READINGS IN ISLAMIC DA’WAH

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DA’WAH TO JEWS AND CHRISTIANS

Mohd Yusof Hussain

The term *Ahl al-Kitāb* (People of the Book) refers to Jews (*Yahūd*) and Christians (*Naṣārā*) as inheritors of books previously revealed by Allāh (s.w.t.). Specifically, the books are the *Zabūr* (*Psalms*), *Tawrāt* (Torah/Pentateuch), and *Injīl* (Gospels), all of which are recognized by the Qurʾān as Allāh’s revelation. However, Muslims believe these books have been distorted, tempered and corrupted (*tahrīf*) and during Prophet Muhammad’s time they were abrogated and superseded by the Qurʾān, the final and complete revelations of Allāh (s.w.t.).

**Du’āt** have been targeting Jews and Christians since very early times inviting them to Islām, the original religion of Prophets Ibrāhīm (Abraham), Da’ud (David), Mūsā (Moses) and ‘Īsā (Jesus), peace be upon them all.

Judaism and Christianity

**Judaism**

Judaism preceded Christianity and Islām. According to the *Torah*, the Jewish religion originated with God’s call to Prophet Ibrāhīm (Gen, 22). It is the religion of the *Bani Isrā‘il*, a phrase which occurs forty times in the Qurʾān. The most important figure in Judaism is Prophet Musa (Moses) a.s. who that freed the children of Isrā‘il from Egyptian bondage and also, the great teacher of the *Tawrāt* that was revealed to him by Allāh (s.w.t.).

The *Tawrāt* is mentioned eighteen times in the Qurʾān. It is confirmed by the Qurʾān as Allāh’s revelation:

“We gave Moses the book, and made it a guide to the children of Isrā‘il (Commanding): take not other than me as disposer of (your) affairs.”

*al-Isrā‘* (17):2