

# ﴿THE KEY TO KNOWLEDGE﴾

## How to Understand Islaam Correctly

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### Dars 12-'Aqeedah – Believing in the Books of Allaah 26-02-2011

After praising Allaah (Subhaanahu wa Ta`Aalaa) and sending salaah and salaam upon His Messenger Muhammad (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) and those who followed him, our Shaykh and teacher, Muhammad Al-Malki welcomed the students to today's class. In today's class we will discuss the 3<sup>rd</sup> pillar of the pillars of Eemaan (Belief) and that is **Eemaan in the Books of Allaah**.

Our discussion today concerning the Books of Allaah deals with:

- Defining and making clear what is meant when we say 'Books'
- The names of those Books and Messengers to whom they were given
- Believing that all of the scriptures were abrogated by the final revelation
- Discussing the benefits of believing in the Books

#### BOOKS – AS DEFINED IN THE QUR'AAN AND SUNNAH

*Kutub* – كُتُب (books) is the plural of *kitaab* (كِتَاب).

Here, "books" refer to the scriptures which contain the revelations/sayings of Allaah as in the ayah in soorah An-Nisaa',

﴿يَسْأَلُكَ أَهْلُ الْكِتَابِ أَنْ تُنزِلَ عَلَيْهِمْ كِتَابًا مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ فَقَدْ سَأَلُوا مُوسَىٰ أَكْبَرَ مِنْ ذَلِكَ فَقَالُوا أَرِنَا اللَّهَ جَهْرَةً فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ الصَّعِقَةُ بِظُلْمِهِمْ ثُمَّ اتَّخَذُوا الْعِجْلَ مِن بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَتْهُمْ الْبَيِّنَاتُ فَعَفَوْنَا عَنِ ذَلِكَ

وَأَاتَيْنَا مُوسَىٰ سُلْطَانًا مُّبِينًا ﴿١٥٣﴾

The people of the Scripture (Jews) ask you to cause a book to descend upon them from heaven. Indeed they asked Moosaa (Moses) for even greater than that, when they said: "Show us Allaah in public," but they were struck with thunderclap and lightning for their wickedness. Then they worshipped the calf even after clear proofs, evidences, and signs had come to them. (Even) so We forgave them. And We gave Moosaa (Moses) a clear proof of authority. (An-Nisaa' 4:153)

Here we see "book" meaning what Allaah (Subhaanahu wa Ta`Aalaa) sent down to His Prophets.

Allaah (Subhaanahu wa Ta`Aalaa) has commanded us to believe in the books as in the ayah:

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ءَامِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ءَ وَالْكِتَابِ الَّذِي نَزَّلَ عَلَىٰ رَسُولِهِ ءَ وَالْكِتَابِ الَّذِي نَزَّلَ مِن قَبْلُ ءَ وَمَن يَكْفُرْ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ ءَ وَرُسُلِهِ ءَ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا ﴿١٣٦﴾ ﴾

O you who believe! Believe in Allaah, and His Messenger (Muhammad [sal-Allaahu 'alayhi wa sallam]), and the Book (the Qur'aan) which He has sent down to His Messenger, and the Scripture which He sent down to those before (him); and whosoever disbelieves in Allaah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, and the Last Day, then indeed he has strayed far away. (An-Nisaa' 4:136)

Allaah (Subhaanahu wa Ta`Aalaa) also said,

﴿ قُولُوا ءَامَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْنَا وَمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَالْأَسْبَاطِ وَمَا أُوتِيَ مُوسَىٰ وَعِيسَىٰ وَمَا أُوتِيَ النَّبِيُّونَ مِن رَّبِّهِمْ لَا نَفَرِقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِّنْهُمْ وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ ﴿١٣٦﴾ ﴾

Say (O Muslims), "We believe in Allaah and that which has been sent down to us and that which has been sent down to Ibraaheem (Abraham), Ismaa`eel (Ishmael), Ishaq (Isaac), Ya`qoob (Jacob), and to Al-Asbaat [the offspring twelve sons of Ya`qoob (Jacob)], and that which has been given to Moosaa (Moses) and `Eesaa (Jesus), and that which has been given to the Prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and to Him we have submitted (in Islaam)."

