

REASONS FOR THE REVELATION OF THE HOLY QUR'AN

1. The holy Qur'an was revealed to guide mankind to the straight path because many people had forgotten completely the oneness of Allah.

Allah says in **Q (2:2)**; *“This is a book in which there is no doubt, a guide to the righteous”*

2. The holy Qur'an was revealed to restore Allah's message to man because the earlier scriptures had been corrupted by man's worldly desires and selfish interests. Books such as Tauret, Zabur and Injir were no longer serving the purpose for which they were revealed.

The prophet (SAW) said; *“Recitation of surat al-Fatiha summarizes the earlier revealed books.”*

3. The holy Qur'an was revealed to finalize prophet hood where Prophet Muhammad PBUH is the seal of all Allah's prophets.

Allah says in **Q (33:40)**; *“He is the apostle of Allah and the last of the prophets.”*

4. It was revealed to end Allah's message to man because the earlier revealed books contained prophecies of the coming of the last messenger with the final message from Allah. This was fulfilled by the revelation of the holy Qur'an.

Allah says in **Q (5:3)**; *“This day I have perfected your religion for you and completed my favour up on you. I have chosen Islam to be your religion.”*

5. The holy Qur'an was revealed to act as the first source of Islamic law because it is the criteria between what is right and what is wrong.

Allah states in **Q (17:9)**; *“This Qur'an guides to what is most right...”*

6. The holy Qur'an was revealed to unite mankind who had been divided by the warring tribes in Arabia before the advent of Islam. The holy Qur'an was to act as an umbrella of unity for the various tribes which were enemies to one another before its revelation.

Allah says in **Q (49:10-13)**; *“The believers are but brothers: so make peace and reconciliation between your two brothers and fear Allah, that you may receive mercy.”*

7. The holy Qur'an was revealed to remind mankind about the oneness of God. That is why Allah sent Prophet Muhammad PBUH to teach man His nature and attributes contained in Qur'an 112.

8. It was revealed to fulfill Allah's promises and prophecies of the coming of the last Message and messenger contained in earlier scriptures.

Allah says in **Q (61:6)**; *“And remember, Jesus, the son of Mary, said; ‘O children of Israel! I am the messenger of Allah sent to you,*

confirming the law before me, and giving glad tidings of the messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad'..."

9. The holy Qur'an was revealed to narrate and summarise the stories and events of earlier generations in order to offer teachings, lessons, warnings and guidance to shape human beings.

Allah says in **Q (12:111)**;

"There is, in their stories, instruction for men invested with understanding. It is not a story created but a confirmation of what went before it...."

10. It was revealed to give courage to the Prophet PBUH whenever he was offended by the Quraish Meccans. For example during the Futra period, Allah sent **Q(93:3)** to assure the Prophet PBUH that his Lord had not forsaken him nor was He displeased with him.

Allah says in **Q (93:3)**; *"Your Lord has neither forsaken you nor hates you."*

11. It was revealed to warn transgressors of Allah's wrath on the day of judgement and to give good tidings to the righteous. The reward for the righteous is paradise while hell is the final destination for the wrongdoers.

12. There was need to bring about a spiritual advancement in human mind so that it could correspond to the social evolution he had undergone. This is supported by the fact that the holy Qur'an is a book of all times.

13. The holy Qur'an was revealed to answer Prophet Ibrahim's prayer found in **Q (2:129)** who upon completing the construction of the Kaaba together with his son Ismail supplicated to Allah to raise from among the descendants of Ismail (Arabs) a messenger to recite to them His signs and teach them the book of wisdom and purify them. Hence, a justification for the revelation of the holy Qur'an as a book of wisdom.

14. It was revealed to stop the wide spread of immorality especially the Jahiliyya practices since the Arabs were the worst in disbelief as per **Q (9:97)**.

15. It was revealed to act as a source of wisdom to man. Allah says in **Q (12:2)**;

"Indeed We have sent it down as an Arabic Qur'an, in order that you may learn wisdom."

