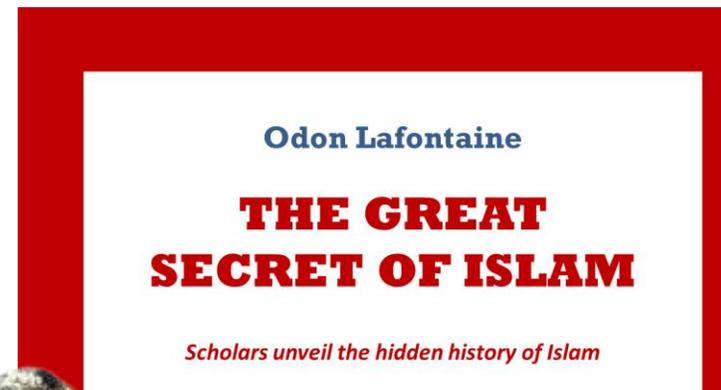


From Jesus to the caliphs:

Waiting for the Messiah, ruling in the name of the Messiah, being the Messiah



The Arab leaders claim Jesus' "messianic powers" and create Islam



**Arab leaders claim
“messianist powers”**

What does “muhammad” mean?

- According to the Standard Islamic Narrative : the “praised one”
- According to the linguists : the “desired one”, the “coveted one”, the “beloved one”

◀ Daniel 10:11 ▶

Daniel 10 - Click for Chapter

595 [e]	834 [e]	1697 [e]	995 [e]	2530 [e]	376 [e]	1840 [e]	413 [e]	559 [e]
'ā·nō·kî	'ā·šer	bad·də·bā·rîm	hā·bên	ḥā·mu·dō·wṭ	'iš-	dā·nî·yêl	'ê·lay	way·yō·mer
אֲנֹכִי	אֲשֶׁר	בְּדַבָּרִים	הָבֵן	חַמּוּדוֹת	אִישׁ-	דַּנְיֵאֵל	אֵלַי	וַיֹּאמֶר 11
I	that	the words	understand	greatly beloved	man	Daniel	to me	And he said
Pro-1cs	Pro-r	Prep-b, Art N-mp	V-Hifil-Imp-ms	Adj-ms	N-msc	N-proper-ms	Prep 1cs	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms

ish-hamudot: Hebrew equivalent to Arabic **mu-hamad**

- The meaning of the Arabic HMD root drifted from “Desire” to “Praise” due to the invention of the *ahmad*-Paraclet forgery by the Standard Islamic Narrative and its interpolation of *ahmad* in Q61:6 in order to fit the Islamic understanding of the Greek gospel of John: Paraclet → *periklutos* (“renowned”), instead of *parakletos* (“the one who speaks for another”)

See E.-M. Gallez, “References to muhammad in the Quran: History of a Research”, in *Inârah 10, Die Entstehung einer Weltreligion VI*, Schiller & Mücke, 2020

The Arab leaders claim Jesus' "messianic powers"

Historical

Muhammad(s)

mu-hamad (Arabic)

ish-hamudot (Hebrew)

"The man of predilections,
he who is coveted"

(Dan 9:23; 10:11; 10:19)

The new Daniel, the forerunner,

the precursor who announces the coming of the Messiah (the Messiah himself ?)

Arab leaders as the empires' auxiliaries

Some Byzantine empire patterns



Follis (fals, νοῦμμος) - Justinian I (527 – 565)

