

What do you think of the One who will come?

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Dear brother or sister, when you hear the news of the world, you may wonder why there seem to be more and more crises and disasters of every kind – wars, earthquakes, terrible diseases in every continent, and grief and anguish everywhere. Both scientists and theologians are now saying that the world cannot last forever, and the end seems very near. This generation could be the last generation, and if so, then we ourselves will witness the onset of eternity.

But do you know, dear brother or sister, what will happen before the end? It is often said that the Messiah will come, the one who is called *Sidna Eisa*, the son of Mariam. With power and great glory he will descend from Allah, defeat the devil and the worldly powers of darkness, and wipe out all the evil and wickedness that has corrupted and polluted this earth.

I would like to ask you, my brother or sister... are you ready for that great and terrible day which is about to come? Are you ready to face the Messiah?

One day as he talked to the people, he himself asked them, “What do you think of the Messiah?”¹ And if he himself questioned you now, would you know how to answer him? What will you say to the Messiah if he asks you, “What do you think of me? What do you think of the words I told you? What do you think of the things I did for you?”

My brother or sister, what do you know about the Messiah, son of Mariam? What is your opinion of him? The answer you give to this question could bring you eternal peace and joy. Or it could take away all the peace and joy you now possess. Listen carefully to what I say with the help of Allah, because I will show you how to answer with sincerity and confidence this very question: “What do you think of the Messiah?”

¹ Matt 22:42

What do you think of his birth?

First of all, we must ask, “What do you think of his birth?” People call the Messiah “Son of Mariam”, but why do they say this, calling him after his mother? We usually call a child by the name of its father, not its mother. For example, we say Ismail son of Abraham, Joseph son of Jacob, and John son of Zechariah. In fact people are always known by the name of their father. So why do we call the Messiah “son of Mariam”, after the name of his mother?

The reason is that Mariam, who gave birth to him, was a virgin girl. She had no contact with a man. As she herself said in *Şûrat Ahl-‘imrân*, “*Lam yamsasni başar.*” (No man has touched me.)¹ And as Allah Almighty said in *Şûrat Al-anbiyâ*: “*Nafaḥna fihâ min rūḥina wa ja‘alnâha wâbnaha âyatan li-l-‘âlamîn.*” (We blew in her from our spirit and made her and her son a sign to the worlds.)²

It is described like this in the Injil of Allah (by the hand of Luke, chapter 1): “The angel Gabriel was sent from Allah to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin... and said, ‘Hail, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!’ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mariam, for you have found favour with Allah, and behold you will conceive in your womb and bear a son’... And Mariam said to the angel, ‘How shall this be, since I have no husband?’ And the angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born to you will be called holy, the Son of Allah... for with Allah nothing will be impossible’... And Mariam said, ‘Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your

¹ Qur’an 3:47

قَالَتْ رَبِّ أَتَىٰ بِكَ لِيُؤْتِيَنِي بَشَرًا

² Qur’an 21:91

وَالَّتِي أَحْصَنَتْ فَرْجَهَا فَنَفَخْنَا فِيهَا مِن رُّوحِنَا وَجَعَلْنَاهَا وَابْنَهَا آيَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

word.’ And the angel departed from her.”¹ And that is exactly what happened. The Holy Spirit of Allah came down upon the virgin Mariam, and she became pregnant by the power of Allah, and gave birth.

My brother, or sister, what do you think about the birth of the Messiah? It was most wonderful. No-one else was ever born like him.

What do you think of his names?

Perhaps you will wonder, my brother or sister, what was the reason that Allah did this miracle? Why did he not let the Messiah be born from a man and woman like the other prophets? Was there some special purpose or meaning in his birth? Its meaning is like this...

It is written in *Şûrat Ahl-ġimrân*, and *Şûrat En-nisâ*, that the Messiah himself is “*kalimatun min allah*” (a word from Allah); he is “*kalimatuho alqâha ila maryam wa rūḥun minhu*.” (his word that he sent to Mariam and a spirit from him).²

Other people have titles such as “*ḥalîl allah*” or “*kalîm allah*” or “*ḥabîb allah*” (friend of Allah, spokesman of Allah, beloved of Allah). It is clear from these titles that they are men from among the descendants of Adam who are dear to Allah. But one who is called “*kalimat allah*” (word of Allah) has come from within the being of Allah. And likewise, if he is “*ruḥ minhu*” (a spirit from him), he has come from within Allah. And why is the Messiah called these remarkable names?

