

“Last Prophet” Meaning and Prediction of Muhammad in Ancient Religious Books

H. Sayoud

EDT

Sayoud.net

Abstract

According to the holy Quran, it is well known that Muhammad is considered as the last Prophet sent by Allah (God). In this study we explore and debate that fact fourteen centuries later, by trying to find out what could be the consequences and conclusions to deduce. Moreover, we try to explore some ancient prophecies about the apparition of the Prophet Muhammad, which are reported in some ancient religious books such as the Bible and book of Habakkuk.

This study has shed light on the deep meaning of “Last Prophet” and revealed several holy texts on the prophecy of the Prophet Muhammad from the ancient religious books, which confirm the veracity and truthfulness of the holy Quran.

I. Last Prophet Concept and Truthfulness of the Holy Quran

As we know, in the Quran it is stated that Muhammad (Pbuh) is the messenger of God/Allah and that he is the last Prophet. In this survey, we will focus on the following verse (33:40):

[33:40] مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِنْ رِجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِنْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا

Translation: "Muhammad is not the father of any man among you, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the last (end) of the Prophets. And Allah is Ever All-Aware of everything".

In this holy verse, Allah says that Muhammad is his Messenger and not the father of any man among his companions. He also added that he is the last prophet, which represents a very interesting information to explore and debate.

In fact, if another new religion, revealed by a new prophet, appeared after the death of Muhammad (Pbuh), then this verse would present a contradiction.

However, as we know, no new religion has been revealed after the Islam* and no Prophet has been reported except those who are well known, such as Jesus/Isa, Moses/Musa, Abraham/Ibrahim, etc. (see figure 1), and then the previous verse does represent a real proof on the truth of the holy Quran.

* The terme of religion refers to a serious revelation from God/Allah with a Divine holy book and which is effectively followed by a large population of people, such as Islam or Christianity for instance.

