

# 4 THE MESSENGER OF ALLAH

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In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Praise be to Allah, the Glorious, the Honorable. I praise Him morning and evening, noon and night. I repent and turn to Him, and I depend on Him.

I witness that there is no god except Allah, whom we worship and whose aid we do seek. To Him all creatures in heaven and on earth shall bow.

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## **IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY THE FOLLOWING:**

- The Messenger—The Unique One
- His Power
- His Teaching
- His Character
- His Purpose

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## **THE MESSENGER—THE UNIQUE ONE**

As for what follows, who is this Messenger who was born of a woman, having no earthly father? Who is this Person who was pure and sinless, who came to redeem all people from their sins? No doubt, my friend, using your own intelligence you have already discovered the answer. He is our Master Isa, the Son of Mary. May His peace be upon us. Although Isa was a man, He was different from all other men—He was unique.

## HIS POWER

Isa worked miracles: He healed the sick; fed the hungry; made the blind to see, the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak. In all this He never used magic or superstition, but worked miracles by the power of Allah and His creative Word. On one occasion, people heard that Isa was at home.

So many people came together that there was no room left, not even out in front of the door. Isa was preaching the message to them when four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man to Isa. Because of the crowd, however, they could not get the man to him. So they made a hole in the roof right above the place where Isa was. When they had made an opening, they let the man down, lying on his mat. Seeing how much faith they had, Isa said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Some of the teachers of the Law who were sitting there thought to themselves, "How does he dare to talk like this? This is blasphemy! Allah is the only one who can forgive sins!

At once Isa knew what they were thinking, so he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to the paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?' I will prove to you then, that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, pick up your mat, and go home!" While they all watched, the man got up, picked up his mat, and hurried away.

They were all completely amazed and praised Allah, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

Isa Al-Masih had the power to forgive sins. He still has this same power today. He proved his power by healing the paralyzed man.

Isa had powers that belonged to Allah alone. By a word He calmed the winds and the storms and raised the dead from their coffins and graves. A young man died, and he was the only son of a widow. His mother wept and mourned because he was her only child, her hope, the light of her life. When they were taking the corpse to the burial ground, Isa arrived, accompanied by a big crowd. He went to the grieving mother and said: "Don't cry." Then He touched the burial cloth and said to the dead man:

“Get up, young man.” Then the young man sat up and started talking!

Try to imagine, my friend, that you were present at the funeral. One of your close family members had died, and they were taking him to the burial ground. On the way, a man that everyone respected stopped the funeral procession and ordered your dead family member to get up. What would you say? How would you act? Yes, Isa has the power to create things out of nothing and grant life.

## HIS TEACHING

Isa was also known among His followers as the Teacher. He taught people godliness and righteousness; He commanded them to do good and forbade them to do evil; He showed them the way to Allah, the right path. People were amazed by His great ability to teach. His words were accompanied by the power of Allah. He really spoke to people’s hearts. Read, for example, these words of Isa’s teaching to a large crowd of people.

So do not worry about tomorrow; it will have enough worries of its own. There is no need to add to the troubles each day brings.

Do not judge others, so that Allah will not judge you.

Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.

Go in through the narrow gate, because the gate to hell is wide and the road that leads to it is easy, and there are many who travel it. But the gate to life is narrow and the way that leads to it is hard, and there are few people who find it.

So then, anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain poured down, the rivers overflowed, and the wind blew hard against that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on rock. But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain poured down, the rivers overflowed, the wind blew hard against that house, and it fell. And what a terrible fall that was.

## HIS CHARACTER

Isa Al-Masih never committed sin. He never did evil nor was He rebellious. So He never needed forgiveness for sin like all other people. He was sinless. Once He challenged the Jews who hated Him, saying:

“Which one of you can prove that I am guilty of sin?”

No one was able to meet that challenge because, indeed, Isa never committed sin. His life was an example of godliness and righteousness. He was matchless in His love for people. It is easy for us to love friends; actually, it is natural, but how about enemies? Isa forgave His enemies and loved them. They persecuted Him, mocked Him, ridiculed Him, beat Him, tormented Him; and He never had any enmity or hatred toward them. He never said anything that indicated revenge or hate. When the Jews brought Him to court, the judge was surprised by His calmness and serenity. The crowds, moved by the religious leaders, shouted, demanding that He should die. But He remained calm. And because He was sinless, the judge witnessed before His accusers, declaring to them:

“I find no fault in Him.”

