

13. Human Robot Testing Programme on Earth

The first test of human beings took place in Allah's abode with Adam and Eve. The Quran narrates the oldest test history of man following the creation of first human couple, Adam and Eve giving an account of the circumstances leading to the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden to this Earth.

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَاكُمْ ثُمَّ صَوَّرْنَاكُمْ ثُمَّ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ فَسَجَدُوا إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ لَمْ يَكُنْ مِنَ السَّاجِدِينَ قَالَ مَا مَنَعَكَ أَلَّا تَسْجُدَ إِذْ أَمَرْتُكَ قَالَ أَنَا خَيْرٌ مِنْهُ خَلَقْتَنِي مِنْ نَارٍ وَخَلَقْتَهُ مِنْ طِينٍ قَالَ فَاهْبِطْ مِنْهَا فَمَا يَكُونُ لَكَ أَنْ تَتَّكِبَ فِيهَا فَاخْرُجْ إِنَّكَ مِنَ الصَّاغِرِينَ قَالَ أَنْظِرْنِي إِلَى يَوْمِ يَبْعَثُونَ قَالَ إِنَّكَ مِنَ الْمُنظَرِينَ قَالَ فَبِمَا أَعْيَبْتَنِي لَأَفْعِدَنَّ لَهُمْ صِرَاطَكَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ثُمَّ لَأَنْبِتُهُمْ مِنْ بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ وَعَنْ أَيْمَانِهِمْ وَعَنْ شَمَائِلِهِمْ وَلَا تَجِدُ أَكْثَرَهُمْ شَاكِرِينَ قَالَ اخْرُجْ مِنْهَا مَذْمُومًا مَذْحُورًا تَلْمِزَكَ مِنْهُمْ لَأَمْلَأَنَّ جَهَنَّمَ مِنْكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ وَيَا آدَمُ اسْكُنْ أَنْتَ وَزَوْجُكَ الْجَنَّةَ فَكُلَا مِنْ حَيْثُ شِئْتُمَا وَلَا تَقْرَبَا هَذِهِ الشَّجَرَةَ فَتَكُونَا مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ فَوَسَّوَسَ لَهُمَا الشَّيْطَانُ لِيُبْدِيَ لَهُمَا مَا وُورِيَ عَنْهُمَا مِنْ سَوَاتِمِهِمَا وَقَالَ مَا نَهَاكُمَا رَبُّكُمَا عَنْ هَذِهِ الشَّجَرَةِ إِلَّا أَنْ تَكُونَا مَلَكَتَيْنِ أَوْ تَكُونَا مِنَ الْخَالِدِينَ وَقَاسَمَهُمَا إِنِّي لَكُمَا لَمِنَ النَّاصِحِينَ فَدَلَّاهُمَا بِغُرُورٍ فَلَمَّا ذَاقَا الشَّجَرَةَ بَدَتْ لَهُمَا سَوَاتِمُهُمَا وَطَفِقَا يَخْصِفَانِ عَلَيْهِمَا مِنْ وَرَقِ الْجَنَّةِ وَنَادَاهُمَا رَبُّهُمَا أَلَمْ أَنْهَكُمَا عَنْ تِلْكَ الشَّجَرَةِ وَأَقُلْتُ لَكُمَا إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَكُمَا عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ قَالَا رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِن لَّمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ قَالَ اهْبِطُوا بَعْضُكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ عَدُوٌّ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُسْتَقَرٌّ وَمَتَاعٌ إِلَى حِينٍ قَالَ فِيهَا تَحْيَوْنَ وَفِيهَا تَمُوتُونَ وَمِنْهَا تُخْرَجُونَ

7:11-25 Indeed We created you and gave you shape. Then We asked the angels to bow down to Adam and they (all) bowed down except *Iblis*. He was not among those who bowed down. (Allah) said: What prevented you from bowing down when I commanded you? He said: I am better than he. You created me from fire and You created him from clay. (Allah) said (to *Iblis*): Get out from here. You cannot be arrogant here. So get out; indeed you are among the meanest. He (*Iblis*) said: Give me respite till the Day they (human beings) are resurrected. (Allah) said: Certainly you are among those who are granted respite. He (*Iblis*) said: Because You have misled me, I will lie in wait for them (human beings) on Your straight way; then I will reach (i.e., mislead) them from their front and from their back, and from their right and from their left. You will not find most of them grateful (to You for Your mercies). (Allah) said: Get out from here disgraced and expelled. If any of them follow you, I will fill Hell with you all. (Allah said): O Adam! Dwell you and your wife in the garden and eat from it as you wish but do not approach this Tree, then you will become transgressors. Then began Satan to whisper suggestions to them to bring into the open all their shame that was hidden from them (before). It (i.e., Satan) said: Your Lord forbade you this Tree lest you should become angels or immortals. And it swore to both of them: I am indeed your sincere advisor. So through deceit it brought their fall. When they tasted of the *Tree*, their shame became manifest to them and they began to sew together the leaves of the Garden over their bodies. And their Lord called to them: Did I not tell you that Satan was an avowed enemy to you? They said: Our Lord! We have wronged our own souls. If You do not forgive us and bestow upon us Your Mercy, we shall be certainly be lost. (Allah) said: Get you down with enmity between yourselves. The earth will be your dwelling place and your means of livelihood for a term. He (Allah) said: Therein shall you live, and therein shall you die, and from there shall you be taken out (resurrection).

قَالَ رَبِّ بِمَا أَعْيَبْتَنِي لَأَرِيَنَّ لَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا أُغْوِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ إِلَّا عِبَادَكَ مِنْهُمُ الْمُخْلِصِينَ
15:39-40 (*Iblis*) said: O my Lord! Because You have misled me, I will make (evil) alluring to them (i.e., human beings) on the earth and I will mislead them all except Your sincere servants among them.

