STORIES FROM THE QUR'AN

SERIES 27

AT THE TRUNK OF A PALM TREE

The Story of Mary and the Birth of Prophet Jesus According to the Qur'an and Authentic Hadith



HJ CHE ALIM HJ CHE HARON

AK (KELANTAN)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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The Story of Mary and the Birth of Prophet Jesus According to the Qur'an and Authentic Hadith

قَالَ إِنِّي عَبْدُ ٱللَّهِ ءَاتَىٰنِيَ ٱلْكِتَـٰبَ وَجَعَلَنِي نَبِيًّا ﴿٣٠﴾

"[Jesus] said, "Indeed, I am the servant of Allah. He has given me the Scripture and made me a prophet."."

SURAH MARYAM 19:30

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise is due to Allah, who, when He decrees a matter, only says to it “Be,” and it is. Blessings and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, the closest of people to Prophet Jesus عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ, with no prophet between them, and upon his family and his Companions.

This eBook is specially dedicated to my beloved wife,

ZAHARAH MOHD LATIF;

my dear children,

MUHAMMAD HAFIZ, NOOR HAZWANI, ABDUL HAKIM, NOOR HIDAYAH, NOR AQILA and **NOR ATIQAH**;

and my sons- and daughters-in-law,

FAZILAH, MALEK, HANIN, FAIRIZAL and **FIRWAN**.

May Allah preserve the purity of our families, make our children dutiful to their parents, and bring calm to the heart of every mother bearing hardship. May this knowledge be ‘ilmun yuntafa‘u bih, knowledge that brings benefit.

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ABOUT THE COVER OF THIS EBOOK

The cover of this eBook does not depict any human being. It shows the **scenery** of a **date palm heavy with fruit** in a quiet valley at dawn, with **a small stream** flowing beneath it.

The scene is taken from the words of Allah: ***"the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm tree"*** (19:23), and ***"your Lord has provided beneath you a stream"*** (19:24).

The cover does not depict Mary, Prophet Jesus عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ, an angel or any figure. The **dark blue band** at the bottom, framed by **fine gold lines**, is where the author's name appears.

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Colour guide: green box = verses of the Qur'an; gold box = Hadith; brown box = archaeological note; blue table = comparison. Underlined blue narrator names can be clicked to open the narrator's page on sunnah.com.

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AT THE TRUNK OF A PALM TREE

In Series 26, Prophet Zechariah عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ cared for Mary and found provision with her in the prayer chamber. This series takes us to ***Mary herself*** — the only woman mentioned by name in the Qur'an, and whose name is the name of a surah.

This is the story of a girl pledged to Allah before she was born, chosen and purified, then tested with the hardest trial a woman can face: conceiving ***while no man had touched her***. At the trunk of a palm tree, she gave birth to a child who would speak from the cradle: ***"Indeed, I am the servant of Allah"***.

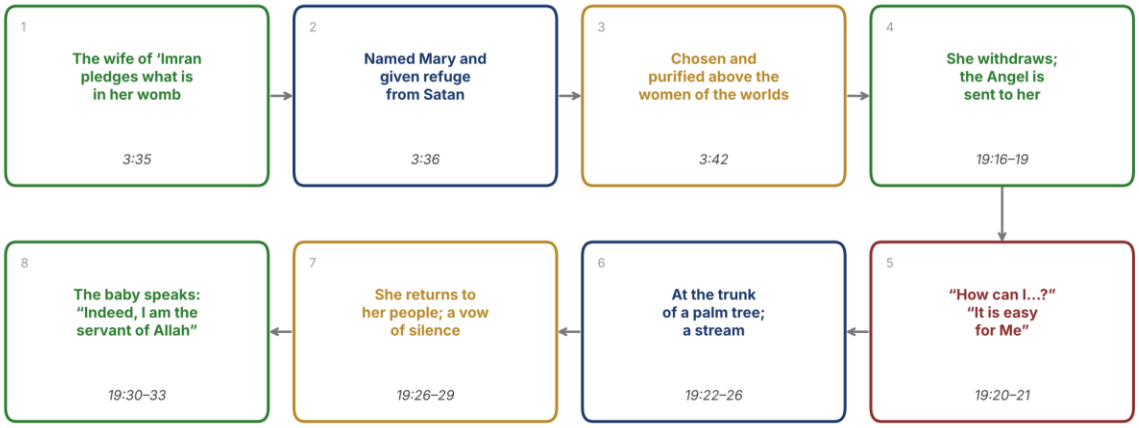


Figure 1: The flow of the story of Mary and the birth of Prophet Jesus — from the pledge of the wife of 'Imran to the baby who speaks.

