

السَّلَامُ عَلَى دَاوُدَ نَبِيِّ اللَّهِ

PROPHET DĀWŪD (DAVID)^{AS}

نبي الله داود (ع)

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

Level 2

Prophet Dāwūd (David) (as)

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah (SWT) says:

“O Dāwūd, surely We have placed you as a successor on Earth...” (38:26)

Prophet Dāwūd (as) was a prophet and a vicegerent of Allah (SWT) on Earth he was also the father of Prophet Solomon (as). Allah (SWT) revealed to Prophet Dāwūd (as) the book of al-Zabūr (Book of Psalms). He also gave Prophet Dāwūd (as) the ability to mould iron, an ability no one had the in past.

Later in his life, Prophet Dāwūd (as) also became a king and owned a great kingdom .However, he never forgot that all his virtues were from Allah (SWT) and always remained humble towards Him.

THE STORY OF PROPHET DĀWŪD (AS) & GOLIATH

Prophet Dāwūd (as) was from a tribe called the Israelites. This was the same tribe that Prophet Moses (as) had rescued from the Pharaoh in Egypt. The Israelites now lived in the land of Palestine. However, they were constantly fighting with a group of disbelievers who were trying to remove them from their land. After a long period of living in fear from the disbelievers, the Israelites asked the Prophet of the time to appoint a leader for them who would give them victory against the disbelievers.

“...when they said to a Prophet of theirs, "Appoint for us a king and we will fight in Allah's Way."(2:246)

On the command of Allah (SWT), their Prophet appointed Ṭālūt as their king. When they heard who had

Objectives:

Students should:

- Be introduced to Prophet Dāwūd (as) a prophet of Allah (SWT)
- Be introduced to some of the virtues of Prophet Dāwūd (as)
- Discuss the story of David and Goliath

been appointed, the Israelites were not happy that a poor and unknown man was now their king. They had wanted someone rich and famous.

However, Prophet Samuel informed them that Ṭālūt was chosen for his wisdom & knowledge and that he would lead them to victory.

“And their Prophet said to them, "Indeed Allah has appointed Ṭālūt as a king over you." They said, "How can he be a king over us when we are better fitted than him for the kingdom, and he has not been given enough wealth." He said: "Verily, Allah has chosen him above you and has increased him abundantly in knowledge and stature. And Allah grants His Kingdom to whom He wills. And Allah is All-Sufficient for His creatures' needs, All-Knower."(2:247)

Ṭālūt proved his knowledge and physical power to his people. Yet even then, most people still refused to help him or join his army. Only a small group went with him. Even for this small group, Allah (SWT) had another tough test waiting.

On the way to the battlefield, with the army thirsty and tired, they reached a river. Ṭālūt wanted to test his soldiers so he said to them: ‘whoever drinks more than a handful of water from the river must leave the army’. Most of the soldiers could not tolerate this. They drank water to their fill and they left the army.

Now, the army of the believers was so small, in comparison to the large army of the disbelievers. The important thing though was that this group had faith in Allah (SWT) .

“So when he (Ṭālūt) had crossed the river, he and those who believed with him, they said: We have today no power against Jālūt (the leader of the enemy) and his forces. Those who were sure that they would meet their Lord said: How often has a small party beaten a large army by Allah's permission, and Allah is with the patient.” (2:249)

By the time the army of Ṭālūt reached the battlefield, they had been joined by Prophet Dāwūd (as). Some narrations say that he was a young boy, who was not even there to fight. However, he showed his bravery and strength, and went to face the leader of the enemy Jālūt (Goliath). He fought Goliath and killed him, with the help of Allah (SWT).

After this, Prophet Dāwūd (as) became a leader for his people. Eventually, he became not only their Prophet, but also their king.

“...so they beat them by Allah's Leave and Dāwūd (as) killed Goliath, and Allah gave him the kingdom and Wisdom, and taught him of that which He willed”
(2:251)

LESSONS FROM THIS STORY

If you noticed during this story that on seeing Goliath and knowing how powerful he was the army of Israelites were scared to fight him. However, Prophet Dāwūd (as), who was so still so young had complete trust in Allah (SWT). He went forward to fight the scariest enemy, knowing that Allah (SWT) would help him. Of course, he succeeded.

The other lesson we learn is that Allah (SWT) helps those who remain patient and trust in Him. Such a small army defeated such a large and scary army because they had:

- Patience
- Faith in Allah (SWT)
- Trust in Allah SWT

If we have these three things in our life, then Allah (SWT) will always help us and guide us.

ACTIVITY

Using the words in the box, fill in the blanks:

- 1) The Holy Book of _____ was revealed to Prophet Dāwūd (as).
- 2) The name of the strong man who was killed by Prophet Dāwūd (as) was _____
- 3) Allah (SWT) gave Prophet Dāwūd (as) the ability to soften _____
- 4) Prophet Dāwūd (as) was the father of Prophet _____.

Sulayman	Goliath	Iron	Zabur
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Review Questions

Q1) Why was the army of the Israelites too scared to fight the disbelievers?

- a) Because their commander Goliath was a strong & powerful commander
- b) Because they were not prepared
- c) Because they didn't have enough weapons