

## Fast 20: Prophets and Messengers of Allah — Prophets taught only One God

- According to the Quran, all prophets taught that God is one only:

“And We sent no messenger before you but We revealed to him that there is no God but Me, so serve Me.” (21:25)

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوحِيَ إِلَيْهِ  
أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُونِ ﴿٢٥﴾

“And certainly it has been revealed to you (O Prophet) and to those before you: If you set up partners (with Allah), your work would surely come to nothing and you would be a loser. No, serve Allah alone and be one of the thankful.” (39:65–66)

وَلَقَدْ أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ وَإِلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ لَئِنْ  
أَشْرَكْتَ لَيَحْبَطَنَّ عَمَلُكَ وَلَتَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ  
﴿٦٥﴾ بَلِ اللَّهَ فَاعْبُدْ وَكُنْ مِنَ الشَّاكِرِينَ ﴿٦٦﴾

“And ask those of Our messengers whom We sent before you: Did We ever appoint gods to be worshipped besides the Beneficent?” (43:45)

وَسْأَلُ مَنْ أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رُسُلِنَا أَجَعَلْنَا  
مِنْ دُونِ الرَّحْمَنِ إِلَهَةً يُعْبَدُونَ ﴿٤٥﴾

Obviously, the Holy Prophet could not literally “ask” those of God’s messengers who were sent before him. What is meant is that it can be found in their teachings.

- For example, in the Gospel of Mark it is related that Jesus was asked by a Jewish cleric: “Which is the first commandment of all?” Jesus, in reply, quoted from Moses’ book of Deuteronomy (6:4), saying:

“Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.” (Mark, 12:29)

So that was the first commandment according to both Moses and Jesus.

- The Gospels of Matthew and Luke both tell us that when Jesus fasted for forty days, he was tempted by the devil. Among these temptations was that the devil showed Jesus the kingdoms of this world and its glory, and promised him:

“All these things I will give you if you will fall down and worship me.”

But Jesus replied:

“Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘**You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.**’ ” (See Matthew 4:8–10, Luke 4:5–8)

Jesus appears to be quoting from the scriptures of Moses. Bible commentaries tell us that the passage which Jesus is referring to is the following:

“You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name.” (Deuteronomy, 6:13)

But this passage does not contain the part “and Him only you shall serve”. And it appears that this part cannot be found anywhere in the Old Testament. This leads to the conclusion that Jesus must have added these words as his own interpretation for further clarity, stressing that you should serve (i.e., worship) God **and** He should be the **only one** Whom you serve.

- It is, of course, well-established that Moses taught the oneness of God. According to the Quran the very first revelation to Moses was as follows:

“And I have chosen you (Moses) so listen to what is revealed: Surely I am Allah, **there is no God but I, so serve Me**, and keep up prayer for My remembrance.” (20:13–14)

وَأَنَا اخْتَرْتُكَ فَاسْتَمِعْ لِمَا يُوحَى ﴿١٣﴾  
 إِنِّي أَنَا اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدْنِي وَأَقِمِ  
 الصَّلَاةَ لِذِكْرِي ﴿١٤﴾

- Even the Pharaoh who opposed Moses came to acknowledge in the end, when he was drowning, that the teaching of Moses about God being one was right:

“...till, when drowning overtook him, he said: **I believe that there is no god but He** in Whom the Children of Israel believe, and I am of those who submit.” (10:90)

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا أَذْرَكَهُ الْغَرَقُ قَالَ آمَنْتُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا  
 الَّذِي آمَنْتُ بِهِ بَنُو إِسْرَائِيلَ وَأَنَا مِنَ  
 الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿٩٠﴾

- The followers of Moses of later times, while worshipping one God in their prayer rituals, took to blind following of their priests and religious leaders. These were treated as the representatives of God on earth, so that the actual word of God mattered less than the pronouncements and interpretations of the rabbis and scholars. The later Christians, after Jesus, not only did the same in regard to their priests and popes but they also raised Jesus to a status equal to God. The Quran says in this connection:

“They take their doctors of law and their monks for lords besides Allah, and (also) the Messiah, son of Mary. **And they were commanded that they should serve one God only — there is no god but He.** Glory be to Him from what they set up as partners (with Him)!” (9:31)

اتَّخَذُوا أَحْبَابَهُمْ وَرُهَبَانَهُمْ أَرْبَابًا مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَ  
 الْمَسِيحَ ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ ۚ وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا إِلَهًا  
 وَاحِدًا ۚ لَّا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ ۚ سُبْحٰنَهُ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ ﴿٣١﴾

It is to be regretted that Muslims of the times long after the Holy Prophet Muhammad also fell into the error of treating their religious leaders as spokesmen of Allah.