Note: The translation of the Qur'anic verses in this eBook is Sahih International. The translations of the Hadith are our own, from the Arabic text. The grade of each Hadith is stated in its Hadith box, with a link to sunnah.com.

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THE PLEDGE OF THE WIFE OF ‘IMRAN

SURAH ALI ‘IMRAN 3:35

إِذْ قَالَتِ ٱمْرَأَتُ عِمْرَٰنَ رَبِّ إِنِّى نَذَرْتُ لَكَ مَا فِى بَطْنِى مُحَرَّرًا فَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّىٓ ۖ إِنَّكَ أَنتَ ٱلسَّمِيعُ ٱلْعَلِيمُ ﴿٣٥﴾

[Mention, O Muhammad], when the wife of 'Imran said, "My Lord, indeed I have pledged to You what is in my womb, consecrated [for Your service], so accept this from me. Indeed, You are the Hearing, the Knowing."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/3:35

SURAH ALI ‘IMRAN 3:36

فَلَمَّا وَضَعَتْهَا قَالَتْ رَبِّ إِنِّى وَضَعْتُهَآ أُنثَىٰ وَٱللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا وَضَعَتْ وَلَيْسَ ٱلذَّكَرُ كَٱلْأُنثَىٰ ۖ وَإِنِّى سَمَّيْتُهَا مَرْيَمَ وَإِنِّىٓ أُعِيذُهَا بِكَ وَذُرِّيَّتَهَا مِنَ ٱلشَّيْطَٰنِ ٱلرَّجِيمِ ﴿٣٦﴾

But when she delivered her, she said, "My Lord, I have delivered a female." And Allah was most knowing of what she delivered, "And the male is not like the female. And I have named her Mary, and I seek refuge for her in You and [for] her descendants from Satan, the expelled [from the mercy of Allah]."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/3:36

EXPLANATION OF VERSES 3:35–36 — A CHILD GIVEN TO ALLAH

First: A pledge before birth. ***“My Lord, indeed I have pledged to You what is in my womb, consecrated [for Your service]”***. A mother gave her child to Allah ***before she ever saw its face***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 3:35

Second: A daughter. ***“My Lord, I have delivered a female”*** — and Allah says: ***“And Allah was most knowing of what she delivered”***. What seemed a shortfall was in fact ***a greater honour***.

Third: A prayer for protection. ***“I have named her Mary, and I seek refuge for her in You and [for] her descendants from Satan, the expelled”***. This mother’s prayer was answered, as the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

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HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 3431

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو الْيَمَانِ، أَخْبَرَنَا شُعَيْبٌ، عَنِ الزُّهْرِيِّ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنِي سَعِيدُ بْنُ الْمُسَيَّبِ، قَالَ قَالَ أَبُو هُرَيْرَةَ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَقُولُ « مَا مِنْ بَنِي آدَمَ مَوْلُودٌ إِلاَّ يَمَسُّهُ الشَّيْطَانُ حِينَ يُولَدُ، فَيَسْتَهِلُّ صَارِخًا مِنْ مَسِّ الشَّيْطَانِ، غَيْرَ مَرْيَمَ وَابْنِهَا ». ثُمَّ يَقُولُ أَبُو هُرَيْرَةَ {وَإِنِّي أُعِيذُهَا بِكَ وَذُرِّيَّتَهَا مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ}.

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه said: I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say: **"There is no child of Adam born except that Satan touches him when he is born, so he cries out loudly from the touch of Satan — except Mary and her son."** Then Abu Hurayrah would recite: *"And I seek refuge for her in You and [for] her descendants from Satan, the expelled"* (3:36).

