

THE CONCEPT OF REVEALED BOOKS IN ISLAMIC WORLDVIEW

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Abstract

The term revelation in the Abrahamic religions is used to refer to the process by which God reveals knowledge of Himself, His Will, and His divine providence to the world of human beings. In secondary usage, revelation refers to the resulting human knowledge about God, prophecy, and other divine things. Based on this fact, this article aims to explore the revealed books of God, it will further discuss the means and the tools of revelation in Islam, especially the channels that applied to deliver the message from The Source to receiver. The discussion about Qur'an and other revelations of God (such Old Testament New Testament Psalm and the Scrolls of Abraham and Moses) followed. However, in order to achieve the objectives of the article, Quranic approach will be applied. i.e. the article will deeply investigate the concept of revealed Books of God from the holy Qur'an, and that will be followed by concluding remarks.

Keywords: Islam. Revealed Books, Qur'an, Old Testament, New Testament, Psalm, Prophet Muhammad

Introduction

The concept of revealed books of Allah is one of the Islamic faiths, it is considered as the third article of *Iman* after belief in Allah and His angel. As far as Islamic worldview is concerned, belief in revealed books of Allah is not only restricted on the holy Quran, but it is also extended to other revelations of God in their original forms, such as old testament (*Torah*), New Testament (*Injil*), Psalm (*Zabur*) and the Scrolls of Abraham and Moses (*Suhuf Ibrahim wa Musa*). This attitude of Islam toward other revelations of God, proves the homogenous nature of Islam and its recognition of other revealed faiths in their pure forms. Based on this fact, this paper will explore the revealed books of Allah in Islamic worldview by applying Quranic approach, and that will be followed by concluding remarks.

Definition of Revelation

Based on Random House College Dictionary (Stein:1968), revelation (noun) is the act of revealing or disclosing. It means something revealed or disclosed, especially a striking disclosure, as of something not before realized. Theologically, revelation is God's disclosure of Himself and His will to His creatures. According to Collins English Dictionary (Collins:2018), revelation is the act or process of disclosing something previously secret or obscure, especially something true. That means, revelation is a fact disclosed or revealed, especially in a dramatic or surprising way.

Paul. S. Schilling defined revelation as the total activity by which God discloses His character, purpose and will to man in order to lead him into fellowship with Him (Paul:1948). However, theologically, it is God's disclosure of his own nature and his purpose for mankind, particularly through the words of human intermediaries. According to Muhammad Azami, revelation (*Wahy*) is the act by which God, having created the world, discloses Himself to His creation (Azmi:2003). It refers to a phenomenon whereby a supra human, or supernatural, communication is transmitted from the divine to the human or epiphany of the divine order, which presents itself to the human sight, hearing, sensibility and consciousness as an event out of ordinary course.

In this regard, revelation (why) is a divine inspiration that bestowed on certain people who are selected by Almighty Allah, these people are known as Prophets of Allah who are infallible, protected and chosen by Him. The main task is to be like a middle man between Allah and the whole mankind and to guide people to the right path for the sake of salvation of man in this world and in the hereafter. Starting with Prophet Adam, and ending with the Prophet Muhammad the seal of all Prophets (Peace be upon them).

Meanwhile, Kamar Oniah (Oniah:115) argues that revelations, *al-wahy*, are the communications of God to His creatures. She further argues that in the context of mankind, revelations can be defined as the words of God put into human languages delivered to the holy Prophets through described revelations as “words that disguises good from evil” and “it is a truth of assured certainty”. When these revelations are compiled into book form, then they are called “scriptures”

Furthermore, Oniah stated that, revelations other than to man, in particular the Prophets, Allah Almighty also uses the word “revelations” *al wahy* in the context of His inspiration to the bees.

