

What Muhammad said about Jews and Christians

The Koran states that Muhammad spoke for Allah (4:80), and it commands Muslims to obey Muhammad (59:7). The Koran also states that Muhammad is the timeless standard by which Muslims should conduct themselves if they wanted to meet Allah (33:21). So what did Muhammad say about Jews and Christians?

Muhammad said that the Jews and Christians were worth only half of a Muslim:

It was narrated from 'Amr bin Shu'aib, from his father, from his grandfather, that the Messenger of Allah ruled that the blood money for the People of the Book is half of that of the blood money for the Muslims, and they are the Jews and Christians.

Sunan Ibn Majah, No. 2644

Here is what Muhammad said to do when a Muslim met a Jew or a Christian:

Abu Huraira reported that Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) had said: Do not greet the Jews and the Christians before they greet you and when you meet any one of them on the roads force him to go to the narrowest part of it.

Sahih Muslim, No. 2167

Muhammad said the rocks would call out for Muslims to kill Jews:

Narrated Abu Hurairah: Allah's Messenger said, "The Hour will not be established until you fight against the Jews, and the stone behind which a Jew will be hiding will say, 'O Muslim! There is a Jew hiding behind me, so kill him.'"

Sahih Al-Bukhari, No. 2926

Muhammad said that the Jews were grave robbers. Al-Bukhari reported this *hadith* under the heading of *What has been said about Bani Israel*:

'Uqba bin 'Amir said, "I heard him [Muhammad] saying that the Israeli used to dig the grave of the dead (to steal their shrouds)."

Sahih Al-Bukhari, No. 3452

Muhammad even said that Jews would be accompanying the anti-Christ:

Anas b. Malik reported that Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) said: The antichrist would be followed by seventy thousand Jews of Isbahan wearing Persian shawls.

Sahih Muslim, No. 2944

At one point Muhammad had a peace treaty with the Christians of the Bani Taglib tribe, but one of the conditions of the treaty was that the

Christians would no longer baptize their children into Christianity.

Winning the Hearts and Souls: Expeditions and Delegations in the Lifetime of Prophet Muhammad, p. 227

Muhammad said that Jews and Christians will go to Hell. He talked about the Day of Resurrection, when people will be gathered in front of Allah by religious groupings:

Then it will be said to the Jews, 'What did you use to worship?' They will reply, 'We used to worship Uzair (Ezra), the son of Allah.' It will be said to them, 'You are liars, for Allah has neither a wife nor a son. What do you want (now)?' They will reply, 'We want You to provide us with water.' Then it will be said to them 'Drink,' and they will fall down in Hell (instead). Then it will be said to the Christians, 'What did you use to worship?' They will reply, 'We used to worship Masih (Messiah), the son of Allah.' It will be said, 'You are liars, for Allah has neither a wife nor a son. What do you want (now)?' They will say, 'We want You to provide us with water.' It will be said to them, 'Drink,' and they will fall down in Hell (instead)...

Sahih Al-Bukhari, No. 7439

And Muhammad said that on the Day of Resurrection, mountains of sins would be removed from the backs of Muslims and put onto the Jews and Christians:

Narrated Abu Musa: Allah's Messenger said: On the Day of Resurrection, my Ummah (nation) will be gathered into three groups. One sort will enter Paradise without rendering an account (of their deeds). Another sort will be reckoned an easy account and admitted into Paradise. Yet another sort will come bearing on their backs heaps of sins like great mountains. Allah will ask the angels though He knows best about them: Who are these people? They will reply: They are humble slaves of yours. He will say: Unload the sins from them and put the same over the Jews and Christians; then let the humble slaves get into Paradise by virtue of My Mercy.

110 Ahadith Qudsi: Sayings of the Prophet Having Allah's Statements, pp. 19-20

Muhammad even said that Jews and Christians would take the place of Muslims in Hell:

Abu Burda reported on the authority of his father that Allah's Apostle (may peace be upon him) said: No Muslim would die but Allah would admit instead of him a Jew or a Christian in Hell-Fire.

Sahih Muslim, No. 2767R1

Muhammad also wanted to expel the Jews from the land:

Narrated Abu Hurairah: While we were in the mosque, the Prophet came out and said, "Let us go to the Jews." We went out till we reached Bait-ul-Midras. He said to them, "If you embrace Islam, you

will be safe. You should know that the earth belongs to Allah and His Messenger, and I want to expel you from this land. So, if anyone amongst you owns some property, he is permitted to sell it, otherwise you should know that the earth belongs to Allah and His Messenger.

Sahih Al-Bukhari, No. 3167

And on his death bed Muhammad had this to say regarding Jews and Christians:

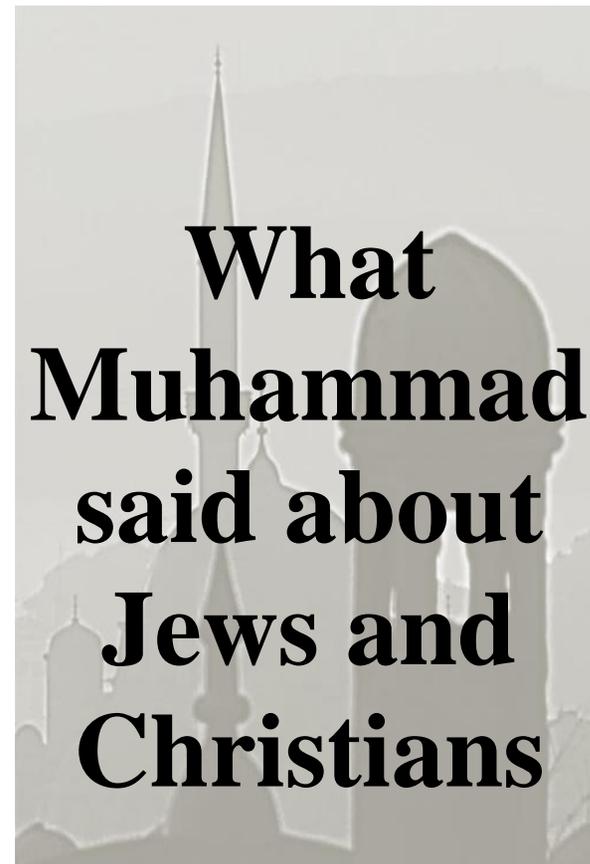
It has been narrated by 'Umar b. Al-Khattab that he heard the Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him) saying: I will expel the Jews and Christians from the Arabian Peninsula and will not leave any but Muslims.

Sahih Muslim, No. 1767

A devout Muslim is expected to follow the teachings of Muhammad, just as he would follow the commands of Allah. As we can see, Muhammad's teachings are quite a challenge to the idea of inter-faith harmony and dialogue.

For additional aspects of this challenge, see the brochures *What the Koran says about Jews and Christians, Don't Take Jews and Christians as Friends?*, and *Shirk: the Unforgiveable Sin of Christianity*.

Dr. Kirby is the author of six books on Islam. His latest book is *Islamic Doctrine versus the U.S. Constitution: The Dilemma for Muslim Public Officials*. His books are available on Amazon.com.



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