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Abu al-Yaman al-Hakam ibn Nafi', from Shu'ayb ibn Abi Hamzah, from Ibn Shihab al-Zuhri, from Sa'id ibn al-Musayyib, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Prophets, chapter "And mention in the Book, Mary", Hadith No. 3431. Also narrated by Muslim (No. 2366).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:3431

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CHOSEN AND PURIFIED

SURAH ALI 'IMRAN 3:42

وَإِذْ قَالَتِ ٱلْمَلَٰٓئِكَةُ يَٰمَرْيَمُ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ ٱصْطَفَىٰكِ وَطَهَّرَكِ وَٱصْطَفَىٰكِ عَلَىٰ نِسَآءِ ٱلْعَٰلَمِينَ ﴿٤٢﴾

And [mention] when the angels said, "O Mary, indeed Allah has chosen you and purified you and chosen you above the women of the worlds."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/3:42

SURAH ALI 'IMRAN 3:43

يَٰمَرْيَمُ ٱقْنُتِى لِرَبِّكِ وَٱسْجُدِى وَٱرْكَعِى مَعَ ٱلرَّٰكِعِينَ ﴿٤٣﴾

O Mary, be devoutly obedient to your Lord and prostrate and bow with those who bow [in prayer].

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/3:43

EXPLANATION OF VERSES 3:42–44 — THE HONOUR OF A WOMAN

First: Chosen twice. ***"indeed Allah has chosen you and purified you and chosen you above the women of the worlds"***. The commentators explain that the first choosing was for ***worship and purity***, and the second for ***the birth of Prophet Jesus*** عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 3:42

Second: Honour through worship. ***"O Mary, be devoutly obedient to your Lord and prostrate and bow"***. A high station came with a command to ***keep worshipping***.

Third: News of the unseen. ***"That is from the news of the unseen which We reveal to you"***. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ was not present ***"when they cast their pens as to which of them should be responsible for Mary"***.

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 3411

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ جَعْفَرٍ، حَدَّثَنَا وَكِيعٌ، عَنْ شُعْبَةَ، عَنْ عَمْرِو بْنِ مُرَّةَ، عَنْ مُرَّةَ الْهَمْدَانِيِّ، عَنْ أَبِي مُوسَى ـ رضى الله عنه ـ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم « كَمَلَ مِنَ

الرِّجَالِ كَثِيرٌ، وَلَمْ يَكْمُلْ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ إِلاَّ آسِيَةُ امْرَأَةُ فِرْعَوْنَ، وَمَرْيَمُ بِنْتُ عِمْرَانَ، وَإِنَّ فَضْلَ عَائِشَةَ عَلَى النِّسَاءِ كَفَضْلِ الثَّرِيدِ عَلَى سَائِرِ الطَّعَامِ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Musa رضى الله عنه said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"Many men reached perfection, but none among the women reached perfection except Asiyah, the wife of Pharaoh, and Mary, the daughter of 'Imran. And the superiority of 'A'ishah over other women is like the superiority of tharid over other kinds of food."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Yahya ibn Ja'far al-Bikandi, from Waki' ibn al-Jarrah, from Shu'bah ibn al-Hajjaj, from 'Amr ibn Murrah, from Murrah al-Hamdani, from Abu Musa al-Ash'ari رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Prophets, chapter "And Allah sets forth an example… the wife of Pharaoh", Hadith No. 3411. Also narrated by Muslim (No. 2431).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:3411

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 3432

حَدَّثَنِي أَحْمَدُ بْنُ أَبِي رَجَاءٍ، حَدَّثَنَا النَّضْرُ، عَنْ هِشَامٍ، قَالَ أَخْبَرَنِي أَبِي قَالَ، سَمِعْتُ عَبْدَ اللَّهِ بْنَ جَعْفَرٍ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ عَلِيًّا ـ رضى الله عنه ـ يَقُولُ سَمِعْتُ النَّبِيَّ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَقُولُ « خَيْرُ نِسَائِهَا مَرْيَمُ ابْنَةُ عِمْرَانَ، وَخَيْرُ نِسَائِهَا خَدِيجَةُ ».

TRANSLATION:

'Ali رضى الله عنه said: I heard the Prophet ﷺ say: **"The best of the women (of her time) is Mary, the daughter of 'Imran, and the best of the women (of her time) is Khadijah."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Ahmad ibn Abi Raja' al-Harawi, from al-Nadr ibn Shumayl, from Hisham ibn 'Urwah, from his father, 'Urwah ibn al-Zubayr, from 'Abdullah ibn Ja'far ibn Abi Talib, from 'Ali ibn Abi Talib رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Prophets, chapter "And when the angels said: O Mary", Hadith No. 3432. Also narrated by Muslim (No. 2430).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:3432

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A PLACE TOWARD THE EAST

SURAH MARYAM 19:16

وَٱذْكُرْ فِى ٱلْكِتَـٰبِ مَرْيَمَ إِذِ ٱنتَبَذَتْ مِنْ أَهْلِهَا مَكَانًا شَرْقِيًّا ﴿١٦﴾