¹ Luke 1:26-38

² Qur’an 3:45; 4:171

إِذْ قَالَتِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ يَا مَرْيَمُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُبَشِّرُكِ بِكَلِمَةٍ مِّنْهُ اسْمُهُ الْمَسِيحُ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ
وَلَا تَقُولُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْحَقَّ إِنَّمَا الْمَسِيحُ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَكَلِمَتُهُ أَلْقَاهَا إِلَى مَرْيَمَ
وَرُوحٌ مِّنْهُ فَآمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ

Because Allah purposed to send a child into the world who would always speak with the speech of Allah, and always be filled with the spirit of Allah. As it is written in the Injil (the book of John, chapter one): “The word became flesh and dwelt among us... full of grace and truth.”¹

And the Messiah has another name, announced by the angel to Mariam. He said to her, “You will bear a son and you will call his name *yešue*.”² In that language the name *yešue* means “saviour” or “rescuer”. And the angel explained, “You shall call his name *yešue* for he will save his people from their sins.”³

The title “Messiah” also has a powerful meaning, for people in those days were trusting the promise of Allah to send and anoint (*mseḥ*) a man to become their leader and victorious king, and to liberate his afflicted and oppressed people from the terrible circumstances they were in. And that title “Messiah” was given to the son of Mariam.

No one else has been given such names as “word of Allah” or “a spirit from him” or “*yešue*” or “*masiḥ*”, because no one else among mankind was born as he was. Only once did Allah send his word, by his spirit, to a virgin and do a miracle, so she would bear a child to save his people from their sins and redeem them from their troubles.

My brother, or sister, what do you think about the names of the Messiah? They are truly wonderful. No one else has ever been given names like him.

What do you think of his character?

We know that the Messiah was born of the Spirit of Allah. And we know something else. It is written about him in *Şûrat Maryam* that Allah said to the virgin, “*Ahaba laki ġulâman zakî*. (I will give you a sinless boy.)”⁴ From the time

¹ John 1:14

² Luke 1:31

³ Matt 1:21

⁴ Qur’an 19:19

that the boy was born, he never asked Allah to forgive him or excuse him. He was indeed a sinless boy. If you search in all the books of the Muslims and Jews and Christians you will discover that the Messiah never asked Allah for forgiveness.

Why is this? The reason is that he never had cause to regret anything he did, or anything he said, or anything he thought. He never did anything imperfect or bad. He never attacked anyone with a sword, or hit anyone or killed anyone. He did not take anyone's land, or anyone's wife, or anyone's property. He never wished to have anything that belonged to someone else. He never cheated anyone, or deceived anyone. He never quarrelled with anyone or insulted anyone. He was free from all blame and sin.

As believers, we are accustomed to ask Allah to forgive us for what we do and say and think. This is an obligation upon us, for we are weak and in need of forgiveness. All believers, like the prophets and holy people, seek forgiveness from Allah. It is written of the prophet David that he greatly regretted his misdeeds and with tears asked Allah for forgiveness. And likewise Job asked Allah to forgive him. Adam too, and Abraham, and Moses, all regretted their misdeeds. There was one who asked Allah to forgive him seventy times a day. But the Messiah, not once did he ask Allah to forgive him. Why? Because he never did anything bad or blameworthy. He never regretted anything he did. It is written of Yesua the Messiah in the Injil (Hebrews chapter seven) that he is "holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners"¹

We read how his friends and disciples testified saying, "He committed no sin."² And when he asked the Jews who hated him, "Which of you convicts me of sin?"³ they were silent, for they could find no sin in him. And when they took him to the Roman governor he said, "I find no crime in this man," and washed his hands

قَالَ إِنَّمَا أَنَا رَسُولُ رَبِّكَ لِأَهَبَ لَكَ غُلَامًا زَكِيًّا

¹ Heb 7:26
² 1 Pet 2:22
³ John 8:46

before them saying, "I am innocent of this righteous man's blood."¹ All these witnesses – his friends and his enemies – said exactly the same thing: "He has committed no sin!"

