

وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ

37:181

ANCIENT PROPHETS

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 2

Prophet Ṣaleḥ (as)

Allah (SWT) sent many prophets to help guide the people to the right path. There were 124000 prophets sent to mankind. All of the prophets had different responsibilities. Some of them were sent to small communities, some of them to large communities and some of them to the entire world. Some prophets came with a book of Allah (SWT) like the Injil and the Qur'an, and others had no book. Therefore it is easy to see that some prophets had a much bigger job to do than others. However all the Prophets had the same message, and that was to worship none other than Allah (SWT). One of such Prophets was Prophet Ṣaleḥ (as).

PROPHET ṢALEḤ

Prophet Ṣaleḥ (as) was sent to a small community of people called the tribe of Thamūd. The tribe of Thamūd used to live happily in the land of Ḥajar which was located between Syria and Ḥejaz. They were enjoying the green gardens, big springs and rivers, the productive land and beneficial animals of this country.



Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Discuss the story of Prophet Ṣaleḥ (as) in detail
- Discuss the main messages that Prophet Ṣaleḥ (as) delivered to his people
- Understand that we must respect the signs of Allah (SWT), and never show arrogance towards them
- Discuss the story of Prophet Hūd
- Discuss the lessons from the story of this prophet

However these people used to worship idols such as statues made from wood. More and more people would get used to worshipping idols as their god. Because of this, Allah (SWT) appointed Prophet Şaleḥ (as) to guide these people to the right path. Prophet Şaleḥ (as) was a pious man of a noble and respectful family. He was well known for his knowledge and wisdom. One day, he addressed the whole tribe and said :

"O' my people! Worship the Almighty for he is the Most kind and there is no God rather than him. It is He who has created you from the clay and made this land productive for you. Ask forgiveness from Him and repent to His greatness for He is so close to you and the only one that will respond to your prayers."

The people were not happy with Prophet Şaleḥ (as) and they said to him:

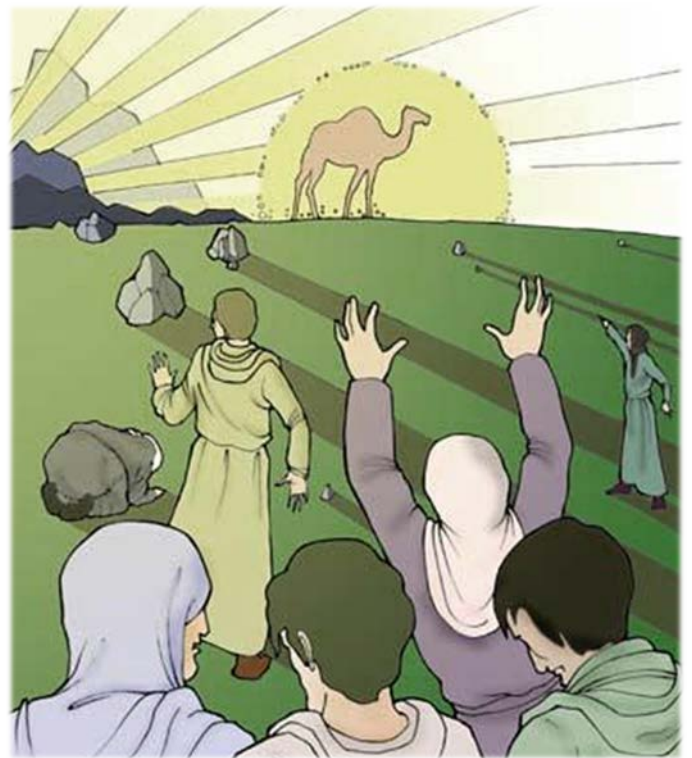
"O Şaleḥ (as), you used to be a wise and logical man in this tribe and we thought we could depend on your wisdom at the time of terrible events and calamities. Now you are asking us to reject what our fathers used to worship"

Prophet Şaleḥ (as) replied: " You have to fear God. Accept my words and don't obey the idol worshippers, for they spread corruption on the earth and never do any good."

The People then said: "You have lost your wisdom and sense of logic. You are a human being just as we are, aren't you? What advantage or superiority have you got over us that has made you wiser than us and enabled you to claim that you are a prophet appointed by God. If your words are true, bring us a sign or a miracle to prove the righteousness of your claim. "

So the people wanted Prophet Şaleḥ (as) to perform a miracle which would prove that he was a prophet indeed.

At this point, Allah (SWT) gave permission to Prophet Şaleḥ (as) to perform a miracle. The people gathered to witness this miracle. To their amazement, a young camel suddenly appeared through a mountain.