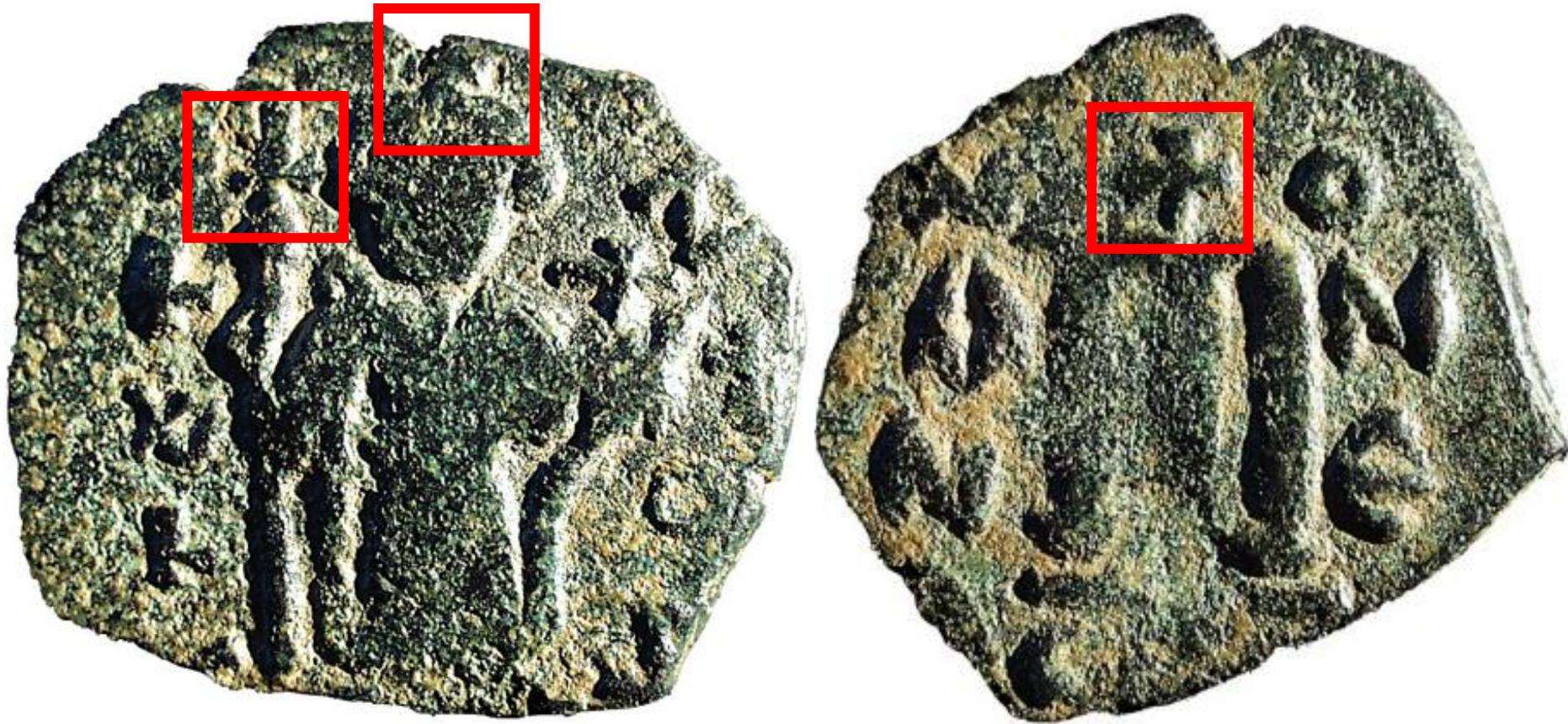


Solidus –Justinian II (1st reign 692–695)



Solidus - Heraclius (610-641)

- *Byzantine empire pattern*
- *Byzantine emperor figure*
- *Christian symbols*



Christian coin minted between 640 and 660 by the **Arab power in the Levant**, a copy of Byzantine fals

(cf. Clive Foss, "Coins of two realms", In *Aramco World* 66, n°3)

The Arab leaders claim Jesus' "messianic powers"



Construction of the Third Temple in Jerusalem



UMAR
al-faruq
The savior,
the redeemer

Historical

Muhammad(s)

mu-hamad (Arabic)

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The savior

ALI & ALIDS

"Jesus speaks through my mouth".

SHIITE IMAMS

"The revelation continues through me"

- *Byzantine empire pattern*
- *Byzantine emperor figure*
- *Christian symbols*



Fals minted in Syria between 644 and 656 “during the reign of Uthman ibn Affan”, a copy of Byzantine fals

- *Byzantine empire pattern*
- *Byzantine emperor figure*
- *Christian symbols*



Fals minted in Syria between 644 and 656 “during the reign of Uthman ibn Affan”, a copy of a Byzantine fals

Sassanid empire drachma pattern



Sasanian Silver Drachma, 7th cent.

Obverse : effigy of Khosrow II (590-628) facing right wearing a crown

Reverse : fire altar between attendants

[Odon Lafontaine's private collection]

Zoroastrian symbolism : fire altar with two attendants (priests?) ; star & crescent

- Persian empire pattern
- Persian emperor figure
- Zoroastrian symbols



Silver Drachma minted by an Arab governor in Persia (651/661), probably affiliated to Uthman

On the obverse, mention of the emperor Yazdgard III (in Pahlavi) and his effigy copied from that of Khosrow II;
Zoroastrian symbolism on the reverse

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Islamic_coin,_Time_of_the_Rashidun._Khosrau_type._AH_31-41_AD_651-661.jpg

See also David Collection, Denmark - <https://www.davidmus.dk/en/collections/islamic/dynasties/umayyads/coins/c1>

**Arab leaders make new
claims to justify their power**

- Persian empire pattern
- Persian emperor figure
- Zoroastrian symbols



Silver Drachma minted by an Arab governor in Persia (651/661), probably affiliated to Uthman

On the obverse, mention of the emperor Yazdgard III (in Pahlavi) and his effigy copied from that of Khosrow II; on the reverse,