We know that everything that comes down from the heavens is pure and clean. The rain in the forest, and the snow on the mountains, are perfectly pure. They have come down from the heavens. But we ourselves, as human beings, are of the earth. Our father Adam was made from earth, and we are all children of Adam, of the earth, of the lower world... filthy with the filth of the world, evil with the wickedness of the world, ill with sickness of the world. And in the end we will die and be placed in a grave and return to the earth. But the Messiah was born of the Spirit descending from the heavens. He is not of the earth. He is of the heavens, he is pure and clean.

What is more, the Book of Allah shows us that Yesua the Messiah was kind and compassionate above all men. Whenever he found someone in need, he would stop to help. His disciples testified about him in the Injil (Acts of the Apostles, chapter ten), "Allah anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for Allah was with him, and we are witnesses to all that he did."²

My brother or sister, what do you think about the pure and compassionate character of the Messiah? It is very wonderful. No one else has ever had a heart so pure and so compassionate.

What do you think of his miracles?

We have heard, my brother and sister, how Yesua the Messiah was born through the Spirit of Allah, and how he was full of grace and truth and power. It is said of him in the *Şûrat Al-baqara*: "*Wa âtayna êîsâ ibna maryama al-bayyinâti*

¹ Luke 23:4; Matt 27:24 (*Textus Receptus*)
² Acts 10:38-39

wa ʿayyadnâhu bi ruḥi l-quḍus. (We gave Aissa the son of Mariam clear signs and strengthened him with the Holy Spirit.)”¹

It is evident that the Messiah is able to do what no other person can do. He did great miracles and signs, which no one could do except Allah alone. Who can make the blind see, the deaf hear, the dumb speak, the paralysed walk? Who can heal lepers, and raise the dead? All these miracles, the Messiah did them.

Whenever we ourselves think of doing something to help people, we say “In the name of Allah!” And whatever we can’t do ourselves we ask Allah to do. But the Messiah never said “In the name of Allah!” He never asked Allah to heal the sick or raise the dead. Why? Because he himself had the authority given to him by Allah. As it is written in *Ṣûrat Ahl-ʿimrân*, “*Waʿubriʿu l-akmaha wa l-abraṣa wa zuḥyî al-mawtâ bi ʿidni llah.* (I heal those born blind, and the lepers, and I quicken the dead, by Allah’s leave.)”² And so from his mother’s womb he was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to do miracles whenever he wished.

The healings of Yesua the Messiah were not with medicines or herbs. He simply spoke a word to the sick or the dead, or touched them with his hand, and they were instantly healed. A leper came to him and said, “O Lord, you can heal me if you are willing.” And the Messiah stretched out his hand and said, “I am willing. Be clean!” and immediately the leprosy left him.³ They brought him someone possessed by a horrible demon, and the Messiah said, “You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!” And immediately it came out.⁴ They brought him someone paralysed by the sins he had committed, and the Messiah said to him, “Man, your sins are forgiven you... Rise, take up your bed

¹ Qur’an 2:87

وَأَتَيْنَا عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ الْبَيْتَاتِ وَأَيَّدْنَاهُ بِرُوحِ الْقُدُسِ

² Qur’an 3:49

وَأُورِيءُ الْأَكْمَةَ وَالْأَبْرَصَ وَأُحْيِي الْمَوْتَى بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ

³ Matt 8:2-3

⁴ Mark 9:25

and go home.”¹ There was a young man who died, and his mother was a widow with no other children, and the Messiah said to the dead man, “Young man, I say to you, arise!” And he rose, and he gave him to his mother.²

Many people started to have faith in him. There was a woman who suffered a flow of blood for twelve years, and the Messiah said to her, “Your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed from your illness!”³ The Messiah said to a blind man, “Receive your sight. Your faith has made you well!”⁴ He said to a leper, “Rise and go your way. Your faith has made you well!”⁵ The Messiah could tell that they really had faith in him. He healed every disease and deformity. He never sent anyone away because he could not heal them.

