

ISRAA-EELIYAAT

الإِسْرَائِيَّات

Meaning

الأَخْبَارُ الْمَنْقُولَةُ عَنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ - وَهُوَ الْأَكْثَرُ - أَوْ مِنَ النَّصَارَى
The Israa-eeliyaat narrations are those reports transmitted from Banoo Israa-eel from the Jews – and these are the majority – or from the Christians.

Explanation

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen

The Israa-eeliyaat narrations are those reports transmitted from Banoo Israa-eel from the Jews – and these are the majority – or from the Christians. And these reports are divided into three types:

The first: that which Islaam affirms and to whose truthfulness (Islaam) bears witness – so it is something true.

An example of this: that which al Bukhaaree and other than him reported from ibn Mas'ood *radi Allaahu 'anhu* that he said: **One of the rabbis came to Allaah's Messenger *sall Allaahu 'alaihi wa sallam* and said, "O Muhammad, indeed we find that Allaah will place the heavens upon a finger and the earths upon a finger and the trees upon a finger and the water and the soil upon a finger, and the rest of the created beings upon a finger, so He will say, "I am *al Malik* (the King)." So the Prophet *sall Allaahu 'alaihi wa sallam* laughed until his molar teeth showed, attesting to the truth of the rabbi's statement; then Allaah's Messenger *sall Allaahu 'alaihi wa sallam* recited:**

And they do not glorify Allaah with His true glorification; and the whole of the earth will be grasped by His Hand on the Day of Resurrection and the Heavens will be rolled up in His Right Hand. How free of imperfections and High is He above that which they associate as partners with Him!

Soorah az Zumar (39) aayah 67¹

¹ Al Bukhaaree (4811) and Muslim (2786)

The second: that which Islaam rejects and bears witness to its untruthful nature – so it is something false and futile.

An example of this: that which al Bukhaaree reported from Jaabir *radi Allaahu 'anhu* that he said: **The Jews used to say that if (a person) had sexual intercourse with her (his wife) entering from behind her, a cross eyed child would result. So it was revealed:**

Your women are a tilth for you so approach your tilth from whichever way you wish.

Soorah al Baqarah (2) aayah 223²

The third: that which Islaam neither affirms nor rejects, so it is obligatory to make *tawaqquf* (withholding) in this, due to what al Bukhaaree³ reported from Aboo Hurayrah *radi Allaahu 'anhu* who said: **The People of the Book would read out the Tawraat in Hebrew then give an explanation of it in Arabic to the people of Islaam. So Allaah's Messenger sall Allaahu 'alaihi wa sallam said: Do not attest to the truth of the People of the Book nor repudiate them, and rather say:**

We believe in that which was sent down to us and that which was sent down to you... (to the end of the aayah)

Soorah al 'Ankaboot (29) aayah 46

And narrating this type is something permissible if there is no fear of something forbidden (occurring) – as per the statement of the Prophet *sall Allaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*: **“Convey from me, even if it is one aayah. And narrate from Banoo Israaeel, and there is no constraint. And whoever lies upon me deliberately then let him take a seat in the Fire.”**

Reported by al Bukhaaree.⁴

² Al Bukhaaree (4528) and Muslim (1435)

³ Al Bukhaaree (4485)

⁴ Al Bukhaaree (3461)

And the majority of what is reported from them in that is not of benefit in the Religion, such as the specifying of a particular colour for the dog of the people of the Cave, and the like of that.

Taken from

Tafseer ul Qur-aan il Kareem 1/61-2 of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen *rahimahullaah*
Translator Nasser ibn Najam - words in brackets are the translator's