

Lesson 11

Summary Notes

The Messengers (I)

"We say with believe, acceptance and submission, that Allāh took Abraham as an intimate friend (Qur'ān [4:125]), and He spoke directly to Moses." [52]

"We believe in the angels and the Prophets, and in the books that were sent down to the Messengers, and we testify that they were [all] on the manifest truth." [53]

Our knowledge is limited; Allāh sent us messengers to direct us to what is beneficial.

A prophet is a man who receives inspiration from Allāh.

"We did not send before you any but men, to whom We gave revelation." Qur'ān [21:7]

He is a messenger if, in addition, he received at least one ruling different from the law of the preceding prophet.

"(Jesus said) ... and in order that I may make lawful for you some of what was forbidden to you." Qur'ān [3:50]

1. Distinction in Rank

They are all supported by signs and miracles from Allāh, and it is a requirement of faith to accept every one of them, but they are not all equal in rank.

"Those are the messengers; We have caused some of them to excel over others." Qur'ān [2:253]

"Surely, We caused some prophets to excel over others." Qur'ān [17:54]

"I am the master of the children of Adam on the Day of Resurrection, (and I say this) without any pride."

The Resolute Ones (**Ulul-'Azm**) : Muḥammad, Ibrāhīm, Mūsā, 'Īsā, Nūḥ (peace be upon them).

"Those who disbelieve in Allāh and His Messengers, seeking to make a distinction between (believing in) Allāh and (believing in) His Messengers, saying, 'We believe in some and reject others', trying to follow a way in between (the two) - they are truly disbelievers." Qur'ān [4:150-151]

2. How many messengers?

Their exact numbers are not known for sure.

"Messengers, whom We have mentioned to you, and Messengers whom We

have not mentioned to you." Qur'ān [4:164]

25 of them are mentioned by name in the Qur'ān and they are

1. Adam (ﷺ), 2. Idrīs (ﷺ), 3. Nūḥ (Noah) (ﷺ), 4. Hūd (ﷺ), 5. Ṣāliḥ (ﷺ), 6. Ibrāhīm (Abraham) (ﷺ), 7. Lūṭ, (Lot) (ﷺ), 8. Ismā'il (Ishmael) (ﷺ), 9. Ishāq (Isaac) (ﷺ), 10. Ya'qūb/Isrā'il (Jacob/Israel) (ﷺ), 11. Yūsuf, (Joseph) (ﷺ), 12. Ayyūb (Job) (ﷺ), 13. Shu'ayb (ﷺ), 14. Mūsā (Moses) (ﷺ), 15. Hārūn (Aaron) (ﷺ), 16. Dawūd (David) (ﷺ), 17. Sulaymān (Solomon) (ﷺ), 18. Ilyās (Elias) (ﷺ), 19. Alyasā (ﷺ) 20. Yūnus/(Jonah) (ﷺ), 21. Dhul-Kifl (Ezeikel) (ﷺ), 22. Zakariyyā (Zacharias) (ﷺ), 23. Yaḥyā (John) (ﷺ), 24. al-Masīḥ/Īsā (the Messiah, Jesus) (ﷺ), 25. Muḥammad (ﷺ).

Four further names are differed upon by the Islamic scholars : 'Luqmān, Uzayr , Dhul Qarnayn and Khidir (peace be upon them all).

3. Attributes of the Messengers

1. **Ṣidq** (Loyal)

None of the Messengers of Allāh ever lied.

2. **Amānah** (Truthfulness)

None of the Messengers of Allāh ever betrayed the Trust which Allāh s.w.t. put on them. They conveyed all the Messages / Revelations they received to the people truthfully without changing anything from them..

3. **'Iṣmah** (Impeccability / Sinlessness / Infallibility)

"They are those whom Allāh has guided, so follow their guidance." Qur'ān [6:91]

"Say, 'Allāh does not command shamefulnes.'" Qur'ān [7:28] " The Prophets, upon them be peace and blessings, are all **free from minor** and **major sins, disbelief** and **obscenity**. They my commit errors or mistakes." [al-Fiqhu'l-Akbar]

— Eating from the Tree and expulsion from the Garden.
re: Prophet Ādam (ﷺ).

— Frowning at the blind man. re: Rasulullah (ﷺ).

4. **Tabligh** (Conveyance of the message)

"O Messenger! Convey that which has been revealed to you from your Lord. And, if you do not do that, then you have not conveyed His message." Qur'ān [5:67]

5. **Faṭānah** (Intellect).

All of the Messengers of Allāh were specially selected super intelligent men.

Abraham and Nimrod. Qur'ān [2:258]

Moses and Pharoah. Qur'ān [20:49-53]

The following may not be attributed to prophets:

1. The opposites of the previous 5, i.e. lying, betrayel, sinning, concealing the message, or mental incompetence.
2. Anything that is considered shameful by their people.
3. Anything that hinders the purpose of their prophethood, such as blindness or deafness.
4. Anything which causes dispersion of people from around them.

Any mortal attribute which does not diminish their respectability as a prophet is plausible. e.g. eating, drinking, feelings of hunger and thirst, non-contagious diseases. plausible. e.g. eating, drinking, feelings of hunger and thirst, non-contagious diseases.