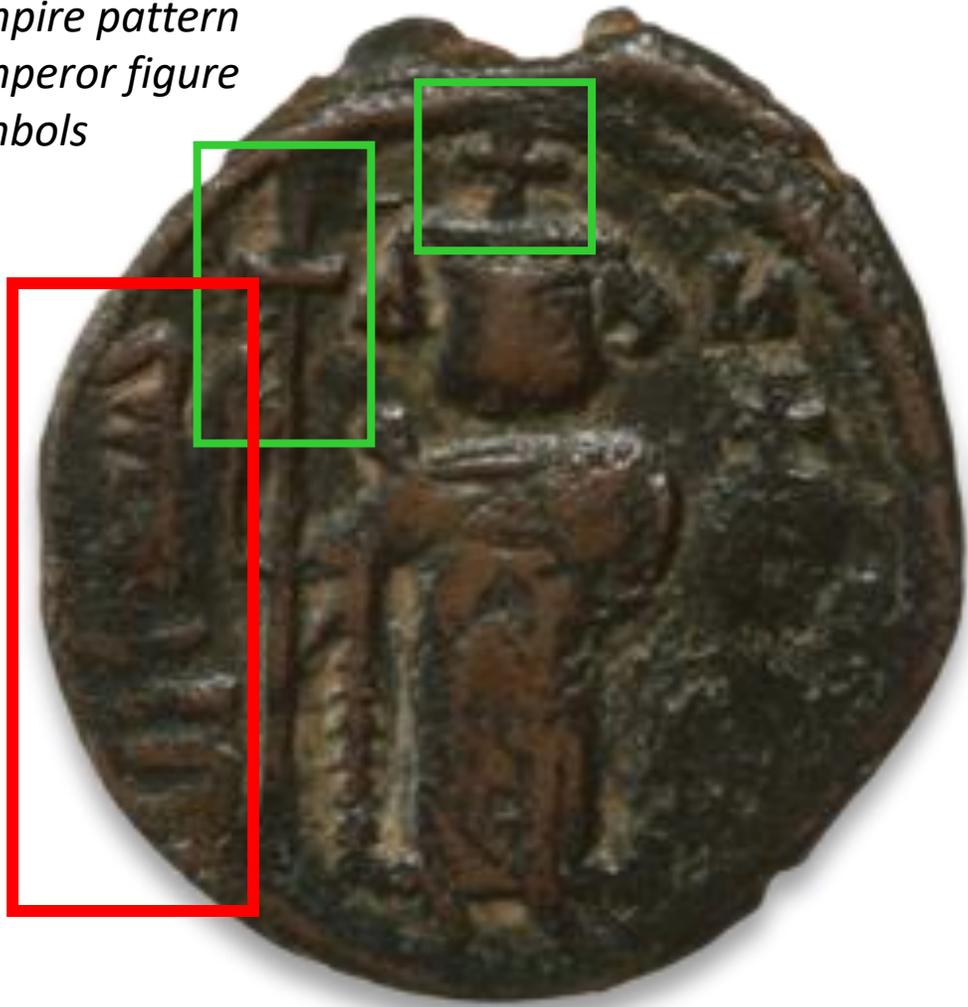
Zoroastrian symbolism

***bsm llh*: "in the name of God"**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Islamic_coin,_Time_of_the_Rashidun._Khosrau_type._AH_31-41_AD_651-661.jpg

See also David Collection, Denmark - <https://www.davidmus.dk/en/collections/islamic/dynasties/umayyads/coins/c1>

- Byzantine empire pattern
- Byzantine emperor figure
- Christian symbols



Christian symbolism

bism allah
"in the name of God"

Umayyad fals (copper coin, 661-684)

The Arab leaders claim Jesus' "messianic powers"

Coins with Christian & Zoroastrian symbolics & Byzantine and Persian empire patterns



Construction of the Third Temple in Jerusalem



UMAR
al-faruq
The savior,
the redeemer

UTHMAN
bism allah
In the name of God

In the name of God

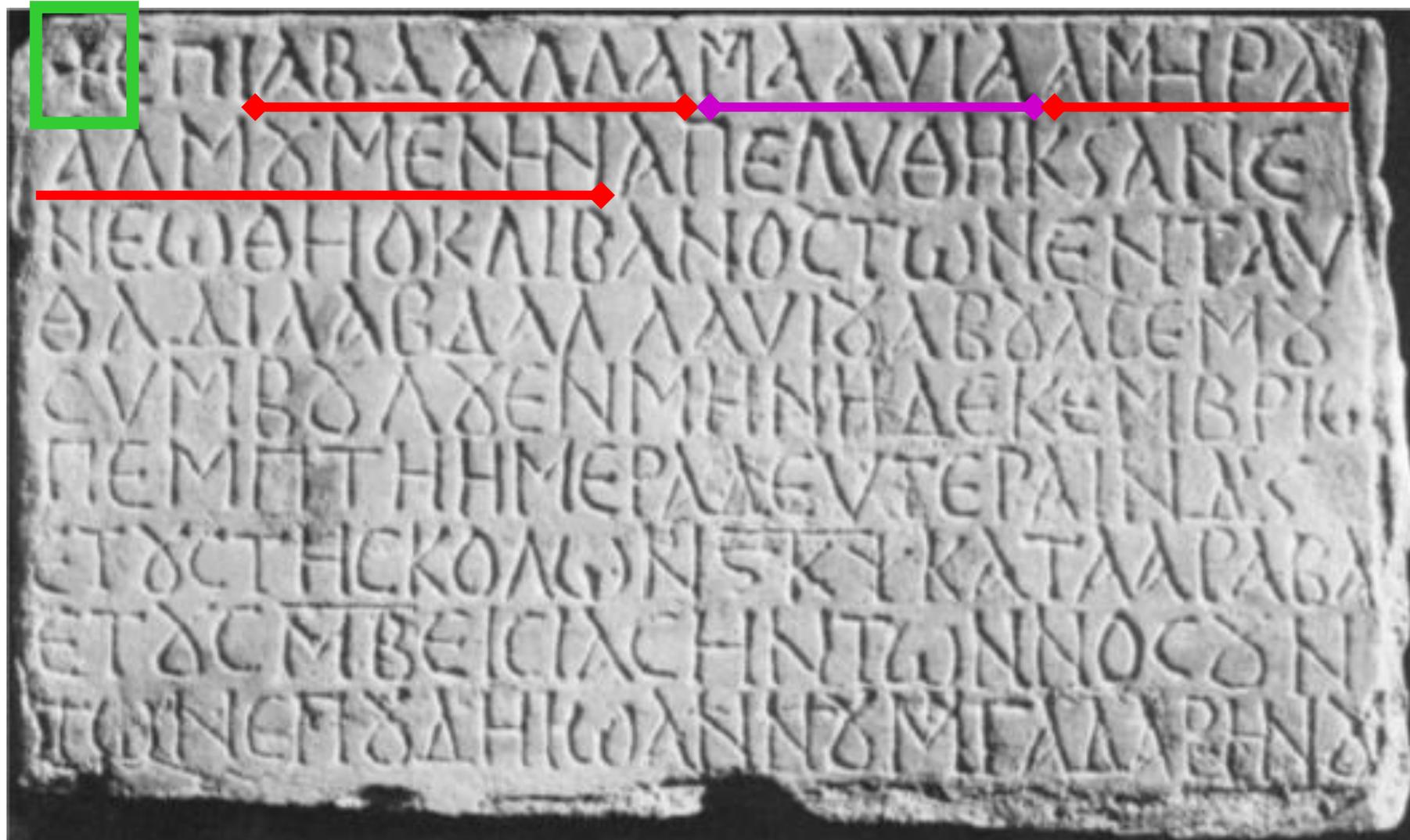
Historical Muhammad(s)
mu-hamad (Arabic)
ish-hamudot (Hebrew)
"The man of predilections,
he who is coveted"
(Dan 9:23; 10:11; 10:19)

The savior

ALI & ALIDS
"Jesus speaks through my mouth".

