

Was Jesus or Isaac the Stone the Builders Rejected and What Are the Fruits of the Kingdom of God? - By Karen Sue Nyquist

Some Muslims believe that Isaac's descendants are "the stone that was rejected" and that the descendants of Ishmael have been given the Kingdom of God. Islam teaches that Jesus is the Messiah and a prophet, so let's go to the Bible and see what Jesus said about this stone, the Kingdom of God, and its fruit. But wait! Can the Bible be trusted? Let's see what the Quran says.

1. What does the Quran say about the Bible? - "And We sent, following in their footsteps, Jesus, the son of Mary, confirming that which came before him in the **Torah/Tawraat**; and We gave him the **Gospel/Injeel**, in which was guidance and light and confirming that which preceded it of the Torah as guidance and instruction for the righteous. Let the followers of the Gospel judge by what Allah has revealed therein, and those who do not judge by what Allah has revealed are the transgressors. Then We revealed the Book to you (O Muhammad!) with Truth, confirming whatever of the Book was revealed before, **and protecting and guarding over it**" (Quran 5:46-48). The Torah are Moses' first 5 books of the Bible. The Gospel was given to Jesus, some Muslims say it's all the New Testament, others just the first 4 books. The prophet David/Dawood declared, "The words of the Lord are pure words, ... You shall keep them, O Lord, You shall preserve them from this generation forever" (Psalms/Zabur 12:6-7). **Since God protects His Word, it's not corrupted, so the Quran tells us to turn to it.**

2. What Did Jesus Say About the Stone that Was Rejected and the Fruits of the Kingdom God? Jesus used the Parable of the Wicked Tenant Farmers. - "Listen to another parable: There was a landowner (*God*) who planted a vineyard (*Israel*). He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers (*Jewish leaders*) and moved to another place. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants (*prophets*) to the tenants to collect his fruit. The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son (*Jesus/Isa*) to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, **let's kill him** and take his inheritance.' So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they (*Jewish religious leaders*) replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time" (Matthew 21:33-45 (NIV).

3. How Did Jesus Interpret the Parable? - **a)** Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone (*Jesus*) the builders (*Jewish leaders*) rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? **b)** "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you (*the Jewish leaders*) and **c)** given to a people* (*those who accept Jesus, the Son Who was killed, as the Messiah*) who will produce its fruit. **d)** Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.' When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them" (Matthew 21:42-45 (NIV). (**Greek word ethnos - translated into: a people, a nation, Gentiles.*) Let's look at Jesus' rejection.

4. Was Jesus, the Messiah, Rejected? - **a)** All of Isaiah 53 talks about the Sin-Bearing Messiah who would be rejected. "He is despised and rejected by men," (Isaiah 53:3). Jesus said, "But *this happened* that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause' " (John 15:25).

5. Who Will the Kingdom be Given to? **b)** Jesus said it will be "given to a people who will produce its fruit." **c) Does Jesus explain what kind of fruit they are to produce?** Yes! Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can



do nothing. . . By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in **My love**. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. “These things I have spoken to you, that **My joy** may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full” (John 15:5-11).

6. Are There More Fruit of the Kingdom? Yes! “But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, long-suffering (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**” (Galatians 5:22-23). “... the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all **goodness, righteousness, and truth** (Ephesians 5:9).



7. God’s Vineyard - What Kind of Fruit Did He Expect? - “So He (God) expected *it* to bring forth *good* grapes, But it brought forth **wild** grapes:” (Isaiah 5:3). Here are some Old Testament References to Fruit: fruit of **righteousness, peace, quietness, confidence** (Isaiah 32:17); and fruit of **unfailing love** (Hosea 10:12).

8. What was Prophesied About Ishmael and Isaac? - “And the Angel of the Lord said to her (*Hagar*): Behold, you *are* with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the Lord has heard your affliction. He shall be a **wild** man; His hand *shall be* against every man, And every man’s hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren” (Genesis 16:11-12). “Then God said: ‘No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an **everlasting covenant, and** with his descendants after him”” (Genesis 17:19). Jesus descended from Isaac.

9. What Did Jesus Mean When He Talked About the Stone? **d)** He said, “Anyone who falls on this stone (*attacks Jesus*) will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed (Matthew 21:44).” Jesus was referring to this prophecy about Himself: “He will be as a sanctuary (*to those who repent and believe in Him*), But a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel, As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem And many among them shall stumble; They shall fall and be broken, Be snared and taken” (Isaiah 8:14-15).

10. But didn’t Mohammed establish the Kingdom of Heaven?” -“Repent, **for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (is very near)!**” John the Baptist, then later, Jesus Himself both said, “The kingdom is at hand” (Matthew 4:17). Some Muslims believe this is a prophecy of the establishment a powerful Islamic kingdom with Quran being the Law of the Kingdom. But the kingdom of Heaven or the Kingdom of God, is not talking about an Islamic kingdom,...(*which was not ‘at hand’ but was 5 centuries later*). Jesus also said, “**The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you**” (Luke 17:20-21). (*It’s spiritual, not physical, and not on a map*). “And He (*Jesus*) said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that there are some **standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power**”” (Mark 9:1). Those who were standing there died 500 years before Muhammed conquered lands to establish the kingdom of Islam.” But they saw the power of the Kingdom of God when they received the Holy Spirit, on the day of Pentecost. Please, read Acts 1:8 and Romans 14:17.

11. Since the Quran tells us to turn to the Bible, will you? - Will you start reading the Bible? Read for yourself what it says about Jesus and the fruit He produces in our lives. Suggested Prayer: God, I thank you for sending the Bible to us. Please help me to read and understand it. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen. GOD BLESS YOU! Please, reach out to us.

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