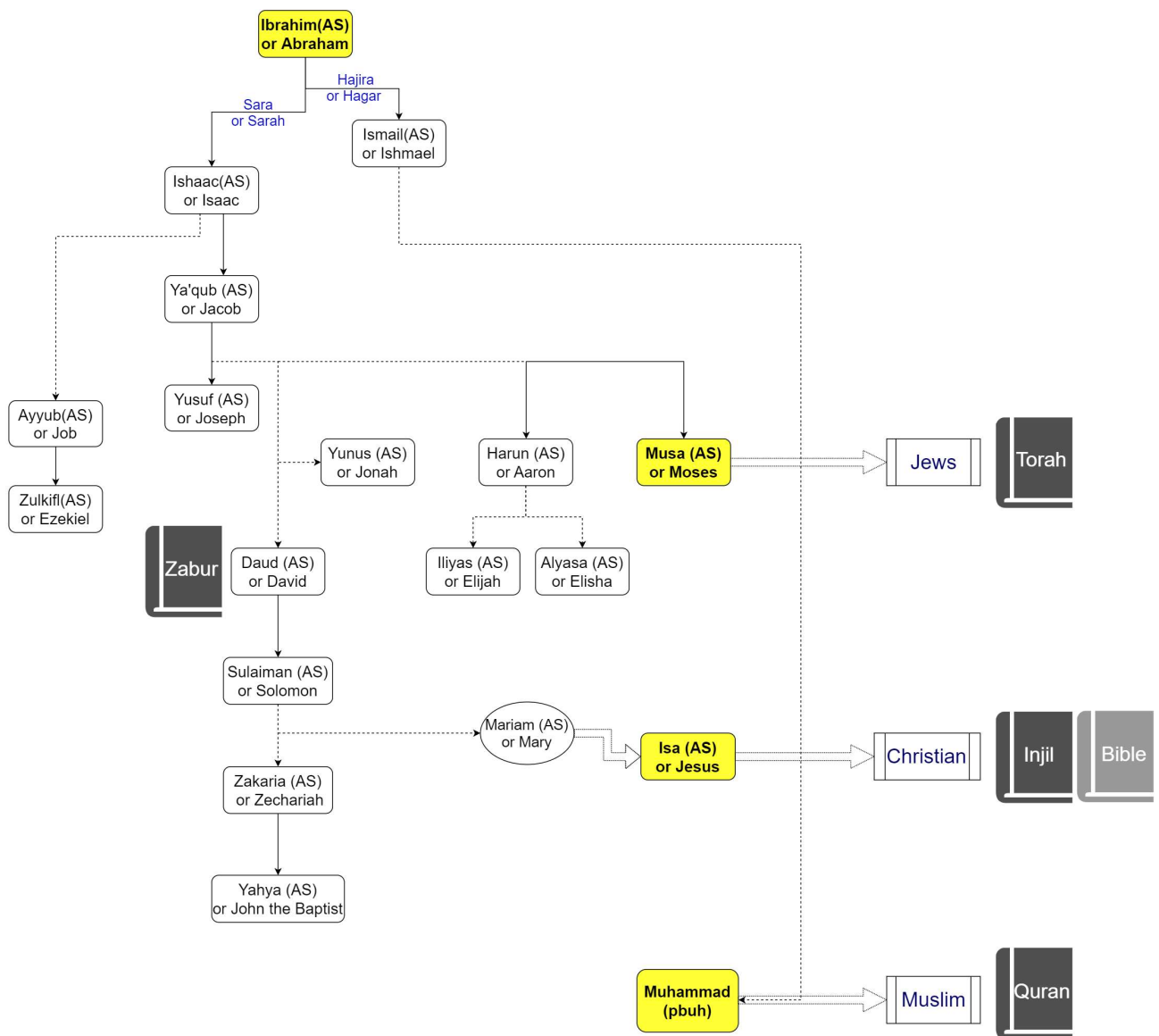


Figure 1: Prophets tree in accordance to Islam. *Photo from Islam-beliefs.net* [Islam-beliefs].

II. Other significations on the fact that there will be no more Prophets

The fact that Muhammad is the last Prophet and that there will be no other Prophet after him, involves the following important points:

- This Prophet is sent for all the humanity, as clarified by the Prophet (Pbuh);
- The holy Quran will be preserved against alterations since there will be no other Divine book after. This fact has also been cited in the Quran verse (15:9) “إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ{” , which can be translated into “Indeed We have sent down the Quran, and indeed We Ourselves surely are its Guardians”. This is one of the miracles of the Quran, since no one has been able to change even one word of its text, and has remained in its original morphological form since the 6th Century (A. D).
- The end of the world is expected, as reported by the Prophet (Pbuh) “«بعثت أنا والساعة كهاتين»”, which can be translated into “I have been sent and the Hour (end of the world) as these two (fingers)”.
- There is no need to another new revelation or another new religion. This fact can be confirmed by observing the global religion expansion in the world, as displayed in figure 2, and where one can notice that Islam is the most growing religion in the world;

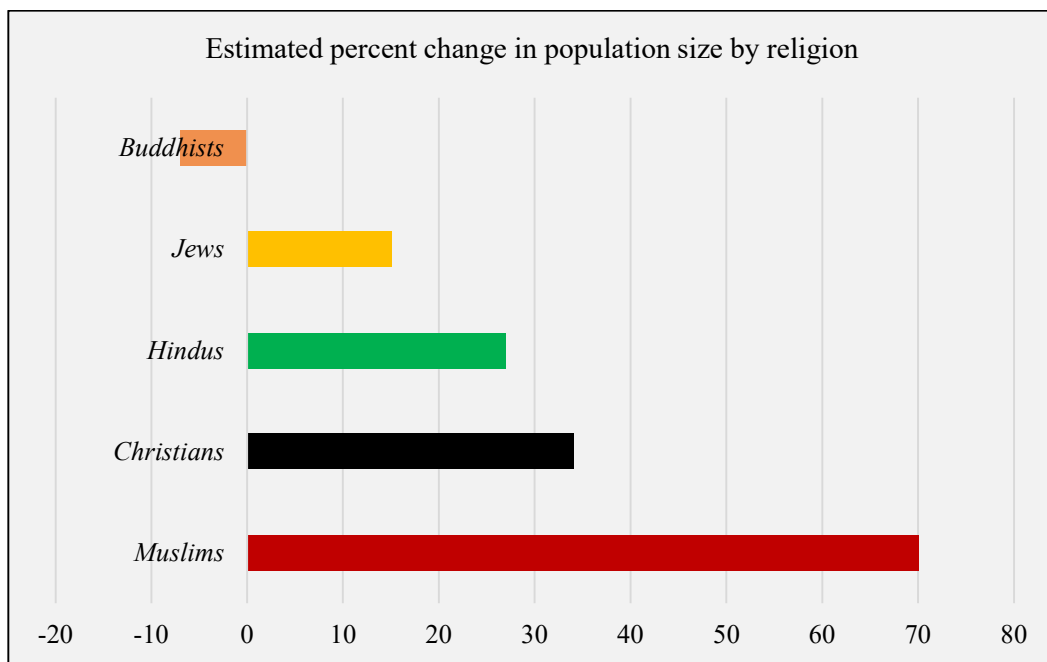


Figure 2: Estimated percent change in population size by religion. Source: *Pew Research center demographic projection.*

According to this study, one can conclude that a lot of information can be deduced from the fact that Muhammad is the last Prophet and that there will be no other Prophet after him, as discussed in this paper, but one of the most important points to note here is that this fact represents a real proof on the truthiness of the holy Quran (since no new religion has been revealed after the Islam).