When Allah ordered the angels to bow down to Adam after his creation, all the angels bowed down except *Iblis*. Allah asked *Iblis* to explain his non-compliance. *Iblis* responded boastfully that he was much above man in status and that prevented him from prostrating before Adam. This arrogance earned him Allah's wrath and curse. Allah asked him to get out of the divine abode. Then *Iblis* pleaded for respite till the Day of Judgement when all human beings are raised up again. Allah granted *Iblis* respite. *Iblis* swore that since Allah misled him (Q. 7:16), he would mislead all human beings from the divine path except Allah's sincere and pious servants (Q. 15:39-40).

Allah tells Adam and Eve to live in the Garden after giving a strong warning not to approach the Tree in it. If they approach it, they will become transgressors. That was the only directive given to them by Allah. That instruction formed the basis of their testing. Allah told them that they will not become hungry or naked in that Garden and they will not feel hot and thirsty. Thus while both were living in the Garden, Satan started conveying evil suggestions to their minds to tempt them to approach the forbidden Tree and thereby expose their nudity which was hidden from them. The Satan whispered: "Your Lord forbade you this Tree lest you should become angels or immortals." And to both of them Satan swore that he was indeed their well-wisher. Adam and Eve fell for it and ate from the Tree. They became naked and started covering their shame with leaves. Allah then called to them: "...Did I not forbid you that Tree and tell you that Satan was indeed a clear enemy to you?" Allah asked them to get out of the Garden. This is what happened in the very first test of *Homo sapiens* faced by the first human couple.

فَأَزَلَّهُمَا الشَّيْطَانُ عَنْهَا فَأَخْرَجَهُمَا مِمَّا كَانَا فِيهِ وَقُلْنَا اهْبِطُوا بَعْضُكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ عَدُوٌّ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُسْتَقَرٌّ وَمَتَاعٌ إِلَىٰ حِينٍ فَتَلَقَىٰ آدَمُ مِنْ رَبِّهِ كَلِمَاتٍ فَتَابَ عَلَيْهِ إِنَّهُ هُوَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ قُلْنَا اهْبِطُوا مِنْهَا جَمِيعًا فَإِمَّا يَأْتِيَنَّكُمْ مِنِّي هُدًى فَمَنْ تَبِعَ هُدَايَ فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَكَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ

2:36-39 Then the Satan misled them about it and got them out of the (blessed) state they were in. We (Allah) said: You all get down with enmity among yourselves. And on earth is your dwelling place and means of livelihood for a (fixed) term. Then Adam received from his Lord certain Words (or instructions) and He forgave him (Adam). Verily, He is Oft-Returning, Most Merciful. We (Allah) said: You all get down from here. And when guidance comes to you from Me, whosoever follows My guidance, on them shall be no fear nor shall they grieve. But those who reject and treat Our signs as false, they shall be companions of the Fire; they shall reside therein.

They were thus sent down to earth. Allah forgave Adam and guided him to the righteous path. Adam received from Allah certain instructions. Allah said to them that the earth is their dwelling place and means of livelihood for a fixed term and when Allah's guidance comes to them, whosoever follows it, they will not go astray and they do not have to fear or grieve and whosoever reject it, they will fall into misery and reside in Hell forever. It is with these instructions Adam and Eve were sent down to earth.

The arrival of Adam and Eve on Earth marked the beginning of God's test of human robots on the earth. The earth is the habitat of human beings and means of livelihood for a fixed term (test period). Man will die on the earth, and afterwards resurrected from the earth. The Quran does not mention the exact location of the earth where Adam and Eve arrived. Investigations about the origin of human race have led to two theories about the location where human species first appeared. One is 'out of Africa' theory and the other, multiregional theory. Of these, the latter proposes origin of

man at more than one place on the earth. The multiregional theory is therefore not compatible with the Quran. This theory has to be rejected in the light of the Quranic indication of one location for the arrival of the first human couple. ‘Out of Africa’ theory points to Africa as the region of origin of modern man and from where humans spread over the entire globe [1, 2]. This theory is acceptable as it is not at variance with the Quran. Recent studies employing mtDNA analysis have offered further insight into the pattern of migration of early humans. It was found that Arabia rather than North Africa or the Near East was the first staging-post in the spread of modern human around the world [3]. Based on this it may be suggested that Adam and Eve might have been sent to some part of Africa and from there their progeny migrated into Arabia. It was from Arabia humans spread to other places in due course. The advent of early civilizations and prophets in and around Arabia also strengthen this reasoning.

Islam – the basis of Allah’s test

Unless and until human beings know who created them and for what purpose, why they are here, what the Creator expects from them and what is their future, etc., they will not be able to respond to the test the way God wants them to. It is therefore imperative that the Creator informs mankind of His intentions and directives. And Allah states thus:

إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا لَلْهُدَىٰ

92:12 Verily it is binding on Us to provide guidance.

Divine guidance is the religion Islam. Islam constitutes Allah’s directives for testing human robots for their obedience to Him from the first human couple (Adam and Eve) to the last human being to be born on this planet before the end of the world. It is the Religion of Allah. No human being has any role in its formulation. All other religions are man-made. Allah will not accept a religion other than Islam. To that effect Allah informs the entire mankind thus:

يَا بَنِي آدَمَ إِذَا يَأْتِيَنَّكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِنْكُمْ يَقُصُّونَ عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِي ۖ فَمَنْ اتَّقَىٰ وَأَصْلَحَ فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ ۗ وَالَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَاسْتَكْبَرُوا عَنْهَا أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ ۗ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ

7:35-36 O children of Adam! Whenever there come to you apostles from among you explaining My verses to you, then whoever guard (against evil) and do good things, on them shall be no fear nor shall have they to grieve. But those who treat Our verses as false and show arrogance towards it, they are companions of the Fire; they will dwell therein forever.