SHIITE IMAMS
"The revelation continues through me"

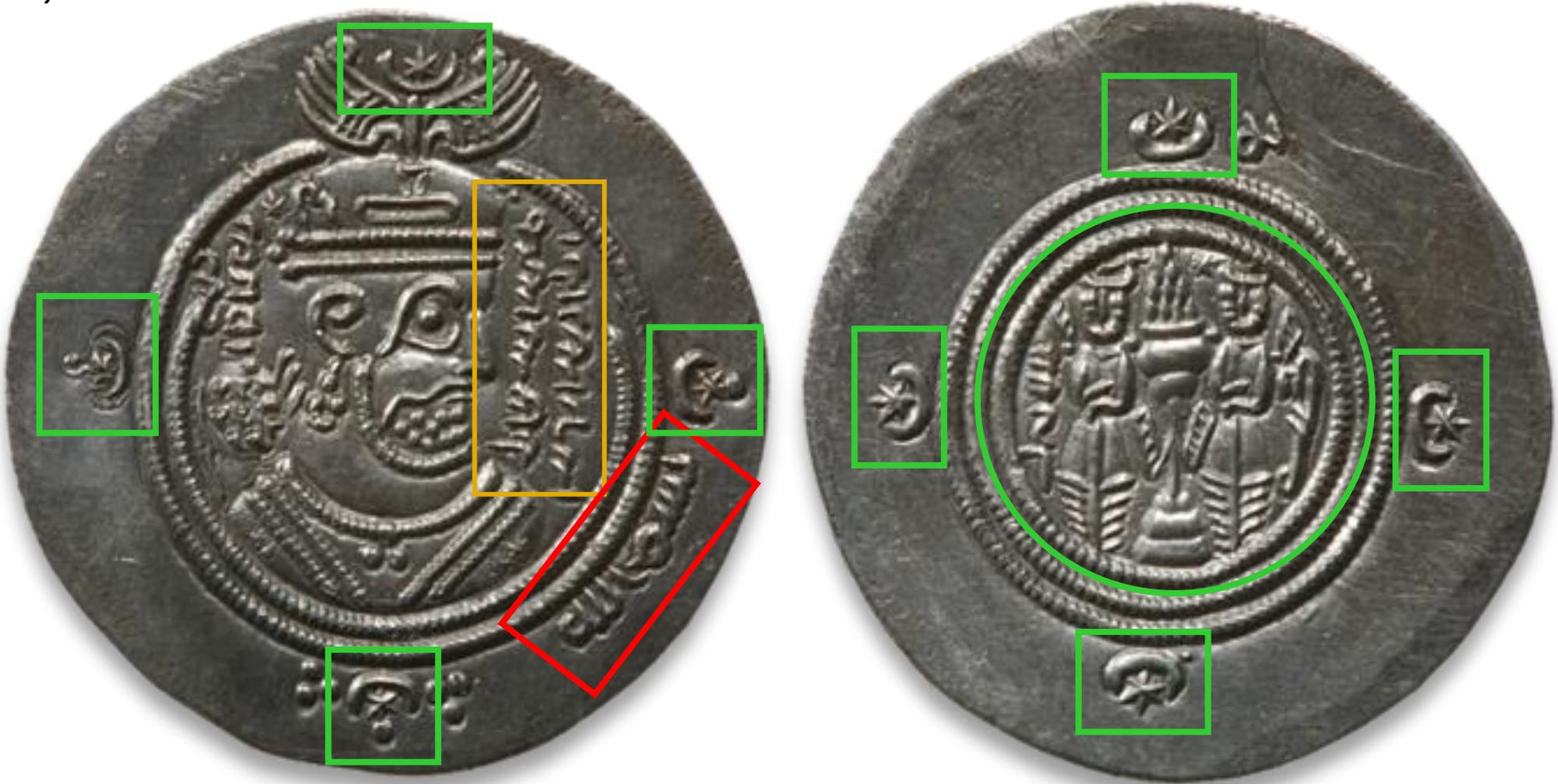
The new Daniel, the forerunner,
the precursor who announces the coming of the Messiah (the Messiah himself ?)



The text is introduced by a **Christian cross** and refers to **Muawiya** as ABΔΑΛΛΑ ('abdalla') and AMHPAAΛMYMENHN ('ameraalmoumenhene'), direct transliterations into the Greek alphabet of the Arabic expressions *abd allah* and *amir al-mu'minin*, "**servant of God**" and "**commander of the believers**"

Umayyad Drachma (silver coin, 673-674)

- Persian empire pattern
- Persian emperor figure
- Zoroastrian symbols



"**Muawiyah, Commander of the Believers**" [Persian script, in orange].
bsm llh: "in the name of God" [Arabic script in red].

Zoroastrian
symbolism

Arabic inscriptions
commemorating the
construction of a dam at Taif
(678) by Muawiya, mentioning
him as a **servant of God** and
commander of the believers



Umayyad gold solidus (probably 678) minted by Muawiya

- Byzantine empire pattern
- Byzantine emperor & sons' figures
- No more Christian symbols



Byzantine solidus with Heraclius & sons (Heraclius Constantine and Heraclonas) 610-641

Obverse (front side): dechristianised imitation of a gold solidus of Byzantine Emperor Heraclius, standing figures of Heraclius, Heraclius Constantine and Heraclonas
 Note: the three figures are devoid of Christian symbolism (no crosses!)

