And the first of them was Nooh, 'alaihissalaam, and the last of them was Muhammad sallAllaahu'alaihi wa sallam; and the proof that the first of them was Nooh, 'alaihissalaam, is His saying, He the Most High:

We have sent you, (O Muhammad with) Revelation, just as We sent Revelation to Nooh and to the prophets who came after him [4:163] 75

[75]:

The proof that the first of them was Nooh is His saying, He the Most High:

We sent revelation to you...

This was an address to the Prophet sallAllaahu'alaihiwasallam

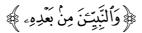
...just as We sent revelation to Nooh and the prophets who came after him; and We sent revelation to Ibraaheem and Isma'eel and Is-haaq and Ya'qoob and to the tribes and to 'Eesaa and Ayyoob and Yoonus and Haaroon and Sulaymaan; and We gave the Zaboor to Daawud. [4:163]

Allaah mentioned a number of their names together in this aayah, just as He mentioned a number of their names together in the aayah from Soorah al An'aam:

And from his descendants were Daawood and Sulaymaan and Ayyoob and Yoosuf and Moosaa and Haaroon... [6:84]

to the end of the aayaat.

So the first of them was Nooh - 'alaihissalaatu wassalaam - as proven by His saying, He the Most High:



And the prophets who came after him... [4:163]

Allaah sent him (Nooh) to his people when they went beyond the limits concerning the righteous people after the people had been upon the religion of *Tawheed* from the time of Aadam 'alaihissalaam for ten generations and they were upon *Tawheed*.

So when the people of Nooh came, there were amongst (those people) righteous men. Then when those righteous men died, the people grieved severely for them. So Satan seized the opportunity and said to them, "Make images of those righteous people and set them up in the places where you sit in order that when you see these images, you will remember their condition and you will gain enthusiasm upon worship." So therefore they made images of those dead people and they set them up in the sitting places but they (these images) were not worshipped to begin with because of the presence of scholars who used to explain *Tawheed* to the people and used to criticize shirk.

Then when the people of knowledge died and the first generation passed away, a later generation came - and the scholars had died - Satan came and said to them, "Your forefathers only erected these images in order to worship them and they used to seek rain near them (these images)."

So he made worship of them seem to be good, so they worshipped them besides Allaah. So in this way, shirk came about upon the Earth; so Allaah therefore sent His Prophet Nooh - 'alaihissalaatu wassalaam - calling them to Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, and seeking to return them to Tawheed, which was the religion of their forefather Aadam - 'alaihissalaam. However they (Nooh's people) were obstinate and haughty:

And they said, "Do not forsake those objects that you worship! Do not forsake Wadd nor Suwaa' nor Yaghooth nor Ya'ooq nor Nasr. [71:23]

Ibn 'Abbaas said:

"These were the names of righteous men; they made images of them and they set them up in their sitting places, and this eventually led them to worshipping them besides Allaah."⁸⁶

So when Nooh - 'alaihissalaatu wassalaam - came to them and forbade them from worshipping them and he commanded them to worship Allaah, they said, "Do not

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⁸⁶ Reported by al Bukhaaree as narration 4920

abandon those objects that you worship; do not obey Nooh but rather continue upon your kufr and transgression and obstinacy!"

This was the first shirk that occurred upon the Earth and its cause was the images. And therefore the Prophet sall Allaahu 'alaihiwasallam said:

"The people who will receive the severest punishment on the Day of Resurrection will be those who make images." 87

And he sall Allaahu'alaihiwasallam said:

Those people who make these images will be punished on the Day of Resurrection. It will be said to them, "Give life to that which you have created."88

They will be commanded to breathe the spirit of life into these images; and this will be a case of *ta'jeez* (giving them a command to show their inability) and as a punishment for them, and Allaah's refuge is sought. This is because making images is a route from the routes which lead to shirk, just as happened with the people of Nooh.

So the first of the Messengers was Nooh. And as for the seal of the Messengers and the final one of them, then he was Muhammad *sallAllaahu'alaihiwasallam*. He, the Most High, said:

Muhammad is not the father of any of your men but rather he is the Messenger of Allaah and the final one of the prophets. [33:40]

And he sallAllaahu'alaihiwasallam said:

I am the seal of the Prophets; there will be no prophet after me. 89

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Translated by Abu Talhah Dawud Burbank - rahimahullaah

⁸⁷ Reported by al Bukhaaree (5950) and Muslim from hadeeth of 'Abdullaah ibn Mas'ood radi Allaahu'anhu

⁸⁸ Reported by al Bukhaaree (5951) and Muslim from hadeeth of 'Abdullaah ibn 'Umar *radi* Allaahu'anhumaa

 $^{^{89}}$ Reported by Aboo Daawud (4252) and at Tirmidhee from hadeeth of Thawbaan $\it radiAllaahu'anhu$ and declared $\underline{sah}eeh$ by al Albaanee

So through him, the Heavenly Messages were concluded. So no prophet will be raised and sent after him until the Hour is established. However his Sharee'ah (Revealed Law) will remain until the Hour is established and his religion will remain until the Hour is established, as has preceded. So whoever claims Prophethood after Muhammad sallAllaahu'alaihiwasallam then he is a disbeliever; and whoever believes (this false claimant to Prophethood) then he (too) is a disbeliever in Allaah, because there will be no prophet after him sallAllaahu'alaihiwasallam.