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ ۗ وَمَا اخْتَلَفَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَعْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ ۗ وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ

3:19 The religion before Allah is Islam (i.e., submission to His Will). The People of the Book split (into groups) because of mutual jealousy after knowledge had come to them. Whoever denies the verses of Allah (the Quran), then (know) Allah is indeed swift in calling to account.

أَفَعِيزَ دِينِ اللَّهِ يَبِغُونَ ۗ وَلَهُ أَسْلَمَ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ طَوْعًا وَكَرْهًا وَإِلَيْهِ يُرْجَعُونَ

3:83 Do they seek other than the Religion of Allah while all creatures in the skies and Earth have obediently and compulsorily submitted to His Will? And to Him shall they all be brought back.

وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

3:85 If anyone desires a religion other than Islam, it will not be accepted from him. And in the Hereafter he will be among the losers.

فَأَقِمْ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ حَنِيفًا فِطْرَتَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي فَطَرَ النَّاسَ عَلَيْهَا لَا تَبْدِيلَ لِخَلْقِ اللَّهِ ذَٰلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

30:30 So set your face sincerely to this Faith (Islam). Allah designed (it) the way He made man. (There is) no change in Allah's creation. That is the lasting religion but most people do not realize.

فَأَقِمْ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ الْقَيِّمِ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يَأْتِيَ يَوْمٌ لَا مَرَدَّ لَهُ مِنَ اللَّهِ يَوْمَئِذٍ يُصَدِّعُونَ

30:43 So set your face to this straight religion before there comes from Allah a Day that cannot be averted. On that Day they (i.e., human beings) will separate (from one another).

وَجَاهِدُوا فِي اللَّهِ حَقَّ جِهَادِهِ هُوَ اجْتَبَاكُمْ وَمَا جَعَلَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ مِنْ حَرَجٍ مَلَّةً أُنزِلَتْ عَلَيْكُمْ لِقَاكُمْ فِي الْحَقِّ بِكَلِمَاتٍ مُبِينٍ هُوَ سَمَّاكُمُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِ وَفِي هَٰذَا لِيَكُونَ الرَّسُولُ شَهِيدًا عَلَيْكُمْ وَتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى النَّاسِ فَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِاللَّهِ هُوَ مَوْلَاكُمْ فَنِعْمَ الْمَوْلَىٰ وَنِعْمَ النَّصِيرُ

22:78 “.....He (Allah) has chosen you and He has imposed no difficulties on you in religion. It is the religion of your father Abraham. It is He who named you Muslims, both before and in this (Quran). (That is) for the messenger to be a witness for you, and you (i.e., believers) the witnesses for the mankind. So establish the Prayer, give charity and hold on to Allah firmly. He is your guardian – the best to protect and the best to help.”

Mission of the prophets

To convey His messages to human robots undergoing the test, Allah designed the most effective means of communication with them by choosing representatives from among themselves and appointing them as His messengers or prophets to convey His message. Allah had not sent a prophet to any people who spoke a different language.

أَكَانَ لِلنَّاسِ عَجَبًا أَنْ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ رَجُلٍ مِنْهُمْ أَنْ أَنْذِرِ النَّاسَ وَبَشِّرِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَنَّ لَهُمْ قَدَمٌ صِدْقٍ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ قَالَ الْكَافِرُونَ إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَسَاحِرٌ مُبِينٌ

10:2 Is it a surprise to people that We conveyed (the message) to a person from among themselves to warn people and to give good news to the believers that they have lofty rank of truth with their Lord? (But) the unbelievers said: “This (man, Prophet Muhammad) is indeed an evident magician!”

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ إِلَّا رَجُلًا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِمْ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْقُرَىٰ أَفَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنْظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ وَلَدَارُ الْآخِرَةِ خَيْرٌ لِلَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ

12:109 We had not sent before you (Prophet Muhammad) anyone (as apostle) except men from among the people of the country (concerned) conveying Our message. Had they not travelled through the earth and seen what was the end of those before them? The home of the Hereafter is best for the righteous. Will you not then understand?

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا بِلِسَانِ قَوْمِهِ لِيُبَيِّنَ لَهُمْ فَيُضِلُّ اللَّهُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

14:4 We had not sent any apostle except in the language of his people to explain (the message) to them. Then Allah misguides whom He pleases and guides whom He pleases. And He is Mighty, Wise.

Human history thus saw the advent of a string of prophets ending with Prophet Muhammad. The exact number of prophets sent by Allah is not mentioned in the Quran. They all preached Allah's religion Islam.

وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ فَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ هَدَى اللَّهُ وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ حَقَّتْ عَلَيْهِ الضَّلَالَةُ ۗ فَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكذِبِينَ

16:36 We had certainly appointed an apostle to every people (with the message), "You serve Allah and give up *tagut* (i.e., a false god people worshipped)". There are some among them whom Allah guided and some who were left astray. So travel through the earth and see how the end of the rejecters (of Faith) is.

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ فِي شِيَعِ الْأَوَّلِينَ

15:10 We had sent apostles to earlier groups (of people) before you (Prophet Muhammad).

