

Jeruselema . . . taken to the next level

First the beautiful song . . . then the creative dance . . . now the profound meaning . . .

Jeruselema, an explanation for Muslims and others

Main meaning of Jerusalem: “foundation of peace”¹

During 2020 the song was listened and danced to over 320 million times!²

It is in IsiZulu, one of South Africa's 11 national languages:

x2

Jeruselema ikhaya lami (Jerusalem is my home)

Ngilondoloze (please protect me)

Uhambe nami (walk with me)

Zungangishiyi lana (do not leave me here)

x2

Ndawo yami ayikho lana (my place is not here)

Mbuso wami awukho lana (my kingdom is not here)

Ngilondoloze (please protect me)

Zuhambe nami (walk with me)

Ngilondoloze ngilondoloze ngilondoloze (please protect me)

Zungangishiyi lana (do not leave me here)

Ngilondoloze ngilondoloze ngilondoloze (please protect me)

Zungangishiyi lana (do not leave me here)

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Ngilondoloze ngilondoloze ngilondoloze (please protect me)

Zungangishiyi lana (do not leave me here)

Songwriters: Nomcebo Nkwanyana / Kgaogelo Moagi

Source of the lyrics: Lyricstranslate.com³

¹ Payne, D. F. (1996). [Jerusalem](#). In D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer, & D. J. Wiseman (Eds.), *New Bible dictionary* (3rd ed., p. 558). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

² <https://qz.com/africa/1905743/how-south-africas-jeruselema-became-an-african-hit-then-global/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAq0jB7dc5Y>

³ <https://lyricstranslate.com/en/jeruselema-jerusalem.html-0>

Why has “Jerusalema” become the world-wide anthem during the Covid-19 pandemic?

The Covid-19 crisis has served to lay bare a deep longing within our body, soul and spirit for a better world. Neither riches, rags, nor religion can satisfy our yearning for peace and wholeness.

In times of chaos and catastrophes humans realize deep within themselves that this world is not their home. They don't want to be left here in a kingdom that is not their own. “Jerusalema”, “complete peace”, is our home. That's what we were made for!

What on earth happened to us? Why have we missed the mark? Why have we missed the best and settle for less?

Muslims, for example, strive to avoid shame, to be honored by others, by trying to keep laws they cannot keep. Islam holds the Ummah in fear. Muslims are forbidden to publicly admit what has become obvious to the public: the Quran is not perfectly⁴ preserved.⁵

Christians do not make such extreme statements about the Bible. They maintain the fact that it has a history of development, like all books.

The well-known textual scholars Westcott and Hort came to the conclusion that *“only one-sixtieth of all variant readings in the New Testament would rise above ‘trivialities’. This leaves a text 98.33 percent pure.”*⁶ The famous historian Philip Schaff said that none of these variant readings that are clearly marked in the footnotes affected, *“an article of faith or a precept of duty which is not abundantly sustained by other and undoubted passages, or by the whole tenor of Scripture teaching.”*⁷

Islam teaches “no compulsion in (to) religion”⁸ but threatens those who want to go out of it with death.”

“Islam's established ruling is that apostates are to be killed wherever they are. The Quran implies this while the Hadith, Sira, and works of jurisprudence state it clearly. When the breadth and depth of Islam are examined this is the only conclusion that can be drawn.”⁹

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5opKCSgvQ0&t=129s>

⁵ Dr Yasir Qadhi, a Muslim scholar with about [400K subscribers](#) on his youtube channel, famously said that the story of “the preservation of the Quran has holes in it”. The about 25 minutes of Dr Qadhi's interview were later deleted because it upset many Muslims. However, the interview was downloaded prior to that and a detailed analysis of the main points can be watched here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vstGbZkjUcw&t=754s>

In another video, Ahmed Deedat, Zakir Naik, Shabir Ally, Mohammed Hijab, Ali Dawah, Mufti Abu Layth, Yasir Qadhi, Adnan Rashid, Shehzad Saleem, Hamza Yusuf, Adnan Abdul Qadir, Haitham al-Haddad, Abdulrahman Hassan, Muhammad Salah, and Aslam Abdullah add to the discussion: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANo6dXc2i-0&feature=youtu.be>

Dr Yasir Qadhi frankly admits further, *“the Shubu-hat” (doubtful matters) that I was exposed to at Yale, some of that I still do not have answers to* (at 0:01 mins) and, *“at the end of the day, not every “Ul-um” (sciences) is beneficial. Sometimes, yes ignorance is bliss* (at 2:45 mins): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmOjJNN72qY&feature=emb_logo

Two Articles published by Muslims in January and July 2020 in the Saudi press call to revise thousands of scribal errors in the current Qur'an and to re-examine Islamic texts in the light of new insights: <https://www.memri.org/reports/articles-saudi-press-call-amend-thousands-scribal-errors-quran-reexamine-islamic-texts-light>

⁶ ‘General Introduction to the Bible’ by N.L. Geisler and W.E. Nix, Moody Press, Chicago, 1986, page 365

⁷ ‘Companion to the Greek Testament and English Version’ by Philip Schaff, Harper, New York, 1883, page 177

⁸ Surah 2:256

All of us, Atheists, Agnostics, Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists included, are ultimately addicted to ourselves. We all need a rehab for our sick, selfish hearts. How does it look like?

