

MIFTAAH SEMINAR

KINGS, PROPHETS, AND FAMILY



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SESSION 1

Introduction

- The stories of Prophets were not simply sent down for us to benefit, but they were sent to the Prophet SAW.
 - We have the stories of the Prophets, the companions, and the Prophet SAW himself to guide us through our lives.
 - Allah SWT sent the stories of the previous Prophets as a guidance for the Prophet SAW when he would face a struggle.
 - In the Conquest of Mecca, the Prophet SAW had to make the decision between responding with justice and avenging the people of Mecca for all of the harm they caused the Muslims, or to forgive them.
 - Allah SWT told the Prophet SAW through Surah Yusuf how Yusuf AS forgave his brothers after all of the harm they caused him and this was an example for how he should deal with the people of Mecca.
- The Prophet SAW was always reminded through the Quran that forgiveness was the best option, and this was the option he always chose.
 - After the Battle of Uhud, which was one of the most difficult days for the Prophet SAW in Madinah, Allah SWT reminded him of the troubles of the previous nations.

إِنْ يَمَسُّكُمْ قَرْحٌ فَقَدْ مَسَّ الْقَوْمَ قَرْحٌ مِّثْلَهُ ۗ وَتِلْكَ الْأَيَّامُ نُدَاوِلُهَا بَيْنَ النَّاسِ
وَلِيَعْلَمَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَيَتَّخِذَ مِنْكُمْ شُهَدَاءَ ۗ وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الظَّالِمِينَ

(3:140) If a wound has befallen you a similar wound has already befallen the people who are opposed to you. We make such movements to men in turn so that Allah might mark out those who are the true men of faith and select from among you those who do really bear witness (to the Truth): for Allah does not love the wrongdoers

- Through this ayah, Allah SWT reminded the Prophet SAW that he was not the only person who was challenged, but there were people before who were also challenged.
- When the Prophet SAW entered Mecca at the Conquest of Mecca, he said the same statement which Yusuf AS to his brothers, "There will be no revenge today."
- These stories are also given to the Prophet SAW as a form of comfort.

الَّذِينَ يَسْتَمِعُونَ الْقَوْلَ فَيَتَّبِعُونَ أَحْسَنَهُ ۗ أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ هَدَىٰ اللَّهُ وَأُولَٰئِكَ
هُمُ الْأُولَاءُ

(39:18) to those who pay heed to what is said and follow the best of it.36 They are the ones whom Allah has guided to the Right Way; they are the ones endowed with understanding

- The Prophet SAW is told that the Prophets who came before are those who Allah SWT guided and in order to be guided, he must follow in their footsteps.
- If the Prophet SAW is being told to follow the Prophets who came before him, then it is necessary for us to study and learn from them as well.

The Life of Dawood AS

- Dawood AS is the father of Sulaiman AS.
- Dawood AS and Sulaiman AS are two Prophets which are commonly misunderstood due to the biblical narrations about them.
 - The Christians had specific Prophets which they disowned and spoke negatively about.
 - Of these were Dawood and Sulaiman AS.
 - Dawood and Sulaiman AS were the champions of the Jews of Bani Israel which the Christians did not appreciate, so they used different narrations in an attempt to discredit their honor.
- Dawood AS was mentioned 16 times in the Quran while Sulaiman AS was mentioned 17 times.
- Dawood AS lived for 100 years.
 - In a narration mentioned in Jami' At-Tirmidhi it is stated: When Adam AS was created, Allah SWT rubbed his back and from his back came many small beams of light which represented his children. He saw one light which was beaming the brightest and he asked Allah SWT who this light represents. Allah SWT told him that this light represented the Prophet SAW. Then he saw another light which was very bright and Allah SWT told him this was the light of Dawood AS. Adam AS asked how long Dawood AS will live and Allah SWT said 50 years (in some narrations 60 years). Adam AS asked to give 40 years of his own life to Dawood AS so that he could live for 100 years.
- Sulaiman AS lived between 50-60 years.
 - There are many narrations about the lifespan of Sulaiman AS but this is the most accurate.

