

TAREEKH SYLLABUS - CLASS 5

Lesson Topic

LESSON 1 - PROPHET AADAM (A) - PART 1

LESSON 2 - PROPHET AADAM (A) - PART 2

LESSON 3 - PROPHET AADAM (A) - PART 3

LESSON 4 - PROPHET IDRIS (A)

LESSON 5 - PROPHET NUH (A)

LESSON 6 - PROPHET HUD (A)

LESSON 7 - PROPHET SALIH (A)

LESSON 8 - PROPHET IBRAHIM(A) - PART 1

LESSON 9 - PROPHET IBRAHIM(A) - PART 2

LESSON 10 - PROPHET IBRAHIM(A) - PART 3

LESSON 11 - PROPHET ISMA'IL (A)

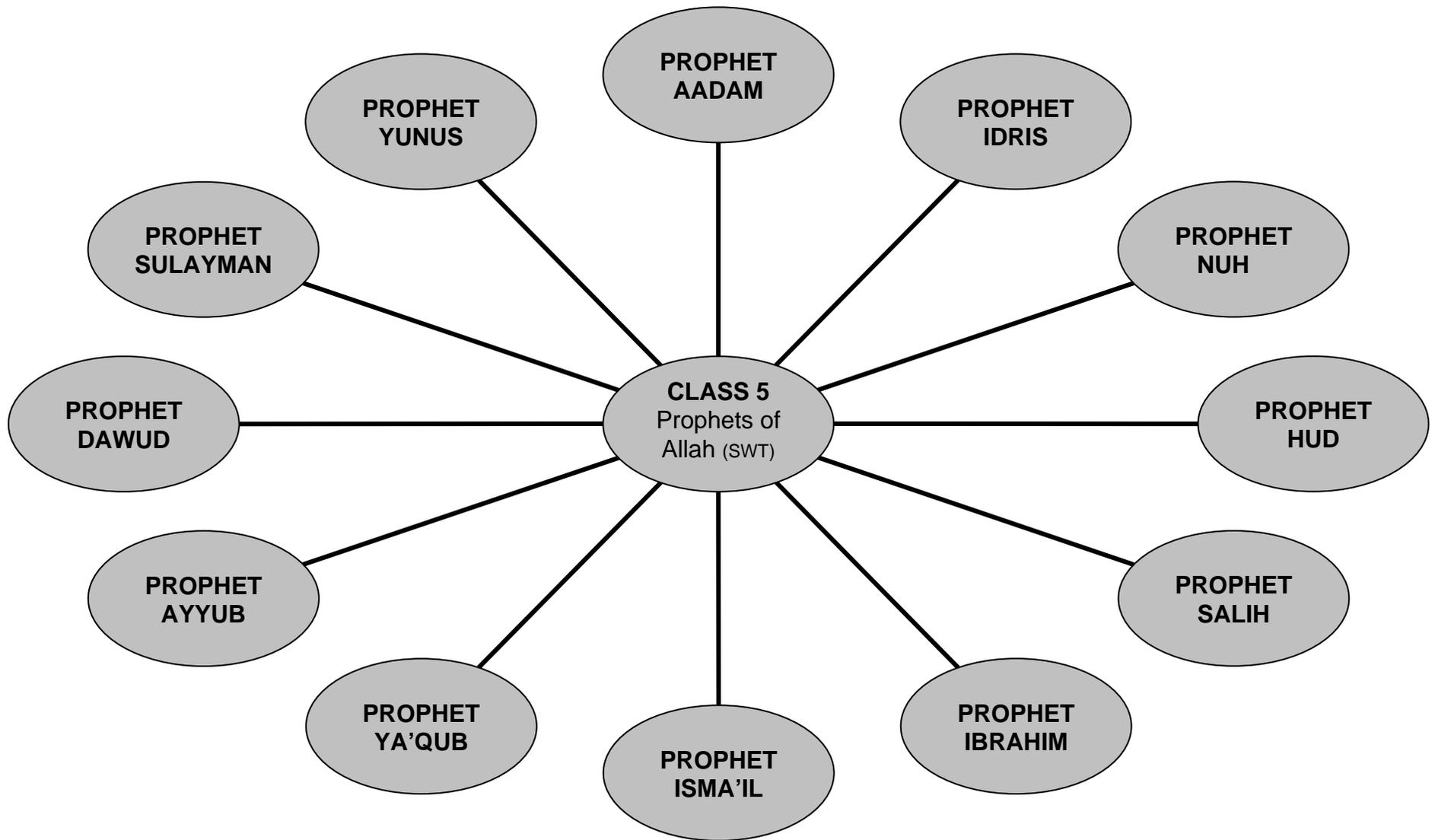
LESSON 12 - PROPHET YA'QUB (A)

LESSON 13 - PROPHET AYYUB (A)

LESSON 14 - PROPHET DAWUD (A)

LESSON 15 – PROPHET SULAYMAN (A)

LESSON 16 - PROPHET YUNUS (A)



LESSON 1: PROPHET AADAM (A) - PART 1

Prophet Aadam (A) was the first man ever to be created. After Allah had created the earth, the heavens, the sun and the moon, He created angels and the jinn. Finally, He created Prophet Aadam (A) and then Bibi Hawwa (A).

When Allah informed the angels that He was going to make a new creation that would live on earth, they were surprised and said,

"O Allah, why are you creating new creatures while we are already busy worshipping You and are reciting Your Names all the time? These creatures will fight amongst themselves over the blessings of the earth and kill each other".

The angels said this because they had seen the jinn act in this way on the earth. However, a few of the jinn were very pious and some like Azazeel or Iblees used to worship Allah with the angels.

Allah gave the angels an answer that satisfied them. He said,

"I know that which you do not know. The creature that I will make will be my deputy on earth. His children will occupy the whole earth and will eat things, which will grow on it. After I have created him I will give him life and then you should prostrate yourselves (do sajdah) before him".

Allah made the body of Prophet Aadam (A) from a special type of clay and then gave him a soul which turned him into a perfect human being.

He then commanded the angels to prostrate before Prophet Aadam (A). All the angels immediately obeyed this command and paid their respects to Prophet Aadam (A). However, Iblees (Shaitan) refused to prostrate.

Allah asked Shaitan why he had disobeyed His command. Shaitan replied that he had been created from fire and was better than Prophet Aadam (A), who had been created from clay. He therefore openly disobeyed Allah due to his pride.

QUESTION BOX

❓ Was Shaitan correct in saying he was better than Prophet Aadam (A) because he was made of fire? If not, what is the real reason for someone to be better?

Allah was very displeased with the disobedience of Shaitan and He said to him, "Get out of heaven. You are cursed until the Day of Judgement". Shaitan asked to be allowed to live till that day but Allah agreed to let him live till an appointed time.

Instead of being grateful to Allah, Shaitan promised that he would forever lead Prophet Aadam (A) and his children away from the right path. However, Allah told him that he would not be able to mislead those people who were good Muslims.



Prophet Aadam (A) and Lady Hawwa (A) began to live in Heaven, where they enjoyed the blessings of Allah. They had everything they wished for and were very happy.

Now you know...

- ◆ After Allah created the heavens and the earth He created Prophet Aadam (A) and Lady Hawwa (A).
- ◆ When the angels found out that Allah was going to make a new creation they were surprised and asked Allah why he was going to create new creatures when they were already worshipping Him, while the new creatures would only fight amongst each other.
- ◆ Allah told them that He knew what they did not know and that He would make the new creature his deputy on earth.
- ◆ Allah created Prophet Aadam (A) out of special clay and then gave him a soul. He then commanded the angels to prostrate to Prophet Aadam (A). All the angels immediately obeyed Allah but Iblees refused to prostrate. He told Allah that he was created from fire and was better than Prophet Aadam (A) who was created from clay.
- ◆ Allah was displeased and ordered Iblees (Shaitan) to get out from heaven and that he was cursed till the Day of Judgement.
- ◆ Shaitan was allowed to live till a certain day and he promised to lead Prophet Aadam (A) and his children away from the right path forever. However, Allah told him he would not be able to mislead those who were good Muslims.

MORAL BOX

- ❖ It is not what you look like or what you have that makes you a better person but the most important thing is how close you are to Allah.
- ❖ We must be aware every day that Shaitan has promised to always trick us to disobey Allah.



LESSON 2: PROPHET AADAM (A) - PART 2

When Allah let Prophet Aadam (A) and Lady Hawwa (A) live in Heaven, he allowed them to do anything they liked, except for one thing. He told them not to go near one of the trees of Heaven and not to eat its fruits.

Shaitan could not bear to see how happy Prophet Aadam (A) and Lady Hawwa (A) were in Heaven and wanted revenge. His jealousy made him decide to mislead Prophet Aadam (A) into making a mistake.

Although Shaitan was not allowed to live in Heaven anymore, he had not been stopped from visiting. One day Shaitan entered Heaven and started talking to Prophet Aadam (A). He pretended to be his friend and when he had convinced Prophet Aadam (A) that he meant him no harm, he said,

"Did you know that you have been kept away from the best thing in Heaven? If you eat the fruit of that tree you will remain in Heaven forever or you can even become angels."

When Prophet Aadam (A) and Lady Hawwa (A) heard these words they remembered Allah's command to stay away from that tree and they became frightened. But Shaitan was very clever and he swore by the Name of Allah that he was their real friend and he would not tell them something that would harm them.

Prophet Aadam (A) and Lady Hawwa (A) had never heard anyone lie before in their lives and because Shaitan swore by Allah, they believed him. He told them to first smell the sweet scent of the tree and look at its beautiful colour.

At last, he got them to disobey Allah and eat one fruit from the tree. This was a mistake by Prophet Aadam (A) and Lady Hawwa (A) and one they were very sorry for.

QUESTION BOX

❓ Imagine that you were in Prophet Aadam (A) position – would you have listened to Shaitan and eaten one of the fruits?

Allah told them,

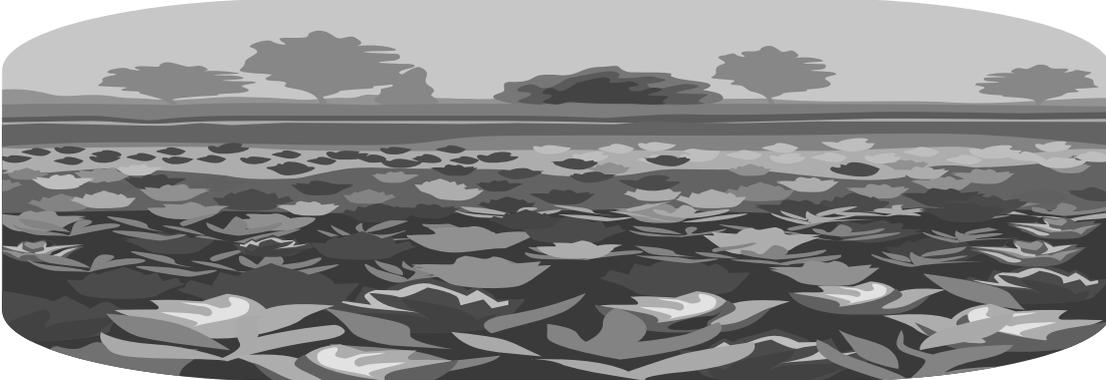
"Did I not tell you not to go near that tree and that Shaitan was your enemy?"

Both of them told Allah how sorry they were and begged for his forgiveness. But Allah said,

"Leave Heaven. From now on your homes will be on the earth. From today your easy life is over and you will have to work to feed yourself and your family."

So Prophet Aadam (A) and Lady Hawwa (A) came to this world. They settled in a place called Eden. In the beginning, they hated it and wished that they were back in Heaven.

