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Messengers 1 – Is there a need for Prophets and Messengers?

Based on the works of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan (حفظه الله)

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Muslims believe that the Prophets had a number of roles. Amongst them were:

- conveying the Message of Allaah to His Creation
- establishing a proof upon His Creation so that people should not have any excuse on the Day of Judgement for not obeying their Creator.

It might seem to some people that this is something unnecessary since belief in Allaah is something that is ingrained in the human's mind.

What is the need for Prophets to tell people of something that they already know?

However the realisation that there is a Creator watching over us does not tell us the details of how He wants us to behave, what things to do and what things to avoid.

It also does not tell us about what will happen after we die, and other matters of the 'Unseen' nor about what happened to previous nations who obeyed or disobeyed Allaah.

For this Prophets and Revelation are needed.

Islam teaches that it is obligatory to believe in the Prophets – all of them.¹

The Qur'aan states:

However, righteousness is that a person believes in Allaah, the Day of Judgement and the Angels and the Book and the Prophets.

[Soorah al Baqarah (the 2nd chapter) verse 177]

To believe in some of the Prophets, but not all of them, renders a person's Islam null and void. This is something which many, if not most, non Muslims are not aware of.

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¹ Refer to al irshaad ilaa saheeh il i'tiqaad of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan p177

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The Qur'aan states:

Indeed those who disbelieve in Allaah and His Messengers, and who wish to distinguish between Allaah and His Messengers, saying: 'We believe in some and disbelieve in others!' And they wish to adopt a way in between. Then they are in truth the disbelievers!

[Soorah al Nisaa (the 4th chapter) verse 150]

So it can be seen that the Qur'aan mentions belief in Allaah together with belief in the Messengers here, and mentions that the person who believes in some of the Messengers but not in all of them is considered a non Muslim.

This error is something that all other religions have fallen into.

So for example the Jews do not accept Jesus and Muhammad - peace and blessings be upon them - as being messengers.

And the Christians do not accept Muhammad - peace and blessings be upon him - as a messenger.

But Muslims are obligated to believe in and love all the Messengers.