
The author wishes to place on record his sincere gratitude to family, friends, respected ulema and generous community members who contributed towards the publication of this book. Any errors are purely unintentional. May Almighty Allah ﷻ accept our efforts and forgive us for any shortcomings.

FOREWARD

Mufti Mahamod Kadwa
Camperdown

As Salaamu Alaikum,

It was a pleasure speaking to you. I was referred to you by Moulana Rawat of the Jamiat Office, Pietermaritzburg.

I have compiled this book which took me close to 40 years when I first started on it. I would like you to go through it and edit if possible any corrections if I have made any mistakes.

I will contact you occasionally.

Jazakallah.

Yours in Islam,

E.M Bhamjee

16 March 2016

Ebrahim Bhai.

Assalaamualaykum.

I hope you are well.

At the outset please allow me to express my heartfelt apologies for spending such an inordinate amount of time checking through your book.

Due to time constraints, I was unable to check it as swiftly as you had required. Nonetheless, I am returning the corrected copy to you.

Firstly, I must commend you on your painstaking diligence in compiling a book of this nature. Such a Kitab was long overdue especially for our children.

Your efforts will be rewarded by none other than Allah Ta'ala.

Secondly, in my humble opinion, the following points require your attention:

- Get a typist to type out the entire book on a word processor (computer), This makes editing and proof reading far easier. Also no publisher will give it a second glance in its current format.

- Avoid using words like Hazrat and Bibi before the names of the Ambiyaa and their spouses. Although such terms are used as a form of respect in the Urdu language, they may be confusing for children who read it in English. You may use Alayhis-Salaam etc.
- At some places two words are used together. Choose one only. For instance, on page 20, "In jest (joke) Firaun....
- The book requires a bit more editing. Please look for someone who is competent in the English language to assist in this.
- Once the book is in computer format, please send it around to others for further editing and proof reading.

Otherwise, a commendable effort.

Allah reward you and make you witness the publication of this compilation with Aafiyat.

Duaa.

Wassalaam.

M. Kadwa Camperdown

Assalaymualaykum

Dear Brother Ebrahim Bhamjee

It was indeed a pleasure reading through 'The Messengers, The Prophets of Islam' presented in approximately 120 A4 typed pages. The draft had already been seen by Mufti M Kadwa of Camperdown and there is no doubt that the content is authentic.

This valuable information to prospective readers such as educators, ulema, students will serve many purposes including reference material for those who wish to research specific aspects of the lives of the Messengers of Islam. There is no doubt that the compiler of this presentation took the trouble to engage in extensive research over many years to present the information simply for all to understand.

With the availability of modern technology, the presentation may be transcribed easily into an attractive volume with consistency in all aspects of the presentation of texts and the display of each page.

Allah reward the author and all the those who have contributed to bring this draft to this stage.

Was Salaam.

Omar Mohideen
Education Consultant

24 October 2016

05 September 2017

Most Respected Mr. Ebrahim Bhamjee

Re: The Messengers of Islam, Compiled by Ebrahim Bhamjee

My sincerest apologies for the delayed response due to prior commitments & engagements. May your patience be rewarded handsomely.

I perused and browsed through the draft copy compiled. Indeed it was an honour as well as a pleasure to go through the book.

As far as the content is concerned it was found to be extremely beneficial and could be endorsed as well as recommended as a syllabus to Madaaris & Islamic schools.

The questionnaires will prove extremely beneficial to learners.

The following minor suggestions could be of added value and benefit:

- Each prophet should commence with a relevant verse of the Quran if possible as an allusion to the specific prophet.
- Also some virtues and outstanding traits of prophets could be added where possible from the Hadith.

With professional editing, typesetting and necessary adjustments, etc the book will indeed prove to be extremely beneficial and of immense value.

May Allah reward the compiler for the discipline, time and effort and due diligence, noble intentions with which it was compiled.

May the years of arduous effort and time be rewarded with publication seeing fruition expeditiously during the lifetime of the compiler and may it also yield perpetual reward.

Moosa Suleman
Musjid Rahmah
PMB

30 October 2017

I have read the manuscript of stories of the Ambiya (AS). I found it to be very beneficial for our young generation. It is a very easy read and conveys important information about the various Ambiya (AS).

The glimpse into the lives of the various Ambiya (AS) is vital in the education of our youth today. Generally for the youth to pick up a book and read is becoming more and more difficult because of the constant development and use of technology

I suggest that this book be used as a source of inspiration for our young generation.

May Allah bless the author for his contribution to the Deen.

Irshaadh Amod
Principal Nizamia Islamic School

28 February 2018

Muhtaram Uncle Ebrahim (More affectionately known to me as Uncle EB)

It was indeed a great honour and pleasure going through your book "The Messengers, The prophet of Islam." I must firstly apologise for taking so long to go through the book due to time constraints and a busy schedule.

This is an outstanding achievement which most certainly serves as a great encouragement to myself and the muslim Ummah at large. No doubt this is a culmination of years of dedication, determination, discipline and sincere intentions. May Allah (SWT) accept.

With regards to the content I find it to be beneficial. However my humble suggestions are as follow:

- To compile the book in story form. Makes reading more enjoyable.
- Use more simplified English. This will attract younger readers as well.
- Consider breaking up the book into parts or series.

May Allah (SWT) reward you for your noble effort and may Allah (SWT) accept this book and make it a means of guidance and a means of our saviour and protection in the Duniya and Aakhirah.

Suleiman Bhamjee
Mountain Rise Masjid

AUTHOR'S NOTE

There were 124 000 Prophets in all. Some of them are mentioned below along with their anglicised names:

1. Adam ﷺ
2. Nooh (Noah) ﷺ
3. Hud (Heber) ﷺ
4. Idrees ﷺ
5. Saalih (Methuselah) ﷺ
6. Ibrahim (Abraham) ﷺ
7. Isma'eel (Zabihullah) ﷺ
8. Is-haaq (Essaac) ﷺ
9. Lut (Lot) ﷺ
10. Ya-qub (Jacob) ﷺ
11. Yusuf (Joseph) ﷺ
12. Shuaib (Jethro) ﷺ
13. Moosa (Moses) ﷺ
14. Yushaa (Joshua) ﷺ
15. Shamweel (Samuel) ﷺ
16. Talut (Saul) ﷺ
17. Dawood (David) ﷺ
18. Sulaiman (Solomon) ﷺ
19. Elias (Elijah) ﷺ
20. Yunus (Jonah) ﷺ
21. Ayoob (Job) ﷺ
22. Zakariyya (Zachariah) ﷺ
23. Yahya (John the Baptist) ﷺ
24. Essa (Jesus) ﷺ
25. Muhammad Mustafa ﷺ

GLOSSARY

Mecca	= Makkah
Medina	= Madinah
Kaaba	= Ka'bah
Masjid-an-Nabawee	= Prophet's mosque in Medina
Nabi	= Prophet Muhammad ﷺ
ﷺ	= Sallal-lahu-alaihi wa-sallam
Two Harams	= Mecca and Medina
Third Haram	= Musjid-ul-Aqsa in Jerusalem

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THE MESSAGE

Introduction: In the beginning

The often-told story of Adam ﷺ

Our forefathers told the story of Adam ﷺ and it proved to be the sweetest story ever heard. Ever since time began it has been repeatedly heard and narrated generation after generation. However, it is a story of which youth never wearies and old age never loses its charm. Men, women and children throughout the ages have sung of the peace of Allah and Allah's goodwill to all His creations throughout the worlds and heavens.

The story is simple in its setting and timeless in beauty. It is the story of the creation of the first man – The enchanting story of Adam ﷺ.

*Allah made the heavens and the earth
Allah also made Jannat and Jahannam*

Adam ﷺ and his wife Hawa ؑ

1. Allah made the Jinns from fire (naar) and the Malaaikeh from light (noor).
2. Allah then made Adam ﷺ from clay in the shape of a man.
3. Allah then placed His soul (rooh) into Adam ﷺ thus giving Adam ﷺ the power to explain things.
4. As the Malaaikeh and Jinns could not explain the meaning of things like Adam ﷺ could, he was superior to the Malaaikeh and Jinns.
5. Allah then commanded the Malaaikeh and Jinns to make Sajdah to Adam ﷺ – a man made from clay.
6. All of them obeyed the command of Allah except one, Iblis, who felt he was superior as he was made from fire and refused to make Sajdah to Adam ﷺ.
7. This refusal to make Sajdah drew the anger of Allah and Iblis was then banned from Jannat.
8. Since Adam ﷺ had caused his downfall, Iblis has been tempting mankind ever since to do wrong deeds, thus misleading them.
9. But Allah said to Iblis that he would never be able to mislead His servants.
10. Later Allah made Hawa ؑ (Eve) as his wife and companion.
11. They were to stay in Jannah and eat and drink as they wished except that they were not to go near a certain tree.
12. But Iblees mislead them and made them eat of the forbidden tree.
13. When questioned by Allah, Adam ﷺ asked Allah for forgiveness and admitted his human weakness and made Taubah (repentance) - unlike Iblees who refused completely to admit his error and never made taubah.
14. Allah then sent them out of Jannah and placed them on Planet Earth.

15. Allah told Adam ﷺ and Hawa ؑ that whoever follows the teachings which Allah promised to send from time to time through His messengers or prophets shall go to Jannah. Those who disobey the teachings of Allah will be sent to the fire of Jahannum (hell) where they shall be punished.
16. Adam ﷺ was not only the first man but he was also the first Nabi on earth and Hawa ؑ was the first woman on earth.

Questions

1. What did Allah place in Adam ﷺ to make him superior to the Jinns and Malaikah?
2. Who refused to make sajdah to Adam ﷺ?
3. Why was Iblees banished by Allah?
4. Why did Iblees refuse to make sajdah to Adam ﷺ?
5. Whom did Allah make as a wife and companion to Adam ﷺ?
6. Where did Allah send Adam ﷺ and Hawa ؑ when he sent them out of Jannah?
7. Where will those people who obey Allah & Allah's teachings go to when they die?
8. Who mislead Adam ﷺ and Hawa ؑ when he tempted them to eat the forbidden fruit?
9. What did Allah say about those who follow guidance i.e; teachings of Allah sent down from time to time by His messengers?
10. What will happen to those people who disobey the teachings of Islam when they die?
11. Who was the first Nabi on earth?
12. Who was the first woman on earth?

The Sons of Adam ﷺ

Adam ﷺ had many daughters and sons and his family increased.

1. The Qur'an makes special mention of his two sons: Qabil (Cain) and Habil (Abel).
2. Both the sons presented a sacrifice to Allah but Allah accepted the sacrifice of Habil only and did not accept the sacrifice of Qabil because it was not righteous i.e. there was something wrong with the way Qabil presented his sacrifice.
3. Qabil became angry with his younger brother, Habil, because Habil's sacrifice was accepted and Qabil then killed Habil.
4. Qabil became one of the lost ones and did not do anything to the body of his dead brother but used to carry it about.
5. Allah then sent a raven to show Qabil how to bury the body of his innocent brother.

Thus we see that from the time of Adam ﷺ and his sons, Muslims bury the dead.

Questions

1. Why did Qabil kill his brother?
2. What did the raven show Qabil?

Nooh ﷺ

1. Nooh ﷺ lived about 1600 years after Adam ﷺ in Iraq near Arabia where the people worshipped images and statues of their dead leaders.
2. Nooh ﷺ was a carpenter and he preached to the people that they should not worship idols but should believe in Allah.
3. After preaching for about 950 years. Allah told Nooh ﷺ that besides those who already believed, there was no one else who had faith.
4. The poor and humble people believed in Allah while the rich made fun of Nooh ﷺ saying they would not leave their gods and their wealth.
5. Allah then commanded Nooh ﷺ to build an ark (a boat).
 - All those who believed would be saved in the ark when the flood came.
 - Those who rejected faith would be destroyed with their possessions.The non-believing people laughed and made fun of Nooh ﷺ but he carried out the command of Allah.
6. When the ark was built and ready Allah commanded Nooh ﷺ to take his followers (about 40 of them) and a pair of every living creature i.e. animals, birds, etc into the ark and to close the doors.
7. Allah then commanded the rains to come down from the sky and water to come up from the ground. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights causing the great flood.
8. The great flood destroyed all the wicked and non-believing people with their possessions. Among those who died was the son of Nooh ﷺ.
9. All those believing people who were in the ark were saved because they had obeyed the commands of Allah.
10. The ark floated on the water until the flood waters had receded.
11. The ark came to rest on top of Mount Judi in Turkey.
12. Allah then commanded Nooh ﷺ to bring the believing people down with the creatures and to settle in that place. Belief in Islam restarted from here and spread.
13. Thus we see that Nooh's ﷺ faith in Allah was so great that he even left his son who was a disbeliever to die in the flood for Allah's sake.

Questions

1. Why did Nooh ﷺ build an ark?
2. Whom did the great flood destroy?
3. Who was saved in the ark?
4. Where did the ark come to rest?

Hud (Heber) ﷺ

1. Hud ﷺ was chosen as a Nabi to warn and advise the people of the Aad (descendants of Nooh ﷺ) who lived in Yemen (Southern Arabia).
2. These people believed in many gods and in idol-worship and built extravagant monuments on the graves of their elders and kings and also worshipped them.
3. They were very proud and used to live in castles and used to say, "Who is superior to us in strength?"

4. For 50 years Hud ﷺ preached to them that they should leave their evil ways and idol worshipping and believe in Allah, the One and Only, who has control over everything.
5. As the people refused to believe in Allah after 50 years of preaching, Hud ﷺ made dua to Allah to punish the disbelievers.
6. For three years there was no rain and famine caused great destruction. Still the people refused to believe in Allah and give up their evil ways.
7. The punishment came suddenly in the form of a great cloud which the people thought would bring rain but instead it brought heavy winds and dust storms which caused death and destruction to the people, their farms and castles. By morning nothing was to be seen but the ruins of their houses and castles and all the disbelievers were dead.
8. Hud ﷺ and those who believed in him and the teachings of Allah were saved by Allah.

Thus we see that Allah's punishment comes to the people who refuse to believe in Allah.

Questions

1. Who did Allah send to the people of Aad?
2. What did the people of Aad believe in?
3. What did Hud ﷺ preach to the people?
4. Why did Hud ﷺ make dua to Allah?
5. How did Allah punish the non-believers?
6. What was the great cloud?

Idrees ﷺ

1. Idrees ﷺ was one of the Nabis of Allah who patiently persevered in the remembrance and commands of Allah.
2. Idrees ﷺ was a man of truth and sincerity. He was a man who held a high position among his people.
3. This high position did not spoil his intentions and he was sincere and true in whatever he did.

Questions

1. Did Idrees ﷺ patiently persevere in the path of Allah?
2. Did the high position spoil him?

Saalih ﷺ

1. Saalih ﷺ was sent as a Nabi to the people of Thamud who lived in Northern Arabia around Iraq.
2. These people used to believe in Allah at first but later they began to worship their dead ancestors.
3. These people were good farmers and built great monuments and houses out of the mountains.
4. However, they troubled the poor and the weak people and even stopped them from getting drinking water and grazing their animals in the rich pastures set aside for cattle belonging to the rich and strong.
5. Saalih ﷺ told them that they must leave their evil ways and let the people get drinking water and graze their cattle. The rich and corrupt people refused to do so.

6. At the request of the wrongdoers, Allah then sent a female camel (Naqatullah) as a sign. This animal must be allowed freedom:
 - To feed on any pasture.
 - To drink from any water-place or spring
7. If she were harmed those responsible would be destroyed by Allah.
8. The disbelievers refused to heed the warnings and killed the camel.
9. Saalih عليه السلام gave the disbelievers three days in which to repent and to believe in Allah otherwise they would be punished, but they refused.
10. Three days later, a severe earthquake shook the land destroying all the buildings, beautiful houses and mansions and killing all the disbelieving people who were trapped in them.
11. Allah warned Saalih عليه السلام beforehand about the disaster that was to come and he and all those who believed in Allah were saved from destruction.

Questions

1. To which people was Saalih عليه السلام sent as a Nabi?
2. How did the rich people trouble the poor and the weak?
3. What did Saalih عليه السلام tell the people?
4. What sign did Allah send?
5. What freedom was to be allowed to this animal?
6. How were the people destroyed?

Ibrahim عليه السلام

1. Ibrahim عليه السلام lived about 5000 years ago in Chaldea, South Iraq (Mesopotamia) with his father, Aazar.
2. The people worshipped idols, the sun, the moon and the stars.
3. As a boy, Ibrahim عليه السلام noticed that the idols could not talk and had no life. The sun, the moon and the stars rose and set and did not deserve to be worshipped but only Allah, the creator of everything must be worshipped.
4. Ibrahim عليه السلام first preached to his father, Aazar, but he did not take heed. Thereafter he preached to his people who also did not listen to him.
5. Once, when all the people were gone out to a festival, Ibrahim عليه السلام went to the temple and broke up all the idols leaving the biggest idol on whose shoulder he placed the axe which Ibrahim عليه السلام had used to break the others.
6. When the people came to the temple, they saw all the broken idols and asked Ibrahim عليه السلام what had happened and who broke the idols.
7. Ibrahim عليه السلام told them that they should ask the biggest idol who still had the axe on him. But the people said that the idols could not speak and could not move about so how could they ask it.
8. Then Ibrahim عليه السلام asked why then did they place food and drink before the idols and why did they pray and ask the idols for help. The people were baffled and did not know what to say.
9. Ibrahim عليه السلام told Nimrod, the King of the people, that Allah was his Lord and that Allah caused life and death.

10. Ibrahim ﷺ told them that Allah caused the sun to rise from the East and challenged the king to make it rise from the West.
11. The king could not do this. The people, angry at Ibrahim ﷺ, made a big fire and threw him into the fire.
12. Ibrahim ﷺ had faith in Allah and prayed to Him.
13. Allah commanded the blazing fire not to harm Ibrahim ﷺ and he was saved from the fire.
14. The people were humiliated but still refused to believe in Allah.
15. Ibrahim ﷺ left with his wife, Sarah ﷺ and his nephew Lut ﷺ and his wife. The two couples went to Palestine (Canaan) where they lived until a famine forced them to go to Egypt for a while and they returned to Palestine after the famine.
16. Ibrahim ﷺ had another wife, Hajarah ﷺ who gave birth to Isma'eel ﷺ when Ibrahim ﷺ was 86 years old.
17. When Ibrahim ﷺ was about 100 years old, angels came and told him that his wife Sarah ﷺ was going to give birth to a son, Is-haaq ﷺ.

Questions

1. Who was Ibrahim ﷺ's father?
2. What did his father and his people worship?
3. What did Ibrahim ﷺ do when the people went to the festival?
4. What questions did Ibrahim ﷺ ask the people about the idols?
5. Why did King Nimrod place Ibrahim ﷺ in the fire?
6. Who saved Ibrahim ﷺ from the fire?
7. Who was the first son of Ibrahim ﷺ and who was the child's mother?
8. What did the angels come and say to Ibrahim ﷺ?

Isma'eel ﷺ

1. Isma'eel ﷺ was the first son of Ibrahim ﷺ and Hajarah ﷺ.
2. Isma'eel ﷺ loved Allah and was obedient to his father.
3. When Isma'eel ﷺ was still a baby, Allah commanded Ibrahim ﷺ to take Isma'eel ﷺ and Hajarah ﷺ and to leave them in the valley of Mecca and to return to Palestine.
4. When there was no water Hajarah ﷺ left the child Isma'eel ﷺ and went to look for water. She ran seven times between Mount Safa and Mount Marwa in search of water but did not find any. She then went back to where the child was and was surprised to see a spring had risen near the child i.e. the well of Zam-Zam from which we get Zam-Zam water to this day.

To commemorate the incident, during Hajj (Pilgrimage), the people still run between Safa and Marwa seven times. This is called the Sa'ee.

5. After some years had passed, Ibrahim ﷺ who was in Palestine saw in a dream that Allah wanted him to sacrifice his only son, Isma'eel ﷺ who was now about 12 years old.
6. Ibrahim ﷺ left Palestine and came to the valley of Mecca where he had left Hajarah ﷺ and Isma'eel ﷺ alone when Isma'eel ﷺ was a baby and told Isma'eel ﷺ what Allah had commanded.
7. Isma'eel ﷺ, without hesitating and without questioning his father, agreed to be sacrificed because it was the command of Allah.

8. At the actual moment of the sacrifice of Isma'eel (عليه السلام), Allah commanded Ibrahim (عليه السلام) to stop and not to sacrifice his son but to sacrifice a ram instead. Thus, both father and son passed the great test of Allah. i.e. Qurbani in the part of Allah.
9. Ibrahim (عليه السلام) went back to Palestine where his other wife, Sarah (عليها السلام), was.
10. Some years went by and Ibrahim (عليه السلام) was again commanded by Allah to go back to Mecca. This time he was to rebuild the Kaaba, Allah's house, which he did with the help of Isma'eel (عليه السلام) who was now a young man. It was Isma'eel (عليه السلام) who went out into the desert and found the black stone of the Kaaba, and placed it in position with his father while they built the house of Allah.
11. After the Kaaba, the House of Allah, was rebuilt, both father and son made dua to Allah to grant a messenger (prophet) from among the Arabs.
12. In answer to this dua, Prophet Muhammad, the last messenger of Allah, was born in Mecca some 3700 from the progeny of Isma'eel (عليه السلام).
13. Isma'eel (عليه السلام) was married first to one woman but when Ibrahim (عليه السلام) came to visit she did not give him a good welcome and Ibrahim (عليه السلام) made out that she would not be the right woman for his son and advised Isma'eel (عليه السلام) to divorce her.
14. Isma'eel (عليه السلام) chose another woman to marry and when Ibrahim (عليه السلام) visited them she gave him a warm welcome. From her, Isma'eel (عليه السلام) had children and he was very happy.

Questions

1. Who was the first son of Ibrahim (عليه السلام)?
2. Why did Ibrahim (عليه السلام) take Hajarah (عليها السلام) and Isma'eel (عليه السلام) and leave them in the valley of Mecca?
3. Why did Hajarah (عليها السلام) run seven times between Safa and Marwa?
4. Where is the well of Zam-Zam?
5. Whom did Allah want Ibrahim (عليه السلام) to sacrifice and what happened?
6. a. Who built the Kaaba?
b. Who found the Black Stone?
7. What dua did Ibrahim (عليه السلام) and Isma'eel (عليه السلام) make when the house of Allah was built?

Is-haaq (عليه السلام)

1. Is-haaq (عليه السلام) was the second son of Ibrahim (عليه السلام) but he was born from his wife Sarah (عليها السلام) when she was 90 years and Ibrahim (عليه السلام) was 100 years old.
2. Is-haaq (عليه السلام) was granted special favours and mercy from Allah and he was inspired by Allah to do good and to establish Salaat (prayer).
3. Is-haaq (عليه السلام) had two sons who were twins. They are Esau (عليه السلام) and Ya-qub (عليه السلام).
4. Is-haaq (عليه السلام) died at the age of 180 years and was buried besides his parents in Hebron (i.e. where Ibrahim (عليه السلام) is buried.)
5. The descendants (in the line) of Is-haaq (عليه السلام) are the Jews. The descendants of Isma'eel (عليه السلام) are the Arabs.
6. Thus, the Jews and the Arabs are cousins having a common grand-father, Ibrahim (عليه السلام).

Questions

1. Who was the second son of Ibrahim (عليه السلام)?
2. Who was the mother of Is-haaq (عليه السلام)?

3. What were the names of the twin sons of Is-haaq ﷺ?
4. From who did the Jews and Arabs descend?

Lut ﷺ

1. Lut ﷺ was the nephew of Ibrahim ﷺ who left Chaldea (Iraq) with Ibrahim ﷺ and settled in Palestine.
2. When the famine took place he went with Ibrahim ﷺ and his family to Egypt and when the famine was over he returned to Palestine.
3. Allah sent Lut ﷺ with his family to the people of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah where the people were living in sin to preach to them to leave their evil ways and to believe in Allah.
4. The people refused to leave their evil ways and mocked and jeered at Lut ﷺ and his family and eventually wanted to drive them out of the two cities.
5. Allah then sent two angels. The angels were on their way to punish the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. On their way to Lut ﷺ the angels visited Ibrahim ﷺ to give him the good news that his wife was going to give birth to a son – Is-haaq ﷺ.
6. Ibrahim ﷺ pleaded with the angels on behalf of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah but they told him that it was Allah's command and they had to carry it out.
7. The two angels, in the form of handsome young men, came to Lut ﷺ in the evening and became his guests.
8. The men of Sodom and Gomorrah (in their lust for unnatural passion and crime) wanted to commit indecent acts with the guests. The people went to Lut's ﷺ house and wanted to take his guests away by force but were stopped.
9. That night, the angels warned Lut ﷺ to escape with his family as they were going to destroy the two cities.
10. Lut ﷺ left by night with his wife and family and before morning, a violent tornado – windstorm and showers of brimstone rained over these two sinful cities and no trace of life was left in them. The two cities were destroyed.
11. Lut ﷺ and his family were saved but his wife who became a wicked woman wanted to live the sinful life and stayed behind and she also perished as she became a disbeliever.
12. Thus, we see that those who do evil and do not believe in Allah are punished and those who do good and believe in Allah are saved.

Questions

1. Why was Lut ﷺ sent to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah?
2. Why did Ibrahim ﷺ plead to the two angels sent by Allah?
3. How did the angels destroy the two cities?
4. Why did Lut's ﷺ wife die?
5. Whom does Allah punish?
6. Who are saved?

Ya-qub ﷺ

1. Ya-qub ﷺ was the son of Is-haaq ﷺ.
Is-haaq ﷺ had 2 sons:
 - Esau ﷺ who was a hunter and married one of the daughters of Isma'eel ﷺ.
 - Ya-qub ﷺ, who was a farmer.
2. Ya-qub ﷺ was married to two daughters of his maternal uncle, one after the other, during the period of 10 years that he lived with his uncle.
3. Ya-qub ﷺ later went to settle in Canaan – Palestine (45 km North of Jerusalem) and in total he had four wives.
4. Ya-qub ﷺ had ten sons from three of his wives. His other two sons were from his wife, Rahil (Rachel) and were born when Ya-qub ﷺ was older in age.
5. Ya-qub ﷺ thus had twelve sons.
6. Ya-qub ﷺ was a Nabi who had great Sabr (patience) and trust in Allah.
7. Ya-qub ﷺ was also known as Israel (soldier or sword of Allah) and his descendants are also known as the Bani- Israel (Children of Israel).

Questions

1. Who was the father of Ya-qub ﷺ?
2. How many sons did Ya-qub ﷺ have?
3. What was the other name of Ya-qub ﷺ?

Yusuf ﷺ

1. Yusuf ﷺ was the son of Ya-qub ﷺ and his mother was Rahil (Rachel). Ya-qub ﷺ had two sons with his wife, Rahil: Yusuf ﷺ and Benyamin, who was the youngest.
2. Ya-qub ﷺ loved Yusuf ﷺ and Benyamin ﷺ very much and this angered the other ten step-brothers who were jealous of Yusuf ﷺ.
3. When Yusuf ﷺ was 17 years old he had a dream: He saw eleven stars, the sun and the moon bowing down to him. He told this dream to his father Ya-qub ﷺ who told him not to tell the dream to his brothers.
4. In the meantime, the ten brothers were planning to harm Yusuf ﷺ.
 - Some suggested that Yusuf ﷺ should be killed.
 - Another suggested that he be thrown into a dry well either to die or to be picked up by a passing caravan and sold somewhere.
 - One suggested that he be driven to an unknown land.
5. They finally decided to throw him into a well.
6. The next day they asked their father to allow Yusuf ﷺ to go with them to play but their father refused saying that a wolf might eat him.
7. The brothers told their father, Ya-qub ﷺ that they were ten in number and would be able to defend themselves and if they had been careless a wolf would have devoured them by now.

8. Ya-qub ﷺ let his son Yusuf ﷺ go with his brothers on the 3rd of Muharram and they took him and threw him into a dry well without his multicoloured robe (a robe given to him by his father Ya-qub ﷺ). They splashed blood on the robe.
9. While Yusuf ﷺ was in the well, Allah told him that one day he would tell his brothers of their wicked deed and put them to shame and humiliation.
10. In the evening the brothers returned home and told their father a lie crying:
 - They had left Yusuf ﷺ alone by their belongings and were playing when a wolf appeared and tore him into pieces before they could reach him to help.
 - They brought Yusuf's ﷺ multicoloured robe covered with bloodstains to show that the wolf had attacked him.
11. Ya-qub ﷺ did not believe them and questioned how a wolf could have such good table manners so as to eat Yusuf ﷺ and not tear his robe. As he could do nothing, Ya-qub ﷺ bore this calamity with patience and accepted their story.
12. **Yusuf ﷺ is rescued by merchants**

The well into which Yusuf ﷺ was thrown was near the caravan route and soon a merchant's caravan passed by. The merchants were on their way to Egypt and were in need of water. When a bucket was dropped into the well and pulled up, Yusuf ﷺ came up with it. The merchants took the handsome Yusuf ﷺ with them to be sold as a slave in Egypt after paying Yusuf's brothers for him.

(The brothers were hiding nearby and approached the merchants when Yusuf ﷺ was taken out of the well.)

13. In Egypt, Yusuf ﷺ was sold at a slave market to Aziz – a high officer in the court of the Pharaoh and Aziz kept him as his son and gave him all the freedom to do what he wanted.
14. **Zuleika's impure intentions**

Zuleika, the wife of Aziz, was enchanted with Yusuf's ﷺ good looks and desired him in an inappropriate way. At an opportune moment, she once trapped him in a lonely room and bolted the door from the inside. Yusuf ﷺ refused to be seduced by the beautiful Zuleika and wanted Allah's protection. Yusuf ﷺ managed to escape from Zuleika and ran towards the door. Zuleika chased him and caught hold of his shirt from behind and the shirt tore.

Moral: As a righteous man, Yusuf ﷺ feared Allah. As a gentleman he was aware of the fact that he would be ungrateful to his patron Aziz if he fell into the temptation of sin with Aziz's wife, Zuleika.

Yusuf ﷺ opened the door and when he stepped out he found Aziz nearby. Zuleika was humiliated and charged the slave of outraging her modesty and suggested a punishment for him.

Yusuf ﷺ denied the charge and was supported by a child witness who said that if the shirt was torn from behind, the woman was guilty and if the shirt was torn in front, Yusuf ﷺ would be the guilty party. The shirt was examined and found to be torn from behind, so Zuleika was guilty. Aziz was convinced of his wife's weakness and asked her to beg pardon from Yusuf ﷺ and wanted to hush up the scandal.

