

**Sources:** This is based using the earliest and most reliable Islamic sources: the Qur'an (*Q.*), the *Sira* (biography) written by Ibn Ishaq and edited by Ibn Hisham, and commentaries written by Ibn Kathir, Ibn Abbas and Jalalayn. The quotes from the Qur'an and Hadith can be found in: [www.searchtruth.com](http://www.searchtruth.com)  
A free copy of the *Sira* can be downloaded on <http://www.archive.org/details/IbnIshaq-SiratRasulAllah-translatorA.Guillaume>.  
The commentaries can be found on : [www.qtafsir.com](http://www.qtafsir.com) (Ibn Kathir), and [www.altafsir.com](http://www.altafsir.com) (the rest)

### **According to the Qur'an Jesus was sinless from birth:**

Jesus Christ (Isa al-Masih) is described as being without fault from the moment of his birth. The angel Gabriel declared to Mary: "I am a messenger from your Lord to give you a boy most pure (*zakiyyan*)."<sup>1</sup> (Q.19.19) The expression "most pure" means blameless, guiltless and sinless according to the Muslim scholars al-Baidawi,<sup>1</sup> al-Tabari and al-Zamakhshari.<sup>2</sup> The classical commentator Fakhr al-Din al-Razi (d. 606/1209) stated: "Faultless (*zakiyyan*) means three things: First, that he is without sin; secondly that he grew in integrity, as it is said that he who has no sin is chaste and in the growing plant there is purity; thirdly, he was above reproach and pure."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> He uses the term *Tāhir min ul-dhunūb* 'pure from sins'. Al-Baidawi, Nasr ud-din Abi Saeed *Anwār al-tanzīl wa Asrār al-ta'wīl* (5 vols) (Beirut: Dar al-Fikr, 1996), 9

<sup>2</sup> Al-Masih, Abd A *Question that demands an Answer* (Rikon, Switzerland: The Good Way, 1993), 13

<sup>3</sup> Al-Fadi, Abd *The Person of Christ in the Gospel and the Koran* (Rikon, Switzerland: The Good Way, 1975),10

### **According to the Hadith, Jesus was protected from Satan in a unique way:**

The Hadith strongly hint at Christ's sinlessness since he was spared the Satanic touch at birth. "The Prophet said, 'When any human being is born, Satan touches him at both sides of the body with his two fingers, except Jesus, the son of Mary, whom Satan tried to touch but failed, for he touched the placenta-cover instead.'"<sup>1</sup> (Sahih al-Bukhari 4:506) This is based on Q.3:36 where Imran's wife said of Jesus' mother: "I have named her Mary and I commend her and her offspring to Thy protection from the Evil One the Rejected." Satan could not touch Jesus as he did every other person.

Another account has this description: "No child is born but that, Satan touches it when it is born where upon it starts crying loudly because of being touched by Satan, except Mary and her Son."<sup>2</sup> (Sahih al-Bukhari 6:71)

### **Jesus is the only prophet without sin**

A Hadith about the day of judgement finds all of the prophets admitting to their sins.

- Adam confessed that he ate the fruit of the forbidden tree
- Noah had made an invocation against his nation
- Abraham told three lies
- Moses killed a man
- Muhammad needed all his former and latter sins forgiven.

However Jesus is unique. It is said that "Jesus will not mention any sin". (alBukhari 6:236; also 9:532.3, 601; 6:3; 8:570; 9:507).

### **The Bible presents Jesus as sinless**

Before his birth, Jesus was described by the angel Gabriel as "the holy one." (Lk.1:35). Isaiah had prophesied about Jesus: "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." Isaiah 53:9 & 1 Peter 2:22

Jesus lived a life of such perfection that he could stand in front of a crowd that had been listening to him speak and observing his behaviour and ask: "Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?" (Jn.8:46) But no-one could give a single example. Jesus spoke of himself as being sent by his Heavenly Father, and he said that "he who works for the honour of the One who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him" (Jn.7:18).

But it was not only himself who spoke of his perfect life. The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, examined Jesus when the Jews had accused Jesus of wrongdoing. On three occasions, Pilate said of Jesus: "I find no basis for a charge against him." (Jn.18:38; 19:4,6)

But the Jews persisted with demands. So Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified, even though he had been declared innocent three times. As Jesus hung on the cross, a criminal beside him declared: "This man has done nothing wrong." (Luke 23:41). And as he died, the centurion who had observed him said: "Surely this was a righteous man." (Luke 24:47)

His follower Peter described Jesus as "the Holy and Righteous One (Acts 3:14) who "went around doing good." (Acts 10:38).

The Bible says that Jesus was without sin: “we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, ....For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. (Hebrews 4:15) Jesus “is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.” (Hebrews 7:26)

#### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

##### **1) It shows that Jesus is God**

**In the Qur’an, only Allah is holy –**

One of the 99 names of Allah is ‘the Holy One’ *al-Qudus* (Q.59:23; 62:1) “If Allah were to punish men for their wrongdoing He would not leave on the (earth) a single living creature.” (Q.16:61; 35:45). Only God is completely righteous. Likewise Jesus was perfectly righteous, because He is God.

**In the Bible, only God is holy –** 1.Samuel 2:2; Rev.15:4; Hab.1:13; Lk.1:49; Mt.19:17

##### **2) Jesus is the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

Under Jewish law, any animal that was sacrificed as a sin offering for the people had to be perfect, without defect or blemish (see Leviticus 4). When Yahya (John the Baptist) saw Jesus, he said: “Look! The lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29). After Jesus’ death, one of his followers wrote that “Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed.” (1.Corinthians.5:7). He was “a lamb without blemish or defect” (1 Peter 1:19) and “unblemished” (Hebrews 9:14). Only a sinless person could pay for the sins of others. “God made him who had no sin to

be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21). And again: “But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.” (1 John 3:5)

##### **3. Since Jesus is perfect, he is the best example for humanity, because an imperfect model could lead us into error.**

The Qur’an describes Isa (Jesus) as a “example” or “pattern” (*mathal*) for both the Arabs (Q.43:57) and for the Jews (Q.43:59). Jesus is worthy of emulation. He called his disciples to copy his servanthood (John 13:15). Paul tells people to imitate Christ (Philippians 2:5-11). We need to study Jesus’ life and teaching to know what kind of life really pleases God.

**4. Since Jesus is perfect, he can make absolute demands.** Only a hypocrite tells others to do what they do not do themselves. Jesus’ life was faultless, so he can call on others to live good lives, just like he did.

##### **5. We can follow Jesus without fear.**

Because Jesus is perfect, we can love him with all our hearts and know that he will not betray, exploit or desert us.

**CONCLUSION:** It is clear from these verses in the Qur’an, Hadith and Bible that Jesus was sinless and claimed to be sinless, and those who knew him agreed with this

**Only Isa al-Masih (Jesus Christ) is sinless because he is God. He alone can save you from your sin.**

**You can learn more about Jesus from**

**[www.mylanguage.net.au](http://www.mylanguage.net.au)**

**Enquiries to : (+61)449 768 932**

## Is Jesus sinless?

# What the Qur’an, Hadith and Bible say about the sinlessness of Christ

**Gabriel said to Mary: “I am a messenger of your Lord to grant to you a pure son.”**  
(The Qur’an: Maryam 19:19)

قَالَ إِنَّمَا أَنَا رَسُولُ رَبِّكِ

لَأَهَبَ لَكَ غُلَامًا زَكِيًّا