قُولُوا آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْنَا وَمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَالْأَسْبَاطِ وَمَا أُوتِيَ مُوسَىٰ وَعِيسَىٰ وَمَا أُوتِيَ النَّبِيُّونَ مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِنْهُمْ وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ

2:136 You say: We believe in Allah and (in) the revelation sent down to us and (in) the revelation sent down to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob, and to the descendants of Jacob, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to (all) prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between them. And we submit to Him (in Islam).

وَإِذْ يَرْفَعُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ الْقَوَاعِدَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ وَإِسْمَاعِيلُ رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا ۖ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ رَبَّنَا وَاجْعَلْنَا مُسْلِمِينَ لَكَ وَمِنْ دَرَجَاتِنَا أُمَّةٌ مُسْلِمَةٌ لَكَ وَأَرْنَا مَنَاسِكَنَا وَتُبَّ عَلَيْنَا ۖ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الرَّحِيمُ الرَّبَّانِي وَأَبْعَثْ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِكَ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ ۗ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ وَمَنْ يَرْغَبْ عَنْ مِلَّةِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِلَّا مَنْ سَفِهَ نَفْسَهُ ۗ وَلَقَدْ اصْطَفَيْنَاهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا ۖ وَإِنَّهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ لَمِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ إِذْ قَالَ لَهُ رَبُّهُ أَسْلِمْ ۖ قَالَ أَسْلَمْتُ لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَوَصَّىٰ بِهَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ بَنِيهِ وَيَعْقُوبُ يَا بَنِيَّ إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَىٰ لَكُمْ الدِّينَ فَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

2:127-132 And remember Abraham and Ismail raised the foundations of the House (Masjidul Haram). (They prayed:) Our Lord! Accept (this service) from us. Verily You are the All-Hearing, the All-knowing. Our Lord! Make us Muslims and a Muslim community from our progenies. And show us our religious rites and accept our repentance. Verily You are Oft-Returning, Most Merciful. Our Lord! Appoint for them (i.e., for our progenies) a messenger from among themselves who shall recite to them Your revelations and teach them the Book and wisdom, and sanctify them. Indeed You are the Mighty, the Wise. And who will turn away from the religion of Abraham except the one who fools himself? We (i.e., Allah) chose and rendered him pure in this world and he will be in the ranks of the righteous in the Hereafter. Behold! His Lord said to him: Submit (yourself) to Me. He (i.e., Abraham) said: I submit (myself) to the Lord of the worlds. And Abraham and Jacob advised their children about it thus: O my children! Allah has chosen the religion (Islam) for you; then you should not die except as Muslims.

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا

33:40 Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but (he is) the messenger of Allah, and the seal (last) of the prophets; and Allah has full knowledge of all things.

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلًا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْهُمْ مَنْ قَصَصْنَا عَلَيْكَ وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ لَمْ نَقْصُصْ عَلَيْكَ ۗ وَمَا كَانَ لِرَسُولٍ أَنْ يَأْتِيَ بِآيَةٍ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ ۗ فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ فُضِيَ بِالْحَقِّ وَخَسِرَ هُنَالِكَ الْمُبْطِلُونَ

40:78 We had sent apostles before you (Prophet Muhammad). Of them there are some We have mentioned to you and some We have not mentioned to you. It is not possible for

an apostle to bring a sign without Allah's permission. And when Allah's order comes, the judgement will be passed with justice and the followers of falsehood will lose there.

The people of each prophet formed a nation. Each prophet was given a Book (Scripture) containing the religious matters prescribed for his people. That formed Allah's guidance – the religion Islam – for the people of that time.

كَانَ النَّاسُ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً فَبَعَثَ اللَّهُ النَّبِيِّينَ مُبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنذِرِينَ وَأَنْزَلَ مَعَهُمُ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ لِيَحْكُمَ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ فِي مَا اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ ۗ وَمَا اخْتَلَفَ فِيهِ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ أُوتُوهُ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَتْهُمْ الْبَيِّنَاتُ بَغْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ فَهَدَى اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لِمَا اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ مِنَ الْحَقِّ بِإِذْنِهِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ يَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ

2:213 Mankind was a single community. Then Allah sent prophets as conveyors of good news and warnings and He also sent with them the Book in truth to judge between people in matters wherein they differed. But only those who received the Book differed in it after the clear signs had come to them because of mutual hatred. Thus Allah by His mercy guided the believers to the truth in which they differed. And Allah guides whom He likes to the straight path.

وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ جَعَلْنَا مَنْسَكًا لِيَذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ عَلَىٰ مَا رَزَقَهُمْ مِنْ بَهِيمَةِ الْأَنْعَامِ ۗ فَإِلَهُكُمْ إِلَهُ وَاحِدٌ فَلَهُ أَسْلِمُوا ۗ وَبَشِّرِ الْمُخْبِتِينَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَجِلَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَالصَّابِرِينَ عَلَىٰ مَا أَصَابَهُمْ وَالْمُقِيمِي الصَّلَاةِ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ

22:34-35 To every people We have prescribed rites to pronounce the name of Allah over the sustenance He gave them from animals. Your God is One God and so submit to Him (in Islam) and proclaim the good news to the humble (people) whose minds will tremble (with fear) when they are reminded of Allah, who tolerate their afflictions, keep up the Prayer, and spend (in charity) from what We have provided them.

لِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ جَعَلْنَا مَنْسَكًا هُمْ نَاسِكُوهُ ۖ فَلَا يُنَازِعُكَ فِي الْأَمْرِ ۖ وَأَدْعُ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ ۗ إِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ هُدًى مُسْتَقِيمٍ

22:67 To every people We have prescribed rites, which they follow. Let them not then dispute with you (Prophet Muhammad) in that matter. And you invite (people) to your Lord. Certainly you are on the right guidance.

