

# HIS HOLINESS CHRIST

“... the quickening power released by His transcendent,  
His all-pervasive, and resplendent Spirit.”

*Bahá'u'lláh*

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## 1. *Christianity*

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. The same came to Jesus by night and said unto Him, “Rabbi, we know that Thou art a teacher come from God; for no man can do these miracles that Thou doest, except God be with Him.”

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus said unto Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?”

Jesus answered, Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

2. Nicodemus answered and said unto Him, “How can these things be?”

Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that We do know, and testify that We have seen; and ye receive not Our witness.

If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 3.1-16

## 3. *Islam*

(Jesus said) I (have come to) confirm the truth of the Torah which was sent down before me, and make certain things lawful which have been forbidden until now; and I come to you with a sign from your Lord; so be fearful of God and follow me. Surely God is my Lord, and your Lord, so worship Him; and this the right path.”

When Jesus perceived their unbelief He asked: “Who will help Me in the way of God?”

“We,” the disciples answered, “shall be the helpers of God. We believe in God; and You be our witness that we submit and obey. O Lord, we believe in Your revelations and follow this Apostle. Enroll us among the witnesses.” But they (the unbelievers) contrived a plot, and God did the like; and God’s plan is the best.

When God said, “O Jesus, I will take You to Myself and exalt You, and rid You of the infidels, and hold those who follow You above those who disbelieve till the Day of Resurrection. You have then to come back to Me when I will judge between You in what You were at variance.”

Those who are infidels will surely receive severe punishment both in this world and the next; and nought will they have to help (or save) them. But those who believe and do good deeds shall be given their recompense in full; but God does not love the unjust.

These verses that We read to you are signs and reminders full of wisdom. For God the likeness of Jesus is as that of Adam whom He fashioned out of dust and said “Be” and He was. This is the truth from your Lord, so do not be in doubt.

*Qur’án, Surih 3 “The Family of Imran”*

## 4. *Bahá’í Faith*

...from the inception of the mission of Jesus - may peace be upon Him - till the day of His ascension was the Resurrection of Moses. For during that period the Revelation of God shone forth through the appearance of that divine Reality, Who rewarded by His Word everyone who believed in Moses, and punished by His Word everyone who did not believe; inasmuch as God’s Testimony for that Day was that which He had solemnly affirmed in the Gospel. And from the inception of the Revelation of the Apostle of God - may the blessings

of God be upon Him - till the day of His ascension was the Resurrection of Jesus - peace be upon Him - wherein the Tree of divine Reality appeared in the person of Muhammad, rewarding by His Word everyone who was a believer in Jesus, and punishing by His Word everyone who was not a believer in Him.

*Selections from the Writings of the Báb /*  
3. Excerpts from the Persian Bayán

5. ...call thou to mind the day when the Jews, who had surrounded Jesus, Son of Mary, were pressing Him to confess His claim of being the Messiah and Prophet of God, so that they might declare Him an infidel and sentence Him to death. Then, they led Him away, He Who was the Day-star of the heaven of divine Revelation, unto Pilate and Caiaphas, who was the leading divine of that age. The chief priests were all assembled in the palace, also a multitude of people who had gathered to witness His sufferings, to deride and injure Him. Though they repeatedly questioned Him, hoping that He would confess His claim, yet Jesus held His peace and spake not. Finally, an accursed of God arose and, approaching Jesus, adjured Him saying: "Didst thou not claim to be the Divine Messiah? Didst thou not say, 'I am the King of Kings, My word is the Word of God, and I am the breaker of the Sabbath day?'" Thereupon Jesus lifted up His head and said: "Beholdest thou not the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power and might?" These were His words, and yet consider how to outward seeming He was devoid of all power except that inner power which was of God and which had encompassed all that is in heaven and on earth. How can I relate all that befell Him after He spoke these words? How shall I describe their heinous behaviour towards Him? They at last heaped on His blessed Person such woes that He took His flight unto the fourth Heaven.

Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán* / Part Two

6. Know thou that when the Son of Man yielded up His breath to God, the whole creation wept with a great weeping. By sacrificing Himself, however, a fresh capacity was infused into all created things. Its evidences, as witnessed in all the peoples of the earth, are now manifest before thee. The deepest wisdom which the sages have uttered, the profoundest learning which any mind hath unfolded, the arts which the ablest hands have produced, the influence exerted by the most potent of rulers, are but manifestations of the quickening power released by His transcendent, His all-pervasive, and resplendent Spirit.

We testify that when He came into the world, He shed the splendor of His glory upon all created things. Through Him the leper recovered from the leprosy of perversity and ignorance. Through Him, the unchaste and wayward were healed. Through His power, born of Almighty God, the eyes of the blind were opened, and the soul of the sinner sanctified.

7. Leprosy may be interpreted as any veil that interveneth between man and the recognition of the Lord, his God. Whoso alloweth himself to be shut out from Him is indeed a leper, who shall not be remembered in the Kingdom of God, the Mighty, the All-Praised. We bear witness that through the power of the Word of God every leper was cleansed, every sickness was healed, every human infirmity was banished. He it is Who purified the world. Blessed is the man who, with a face beaming with light, hath turned towards Him.

*Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh: XXXVI*

8. The appearances of the Manifestations of God are the divine springtime. When Christ appeared in this world, it was like the vernal bounty; the outpouring descended; the effulgences of the Merciful encircled all things; the human world found new life. Even the physical world partook of it. The divine perfections were upraised; souls were trained in the school of heaven so that all grades of human existence received life and light.

`Abdu'l-Bahá, *Promulgation of Universal Peace* / Talks in New York and Brooklyn, 11-19 April 1912: 4.

9. Although He came from Nazareth, which was a known place, He also came from Heaven. His body was born of Mary, but His Spirit came from Heaven. The sword He carried was the sword of His tongue, with which He divided the good from the evil, the true from the false, the faithful from the unfaithful, and the light from the darkness. His Word was indeed a sharp sword! The Throne upon which He sat is the Eternal Throne from which Christ reigns for ever, a heavenly throne, not an earthly one, for the things of earth pass away but heavenly things pass not away. He re-interpreted and completed the Law of Moses and fulfilled the Law of the Prophets. His word conquered the East and the West. His Kingdom is everlasting. He exalted those Jews who recognized Him. They were men and women of humble birth, but contact with Him made them great and gave them everlasting dignity. The animals who were to live with one another signified the different sects and races, who,

once having been at war, were now to dwell in love and charity, drinking together the water of life from Christ the Eternal Spring.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Paris Talks* / Part One: 16.

**10.** Christ was the Sun of Reality which shone from the heavenly horizon of Christianity, training, protecting, confirming minds, souls and spirits until they came into harmony with the divine Kingdom and attained capacity for descent of the infinite bounties of God. Were it not for the appearance of His splendor, they would have remained in the darkness of imperfection and remoteness from God. But because that Sun of Reality shone forth and flooded its light into the world of minds, souls and spirits, they became radiant. He conferred a new and eternal life upon them.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Promulgation of Universal Peace* / Talks at Green Acre, 16-17 August 1912: 93.

**11.** He Who was Thy Spirit (Jesus), O my God, withdrew all alone in the darkness of the night preceding His last day on earth, and falling on His face to the ground besought Thee saying: "If it be Thy will, O my Lord, my Well-Beloved, let this cup, through Thy grace and bounty, pass from me."

By Thy beauty, O Thou Who art the Lord of all names and the Creator of the heavens! I can smell the fragrance of the words which, in His love for Thee, His lips have uttered, and can feel the glow of the fire that had inflamed His soul in its longing to behold Thy face and in its yearning after the Day-Spring of the light of Thy oneness, and the Dawning-Place of Thy transcendent unity.

Bahá'u'lláh, *Prayers and Meditations*: CXIV

**12.**  
Our Father, which art in heaven  
Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done  
In earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our debts  
as we forgive our debtors;  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the  
glory for ever. Amen.

Matthew 6.9~13

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## Personal Prayers

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## Reflection on the Texts

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## Discussion

For reflection:

What prevents the believers of a religion from recognizing that the promise of the Return of their Lord has been fulfilled?

Why would one want to know the promise is fulfilled?