They use to cry and beg Allah to forgive them and let them come back. After a while Allah forgave them for their mistake but he told them that they would now have to earn their place in Heaven by their actions.



He taught them that there were two paths in life. One is the path of obedience to Allah, which leads to happiness, and Heaven and the other path is that of the sinners, which leads to sorrow and Hell. He also warned them that Shaitan would always try to make them and their children take the second path and that he was their enemy.

QUESTION BOX

❓ Which path do you think you have chosen to follow? Do you take care and watch out for the evil whispers of Shaitan?

Slowly, Prophet Aadam (A) and Lady Hawwa (A) got used to their new home and Allah blessed them with children which made them very happy. Lady Hawwa (A) gave birth to two sets of twins. Qaabil and his sister were born first and then Haabil and his sister some years later.



Prophet Aadam (A) and Lady Hawwa (A) loved their children very much and watched proudly as they grew up strong and healthy. When they reached the age of marriage, Allah sent down two women from heaven to be the wives of Qaabil and Haabil.

While the sisters helped Lady Hawwa (A) in the home, Qaabil became a farmer and grew crops and Haabil kept cattle and sheep. The two brothers were very close and the family of Prophet Aadam (A) and Lady Hawwa (A) passed their days happily.

Now you know...

- ◆ When Allah let Prophet Aadam (A) and Lady Hawwa (A) live in Heaven, he allowed them to do anything except eat from a particular tree.
- ◆ Shaitan could not bear to see the happiness of Prophet Aadam (A) and Lady Hawwa (A) and wanted to take revenge.
- ◆ Once he entered heaven and pretended to be Prophet Aadam (A)'s friend. After swearing in the name of Allah he convinced them to eat from the forbidden tree.
- ◆ Allah was angry at the disobedience of Prophet Aadam (A) and Lady Hawwa (A). Although they begged Allah for their forgiveness, Allah told them to leave heaven and live on earth where they would have to work to feed themselves and their family.
- ◆ Although Allah forgave them, He told them that they would have to earn their place in heaven. He taught them that there were two paths in life. One is of obedience to Allah that leads to Heaven and the other of disobedience to Allah that leads to Hell.
- ◆ Slowly, Prophet Aadam (A) and Lady Hawwa (A) settled down and got used to their new life and they were blessed with children. First Qabil and his twin sister and then Habil and his twin sister. When Habil and Qabil reached marriageable age, Allah sent down two women from Heaven to be their wives.

MORAL BOX

- ❖ Nothing comes easy in life... you have to struggle in order to achieve something.
- ❖ Think before you do any action whether it's a good action or a bad one because you will be asked about it on the day of judgement.
- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

LESSON 3: PROPHET AADAM (A) - PART 3

When his sons were grown up, Prophet Adam (A) thought that he would appoint one of them as his successor. **Allah told him to choose Haabil because he was stronger in faith than his brother.** This made Qaabil very angry and he told his father that he should be the one to succeed because he was older than Haabil.

At last Prophet Adam (A) told them to each make a sacrifice to Allah, and the one whose sacrifice was accepted would be the more deserving one.

Haabil decided to sacrifice the best animal from his herd and he brought a strong, healthy sheep. Qaabil thought to himself that since Allah would not eat his crops, he did not have to sacrifice his best grain. So he brought some spoilt corn to sacrifice.

Suddenly a fire came down from heaven and burnt the sheep to ashes while the corn was left untouched. This meant that Haabil's offering had been accepted while Qaabil's was rejected. Haabil thus became the successor of Prophet Adam (A).



Now Qaabil became jealous of his brother and he began to hate him. He started to do evil things and threatened to kill Haabil. Allah mentions these events in the Holy Qur'an as follows:

“Narrate to them the story of the two sons of Adam. When each of them offered a sacrifice to Allah, but it was accepted from one of them and not accepted from the other. One of them (Qaabil) said, “I will murder you”, and the other (Haabil) replied, “Allah only accepts from those who guard (themselves against evil).”

Suratul Maa'idah, 5 : 27

Haabil loved his brother and tried his best to calm him down. He told him, *"O Brother, you have gone astray from the right path and whatever intention you have in your heart is sinful. Seek the forgiveness of Allah and do not seek the punishment of Hell."*

The words of his brother had no effect on Qaabil. He had become proud and selfish. **Finally, his jealousy was too much for him to bear and one day he killed Haabil.**

When Haabil did not return home, Prophet Adam (A) was very worried and he asked Qaabil if he knew where his brother was. Qaabil replied rudely, *"Did you leave him in my care?"* This reply made Prophet Adam (A) suspect that his son was dead and he was full of grief at the loss.



QUESTION BOX

? Why is jealousy so evil? Relate your answer to the story of Haabil and Qaabil?

Meanwhile Qaabil did not know what to do with the body of his brother. He put it in a sack and carried it on his back. He was ashamed of what he had done and thought all night about what he should do with the body.

At this time Allah decided to guide this foolish and proud young man. Since he was not worthy of receiving direct instructions from Allah, he had to learn from a crow.

Allah sent down two crows before Qaabil. Qaabil saw that one crow killed the other one. It then dug a hole in the ground with its beak and buried the dead crow. After that it levelled the ground with its feet. Qaabil realised that this was what he had to do, and with much sadness he buried the body of his brother Haabil.

Prophet Aadam (A) and Lady Hawwa (A) missed Haabil very much because he had been a good son. They prayed to Allah to give them another son like him. At last their prayers were answered and they had a son, Prophet Sheeth (A).

Qaabil went to settle in the east of Eden and became a fire-worshipper. When the flood of Prophet Nuh (A) came, the descendants of Qaabil were all drowned, and the world was populated by the descendants of Prophet Sheeth (A).

Now you know...

- ◆ Allah told Prophet Aadam (A) to appoint Haabil as his successor. This decision made Qaabil angry because he was the elder of the two brothers.
- ◆ To settle the dispute, Prophet Aadam (A) told his sons to each make a sacrifice to Allah and the one whose sacrifice was accepted would succeed him. Qaabil offered some spoilt corn (thinking that Allah would not take the corn) and Haabil offered a strong, healthy sheep. Haabil's sacrifice was accepted.
- ◆ Qaabil became jealous of Haabil and he started to do evil things to him. Eventually, Qaabil's jealousy was too much for him and one day he killed Haabil.
- ◆ Qaabil did not know what to do with the body of Haabil. Allah sent two crows to guide him. One crow killed the other one; then it dug a hole and buried the dead crow. Qaabil realised what he had to do.
- ◆ Prophet Aadam (A) and Lady Hawwa (A) missed Haabil very much. They prayed to Allah for another son like him and soon their prayers were answered. Lady Hawwa (A) gave birth to a third son whose name was Prophet Sheeth (A).

MORAL BOX

❖ You should never be jealous of anyone especially your family members because it will only lead to hatred.

❖ _____

LESSON 4: PROPHET IDRIS (A)

Prophet Idris (A) was the great-grandson of Prophet Sheeth (A) and was born 100 years after the death of Prophet Adam (A). He was the third Prophet of Allah.

The Holy Qur'an says:

“And mention Idris in the Book (Qur'an). He was a truthful person and a Prophet. And We raised him to a high station.”

Suratul Maryam, 19 : 56,57

Prophet Idris (A) used to tell the people to worship Allah and not to commit sins. He was a clever man and taught the people many new skills:

1. He was the first man to introduce the art of writing
2. He showed people how to measure weights with a balance
3. He taught them about the movements of planets
4. He taught people how to stitch clothes
5. He was the first man to make weapons for hunting and defence

RESEARCH BOX

📖 Which Imam (A.S.) is famous for his knowledge? What does his title mean?

At the time of Prophet Idris (A.) there was a cruel king who had full control over the life and property of the people. One day the king went out of his capital for an outing.

On the way he saw a beautiful garden which he liked very much. He called the owner and told him to hand over the garden to him. The owner, who was a God-fearing man, replied that the garden supported his family and he would not hand it over. The king offered to buy the land but the owner refused. The king then returned to his palace in an angry mood.



The king's wife was a mean woman. When she heard what had happened, she advised the king to call a few of his faithless friends as witnesses in the court. She asked them to swear that the owner of the garden was no longer a believer in God and furthermore, he was plotting against the king. When these liars gave evidence in the court the owner was called and accused of these crimes. Although he swore that he was innocent, the king did not listen to him and killed him. He then took the dead man's land for himself.

This murder by the greedy king displeased Allah and He commanded Prophet Idris (A) to go to the king and say to him that, not only had he killed a pious man, but he had stolen his land and left his family penniless. Prophet Idris (A) was also commanded to tell the king that Allah would punish him by taking his kingdom from him and destroy his capital and cause the flesh of his evil wife to be eaten by dogs.

When Prophet Idris (A) brought this message to the palace, the king was furious and he told him, "It is better that you leave before you are killed by my hand." Prophet Idris (A) left, but the queen decided to send some men after him and kill him.

QUESTION BOX

? If you were in the King's position would you have asked for Allah's forgiveness? Why?

Prophet Idris (A) learnt that his life was in danger so he left the town and hid himself. He took shelter in a cave on a mountain and an angel used to provide him with food. He prayed to Allah saying, "*O Lord! Do not send your blessings on this town.*"

Prophet Idris's (A) prayer was granted and Allah's punishment descended on the king. He lost his throne and died a shameful death. His capital was destroyed and his wife's flesh was eaten by wild dogs. The kingdom passed into the hands of another cruel king.

Twenty years passed after the disappearance of Prophet Idris (A). During this time not even a drop of rain fell and the people suffered terribly. They realised that their troubles were due to the curse of Prophet Idris (A) and they prayed to Allah to forgive them.

Allah accepted their prayers and sent Prophet Idris (A) back to the town. People gathered all around him and promised that they would obey him and worship Allah. He then prayed for rain and the drought ended.

Prophet Idris (A) guided his people for many years. He was one Prophet who had the respect and love of all his people. Finally Allah raised him to the heavens where he is alive even today.



Now you know...

- ◆ Prophet Idris (A) taught people to worship Allah. He was the first to introduce the art of writing. He was also taught the people how to make weapons for hunting and defence and how to stitch clothes.
- ◆ At the time of Prophet Idris (A) the cruel king in power unjustly accused a pious man of not being a believer in God. He had the man killed and then stole his land leaving his family penniless.
- ◆ Allah commanded Prophet Idris (A) to go to the king and tell him of his sin, and that Allah would punish him severely. When Prophet Idris (A) went and told him, the king was furious and threatened to kill him if he did not leave. So, Prophet Idris (A) left, but the queen sent some men after him to kill him.
- ◆ Prophet Idris (A) hid in a cave and prayed to Allah: “O Lord! Do not send your blessings on this town.” Allah accepted Prophet Idris (A) prayer and also punished the king. However, the kingdom passed on to another cruel ruler.
- ◆ Twenty years passed and not a drop of rain had fallen on the town. The people realised their mistake and prayed to Allah for forgiveness. Prophet Idris (A) returned to them and prayed to Allah to end the drought.
- ◆ Prophet Idris (A) had the love and respect of all his people. Allah raised him to the heavens where he is alive even today.

MORAL BOX

- ❖ If you want something in life you have to work for it and not cheat to get it.
- ❖ If you cause harm to someone, then one day someone will cause harm to you as well.
- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

LESSON 5: PROPHET NUH (A)

A long time ago there was a group of people who worshipped idols. Allah sent Prophet Nuh (A) to guide these people to the right path. Prophet Nuh (A) was a wise and patient man and he tried to teach the people about Allah and His blessings and told them not to worship pieces of clay or wood as their god. In spite of his efforts the people did not listen to him and turned away from him. When he warned them to be afraid of Allah's punishment, they laughed at him.