And mention, [O Muhammad], in the Book [the story of] Mary, when she withdrew from her family to a place toward the east.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:16

SURAH MARYAM 19:17

فَٱتَّخَذَتْ مِن دُونِهِمْ حِجَابًا فَأَرْسَلْنَآ إِلَيْهَا رُوحَنَا فَتَمَثَّلَ لَهَا بَشَرًا سَوِيًّا ﴿١٧﴾

And she took, in seclusion from them, a screen. Then We sent to her Our Angel, and he represented himself to her as a well-proportioned man.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:17

SURAH MARYAM 19:18

قَالَتْ إِنِّىٓ أَعُوذُ بِٱلرَّحْمَـٰنِ مِنكَ إِن كُنتَ تَقِيًّا ﴿١٨﴾

She said, "Indeed, I seek refuge in the Most Merciful from you, [so leave me], if you should be fearing of Allah."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:18

SURAH MARYAM 19:19

قَالَ إِنَّمَآ أَنَا۠ رَسُولُ رَبِّكِ لِأَهَبَ لَكِ غُلَـٰمًا زَكِيًّا ﴿١٩﴾

He said, "I am only the messenger of your Lord to give you [news of] a pure boy."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:19

EXPLANATION OF VERSES 19:16–19 — STEADFAST PURITY

First: Withdrawing to worship. ***"when she withdrew from her family to a place toward the east"***, and ***"she took, in seclusion from them, a screen"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 19:16

Second: A test in human form. ***"Then We sent to her Our Angel, and he represented himself to her as a well-proportioned man"***. The majority of commentators explain that the Angel here is ***Gabriel***.

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Third: Her first reaction was to seek refuge in Allah. ***"Indeed, I seek refuge in the Most Merciful from you, [so leave me], if you should be fearing of Allah"***. This is ***steadfast purity*** — she did not hesitate, and did not ask questions first.

Fourth: Startling news. ***"I am only the messenger of your Lord to give you [news of] a pure boy"***.

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"IT IS EASY FOR ME"

SURAH MARYAM 19:20

قَالَتْ أَنَّىٰ يَكُونُ لِي غُلَٰمٌ وَلَمْ يَمْسَسْنِي بَشَرٌ وَلَمْ أَكُ بَغِيًّا ﴿٢٠﴾

She said, "How can I have a boy while no man has touched me and I have not been unchaste?"

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:20

SURAH MARYAM 19:21

قَالَ كَذَٰلِكِ قَالَ رَبُّكِ هُوَ عَلَيَّ هَيِّنٌ وَلِنَجْعَلَهُۥٓ ءَايَةً لِّلنَّاسِ وَرَحْمَةً مِّنَّا ۚ وَكَانَ أَمْرًا مَّقْضِيًّا ﴿٢١﴾

He said, "Thus [it will be]; your Lord says, 'It is easy for Me, and We will make him a sign to the people and a mercy from Us. And it is a matter [already] decreed.'"

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:21

EXPLANATION OF VERSES 19:20–21 AND 3:45–47 — A WORD FROM ALLAH

First: The question of a pure young woman. ***"How can I have a boy while no man has touched me and I have not been unchaste?"***.

Second: The same answer given to Prophet Zechariah عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ. ***"your Lord says, 'It is easy for Me'"*** — the same words as in 19:9 (Series 26). ***"When He decrees a matter, He only says to it, 'Be,' and it is"*** (3:47).

Third: The name and rank of the child. ***"whose name will be the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary - distinguished in this world and the Hereafter"***. And ***"He will speak to the people in the cradle and in maturity"*** (3:46). Tafsir Ibn Kathir 3:45

Fourth: A sign and a mercy. ***"We will make him a sign to the people and a mercy from Us"***.

