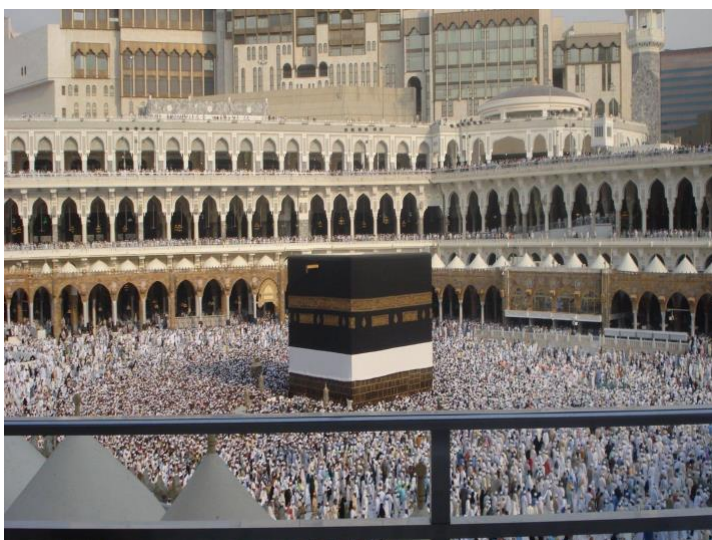


In The Name Of Allah



Ahlul-Bait

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The Number Of Imams

Shi`ah believes that Imams after Prophet (s.a.w) are the same twelve Imams from pure descendants of Prophet (s.a.w) in this order:

- 1) `Imam `Amir al-Mu`minin `Ali `ibn `Abi-Taleb (A.S.)
- 2) `Imam `Abu Muhammad Hasan `ibn `Ali (A.S.)
- 3) `Imam `Abu `Abdullah al- Husayn (A.S.)
- 4) `Imam `Ali `ibn al-Husayn Zayn al-`Abidin (A.S.)
- 5) `Imam Muhammad `ibn `Ali al-Baqir (A.S.)
- 6) `Imam Ja`far `ibn Muhammad al-Sadiq (A.S.)
- 7) `Imam Musa `ibn Ja`far al-Kazim (A.S.)
- 8) `Imam `Ali `ibn Musa al-Rida (A.S.)
- 9) `Imam Muhammad `ibn `Ali al-Jawad (A.S.)
- 10) `Imam `Ali `ibn Muhammad al-Hadi (A.S.)
- 11) `Imam Hasan `ibn `Ali al-`Askari(A.S.)
- 12) `Imam Muhammad `ibn al-Hassan al-Mahdi (A.S.)

These are the leaders of Shi`ah .They believe in their infallibility and don't believe in infallibility of anyone else except theses Imams who Prophet (s.a.w.) stated their names before their birth. As Bokhari and Muslim have mentioned in their Sahihs, these Imams are twelve in number and they are all of Quraysh and by saying “`Imamite Shi`ah” or “Twelvers ” or “Ja`fariyah”, we mean these Imams not anyone else and except this sect (Shi`ah) no group of `Ummah believes in the `Imamate of all of them.¹

¹ Real Sunnis (1), page 116.

Imam Mahdi (AS) Is From The Family Of The Prophet Muhammad

- Holy Prophet (sawa) said, Allah will bring out from concealment the Mahdi (as) from my family and just before the day of Judgment; even if only one day were to remain in the life of the world, and he will spread on this earth justice and equity and will eradicate tyranny and oppression. ²
- Imam Ali (as) related a tradition from the Prophet (sawa) who informed him, The promised Mahdi will be among my family. God will make the provisions for his emergence within a single night. ³
- Hazrat Umme Salma, Prophet's wife, narrates that she heard the Prophet (sawa) say, The promised Mahdi will be among my progeny, among the descendants of Fatemah. ⁴
- Holy Prophet (sawa) announced, The Mahdi will be of my family, of the descendants of Fatemah (the Prophet's daughter). ⁵

² (Musnad Ahmad Ibn Hanbal volume 1 page 99)

³ (Ibn Majah, Sahih volume 2 page 519)

⁴ (Abu Dawud, Sahih volume 2 page 207; Ibn Majah, Sahih volume 2 page 519)

⁵ (Sunan Ibn Majah volume 2 tradition no. 4086)

12 Caliphs In The Sunnis' References

Jabir said: "I was with Prophet Muhammad and I heard that he said: "By existence of 12 caliphs, my nation's condition is clear forever."