There is only one Book given to a prophet (Q. 13:38-39, 15:4). That Book contained the religion Islam prescribed for his people. Thus the people of a prophet should follow the directives given in the Book sent to their prophet. Allah informs that He tests the people of a prophet in what is given to them (Q. 5:48); i.e., the directions and messages in the Book given to the prophet formed the basis of Allah's test for them. Thus Allah's directives given in the Quran form the religion Islam for the people of Prophet Muhammad, i.e., people born to this earth from the time Muhammad became prophet till the end of the world. The Quran thus forms the basis of divine test to us.

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلًا مِّن قَبْلِكَ وَجَعَلْنَا لَهُمْ أَزْوَاجًا وَدُرِيَّةً ۖ وَمَا كَانَ لِرَسُولٍ أَنْ يَأْتِيَ بِآيَةٍ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ لِكُلِّ أَجَلٍ كِتَابٍ يَمْحُو اللَّهُ مَا يَشَاءُ وَيُثَبِّتُ ۖ وَعِنْدَهُ أُمُّ الْكِتَابِ ۗ

13:38-39 We had sent apostles before you and given them wives and children. It is impossible for an apostle to bring a revelation without Allah's permission. For each period there is a Book. Allah deletes or retains what He wants. With Him is the Mother of the Book.

وَمَا أَهْلَكْنَا مِنْ قَرْيَةٍ إِلَّا وَلَهَا كِتَابٌ مَّعْلُومٌ

15:4 We had not destroyed any country without giving a known Book.

وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَمُهَيِّمًا عَلَيْهِ فَاحْكُم بَيْنَهُمْ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ
عَمَّا جَاءَكَ مِنَ الْحَقِّ لِكُلِّ جَعَلْنَا مِنْكُمْ شِرْعَةً وَمَنْهَاجًا وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَجَعَلَكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَلَكِنْ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ فِي مَا آتَاكُمْ
فَاسْتَبِقُوا الْخَيْرَاتِ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَرْجِعُكُمْ جَمِيعًا فَيُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ

5:48 We sent down the Book (the Quran) to you (O Prophet Muhammad) in truth confirming the Book that came before it and as guardian over it (i.e., protecting the true revelations carried in the earlier Book). Therefore judge between them by what Allah has revealed and do not follow their desires leaving the truth that has come to you. To each among you We have prescribed a law and a (code of religious) practice (*minhaj*). If Allah had so willed, He would have made you a single people, but (His plan is) to test you in what He has given you. So strive to advance in good things. The return of you all is to Allah. It is He who will show you the truth of the matters in which you dispute.

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا مُوسَىٰ وَهَارُونَ الْفُرْقَانَ وَضِيَاءً وَذِكْرًا لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ الَّذِينَ يُحْسِنُونَ رَبَّهُمْ بِالْغَيْبِ وَهُمْ مِنَ السَّاعَةِ مُشْفِقُونَ
21:48-49 We had given to Moses and Harun the criterion (to judge right and wrong), a light and a Reminder (i.e., *Taurat*) for the God-conscious who fear their Lord unseen and who are afraid of the (Final) Hour.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ إِلَّا رِجَالًا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِمْ فَاسْأَلُوا أَهْلَ الذِّكْرِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَالزُّبُرِ وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الذِّكْرَ
لِتُبَيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ مَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْهِمْ وَلَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

16:43-44 And before you (Prophet Muhammad), We had sent only men (as apostles) to whom We transmitted the message. If you do not know this, ask the People of the Book. (We sent them) with clear signs and Scriptures. And We sent down to you (Prophet Muhammad) this Reminder (i.e., the Quran) to explain to the people what has been sent to them so that they may think (over it).

وَوَهَبْنَا لَهُ إِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ كُلًّا هَدَيْنَا وَنُوحًا هَدَيْنَا مِنْ قَبْلُ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِهِ دَاوُدَ وَسُلَيْمَانَ وَأَيُّوبَ وَيُوسُفَ وَمُوسَىٰ
وَهَارُونَ وَكَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ وَزَكَرِيَّا وَيَحْيَىٰ وَعِيسَىٰ وَإِلْيَاسَ كُلٌّ مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَالْيَسَعَ وَيُونُسَ
وَلُوطًا وَكُلًّا فَضَّلْنَا عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ وَمِنْ آبَائِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ وَإِخْوَانِهِمْ وَاجْتَبَيْنَاهُمْ وَهَدَيْنَاهُمْ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ ذَلِكَ هُدَى
اللَّهِ يَهْدِي بِهِ مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ وَلَوْ أَشْرَكُوا لَحَبِطَ عَنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ آتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحُكْمَ وَالنُّبُوَّةَ
فَإِنْ يَكْفُرْ بِهَا هَؤُلَاءِ فَقَدْ وَكَلْنَا بِهَا قَوْمًا لَيَسُوًّا بِهَا بِكَافِرِينَ

6:84-89 We gave him (i.e., Abraham) Isaac and Jacob. We guided all of them. And earlier We guided Noah and from his progeny David, Solomon, Job, Joseph, Moses and Aaron. Thus We reward the righteous. And (We also guided) Zakariya, John, Jesus and Elias. They were all good-doers. And (also) Ismail, Elisha, Jonas and Lot. And We favoured them all over (other) people of the world. And We chose from among their fathers, their progeny and their brethren and We guided them to a straight path. That is Allah's guidance. He guides whom He pleases from among His servants. If they join gods with Him, all that they do would become futile for them. They were those to whom We gave the Book, authority of judgement and prophethood. If they reject them, then We entrusted it with a people who will not reject them.