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AT THE TRUNK OF A PALM TREE

SURAH MARYAM 19:23

فَأَجَآءَهَا ٱلْمَخَاضُ إِلَىٰ جِذْعِ ٱلنَّخْلَةِ قَالَتْ يَٰلَيْتَنِى مِتُّ قَبْلَ هَٰذَا وَكُنتُ نَسْيًا مَّنسِيًّا ﴿٢٣﴾

And the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm tree. She said, "Oh, I wish I had died before this and was in oblivion, forgotten."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:23

SURAH MARYAM 19:25

وَهُزِّىٓ إِلَيْكِ بِجِذْعِ ٱلنَّخْلَةِ تُسَٰقِطْ عَلَيْكِ رُطَبًا جَنِيًّا ﴿٢٥﴾

And shake toward you the trunk of the palm tree; it will drop upon you ripe, fresh dates.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:25

SURAH MARYAM 19:26

فَكُلِى وَٱشْرَبِى وَقَرِّى عَيْنًا ۖ فَإِمَّا تَرَيِنَّ مِنَ ٱلْبَشَرِ أَحَدًا فَقُولِىٓ إِنِّى نَذَرْتُ لِلرَّحْمَٰنِ صَوْمًا فَلَنْ أُكَلِّمَ ٱلْيَوْمَ إِنسِيًّا ﴿٢٦﴾

So eat and drink and be contented. And if you see from among humanity anyone, say, 'Indeed, I have vowed to the Most Merciful abstention, so I will not speak today to [any] man.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:26

EXPLANATION OF VERSES 19:22–26 — MERCY IN THE HARDEST MOMENT

First: Pain and solitude. ***"So she conceived him, and she withdrew with him to a remote place"*** (19:22). Then, ***"the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm tree"***. She said: ***"Oh, I wish I had died before this and was in oblivion, forgotten"***. The commentators explain that these words came from ***fear of trial*** concerning her religion, not from despair. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 19:23

Second: A comforting call. ***"Do not grieve; your Lord has provided beneath you a stream"***.

Third: Effort, even when weak. ***"And shake toward you the trunk of the palm tree; it will drop upon you ripe, fresh dates"***. A woman who has just given birth cannot shake the trunk of a palm — yet Allah still told her to ***make an effort***, and it was Allah who made the fruit fall.

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Fourth: Eat, drink and be at peace. ***"So eat and drink and be contented"***. Then she was told: ***"Indeed, I have vowed to the Most Merciful abstention"***.

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"O SISTER OF AARON"

SURAH MARYAM 19:27

فَأَتَتْ بِهِۦ قَوْمَهَا تَحْمِلُهُۥ ۖ قَالُوا۟ يَٰمَرْيَمُ لَقَدْ جِئْتِ شَيْـًٔا فَرِيًّا ﴿٢٧﴾

Then she brought him to her people, carrying him. They said, "O Mary, you have certainly done a thing unprecedented."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:27

SURAH MARYAM 19:28

يَٰٓأُخْتَ هَٰرُونَ مَا كَانَ أَبُوكِ ٱمْرَأَ سَوْءٍ وَمَا كَانَتْ أُمُّكِ بَغِيًّا ﴿٢٨﴾

O sister of Aaron, your father was not a man of evil, nor was your mother unchaste.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:28

SURAH MARYAM 19:29

فَأَشَارَتْ إِلَيْهِ ۖ قَالُوا۟ كَيْفَ نُكَلِّمُ مَن كَانَ فِى ٱلْمَهْدِ صَبِيًّا ﴿٢٩﴾

So she pointed to him. They said, "How can we speak to one who is in the cradle a child?"

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:29

EXPLANATION OF VERSES 19:27–29 — AN ACCUSATION AND A GESTURE

First: Her people's accusation. ***"O Mary, you have certainly done a thing unprecedented"***.

Second: "Sister of Aaron". ***"O sister of Aaron, your father was not a man of evil"***. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ explained that they used to ***name their children after the prophets and the righteous*** before them — Sahih Muslim 2135. This Aaron is not Prophet Aaron عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ, the brother of Moses عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 19:28

Third: Silence and pointing. ***"So she pointed to him"***. They asked: ***"How can we speak to one who is in the cradle a child?"***. Mary ***left her defence to Allah***.

