

READINGS IN ISLAMIC DA'WAH

Editor
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DA'WAH TO JEWS AND CHRISTIANS

Mohd Yusof Hussain

The term *Ahl al-Kitāb* (People of the Book) refers to Jews (*Yahūd*) and Christians (*Naṣārā*) as inheritors of books previously revealed by Allāh (s.w.t.). Specifically, the books are the *Zabūr* (*Psalms*), *Tawrāt* (Torah/Pentateuch), and *Injīl* (Gospels), all of which are recognized by the Qur'ān as Allāh's revelation. However, Muslims believe these books have been distorted, tempered and corrupted (*tahrīf*) and during Prophet Muḥammad's time they were abrogated and superseded by the Qur'ān, the final and complete revelations of Allāh (s.w.t.).

Du'āt have been targeting Jews and Christians since very early times inviting them to Islām, the original religion of Prophets Ibrāhīm (Abraham), Da'ud (David), Mūsa (Moses) and 'Īsa (Jesus), peace be upon them all.

Judaism and Christianity

Judaism

Judaism preceded Christianity and Islām. According to the *Torah*, the Jewish religion originated with God's call to Prophet Ibrāhīm (Gen, 22). It is the religion of the *Banī Isrāil*, a phrase which occurs forty times in the Qur'ān. The most important figure in Judaism is Prophet Musa (Moses) a.s. who that freed the children of Isrāil from Egyptian bondage and also, the great teacher of the *Tawrāt* that was revealed to him by Allāh (s.w.t.).

The *Tawrāt* is mentioned eighteen times in the Qur'ān. It is confirmed by the Qur'ān as Allāh's revelation:

“We gave Moses the book, and made it a guide to the children of Isrāil (Commanding): take not other than me as disposer of (your) affairs.”

al-Isrā' (17):2