(Al-Baqarah 2:136)

We see that this ayah began with Allaah commanding to us to declare to everyone what we believe in from what had been revealed to our Prophet Muhammad (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) and all the Prophets and Messengers of these books. Allaah `Azza wa Jall has also informed us,

﴿ لَيْسَ الْبِرَّ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ قِبَلَ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنْ ءَامَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالْكِتَابِ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ وَءَاتَى الْمَالَ عَلَىٰ حُبِّهِ ذَوِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَأَبْنِ السَّبِيلِ وَالسَّائِلِينَ وَفِي الرِّقَابِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَءَاتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَالْمُوفُونَ بِعَهْدِهِمْ إِذَا عَاهَدُوا وَالصَّادِرِينَ فِي الْبَأْسَاءِ وَالضَّرَّاءِ وَحِينَ الْبَأْسِ أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ ﴿١٧٧﴾ ﴾

It is not Al-Birr (piety, righteousness, and every act of obedience to Allaah) that you turn your faces towards the east and (or) the west (in prayers); but Al-Birr is (the quality of) the one who believes in Allaah, the Last Day, the Angels, the Book, the Prophets; and gives wealth in spite of love for it, to the kinsfolk, to the orphans, and to Al-Masaakeen (the needy), and to the wayfarer, and to those who ask, and to set slaves free; performs As-Salaat (the prayers), and gives the Zakaat (obligatory

charity); and who fulfil their covenant when they make it, and who are patient in extreme poverty and ailment (disease) and at the time of fighting (during the battles). Such are the people of the truth and they are Al-Muttaqoon. (Al-Baqarah 2:177)

Allaah `Azza wa Jall clarified to us that *birr* (piety) is only believing in Allaah (Subhaanahu wa Ta`Aalaa) and these pillars of faith, and doing righteous good deeds. In this ayah, Allaah mentioned the 'book' in its singular form although He mentioned the angels and prophets in the plural form. This means that it is obligatory that we believe in every book that Allaah sent down (revealed). This is because the word "al-kitaab" (الكتاب) which was used in the ayah, refers to all that which has been sent down from the heavens by Allaah Ta`Aalaa. It is as Ibn Katheer (Rahimahullaahu Ta`Aalaa) said, "It is a generic noun encompassing all the heavenly revealed Books until they were finally sealed by the coming of the Qur'aan - the noblest of all the scriptures and the watcher over them; and the way of establishing the belief in all the Divine Books – and Allaah (Subhaanahu wa Ta`Aalaa) ordered that as in ayah 176<sup>1</sup> of Sooratul-Baqarah."

Thus, believing in the Books which Allaah Ta`Aalaa revealed is one of the pillars of *eemaan* (faith), as has been clearly mentioned the long Hadeth of Jibreel where Jibreel (`alayhis-salaam) asked the Prophet (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) about *eemaan* (faith) and he (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) said,

أَنْ تُؤْمِنَ بِاللَّهِ، وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ، وَكُتُبِهِ، وَرُسُلِهِ، وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ، وَتُؤْمِنَ بِالْقَدَرِ خَيْرِهِ وَشَرِّهِ

*"It (eemaan) is to believe in Allaah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, and the Last Day, and to believe in divine destiny (qadr) - the good and the evil of it."*

As mentioned, believing in the Books is one of the pillars of *eemaan* and **if anyone disbelieves in (even) one of them he has committed apostasy and has become a *kaafir* (disbeliever).**

## BOOKS WHICH ALLAAH HAS NAMED FOR US

Some of the Books have been mentioned to us, but many of them were not mentioned to us in detail but only generally. From the ones that Allaah Ta`Aalaa has informed us of their names are:

1. At-Tauraat (التوراة) – The Torah (Old Testament)
2. Al-Injeel (الإنجيل) – The Gospels (The Bible)
3. Az-Zaboor (الزبور) – The Psalms
4. Al-Qur'aan (القرآن)
5. As-Suhuf (الصحف) – The Scrolls

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<sup>1</sup> That is because Allaah has sent down the Book (the Qur'aan) in truth. And verily, those who disputed as regards the Book are far away in opposition. (Al-Baqarah 2:176)

Allaah `Azza wa Jall said,

﴿ وَلَقَدْ كَتَبْنَا فِي الزَّبُورِ مِنْ بَعْدِ الذِّكْرِ أَنَّ الْأَرْضَ يَرِثُهَا عِبَادِيَ الصَّالِحُونَ ﴿١٠٥﴾ ﴾

And indeed We have written in Az-Zaboor [i.e. all the revealed Holy Books the Tauraat (Torah), the Injeel (Gospel), the Psalms, the Qur'aan] after (We have already written in) Adh-Dhikr [Al-Lauh Al-Mahfooz (the Book that is in the heaven with Allaah)] that My righteous slaves shall inherit the land (i.e. the land of Paradise). (Al-Anbiyaa' 21:105)