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"INDEED, I AM THE SERVANT OF ALLAH"

SURAH MARYAM 19:30

قَالَ إِنِّي عَبْدُ ٱللَّهِ ءَاتَىٰنِيَ ٱلْكِتَٰبَ وَجَعَلَنِي نَبِيًّا ﴿٣٠﴾

[Jesus] said, "Indeed, I am the servant of Allah. He has given me the Scripture and made me a prophet."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:30

SURAH MARYAM 19:31

وَجَعَلَنِي مُبَارَكًا أَيْنَ مَا كُنتُ وَأَوْصَٰنِي بِٱلصَّلَوٰةِ وَٱلزَّكَوٰةِ مَا دُمْتُ حَيًّا ﴿٣١﴾

And He has made me blessed wherever I am and has enjoined upon me prayer and zakah as long as I remain alive.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:31

SURAH MARYAM 19:32

وَبَرًّۢا بِوَٰلِدَتِي وَلَمْ يَجْعَلْنِي جَبَّارًا شَقِيًّا ﴿٣٢﴾

And [made me] dutiful to my mother, and He has not made me a wretched tyrant.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:32

SURAH MARYAM 19:33

وَٱلسَّلَٰمُ عَلَيَّ يَوْمَ وُلِدتُّ وَيَوْمَ أَمُوتُ وَيَوْمَ أُبْعَثُ حَيًّا ﴿٣٣﴾

And peace is on me the day I was born and the day I will die and the day I am raised alive.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:33

EXPLANATION OF VERSES 19:30–33 — THE FIRST WORDS OF A PROPHET

First: His first declaration is servanthood. ***"Indeed, I am the servant of Allah. He has given me the Scripture and made me a prophet"***. The first words of Prophet Jesus عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ were ***"I am the servant of Allah"*** — rejecting from the very start any claim of divinity about him. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 19:30

Second: Prayer and zakah. ***"has enjoined upon me prayer and zakah as long as I remain alive"***.

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Third: Dutiful to his mother. ***"And [made me] dutiful to my mother, and He has not made me a wretched tyrant"***. Only his ***mother*** is mentioned — for he had no father.

Fourth: Peace at three moments. ***"the day I was born and the day I will die and the day I am raised alive"***. Like the peace upon Prophet John)19:15(عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ — see Figure 2.

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THE WORD OF TRUTH

SURAH MARYAM 19:34

ذَٰلِكَ عِيسَى ٱبْنُ مَرْيَمَ ۖ قَوْلَ ٱلْحَقِّ ٱلَّذِى فِيهِ يَمْتَرُونَ ﴿٣٤﴾

That is Jesus, the son of Mary - the word of truth about which they are in dispute.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:34

SURAH MARYAM 19:35

مَا كَانَ لِلَّهِ أَن يَتَّخِذَ مِن وَلَدٍ ۖ سُبْحَٰنَهُۥٓ ۚ إِذَا قَضَىٰٓ أَمْرًا فَإِنَّمَا يَقُولُ لَهُۥ كُن فَيَكُونُ ﴿٣٥﴾

It is not [befitting] for Allah to take a son; exalted is He! When He decrees an affair, He only says to it, "Be," and it is.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:35

SURAH MARYAM 19:36

وَإِنَّ ٱللَّهَ رَبِّى وَرَبُّكُمْ فَٱعْبُدُوهُ ۚ هَٰذَا صِرَٰطٌ مُّسْتَقِيمٌ ﴿٣٦﴾

[Jesus said], "And indeed, Allah is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him. That is a straight path."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/19:36

EXPLANATION OF VERSES 19:34–36 AND 3:59 — A SERVANT, NOT A SON OF GOD

First: This is the true Jesus. ***"That is Jesus, the son of Mary - the word of truth about which they are in dispute"***.

Second: Allah does not take a son. ***"It is not [befitting] for Allah to take a son; exalted is He!"*** Tafsir Ibn Kathir 19:35

Third: The example of Adam. ***"Indeed, the example of Jesus to Allah is like that of Adam"*** (3:59). Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was created without father or mother; Jesus عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ without a father. If Adam is not considered divine, Jesus is even less so.

Fourth: The straight path. ***"And indeed, Allah is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him. That is a straight path"***.

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HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 3442

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو الْيَمَانِ، أَخْبَرَنَا شُعَيْبٌ، عَنِ الزُّهْرِيِّ، قَالَ أَخْبَرَنِي أَبُو سَلَمَةَ، أَنَّ أَبَا هُرَيْرَةَ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ قَالَ سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَقُولُ « أَنَا أَوْلَى النَّاسِ بِابْنِ مَرْيَمَ، وَالأَنْبِيَاءُ أَوْلاَدُ عَلاَّتٍ، لَيْسَ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَهُ نَبِيٌّ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه said: I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say: **"I am the closest of people to the son of Mary. The prophets are paternal brothers (their religion is one). There is no prophet between me and him."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Abu al-Yaman al-Hakam ibn Nafi', from Shu'ayb ibn Abi Hamzah, from Ibn Shihab al-Zuhri, from Abu Salamah ibn 'Abd al-Rahman, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Prophets, chapter "And mention in the Book, Mary", Hadith No. 3442. Also narrated by Muslim (No. 2365).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:3442

