

Ramadan Daily Quran Studies, by Dr Zahid Aziz, 2025

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Study 30:

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ as the Last and Final Prophet

- The Quran says about the Holy Prophet Muhammad:

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ^ط
وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا ﴿٤٠﴾

“Muhammad is not the father of any of your men,
but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets.
And Allah is ever Knower of all things.” — 33:40

- The term “Seal of the Prophets” is *Khātam-un-Nabiyyīn* in Arabic. It means that the Holy Prophet Muhammad sealed and closed the institution of prophethood, and was thus the last and final prophet.

- This verse is saying that the Holy Prophet has no physical son or male heir to continue his line. On the other hand, he is the Messenger of Allah and as such he is the spiritual father of all Muslims, of all the many who follow his message.
- Moreover, he will always remain their spiritual father because no prophet shall come after him to take his place as father.
- The **two facts** that he came for all humanity and he brought religion to its perfection also imply that he is the last Prophet.
- The Quran says:

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ...

“Say: O mankind, surely I am the Messenger of Allah to you all,
of Him Whose is the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. ...”

— 7:158

... الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي

وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمْ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا ...

“...This day have I perfected for you your religion
and completed My favour to you
and chosen for you Islam as a religion. ...”

— 5:3

- The three verses we have quoted above represent different sides of the same picture. Each of them, taken by itself, requires the other two to be applicable as well.

1. *If the Holy Prophet is **the last Prophet**, as stated in 33:40, then he should have come for all mankind because no prophet before him had come for all mankind, and he should have come with the perfect religion since no prophet would come after him.*

2. *If the Holy Prophet **came for all mankind***, as stated in 7:158, the purpose of his coming is to unite humanity. Therefore he would be the last prophet because another prophet after him would divide humanity again after its unity. He would also bring the perfect religion since no prophet would come after him.

3. *If the Holy Prophet **brought a perfect religion***, as stated in 5:3, and God's favour was completed upon mankind, then it means no prophet can arise after him, and that he would also have arisen for all mankind.

- Being merely *last* is no virtue by itself. If someone was the last king in a dynasty, it means that the rule of that dynasty finished with him. No one continued to obey the laws of that king or that dynasty after him.
- *As opposed to this*, the Holy Prophet Muhammad is the Last Prophet because his spiritual rule will continue *forever*.
- You can say that the “dynasty” of prophethood at its end produced a Prophet whose rule remains in force forever. Therefore no prophet is needed after him.

- The Holy Prophet Muhammad himself stated in clear words that the meaning of his being *Khātam-un-Nabiyyīn* is that no prophet would come after him. He said:
 - “My example and the example of the prophets before me is the example of a man who has a house and he made it very good and very beautiful, except for the place of a brick in a corner. People began to go round it and to wonder at it and to say: Why has not this stone been placed? So I am that brick, and I am the Seal of the Prophets (*Khātam-un-Nabiyyīn*).”

— Bukhari, hadith 3535

➤ “The Israelites used to be led by prophets. Whenever a prophet died, another prophet came after him. There will be no prophet after me, but there will be *khalifas* (successors), and they will be numerous.”

— Bukhari, hadith 3455

➤ The Holy Prophet said: “I have been given superiority over the other prophets in six respects.” Of these six, the last two he mentioned are these: “I have been sent to all humanity and prophets have come to an end with me.”

— Sahih Muslim, hadith 523a

- The Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, wrote as follows about this:

“The Holy Prophet Muhammad had repeatedly said that no prophet would come after him, and the hadith *‘There will be no prophet after me’* was so well-known that no one had any doubt about its authenticity.

And the Holy Quran, every word of which is binding, in its verse *‘but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Khātam-un-Nabiyyīn’*, confirmed that prophethood has in fact ended with our Holy Prophet.

Then how could it be possible that any prophet should come after the Holy Prophet Muhammad, according to the real meaning of prophethood? This would have destroyed the entire fabric of Islam.” (Kitab-ul-Bariyya, p. 184, footnote)

*END OF STUDY 30
AND THE RAMADAN DAILY QURAN STUDIES
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