

السَّلَامُ عَلَى دَاوُدَ نَبِيِّ اللَّهِ

PROPHET DAWŪD (DAVID ^{AS})

نبي الله داود (ع)

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Be introduced to Prophet Dāwūd (as) as a sinless prophet of Allah (SWT)
- Discuss the story of David and Goliath
- Discuss example of Prophet Dāwūd's (as) wise judgment
- Discuss the importance of judging fairly between people
- Discuss some of the narrations regarding the humility of Prophet Dāwūd (as)

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

JUNIOR LEVEL

Prophet Dawūd (David as)

As we have previously learnt, Allah (SWT) has sent many Prophets to mankind in order to guide us and show us the right path. One of our sinless prophets who faced many challenges in his time was Prophet Dāwūd (as).

PROPHET DĀWŪD

Prophet Dāwūd (as) lived around 3000 years ago in the current land of Palestine. He was both the King and the Prophet of the Israelites. The Israelites are the same people that Prophet Moses (as) rescued from the Pharaoh in Egypt and brought to Paletine.

Prophet Dāwūd (as) had a holy book, called al-Zabūr, or the Psalms of David.

DĀWŪD & 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 lied 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 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.

THE JUSTICE OF DAWUD

When Prophet Dāwūd (as) became the king, he was known for his justice. There is one particular story that shows his justice and wisdom.

There was a shepherd who owned a flock of sheep. One day, he neglected his sheep and they went into his neighbour's fields and destroyed all his plants and fruit. These two men came to Prophet Dāwūd (as) to judge between them.

Allah (SWT) had given Prophet Dāwūd (as) great wisdom and fair judgement. Based on this wisdom and fair judgement, Prophet Dāwūd (as) made the following decision: the shepherd's sheep would be given to the farmer who would use their milk and wool for one year. The land of the farmer would be given to the shepherd for one year so he can re-plant it and benefit from its plants and fruits.



Both men were happy with this just and fair decision. Neither man was disadvantaged or unfairly punished. They both managed to keep their livelihood.

FAIR JUDGEMENT

It is very important in Islam that we treat each and every person fairly and that we do not take the rights of one another. Allah (SWT) loves those who are fair and just.



“...if you do judge, judge between them justly. Allah loves the just.” (5: 42)

As we can see in the above āyah, Allah (SWT) has commanded us to judge between people with justice and fairness when we are in a situation where we have to make a judgement. This is very important because we are responsible to uphold the rights of every single human being and we are not allowed to be cruel or unfair to anyone. But how can we be fair in our judgements? Here are some basic guidelines.

1. First listen to both sides of the story, allowing both people to say their version of exactly what has happened. This is important because we tend to describe situations in the way that would benefit ourselves, and both sides should have the equal opportunity to give their own account of the event.
2. Make sure that you do not make a judgement based on your relationship with one of the two people involved, favouring them because you know them. It is important that you be a neutral referee when presented with a dispute.
3. Base your judgement on only the facts and separate the facts from opinion and emotions.

FEAR & HUMILITY OF DĀWŪD

Even though Prophet Dāwūd (as) was a great prophet and a king and had such an elevated status in Allah’s sight, he was very humble and had immense fear of the majesty of Allah (SWT).

It is narrated that once the people thought that Prophet Dāwūd (as) was sick and visited him, only to find out that he was well but was displaying distress simply out of his fear for Allah (SWT). This was because he was not of the arrogant who were proud of their actions and was very

humble, and understood how great the Majesty of Allah (SWT) is compared to him.

This is a very important lesson for our lives as no matter how good we are or how many good deeds we do, we should never become arrogant and think that we are righteous or that we are granted heaven. We should consider ourselves and our acts as very small in front of Allah (SWT), and continue performing all our good deeds with the hope that Allah (SWT) accepts them from us.

Review Questions

Q1. What is an important lesson from the battle of David & Goliath?

- a. That those who place their trust in Allah (SWT) and fight for the truth will be successful despite their size.
- b. That we should be scared of fighting for the sake of Allah (SWT)
- c. That we should fear the enemies of Allah (SWT).

Q2. When judging between people we should:

- a. Listen to only one side of the story.
- b. Always rule in favour of our friends.
- c. Be neutral and listen to both sides of the story.

Q3. After performing good deeds we should:

- a. Be certain that they are accepted and that we are going to heaven.
- b. Go and show off about them to all our friends.
- c. Hope that Allah (SWT) accepts them from us and continue performing them.