Dawood's AS Journey with Talut

- Bani Israel are the children of Yacoub AS (Israel is another name for Yacoub).
 - They are famously known to be a nation of rebellious people.
 - They killed their prophets despite saying that they believed in them.
 - The Prophet SAW told us that every quality which Bani Israel had, we will also encounter.
- Bani Israel was living in Palestine with Yacoub AS.
 - Then Yusuf AS, the son of Yacoub AS, went to Egypt and lived a difficult life there until he became the treasurer of Egypt.
 - Yusuf AS then brought his 11 brothers and his parents to Egypt to live.
 - From these 12 brothers came 12 tribes of Bani Israel.
- Years after Yusuf AS passed away, Bani Israel turned away from Allah SWT and began to worship different things.
 - Eventually they became the slaves of Pharaoh and many of them were killed by him.
 - This was because they left the religion of Allah SWT which made them honorable and gave them kingdom in the past.
- Musa AS came to rescue the people of Bani Israel from this.
 - One of his main goals was to take them back to their home in Palestine.
 - Musa AS goes on a long journey with Bani Israel back to Palestine and when they arrive there, Bani Israel refuse to enter.
 - Musa AS passed away before they arrived to Palestine, so Bani Israel was being led by Yusha' AS.
- After Yusha' AS came a prophet named Hizqeel AS.

- After Hizqeel AS came Ilyas AS.
- After Ilyas AS came Yasa' AS.
- After Yasa' AS came Shamwail AS (Samual AS).
 - Bani Israel continued to disobey all of the Prophets which were sent to them and eventually Allah SWT sent them a leader named Jalut who destroyed them.
 - Jalut took all of the wealth of Bani Israel and left them.
 - Jalut was the leader of the army while the king's name was Bukhti Nasar.
 - Bukhti Nasar was one of the four kings in history who had rule over the entire world.
 - Any time that a nation became ungrateful and arrogant to Allah SWT, he SWT would send down a punishment in different forms.
- When Bani Israel is destroyed by Jalut, they go to their Prophet, Shamwail AS.
- Allah SWT says:

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الْمَلِكِ مِنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مُوسَى إِذْ قَالُوا لِنَبِيِّهِمْ إِنَّهُمْ إِنَّبَعْتُمْ لَنَا مَلِكًا نَقَاتِلْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ قَالَ هَلْ عَسَيْتُمْ إِنْ كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْقِتَالُ أَلَّا تُقَاتِلُوا قَالُوا وَمَا لَنَا أَلَّا نُقَاتِلَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَقَدْ أَخْرَجْنَا مِنْ دِيَارِنَا وَأَبْنَاؤُنَا فَلَمَّا كُتِبَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْقِتَالُ تَوَلَّوْا إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِّنْهُمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِالظَّالِمِينَ {٢٤٦}

Have you not considered the chiefs of the children of Israel after Musa, when they said to a prophet of theirs: Raise up for us a king, (that) we may fight in the way of Allah. He said: May it not be that you would not fight if fighting is ordained for you? They said: And what reason have we that we should not fight in the way of Allah, and we have indeed been compelled to abandon our homes and our children. But when fighting was ordained for them, they turned back, except a few of them, and Allah knows the unjust. [2:246]

- Allah SWT uses the word **الْمَلَأَ** which means 'a group'.
 - There are several words used in the Quran which also mean 'group', however, **الْمَلَأَ** specifically refers to an elite group of people.
- In this verse, Allah SWT does not mention the name of their Prophet, so we can not confirm that it was Shamwail AS, but through tafseer we gather that it was.
- Bani Israel went to Shamwail AS and asked him to as Allah SWT to send them a king so that they could fight and get their land back.
 - In the history of mankind, Prophethood and kingmanship was never found in the same person.
 - Since they already had a prophet, they were asking for a different person to be sent to be their king.
 - They wanted someone from amongst themselves to be chosen as the king.
- Shamwail AS responded to them by saying that they may bring up the idea to fight but then back down later on.
- Bani Israel responded by saying, "Why would we not fight when we have been removed from our homes?"
- When the sign that they must fight came to them, they turned away except for a few of them.
 - This is the first of four times which Bani Israel turned away.
- Their army started off with 80,000 people.

