

## “Prophets and Messengers in Scriptures”

### Introduction:

Prophets and Messengers are normal and mortal human beings, but ordained to the Prophetic Office<sup>1</sup>, as distinguished servants of Almighty God, through the designated stewardship of Archangel Gabriel. There were over 124,000 Prophets who have already served their communities in every continent and there is not a community, which had its ancestors denied the privilege of having a Prophet as a warner<sup>2</sup> to them. This aspect is very important, as when people will be examined by Almighty God on the great Day of Judgement, those people will not escape Judgement, based on their feeble excuse that no Prophet had previously served them as a warner. Self-proclaimed false prophets are never ordained as distinguished servants of Almighty God, and definitely never so by the designated stewardship of Archangel Gabriel. Only Almighty God has rights of sending Archangel Gabriel<sup>3</sup> to humanity for His divine activities.

### Discussion on Prophets and Messengers in Scriptures:

**1.** Almighty God is the sole Creator of everything in this world and in our universe. He is also the Creator of everything in our Milky Way Galaxy and numerous other Galaxies and their multiple-universes within those Galaxies; all of which are beyond the realm of humanity to view and measure those stellar material compositions. Comparatively, humanity does not create anything whatsoever, but simply converts certain things from existing raw materials into different processes as stages of manufacturing. Almighty God does not appear as any description of visible and identifiable material body amongst His creations, but He had ordained to the Prophetic Office<sup>4</sup>, 124,000 persons within humanity as His

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<sup>1</sup> Prophetic Office is explained later in this discussion as Footnote 4.

<sup>2</sup> **HQ35:24** “Surely We have sent you with the Truth as a bearer of good news and a warner. And there is not a people but a warner has gone among them.”

<sup>3</sup> Archangel Gabriel came for the final time in the Prophetic Regime of Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) in 632AD.

<sup>4</sup> The Prophetic Office (Spiritual) is a terminology taken to mean all the servants of Almighty God. Servants of Almighty God are taken to mean Prophets and Messengers ordained by divine revelations and all His angels, who deliver revelations and errands to His servants. What constitutes the Prophetic Office? From names of Prophet Adam (*as*) to Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*), a total of 124,000 Prophets (*Nabi*) were ordained by Divine revelations, but directly delivered to them by the stewardship of Archangel Gabriel, as spiritually contracted servants. Out of 124,000 Prophets, only 313 are Messengers (*Rasul*). Out of 313 Messengers, only 25 have been mentioned by name in the Holy Qur’an as past case studies. Note: that every Messenger (*Rasul*) is also a Prophet, but every Prophet (*Nabi*) is not a Messenger. All of these 124,000 prophets were regular human beings who must eat food, drink water, breath air and need atmospheric pressure to stay alive. The figure of 124,000 prophets is quoted by *Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal* in his *Musnad* No 21257. Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) was the Last and Final Prophet and after his death in 632AD, that sealed off all prophets of any description whatsoever being ordained by Divine revelations, to serve humanity on earth. This is stated in the Holy Qur’an at **HQ33:40** “Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the prophets. And Allah is ever Knower of all

Prophets and His Messengers, on His behalf. It is prudently important to understand and fully appreciate the purpose of Prophets and Messengers, who were ordained in this world. The original descendants of Prophet Adam<sup>5</sup> (*as*) would have been living much the same as animals with four basic functions: that is to live, eat food, drink water and reproduce as their babies. Almighty God deemed necessary that all of His humanity must have the fifth function, which is: people they must recognise His ever-existence as One Almighty God<sup>6</sup>, who must be worshipped, obeyed, loved, and served, without inclusion of others as gods. That is the most significant difference between animals and humanity. Thereafter, there continued a downstream of Prophets and Messengers.

**2. How many Prophets and Messengers have come since creation? 124,000 Prophets, commencing with Adam (*as*). Included in the figure were 313 Messengers<sup>7</sup>. Prophets and Messengers were bearers of good news to humanity, to prepare them for the great Day of Judgement<sup>8</sup>. The delivery of these good news to humanity was for all peoples of whatsoever community, to get to recognise the purpose of their existence, which is: to worship Almighty God only, as the sole Creator of everything material, and to absolutely refrain from practising any description of idolatry and polytheism. Humanity must also be in self-control and in full compliance to those revealed scriptures, which were delivered to them progressively in sync with improving civilizations. The authority on numbers of**

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*things.*" Seal means total shutting off arrival of any prophet of whatsoever description: No new prophet and no re-entry of any of the past 124,000 prophets will eventuate.

<sup>5</sup> Prophet Adam (*as*) lived over 900 years and his Prophetic Regime covered many generations of descendants.

<sup>6</sup> For Muslims, the fifth function comprises the five principles of Islam: 1) Acceptance of One God and rejection of idolatry and polytheism. 2) Prayer five times daily. 3) Charity. 4) Fasting in Ramadan. 5) Pilgrimage (or *Hajj*).

<sup>7</sup> It is prequalification for a Messenger to also be a Prophet.

