

## Qur'an I: context, theology

(source: Ahmad von Denffer, *'Ulum al-Qur'an*)

### Earlier revelations / books mentioned in the Qur'an:

'To every people (was sent) an apostle ...' (10: 47).

- ▶ The Torah (taurat) of Moses (Musa).
- ▶ The Psalms (zabur) of David (Dawud).
- ▶ The Gospel (injil) of Jesus ('Isa).
- ▶ The Qur'an of Muhammad.
- ▶ (sometimes: the 'sheets' [*suhuf*] of Ibrahim and Musa.)

### Muslim understanding of the Qur'an:

- ▶ Inimitable (*i'jaz*) and unique; of power and beauty that no human could have produced
- ▶ God's word (*kalam*); thus pre-existent with God
- ▶ Qur'an is with God on "well preserved Tablet" (*lah al-mahfuz*)
- ▶ revealed to Muhammad during the Night of Power (*laylat al-qadr*), during Ramadan.

### The Qur'an refers to itself as:

- ▶ criterion, see 25: 1
- ▶ sent down on a blessed night, see 44: 3-4
- ▶ reminder, see 15: 9
- ▶ scripture, see 21:10
- ▶ light, see 4:174
- ▶ a guide and a mercy, see 31:3
- ▶ a healing and a mercy, see 17:82
- ▶ glorious, blessed, an announcer, a warner