

Messengers 10 – Different from other Prophets?

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

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION: Does Islam teach then that Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) was different in any way from the other prophets?

ANSWER:

Although the religion of the Prophets was one and the same, the last in the series of Prophets did have certain characteristics different from the ones who came before him.

Among them are the following:¹

a) He was the ‘Seal of the Prophets’ as mentioned in the Qur’aan:

Muhammad is not the father of any one of your men, but he is the messenger of Allaah and the seal of the Prophets.

[Soorah al Ahzaab (the 33rd chapter) verse 40]

The meaning of ‘seal of the Prophets’ in this verse is ‘the last of the Prophets’.

b) His message was universal to all people in all times, in contrast to previous Prophets who were sent to their specific nation. This is something that many non Muslims seem to be unaware of, thinking wrongly that Islam is ‘the religion of the Arabs’.

However the Qur’aan clearly states the universality of Islam in many places, including:

Say (O Muhammad!), ‘O mankind, I am indeed the Messenger of Allaah to you all...

[Soorah al A’raaf (7) verse 158]

And though some of the verses of the Qur’aan were revealed with regard to incidents that happened to the Arabs at the time of Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), the rulings to be taken from the verses apply in general to Arabs and non Arabs.

¹ Refer to al irshaad ilaa saheeh il i’tiqaad of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan p197 for more information

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So the Qur'aan attaches rulings and laws to the 'Muslim' and 'non Muslim', to the 'believer' and the 'hypocrite', to the 'righteous person' and the 'sinful person' etc – and not to the 'Arab' and 'non Arab'.

c) He was given a miracle which is everlasting, the Qur'aan.

The fact that the greatest miracle which he was given was the miracle which will last forever, and be a permanent sign of his Prophethood, both during his life and after his death.

d) He was given the miracle of the Israa (night journey to Jerusalem) and the Mi'raaj (ascension to the Heavens). (Please refer to the article Messengers 12 – The miracle of Israa and Mi'raaj.)