

The Quran and its Message

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سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ

Salamun Alaikum (Peace be upon you)

THE SUPERIORITY OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S^(pbuh) MISSION

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Many Muslims assert the superiority of Prophet Muhammad's^(pbuh) mission above the mission of other of God's messengers due to its perceived difficulty.

The Prophet Muhammad's^(pbuh) ministry is clearly captured in many verses with a central underlying theme. The Prophet was chosen amongst his community to deliver the message of God (62:2; 23:32) received via inspiration like other messengers before him (4:163) in a manner that would be clear to them and in the capacity as a plain warner (15:89; 35:23). His direct addressees were his own people and those around him who spoke his native language and who understood him clearly.

This was the reason why the Quran was revealed in Arabic (41:44; 42:007). All the messengers before Prophet Muhammad^(pbuh) received guidance in their own languages (14:4) so that they too, similarly, could explain the message clearly to their own people. Those that heard from Prophet Muhammad^(pbuh) directly, were then to pass on the message to others as witnesses (22:75) similarly as the prophet was a witness against them. The Quran was to remain a timeless source of guidance for them and then through them, to mankind.

Quite apart from the Quran repeatedly informing believers not to make any sort of distinctions between the messengers of God, we unfortunately find many Muslims attempting to prove the superiority of the Prophet Muhammad's^(pbuh) mission. What lies at the heart of the claim is the perceived difficulty of Prophet Muhammad's^(pbuh) mission which coupled with the fact that the Quran remains the final revelation to mankind usually underscores the premise of the claim. However, a claim of mission superiority of any sort is not supported by the Quranic narratives.

See article: [Do Not Make Any Distinctions Between the Messengers of God](#)

See article: [Exclusiveness of Prophet Muhammad \(pbuh\)](#)

EVERY MESSENGER OF GOD HAD THEIR OWN SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES AND SUBSEQUENT DIFFICULTIES

The importance of any particular mission has never been imparted as a source of comparison. Rather, the purport is one of recognition of the difficulties faced by all messengers and their corresponding missions.

For example, Prophet Moses ^(pbuh) faced many difficulties with his own people. He wandered the desert plains for numerous years facing unrelenting challenges and in the face of often harsh adversity from his own people. Noah battled with his own folk for numerous years when finally he lamented to the Lord that he called his people night and day towards God's remembrance (71:5), that they put their fingers in their ears and covered themselves with their garments persisting in refusal and arrogance (71:7); that he tried every tactic and means possible, calling to them aloud (71:8), in public and in private (71:9), yet, all to no avail. Noah's difficulty of mission and the incessant rebukes from his people was so intense, that his desperation was finally captured in his plea to God " O my Lord! Leave not one of the disbelievers as an inhabitant on the earth!" (71:26)

002.214

"Or do you think that you shall enter the Garden (of bliss) without such (trials) as came to those who passed away before you? they encountered suffering and adversity, and were so shaken in spirit that even the Messenger and those of faith who were with him cried: "When will the help of God come?" Ah! indeed, the help of God is near!"

PROPHET MUHAMMAD ^(pbuh) WAS TOLD TO PERSEVERE LIKE MESSENGERS BEFORE HIM

046:035

"Therefore bear up patiently as did the messengers with determination bear up with patience and do not seek to hasten for them (their doom). On the day that they shall see what they are promised they shall be as if they had not tarried except an hour of the day. A sufficient exposition! Shall then any be destroyed save the transgressing people?"

Other verses resonate similar sentiments (30:6; 40:55)

OTHER MESSENGERS WERE SIMILARLY MOCKED LIKE PROPHET MUHAMMAD ^(pbuh)

013.032

"Mocked were (many) messengers before you: but I granted respite to the unbelievers, and finally I punished them: Then how (terrible) was my requital!"

SOME MESSENGERS WERE UP AGAINST VERY POWERFUL ADVERSARIES

Many messengers of God were up against very powerful adversaries such as Pharaoh (Moses ^(pbuh)); People of Aad (Hud ^(pbuh)) and Thamud (Saleh ^(pbuh)). Some of these kingdoms and communities were far mightier, possessed far greater prowess and affluence than those at the time of Muhammad ^(pbuh). Prophet Muhammad ^(pbuh) is clearly informed of this fact by God.

043.006-8

"And how many a prophet have We sent among the ancients people? And never came there to them a prophet but they used to mock him. **Then We destroyed (them) stronger in power than these.** and the example of the men of old has gone (before them)"

009:069

Even as those before you **who were mightier than you in strength, and more affluent than you in wealth and children.** They enjoyed their portion awhile, so you enjoy your portion awhile even as those before you did enjoy their portion awhile. And you indulge even as they indulged. Such are they whose works have perished in the world and the Hereafter. Such are they who are the losers.

035.044

"Do they not travel through the earth, and see what was the end of those before them **though they were superior to them in strength?** Nor is God to be frustrated by anything whatsoever is in the heavens or on earth: for He is All-Knowing. All-Powerful"

050:036

And how many a generation did We destroy before them **who were stronger in power than them,** so they explored throughout the lands. Is there a place of escape?

SOME MESSENGERS WERE EVEN SLAUGHTERED DURING THEIR MISSIONS

Many Prophets of God died during their missions. "...and killed the prophets without right..." (3.112); "Whenever a messenger came to you with what you did not desire, you acted arrogantly, So a party you denied and a party of them you killed" (2:87).

There are other verses which confirm the same fate (3:21; 3:183; 4:155)

FINAL THOUGHTS

As has been noted from the above verses, there is no support for asserting any exclusivity for any Prophetic mission. Every messenger of God was faced with his own difficulties given his own set of circumstances. To make comparisons between messengers of God or their missions is not an approach taught by the Quran and is in fact, an approach clearly discouraged.

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