

Fast 23: Revealed Books — revelation is universal

- Just as revelation in its lower forms, in the form of inspiration or that of dreams or visions, can be experienced by people among all nations, similarly revelation in its highest form was not limited to one particular man or to one particular nation.
- On the other hand, it is most emphatically stated in the Quran that just as God has given His physical sustenance to each and every nation, even so He has endowed it with His spiritual sustenance for its moral and spiritual advancement. The following quotations from the Quran show that revelation in its highest form has been granted to every nation:

“There is not a people but a warner has gone among them.” — 35:24

“And for every nation there is a messenger.” — 10:47

“And certainly We raised in every nation a messenger, saying: Serve Allah and shun the devil.” — 16:36

- Islam, therefore, requires a belief, not in the Holy Quran alone but in all the books of God, granted to all the nations of the world. At its very commencement the Quran lays down in clear words that Muslims must:

“...believe in what has been revealed to you (O Muhammad) and what was revealed before you...” — 2:4

And again in the same chapter:

“Say: We believe in Allah and in what has been revealed to us, and in what was revealed to Abraham, and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the tribes, and in what was given to Moses and Jesus, and in what was given to the prophets from their Lord, we make no distinction between any of them and to Him we submit.” — 2:136

“The Messenger believes in what has been revealed to him from his Lord, and so do the believers; they all believe in Allah and His angels and His Books and His messengers.” — 2:285

- A book was granted to every prophet of God:

“Mankind is a single nation. So Allah raised prophets as bearers of good news and as warners, and He revealed with them the book with truth...” — 2:213

“But if they reject you, so indeed were rejected before you messengers who came with clear arguments and scriptures and the illuminating Book.” — 3:184

- Only two former revealed books are mentioned in the Quran by their special names: the *Taurāt* (Torah, or book of Moses) and the *Injīl* (Gospel, or book of Jesus). The giving of a scripture (*zabūr*) to David is also mentioned (17:55), and the scriptures (*ṣuḥuf*) of Abraham and Moses are mentioned together (53:36–37 and 87:19). But, as stated above, a Muslim is required to believe, not only in the particular books named but in all the books of all the prophets of God, in other words, in the sacred scriptures of every nation, because every nation had a prophet and every prophet had a book.
- **Revelation brought to perfection in the Quran:** According to the Holy Quran, revelation is not only universal but also progressive, attaining perfection in the last of the prophets, the Holy Prophet Muhammad.
- A revelation was granted to each nation according to its requirements, and in each age in accordance with the capacity of the people of that age. And as the human brain became more and more developed, more and yet more light was cast by revelation on matters relating to the unseen, on the existence and attributes of the Divine Being, on the nature of revelation from Him, on the requital of good and evil, on life after death, on Paradise and Hell.
- The Quran is called a book “that makes manifest” (12:1 etc.) because it shed complete light on the essentials of religion, and made manifest what had previously remained obscure. It is on account of this full resplendence of light which it casts on all religious problems that the Quran claims to have brought religion to perfection:

“This day have I perfected for you your religion and completed My favour to you and chosen for you Islam as a religion.” — 5:3

- Six hundred years before this revelation, Jesus Christ said:

“I still have many things to say to you but you cannot bear them now. However, when he, the spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth”. (John, 16:12–13)

This is clearly a prophecy of the coming of a revelation with which religion will come to perfection, and, among the sacred books of the world, the Holy Quran alone advances the claim that it has brought religion to perfection; and, in keeping with that claim, it has cast the fullest light on all religious questions.