

from the pure angel entered into her, and Allah caused that pure soul to grow from it; thus he was a spiritual being, created from spiritual matter. Hence he was called a spirit created by Allah, ﴿held in honour in this world and the hereafter﴾ that is, he was of high status in this world, for Allah made him one of the Messengers of strong will, those who brought major laws and had many followers. Allah caused his fame to spread, filling the earth from east to west. And in the hereafter he is of high status before Allah; he will intercede like his fellow Prophets and Messengers, and it will become clear that he is superior to most of Allah's creation. Thus he will be one of those granted nearness to Allah, one of the closest of all creatures to their Lord; indeed he will be one of the prominent ones among those who are brought close to Allah.

﴿He will speak to the people in the cradle and in maturity﴾. This is something other than regular speech; what is meant is that he will speak to the people with regard to that which is in their best interests and will lead to their well-being. This is the speech of the Messengers. This confirms that he was a Messenger who was sent to call people to their Lord. His speaking to them in the cradle is one of the great signs of Allah from which the believers benefit, and which constitutes proof against the stubborn that he was the Messenger of the Lord of the worlds and that he was a slave of Allah; it was also a help to his mother, as it demonstrated that she was innocent of what she was accused of.

﴿And he will be one of the righteous﴾ that is, Allah blessed him by causing him to be righteous, one of those whom He blessed. These words brought many glad tidings to Maryam, in addition to what they say about the Messiah (ﷺ).

﴿She said: O my Lord! How will I have a son when no man has touched me?﴾ Usually a child can only be born as a result of intimacy, and this astonished her; however, she did not doubt the power of Allah (ﷻ).