

MODERN ISSUES IN QUR'AN AND SUNNAH STUDIES

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Significance of the Prophets towards the Development of Man

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Abstract

Generally, it is assumed that Prophets of Allah right from Adam until Muhammad (peace be upon all of them) were raised to teach man religion. If it is so, it means the contributions of the Chosen Messengers of Allah were confined to one single dimension of human life. The fact is that they addressed the man from all angles, including religion and spirituality. It is not easy to describe in detail all that were done by the Prophets. This paper discusses five main contributions of the Prophets: (1) foundation of the first human settings, (2) reorientation of man, (3) formation of Islamic civilization, (4) invitation for the application of reason, and (5) creation of just environment. The only source used in this discussion is the Last Book of Allah, the Qur'an.

Keywords: *The Qur'an, Prophets, Islamic Civilization, Application of Reason, Just Environment.*

Introduction

That the prophets played an obviously crucial role in shaping the human destiny may not be contested. The first Messenger of Allah was Adam (a.s.) and the Last one was Muhammad (s.a.w.). Between them Allah raised a great number of apostles. There is no definite source of information about the exact number of all the selected prophets (a.s.). What did they do? Was their mission to develop man's religiosity? Were they raised to form and reform the human life in its totality? What is actually the relationship between them and the man they addressed? These questions may straightforwardly be answered in the light of an answer to a particular question as to how much the man needs the prophets in fulfilling his basic needs.

Basic Human Needs

Man's needs are innumerable and of different nature. All that he needs may be placed under two main heads, basic and extended. As for the extended needs, they are

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