However, the news of the flirtation of Aziz's wife with a slave boy spread among the society of women and this made Zuleika angry. To save her reputation, she arranged a dinner to which she invited all the women. She offered fruit to the women and gave them sharp knives with which to cut the fruit.

When the guests started cutting the fruit, she had Yusuf ﷺ brought in. The ladies, seeing the charming and handsome Yusuf ﷺ, were so enchanted that instead of cutting the fruit they cut their fingers.

Thus, as Zuleika was enchanted by Yusuf ﷺ, so were the other women.

Zuleika gets desperate

Aziz's wife, Zuleika, was getting desperate to possess Yusuf ﷺ, and to the people it was more important to save the honour of a nobleman (Aziz) than to uphold the cause of a slave (Yusuf ﷺ) even though he was innocent.

Yusuf ﷺ prayed to Allah to keep him free from insult and a bad name, but the people put Yusuf ﷺ into prison. In prison, Yusuf ﷺ started preaching to the other prisoners about the faith and teachings of Ibrahim ﷺ, which is the belief in Allah, of Islam.

All that happened to Yusuf ﷺ was according to Allah's plans, as we shall see later.

15. Yusuf ﷺ interprets dreams

Two men who were officers of the Pharaoh came to prison at about the same time as Yusuf ﷺ: One was a cup-bearer, whose duty was to prepare the Pharaoh's wines and drinks. The other was the baker who prepared the bread for the Pharaoh.

Whilst in prison, the cup-bearer had a dream that he was pressing wine and the baker had a dream that he was carrying bread on his head and the birds were eating from there. They asked Yusuf ﷺ to interpret the dream.

Before Yusuf ﷺ interpreted the dream, he asked them: "Are many Lords differing among themselves better or The One Allah, Supreme and Irresistible?" Yusuf ﷺ talked to them about the religion of Ibrahim ﷺ which is Islam, the only true religion and the religion which teaches the philosophy of surrender to One Allah.

Yusuf ﷺ then told them the meaning of their dreams:

- The cup-bearer would be found innocent and would be released and will again serve the Pharaoh.
- The baker would be found guilty and would hang on the cross and the birds would eat off his head.

Yusuf ﷺ told the cup-bearer that when he is released and goes back to work, he must remember him (Yusuf ﷺ) and tell the Pharaoh about him.

16. The Pharaoh's (King's) dream and Yusuf's ﷺ release from prison

Some years went by and the Pharaoh (King of Egypt) had a dream:

He saw seven fat animals which seven thin animals had eaten up. He also saw seven green ears of corn (fresh) and seven others, all dried up.

None of his magicians or wise men could interpret his dream. The cup-bearer remembered Yusuf ﷺ and how he had explained his own dream and he asked the Pharaoh's permission to go and ask Yusuf ﷺ in prison the interpretation of the dream.

Yusuf ﷺ explained the dream to the cup-bearer. Yusuf ﷺ said: “For seven years shall you diligently sow (grow carefully) and would store the harvest (the corn), except that which they shall eat. Then will follow seven years of dreadful famine (drought – no rain, no crops) which will devour all that they stored away. After that will come abundant water (plenty of water, possibly by the Nile overflowing) and they will press wine and oil from the trees and there would be plenty of food.”

This explanation of the dream to the cup-bearer was related by the cup-bearer and the Pharaoh wanted to see Yusuf ﷺ. Yusuf ﷺ refused to come out of prison until he was proved innocent and all the evil talk that was raised about him denounced in front of all the people. (i.e. told that it was lies). Yusuf ﷺ wanted a decision that he was sent to prison on whims only to save the prestige and honour of the court official, Aziz.

The Pharaoh called all, even the women of the city including Zuleika, the wife of Aziz and inquired about Yusuf ﷺ – They spoke highly of him and said in one voice – “We know no evil of him.”, meaning that he was innocent. Then Yusuf ﷺ came before the Pharaoh who declared his innocence and praised him.

At his own request, Yusuf ﷺ was put in the responsible position of being in charge of the food stores. Yusuf ﷺ knew the importance of what the dream meant and that is why he wanted to be put in charge of the food stores. He came to be trusted by the Pharaoh for his knowledge and wisdom given to him by Allah.

Yusuf ﷺ managed his responsibility very successfully and by the end of the first seven years they stored up as much food as they could manage in the grain houses for the whole of Egypt.

17. The famine brings the ten brothers to Egypt.

Just as Yusuf ﷺ had interpreted of the dream, a famine came to the country which was not only confined to Egypt but also affected the neighbouring countries, especially Canaan in Palestine which was worst hit, where Yusuf’s ﷺ father, Ya-qub ﷺ and his family lived.

Ya-qub ﷺ sent his ten sons (except Benjamin) to Egypt to bring corn. The caravan came to Egypt and on their arrival, Yusuf ﷺ recognised his brothers, but his brothers did not recognise him, and he did not disclose his identity that he was their brother whom they had sold into slavery.

They were supplied with a camel-load of corn and some money was also secretly put into their saddle-bags. When they were departing, Yusuf ﷺ told them that they must bring Benjamin with them, otherwise they would not get any corn from Egypt. When the brothers opened their saddle bags and found money in them they were surprised as to how it got there.

When the corn was eaten, and nothing was left, they went to Egypt with Benjamin, whom Ya-qub ﷺ allowed to go with them only after the ten brothers took an oath that they would bring him back safely. On their arrival in Egypt, they met Yusuf ﷺ who immediately recognised his own brother, Benjamin. Yusuf ﷺ told Benjamin secretly, without the others knowing, that he was his brother and he must not reveal it to anyone as yet, as he had some plans to carry out to bring the family together. As Yusuf ﷺ wanted Benjamin to stay and the others to go back, he secretly told his servant to put the Pharaoh’s cup into the sack of Benjamin.

The caravan left for Palestine but was called back and they were accused of stealing the Pharaoh's cup to which they expressed astonishment. When the search was made, the Pharaoh's cup was found in Benjamin's sack – and he was detained and kept back in Egypt, under the Egyptian law.

18. Ya-qub's ﷺ grief over Benjamin

The ten brothers returned to Palestine with the corn to save the family but were unable to face their father whom they had promised Benjamin's return. The news that Benjamin was kept in Egypt was bone-shaking to Ya-qub ﷺ whose eyes turned white and he became blind.

Ya-qub ﷺ asked his ten sons to go back to Egypt and search for Yusuf ﷺ and bring him back with Benjamin.

19. Yusuf ﷺ reveals himself

For the third time, the ten brothers left Canaan and went to Egypt, but this time Yusuf ﷺ revealed himself as their brother, whom they threw into the dry well and sold into slavery. The ten brothers were very surprised and said, "Is it indeed that you are Yusuf!"

Yusuf ﷺ, fearing that something might have happened to his father, Ya-qub ﷺ, who was then very old (137), sent one of his brothers ahead with his shirt and asked him to place the shirt on his father's eyes. By the smell of the shirt the father would know that it was his son, Yusuf's ﷺ shirt, and he would regain his eyesight. When the other brothers left, he invited all of them to emigrate to Egypt.

When Ya-qub ﷺ heard the news of his son, Yusuf ﷺ, he said to his other sons, "Did I not tell you that I know from Allah that which you do not know?". Yusuf ﷺ was right, for Ya-qub ﷺ regained his sight.

20. Ya-qub ﷺ and his family emigrate to Egypt

The entire family of Ya-qub ﷺ arrived in Egypt, and Yusuf ﷺ put them in a high position and gave them a very warm welcome. Yusuf ﷺ wept on the shoulder of his father, Ya-qub ﷺ, and also pardoned his brothers for their crimes.

All of them – the eleven brothers (eleven stars), the father (the sun) and his mother (the moon) bowed before Yusuf ﷺ, as in the dream that Yusuf ﷺ had when he was seventeen years old and told his father.

At a marriageable age (30-40), Yusuf ﷺ got married and his wife gave birth to two sons whose names were Manessah and Ephram. Yusuf ﷺ lived for 110 years, but before his death he took an oath from the children of Israel that they would carry his bones from Egypt and lay them besides those of his father.

N.B. Because of the famine, many families came to settle in Egypt where, over the years, their numbers increased by marriage until the time of Moosa ﷺ, when they were over 600 000.

When Moosa ﷺ escaped with the Israelites from Egypt, they remembered their oath and took Yusuf's ﷺ bones with them and later buried them in the Vale of Hebron (Al-Khalil) in the valley of Mechapelah, which his great-grandfather Ibrahim ﷺ had purchased when he lived.

Thus, we see how according to the plan of Allah, Yusuf ﷺ came to Egypt to prepare for the famine and to make a place for the Israelites until the time of Moosa ﷺ when he led them out of Egypt.

And who plans better than Allah – none but Allah. Allah knows what will happen to us until the day of Qiyamat, when He will sit in judgement over us.

Questions

1. What were Yusuf's ﷺ father's and mother's names?
2. How many sons did Ya-qub ﷺ have?
3. What dream did Yusuf ﷺ have when he was seventeen years old?
4. Who were Ya-qub's ﷺ favourite sons?
5. What did the brothers do to Yusuf ﷺ when they took him to play?
6. What lie did the brothers tell their father?
7. Who bought Yusuf ﷺ as a slave in Egypt and kept him as his son?
8. How did Yusuf's ﷺ shirt get torn?
9. Why did Zuleika give fruit and sharp knives to her guests?
10. What did Yusuf ﷺ preach to the cup-bearer and the baker?
11. What dreams did the cup-bearer and baker have, and how did Yusuf ﷺ interpret it?
12. What dream did the Pharaoh have?
13. How did Yusuf ﷺ explain the dream to the cup-bearer?
14. Why did Yusuf ﷺ refuse to come out of prison when the Pharaoh called him?
15. In what position did the Pharaoh put Yusuf ﷺ and why?
16. Who gave corn to the ten brothers?
17. Did the brothers recognise Yusuf ﷺ?
18. Whom did the ten brothers take with them on their second trip to Egypt?
19. Why was Pharaoh's cup put in Benjamin's sack?
20. Why did Ya-qub ﷺ become blind?
21. What was the brother to put on Ya-qub's ﷺ eyes and why?
22. How was the dream of Yusuf ﷺ fulfilled? (The dream which he had when he was seventeen years old)
23. What was the plan of Allah in sending Yusuf ﷺ to Egypt?

Shu-aib ﷺ

1. Shu-aib ﷺ was born among the Midianites who lived in the city of Midian (near the valley of the gulf of Aquabah, between Egypt and Arabia) some 4900 years ago when the area was overgrown with trees of the forest.
2. Shu-aib ﷺ was the great grandson of Midian who was one of the sons of Ibrahim ﷺ.
3. Some of the Midian people were nomads (used to go from place to place with their animals and belongings), while the others settled at Midian – a city which was on the caravan route between Egypt and Babylon in Mesopotamia – South Iraq. Midian was a flourishing city enjoying all the privileges of business, trade and commerce.

Despite this, the Midian people were corrupt (did wrong things) and their desire to possess more wealth and property was endless and they did not want to know the difference between good and bad, and right and wrong:

- They were highway robbers.
 - They were cheats and practised fraud and deprived people of their rightful dues.
 - They committed mischief and were breakers of law and order in lands where peace was established.
 - They traded in short measures and weights (did not give correct length of materials, or anything they had to measure or weigh on the scale).
 - They abused religion and piety and stopped people from the worship of Allah.
4. Shu-aib ﷺ was sent as a Nabi (prophet) for the city of Midian whose people were also known as As'hab-ul-Aikah (dwellers of the wood) because at that time a dense forest grew there (now desert).
 5. Shu-aib ﷺ was one of their brothers and he asked his people to remember the kindness of Allah and not to neglect His teachings.
 6. Shu-aib ﷺ reminded them of what happened to the corrupt people of Nooh ﷺ, the people of Aad and Thamud and the people of Sodom and Gomorrah.
 7. Shu-aib ﷺ told them that they must believe in Allah and change their ways of evil and live honestly for their prosperity, otherwise they would soon know the anger of Allah.
He also told them that they must look forward to the last day (Day of Qiyamat) when they shall have to give account of their deeds in this world.
 8. Shu-aib ﷺ was laughed at, ridiculed and threatened to be driven away from the city. The people refused to believe in Allah and his teachings and continued to do what their forefathers had indulged in, i.e. all the sins and wrongs.
 9. The chieftains warned their priests and the people to be careful of the teachings of Shu-aib ﷺ, for he was all out to destroy their old customs and traditions. Listening to him would only lead to their own material loss.
 10. Shu-aib ﷺ, although so sincere, could not change the people. The people persecuted the believers of Shu-aib ﷺ even when he asked the people not to harm them.
 11. At last, Shu-aib ﷺ left the country with his followers saying: "O my people! I delivered Allah's message to you and gave you good advice. Then how can I have sorrow for a people that rejected the truth?"
 12. The Midianites were then unexpectedly seized with an earthquake and by the morning the entire city and its people were completely wiped out as though they had never existed. Thus we see that all those who reject the truth and refuse to believe in Allah are doomed.

Questions

1. Where was Shu-aib عليه السلام born?
2. Where was the city of Midian situated?
3. What were the wrong things that the Midianites did?
4. Who were the Ashab-ul-Aikah? Why were they so named?
5. Whom did Shu-aib عليه السلام remind the people of that were corrupt and what happened to them?
6. Why did he tell the people to look forward to the day of Qiyamat?
7. Why did the chieftains warn the people and priests?
8. What did Shu-aib عليه السلام say when he left the country?
9. How did Allah destroy the Midianites?

Moosa عليه السلام

Early Life

Moosa عليه السلام was the son of Imran and was born in Egypt 450 years after Yusuf عليه السلام.

The Israelites had settled in Egypt from the time of Yusuf عليه السلام 450 years before, in and around Tanis and Ghosen which was 450 km South of the Nile Delta. They followed the faith of Ibrahim عليه السلام i.e. they believed in Allah – in Islam.

1. Firaun

Firaun, (the Pharaoh) King of the Egyptians, had his capital at Thebes, near Ghosen. In those days, magic and deception was the religion of the Egyptians and Firaun was the high priest and supreme God of the Egyptians.

Firaun feared that one day the Israelites might become powerful and supreme in the land, with the result that they were persecuted and he appointed task masters over them – people at work who punished them. In order to check their multiplication, Firaun at first issued an order – directing all the midwives (nurses or women that deliver the babies at birth) in the country, to kill every boy baby born in the family of the Israelites. Firaun also issued another order, that all male children of the Israelite families, were to be thrown into the river Nile.

Thus, Firaun thought that by killing the male babies, the number of Israelites would be reduced and they would not become powerful in the land of Egypt.

2. Moosa's عليه السلام birth and childhood

When Moosa عليه السلام was born, his mother kept him hidden for three months. When she could not hide him any longer, Allah inspired her and she placed her baby son, Moosa عليه السلام, in a chest (an arc of bulrushes that could float on water) and placed the chest on the river Nile as directed by Allah.

She then made her daughter, Miriam (Moosa's عليه السلام sister), follow the chest from a distance to avoid suspicion and see where the chest goes. The chest flowed on into a stream that passed through

Firaun's garden. The chest was picked up by one of Firaun's servants and the baby was brought to Firaun's wife who had no son of her own.

She saw the beautiful baby and adopted Moosa ﷺ as her own son. But the baby Moosa ﷺ refused to drink anyone's milk and then his sister Miriam came to Firaun's wife and told her that there was a woman who would be able to feed Moosa ﷺ on her breasts.

Thus, Moosa's ﷺ mother came to look after him without Firaun's wife or Firaun knowing that she was his own mother. We see how the first part of Allah's plans was successful and the mother looking after her own baby without fear of the baby Moosa ﷺ being killed by the Egyptians.

3. Gift of wisdom and knowledge

When Moosa ﷺ attained maturity, he was blessed by Allah with wisdom and knowledge, both of the Egyptians and Israelites. He also spoke Hebrew, the language of the Israelites.

4. Visit to camp

One day, Moosa ﷺ went to the camp of the Israelites and was shocked to see their condition. They were inhumanely treated by the Egyptian taskmasters and no work was considered too difficult for them, like pulling big boulders or lifting them up. They were whipped and punished if they were unable to do a task.

While in camp, he saw one of the Egyptians nastily beating one of the Israelites with a whip. Moosa ﷺ could not control himself and gave the Egyptian guard a blow which resulted in his death.

Moosa ﷺ was informed that the Egyptian guards were looking for him as he had killed one of them and it was impossible for him to stay any longer as he was a wanted man. Moosa ﷺ left the safety of the house of Firaun and fled from Egypt.

Thus, we see how Moosa ﷺ in his matured life had to leave the country of his birth and flee as a hunted man for killing an Egyptian who was beating an Israelite.

Was this the second of Allah's plans?

5. Stay in Midian land

Moosa ﷺ escaped and came to an oasis in the land of Midian where he saw a group of men watering their flocks of animals. Moosa ﷺ also noticed two young and beautiful girls waiting to water their flocks of animals.

Moosa ﷺ went among the goat-herds, made a place for the flocks of the girls and watered them i.e. the animals – then went back to the shade of a tree nearby. The two girls thanked him saying that their father was a very old man and could not come and water their flocks. They therefore did the work and could not very well trust themselves among the men as the men might interfere with them.

Later on, one of the two girls came back and told him that their father had invited him to their house and he accepted the invitation and went with her to her father's house. He was warmly received by the girls' father. Moosa ﷺ told the father about himself and on hearing the story of Moosa's ﷺ flight from Egypt, the old man spoke kind words.

As the old man had no sons and was in need of a strong and faithful person to look after the cattle, he asked Moosa عليه السلام to stay and work for him – to which request Moosa عليه السلام agreed to as he had nowhere else to go.

6. Nikah

Sometime later, the father gave one of his daughters to Moosa عليه السلام in marriage (Nikah) on condition that Moosa عليه السلام must stay with him for eight or ten years. Moosa عليه السلام agreed to the old man's request and got married to one of the girls.

7. Allah and Prophethood

After Moosa عليه السلام finished the ten year's service as agreed, he left his family with his father-in-law and proceeded towards Tuwa Valley at the foot of the great mountain pass in the Sinai Peninsula called Al-Tur.

It was a cold winter's night and while going with his family he saw a fire in a bush a little distance away on the side of the mountain. He left his family there and went to bring a fire brand so that they might warm themselves and ask the people by the fire the correct way through the valley.

But when he came near the fire he heard a voice:

فَلَمَّا أَتَاهَا نُودِيَ يَمُوسَى ۖ إِنِّي أَنَا رَبُّكَ فَاخْلَعْ نَعْلَيْكَ إِنَّكَ بِالْوَادِ الْمُقَدَّسِ طُوًى ۚ
وَأَنَا اخْتَرْتُكَ فَاسْتَبِعْ لِمَا يُوعَى ۚ إِنِّي أَنَا اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدْنِي وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ لِذِكْرِي ۚ

“When he came to it, a voice called out: "O Moses!

Surely I am The Lord, so put off thy shoes, for thou art in the sacred valley of Tuwa.

I have chosen thee: So hearken to what shall be revealed. Verily I am Allah, there is no one else but I. Therefore serve Me and keep up prayers for My remembrance.”

(Surah Taa-haa verses 11-14)

Moosa عليه السلام took off his shoes and Allah spoke to Moosa عليه السلام and bestowed on him Prophethood.

8. Two great signs and the command to go to Firaun

Moosa عليه السلام was given two great signs by Allah, namely:

- “The Rod” – his staff/shepherd stick which when thrown down, would change into a moving snake.
- When his hand was drawn out from his armpit, it became a “Shining Hand”.

Moosa عليه السلام was commanded by Allah to go back to Egypt and to speak to Firaun and his men – but he feared going back because he had once killed a man there (the Egyptian guard). As he wanted someone to help him, he proposed the names of his brother Haroon عليه السلام. Allah also made Haroon عليه السلام a prophet.

Allah told him that He would protect both of them during their mission:

- To ask Firaun to deliver the Israelites to him
- And also, to deliver the message: “There is no one worthy of worship and obedience but Allah.”

- Moosa ﷺ was to deal with Firaun mildly for he might change heart and become one of the believers in Allah.

9. Return to Egypt

Moosa ﷺ came to Egypt with his brother, Haroon ﷺ. He came before Firaun and Haman (his minister) to preach the religion of Ibrahim ﷺ to them – but they were heckled and laughed at by Firaun and the Egyptians.

In mockery, Firaun asked his servants to prepare a ladder for him so that he may climb up into the sky to see the Allah of Moosa ﷺ – This offended Moosa ﷺ who told Firaun that they had come with the command of Allah, on a mission, and not to be made fools of.

Moosa ﷺ then showed Firaun Allah's signs:

- He threw down the rod and it became a snake.
- He then drew his hand from the right armpit and it became dazzling white and shining.

10. Contest

Firaun refused to believe in Allah and arranged a contest on the day of the temple festival – when the temple and streets will be decorated and the people will be free from work and will gather in great numbers. They would be at the temple festival to witness the contest.

Firaun called all his magicians and priests from all parts of Egypt and promised them suitable rewards to win the contest against Moosa ﷺ. The magicians first cast down their cords and sticks which by magic appeared to crawl like snakes.

Moosa ﷺ and the people were enchanted and hypnotised by the show put up by the magicians – but Allah gave Moosa ﷺ inspiration to throw down his rod which turned into a snake and moved about and ate the cords and sticks of the magicians.

11. Magicians accept Islam

The magicians immediately realised the power of Allah and they bowed down and submitted to Allah and accepted Islam. Firaun refused to change and threatened the magicians that he would cut off their hands and feet and crucify them.

But the magicians were convinced of the power of Allah and there was nothing to change their minds as they became believers in Allah and his Prophet, Moosa ﷺ.

12. Persecution, hard labour and killing

Firaun then started telling the people that these two magicians had come to their land of Egypt only to make them divided and to take away the land from the Egyptians.

Thus, the Egyptians were aroused and incited by Firaun – they began punishing the Israelites and the punishment of the children of Israel started firmly and life became unbearable with the hardships imposed on them by the Egyptians.

The Israelites complained to Moosa ﷺ that since his arrival into the land their worries had increased and they were put to more torture (punishment) than previously. Moosa ﷺ advised the Israelites that

they should hold fast to the religion of Ibrahim ﷺ, namely Islam, and rely on Allah for Allah was there to protect them and they should not lose their faith in Allah.

13. Allah punishes Firaun and the Egyptians

Moosa ﷺ and Haroon ﷺ preached the religion of Ibrahim ﷺ – Islam, to the Egyptians and demanded the release of the Israelites from slavery. Firaun refused. Moosa ﷺ then prayed (made dua) to Almighty Allah to destroy the riches of Firaun and his people and thereby break their pride and arrogance as they were non-believers and refused to accept Islam.

Allah then punished Firaun, his country and his people in many ways:

- All the streams, rivers, ponds and pools turned into blood causing untold hardships to the Egyptians.
- When this could not humble the Egyptians – the country was filled with frogs in such large numbers that no place was free from them and this became a nuisance to the Egyptians.

Firaun still refused to let the Israelites go with Moosa ﷺ and more punishment was imposed by Allah.

- The whole of Egypt was infested with lice – a parasite insect found in human hair and skin which causes the body and hair to itch.
- Then came swarms of flies – irritating and settling on food.
- Then the country saw Grievous Murrain – a bad animal disease and all the cattle died except those of the Israelites.
- Then came thunder and hail and fire which destroyed the standing crops of the Egyptians.
- After this, the country was plagued by locusts which ate away everything green (green vegetation).
- Then there was continuous darkness in the land for three days.

In all these calamities the Israelites, i.e. the believers in Allah and the religion of Ibrahim ﷺ – Islam, did not suffer any calamity. When Firaun could not bear the calamities brought by Allah each time, he would approach Moosa ﷺ and request him to pray to Allah to ward off the evil – at the same time Firaun would promise to allow the Israelites to go with Moosa ﷺ. But as soon as the trouble ended, his heart hardened and he broke his promise. He became stubborn and refused to let them go.

14. Allah commands Moosa ﷺ to lead the Israelites out of Egypt

After all these calamities on the Egyptians without changing their ways, Allah commanded Moosa ﷺ to leave the country with all the Israelites (about 600 000) by night. They left Ghosen and Egypt on foot or whatever they could with all their belongings – flocks, herds, kneading troughs (to make bread), silver and gold ornaments and all they could carry with them.

Moosa ﷺ warned the people to travel quickly as they would be chased by Firaun when he learnt that they had already left the country without his permission. This was the mass leaving of Egypt of the Israelites, believers in Allah and Islam, with Moosa ﷺ and Haroon ﷺ as their leaders.

15. The Chase and the drowning of Firaun and the non-believers

In the morning, Firaun was told that the Israelites had left and he was angry with his people for letting the Israelites go. He took 600 chosen chariots (horse drawn carriages used for fighting), his armed horsemen and the army and went after the Israelites who were camped by the Red Sea.

When the army approached the people of Israel, they became afraid and cried to Allah for help. They said to Moosa ﷺ, “Were there no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness?”

But Moosa ﷺ told them to march to the edge of the Red Sea and under Allah’s command, Moosa ﷺ struck the water with his stick which separated the waters into two and became two huge mountains on either side with a road in the middle of the Red Sea from the side where the Israelites were to the other side of the Red Sea. Then the Israelites crossed quickly and came safely to the other side of the Red Sea.

Firaun and his army were in the middle of the path in the Red Sea when Allah caused the waters to close on all of them and the waters came together and all were drowned – men, horses, chariots, including Firaun (Ramesis).

It was the 10th of Muharram (Ashura) when this happened. At the time of his death, Firaun declared that he believed in Allah, but it was too late and he died a non-believer who will be judged by Allah for his crimes on the last day – the day of Qiyamat.

16. Mount Sinai and the Revelation of the Taurat

After crossing the Red Sea, Moosa ﷺ and his followers (the people of Israel who believed in Allah) went South for about 250 km to Mount Sinai. Moosa ﷺ was summoned by Allah and he answered the call by going up Mount Sinai (a mountain) where Allah was to talk to Moosa ﷺ for 30 days. Moosa ﷺ left his brother Haroon ﷺ in charge of the people and Haroon ﷺ was directed to act well and not to follow the ways of the mischief makers amongst the people.

Here on the mountain, Allah gave the Taurat (Ten Commandments) – book given to Moosa ﷺ which contained laws and clear explanations of everything for the people to live correctly. Moosa ﷺ was asked to follow it strictly and to ask his people to live by it. After 30 days, Moosa ﷺ was detained on the mountain for a further 10 days (40 days in all) which caused anxiety and worry to the people. Amongst his people, some thought that Moosa ﷺ had deceived them to avoid trouble and had fled away.

Was this a test of Allah? Would the people remain true to their faith and teachings and beliefs or would they commit some wrong?

On the instructions and investigation of a person called Samiri (an Egyptian who had believed in Moosa ﷺ and in Allah and who had left Egypt with the Israelites – he was a hypocrite), the people melted their gold ornaments which they had brought with them from Egypt and made a golden calf which they began to worship.

Allah told Moosa ﷺ about the calf-worship and he came down from the mountain in great anger. Moosa ﷺ kept the Tablets on one side and pulled his brother, Haroon ﷺ by the hair and asked him to explain to him why he did not prevent the people from calf worship.

Haroon ﷺ explained his position – the people did not listen to his pleadings and acted according to

their own whims and fancies. Haroon ﷺ also told him that they even plotted to murder him – Haroon ﷺ.

When the people were asked, they put the blame on Samiri, and when he was questioned, he could not give any satisfactory explanation. Moosa ﷺ prayed for the people to be forgiven by Allah and Allah forgave them – They vowed to Allah that they would obey him. The golden calf was melted and scattered into the sea.

After receiving the Taurat, they proceeded towards the promised land of Palestine and they went 200 km North to the desert of Paran, close to the Southern border of Canaan in Palestine where they set up camp.

The people of Moosa ﷺ were not easy-going. They made him angry and insulted him on many occasions, but he had patience with them and he was still their leader.

17. Expedition

From the camp on the border, Moosa ﷺ sent out an expedition of twelve men to spy on the land of Palestine. The men went as far as Hebron – about 200 km North of their camp – to about 30 km of the future Jerusalem (which was not built as yet by them). They saw a rich country, and brought back from it rich fruits like grapes, apples and many others. They reported that the land was rich, but the people were too strong for them to fight.

18. Rebellion

Moosa ﷺ asked the Israelites to enter the promised land of Palestine as Allah was with them. The people had no courage and no faith in themselves – they lost heart and refused to obey Moosa ﷺ. They refused the advice of Yushaa ﷺ and Caleb who went on the expedition and who had faith and courage – that the people must not fear for there was Allah and His Prophet, Moosa ﷺ there to protect them.

The people did not listen to their instructions and were further inflamed by the report of the other ten men who made an evil report that they were frightened of the great size of the Cannanites who were very powerful. The people came out in open rebellion and refused to listen to their leader, Moosa ﷺ. They were even prepared to stone Moosa ﷺ, Haroon ﷺ, Yushaa ﷺ and Caleb. The people even wanted to return to Egypt.

Their reply to Moosa ﷺ was in effect, disobedience. It was full of irony, insolence, blasphemy and cowardice. In effect they said, “You talk of your Allah and all that. Go with your Allah and fight there if you like. We shall sit here and watch.”

19. Allah punishes the wrongdoers

The punishment of Allah for the rebellion was such that they were left to wander through the wilderness for 40 years. The people were left in the wilderness for 40 years and did not enter Palestine, the promised land, although they had a great leader, Moosa ﷺ, with them. This was the punishment of Allah.

This generation was not to see the holy land of Palestine. All those that were 20 years and above were to die in the wilderness. Only those that were children would reach the promised land and so it happened:

- From the desert of Paran they wandered South, North and East for 40 years.
- From the head of the land of what it is now, the gulf of Aquaba, they travelled North, keeping to the East side of the hollow of which the dead sea and the river Jordan are portions.

20. Entering the promised land 40 years later

40 years later, they crossed the River Jordan, opposite what is now called Jericho (which is 20km north west of Jerusalem), not yet built by them, on the west bank of the River Jordan.

But by that time, Moosa ﷺ, Haroon ﷺ and the whole of the adult generation had passed away. After the death of Moosa ﷺ, Yushaa ﷺ became the leader and guided the destiny of his people in occupying by force the land which was promised to the Israelites in the early times by Allah. (Palestine – Baitul Muqaddas of the Muslims.)

This land was promised to Moosa ﷺ by Allah, the land of milk and honey. But these people became the cursed people because they rebelled and disobeyed Allah so often.