وَقَالَ لَهُمْ نَبِيُّهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ بَعَثَ لَكُمْ طَالُوتَ مَلِكًا قَالُوا أَنَّى يَكُونُ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ عَلَيْنَا وَنَحْنُ أَحَقُّ بِالْمُلْكِ مِنْهُ وَلَمْ يُؤْتَ سَعَةً مِّنَ الْمَالِ قَالَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَاهُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَزَادَهُ بَسْطَةً فِي الْعِلْمِ وَالْجِسْمِ وَاللَّهُ يُؤْتِي مُلْكَهُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ {٢٤٧}

[2:247] And their prophet said to them: Surely Allah has raised Talut to be a king over you. They said: How can he hold kingship over us while we have a greater right to kingship than he, and he has not been granted an abundance of wealth? He said: Surely Allah has chosen him in preference to you, and He has increased him abundantly in knowledge and physique, and Allah grants His kingdom to whom He pleases, and Allah is Ample-giving, Knowing.

- Allah SWT sent them a man named Talut.
 - He was an average person, not from among the elite.
 - He was a shepherd and most people did not know who he was.
- When Shamwail AS told them that Talut was their king, they said, "He has been made in charge of us when we are more deserving of that position."
 - They felt that they were entitled to this position because Shamwail AS was from a different family, so they thought the king would come from their family.
 - The Prophet SAW stated that there are certain people who should not be given leadership and one of those people are those who demand it.
- Bani Israel said that they would not follow him until they are given a sign.
- Allah SWT stated that He chose him because he is more knowledgeable than them and a body which is more capable of going in the path of Allah SWT.

- There are three things which Allah SWT says that He loves in this world:
 - A tongue which remembers Him
 - A heart which is grateful to Him
 - A body which is prepared to go through difficulty for the sake of Allah SWT.
 - In this verse, Allah SWT points out that Talut, although he may not be physically large and strong, has a body which can go in the path of Allah SWT because of his spiritual strength.

وَقَالَ لَهُمْ نَبِيُّهُمْ إِنَّ آيَةَ مُلْكِهِ أَنْ يَأْتِيَكُمُ التَّابُوتُ فِيهِ سَكِينَةٌ مِّنْ رَبِّكُمْ وَبَقِيَّةٌ مِّمَّا تَرَكَ آلُ مُوسَىٰ وَآلُ هَارُونَ تَحْمِلُهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّكُمْ إِن كُنْتُمْ مُّؤْمِنِينَ {٢٤٨}

[2:248] And the prophet said to them: Surely the sign of His kingdom is, that there shall come to you the chest in which there is tranquility from your Lord and residue of the relics of what the children of Musa and the children of Haroun have left, the angels bearing it; most surely there is a sign in this for those who believe.

- Allah SWT sent the Tabut as a sign.
 - The Tabut was a box which was given to Bani Israel.
 - It was a course of inspiration for them even though it did not physically help them.
 - Some scholars say that this box was the same one which was sent to the mother of Musa AS or her to put him in and send him in the river.
 - Musa AS had this box with him throughout his life and in it were pamphlets of the Torah.
- When Jalut destroyed Bani Israel, his army also took the Tabut with them.

- When Bani Israel lost this Tabut, they lost their source of inspiration.
- They told Shamwail AS that in order to be motivated again, they need their Tabut.
- Allah SWT explained what was in the Tabut Himself in the ayah above.
 - فِيهِ سَكِينَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ
 - It had sakinah (tranquility/comfort)
 - وَبَقِيَّةٌ مِّمَّا تَرَكَ آلُ مُوسَىٰ وَآلُ هَارُونَ
 - It had remains from Musa and Haroon AS.
 - Scholars say that it had the staff of Musa AS and the clothes of Haroon AS.
 - تَحْمِلُهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ
 - The angels brought the Tabut to Talut which was a sign that he was their leader.
 - When everyone saw the Tabut with him, they were in awe of him.