one of you will be taken to hell.

Qur'an 11:119

Except those on whom your Lord has mercy—for that reason He created them. The Word of your Lord is final: "I will fill Hell with jinn and humans, altogether."

### **DO NOT BELIEVE THE QUR'AN—INSTEAD TRUST ONLY IN THE BIBLE**

God wants to save you. This is only through the sacrifice of Jesus. There is no other way!

**1 John 2:2 (NASB)**

**and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.**

**Galatians 3:13 (NASB)**

**Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us--for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"--**

**Isaiah 53:5-6 (NASB)**

**But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.**

**Mark 10:45 (NASB)**

**"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."**