Questions

1. Whose son was Moosa ﷺ?
2. Where did the Israelites settle in Egypt?
3. Where was Firaun's capital?
4. Who was Firaun?
5. What laws did Firaun pass to stop the numbers of the Israelites from increasing?
6. Why did Moosa's ﷺ mother place him in a chest and put it onto the river?
7. How did the chest get to Firaun's garden?
8. Who adopted Moosa ﷺ?
9. How did Moosa's ﷺ mother come to look after him?
10. How did Moosa ﷺ kill the Egyptian guard?
11. Why did he kill the guard?
12. Where did Moosa ﷺ escape to?
13. Why did Moosa ﷺ help the two girls?
14. On what conditions did the nikah of Moosa ﷺ take place?
15. Where did Moosa ﷺ see the fire?
16. Who bestowed prophethood on Moosa ﷺ? Why was he ordered to take off his shoes?
17. What two signs were bestowed on Moosa ﷺ?
18. Why was he commanded to return to Egypt?
19. Why did Firaun ask for a ladder to be prepared?
20. What happened at the contest with the rods?
21. Who accepted Islam? Why did they accept Islam?
22. How did Allah punish Firaun and his Egyptians?
23. What happened when Firaun got to know that the Israelites had escaped?
24. What happened when Moosa ﷺ struck the waters of the Red Sea?
25. Who was drowned in the waters of the Red Sea?
26. What did Allah give Moosa ﷺ when he went up Mount Sinai?
27. What happened when Moosa ﷺ stayed for over 30 days on top of the mountain?

28. Who was the ringleader and what did they build?
29. What was Haroon's ﷺ response to Moosa ﷺ about the people engaging in calf worship?
30. What did they do to the golden calf to get rid of it?
31. Where did the Israelites make camp after they left Mount Sinai?
32. What was the report of the twelve men who went out on the expedition?
33. What advice did Yushaa ﷺ and Caleb, two of the men on the expedition, give to the people?
34. Why did the people refuse to go further?
35. What was the rebellion?
36. What did the people say when they rebelled against the command of Allah?
37. How did Allah punish the wrongdoers?
38. After how long did they enter the promised land?
39. From where did they enter the promised land of Palestine?
40. What happened to the older generation?

Prophets just before Dawood ﷺ

Yushaa ﷺ

1. After the death of Moosa ﷺ, the leader became Yushaa ﷺ for 25 years – under whom the Israelites began attacking the Canaanite cities.
2. The conquest of the Canaanite cities was finished by Dawood ﷺ more than 200 years later.

Shamweel ﷺ

1. During the period after Yushaa ﷺ, other leaders known as Judges took control and the last judge was Shamweel ﷺ.
2. In the time of Shamweel ﷺ, the Israelites did wrong things and the Philistines attacked and defeated them with much killing because the tribes were not united anymore.
3. The Israelites, instead of relying on faith in Allah, brought out their most sacred possessions – The Ark of the Covenant (Tabut – i – Sakinah). The Ark was a chest of acacia wood covered and lined with pure gold. It contained “The testimony of Allah”, or “The Ten Commandments” engraved on stone and with relics (old things) of Moosa ﷺ and Haroon ﷺ. The Ark was brought out to help them in their fight against the Philistines.
4. The enemy captured the Ark and kept it for seven months.
5. The Israelites forgot that wickedness cannot hide itself behind a sacred relic, nor can a sacred relic help the enemies of faith.
6. The enemy found out that the Ark brought nothing but misfortune and disaster to them, so they left it and it remained unknown in a village for 20 years and was then found later by the Israelites. (It was found when Shamweel ﷺ appointed Talut ﷺ as king of the Israelites and was taken to the capital, Jerusalem, where Kingship was established – (before this they did not have kings.)
7. Meanwhile, the people asked Shamweel ﷺ to appoint a king for them (the Israelites), who had very little faith. They thought that a king would cure all their ills i.e. their misfortune of losing the wars in battle, whereas what was needed was a union of spirit and discipline and a readiness on their part to fight in the cause of Allah.

Talut ؑﻟﻮﺕ

1. Shamweel ؑﻟﻮﻩﻝ whilst hunting in the jungle one day, met Talut ؑﻟﻮﺕ.
2. Talut ؑﻟﻮﺕ at that time was looking for his father's donkey, which was lost in the jungle.
3. When Shamweel ؑﻟﻮﻩﻝ met Talut ؑﻟﻮﺕ, he appointed him as the King of the Israelites whilst in the jungle, by the command of Allah.
4. Shamweel ؑﻟﻮﻩﻝ then informed the people that Allah had appointed Talut ؑﻟﻮﺕ as the King of Palestine.
5. The people replied as to how could that possibly be, because he, Talut ؑﻟﻮﺕ, was a poor man. They felt that they were better than him.
6. Talut ؑﻟﻮﺕ was tall and handsome and belonged to the tribe of Benjamin, which was the smallest tribe of Bani Israel at that time. He was no doubt poor but amply provided with wisdom by Allah.
7. As proof of his appointment as King by Allah, it was told to the Israelites that the lost Ark would be recovered when a King was appointed, and it was found when Talut ؑﻟﻮﺕ was appointed King.
8. Talut ؑﻟﻮﺕ was thus the first king of the Bani Israel in Palestine. He ruled for 20 years (1020 –1000 BC). He knew the character, nature and ways of the Israelites and he knew his own responsibilities as King of Palestine.
9. When the Philistines began attacking the Israelites again, King Talut ؑﻟﻮﺕ set forth with the armies to defend themselves against the attacking Philistines.
10. Whilst marching with his army, King Talut ؑﻟﻮﺕ realised that a commander is hampered by a large force (army) if it is not in perfect discipline and does not wholeheartedly believe in its commander – so he must get rid of all the doubtful ones in the army.
11. When the army came to a river – Talut ؑﻟﻮﺕ made the crossing of the river as a test for their discipline. He ordered that whosoever would drink or taste the water whilst crossing the river would be told to go back and would not be permitted to accompany him on his expedition.
12. Most of the people drank and as such they were ordered to go back. On account of disobedience they were unfit to face the difficulties of war.

Questions

1. Who became leader of the Israelites when Moosa ؑﻟﻮﺱ died?
2. What were the judges and who was the last judge?
3. Who attacked the Israelites? Were the tribes united?
4. Instead of faith in Allah, what did the Israelites rely on? Why?
5. Can wickedness hide behind a sacred relic?
6. After how long did the Israelites find the Ark? Why was it found?
7. Why did the people ask Shamweel ؑﻟﻮﻩﻝ to appoint a king for them?
8. Whom did Shamweel ؑﻟﻮﻩﻝ appoint as King in the jungle?
9. Were the people happy with the appointment of the King?
10. Who was the first King of the Bani Israel? Was the Ark found?
11. When he marched with his army to fight against the Philistines, what did King Talut ؑﻟﻮﺕ realise?
12. What test did Talut ؑﻟﻮﺕ conduct when the army was going to cross the river? Why was the test conducted?

Dawood ﷺ

1. In the small army was Dawood ﷺ who was a shepherd and he had left his sheep to join the army.
2. The army of Talut ﷺ came face to face with the Philistines in battle.
3. The leader of the Philistines was Jalut (Goliath) and he had a very large army, who were in a good position and ready for battle.
4. The size and strength of the enemy commander, Jalut – The Giant – frightened some people but did not frighten Talut ﷺ and his men.
5. King Talut ﷺ and his men had the courage and determination for they knew that they were fighting for a just cause and death did not matter much because they had to die one day and what was better than to die in the path of Allah.
6. King Talut ﷺ and his men went into the battlefield against Jalut and his large army with prayers:

“O Allah, bestow on us endurance, make our foothold sure and give us help
against the non believing folks.”

7. The armies met in battle and the first contact was between Dawood ﷺ and Jalut.
8. Dawood ﷺ did not know how to fight. He was still young and had no armour.
9. The giant Jalut mocked Dawood ﷺ who was small and Jalut had such great physical striking power.
10. But Dawood ﷺ had faith which made him more than a match for the Philistines, especially for Jalut.
11. At that moment, King Talut ﷺ offered his own armour, sword and arms to Dawood ﷺ but he refused because he was not used to them. His shepherd’s staff and sling were his well-tried weapons.
12. Dawood ﷺ picked up five smooth pebbles on the spot from the stream and in the battle, he used them with such ease that he knocked down the giant Jalut with his sling shot.
13. When Jalut fell, Dawood ﷺ then picked up Jalut’s sword and killed Jalut with it.
14. With the death of their leader, the whole army lost their morale to fight and the army was defeated by the Israelites. There was panic in the Philistine army – they broke ranks and fled and most of them were killed by the Israelites.
15. This victory brought Dawood ﷺ into the limelight and later he married King Talut’s ﷺ daughter.
16. After the victory, Dawood ﷺ went with King Talut’s ﷺ army on the trip to defend the country from attack.
17. After Talut’s ﷺ death, Dawood ﷺ became King of the Israelites. He ruled for 39 years (1000 BC – 961 BC)
18. Dawood ﷺ was both a Nabi and a King i.e. a Prophet King. He had political power and love of wisdom given to him by Allah.
19. He was both a man of word and a man of action – a man of Allah.
20. Allah gave him wisdom and taught him that which Allah willed. He was provided with knowledge, bestowed with the grace of Allah and favoured with decisive speech.

21. The Zabur

Dawood ﷺ was given the book Zabur (The Psalms of David) by Allah. This book contained poems in praise of Allah – but these Psalms were later corrupted by the Israelites and the original Zabur that was given to Dawood ﷺ was lost to us in its originality and purity.

Dawood ﷺ was not only a shepherd, a warrior, a king, a wise-man and a Nabi (Prophet), but he was a poet and a musician as well. When he sang, everything in nature including the birds and the hills

joined him in praise of Allah. Dawood ﷺ was reputed and known for giving the right judgement. Once, a complaint arrived:

Sheep, on account of the negligence of the shepherd, got into a cultivated (growing) field (a vineyard) by night and ate up the young plants and their tender shoots, causing damage to the extent of perhaps a whole year's crop to the farmer.

Dawood ﷺ was annoyed and to help the owner of the field for the damages caused, he awarded him the sheep for good. His son, Sulaiman ﷺ, then eleven years old was with his father, Dawood ﷺ and had the privilege of hearing the judgement of his father. He, in his own way thought of a better decision and told his father Dawood ﷺ. Sulaiman ﷺ said:

“The loss of the field owner was the loss of the fruits or produce of the field (vineyard). The main body part of the property (the earth) was not lost. The owner of the field should not take the sheep altogether but only keep them long enough to get back his actual damage from milk, wool and possibly young of the sheep (lambs) and then return the sheep to the shepherd.”

This decision was very much liked by his father and he accepted the decision of his eleven-year son, Sulaiman ﷺ.

But in either case, it was Allah who inspired the true realisation of justice to father and son.

22. Prayers

Dawood ﷺ used to come back to his room every day at a set time for prayer. One day he found that his privacy had been invaded by two men who had climbed over the wall and had come into the room. He was frightened but the two men assured him that they had come to seek justice and that they did not intend to cause any harm to Dawood ﷺ.

One of them said, “This man is my brother. He has nine and ninety female sheep and I have but one. Yet he says commit her to my care and he is more-over harsh to me in speech.”

Dawood ﷺ was so full of kingly pride that he took them literally (by what they said) and began to preach about falsehood and man who should be content with what they have but always want more. Also, it was wrong of brothers or men in partnership to take advantage of each other. Perhaps Dawood ﷺ had in his mind his own devotion and justice.

Then suddenly the men disappeared as mysteriously as they came. It was then that Dawood ﷺ realised that this was a trial of his moral and spiritual fibre by Allah. Though he was great as a king, and though he was just as a judge, the moment he thought of these things in self-pride, his merit vanished in the eyes of Allah.

Dawood ﷺ fell down and bowed in prostration (sajdah) then and there. He made tauba and asked Allah's forgiveness. Allah directed Dawood ﷺ to judge between men in truth and justice and not to follow his desires. He was reminded that those who wander from the way of Allah do so because they forget the day of Qiyamat and thereby face an awful doom (Jahannam).

Dawood ﷺ was a good craftsman (used to make things). He made armour for his soldiers for the defence of righteousness. But while making this he was reminded that fighting is abhorred by Allah, and as such the very purpose of upholding truth was lost.

He was clearly informed that his actions were constantly watched by Almighty Allah for which he should be cautious.

Thus, we see that all our actions are watched by Allah and recorded. It will be given to us on the day of Judgement (Qiyamat).

After seven years as a King of the southern tribes of Palestine with his capital at Hebron, he reunited all the tribes of Palestine (Israel) and ended all the wars with his neighbours – by conquering them and enforcing his rule over them. Then the entire Trans-Jordan as well as the Arabian caravan routes from the frontiers of Egypt to the Euphrates came under Dawood's ﷺ control. There was an increase of wealth as a result of peace and trade.

Dawood ﷺ reorganised the Israelites and shifted his capital to Jerusalem. Dawood ﷺ ruled for 39 years and passed away at the age of eighty. His tomb (where he is buried) is next to the Zion Gate in Jerusalem.

Questions

1. What was the occupation of Dawood ﷺ?
2. Who was the leader of the Philistines? Why were people frightened of him?
3. Were King Talut ﷺ and his men frightened?
4. Why did the Israelites have courage?
5. Who fought against Jalut?
6. Why did Dawood ﷺ fight with a sling and a stick?
7. Why did Dawood ﷺ refuse the offer of swords and arms from King Talut ﷺ?
8. How did Dawood ﷺ knock down the giant of the man?
9. What happened to the Philistines after the death of their leader?
10. Who became the King after the death of King Talut ﷺ?
11. Was Dawood ﷺ a Prophet King i.e. a Nabi and a King?
12. What book did Allah give to Nabi Dawood ﷺ?
13. What kind of book was it?
14. What finally happened to the Zabur?
15. What was the decision of Dawood ﷺ when the sheep ate up the crops?
16. What was the decision of his 11-year-old son, Sulaiman ﷺ on this case?
17. In both cases, who inspired them and directed them in their decisions?
18. Was Dawood ﷺ afraid when the two men climbed the wall and entered his private prayer room?
19. What story did the two men relate to Dawood ﷺ?
20. What judgement did he give on the case?
21. How did Dawood ﷺ know that this was a test from Allah?
22. Why did Dawood ﷺ make Tauba – ask for repentance and mercy from Allah – although he was a Nabi?
23. Why did Allah remind Dawood ﷺ, when he made the coat of iron for fighting, that fighting was dangerous?
24. Where was his first capital of the southern tribes of Palestine (Israel)?
25. How did he unite all the people of Israel and bring peace (Islam) to them?
26. Where did he have his new capital when all of Palestine (Israel) was united again?
27. How old was Dawood ﷺ when he passed away?
28. For how long did Dawood ﷺ rule Israel?
29. Where is Dawood ﷺ buried in Jerusalem?

Sulaiman ﷺ

1. Sulaiman ﷺ was one of the sons of Dawood ﷺ.
2. Although he was not the eldest, Sulaiman ﷺ was made the King after the death of his father, Dawood ﷺ.
3. At the age of eleven, he also gave judgement in the case of the sheep eating and destroying the crops of the vineyard.
4. Sulaiman ﷺ used to turn to Allah for inspiration and guidance, and his faith in Allah became the key for his success during the entire period of his reign.
5. Sulaiman ﷺ was bestowed with knowledge, understanding and correct judgement.
6. When he became the King, his first act was to pray to Allah to forgive him, and he asked Allah to grant him a kingdom which would not be excelled by anybody in the future.
7. Sulaiman ﷺ was blessed by Allah with special gifts:
 - He had control of the wind and he could easily perform a month's journey by ship in a day because of the wind.
 - He could understand the speech of birds and insects, like the bees and the ants.
 - He had power over the Jinns, and he used them in his service.
 - He was a lover of horses, which became part of his army like pulling chariots – and he had great love for the horses.
8. At one stage, Sulaiman ﷺ was taken out from his kingdom because of negligence of his kingly duties.
9. The Governor (person in charge) of the Northern Districts of Sulaiman's ﷺ empire, Jeroboam, was an idol-worshipper, who, finding some slackness in the King, rebelled against Sulaiman ﷺ.
10. Jeroboam attacked Jerusalem and occupied the throne by force.
11. Sulaiman ﷺ turned in repentance to Allah (made tauba) and he did not lose heart but called his army and together with them he drove Jeroboam, who occupied his throne, away.
12. From this, Sulaiman ﷺ learnt that he, as a King, must not neglect his duties to his people – for by negligence one will lose everything.

13. Saba/ Queen Bilqis/ The story of the ants

The area of Yemen, then known as Saba, was ruled by Queen Bilqis of Saba (Queen of Sheba). The kingdom of Saba was flourishing and overflowed in wealth, and the Queen had the confidence of her people. The Queen also respected the sentiments of her people. She consulted them in the affairs of the state which affected the people and her kingdom.

Queen Bilqis had a powerful army which defended Saba. The people of Saba, even the Queen, were worshippers of the moon, the sun and stars i.e. the heavenly bodies, and they did not believe in Allah.

Sulaiman ﷺ sent Hud-hud (Hoopoe the Bird) to Saba (according to one version it was the designation of an officer-spy of the Intelligence Department i.e. a police officer) to spy on the people. He sent Hud-hud to go to the land of Saba and bring back a report of the country and the people of Saba with him.

Hud-hud went to Saba and returned, reporting to Sulaiman ﷺ about the situation in the country – that they worshipped the heavenly bodies. Hud-hud also reported that they did not believe in Allah. Sulaiman ﷺ sent Hud-hud back to Saba with a letter addressed to the Queen of Saba – Queen Bilqis. Sulaiman ﷺ warned the Queen that she must not be arrogant and proud and must surrender to him and also that she and her people must believe in Allah and accept Islam.

The letter puzzled the Queen –she called her chiefs and ministers and asked for their advice, but they left the final decision to her as she was the Queen. Queen Bilqis did not like to involve her country in war, for she knew the might and strength of Sulaiman ﷺ and his army. She also thought of the aftermath of war – when the country would be in ruins and the people killed. She then made different plans.

She sent presents to Sulaiman ﷺ. This way, she thought that she might help to bring about friendly relations with Sulaiman ﷺ and his people. Wealth and riches had no value for Sulaiman ﷺ, as he wanted her to submit to the will of Allah and become a believer of Allah (Islam). He was annoyed with the presents and gifts and returned them to Queen Bilqis with very harsh words. He also threatened the Queen that he would invade her country of Saba.

Preparations for war began on both sides, in the kingdom of Sulaiman ﷺ – the believers in Allah and in Islam – and in the kingdom of Saba – Queen Bilqis and her people who were non-believers. Sulaiman ﷺ marched to Saba with his army as the Queen refused to submit to his rule and also refused to believe in Allah and in Islam.

Here we see force about to be used to spread Islam but Allah plans differently as was revealed in the story of the ants.

Whilst Sulaiman ﷺ was marching with his army to Saba, he had to pass through the Valley of Ants on his way to the city of Saba. In the valley, he overheard the conversations between the terrified ants who hurried towards their ant holes from the open fields for fear of being crushed under the feet of the marching armies.

One of the ants said, “O you ants, get into your homes, lest Sulaiman ﷺ and his army crush you underfoot without knowing it.”

Sulaiman ﷺ was moved by this speech and he immediately learnt his lesson: to be humble and to protect the life and honour of all and not to force people to accept Islam. Sulaiman ﷺ did not proceed any further with his army and turned the army homewards because he did not like the massacre that would have resulted had the two armies met.

It took an ant, one of the smallest of Allah’s creatures, to make Sulaiman ﷺ realise the mistake of his rash decision, that Islam must not be spread by the sword. Thus, we see how Allah plans to correct the mistake of any of His Prophets.

As it was Sulaiman’s ﷺ purpose to bring Queen Bilqis of Saba and her people to the right way i.e. the path of Allah and Islam, he now thought of a peaceful way. He ordered one of the Jinns, over which Allah gave Sulaiman ﷺ charge, to bring the throne of the Queen of Saba to Jerusalem. The command was obeyed by the Jinn and the throne of the Queen of Saba was brought to Jerusalem.

Sulaiman ﷺ ordered that the shape and colour of the throne be changed beyond recognition. With the result of her throne being stolen, Queen Bilqis came to Jerusalem to speak to Sulaiman ﷺ regarding its return. Queen Bilqis was asked to identify her throne. She could not but remarked that

her throne too was of this sort (referring to her throne which she could not recognise as its shape and colour had been changed).

The Queen was given a good welcome and she was taken to the palace through a passage, which had floors made of slabs of polished glass. The polished glass deceived the eyes of the Queen. To her it looked like water. The Queen tucked up her skirts to pass through it. She was told that it was not water but glass. She then realised that reality did not lie at the surface.

By this time her heart had undergone a complete change. She informed Sulaiman ﷺ that she had left the worship of the heavenly bodies and would now believe in Allah. She also accepted and came to realise that for so long she had been deceived and now she should be taught by Sulaiman ﷺ how to practise the teachings of Islam.

Thus we also see how polished glass, which deceives the eyes, made a queen realise that knowledge did not lie on the surface, but one has to look deep to realise one's mistake and to come to the right path, as she had come into the path of Allah and embraced Islam.

14. Sulaiman ﷺ, in order to protect his empire and to guard the far-flung business activities of the State, established a powerful army – a standing army ready for war and relying for the first time in the history of Palestine/Israel on chariots i.e. war machines drawn by horses.
15. Sulaiman's ﷺ business ventures included journeys carried out together with the Phoenicians in the Red Sea and in the Indian Ocean and trade with Egypt in the south and Asia Minor in the north.
16. Sulaiman ﷺ used the great wealth which poured into his coffers in big constructions. He constructed a temple called The Temple of Sulaiman/Solomon in Jerusalem, said to be built by 30 000 labourers over twelve years.
17. Sulaiman ﷺ ruled the Israelites for 39 years (961 – 922 BC) and he passed away at the age of 89.
18. Sulaiman ﷺ was buried near the grave of his father, Dawood ﷺ, next to the Zion Gate of Jerusalem.

With the death of Sulaiman ﷺ, a glorious chapter was closed for the tribes of the Bani Israel in Palestine. After his death, they became divided and fought amongst themselves for the wealth left by him.

19. **After the death of Sulaiman ﷺ**

The death of Sulaiman ﷺ became a signal for the revolt of all the people of Northern Israel against the rule of the house of Dawood ﷺ, who controlled all of Palestine/Israel. Sulaiman's ﷺ son, Rehoboam, led a life of luxury and ease and he yielded to the pleasure-seeking wishes of his friends. Rehoboam dismissed all the trusted generals of his father and appointed young and inexperienced men in their place.

20. **Division into two States**

A little later, two new states, namely Sonaria (independent state rule ended in 722 BC) with the capital at Samaria in the north, and a second state, Judah (independent state rule ended in 586 BC) with the capital at Jerusalem came into being.

- The Northern Kingdom of Sonaria was several times larger and more populous than the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
- The Southern Kingdom of Judah inherited most of the wealth of Sulaiman ﷺ and his empire.

Thus, we see that from the disunity of the tribes of Israel/Palestine came division of the two States into two.

Questions

1. Was Sulaiman ﷺ the first son of Dawood ﷺ?
2. At what age did Sulaiman ﷺ give the decision regarding the case of the sheep eating the crops of the vineyard?
3. What was the key to the success of Sulaiman ﷺ?
4. What kind of kingdom did Sulaiman ﷺ pray to Allah for?
5. What special gifts did Allah bless Sulaiman ﷺ with?
6. How did Jeroboam take charge of Jerusalem?
7. What did Sulaiman ﷺ learn from this neglect of his kingly duties?
8. Which Queen ruled Saba (now known as Yemen)?
9. In what did the people of Saba believe?
10. Was the belief in heavenly bodies the correct belief?
11. Who was the spy sent by Sulaiman ﷺ to Saba?
12. What was written in the letter sent by Sulaiman ﷺ to Queen Bilqis?
13. Why did Queen Bilqis not want to involve her country in war?
14. Why did she send presents to Sulaiman ﷺ?
15. Why were the presents rejected and sent back?
16. What does Allah say about the use of force when spreading Islam?
17. When Sulaiman ﷺ passed through the valley of ants, what conversation of the ants did he overhear?
18. What did the great Sulaiman ﷺ learn from such a small creature as an ant?
19. Who brought the throne from Saba? Whose throne was it?
20. What remark did Queen Bilqis make when she saw the throne?
21. Was the Queen given a good welcome by Sulaiman ﷺ in Jerusalem?
22. How was she taken to the palace?
23. What was the floor of the passage made of?
24. What deceived the eyes of the Queen and why?
25. Why did the Queen lift up her skirt? Was she correct in doing this?
26. What did the Queen then realise by her mistake?
27. Did the Queen accept Islam?
28. Who was to teach her about Islam?
29. Why was Sulaiman ﷺ to teach her about Islam if she accepted Islam?
30. How far and wide did Sulaiman ﷺ do commerce and trade?
31. Who built the temple of Sulaiman/Solomon in Jerusalem?
32. For how long did Sulaiman ﷺ rule the Israelites in Palestine?
33. What life did Rehoboam – Sulaiman's ﷺ son – lead?
34. What were the two States created by the division of Israel/Palestine?

Elias عليه السلام

1. With the death of Sulaiman عليه السلام, Israel became divided once again.
2. At the start, the once mighty Kingdom was broken into two:
 - The Northern State of Sonaria
 - The Southern State of Judah

And still later each tribe, which were twelve in number, selected their own Kings and chose their own lands. With this division, they became enemies of one another and they were divided into twelve tribes with their own rulers.

3. Chaos reigned as:
 - Religion was cast away.
 - Whims prevailed upon the minds of the common men.
 - There was virtually the rule of Satan all around.
 - New prophets and religious people were laughed at by the people.
4. On one occasion, under the order of King Ahab, who was ruler of the Northern State of Sonaria, 200 Prophets and learned people were killed by his order.
5. During this period, the words of righteousness were silenced or lost in the wind.
6. The evils had reached saturation point around 800 BC, when there was an immediate need for correcting the people.
7. At this stage, there appeared a procession of prophets in the mainland of Jerusalem who warned the people and went away. Among them were Elias عليه السلام (Elijah) and Al-Yasa عليه السلام (Elisha).
8. King Ahab of Sonaria (Northern Israel) married Jezebel the daughter of the King of Tyre and Sidon.
9. Among the Semitic people, an alliance of nations meant a mutual honouring of Gods i.e. they had to believe in one another's Gods.
10. Thus, the marriage of King Ahab and Jezebel, introduced into the Kingdom of Israel the worship of the Tyrian God – Baal – of Tyre and Sidon.
11. Later, by the marriage of Athaliah, the daughter of King Ahab and Jezebel, of the Northern Kingdom, to Johoram – King of Judah of the Southern Kingdom, the same course of events began there i.e. they also accepted the Tyrian God, Baal, i.e. the nation falling into heathenism, which meant the worship of Baal.

Thus, we see by the disguise of marriage how the people came to worship other Gods and left the worship of Almighty Allah and forgot Him for good.

12. Prophet sent

To bring the nation back to Allah, Elias عليه السلام was sent to warn the people of the anger and wrath of Allah. Elias عليه السلام told the people to ward off their evil ways. He told them not to worship Baal, but to worship Almighty Allah. Elias عليه السلام then appeared before King Ahab and told him of the coming of a severe drought and famine which their Nature God, Baal, would be powerless to prevent.

During the three years of drought, Elias ؑ lived in the house of a widow in Zorepath – a city of Phoenicia. Before the drought, he spent his life in the lonely and wild region of the eastern side of the River Jordan.

13. Contest

At the end of this time of the drought, Elias ؑ had a contest with the followers of Baal on Mount Carmel where, in answer to Elias's ؑ prayer, Allah revealed Himself by fire and was acknowledged by the people as Almighty and Powerful Allah. On the same day, rain ended the drought and the curse of Allah was lifted from the people who had gone wrong in believing in the Tyrian God Baal and forsaking Allah. Now the people believed in Allah.

The victory of Elias ؑ over Baal was followed by him running away to Mount Horeb to escape the fury and wrath of the wife of King Ahab – Jezebel, because Baal had lost, and Allah had triumphed in the contest. On the same morning Elias ؑ received from Allah a revelation commanding Elias ؑ to call upon Al-Yasa (Elisha) to be his successor.

In obedience to Allah's command, Elias ؑ went from Mount Horeb to Albel-Meholah, the home of Al-Yasa ؑ. Elias ؑ gave Al-Yasa ؑ the call to be his successor and then Elias ؑ disappeared for a time from the people.

About six years later, Elias ؑ again appeared before King Ahab to denounce him and rebuke him for not supporting his plea for the people to worship Allah and accept Islam. It is not known for how long Elias ؑ lived but tradition says that later in life while walking with Al-Yasa ؑ in a jungle, Elias ؑ was all of a sudden taken to heaven in a chariot of fire. Thus, we see how events took their course in Israel.

Questions

1. Into how many tribes was Israel finally divided?
2. How did the rule of Satan come to Israel?
3. Why were 200 Prophets and learned people killed by the order of King Ahab?
4. Who was Jezebel?
5. How did the people of Northern Israel come to worship Baal? Was this correct or was it wrong?
6. How did the Southern Kingdom also come to worship Baal?
7. What is meant by heathenism?
8. The marriage of disguise introduced worship of other Gods in Israel. Was this a correct action?
9. Why was Elias ؑ sent by Allah?
10. What did Elias ؑ tell the people? Who were the people supposed to worship?
11. What did Elias ؑ tell King Ahab about the drought?
12. Why was Baal powerless to do anything about the drought?
13. Where did Elias ؑ live during the drought?
14. Where did Elias ؑ live before the drought?
15. Where was the contest held between Elias ؑ and the followers of Baal?
16. How did Allah reveal himself after the prayer by Elias ؑ?
17. How was the curse of Allah lifted from the people?

18. Who won the contest?
19. Why did Elias ﷺ run away when he won the contest?
20. Who was to be the successor to Elias ﷺ?
21. Where did Al-Yasa live?
22. Who appeared after six years before King Ahab and why?
23. What happened when Elias ﷺ and Al-Yasa ﷺ were walking in the jungle?

Yunus ﷺ

1. Yunus ﷺ was the son of Ammital.
2. He was born at Gath-Hepher, Zebulon in Jerusalem around 780 BC.
3. Yunus's ﷺ other names are Zunnoon and Sahib-ul-Hut.
4. Yunus ﷺ was sent by Allah to the people of Nineveh, which was a town situated on the right bank of the River Tigris.
5. Nineveh was the capital of Assyria and had a population of 100 000. The people were proud, unjust and wicked.
6. Yunus ﷺ warned the people to change their ways but the warnings of Yunus ﷺ were not heeded.
7. Yunus ﷺ lost his patience and invoked Allah's wrath on the people of Nineveh.
8. In a fit of rage, Yunus ﷺ left Nineveh without waiting for further commands from Allah imagining that Allah had no power over him (i.e. Yunus ﷺ felt that Allah had no control over him)

9. Thrown Overboard

Yunus ﷺ fled from Nineveh in a ship and later the ship was caught up in a storm whilst at sea. Yunus ﷺ was considered to be responsible for bringing ill-luck to the ship and the sailors wanted to throw him into the sea.

