

﴿THE KEY TO KNOWLEDGE﴾

How to Understand Islaam Correctly

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Dars 15- `Aqeedah: The Pillars of Eemaan – Belief in the Prophets and Messengers 06/03/2011

After praising Allaah Subhaanahu wa Ta`Aalaa and sending salaah and salaam upon His Messenger Muhammad (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam), his family, companions and those who followed him, our Shaykh and teacher, Muhammad Al-Malki welcomed the students to another session of the *Key to Knowledge* Course. He began with a review of the previous day's material covering the topic of: **Belief in the Prophets and Messengers.**

REVIEW

Yesterday we spoke about the **fourth pillar of Eemaan** (Faith) which is the belief in the Messengers. We also spoke about the definitions of *Messenger* and *Prophet* and the difference between them. We said (as in the hadeeth) there were 124,000 Prophets and Messengers. From that number (124,000), three hundred fifteen (315) of them were Messengers, and the remainder were Prophets. We spoke about the Messengers and Prophets and their nations and lands as well as the number of times they (meaning those who were named for us) were mentioned in the Qur'aan. We spoke about *Ulul-`azmi min ar-Rusul* (أُولُوا الْعَزْمِ مِنَ الرُّسُلِ - the Messengers of strong will) from amongst them and that they were five: Nooh, Ibraaheem, Moosaa, `Eesaa (`alayhimus-salaam) and Muhammad (sallallaahu`alayhis-salaatuh was-salaam).

REASONS FOR SENDING THE PROPHETS AND MESSENGERS

There are a number of reasons for sending the Prophets and Messengers, which Allaah Ta`Aalaa mentioned in His Book and which He revealed to all of His Messengers. The first and main purpose is as Allaah `Azza wa Jall mentioned in Soorah An-Nahl 16/36:

﴿وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ فَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ هَدَى اللَّهُ وَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ حَقَّتْ عَلَيْهِ الضَّلَالَةُ فَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكَذِّبِينَ﴾

And verily, We have sent among every Ummah (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allaah (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) Taaghoot (all false deities, etc. i.e. do not worship Taaghoot besides Allaah)." [An-Nahl 16:36]

And also as it comes in the saying of Allaah Azza wa Jall:

﴿ وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوحِيَ إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُونِ ﴾

And We did not send any Messenger before you (O Muhammad - Sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) but We revealed to him (saying): *Laa ilaaha illa Ana* [none has the right to be worshipped but I (Allaah)], so worship Me (Alone and none else)." [Al-Anbiyaa' 21:25]

So the first purpose was that they call the people to worship Allaah Alone.

The second reason they were sent was to be bearers of good news and warning: bearers of good news to those who obey and warning those who disobey, as Allaah Ta`Aalaa said in Soorah An-Nisaa':

﴿ رُسُلًا مُبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنذِرِينَ لِئَلَّا يَكُونَ لِلنَّاسِ عَلَى اللَّهِ حُجَّةٌ بَعْدَ الرُّسُلِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا ﴾

Messengers as bearers of good news as well as of warning in order that mankind should have no plea against Allaah after the (coming of) Messengers. And Allaah is Ever All-Powerful, All-Wise. [An-Nisaa' 4:165]

Allaah Subhaanahu wa Ta`Aalaa told us that He sent the Messengers only to be obeyed:

﴿ وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا لِيُطَاعَ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ ﴾

We sent no Messenger, but to be obeyed by Allaah's Leave. [An-Nisaa' 4:64]

So these are the reasons for the Prophets and Messengers being sent.

THE MESSENGERS AND PROPHETS ARE NOT ALL EQUAL BEFORE ALLAAH

Some of the Prophets are more preferred to Allaah Ta`Aalaa as comes in Soorah Al-Baqarah:

﴿ تِلْكَ الرُّسُلُ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ مِنْهُمْ مَنْ كَلَّمَ اللَّهُ ﴾

Those Messengers! We preferred some to others; to some of them Allaah spoke (directly)... [Al-Baqarah 2:253]

Those that Allaah spoke to directly were Aadaam (`alayhis-salaam), Moosaa (`alayhis-salaam), and Muhammad (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam). They were all sent with one religion which is Islaam. Allaah said in Soorah Al-An`aam:

﴿ وَكُلًّا فَضَّلْنَا عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ ﴾

... and each one of them We preferred to the 'Aalameen [mankind and jinn (of their times)]. [Al-An`aam 6:86]

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SALLALLAAHU `ALAYHI WA SALLAM)

We have to clarify the characteristics and special qualities of Prophet Muhammad (salallaahu `alayhi was sallam). From them, is that his message is universal i.e. the universality of his mission, as Allaah said in Soorah Saba':