My brother or sister, what do you think of the miracles of the Messiah? They are very wonderful! No one else has ever done miracles like him.

What do you think of his teaching?

The Jewish leaders were jealous of Yesua the Messiah and one day sent some soldiers to arrest him. The soldiers found him surrounded by people and teaching the ways of Allah. When the soldiers heard what he was saying they were amazed and unwilling to arrest him. They returned empty-handed. Then the Jewish leaders asked them, “Why have you not brought him?” And they replied, “No one ever spoke like this man.”⁶

So what kind of things was he teaching? In the Injil (John chapter eight), the Messiah talked about himself and said, “I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”⁷ Now what did he mean by this expression “light of the world”? You know, my brother or sister, that the prophets are like the moon at night. It shines in the darkness, and so the

¹ Luke 5:20 and 24

² Luke 7:14

³ Mark 5:25 and 34

⁴ Luke 18:42

⁵ Luke 17:19

⁶ John 7:45-6

⁷ John 8:12

prophets shine, bringing the word of Allah to this dark world. The crescent of the new moon is like a new prophet, he is born, grows and gets stronger, then diminishes and gets weaker until he disappears. But then a new prophet appears. He too is born, grows, diminishes, weakens and dies. This is how the prophets resemble the moon. Each one has his time and his place, and people walk in their light as long as they are with them. Whenever the moon is small, or covered by cloud at night, people light a candle. But when dawn comes and the sun rises, what use will they have for moon or candle? The sun has come, and they have confidence in the sun, for her light is reliable. She does not get bigger or smaller, stronger or weaker. She does not get old and die. Even the clouds cannot block out her light. Yesua the Messiah is like the sun. He said, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

The Messiah gave another parable in the Injil (John chapter fourteen). He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."¹ We know that all the prophets were sent to show people the way of Allah. They say, "Come back to the Way! Do the will of Allah! Do what is required of you!" But Yesua the Messiah said, "I am the way. Follow me!" What did he mean by this? We will explain with a story. There was a little boy who lived in the mountains. One day he came down to the big city. He got lost in the middle of the city, and did not know how to find the way back to his mountain village. He asked some people to tell him the way, and they directed him down streets and alleys, but he could not remember all the directions. They were too much for him; he could not follow them. He was so upset, he went away and cried. That very moment a man passed by, and this man was from the boy's own village. The man took his hand, and walked with him till he got tired, then carried him on his back, until at last they reached the boy's house safe and sound. Have you understood the story? The first people *showed* him the way, but the other man *was* the way. The Messiah said, "I am the way. Follow me!" He will not merely

¹ John 14:6

give you directions and obligations. He himself will bring you to your eternal home if you go with him.

My brother or sister, what do you think of the words of the Messiah? They are very wonderful. No one else has ever spoken like him.

What do you think of his sufferings?

And now my brother, my sister, let me ask you... Do you know how much time you have left in this world? Do you know when you will die? Which year, which month, which day? Do you know where you will die? Or how? And do you know what will happen to you after you die? All this you do not know.

But Yesua the Messiah spoke about his death. He knew when he would die, and where, and how. And he knew what would happen to him after he died. He said to his disciples in the Injil (Matthew chapter twenty), "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes of the Jews and they will condemn him to death and deliver him to the Romans to be mocked and scourged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day."¹ He knew all this before it happened. And it did happen exactly as he had predicted. Just as it is written in *Şûrat Maryam*, the Messiah said: "*As-salâmu ʿelaya yawma wulidtu, wa yawma amûtu, wa yawma abʿatû ḥayy.* (Peace is on me the day I was born, the day I die, and the day I rise [from death] alive.)"²

Some people have the idea that Yesua the Messiah did not die, on account of a phrase in *Şûrat En-nisâ*. We read that the Jews, the people of the Book, were boasting and saying, "*Inna qatalna l-masîḥa ʿisa bna maryam.* (We killed the Messiah son of Mariam.)" However, "*Ma qatalahu wa ma şalabuhu walakin şubbiha lahum.* (They did not kill him or crucify him, but it seemed thus to

¹ Matt 20:18-19

² Qur'an 19:33

them.)”¹ And in truth the Jews were wrong to boast and say “*qatalna l-masîh* (We killed the Messiah)” because they had no right to kill anyone in the period of the Roman occupation. They delivered him to the Roman governor and his soldiers, and these men nailed the Messiah to a wooden cross and hung him from it. He was crucified not by the Jews but by the Romans.