Reverse: a staff with a bar (tau cross?) replacing the Byzantine cross, and imitation of Byzantine wordage (CONOB., meaning Constantinople, as the conventional (fake) mint name]

<https://www.numisbids.com/n.php?p=lot&sid=2339&lot=21>

[George Miles, "Earliest Arab Gold Coinage" in *the American Numismatic Society Museum*, Notes No 13]

The Arab leaders claim Jesus' "messianic powers"

Coins with Christian & Zoroastrian symbolics & Byzantine and Persian empire patterns

Construction of the Third Temple in Jerusalem



MUAWIYA
abd allah: "servant of God"
amir al-mu'minin: "commander of the believers"
 Intermediary between God and men

UMAR
al-faruq
 The savior,
 the redeemer

UTHMAN
bism allah
 In the name of God

Intermediaries between God and men

In the name of God

The savior

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- *Byzantine empire pattern*
- *Byzantine emperor figure*
- *Christian symbols*



Ghassanid Arab coin (Banu Nu'man) **with Christian crosses**
and the inscription MHMD (*Muhammad*)

Copy of a Byzantine coin dated between 679 and 691

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Construction of the Third Temple in Jerusalem



GHASSANIDS
muhammad: a new precursor? Jesus?

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abd allah: "servant of God"
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UTHMAN
bism allah
Intermediary between God and men



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- Persian empire pattern
- Persian emperor figure
- Zoroastrian symbols



Tom Holland showing this coin (same pattern) in his documentary "Islam, the untold story" (Channel 4, UK, 2012)

Coin minted by Abd Allah ibn al-Zubayr (686 or 687, minted in Bishapur), still mimicking the Sassanid-Persian pattern (effigy of Khosrow II on the obverse, Zoroastrian fire-worship symbolism on the reverse); on the obverse, on the right, it is inscribed *bsm llh* ("in the name of God") and on the left *mhmd rsl llh*: "may the one sent by God be desired"

<https://www.sixbid-coin-archive.com/#/de/single/l29977613> (attributed to Abd al-Malik ibn Abd Allah, a "Zubayrid", who was Abd Allah Ibn al-Zubayr's brother-in-law)

What does “muhammad rasul allah” mean?

- According to the Standard Islamic Narrative :
the “praised one” (Muhammad) is God’s apostle
- According to linguistics and history :
may the one sent by God be desired / coveted / loved (worshipped?)
- Is there a link with the Biblical messianic acclamations?
 - Ps 118, v26: **"Blessed is he who comes in the name of God"**
 - Jesus' entry into Jerusalem: **"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"** (Mt 21:9); **"Hosanna ["save us", "God saves"]! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"** (Mk 11:9); **"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord"** (Lk 19:38); **"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel"** (Jn 12:12)
 - "For I tell you, you will not see me from now on **until you say: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"** (Mt 23:39)
- Who is sent by God? The Messiah or the Arab leader? Is the Arab leader pretending to be a new Messiah, an equivalent to Jesus?

The Arab leaders claim Jesus' "messianic powers"

Coins with Christian & Zoroastrian symbolics & Byzantine and Persian empire patterns

Construction of the Third Temple in Jerusalem



ABDALLAH IBN AL-ZUBAYR
muhammad rasul allah: "may the one sent by God be desired"

Messianic acclamation for God's envoy

Identification with the Messiah as a *muhammad* and as God's envoy

GHASSANIDS
muhammad: a new precursor? Jesus?

MUAWIYA
abd allah: "servant of God"
amir al-mu'minin: "commander of the believers"

Intermediary between God and men

Intermediaries between God and men

UTHMAN
bism allah

In the name of God

In the name of God

UMAR al-faruq
 The savior, the redeemer

The savior

Historical Muhammad(s)
mu-hamad (Arabic)
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 "The man of predilections, he who is coveted"
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ALI & ALIDS
 "Jesus speaks through my mouth".

SHIITE IMAMS
 "The revelation continues through me"

The new Daniel, the forerunner, the precursor who announces the coming of the Messiah (the Messiah himself ?)

Umayyad fals minted by Abd al-Malik (690-696)

- *Byzantine empire pattern*
- *Byzantine emperor figure replaced by Abd al Malik*
- *No more Christian symbols*



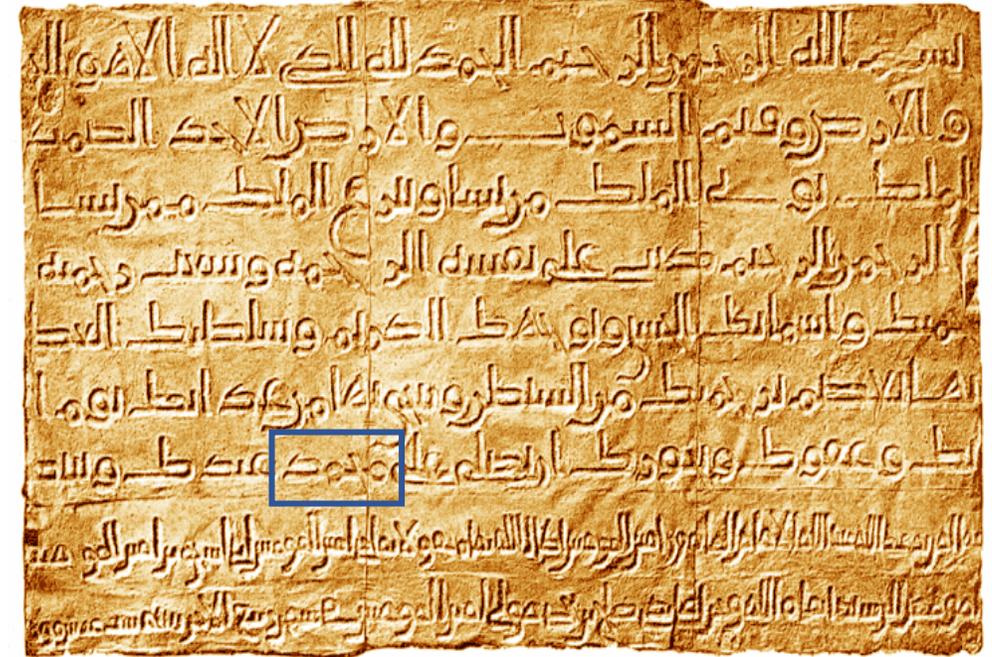
li-'abd allah 'abd al-malik amir al-mu'minin
 "For the **servant of God**, Abd al-Malik,
commander of the Believers



bism allah la ilah illa allah wahdahu **muhammad rasul allah**
 "In the name of God. There is no god but God,
may the one sent by God be desired".

