

## Risalat / Prophet Hood

### Introduction

Belief in the Prophets (Peace be upon them) of Allah (SWT) is one of the required pillars of faith. Muslims are obliged to believe in all the Prophets (Peace be upon them) because they all preached the same message and their respect is mandatory upon every Muslim. Allah (SWT) says

#### **Surah Al- Baqrah Chapter#02 verse#136**

Say ye: "We believe in Allah, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to (all) prophets from their Lord: We make no difference between one and another of them: And we bow to Allah (in Islam)."

Belief in certain prophets who God chose to relay His message to humans is a required article of Islamic faith. God conveys His message and relates His will through human prophets. They form a link between the earthly beings and the heavens, in the sense that God has picked them to deliver His message to human beings. There are no other channels to receive divine communications. It is the system of communication between the Creator and the created. God does not send angels to every single individual, nor does He open the skies so people can climb up to receive the message. His way of communication is through human prophets who receive the message through angels.

To have faith in the prophets is to firmly believe that God chose morally upright men to bear His message and pass it to humanity. Blessed were those who followed them, and wretched were those who refused to obey. They faithfully delivered the message, without hiding, altering, or corrupting it. Rejecting a prophet is rejecting the One who sent him, and disobeying a prophet is disobeying the One who commanded to obey him.

God sent to every nation a prophet, mostly from amongst them, to call them to worship God alone and to shun false gods. As Allah Says in Quran

#### **Surah An Nahl Chapter#16 Verse #36**

And verily, We have sent among every Ummah (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allah (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) Taghut (all false deities i.e. do not worship Taghut besides Allah)."

Muslims believe in those prophets mentioned by name in Islamic sources, such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, David, Solomon, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of God be upon him, to name a few. A general belief is held in those not mentioned by name, as God says:

#### **Surah Al Ghafir Chapter#40 verse #78**

"And, indeed We have sent prophets before you (O Muhammad), of some of them We have related to you their story, and of some We have not related to you their story..."

We as Muslims firmly believe the final prophet was the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad, and there will be no prophet or messenger after him.

#### **Surah Al-Ahzab Chapter# 33 Verse#40**

"Mohammad is not the father of any man among you, but he is the Messenger of Allah, and the seal of the Prophets, and Allah is aware of all things."

To appreciate this fact, one must understand that the teachings of the last prophet are preserved in original language in their primary sources. There is no need for another prophet. In the case of earlier prophets, their scriptures were lost or their message was corrupted to the point that truth was hardly distinguishable from falsehood. The message of the Prophet Muhammad is clear and preserved and will remain so till the end of time.

## **Purpose of Prophet Hood**

Allah (SWT) chose Prophets (Peace be upon them) from among the humans; therefore, they are not divine. Their sole purpose was to convey the true message, not to convert people into religion. He (SWT) sent them to each nation, and commanded them to call them to worship Allah (SWT) alone and to explain the ways which would bring happiness in this world and in the Hereafter, and to bring glad tidings of Paradise to those who believed and the warning of Hell to those who disbelieved. Allah Says in Qur'an

### **Surah Al Anbiya Chapter #21 Verse #25**

"And we did not send any Messenger before you (O Muhammad) but We inspired him (saying): 'There is none who has the right to be worshipped but I (Allah), so worship Me (Alone and none else).'"

We as Muslims believe that all prophets gave guidance and instruction to their people about how to properly worship Allah and live their lives. Since God is One, His message has been one and the same throughout time. In essence, all prophets taught the message of Islam - to find peace in your life through submission to the One Almighty Creator; to believe in God and to follow His guidance.