Although every prophet was given Scripture, only five are mentioned in the Quran by name. These are the Scriptures sent to Prophet Abraham (Ibrahim), Prophet Moses (Musa), Prophet David (Davood), Prophet Jesus Christ (Isa) and Prophet Muhammad. Of these, the Book of Abraham (Q. 87:18-19), the earliest of the series, is practically unknown to the present-day world. There is a book in Greek by G. H. Box called *The Testament of Abraham* published in 1927 by the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, London. It seems to be a Greek translation of a Hebrew original [4]. The book of Moses is *Taurat* (Q. 5:44); the Book of David is *Zaboor* (Q. 4:163); the

Book of Jesus is *Injeel* (Q. 5:46) and the Book of last prophet Muhammad is the Quran (Q. 2:185, 20:114). These Scriptures as well as those not mentioned in the Quran in fact form the divine software (Allah's instructions or programs) of guidance for people of different era.

إِنَّ هَذَا فِي الصُّحُفِ الْأُولَى صُحُفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَىٰ

87:18-19 Verily this (message) is in the earlier Scriptures, the Scriptures of Abraham and Moses.

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا التَّوْرَةَ فِيهَا هُدًى وَنُورٌ ۚ يَحْكُمُ بِهَا النَّبِيُّونَ الَّذِينَ أَسْلَمُوا لِلَّذِينَ هَادُوا وَالرَّبَّابِيُّونَ وَالْأَحْبَارُ بِمَا اسْتُحْفِظُوا مِنْ كِتَابِ اللَّهِ وَكَانُوا عَلَيْهِ شُهَدَاءَ ۚ فَلَا تَخْشَوُا النَّاسَ وَاحْشَوْنَ اللَّهَ ۚ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا بآيَاتِي تَمَنَّا قَلِيلًا ۚ وَمَنْ لَمْ يَحْكَمْ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْكَافِرُونَ

5:44 Indeed, We had sent down the *Taurat* (to Moses). Therein was guidance and light. The messengers who submitted themselves to Allah passed judgement to the Jews with that. Their clerics (*rabbis*) and religious scholars (also followed it) because they were made responsible for the protection of Allah's Book and they were its witnesses. Therefore do not fear people but fear Me and do not sell My signs (i.e., Scriptural revelations) for a paltry price. Those who do not judge by what Allah has revealed, they are the unbelievers.

وَقَفَّيْنَا عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِم بِعِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ مِنَ التَّوْرَةِ ۖ وَأَتَيْنَاهُ الْإِنْجِيلَ فِيهِ هُدًى وَنُورٌ ۖ وَمُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ مِنَ التَّوْرَةِ وَهُدًى وَمَوْعِظَةً لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ

5:46 And We sent Jesus the son of Mary in continuation of them (i.e., earlier apostles) confirming the *Taurat* that came before him. We gave him the *Injeel* (Gospel). Therein is guidance and light and it is a confirmation of the *Taurat* that came before him. It is a guidance and advice to those who are God-conscious.

هُرُّ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ ۚ فَمَنْ شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ ۖ وَمَنْ كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ ۗ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

2:185 “Ramadan is the month in which the Quran was sent down as guidance to mankind and clear proofs for guidance and criterion (for judging right and wrong)...”

فَتَعَالَى اللَّهُ الْمَلِكُ الْحَقُّ ۖ وَلَا تَعْجَلْ بِالْقُرْآنِ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يُقْضَىٰ إِلَيْكَ وَحْيُهُ ۖ وَقُلْ رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا

20:114 High above all is Allah, the true King! You should not be in haste with the Quran before its message is transmitted to you as programmed (by Allah) and say: “O my Lord! Increase my knowledge.”

Prophets were messengers appointed by Allah to convey His directives to the people. If prophets were not sent, people would not have received the divine guidance and would have plea against Allah. The only responsibility assigned by Allah to the prophet is to convey His messages contained in the Book given to him.

رُسُلًا مُّبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنذِرِينَ لِئَلَّا يَكُونَ لِلنَّاسِ عَلَى اللَّهِ حُجَّةٌ بَعْدَ الرُّسُلِ ۚ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا

4:165 Messengers are conveyors of good news and warners so that mankind, after (the coming) of the apostles, should not have any plea against Allah. And Allah is Mighty, Wise.

وَلَوْ أَنَّا أَهْلَكْنَا هُم مِّن قَبْلِهِ لَقَالُوا رَبَّنَا لَوْلَا أَرْسَلْتَ إِلَيْنَا رَسُولًا فَنَتَّبِعَ آيَاتِكَ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ نَذِلَّ وَنَخْرَىٰ

20:134 And if We had destroyed them with a punishment before this, they would have said: “Our Lord! Why did You not send an apostle to us. Then we would have followed Your directives before we suffered disgrace and shame.”

وَلَوْلَا أَنْ تُصِيبَهُمْ مُصِيبَةٌ بِمَا قَدَّمْت أَيْدِيهِمْ فَيَقُولُوا رَبَّنَا لَوْلَا أَرْسَلْتَ إِلَيْنَا رَسُولًا فَنَتَّبِعَ آيَاتِكَ وَنَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ
28:47 (Oh Prophet! We would not have sent you to them) if they will not say when some calamity befalls on them because of what their hands did earlier: “Our Lord! Why did You not send us an apostle? We should have followed then Your signs (i.e., revelations) and become believers”.

