

MUSLIM IDEAS ABOUT JESUS

- Jesus was conceived miraculously by God in the womb of the virgin Mary.
- Jesus is only a prophet, he is not divine (not the Son of God, not God in the flesh).
- Jesus was actually a good Muslim and he taught an earlier form of Islam to the Jewish people.
- Jesus did not die on the cross. He went directly to heaven. Judas had his face transformed and died in the place of Jesus as a judgement from God.
- Jesus will come again one day, he will marry, he will have children. He will correct the errors which Christians have said about him. He will die, he will be buried in Medina and be judged like all men at the Last Judgement.

Above: Images of Jesus from the 2005 Iranian Islamic film about Jesus, "The Messiah"



JESUS IN THE QUR'AN

You can find out more about the Islamic perspective on Jesus by reading about him in the Qur'an. Various chapters (*suras*) and verses are indicated below. Jesus is usually referred to in the Qur'an by the name *Isa*. Various titles, roles and activities are attributed to Jesus. Here are a few examples:

Jesus is the word of God:

Sura: 3:45; 5:46, 110 and 57:27

Jesus is Messiah:

Sura: 3:45; 4:171; 5:17, 72, 75

Prophet or a Messenger from God:

Sura: 3:49; 6:85; 19:30; 57:27

Raised the dead and healed the sick:

Sura: 3:49; 5:110

Pure, sinless:

Sura: 19:19

Even if the Qur'anic ideas listed above are the same or similar to Biblical ideas, Muslims never think of Jesus as being divine or as saving us through his death and resurrection.

THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

The Islamic religion is lived out according to five main "pillars" which are obligatory religious practices for all adult Muslims:

1. *Reciting the Creed (shahada) "There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is his prophet."*
2. *Prayer (salat) - Five times each day.*
3. *Almsgiving (zakat) - Both obligatory and voluntary giving to the poor.*
4. *Fasting (saum) - Especially during the "holy" month of Ramadan.*
5. *Pilgrimage (hajj) - At least once in a lifetime to Mecca, known as the Hajj.*

Below and on the facing page: The Abraj Al Bait Towers, a massive hotel and shopping complex, being built in Mecca near the Kaaba. The central tower, measuring 595 metres, will be the second tallest building in the world on completion in 2011.

