

Messengers 10 – different from other prophets?

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

ANSWER: Although we mentioned last time that 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'an:

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

Soorah al Ahzaab (33) 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'an clearly states the universality of Islam in many places, including:

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

Soorah al A'raaf (7) verse 158

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

And though some of the verses of the Qur'an 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.

So the Qur'an 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'an.

This is something we have discussed before, 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).

This is something that we will discuss shortly inshaa Allah (God willing).

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NEXT TIME: Does Islam teach that Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) was distinguished in any way from the Muslims themselves?