

Injil - Summary of the Good News

The word 'Injil' means 'Good News'. To understand the message of the Injil, it needs to be looked at in the context of the previous books.

The Torah, Zabur and Injil are Scriptures from God, mentioned in the Quran.¹ They describe the word 'sin' as being much more than simply doing wrong things by mistake. It is thinking wrongly, caused by a rebellious attitude of disbelief at the heart of everyone's being.²

From God's perspective sin is serious, because He is absolutely Holy, totally separated from anything bad. Every human being is guilty and deserves judgement.³ But God loves us and showed one unique way for mankind how to deal with it. The principles of God's way are first reflected and later clearly taught in the following, well known stories found in the Quran and the previous books :

Adam and Eve (Adama and Hawa)

When Adam and Eve sinned and discovered they were naked, a horrible shame and fear entered into their lives. Shame only comes as a result of sin. Where there is no actual, consciously committed sin there is no shame, hence small children do not mind being naked.

Adam and Eve covered their nakedness with leaves. This attempt to DO something about their shame and fear caused by sin was not enough from God's perspective.⁴ He gave them garments of animal skin, pointing to the first sacrifice that deals with the devastating result of sin.⁵

In the Quran too God gives them 'clothing to cover their nakedness'.⁶ Adam and Eve were originally clothed by God with a garment of 'honour and innocence'.⁷ Therefore it is logical that the perfect restoration of their honour after they sinned comes from God too.

Cain and Abel (Habil and Kabil)

God accepted the animal sacrifice of Abel because he did what was right.⁸ He rejected the sacrifice of crop made by Cain.⁹ Abel's righteous act consisted of bringing the animal sacrifice to God by faith. In doing so, unlike Cain, Abel thankfully remembered how God provided a garment of skin to cover man's shame.¹⁰ That is why the sacrifice of crop made by Cain was rejected as an unrighteous deed.¹¹

¹ Surah Al-Ma'ida 5:51 (48)

² Torah, Jeremiah 3:3,5, 31:19, Genesis 20:6, 39:9, Psalm 51:4 Injil, 1 John 3:4 Romans 4:15, 6:12, 13, 7:5, 26. Galatians 5:17, James 1:14,15.

³ Surah An Nahl, 16:61. Romans 3:23

⁴ Torah, Isaiah 64:6

⁵ Torah, Genesis 3:7, 21

⁶ Surah Al Araf, 7:26

⁷ A. Yusuf Ali, The Quran: text, Translation and commentary, Elmhurst: Tahrike Tarsile Quran, Inc., U.S. edition, 2001, Surah Al Araf, 7:20-22, note 1009)

⁸ Surah Surah Al-Ma'ida 5:27

⁹ Surah Al Ma'ida, 5:27, Torah, Genesis 4:3-7

¹⁰ Injil, Hebrews 11:4

¹¹ Torah, Genesis 4:3-7, Injil, 1 John 3:12: 'slew', ἔσφαξεν. Greek term was used of slaughtering a sacrificial animal in "Odyssey," i., 92, "Iliad," i., 459.

Abraham: (Ibrahim)

God provided an animal as a sacrifice instead of the son.¹² It cannot have been a simple act of worship on Abraham's part or a test he passed, because the Quran says, 'we ransomed him with a mighty sacrifice'.¹³ The son is much more valuable than an animal, but the animal is called 'mighty' because it symbolically pointed to a perfect sacrifice to come in the future.

Moses: (Musa)

Moses was commanded by God to sacrifice animals for the absolute certain forgiveness of the sins of the people of Israel.¹⁴ Muslims commentators such as Yousuf Ali and Maudidi think Surah Al Baqara, 2:67-74 alludes to this too.

The Jewish Temple and its priests are also mentioned in the Quran.¹⁵ Their daily sacrifices of animals for the forgiveness of sins in the house of God were central to the Torah. There is no covering of shame without the shedding of blood according to the Torah:

*For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.*¹⁶

Jesus (Isa):

No matter how many sacrifices were repeatedly made, they never added up to a complete solution. The fact is, an animal is not a fair representation for a human. They only pointed to the perfect and sinless sacrifice to come.

It's a bit like a cheque. It guarantees money, but once you have the money you don't need the cheque. A sacrifice of an animal points to a greater sacrifice. Once that had has taken place you don't need the animal sacrifices.

John the Baptist (Yahya) called Jesus, *"the lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world."*¹⁷ John was highlighting that Jesus came to be the perfect sacrifice for sin.

Jesus is the only one who is called perfect and righteous from birth.¹⁸ Through repentance and faith he makes us right before God since our own righteousness is not enough in the presence of a perfect Being.¹⁹ Jesus was killed on behalf of all people in the world to take away the sins, shame, fear and guilt of everyone who repents and believes in him.²⁰

Jesus says, *"Everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the writings of the prophets, and the Psalms had to come true."* Then he opened the disciples minds to understand the Scriptures and said

¹² Surah Al Saffat,37:107, Torah, Genesis 22

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Torah, Numbers 19:1-10

¹⁵ Surah Al Isra,17:1-7 and Al Ma'ida, 5:44

¹⁶ Leviticus 17:11

¹⁷ Injil, John 1:29

¹⁸ Surah Maryam, 19:19, Injil, John 8:29

¹⁹ Injil, 1 Corinthians 1:30

²⁰ Injeel, Mark 10:45

to them, *“This is what is written: the Messiah must suffer and must rise from death three days later.”*²¹

God did indeed confirm his work by raising Jesus back to live on the third day and up to Him about forty days later.²²

This path to get certain forgiveness has been promised in the Torah, Zabur and Injel to all who truly turn around from their selfish lives and believe in God's way. The Quran says those books have not changed and are to be believed in.²³

We are naked and in shame but we can be clothed in rightness through the shedding of blood. This Good News has been revealed for all people until the end of time. It is the fulfilment of all things and nothing better can abrogate²⁴ it because it is all we need, and better than we can imagine. What could possibly be superior than this Good News where one instantly receives:

- absolute forgiveness of sins
- restoration from shame to honour
- release from fear and guilt
- life to the full
- God's power in our lives to live his way of justice and mercy.

Jesus is who the prophets wrote about²⁵, and only Jesus can offer all this. Will you trust him, the true and perfect sacrifice?

For questions and comments please write to:

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or speak to a practicing Christian.

²¹ Injil, Luke 24:44-47

²² Injil, Acts 1:3, 1 Cor 15

²³ Surah Al Ma'ida 5:46-48. For evidence that they have not changed please read: Quran confirms - Injil unchanged on christianityexplained.net.

²⁴ Surah Al Baqara, 2:107

²⁵ Injil, Mark 2:6, Luke 24:44-47, John 11:25-26