And thy Lord inspired the bee, saying: Choose thou habitations in the hills and in the trees and in that which they thatch; Then eat of all fruits, and follow the ways of thy Lord, made smooth (for thee). There cometh forth from their bellies a drink diverse of hues, wherein is healing for mankind. Lo! herein is indeed a portent for people who reflect (Qur'an;16: 68-69)

Similarly, In another Quranic chapter, Allah says:

Say, ‘We believe in Allah and in that which has been bestowed upon Abraham, and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and their descendants, and that which has vouchsafed to Moses and Jesus and that which has been vouchsafed to all the other Prophets by their Sustainer: We make no distinction between any of them. And it is unto Him that we surrender (Qur'an;2:136)

Furthermore, Qur'an in some of its verses refers to revelation as an inspiration for instance; in surah al Nisa' Allah says:

Verily, We have inspired you (O Muhammad) as We inspired Nuh (Noah) and the Prophets after him; We (also) inspired Ibrahim (Abraham), Isma'il (Ishmael), Ishaque (Isaac), Ya'qub (Jacob), and Al-Asbat [the twelve sons of Ya'qub (Jacob)], 'Iesa (Jesus), Ayub (Job), Yunus (Jonah), Harun (Aaron), and Sulaiman (Solomon), and to Dawud (David) We gave the Zabur (Psalms). And Messengers We have mentioned to you before, and Messengers We have not mentioned to you, - and to Musa (Moses) Allah spoke directly. Messengers as bearers of good news as well as of warning in order that mankind should have no plea against Allah after the Messengers. And Allah is Ever All-Powerful, All-Wise (Qur'an; 4:163-165)

Meanwhile, it is important to mention that Qur'an as the seal of all revelations has recognized the existence of previous revelations in their original form, and that fact is obvious in *surah al- Maidah* when Allah says:

Say, 'O followers of the bible! You have no valid ground for Your beliefs unless you truly observe the Torah and the Gospel, and all that have been revealed to you from your Lord... (Qur'an; 5:68)

Lastly, in *surah al -Baqarah*, the importance of revelations and the belief in the prophets was clearly mentioned by Allah (S.W.T) when Almighty Allah says:

The Messenger (Muhammad) believes in what has been sent down to him from his Lord, and (so do) the believers. Each one believes in Allah, His Angels, His Books, and His Messengers. They say, "We make no distinction between one another of His Messengers" - and they say, "We hear, and we obey. (We seek) Your Forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the return of all (Qur'an; 2:285)

In brief, in Islam, revelation refers to the holy books that Allah has revealed on some of His Prophets such as (*Torah*) Old Testaments) that is revealed on Moses, (*Injil*) Gospel or Bible that is revealed on Jesus, (*Al Zabur*) Psalm that is revealed on David, the holy Qur'an that is revealed on Prophet Muhammad , then, (*Suhuf Ibrahim wa Musa*) the scrolls of Abraham and Moses (peace be upon them all).

Hence, a Muslim should believe in these revelations in their original forms without making any distinction among them, and he should also believe in each Prophet without any discrimination among them. As a matter of fact, the existing Hebrew scripture (*Torah*) and the current Bible (*Injil*) have encountered many changes from their respective followers, as such, Muslims hold a firm belief in the original *Torah* and Pure Bible that have revealed on Moses and Jesus respectively.

Means and Tools of Revelations in Islam

1. Through Angels (Gabriel) or Through Ringing of a Bell

It is reported by al Bukhari that Aishah, the mother of the believers, (may Allah be pleased with her) and that Al Harith bin Hisham asked the messenger of Allah, "O Messenger of Allah! How does the revelation come to you?" The Messenger of Allah said: " Sometimes it comes to me like the ringing of a bell and this is the hardest on me which then leaves me after I have fully understood and retained what he says. " 'Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) said: I saw him when the revelation was descending on him in a very cold day and when it left him his forehead was dripping with sweat.(sahih Bukhari:2019)

It is worth mentioning that the revelation that would come like the ringing of a bell the hardest one on the messenger of Allah(peace be upon him). As it required him to come out from the circle of human necessities for a while, being connected to the spiritual world in order to retain and preserve the divine revelation.

However, the second type of the revelation was easier for the messenger of Allah (peace be upon him); as it did not require him to bear such hardship, rather, the angel of the revelation (Gabriel) would take the shape of a human being which was easy procedure for him. Thus, the whole Glorious Qur'an was revealed to the messenger of Allah by the angel of revelation for the period of twenty-three years.