The Messiah knew all this before it happened. He knew where he would die. He knew how, and when. And he knew something else. He knew *why* he would die. In the Injil (Mark chapter ten), he tells us why, for he “has come... to give his life as a ransom for many.”²

We have spoken about the power of the Messiah to raise the dead, and perhaps you are asking, “If he had such wonderful power over death, why did he allow those men to kill him?” This is an important question. And he himself gives us the answer. In the Injil (John chapter ten) he says, “No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down it of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again.”³ In the hour of crisis and danger, the Messiah did not hide himself, or run away in fear. He said, “I am the good shepherd, and the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”⁴

We are all children of Adam. And as Adam sinned and died, so we have sinned and must die. It is written in the Injil (Romans chapter six), “The wages of sin is death.”⁵ But Yesua the Messiah had a pure heart; he did not sin; he did nothing bad. There was nothing sinful or blameworthy in him. His account was clean. For this reason, he could pay the cost of our sin for us, pay the account which we owed. It is

¹ Qur’an 4:153 and 155-7

يَسْأَلُكَ أَهْلُ الْكِتَابِ... وَيَكْفُرُهُمْ وَقَوْلِهِمْ عَلَى مَرْيَمَ بُهْتَانًا عَظِيمًا... وَقَوْلِهِمْ إِنَّا قَتَلْنَا الْمَسِيحَ
عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ وَمَا صَلَبُوهُ وَلَكِنْ شُبِّهَ لَهُمْ وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ لَفِي شَكٍّ
مِنْهُ مَا لَهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِلَّا اتِّبَاعَ الظَّنِّ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ يَقِينًا

² Mark 10:45

³ John 10:18

⁴ John 10:11

⁵ Rom 6:23

written about him in the Injil (Peter’s first letter chapter two), “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree... By his wounds we are healed.”¹ In this way the righteous one died to save the wicked, to rescue us from the judgment and condemnation coming to us. He made peace between us and Allah, with a new covenant of reconciliation through his blood.

My brother or sister, what do you think of the sufferings of the Messiah? They are very wonderful. No one else has resolved to suffer like this on our account, to make a new covenant of reconciliation between Allah and mankind.

What do you think of his resurrection?

The day that Yesua the Messiah was crucified, he hung on the cross for six hours. His mother was watching and so were his friends, and also the Jews and the Romans, until he breathed out his spirit and died. Later they took down his body and buried it in a cave dug out of a cliff. They closed the tomb with a large stone rolled across the mouth of the cave, and sealed the stone so no one could move it. They brought officers to guard the tomb with swords and clubs. These witnesses all knew the Messiah, and they testified to his death.

Two days passed, and on the third day early in the morning, it happened just as the officers had feared. An angel of Allah Almighty appeared, and the officers were terrified and all fell to the ground as though dead. The stone rolled away from the door of the tomb and Yesua the Messiah walked out alive. Here he is, risen from the dead just as he had told them. The Jews thought they had killed him; they thought he was finished and gone for good, but here he is once more in their midst.

When the Messiah rose, he met with his disciples and his mother and brothers for a period of forty days. And he was seen by five hundred witnesses. He spoke with them, ate with them, and showed them the wounds where the nails had pierced his hands and feet.

My brother or sister, let us not deceive ourselves. We know that death is the great enemy of mankind, and we all fear it. If we could run to a place secure from

¹ 1 Pet 2:24

death, we would run there. A person would give absolutely anything to avoid death, but death is inevitable. All the prophets died; they were buried and their bodies remain in the ground to this day. But Yesua the Messiah, glory to Allah, rose from the tomb and lives with eternal life.

Perhaps you will ask, “What was the purpose of Allah in the resurrection of the Messiah? What does he want to show us with this miracle?” He wants to show us that the Messiah has victory over our greatest enemy.