وَاصْرَبْ لَهُمْ مَثَلًا أَصْحَابَ الْقَرْيَةِ إِذْ جَاءَهَا الْمُرْسَلُونَ إِذْ أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَيْهِمُ اثْنَيْنِ فَكَذَّبُوهُمَا فَعَزَّزْنَا بِثَالِثٍ فَقَالُوا إِنَّا إِلَيْكُم مُّرْسَلُونَ قَالُوا مَا أَنْتُمْ إِلَّا بَشَرٌ مِثْلُنَا وَمَا أَنْزَلَ الرَّحْمَنُ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِنْ أَنْتُمْ إِلَّا تَكْذِبُونَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا يَعْلَمُ إِنَّا إِلَيْكُم لَمُرْسَلُونَ وَمَا عَلَيْنَا إِلَّا الْبَلَاغُ الْمُبِينُ

36:13-17 You (Prophet Muhammad) describe to them about the people of that country as an example. Behold, when the apostles came there! When We (first) sent to them two apostles, they rejected both of them. Then We strengthened them with a third. The apostles said (to the people): Truly, we are messengers sent to you. The (people) said: You are only men like us. And (Allah) Most Gracious has not sent anything. You are only telling lie. The apostles said: Our Lord knows that we are (messengers) sent to you. And our duty is only to convey (the message) clearly.

وَإِبْرَاهِيمَ إِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاتَّقُوهُ ۖ ذَلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ إِنَّمَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ أَوْثَانًا وَتَخْلُقُونَ إِفْكًا ۚ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ لَا يَمْلِكُونَ لَكُمْ رِزْقًا فَابْتَغُوا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الرِّزْقَ وَاعْبُدُوهُ وَاشْكُرُوا لَهُ ۚ إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ وَإِنْ تَكْذِبُوا فَعُدَّ كَذِبَ أُمَّمٍ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ ۖ وَمَا عَلَى الرَّسُولِ إِلَّا الْبَلَاغُ الْمُبِينُ

29:16-18 And (remember) Abraham, when he said to his people: Serve Allah and fear Him. That is good for you, if you understand. Certainly what you worship besides Allah are mere idols and you invent falsehood. Verily, the things you worship besides Allah have no power to give you sustenance. Therefore, you seek sustenance from Allah. Serve Him and be grateful to Him. To Him will be your return. And if you reject (the message), so did generations before you. The duty of the apostle is only to convey (the message) clearly.

Allah has made agreement with prophets for conveying His Scripture to the people.

وَإِذْ أَخَذَ اللَّهُ مِيثَاقَ النَّبِيِّينَ لَمَا آتَيْتُكُمْ مِنْ كِتَابٍ وَحِكْمَةٍ ثُمَّ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مُصَدِّقٌ لِمَا مَعَكُمْ لَتُؤْمِنُنَّ بِهِ وَلَتَنْصُرُنَّهُ ۚ قَالَ أَأَقْرَرْتُمْ وَأَخَذْتُمْ عَلَىٰ ذَٰلِكُمْ إِصْرِي ۚ قَالُوا أَقْرَرْنَا ۚ قَالَ فَاشْهَدُوا ۚ وَأَنَا مَعَكُمْ مِنَ الشَّاهِدِينَ

3:81 Behold! Allah took covenant of the prophets that “I give you Book and wisdom and then an apostle comes to you confirming what is (i.e., the Book) with you, then you should believe in him and render him help.” Allah said: “Do you agree and accept my covenant as binding on you?” They said: “We agree.” Allah said: “Then you bear witness and I also bear witness along with you.”

وَإِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ مِيثَاقَهُمْ وَمِنْكَ وَمِنْ نُوحٍ وَإِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَىٰ وَعِيسَىٰ ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ ۗ وَأَخَذْنَا مِنْهُم مِيثَاقًا غَلِيظًا لِيَسْأَلَ الصَّادِقِينَ عَنْ صِدْقِهِمْ ۚ وَأَعَدَّ لِلْكَافِرِينَ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا

33:7-8 And remember We took from the prophets their covenant – from you (Prophet Muhammad), from Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus the son of Mary. We took from them a solemn covenant to question the truthful about their honesty. And He has kept for the unbelievers a painful penalty.

The people to whom the prophet was sent formed the nation of that prophet in the divine test programme. The prophet will be the witness of his people on the Day of Judgment.

وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولٌ فَإِذَا جَاءَ رَسُولُهُمْ قُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمْ بِالْقِسْطِ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ

10:47 To every nation (*ummah*) is an apostle. Thus upon arrival of their apostle, judgement would be passed (on Day of Judgement) between them with justice and they will not be dealt with unjustly.

وَيَوْمَ نَبْعَثُ مِنْ كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ شَهِيدًا ثُمَّ لَا يُؤَدُّنَ لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَلَا هُمْ يُسْتَعْتَبُونَ

16:84 The Day We will raise from each people a witness! Then the unbelievers will not be permitted (to present their excuses) nor will they be asked to repent (to Allah for forgiveness).

وَيَوْمَ نَبْعَثُ فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ شَهِيدًا عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَجِئْنَا بِكَ شَهِيدًا عَلَىٰ هَؤُلَاءِ ۗ وَنَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ تَبْيَانًا لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً وَبُشْرَىٰ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ

16:89 The Day We will raise for each people a witness over them from among themselves. And We will bring you as witness over those people. We sent down the Book to you as an explanation to everything, a guide, a mercy, and good news to Muslims (i.e., those who submit to the will of God).

يَوْمَ يَجْمَعُ اللَّهُ الرُّسُلَ فَيَقُولُ مَاذَا أُجِبْتُمْ قَالُوا لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ عَلَّامُ الْغُيُوبِ

5:109 The day Allah will assemble the apostles together! He will ask: What was the response you received (from people to the message you conveyed to them)? They will say: We have no knowledge. Certainly it is You who has full knowledge of the mysteries.

