

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Surah Baqarah

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

136. Say ye: "We believe in Allah, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to (all) prophets from their Lord: We make no difference between one and another of them: And we bow to Allah (in Islam)".

Here we have the Creed of Islam: to believe in (1) the One Universal God, (2) the Message to us through Muhammad and the Signs (ayat) as interpreted on the basis of personal responsibility, (3) the Message delivered by other Teachers in the past. These are mentioned in three groups: (1) Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob and the Tribes: of these Abraham had apparently a Book (87:19) and the others followed his tradition: (2) Moses and Jesus, who each left a scripture; these scriptures are still extant though not in their pristine form; and (3) other scriptures, Prophets, or Messengers of Allah, not specifically mentioned in the Qur'an (11:78). We make no difference between any of these. Their Message (in essentials) was one, and that is the basis of Islam. (Cf. 3:84 and 4:163).

*The Noble Quran/Yusuf Ali.*

Allah directed the believers to refrain from differentiating between the Prophets and to believe in them all.....قَالَ... (And wish to make distinction between Allah and His Messengers (by believing in Allah and disbelieving in His Messengers) saying, "We believe in some but reject others," and wish to adopt a way in between. They are in truth disbelievers) (4:150-151).

Al-Bukhari narrated that Abu Hurayrah said, "The People of the Book used to read the Torah in Hebrew and translate it into Arabic for the Muslims. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said,

لَا تُصَدِّقُوا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ وَلَا تَكْدِبُوهُمْ وَقُولُوا: آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْنَا (Do not believe the People of the Book, nor reject what they say. Rather, say, We believe in Allah and in what was sent down to us.)"

Also, Muslim, Abu Dawud and An-Nasa'i recorded that Ibn `Abbas said, "Mostly, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ used to recite, آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْنَا (We believe in Allah and that which has been sent down to us) (2: 136), and, آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ ۗ وَاشْهَدُوا بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ (We believe in Allah, and bear witness that we are Muslims (i.e. we submit to Allah)) (3:52) during the two (voluntary) Rak`at before Fajr."

Abu Al-`Aliyah, Ar-Rabi` and Qatadah said, "Al-Asbat are the twelve sons of Jacob, and each one of them had an Ummah of people from his descendants... Moses said to the Children of Israel, اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ جَعَلَ فِيكُمْ أَنْبِيَاءَ وَجَعَلَكُمْ مُلُوكًا (Remember the favor of Allah to you: when He made Prophets among you, made you kings) (5:20). Also, Allah said, وَقَطَعْنَاهُمْ اثْنَتَيْ عَشْرَةَ أَسْبَابًا (And We divided them into twelve tribes) (7:160).

...Qatadah said, "Allah commanded the believers to believe in Him and in all His Books and Messengers. "Also, Sulayman bin Habib said, "We were commanded to believe in the (original) Torah and Injil, but not to implement them".

*Tafsir Ibn Kathir.*

Al-Bukhari transmitted that Abu Hurayra said, "The People of the Book used to recite the Torah in Hebrew and explain it in Arabic to the people of Islam. The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said, "Neither believe or deny the People of the Book. Say, 'We believe in Allah and what has been revealed.'"... Ibn 'Abbas said, "A group of Jews came to the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم and asked him about which of the Prophets he believed in and this ayat was revealed. When he mentioned 'Isa, they said, 'We do not believe in 'Isa or in anyone who does believe in him.'"... "We do not differentiate between any of them" means we do not believe in some and reject others like the Jews and Christians do.

*Tafsir Qurtubi*