A SIGN FOR THE WORLDS

SURAH AL-ANBIYA' 21:91

وَٱلَّتِيٓ أَحۡصَنَتۡ فَرۡجَهَا فَنَفَخۡنَا فِيهَا مِن رُّوحِنَا وَجَعَلۡنَٰهَا وَٱبۡنَهَآ ءَايَةٗ لِّلۡعَٰلَمِينَ ٩١

And [mention] the one who guarded her chastity, so We blew into her [garment] through Our angel [Gabriel], and We made her and her son a sign for the worlds.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/21:91

SURAH AT-TAHRIM 66:12

وَمَرۡيَمَ ٱبۡنَتَ عِمۡرَٰنَ ٱلَّتِيٓ أَحۡصَنَتۡ فَرۡجَهَا فَنَفَخۡنَا فِيهِ مِن رُّوحِنَا وَصَدَّقَتۡ بِكَلِمَٰتِ رَبِّهَا وَكُتُبِهِۦ وَكَانَتۡ مِنَ ٱلۡقَٰنِتِينَ ١٢

And [the example of] Mary, the daughter of 'Imran, who guarded her chastity, so We blew into [her garment] through Our angel, and she believed in the words of her Lord and His scriptures and was of the devoutly obedient.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/66:12

EXPLANATION OF VERSES 21:91, 23:50 AND 66:12 — MOTHER AND SON AS A SIGN

First: Two who became one sign. ***"We made her and her son a sign for the worlds"***. Mary and Jesus عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ are mentioned together as ***one sign***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 21:91

Second: A place of rest. ***"sheltered them within a high ground having level [areas] and flowing water"*** (23:50).

Third: An example for the believers. Allah made Mary, ***"who guarded her chastity"***, and who ***"believed in the words of her Lord and His scriptures and was of the devoutly obedient"*** (66:12), an example for ***all believers***, men and women.

WHAT THE QUR'AN DOES NOT TELL

The story of Mary and the birth of Prophet Jesus عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ is adorned with many added tales. Following Sahih al-Bukhari 4485 (Series 1), we do not add outside details.

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THE POPULAR STORY AND WHAT REVELATION SAYS

THE POPULAR STORY	WHAT THE QUR'AN AND AUTHENTIC HADITH SAY
A carpenter named Joseph accompanied Mary on her journey.	Not mentioned in the Qur'an or authentic Hadith. The Qur'an says Mary withdrew alone (19:22).
Mary was a specific age when she conceived.	Not mentioned in the Qur'an or authentic Hadith.
Prophet Jesus was born in a particular cave or stable, on a particular date.	The Qur'an only says "a remote place" and "the trunk of a palm tree" (19:22–23). The place and date are not stated.
The casting of pens (3:44) took place in a river with specific details.	The Qur'an only says they cast their pens to decide. Other details are not established in authentic Hadith.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTE: THE KATHISMA CHURCH, JERUSALEM–BETHLEHEM ROAD

In the 1990s, archaeologists of the Israel Antiquities Authority excavated the **Kathisma Church** on the ancient road between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. This **octagonal** church was built in the **5th century CE** at the place which, according to Christian tradition, is where Mary **sat down to rest** before giving birth (Avner, 2016; 2022).

A remarkable find: in the **Umayyad period**, a **mihrab** was built in the southern part of the church, showing that it was used for worship by **both Muslims and Christians** (Avner, 2022; Motley, 2009). This shows the **early Muslim reverence for Mary**, in line with the Qur'an.

Claim not included. The claim that the Kathisma, the cave in Bethlehem, or any other place is **the actual site** of the palm tree in 19:23 is **not included**, because the Qur'an does not state its location and there is no solid archaeological evidence.