It was reported by Al- Bukhari and Muslim on the authority of Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) said: "Every Prophet was given a miracle, the type of which brings mankind to faith. What I was given is a revelation that Allah sent down to me. Yet, I hope that I will be the most followed on the Day of Resurrection.)".¹

Thus, This tool of revelation is easier on Prophet Muhammad(p.b.u.h) because; the angel Gabriel will come to him in the form of a very attractive man whose appearance was like the appearance of a friend named Dhiyah bin Al Kalbi. The arrival of this kind of revelation was witness by the companions. For example when Gabriel came to him and answered with the Prophet about faith, Islam and Ihsan . This way is lighter than the way the sound of a bell; because the messenger of Allah faces the Angel Gabriel directly.

2. Through Inspirations (True Dreams)

The revelation also can come in the form of inspiration (true dreams) or as a thought that comes into the mind. This method is not new. There are at least four instances in the Bible where Israeli Prophets received the divine message in dreams. As a matter of fact, the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) even before he was commanded to proclaim his Prophethood, used to receive divine messages through this medium. In short, revelation through inspiration can enter the heart of the chosen individuals either in the state of consciousness or in dream(Ali, Muhammad:1936). These dreams mostly the Messenger of Allah (p.b.u.h) saw in his sleep. Those dreams were called "true dreams" (*Ru'ya as-Sadiqa*). Those dreams, which the Prophet (p.b.u.h) saw, came out to be true afterwards. According to Aisha (R.A) said, "The Prophet did not see any vision but it came like the bright gleam of dawn." (Bukhari, Badul-Wahy, 1; Muslim, Iman 252) Thus, she sheds light on those dreams.

¹ "An Overview of Ten Manuscripts of Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī". ahadithnotes.com.

3. Behind A Curtain

Allah stated in the holy Qur'an:

And We sent messengers about whom We have related their stories to you before and messengers about whom We have not related to you. And Allah spoke to Moses with direct speech (Qur'an, 4:164)

It is clearly stated that one of the means of revelation is without the mediation of an angel, Allah talks directly to the Prophet from behind a curtain. Almighty Allah talks from behind a screen, as He (glory be to Him) spoke to the Prophet Moses (Peace be upon him) when Moses asked to see Him with his naked eyes. And when Moses arrived at Our appointed time and his Lord spoke to him, he said, "My Lord, show me (Yourself) that I may look at you"²

Yet he was prevented from this wish and was diverted to hear a talk from behind the tree, as Almighty Allah says:

He was called from the right side of the valley, in the blessed place, from the tree: "O Musa (Moses)! Verily I am Allah, the Lord of the world (mankind, jinn and all that exist) (Qur'an, 28:30)

Likewise, it happened to Prophet Moses when he was receiving revelation from Allah in *Tursina*, Allah says:

And when he came to it, he was called, O Moses, Indeed, I am your Lord, so remove your sandals, indeed, you are in the sacred valley of *Tuwa*. And I have Chosen you, so listen to what is revealed to you (Qur'an, 20: 11-13)

It is also established to have occurred to Prophet Muhammad, based on the Hadith of al-Israa:

And it is not for any human being that Allah should speak to him except by revelation or from behind a partition or that He sends a messenger to reveal, by His permission, what He wills. Indeed, He is the Most High and Wise (Qur'an, 42:51)

This Quranic verse shows that revelation from behind a curtain is one of the means of revelation from Allah.

Revealed Books of Allah

1. *Qur'an as the Seal of Revelations of God*

As we discussed earlier about the definition of revelations, however, this section will highly explore the holy Qur'an as the seal of revelations of God. Therefore, a cursory glance on the holy Quran and its definition are highly required. In this regard, Zakir Naik (2007) observed that, the Qur'an is a book believed by Muslims to be of completely divine origin. As such, the Qur'an is the pure words of Allah, exposition of all things. The words of Allah, sent down upon the last Prophet Muhammad, through the Angel Gabriel, in its precise meaning and concise wording, transmitted to us by numerous

² Al-Qur'an, 7:143

persons (*tawatur*), both verbally and in writing. As such, the holy Qur'an is the last revelation of God after *Torah* and Bible respectively.

