
Messengers 3 – Are some Messengers given higher status in Islam than others?

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

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION Are some Messengers given higher status in Islam than others?

ANSWER:

Without doubt, Islam gives higher status to some over others.¹

The Qur'aan mentions:

Those messengers! Some of them We gave excellence over others...

[Soorah al Baqarah (the 2nd chapter) verse 253]

In Arabic, the most virtuous messengers are called the ulul 'azm – the possessors of strong will.

And they are: Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad – may the blessings of Allaah be upon them all.

The Qur'aan mentions:

And (mention O Muhammad) when We took from the prophets their covenant – and from you and from Noah and Abraham and Moses and Jesus, the son of Mary.

[Soorah al Ahzaab (the 33rd chapter) verse 7]

And two Messengers in particular have been singled out as being the khaleel (especially beloved friend) of Allaah: Abraham and Muhammad - may peace and blessings be upon them both.

Muhammad - peace and blessings be upon him – said:

Indeed Allaah took me as a khaleel just as he took Ibraaheem as a khaleel.

(Hadeeth reported by Imaam Muslim (number 532))

¹ Refer to al irshaad ilaa saheeh il i'tiqaad of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan p179