<sup>8</sup> This reflects the Immaculate Magnificence of Almighty God in His Fairness as the sole Judge. Prophets will be gathered first before Judgement starts. All people, regardless of their status in this material worldly life, will be tried on the great Day of Judgement, only against those baseline religious scripture and laws, which were delivered to them by their prophets within their Prophetic Realm. This decree is in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ17:15** "*Whoever goes aright, goes aright only for the good of his own soul; and whoever goes astray, goes astray only to its detriment. And no bearer of a burden can bear the burden of another. Nor do We punish until We raise a messenger.*" The decree effectively concludes that each of those 124,000 prophets will be prosecution witness and testify that he was the Prophet in Prophetic Office, during the life of the person being examined for Judgement. In addition, the Prophet will also give testimony of deliverance of his messages: that all communities' peoples must accept and worship only the One Almighty God and Who, has no material shape or limitations of measurement, is formless, has no commencement, always is, has no demise, has no heir, no line of succession, no partner or associate of any imaginable description whatsoever. This makes Judgement by Almighty God as swift, fair and final: not subject to appeal of whatsoever description. All previous prophets and their scriptures were only for their communities they serviced. Only Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) and the Holy Qur'an are both Final Prophet and final revealed scripture respectively into Islam, presented to the world's communities. This definitely concludes Islam as the fully completed final revealed religion to the rest of the world to date.

Prophets is by Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal<sup>9</sup> in his Musnad No 21257: “*There were 124,000 Prophets with Prophet Adam as the first Prophet and Prophet Muhammad the Last and Final Prophet (peace on them all), which included 313 as Messengers.*”

**3.** What is the purpose of Prophets and Messengers to humanity? As already stated above, Prophets and Messengers were bearers of good news to humanity to prepare them for the great Day of Judgement. The delivery of their messages by those Messengers<sup>10</sup> were fundamentally basic essentials and attuned to suit the level of civilization, which subsisted during their era of existence. The bulk of the populations of countries throughout the world, in early stages after creation of humanity, were mostly uneducated and there were no material scriptural books. The Messengers received revelations from Almighty God but delivered to them directly by the stewardship of Archangel Gabriel. In the absence of religious books, the divine messages were committed to the Messengers’ memories. These messages, collectively referred to as “Books” were then relayed to their communities’ descendants downstream. Hence the Prophets and their communities downstream are referred to in the Holy Qur’an as “People of the Book<sup>11</sup>”. All Messengers were also Prophets but all Prophets were not Messengers. Out of the assigned 124,000 Prophets, only 313 were original Messengers, who brought about significant changes. This pattern of Messengers and Prophets continued into the new era, when people were progressively able to read and write on certain tangible materials, such as clay tablets, parchment, papyrus

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<sup>9</sup> Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal (b.780-d.855 AD).

<sup>10</sup> Prophet Adam (*as*) was the First Prophet but not the first Messenger, whereas Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) was both the Last and Final Messenger and also the Last and Final Prophet. There is essential need to differentiate Messengers from Prophets. The 124,000 Prophets were widely spaced since creation of humanity, whereas the 313 Messengers were obviously fewer and inserted in between several Prophets for a special reason: Messengers, as ordained change agents, brought both new scriptures as Books and new *Sharia* (Arabic word for Islamic laws, based on the Qur’an and traditions of Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) as reported in the six leading Hadith). In the early stages commencing with Prophet Adam (*as*), as First Prophet, there were no printed books and all revelations delivered by Almighty God through the stewardship of Angel Gabriel were committed to Prophets’ memory. These revelations (committed to memory) are also termed as “Books” in the Holy Qur’an. However, over periods of time, distortions crept into the verbal communication relays of messages and it was deemed necessary for Almighty God to send over Prophets, who were refreshed by Archangel Gabriel with the same divine revelations of their previous Messengers. The series of Prophets, whilst also receiving same revelations, ensured there was systematic consistency with their previous Messengers, which continued over several generations until the next Messenger brought some new changes, which were designed to be comprehensive improvement with more details to suit the existing level of civilization of their times.

<sup>11</sup> Some of the past communities of previous civilisations led by Prophets and referred to as “People of the Book” were: Jews, Christians, Sabeans and Muslims; their revealed Books are *Torah*, *Injeel*, *Zabur* and *Holy Qur’an* in that respective order (Authority: **HQ2:62**, **HQ5:69** and **HQ22:17**). Whilst it is acknowledged that there were others out of 124,000 prophets before Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*), however these have not been listed.

sheets, scrolls, handwritten books and then finally to modern printed books<sup>12</sup>. However, all 124,000 Prophets have not been chronologically listed in the Holy Qur'an as the register of historical records, because they were progressively superseding their predecessors in different parts of this world to different communities. On the contrary, only 25 names of Prophets and Messengers have been embedded throughout the Holy Qur'an, as past case studies for humanity of the current generations, to learn and to abide within the scope of the Holy Qur'an. This conclusively makes the Holy Qur'an manifestly comprehensive and as the final revealed scripture. The purpose of Prophets and Messengers has been stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ4:164-165** *"And (We sent) messengers We have mentioned to you before and messengers We have not mentioned to you. And to Moses Allah addressed His word, speaking (to him) — messengers, bearers of good news and warners, so that the people may have no plea against Allah after the (coming of) messengers. And Allah is ever Mighty, Wise."*