III. Prediction of Muhammad in the Bible and ancient religious books

- **1st Prediction**

The Gospel of Barnabas is attributed to Barnabas and is considered as one of the disciples of Jesus. The total authenticity of this Gospel has not been established, but it appears quite interesting by explicitly predicting the Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) in it. For example, the chapter 163 of the Gospel says:

“... Then Jesus said: ‘So secret is predestination, O brethren, that I say to you, truly, only to one man shall it be clearly known. He it is whom the nations look for, to whom the secrets of God are so clear that, when he comes into the world, blessed shall they be that shall listen to his words, because God shall overshadow them with his mercy even as this palm-tree overshadows us. Yes, even as this tree protects us from the burning heat of the sun, even so the mercy of God will protect from Satan them that believe in that man.’ The disciples answered, “O Master, who shall that man be of whom you speak, who shall come into the world?” Jesus answered with joy of heart: **‘He is Muhammad; Messenger of God,** and when he comes into the world, even as the rain makes the earth to bear fruit when for a long time it has not rained, even so shall he be occasion of good works among men, through the abundant mercy which he shall bring ...” [Quran Project].

According to this chapter, Jesus clearly foretells that there will be another Prophet coming after and his name is Muhammad, as well expressed in the previous paragraph (sentence in red).

- **2nd Prediction**

Pr David Abdu Benjamin Keldani, BD, a Roman Catholic priest of the Uniate-Chaldean sect, wrote the book, ‘Muhammad in the Bible.’, where he cited one translated paragraph from the Gospel of John:

“... and he shall give you another Parakletos/Periqlytos, that he may stay with you for ever” (John xiv. 16).

Pr Keldani rewrote it in the following explanative form:

“... and he shall send you another apostle whose name shall be Periqlytos, that he may remain with you for ever.”

In his book, he said: “There is not the slightest doubt that by “Periqlyte,” Muhammad, i.e. Ahmad, is intended. The two names, one in Greek and the other in Arabic, have precisely the same signification, and both mean the “most Illustrious and Praised” [Dawood, A. A.].

- **3rd Prediction**

Deuteronomy 33:1-2 (fifth book of the Old Testament) combines references to Moses (Pbuh), Jesus (Pbuh), and Muhammad (Pbuh). It speaks about God’s revelation coming from Sinai, rising from Seir (probably the village of Sair near Jerusalem) and shining forth from Paran. According to Genesis 21:21, the wilderness of Paran was the place where Ishmael (Pbuh) settled. In other words, it was in Arabia, and specifically in Makkah.

Another sign of the prophet to come from Paran (Makkah) was that he would come with “ten thousands of holy ones.” (Deuteronomy 33:2) That was the exact number of faithful who accompanied Muhammad (bpuh) to Makkah. The text says:

“He shone forth from Mount Paran; he came from the ten thousands of holy ones, with flaming fire at his right hand.”

According to Islamic history, the city of Makkah (Paran) was liberated by Prophet Muhammad's 10,000 troops. If Muhammad (pbuh), who liberated the city of Paran with 10,000 believing, was not the one who fulfilled this Biblical prophecy, then who was that prophet? [Al-Rassi, M. S.].

- **4th Prediction**

Habakkuk 3:3 (known as book of "Habakkuk the prophet") speaks of God (God's help) coming from Teman (an oasis north of Madinah, according to Hastings' Dictionary of the Bible), and the "Holy One" coming from Paran. That "Holy One" who, under persecution, migrated from Paran (Makkah) to be received enthusiastically in Madinah was none other than Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). [Al-Rassi, M. S. The Amazing Prophecies of Muhammad in the Bible]. See the Habakkuk 3:3 paragraph given below.

"... and the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah His glory covered the heavens, and His praise filled the earth.[3] His radiance was like the sunlight; rays flashed from His hand, where His power is hidden.[4]". [Habakkuk 3:3-4].

So according to the admission of the Bible scholars and the Bible itself in Genesis 21:21 Paran is in Arabia, the land where prophet Ishmael settled. Then who is the Prophet who rose from Arabia? Isn't he Muhammed (Pbuh)? [Anthony Matthew Jacob].

IV. Conclusion

During this study, we developed and debated the fact that Muhammad is considered the last prophet and discussed what could be the meaning and impact of this in a philosophical and logical aspect, where we could raise four main significations and conclusions that strengthen the Quran truthiness.

On the other hand, we tried to explore some ancient prophecies about the Prophet Muhammad apparition in the ancient holy books, where we could also find four amazing prophecies on the coming of another prophet from the Arabic peninsula who cannot be anyone other than Muhammad (Pbuh), which strengthen the Prophet truthiness.

Consequently, we can conclude that all these facts represent a strong proof on the veracity and truthiness of the holy Quran and the Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh), leading to a wise and thorough reflection on the holy words of our Creator.

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