But the passengers were not willing to throw Yunus ﷺ into the water and lots were drawn to see who was to be thrown into the sea. When the lots were drawn, Yunus's ﷺ name was drawn out. The ship had to be saved and the sailors threw Yunus ﷺ into the sea for fear of all of them and the ship being wrecked by the storm.

When he was thrown into the water, a large fish (whale) came and swallowed Yunus ﷺ. Yunus ﷺ spent three days and nights in prayer in the belly of the fish. Yunus ﷺ, while in the belly of the fish, realised his mistake, that he had left Nineveh without completing his duty and he prayed to Allah for forgiveness.

Allah accepted the prayers of Yunus ﷺ and he was vomited out onto the shore by the fish in a sick state. (He was sick because he lived for three days and nights in the belly of the big fish.)

10. Allah made a Gourd Plant to grow by his side which protected him and provided him a shady refuge for his comfort and recovery. (Gourd Plant – a large fleshy fruit kind of plant or climbing plant)
11. Yunus ﷺ gradually regained his health and strength and when he was strong enough he was commanded by Allah to go back to Nineveh and fulfil his mission.
12. Yunus ﷺ returned to Nineveh to preach to the people about Allah and for them to accept Islam.
13. The people, this time, heard Yunus ﷺ who preached wholeheartedly, and the people corrected their faults and began to believe in Allah.
14. The people of Nineveh realised their mistakes and changed their ways. Yunus ﷺ succeeded in his mission of conveying the word of Allah to the people and they accepted Islam.

Thus we see that people who do not believe in Allah and who do not believe in Islam can be made, through hard work and much effort, to believe in Allah and to accept Islam. Nothing is impossible if one puts one's mind to do the work of spreading Islam, for Allah is our guide.

Questions

1. Whose son was Yunus ﷺ?
2. Where was Yunus ﷺ born?
3. What other names did Yunus ﷺ have?
4. Where did Allah send Yunus ﷺ to preach to the people?
5. Where was the capital of Assyria? How many people lived there?
6. Why did Yunus ﷺ lose his patience and go away?
7. What did Yunus ﷺ imagine when he left Nineveh?
8. In what did Yunus flee?
9. In what weather was the ship caught in?
10. Who was considered as bringing ill-luck to the ship?
11. What did the sailors want to do with Yunus ﷺ?
12. Who prevented the sailors from throwing Yunus ﷺ and why were lots drawn?
13. What happened when Yunus ﷺ was thrown into the water?
14. How long did he spend in the belly of the fish?
15. What did he realise while in the belly of the fish?
16. When was he vomited out by the fish and where?
17. What type of plant did Allah make to grow by his side to provide him shelter and food?
18. Why did Allah command Yunus ﷺ to return?
19. Did the people listen to Yunus ﷺ this time?
20. How did Yunus ﷺ preach the word of Allah?
21. What do we realise from this about preaching Islam to one who does not believe?

Ayoob ﷺ

1. Ayoob ﷺ lived near the Arabian Desert on the eastern boundary of Palestine around 586 BC when the Babylonians ruled Palestine.
2. Ayoob ﷺ possessed land and owned 7 000 sheep, 3 000 camels, 1 000 bullocks and 500 donkeys and so, he was a very rich man.
3. But all of a sudden, a number of trials fell upon him:
 - A servant came and told Ayoob ﷺ that while they were ploughing the land, some thieves suddenly came and killed the other servants and stole all the cattle.
 - Another servant came and told Ayoob ﷺ that while tending to the sheep, a fire came from heaven and burnt the sheep and the servants to ashes.
 - A third servant came running and weeping and told Ayoob ﷺ that a gang of robbers stole all the camels.

- The fourth was the greatest tragedy – Ayooob عليه السلام children had been invited by his eldest son and while they were in a room a tornado hit the area and all the people were crushed and killed under the falling roof.
4. Ayooob عليه السلام was shocked at all this, but
 - Ayooob عليه السلام did not say a word, nor did he shed a tear, nor did he draw a sigh, but he prostrated before Almighty Allah.
 - Ayooob عليه السلام said that wealth and possessions were the gift of Allah and if He had taken his things away, what was there to complain about.
 5. Ayooob عليه السلام then suffered a loathsome disease (sores) like an agonising abscess full of worms. Even then he was content with his sufferings.
(it is that he used to pick up the worms that fell from his body saying that it was Allah who made his body food for the worms and placed them back on his body.)
 6. In such a condition, all Ayooob's عليه السلام friends left him and they also said all this happened to Ayooob عليه السلام because of his sins.
 7. The only person who kept by his side and remained with Ayooob عليه السلام was his wife, Rahima. But after some time, she too became tired and asked Ayooob عليه السلام to curse Allah and wished for Ayooob عليه السلام to die.
 8. Ayooob عليه السلام rebuked his wife and swore to punish her when he recovered from the dreadful sores on his body and from the dreaded disease.
 9. Ayooob عليه السلام then prayed to Allah to release him from his sickness and Allah answered Ayooob's عليه السلام prayers
 - Allah commanded Ayooob عليه السلام to strike the ground with his heels.
 - Ayooob عليه السلام did as he was commanded by Allah and as he struck the ground with his heels, a spring bubbled out from the ground which provided him with water for a cool bath and a refreshing drink of water.
 - Ayooob عليه السلام bathed his sores in the water of the new spring and Ayooob عليه السلام recovered completely from his sickness and his sores disappeared.
 10. Before his cure, Ayooob عليه السلام took an oath to punish his wife when he got better and in fulfilment of that oath he punished his wife by striking her with a blade of grass only to keep to the oath.
 11. All that Ayooob عليه السلام lost was restored to him by Allah and his wealth doubled.
 12. Ayooob's عليه السلام family was blessed and he had seven sons and three daughters.
 13. Ayooob عليه السلام passed away at the age of 140 years and he was buried in the village of Qaria-Batey-Ummary about 12-15 km from Hebron.

From this we see that even if one is wealthy one can lose all one's wealth and disaster and calamity can strike anyone if Allah so wills. But as Ayooob عليه السلام had said, "Wealth and possessions are the gift of Allah and if He takes them what is there to complain about?"

Even in sickness, although he lost all his friends – he was never deserted by Almighty Allah – to whom he prayed to help him in his hour of need.

Verily Allah answers the prayers of his sincere servants and believers.

Thus Allah works in a mysterious way to test the faith and iman of his followers, for without faith and iman, we are lost like a whole flock of sheep not knowing what to do. So we must have faith and true Iman in all that we do.

Questions

1. Where did Ayooob عليه السلام live?
2. Was Ayooob عليه السلام a wealthy person and what did he own?
3. What trials fell upon Ayooob عليه السلام suddenly?
4. What did he say and when did all of this happen?
5. What calamity and disease fell on him personally?
6. Why did all his friends leave him?
7. Who remained faithful to Ayooob عليه السلام?
8. Why did she also lose faith and ask Ayooob عليه السلام to do the impossible of cursing Allah and for Ayooob عليه السلام to die?
9. Why did Ayooob عليه السلام rebuke his wife and swore to punish her later?
10. To whom did Ayooob عليه السلام pray to release him from his sickness?
11. What did Allah command Ayooob عليه السلام to do? And what happened when he struck the ground with his heels?
12. How did Allah bless his faithful servant after trying him and testing him?
13. How old was Ayooob عليه السلام when he died and where was he buried?

Zakariyya عليه السلام

1. Zakariyya عليه السلام lived around 60 BC some 2080 years ago in Jerusalem, Palestine.
2. Zakariyya عليه السلام was in charge of the Temple of Jerusalem and his wife's name was Elizabeth.
3. Zakariyya عليه السلام lived peacefully and prayed devotedly and he preached zealously to his people about Allah.
4. Zakariyya عليه السلام and his wife were symbols of piety and they competed with one another in doing good deeds.
5. In his old age, Zakariyya عليه السلام felt that the people were getting out of hand and were not following the laws of Allah.
6. Zakariyya عليه السلام wanted someone to continue the work of preaching to the people otherwise they would forget Allah and become idol-worshippers like the Romans who ruled over them.
7. On the first of Muharram, Zakariyya عليه السلام prayed to Allah to give him an heir to guide the people and to befriend them in their need.
8. While in prayer, the angels appeared before Zakariyya عليه السلام and told him the good news, that his wife was going to give birth to a son who was going to be pious, chaste (pure) and a Prophet of righteousness. The child's name was going to be Yahya عليه السلام.
9. Zakariyya عليه السلام prayed for a sign so that he might be sure that his wife was going to give birth to a son. Zakariyya عليه السلام was told that he would not be able to speak for three days. Zakariyya عليه السلام was to pray to Allah and to praise Allah in the morning and in the evening. All this, Zakariyya عليه السلام dutifully did.
10. Yahya عليه السلام was born, and he was gifted by Allah:
 - He had wisdom while still a child.
 - He was not proud and rebellious like other children.
 - He was obedient and dutiful to his parents.

11. As Yahya ﷺ grew up, Zakariyya ﷺ felt satisfied that he would be able to carry out the work of Allah when Zakariyya ﷺ would not be there.
12. Thus, when Zakariyya ﷺ passed away, Yahya ﷺ was there to carry out the work of Allah.

Questions

1. Till what age did Zakariyya ﷺ live?
2. Of which temple was Zakariyya ﷺ in charge?
3. Who was his wife?
4. What type of life did husband and wife lead?
5. What did Zakariyya ﷺ feel in his old age about the people?
6. Why did Zakariyya ﷺ want someone to continue the work of preaching to the people about Allah?
7. Why did Zakariyya ﷺ pray to Allah and when?
8. What did the angels tell Zakariyya ﷺ although he was an old man?
9. What was going to be the child's name?
10. Why did Zakariyya ﷺ want a sign from Allah? What was the sign?
11. What was Yahya ﷺ gifted with by Allah?
12. Was Zakariyya ﷺ happy with his son?

Yahya ﷺ

1. Yahya ﷺ was the son of Zakariyya ﷺ.
2. Yahya ﷺ was born between 4 BC and 8 BC some 2020 years ago on one of the hill towns of Judea (Palestine).
3. Yahya ﷺ taught the people the law of Moosa ﷺ in its pure form.
4. Yahya also used to teach man the secrets of salvation which could only be gotten by believing in Allah.
5. Yahya ﷺ was not proud, and he was not rebellious to his parents.
6. Yahya ﷺ began to teach the people about Allah when he was about 35 years old.
7. Yahya ﷺ went to live a simple life in the desert of Judea:
 - Yahya ﷺ used to dress in a robe made up of coarse camel hair.
 - Yahya ﷺ ate locusts and wild honey which was found in the desert.
8. Yahya's ﷺ preaching aroused wide and deep interest throughout Judea and then elsewhere as he preached along the whole of the Jordan Valley. Yahya ﷺ preached about sin and repentance. Yahya's ﷺ sermons were most impressive, and people flocked to hear his triumphant message about Allah.
9. Yahya ﷺ prepared the people for the time when Essa ﷺ, the son of Mariam ﷺ, was going to preach to the people.
10. Yahya ﷺ lived around the same time as his cousin, Essa ﷺ who also preached about Allah to the people.
11. Herod Antipas – the Roman ruler of Galilee and Perea had an affair with Herodias – the wife of his brother – Herod Phillip.

12. Yahya ﷺ denounced the affair publicly as this was sin and an open violation of The Seventh Commandment of the law of Moosa ﷺ:
“Thou shalt not commit adultery.”
This open declaration of sin aroused fury and hatred in Herodias for Yahya ﷺ and Herod Antipas, the Roman ruler, put Yahya ﷺ into prison.

13. Evil Celebrations

A feast and party were held by Herod Antipas, the Roman ruler, to which he invited all the leading people. The daughter of Herodias whose name was Salome was a dancing girl who danced at the party. The dance which she danced, the Dance of the Seven Veils, was so beautifully done that the ruler swore in front of all the guests that he would grant whatever Salome liked and asked for.

Salome’s mother made her daughter immediately ask for the head of Yahya ﷺ on a plate. For a moment, King Herod was in a fix as to what to do, but he was honour bound to keep his words which he said in front of all his guests, otherwise he would lose face and honour.

The order was given, and Yahya ﷺ was beheaded (i.e. his head was chopped off) and his head was brought to the wicked women on a plate.

14. This was the end of Yahya ﷺ in prison by the wishes of a wicked woman because he preached the words of Allah.
15. Yahya ﷺ was later buried in Damascus.

Thus, Yahya ﷺ died for what he believed in and preached to the people, the truth of the words of Allah – Islam. From this we see that if we believe in the words of Allah we must be prepared to die for it.

<h3>Questions</h3>

1. Who were the parents of Yahya ﷺ?
2. Where was Yahya ﷺ born?
3. What did Yahya ﷺ teach the people?
4. How old was Yahya ﷺ when he began preaching about Allah?
5. Where did Yahya ﷺ go to have a simple life?
6. Were the people interested in what Yahya ﷺ had to say?
7. Where did Yahya ﷺ baptise his followers?
8. Which other Prophet lived about the same time as Yahya ﷺ for whom he was paving the way?
9. Who had an adulterous affair?
10. Why did Yahya ﷺ denounce this affair in public?
11. Why was Yahya ﷺ put into prison?
12. Who danced so beautifully at the party?
13. Why did King Herod swear that he would grant Salome whatever she liked and wished for?
14. What did the mother Herodias make the daughter ask?
15. Why did King Herod give the order?

Essa ﷺ

Hannah (Ann) was the wife of Imran and she was a pious and elderly woman who could not have any children. Hannah prayed and begged Almighty Allah to give her a child. As a result of her prayers and her devotion to Almighty Allah, she would give her child to the service of Almighty Allah.

Hannah prayed for a son who would be filled with devotion and prayers in the service of the Almighty Allah. But Almighty Allah, in his wisdom, granted Hannah a girl instead of a boy. A daughter whose name was Mariam ؑ (Mary). Mariam ؑ from her birth proved to be a miraculous person. While in prayers, Almighty Allah provided Mariam ؑ with food much to the amazement of Zakariyya ؑ, her guardian.

Hannah had placed Mariam ؑ in the care of Zakariyya ؑ and in the service of Almighty Allah.

The Qur'anic verse shows us that:

“Right graciously did Allah her Lord accept her. He made her grow in purity and beauty. To the care of Zakariyya she was placed. Every time that Zakariyya entered her room to see her, he found her supplied with food. Zakariyya asked, ‘Mariam, where did you get food from?’

So, she said, ‘It is from Almighty Allah who provides food to whom He pleases without count.’”

(Surah Aali Imraan verse 37)

These significant verses of the Holy Qur'an show us that although Mariam ؑ was in Zakariyya's ؑ care, she grew up under Almighty Allah's special care.

The customary importance that the Holy Qur'an again gives to Mariam ؑ in the following verses puts that truth in the hearts as well as the minds of men.

Behold the angel said:

“O Mariam, Almighty Allah has chosen thee and made pure, chosen thee above the women of all nations. Oh Mariam, worship the Lord devotedly, prostrate thyself and bow down (in prayer) with those who bow down.”

(Surah Aali Imraan verses 42 and 43)

Mariam's ؑ truth as enshrined in the Holy Qur'an will remain a solitary triumph for Mariam ؑ. The verses of the early miracles to Mariam ؑ bring forth the spiritual blessedness of Mariam ؑ.

The miraculous birth of Essa ﷺ

1. The birth of Essa ﷺ to Mariam ؑ, a pure woman, was told by Jibrael ؑ (the angel Gabriel) and provides the truth of his birth.
2. The manner in which the Holy Qur'an has revealed this is great as it has produced a remarkable effect in setting forth again and again the revolution to bring people in tune with the creator, Almighty Allah.

3. Mariam ﷺ went into a private Eastern room for the customary devotional prayer in seclusion. In this state of purity, Jibrael ﷺ appeared to Mariam ﷺ and conveyed the message to Mariam ﷺ. The message was that she was going to have a baby. She was to be the mother of Essa ﷺ - she was a virgin mother of the Prophet. Mariam ﷺ was going to have a baby without being touched by anyone – and that was the command of Almighty Allah.
4. These revealing verses of the Holy Qur'an, give a glorious testimony to the miracle birth of Essa ﷺ to Mariam ﷺ. (Surah Mariam Verses 19-21)

Behold Jibrael said:

***“O Mariam, Allah gives you glad tidings (sayings) of a word from him (Allah):
his name will be Essa, the son of Mariam, held in honour in this world and the hereafter.
And the company of those nearest to Allah, he shall speak to people in childhood and in maturity,
and he shall be of the company of the truthful people.”***

Mariam ﷺ said:

“O my Lord, how shall I have a son when no man had touched me.”

Jibrael ﷺ said:

***“Allah creates what he wills. When Almighty Allah had decreed a plan,
He but says to it ‘Be’ and it is. Almighty Allah will teach him the Book and wisdom
and the law and the gospel.”***

5. The Holy Qur'an also states the next event in these verses: (Surah Mariam verses 22-26)
- “So she gave birth and went with him to a faraway place and the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm tree. She cried in pain: “O would I have died before this! Would that I had been a forgotten thing and out of sight!”***

But a voice cried out to her from beneath the palm tree, “Cry not for the Lord had provided a small river beneath you. And shake towards thyself the trunk of the palm tree. It will let fall fresh ripe dates upon thee. So eat and drink and cool your eyes and if you see any man say, ‘I have vowed to a fast to Allah most gracious and this day will I enter no talk with any human being’”.

Mariam ﷺ was but human and suffered the pain of an expectant mother with no one to attend to her. The circumstances being different, she had to go away from her people so the birth took place at Bethlehem in a hidden place. Thus, we see Essa ﷺ was born in Bethlehem, an ancient city in Palestine, about eight kilometres South of Jerusalem.

6. The Qur'an also records the following events:
- After some time, she brought the baby to her people carrying him in her arms. They said, “O Mariam ﷺ, truly an amazing thing you have brought. Oh sister of Haroon ﷺ, your father was not a man of evil nor your mother a woman of wrong.”***
7. Naturally, the amazement of the people knew no bounds. They waited to blame her strongly for a most wicked social crime. It is doubtful that any court of law would have passed a verdict of not guilty upon Mariam ﷺ.

8. The Holy Qur'an has removed for all times the blame and has raised Mariam ﷺ to a position of Honour and testifies to the unquestionable and great morals of Mariam ﷺ, the virgin mother of Essa ﷺ. In the fault-finding mood in which the people had found themselves, Mariam ﷺ could only point to the child, Essa ﷺ. The child, Essa ﷺ, spoke in defence of his mother, Mariam ﷺ. The following verses (Surah Mariam Verses 29-35) give beauty to the new miracle:
"But she pointed to the baby – the people said how can they talk to a baby in a cradle. But the baby Essa said, "I am a servant of Allah. He has given me revelation and made me a prophet of Almighty Allah. And he has blessed me wherever I be. And he enjoined upon me on prayer and charity as long as I live. Allah has made me kind to my mother and not overbearing and miserable. So peace is on me the day I was born and the day that I die. And the day I shall be raised up to life again. This is Essa, the son of Mariam. It is a statement of truth about which they vainly dispute. It is not befitting to Almighty Allah that he should beget a son, Glory to Him! When the Almighty Allah determines a matter. He only says "Be" and it is."
9. The preaching of Essa ﷺ lasted only about three years from age 30-33 years. He performed many miracles as told in the Holy Qur'an: (Surah Aali Imraan verses 49-51)
"And appoint Essa as a prophet to the children of Israel with this message. I have come to you with a sign from your Lord in that I make for you out of clay, a figure of a bird and breathe into it and it becomes a bird by Allah's will. And I heal those born blind and the lepers and I make alive the dead by Allah's will and I declare to you what you eat and what you store in your houses. Surely there is a sign for you to believe I have come to you to prove the law which was before me (law of Islam) and to make lawful to you of what was forbidden to you. I have come to you with a sign from your Lord so fear Allah and obey me. It is Allah who is my Lord and your Lord. Then worship him. This is the way that is straight."
10. Thus, the words of the Holy Qur'an give the true indication of the honour Almighty Allah placed upon Essa ﷺ in saving him from the wrong conduct and dishonour of death at the hands of his enemies.
11. It is said in the Holy Qur'an: (Surah Aali Imraan verses 54-55)
"And the non believers plotted and planned and Allah too planned and the best of planners is Allah. Allah said to Essa, 'O Essa, I will take thee and raise thee to myself and clear thee of the false notion of those who blaspheme. I will make those who follow thee superior to those who reject the faith to the day of Resurrection and I will judge between you of the matters which you dispute."
 Thus, we see what Almighty Allah has planned for Essa ﷺ, a Prophet of Islam.
12. The Holy Qur'an further relates that Almighty Allah raised Essa ﷺ to Himself in heaven.
13. The Jews said that they killed Essa ﷺ but they killed him not, nor did they crucify Essa ﷺ. Almighty Allah raised Essa ﷺ up to himself, up into Heaven. This is the Qur'anic teaching and is believed by all Muslims.

14. Essa ﷺ is in heaven and he will appear just before the final day in preparation of the coming of Imam Mehdi ﷺ when the world will be purified of sin. There will be a final death for all people before the final resurrection.
15. During the second coming of Essa ﷺ, he will destroy the false teachings that pass under his name and prepare the way for the acceptance of Islam. Islam is our own religion, the religion of Ibrahim ﷺ which we all believe in.

Questions

1. Who was the mother of Mariam ﷺ?
2. Who was to take care of Mariam ﷺ in the temple?
3. Who appeared before Mariam ﷺ and gave her the good news?
4. Who was the mother of Essa ﷺ?
5. What did the people say when Essa ﷺ was born?
6. What miracles did Essa ﷺ perform?
7. Who raised Essa ﷺ to heaven?
8. Will Essa ﷺ come back to Earth?

The Life Story of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

1. Background to Arabia

Arabia is a small Peninsula in Asia. It is surrounded on three sides by the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. It is a very ancient land and its history goes back to the beginning of time when Almighty Allah created Adam ﷺ. Adam ﷺ was the first human on Earth together with his wife Hawa ؑ.

A very large part of this Peninsula is desert land. There are some green patches such as the Oasis, and a few fertile areas. Life in the desert was very difficult. There is the blazing heat of the sun during the day and, at night, the desert becomes very cold as the sand loses heat very quickly. Hardly anything but date palms grow here. In the old days, people who lived in the desert ate dates and drank camels' milk. The Arabs reared sheep and goats and spun wool. They travelled by caravans, loading all their goods onto the backs of camels, taking them to other cities to sell or barter them in exchange for wheat, rice, cloth and other things.

Along the Red Sea Coast, in what is now Saudi Arabia, is a tract of land called The Hejaz – it is famous for two cities: Mecca and Medina. Muslims from all over the world go to Mecca to perform the pilgrimage called Haj and also Umrah. Trade caravans, in the early days, also passed through these cities. Mecca lies in the valley of Becca and is well known for the famous ancient sanctuary or sacred building called The Holy Kaaba. It is also well known for being the birthplace of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

2. The Holy Kaaba – The House of Allah

From the time of the first human, Adam ﷺ who built the first Kaaba, the Kaaba has been loved and revered and called the house of Almighty Allah. Adam ﷺ had built it in the valley of Becca, but the Holy Kaaba had been destroyed during the great flood in Nooh's ؑ time. Many centuries later, Ibrahim ؑ had come to the same valley and Allah had commanded him to rebuild the Holy Kaaba in the same place that Adam ﷺ had built the original one. Ibrahim ؑ did not know the place where the Kaaba had initially been built, but miraculously, by Allah's command, a grey cloud floated above him and guided him to the exact location. Ibrahim ؑ then built the Kaaba with his own hands and with the help of his son, Isma'eel ؑ. Together they carved large pieces of stone out of the surrounding mountains and carried them on their backs to rebuild the Holy Kaaba. Allah had sent down a meteorite from the heavens, a pearly gem-like stone, which glowed with a silvery shining light, which Ibrahim ؑ took and fixed to one part of the building of the Holy Kaaba. This stone today is called the Hajre-Aswad or Black Stone. The light from this stone glowed brightly and lit a large area around the Kaaba. This area became known as The Haram (The Sacred Territory and The Forbidden Territory).

Later, Ibrahim ؑ bowed down to Allah and told Him, "I have completed the building, O Allah. Please accept it from us."

Almighty Allah responded by saying: (Surah Al Hajj, verses 26-27)

“Worship nothing except me and purify My House for those who go around it and stand and pray and bow down before me and tell the people about the pilgrimage and they will come on foot and on lean camels through deep mountain passes to My House.”

Ibrahim ؑ then went around the Kaaba seven times, starting from the corner where the Hajre Aswad was fixed. Then he went seven times to the hill called Safa and to the hill called Marwa, and then to the plains of Arafat, then he returned to The Holy Kaaba. That was the first Haj or Pilgrimage. Later, all the Arabs from the nearby land came to perform the Haj just as Ibrahim ؑ had done. They were all Muslims.

3. The Arabs

The Arabs lived in Arabia and were mostly Nomads – Bedouins – wanderers in the desert looking for water at the Oasis and green pastures for their animals. After Ibrahim ؑ and Ismail, there were many more Prophets. There were 124 000 in all. Among them were Moosa ؑ also known as Moses, Dawood ؑ, also known as David, Sulaiman ؑ also known as Solomon, Zakariyya ؑ, Yahya ؑ, also known as John, The Baptist and Essa ؑ, also known as Jesus.

As time went on, the Arabs forgot about Almighty Allah. They knew there was one God who had created the universe whom they acknowledged as the Supreme Being. They swore by Him and signed all treaties and documents in his name: Bismika – Allahumma which means “In thy name, O Allah”. However, they had also begun to worship the stars and various angels who, they called Goddesses or Daughters of God. Their chief Goddesses were Al-Lat and Al-Uzza. They made statues of these Goddesses out of granite and put them in the Kaaba. They had also become immoral. Indeed, there were constant fights between the various tribes. They performed infanticide which meant the killing of babies. They practiced slavery and ill-treated their slaves. More especially the female slaves were subjected to intense cruelty: they were beaten up, molested and tortured with hot irons if they refused to perform any degrading task.

4. The Year of the Elephant – 571AD

Fifty-five days before the birth of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, Abraha, the Abyssinian Governor of Yemen, marched with a huge army to Mecca as he wanted to destroy the Kaaba. Abraha was a Christian ruler and he knew that Mecca was famous to the traders and to the many people who flocked to the Kaaba to pray to the idols. To turn people away from the Kaaba, Abraha built a huge and beautiful temple at a place called Sanaa. He ordered the people not to go to the Kaaba, but to pray at his temple. In spite of this, people went to the Kaaba to take part in their festivals there. Abraha became very angry and he gathered a large army and a mighty force of elephants and marched to Mecca to destroy the Kaaba.

Abdul Muttalib, the chief of the Quraish tribe in Mecca, heard about Abraha’s plans. He ordered the people of Mecca to leave the city and take refuge in the hills around Mecca where they would be safe. Abraha’s men had taken some of Abdul Muttalib’s camels. When Abdul Muttalib approached Abraha for the return of his camels, Abraha asked him why he did not plead for the safety of the Kaaba. Abdul

Muttalib replied, “I take care of the camels because they are mine. The Lord of the Kaaba is Allah, so He will take care of His house.”

Furious, Abraha gave orders to his army to destroy the Kaaba. As the army of elephants rushed towards the Kaaba, something strange happened. The elephants sat down and refused to move! Suddenly the sky became black as hundreds of swallows with pebbles in their beaks and feet swooped down on the army. These birds rained down stones from high in the sky. The pebbles dissolved the flesh of the army and burst it into pieces. The army was utterly defeated. Abraha was forced to give orders to his men to march homewards, defeated. This year became known as the Year of the Elephants.

5. **The Birth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ**

This was the greatest event in the history of the world and took place a few months later.

Abdullah ﷺ was one of the sons of Abdul Muttalib. He married Aamina ﷺ, the daughter of Wahb (son of Abd Manaf) who was the chief of the Zuhrah tribe. Not long after his marriage, Abdullah ﷺ went on a business trip to As Shaam (known as Syria). On his way back to Mecca, Abdullah ﷺ fell ill and passed away in Yathrib (which later became known as Medina) where he was buried.

Some months later, on Monday, the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal (20th April 571 AD), Aamina ﷺ gave birth to a baby boy. Abdul Muttalib, the child’s grandfather, named him ‘Muhammad’ (The Praised One) and his mother named him ‘Ahmad’ (also meaning The Praised One).

After a week, Abdul Muttalib took his grandson, Muhammad ﷺ to the Kaaba and thanked Allah for his grandson. He also prepared a great feast and invited all the Quraish leaders. They all attended to celebrate the birth of Muhammad ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ himself belonged to the Banu Hashim family of the Quraish Tribe.

6. **Halima Saadia ﷺ**

It was a custom in Mecca among the rich people to send their children to the desert from a week or so after birth till they were six to eight years old. When no nurse arrived, Aamina ﷺ gave her baby to Suwaiba, the servant of the Prophet’s uncle, Abu Lahab, to be nursed for a few days. Then nurses came to Mecca looking for rich families because the reward for caring for babies would be big. No one wanted baby Muhammad ﷺ as he was an orphan, having no father. Halima ﷺ of the Banu Saad family came and, since all the other babies were taken, took Muhammad ﷺ to the desert to be nursed. Her husband’s name was Al-Harith, and they had four children. Her daughter, Shaiba, helped her to take care of the baby Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

The moment the Prophet ﷺ entered her home, Almighty Allah blessed them with everything. Her sheep grew fat and gave her more milk. Her flock of animals began to increase. She also gathered a better harvest through the blessings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. After two years, Halima ﷺ took the child back to his mother. Aamina ﷺ was overjoyed to see her son so bright and healthy. She asked Halima ﷺ to take her child back to the desert for a few more years.

7. **Mysterious Happenings**

Halima ؑ had three sons of her own. They often played with Prophet Muhammad ؐ. One day, while looking after their sheep, two strangers dressed in white appeared out of nowhere. They took Prophet Muhammad ؐ and placed him on the ground. They then opened his chest and filled his heart with Nur (Light of Allah), then they closed his chest and disappeared. The boys related this incident to Halima ؑ who decided to return Prophet Muhammad ؐ back to his mother in Mecca because of this unusual event.