It is important to mention here that the original language of the holy Qur'an is Arabic, and the word 'Qur'an in Arabic is derived from the root *qara'a*, which has various meanings, such as to Read to Recite(Qamus Al- Muhit: 1989) etc. Qur'an is a verbal noun and hence means the 'reading' or 'Recitation'. As used in the Qur'an itself, the word refers to the revelation from Allah in the broad sense , and is not always restricted to the written form in the shape of a book, as we have it before us today.

However, it means revelation to Muhammad only, while revelation to other Prophets has been referred to by different names (e.g. *taurat*, *Injil*, *kitab*, etc.). The revelation from Allah to the Prophet Muhammad is referred to in the Qur'an itself by the name Qur'an (recitation) as well as by other names, such as *Furqaan* which means, criterion, or *Tanzil* , or *Dhikr* it means reminder and *Kitab* which indicates scripture, plus other various references to the Qur'an are by such words as *Nur* (light), *Huda* (guidance), *Rahman* (mercy), *Majid* (glorious), Mubarak (blessed), *Bashir* (announcer), *Nadhir* (warner), etc.. All these names reflect one of the various aspects of the revealed word of Allah. As far as the holy Qur'an is concerned, what are the characteristics of this holy book? The answer of this question will be the next discussion.

The Main Characteristics of the Holy Qur'an

It is important to state that Qur'an possesses a distinguished features that differentiate it from previous revelations of God . According to Sayed Qutub in his highly influential commentary of the Qur'an, (*Fi Zilal al-Qur'an*) , the Qur'an has been a book of guidance and inspiration, a reference point, and a rich source of social and moral dynamism for hundreds of millions of people throughout the world who believe it to be immutable word of God . Based on this fact, the following characteristics are the unique features of the holy Qur'an and the seal of revelation of Allah.

1. Guidance for and Mercy to Believers.

This fact is clearly explained in the Qur'an, when Allah says:

This is the book; in it is guidance, sure, without doubt, to those who fear Allah(Qur'an, 2:2) .

In another Surah, Qur'an says:

For We had certainly sent unto them a Book, based on knowledge, which We explained in detail, a guide and a mercy to all who believe (Qur'an, 7:52) .

Imam Ali May Allah bless his soul, confirmed the above fact in one of his sermons in *Nahjul Balagha*:

Read the Holy Qur'an carefully because, it is the most sublime of all Holy Books; try to understand and study it diligently, because it is the best food for thought; enlighten your mind with its teachings, because it's divine is the best cure for diseased mentally; and read it with sincerely good

intentions. because it contains very useful and instructive episodes from the history of man”³

This implies that, this book of guidance is for the complete human race whose problem are answered in a clear form within the verses of the Qur’an.

2. *Spiritual/ Social Healer*

In fact, the Qur’an is considered a spiritual book and social healer, in this regard, the Qur’an boasts of its ability to not only move the soul but to heal it. It addressed the physical, social, mental and spiritual needs of a person; it much like other previous books revealed covers dietary law, metaphysical healing and judicial ruling⁴. All of these combined to heal mankind. In fact, the Qur’an as social and spiritual healer is clear in the holy Qur’an itself when Allah states that if man turns to Him, then He would unlock his potential and raise him to great rank. For example, Allah gives Prophet Isa (Jesus) such privilege: [The Day] when Allah will say:

O Isa (Jesus), Son of Mary, remember My favour upon you and upon your mother when I supported you with the Pure Spirit and you spoke to the people in the cradle and in maturity; and [remember] when I taught you writing and wisdom and the Torah and the Gospel; and when you designed from clay [what was] like the form of a bird with My permission, then you breathed into it, and it became a bird with My permission; and you healed the blind [from birth] and the leper with My permission; and when you brought forth the dead with My permission; and when I restrained the Children of Israel from [killing] you when you came to them with clear proofs and those who disbelieved among them said, “This is not but obvious magic (Qur’an, 5:110).

In another chapter of the Qur’an which proves the holy Qur’an as a book of spiritual and social healer, is when Allah says:

O mankind! There has come to you a direction from your Lord and a healing for the (diseases) in your hearts, and guidance and a mercy for those who believe (Qur’an, 10:57).