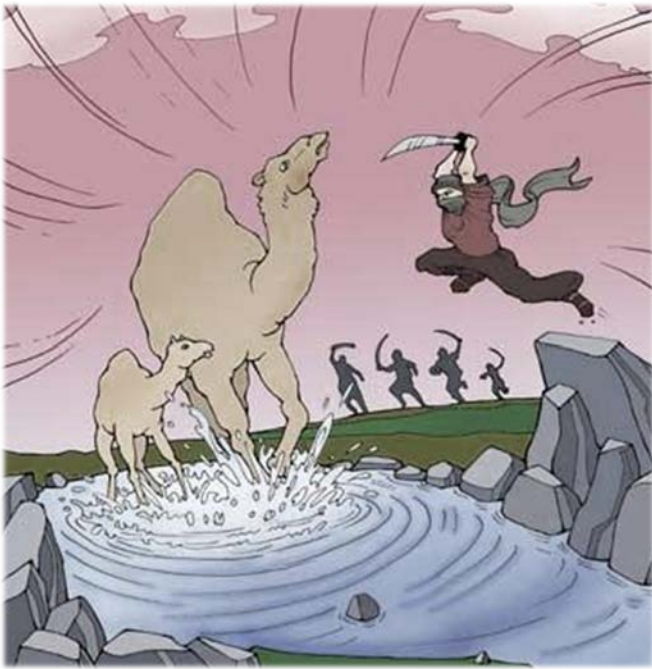


Prophet Şaleḥ (as) then said to the people:

"You people! This is the camel of God which shall serve as a token of His presence and a miracle to prove the righteousness of my prophet-hood and invitation. So leave this camel on its own to graze in God's land and feed on the grass and vegetables. Don't do it any harm for otherwise a great torment will soon fall upon you."

But even after this miracle, most people still did not believe in Prophet Şaleḥ (as). Those who did not believe in what Prophet Şaleḥ (as) was saying to them, wanted to kill the camel, thinking they could destroy the miracle of God. They planned to do this a couple of times, but failed because they were afraid something harmful might happen to them. However one day, some young men determined to kill the camel. While the camel was busy drinking water, they shot her by an arrow which hit her in the leg and caused her to fall down. Then they drew their swords, attacked and killed her. When Prophet Şaleḥ (as) heard about this, he turned to the people and said :

"Enjoy your life in your houses for three days, for you will have a terrible death after these days. This is a certain and exact promise that will not be belied or delayed."



However, these ignorant people continued their usual life style by worshipping idols, and did not take the words of Prophet Ṣaleḥ (as) seriously. They even decided to kill Prophet Ṣaleḥ (as). However, Allah (SWT) completed His promise and sent a fierce punishment to them. A storm came which left them dead in their own houses. This was a due punishment for their arrogance and their attack against the signs of God.

PROPHET ṢALEḤ'S MAIN MESSAGE

What is the main reason for us to learn this story? Why do we need to learn the stories of the prophets? This is because every story has a lesson for us to learn from. Prophet Ṣaleḥ (as), just like all other Prophets had a message to deliver. His message was to warn the people against worshipping idols, and to believe in Allah (SWT).

The particular lessons we learn from this story are:

1. Listen to Allah's prophets and obey them. In this day and age, we do not have prophets showing us miracles, but we do have the miracle of the Qur'an which is a living miracle, and hence we should try and follow it as much as we can.
2. We need to respect the signs of Allah, and we should not show arrogance towards them like the people of Thamud did. When Allah(SWT) ordered to keep away from a certain camel, it was not because that camel was special in itself, but it was because it was a sign of God. Therefore, we should know what are the special signs of God and respect them.

Review Questions

Q1. What was the name of the tribe of the people during Prophet Ṣaleḥ's (as)time?

- a. Bani 'Abbas
- b. Thamud
- c. Quraysh

Q2. Why did Allah (SWT) punish the people of this tribe?

- a. Because they disbelieved in Allah and there were not going to be any more believers
- b. Because they killed the she-camel, and went against what Allah's will
- c. Because they were becoming too wealthy

Prophet Hūd (as)

Allah (SWT) sent many prophets to help guide the people to the right path. There were 124000 prophets sent to mankind. All of the prophets had different responsibilities. Some of them were sent to small communities, some of them to large communities and some of them to the entire world. Some prophets came with a book of Allah (SWT) like the Injil and the Qur'an, and others had no book.

PROPHET HŪD

Prophet Hūd (as) was one such Prophet that was sent down by Allah (SWT) to a particular community in order to spread the word of Islam. The community he was sent down to was called 'Ād. His main job just like all the other Prophets was to stop the people from worshipping idols and to worship none other than Allah (SWT).

وَالِىٰ عَادِ أَخَاهُمْ هُوْدًا قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللّٰهَ مَا لَكُمْ مِنْ اِلٰهِ غَيْرُهُ اَفَلَا تَتَّقُوْنَ

“To the 'Ād people, (We sent) Hūd, their brother. He said: O my people! Worship Allah! You have no other god but Him. Will you not be conscious of Allah?”

Let us take a look at the story of Prophet Hūd (as).

The people of Prophet Hūd (as) were noble Muslims who settled down in Arabia and lived pious lives. However as

time went by, some of their children drifted away from the way of Islam.

They forgot the guidance of Allah and began worshipping idols, drinking alcohol, gambling, and cheating on each other.

One group of Prophet Hūd's (as) tribe was called 'Ād. Instead of Allah, the people of 'Ād worshipped idols—statues and other things which they had made with their own hands.