QUESTION BOX

 **How would you have replied to Prophet Nuh (A) when everyone around you worshiped idols?**

Prophet Nuh (A) did not give up preaching and continued to try and guide his people. However, only a few accepted his teachings, while the rest used to say things like,

"You are just a human being like us. If your God wanted to send us a Prophet, He should have sent an angel, then we would have listened to him."

Others said,

"O Nuh, if you want us to believe in you, you should get rid of your present followers, many of whom are poor. How can we believe in a religion that treats rich people and beggars with the same respect?"

Prophet Nuh (A) replied to them,

"My religion is for everyone, the wise and the foolish, the famous and the unknown and the rich and the poor. How can I leave the people who supported me when I was alone? These people are true believers in Allah."

The people did not like the words of Prophet Nuh (A) and they proudly said,

"O Nuh, ask your God to punish us if you like."

But Prophet Nuh (A) said,

"I am just a human being. I cannot bring down the punishment on you or stop the punishment from you if Allah wills. Remember that you have to return to Him one day and be sorry for your wrong ways before it is too late."

Although the people at the time of Prophet Nuh (A) were stubborn, he remained patient and continued to preach the message of Allah to them for 950 years. He ignored their insults and abuses in the hope that one day the light of faith would enter their hearts. But as time passed, they grew worse, and began to attack him with stones whenever he tried to talk them.



QUESTION BOX

❓ **Would you have been as patient as Prophet Nuh (A) if someone insulted or abused you? Would you have the strength to ignore them?**

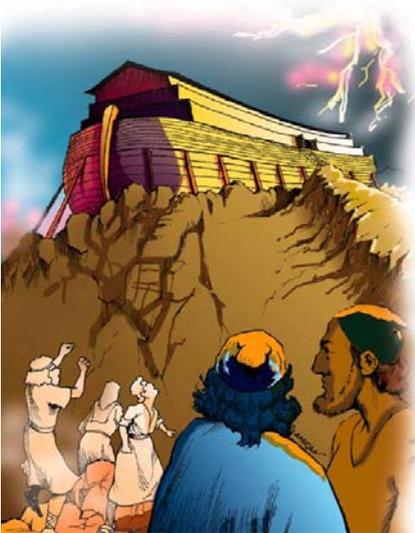
Finally his patience was exhausted and he complained to Allah about the people and asked Him to provide a solution to the problem.

Allah accepted the prayer of Prophet Nuh (A) and ordered him to build a large boat, an ark, and also told him that there would be a great flood in which all the sinners would be drowned.

The Holy Qur'an says:

“In the Name of Allah, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful. We sent Nuh to his people to warn them before the painful punishment came upon them. He said, “O my people, I warn you clearly that you should worship only Allah and fear Him, and follow me.”

Suratu Nuh, 71 : 1-3



In response to the command of Allah, Prophet Nuh (A) planted saplings and waited for them to grow up into strong trees. Then he cut them down and began to make the ark. It took 80 years to complete the construction of the ark, and during this time the people began teasing him saying that he had given up being a Prophet and become a carpenter.

When the ark was ready, Allah commanded Prophet Nuh (A) to instruct his followers to go inside the ark and also to take one pair of each type of animal. **Suddenly, it began to rain heavily and streams of water erupted from the ground. Soon the land was covered with water and the ark began to float.**

Three sons of Prophet Nuh (A), Aam, Sam and Yafas, and their wives were safely on board the ark, but his son Kanaan, who was an unbeliever, had refused to come with them.

Prophet Nuh (A) saw his son Kanaan struggling in the water and tried once more to convince him to have faith and come into the ark. But Kanaan replied that he would go to top of a mountain and be safe there. Prophet Nuh (A) warned him that there was no shelter from Allah's Curse, except in the ark.

In the meantime, a huge wave came and swept Kanaan off forever. Allah had promised Prophet Nuh (A) that his family and followers would be safe and now Prophet Nuh (A) begged Allah to keep His promise and save his son.

The Holy Qur'an says:

“And Nuh cried to his Lord and said, ‘My Lord! Verily my son is of my family, and verily Your promise is true and You are the most just of the judges.’ (God) said, ‘O Nuh, verily he is not of your family, his conduct is not righteous...’”

Suratul Hud, 11 : 45,46(Part)

Allah told Prophet Nuh (A) that Kanaan was not really his son because he did not show it by his deeds and did not deserve to be saved. Prophet Nuh (A) realised his mistake and asked Allah for his forgiveness.

The ark floated for a long time while the whole land was flooded so that nobody was left alive on it. Finally, the punishment of Allah was over and it stopped raining. The water level began to decrease and the ark came down onto solid ground on Mount Judi.

Prophet Nuh (A) was commanded to come out of the ark with his followers and the animals. In this new land they began their lives afresh under the blessings of Allah.



Now you know...

- ◆ Allah sent Prophet Nuh (A) to a group of people who worshipped idols. For 950 years Prophet Nuh (A) taught the people to worship One God, Allah, but most of them laughed at him and challenged him to ask Allah to punish them. Prophet Nuh (A) was a patient man and he tried to convince them of their errors.
- ◆ But the people of Prophet Nuh (A) were stubborn, and they ignored him. When the people began to attack him with stones he prayed to Allah to provide a solution to the problem.
- ◆ Allah responded to Prophet Nuh (A)'s plea and ordered him to build an ark. It took him 80 years to complete the construction of the ark.
- ◆ When the ark was complete, Allah ordered Prophet Nuh (A) to take his followers and one pair of each type of animal to go inside the ark. Three of his sons also boarded the ark, but his fourth son, Kanaan, an unbeliever, refused to come with them.
- ◆ Suddenly it began to rain heavily and the land began to flood. Prophet Nuh (A) begged Allah to save his son. But Allah said no, since Kanaan was not really his son because his deeds showed that he did not deserve to live.
- ◆ The ark floated for a long time; none of the unbelievers were left alive. The punishment of Allah was over and it stopped raining. Soon the water level began to decrease and the ark came down on Mount Judi.
- ◆ Prophet Nuh (A) and his followers began their lives afresh under the blessings of Allah.

MORAL BOX

- ❖ Patience is a very important quality that a person can have. How can we show patience in our lives?
- ❖ This story shows us that believing in Allah is even more important than our own families.
- ❖ _____

LESSON 6: PROPHET HUD (A)

The people of the tribe of Aad lived in Ahqaaf, a place between Yemen and Oman. They lived in peace and comfort. Allah had granted them many blessings. They were clever people and had built beautiful cities. They were very strong physically and there were no diseases in their society.



Despite all the favours that Allah had granted them, the people of Aad did not believe in one God and worshipped idols which they carved out of stone. When anything good happened to them they would thank their idols and when they were in trouble, they used to pray to these idols for help.

QUESTION BOX

❓ **What do you think is wrong with worshipping idols? Why does it not make sense to worship something made of stone?**

After some years, the tribe of Aad began to lose its unity. The powerful people treated the weak and poor members very badly. To guide these proud and ignorant people, Allah sent Prophet Hud (A) to them.

Prophet Hud (A) was from the tribe of Aad itself, and was respected because of his noble family and his good manners. He was the son of Abdullah, grandson of Sam and the great-grandson of Prophet Nuh (A). Prophet Hud (A) was a very patient and kind man. When he received the command of Allah to spread His message, he came to the people and said,

"O Brothers, why do you worship stones that you have carved yourself. The idols can not give you anything or take anything away from you. You are not fools but what you are doing is against your intelligence. Your Lord is only One, and He alone should be worshipped. He has created you, given you health and wealth, and made you a powerful nation. Do not rebel against Allah in case you meet the fate of the people of Prophet Nuh (A)."



Prophet Hud (A) tried hard to make the people understand the error of their ways, but instead of listening to him, they became more stubborn. They said,

"O Hud, you are saying foolish things. Why should we worship one god and give up what our forefathers used to do?"

Prophet Hud (A) explained to them that the idols would only take them further away from Allah and that he was a Prophet sent to guide them.

The Holy Qur'an says:

“And We sent to the people of Aad their brother Hud, who said, ‘O my people, worship Allah, you have no other god besides He. (As for the idols), You are only inventing lies. O my people, I ask no reward for it (my work), my reward is with Him Who created me. Will you not then understand?’”

Suratul Hud, 11 : 50-51

However, the people of Aad became angry at his words and said,

"O Hud, what gives you the right to talk to us in this way? You eat and drink just like us, you are no better than us. Why should you be chosen as a Prophet? We think you are a liar or perhaps one of our idols has cursed you and made you lose your senses."

The people thus made fun of Prophet Hud (A). His tireless preaching brought him only a few followers.

When he warned the people of Aad about the punishment of Allah, the Holy Qur'an says that they said:

“Then bring down on us what you have threatened, if you are truthful.”

Suratul A'araf 7: 70(Part)

When the people of Aad invited Allah's punishment with their proud words, the rain stopped falling for three years and there was a terrible drought.

During this time Prophet Hud (A) told the people to be sorry for their actions and seek the forgiveness of Allah before it was too late. But they were blind to the truth and continued praying to their idols for rain. Finally, Prophet Hud (A) gave up and said,

"You can do what you want. I only depend on Allah Who is my protector."

At last the punishment of Allah appeared. Suddenly, a huge dark cloud came. When the people of Aad saw it, they thought it was going to rain, but instead, there was a strong and terrible wind that uprooted their houses and tossed the animals into the air. Instead of rain, showers of sparks began to come down from the dark cloud. The violent storm continued for eight days and by the end of it the proud people of Aad were totally destroyed.

The Holy Qur'an says:

“And as for Aad, they were destroyed by a roaring violent blast. He made it rage against them for seven nights and eight days, uprooting, so you might see the people bowing like the trunks of hollow palm trees. Do you then see any of them surviving?”

Suratul Haq, 69 : 6 - 8

At the first sign of the storm, Prophet Hud (A) had gathered his followers and family and taken them to a safe place, and they were the only survivors of the terrible punishment from Allah. When the storm was over, Prophet Hud (A) took his companions to Hazramaut where they passed the rest of their days.

Now you know...

- ◆ The people of Aad lived in peace and comfort, enjoying the blessings of Allah. They were very strong physically and there was no disease in their society. Sadly, they did not believe in One God and they worshipped idols.
- ◆ After some years the tribe of Aad began to lose its unity. So, Allah sent Prophet Hud (A) to guide them. He was from the tribe of Aad itself, and he was respected because he was from a noble family and very well mannered. He advised them to worship Allah and to give up idol worship.
- ◆ Prophet Hud (A) tried hard to make the people understand, but they refused saying that it was what their forefathers had done. They began to make fun of him and called him a liar. His tireless preaching only brought him a few followers.
- ◆ When Prophet Hud (A) told them that Allah would punish them, they were proud and invited Allah’s punishment. In response, there was a drought for three years.
- ◆ The people of Aad were still blind to the truth and continued praying to the idols. Prophet Hud (A) told the people to be sorry to Allah, but they refused to listen and Prophet Hud (A) gave up.
- ◆ The punishment of Allah came. A dark cloud came. Suddenly, there was a strong wind that uprooted everything. Lightening came down from the cloud and a violent storm continued for eight days.
- ◆ Before the storm came, Prophet Hud (A) gathered his followers and left in safety; they were the only survivors of the punishment of Allah.

MORAL BOX

❖ We should not challenge the punishment of Allah even in our minds because it is a clear sign of our pride and arrogance.