16. It was revealed to universalize Allah's message because the earlier scriptures had been sent to particular regions and nations e.g Jesus was sent to the Israelites with the Injil while Musa was sent to the Jews with the Tauret. Therefore, there was need for a book that could universalise Allah's message, hence the revelation of the holy Qur'an.

Allah says in **Q (81:27)**; *"Verily! This is no less than a message to all worlds (nations)"*

17. The revelation of the holy Qur'an was aimed at curbing down the rate of illiteracy that had loomed wide in the world. That is why Allah started with an illiterate prophet and the first

verses in the holy Qur'an pointed at the importance of education, not any of the prevalent Jahiliyya practices.

Allah says in **Q (96:1-5)**;

“Read in the name of your Lord who created.

Created man from a clot of blood.

Read! And your Lord is the Most Bountiful one,

who taught by the pen, taught man what he did not know.”

- 18.** The holy Qur'an was revealed due to Allah's will. This is because according to Q (**36:82**), *when He decrees a thing, He just says be and it is.*

THE REVELATION OF THE HOLY QUR'AN

(Stages of Qur'anic revelation)

1. The holy Qur'an was not revealed to Prophet Muhammad PBUH as a whole but it was revealed to him in piecemeal.
2. It was revealed to the prophet for a period of 23years, 2 months and 22days between AD 610 and 632 in the two noble cities of Mecca and Madiina.
3. Before its revelation, the holy Qur'an was kept by Allah on the 'preserved tablet', where His revealed books were kept before being given to their recipients.

Allah says in **Q (85:21-22)**; *“... this is a Glorious Qur'an, in a Tablet Preserved.”*

4. From the Tablet Preserved in the 7th heaven, it was brought as a whole on the 1st heaven by angel Jibril, from where its verses were brought to the Prophet PBUH according to the circumstances of the time.
5. Prophet Muhammad PBUH received the 1st message at the age of forty in 610 AD in one of the nights of the month of Ramadhan while meditating in the cave of mountain Hira.
6. The night in which the holy Qur'an was revealed is described in the holy Qur'an as the **'Night of Power'**.

Allah says in **Q (97:1)**; *“We have indeed revealed this message in the Night of Power.”*

He also says in **Q (2:185)**;

“Ramadhan is the month in which was sent down the Qur'an, as a guide to mankind...”

7. While in the cave of Mount Hira meditating, Prophet Muhammad PBUH fell asleep and suddenly heard a voice calling him “Muhammad.” When he woke up, the voice told him to read.

8. Muhammad (SAW) answered that he could not read but the voice insisted that he had to read. After terribly squeezing him and confirming that he could not read, the voice told him to read thus;

*“Read in the name of your Lord who created.
Created man from a clot of blood.
Read! And your Lord is the Most Bountiful one,
who taught by the pen, taught man what he did not know.”*

This was the first revelation of the holy Qur’an which is now found in **chapter 96, verses 1-5** of the holy Qur’an.

9. The experience of this revelation shook and stunned the prophet and hurried to his wife Khadijah whom he asked to cover him with a blanket. When he recovered his composure, he narrated to her the story of his experience.
10. He was concerned that he was hallucinated or had lost his mind but Khadijah assured him that he was balanced and that his experience had some super natural explanation.
11. She took him to her friend, **Waraq ibn Naufal**, who had knowledge of previous scriptures. Waraq confirmed that Muhammad’s experience resembled that of Moses and other prophets and, therefore, he had also become a prophet of Allah.
12. Between the first and second revelation, there was a period of recess of three years called **FUTRA PERIOD** without any message coming to the prophet, during which the Meccans mocked the prophet that Allah had forsaken him until when **Q74:1-4** was revealed.
13. In the beginning, verses came to the prophet PBUH in intervals and in small bits but as time went by, it grew both in frequency and volume until when it almost came like a continuous stream.
14. Furthermore, revelations came over the remaining thirteen years of the prophet’s life in Mecca and ten years in Madiina.
15. By the time of his death, the revelation composed of 114 chapters. The last chapter being Surat al-Taubah (Repentance) numbered 9th while the last verse believed to be **Q (5:3)**.

Q (5:3) says: *“Today I have completed for you your religion, fulfilled upon you my favours, and approved for you Islam as your religion.”*