Thus, the Qur’an is the complete healing for all mental, spiritual and physical diseases, it contains the treatment for hearts and souls, and as a such it is a healing and a remedy for many diseases. For example; honey is mentioned in the Qur’an, and that is a healing for mankind. Allah says:

Then eat of all fruits, and follow the ways of thy Lord, made smooth (for thee). There cometh forth from their bellies a drink diverse of hues, wherein is healing for mankind. Lo! herein is indeed a portent for people who reflect (Qur’an, 16:69)

³ Allamah Sharif Razi, *Nahj al-Balaghah* / Peak of Eloquence. 3rd ed. Trans. Sayed ‘Ali Reza. Elmhurst: Tahrike Tarsile, 1984

⁴ Mohammed & Hussain (2003) *Al-Wa’f (Revelation): The Qur’an & the Sunnah*-, 67- 82.

3. *Revealing Reality and Clarifying Doubts*⁵

As a matter of fact, the holy Qur'an has revealed to disclose the facts and realities that used to be hidden by its previous revelations especially, *Torah* and *Injil*. It is also revealed to clarify doubt and dilemma that are caused by the followers and adherents of former revelations, though the previous revelations also contain some truths, yet, the fact remains that the issue of theology and monotheism argued al- Faruqi (1998), in the worldview of Islam is different from the worldview of Judaism and Christianity respectively. Therefore, the above fact is clearly emphasized by the Qur'an itself, when it stated that: "*Ta. Sin*. These are verses of Qur'an, a book that makes things clear". Qur'an: al-Naml: 1) Again, in surah al Ma'idah, Quran disclosed the truth that used to be unclear by Jews and Christians, when it stated that:

O People of the Book! There has come to you Our Messenger, revealing to you much

that you used to hide in the book, and passing over much(that is now unnecessary):

There has come to you from Allah a (new) light and a perspicuous Book(Qur'an, 5:15) .

This does not mean the absence of truth in the previous revelations.. However, some truths are replaced by human invention.

4. *Miraculous Book*

In fact, if *Torah* is miraculous revelation to Moses, and if the Bible is also miraculous revelation to Jesus, the Qur'an is unanimously agreed by Muslim Scholars to be the biggest miracle of Prophet Muhammad (saw) and the main proof of the authenticity of his Prophethood. The miracles contains in it are the proof of its authenticity as the real book of Allah and out of the ordinary book that invents by human being. In the most serious note, some western scholars or orientalisists confessed the miraculous nature of Quran. For instance, (Maurice Bucaille:2003) French surgeon, scientist, scholar and the author of the book called, "the Bible, the Qur'an and Science"⁶ in this book Maurice compared between the authenticity of Qur'an and bible, and their compatibility with modern sciences, he stated that, the final conclusion of my study of Qur'an is that, the statements about scientific phenomena in the holy Qur'an are perfectly in conformity with the modern sciences .

Although this humble paper is not concerned about the comparison between authenticity of the Qur'an and the bible, but, the fact remains that the revelation as a whole with particular reference to the holy Qur'an is always compatible with modern sciences, this shows that, there is a room for integration between revelation and human acquired knowledge that strongly relies on human intellect, this miracle is also manifested in the structure of the holy Qur'an, its meaning and the various knowledge that can be obtained from it, such as historical events, prediction of what will happen in the future, and many scientific facts that make the holy Qur'an to challenge the unbelievers (who used to doubt its authenticity) to produce another book similar to it. Based on this fact, Qur'an says that "Or they say: He has invented it? Nay, but they do not believe! Then let them produce a speech like it, if they are truthful(Qur'an, 52:33)

⁵ Mohammed & Hussain, Al-Wa'iy (Revelation): The Qur'an & the Sunnah

⁶ La Bible, le Coran et la Science : Les Écritures Saintes examinées à la lumière des connaissances modernes, Seghers 2003

The holy Qur'an has even challenged these unbelievers to produce less than the whole chapter of the Qur'an, it demanded them to produce only ten chapter similar to those of the Qur'an.