❖ _____

❖ _____

LESSON 7: PROPHET SALIH (A)



The land of the people of Aad was taken over by the tribe of Thamud. They were strong workers and they made many gardens and parks and built beautiful buildings.

In order to protect themselves they built their houses inside the mountains. The people of Thamud passed their life with ease and comfort. However, they were not thankful to Allah for His many blessings, and they were proud. They thought that their good life was a result of their own strength. Instead of turning to Allah, they used to worship part of a mountain and offer sacrifices to it.

Allah sent Prophet Salih (A) to the people of Thamud to guide them to the right path. He was from their own tribe, and was respected because he was kind-hearted and wise, even as a young man.

QUESTION BOX

❓ **Why was it so important that Prophet Salih (A) was from the same tribe as the people of Thamud?**

Prophet Salih (A) invited the people to worship only Allah, who was their Creator. He tried to teach them how useless it was to worship a mountain, which could not harm or help anyone. He reminded them that he was from their own tribe and had their best interests at heart. He said,

"You are all my brothers. I am not saying anything that will harm you. Come and seek the forgiveness of Allah and He will answer your prayers and grant your wishes."

However, the people of Thamud turned a deaf ear to him. They said,

"O Salih, we thought you were a sensible man. We saw in you signs of goodness and wisdom, and wanted to rely on your advice in difficult times. Why have you started talking this nonsense now? Do you want us to stop worshipping what our ancestors worshipped for a long time? We will never listen to you!"

Prophet Salih (A) patiently tried to teach them the truth. He made it clear that he was only guiding them so they could benefit themselves, and he did not want anything from them. He said that his reward would come from Allah. He reminded them of the many blessings that Allah had given them. He warned them not to continue in their ways in case the punishment of Allah came on them. When Prophet Salih (A) had started his mission he was 16 years old. Although he continued to preach till he was 120 years old, his words were accepted by only a few people. Most of the people of Thamud called him names, saying he was a madman or a liar.

Prophet Salih (A) replied to them by saying,

"O People, I am not a liar. I have clear arguments from Allah as a proof of my Prophethood."

The leaders of Thamud had not listened to Prophet Salih (A) because they were afraid that he might become powerful and they would lose their position as heads in the community. They decided to make Prophet Salih (A) look weak in front of the people.

Therefore, they challenged him to prove his words by bringing out a she-camel from the side of their holy mountain. Prophet Salih (A) caused this miracle to happen with the permission of Allah.

The people had never seen such a camel in their lives. On one day, it would drink all the water in the town and on the next it would allow the people to drink the water. On the day that the she-camel drank all the water, it would give the people as much milk as they wanted.

The Holy Qur'an says:

"And to (the people of) Thamud, (we sent) their brother Salih. He said, "O my people, worship Allah. You have no god but Him. Indeed a clear proof from your Lord came to you. This she-camel of Allah is a Sign for you. Leave it free to graze on Allah's earth and do not harm her, otherwise you will be overtaken by a painful punishment."

Suratul A'araf, 7: 73

This powerful miracle made a lot of people believe the words of Prophet Salih (A) and they embraced his faith. It also made the leaders of the tribe worried because they knew that as long as the people could see the she-camel, they would listen to Prophet Salih (A). The cruel leaders decided to kill the animal, although Prophet Salih (A) had warned them that the punishment of Allah would certainly come if they harmed the she-camel.

A few wicked men ambushed the she-camel when it was returning after drinking the water. One man shot an arrow at its leg and another came forward and cut the muscles of its back legs so that the she-camel fell down. Then a man called Qadar struck the animal's neck with his sword and killed it. Then they came to Prophet Salih (A) and proudly said,

"O Salih! Bring us the punishment if you really are a Prophet."

Prophet Salih (A) told them that they had committed a great sin and asked them to return to their homes for three days and beg for Allah's forgiveness. But the people only laughed at him.

After three days, Prophet Salih (A) received a command from Allah to leave the town with his followers. Then the punishment of Allah came down on the people of Thamud. A great thunderbolt came from the sky and a powerful earthquake shook the town and totally destroyed the buildings and houses. The people fell down dead and the fire from the sky turned their bodies to ashes. No one was left alive in the town after that terrible day.

When Prophet Salih (A) saw the tragic end of the people of his own tribe, he turned to their remains and said,

"O People, I delivered to you the message of Allah and guided you to the right way, but you always thought I was your enemy."

The Holy Prophet (S) has said,

"The most wicked person from the olden times is the one who killed the innocent she-camel of Prophet Salih (A) and the most wicked person in these times is the one who will murder Imam Ali (A)."

Now you know...

- ◆ The tribe of Thamud lived in ease and comfort. They built beautiful buildings, gardens and parks. Instead of turning to Allah in thanks, they worshipped part of a mountain, making sacrifices to it.
- ◆ Prophet Salih (A) was sent to guide the people of Thamud on to the right path. He was respected because he was kind-hearted and wise.
- ◆ He taught the people to worship Allah, explaining that the mountain could not harm or help anyone. But the tribe of Thamud turned a deaf eye to him. He reminded them of the bounty of Allah and the many blessings he had given to them and warned them that the punishment of Allah would come down upon them if they continued in their ways.
- ◆ He preached to them from the age of 16 years till he was 120 years old. In that time only a few people followed him.
- ◆ One day the chiefs of Thamud challenged Prophet Salih (A) to prove his words. They asked him to cause a miracle and bring out a she-camel from the side of their holy mountain. The miracle happened with the permission of Allah. Most of the people of Thamud were amazed since the she-camel on one day would drink all the water in town and the next day it would give as much milk as they wanted. The miracle made a lot of people believe in Allah.
- ◆ The leaders became worried that the people would turn to Prophet Salih (A) so they decided to kill the she-camel. They shot the camel with an arrow in its leg, cut the muscles of its back legs and struck the animal's neck with a sword, killing it.
- ◆ Prophet Salih (A) told them they had committed a sin and would be punished if they did not ask Allah for forgiveness.
- ◆ The people only laughed at him. After three days Prophet Salih (A) took his followers outside the town. Allah then sent down his punishment on the people of Thamud. A great thunderbolt came from the sky and an earthquake shook the ground. No one was left alive as a fire from the sky turned the dead bodies to ashes.

MORAL BOX

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LESSON 8: PROPHET IBRAHIM (A) - PART 1

Prophet Ibrahim (A) is one of the greatest Prophets of Allah. The Holy Qur'an says:

“Ibrahim was certainly a model of faith for the people, obedient to Allah and upright, and was not an idolater but grateful to Him for His favours; so He chose him and guided him on the right path, and gave him what is good in this world, and in the hereafter he will be amongst the righteous ones.”

Naml, 16:120 - 122

Prophet Ibrahim (A) was born in Syria at the time when Namrud was the king. Namrud was a proud man and forced the people to believe in him as their god. Since the people were idolaters, who already worshipped idols of wood and stone, they willingly accepted him as their god. After some time, Allah decided to send Prophet Ibrahim (A) to these people so they may be guided.

A short while before Prophet Ibrahim (A) was born, Namrud was told by his astrologers that a special child would soon be born, who would stand against him and tell the people to stop worshipping idols. After that warning, Namrud ordered that all new born babies should be examined carefully to see if they showed any signs or miracles.

Prophet Ibrahim's (A) mother had shown no signs of pregnancy when she carried him, so she knew that her baby was special. To protect him from Namrud's men, she hid the baby in a cave and returned to the town. Allah caused milk to flow from the fingers of Prophet Ibrahim (A) and thus provided him with a source of food.

QUESTION BOX

❓ Which other Prophet was hidden from a cruel king after he was born?

Prophet Ibrahim (A) grew up outside the town for 13 years before his mother brought him to her home secretly. His father, Taraq, had already died, so he was adopted by Azar, his father's brother.

Azar was a famous sculptor who used to make idols out of stone. His sons used to sell these idols to the people. Azar gave Prophet Ibrahim (A) the same job as his sons.

Even in his young age, Prophet Ibrahim (A) already believed in Allah and he hated idols. On the first day of his job, he tied a rope around some idols and dragged them through the dirt to the market-place. He then called to the people, *“Come and buy these lifeless idols that can neither benefit nor harm anybody.”*

The people looked at the dirty idols and were angry at the disrespect that Prophet Ibrahim (A) had shown to their gods. They complained to Azar and Prophet Ibrahim (A) was not allowed to sell any more idols.

As time passed, Prophet Ibrahim (A) tried to show the people the error of their ways. He first approached his uncle, who was like a father to him, and advised him to worship Allah and abandon the idols. The Holy Qur'an records his conversation with Azar in the following verses:

"O my father! Do not worship Shaitan who was disobedient to Allah. O my father! I am afraid that the punishment of Allah might touch you so that you would be Shaitan's companion."

He (Azar) said, "Do you turn against my gods, O Ibrahim? If you do not go away I will stone you. Get away from me for a long while."

He (Ibrahim) said, "Peace be on you, I will pray to my Lord to forgive you. He is most gracious to me."

Maryam, 19 : 44 - 47

Although he was unsuccessful with Azar, Prophet Ibrahim (A) did not lose hope and began preaching to the people.

"Can your idols hear you? Can they ever help you or harm you?"

"We worship them because our forefathers worshipped them."

Prophet Ibrahim (A) would then teach them that only Allah, the Creator of the heavens and earth, should be worshipped.

Although the people could not answer Prophet Ibrahim's (A) arguments against their idols, they were stubborn and only a few people listened to him and began worshipping Allah. Prophet Ibrahim (A) then decided to show the people how useless their idols were by destroying them. He got his chance during the annual festival, which was held outside the town.

On the day of the festival, when all the people, young and old, had left the town, Prophet Ibrahim (A) was alone. He went to the main temple where all the important idols were kept. He took an axe and broke all the idols except the largest one. The idols, which had been kept neat and tidy, now lay in pieces on the ground. Before he left the temple, Prophet Ibrahim (A) put the axe in the hands of the largest, unbroken, idol.

The Holy Qur'an says:

When he (Ibrahim) said to his father and his people,

"What are these images to which you turn (in devotion)?"

They said,

"We found our fathers (ancestors) worshipping them."

He (Ibrahim) said,

"Indeed you and your fathers were in a clear error."

They said,

"Have you really brought us the truth or are you only a joker?"

He said,

"No! Your Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth, Who has created them. And I am a witness to this (Truth). And, by God! I will plan against your idols when your backs are turned!" So he broke them into pieces. except the chief of them. so they could return to it."

Anbiya, 21 : 52 - 58

Now you know...

- ◆ Prophet Ibrahim (A) was born at the time when Namrud was the king. Namrud was a proud man and forced the people to believe in him as their god.
- ◆ Prophet Ibrahim (A)'s life was in danger and in order to protect him, his mother hid him in a cave.
- ◆ On returning to the town at age 13, Prophet Ibrahim (A) was adopted by his uncle Azar. Azar earned a living by making idols and Prophet Ibrahim (A) was given the job of selling them.
- ◆ However, as Prophet Ibrahim (A) believed in only One God, he purposely did a bad job and so was not allowed to sell idols anymore.
- ◆ Prophet Ibrahim (A) tried to show Azar the error of his ways by advising him but was unsuccessful.
- ◆ He turned his attention to the people and a few people accepted his beliefs.
- ◆ Prophet Ibrahim (A) then decided to show the people how useless their idols were by destroying them while the people were away at a festival, leaving the axe which he used in the hands of the biggest idol.