8. **Trip to Yathrib/Medina**

After a while, Aamina ؑ decided to go to Yathrib to visit her relatives and show her son, Prophet Muhammad ؐ, his father's grave. They set out for Yathrib with their servant Umm-e-Aiman. After visiting her relatives, they made preparations to return to Mecca. On their way home, Aamina ؑ fell ill. She did not recover from her illness and passed away at a place called Al-Abwa not far from Yathrib. Prophet Muhammad ؐ was now an orphan. The servant, Umm-e-Aiman ؑ took him to Mecca to his grandfather who took care of the Prophet ؐ.

9. **Abdul Muttalib Passes Away**

Abdul Muttalib loved his grandson dearly and paid special attention to him. When Prophet Muhammad ؐ was eight years old, Abdul Muttalib passed away at the age of 82 years.

10. **Abu Taalib**

Abu Taalib was the uncle of the Prophet ؐ who took care of him after the death of Abdul Muttalib. The Prophet ؐ loved him very much and stayed close to him at all times. Abu Taalib was now the chief of Mecca and also the keeper of the Holy Kaaba. He was also a merchant and Prophet Muhammad ؐ worked very hard to help his uncle in whatever small way he could.

11. **Prophet Muhammad's ؐ first trip to Ash-Shaam (Syria) and Bahira's observations**

When Prophet Muhammad ؐ was 12 years old, Abu Taalib decided to go on a business trip to Ash-Shaam. On fearing the route to be dangerous, he decided against taking his little nephew along with him. The Prophet ؐ pleaded with him until eventually Abu Taalib relented. This was Prophet Muhammad's ؐ first trip to Ash-Shaam. They travelled until they came to a city called Basra which was South of Ash-Shaam. A learned Christian priest by the name of Bahira was observing the caravan as it entered the city of Basra.

Bahira invited them for a meal. He discovered certain signs on the Prophet ؐ that he will be the last and final Prophet ؐ of Almighty Allah. He saw the Seal of Prophethood on the young Muhammad ؐ when he lifted up his shirt. Bahira advised Abu Taalib to take Muhammad ؐ back to Mecca. After trading in Basra, the caravan returned to Mecca with Abu Taalib and Prophet Muhammad ؐ.

12. Harbul Fijr (Unholy War)

The Arab tribes fought with each other all the time. This conflict lasted for four years and it was between the Quraish and the Hawazin tribes. It became known as the Harbul Fijr or Unholy War. This occurred when the Prophet ﷺ was 15 years old. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ did not see the sense of the Arabs fighting against each other and he wanted to stop the wars and the killings that took place. Fortunately, the leaders of the tribes decided that the petty wars had to come to an end. A society, called the Halfil-Fudhul (or Alliance of Charity) was formed to bring the wars to an end. The society was also formed to help the widows and the orphans. The Quraish made peace treaties with the other tribes. No more fighting took place and Mecca was once again a city of peace and an important business centre. The Prophet ﷺ welcomed the treaty and helped the needy, the poor and the orphans.

13. The Prophet ﷺ as a merchant

When Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was 20 years old, he felt it necessary to make his own living and to relieve the burden from his uncle.

14. Al Ameen (The Trustworthy) and As Saadiq (The Truthful)

The Prophet ﷺ had become a successful merchant of Mecca. He was very honest and fair in his dealings and earned the titles of Al Ameen and As Saadiq from the people of Mecca. In the cause of managing his business affairs and helping his uncle, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ received an offer from a wealthy widow, Khadija ؓ who wanted him to look after her business affairs. She used to employ agents to overlook her business for her. She sent the Prophet ﷺ on a trade mission to Ash-Shaam (Syria). She also sent her trusted slave Maisarah to help the Prophet ﷺ. This was Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ second trip to Ash Shaam (Syria).

During this trip, another Christian monk by the name of Nastoora met the Prophet ﷺ under a tree and gave testimony to his Nuboowat (Prophethood). According to Nastoora, only Prophets had rested beneath that specific tree. Maisarah, the trusted slave, noticed that a cloud provided Prophet Muhammad ﷺ with shade wherever he went.

The Prophet ﷺ, through his intelligence skill and honesty, made huge profits for Khadija ؓ, almost double of what others had made in the past. On his return, Maisarah gave a colourful account and Khadija ؓ was very impressed.

Khadija ؓ was 40 years and Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was 25 years of age. She sent a marriage proposal to the Prophet ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ asked his uncle for advice. Abu Talib agreed to the proposal because Khadija ؓ was a wealthy and noble lady. Her father was Khuwalid and her mother was Fathima bin Zadiyah. The nikah (marriage) was then performed between Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and Khadija ؓ. The marriage lasted 25 years and 2 months. Together they had four daughters (Zaynab, Umme Khulthum, Ruqayya and Fathima) and two sons (Qasim and Taahir, also referred to as Abdullah- both of whom passed away in infancy).

(Later the Prophet ﷺ had another son, Ibrahim from Mariya Qibtiyya ؓ. Ibrahim also passed away in infancy.)

All Khadija's ؓ wealth now belonged to the Prophet ﷺ. She also gave him her slave, Zaid ؓ who the Prophet ﷺ set free. When Zaid's ؓ father came to take him away, he refused to go with his father and stayed with Prophet Muhammad ﷺ as his son in Mecca.

15. Rebuilding of the Holy Kaaba

When Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was 35 years old, the leaders of the Quraish tribes decided to rebuild the Holy Kaaba as it needed repairs and rebuilding after a sudden flood had cracked the walls and damaged the roof of the Holy Kaaba. Thus, the rebuilding of the Holy Kaaba began and Prophet Muhammad ﷺ also helped to do repair work. At this time, a Greek ship was found wrecked and damaged off the shore near Mecca. One man was sent to purchase and buy the timber of the ship which was needed to build the roof. While others went to cut out granite from the mountains for the walls of the Holy Kaaba, the various tribes of the Quraish formed four sections, and it was decided that each section would be responsible for the construction and building of one wall. The old walls were pulled down to the ancient foundation built by Ibrahim ؑ. This was of green stones and was called the foundation of Ibrahim ؑ. When the four walls were ready and built, with the grey granite blocks, a dispute (quarrel) arose among the Quraish tribes as to who was to fix the sacred black stone – The Hajr-e-Aswad in the corner of the Holy Kaaba.

16. Placing of The Black Stone – The Hajr-e-Aswad

Work was stopped for a few days as a result of this. Finally, the oldest citizen (person) of Mecca by the name of Shaiba said that they should wait and let it be that he who comes through that gate first shall be the one to place (fix) the sacred stone – The Hajr-e-Aswad in its place on the Holy Kaaba. They sat there and waited – Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was the first to come through the gate. He took off his cloak and placed it on the ground. Then he picked up the sacred Black Stone – the Hajr-e-Aswad – and placed it on the cloak. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ invited four men, one from each section to lift the four corners of the cloak. They all held the cloak high and Prophet Muhammad ﷺ fixed the Sacred Black Stone – the Hajr-e-Aswad in its place in the corner of the Holy Kaaba. By this way he avoided a bloodshed in Mecca and the Holy Kaaba was finally completed after this by all the Quraish tribes. Thus, the Holy Kaaba was rebuilt by the Quraish.

17. The Cave of Hira

There is a mountain “Jabl-e-Noor” which is two to three kilometres from the city of Mecca in which there is a cave called Hira. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ used to spend a great deal of his time in the Cave of Hira in meditation (thinking deeply and silently) and praying to Almighty Allah. He also used to keep fast while in the cave. Sometimes he would spend many days in the Cave of Hira. During these long absences, his wife Khadija ؓ would send him food which would last him quite a few days. Sometimes he would spend many days in the Cave of Hira, even a whole month there in the month of Ramadaan. He would spend the time in meditation and prayer.

As time went by, after Prophet Muhammad ﷺ had been visiting the Cave of Hira for a year, in the month of Ramadaan (610 AD) when the Prophet ﷺ was 40 years old, the angel Jibrael ؑ appeared before him in the cave.

18. Iqra (Read)

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ heard a voice say “**Read!**” Prophet Muhammad ﷺ trembled with fear and said that he was unable to read. The Prophet ﷺ could not read. He was asked again by Jibrael ﷺ and again he replied that he could not. The third time Jibrael ﷺ embraced and hugged Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and said, “**Read in the Name of your Lord and Cherisher who created man out of clay. Read and thy Lord is Most Bountiful. It is He who taught men the use of the pen and taught man that which he knew not.**” (Surah Al Alaq, verses 1-5)

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was very confused and stunned. He came out of the cave and stood there thinking. Again, he ﷺ heard the voice say that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was the Messenger of Almighty Allah and that the speaker was the angel, Jibrael ﷺ. The verse which Jibrael ﷺ had brought were the first words of the Holy Qur’an. This is called “wahi” or “revelation”. Thus, Prophethood was announced to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ when he was 40 years old. The Holy Prophet ﷺ quickly left the Cave of Hira and made his way home. This was the first divine call revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the final messenger and the last Prophet.

19. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is comforted by his wife Khadija ؓ

When Prophet Muhammad ﷺ got home, he told his wife, Khadija ؓ, all that had happened to him in the Cave of Hira. Khadija ؓ had faith in his character and comforted him saying that Almighty Allah will help him. After he had rested, she took him to her cousin, an old man named Waraqa bin Naufal, who knew all the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. Waraqa listened carefully to what the Prophet ﷺ had to say. Waraqa said that he believed that Muhammad ﷺ was the promised Messiah/Prophet whom Allah had promised to the people.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ continued going to the Cave of Hira to pray to Almighty Allah. Jibrael ﷺ had taught the Prophet ﷺ how to pray.

As time passed, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ did not get any more revelations from Jibrael ﷺ and he got worried. After a very long time, Jibrael ﷺ again appeared to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ for the second revelation from Almighty Allah. This revelation said that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, must arise and warn the people about Almighty Allah and they must praise Almighty Allah. (From Surah 74: Surah Mudassir)

Jibrael also said to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ that he is the true Prophet of Almighty Allah.

20. The meaning of the message

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was now convinced and reassured that he was chosen by Almighty Allah for an important mission; that his duty was to spread the message of Islam to all the people. When Prophet Muhammad ﷺ returned home, he told Khadija ؓ about the message to spread Islam and she was the first person to accept Islam. From then onwards and till the time Prophet Muhammad ﷺ left this world, Jibrael ﷺ appeared often to him ﷺ with revelations in beautiful Arabic which he was told to recite aloud to his followers and they in turn were told to learn the verses of the Holy Qur’an by heart. They also wrote the verses down.

21. The early people to accept Islam

- Khadija ﷺ was the first person and the first woman to accept Islam.
- Ali ﷺ was the first boy to accept Islam.
- Zaid bin Harith ﷺ was the first freed slave to accept Islam.
- Umm-e-Aiman ﷺ was the first female slave to accept Islam.
- Abu Bakr ﷺ, a close friend of the Prophet ﷺ, was the first adult male to accept Islam.

Many other Arabs accepted Islam through Abu Bakr ﷺ.

A Muslim male believer in Islam who saw Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and believed in him with love and imaan is called a Sahabi. The plural of Sahabi is Sahaba. A Muslim female believer who saw the Prophet ﷺ is called a Sahaabiyah.

22. Secret meeting of Muslims

The Muslims used to meet in secret in Arqam's ﷺ house. The house was the centre for religious training for the early Muslims. They also met outside the city of Mecca where they prayed to Almighty Allah. As the Islamic movement was in its early stages, they did not want to attract too much attention from the general public. This continued for three years in this manner and it was through the poor people and slaves that Islam was built up during its early years.

23. Open preaching

In the third year of Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ call to Islam, Almighty Allah commanded the Prophet ﷺ to preach the new faith openly to all the people. Accordingly, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ invited about 40 of his relatives to a meal, after which he asked them to accept Islam.

(Islam was what the religion was called. Islam means submission to the will of Allah.)

Ali ﷺ, who was ten years old, was the only one who supported Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, while the others laughed at the Prophet ﷺ and went away.

24. The call of Islam from Mount Safa

Now Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, was determined to pass the message of Islam to the people of Mecca and thought of a second plan of winning the attention of the Quraish and the Meccans.

One day, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ walked out of the city of Mecca and climbed up a small hill called Mount Safa and called the people to listen to what he had to say.

He told them that they should worship none but Almighty Allah, the Lord of the universe and that idol worship and evil practices should be stopped. The people became very angry and some even said that he was mad. The Prophet ﷺ now invited everyone to the new faith, Islam. But the people did not accept Islam and went away.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ then went to the Holy Kaaba and declared, "There is no God, but Allah and Muhammad ﷺ is the Messenger of Allah."

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, called upon the Meccan people to follow Allah's commandments and live a righteous life. Since the Prophet ﷺ made known his mission to members of his family and other Meccan

people, they all became his enemies. They rejected his message and walked away. Since then, his family members began to build up hatred and enmity against the Prophet ﷺ and against the message of Islam. The Meccans decided to stop the spread of Islam as it would change their way of life.

25. People against Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

The Meccan leaders – Abu Sufyan, Shaiba, Utba bin Rabia, Abu Jahl, Walid bin Mughira – approached Abu Talib, the Prophet's ﷺ uncle, to stop Prophet Muhammad ﷺ from preaching Islam to the people of Mecca. But Prophet Muhammad ﷺ spoke to his uncle, Abu Taalib and told him that Almighty Allah told him to continue with his mission of spreading Islam to the people of Mecca. Then his uncle, Abu Taalib, gave him his permission and support and also the support of the Banu Hashim and Banu Muttalib tribes.

26. First plan of the Meccans

The Meccans then sent their cleverest man, Utba bin Rabia, to speak to the Prophet ﷺ. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was asked to give up his mission of spreading Islam to the people. All of Utba's preaching to the Prophet ﷺ to give up his mission failed to change Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ mission. Utba returned to his people, the Meccans, having failed in his task to stop Prophet Muhammad ﷺ from preaching Islam to the people of Mecca.

27. The Meccan's second plan

Their second plan was to persecute the Muslims - they wanted to make the lives of the Muslims unbearable so that they would give up Islam and their way of life. The slaves suffered the most by being beaten and tortured by their masters. Many Muslims even suffered at the hands of their parents and relatives.

In spite of the hostilities of the Meccans, the Prophet ﷺ never gave up his preaching of Islam to the people. In spite of this treatment, the Muslims also never gave up their faith in Islam and Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

28. Emigration to Abyssinia (Ethiopia)

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ could not see the Muslims being tortured by the Meccans so he advised them to secretly emigrate to Abyssinia (Ethiopia). The first group consisted of eleven men and four women. This was the first hijrah (migration) to Abyssinia (Ethiopia).

(Hijrah means to migrate from one's own country if one does not have freedom of religion there)

Later on, as persecution increased in intensity in Mecca, more and more Muslims left for Abyssinia. Soon, 83 Muslims had settled in Abyssinia, a Christian country, where they were allowed to practise Islam peacefully.

29. Abyssinia

The King of Abyssinia whose name was Najashi (Negus) was a noble and just person. Although he was a Christian, he did not object to the Muslims living in the country. The Muslims were able to live peacefully and practice Islam.

When the Meccans (Quraish) heard about the migration of the Muslims to Abyssinia they became angry and sent a group consisting of Amr Ibnul As and Abdullah bin Abi-Rabi'a to Abyssinia to get the Muslims back to Mecca. They went to the court of the King of Abyssinia, Negus, and told him that the

Muslims were following a new religion and they were trying to stop them from the new religion. They told King Negus to expel the Muslims from Abyssinia.

30. **Justice for Muslims**

The King, Negus, was a very just man and called the Muslims and asked them to explain the matter to him i.e. the complaint of the Meccans. Ja'far ؑ, the son of Abu Talib, spoke for the Muslims saying that they were Muslims and followed the religion of Islam.

Ja'far ؑ recited Surah Mariam of the Holy Qur'an which was about Nabi Essa ؑ (Jesus) and Mariam ؑ (Mary). King Negus understood the verses of the Holy Qur'an which were recited by Ja'far ؑ. He sent the Meccan (Quraish) group away saying that the Muslims could stay in Abyssinia and practise their religion, Islam, and he will protect them (the Muslims) and he will allow them to live in peace in his country. The Quraish delegation returned to Mecca and broke the news to the Quraish in Mecca that they had failed in their mission to bring the Muslims back to Mecca from Abyssinia. Thus, the plan of the Meccans (Quraish) failed again and Islam was victorious.

31. **Hamza ؑ accepts Islam**

One day, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, was near Mount Safa when Abu Jahl happened to pass by. He saw the Prophet ﷺ, and insulted him very rudely, but Prophet Muhammad ﷺ did not reply to Abu Jahl.

Hamza ؑ was the uncle of the Prophet ﷺ and at this stage he had not accepted Islam. He was the most courageous man amongst the Quraish tribes. He had just returned from a hunting trip when a woman slave told him what had happened to his nephew, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ by Abu Jahl. Hamza ؑ became angry and went looking for Abu Jahl and found Abu Jahl sitting near the Holy Kaaba with his friends. Hamza ؑ lifted his bow and struck Abu Jahl on his head with the bow.

Hamza ؑ then went to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and told him that he had avenged what Abu Jahl had done to him. Then the Prophet ﷺ asked Hamza ؑ to become a Muslim and accept Islam. Hamza ؑ was filled with the desire to become a Muslim and accepted Islam. All the Muslims were very happy now that Hamza ؑ had accepted Islam. The Meccan Quraish were put at a great loss when he accepted Islam.

32. **Omar ؑ accepts Islam**

Omar ؑ accepted Islam in the 6th year after Revelation, when Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was 46 years old. Omar ؑ was 35 years of age and he made a vow to kill the Prophet ﷺ.

On his way to keep his vow to kill the Prophet ﷺ, Umar ؑ met Nu'aym-bin-Abdullah ؑ and told him about his intentions. Then Nu'aym-bin-Abdullah ؑ told Omar ؑ about his sister, Fathima ؑ and his brother-in-law, Sayid ؑ, that they had already accepted Islam. Omar ؑ got angry and instead went to his sister's house. As he approached the house he heard verses of the Holy Qur'an being recited. Khabbab ؑ was reading Surah Ta-haa to Omar's ؑ sister and brother-in-law.

Omar ؑ burst into the house and Khabbab ؑ hid in another room. Omar ؑ began hitting his brother-in-law and his sister stepped forward to protect her husband and she was injured on her face. Seeing the blood on his sister's face, Omar ؑ calmed down and asked his sister if he could read the verses of the Holy Qur'an.

Omar ؓ cleansed himself and read some verses of the Holy Qur'an and was deeply overcome by the words. There and then he decided to accept Islam. Khabbab ؓ came out of hiding and led Omar ؓ to Arqam's ؓ house where Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and the other Muslims welcomed Omar ؓ.

Omar ؓ read the Kalimah Shahada and he accepted Islam freely. Omar ؓ was the 40th Muslim to accept Islam. He then began to pray in front of the Holy Kaaba and encouraged other Muslims to join him in prayer. The Quraish Meccans watched in anger but were afraid to take any action against the Muslims, as they were afraid of Omar ؓ.

Thus, the Meccans third plan against the spread of Islam failed against the Muslims and Islam was victorious.

33. Boycott of the Muslims by the Quraish

The Quraish tribes held a meeting with all the important families in Mecca and they decided to cut off all ties with Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his followers and the Banu Hashim and Banu Muttalib families.

A notice of agreement was written up by the Quraish and Mansur-ibn-Ikrama wrote up the terms of the agreement. It was hung up in the Holy Kaaba for all to see. The Muslims could do nothing about the agreement and Abu Taalib, the Prophet's ؓ uncle, took all the Muslims to a valley outside Mecca called "Shib-e-Abu Taalib" or the "Valley of Abu Taalib".

All of them stayed in the valley for three years. They underwent a great deal of hardship and suffering. There was no food or water when their provisions ran out and no food was allowed into the valley. They had to feed on the leaves of trees and some boiled the skins of goats for food. The children had no milk and their parents were like skeletons (very thin). There were a few kind-hearted Meccans who secretly supplied a little food that they could find for the children. The Muslims lived under hardships in the valley for three long years.

After three years, some of the Quraish people got tired of the treaty and the treatment and the ill-will to the Muslims. They went to the Holy Kaaba and got the agreement. But all the words on the whole agreement had been eaten away by white ants except the words "Bismika Allahuma" which means "In the name of Allah".

They decided to let the Prophet ﷺ and all Muslims return to the city of Mecca.

34. The "Year of Sorrow" or "Aam-Al-Huzn"

The three years away from Mecca in the Valley of Abu Taalib had made the Prophet's ؓ uncle, Abu Taalib and Khadija ؓ very weak. They both passed away soon after the boycott ended. First Abu Taalib, and then Khadija ؓ passed away.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was now left without the two persons who had supported him and loved him the most all these years.

35. Journey to Taif

After the boycott, the Meccans prevented Prophet Muhammad ﷺ from preaching anywhere in Mecca. This was the 10th month of the 10th year of the Prophet's ؓ mission when the Prophet ﷺ was 50 years old.

As he had lost the protection of his uncle Abu Taalib, he had to find a place other than Mecca to be a base for Islam and he decided to spread the word of Almighty Allah, Islam, to the people of Taif, a town, 80 kilometres to the west of Mecca.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ went to Taif with Zaid ؑ. In Taif, he went to three important people of the city whom he hoped to convince about Islam and to accept Islam. All of them refused to accept Islam and they made fun of the Prophet ﷺ. They set the wicked people of Taif upon Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. As he left the city of Taif, they threw stones at him. The Prophet ﷺ was badly injured and his blessed shoes were full of blood. After walking for 5 kilometres, the Prophet ﷺ reached the plantation of Utbah bin Rabi'a. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ took shelter there. The owner of the plantation sent his slave Addas with a plate full of grapes for the Prophet ﷺ which he ate.

36. Journey back to Mecca from Taif

After resting for some time, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ set out for Mecca. As night approached, he stopped at a place called Nakhla where he read salaah (prayers) and then he walked further until he reached the Cave of Hira. The Prophet ﷺ rested in the cave for a while and realised that the Meccan Quraish were still intent on killing him. He ﷺ sent word to a Meccan chief, Mutim-bin-Adi, who was a respectable person asking him for his protection. Mutim-bin-Adi agreed to protect Prophet Muhammad ﷺ from the Meccan Quraish. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ returned to Mecca where Mutim-bin-Adi announced to the Meccans that the Prophet ﷺ was now under his protection.

After Taif, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ longed for some comfort in Mecca. He stayed in the house of Ummi Haani ؑ, the daughter of Abu Taalib.

37. Me'raj of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

a. Journey from Mecca to Jerusalem

After Taif, the Prophet ﷺ longed for some comfort (rest). This comfort happened in the form of a remarkable and eventful night journey to Jerusalem called "Al-Isra" and, from there, the ascent to the heavens called the "Al-Me'raj".

This journey happened on the 27th night of Rajab when the Holy Prophet ﷺ was 50 years old.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was asleep in the house of Ummi Haani ؑ, the daughter of Abu Taalib. He ﷺ awoke and found Jibrael ؑ, an angel, who gave him the good news that Almighty Allah had summoned the Holy Prophet ﷺ to his presence in the heavens above.

Jibrael ؑ took Prophet Muhammad ﷺ first to the Holy Kaaba where he opened the chest of the Prophet ﷺ and washed his heart with Zam-Zam water and filled it with the noor (light of Almighty Allah) and hikmah (wisdom). Prophet Muhammad ﷺ then mounted the "Buraaq", a transport from Jannah (heaven).

The Burraq could travel faster than light. They travelled first to Jerusalem from Mecca and stopped at "Musjid-ul-Aqsa" in Jerusalem. This journey, from Mecca to Jerusalem was also called "Al-Isra".

(The Muslims first prayed facing Jerusalem – Masjid-ul-Aqsa, in the early years of Islam. Later they faced the Holy Kaaba which became the Qiblah of the Muslims.)

In Masjid-al-Aqsa, the first qiblah of the Muslims, they read their Esha prayers (Salaah) and Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was the Imam for the Esha namaaz in Masjid-al-Aqsa, Past Prophets and angels lined up for Esha prayers behind their Imam, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

b. Journey to the heavens from Jerusalem

From Masjid-al-Aqsa the procession journeyed up into the heavens with Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. This was called the “Me’raj” – journey to the heavens.

On entry into the First Heaven, the Prophet ﷺ was met by Adam ؑ, the first Prophet of Islam.

In the Second Heaven, he was met by Yahya ؑ and Essa ؑ.

In the Third Heaven he was met by Yusuf ؑ.

In the Fourth Heaven he was met by Idris ؑ.

In the Fifth Heaven he was met by Haroon ؑ.

In the Sixth Heaven, he was met by Moosa ؑ.

And in the Seventh Heaven, he was met by Ibrahim ؑ.

c. Sidratul Muntaha

This is a tree at the extreme end of the Seventh Heaven from where Jibrael ؑ, the arch angel, could not go any further than this spot. From this point, only Prophet Muhammad ﷺ could go further to meet Almighty Allah.

**“Glory be to Allah who took his servant at night from the sacred Masjid
to the furthest Masjid precinct we have blessed...”**

(Surah Al Isra, verse 1)

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ saw Almighty Allah with his own eyes and spoke to Almighty Allah. Almighty Allah spoke directly with the Holy Prophet ﷺ who was promised many things by Almighty Allah.

Almighty Allah gave the instruction that we must pray five times a day. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was shown Jannat (heaven) and Jahannam (hell) and also saw the entire creation – past, present and future. The Prophet ﷺ was told to Fast for the whole month of Ramadaan.

He ﷺ was also given the last portion of “Sura Baqara”. He ﷺ was promised that Muslims who believed in One Allah would be granted Jannat. He ﷺ was promised that Almighty Allah will reward those Muslims who performed good deeds.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was then brought home to Ummi Haani’s (R.A.) house in Mecca by Jibrael ؑ. Thus, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ went up personally to meet Almighty Allah and came back home to Mecca. This was called “The Me’raj” of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

38. The title of Siddique to Abu-Bakr ؓ

The next morning, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ narrated his experience to the Muslims (Sahaba) of Mecca who never doubted what he told them. When Abu-Bakr ؓ heard of the Me’raj he said, “It must be true.” After this he was given the title of “Siddique” which means “the confirmer of truth” by the Prophet ﷺ.

When the Meccans (Quraish) heard of the “Me’raj”, they began to mock the Prophet ﷺ. The Meccans (Quraish) did not believe Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, but the Muslims believed what the Prophet ﷺ told them to be true and supported him.

39. Islamic movement spreads to Yathrib (Medina – Madinatul Munawwarah, formerly known as Yathrib)

Mecca was an important trading centre and people from everywhere came to Mecca. The Prophet ﷺ used to deliver the message of Islam to those people who came to Mecca. He used to teach them about Islam. One group of people who benefitted from his teaching were from Medina (Yathrib).

In the 11th year of his mission to teach Islam, when Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was 51 years old, six men from Yathrib (Medina) met the Holy Prophet ﷺ at “Aqabah” and he instructed them on the teachings of Islam. On their return to Yathrib (Medina), they in turn spread the message of Islam to their people there.

The following year, twelve men came to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and accepted Islam. They were from the Aus and Khazraj tribes of Yathrib (Medina).

40. The first pledge of Aqabah

These twelve people made a pledge with Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to accept all the teachings of Islam – this was the first pledge of Aqabah. The Prophet ﷺ also sent Musab-bin-Umair ؓ with them to Yathrib (Medina) to make the new Muslims understand the principles of Islam. As a result of Musab-bin-Umair’s ؓ efforts, Islam spread quickly in Yathrib (Medina).

41. Second pledge of Aqabah

In the 13th year of Prophet Muhammad’s ﷺ mission, 73 men and 2 women met the Prophet ﷺ at Aqabah. They urged him to come to Yathrib (Medina). Abbas ؓ, the Holy Prophet’s ﷺ uncle, who was not yet a Muslim, asked the people of Yathrib to promise to protect the Holy Prophet ﷺ at all times. The people of Yathrib promised to look after him.

After the Prophet ﷺ explained the principles of Islam to the people of Yathrib, they all stretched out their hands and placed it on the hand of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, and took the 2nd pledge of Aqabah. After this pledge, the Holy Prophet ﷺ appointed twelve Sahaba (Muslims) to teach Islam to the new Muslims of Yathrib.

42. The Meccans plan to kill Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

The Meccans were now getting worried about the influence of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, on the pilgrims to Mecca and on the traders, who came to Mecca. Abu Jahl suggested a new plan to the leaders of the different tribes of Mecca.

They were to pick out the strongest and bravest man from each tribe and surround the house of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and to attack and kill him when he came out of his house for the morning prayers (Fajr). All the leaders of the different tribes of Quraish agreed to the plan and picked out one man from each tribe.

43. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ escapes from Mecca

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ learnt of the new plans of the Meccan Quraish from Almighty Allah. When they surrounded his house, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ told Ali ؑ to sleep in his bed and to cover himself up. Ali ؑ was to return all the people's money and belongings that were left with Prophet Muhammad ﷺ by the people for safekeeping when he left Mecca for Yathrib (Medina).

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ left the house, unnoticed by the guards who had surrounded his house, and went to Abu Bakr's ؓ house. Both of them, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and Abu Bakr ؓ left and made their way out of Mecca. They both made their way to a mountain called Mount Thawr which is 8 kilometres away from Mecca and hid in a cave there. This cave is south of Mecca.

In the morning, the Meccan Quraish were shocked when they discovered that the Prophet ﷺ had escaped in spite of his house being surrounded by the guards. They sent search parties in all directions to look for the Prophet ﷺ. The enemy soldiers even reached the entrance of the cave, but Allah's miracle saved them. At the entrance to the cave a tree with many branches had grown and a bird's nest with eggs in it appeared on the tree. Also, at the entrance of the cave of Mount Tawr, a spider had spun its web covering the entrance to the cave. When the soldiers saw all this, they assumed that no one could have gone into the cave. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and Abu Bakr ؓ stayed in the cave for three days and three nights.

44. Hijrah to Yathrib (Medina)

Hijrah = means leaving a country where one is persecuted and going to a land where there is freedom.

[The Islamic calendar starts from the year of Hijrah which took place on the 24th September 622 AD]

Asma ؓ, Abu Bakr ؓ' s daughter, used to bring them food in the evenings. Abu Bakr's ؓ son, Abdur-Rahmaan ؓ used to bring them news of the doings and sayings of the Meccan Quraish. Both of them made sure that they were not followed by the Meccan Quraish when they left Mecca and went to the cave.

The Meccans offered a reward of 100 camels for the capture and return of the Prophet ﷺ to Mecca.