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A MOTHER, A SON AND A WORD FROM ALLAH

The story of Mary is a story of ***purity, patience and trust in Allah***. A girl pledged, chosen and purified, tested with the gravest accusation — and Allah defended her purity through the tongue of a baby: ***"Indeed, I am the servant of Allah."***

TWO MIRACULOUS BIRTHS: JOHN AND JESUS

	Prophet John (Series 26)	Prophet Jesus (Series 27)
Situation (19:8, 20)	An old father, a barren mother	No father — "no man has touched me"
The question	"How will I have a boy?" (19:8)	"How can I have a boy?" (19:20)
The answer	"It is easy for Me" (19:9)	"It is easy for Me" (19:21)
Silence	His father did not speak for three nights (19:10)	His mother vowed abstention from speech (19:26)
Peace	"Peace be upon him the day he was born..." (19:15)	"Peace is on me the day I was born..." (19:33)

Figure 2: Comparing the births of Prophet John (Series 26) and Prophet Jesus (Series 27) in Surah Maryam.

LESSONS FROM THIS STORY

First: Give your child to Allah from the womb. (3:35).

Second: A mother's prayer for her offspring is answered by Allah. (3:36; Sahih al-Bukhari 3431).

Third: A woman's honour lies in purity and worship. (3:42–43; Sahih al-Bukhari 3411, 3432).

Fourth: Seek refuge in Allah at the first moment of trial. (19:18).

Fifth: Nothing is impossible for Allah — "Be," and it is. (19:21; 3:47).

Sixth: Make an effort even when weak; Allah completes it. (19:25).

Seventh: Leave your defence to Allah. (19:26–29).

Eighth: Jesus is a servant and prophet of Allah, not a son of God. (19:30, 35; 3:59; Sahih al-Bukhari 3442).

Ninth: Mary is an example for all believers. (66:12).

CONCLUSION

To every mother bearing pain and loneliness, to everyone accused without fault — the story of Mary says: ***"Do not grieve."*** The Lord who provided a stream beneath Mary's feet is the same Lord who sees our hardship.

May Allah preserve our purity and that of our families, and make us His obedient servants. Amin.

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In sha Allah, the series **Stories from the Qur'an** will continue with the next story — with the same method: the Qur'an, authentic Hadith, and solid archaeological findings only.

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ADDITIONAL HADITH CITED IN THE TEXT

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SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:261

مَّثَلُ ٱلَّذِينَ يُنفِقُونَ أَمۡوَٰلَهُمۡ فِي سَبِيلِ ٱللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ حَبَّةٍ أَنۢبَتَتۡ سَبۡعَ سَنَابِلَ فِي كُلِّ سُنۢبُلَةٖ مِّاْئَةُ حَبَّةٖۗ وَٱللَّهُ يُضَٰعِفُ لِمَن يَشَآءُۚ وَٱللَّهُ وَٰسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ٢٦١

The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/2:261

SURAH SABA' 34:39

قُلۡ إِنَّ رَبِّي يَبۡسُطُ ٱلرِّزۡقَ لِمَن يَشَآءُ مِنۡ عِبَادِهِۦ وَيَقۡدِرُ لَهُۥۚ وَمَآ أَنفَقۡتُم مِّن شَيۡءٖ فَهُوَ يُخۡلِفُهُۥۖ وَهُوَ خَيۡرُ ٱلرَّٰزِقِينَ ٣٩

Say, "Indeed, my Lord extends provision for whom He wills of His servants and restricts [it] for him. But whatever thing you spend [in His cause] - He will compensate it; and He is the best of providers."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/34:39

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2588

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ، وَابْنُ، حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - وَهُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « مَا نَقَصَتْ صَدَقَةٌ مِنْ مَالٍ وَمَا زَادَ اللَّهُ عَبْدًا بِعَفْوٍ إِلاَّ عِزًّا وَمَا تَوَاضَعَ أَحَدٌ لِلَّهِ إِلاَّ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "Charity does not decrease wealth.

Allah does not increase a servant who forgives except in honour. And no one humbles himself for the sake of Allah except that Allah raises him in rank."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه .

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Virtue, Good Manners and Joining the Ties of Kinship (Kitab al-Birr wa al-Silah wa al-Adab), chapter on the encouragement of forgiveness and humility, Hadith No. 2588.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2588

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 1631

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ - يَعْنِي ابْنَ سَعِيدٍ - وَابْنُ حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - هُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « إِذَا مَاتَ الإِنْسَانُ انْقَطَعَ عَنْهُ عَمَلُهُ إِلاَّ مِنْ ثَلاَثَةٍ إِلاَّ مِنْ صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ أَوْ عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ أَوْ وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "When a person dies, his deeds come to an end except for three: an ongoing charity, knowledge that is benefited from, or a righteous child who prays for him."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه .

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GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:1631

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