And also,

﴿ إِنَّا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ كَمَا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَى نُوحٍ وَالْتَّيِّبِينَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَالْأَسْبَاطِ وَعِيسَى وَأَيُّوبَ وَيُوسُفَ وَهَارُونَ وَسُلَيْمَانَ وَأَتَيْنَا دَاوُدَ زَبُورًا ﴿١٦٣﴾ ﴾

Verily, We have sent the Revelation to you (O Muhammad [sal-Allaahu 'alayhi wa sallam]) as We sent the Revelation to Nooh (Noah) and the Prophets after him; We (also) sent the Revelation to Ibraaheem (Abraham), Ismaa'eel (Ishmael), Ishaaq (Isaac), Ya`qoob (Jacob), and Al-Asbaat [the offspring of the twelve sons of Ya`qoob (Jacob)], `Eesaa (Jesus), Ayyub (Job), Yoonus (Jonah), Haaron (Aaron), and Sulaimaan (Solomon); and to Daawood (David) We gave the Zaboor (Psalms). (An-Nisaa' 4:163)

And He (Subhaanahu wa Ta`Aalaa) also said,

﴿ وَرَبُّكَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَقَدْ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَ النَّبِيِّينَ عَلَى بَعْضٍ وَأَتَيْنَا دَاوُدَ زَبُورًا ﴿٥٥﴾ ﴾

And your Lord knows best all who are in the heavens and the earth. And indeed, We have preferred some of the Prophets above others, and to Daawood (David) We gave the Zaboor (Psalms).

(Al-Israa' 17:55)

He Ta`Aalaa told us about the Suhuf which He revealed to two of His prophets: Ibraaheem and Moosaa as He mentioned in sooratul-A`laa,

﴿ إِنَّ هَذَا لَفِي الصُّحُفِ الْأُولَى ﴿١٨﴾ صُحُفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَى ﴿١٩﴾ ﴾

Verily, this is in the former Scriptures — (18) The Scriptures of Ibraaheem (Abraham) and Moosa (Moses). (Al-A`laa 18-19)

We believe in these five (5) scriptures which Allaah mentioned by name, and we also believe in all those which Allaah Ta`Aalaa sent down in general.

## THE PREVIOUS BOOKS WERE ABROGATED BY THE QUR'AN

We believe that Allaah has sent down all of these Books but it is **not permissible** seek guidance in any except the Qur'aan because it is the seal of the Books.

It was authentically reported from the Prophet (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) that he saw `Umar ibn Al-Khattaab holding some pages of the Taurah. He, thus, became angry and said: *“Are you doubtful regarding it (Islaam) O Ibn Al-Khattab? By Him in Whose Hand is my life, I have brought it to you plain and pure. Do not ask them, the Jews and Christians, anything concerning your religion lest they tell you a truth and you erroneously deny it, or they fabricate a lie but you mistakenly believe in it. By Him in Whose Hand is my life, if Moosaa (Moses) was alive he would have followed me.”* Related by Imaam Ahmad in his Musnad (Hadeeth compilation) and Al-Baihaqee in Shu`b Al-Eemaan and other than them; it is a *hasan* (good) hadeeth by the way of its narration.

Believing in the Books does not necessarily mean that we go to them and read them. It means that we believe that Allaah Ta`Aalaa sent down those books and that Allaah Ta`Aalaa made the last and seal of them the Qur'aan.

As Imaam Abu `Amr Ad-Daani narrated on behalf Abul-Hasan Al-Muntaab who said, *“I was once sitting with the judge, Abu Ishaq, Ismaa'eel the son of Ishaq when someone asked him, ‘Why was it possible for the people of the Taurah to distort it and it wasn't (possible) for the people of the Qur'aan to distort it?’ The Qadi said, ‘Allaah Azza wa Jaal, the Exalted, said about the people of the Taurah,*

﴿ بِمَا أَسْتَحْفِظُوا مِنْ كِتَابِ ﴾

*Allaah made the safety of His Book their responsibility<sup>2</sup> and thus it became possible for them to tamper with it. However, Allaah Ta`Aalaa said about the Qur'aan,*

﴿ إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ ﴿٩﴾ ﴾

**Verily, We, it is We Who have sent down the Dhikr (i.e. the Qur'aan) and surely We will guard it (from corruption). (Al-Hijr 15:9)**

