

القرآن الكريم

﴿وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ﴾



(الأنبياء: ١٠٧)

Question

What is the *i'rāb* of this *āyah* ?:

﴿وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ﴾ (الأنبياء: ١٠٧) 

I thought *إِلَّا* is *أداة الشرط* but some books explain it as *أداة الحصر*.

Can *إِلَّا* be used for *حصر*?

Faḍīlat al-Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim (حفظه الله) replies:



Dear Br Ali Bagul

وعليكم السلام

You say *إِلَّا* is *adāt al-sharṭ*. Obviously, this is a mistake.

As you know it is *أَدَاةُ الْإِسْتِثْنَاءِ*.

You must differentiate between the *i'rāb* and the meaning.

In the *i'rāb*, it is *إِسْتِثْنَاءٌ مُفْرَغٌ* because the *mustathnā minhu* has not been mentioned. So the *تَقْدِيرُ* is:

'We have not sent you as anything except as an embodiment of mercy.'

This construction signifies *حَصْرٌ*.

If you say:

رَأَيْتُ بِلَالًا

'I saw Bilāl',

- it does not mean that you did not see anyone else.

But if you say:

مَا رَأَيْتُ إِلَّا بِلَالًا

'I saw none but Bilāl'

- it categorically denies your having seen anyone other than Bilāl.

That is what is meant by حَصْرٌ.

I hope it has helped you to understand this grammatical *mas'alah*.

والسلام

abdur rahim