They believed that each idol fulfilled a different need. According to them, all the powers that really belonged to Allah (SWT) were divided among these many gods. They believed that their idols were giving them everything they needed.

The people of 'Ād were tall, handsome, and strong people. They were excellent architects and skilled engineers. They liked to build castles and magnificent buildings, and they planted beautiful gardens and orchards. But they didn't realize that their abilities and the natural resources around them were gifts from Allah (SWT). In spite of all the blessings Allah (SWT) had given them, they denied His power.



These people would cheat when selling their goods in the markets, and would get the poor people to pay much more than the actual price, so that they would make more money. They were greedy and didn't care about the poor people among them.

Allah (SWT) chose one man from among them to be a Prophet. This man was named Prophet Hūd (as). He tried

to teach the people of 'Ād that there is only one God and that everything is from Him.

Rain, shelter, food, water – all this belonged to Allah (SWT). Prophet Hūd (as) told them again and again to stop worshipping their idols.

He begged them to live according to Allah's (SWT) laws. He warned them about Allah's (SWT) punishment of those who disobeyed Him, and especially for those who worshipped false gods. He said to them:

"O my people! I am not asking for reward from you. I am simply sent by Lord of the worlds to warn you and call you back to the path of truth and goodness. If you ask for forgiveness from Allah (SWT) and change your ways, He will make you stronger than you are now. He will give you plenty of rain and He will accept you. You must not continue your evil ways."



Most of the people of 'Ād were not ready to listen to Prophet Hūd (as). They told him, "You're crazy! We know that we are not going to be punished and destroyed like the people of Prophet Noah."

However, Prophet Hūd (as) knew that Allah's (SWT) punishment would come to his people. After trying to convince them, he decided to leave the land with people who listened to his message and believed in Allah (SWT)

As soon as Prophet Hūd (as) left this village, a large cloud appeared in the sky. The people of 'Ād were very happy to see it, because they thought that it would bring rain to their desert land. Little did they know that Allah (SWT) was sending a terrible wind-storm through the clouds.

The clouds grew larger and larger as the wind howled louder and louder. The air was full of dust and sand. The wind blew so violently that the people ran into their big houses and beautiful castles to hide. But nothing could save them from the punishment of Allah (SWT). The storm raged for eight days and seven nights. Their houses were filled with sand and all the people were destroyed. Then the wind blew all the sand back across the desert.

There was nothing left except the big empty houses of 'Ād which the people had proudly built but ended in a disaster.

وَأَتَّبِعُوا فِي هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا لَعْنَةً وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ إِلَّا إِنْ
عَادًا كَفَرُوا رَبَّهُمْ إِلَّا بُعْدًا لِعَادٍ قَوْمِ هُودٍ

“And they were pursued by a Curse in this life,- and on the Day of Judgment. Ah! Behold! for 'Ād rejected their Lord and Cherisher! Ah! Behold! removed (from sight) were 'Ād the people of Hud!”

The only people from 'Ād who were saved from the storm were those who had left with Prophet Hūd (as). The children of these believers grew up to become good Muslims who believed in Allah (SWT) alone and lived honest lives.

Having learnt about the story of this noble Prophet, we can derive a few lessons for us to learn from. They are:

WE SHOULD NOT BE ARROGANT

Many times we feel like things are going well in our life, and that we are too smart, too beautiful, or too strong to be hurt by anyone or anything. This is a type of arrogance.

Whenever a feeling like this comes, we should always remember that we are not stronger and mightier than the people of 'Ād, who built huge buildings and were strong and beautiful. Allah (SWT) destroyed them in seven short days when He willed to do so, and He can do the same to us if we are arrogant.

SUBMISSION TO ALLAH (SWT)

From the story of Prophet Hūd (as) we learn that the people were not submissive to Allah (SWT), and that as soon as they became rich, they forgot all about their religion and their God. This is a lesson for us to learn from, that regardless of the situation, we must always believe obey Allah (SWT) completely and absolutely, and give control of our life to him in this way. This is the meaning of submission.

Class activity:

(See worksheet at end of lesson)

For today's activity, you will be given a sheet of paper which has a table of the seven days of the week. The title at the top is:

I can be humble by:

Every day starting from tomorrow until your next class, write down one thing that you have done to show your humility. Humility is the opposite of arrogance. We show humility to Allah (SWT) by realising that He has Power over us, and that we must obey Him.

Some examples of being humble include:

- Praying
- Being kind to our parents and obeying them
- Being kind to our brothers and sisters

Review Questions

Q1. What was the name of the community that Prophet Hūd (as) was sent to?

- Thamūd
- Sydney
- 'Ād

Q2. The people of this community were very:

- Nice and friendly
- Arrogant and wouldn't listen to Prophet Hūd (as)
- Religious

Q3. What was the main Message that Prophet Hūd (as) brought to his people?

- To worship idols
- To worship Allah (SWT) only
- To be arrogant and rude to the rest of the people.

I CAN BE HUMBLE BY:

Saturday	
Friday	
Thursday	
Wednesday	
Tuesday	
Monday	
Sunday	