﴿ وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴾

And We have not sent you (O Muhammad sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) except as a giver of glad tidings and a warner to all mankind, but most of men know not. [Saba' 34:28]

And as Allaah Ta`Aalaa says in Soorah Al-Furqaan:

﴿ تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي نَزَّلَ الْفُرْقَانَ عَلَى عَبْدِهِ لِيَكُونَ لِلْعَالَمِينَ نَذِيرًا ﴾

Blessed be He Who sent down the criterion (of right and wrong, i.e. this Qur'aan) to His slave (Muhammad sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) that he may be a warner to the 'Aalameen (mankind and jinn). [Al-Furqaan 25:1]

It is also mentioned in the hadeeth recorded in Saheeh Muslim on the authority of Abu Hurayrah (radhiyallaahu `anhu), that he (sallallaahu `alayhi was sallam) said:

فضلت على الأنبياء بست أعطيت جوامع الكلم ونصرت بالرعب وأحلت لي الغنائم
وجعلت لي الأرض طهورا ومسجدا وأرسلت إلى الخلق كافة وختم بي النبيون

“ I have been given superiority over the other Prophets in six respects: (1) I have been given words which are concise but comprehensive in meaning; (2) I have been helped by terror (in the hearts of enemies¹);(3) spoils have been made lawful to me: (4) the earth has been made for me clean and a place of worship;² (5) I have been sent to all mankind and (6) the line of Prophets is closed with me.

This is the first characteristic of Rasoolullaah (sallallaahu `alayhi was sallam) - that his message and mission are universal.

The second of his characteristics is that he is the last and seal of the Prophets and Messengers as it is mentioned in Soorah Al-Ahzaab:

﴿ مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ ۗ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ

﴿ عَلِيمًا ﴾

¹ In another narration it is: *and I have been supported by awe (by which the enemy is overwhelmed) from the distance (which one takes) one month to cover.*

² This also refers to using the earth/dust for tayammum, as in the Hadeeth of Aamaar describing the way of performing Tayammum where the Prophet (sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam) told him to hit the ground once with both hands, then wipe one over the other from the wrist to the fingers then the face once and that suffices.

Muhammad (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) is not the father of any man among you, but he is the Messenger of Allaah and the last (end) of the Prophets. And Allaah is Ever All-Knower of everything). [Al-Ahzaab 33:40]

Allaah's Apostle (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) said:

"My similitude in comparison with the other Prophets before me is that of a man who has built a house nicely and beautifully, except for a place of one brick in a corner. The people go about it and wonder at its beauty, but say: 'Would that this brick be put in its place!' So I am that brick, and I am the last of the Prophets." [Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim]

Another special quality of Prophet Muhammad (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) is that Allaah Ta`Aalaa has supported him with the Glorious Qur'aan that He has revealed to him. It is the greatest of all the miracles given to the Prophets and the most evident of all signs. It is the Words of Allaah and He Subhaanahu wa Ta`Aalaa will protect it against corruption and alteration. It shall remain with the Muslim nations until the time when it will be raised to Allaah and that will be at the end of time as mentioned yesterday. The proof for that is the saying of Allaah Ta`Aalaa in Soorah Al-Israa':

﴿ قُلْ لَّيْنِ اجْتَمَعَتِ الْإِنْسُ وَالْجِنُّ عَلَىٰ أَنْ يَأْتُوا بِمِثْلِ هَذَا الْقُرْآنِ لَا يَأْتُونَ بِمِثْلِهِ وَلَوْ
كَانَ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ ظَهِيرًا ﴾

Say: "If the mankind and the jinn were together to produce the like of this Qur'aan, they could not produce the like thereof, even if they helped one another." [Al-Israa' 17:88]

And Allaah Ta`Aalaa also said in Soorah Al-Baqarah:

﴿ وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِّمَّا نَزَّلْنَا عَلَىٰ عَبْدِنَا فَأْتُوا بِسُورَةٍ مِّنْ مِّثْلِهِ ۚ وَادْعُوا شُهَدَاءَكُمْ مِّنْ
دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ ﴿٢٣﴾ فَإِنْ لَّمْ تَفْعَلُوا وَلَنْ تَفْعَلُوا فَاتَّقُوا النَّارَ الَّتِي وَقُودُهَا
النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْكَافِرِينَ ﴾

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 sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam), then produce a Soorah (chapter) of the like thereof and call your witnesses (supporters and helpers) besides Allaah, if you are truthful. (23) 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]

These are some of the characteristics of the Prophet Muhammad (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam).

