

Fast 10

“He has revealed to you (O Prophet) the Book with truth, **verifying** what is already before it, and He revealed the Torah and the Gospel” — Ch. 3, v. 3.

“And what We have revealed to you of the Book, that is the truth, **verifying** what is already before it.” — Ch. 35, v. 31.

“And before it was the Book of Moses, a guide and a mercy. And this is a Book **verifying** it in the Arabic language, that it may warn those who do wrong, and as good news for the doers of good.” — Ch. 46, v. 12.

Notes: The Quran verified the truth of the scriptures which already existed before it, in particular the Jewish and Christian scriptures. “Verifying” means it verified that: (1) these scriptures originated as revelations from God to His prophets, just as the Quran was now a revelation from God, (2) the general principles and basic teachings of these scriptures were in essence correct, (3) the prophecies contained in them about the coming of a great prophet who would bring their religions to completion were now fulfilled in the person of the Holy Prophet Muhammad.

Note that “verifying” the previous scriptures does not mean verifying that they were correct in every respect in the state in which the Quran found them. In fact, the authenticity and accuracy of parts of those scriptures has been under question even by their own followers.

It is a measure of the harmonious attitude of the Quran towards other faiths that it describes itself as *verifying* their scriptures, not as *belying* them. Of course, it disagrees with some of the contents of those scriptures, in the state in which the Quran found them, but when speaking of those scriptures *as a whole*, it says that it verifies them.

“O Children of Israel, call to mind My favour which I bestowed on you and be faithful to (your) covenant with Me, I shall fulfil (My) covenant with you; and Me, Me alone, should you fear. And believe in what I have revealed, **verifying what is already with you**, and do not be the first to deny it; nor take a small price for My messages; and keep your duty to Me, Me alone.” — Ch. 2, v. 40–41.

“And when a messenger from Allah came to them **verifying what they already have**, some of those who were given the Book threw the Book of Allah behind their backs as if they knew nothing.” — Ch. 2, v. 101.

Notes: The followers of earlier scriptures, in particular Jews and Christians, were invited to accept the Book which verified their scriptures and attested to the truth of their prophets and honoured them. But many of them refused and took a “small price” for it, i.e. they put their worldly gain and interests before the acceptance of truth. They threw it behind their backs, i.e. they ignored it. The meaning of taking a “small price” is further discussed in the next Study.

The verses 2:40–41 quoted above are the first mention of the Israelites, i.e. Jews, in the Quran, occurring quite near the beginning of the Quran. These are sufficient to belie and refute the allegation that Islam is in some way hostile to Jews. Why should Allah have ever bestowed His favours on a hated people in the first place? What is said of Jews here applies exactly to Muslims, that the favour of Divine revelation was bestowed on them, and that only if they fulfil their duty towards God, will God fulfil His promise to them of success in this life and the hereafter.

Inspiring sayings about the Quran

Maulana Muhammad Ali wrote in an article:

“Knowledge of the Quran is a great inheritance from the Promised Messiah (Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad), with which the triumph of Islam in the world is bound up. Learn all the branches of knowledge but use them to serve the Holy Quran. ... But you cannot bring them into its service unless you yourselves understand the Quran.” — *A Mighty Striving*, page 282.