

# السَّلَامُ عَلَى نُوْحٍ نَبِيِّ اللَّهِ

## PROPHET NŪH<sup>[A.S.]</sup>

### نبي الله نوح (ع)

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 3

### Prophet Nūh (Noah as)

#### Objectives >>>

#### Students should:

- Be introduced to Prophet Noah and review his position as one of the law-making prophets
- Review the details of the story of the mission of Prophet Noah
- Discuss the issue of Prophet Noah's son and its morals
- Discuss further Prophet Noah's quality of perseverance on the right path as above

In previous years we were introduced to Prophet Noah (as) and learnt that he is one of the five principal law-making (ulūl 'azm) prophets that Allah (SWT) has sent as a guide for humanity. In this lesson we will revisit the story of Prophet Noah and look at some lessons that we can learn from it.

### THE STORY OF PROPHET NOAH

Noah was sent as a prophet and messenger to his people and had the responsibility of guiding them to the right path. His people worshipped idols which they believed were God. However, Noah taught them to worship Allah (SWT) and showed them about the right path. He used many different methods and tried very hard to guide all of his people. He was teaching his people for almost 1000 years.

Despite the time Prophet Noah spent with his community, only 80 people believed in him. Most of his community called him a liar and mocked him. After doing everything he could to guide his people, Prophet Noah's mission was coming to an end. The disbelievers in his community asked Noah to bring on Allah's punishment if he was truthful. Allah ordered Noah to build an ark and take aboard all of the believers as well as a pair of each animal in his area. After they had all boarded, Allah sent a huge flood which drowned all the disbelievers of Noah's community, leaving only those on board the ark alive.

### THE PROPHET'S SON

Imagine we have very blessed and religious parents who are of very high status in the eyes of Allah. Does this mean that we will automatically be given heaven no

matter what our actions may be? The answer of this question can be discovered from the story of Prophet Noah's son. His son refused to believe in Allah (SWT) and did not board the ark of his father even when the flood has begun. Allah (SWT) drowned Noah's son in the flood despite him being the son of a Prophet, showing us that our own actions are what matter and not who our family is. We are responsible for what we do and must be careful of our deeds.

## **PERSEVERANCE IN ALLAH'S CAUSE**

Prophet Noah is a symbol of patience and perseverance from whom a lot can be learnt. Perseverance means staying on the path of a good cause and not giving up, despite facing pains and difficulties. Prophet Noah (as) preached the religion of Allah (SWT) to his people for 950 years despite only 80 people believing in him. He worked for the sake of Allah (SWT) through all the difficulties and pains that the disbelievers gave him for all these long years, and Allah describes this in the Holy Qur'an:

“He said: O my Lord! Surely I have called my people by night and by day! And whenever I have called them that You may forgive them, they put their fingers in their ears, cover themselves with their garments, and persist and are puffed up with pride: Then surely I called to them aloud: Then surely I spoke to them in public and I spoke to them in secret...”<sup>i</sup>

We must learn from Prophet Noah and persevere in serving Allah and doing good deeds. Sometimes we may go through many difficulties while trying to follow our religion such as when our classmates mock us, but we must stay firm and persevere and know that Allah will aid us.

When we make a decision to do something good, whether it is religious or not, we should not give up as soon as we face a hard obstacle. Instead, we should be patient and keep working hard. For example, if we decide we will wake up to pray Fajr prayer on time every morning, we should try to sleep early, set our alarms and overcome the sleepiness in the morning. If one night we are tempted to stay up, or one morning we feel extremely tired, we should not simply give up. We should remember our determination to pray on time and overcome the pain and difficulty.

Similarly, if a person decides, for example, to be a top-level sports person. That person cannot sleep in, be lazy, eat junk food and so on. Instead, that person has to be up early to train every morning, maintain a good diet and have a lot of motivation. If they face difficulties or fail sometimes in their quest, they do not give up, instead coming back to try again and again.

The following story demonstrates the quality of perseverance very nicely. A great Muslim scholar narrates the following story: ‘I have learnt firm determination from an insect called ‘Bijju’. Once I was sitting near a clean and shining pillar in the Masjid when I observed that a tiny insect was attempting to climb the upright stone pillar to reach a lamp that was on the top. I kept sitting the whole night and observing until dawn how relentlessly that insect was struggling to climb up the slippery column. I counted 700 attempts when he was falling down from the middle of the path because the pillar was very smooth and glassy. His legs could not hold on. I was extremely astonished to see the extraordinary determination of that little worm. As it was time for Fajr Prayer I got up from my place, made ablution and engaged myself in worship. After concluding my prayers I looked back toward the pillar to find to my absolute astonishment that, as a result of its perseverance and untiring effort the insect had achieved its aim and was sitting close to the burning light!”

### **Review Questions**

**Q1. Prophet Noah is one of the five:**

- Principal law-making prophets
- Imams of Ahlul Bayt
- Messengers

**Q2. Prophet Noah's son:**

- Did not drown because he was the Prophet's son
- Drowned because of his disbelief in Allah
- Boarded the ark

**Q3. Perseverance means:**

- Doing good deeds
- Serving Allah
- Working hard to achieve something despite the pains and difficulties involved.

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<sup>i</sup> Holy Quran, Surah Noah Verses 5-9