Or they say: He has invented it! Say: Then bring ten Surahs, the like thereof, invented, and call on everyone you can beside Allah, if you are truthful (Qur'an, 52:33)

Indeed, the authenticity of the noble Qur'an and its miracle is clear when the holy Qur'an the last revelation of Allah persisted to challenge the unbelievers to produce only one surah similar to those of the Qur'an, however, they were unable to do so.

Therefore, Qur'an has narrated this incident to us in order to assure people of its authenticity, i.e. this Qur'an is neither a book of fluent author nor the writing of ordinary orator, but, it is a book of supreme God the most omnipotent and the most omniscience. This fact is proven in chapter two of the holy Qur'an itself.

And if you are in doubt concerning that which we reveal to our Messenger (Muhammad), then produce a surah like one thereof, and call your gods and supporters beside Allah if you are truthful (Qur'an, 2:23).

Meanwhile, if the holy Qur'an possesses the above characteristics, the question is that, Why the holy Qur'an is the only revealed book of Allah with such characteristics? The answer to this question is that the other revealed books have encountered alterations and many changes by their followers, though they do contain some theological truths.

2. Old Testament (Torah)

What is Old Testament (Torah)?

Torah according to Encyclopaedia of Britannica⁷ in Judaism is in the broadest sense the substance of divine revelation to Israel, the Jewish people: God's revealed teaching or guidance for humankind. The meaning of "Torah" is often restricted to signify the first five books of the Old Testament, also called the Law (or the Pentateuch, in Christianity). These are the books traditionally ascribed to Moses, the recipient of the original revelation from God on Mount Sinai.

As a matter of fact, in Judaism the Hebrew Bible is not only the primary text of instruction for a moral life but also the historical record of God's promise, first articulated in his covenant with Abraham, to consider the Jews his chosen people. Christians, on the other hand, view it as the prophecy of the advent of Jesus Christ as the Messiah, the redeemer of humanity, in fulfilment of that promise. Thus, Christian tradition employs the Hebrew Scriptures to legitimize the gospel of Jesus in the New Testament.

According to Faruqi, (Al- Faruqi:1984) Islam accords to these two religions (Judaism and Christianity) special status. First, each of them is the religion of God, their founder on earth, Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus, are the Prophet of God. What they have conveyed- The torah, the Psalm, the Evangel- are revelation from God. To believe in these prophets.

⁷ Encyclopaedia Britannica CD 99 Standard Edition © 1994-1999 Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.

In the revelations they have brought, is integral to the very faith of Islam. To disbelieve in them-nay, to discriminate between them is apostasy⁸ This fact can be proven by the Quranic verse that stated “ Our Lord and your Lord is indeed God, the One and the Only God” (Qur’an:29:46).

Moreover, God described His Prophet Muhammad and his followers as believing in God, in His angel. In His revelations and Prophets; as not distinguishing between the Prophets of God. Hence it is clear that *Torah* in its real form is a revealed book of Almighty Allah, just like the holy Qur’an and other revelations. Yet, it is good to mention at this juncture that this revealed book of *Torah* or Hebrew scripture has encountered some changes and alteration by its flowers which led to revelation of *Injil* (gospel or New Testament). What is New Testament (*Injil*)?

3. New Testament (*Injil*)

The New Testament⁹ Or Bible is a holy scripture of Christianity. It is believed by Christians that the bible has been revealed on Jesus the Christ. This belief is also in line with the Islamic faith that Bible which is known as *Injil* in Quranic language is given to Prophet ‘*Isa* (Jesus) in its pure form, this fact has been mentioned in the holy Qur’an when Allah says:

And We caused Jesus, son of Mary, to follow in their footsteps, confirming that which was (revealed) before him in the Torah, and We bestowed on him the Gospel wherein is guidance and a light, confirming that which was (revealed) before it in the Torah- a guidance and an admonition unto those who ward off evil(Qur’an,5:46)

