



NEW MUSLIM
ACADEMY

God's Divine Scriptures

Handwritten Arabic text from an ancient manuscript, likely the Quran, visible on the left page of an open book.

Handwritten Arabic text from an ancient manuscript, likely the Quran, visible on the right page of an open book. The text is enclosed in a decorative border and includes the Basmala (Bismillah) at the top.

One of the tenets of faith in Islam is the belief in the Divinely revealed scriptures of God. These scriptures were sent as guidance and light to some of God's chosen human messengers as instruction for them and their people. These scriptures were never sent on their own, rather an appointed Messenger was always the recipient of such a Divine gift and was tasked with explaining and applying the scripture in real life. God never sent a scripture except with a human messenger who could properly explain God's commands and practically apply them in a way in which we can relate and understand.

Let us take a brief look at some key aspects related to these Divine scriptures...



A Core Part of Faith

In a number of Quranic passages God commands us to believe in the Divine scriptures. “You who believe, believe in God and His Messenger and in the Scripture He sent down to His Messenger, as well as what He sent down before to other messengers. Anyone who does not believe in God, His angels, His scriptures, His messengers and the Last Day has gone far, far astray.” 4:136 The Messenger Muhammad informed us that belief in God’s scriptures is one of the six core parts of true faith to attain salvation.



The Number of Divinely Revealed Scriptures

God revealed a number of scriptures throughout history. Muslims believe that all true and original Divine scriptures came from God and contained guidance. However, we only know about five scriptures by name. These five are:

- i. The Torah given to Moses
- ii. The Gospel given to Jesus
- iii. The Documents given to David
- iv. The Scrolls of Abraham and Moses
- v. The Quran given to Muhammad



Understanding Belief in the Divinely Revealed Scriptures

Belief in the Divinely revealed scriptures of God consists of four elements.

Firstly, we believe that they all came from God and that God spoke those words. “God spoke to Moses directly.” 4:164

Secondly, we believe that God sent many scriptures and we accept them all as God’s words. We also specifically believe in the above mentioned five in their original form. The names of these five scriptures have been explicitly mentioned by God in the Quran.

Thirdly, we accept everything in the original scriptures. Only the Quran remains in its original pristine form. The other scriptures don’t exist in their original form. Whatever remains of some of them has been altered. Here is still some truth in what remains which is affirmed by the Quran. All of these scriptures called to the worship of the one true God on His terms and conditions.

Fourthly, the Quran is a testimony and a witness to previous scriptures. The Quran has abrogated and supersedes every scripture which came before it. God says, “We sent to you, Muhammad, the Scripture with the truth, confirming the Scriptures that came before it, and with final authority over them.” 5:48



Why did God Reveal Scriptures?

There are a number of reasons why God sent Divine scriptures. Through the scriptures God establishes proof against humans if they were to disobey the explicit commands of God to worship Him alone. The scriptures also contain laws for humankind to live and worship God by. Thereby the scriptures are references and sources of legislation and ethics. As such, disputes can be settled by referring to God's instructions as per God's words. The scriptures furthermore preserve God's True Religion, Islam, from corruption. The scriptures also provide evidence to the truthfulness of the Messengers of God showing that they were indeed selected and sent by God.

How to Understand Scripture

Divine scriptures were always revealed to the chosen messengers of God. It was the Messengers of God who then explained the scriptures and told us their correct interpretation. It was their application of scripture which lead to the correct understanding of God's words. This was so that people would not differ over God's words or misinterpret them to suit their own whims and desires.

This is why along with the Quran we have the life example and tradition of the Messenger Muhammad which clearly explain to us the words of the Quran and the commands of God. God commands us to perform prescribed ritual devotion, fast, give charity and make the pilgrimage in the Quran. The Messenger Muhammad through his living example showed us the manner of performing the prescribed ritual devotion, fasting, giving charity and making the pilgrimage. He also instructed us to follow his example in doing so. We are told that God will not accept any act of devotion if it does not comply and doesn't match the example and model of the Messenger Muhammad. The tradition of the Messenger Muhammad, the Sunnah, is also revelation from God and hence must be followed like the Quran.



The Quran – The Last Scripture

The Quran is different from other scriptures in that it is the last of God's scriptures. There will be no other Divine revelation after it. It is miraculous and inimitable, it cannot be replicated. God has vowed in the Quran to preserve and protect it from alteration and corruption. This was not the case for previous scriptures. The Quran confirms the truth contained in earlier scriptures and abrogates all rulings before it. All that is in the Quran is final and supersedes all that came before it.

May God's protection be with you.