### **We can identify the following main reasons for sending prophets:**

- (1) Guiding humanity from the worship of created beings to the worship of their Creator, from being in a state of servitude to the creation to the freedom of worshipping their Lord.
- (2) Clarifying to humanity the purpose of creation: worshipping God and obeying His commands, as well as clarifying that this life is a test for each individual, a test of which its results will decide the type of life one will lead after death.
- (3) Showing humanity the right path that will lead them to Paradise and to salvation from Hellfire.
- (4) Establishing proof against humanity by sending prophets, so people will not have an excuse when they will be questioned on the Day of Judgment. They will not be able to claim ignorance to the purpose of their creation and life after death.
- (5) Uncovering the unseen 'world' which exists beyond the normal senses and the physical universe, such as the knowledge of God, existence of angels, and the reality of the Day of Judgment.
- (6) Providing human beings practical examples to lead moral, righteous, purpose-driven lives free of doubts and confusion. Innately, human beings admire fellow human beings, so the best examples of righteousness for humans to imitate are those of God's prophets.
- (7) Purifying the soul from materialism, sin, and heedlessness.
- (8) Conveying to humanity the teachings of God, which is for their own benefit in this life and in the Hereafter.

## **Message of Prophets**

The single most important message of all prophets to their people was to worship God alone and none else and to follow His teachings. All of them, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Moses, Aaron, David, Solomon, Jesus, Muhammad and others (Peace be upon them), in addition to those we do not know - invited people to worship one True God and shun false gods.

### **Old Testament (Books of Mosses)**

"I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour."

[Isaiah 43:11]

"I am Lord, and there is none else, there is no God besides me."

[Isaiah 45:5]

### **New Testament (Bible)**

"Hear, O Israel The Lord our God is one Lord."

(MARK 12:29).

Finally, the call of Muhammad some 600 years later reverberated across the hills of Mecca:

### **Surah Al-Baqrah Chapter #02 Verse #163**

"And your God is One God: there is no god but He..."

The Holy Quran states this fact clearly:

**Surah Al Ambiya Chapter #21 verse #25**

“And We did not send any Messenger before you (O Muhammad) but We revealed to him (saying): ‘none has the right to be worshipped but I, so worship Me (alone).’”

**Characteristics of Prophets**

Prophets (Peace be upon them) were chosen by Allah (SWT) to be an example to their nations. He (SWT) taught the Prophets (Peace be upon them), guided them and honoured them with the His true message. He protected them from falling into sin and supported them with miracles clear message as guidance for mankind. Hence, they are the most perfect of humanity both physically and in their attitude, the best of them in knowledge, the most truthful in speech, the most exemplary in the life they lived and infallible in regard to delivering the true message of Allah (SWT). Because the Prophets reached such a high status of obedience and good character, Allah (SWT) has commanded us to take them as an example. Allah (SWT) Says

**Surah Al Anam Chapter# 06 verse# 90**

"They are those whom Allah had guided. So follow their guidance"

Allah (SWT) preferred some of the Prophets over others as Allah (SWT) says

**Surah Al-Baqrah Chapter# 02 Verse#253**

Those apostles We endowed with gifts, some above others: To one of them Allah spoke; others He raised to degrees (of honour)

The best of them are the "Messengers of strong will" who are Nooh (Noah), Ibrahim (Abrham), Moosa (Moses), 'Eesa (Jesus) and Muhammad (Peace and blessings be upon them all).

**Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)**

The best of the Messengers of strong will is Muhammad (pbuh). All of the characteristics of the Prophets were combined in our Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), and Allah (SWT) honoured him by instilling in him the noblest characteristics. Therefore Allah stated that his example is to be followed in all situations:

**Surah Al Ahzab Chapter# 33 Verse# 21**

"Indeed in the Messenger of Allah (Muhammad) you have a good example to follow for him who hopes for (the Meeting with) Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah much".

As it has been mentioned before, for each Prophet was sent only to his own people, until Allah (SWT) sent Muhammad (pbuh) to all of mankind. He is the last prophet of Islam, as Allah (SWT) Says:

**Surah Al Ahzab Chapter# 33 Verse# 40**

"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but (he is) the Messenger of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets: and Allah has full knowledge of all things"

**Conclusion**

Allah has created us to only worship Him alone and to convey this message and other realities of life and death Allah has sent prophets in every nation, as teacher to teach us revealed guidance from Allah. Out of the Infinite Mercy and Love of God, He sent to humanity prophets, guiding them to that which is the best. He sent them as an example for humanity to follow, and if one does follow their example, they would live a life in accordance to the Will of God, earning His Love and Pleasure Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the last messenger of Allah and to believe in last prophet is the main article of our faith, one who rejects it would be consider out of Islam.