MORAL BOX

- ❖ Even after being unsuccessful with his uncle, Prophet Ibrahim (A) did not give up preaching the word of Allah.
- ❖ Prophet Ibrahim (A)'s story teaches us that we should fear none but Allah as he performed the act of destroying the idols without any fear of the people.
- ❖ _____
- _____

LESSON 9: PROPHET IBRAHIM (A) - PART 2

Prophet Ibrahim (A) had broken all the idols except the largest one in the main temple while the people were celebrating their festival outside the town. When they returned and found what had happened to their gods, they were shocked and said,

"Who has done this cruel thing to our lords?"

One of them said,

"It must be Ibrahim. He has always hated idol worship."

Prophet Ibrahim (A) was brought to court to face trial for damaging the idols. When he was asked whether he was guilty he replied,

"It must have been done by the biggest idol. Ask him about it."

But the people said,

"Our idols do not talk or answer questions."

Now Prophet Ibrahim (A) took the opportunity to make the people understand how useless their idols were. He said,

"Shame on you! How can you worship pieces of wood and stone? They do not know anything and can neither harm nor benefit you."

However, nobody was willing to listen to his words and he was declared guilty. The people began to shout,

"Burn him alive! Let him be with his Lord."



Namrud decided to burn Prophet Ibrahim (A) alive to please his idols.

He ordered that wood be collected to make a huge bonfire. So much wood was brought that when the fire was lit, no one could get close enough to throw Prophet Ibrahim (A) into it.



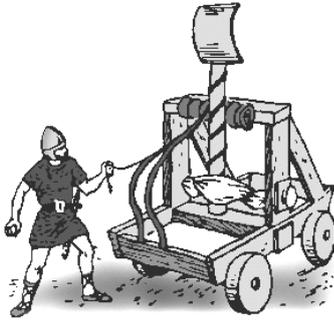
Namrud decided to build a large catapult and Prophet Ibrahim (A) was thrown into the fire using this catapult. When Prophet Ibrahim (A) was flying in the air towards the fire, the angel Jibrael (A) came to ask him if he needed his help. Prophet Ibrahim (A) replied,

"No I need help from Allah only."

The Holy Qur'an says:

They said, "Burn him to ashes if you want to help your gods." We (Allah) said, "O Fire, be cold and peaceful for Ibrahim."

Anbiya, 21 : 68,69



When Prophet Ibrahim (A) landed in the fire he prayed to Allah to protect him. By Allah's command, the fire became cool and harmless.

Namrud and his followers were amazed to see Prophet Ibrahim (A) sitting calmly and comfortably in the middle of the burning fire. Many who saw this miracle realised the truth of his teachings but others, especially Namrud, remained proud and stubborn.

After a while, Prophet Ibrahim (A) came out of the fire and met Namrud who told him,
"You are creating confusion in my community by inviting them to worship another lord besides me. Tell me Who is your Lord?"

The Holy Qur'an says:

Have you thought about the one (Namrud) who argued with Ibrahim about his Lord, because Allah had given him the kingdom? Ibrahim said to him, "My Lord is He Who gives life and causes death." He (Namrud) said, "I (also) give life and cause death." (Then) Ibrahim said, "Allah makes the sun rise from the east, (why don't) you bring it from the west." Thus the unbeliever was baffled and Allah does not guide unjust people.

Baqarah, 2 : 258

Prophet Ibrahim (A) told Namrud that Allah is the One who gives and takes away life. Namrud said,

"I can also do that. If I call two prisoners who are going to be hanged, and let one go free and kill the other, I have given one life and the other death."

Prophet Ibrahim (A) replied,

"No, you are only right if you bring the dead one back to life. Anyway, my Lord makes the sun rise in the east. If you are so powerful, make it rise from the west."

Namrud could not reply to this argument and was defeated. However, he remained stubborn and did not accept the religion of Prophet Ibrahim (A).

RESEARCH BOX

 **When is the only time that the sun will rise from the west?**

Namrud knew that he could not harm Prophet Ibrahim (A), because he was under the protection of Allah. So he ordered Prophet Ibrahim (A) to leave his kingdom and stopped everybody from following his religion.

Prophet Ibrahim (A) thus left his homeland with his family and sheep. He took with him his wife Sarah, and his cousin Prophet Lut (A) and left for Palestine.

Now you know...

- ◆ Prophet Ibrahim (A) was brought to court to face trial for damaging the idols, but said that it must have been done by the idol carrying the axe. He used this opportunity to make the people understand how useless their idols were.
- ◆ However, he was sentenced to death by Namrud and was catapulted into a massive fire.
- ◆ Namrud and his followers were amazed to see Prophet Ibrahim (A) sitting calmly and comfortably in the middle of the burning fire.
- ◆ This miracle brought some people to the truth but others including Namrud were defiant.
- ◆ Prophet Ibrahim (A) challenged Namrud and after being defeated, Namrud, who still did not accept Prophet Ibrahim (A)'s beliefs, ordered Prophet Ibrahim (A) to leave his kingdom unharmed.
- ◆ Prophet Ibrahim (A), Bibi Sarah (A) and Prophet Lut (A) then left for Palestine.

MORAL BOX

- ❖ Prophet Ibrahim (A) trusted fully in Allah to keep him safe.
- ❖ This trust is like that of our Imam's followers and reminds us of when one of our Imams asked his follower to sit in a pit of fire. Would we be able to trust our Imam if he asked us to do that?

❖ _____

❖ _____

LESSON 10: PROPHET IBRAHIM (A) - PART 3



Prophet Ibrahim (A) had been told to leave the country by the king, Namrud. He took his family and left for Baytul Muqaddas in Palestine. His wife Sarah was a beautiful woman, so to guard her from the eyes of the people, he would put her in a box whenever they came to a town. When they were travelling in the middle of the desert, he would let her out.

After some time, they arrived in a new country, which was ruled by an Arab king. The guard at the border wanted to check the box in which Sarah lay hidden. Prophet Ibrahim (A) told the guard,

"You may suppose that the box is full of gold and silver and I will pay the tax for that, but do not open the box."

However, the guard insisted that he had to see what Prophet Ibrahim (A) was carrying and so he opened the box. When he saw Sarah, he took Prophet Ibrahim (A) to the king.

When they came before the king, he was attracted to the beauty of Sarah and he reached out to touch her. **Prophet Ibrahim (A) prayed to Allah to protect the honour and dignity of his wife. At his prayer, the king's hand turned into a solid block of wood.**

The king begged Prophet Ibrahim (A) to pray to Allah to give him his hand back, saying that he would not look at Sarah again. Prophet Ibrahim (A) prayed and the king's hand became normal again.

After talking for a while with Prophet Ibrahim (A), the king looked up at Sarah and could not resist making the same mistake as before. As he tried to touch her, his hand dried up like a piece of wood.

He turned to Prophet Ibrahim (A), once more begging for Allah's forgiveness and asking for his hand back. Prophet Ibrahim (A) told him that he would pray for him one last time. He said,

"O my Lord, if this man is truly sorry, then change his hand to its original form."

Through this prayer, the king was cured. He was impressed with the power of Prophet Ibrahim (A), and accepted his faith.

He treated Prophet Ibrahim (A) with great respect and presented him with a maid called Hajira, to serve Sarah, and allowed them to go wherever they wanted.

On his way to Baytul Muqaddas, Prophet Ibrahim (A) came across a group of people who worshipped the stars. These people were called the Magi. He decided to guide them towards Allah. To teach them the error of their ways, he used a very polite way of approach. Prophet Ibrahim (A) introduced himself as a star-worshipper also and then sat down at night to worship with them.



The Holy Qur'an says:

"We showed Ibrahim the kingdom of the heavens and the earth to strengthen his faith. When it became dark, he saw a star and said, "This is my Lord." But when it set, he said, "I do not love those who fade away." When he saw the moon rising, he said, "This is my Lord." And when it set he said, "Had my Lord not guided me I would certainly have gone astray." Then when he saw the sun rising he said, "This is my Lord, this is the greatest one" And then when it (also) set, he said, "O my people, I am not part of what you associate with God"

An'aam, 6 : 77 - 79

Prophet Ibrahim (A) got the people's attention by claiming that the star, then the moon, and finally, the sun, were his gods. But as each of these set, he turned away from them saying:

"I am sick of these ever-changing creations. I believe in Allah, Who is the Creator of the heavens and the earth. I do not belong to those who believe in partners to Allah or the idol-worshippers."

Although Prophet Ibrahim (A) used this polite way of teaching and proved how useless their worship was, the Magi continued to argue with him. He said,:

"Why do you argue with me about Allah when He has guided me to the right path?"

The people refused to believe his words and threatened to harm him and told him to be afraid of the revenge of the stars. Finally Prophet Ibrahim (A) left these foolish people and continued on his way to Baytul Muqaddas.

Prophet Ibrahim (A) and Sarah could not have any children and this made him very sad. Sarah then suggested that he marry her maid Hajira, and perhaps Allah would give them a child.

Prophet Ibrahim (A) and Hajira were married and Allah blessed them with a son, Prophet Isma'il (A). Five years later, Sarah also gave birth to a son, Prophet Ishaq (A).

QUESTION BOX

❓ **Bibi Hajira (A) was a black slave woman – 3 things that were looked down upon. How does Allah (swt) show us her high status in His eyes even till today?**

Prophet Ibrahim (A) is called the father of the Prophets (A) because from his son Prophet Isma'il came the Arab Prophets (A), including the Holy Prophet (S), and from his son Prophet Ishaq came the Jewish Prophets (A), including Prophet Isa (A).

The title of Prophet Ibrahim (A) was "Khalilullah", which means "Friend of Allah". When the time came for his death, he told the angel who had come to take his soul,

"Ask Allah, Does a friend take the life of his friend?"

He meant that Allah should not order Prophet Ibrahim's (A) death because he was His friend. The angel of death, Israa'il (A), could not answer this question, so he returned to Allah, Who commanded him to go back to Prophet Ibrahim (A) and say,

"O Ibrahim, does a friend refuse an invitation to meet his friend?"

Now you know...

- ◆ Prophet Ibrahim (A) and his fellow travellers had left for Baytul Muqaddas in Palestine.
- ◆ His wife Bibi Sarah (A) was a very beautiful woman and Prophet Ibrahim used to hide her from the people.
- ◆ However, the King of the town was attracted to her and as he was about to touch her, Allah caused his hand to turn to wood.
- ◆ Seeing this miracle and repenting for his sin, the King embraced Prophet Ibrahim (A)'s faith. He also gave Prophet Ibrahim (A) a maid (Bibi Hajirah (A)) to him and let them go.
- ◆ On his travels, Prophet Ibrahim (A) tried to preach the people to worship Allah (swt) instead of his creations but to no avail.
- ◆ As Bibi Sarah (A) was unable to have children, Prophet Ibrahim (A) married Bibi Hajirah (A) and Prophet Ismail (A) was born and the line of the Arab Prophets began with him.
- ◆ Bibi Sarah (A) later had a son, Prophet Ishaq (A) and the line of the Jewish Prophets began with him.

MORAL BOX

- ❖ In essence, Jews are our brothers so instead of fighting with them, which should try and make peace.
- ❖ Just as Prophet Ibrahim (A) used different techniques to preach the word of Allah (swt), we should also try and use a variety of ways to call others to the true path. One way is by our Akhlaq.

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LESSON 11: PROPHET ISMA'IL (A)

When Prophet Isma'il (A) was born, his father Prophet Ibrahim (A) was 86 years old. The newborn son was the apple of his father's eye and when Sarah watched the two of them, she was sad that she could not have a child.

After a time, she could not bear to see Hajira and her son and she asked Prophet Ibrahim (A) to take them away to another place. On the command of Allah, Prophet Ibrahim (A) brought Hajira and Prophet Isma'il (A) to Makka. In this desert he left his wife and baby in the care of Allah and returned to his home in Palestine.

