# The First and Last Sacrifice Story

# Are you Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, or Christian?

# Most religions are alike, aren’t they?

# We are all trying to please God, so we can go to heaven someday, and we are all trying to pay off our sin debt. We all sin, don’t we? Even good people sin. Sinning is easy, but paying off our sin debt to God is much more difficult, isn’t it?

# In your religion, what are you doing to get your sins forgiven?

# Are your sins paid off yet?

# When do you think your sins will be paid off?

# On Judgment Day, do you know that your sin debt will be paid?

# What I believe is different; I know that my sins are forgiven. It’s not because I am a good person, although I do try. I know my sins are forgiven, because God himself has made a way for our sins to be forgiven.

# Jesus said “I Must Die.”

Jesus, the Word of God, was in Heaven with God from the beginning. Then Jesus was born into the world through the Virgin Mary. The Qur’an says this too. Jesus was holy and never sinned. He once fasted 40 days and nights while being tempted, but he didn’t sin.

He cast out demons, healed many people, and He even raised the dead.

Although Jesus was not old yet, he began prophesying to his followers, “I must die and will rise again.” Do you know why ***Jesus said, “I must die?”***

# Adam and Eve

The answer begins in the books of the Law (Torah). The Law tells us about the first person, Adam, and his wife, Eve. They were given great freedom to eat fruit from all of the trees of the garden, except for one. God promised that if they ate that fruit, they would be punished, in fact, they would die.

One day, Satan tempted Eve to eat the forbidden fruit. They ate the fruit. Suddenly, they were ashamed, so they made clothes from leaves to cover their nakedness. They were also afraid, so they hid from God.

Then God punished them as He had promised. He cast them out of the garden, and they could never return. Finally, they died. God’s intention was for them to live forever, but because of sin, they had to die.

As far as we know, Adam and Eve were good people; probably better than us. Perhaps they had done many good deeds. However, how many times did Adam and Eve sin before God judged them? Just one time, and that was a small sin. We often think that if we do more good things than bad things, that our sins will be forgiven. But good deeds don’t cancel sin.

God still loved Adam and Eve, and wanted their sins to be forgiven in eternity. God promised that a Savior, would be born as a woman’s descendent. He would defeat Satan and would suffer to redeem people from their sins. Many prophets for hundreds of years promised the coming Savior, who would pay off our sin debt.

And then God replaced Adam and Eve’s clothes with animal skins. It appears that God Himself offered the first sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. The teaching of the Torah, Psalms, the prophets and the Gospel is that if there is no shedding of blood, sins are not forgiven.

# Jesus was the Sacrifice

All of our forefathers offered blood sacrifices to have their sins forgiven. And then Jesus came. He was born of a virgin, so Jesus was the only human being to be a woman’s descendent. He lived sinlessly and performed great miracles. One day a prophet named John said this about Jesus, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.” ***THAT IS WHY JESUS SAID, “I MUST DIE.”*** He came as a sacrifice to pay for our sins. Therefore Jesus surrendered himself to evil people, who crucified Him. Before Jesus died, He said, “It is finished.” Sin was paid for. God raised Jesus from the dead on the third day. He appeared to his followers for 40 days, and then He was taken up into heaven. Someday Jesus will return to the earth as Judge.

The Bible says that if we surrender to Jesus as Lord and believe that He paid for our sins through his sacrifice and was raised from the dead, our sins will be forgiven. ***That is why I know my sins are forgiven.***

# This makes sense, doesn’t it? Although we cannot pay off our own sin debt, God has made a way for our sins to be forgiven through Jesus’ sacrificial death and resurrection.

# Do you believe what I have told you: that Jesus died for our sins and was raised again?

# **Are you ready to follow Jesus as King of your life and trust in His sacrifice for your sins?**

# Key Terms

* Injil (In-Jeel): Literally, “The Gospel,” but this most often refers to the New Testament as a book.
* Zabur (Za-boor): The Psalms
* Taurat (Tow-rat): Torah or the Old Testament
* Isa al Masih: Jesus the Messiah
* Hawa (How-a): Eve
* Saitan (Shay-tan): Satan
* Iblis (Ee-blis): Satan’s angelic name. The equivalent of “Lucifer.”
* Korban: A substitutionary sacrifice.
* Yahya (Yah-ya): John the Baptist