For the Messiah remained steadfast in the way of faith to the very end. He bore everything. He bore all that the Jews did to him, and the Romans, and the powers of darkness, and the devil; he bore the punishment for the sin of the world; he endured suffering to the point of death; he bore the torments of the grave; and still holding to the true faith he overcame them all. And he came out of the tomb alive and still steadfast in the way of Allah. He said (in the Injil, John chapter eleven), “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he die, yet he shall live.”¹

My brother or sister, what do you think of the resurrection of the Messiah? It is very wonderful. No one else has risen from the tomb victorious over death as he did.

What do you think of his ascension?

Do you know, my brother or sister, where Yesua the Messiah is now? After he rose from the tomb, he took his disciples to a hill. Then they saw him lifted up into the sky and he entered into the presence of Allah Almighty. As it is written in the Injil (Hebrews chapter one), “When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”² And it is also written in *Şûrat Ahl-‘imrân*: “*Al masîhu ‘isa ibnu maryam wajîhan fi d-dunyâ wa l-âhirati wa min al-muqarrabin*. (The Messiah... the son of Mariam, held in honour in this world and the Hereafter and of the company of those nearest to Allah.)”³

¹ John 11:25

² Heb 1:3

³ Qur’an 3:45

If we ask the Jews which prophet they would like to take the place closest to Allah, they would undoubtedly say Moses. If we ask the Muslims, they would say Muhammad. If we ask the Christians, they would say the Messiah. But Allah did not consult either the Jews or the Muslims or the Christians. He did what he wished in his own kingdom. He exalted the Messiah the son of Mariam and sat him on his right side, as it is written in *Şûrat An-nisâ*: “*rafa‘ahu llahu ‘ilayhi*” (Allah raised him up to himself).¹

This shows us where the Messiah is now. But do you know what he is doing there? He is interceding for those who believe in him; he is speaking to Allah about us. It is written about him in the Injil (Hebrews chapter seven), “He is able for all time to save those who draw near to Allah through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.”²

Yesua the Messiah came from heaven, then for thirty years he did the will of Allah in this world, and then returned to heaven. It is written about him in the Injil (Philippians chapter two), “Though he was in the form of Allah, he did not count equality with Allah a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore Allah has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Yesua every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Yesua the Messiah is Lord, to the glory of Allah the Father.”³

My brother or sister, what do you think of the ascension of the Messiah to heaven? It is very wonderful. No one else has ascended to heaven to intercede for us as he does.

الرَّفَعَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَيْهِ

¹ Qur’an 4:158

² Heb 7:25

³ Phil 2:6-11

What do you think of his return?

And now my brother or sister, the world is drawing towards its end. The age is weary and the world is sick. There is no rest anywhere. We know what will happen in the Last Days, because the Messiah has shown us in the Injil (Matthew chapter twenty four) what will happen. Nation will fight against nation; the earth and the heavens will be shaken; famines and plagues, evil and wickedness will increase on the earth, until all mankind loses hope and flees in terror to the mountains, hiding there in fear. And the Messiah will come down and destroy and annihilate all the evil and the wickedness of the world, and rescue those who are awaiting him.

The Messiah said (in the Injil, John chapter fourteen), “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in Allah; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms... I go to prepare a place for you. And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”¹

The Hour draws near, my brother. It is written in *Şûrat Ez-zuhrûf* that the Messiah will be “*eilmun li-s-sa‘a*” or “*‘alamun li-s-sa‘a*” (a Sign of the Hour), and Allah says “*fa la tamtarunna biha, watabi‘unni. hada şiraṭ mustaqîmun* (therefore have no doubt about it, but follow me: this is a straight way.)”² In *Şûrat Maryam* Allah says, “*li naj‘alahu ʿâyatan li-n-nâsi wa raḥmatan minna.* (We appoint him as a Sign unto men and a Mercy from Us)”³ So let me ask you, my brother... When the Sign (*aya*) of the Messiah appears will you recognise it? When the Messiah asks you, “What do you think of me?” and you reply, “You are the Sign (*‘alam*) of the Hour,” he will ask, “Did you accept the Sign (*‘alam*)?”