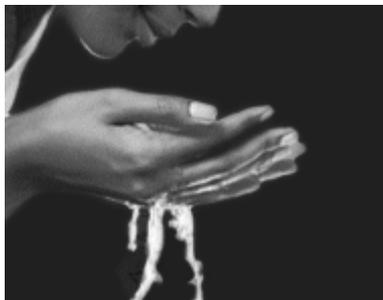
According to the Holy Qur'an, he prayed:

“O our Lord! I have left part of my family in a valley where nothing grows, close to Your Holy House. Our Lord! This is so they can set up prayer. So make the hearts of the people kind towards them and provide them with fruits so that they may be grateful.”



Ibrahim, 14 : 37

Although Hajira was alone in the desert, she had learnt from her husband to trust in Allah and be patient. When she became hungry and thirsty and could no longer feed her baby, she tried to look for water, searching between the hills of Safa and Marwah, but she was unsuccessful. Finally, she returned to her baby, disappointed. Suddenly, she saw that a stream of water was flowing out from where Prophet Isma'il (A) had struck the ground with his foot. She was very happy and drank to her fill.



Meanwhile, the water had attracted a flock of birds. The people of the tribe of Jarham, who lived nearby, were following the birds in search of water. When they saw Hajira and Prophet Isma'il (A) alone in the desert, they invited them to come and live with their tribe.

Hajira and Prophet Isma'il (A) began to live with the tribe of Jarham. Sometimes, Prophet Ibrahim (A) used to visit them. On one of his visits when Prophet Isma'il (A) was 13 years old, Prophet Ibrahim (A) dreamt that he was sacrificing his son. It was the 8th of Zilhaj, also known as Yawme Tarwiyah (The Day of the First Dream). Prophet Ibrahim (A) often received Allah's commands in his dreams, but because he was being asked to actually kill his son, he wondered whether it was real.

On the next day he saw the same dream and was now sure that it was a true command. Thus, the 9th of Zilhaj is known as Yawme Arafaat (The Day of Sure Knowledge).

The Holy Qur'an says:

"And when (Isma'il) became Baaligh, he (Ibrahim) said, "O my son! I saw in a dream that I am sacrificing you. What is your view?" He (Isma'il) said, "O father! Do as you have been commanded. If Allah wills, you will find me from the patient ones."

Saffat, 37 : 102

Prophet Ibrahim (A) took a rope and a knife, and led his son into the desert. On the way, Shaitan appeared in the form of an old man, and tried to convince Prophet Ibrahim (A) that he was making a terrible mistake in killing his son. Three times Shaitan came, and each time Prophet Ibrahim (A) made him go away by throwing seven small stones at him.



When they reached Mina, Prophet Ibrahim (A) laid his son on the ground and took the knife. Prophet Isma'il (A) saw how distressed his father was at having to kill him, so he said,

"O my father! Tie my hands and legs so that I do not struggle. Put a blindfold over your eyes so that you do not have to see me die and tighten your cloak so that my mother does not see my blood splattered on your clothes. Make your knife sharp so that you can do your job quickly. That way I will feel no pain."

Prophet Ibrahim (A) did as his son requested, and then cut the throat of his son. But when he removed the blindfold, he was surprised to see his son standing safe besides him and that he had slaughtered a male sheep instead.

The Holy Qur'an says:

And We called out to him, "O Ibrahim, Indeed you have proved your dream true. This is how We pay back people who do good. Indeed this was a clear trial, and We ransomed him with a Great Sacrifice. And We gave (this blessing) to one from the later times." Peace be upon Ibrahim.

Saffat, 37 : 104 - 109

Thus Allah told Prophet Ibrahim (A) that He was rewarding him for his faith by saving Prophet Isma'il (A). Instead of his son, the blessing of sacrifice in the Way of Allah would be given to a person in the future.

This person was none other than Imam Husain (A), who sacrificed himself, his family members and his friends on the plains of Kerbala for the sake of Islam.

After his son had been saved, Prophet Ibrahim (A) left for Palestine to return to Sarah. Allah made the actions of Prophet Ibrahim (A) and his family Wajib for all Muslims. **Thus, when we go for Haj, we walk between Safa and Marwah just as Hajira did. We also go to Mina and offer an animal for sacrifice and stone the Shaitans.**

On one of his visits, Prophet Ibrahim (A) was ordered by Allah to rebuild the Holy Ka`ba, which had broken down.

The Holy Qur'an says:

"And Ibrahim raised the foundations of the House (Holy Ka'aba) with Isma'il, (praying), "O our Lord! accept this from us. You are the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing."

Baqarah, 2 : 127

The two of them built the Holy Ka`ba together. Prophet Isma'il (A) carried the stones and Prophet Ibrahim (A) paved them in place. The angel Jibraeel (A) guided them at every step and showed them where to put the Holy Black Stone. It still remains in the same place today.

QUESTION BOX

❓ What is the Arabic name for the Black Stone?



After the building was ready, they performed the Haj. Prophet Isma'il (A) settled in Makka and lived there all his life. Our Holy Prophet Muhammad (S) is from his descendants.

RESEARCH BOX

❓ Who built the Kaba the first time and why did it get destroyed?

Now you know...

- ◆ For the sake of Bibi Sarah (A), Prophet Ibrahim (A) took Bibi Hajirah (A) and their son Prophet Ismail (A) to the desert of Makka and left them there.
- ◆ After running out of food and water, Bibi Hajirah (A) ran from mountains Safa and Marwa in search of water, something we perform at Hajj. She then saw that a stream of water was flowing out from where Prophet Isma'il (A) had struck the ground with his foot.
- ◆ The tribe of Jarham who lived close by invited them to live with them and Prophet Ibrahim (A) would often visit.
- ◆ On one visit Prophet Ibrahim (A) dreamt that he was sacrificing his son and both him and Prophet Ismail (A) accepted this as the will of Allah. The day of the second dream is known as Yawme Arafat.
- ◆ On the way to Mina, Shaitan appeared and tried to convince Prophet Ibrahim (A) not to sacrifice his son but Prophet Ibrahim (A) made him go away by throwing stones at him, something that we practise at Hajj.
- ◆ Prophet Ibrahim (A) blindfolded himself and performed the sacrifice, but on removing his blindfold he found that Allah (swt) had replaced Prophet Ismail with a sheep. We also perform a sacrifice in Hajj.
- ◆ Instead of his son, the blessing of sacrifice in the Way of Allah was given to Imam Husain (A).
- ◆ Prophet Ibrahim (A) and Prophet Ismail (A) also rebuilt the Kaba.

MORAL BOX

- ❖ Prophet Ibrahim (A) had so much faith in Allah (swt) that he was ready to kill his own son. Do we open-handedly accept the tests given to us by Allah (swt)?
- ❖ While fulfilling the Wajibat of Hajj, remember to understand the significance of what you are doing and this is outlined in this lesson.

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

LESSON 12: PROPHET YA'QUB (A)

Allah says the following about Prophet Ibrahim (A) in the Holy Qur'an:

And We bestowed on him Ishaq, and Ya'qub as an additional gift, and made them righteous. And We made them leaders to guide (the people) by Our command; and We inspired them to perform good deeds and observe their moral obligations and pay Zakaat; and they obeyed Us.

Anbiya, 21:72,73

Prophet Ishaq (A) was the younger son of Prophet Ibrahim (A), by his wife Sarah. Prophet Ishaq (A) married his uncle's daughter Rafqa, and they were blessed with twin sons, Isu and Prophet Ya'qub (A).

Prophet Ya'qub (A) was much loved by his parents and this made his twin brother jealous. To prevent trouble between the brothers, Prophet Ishaq (A) advised Prophet Ya'qub (A) to migrate from their home in Palestine to Fidaan Aram, where his maternal uncle Labaan lived. In Fidaan Aram he went into the service of his uncle. He later married his uncle's daughter Lay'ah.

QUESTION BOX

❓ Which other son of a Prophet was Jealous of his brother?

After the period of service was over, Prophet Ya'qub (A) left with his family and property to return to Palestine. In Palestine, Prophet Ya'qub (A) sent presents to his brother to indicate good-will, and his brother accepted them and welcomed him warmly. In time, the grudge between the brothers was forgotten.

QUESTION BOX

❓ Why did Prophet Ya'qub give his brother presents?

Prophet Ya'qub (A) decided to make his home in the land of Kanaan and Allah blessed him with twelve sons.

His twelve sons became famously known as the "Grandchildren of Ishaq"

His second wife, Raheel died early and therefore Prophet Ya'qub (A) always regarded her sons Binyameen and especially Prophet Yusuf (A) with particular affection. His love for Prophet Yusuf (A) was later to become a source of jealousy for his older sons who determined to do away with their younger brother.

But Allah chose Prophet Yusuf (A) to be His Messenger and protected him from the evil intentions of his brothers.

Now you know...

- ◆ Prophet Ishaq (A) was blessed with twin sons, Isu and Prophet Ya'qub (A).
- ◆ Prophet Ya'qub was much loved by his parents, which made his twin brother jealous. Prophet Ya'qub was advised by his Father to migrate to Fidaan Aram where his maternal uncle lived.
- ◆ In Fidaan Aram Prophet Ya'qub married his uncle's daughter Lay'ah.
- ◆ After a while Prophet Ya'qub and his Family moved back to his Father's land in Palestine. Prophet Ya'qub sent his brother gifts as an act of good-will and the grudge between the brothers was forgotten.
- ◆ Prophet Ya'qub made his home in Kanaan where he had twelve sons who were known as "children of Ishaq".
- ◆ He had two sons from his second wife, Prophet Yusuf and Binyameen. Their mother died early so Prophet Ya'qub gave them a lot of affection which later became a source of jealousy for the older sons, especially towards Prophet Yusuf.

MORAL BOX

- ❖ You should not be jealous of anyone, especially your own family member because it will only lead to hatred.

❖ _____

LESSON 13: PROPHET AYYUB (A)

Prophet Ayyub (A) was the grandson of Prophet Ishaq (A) son of Prophet Ibrahim (A) and his wife was the granddaughter of Prophet Yusuf (A).

Allah gave him many blessings:

- **He had a large flock of sheep**
- **A lot of Land**
- **He had Many children**
- **He was respected by his people**



Prophet Ayyub (A) was generous with his wealth and took care of orphans and used to provide food for the poor. He was mindful of the needs of all and especially his relatives, whom he always treated kindly. For all his bounties, Prophet Ayyub (A) remained ever grateful to Allah.

On seeing the devotion of Prophet Ayyub (A) to Allah, Shaitan decided to try to lead him astray. Since he was dealing with a Prophet, Shaitan requested Allah for power over Prophet Ayyub's (A) affairs and said,

"O Allah, while Ayyub enjoys your blessings he remains grateful to you. But give me control over his affairs and I will make him turn away from you."

Allah was fully aware of the patience and steadfastness of Prophet Ayyub (A), but as a trial for His Prophet and as a lesson for mankind, he granted Shaitan's request.

Shaitan came down to earth and caused:

- **the destruction of all Prophet Ayyub's (A) animals**
- **His property**
- **He killed his children as well.**

However, Prophet Ayyub (A) turned to Allah with even greater intensity than before.

When Shaitan saw his plot defeated, he caused:

- 1. Prophet Ayyub (A) to lose his health and be got with a severe disease. Seeing the troubles befalling Prophet Ayyub (A),**
- 2. His people began saying that he must had done something awful to deserve the punishment of Allah and they began to avoid him.**
- 3. Finally he was exiled from his community and had to leave the town.**

Prophet Ayyub (A) began to live in the wilderness and passed his time praying to Allah. His only companion was his wife Rahma, who supported them by doing odd-jobs in people's houses.