The copper plaques inscriptions at the Dome of the Rock attributed to 'Abd al-Malik

Eastern entrance copper plaque - the last two lines were added by Caliph al-Mamun in the 9th century



"We ask you, O God (...) to bless the **Muhammad** [the coveted one, the desired one], your servant, your prophet, and to accept his intercession with you for his people "

"**Muhammad** is the **servant of God** and His messenger [May the **servant of God** and his envoy be desired], whom He sent with the guidance and the religion of truth, that He may make it conqueror of all religion"

Northern entrance copper plaque



- *Byzantine empire pattern*
- *Byzantine emperor & sons' figures*
- *No more Christian symbols*

Umayyad gold dinar (692) minted by Abd al-Malik



Obverse (front side): Abd al Malik tries to pay tribute to **Justinian II (669-711 AD)** using this (mocking?) copy of a byzantine gold coin picturing Justinian & his two sons (and then they went to war).

Note: the three figures are devoid of Christian symbolism (no crosses!)

A staff with a globe replacing the Byzantine cross, and inscribed: *bism allah la ilah illa allah wahdahu **muhammad rasul allah*** / "In the name of God. There is no god but one God, **may the one sent by God be desired**"

- Byzantine empire pattern
- Byzantine emperor figure replaced by Abd al Malik
- No more Christian symbols

Umayyad gold dinar (694-695) minted by Abd al-Malik



Justinian II's
solidus (1st
reign 692–695)

*bism allah la ilah illa allah wahdahu **muhammad rasul allah***
"In the name of God. There is no god but one God,
may the one sent by God be desired"

bism allah duriba hadha'l dinar sana khamas wa sab`in
"In the name of God. This dinar was minted in the year 75"

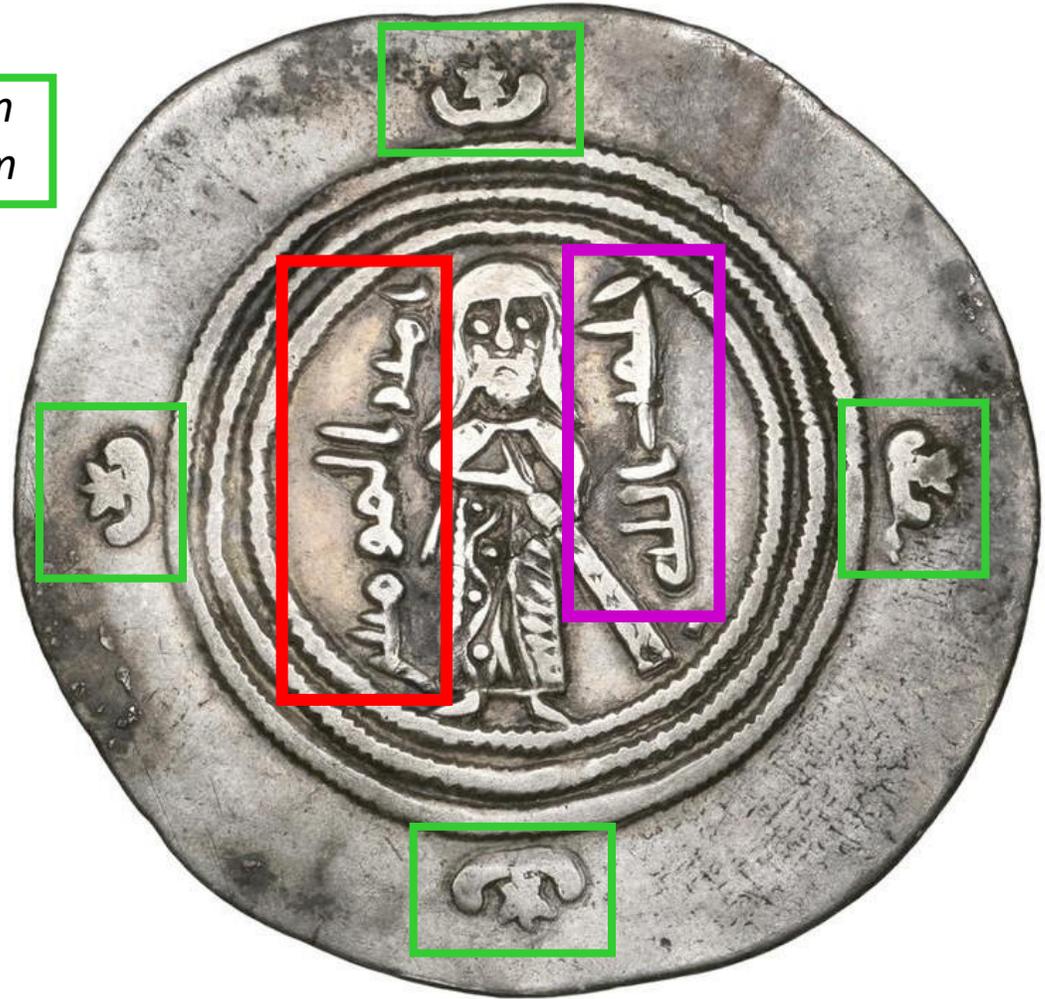
A new power has arisen: the caliphate

Umayyad drachma (694-695)

- Persian empire pattern
- Persian emperor figure & **Abd al-Malik**
- Zoroastrian symbols



