

Messengers 2 – Is there a need for Prophets and Messengers?

QUESTION: Why do Muslims believe that it was necessary for Allah to send Messengers?

ANSWER: Islam teaches that the sending of Messengers was a blessing which Allah has bestowed upon mankind. Why should this be? ¹

If the human instinctively knows that there is a Creator, then it follows on (as we have discussed before) that that Creator is the Being who should be worshipped.

But no matter how great his or her intelligence is, a person cannot possibly know what the Creator's legislation is, nor His prohibitions and permissible acts, nor all the actions which will please their Creator and those which will displease Him.

In fact, Islam teaches that mankind's need for Messengership is even greater than a sick person's need for a doctor.

Although this may sound somewhat over dramatic, it simply reflects the concept that physical illness affects a person's body, whereas without the guidance that Allah sent with the Messengers, a person's heart i.e. his soul will be harmed. This will affect every single aspect of the person's life and of those around him. And of course, according to Islamic teaching, it will affect the person after he or she dies, as well as before.

QUESTION: How many Messengers are mentioned in the Qur'an?

ANSWER: There are twenty five messengers who are mentioned by name in the Qur'an.

¹ Refer to *al irshaad ilaa saheeh il i'tiqaad* of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan p178

Nearly half of them have been mentioned in one place alone.

The Qur'an mentions:

And that was our Proof which we gave to Abraham against his people...And We bestowed upon him Isaac and Jacob, each of them We guided. And before him, we guided Noah and amongst his offspring David, Solomon, Job, Joseph, Moses and Aaron... And Zachariya and John and Jesus and Elias – each of them was from the righteous people.

Soorah al An'aam (the 6th chapter) verses 83 to 85

The rest of the Messengers have been mentioned in various places throughout the Book.

However Muslims are also required to believe that there are Messengers about whom Allah has not mentioned by name in the Qur'an.

The Qur'an mentions:

And We have sent Messengers before you. Some of them We have told you about, and others We have not told you about.

Soorah an Nisaa (the 4th chapter) verse 164

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NEXT TIME:

Are some Messengers given higher status in Islam than others?