45. Suraqah bin Jausham was a skilled horseman

The Holy Prophet ﷺ, Abu-Bakr ؓ and a guide went on their way without incident to Yathrib (Medina). On the way while travelling in the desert, they saw a horseman riding towards them. As the horseman drew close to them, the horse kept stumbling a few times. The horseman was terrified, and he came to the Holy Prophet ﷺ and told him no harm would come to them.

Suraqah bin Jausham, the horseman, promised that on his return to Mecca, he will turn back all followers. After this event, they continued their long journey to Yathrib (Medina) mostly at night.

On the 7th day, and still travelling under the cover of the night, the Holy Prophet ﷺ, Abu Bakr ؓ and their guide reached Quba, which was 5 kilometres away from Yathrib (Medina). At Quba, a few people from the city of Yathrib (Medina), Muslims, were waiting to welcome them.

They stayed in Quba for two weeks, where Ali ؑ also joined them later from Mecca. Many Muslims from Yathrib (Medina) began to assemble there in Quba to meet them.

A small Musjid was built in Quba by the Muslims while the Holy Prophet ﷺ stayed there. The land for the Musjid was donated by Kulthum ؓ and the Musjid was Musjidul Quba. This was the first Musjid built by the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

46. Journey to Yathrib (Medina) from Quba

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his party left Quba for Yathrib (Medina).

On a Friday on the way from Quba to Yathrib (Medina) at a place called “Bani-Salim”, the first Friday prayer (Salaah) in Islamic history under the leadership of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, was performed and he ﷺ addressed the congregation (group) of Friday prayer (Salaah).

This Khutba (Jumu’ah sermon) was well received by the group. After the Friday prayers (Salaah), the Holy Prophet ﷺ and his group continued on their journey to Yathrib.

47. Welcome by the people of Yathrib (Medina)

On his entry to Yathrib, everyone gave Prophet Muhammad ﷺ a rousing welcome.

The chiefs of Yathrib surrounded the Prophet ﷺ and wanted him to stay at their house but Prophet Muhammad ﷺ excused himself and said that he would stay where the camel stopped. The Prophet ﷺ then left the reins of the camel loose. The camel moved and came to a stop before the house of a man called “Ayyub Ansari ؓ” who became the Holy Prophet’s ﷺ host.

The Prophet ﷺ then thought for a moment as to where he should build a Musjid and how big it should be. As he wondered about this, his camel walked, then stopped, turned around and walked back. “This is the place and size of the mosque that Almighty Allah wishes us to build”, said the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

The land belonged to two orphans, Sahal ؓ and Suhail ؓ. “Take it”, they said. But Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said no and that he must buy the land from the two orphans. This piece of land was then bought by the Holy Prophet ﷺ and he instructed the Muslims that a musjid be built on the land and that his own house be built at the side of the Musjid.

48. First stay at Abu Ayyub Ansari’s ؓ house

Abu Ansari ؓ was overjoyed that the Prophet ﷺ was going to stay at his house. He had a double story house and offered the upper floor to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ chose the ground floor of the house for the convenience of visitors. The Holy Prophet ﷺ stayed with Abu Ayyub Ansari ؓ for 7 months while his own house and the musjid was being built.

49. Change of name of city of Yathrib

The moment that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ set foot in the city of Yathrib, the city was no more called by its old name of Yathrib. It was now called “Madinatun Nabawi” or the “City of the Prophet ﷺ”. We can also call the city “Madinatul Munawwarah” or “Medina Shareef” or “Madinah”, as it is now called by the Muslims.

The Islamic year was 1 AH. AH means “after Hijrah”.

50. Muhajireen (refugees) – Ansar (helpers)

The Muslims who had come from Mecca were called Muhajireen (refugees). The Muslims of Yathrib (now called Medina) came to be known as the Ansars (helpers).

51. Building the Musjid by the Muslims of Medina

The Prophet ﷺ and his followers started building the Musjid, cutting stones from the mountains around Medina and carrying them on their backs all the way to the Musjid. All of them, even the Prophet ﷺ, worked together to build the Musjid of Medina.

52. 1st Qibla facing Al Aqsa Musjid in Jerusalem

The Musjid was soon ready. It faced Jerusalem because the Prophet ﷺ faced Jerusalem (Al Aqsa Musjid) when he said his prayers. Thus the first qibla was Musjidul Aqsa. The Prophet ﷺ built small houses around the Musjid for his family and followers and soon everyone was well settled, and this Musjid in Medina was called “Musjidul Nabawee”.

53. Duties of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

There were two important things the Prophet ﷺ had to do now:

- He had to rehabilitate the refugees (Muhajireen).
- He had to establish a centre of learning and preaching of Islam in Medina.

54. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, called all the Ansars and Muhajireen and spoke to them

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ told them that they are brothers to each other. Then each Ansari took a Muhajir as his brother and they shared their wealth and property with one another. The Muhajireen were very happy. They accepted only as much as they needed. Soon some of them started learning farming from the Ansar and became farmers. Others started their own business. The Ansar and the Muhajireen lived like one big family. The brotherhood of the Ansar and Muhajireen is called “Mawakhat”.

55. Mawakhat (Brotherhood)

The Qur'an speaks of this brotherhood in Surah Anfal verse 72:

**“Those who believed and adopted exile, and fought for the faith, with their property
and their persons in the cause of Allah as well as those who gave them shelter and aid,
they are friends and protectors, one of another...”**

56. Saffa or School

When the musjid, “Musjidul Nabawee”, was completely built and small houses were built for Prophet Muhammad ﷺ followers, Prophet ﷺ, built next to the musjid a raised platform which was to be Saffa or school. Here the people could study the Qur'an and learn what they could about Islam from the Prophet ﷺ “You must take it in turns to study and to work on the land.” he ﷺ said.

We can see from this that the Prophet ﷺ was not only a teacher and law giver, but he was also a social worker of Islam.

57. House of the Prophet ﷺ

Close to the masjid, two rooms were built for the Holy Prophet's ﷺ family. One was for Sauda ؓ, one of the Prophet's wives. The other room was for Ayesha Siddique ؓ.

[During the 9th month of the first Hijrah (1 AH), the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ married Ayesha Siddique ؓ, the daughter of Abu Bakr ؓ]

58. More Muslims join Islam

The Aus tribe and the Khazraj tribes who were living in and around Medina accepted Islam and were now living and working together.

59. The Jews of Medina

The Jewish tribes were small, but they were rich and powerful. These tribes were:

- The Banu Nadir tribe
- The Banu Qainuqa tribe
- The Banu Quraiza tribe

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ made a treaty with the Jewish tribes for mutual help in times of enemy attack. The Jews could practise their religion and had the freedom to carry on their lives in peace with others.

The Prophet ﷺ, set a wonderful example by his noble character, high morals, truthfulness and sincerity and got all the people of Medina to live in peace and harmony.

60. The Azaan (call to prayer)

On the suggestion of Omar ؓ, the Prophet ﷺ, accepted that for calling the people for prayers, the Azaan should be called out aloud. At the call, the Muslims must gather for congregational prayers as a group in the masjid – Masjidul Nabawee.

Bilal ؓ was chosen to be the Mu'azzin, to give the call of Azaan.

61. Change of direction of prayer- New Qiblah

During the 2nd year of Hijrah, the Muslims' Qiblah (direction of prayer), was still Jerusalem. 17 months after Hijrah – the Holy Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ prayer for a new Qiblah was answered by Almighty Allah and the Kaaba, which was built by Ibrahim ؑ and his son Isma'eel ؑ, became the new Qiblah for the Muslims. While Muhammad ﷺ was praying in the direction of Jerusalem, Almighty Allah made him change his direction of prayer from Jerusalem to the Holy Kaaba in Mecca while in prayer. The Holy Kaaba in Mecca became the new direction of prayer – the new Qiblah for the Muslims of the whole world. They were now to face the Holy Kaaba for their daily prayers.

62. Zakaat (charity)

The Islamic year was 2AH (after Hijrah), real brotherhood was established between the Ansar and the Muhajireen. The wars of the past had been forgotten. The poor and those in distress were all taken care of. "Zakaat" was made compulsory on the rich every year, 2.5% of wealth was to be paid to the treasury (Baitul Mal) for the use of the poor and needy.

63. Fasting (Saum)

Fasting in the month of Ramadaan was introduced.

64. Other laws

Dealing in interest (usury) and drinking of wine became forbidden (haraam).

Laws regarding inheritance of orphans, marriage and rights of women were revealed and introduced to the Muslims.

65. A Christian delegation visits Medina

The Jews, Christian, and Muslims lived peacefully in Medina.

A Christian delegation of 60 people came to Medina for a religious discussion between the Jews, Christian and Muslims. When the discussion was over, the Jews and the Christians refused to believe in Prophet Muhammad ﷺ as the last messenger of Almighty Allah. This delegation came to spread hatred between the Jews, the Christians and the Muslims of Medina.

66. Expedition (Sariyas) by the Muslims

While Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was laying down the Islamic laws that were to govern the lives of the Muslims, he was very worried that the Meccans would attack Medina.

The Prophet ﷺ sent out the Sahaba to find out what the Meccans were plotting against the Muslims of Medina. These journeys by the Sahaba for a special purpose were called Sariyas (expeditions). (Sariyas were secret missions or reconnaissance for the purpose of watching the movements of the enemy or to spy on them.)

On one of these expeditions, the Prophet ﷺ sent Hamza ؓ with 30 Sahaba towards the Red Sea. They spotted Abu Jahl with 300 men. No fighting took place and the Sahaba returned safely to Medina.

On another expedition, Ubaydah bin Harith ؓ was sent to Rabigh in the Hijaz with 60 riders. There they met Abu Sufyan with 200 of his men. No fighting took place and they returned to Medina. To confuse the Meccans even more, the Prophet ﷺ sent Saad bin Abbi Waqqas ؓ with about 200 Sahaba towards the south. They then returned safely to Medina.

67. Expeditions (Sariyas) undertaken by Prophet Muhammad ﷺ,

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ also took part in these expeditions. He went to a place called Waddam and succeeded in making a peace treaty with the Banu Qamrah tribe who lived there.

A month later, he took 200 Sahaba to a place called Bunat. Two or three months later, he went to Yauba to wait for the Meccan Quraish caravan controlled by Abu Sufyan, but the caravan had passed by. Twenty days after this expedition, Kurz bin Jabir, a Meccan, raided the cattle and sheep of Medina. He escaped through Badr and could not be caught.

Another expedition of 12 Sahaba under the leadership of Abdullah bin Jahsh ؓ was sent to Nakhlah, a town between Mecca and Taif. He was given a letter by Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to be opened on the way

after a march. The letter instructed Abdullah bin Jahsh ﷺ to stop at Nakhlah and find out the movement of the Meccans in the area and report back to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ on his return to Medina.

It so happened that a Meccan caravan was returning from Syria with merchandise (goods) and Abdullah bin Jahsh ﷺ attacked the caravan and one of the Meccans from the caravan, Amr bin Hadrami, was killed. Abdullah bin Jahsh ﷺ subsequently took two men prisoners, Osman and Nufal who were the grandsons of Mughira, the father of Waleed.

When Abdullah bin Jahsh ﷺ returned to Medina, he explained to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ about the attack on the caravan and the incident of the killing, the prisoners and the booty that was captured by them. The Prophet ﷺ was very angry with Abdullah bin Jahsh ﷺ as he did not approve of the attack on the caravan as he had not instructed them to fight and attack the caravan. The Prophet ﷺ also refused to accept the booty (captured wealth) from Abdullah bin Jahsh ﷺ.

(This was one of the reasons that this incident led to the Battle of Badr as the Meccans were bent on taking revenge on the Muslims of Medina.)

68. Abu Sufyan's caravan was the 2nd reason

Abu Sufyan and his caravan were returning from Syria with a large quantity of goods. He heard that the Muslims were going to attack the caravan. Abu Sufyan sent a rider to Mecca to get help. Much later when Abu Sufyan realised that the attack was just a rumour, he sent another rider to Mecca saying that help was not needed from them as there was no attack on his caravan from the Muslims.

Meanwhile, the messenger with the first message reached Mecca and gave them the message that the caravan was being attacked by the Muslims. Abu Jahl and the other Meccans quickly left Mecca with a large army and headed for Badr to fight the Muslims.

The Prophet ﷺ also heard about the Meccan army and also marched to Badr with an army of 313 Muslims, 70 camels and a few horses but no armour.

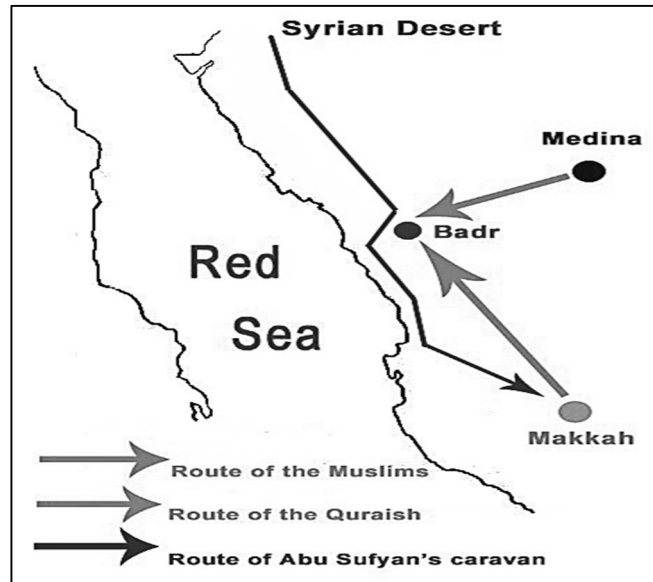
The Meccans, under Abu Jahl, were fully dressed in armour. Theirs was an army of 1000 strong men, 300 on horses and 700 on camels. Both the armies rested overnight at Badr. The Prophet ﷺ prayed the whole night for a Muslim victory, otherwise there would be no Islam left.

The Muslims were fewer in number and they had strong faith in Allah. They were not afraid to fight for Islam. Before the battle, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ prayed to Allah, asking Him to help the Muslims. The Muslims were very brave, and they had complete faith and trust in Allah. They fought bravely and with Allah's help, they won the battle. We read in the Holy Qur'an, in Surah Aali Imraan, Verse 123:

وَلَقَدْ نَصَرَكُمُ اللَّهُ بِبَدْرٍ وَأَنْتُمْ أَذِلَّةٌ ۚ فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٢٣﴾

And Allah helped you at the battle of Badr when you were a small army.

Therefore, have fear of Allah; perhaps you may become thankful.



69. The Battle of Badr

The Battle of Badr took place on the 17th of Ramadaan 2AH on a Friday morning. Allah tells us about the Battle of Badr in the Holy Qur'an, in Sura Aali Imraan, Verse 13:

قَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ آيَةٌ فِي فِتْنَتَيْنِ الَّتِي تَقَاتَلْتُمَا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَآخَرَى كَافِرَةٌ يَرَوْنَهُمْ مِثْلَهُمْ رَأَى الْعَيْنِ ط
وَاللَّهُ يُؤَيِّدُ بِنَصَرِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَعِبْرَةً لِّأُولِي الْأَبْصَارِ ﴿١٣﴾

Indeed there was a sign (lesson) for you in the two armies which met on the battlefield (of Badr): one was fighting for the cause of Allah and the other had rejected Allah; the believers saw with their own eyes that the unbelievers were twice their number.

But the result of the battle proved that Allah strengthens with His own aid whom He pleases. Surely there is a lesson in this for those who have sight.

One of the Meccan leaders, Utba, joined by his brother, Shaiba and his son, Waleed advanced first to fight in single combat with the Muslims.

The Muslim army responded courageously to the Meccans' single combat attack. Hamza ؓ killed Utba, Ali ؓ killed Waleed and Ubaydah ؓ killed Shaiba.

The Meccans were shocked by the death of the three soldiers by the Muslims. The Meccan army now rushed and attacked the Muslim army from all sides. The Muslims fought bravely. The Sahaba fought to have honour and to give their life in the path of Almighty Allah to defend Islam. The battle continued.

Two Ansari boys, Moaz ؓ and Mo-Awwaz ؓ killed Abu Jahl. Bilal ؓ killed his old master, Umayyah.

Soon, the battle was over. The Meccans fled from the battlefield leaving behind their wounded and their dead. Altogether, 11 of their 14 leaders were killed and they lost 70 men and 70 were captured and taken prisoner by the Muslims. The Meccans retreated back to Mecca.

70. This was a great victory for Islam

The Meccans were humiliated and shocked by their defeat by the Muslims. Abu Lahab, the enemy of Islam, fell sick with fever and died 7 days later in Mecca.

The dead were buried, and the prisoners were taken to Medina where they were cared for. They were given food to eat and clothes to wear. Some were set free on ransom (in exchange for money). Those who could read and write had to teach 10 Muslims to read and write to earn their freedom.

The victory at Badr gave the Muslims hope in Islam. The victory strengthened the position of the Prophet ﷺ in the eyes of the enemy. The victory was a severe blow to the prestige of the Meccan Quraish. There was chaos and mourning in the city of Mecca. They promised to take revenge on the Muslims of Medina.

The Jews and the other kuffar were alarmed at the new power that had emerged, Islam in Medina.

71. Other events after Badr 2AH-3AH

- The 2 Eid prayers (salaah) were introduced by the Prophet ﷺ. Muslims had to pay Sadaqa-e-fitr at the completion of Fasting in the month of Ramadaan.
- Umme Khulthum ؓ, the daughter of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, was married to Uthmaan Ghani ؓ. (His first wife Ruqayya ؓ, also one of the daughters of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, had passed away.)
- Ali ؓ married Fathima ؓ, the youngest daughter of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.
- Prophet Muhammad ﷺ married Hafsa ؓ, the daughter of Omar ؓ.

72. The Meccans take revenge Expedition of Sawiq

The Meccans did not rest after the Battle of Badr. Abu Sufyan and 200 of his men burnt a plantation of dates outside Medina. They also killed 2 Sahaba. While escaping, the Meccans dropped behind bags of pounded dry dates called Sawiq. This incident was known as the “Expedition of Sawiq”.

73. Munafiqeen increase

Many Jews and Christians accepted Islam with the intention of weakening Islam from within. They were trouble makers and began saying bad things about Islam and started quarrels among the Muslims. They were called hypocrites or Munafiqeen.

74. Expulsion of the Jews of Banu Qainuqa by the Prophet ﷺ

An Ansari lady went to buy something from a Jewish shop where she was molested by the Jews. At first, the Jews of the Banu Qainuqa tribe challenged the Muslims to fight. Then they shut themselves in their forts. Seeing that they could not win, they eventually gave up. 700 Jews of the Banu Qainuqa tribe were expelled from the city of Medina and they went to settle in Syria (As Sham).

75. The Battle of Uhud 3AH

Allah, the Most Powerful gave victory to the Muslims in the Battle of Badr. Victory at the Battle of Badr made the Muslims feel stronger. This made the Meccans jealous because they had lost the battle of Badr.

The Meccans wanted to take revenge so they prepared for another battle. This battle took place in Shawaal, 3AH at Mount Uhud near Medina.

a. Preparation for the Battle

The Meccans prepared an army of 3000 men. The Muslims were again smaller in number and they had only 700 men.

On the battlefield, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ placed the Muslim army in front of Mount Uhud, so that the enemy will not attack them from behind the mountain. There was a pass between Mount Uhud and Mount Rumat where the Prophet ﷺ placed 50 of his best archers. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ told the 50 archers not to leave their positions, until he told them to. Thus, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ made sure that they would not be attacked from behind the mountain.

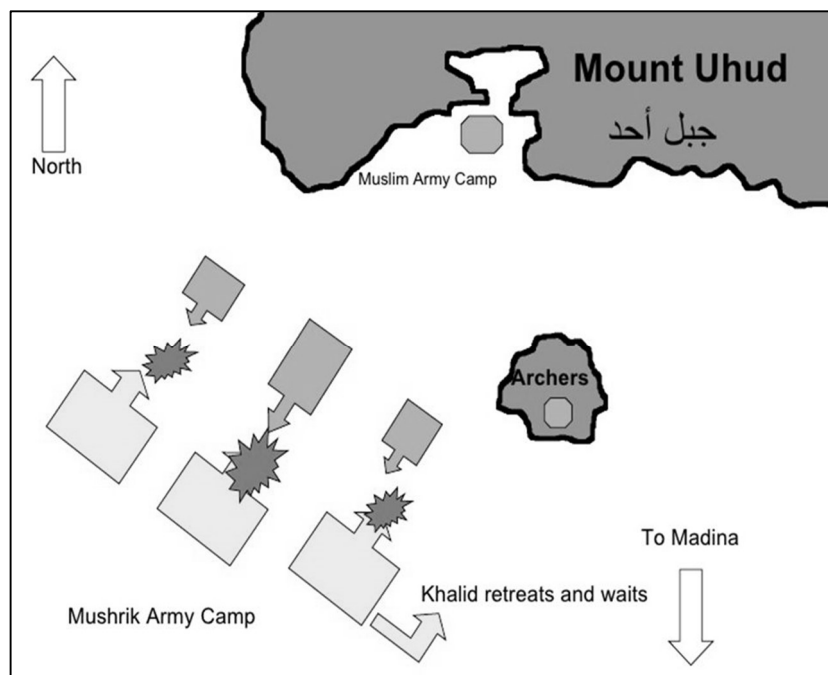
Uhud is a mountain that is some 5 kilometres from Medina. It was here that the 2nd battle of Islam was to take place. The Meccan Quraish gathered together an army of 3000 soldiers fully armed with 200 horses and 3000 camels.

15 of the Meccan women joined their army to encourage and urge the men to fight. Abu Sufyan's wife, Hinda was the leader of the women.

Abbas ؓ, one of the uncles of the Prophet ﷺ, saw the war preparations taking place in Mecca. He became concerned and worried and sent a message to his nephew, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ warning him of the danger of attack by the Meccans. The Prophet ﷺ received the news and was concerned about the safety of the Muslims of Medina.

A meeting was called with all the Muslims. At the meeting, it was decided by the Muslims not to risk fighting the enemy in the city of Medina and they agreed to fight them outside the city of Medina.

It was on a Friday that the Prophet ﷺ gathered an army of 1000 soldiers and marched out of Medina to meet the enemy on the way.



b. Betrayal by Abdullah ibn Ubayy

On the way out of Medina the leader of the hypocrites, Abdullah ibn Ubayy, deserted the Muslim army with 300 of his followers.

Thus, the Muslim army was reduced to 700 men and they marched to Uhud. The Muslim army reached Uhud on a Saturday. The Prophet ﷺ instructed 50 archers to protect an important mountain pass under any circumstances. Abdullah ibn Zubair ؓ took command of the archers at the pass.

c. The Battle of Uhud begins

The battle began between the Meccan Kuffar and the Muslims. Hamza ؓ was eventually killed (made Shaheed) by Wahshi, a negro slave. The Muslim army fought bravely and eventually had the Meccan kuffar running away from the battlefield.

Thinking that the battle was over, the archers left their positions and went to collect the booty (wealth) of the Meccan kuffar. Khalid bin Walid, a Meccan leader, saw that the mountain pass was now unguarded, and he sent a message to Ikraama and Abu Sufyan about the unguarded position on the mountain pass.

Suddenly, all at once, all the soldiers of the Meccan kuffar turned back on the Muslim forces. The Muslim army was now completely surrounded by the enemy soldiers. The Muslim army was disunited and there was confusion in their position.

Musab bin Omair ؓ the flagbearer of the Muslim army was knocked down. Somebody raised a cry that the Prophet ﷺ was made Shaheed (killed). When the Muslims heard the news, they gave up all hope of fighting.

Kaab bin Malik ؓ saw that the Prophet ﷺ was alive and spread word to all the Muslims that the Prophet ﷺ was alive. When the Muslims heard this, they became determined and fought courageously to drive back the Meccan army.

Abu Sufyan's wife, Hinda with the other Meccan men and women began cutting up the bodies of the Muslims killed. Hinda chewed the liver of Hamza ؓ, the Prophet's ﷺ uncle who was killed by Wahshi.

The Muslims fought bravely and with many of the Meccan leaders killed in the battle, the Meccans retreated from the battlefield and made their way back to the city of Mecca.

The Muslims lost 70 soldiers (Sahaba) and after burying them, the Muslims returned to Medina.

To make sure that the Meccans did not return to the battlefield, the Prophet ﷺ sent Abu Bakr ؓ and Zubair ؓ with 70 Muslims (Sahaba) to pursue the Meccans.

When Abu Sufyan, the leader of the Meccan army saw the Muslims coming towards his army, he instructed his men to hurry back to Mecca.

d. Lessons from the Battle of Uhud

The Muslims learnt that discipline on the battlefield and following the commands of their leader, the Prophet ﷺ, was of utmost importance.

(The Qur'an gives us a detailed description of the battle of Uhud in Surah Aali-Imraan)

76. Other events that took place 3AH-4AH

- Hasan ؑ, the son of Ali ؑ and Fathima (R.A.), was born in 3AH.
- Some Meccans decided to attack Medina and when the Prophet ﷺ heard about this, he sent Abu Salma ؑ with 153 Muslims to pursue them, but they escaped back to Mecca.
- Zaid bin Thaabit ؑ became the secretary of the Prophet ﷺ.
- Husain ؑ, second son of Ali ؑ and Fathima ؑ, was born in 4AH.

77. Huffaz made Shaheed (killed)

After Uhud the kuffar became very bold. Some kuffar tribes invited the Huffaz to come to their villages and teach them about Islam but they were made Shaheed by the kuffar. 70 Huffaz were invited by the tribe of Kilab to teach them the Holy Qur'an. On the way to Najd, they (Huffaz) stopped at a place called Bir-e-Mauna, where Amr bin Tufail, a kuffar, raised an army against the Huffaz and made all of them Shaheed except one who escaped. This happened in the month of Safar 4 AH.

78. Event at a place called Raji

The Prophet ﷺ sent 10 Muslims (Sahaba) to teach the people of Raji about Islam. The Muslims were attacked by 200 archers and 7 Muslims were made Shaheed. The other 3 Muslims were caught and were later made Shaheed. This was a very trying (difficult) time for the Muslims. They were patient and prayed to Almighty Allah for help.

79. Expulsion of the Bani-Nadir Jewish tribe in 4AH due to their planning to kill the Prophet ﷺ

Amr bin Umayyah ؑ was one of the Huffaz who escaped from the kuffar. He was on his way back to Medina when he saw two men of the Banu Amir tribe. Thinking that they were his enemies, he killed them and returned to Medina where he reported the matter to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

The Banu Nadir Jewish tribe were friends of the Banu Amir tribe. The Prophet ﷺ went with 10 of his Sahaba to the Jews of the Banu Nadir tribe to settle the matter of the killing of the two men of the Banu Amir tribe.

The Jews welcomed the Prophet ﷺ with courtesy and friendship. Then, the Jews made the Prophet ﷺ sit next to a high wall. While he was waiting there, the Jews told a person by the name of Amr bin Jahsh to drop a huge rock on the Prophet ﷺ from the top of the wall, where the Prophet ﷺ was sitting. The Prophet ﷺ was already aware of the plot through wahi.

The Prophet ﷺ quickly got up and left the house of the Jew. He returned to Medina and the Sahaba followed him later. The Prophet ﷺ explained to the Sahaba why he had left suddenly and that the Jews had planned to kill him with a large rock where he was sitting.

Then the Prophet ﷺ sent a message to the Jews of the Banu Nadir tribe to sign a fresh treaty or leave Medina within 10 days.

The leader of the hypocrites, Abdullah ibn Ubayy, promised the Jews of the Banu Nadir tribe that help was coming for them from the Meccan kuffar to fight the Muslims of Medina and the Prophet ﷺ. Thus, the Banu Nadir Jewish tribe did not respond and reply to the Prophet's ﷺ message thinking that help was on its way from Mecca.

The Prophet ﷺ declared war on the Jews of the Banu Nadir tribe who locked themselves in their forts. The Jews waited for help to come from the Meccan kuffar, but no help came from them. The Banu Nadir Jews knew that they could not fight the Muslims alone, so they agreed to leave Medina. The Jews of the Banu Nadir tribe took most of their belongings and went to settle in Khaibar, a Jewish centre, to the North of Arabia. Others went to Syria (Ash Shaam) and settled there.

(Surah Al Hashr in the Holy Qur'an tells us about the banishment of the Jewish tribe of Banu Nadir from Medina.)

80. Attempts to invade Medina by the Meccan tribes

After the battle of Uhud, the Meccan kuffar were under the impression that the Muslims of Medina were weak. Many of the kuffar from the different parts of Arabia tried to invade Medina and take control of Medina and each time, they failed in their attempt.

The Prophet ﷺ sent the Sahaba on sariyas (expeditions) to look for the trouble-makers and to teach them a lesson. The sariyas were very successful and the Sahaba were able to confront and attack the kuffar and scare them off.

The Muslims in Medina now felt safe from attack. As time went by, the Muslims became very prosperous in trade and business and Islam was well established in Medina.

81. The Battle of the Trench (Khandaq) 5 A.H

a. Preparation for the Battle of the Trench

The Jews of the Banu Nadir tribe who were expelled from Medina now planned a massive invasion of Medina with the Meccan kuffar. They raised huge funds for the war with the Muslims. They also gathered support of the other Jewish tribes and the Meccan kuffar. The hypocrites of Medina, the Munafiqeen and the other pagan tribes from around the area joined in this fight against the Muslims.

Soon, a huge army of 24,000 soldiers assembled and gathered and marched towards Medina. Abu Sufyaan from Mecca was the leader of the army.

In the city of Medina, the Muslims were shocked at the news of such a large army marching towards Medina. The Muslims of Medina were few in number. How could they fight such a great army? As the Muslims were in consultation and discussion Salman Farsi ؓ suggested a plan - an idea for the Muslims of Medina.

b. Trenches (Khandaq) around the city of Medina

Salman Farsi ؓ advised the Prophet ﷺ to dig trenches all around Medina to hold off the enemy (kuffar). It was a war strategy plan employed by the Persians in the time of war when they were being attacked as a form of defence in war.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ agreed to his idea and immediately the Muslims began the task of digging the trench around the city of Medina. It was a difficult job because the land was rocky and hard. It took 3000 Muslims 20 days to complete digging the trench around the city of Medina. Soon, the trench was ready.

The trench was 5 meters wide and 5 meters deep, all around Medina. 500 Muslims were made to guard the Sahabiyah (Muslim women) and 300 archers to defend the city of Medina at important places.

When the enemies from Mecca arrived at Medina they found that they could not enter the city because of the trenches. They therefore camped outside the city. They stopped all goods from entering or leaving the city.

c. Allah's Power

Prophet Muhammed ﷺ then prayed to Allah, asking for Allah's help. The Muslims were very patient and they never gave up hope. They also prayed to Allah, asking Him for help.