Zoroastrian symbolism

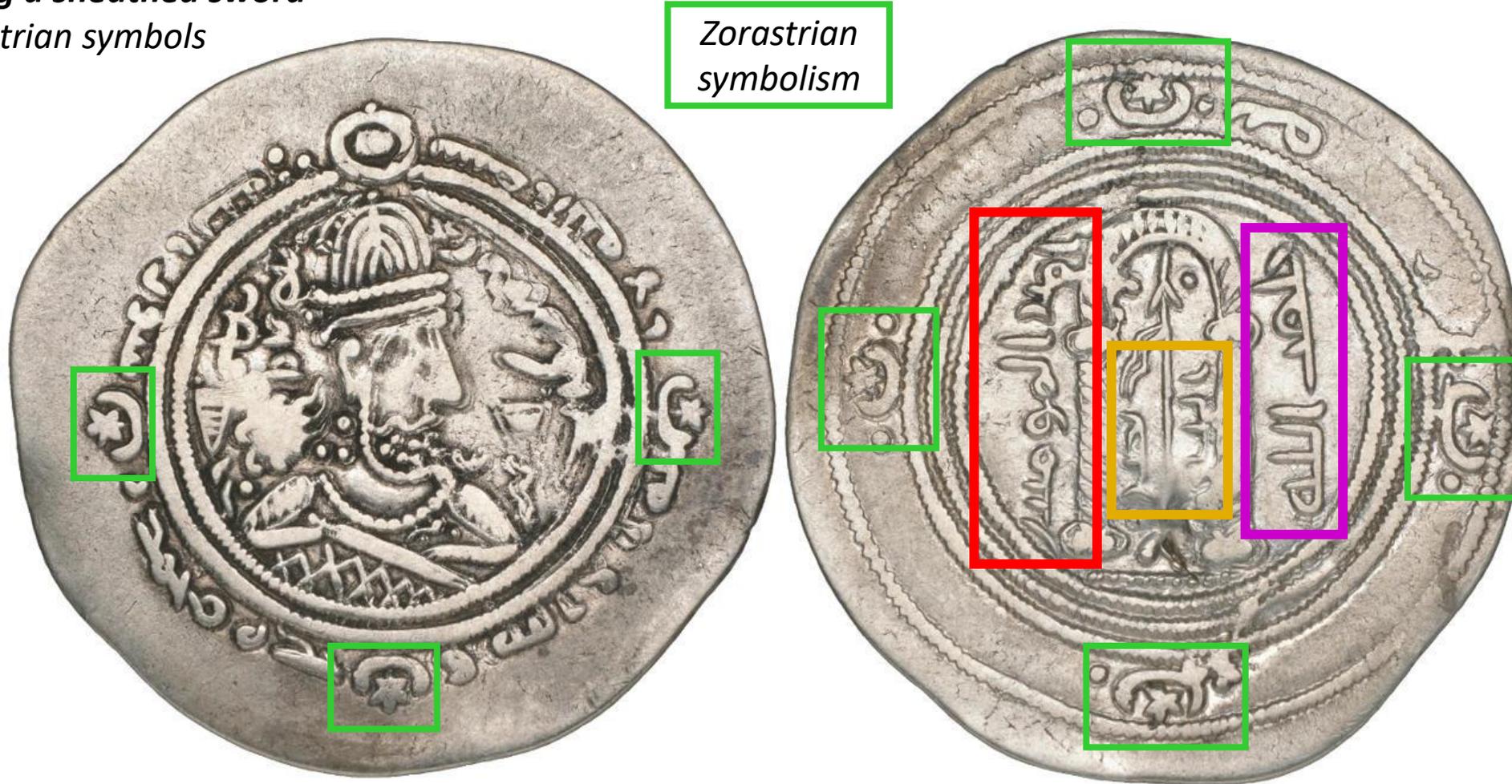


*bism allah la ilah illa allah wahdahu **muhammad rasul allah***
 "In the name of God. There is no god but God unique,
 may the one sent by God be desired"

amir al muminin / "Commander of the Believers"
khalifat allah / "Lieutenant of God [Caliph]"

Umayyad drachma (694-695)

- Persian empire pattern
- Persian emperor figure holding a sheathed sword
- Zoroastrian symbols



Zoroastrian symbolism

nasr allah:
"God's help"

- Q110,1 When the **help of God** comes, and the victory
- Q110,2 and you see the people entering into the religion of God in crowds,
- Q110,3 glorify your Lord with praise, and ask forgiveness from Him. Surely, He turns (in forgiveness).

*bism allah la ilah illa allah wahdahu **muhammad rasul allah***
"In the name of God. There is no god but God unique, may the one sent by God be desired"

amir al muminin / "Commander of the Believers"
khalifat allah / "Lieutenant of God [Caliph]"

- Byzantine empire pattern
- Byzantine emperor figure replaced by Abd al Malik
- No more Christian symbols

"khalifat Allah" Umayyad fals minted by Abd al-Malik



*amir al muminin /
khalifat allah*

Commander of the Believers" /
"Lieutenant of God [Caliph]"

<https://www.numisbids.com/n.php?p=lot&sid=1510&lot=122>



<https://www.numisbids.com/n.php?p=lot&sid=1700&lot=112>



<https://www.numisbids.com/n.php?p=lot&sid=1700&lot=111>



<https://www.numisbids.com/n.php?p=lot&sid=1700&lot=110>

Umayyad dinar minted by Abd al-Malik (697-698)

- *No more Byzantine or Persian pattern*
- *Islamic (or pre-Islamic) symbols*



Centre

la ilah illa
 "no divinity other than..."
allah wahdahu
 "... God unique"
la sharik lahu
 "He has no partner"

In margin

Muhammad rasul allah arsalahu bi'l-huda wa din al-haqq li-yuzhirahu 'ala al-din kullihi:
"May the Messenger of God be desired who sent him with guidance and the religion of truth **so that it may triumph over all other religions"** (cf. Q9:33 & Dome of the Rock)



Centre

allah ahad allah
 "God is one. God..."
al-samad lam yalid
 "...is eternal, he has not begotten..."
wa lam yulad
 "...nor was it begotten"
 (cf. Q112,1-3 & Dome of the Rock)

In margin

bism allah duriba hadha'l-dinar fi sana thaman wa sab'in / "In the name of God, this dinar was minted in the year 78 [697-698]".