THE WAY TO BELIEVE IN THE PROPHETS AND MESSENGERS

First of all, we must believe in them in general i.e. that Allaah Ta`Aalaa sent Prophets and Messengers. He (Subhaanahu wa Ta`Aalaa) said:

﴿ وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ فَمِنْهُمْ مَن هَدَى اللَّهُ وَمِنْهُمْ مَن حَقَّتْ عَلَيْهِ الضَّلَالَةُ فَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكذِبِينَ ﴾

And verily, We have sent among every Ummah (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allaah (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) Taaghoot (all false deities, etc. i.e. do not worship Taaghoot besides Allaah)." [An-Nahl 16:36]

And Allaah Ta`Aalaa said:

﴿ وَمِنَ آبَائِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ وَإِخْوَانِهِمْ وَاجْتَبَيْنَاهُمْ وَهَدَيْنَاهُمْ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ ﴿٨٧﴾ ذَٰلِكَ هُدَى اللَّهِ يَهْدِي بِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ ... ﴾

And also some of their fathers and their progeny and their brethren, We chose them, and We guided them to a Straight Path. (87) This is the Guidance of Allaah with which He guides whomsoever He wills ... [Al-An`aam 6:87-88]

And similarly:

﴿ لَقَدْ جَاءَتْ رُسُلُنَا بِالْحَقِّ ﴾

...Indeed, the Messengers of our Lord did come with the truth... [Al-A`raaf 7:43]

And also as in Soorah Yaa Seen:

﴿ هَذَا مَا وَعَدَ الرَّحْمَنُ وَصَدَقَ الْمُرْسَلُونَ ﴾

... "This is what the Most Gracious (Allaah) had promised, and the Messengers spoke truth!" ... [Yaa Seen 36:52]

So here He mentioned *Messengers*. And also In Soorah Al-Anbiyaa':

﴿ وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ مِن رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُونِ ﴾

And We did not send any Messenger before you (O Muhammad sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) but We revealed to him (saying): *Laa ilaaha illa Ana* [none has the right to be worshipped but I (Allaah)], so worship Me (Alone and none else)." [Al-Anbiyaa' 21:25]

The aayaat - the proofs and evidences for this are so many in regards to belief in the Prophets in a general way. As for believing in the (Prophets and) Messengers in detail, twenty-five (25) of them were named in the Qur'aan and they were mentioned in many different places in the Book of Allaah. From those places is Soorah Al-An`aam:

﴿ وَتِلْكَ حُجَّتُنَا آتَيْنَاهَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ عَلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ نَرْفَعُ دَرَجَاتٍ مَّن نَّشَاءُ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ حَكِيمٌ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٨٣﴾ وَوَهَبْنَا لَهُ إِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ كُلًّا هَدَيْنَا وَنُوحًا هَدَيْنَا مِن قَبْلُ وَمِن ذُرِّيَّتِهِ دَاوُدَ وَسُلَيْمَانَ وَأَيُّوبَ وَيُوسُفَ وَمُوسَىٰ وَهَارُونَ وَكَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿٨٤﴾ وَزَكَرِيَّا وَيَحْيَىٰ وَعِيسَىٰ وَإِيلَىٰ كُلٌّ مِّنَ الصَّالِحِينَ ﴿٨٥﴾ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيُوسُفَ وَلُوطًا كُلًّا فَضَّلْنَا عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٨٦﴾ ﴾

And that was Our Proof which We gave Ibraaheem (Abraham) against his people. We raise whom We will in degrees. Certainly your Lord is All-Wise, All-Knowing. (83) And We bestowed upon him Ishaaq (Isaac) and Ya'qoob (Jacob), each of them We guided, and before him, We guided Nooh (Noah), and among his progeny Daawood (David), Sulaimaan (Solomon), Ayyoob (Job), Yoosuf (Joseph), Moosaa (Moses), and Haaron (Aaron). Thus do We reward the *Al-Muhsinoon* (the good-doers.) (84) And Zakariyyaa (Zachariya), and Yahyaa (John) and `Eesaa (Jesus) and Ilyaa (Elias), each one of them was of the righteous. (85) And Ismaa`eel (Ishmael) and Al-Yasa`a (Elisha), and Yoonus (Jonah) and Loot (Lot), and each one of them We preferred above the 'Aalameen [(mankind and jinn) (of their times)]. [Al-An`aam 6:83-86]

And He Ta`Aalaa said about Hood (`alayhi salaam) in Soorah Al-A`raaf:

﴿ وَإِلَىٰ عَادٍ أَخَاهُمْ هُودًا ﴿٦٥﴾ ﴾

And to 'Aad (people, We sent) their brother Hood ... [Al-A`raaf 7:65]

And also about Saalih (`alayhi salaam):

﴿ وَإِلَىٰ ثَمُودَ أَخَاهُمْ صَالِحًا ﴿٧٣﴾ ﴾

And to Thamood (people, We sent) their brother Saalih (Saleh)... [Al-A`raaf 7:73]

