

Lesson 12: AL-QUR'AN: THE FINAL REVELATION

The Qur'an is the final revelation of Allah سبحانه وتعالى sent to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ through Angel Jibril عليه السلام. Allah سبحانه وتعالى has promised to safeguard it forever, He promises in the Qur'an:

Allah سبحانه وتعالى sent many prophets with His guidance and many messengers with His books. However, over time, these messages were either lost or changed. The Qur'an informed us fourteen hundred years ago that all these books have been changed. Most of the modern scholars are confirming this fact. Many of the original teachings have been lost or intentionally removed from the books. Some teachings have been misinterpreted to give them a different meaning. Some words have been changed to give them totally different meanings, and even new teachings have been added to these divine revelations.

We do not even know the names of most of the revealed books. We have a mention of only four other books in the Qur'an. The *Suhuf* of Ibrahim عليه السلام have been completely lost, and we have no information about them. *Tawrait* and *Zabur* now form part of Old Testament. The *Injil* is part of the New Testament. All of these books have gone through many changes, and the original documents are no longer available.

Although these books have been tampered with and distorted, the Qur'an recognizes them as revealed books and accepts that they still contain some truth. The Qur'an invited the Jews and Christians to accept the final and complete truth as it was revealed to Rasulallah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ. However, if they do not accept the truth of Islam as contained in the Qur'an, then at least, they are asked to follow the teachings of their revealed books truthfully. The Qur'an criticizes them for accepting only what suits them and rejecting what is not agreeable to them. It also asked them to read the scriptures, seeking the truth with sincerity instead of trying to find their own ideas within them.

The Qur'an described the Jews and Christians as *Ahl al-kitab*, the People of the Book. Islam established a special relationship between Muslims and the *Ahl al-kitab*. Islam also granted them the right to practice their religion freely. The Qur'an

teaches Muslims to speak to them kindly. Seek unity with them in the worship of one common God, and cooperate with them in those things that are good and righteous.

There are many other religions, and they have their own sacred books. Although Muslims cannot include other religious groups among the *Ahl al-kitab* with certainty, they have traditionally treated them with the same tolerance as they did the Jews and Christians, both socially and politically.

The Qur'an is Allah's **سبحانه وتعالى** final message. It contains all the truth that had been revealed through the other books, bringing it to a final conclusion. While some of the instructions in earlier books were meant only for a specific time and for a particular people, the message of the Qur'an is for all times and for all the people. At the time of the earlier prophets, humanity was in its infancy, so Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** did not reveal his complete *Shariah* (Islamic laws and regulations) then. The Qur'an completes and finalizes the *Shariah*.

Since the Qur'an is final revelation, it was important that it be safeguarded from corruption or change. Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** promised to safeguard it, and we know for a fact that He fulfilled His promise. The Qur'an is the same book as it was revealed to

Prophet Muhammad **صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ**. As one of the miraculous ways of safeguarding His Word, Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** created love and care about this book in the hearts of the believers, so they would naturally work to preserve it.

There are hundreds and thousands of people all across the world who have memorized the entire Qur'an word for word. These people are called *Huffaz* (singular: *Hafiz*). Every Muslim has some part of the Qur'an memorized. Some people have learned how to beautifully recite the Qur'an; they are called *Muqris* or *Qaris*. Yet, there are others who have mastered the art of calligraphy; they write the Qur'an in an artistic manner. These are called the *Khattat*. There are scholars who specialize in its study and interpretation. These scholars are called *Mufasssirun* (singular: *Mufasssir*).

Generations of Islamic scholars, known as the '*Ulama*', they have devoted their lives in reading, understanding, practicing and teaching the Qur'an. The Qur'an was revealed in the Arabic language, and despite the passing of fourteen hundred years, the Arabic language of the Qur'an remains a language, spoken, written and

understood by the millions. The Qur'an is not an antiquated book; it was sent as a complete guidance for the 'Ummah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, and it addresses all the most relevant issues humanity is to face until the end of time.

The Qur'an gives us a complete code of life. It clearly defines what is *Halal* and what is *Haram*. It teaches us best morals and manners. There is no part of life that it does not provide us the guidance. This book is for all human beings and for all time to come.

May Allah سبحانه وتعالى include us among those who love His book, care about it and strive to safeguard it.