One of the very first epigraphic inscriptions to mention *Muhammad*

(the first one but for coins and monuments?) dated 699-700, found in 2018 on the Hisma plateau (North-Western Saudi Arabia, 150-200km from Petra)



محمد

Muhammad



"O God **ble**ss the *Muhammad* and accept his intercession in his community (*).
And have mercy on us in the Hereafter as you have mercy on us in this world.
And Bakr bin Abi Bakra Al-Aslami wrote at the end of the year 80."

(*: invocation similar to the inner inscription of the Dome of the Rock "Bless the *muḥammad*, your servant, your envoy, and accept his intercession in his community")

The Arab leaders claim Jesus' "messianic powers"

Coins with Christian & Zoroastrian symbolics & Byzantine and Persian empire patterns

Coins with pre-Islamic / Islamic symbolism



Construction of the Third Temple in Jerusalem



Construction of the Dome of the Rock



UMAR
al-faruq
The savior,
the redeemer

UTHMAN
bism Allah

In the name of God

MUAWIYA

abd Allah: "servant of God"
amir al-mu'minin: "commander of the believers"

Intermediary between God and men

GHASSANIDS
muhammad: a new precursor? Jesus?



ABDALLAH IBN AL-ZUBAYR
muhammad rasul Allah: "may the one sent by God be desired"

Messianic acclamation for God's envoy



ABD AL-MALIK
khalifat Allah: caliph of God

Caliphs of God

Identification with the Messiah as a muhammad and as God's envoy

Intermediaries between God and men

In the name of God

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mu-hamad (Arabic)
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"The man of predilections, he who is coveted"
(Dan 9:23; 10:11; 10:19)
The new Daniel, the forerunner, the precursor who announces the coming of the Messiah (the Messiah himself ?)

The standing caliph statue from Khirbat al-Mafjar

- Statue found in the Khirbat al Mafjar palace (north of the Dead Sea), built by Walid II ibn Yazid (744 - †745)
- The statue would have been sculpted under the reign of his predecessor and uncle, Hisham ibn Abd al Malik (724 - †743)
- Reminiscent of the Abd al-Malik coins



- Whereas Walid II coins abided by Abd al Malik “Islamic” coinage reformation



The Arab leaders claim Jesus' "messianic powers"

Coins with Christian & Zoroastrian symbolics & Byzantine and Persian empire patterns

Coins with pre-Islamic / Islamic symbolism

Construction of the Third Temple in Jerusalem

Construction of the Dome of the Rock



UMAYYADS
Successors of the *muhammad*
(Abd al-Malik)

ABD AL-MALIK
khalifat allah: **caliph of God**

Successors of Abd al-Malik

Caliphs of God

ABDALLAH IBN AL-ZUBAYR
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Intermediaries between God and men

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The Abbasid revolution

The Arab leaders claim Jesus' "messianic powers" and create Islam

Coins with Christian & Zoroastrian symbolics & Byzantine and Persian empire patterns

Coins with pre-Islamic / Islamic symbolism

Construction of the Third Temple in Jerusalem

Construction of the Dome of the Rock

ABBASIDS
khalifat rasul allah
Successors of the prophet Muhammad



UMAYYADS
Successors of the muhammad
(Abd al-Malik)



ABD AL-MALIK
khalifat allah: caliph of God

Successors of Abd al-Malik
Caliphs of God

Successors of Muhammad



ABDALLAH IBN AL-ZUBAYR
muhammad rasul allah: "may the one sent by God be desired"
Messianic acclamation for God's envoy

Identification with the Messiah as a muhammad and as God's envoy

Muhammad sent from God



GHASSANIDS
muhammad: a new precursor? Jesus?



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abd allah: "servant of God"
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Intermediary between God and men



UTHMAN
bism allah

In the name of God

Intermediaries between God and men

In the name of God



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The savior, the redeemer

The savior

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"Jesus speaks through my mouth".

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CONCLUSION

Islam emerged from a long political and religious process, deeply rooted in some Jewish (Nazarene-Jewish) and ex-Christian apocalyptic expectations: there was a plan to trigger the end of times, have Jesus come back, and have him **establish God's political reign on earth**.

The plan failed and Jesus did not come back; the Arab rulers kept on waiting on his return as they gradually took on his clothes as the Messiah to inaugurate the new messianic times. By claiming to **establish God's political reign on earth**, they in fact no longer needed Jesus, and found other justifications for their power by inventing the Islamic revelation, and thus the prophetism of Muhammad. The caliphs, starting from Abd al-Malik, slowly replaced Jesus.

The figure of the "eschatological Jesus", the Jesus of the end of time, has thus been postponed by the Islamic narrative to another end of time. It could not be completely removed because of the sociocultural collective memory (cf. the eschatological traditions which still transmit the former expectation of Jesus' imminent descent in the 7th century).

Furthermore, Jesus' return has been used by the Standard Islamic Narrative as a "reinforcement" of Islam's main hope and goal: should the Muslims fail to **establish God's political reign on earth** by themselves, they can rest assured they will achieve it anyway at the end of times, when Jesus himself will come back, take command of the Muslim armies (with the Mahdi), conquer the world, slay the Antichrist (*al-Masih ad-Dajjal*), and be the judges of all mankind. **Deep inside, Muhammad's religion is actually (and still) Jesus' religion.**