*So, this has removed the possibility of any distortion of any part of the revelation of the Qur'aan.’ He, Abul-Hasan Al-Muntaab said, ‘I went to Abu `Abdillaah Al-Muhaamilee and told him what had happened (in that conversation) and he remarked saying, ‘I have never heard a statement better than this’ i.e. in clarifying this issue’.”*

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<sup>2</sup> ... for to them was entrusted the protection of Allaah's Book... (Al-Maa'idah 5:44)

## THE BENEFITS OF BELIEVING IN THE BOOKS OF ALLAAH

The benefits of believing in the Books of Allaah are many, but they can be summarized in three points:

1. Recognizing the sublimity of the Almighty Creator, as well as His perfect power and authority. Also, being grateful to Allaah the Almighty for the kindness and care He has for His creatures and which has resulted in His sending down the Books which contain guidance for their worldly and heavenly benefits and interests.
2. The manifestation of Allaah's wisdom in having prescribed in those Books, laws which were relevant to each nation to which they were sent. Moreover, the laws of the Glorious Qur'aan being the seal of the Books, are relevant to all times and places until the Day of Resurrection.
3. Affirmation that the attribute of Speech (talking /speaking) for Allaah Ta`Aalaa is an unquestionable quality. Also, believing in the uniqueness of Allaah's Speech; it is not comparable to the speech or words of His creation who likewise, lack the ability to produce the likes of His words as He mentioned in the ayah,

﴿ وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِّمَّا نَزَّلْنَا عَلَىٰ عَبْدِنَا فَأْتُوا بِسُورَةٍ مِّمَّنْ مِثْلِهِ ۚ وَادْعُوا شُهَدَاءَكُمْ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ ﴿٢٣﴾ فَإِنْ لَمْ تَفْعَلُوا وَلَنْ تَفْعَلُوا فَاتَّقُوا النَّارَ الَّتِي وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ ۗ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٢٤﴾ ﴾

And if you (Arab pagans, Jews, and Christians) are in doubt concerning that which We have sent down (i.e. the Qur'aan) to Our slave (Muhammad [sal-Allaahu 'alayhi wa sallam]), then bring a Soorah (chapter) of the like thereof and call your witnesses (supporters and helpers) besides Allaah, if you are truthful. (24) But if you do it not, and you can never do it, then fear the Fire (Hell) whose fuel is men and stones, prepared for the disbelievers. (Al-Baqarah 2:23-24)

We have to believe in the Books. We have to believe firmly that Allaah sent down the Taurah (Torah) to Moosaa and it is the book of the Jews. However, the Yahood (Jews) corrupted and changed the revealed Book of Allaah. We have to believe that Allaah sent down the Injeel (Bible), but the Christians have also corrupted and changed the Bible. We have to believe that the Suhuf (Scriptures) and the Zaboor (Psalms) were sent to those Prophets who Allaah named to us, but these books were abrogated and some were removed and hidden and it is not known where they are today and we believe that **the Qur'aan is the seal of all of these Books** as Allaah Azza wa Jall said,

﴿ وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَمُهَيْمِنًا عَلَيْهِ ۖ فَاحْكُم بَيْنَهُمْ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ ۗ وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ عَمَّا جَاءَكَ مِنَ الْحَقِّ لِكُلِّ جَعَلْنَا مِنْكُمْ شِرْعَةً وَمِنْهَاجًا ۚ وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَجَعَلَكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَلَٰكِن لِّيَبْلُوَكُمْ فِي مَا آتَاكُمْ فَأَسْتَبِقُوا الْخَيْرَاتِ ۗ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَرْجِعُكُمْ جَمِيعًا فَيُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ ﴿٤٨﴾ ﴾

And We have sent down to you (O Muhammad [sal-Allaahu 'alayhi wa sallam]) the Book (this Qur'aan) in truth, confirming the Scripture (Books) that came before it and *Muhaiminan* (trustworthy in highness and a witness) over it (old Scriptures). So judge among them by what Allaah has revealed, and follow not their vain desires, diverging away from the truth that has come to you. To each among you, We have prescribed a law and a clear way. If Allaah had willed, He would have made you one nation, but that (He) may test you in what He has given you; so compete in good deeds. The return of you (all) is to Allaah; then He will inform you about that in which you used to differ. (Al-Maa'idah 5:48)

*We conclude here by praising Allaah and sending salaah and salaam upon the Messenger of Allaah.*

**﴿END OF DARS TWELVE﴾**