

PROPHETS

Introduction

- Belief in the prophets and messengers is an article of Islamic faith.
- Both Rasul and Nabi are prophets. But the word Rasul (messenger) denotes one who was given a new scripture or a book. Rasul receives a new shariah or code of life. There were 313 rasuls. Example: Hazrat Musa AS, Hazrat Eisa AS, Hazrat Nuh AS, Hazrat Mohammed saw. While Nabi is the one who spreads the message of Allah (SWT) but does not receive a new shariah or code of life. Rather a Nabi follows the shariah of previous rasul. Therefore, a Nabi is not given a new scripture or book. There were 1,24,000 Nabi.

Characteristics

- According to the Quran, all the apostles and prophets sent by Allah were men, had wives and children and were mortal.
- They were all truthful, sin free and delivers messages of Allah without any omission and concealment.
- All of them taught in the language of the people to whom they were sent.
- All the prophets were sent to be obeyed and followed.

  Ref: “We sent not a messenger, but to be obeyed, in accordance with the will of Allah. ”
- Allah favored them above all others, chose them, guided them and blessed them with prophethood.
- Some of the prophets were blessed with more gifts than the others, but Muslims are asked to believe in all of them and to make no distinction amongst them.

  Ref: “…We make no distinction … between one and another of His messengers ”

Role

Allah granted prophethood to His chosen messengers and revealed Books to some of them to guide mankind, teach His commandments and reform their people. Allah chose prophets from among human beings because they could serve as practical examples and guides for their own race. Since they experienced human needs and difficulties, they could demonstrate how to follow Allah’s teachings in daily life, making it easier for people to learn from and follow their example.

Previous Prophets

Among the 1,24,000 prophets Hazrat Adam was first in the line. He was the true believer of one Allah and submitted to His guidance. But gradually over the period of time, people became idolators, until Allah raised a new messenger from amongst them to tell the truth. The Quran mentions several prophets including Hazrat Nuh, Hazrat Ibrahim, his two sons Hazrat Ismail and Hazrat Ishaq. From Hazrat Ishaq number of prophets came which include Hazrat Yaqoob, Hazrat Yusuf, Hazrat Musa, Hazrat Daud, Hazrat Suleiman, Hazrat Yahya and Hazrat Isa. Hazrat Ismail was the ancestor of Arabs and Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) was among his descendants.

Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

The last in the line of prophets is the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW). The Quran says the appearance of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was foretold by previous prophets. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) not only conveyed Allah's messages but also explained and acted upon it himself. The prophethood of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is universal.

Ref: "We have not sent thee but as a universal (Messenger) to men …"

His prophethood is eternal.

Ref:" … But he is the messenger of Allah and the seal of the prophets".

The religion which the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) brought is perfect in all respects. This distinction was not enjoyed by any other religion.

Ref: " This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion."

The life of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is an explanation of the Holy Quran as confirmed by his wife Hazrat Aisha:

“ His morals are the Quran”

Q.no. 1: Explain the Muslim belief in Prophets. [10 marks]

Structure of the answer:

Paragraph 1: Introduction

Paragraph 2: Characteristics

Paragraph 3: Roles

Paragraph 4 Previous prophets

Paragraph 5: Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

Q: What was the main purpose of sending Prophets? [4 marks]

The main purpose of sending the prophets was to guide people to the worship of one true God (Allah) and to bring them away from shirk and evil deeds. They reminded people of Allah's commands and taught them how to live righteous and obedient lives according to His guidance.

Prophets were also sent to reform societies by establishing justice, good morals, and faith in Allah. They served as perfect examples for their followers and conveyed Allah's message clearly so that people could attain success in this world and the Hereafter.

Q no. 3: What makes the prophet hood of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) unique? [7 marks]