“Jerusalema” is actually an adaptation of an old Gospel hymn¹⁰, “Jerusalem Ikhaya Lami” (Jerusalem My Home).¹¹ It reflects prayerfully on this promise and hope found near the end of the Bible:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”
(Revelations 21:1-4)

How wonderful! This is about a relationship not about religion! The world as we know it, is not the end! The best is yet to come!

The new Jerusalem, our real home! How do we get there?

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

At the heart of the Gospel message of love is the return to God through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ alone. Such a renewal that leads to eternal life is a gift of God. It cannot be earned by good deeds as religions teach. The reason for this is simple: When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they spiritually and physically died and as a result were separated from Him.¹² Since they are our leaders, we too suffer under their bad leadership.¹³ Therefore, as their children we too are affected by the “Sin Virus.”

We are all dead in the sight of God. Dead people cannot do good deeds when examined from His holy, just and perfect perspective! The only One left who can turn around this tragedy is God Himself. That is exactly what He did through Jesus Christ on the cross! There He paid the punishment for our sins as the ultimate act of isolation Himself through His death and resurrection on the third day.¹⁴

Jesus is much more than a prophet! He was not afraid to heal a man with leprosy by touching him and saying, "be clean". A sick woman who became ritually unclean touched him and got healed. Jesus touched a dead girl and raised her to life again.¹⁵ His healing touch went out from Him, making those clean and whole who were unclean, diseased and even dead! Instead of being affected by our impurity, His purity is contagious!

⁹ https://www.answering-islam.org/Silas/apostasy.htm#_Toc157226278

¹⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcb14btcwc4>

¹¹ <https://www.difela.co.za/jerusalem-ikhaya-lam/>

¹² Genesis 2:17

¹³ In the same way we benefit from good leadership, even though we do not personally contribute to it.

¹⁴ John 1:29, 11:25-26

¹⁵ Matthew 8:1-3; Mark 5:21-43

The Bible, also known as the unchanged Torah and Injeel,¹⁶ shows a unique way to turn to God. It helps us to cope in the current situation and with the deadliest “Sin Virus” we all suffer from:

- A) **Admit** that you are a sinner (Romans 6:23)
- B) **Believe** that Jesus died for your sins (1 Peter 2:24 A)
- C) **Call** upon the Lord (Romans 10:13)
- D) **Dedicate** your life to Jesus not to sin in the power of the Holy Spirit. (1 Peter 2:24 B)

Please get in touch if you have taken the “**ABCD**” escape route into a new life. God willing, you will be able to get further help. Alternatively, do send in your questions, comments, or order a free Bible correspondence course:

Info@christianityexplained.net

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¹⁶ These books have not changed according to the Quran: “. . . *We believe in that which hath been revealed unto us and revealed unto you; our Allah and your Allah is One, and unto Him we surrender.*” (Surah 29:46)

. . . There is none who can change His (God’s) words. (Surah 18:27)

The promise of preservation of God’s word also applies to the Torah and the Injeel. They were present and not changed in the 6th century AD. We know that because Jews and Christians were asked to observe them, and Mohammad was asked to consult them, if he or his followers were in doubt. That would certainly not be possible if only part of the Scriptures remained unchanged:

“Say O People of the Scripture! Ye have naught (of guidance) till ye observe the Torah and the Gospel and that which was revealed unto you from your Lord . . .” (Surah 5:68)

“Let the People of the Gospel judge by that which Allah hath revealed therein. Whoso judgeth not by that which Allah hath revealed: such are evil-livers.” (Surah 5:47; see also Surah 7:157)

“And if thou (Muhammad) art in doubt concerning that which We reveal unto thee, then question those who read the Scripture (that was) before thee.” (Surah 10:94)

The last verse commands Muhammad and his followers to ask the Christians in case they have doubt about the message of the Qur’an. In other words, the Bible judges the Qur’an not the other way around. Christians explain that while the true meaning of the Torah was sometimes distorted, either orally (Surah 3:78, 5:13,41) or in writing by some Jews, (Surah 2:79. This verse does not talk about the established Christian and Jewish scriptures. It addresses those who write false books, while neglecting the true scripture. In Surah 4:46 some Jews are accused of changing, writing down wrongly, what Muhammad said.) the text itself was preserved in the light of the wider context mentioned above.

The only charge brought against the Christians is that they forgot parts of their Scriptures (Surah 5:14). That means, what they had in their possession was unchanged. Surah 3:55 mentions that those who follow Jesus are superior until the day of resurrection. That would not be the case if they had corrupted Scriptures.

Historical research has shown that a Syriac (Aramaic) translation of the Bible, known as Peshitta (= “simple” or “common” or “straight”) was used in the 7th century Arabia Mohammad lived in: http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S2305-08532017000200010 The Gospel (Injeel) contained in that Bible is the first translation of the original Greek manuscripts.

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