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Review: Jesus in the Koran

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BOOK REVIEWS

Jesus in the Koran. Geoffrey Parrinder. Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 1965, 1995.

Brief mention should be made of a volume that first appeared in 1965 but was copyrighted again in 1995. Having written well over a dozen volumes on the world religions, Parrinder has long been recognized as one of the foremost scholars in this field. Combine this with a seldom-treated subject of much interest to apologists and missiologists alike, and we have the makings of a text with ongoing appeal.

Jesus (ʿIsa) is mentioned in fifteen chapters (suras) in the Qur'an, in a total of ninety-three verses. The Qur'an speaks of Jesus' virgin birth, sinlessness, and miracles such as raising the dead, as well as saying many lofty things about him, like the affirmation that he is the Messiah. Parrinder provides a commentary on each of these verses, including providing many interpretations by Muslim interpreters who even discuss both the death and resurrection of Jesus. Parrinder's effort has even been recognized by Muslims as a fair treatment.

One might charge Parrinder with making overly easy interpretations in order to serve as common ground between Christians and Muslims, as well as seeming to downplay some of the unique aspects of orthodoxy, such as Jesus as Son of God, the Trinity, and the nature of the Gospel message. Yet, his knowledge of Muslim interpretation and the comprehensiveness of the volume, along with many surprising truths that he does point out, make this book an invaluable tool for studying Islam or dealing with Muslims.

Reviewed by: Gary R. Habermas, Liberty University

Farnaz Ma'sumian, *Life After Death: A Study of the Afterlife in World Religions.* Oxford, England: Oneworld Publications, 1995.