And likewise about Shu`ayb (`alayhi salaam):

﴿ وَإِلَىٰ مَدْيَنَ أَخَاهُمْ شُعَيْبًا ﴿٨٥﴾ ﴾

And to (the people of) Madyan (Midian), (We sent) their brother Shu'ayb... [Al-A`raaf 7:85]

And In Soorah Aali `Imraan we read:

﴿ إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَىٰ آدَمَ وَنُوحًا ﴾

Allaah chose Aadam and Nooh (Noah)... [Aali `Imraan 3:33]

And also:

﴿ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِدْرِيسَ وَذَا الْكِفْلِ كُلٌّ مِنَ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴾

And (remember) Ismaa`eel (Ishmael), Idrees and Dhul-Kifl (Isaiah): all were from among As-Saabiroon (the patient). [Al-Anbiyaa' 21:85]

And He Subhaanahu wa Ta`Aalaa sealed the prophethood with Muhammad (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) as He Ta`Aalaa mentioned in Soorah Al-Fath:

﴿ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ أَشِدَّاءُ عَلَى الْكُفَّارِ رُحَمَاءُ بَيْنَهُمْ ﴾

Muhammad [salallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam] is the Messenger of Allaah. And those who are with him are severe against disbelievers and merciful among themselves... [Al-Fath 48:29]



WHAT IS OBLIGATORY UPON US REGARDING THE PROPHETS AND MESSENGERS

First of all, we have to believe in **all** of them as Allaah Ta`Aalaa said in Soorah An-Nisaa':

﴿ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَكْفُرُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ، وَيُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يُفَرِّقُوا بَيْنَ اللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ، وَيَقُولُوا نُؤْمِنُ بِبَعْضٍ وَنَكْفُرُ بِبَعْضٍ وَيُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَتَّخِذُوا بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ سَبِيلًا ﴿١٥٠﴾ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْكٰفِرُونَ حَقًّا وَأَعْتَدْنَا لِلْكَٰفِرِينَ عَذَابًا مُّهِينًا ﴾

Verily, those who disbelieve in Allaah and His Messengers and wish to make distinction between Allaah and His Messengers (by believing in Allaah and disbelieving in His Messengers) saying, "We believe in some but reject others," and wish to adopt a way in between. They are in truth disbelievers. And We have prepared for the disbelievers a humiliating torment. [An-Nisaa 4:150-151]

We have to believe in them all, and believe all that they came with, as Allaah Ta`Aalaa told us. From our duties regarding the Prophets and Messengers, is that we must love them, support them, and avoid hating them and contracting (bargaining) with the enemy of any of them. Allaah `Azza wa Jall said:

﴿ وَمَنْ يَتَوَلَّ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا فَإِنَّ حِزْبَ اللَّهِ هُمُ الْمُغْلِبُونَ ﴿٥٦﴾ ﴾

And whosoever takes Allaah, His Messenger [sallallahu`alayhi wa sallam], and those who have believed, as Protectors, then the party of Allaah will be the victorious. [Al-Maa'idah 5:56]

﴿ مَنْ كَانَ عَدُوًّا لِلَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَجِبْرِيلَ وَمِيكَالَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَدُوٌّ لِلْكَافِرِينَ ﴾

"Whoever is an enemy to Allaah, His Angels, His Messengers, Jibreel (Gabriel) and Mikaa'eel (Michael), then verily, Allaah is an enemy to the disbelievers." [Al-Baqarah 2:98]

We must believe that the Messengers of Allaah are superior to the rest of mankind, and no one - no matter how pious and righteous he or she is, can attain their status as Allaah Ta`Aalaa said:

﴿ اللَّهُ يَصْطَفِي مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ رُسُلًا وَمِنَ النَّاسِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ بَصِيرٌ ﴾

Allaah chooses Messengers from angels and from men. Verily, Allaah is All-Hearer, All-Seer. [Al-Hajj 22:75]

We also have to believe that there are differences between them and they are not all at the same status as mentioned earlier. Allaah said in Soorah Al-Baqarah:

﴿ تِلْكَ الرُّسُلُ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ مِنْهُمْ مَنْ كَلَّمَ اللَّهُ وَرَفَعَ بَعْضَهُمْ دَرَجَاتٍ ﴾

Those Messengers! We preferred some of them to others; to some of them Allaah spoke (directly); others He raised to degrees (of honour)... [Al-Baqarah 2:253]

This completes everything that our Shaykh wanted to mention with regards to the Prophets and the Messengers; and Allaah Knows Best.

All the praise and thanks are for Allaah and the salaah and salaam be upon the Messenger of Allaah.

﴿END OF DARS FIFTEEN﴾