And many people have claimed Prophethood after him; and Allaah has exposed them and has made their falsehood apparent. And from the last of them – in what we know – was al Qaadiyaanee, Ghulaam Ahmad al Qaadiyaanee, the Indian; the one who in the beginning claimed to be upon knowledge and worship, then he claimed that he was 'Eesaa ibn Maryam, then he claimed Prophethood. And he now has followers who call themselves the Qaadiyaanees.

And the Muslims have declared them to be disbelievers and they have shunned them and counted them as being a sect of the disbelievers outside of Islaam. And they are a people who are shunned and banished – and all praise is for Allaah – from the lands of the Muslims. And they (the Qaadiyaanees) are active. However their activities end in failure.

So, in summary, there will be no prophet after the Messenger of Allaah sallAllaahu'alaihiwasallam. Whoever claims prophet hood after him, then he is a great liar, just as he sallAllaahu'alaihiwasallam said:

"The Hour will not be established until *dajjaals* (great tricksters), great liars are sent, close to thirty, each one of them claiming that he is a messenger of Allaah."

Those who claim falsely to be prophets are many but Allaah exposes their affair and uncovers them and shows how debased they are to the people. And whoever believes them, then he is a disbeliever because he is denying the Truth of what has been said by Allaah and His Messenger sall Allaahu alaihiwasallam and the consensus of the Muslims upon the fact that Prophethood was concluded with Muhammad sall Allaahu alaihiwasallam.

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⁹⁰ Reported by al Bukhaaree (3609) and Muslim after the narration 2923 in the Book of Trials and Tribulations from the hadeeth of Aboo Hurayrah radi. Allaahu'anhu

And Allaah sent a Messenger to every nation, from Nooh until Muhammad, commanding them to worship Allaah alone, and forbidding them from the worship of *at-taaghoot* and the proof is His saying, He the Most High:

We certainly sent a messenger to every nation ordering them that they should worship Allaah (alone) and they should shun the *Taaghoot* [16:36]⁷⁶

[76]:

And his saying: "Allaah sent a messenger to every nation..."

Meaning: Allaah sent a messenger to every nation from mankind in order to establish the proof upon them so that they would not be able to say, "No bringer of good tidings nor any warner came to us!"

And because of His saying, He the Most High:

We do not punish until We have sent a messenger. [17:15]

So Allaah sent a messenger to every nation from the previous nations, just as He, the Most High, said:

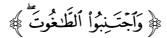
There was not a previous nation except that Allaah sent a warner to them. [35:24]

However it is obligatory that we are aware of what was the call of the Messengers? The call of all the messengers, from the first of them to the last of them, was the call to tawheed as per His saying, He the Most High:

We certainly sent a messenger to every nation ordering them that they should worship Allaah (alone) and they should shun the *taaghoot*. [16:36]

So everything that is worshipped besides Allaah is *Taaghoot*, as will follow with regards to the types of the *Taaghoots* – that from their types is that which is worshipped besides Allaah whilst he is pleased with that, as will follow.

So the meaning of His saying, He the Most High:



And shun the Taaghoot...

means to keep away from worshipping the false objects of worship and the idols and the graves and the tombs; these are *taaghoots*. So the noble *aayah* proves that the call of the Messengers, all of them, was concentrated upon *Tawheed* from the first of them to the last of them.

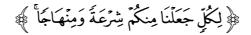
Just as He, the Perfect and Most High, said:

And We did not send any messenger before you except that We revealed to him that none has the right to be worshipped except Me so worship Me alone. [21:25]

And His saying:

He (Allaah) sends down the angels with the Revelation from His Command to whomever He wishes from His servants ordering them, "Warn the people that none has the right to be worshipped except Me, so therefore fear and be dutiful to Me." [16:2]

So the call of the Messengers, all of them, was to *tawheed* and to singling out Allaah, the Majestic and Most High, with worship and to forbidding shirk. This was the call of the Messengers. Then after *tawheed* comes the Revealed Laws with regards to the *halaal* (permissible) and the *haraam* (forbidden). And the details of the Revealed Laws varied in accordance with the variation between the nations and the needs of the nations. And Allaah abrogated from them whatever He wished, and then all of them were abrogated through the Revealed Law of Islaam - the *halaal* and the *haraam*, the rulings and the acts of worship and the commands and the prohibitions. As for the foundation (of the Revealed Laws) then it was *tawheed*; then this did not vary and it was not abrogated. This was a single religion; the religion of all the Messengers from the first of them to the last of them was one religion (in this respect) – just as He, the Most High, said:



And for each people We laid down a prescribed law and a detailed way to follow. [5:48]

And the religion of *tawheed* is the worship of Allaah with that which He legislated at each time in accordance with its particular circumstances. So if a Revealed Law was abrogated then the people moved onto the new abrogating Law.

So whoever persists and remains upon that which has been abrogated, and avoids that which is abrogating, then he will be a disbeliever in Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic because the religion which has been abrogated will not be a religion after its being abrogated. Rather it will only be religion before it was abrogated. So when it has been abrogated, then it will not be religion. The religion will be that which abrogates. Therefore the Revealed Law of Islaam abrogated whatever came before it from the Revealed religious laws.

So whoever remains upon Judaism or Christianity after the sending of Muhammad sallAllaahu'alaihiwasallam then he is a kaafir (disbeliever) because he is acting upon a religion which has been abrogated, whose time has come to an end.