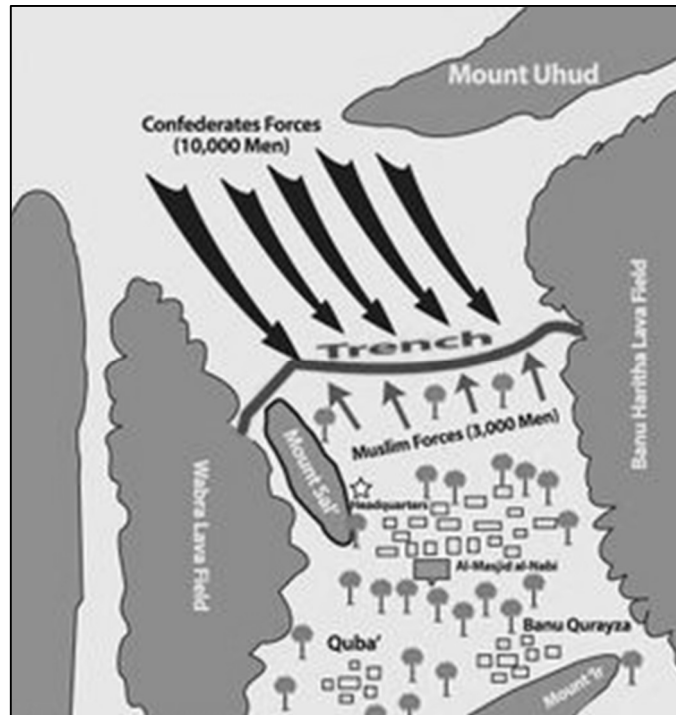
That same night, Allah sent His help, by sending an army of angels to help the Muslims. In Surah Al-Ahzaab (33); verse 9, Allah tells us **“O believers! Remember Allah's favour when enemy forces came to besiege you in Medina, so We sent against them a bitter wind and forces you could not see. And Allah is All-Seeing of what you do.”**

When the Meccan army came to Medina, they were surprised to see the Muslim army inside Medina and that the trenches (khandaq) were the new form of defence for the first time. The kuffar and the Jews laid siege to the city of Medina and tried to get across the trenches, but they fell in and got shot by arrows from the Muslim archers every time they tried to cross over.

The siege continued for a long time. During the fourth week of the siege, Medina was hit by a cyclone. The high icy winds put off the enemy's fires. The enemy soldiers could not cover themselves in their blankets. The tents of the enemy were being blown away.

There was difficulty in finding food for the enemy soldiers and for their animals. The rains that fell affected the movement of the enemy everywhere. Abu Sufyaan, in consultation with the other leaders, decided to lift the siege on Medina and marched back to Mecca with all his army. Medina and the Muslims were saved from the large kuffar Meccan army and from the others.

The Battle of the Trench took place in Shawwal/Dhul Qa'dah 5 A.H. Alhumdulillah, once again, Allah gave victory to the Muslims.



82. End of the Jewish tribe (The Banu Quraiza 5AH)

The Prophet ﷺ had enemies inside Medina, namely the Jewish tribe, the Banu Quraiza and the Munafiqeen who were still inside Medina. These Jews had broken their treaty with the Prophet ﷺ and had openly helped the Meccan kuffar and the others around Arabia.

The leader of the Jewish tribe of Banu Nadir, Huyay bin Akhtab, got entry into the fort of the Jews of Banu Quraiza to get help from them so that the Jews of Medina were to start an uprising inside the city of Medina while the siege was taking place by the enemies of the Muslims.

Abu Sufyaan was in contact with the Munafiqeen inside Medina and asked them to create an uprising in the city of Medina when the Meccan army and the others came to Medina. When the enemy came to Medina, the Jews of the Banu Quraiza tribe wanted to overrun the fort in which the Muslim ladies and children were sheltered. When one of the Jews forced himself into the fort where the women and children were kept, he was killed by Zubair's mother ٱ who was the Holy Prophet's ﷺ aunt. The Jews retreated from the fort thinking that the Muslim soldiers were kept inside the fort.

The Jewish tribe of Banu Quraiza were ignoring the Prophet's ﷺ instructions and were even plotting to kill the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Instead of giving themselves up and surrendering, they set up huge forts. The Prophet ﷺ surrounded the Jewish forts with the Muslim soldiers for almost a whole month and then only the Jewish tribe of Banu Quraiza surrendered to the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

The Jews of the Banu Quraiza requested the Prophet ﷺ that they would like Sa'd bin Muadh ٱ to judge the case, to which the Prophet ﷺ agreed. He agreed as Sa'd bin Muadh ٱ was the chief of the Aus tribe and was responsible to get the Jews of the Banu Quraiza tribe to sign a peace treaty with the Prophet ﷺ.

Sa'd's decision was that all who fought against the Prophet ﷺ should be killed and their women and children should become prisoners of war. Their property was to be divided amongst the Muslims as a

booty of war. The order was carried out, and, Huyay bin Akhtab, who was the leader of the Banu Nadir Jewish tribe was also captured and shared the same fate. He was also killed as was decided.

The Jewish law was applied, but Sa'd bin Muadh ؓ judged the case with justice. The Prophet ﷺ did not interfere with Sa'd's judgement. The power of the Munafiqeen was also broken. The Muslims were now in full control in Medina. The Islamic state of Madinatul Munawarah came into being.

After the victory of the Battle of the Trench (khandaq) and the complete eradication of the Jewish tribe of Banu Quraiza, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ could now attend to other problems facing the Muslim ummah (people). His followers now lived in peace, security and comfort. Many Munafiqeen (hypocrites) saw the power of Islam and came and said to the Muslims that they believed in Almighty Allah and his Prophet ﷺ and were now Muslims.

83. Muslims Prepare for Umrah 6AH

The Holy Prophet ﷺ desired to make an Umrah and made preparations to go with his followers to the Holy Kaaba in Mecca. In Zul-Qadah 6AH, the Holy Prophet ﷺ started on his journey to visit Mecca, the land of his birth, to perform Umrah and Tawaaf of the Holy Kaaba. 1400 Muslims accompanied the Holy Prophet ﷺ and they took animals with them for sacrifice. On the way to Mecca, the pilgrims put on Ihraam in order to make Tawaaf around the Holy Kaaba and to perform Umrah.

When the Meccans heard the Prophet ﷺ was on his way to Mecca, they sent an army under Khalid bin Walid to stop the Muslims from entering the city of Mecca. The Holy Prophet ﷺ, after being informed of the Meccan army's approach, took another route and encamped at Hudaibiya, which is only a day's journey to Mecca.

The Prophet ﷺ sent one of his men to inform the Meccan leaders that the Muslims had come to Mecca in peace and to perform the religious rites of Umrah. The Meccans then sent Urwah bin Masud to tell the Prophet ﷺ that the Meccans were determined not to allow the Muslims into the city of Mecca. Urwah went to the Muslim camp in Hudaibiyah and spoke at length with the Prophet ﷺ. Urwah bin Masud was convinced that the Muslims did not come to fight but to perform Umrah and Tawaaf of the Kaaba. When Urwah bin Masud came back to Mecca he told the Meccans that the Muslims did not come to fight, but all they wanted was to perform Umrah and Tawaaf of the Holy Kaaba.

The Meccans were not convinced of the intentions of the Muslims, so Osman ؓ was sent to Mecca to talk to the Quraish Meccans of the possibility of the Muslims to perform Umrah and Tawaaf of the Holy Kaaba.

The discussions took some time and the Quraish Meccans told Osman ؓ that he could perform Umrah and Tawaaf of the Holy Kaaba, but the Prophet ﷺ and the rest of the Muslims were not allowed to enter Mecca.

A rumour spread in the Muslim camp that Osman ؓ was killed by the Meccan Quraish as he took so long in Mecca. Osman ؓ refused to perform the Tawaaf without the Prophet ﷺ and the Meccans placed him under house arrest.

84. Baitul Ridwan (The Pledge under the Tree 6AH)

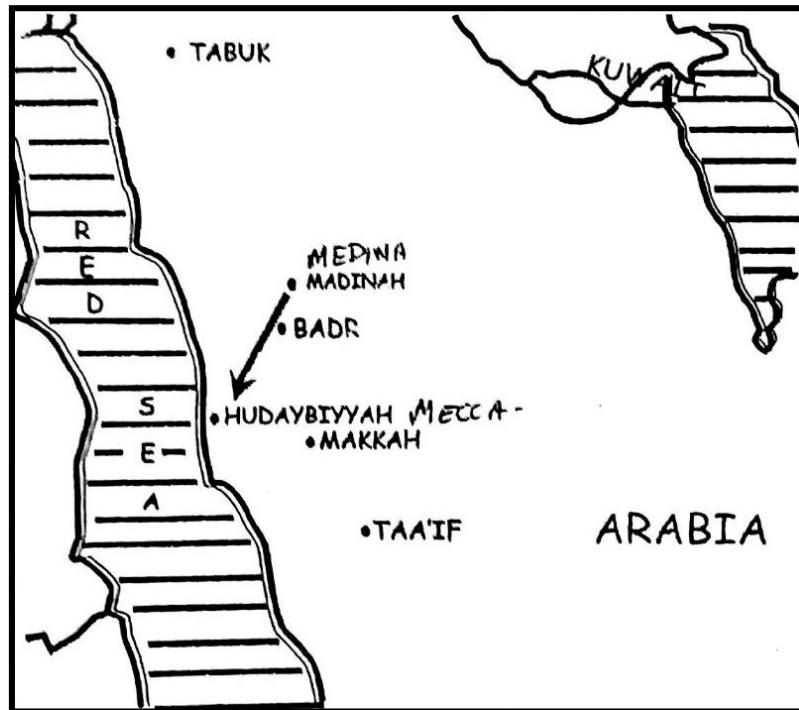
The Prophet ﷺ made a decision and called all the Muslims (Sahaba) together and met under a tree. He told the Muslims then to place their hands beneath his hands and take a pledge (oath).

The pledge (oath) was to fight to death to avenge the killing of Osman ؓ. The pledge (oath) was known as “Bay’ah al Ridwan” or “the pledge under the tree”.

Allah tells us in the Holy Qur’an in Surah Fath, Verse 18:

لَقَدْ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ يُبَايِعُونَكَ تَحْتَ الشَّجَرَةِ فَعَلِمَ
مَا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ فَأَنْزَلَ السَّكِينَةَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَثَابَهُمْ فَتْحًا قَرِيبًا ۝

Indeed, Allah was pleased with the believers when they pledged allegiance to you O Muhammad under the tree. He knew what was in their hearts, so He sent down calmness upon them and rewarded them with an approaching victory.



The Companions of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ promised him that they would support him and stand with him, no matter what happened.

After the pledge, the Muslims made preparations to march all the way to Mecca and were ready to give up their lives for the sake of Islam and Almighty Allah. Just as they were about to leave for Mecca, news reached the Muslims that Osman ؓ was alive and was not killed and the rumour was false. Later, Osman ؓ himself returned to the Muslim camp and the Muslims were happy to see him alive.

The pledge was a very important event as it strengthened the bond between the Prophet ﷺ and the Sahaba. It proved that the Muslims were prepared to face the great danger without any fear, as they were ready to fight for their rights to perform Umrah and Tawaaf of the Holy Kaaba as Muslims and with Islam as their religion.

The Meccans (Quraish) noted that the Muslims were determined to carry out their pledge, thus the Meccans (Quraish) sent another leader, Suhail bin Amr to negotiate peace.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ held a number of meetings with the Meccans. Finally a treaty (agreement) was signed.

85. The Treaty of Hudaibiya

The treaty was signed when the Muslims agreed to return home that year and to return the following year so that they could perform their rites for 3 days in Mecca. The Holy Prophet ﷺ agreed to observe this condition and the treaty of Hudaibiya was drawn up and agreed by the Muslims and the Meccans.

Terms of the Treaty of Hudaibiya

- Terms of the treaty meant that the Muslims would not visit Mecca that year and could not perform Umrah and Tawaaf of the Holy Kaaba.
- The Muslims could come to Mecca the following year and remain there for 3 days to perform Umrah.
- Also, there would be peace between the Meccans (Quraish) and the Muslims for 10 years.

The terms of the treaty did not favour the Muslims, but it was signed by the Prophet ﷺ. The Muslims then returned to Medina after the treaty. But the treaty was a great victory for the Muslims although the treaty did not favour them.

For the first time, the Muslims now mixed freely with the Meccans. Also, the Meccans moved around right up to Medina and came to know more about Islam. In this way, some of the great Meccans such as Khalid bin Walid ؓ and Amr bin al Aas ؓ became Muslims.

Family ties were established. Trade among the Muslims and the Meccans brought them together. Now, the Prophet ﷺ had an opportunity to invite rulers and leaders of various countries to accept Islam. Many Arabs were impressed with the behaviour of the Muslims and they themselves accepted Islam.

86. The defeat of the Jews at Khaibar 7AH

After the Jews left Medina, they settled at Khaibar, 20 kilometres North of Medina. They lived in forts that were well protected. As they were rich, they spent their wealth to arm themselves with the best weapons of war. They had an army of 20 000 soldiers in their forts. The Jews again plotted with their allies, the Bedouin Arabs and others to invade Medina.

A month after the treaty of Hudaibiya, the Prophet ﷺ came to know of the plans of the Jews and he marched with an army of 16 000 Muslims to Khaibar and they were well equipped for war. They were confident and reached Khaibar after 3 days.

a. The Muslims confront the Jews in their forts

The Jews had six strong forts. As they were hoping to make the Muslims tired of fighting, they split up their armies into each fort. The Muslims had to fight fort by fort against the Jews. At first, the Prophet ﷺ offered to make peace with the Jews of Khaibar. When they refused to make peace, he ordered the Muslims soldiers to surround the forts of the Jews as they wanted war with the Muslims.

The Muslims first attacked the fort called Al-Nataf. The Jews fought with desperate courage, but the determined Muslim army eventually defeated the Jews of fort Al-Nataf. The Jews then moved to the fort of Qamus. There too they were defeated by the Muslims. Then the Jews moved to yet another fort called Al-Saab. There too they were defeated by the Muslims.

Marhab, the leader of the Jews and a man of immense strength, came out of the fort and invited Aliؓ to combat. Aliؓ killed Marhab on the first attack. The Jews then moved to the fort of Al-Zubair. This fort also fell in Muslim hands after fighting.

Fort after fort was captured by the Muslim army. Finally, the Jews of Khaibar surrendered to the Muslims and they began to beg for mercy and peace.

b. Outcome of the Battle of Khaibar

The Jews were now at the mercy of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and they begged him to spare their lives. The Jews promised to pay half the produce of their land to the Muslims and the Prophet ﷺ. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ agreed to their proposal. The wealth of Khaibar was distributed among the Muslim army.

87. Fall of other Jewish tribes

While confronting the Jews of Khaibar, the Prophet ﷺ sent some of his army to the Jews of Fidar. Here the Jews made peace and agreed to give half of their wealth to the Muslims. On his way back to Medina, the Prophet ﷺ confronted the Jews of Waadi-Al-Qurra. Fighting broke out and the Jews were defeated. The Jews of Taima surrendered to the Muslims without fighting.

88. Poisoning of the Prophet ﷺ by a Jewish lady

The Prophet ﷺ and the Muslims were invited to a feast by a Jewish lady, Zainab bint Harith, the wife of a Jewish chief. They accepted the invitation to dinner.

When the Prophet ﷺ put the meat into his mouth he realised that he had been poisoned and spat out the food. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ questioned Zainab bin Harith about the poison and she confessed to this crime. After 2-3 days, Bashir bin Bara ؓ, a Sahabi who ate the meat died through the effects of the poison. Zainab bint Harith was given the death sentence according to the Islamic law and was executed.

89. Peace attained

Thus, all the Jews throughout Arabia submitted to the authority of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the Rasool of Almighty Allah. The Jews no longer posed a threat to Islam and now lived in peace with the Muslims.

90. Inviting rulers to accept Islam 6AH-7AH

Now that more and more Arabs were coming into Islam, the Prophet ﷺ sent his Sahaba to the rulers of different countries inviting them to accept Islam. These Sahaba carried with them letters inviting the rulers of foreign lands to Islam. These letters carried a seal of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ which read,

“Muhammdur-Rasoolullah”. These letters were engraved on the silver ring which the Prophet ﷺ wore. This was towards the end of the 6th century and the beginning of the 7th century.

The Prophet ﷺ sent Dihya Kalbi ؓ to the Byzantine emperor, Heraclius who wanted to know about Islam. It was explained to him by Abu Sufyaan ؓ who was trading in Jerusalem at that time. Heraclius was so impressed that he would have accepted Islam, but his people were against him accepting Islam. Abdullah bin Hudhaifa ؓ was sent with a letter to Khusroes Parvez of Iran who tore up the letter and was determined to kill the Holy Prophet ﷺ and to invade Arabia. But news came from Iran that Shirooya, the son of Khusroes had killed his father, the Emperor of Iran.

Amr bin Umayya ؓ took the Holy Prophet's ﷺ letter to the Negus of Abyssinia who accepted the truth of the Prophet's ﷺ message. Then Negus of Abyssinia submitted to Islam at the hands of Hadhrat Jaf'ar ؓ.

Maqawqas, the viceroy of Egypt, also received a message but he did not accept Islam. He sent expensive gift to the Prophet ﷺ. He also sent two highly respected girls, Mariya Qibtiya ؓ and Sirin as gifts to the Prophet ﷺ. Later, Prophet ﷺ married Mariya Qibtiya ؓ.

Harith Ghassani, chief of Syria, ruled over the Arabs under Roman supervision in Syria (Syrian Arabs). He was angry on receiving the message from the Holy Prophet ﷺ and ordered his army to be on guard. The Syrian Arabs lived in fear of war, and this tension led to the battles of Muthah and Tabuk.

91. Muslims enter Mecca for Umrah 7AH

The Treaty of Hudaibiya allowed the Muslims to enter Mecca in the year 7AH, one year after the Treaty of Hudaibiya. The Holy Prophet ﷺ marched with 2000 Muslims to Mecca and camped within sight of the city of Mecca.

The Meccans realised that they could do nothing and left the city of Mecca and took to the nearby hills and watched the Muslims performing Umrah and Tawaaf of the Holy Kaaba.

The Prophet ﷺ and his Sahaba had 3 days to stay in Mecca. They wore ihram first then entered the city of Mecca and performed Tawaaf of the Holy Kaaba. then they made Sa'ee (running between Mount Safa and Marwa) and then they sacrificed the animals that they had brought with them. Next the Prophet ﷺ led the Sahaba in prayer in front of the Holy Kaaba. The Meccans were struck at the manner in which the Muslims performed their Umrah and the manner in which they performed their worship.

After staying in Mecca for 3 days, the Sahaba returned to Medina. Umme Maymunah ؓ, the aunt of Khalid bin Walid ؓ accepted Islam. Khalid bin Walid ؓ also accepted Islam. He was the general of the Meccan army and came to Medina to stay. Amr bin As ؓ, Uthman bin Talha ؓ, various tribes of Arabia, the Abdul Qais tribe of Bahrain and the Ash-ar tribe of Yemen accepted Islam.

92. Preparations of the Muslim army 8AH

The Prophet ﷺ sent an ambassador to the Governor of Ghassan (Harith) to Basra to accept Islam. Harith was under the orders of the Roman Empire and he threatened the Prophet ﷺ that he would invade Medina.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ sent an army of 3000 Muslims under the command of Zaid bin Harith ؓ to face the Romans. He instructed the Muslims that in the event of Zaid's ؓ death, Jafar bin Abu Taalib ؓ was to take command of the Muslim army. In the event of Jafar's ؓ death, Abdullah bin Rawaha ؓ was to take command of the Muslim army.

The Prophet ﷺ also instructed the Muslims not to kill women, children or sick people and not to destroy any trees or houses. The Muslim army left Medina and eventually reached Muthah.

93. The Battle of Muthah

Shura Habil, one of Heraclius's governors, gathered a large army of 100 000 – 200 000 Roman and Arab soldiers to fight the Muslim army. Both armies met at Muthah and engaged in full battle.

After the 3 Muslim generals had been killed, Khalid bin Walid ؓ took command of the Muslim army. Under his command the Muslim army fought bravely and managed to push back the enemy. The next morning, through the clever war strategy of Khalid bin Walid ؓ, he managed to withdraw the Muslim army from Muthah and they returned to Medina. The Romans, seeing the courage and determination of the Sahaba (Muslims), did not chase the Muslim army back to Medina.

94. Title of Saifullah

During the Battle of Muthah, Khalid bin Walid ؓ broke 8 swords. Because of this, the Prophet ﷺ gave him the title of Saifullah (The Sword of Allah).

95. The Holy Prophet's ﷺ victory over the Meccans – 8AH (Meccan Quraish break Treaty of Hudaibiya)

According to the Treaty of Hudaibiya, each tribe was free to join whomsoever they wished. The tribe of Banu Khuzah had joined the ranks of the Muslims while the tribe of Banu Bakr had joined the Meccan Quraish.

The Banu Bakr and Banu Khuzah had some old quarrels which had not been settled. The Meccan Quraish were aware of these quarrels. They forced the Banu Bakr to take revenge against the Banu Khuzah for their old quarrels.

One night, the tribe of Banu Bakr attacked the tribe of Banu Khuzah while they were asleep. They killed many people and looted the property. The Banu Khuzah fled from the Banu Bakr attackers and took refuge near the Holy Kaaba. The Banu Khuzah complained to the Meccan Quraish and asked them to take action against the Banu Bakr tribe, but the Meccan Quraish kept silent and did not take any action to help them.

96. Demands for help sent to the Muslims of Medina

The tribe of the Banu Khuzah turned to the Muslims of Medina for help. They sent 40 men with Amr bin Salim ؓ as their leader to the Holy Prophet ﷺ and laid a complaint against the tribe of Banu Bakr. The Holy Prophet ﷺ listened to them patiently and decided to help the Banu Khuzah.

97. Message sent to the Meccan Quraish from Medina

The Holy Prophet ﷺ sent a message to the Meccan Quraish asking them:

- To pay compensation for the murdered victims of the Banu Khuzah tribe.
- Not to support the tribe of Banu Bakr anymore.
- To declare that the Treaty of Hudaibiya no longer holds.

98. Meccan Quraish reply

The Meccan Quraish refused to accept the first two conditions, but they were prepared to scrap the Treaty of Hudaibiya. The Meccan Quraish sent a message to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ that the Treaty of Hudaibiya was no longer valid.

As soon as they had done this, the Meccan Quraish realised their mistake as they knew that the Medina Muslims were now very strong and had an easy opportunity to conquer Mecca. The Meccan Quraish sent Abu Sufyaan to Medina to make peace with the Muslims and the Prophet ﷺ.

The Prophet ﷺ refused to see Abu Sufyaan who then went to Abu Bakr ؓ with whom he also failed.

Then he went to Omar ؓ with whom he also failed to get any response. Abu Sufyaan returned to Mecca having failed to make peace with the Muslims of Medina. Abu Sufyaan told the Meccan Quraish what had happened to him in Medina and they laughed and mocked at him for pleading to the Muslims of Medina.

99. Muslims march to free Mecca from the Quraish (kuffar) 8AH

It was now time for the Prophet ﷺ and the Muslims (Sahaba) of Medina to march to Mecca and free it from the Meccan Quraish (kuffar). A well thought out plan was laid out by the Prophet ﷺ who secretly sent messages to his friends to assemble outside the city of Medina and to come properly armed and equipped for battle.

On the 10th of Muharram 8AH, the Prophet ﷺ led his army out of Medina. As they marched, the army got stronger and larger as more and more tribes joined him. After a long journey, the army reached the outskirts of Mecca.

Soon, 10 000 Muslims were camped outside the city of Mecca. As evening approached, the Prophet ﷺ gave orders for camp fires to be lit on the surrounding hills of Mecca to instil fear in the Meccans of the huge size of the Muslim army. The Meccans knew that they were unable to fight and challenge the huge Muslim army. Abbas ؓ, the Prophet's ﷺ uncle saw the strength of the Muslim army and took his family to the side of the Muslims.

The Prophet ﷺ sent Abbas ؓ to the Meccan Quraish to warn them not to resist the Muslim army as this will prevent the shedding of blood and allow the Muslim army to enter the city of Mecca peacefully.

100. Pardon to the enemy of Islam

The Quraish of Mecca sent Abu Sufyaan and 2 other Meccans to spy on the Muslim camp at night. While passing through the Muslim camp, Abu Sufyaan was recognised by his voice and was captured by Abbas ؓ. Abu Sufyan was brought before the Prophet ﷺ in the Prophet's ﷺ camp at night. Everyone knew about Abu Sufyaan's wrongdoing and all his acts and wars against the Muslims which were punishable by death.

When Omar ؓ saw Abu Sufyaan, he wanted to strike off Abu Sufyaan's head. Abbas ؓ came to Abu Sufyaan's rescue saying that Abu Sufyaan was under his protection. The Prophet ﷺ agreed to his protection and advised Abbas ؓ to bring Abu Sufyaan the next morning to be tried in a court of law. This was to try Abu Sufyaan as the leader of the Meccan Quraish, who were the enemies of Islam and opposed to the Prophet ﷺ and as one who opposed Muslims in every way and led military attacks on Medina.

The next morning, Abu Sufyaan was brought to the Muslims' court of law. The Prophet ﷺ pronounced: "O Sufyaan. Go in peace, you are free. Today there is no revenge. I forgive you. Allah is very kind." Abu Sufyaan was so moved by these words that he immediately became a Muslim.

At the suggestion of Abbas ؓ, the Prophet ﷺ made a general declaration of forgiveness for all those who wanted peace. The Prophet ﷺ sent Abu Sufyaan on behalf of himself as an ambassador of peace to all the Meccans:

"There is peace for all those who enter the house of Abu Sufyaan. There is peace for all those who enter the Holy Kaaba. There is peace for all those who stay in their homes. There is peace for all those who do not carry weapons."

Abu Sufyaan was convinced of the sincerity of the Prophet ﷺ and the greatness of his character.

101. Purification of the Holy Kaaba and the Conquest of Mecca

Early the next morning, the Holy Prophet ﷺ gave orders to his army to march into the city of Mecca. When he came to a hill called Dhu-Tuwa, the Prophet ﷺ stopped there and offered prayers. After the prayers, the Prophet ﷺ divided the army into four divisions, giving the Muslims instructions not to fight unless in extreme emergency when forced to fight.

Each division of the army was to enter from each of the of the four sides of the city of Mecca.

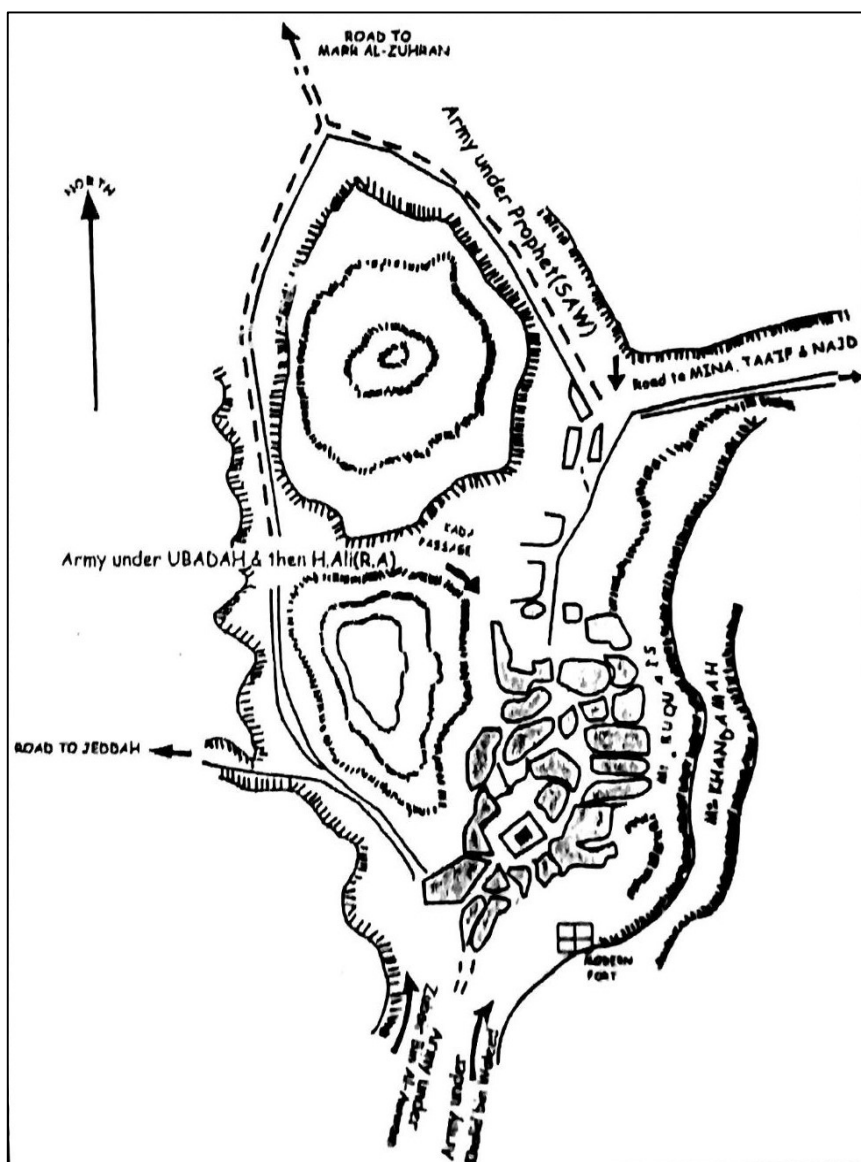
Khalid bin Walid ؓ was to lead the Muslims (Sahaba) from the south, Zubair ؓ from the north, Sa'ad bin Obaidah ؓ from the west and Qais ؓ from the southern part near the Mount of Hind.

All the divisions entered Mecca peacefully except that of Khalid bin Walid ؓ. The Meccans Safwaan, Suhail and Ikrama put up some resistance against the Muslims but were easily defeated by the Muslims and they fled.