Ahmad Ibn Hanbal (A great Sunni scholar) has written in his book of Musnad (volume 5, page 86): "This Hadith (12 caliphs) is quoted by Jabir 34 times."⁶

Twelve Caliphs in the Sunni sources:

Jabir ibn Samra said, "I heard the Prophet saying", "If twelve men rule over people, continuously their actions will be done well.". Then he added another sentence. "My father said that the Prophet said: "They are all from the Quraysh."⁷

⁶ Musnad Abi Awanah, volume 4, page 392/Sharah Sahih Al-Bukhari, Al-Ayni, volume 24, page 281/Fath Al-Bari, Asqalani, volume 13, page 179

⁷ Sahih Muslim, vol. 6, p. 3; Sahih Bukhari, Kitab al Ahkam; Sunan Tirmidhi, vol. 4, p. 51.

Ahl Al-Bayt (Shi'a 12 Imams) In The Bible

The Book of Enoch (Andreas)

In the Book of Enoch, good news have been given about the Holy Prophet of Islam by the name of Paraclete along with the names of `Ali, Fatimah, Hasan and Husayn called as the axis and the aim of universe. Enoch used to live in Babylon. One day while he was in the temple, he received revelation of God. He then told his companions the following story:

One day, there was a dispute between the children and grand children of Adam as to who the superior creature is. Some of them said, Our father Adam whom God created with His hand and blew His spirit into him, made all the angels prostrate before him, made him the teacher of angels, granted him the vicegerency on the earth and made other being obedient to him, was the superior creature. Another group said, Angels are superior to our father Adam for the former never rebelled against God whereas Adam disobeyed His command hence he and his wife were driven out of heaven. At most, God had mercy on them, accepted his repentance and promised heaven to his believing children. Some others said, The superior creature is Archangel Gabriel who is the trustworthy of the Lord of the worlds. The dispute was so hot that they brought it up with Adam. Addressing his children, Adam said, Lend me your ears so that I will tell you who the superior creatures are. When God created me and blew into my body of His spirit so that I was settled, I saw the Divine Throne with five illuminated shadows whose light, glory, and beauty amazed me. I asked, O Lord, who are these glorious lights? God said, These are My superior creatures as well as mediators between Me and My creatures. Were it not for their sake, I would not have created you, the heavens, the earth, Paradise, Hellfire, the sun, and the moon. I said, O Lord! What are their names? God answered, Look at the shank of the Throne. When I did, I saw these five holy names: Paraclete (Muhammad) Elia (`Ali), Titeh (Fatimah), Sheppar (Hasan), and Shoppair (Husayn). There was also an inscription reading: O My creatures! Glorify Me for there is no god save Me and Muhammad is My Messenger.

Fakhr al-Islam, in his book, Anis al-A`lam, says:

In a pre-Islamic manuscript of the Gospel on the parchment found in the library of Protestant Christians, as a part of Jesus last will and testament to Simon whose other name was Peter said: O Simon! God has advised you about the Master of the Messengers and His beloved, Ahmad, the owner of the red camel, the moon-faced, the pure-hearted, and the strong-bodied, who is a great man of Adam's children, mercy for the people of the world, and an ummi (i.e. inhabitant of Umm al-Qura; Mecca), Arab Prophet. O Jesus! Tell the children of Israel to acknowledge and believe in him. I said: O Lord! Who is that great man? God said: O Jesus! He is Muhammad, God's Messenger for the universe. Happy is this prophet and happy are those who give ears to him. I will appoint him as prophet 610 years after you.

Allah's Promise To Abraham

This promise has been expressly mentioned in 17:20 of the Book of Genesis:

And for Ishmael I have heard thee: behold, I will bless him, and will make him fruitful, and will very greatly multiply him; twelve princes will he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

Actually, God has blessed Ishmael through Prophet Muhammad and the Twelve Imams from his issue.⁸

Nasr ibn Muzahim, in his book of Waq`at Siffin (one of the oldest books that were written nearly in the age of the Holy Imams), has reported Habbah al-`Arani, a companion of Imam `Ali, as saying:

When we landed in the region of al-Riqqah on our way of Siffin Battle, we camped near a monastery in which a Christian monk was engaged in worship. Seeing our soldiers, he came out of the monastery and headed for Amir al-Mu'minin, saying, In this monastery, there is a book I have inherited from my ancestors; a book writhen by the disciples of Jesus during his lifelime. I would like to show the book to you. The Imam said, Go and bring it here. The monk fetched the book and asked the Imam to give him permission to read it. Then, he began to read, In the Name of Allah; Most Compassionate, Most Merciful. It is recorded in the Preserved Tablet that God will appoint from among the people of Mecca a prophet who will teach them the Book and Wisdom and will guide them to the right path and one of his signs is that he is neither rough nor bad-tempered. He is a man who when walking among people does not raise his voice nor does he compensate sin by sin, rather he forgives all. As for the community of that prophet, they are very thankful to God, praising Him under all conditions. Their tongues are tamed for professing God's grandeur and glory; and their eyes tearful for fear of God. God will give victory to that Prophet over the arrogant. When he passes away, his community will be divided with rancor and enmity. They will have differences and then get together and keep on living as long as God wills. A man from his community crosses by the Euphrates. This man invites people to good and forbids them from evil. His judgment among people is just; never issuing an unjust order. The world to him is lower than ashes blown by wind in a stormy day. For him, death is more pleasant than drinking water by a thirsty person! He fears God in hidden and gives away in the path of Allah openly. He is not afraid of anyone who blames him on the straight path. Anyone living in these cities and believes in that prophet will have heaven as a reward and everyone who understands the righteous servant crossing by the Euphrates must help him.

After reading from the book, the monk said, You are that righteous servant of God. I will come with you and will not leave you so that what will happen to you will happen to me. If you are martyred, I will be with you to

⁸ Al-Manaqib: 232/1

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be martyred. Hearing this, Amir al-Mu'minin wept and said, Thanks Allah; He has not forgotten me as He had my name among benefactors. The monk accompanied the Imam and never left him until he was martyred in Siffin Battle.

After the end of the battle, Imam `Ali ordered the martyrs to be buried. Some were missioned to find the body of the monk and when they found it, the Imam stood at his head saying, He is from us, Ahl al-Bayt. Then, the Imam himself dug a grave for him and buried him as a Muslim.⁹

Imam Jafar Sadiq (as) states, "Allah ordered the angels, prostrate before Adam (as). All prostrated except Iblees, thus manifesting his envy. Allah asked him, what has stopped you from prostrating in front of Adam?" He replied, "I am better than him as You have created me from fire and him from clay."

Hence the first person to act on act upon his own wisdom (in the matter of worship) was Iblees. He was proud and arrogant. Pride for him acted as a hurdle in Allah's obedience. Iblees requested Allah, "O my God, excuse me from prostrating before Adam, and I will worship you in such a way that neither the angels nor prophets would worship you". Allah replied, "I don't need your worship. I desire to be worshipped in the manner I like." Iblees remained obstinate in his refusal to prostrate. Allah then said, "Get out from here! Surely My curse is on you till resurrection!"¹⁰

Four of the prophets are alive two of whom are in the heavens: Jesus and Edris, and two of them are in the land: Khidr and Elias, Ilyas (Elias). As for Khidr, he is in the sea but his companion is in the land."¹¹

⁹ Waq`at Siffin: 147.

¹⁰ (Beharul Anwar, volume 11, page 141)

¹¹ Tabatabai, Sayyid Muhammad Hussein, Al-Mizan fi Tafsir al-Qur'an, Vol. 13, p. 353, Islamic Publications Office, Qom, fifth edition, 1417

Humbleness Feature In The Ahlul Bayt

- Ibn Masud reports: A person came to the presence of Allah's Messenger and when he started to speak, he was trembling. The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H&H.P) said, "Calm down; I am not a king."¹²
- Another person reports: A group of people and I went to the presence of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H&H.P) and said, "You are our master." The Holy Prophet said, "Allah, the Blessed and Exalted, is the Master."¹³
- Abu-Basir reports: Imam Sadiq (A.S) went to the public bath whose owner said, "Let me evacuate the public bath for you!" Imam Sadiq (A.S) said, "No, it is not necessary. The pious believer does not bother for those things."¹⁴
- Imam Hussain (A.S) has said: We do not know why people harbor enmity against us while we are from the House of mercy, the tree of Prophet Hood and the source of knowledge.¹⁵

Four of the prophets are alive two of whom are in the heavens: Jesus and Edris, and two of them are in the land: Khidr and Elias, Ilyas (Elias). As for Khidr, he is in the sea but his companion is in the land."¹⁶

¹² Makarim al-Akhlaq: 16

¹³ Sunan Abi-Dawud, 254/4

¹⁴ Al-Kafi: 503/6, H. 37

¹⁵ Nuzhat al-Nadhir: 85

¹⁶ Tabatabai, Sayyid Muhammad Hussein, Al-Mizan fi Tafsir al-Qur'an, Vol. 13, p. 353, Islamic Publications Office, Qom, fifth edition, 1417