

السَّلَامُ عَلَى سُلَيْمَانَ نَبِيِّ اللَّهِ

PROPHET SULAYMĀN (AS)

(ع) سليمان نبي الله

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

PRIMARY LEVEL

PROPHET SULAYMĀN (AS)

One of the Prophets of Allah (SWT) mentioned in the Quran is Prophet Sulaymān (as), who was the son and heir of Prophet Dāwūd (as).

In the Quran in Surah Naml (The Ants) Allah (SWT) says:

“We gave knowledge to David and Solomon, who said: ‘Praise be to God, Who has favoured us over many of His servants who are believers’; Solomon was David’s heir...” (27:15-16)

PROPHET SULAYMĀN AND THE PEOPLE OF SABA’

During the reign of Prophet Sulaymān (as), there was another kingdom, called Saba’. It was ruled by a woman named Bilqīs.



Prophet Sulaymān (as) had the power to understand the speech of birds, was informed of this through one his hoopoe bird.

“And [one day] he looked in vain for [a particular one of] the birds; and so he said: How is it that I do not see the hoopoe? Or could he be among the absent? [If so,] I will punish him most severely or will kill him unless he brings me a convincing excuse!” (27: 20-21)

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Be introduced to Prophet Sulaymān (as) as a sinless Prophet of Allah (SWT)
- Discuss the story of Prophet Sulaymān (as) and the people of Saba’
- Discuss the great powers given by Allah (SWT) to Prophet Sulaymān (as)

“But [the hoopoe] tarried but a short while; and [when it came] it said: “I have encompassed [with my knowledge] something that thou hast never yet encompassed [with thine] - for I have come to you from Saba’ with certain news. Behold, I found there a woman ruling over them; and she has been given [abundance] of all [good] things, and hers is a mighty throne, And I found her and her people worshipping the sun instead of God. Satan has made their actions seem good to them...” (27:22-24)

It is very clear according to these verses that when the hoopoe narrated the situation in the kingdom of Sheba, that it had complete understanding that that Allah (SWT) was the Creator of the world, and the only One fit to be worshipped. This bird understood this Truth more than the humans of the people of Saba’.

THE LETTER TO BILQĪS

After the hoopoe related this to Prophet Sulaymān (as), the Prophet decided to send a letter to the Queen and see her response.

“...Go with this my letter and convey it to them; and thereafter withdraw from them and see what [answer] they return.” (27:28)

The letter began with the name of Allah (SWT):

“In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Dispenser of Grace: [God says:] Exalt not yourselves against Me, but come unto Me in willing surrender!” (27:30-31)

On receiving the letter from Prophet Sulaymān (as), Bilqīs decided to consult her people before making her decision of replying with precious gifts to Prophet Sulaymān (as).

This is the point where she does not submit straight away but instead asks her noblemen to make the decision for her thus showing her hesitation. She then shows her pride by discussing the power of her kingdom and the fact that it may be ruined by Sulaymān (as).

When the gifts reached Sulaymān (as), he said:

“Do you people mean to add to my wealth? But that which God has given me is [so much] better than all that He has given you! Nay, it is [only such as] you that would rejoice in this gift of yours...” (27:36-37)

THE POWERS GIVEN TO SULAYMĀN

(AS)

When news reached Bilqīs that the Prophet was not happy with her actions, she agreed to come to the land of Sulaymān

(as). Prophet Sulaymān (as) wanted to show her a miracle. So he asked his ministers:



“O you nobles! Which of you can bring me her throne before she and her followers come unto me in willing surrender to God? Said a bold one of the Jinn: “I shall bring it to you before you stand from your seat, for, behold, I am powerful enough to do it, [and] worthy of trust!”. (Yet) the one who had knowledge of the Book said: “as for me - I shall bring it to you before you blink.” And when he saw it truly before him, he exclaimed: “This is [an outcome] of my Lord’s bounty, to test me as to whether I am grateful or ungrateful!” (27:38-40)

This being who submitted to Allah (SWT) and His will, was able to perform this miracle of bringing the throne of Bilqīs clearly shows us that Allah (SWT) can give great power to those who submit to His will. It is also important to note that despite the amazing power Prophet Sulaymān (as) had, he remained grateful and humble towards Allah (SWT).

If his ministers could perform much miracles, imagine what he could do. In fact, the Qur’an says that all animals, and even the wind, and the Jinn, were all under the control of this great prophet. Yet he never became arrogant or unjust.

BILQĪ SUBMITS

When the Queen reached the land of Prophet Sulaymān (as), she saw her throne before her. She was amazed that her heavy and large throne could be transported so quickly from one land to another far-away land. She began to submit to Allah (SWT). Later on, she walks through the castle of Prophet Sulaymān (as), and when she reaches a certain place, she thinks there is water on the floor and so she lifts her clothes. However, she then realises it is glass, which was made to seem like flowing water. No ordinary person had the ability to build something like this at that time, and so she submitted completely to Allah (SWT):

“She said: ‘My Lord! Verily I have been unjust to myself, and I surrender with Solomon to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds’.” (27:44)

Review Questions

1. Prophet Sulaymān (as) was the son of which Prophet?

- a. Prophet Job
- b. Prophet David
- c. Prophet Jacob

2. What were the Queen of Saba and her people worshipping before being guided to the right path?

- a. Animals
- b. The Sun
- c. The Water

3. What best describe the powers that Prophet Sulaymān (as) had?

- a. He could interpret dreams and had the knowledge of everything.
- b. He had the inward knowledge and the interpretation of all things.
- c. He had the control of the wind, the jinn and could speak the language of the birds.

ⁱ Sources:

- 1. www.islamicity.com
- 2. <http://www.maaref-foundation.com/english/index.htm>
- 3. <http://www.islam101.com/history/people/prophets/sulaiman.htm>
- 4. www.harunyahya.com