Furthermore, New Testament, (*Injil*)¹⁰ according to the holy Qur’an was the holy book revealed to Jesus (*Isa*) . Although many Muslims believe that the *Injil* refers to the entire New Testament, scholars have pointed out that it refers not to the New Testament but to an original Gospel, given to Jesus as the word of God¹¹. Therefore, according to Muslim belief, the Gospel was the message that Jesus had divinely inspired, preached to the Children of Israel. The current canonical Gospels, in the belief of Muslim scholars, are not divinely revealed but rather are documents of the life of Jesus, as written by various

⁸ Ismail Raji Al- Faruqi, (1984) Islam and Other Faiths, IIIT Virginia, U.S.A

⁹ The New Testament (Greek: Ἡ Καινὴ Διαθήκη, trans. Hē Kainē Diathékē; Latin: Novum Testament) is the second part of the Christian biblical canon, the first part being the Old Testament, based on the Hebrew Bible. The New Testament discusses the teachings and person of Jesus, as well as events in first-century Christianity. Christians regard both the Old and New Testaments together as sacred scripture. The New Testament (in whole or in part) has frequently accompanied the spread of Christianity around the world. It reflects and serves as a source for Christian theology and morality. Extended readings and phrases directly from the New Testament are incorporated (along with readings from the Old Testament) into the various Christian liturgies. The New Testament has influenced religious, philosophical, and political movements in Christendom and left an indelible mark on literature, art, and music.

¹⁰ *njil* (Arabic: إنجيل, translit. ‘Injīl, alternative spellings: Ingil or Injeel) is the Arabic name for the Gospel of Jesus (Isa). This *Injil* is described by the Qur'an as one of the four Islamic holy books which was revealed by God, the others being the *Zabur* (possibly the Psalms), the *Tawrat* (the *Torah*), and the Qur'an itself. The word Injil is also used in the Quran, the Hadith and early Muslim documents to refer to both a book and revelations made by God to Jesus.

¹¹ Abdullah Yusuf Ali, The Holy Qur'an: Text, Translation and Commentary, Appendix: On the Injil

contemporaries, disciples and companions. These Gospels¹², in Muslim belief, contain portions of the teachings of Jesus, but neither represent nor contain the original Gospel from God, which has been corrupted or lost¹³

This fact is clear in the writing of Ajjola who claims that the books collected into the New Testament do not constitute the utterances of Jesus nor of his disciples¹⁴. He stated that Jesus was a Jew and so were his disciples. If any of Jesus utterances were to be found preserved in their original form, they could only be in the Hebrew language. It means the New Testament written down in Latin or Greek must have been written down long after the time of Jesus, at a time when Christianity had begun to penetrate into Roman territory and Roman imperialist power had become divided into the Italian and Greek parts.

All in all, both *Torah*(Old Testament) and *Inji* (New Testament in their original forms, are considered revelations from God. However, these revelations have encountered a serious alterations and changes from their respective followers which lead to the corruption of these holy books. Hence, the final revelation is imminent and necessary for the salvation and guidance of people and that is emergence of the holy Qur'an, which Allah promised to protect from any changes and interpolation from the day one of its revelation till the day of Judgement. The holy Qur'an has attested this protection when Allah said "Lo! We, even We, reveal the Reminder, and lo! We verily are its Guardian" (Qur'an: 15:9).

3. *Psalm (Zabur)*

The Quran mentions the *Zabur*, often interpreted as being the Book of Psalms¹⁵ as being the holy scripture revealed to King David. Scholars have often understood the Psalms to have been holy songs of praise. The current Psalms are still praised by many Muslim scholars, but Muslims generally assume that some of the current Psalms were written later and are not divinely revealed. According to the holy Qur'an " We gave Psalm to David" (Qur'an, 4:163)

4. *The Scrolls of Abraham(Suhuf Ibrahim)*

The Scrolls of Abraham are believed to have been one of the earliest bodies of scripture, which were given to Abraham (Ibrāhīm)¹⁶, and later used by Ishmael (Ismā'īl) and Isaac (Ishāq). Although usually referred to as "scrolls", many translators have translated the

¹² Each of the four gospels in the New Testament narrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. The word "gospel" derives from the Old English gōd-spell[16] (rarely gospel), meaning "good news" or "glad tidings". The gospel was considered the "good news" of the coming Kingdom of Messiah, and the redemption through the life and death of Jesus, the central Christian message.. Gospel is a calque (word-for-word translation) of the Greek word εὐαγγέλιον, evangelion (eu- "good", -angelion "message"). Since the 2nd century, the four narrative accounts of the life and work of Jesus Christ have been referred to as "The Gospel of ..." or "The Gospel according to ..." followed by the name of the supposed author. Whatever these admittedly early ascriptions may imply about the sources behind or the perception of these gospels, they are anonymous compositions..