فَكَيْفَ إِذَا جِئْنَا مِنْ كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ بِشَهِيدٍ وَجِئْنَا بِكَ عَلَىٰ هَؤُلَاءِ شَهِيدًا

4:41 How will it be if We bring a witness from each people and We bring you (Prophet Muhammad) as witness over these people?

Several nations had gone by prior to the coming of Prophet Muhammad. Allah has stipulated a fixed term for the people of each prophet. Neither will it be advanced nor delayed. Once punished for their sins, the community cannot make a fresh comeback.

وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ أَجَلٌ فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُهُمْ لَا يَسْتَأْخِرُونَ سَاعَةً وَلَا يَسْتَقْدِمُونَ

7:34 To each people there is a term. When their term is reached, they will not be delayed by an hour nor will they be advanced.

The earlier peoples did not accept their prophets and Allah's guidance. Through many verses Allah informs us that when the people rejected Allah's guidance, they were destroyed on reaching their term and in their place new generations were brought. But they also had the same fate.

فَقَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ سُنَنٌ فَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكذِّبِينَ

3:137 Many ways of life (civilizations) have passed before you. So, travel through the earth and see what was the end of the rejecters.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ إِلَّا رَجَالًا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِمْ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْقُرَىٰ ۗ أَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنْظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ ۗ وَلَدَارُ الْآخِرَةِ خَيْرٌ لِلَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا ۗ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ ۗ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا اسْتَيْسَسَ الرُّسُلُ وَظَنُّوا أَنَّهُمْ قَدْ كُذِّبُوا ۗ جَاءَهُمْ نَصْرُنَا فَنُجِّيَ مَنْ نَشَاءُ ۗ وَلَا يُرَدُّ بَأْسُنَا عَنِ الْقَوْمِ الْمُجْرِمِينَ لَقَدْ كَانَ فِي قَصَصِهِمْ عِبْرَةٌ لِأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ ۗ مَا كَانَ حَدِيثًا يُفْتَرَىٰ وَلَكِنْ تَصْدِيقَ الَّذِي بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَتَفْصِيلَ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لِقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ

12:109-111 We had not sent before you anyone (as apostle) except men from among the people of the country (concerned) conveying Our message. Had they not travelled through the earth and seen what was the end of those before them? The home of the Hereafter is best for the righteous. Will you not then understand? When the apostles became disappointed (with their people) and (began to) think they were being treated as liars, Our help came to them and those whom We wish were saved. And Our punishment will not be blocked from the sinning people. There is indeed a lesson in their story for the intelligent people. This (Quran) is not a concocted account. On the other hand it is a confirmation of what went before it and a detailed explanation of all things. And it is a guide and mercy to believing people.

Besides the total destruction of the nations, the Quran also mentions about several other methods of dealing with wrongdoers by God so that they receive admonition. To this list of punishments belong drought, food scarcity (crop failures), mass death, outbreak of locusts, lice, etc. (Q. 7:130,133).

وَلَقَدْ أَخَذْنَا آلَ فِرْعَوْنَ بِالسِّنِينَ وَنَقْصِ مِنَ التَّمْرَاتِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ

7:130 We (i.e., Allah) seized the people of Pharaoh with years of (drought) and reduced crop produce (i.e., famine) to make them remember (their wrongdoing).

فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمُ الطُّوفَانَ وَالْجَرَادَ وَالْقُمَّلَ وَالضَّفَادِعَ وَالدَّمَ آيَاتٍ مُفَصَّلَاتٍ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا وَكَانُوا قَوْمًا مُجْرِمِينَ

7:133 So We sent on them (calamities like) flood, locusts, lice, frogs and blood as clear signs (of divine displeasure). Then they were arrogant; they had become sinners.

From the foregoing, it can be understood that Allah punished earlier peoples with natural calamities when they rejected Allah's guidance. There is also punishment in the Hereafter. Allah asks us whether this is not a guiding lesson to us who came after them. Allah also asks us to travel to those places of ancient civilization and see for ourselves what the end of our predecessors was.

The role of Satan in the test

An important facet of the divine test is the presence of Satan virus in human biosystem. Human being is by nature believer in God since the biosystem has information about the Creator God. Human mind is therefore by default God-oriented. Therefore, unless there is mechanism in the biosystem to divert the processor mind from Allah's guidance, the test will be practically ineffective. The Satan virus is installed in human biosystem to do that job. It misleads human mind from the path of Allah. The Satan puts all kinds of tempting suggestions and tries to lure the mind into the worldly enjoyments and away from the divine path. If the mind falls a prey to Satan's deception, the individual will be on the wrong path. If on the other hand, the mind accepts the divine path and submits to Allah, the individual will be a Muslim. Either of these is a voluntary decision taken by the mind. Whether the mind would accept or reject the divine path is what Allah is testing. The presence of Satan virus thus makes the test the most effective, efficient and perfect.

Real-time recording of test performance

Recording of the performance of each human individual during the test life is a pre-requisite for evaluation and judgement by Allah on the Day of Judgement. Real-time

recording of the conscious activities (i.e., those performed by the order of mind) is going on in human memory (*sadr*) and other tissues. Therefore the information stored in *sadr* provides the complete record of one's conscious activities. The data stored in the respective tissues would provide supplementary information validating the information stored in the *sadr*. The information will be retrieved and given to the individual on the Day of Judgement.

The last prophet in the series is Prophet Muhammad. The Scripture sent to Prophet Muhammad was the Quran. It is the Quran that the nation of Prophet Muhammad should follow. It is based on the Quran the performance of the people of Prophet Muhammad will be judged.

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