¹ John 14:1-3

² Qur’an 43:61

وَأِنَّهُ لَعَلَّمٌ (لَعَلَّمٌ) لِلسَّاعَةِ فَلَا تَمْتَرَنَّ بِهَا وَاتَّبِعُونِ هَذَا صِرَاطٌ مُسْتَقِيمٌ

³ Qur’an 19:21

لِنَجْعَلَهُ آيَةً لِلنَّاسِ وَرَحْمَةً مِنَّا وَكَانَ أَمْرًا مَّقْضِيًّا

Listen my brother, my sister, to the word of the Messiah, the Son of Man, as he spoke about that Hour and that Sign (in the Injil, Matthew chapter twenty-four), “As the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man... then will appear the Sign of the Son of Man in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”¹ My brother, my sister, are you ready for that Hour?

The Messiah also said in the Injil (John chapter five), “The hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear my voice and come forth, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.”² In that Hour, as they hear the voice of the Messiah, Moses and Abraham, and the prophets, and all of mankind, will come out from their graves, either with joy or with dread.

My brother, are you ready... My sister, are you ready, to hear the voice of the Messiah? For it is written in the Injil (in the letter of Jude), “Behold the Lord came with his holy myriads, to execute judgment on all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness which they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”³ The Messiah will separate people as a shepherd separates sheep from goats, and place those who have believed in him on his right, and those who have rejected him on his left.

My brother, my sister, what do you think of the return of the Messiah? It will be very wonderful. It is he who will come at the end of the world to raise the dead.

¹ Matt 24:27 and 30-31

² John 5:28-29

³ Jude 14-15

What do you think of his invitation?

The night in which Yesua the Messiah was born, there were some shepherds in that country watching over their flocks by night, as it is written in the Injil (Luke chapter two). There appeared to them an angel and the glory of the Lord shone round about them and they were terrified. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all the people. For there is born to you today a saviour, and he is the Messiah the Lord.”¹ Do not fear, my brother, my sister. This is joyful news.

Yesua the Messiah said (in the Injil, Matthew chapter eleven), “Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”² He also said (in the Injil, John chapter fifteen), “I am the true vine... The branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine... If you abide in me and my words abide in you... you will bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”³

My brother, my sister, now you know what the Messiah said about himself. You know what other people said about him. You know what Allah said about him. You know there is no one like him.

And the Messiah is calling you personally today, just as he called his very first disciples. They left everything they had and followed him. No longer depending on someone else, they put their trust in him.

It is written in *Şûrat Al-ḥadîd* about those who believed in the Messiah, “*jaʿalna fî qulûbi lladîna tbaʿuho raʿafatan wa raḥma*. (We ordained in the hearts of those who followed him compassion and mercy.)”⁴ Today my brother, my

¹ Luke 2:8-11

² Matt 11:28-29

³ John 15:1 and 4 and 7-8

⁴ Qur’an 57:27

ثُمَّ قَفَّيْنَا عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِم بِرُسُلِنَا وَقَفَّيْنَا بِعِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ وَآتَيْنَاهُ الْإِنْجِيلَ وَجَعَلْنَا فِي قُلُوبِ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُ رَأْفَةً وَرَحْمَةً

sister, the Messiah invites you to believe in him, depend on him, trust him to save you and guarantee you security in this world and the hereafter. And he calls you to join those in whose hearts Allah has ordained compassion and mercy.

Never has there been anyone born like the Messiah. Nor anyone who received names like his. Nor anyone with a pure and compassionate heart like his. Nor anyone who spoke as he spoke. Nor anyone who healed the sick and raised the dead as he did. Nor anyone who resolved to die bearing the sin of the world. Nor anyone who rose from the tomb victorious over death. Nor anyone exalted to intercede for us in the presence of Allah. Nor anyone who will come down on the Last Day to save those who believe in him and take them with him into eternal life.

My brother or sister, there is no one like him. Hear what he says to you today. He calls each one who labours and is heavy laden. Hear his word, believe in him, depend on him, and you will find rest for your soul in this world and in the eternal hereafter. Amen.