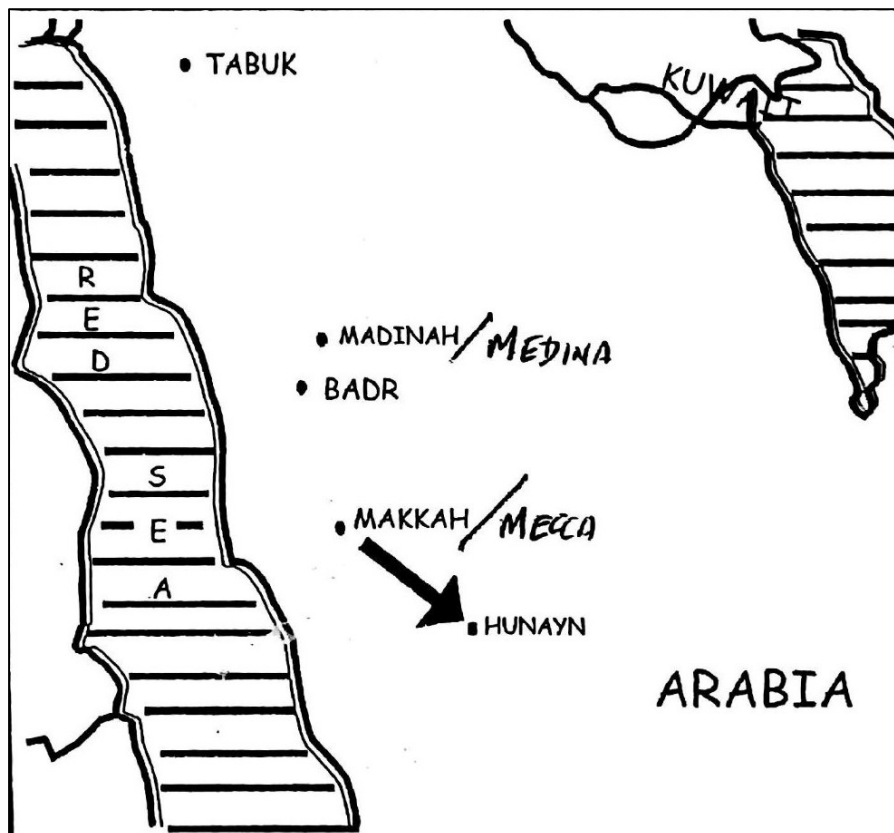
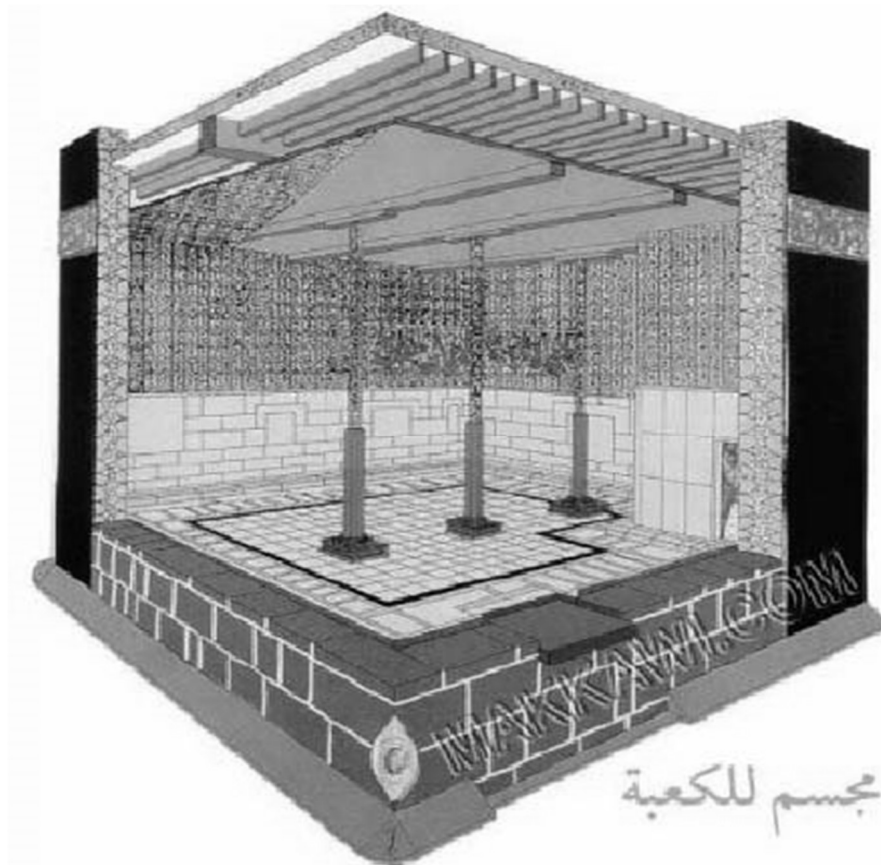
The Prophet ﷺ came last with the Ansar and the Muhajireen. The Holy Prophet ﷺ went to the Holy Kaaba and while mounted on his camel, Qaswa, performed Tawaaf of the Holy Kaaba. He then dismounted and stood at the door of the Holy Kaaba and made a speech to the Meccans and forgave them. Many of the Meccans recognised the greatness of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and readily accepted Islam and became Muslims.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was not proud and cruel; he did not take revenge. He showed kindness to the Meccans and this made many of them accept Islam

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ then entered the Kaaba and cleared all the idols that were inside it. Since that day, there are no idols in the Kaaba.



MAP OF THE CONQUEST (8AH)



DIRECTION OF HUNAYN FROM MECCA (8AH)

The Prophet ﷺ gave orders to his companions (Sahaba) to execute 17 of the Meccan kuffar who had committed serious crimes against Islam. Most of these 17 Meccan kuffar ran away with their families from Mecca. Later, most returned and were forgiven by the Prophet ﷺ. Only 4 were killed. Hind, the wife of Abu Sufyan, was forgiven. Ikrama, Abu Jahl's son and Safwaan bin Omayyah were also forgiven. Mecca was made a holy place and no blood was to be shed on its grounds.

The event of the conquest of Mecca (Makkatul-Mukarramah) is unmatched in history. Never before in history was such compassion and mercy shown towards one's enemies. It proves that Islam was not spread by the sword but by the love of Islam and the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

102. Other idols destroyed

The Holy Prophet ﷺ sent Khalid bin Walid ؓ to demolish the idol of Uzza. Amr bin Al As ؓ was sent to destroy the idol Suwa, the idol at Hudra. Sa'ad bin Zaid ؓ was sent to destroy the idol, Manat. All these idols were destroyed.

103. Battles of Hunayn and Taif (Shawwal 9AH)

Although Mecca was conquered, and the Prophet ﷺ had pardoned the enemies of Islam, there were still the Hawazin and Saqeef tribes who hated the Muslims. These tribes were very powerful. The Saqeef tribe was the ruling tribe of Taif and the Hawazin tribe occupied the land between Mecca and Taif. These tribes made preparations and gathered an army of 4000 soldiers. They were determined to destroy Islam and to practise their old customs and habits.

The Prophet ﷺ was informed of these tribes preparing for war. He too gathered an army of 12 000 soldiers. For the first time, the Muslims were happy with their numbers and their well-equipped arms and army.

The valley of Hunain lies between Mecca and Taif and is surrounded by mountains. The road led through a narrow pass and the enemy hid themselves in the mountain pass behind rocks and caves. As soon as the Muslim army, who were so confident of victory, entered the pass, the enemy shot them with arrows. The Muslim army became nervous at this unexpected attack on them and they fled in every direction. There was chaos everywhere.

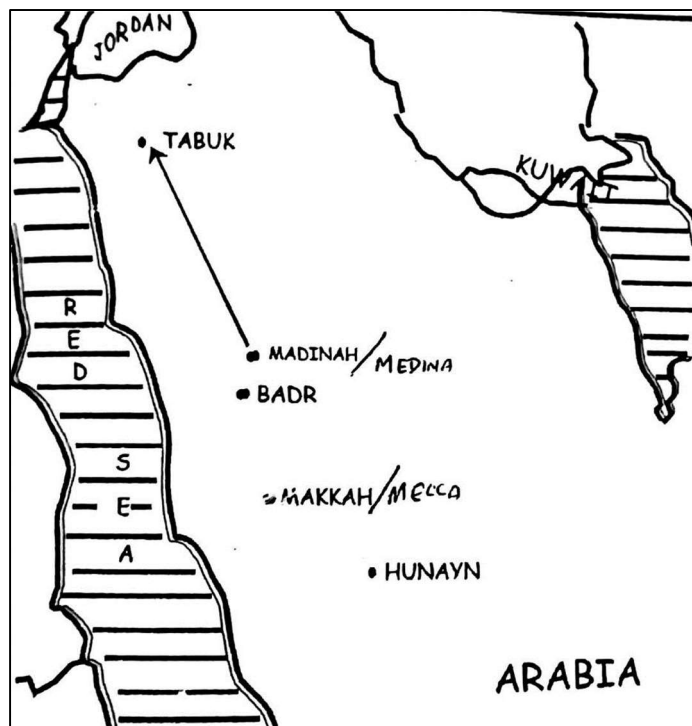
When the enemy saw that the Muslims had left the Prophet ﷺ and fled in the confusion, they aimed their attack on the Holy Prophet ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ and his uncle, Abbas ؓ, called to the fleeing Muslims and reminded them that the real cause of the battle was to defend Islam.

The Muslims made a united effort to defend the Prophet ﷺ from the enemy of Islam. The loud call from Prophet Muhammad ﷺ made the fleeing Muslims recover from their fear and made them rally back to the Prophet ﷺ.

The Muslims, who now realised their mistakes, fought with renewed vigour and strength. Soon, the enemy soldiers were on the run and the Muslims gave chase to them and took many prisoners. Some of the enemies fled to Taif and took protection in their forts in Taif.

The Muslim army then laid siege to the forts in Taif. After a month, the Prophet ﷺ lifted the siege because there was no fear of war and he prayed to Almighty Allah for the people of Taif to accept Islam. All the prisoners were released, and their booty was returned to them. Almighty Allah granted the Holy Prophet's ﷺ prayers and a year later the people of Taif accepted Islam and became Muslims.

The Muslims fully realised in the end that victory and defeat were not because of numbers but by Almighty Allah's permission.



DIRECTION OF TABUK FROM MEDINA ((AH))

104. The Fate of the Hawazin tribe

The Hawazin tribe later came to the Prophet ﷺ and begged him for the return of their women and children. The Prophet ﷺ sent back the women and children to the Hawazin tribe. He was merciful and forgave them. Many people of the Hawazin tribe accepted Islam and became Muslim.

105. The Share of the Ansar

A large quantity of war prize or booty was taken from the people of the Hawazin tribe and the Saqeef tribe after the battle of Hunain. According to the laws of Islam, $\frac{1}{5}$ belonged to Almighty Allah and His Messenger, and the balance belonged to the Muslim army.

The Prophet ﷺ distributed most of his share to his former enemies, the people of Mecca. When the Ansar heard how generous the Prophet ﷺ was being to the people of Mecca they thought that they were being treated unfairly.

Sa'ad bin Obaidah ؓ informed the Holy Prophet ﷺ about this. The Prophet ﷺ called the Ansar and told them that he had used the wealth of this world to gain the love of the Meccan people so that they may become good Muslims. He ﷺ said: They have the wealth, but you have the Prophet ﷺ of Allah to take home with you. The Ansar replied that they were happy with the Messenger of Allah's judgement and their share of the booty.

The Prophet ﷺ later performed his Umrah and returned to Medina with his people.

106. The Prophet's ﷺ last expedition to Tabuk – 9AH

On his return to Medina, the Prophet ﷺ heard that the Romans who were stationed in Syria (As-Shaam) and the surrounding lands were making war preparations against the Muslims of Medina.

The Prophet ﷺ had hardly rested from the Mecca campaign when he was faced with the new threat of the Roman invasion of Medina. Once again, the Holy Prophet ﷺ decided to face the enemy in Syria. The Romans had hatred for Islam and for its growth over the whole country.

107. Difficulties of the expeditions

The Prophet ﷺ knew that the Romans and their allies had the largest army. The route to Tabuk was dry, sandy and rocky. The country was also suffering from drought and famine. To provide water for the journey would be difficult. In any battle, victory would not be easy.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ asked the Muslims to leave all their harvest and to go for a battle in very hot weather conditions.

This was a great test for them and it showed Prophet Muhammad ﷺ who the true Muslims were.

In the Holy Qur'an in Surah Taubah, Verse 81 Allah says:

فَرِحَ الْخَافُونَ بِمَقْعَدِهِمْ خَلَفَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَكَرِهُوا أَنْ يُجَاهِدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ
وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَقَالُوا لَا تَنْفِرُوا فِي الْحَرِّ قُلْ نَارُ جَهَنَّمَ أَشَدُّ حَرًّا لَوْ كَانُوا يَفْقَهُونَ ﴿٨١﴾

Those who stayed away (from the Tabuk expedition) rejoiced in their staying behind of the Messenger of Allah (Muhammad ﷺ); (they hated to strive and fight with their wealth & lives in the cause of Allah. They said to one another, "Do not march forth in the heat." Say, O Prophet, "The Fire of Hell is far hotter!" If only they could comprehend!

108. Appeal to the people of Medina

All Muslims, whether rich or poor, were asked to enlist and join in the army of Islam. Everyone was asked to donate their money, arms, cattle, horses and camels to the Prophet ﷺ to form the biggest army possible to defend Islam.

The Prophet's ﷺ call to make sacrifices in the way of money and material wealth for the cause of Islam was readily answered by the Muslims. Abu Bakr ؓ gave all his wealth to the cause. Omar ؓ gave half of his possessions. Uthmaan ؓ gave a large number of camels and equipment for the army. Women gave jewellery and much more for the army.

Soon, the Prophet ﷺ had assembled an army of 30 000 soldiers from all over Arabia. Because of the difficulties encountered in gathering the army, the army was called “Jayshul Ushrah” or “The Hardship Army”.

The Muslim army gathered outside Medina and in his absence, the Prophet ﷺ appointed Mohammed bin Maslamah ؓ as governor of Medina. Ali ؓ was also asked to stay behind and to take care of the Muslim properties and the Muslim families.

109. March to Tabuk

The Muslim army set off from Medina to Tabuk in Syria (As-Shaam). The Munafiqeen amongst the Muslims were scared of the Romans. They made all kinds of excuses against joining the Muslim army, so they stayed behind. They were happy in thinking that the Romans would crush the Muslims.

The weather was very hot, and the way was extremely rough. There was a shortage of water. Soon, the army reached a place called Hujr where rain fell, and the Muslims refreshed themselves. Finally, the Muslim army under the leadership of the Prophet ﷺ reached Tabuk, not far from the Syrian border.

110. Victory without fighting the Romans

The Romans were shocked when they heard that the Muslims marched all the way from Medina to Tabuk to fight them. The Romans realised that the Muslims must be well prepared, very strong and must have a very large army.

The Romans could not believe how the Muslims survived the long march to the Syrian border. The Roman generals had second thoughts about going to battle with the Muslims. They gave commands to their forces to retreat without facing the Prophet ﷺ and the Muslim army.

The Prophet ﷺ did not pursue the Roman army since it was not his intention to invade Syria but to protect Arabia from the Romans. This was the last expedition in which the Prophet ﷺ took part.

111. Peace treaties with the neighbours of Arabia

The Prophet ﷺ visited the Arab provinces on the border of Arabia. He also visited many Christian kings and signed peace treaties with all of them. They were very happy to be under the rule of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. After 30 days, the Prophet ﷺ returned to Medina with his army.

Those Muslims who had not gone with the Prophet ﷺ were ashamed and prayed and begged Almighty Allah's for forgiveness.

112. Burning of Masjid-e-Dhirar

A group of hypocrites (munafiqeen) built a Masjid at Dhu-Awan, an hour's ride from Medina. They called the Masjid, Masjid-e-Dhirar. Here, they used to hold their secret meetings to plot against the Prophet ﷺ and the Muslims. They even invited the Prophet ﷺ to pray in their mosque, but he refused to pray there.

As soon as the Prophet ﷺ returned to Medina from Tabuk with his army, he ordered the Muslims to burn down Musjid-e-Dhirar. They, the Sahaba, carried out his orders and Musjid-e-Dhirar was burnt down to the ground. The leader of the hypocrites (munafiqeen). Abdullah bin Ubayy later died through illness. Many of the hypocrites (munafiqeen) later became Muslims.

113. Haj taught to the Muslims

The Prophet ﷺ began making preparations to go to Mecca for Haj. He sent Abu Bakr ؓ with 300 Muslims (Sahaba) to Mecca to teach them about Haj. Ali ؓ and Abu Hurairah ؓ also went to Mecca.

114. The Year of Deputations – 10AH

In this year, many delegates from all over Arabia arrived in Medina to accept Islam freely. The Muslims were also sent to provinces and places in Arabia and beyond its borders to teach the new Muslims about Islam. Islam had now become the strongest power in Arabia. Almighty Allah had fulfilled his promise to the Muslims. Those who remained Christians and Jews were under the protection of Islam.

115. Call for Haj – 10AH

The Prophet ﷺ had already performed Umrah on 2 occasions. He now had the desire to perform Haj.

The 10th year of Hijrah was a very important year in Islamic history. The Prophet ﷺ was now 63 years old and declared his intentions to go on a pilgrimage to Mecca for Haj. The call for Haj went out all over Arabia. Soon, thousands upon thousands of Muslims were arriving in Medina.

Then on the 26th of Zil Qadah, the Muslims numbering 114 000, led by the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, marched from Medina to Mecca. On the way, they rested at Zul-Hulayfah, about 10 kilometres from Medina. The next morning, the pilgrims put on their ihram and recited the talbiyah and takbeer. The Muslim even stopped at Musjids on the way to Mecca to pray.

The Muslims reached Mecca on the 4th Zil Hajj. There, they performed the Tawwaf of the Holy Kaaba and followed the Prophet ﷺ in performing all the duties of Hajj.

On the 9th of Zil Hajj, all Muslims assembled on the plains of Arafat. Soon after midday, while riding his camel Al-Qaswa, the Holy Prophet ﷺ went to the centre of the valley on the plains of Arafat and delivered a sermon. Every sentence was related by Rabiyyah bin Umayyah ؓ for all the Muslims to hear.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ said that he forgave all the harms committed against him and told his followers to look after their women folk and their servants.

“All men are equal”, he said.

Birth, colour or race does not make one man better than another.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ said that he leaves behind two things:

“The Qur’an and my example (Sunnah). If one holds fast unto them, one will never go wrong or astray.”

Nearing sunset, the Prophet ﷺ got one of the last revelations that came to him from Almighty Allah.

الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَيْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

“Today I have perfected for you your faith and completed my blessing for you and I have approved Islam for you as your religion.” (Al Maa'idah, Verse 3)

The Prophet ﷺ completed his pilgrimage and rode to Mecca. He drank from the well of Zam-Zam for the last time. He looked at his city of birth with sad and misty eyes. He then returned to Medina.

116. Return to Medina and news of the Roman threat

After his return from Mecca to Medina, the Holy Prophet ﷺ did not enjoy any peace of mind. He was worried about the Romans who had retreated from Tabuk. He was afraid that the Romans would invade Arabia from the North.

Word reached the Prophet ﷺ that there was a build-up of Roman troops in the North. He raised a large army to meet the threat of the Romans. The Prophet ﷺ selected Usamah bin Zaid ؓ a 20-year-old Muslim to command the Muslim army.

About two months after the Holy Prophet ﷺ returned from Mecca, as the army was about to leave for Syria (As-Sham), the Holy Prophet ﷺ fell ill in the month of Safar 11 AH. The march of the army to Syria was postponed.

The Prophet ﷺ had very high fever. He experienced terrible headaches and the effect of the poison which was given to him by the Jewish lady in Khaibar was taking effect. In spite of his sickness, the Prophet ﷺ carried out his duties.

He spent most of his time in prayer and in the remembrance of Allah. One day, accompanied by his servant Abu Haibah ؓ, the Prophet ﷺ visited the graveyard in Uhud at night. Here, he prayed for the peace and forgiveness of the martyrs of Uhud.

One night, in the middle of Safar he went with his servants to Jannat-al-Baqi (the graveyard of the Muslims in Medina) to make dua. He told his servants that he had been given the keys to the treasures of this world and now he was offered paradise and meeting his Lord, Almighty Allah. His servant humbly reminded the Prophet ﷺ to accept both offers but the Prophet ﷺ had decided to meet his Lord, Allah.

The Prophet ﷺ was now becoming weaker and weaker and with the permission of his wives, he now stayed at Ayesha's ؓ house which was nearest to the Musjid. When his fever subsided, he walked to the Musjid to lead the prayers.

The Prophet ﷺ also overheard the gossip about him appointing a very young man to command the Muslim army against the Romans. He decided to speak to the Muslims about the issue of the appointment of the 20-year-old Usamah bin Zaid ؓ.

117. Last talk (sermon) of the Holy Prophet ﷺ

The Prophet ﷺ told the Muslims that there should be no favouritism but based on merit. He told them that the Ansar deserved everyone's thanks and attention as they sacrificed everything in the cause of Allah and Islam. He told them that we must prepare our lives in this world so as to be accountable in the hereafter.

This speech was a big strain on the Prophet ﷺ as a result of which he fainted three times and was unable to lead the prayers (Salaah). Abu Bakr ؓ led the prayers, and this was a clear indication to the Muslims that the Holy Prophet ﷺ wanted Abu Bakr ؓ to be the next leader of the Muslims.

118. The Holy Prophet's ﷺ recovery

On Sunday the 11th of Rabi ul Awwal, Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ condition improved. He was able to walk to the Mosque and he sat next to Abu Bakr ؓ and performed his prayers. The Muslims were overjoyed to see that the Holy Prophet ﷺ had recovered from his illness. Usama bin Zaid ؓ was given permission to march to Syria against the Romans.

Abu Bakr ؓ, Umar ؓ and Ali ؓ who were constantly at the Prophet's ﷺ side returned to their daily duties feeling happy.

119. Last words of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

On the morning of 12th Rabi ul Awwal, the Holy Prophet ﷺ looked from his window to have a last glimpse of his followers. His only concern was for his followers (Ummah). Suddenly, the Prophet ﷺ fell very ill before noon. His last words were:

“O Allah, the companion, most high.” (Al Bukhari and Muslim)

It was Monday, the 12th of Rabi ul Awwal, when the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ left this world and went into the company of Almighty Allah.

The Prophet ﷺ was 63 years old when he passed away. He passed away in his house in Ayesha's ؓ room.

120. The people react to the Holy Prophet's ﷺ death

The death of the Holy Prophet ﷺ spread throughout Medina and the Muslims were shocked and heartbroken when they heard that the Prophet ﷺ had passed away and was no more. They were so used to his presence that they could not believe that he had left them and gone away.

Omar ؓ became so emotional that he threatened to kill anyone who said that the Prophet ﷺ had passed away. Abu Bakr ؓ, pale and stricken with sorrow went into the house and kissed the Prophet ﷺ on his forehead and then came out weeping and addressed the crowd with a firm voice.

“O men, if you have been worshipping Muhammad ﷺ, then know that Muhammad ﷺ has passed away. But if you have been worshipping Allah, then know that Allah is living and never passes away.”

Abu Bakr ﷺ then read the following verse of the Holy Qur'an: (Surah Aali Imraan verse 144)

“Muhammad is but the messenger of Allah and many messengers have passed away before him. Will it be that when he passes away or is killed you will turn back on your heels? He who turns back does no harm to Allah and Allah will reward the thankful.”

The words of Abu Bakr ﷺ struck the hearts of the Muslims. They realised that Almighty Allah was there to help them and the Qur'an and Sunnah (teachings) of the Holy Prophet ﷺ were there to guide them. This speech calmed Omar ﷺ and all the Muslim people.

121. Nomination of a Caliph (successor) of Islam

The first duty that the Muslims had to do was to choose a successor for the Muslim people. The Ansar and the Muhajireen met in the courtyard of the Banu Saidah.

Omar ﷺ said that during the last few days of the Holy Prophet's ﷺ life, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ had appointed Abu Bakr ﷺ, his companion during Hijrah, to take the place of Imam in the masjid during his illness, and that the Holy Prophet ﷺ would have surely chosen Abu Bakr ﷺ as the Caliph of the Muslims.

All of them pledged their support for Abu Bakr ﷺ. The next day when all the Muslims of Medina met, they pledged their support for Abu Bakr ﷺ in public and the Muslims called him their Caliph.

122. Burial of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

a. Ghusal

After the election of Abu Bakr ﷺ as the Caliph of Islam, the Muslims began preparations to bury the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

All the leaders were wondering how to wash the Holy Prophet's ﷺ body. Ali ﷺ, Usamah bin Zaid ﷺ, Abbas ﷺ and his sons, Al Fazl ﷺ Shakran ﷺ and a freed slave, helped in the washing (ghusal).

The Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, was washed in plain water and then in water mixed with lots of flowers and lastly with camphorated water. He was then wrapped in the garment that he wore at the time of his death.

b. Janaaza Namaaz

The people got ready to pray without an Imam. There was no Imam to lead the prayer as the “real imam” was present but his soul was called to Almighty Allah's side. Muslims came in groups and read Durood and Salaam for the Prophet ﷺ.

c. Burial

Taliha ؓ, the grave digger of Medina, was called to dig the grave in Ayesha's ؓ room. The Prophet ؐ was buried in the room where he passed away. He was buried in the night between Tuesday and Wednesday, 13th Rabi ul Awwal 11AH. Prophet Muhammad ؐ, was buried after a simple ceremony in Medina, the city that loved him and welcomed him. He too loved Medina dearly.

(Durood and Salaam be upon the Holy Prophet Muhammad ؐ. Ameen.)

Allah and his angels send blessings on the Prophet Muhammad ؐ.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا ﴿٥٦﴾

“Verily Allah showers His blessings upon the Prophet and His angels pray for him.

O believers! Invoke Allah's blessings upon him and salute him with worthy greetings of peace.” (Surah Al Ahzab, verse 56)

All pilgrims go to Medina when they go for Haj or Umrah to visit the Prophet's ؐ grave and they stand under the green dome before the wrought iron door and say their Durood and Salaam to Prophet Muhammad ؐ.

The Prophet's ؐ mission was to teach the people about one Allah and to submit to the one and only Allah. Almighty Allah revealed the Holy Qur'an through Prophet Muhammad ؐ to the world. Almighty Allah perfected the religion of Islam through Prophet Muhammad ؐ, the last Prophet.

123. The Caliphate

Islam was to remain for all times and Muslims were to obey the Holy Prophet Muhammad ؐ and to follow the Holy Qur'an and to follow of the teachings (Sunnah) of the Holy Prophet ؐ.

After the departure of the Prophet ؐ, the Islamic world was ruled by Caliphs. There were four main Caliphs, and others followed after them.

NAME	DURATION OF RULE	CORRESPONDING TO
Abu Bakr ؓ	632AD – 634AD	11A.H- 13AH
Omar ؓ	634AD – 644AD	13 AH- 24 AH
Uthmaan ؓ	644AD – 656AD	24 AH- 35 AH
Ali ؓ	656AD – 661AD	35 AH- 40 AH

The Caliphs who succeeded Prophet Muhammad ؐ had the task of promoting the Islamic way of life to strive for justice for all and to strive hard in the path of Almighty Allah as outlined in the Holy Qur'an and in the teachings of Prophet Muhammad ؐ.

Peace Be Upon Him

Questions

1. Who built the first Holy Kaaba?
2. How did the Holy Kaaba get destroyed?
3. Who rebuilt the Holy Kaaba?
4. a. Who came to destroy the Holy Kaaba in the Year of the Elephant?
b. Why did he want to destroy it?
5. Which prophet was born in Mecca?
6. Who was Muhammad's ﷺ father and where did he pass away?
7. Who was Muhammad's ﷺ mother?
8. a. Why did Amina ﷺ send Muhammad ﷺ with Halima Sadia ﷺ to the desert?
b. What happened to Muhammad ﷺ in the desert?
9. Why did Amina ﷺ and Muhammad ﷺ go to Medina?
10. Where did Amina ﷺ pass away?
11. Who looked after Muhammad ﷺ after this?
12. When Abdul Muttalib passed away, who took care of Muhammad ﷺ?
13. Who married Muhammad ﷺ when he was 25 years old?
14. What happened in the cave at Thawr when Muhammad ﷺ was 40 years old?
15. What was the message given to Muhammad ﷺ?
16. Who was the first person to accept Islam?
17. Who was against the Prophet ﷺ to spread Islam?
18. Why did some of the Muslims flee to Abyssinia?
19. Why did Prophet Muhammad ﷺ go to Taif?
20. What was the Al-Isra?
21. What was the first Qiblah of the Muslims?
22. What was the Me'raj?
23. Who was given the title of Siddique?
24. Who made the first pledge of Aqaba?
25. Who made the second pledge of Aqaba?
26. Why did Prophet Muhammad ﷺ go on the Hijrah? Where did he flee to?
27. Why was Yathrib changed to Medina?
28. Who were the Muhajireen and who were the Ansars?
29. What was the Mawarthat?
30. What were the name of the three Jewish tribes?
31. Who was the first person to give the Azaan?
32. When did the direction of the Qiblah change and what was the new Qiblah for the Muslims?
33. When was Zakaat made compulsory for the Muslims?
34. Why did the Christian delegation come to Mecca and what did they spread?
35. Why did the Prophet ﷺ send out Sariyas/expeditions?
36. Did the Prophet ﷺ also take part in these Sariyas?
37. What was the reason for the Battle of Badr?
38. Why were the Jews of Banu Qainuqa expelled from Medina?
39. Why did the battle of Uhud take place?
40. Why was the Jewish tribe of Banu-Nadir expelled?

41. Why did the Battle of the Trench/Khandaq take place?
42. What happened to the Jewish tribe of Banu Quraiza?
43. What happened when the Prophet ﷺ wanted to make Umrah?
44. Why did the pledge of Baitur Ridwaan take place?
45. Why did the Treaty of Hudaibiya take place?
46. Why did Prophet Muhammad ﷺ attack the Jews of Khaibar?
47. Who poisoned the Prophet ﷺ?
48. Why were letters sent to different countries?
49. Did Umrah take place in 7AH? Why?
50. What happened at the Battle of Muthah?
51. Why did the Meccans break the Treaty of Hudaibiya?
52. When did the Muslims march to free Mecca from the Quraish?
53. How did Prophet Muhammad ﷺ pardon the enemy of Islam, Abu Sufyan?
54. Was the conquest of Mecca successful?
55. What happened at the Battle of Hunain and the Battle of Taif?
56. Why did the Muslim army go to Tabuk?
57. Why was the Musjid-e-Dhirar burnt?
58. Why was the call to Haj in 10AH, made?
59. Why did the Prophet ﷺ make the last sermon on the 9th of Zil Hajj on the Plains of Arafat?
60. Why was Usamah bin Zaid ؓ made to command the Muslim army against the Romans?
61. What happened to the Prophet ﷺ in Safar 11 AH?
62. What happened on Monday, the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal?
63. Where was the Prophet ﷺ buried?
64. Who was made the Caliph of Islam?
65. Why was Durood and Salaam read at the Prophet's ﷺ Janaaza Namaaz?
66. Name the four main Caliphs who ruled after Prophet ﷺ.