**4.** Do Muslims accept all Prophets and all Messengers stated in other revealed scriptures? This whole world is a common village and the populations of this world are all its different inhabitants. The external visible differences and variations in languages and cultures are the complex products of their geographical habitations. It is reiterated that in the view of Almighty God, all people are equal and as His magnificent creatures. The Holy Qur'an delivers an appropriate injunction at **HQ2:136**: *"Say: We believe in Allah and (in) what has been revealed to us, and (in) what was revealed to Abraham, and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the tribes, and (in) what was given to Moses and Jesus, and (in) what was given to the prophets from their Lord, we make no distinction between any of them and to Him we submit."*

**5.** Who are those 25 Prophets and Messengers named in the Holy Qur'an as past case studies? In addition to names of 25 Prophets stated in the Holy Qur'an, the same 25 names have also been stated in the Hebrew Scriptures, in the Bible as the Old Testament and some in the New Testament. The exceptions are Prophet Jesus and Prophet Muhammad *(peace on all of them)*, as they came into this world after the regime of the Hebrew Scriptures and the Old Testament. Those persons who were both Messenger and Prophet have their names in bold with underlining. Throughout Holy Qur'an the following Prophets' names have been mentioned: "Adam [25], Enoch [2], **Noah** [43], **Hud** [2], **Salih** [9], **Abraham** [44], **Ishmael** [12], Isaac [9], **Lot** [9], Jacob [4], **Joseph** [27], **Shuaib** [11], Job [2], **Moses** [140], Aaron [20], Ezekiel [2], David [16], Solomon [7], Elias [2], Elisha [2], **Jonah** [3], Zechariah [7], John (the Baptist) [5], **Jesus** [25] and the Last and Final Prophet as Prophet **Muhammad** [4] *(peace on all of them)*. Number of times Prophet's name mentioned and

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<sup>12</sup> Printing machines to print books, with simple automation, were invented in 1455 by Johannes Gutenberg.

embedded in verses of Holy Qur'an is indicated in square brackets [total numbers mentioned = 437]. Test<sup>13</sup>: 23 x 19 =437.”

6. Would there be any new Prophet after the death of Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) in 632AD? The prophetic range commenced with Prophet Adam (*as*) and ended with Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*). The ending of Prophetic Regime as the Final Prophet also concludes and seals off the descent and stewardship of Archangel Gabriel. **HQ33:40.** “*Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the prophets. And Allah is ever Knower of all things.*” Unless and until Almighty God had summonsed Archangel Gabriel to provide the stewardship of delivering prophetic messages to specific persons, only on His behalf, this angel did not descend independently at will.

### **Conclusions on Prophets and Messengers in Scriptures:**

- a) There were over 124,000 Prophets, which included 313 Messengers, whom Almighty God had ordained as His Ambassadors to live amongst humanity on Earth. They became influential change agents to transform peoples' thinking into allegiance of understanding and worshipping Almighty God only, and refrain from worship into areas of idolatry and polytheism.
- b) Prophets and Messengers were sent by Almighty God to every continent on Earth, so that people were not denied their rights of knowing and understanding the truth about Almighty God. These Prophets and Messengers will witness on Judgement Day that they delivered messages.
- c) Archangel Gabriel was directly providing that stewardship of ordination of Prophets and Messengers amongst humanity on Earth, as an agent of Almighty God.

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<sup>13</sup> Test is stated in **HQ74:30** “*Over it are nineteen.*” This verse is taken to mean the relevance of 19 as master code to the Holy Qur'an. Out of various examples are that the very first Chapter of the Holy Qur'an, Chapter 96 comprises 19 verses. The immediate next verse after **HQ74:30** is **HQ74:31**, which states, there are 19 Guards over Hell. The very first revelation to Holy Qur'an is of verses **HQ96:1-5** and comprise 19 words. The Holy Qur'an has 114 Chapters as multiples of 19. There are also 114 salutations of the Holy Qur'an as *Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Raheem*, at the head of each Chapter (except Chapter 9, which is extension of Chapter 8. The salutation is given at **HQ27:30**, as opening salutation to a letter from King Solomon to Queen of Sheba), and consistent to 114 times. The first revealed verses are in Chapter 96 and Chapter 96 is the 19<sup>th</sup> positioned when counted backwards from last Chapter 114. All the various names and attributes of Almighty God are in multiples of 19 in the Holy Qur'an. Numbers 1 and 9 are first and last numerals and this also signifies Almighty God as First and Last in His Existence. “One” in reference to Almighty God is “Wahid” and “Wahid” occurs exactly 19 times in the Holy Qur'an. Number 19 is also the most difficult prime number and is divisible only by 1 and 19. Without the need to protract this footnote discussion any further about multiples of 19, and there are so many dimensions of discussions, let it suffice to rest that Almighty God has left His miraculous fact that the entire Holy Qur'an cannot be fictitiously forged, altered or in any way replicated, because the master key to the Holy Qur'an is marvellously structured around complex multiples of 19.