

Messengers 9 – did all the prophets have the same religion?

QUESTION: What do Muslims mean when they say that all the prophets had the same religion? ¹

ANSWER: Islam teaches that all the prophets were upon one religion, although there may have been differences in the legislations that each one had. So, for example, some foods may have been allowed in the legislations of certain prophets – due to the wisdom of the Creator who sent them – but forbidden in the legislations of others.

However the beliefs which the Prophets came with were one and the same.

The Qur'an states:

O Messengers! Eat from the good things and do righteous deeds – indeed I have complete knowledge of what you do. And verily this – your religion - is one religion and I am your Lord, so fear Me and be dutiful to Me!

Soorah al Mu'minoon (the 23rd chapter) verses 51 to 52

And the Qur'an mentions that Musa (Moses) said to his people:

O my people, if you have true faith in Allah, then rely upon Him if you are Muslims!

Soorah Yoonus (the 10th chapter) verse 84

And similarly the disciples of 'Eesaa (Jesus) said:

We have true faith and bear witness that we are Muslims.

Soorah al Maaidah (the 5th chapter) verse 111

¹ Refer to *al irshaad ilaa saheeh il i'tiqaad* of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan p194 for more information

When Islam states that all the prophets were Muslims, this means that they all submitted to worshipping Him alone and obeying Him; and this is 'tawheed ul uloohiyyah', something we have discussed before.

It might however be said: Why then do different prophets have different laws and legislations? Surely this is a proof that all prophets came with different messages?

This is not the case at all. Rather Islam teaches that it is a sign of the complete knowledge of the Creator that He ordained different laws at different times for different prophets who came to different peoples. When the time was appropriate, then He abrogated (replaced) the old law with a new law.

And it is a sign of a person's submission to the Creator that he acts on the new law when it comes to him. Conversely, it is a sign of a person's misguidance and error that when the truth comes to him, he sticks rigidly to what he was doing before.

And when the last in the series of prophets came, he was given the legislation which would last until the Day of Judgement.

So all prophets have one religion – which is the religion of making all acts of worship sincerely and purely for Allah alone, and of preventing acts of shirk (associating partners in worship with Allah). This is true, even if the respective laws and legislations of the prophets may have differed.

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