

Chapter – 17

Prophet and Messenger

(نبی اور رسول)

❖ Introduction:

‘Prophet’ (نبی) is that innocent servant of God who is given the revelations of God. Literary speaking, the word Prophet means the person who gives news or who keeps news. ‘Messenger’ (رسول) is a prophet who holds the book of revelations from God. Literary speaking, the word Messenger means a person who carries a message or is employed to carry messages. The Messenger is a person who gives Islamic Laws (شريعة). He is a person of high attributes, and who is also distinguished with receiving God’s Revelations (وحی). He is error free, guiltless, innocent, honest and trustworthy, so that he could deliver the God’s messages with authenticity and enforce the laws at his followers, and so that his apprising with the people could be convenient and forceful. God bestows him miracles as well. This Messenger-ship is a God-given status and very much natural, that cannot be achieved by hard work. God creates such personalities with extraordinary caliber. God says in Quran:

اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ حَيْثُ يَجْعَلُ رِسَالَتَهُ

{Allah knows best where to place His message (Prophet-hood). (06:124)}

ذَلِكَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ يُؤْتِيهِ مَن يَشَاءُ

{That is the favor of Allah; He bestows it upon whom He wills. (05:54)}

Prophets have proximity with Allah (SWT), as well as companionship with His servants. They pick the revelations with the closeness of God. And the attachment and company with His servants gives convenience in the preaching process.

❖ **Prophets:**

God has created Human beings, and for their guidance He has also chosen some personalities to acquaint these people with the Creator of this Universe and to teach them about the “Oneness of God”. The total figures of these special personnel are not known. Yet it is being told that they are around one hundred forty thousand. The Holy Quran describes some names of these prophets and has also given some detailed stories of a few prophets. At one place God says:

إِنَّا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ كَمَا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ نُوحٍ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ
وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَالْأَسْبَاطِ وَعِيسَىٰ وَأَيُّوبَ وَيُونُسَ وَهَارُونَ وَسُلَيْمَانَ
وَأَتَيْنَا دَاوُدَ زُبُورًا

{Indeed We sent a divine revelation to you (Prophet Muhammad) as We did send divine revelations to Nooh and the Prophets after him; and We sent divine revelations to Ibrahim and Ismael and Ishaq and Yaqub and their offspring, and Eisa and Ayyub and Yunus and Haroon and Sulaiman, and We bestowed the Zaboor (the Holy Book) upon Dawud. (04:163)}

In the Holy Quran, the stories of Prophet Adam along with the stories of our grandmother Hawwa are met with. Moreover, there is the story of Iblis. And story of Habeel and Qabeel is also there. Besides, it has the stories of many Prophets, like Nooh, Ibrahim, Ismael, Lute, Ishaq, Yaqub, and Prophet Yousuf. In addition to this, this Book has stories of Firaun, Haman, Bani Israel, and Qaroon etc. as well. These stories give us plenty of lessons and warnings. For this, Quran says:

لَقَدْ كَانَ فِي قَصَصِهِمْ عِبْرَةٌ لِأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ مَا كَانَ حَدِيثًا يُفْتَرَىٰ وَلَكِنْ تَصَدِيقَ
الَّذِي بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَتَفْصِيلَ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ

{Indeed in their reports is enlightenment for the men of understanding; this (Quran) is not some made up story but a confirmation of the Books before it, and a detailed explanation of all things, and a guidance and a mercy for the Muslims. (12:111)}

❖ **Messengers:**

There were four Messengers upon whom the Revelations of God used to descend. Rather, they are the specials upon whom even the entire books are revealed. Prophet Dawud (PBUH) got ‘Zaboor’ on him.

Prophet Moosa (PBUH) got ‘Taurat’ on him. Prophet Eisa (PBUH) got ‘Injeel’ on him, and Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم got the Holy ‘Quran’ on him. The related verses of Quran are as below:

وَأَتَيْنَا دَاوُودَ زَبُورًا

{And We bestowed the Zaboor upon Dawud. (04:163)}

نَزَّلَ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَأَنزَلَ التَّوْرَةَ وَالْإِنجِيلَ

{He has sent down to you (O dear Prophet Muhammad) this true book (the Holy Quran), confirming the books before it, and He sent down the Taurat and the Injeel. (03:03)}

❖ **The Last Prophet** (خاتم الانبياء):

Khatam means seal or stamp. It is that thing on which any letter or document ends. A holy hadith says:

أَلَا أَنَّهُ لَا نَبِيَّ بَعْدِي

(After me there is no prophet)

So, Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم is the Last Prophet. Quran says:

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ

وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا

{Muhammed (PBUH) is not the father of any man among you, but he is the Noble Messenger of Allah and the Last of the Prophets; and Allah knows all things. (33:40)}

Muhammed (PBUH) is the Principal Prophet (افضل الانبياء) as well. About his preference Quran says:

وَعَلَّمَكُمَا مَا لَمْ تَكُن تَعْلَمُونَ وَكَانَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ عَظِيمًا

{And taught you all what you did not know; and upon you is Allah’s great preference. (04:113)}

About his superiority his own hadiths emerge as proof. He says, I was designated as “the Last of all Prophets” when the Prophet Adam was yet not born. He also says:

اللَّهُ يُعْطِينِي وَ أَنَا قَاسِمٌ

(God gives me and I distribute it)