Several years passed and Shaitan watched helplessly as Prophet Ayyub (A) remained steadfast in his devotion and prayers to Allah. Finally, he decided that he would try Prophet Ayyub's (A) patience through his wife.

QUESTION BOX

❓ Why was Shaitan feeling so helpless and defeated?

One day Shaitan came in the form of a human being to Rahma and told her that he knew of a way to cure her husband of his terrible disease. He told her to take a sheep and slaughter it in his name instead of the Name of Allah . He claimed that its meat would immediately cure Prophet Ayyub (A).

When she came back and suggested this treatment to her husband, he instantly realised what had happened.

He said to her,

"Has the enemy of my Lord misled you? Pity on you! How many years did we enjoy a life of happiness due to the Mercy of Allah?"

She replied,

"Eighty years."

He said,

"And how long have we been under this trial?"

She said,

"For seven years."

Then Prophet Ayyub (A) told her angrily,

"Why should we not bear all this for the same period of time as we lived happily? By God! if I am relieved of my afflictions I will flog you with a hundred lashes for your evil suggestion."

He then told her to go away and leave him alone.

QUESTION BOX

❓ Why did Shaitan decide to try Prophet Ayyub's patience through his wife?

Finally, Prophet Ayyub (A) turned to Allah and complained about Shaitan's repeated efforts to make him forsake his beliefs.

The Holy Qur'an says:

(Remember) Ayyub when he called to his Lord, "I am afflicted with distress and You are the Most Compassionate of all." So We heard his cry and relieved him of the misery he was in.

Anbiya, 21 : 83, 84(Part)

Allah accepted the prayers of Prophet Ayyub (A) and cured him of all his troubles.

The Holy Qur'an says:

(And We said to him) "Stamp your foot on the ground. This stream is for you to wash with, (and) a cool and (refreshing) drink." And we gave him his family and more like them; a mercy from Us and a reminder for those with understanding. And it was said to him, "Take in your hand a bunch of (thin) sticks (like fibre) and strike (your wife) with it, so as not to break your oath." Verily, We found him steadfast, an excellent servant. Verily, he turned to Us often.

Saad, 38 : 42 - 44



Prophet Ayyub (A) struck the ground with his foot and a stream of water came out. When he washed himself with the water he saw that his sickness disappeared and he returned to normal. His wife Rahma was worried about him, but when she returned she was amazed to see him restored to his former health.

Allah then restored Prophet Ayyub (A) to his former prosperity. He was blessed with many children and more followers than he had before.

There is a great lesson for us in the patience shown by Prophet Ayyub (A). He suffered his hardship without bitterness, and submitted himself to the will of Allah, Who rewards plentifully those who remain steadfast in seeking His pleasure.



Now you know...

- ◆ Prophet Ayyub was the grandson of Prophet Ishaq
- ◆ Allah blessed Prophet Ayyub with a lot of wealth, land large flock of sheep and many children
- ◆ As a result Prophet Ayyub was generous and always remained Grateful to Allah
- ◆ Shaitan wanted to lead him astray, so he asked Allah for Power over Allah's affairs. Allah agreed.
- ◆ Shaitan caused destruction of his animals, property and children. He also made Prophet Ayyub lose his health and get a severe disease.
- ◆ The people of the town began to avoid him as they thought he was being punished for something he had done. He was told to leave his town.
- ◆ However Prophet Ayyub turned to Allah with even greater intensity.
- ◆ Shaitan decided to try Prophet Ayyub's patience through his wife Rahma.
- ◆ He appeared in the form of a human being and told Rahma that she can cure his disease by giving him meat that was slaughtered in his name instead of Allah.
- ◆ We she told Prophet Ayyub of such a treatment he was very angry and realised that it was the work of Shaitan.
- ◆ Prophet Ayyub prayed to Allah and he was cured of all his troubles.
- ◆ He then got back his wealth and there after had many children and more followers than before.

MORAL BOX

- ❖ We have many problems in life but we should always have faith in Allah and be submitted to his will. He is the only one who will help us and reward us.

❖ _____

LESSON 14: PROPHET DAWOOD (A)

The Bani Israa'il, who had been brought out of Egypt by Prophet Musa (A), had settled in the land of Palestine. However, they were constantly engaged in war against the Philistines who finally managed to banish them from their homes.

In the last battle, the Sacred Casket containing the original Tablets of the Tawrat was lost, and this greatly demoralised the Bani Israa'il. They spent many gloomy years in exile before they approached Prophet Samuel (A) and asked him to appoint a strong king for them so that they could regain their land.

On the command of Allah, Prophet Samuel (A) appointed Taalut (Saul) as their king. The Bani Israa'il protested at this choice, saying that Taalut was a poor and unknown man. However, Prophet Samuel (A) informed them that Taalut had been chosen because of his knowledge, wisdom and strength, and he would undoubtedly lead them to victory.



It took Taalut 20 years to relocate the Sacred Casket and once it was restored to the people, they marched to Palestine. The Philistines were led by a fearsome commander, a huge man by the name of Jaalut (Goliath). The sight of Jaalut filled the Bani Israa'il with dread and none dared to fight him.

Prophet Dawood (A) was present in the army of Taalut. He was only a young man at the time, and had not come to fight. His job was to attend to his three older brothers who were soldiers, and to bring news of the war back to their father. When Taalut saw that Jaalut had terrified his army, he tried to encourage his men by promising them great rewards if they faced Jaalut. He promised that he would marry his daughter to the man who killed Jaalut.

Drawn by the commotion at the battlefield, Prophet Dawood (A) left his post and came to find out what was going on. When he saw the scene, he approached Taalut and said,

"I am fit to fight this devil because I have killed a tiger and a bear that attacked my father's sheep."

The brave words of Prophet Dawood (A) touched Taalut, who dressed him in a coat of armour and warned him to be careful.

QUESTION BOX

 **Why do you think Taalut was touched by the words of Prophet Dawood (A)**



Before Prophet Dawood (A) approached Jaalut, he removed the heavy armour which was restricting his movement. He stood before the enemy, armed only with a catapult and the staff with which he used to guide his sheep. Before Jaalut could react to this challenge, Prophet Dawood (A) had shot a stone from his catapult. The stone struck Jaalut's forehead with terrible force and brought him to the ground in a daze. Prophet Dawood (A) then drew Jaalut's heavy sword and cut off his head. The sight of their champion dead crushed the Philistines, who deserted the battlefield in panic.

In appreciation of the extraordinary courage of Prophet Dawood (A), Taalut married him to his daughter Mikaal.

The Holy Qur'an says:

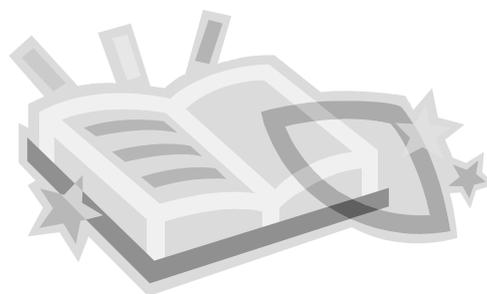
Through Allah's Will, they defeated their enemy. Dawood slew Jaalut and Allah granted him the kingdom and wisdom...

Baqarah, 2: 251(Part)

Prophet Dawood (A) was made commander-in-chief of Taalut's army and his close friendship to Taalut's son Yunathan, made him very powerful and popular in the land. After Taalut's death Prophet Dawood (A) became the king.

Prophet Dawood (A) was given many blessings by Allah:

- ◆ **Allah gave him wisdom and the Divine Book, Zaboor (Psalms), which he used to recite in a melodious voice to attract the people to the words of Allah. When he used to praise Allah, the mountains and the birds would also join him.**
- ◆ **Iron was like wax in his hands, and he used to design and mould special, light-weight battle armour made of iron ringlets joined together. By selling these to the army, he earned his livelihood.**



The Holy Qur'an says:

Indeed We granted Dawood a favour, saying, "O Mountains! sing the praise of Allah along with him, and O Birds!, you too." And We made iron soft for him.

Saba, 34 : 10

RESEARCH BOX

❓ **What are the differences in the story of Prophet Dawood and Jaalut between Islam and Judaism?**

Now you know...

- ◆ The Bani Israa'il had settled in Palestine after they left Egypt with Prophet Musa (A). However they were constantly at war with the philistines who banished them from their homes.
- ◆ The Bani Israa'il's Sacred casket containing the original tablets of the Torah was lost. On the command of Allah Prophet Samuel was told to appoint Taalut as the king of the Bani Israa'il who would guide them back to their land.
- ◆ It took Taalut 20 years to relocate the sacred casket and then marched to Palestine to claim their land. The Philistines were led by a fearsome commander, Jaalut and none dared to fight him.
- ◆ Prophet Dawood was present in the Army of Taalut and was not there to fight but to attend to his three older brothers.
- ◆ Jaalut terrified Taalut's army. Talaalut promised his army rewards to fight Jaalut and that the the killer of Jaalut could marry his daughter.
- ◆ Prophet Dawood came forward to fight. He was armed with a catapult and a staff. Before Jaalut could react to the young man, Prophet Dawood shot a stone from his catapult that struck Jaalut's forehead. Jaalut fell to the ground and then Prophet Dawood drew Jaalut's heavy sword and cut off his head.
- ◆ The philistines deserted the battlefield. Dawood became very popular in the land and after the death of Taalut he became the King.
- ◆ Allah gave him wisdom and a divine book, Zaboor (Psalms), which he used to recite in a melodious voice. The mountains and the birds would join in praising Allah.
- ◆ Prophet Dawood was given many blessings by Allah one of which, Iron was like wax in his hand and he used to mould armour made from iron ringlets.

MORAL BOX

- ❖ When you have full faith in Allah you can conquer anything in his way, no matter how small you are.
- ❖ If you do something only for the sake of Allah you will be granted with favours from Allah.

❖ _____

LESSON 15: PROPHET SULAYMAN (A)

Prophet Sulayman (A) was the youngest son of Prophet Dawood (A) and inherited him. Allah granted him the greatest kingdom that any king has ever ruled over.

1. ***He had control over the wind and could use it to direct his throne through the air.***
2. ***Both men and jinn served him faithfully***
3. ***He could order the birds to carry out his commands by speaking to them in their own language.***



As a result of these special blessings, Prophet Sulayman's (A) kingdom was very powerful and many countries were under its control. When the army of Prophet Sulayman (A) marched on a mission, it was an awe-inspiring sight.

The Holy Qur'an describes one such episode as follows:

Sulayman's army consisting of men, jinn and birds were gathered together in his presence in ranks. When they arrived in the valley of the ants, an ant said (to the others), "O ants, enter your dwellings lest you are crushed by Sulayman and his army by mistake."

Naml, 27 : 17,18

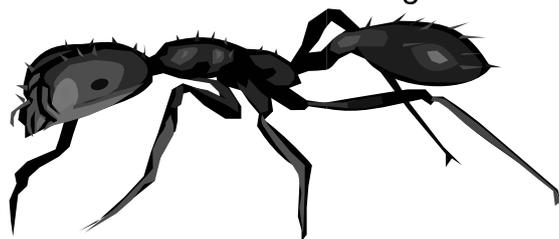
Prophet Sulayman (A) heard the warning of the chief of the ants and asked it to come forward.

He said to it,

"Did you think that a Prophet of Allah would ever harm any of His creatures?"

The ant replied,

"No I did not, but I was worried that when my fellow ants would see the grandeur of your army, they would underestimate their own bounties from Allah and become ungrateful. It is for this reason that I asked them to hide out of sight."



