

### **Fast 13**

“Surely We revealed the **Torah, having guidance and light**. By it did the prophets who submitted themselves (to Allah) judge for the Jews, and the rabbis and the doctors of law, because they were required to guard the Book of Allah, and they were witnesses of it. So do not fear the people and fear Me, and do not take a small price for My messages. And whoever does not judge by what Allah has revealed, those are the disbelievers.” Ch. 5, v. 44

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*Notes:* The Torah was revealed by Allah with guidance and light for the people. The Jewish religious leaders were required to “guard the Book of Allah”, which they did not do. Out of “fear of people” they did not call their people to reform but encouraged them in wrong-doing. With their wrong interpretations, they dimmed the guidance and light that was in the Torah.

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“And We sent after them in their footsteps Jesus, son of Mary, verifying what was already before him of the Torah; and We gave him **the Gospel containing guidance and light, and verifying what was before it of the Torah**, and a guidance and an admonition for the dutiful. And let the People of the Gospel judge by what Allah has revealed in it. And whoever does not judge by what Allah has revealed, those are the transgressors.” Ch. 5, v. 46–47

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*Notes:* It was because the spirit of the Torah had been lost that Jesus was sent, again with revelation containing guidance and light. It verified the correctness of the principles of the Torah. As he said, according to the Gospels: “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfil” (Matthew, 5: 17).

If the “People of the Gospel” judge by what is in the Gospels, regarding it as a **verification** of what the Torah had already taught, they will come to the right conclusion. Jesus said:

“The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:29–31)

Here Jesus was quoting these commandments from the Torah. These are also accepted by Islam as the basis of the true religion.

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“And We have revealed to you (O Prophet) the Book with the truth, **verifying what is already before it of the Book and a guardian over it**, so judge between them by what Allah has revealed, and do not follow their low desires, (turning away) from the truth that has come to you.” — Ch. 5, v. 48.

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*Notes:* This verse follows the one quoted further above. The meaning of “verifying” has already been explained in an earlier study. In the expression “what is before it of *the Book*”, the word ‘Book’ is used to mean all revelation that came to prophets, ending with the Holy Prophet Muhammad. That is, the Quran verified whatever of “the Book” had been revealed before it. The Quran here is also described as a “guardian” over the previous scriptures. Maulana Muhammad Ali writes under this verse:

“The Quran is called *muhaimin* or *a guardian* over all previous revelation, thus showing that whatever was of permanent value in the previous scriptures has been preserved in the Quran. The previous books contained a light and guidance for the people for whom they were meant, and they were commanded to judge by those books, but the Quran is now the Book which judges all truth, wherever it may have been, and therefore is the only Book which should be followed.”

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