¹³ Encyclopaedia of Islam, *Injil*

¹⁴ Ajjola, A. D (1984) *The Myth of The Cross*, Islamic Publication Ltd. Lahore

¹⁵ The Book of Psalms (/sɑ:mz/ or /sɔ:(l)mz/ SAW(L)MZ; Hebrew: תְּהִלִּים, Tehillim, "praises"), commonly referred to simply as Psalms or "the Psalms", is the first book of the Ketuvim ("Writings"), the third section of the Hebrew Bible, and thus a book of the Christian Old Testament.[1] The title is derived from the Greek translation, ψαλμοί, psalmoi, meaning "instrumental music" and, by extension, "the words accompanying the music. The book is an anthology of individual psalms, with 150 in the Jewish and Western Christian tradition and more in the Eastern Christian churches. Many of the psalms are linked to the name of David, but this is not accepted as historical fact by modern scholars.

Arabic *suhuf* as "books" The Scrolls of Abraham are now considered lost rather than corrupted, although some scholars have identified them with the Testament of Abraham, an apocalyptic piece of literature available in Arabic at the time of Muhammad.

Scrolls of Moses (Ṣuḥuf Mūsā):

These scrolls, containing the revelations of Moses, which were perhaps written down later by Moses, Aaron and Joshua, are understood by Muslims to refer not to the *Torah* but to revelations aside from the *Torah*. Some scholars have stated that they could possibly refer to the Book of the Wars of the Lord a lost text spoken of in the Old Testament or Tanakh in the Book of Numbers . In short, the holy Qur'an has attested the scrolls of Abraham and Moses, and these scrolls in their original forms are recognized by Islam.

Lo! This is in the former scrolls. The Books of Abraham and
Moses(Qur'an, 87:19)

Concluding Remarks

In Islam, we must believe in all the revealed books of God without any distinction. According to the holy Qur'an:

This Messenger of ours believes in that which has been revealed to him from his lord, and so do the believers; all of them believe in Allah, and in His Books, and in His Messengers; saying, 'We make no distinction between any of His messengers; and they say, 'We have heard and we are obedient. Our Lord, we implore Thy forgiveness and to Thee is the returning. (Qur'an, 2:285)

Based on above Ayyah, it is obligatory to believe in all the books of Allah i.e., Books which He has sent down through His Prophets for the guidance of mankind from time to time at different stages of history. God revealed His Books to His Prophets before Muhammad(peace be upon him) and these books were sent down in the same way He sent down the Qur'an to Muhammad (Allah's blessing be upon him).

In short, there are five books of Allah (or code of religion)mentioned in the Qur'an namely:

1. Scrolls (Suhuf) revealed to Prophets Ibrahim and Musa (Abraham and Moses)
2. *Torah (Taorat)* (Old Testament) revealed to Prophet Musa (Moses)
3. Psalm (*Zabur*) revealed to Prophet Dawud (David)
4. New Testament (*Injil*) revealed to Prophet Isa (Jesus)
5. The Holy Qur'an revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peacebe upon him) the last of the Prophets.

The major concern is, the previously revealed books, such as *Torah Injil* and *Zabur* and most of their contents have been interpolated by their respective followers, as such, these books do not exist in their original forms. Thus, the original teachings of the *Torah*, *Zabur*, and *Injil* have been tempered with, and the original word of God has been adulterated. Indeed, all these books have many similarities and many things in common, and they have the same purpose, i.e. to reform mankind, and they are originated from the same geographical area. They are all divine revelations and written scriptures. Thus, We should not distinct among these revelations as long as their original form is concerned. We should also have a strong belief in each and every Prophet that God sent these revelations to, without any discrimination among them.

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