QUESTION BOX

❓ **How did Prophet Sulayman hear and understand what the chief of the ants said?**

One day Prophet Sulayman (A) noticed that his messenger bird, Hud Hud (a Hoopoe bird) was missing.

The Holy Qur'an says:

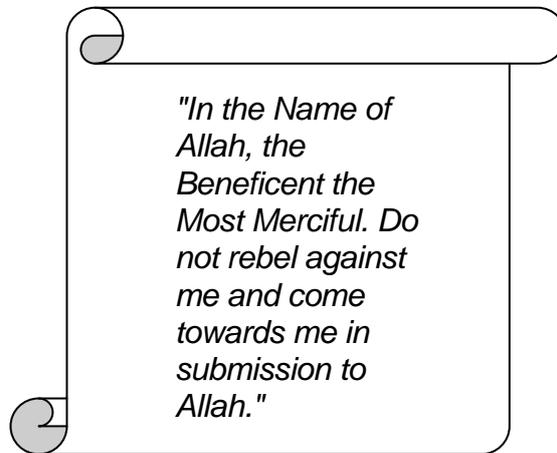
And (Sulayman) inspected the birds and said, "How is it that I cannot see Hud Hud. Is he absent? I shall certainly punish him severely or slaughter him unless he has a good reason (for his absence).

Naml, 27 : 20,21

It was not long before Hud Hud appeared, saying,

"I have been to a country about which you may know nothing. The country is Saba (Sheba) and it is ruled by a woman who has complete control over her people. Her throne is especially grand. However, they all worship the sun and have forsaken Allah."

Prophet Sulayman (A) sent a letter to Bilqees, the Queen of Saba, saying,



When Bilqees received the letter, she asked her ministers about their opinion on the matter. They replied that they had powerful armies and they were not afraid to go to war, but the final decision was in her hands.

Bilqees wanted to settle the matter peacefully so she sent her messengers to Prophet Sulayman (A) with costly gifts and waited for his reaction. When the representatives of Saba arrived in the kingdom of Prophet Sulayman (A), they were amazed to see the splendour of his buildings and palace.

Prophet Sulayman (A) welcomed them and asked for the reply to his letter. When they presented him with the gifts, he impatiently put them aside, and told them,

"What are these riches? I have been given such bounties from Allah that are possessed by none. Return to your country and inform your Queen that I am sending such an army towards Saba that no one will be able to withstand."

When Bilqees received this message and the report about Prophet Sulayman's (A) power, she decided to submit herself before him and accept his invitation to embrace Islam.

When Prophet Sulayman (A) learnt that she was coming to his kingdom, he turned to his people and said,

"Who amongst you can bring me the throne of the Queen of Saba before she herself gets here?"

One jinn said,

"I will bring it before you rise from your place."

But Asife Barqiah, who had been taught the special Name of Allah by Prophet Sulayman (A), said, according to the Holy Qur'an:

Said he who had some knowledge of the Book, "I will bring it to you before your eye blinks", and when he (Sulayman) saw the throne settle beside him, he said, "This is by the Grace of my Lord so that He may test whether I am grateful or ungrateful..."

Naml, 27 : 40(Part)

RESEARCH BOX

? Asife Barqiah is described in the Quran as the one who had some knowledge of the "Book", which book is the Quran referring to?

In preparation for the arrival of Bilqees, Prophet Sulayman (A) had ordered a palace of glass to be built. Under the glass floors, there was a pool of water with various kinds of fish swimming in it. When Bilqees arrived, he took her to the palace. The Holy Qur'an says:

She was told, "Enter the palace."; but when she saw it she thought there was a pool of water and bared her legs. (Sulayman) said, "Indeed this is but a place of glass." (She) said, "My Lord! verily I have been unjust to myself. I submit with Sulayman to Allah, the Lord of the worlds."

Naml, 27 : 44

Bilqees was fooled by the appearance of water and hitched up her dress to her knees to save it from getting wet. When she realised her mistake, she at once understood the subtle point that Prophet Sulayman (A) was making to her.

He was showing her that things are not always what they seem, and even if the sun she worshipped was the most powerful force she could see, there was another, more powerful, Force behind it.

The intelligent lady understood the message and turned to Allah in repentance and faith.

Prophet Sulayman (A) then returned her to Saba and allowed her to rule in his name.

Prophet Sulayman (A) ruled over his people with justice for a long time. His power extended across most of the known world. This unique blessing was in response to his prayer which is recorded in the Holy Qur'an:

He said, "O my Lord! Forgive me and grant me a kingdom such as shall not befit anyone after me, verily You are the Granter of bounties (without measure).

Saad, 38 : 35



RESEARCH BOX

❓ **Who is the Queen of Sheba? Are there differences in what the Jews and Christians believe to what the Qur'an tells us?**

Now you know...

- ◆ Prophet Sulayman is the youngest son of Prophet Sulayman and Allah granted him the greatest kingdom ever. He had control over the wind; he could order birds to carry out his commands by speaking in their language; both jinn and men served him faithfully.
- ◆ Prophet Sulayman's army was awe inspiring. When they were once marching through the valley of the ants Prophet Sulayman over heard the chief of ants to hide in their dwellings because the chief feared that the ants would underestimate their own bounties in seeing the Grandeur and splendour of the army.
- ◆ Once Prophet Sulayman's messenger bird, Hud Hud, appeared to him and informed him of a country that was ruled by a woman; Bilqees, the Queen of Saba. But they all worshipped the Sun.
- ◆ Prophet Sulayman sent a letter to Bilqees to submit towards Allah. When she received the letter she wanted to settle the matter peacefully so she sent him costly gifts.
- ◆ Prophet Sulayman was not happy to receive the gifts as Allah had granted him with everything. He sent an army towards Saba. Bilqees decided to accept his invitation and made her way to Prophet Sulayman.
- ◆ Prophet Sulayman wanted Bilqees's throne to arrive in his kingdom before her. Asife Barqiah, who had been taught the special Name of Allah and had some knowledge of the Book said he could bring it with a blink of an eye. And that's what he did.
- ◆ Prophet Sulayman also ordered a glass palace to be built which had a pool of water with various kinds of fishes under the glass floors.
- ◆ When Prophet Sulayman took Bilqees to the palace she lifted her dress up as to avoid getting it wet. She then realised things are not as they seem, so the most powerful force that she could see, the sun was not as great as the force behind it, Allah. She asked for repentance and submitted to Allah.

MORAL BOX

- ❖ When you see greatness and luxury do not forget your own rewards given to you by Allah and always be thankful to him.
- ❖ Things are not always as they seem. Allah is the best of planners and he is all knowing.

❖ _____

LESSON 16: PROPHET YUNUS (A)

Prophet Yunus (A) was sent by Allah to the people of Naynivah (Babylon) to guide them on the right path. The people of Naynivah were idol worshippers, and although Prophet Yunus (A) tried night and day to explain to them how useless their worship was, they did not accept his advice. He tried to convince the people to believe in one God. He even warned them of Allah's punishment if they continued in their sinful ways, but they refused to give up their idol worshipping. They said

"You are a liar. Our forefathers have always worshipped these idols and we will do the same."

"O Yunus, do not bother yourself about us. We neither believe in your Lord. nor do we

RESEARCH BOX

❓ Which country is Babylon found in today?

At last Prophet Yunus (A) was fed up with these stubborn people. He asked Allah to send His punishment on them and walked out of their town.

However, Prophet Yunus (A) had made a mistake because his anger had caused him to leave the people before he had received the command of Allah to do so.

After his departure, the signs of Allah's punishment appeared over Naynivah. A huge cloud came over the whole area and the land was plunged into darkness.

The people at once realised that they were about to be punished for their sins. A wise man from amongst them advised them to ask for Allah's forgiveness at once, before they were all destroyed.

All the people, young and old, men and women, came out of their homes and sincerely begged Allah to forgive them. Allah accepted their prayers and withdrew His punishment.

QUESTION BOX

❓ What commands of Allah do we give up just because we cannot carry on anymore?

Meanwhile, Prophet Yunus (A) had gone a long distance and had reached the sea. There he saw some people in a boat that was ready to sail. He requested them to allow him to join them. Since he looked like a very respectable person, the passengers of the boat cheerfully welcomed him on board.

In the sea, the boat was suddenly caught up in a heavy storm. It was in danger of going under and the captain said that unless they reduced the weight load, they would all drown. It was agreed that one person would have to be thrown overboard. To decide who that person would be, the passengers cast lots. The first time the lot fell to Prophet Yunus (A), but since he was considered to be a dignified person, the lots were cast again.

When the lot fell to Prophet Yunus (A) the second time, they had no choice but to throw him overboard. At that moment, Prophet Yunus (A) realised his mistake in walking out on his people without waiting for the command of Allah.

He knew that his present problems were due to that mistake but he trusted in the Wisdom of Allah and jumped into the stormy sea.

In the meantime, Allah commanded a large fish to swallow Prophet Yunus (A) into its belly. Prophet Yunus (A) suddenly found himself in the stomach of the fish, and he lay there, frightened but unharmed. The Holy Qur'an says:

Yunus was certainly a Messenger. He abandoned his people and sailed away in a full ship where the people cast lots. Because he lost, he was thrown in the water. The fish swallowed him up and he deserved (all this). Had he not glorified Allah, he would certainly have remained inside the fish until the Day of Resurrection.

Saffat, 37 : 139 - 144



Prophet Yunus (A) spent several days and nights inside the fish while it swam across the sea. In the darkness of the stomach of the fish Prophet Yunus (A) prayed to Allah to forgive him for his mistake and his prayers were accepted.

The Holy Qur'an says:

Zan Nun (Yunus) went away in anger and thought We would never have Power over him, but in darkness he cried, "Lord! You are the only Lord whom I glorify. I have certainly done wrong to myself so forgive me." We answered his prayer and saved him from his grief. Thus do We save the faithful ones.

Anbiya, 21 : 87,88

The fish went to the seashore and vomited out Prophet Yunus (A) safely onto the ground. Prophet Yunus's (A) body was badly burnt by the acids inside the fish and Allah caused a plant to grow whose leaves healed Prophet Yunus (A) and whose fruits fed him. Soon Prophet Yunus (A) had regained his health and he was commanded to return to Naynivah.

When he went back he was amazed to see that the people had given up their idol worshipping and were worshipping Allah. His people welcomed him and he spent the rest of his life preaching and leading them on the right path.



QUESTION BOX

❓ Why did Allah put Prophet Yunus in such a trial even though he tried his best to guide the people?

Now you know...

- ◆ Prophet Yunus was sent to the people of Naynivah to stop them worshipping Idols and believe in one God. They did not listen to him even when he warned the of Allah's Punishment.
- ◆ Prophet Yunus got fed up of the stubborn people and asked Allah to punish them and he left the town.
- ◆ A large cloud came over the people and they realised they were going to be punished, so they asked for forgiveness.
- ◆ Prophet Yunus joined a group of people on a boat. In the sae the boat was caught in a heavy storm and the men had to over throw one person to lighten the load. When they drew lots, both times Prophet Yunus's name came.
- ◆ Prophet Yunus was overthrown and he realised his mistake of leaving the people of Nayniva.
- ◆ He was swallowed by a large fish and he spent several days and nights. He prayed very hard for Allah's forgiveness.
- ◆ Allah accepted his dua and the fish vomited Prophet Yunus out on the sea shore. Allah made a special plant grow to heal his skin that had been burn by the acids in the fishes stomach.
- ◆ When Prophet Yunus went back to the town he found all the people were worshipping Allah.

MORAL BOX

- ❖ We should always follow Allahs commmands. We should not give up just because we cannot carry on anymore.