Al-Masih’s message is the message of peace, joy, love, life, and forgiveness. The crusaders who came with hatred, malice, selfishness, fanaticism, and bloodshed, were not true followers of Isa. May His peace be upon us. Al-Masih used neither force nor a sword; rather He loved us and saved us. He taught forgiveness, mercy, and kindness. He served all and welcomed all. He said:

“I will never turn away anyone who comes to me.”

He declared to all that His primary goal for being here was to save humankind from sin and restore the beautiful relationship between Allah and people. Isa said:

“I alone am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to Allah except by me.”

## HIS PURPOSE

So, after serving people and teaching them the way of Allah Almighty for about three years, Isa started journeying toward Jerusalem. He knew the Jewish religious leaders were plotting against Him. He also knew

by His divine power that they were going to arrest Him in Jerusalem, bring Him to an unjust trial, crucify Him, and kill Him. So He told His followers about all these things, saying that He would rise from the dead on the third day. However, His followers did not understand. They thought it would be better for their Teacher and Prophet not to go to Jerusalem since danger awaited Him there. But Al-Masih, peace be upon Him, told them He had come for that exact purpose—to redeem humankind—to pay the price for our sins, to save us from fear, and to be our substitute by taking the punishment for our sins upon himself.

Isa could have chosen not to go to Jerusalem. And after the Jews arrested Him, He could have escaped by a miracle. He could have asked Allah, almighty and glorious, to rescue Him from death. But He did not because He came to bear the punishment for the sins of all humankind. Therefore, the Glorious Book of Allah says:

This is a true saying, to be completely accepted and believed:  
Al-Masih Isa came into the world to save sinners.

Isa, Servant of (abd) Allah, who never feared man, pain, or loss, took the place of sinners to face the justice of Allah on our behalf. He received the punishment for our sins. He knew that Allah Almighty would hide His face from Him while He took the place of sinful humankind. That was horrible for Al-Masih, who had been pure and sinless all His life. He had pleased Allah and depended on Him in everything. Because He obeyed the will of Allah, almighty and glorious, He became the sacrifice for our sins and the Savior of the world.

Isa is unique. His birth was miraculous. His character was sinless and pure. He loved friends and enemies. He worked miracles with an extraordinary power.

Because of sin, humans are like broken machines that have stopped working. They are like broken vessels. Isa, peace be upon Him, came to repair those machines and make those vessels new.

I read the story of a competition that took place in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia. It was a 10 km. race. Two hours after it started, the spectators waiting at the finish line still did not see anyone coming. The organizers of the competition started getting worried. They wondered if there had been a serious problem. They got in their cars to look for the runners. They found them running, but in an area far away from where they were supposed to be. They had already run 16 km. When

they questioned them, they discovered that the first runner had taken a wrong turn and that all the others had followed him and gotten lost!

How many times have leaders made you lose your way, my friend! You have started following certain people considered models and great leaders, but unfortunately you have drifted far from the goal that Allah planned for you. You have placed your confidence in people who claim to be counselors, but you have been disappointed and have lost hope! Isa is the only trustworthy leader who can lead you on a path of peace, happiness, and security.

People are guilty because they are spiritually separated from Allah by their sin. Al-Masih came to draw us to Allah, almighty and glorious, and reconcile us with Him.

Yes, Allah Almighty has planned this deliverance for us. He wants to rescue us. He wants us to walk in the right path. He wants to give us eternal life in paradise.

Dear friend, in the next lesson, Allah willing, we will continue the rest of the story. In the keeping of Allah.

Your friend,  
Sheikh Abdullah

# To HELP YOU LEARN

Please complete the following statements in Part A. Then answer the questions in Part B. You may write in your book or on separate paper. After you complete this assignment you may compare your answers with the correct answers provided in the section called *To Help You Learn – Answers* toward the back of this book.

Completing this part of lesson four called *To Help You Learn* will help you remember the important truths of this lesson.

## A. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

1. Isa did not need forgiveness for sins because He was \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Al-Masih loved everyone and had compassion for all people, to the point that He even loved His \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Isa’s goal in coming to the world was \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Al-Masih has powers that belong to Allah alone. He is able to create from \_\_\_\_\_, heal the \_\_\_\_\_, calm the \_\_\_\_\_, and raise the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Go back to the lesson, study this statement, memorize it, and then write it here from memory: Isa said, “I alone am the way, \_\_\_\_\_.”

## B. ANSWER BRIEFLY

1. Mention some of the miracles Isa performed.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How did Isa know that the Jews were going to arrest Him and kill Him? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Isa talked about the narrow and wide gates. Which one would you choose and why? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Explain in your own words the parable that Isa gave about the wise man and the foolish man.

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5. In the miracle of healing the paralyzed man, why did Isa forgive the man's sins first and then heal him?

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