

Episode 20

The Abrogation in the Quran

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What is meant by the abrogation?

-The word " to abrogate "{Nasekh in Arabic} means to copy as when someone copies an article, but abrogation has many other meanings in language as ablation or cancellation, in the quran to abrogate a verse means to remove it, replace it by another verse or to replace the verse verdict by another verdict

- Ibn Kathir mentioned: narrated ibn-Jarir: the abrogation means transforming the lawful into unlawful and the unlawful into lawful (1)

How many abrogated verses are there in the quran?

Abu-Gaafer Al-Nahas and many other scholars mentioned that abrogation exists in a total of 71 chapters out of the 114 quran chapters, so the abrogation is existing in about 62,28% of the quran

The types of the abrogator and abrogated in the quran

The scholars of the abrogation divided it into three main types:

- 1) Those with abrogated letter and conserved verdict
- 2) Those with abrogated verdict and conserved letter
- 3) Those with abrogated verdict and letter

1) Those with abrogated letter and conserved verdict

Those are the verses that had been removed from the quran but their verdicts are still active and valid

Actually the quran has many examples for that, of them:

- 1- the stoning of the adulterous and adulteress verse
- 2- the adult sucking verse

1- the stoning of the adulterous and adulteress verse

the stoning of the adulterous and adulteress verse was present in the quran during the time of Muhammad, but it was abrogated, and it doesn't exist any more in the current Othman's quran , but its verdict is still valid , and currently the adulterous and adulteress should be stoned according to the Islamic legislation

2- the adult sucking verse

The adult sucking verse was present in the quran, as Aisha when she wanted to meet a man, she was asking her niece to suckle that man, and so by that he will be debarred for her so she can meet him freely

Abu-Gafer Al-Nahas mentioned that: Sahla , the daughter of Sohil came to the prophet (PUH) saying: I had seen my husband (Abe Hozifa) is upset as he sees Salem (a servant of them) coming to me, the prophet (PUH), told her then you suckle him (meaning that to let Salem suck from her, in order to let him be like a son to her , so he will be debarred for her, so her husband will not be upset from him anymore!!!), she replied but How could I suckle a grown up man ?, the prophet (PUH) said : I know well that he is a grown up man, she went and allowed that man to suck from her and came back to the prophet saying : I have suckled him, and now my husband is not upset anymore from him when he comes to me (2)

2) Those with abrogated verdict and conserved letter

Those are verses that are still present in the quran but their verdicts were abrogated, or invalid, of that type there are 550 verses

Among them were the verses concerning peace and forgiveness those descended while Muhammad was in Makkah as he was a peaceful man , there were about 124 verses inciting for living in peace and preaching forgiveness, all of those verses were abrogated by two verses of the Repentance chapter (Surat At-Taubah), those verses are the sword and fighting verses:

- Repentance chapter (Surat At-Taubah): 5." when the Sacred Months have passed, then kill the disbelievers"

- Repentance chapter (Surat At-Taubah) 29:" Fight against those who believe not in Allah, nor in the last day, nor forbid that which has been forbidden by Allah and his messenger and those who acknowledge not the religion of truth (Islam) among the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians), until they pay the tribute with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued".

Those two verses abrogated 124 verses that came before them

3) Those with abrogated verdict and abrogated letter

Those are verses that disappeared completely from the quran as regards their text and verdict

It was mentioned that one of companions of the prophet wished to recite a verse of the quran he had memorized , he couldn't remember it except only " in the name of Allah the most gracious, most merciful" so he went to other people, to ask them but they were also uncertain about that verse, so they decided to go to the prophet and ask him about it, then the prophet remained silent for an hour ,then replied them saying " that verse was abrogated by God yesterday (3)

- Narrated Aisha:" the Confederates chapter (Surat Al-Ahzab) was recited during the time of the prophet up to two hundred verses, then when Othman wrote the quran, we didn't find except 73 verses "(4)

- Narrated Omer: "Actually big parts of the quran had gone, and not present now "(4)

Those are the verses with their text disappeared completely from the quran and also their verdicts are not present any more

Hazardousness of the abrogation:

There is serious Hazardousness for the abrogation

1) The existence of abrogation in the quran is conflicting with other verses as:

- The Cattle chapter (Surat Al-An'am) 34:" none can alter the words of Allah"

And The Cave chapter (Surat Al-Kahf) 27:"None can change his words"

2) The abrogation is conflicting with the concept of the conserved plate

- The Big Stars chapter (Surat Al-Burooj) 21, 22:"This is a Glorious Quran, in Lauh Mahfûz (Preserved Tablet)

Does the concept of the abrogator and abrogated, changing in the quran verses, canceling and abating them accord with the verity of the quran being infinite in a conserved tablet? So did the cancellation or change happen also in the conserved tablet? Or had the conserved tablet revised or modified versions? and when the prophet forgot some verses , aren't they supposed to exist in the conserved tablet, so why He didn't send Gabriel again to remind him with what he had forgotten

3) The abrogation is conflicting with:

- The Rocky Tract chapter (Surat Al-Hijr) 9:" It is we who have sent down the *Dhikr* (the Quran) and surely, we will guard it"

So according to the quran, God guards his words from changing or alternation, and what is the abrogation? It is nothing but changing and alternation of the quran, so how did that happen?

4) the most serious hazardousness of the abrogation is in the verse of the women chapter (Surat An-Nisa') 82:" Had it been from other than Allah, they would surely have found therein much contradiction

Isn't enough to have 550 quran verses, that had been abrogated, changed, or replaced, from the quran , to prove the presence of much contradiction, and to satisfy the requirement set forth by the verse " Had it been from other than Allah, they would surely have found therein much contradiction"

Some claim that the abrogation exists also in the Holy Bible, as the Christ abrogated the Old Testament

The word abrogation was not mentioned at all in the Holy Bible

The Christ said very clearly:” I did not come to annul, but to fulfill” Matthew 5:17

If a child who was in the primary school , grows up and gets into the high school, do they cancel for him what he had learned in the primary school?, of course not, but they will just complete the knowledge for him as he grows up

In the old testaments there were some legislations and symbols as regarding the sacrifices and other things, those were fulfilled in the Christ , so they are no more valid by the coming of the Christ , the Christ came and completed everything and gave the legislation of perfection

(1) Ibn Kathir exegesis (Tafsir) part 1, page 104

(2) The abrogator and abrogated, by Abu-Gaafer Al-Nahas page 124

(3) The abrogates of the quran, by Jamal Al-Din Ibn Al- Jozy, page 589

(4) The perfection in the quran's sciences, by Jalal Al-Din Al-Syouty, part 2, page 26