

NABI MOOSA (AS*) PART 4

*(We must always say Alayhis Salaam when we mention the name of a Prophet. It means, "May ALLAH - Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala's blessing and mercy be on him")

Story Number
23

My Dear Children,

In the last 3 issues of Al Mujaddid we read of Nabi Moosa and Nabi Harun (Alayhis Salaam). In the first issue we spoke of his birth, the dangers he faced, how he grew up in the comfort of the Pharaoh's palace and because he could not tolerate the injustices of the ruler he killed a soldier and had to flee from the palace and live a life in the desert with great difficulty and away from his family. In the second issue we spoke of his life in the desert, how he got married and how he and his brother were appointed as Nabis (messengers). They were given the nine ayat or signs from ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) to go back to Egypt to convince the Pharaoh to believe in the ONE GOD. We see that the Pharaoh did not accept his message and started showing Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) that he was better than his GOD. One of the main messages he brought was to worship only One GOD and also the punishment and difficulties that one will experience if one strayed from this path. The Pharaoh refused to accept the message although the nine ayat were shown to him. Finally Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) and the believers left Egypt and headed towards Arabia. They were caught between the Red Sea and the army of the Pharaoh. Let us now read how ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) protected them from the disbelievers. May ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) be pleased with Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) and open our hearts to follow his great example.

THE DANGER THEY FACED

The Pharaoh sent his messengers to all parts of his kingdom to encourage the others to join him in destroying Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) and all his believers, as they were the troublemakers causing great mischief in their land. Some of the people believed the Pharaoh and followed the army to wipe out the believers. When the angry cries of the army of over 1.5 million grew louder and louder and coming towards the believers they become frightened. The mothers gathered their children closer to them while others panicked and moved closer to the waters edge of the Red Sea. Some of the men approached Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) requesting him to do something to save all of them, as the Pharaoh will kill all 600,000 of them. Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) in a calm voice and full of faith said, "By no means! My Lord is with me. Soon HE will guide me," (26:62) and show me a way to escape from this danger.

THEY ARE SAVED

After he spoke he received the following instruction from ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala), "Strike the sea with thy rod." When he followed this commandment the waters of the Red Sea parted and made a huge wide path through the Red Sea to the other side. (26:63). As the believers hurriedly walked on the bed of the sea they were surrounded by a huge mountain or walls of firm water on their left and right hand side. Alhamdoelillah, all praises to Al Qadir (The Mighty), Al Muqtadir (The Powerful) and Al Hafiz (The Protector) for showering HIS mercy on the believers and also indicating very clearly to us today that, ALLAHU AKBER –ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) was the greatest at that time and will always be the greatest for all times.

When the Pharaoh and his army saw this happening they became enraged with anger and without any hesitation pursued the believers "in insolence and spite" (10:90) as their main aim was to kill every one of them. When the believers were all safely on the other side ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) commanded this firm wall of water to collapse on the Pharaoh, his chariots and his strong soldiers. When the Pharaoh and his host realised that they were now going to drown he called out, "I believe that there is no God except Him whom the children of Israel believe in," (10:90). Once again, we witness how the disbelievers react to the terror that is about to befall them. Al Hasib (The Reckoner) deals with the disbelievers after repeatedly warning them of the message and HIS commandments. In Verse 10 ayah 92 we are reminded that the body of the Pharaoh will be preserved or mummified as a sign for us all of the punishment to all who disbelieve in HIS signs.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

After crossing the Red Sea they went south through the desert of Sanai. At Mount Thur Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) was invited by ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) to come into the mountains for further revelations from the Creator on guidance for his people (7:142). Nabi Moosa appointed Nabi Harun (Alayhis Salaam) to take charge of the people while he went on his journey into the mountains of Thur. He informed his people that he will be away for about 30 days and in his absence he requested them to put their full trust in their Creator and believe firmly in the ONE and ONLY GOD.

After he reached Mt. Thur he spent a few days in the mountains. When he reached the appointed spot for his Lord to address him he said, "O my Lord! Show Yourself to me so that I may see You," (7:142). Having full mercy and compassion for HIS servant HE replied, "By no means can you see ME," (7:143) With further understanding HE demonstrated HIS answer by referring to the fate of the mountain. "I will allow you to see my face if the mountains over there will remain standing after they see my face." At that moment a mighty explosion took place and when the dust cleared this huge mountain was reduced to dust before his very eyes. When he saw this he accepted that his physical body, which is less resistant than the solid rock will not be able to withstand this vision, he immediately threw himself to the ground and prostrated calling out to his Lord, "Glory be to YOU. I turn to YOU in forgiveness and I will unquestionably believe," (7:143).

Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) was given the Taurat or Ten Commandments on the tablets and he was requested to, "Take these and hold on to the message with firmness and also encourage his people to follow all the guidance and warnings in all matters of life on earth." (7:145) *(According to the Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, pages 570 & 571 the Ten Commandments were:*

1. *Unity of God.*
2. *Prohibition of all forms of idolatry.*
3. *A prohibition of invoking God's name for curses or false oaths.*
4. *Sabbath day.*
5. *Maintenance of the family as a basic unit of society.*
6. *Not to take human life.*
7. *Adultery is prohibited.*
8. *Not to steal.*
9. *Avoid False witnesses*
10. *Avoid Envy for a person or property.)*

PEOPLE BECOME RESTLESS

When Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) spent a further 10 days in the mountains his people became uneasy. Samiri who joined the believers from Egypt decided that the time had come for him to do some mischief among the people. He informed the people, "Why are you waiting for Moosa? He had run away. He did not want to face all our troubles and the responsibility. Come bring me all your gold jewellery and let us melt it and make a calf of gold so that we can worship it like we did in Egypt." The people soon ignored the great ayat (signs) of the parting sea and the drowning of the disbelievers which they all witnessed not so long ago and started gathering all their gold to make a golden calf (7:148). When Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) came down from the mountains after the 40 days he saw that his people were busy worshipping this golden calf. He was furious and went straight to his brother Nabi Harun (Alayhis Salaam) and scolded him, "Brother why have you allowed this idol worshipping. Why did you not stop them." He explained that he tried to stop them, but the people would not listen and even threatened to kill him if he obstructed them. When Samiri was requested to answer for his role in this idol worshipping he said that it was his soul that drove him to do this. The golden calf was taken and burned to ashes.

Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) selected 70 of the elders and requested them to follow him into the mountains to the place where he was given the Taurat. When they were a short distance away from the meeting place the earth shook violently accompanied by deafening thunder and bright flashes of lightening that could have incinerated all of them to ashes. Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) prayed for mercy and asked forgiveness for the error of the foolish among them, (7:155).

This was a difficult group of people who always found fault and on many occasions insulted Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam). They moved on from this place and travelled northwards until they reached the desert of Paran close to the southern border of Palestine. They camped there and 12 men were selected to go out and look for a suitable place to settle. Some of these scouts went as far as Al-Khalil (Hebron) about 20 miles out of Jerusalem. This valley was green with lots of different kinds of fruit and food. They were very pleased with this area and took back with them bunches of huge grapes and oversize fruit to show their people who were camped in the desert.

The beautiful and delicious fruit and their description of the valley was enough to convince all, that this was the land that they could settle in. However they also indicated that the people living in this valley were huge and physically very strong to fight in order to take over their land. The two scouts, Joshua and Cebel advised the people to make this their home as it had everything that they needed. Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) encouraged his people to enter this valley, "O my people enter the holy land which ALLAH has given you and do not turn back shamefully for then you will be overthrown by your own ruin," ((5:21). They replied cowardly, "O Moosa in the land are people of great strength. We shall never enter it as long as they are there," (5:22,24). They refused and some even protested that they will go back to Egypt. One of them in a discourteous manner said, "Go you and your Lord and fight them while we sit here and wait," (5:24).

They were not prepared to fight and struggle for their inheritance. Their reaction and reply was full of insolence, blasphemy and cowardice. ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) punished them for refusing to obey the instructions of the Messenger. They were left to wander from place to place for the next 40 years without settling down in a permanent place. However, Ar-Rahim (The Merciful) was still Ar-Razzaq (The Provider) for these people. During this period of 40 years they were provided with Manna, a nourishing berrylike food and Salwa, a bird that provided them with meat. During this period the older folk had died and even Nabi Moosa and Nabi Harun (Alayhis Salaam) had passed away.

CONCLUSION

There are a number of good lessons we have learnt from this true incident of Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam). Here we will mention a few that has made an impression on us. I am sure you will be able to detect more from your reading and discussions:

1. Two beautiful duas from this incident is used in our daily lives. The first prayer is when you face an audience to deliver your message, refer Qur'an 20:25 to 28 and the second dua is when we pour 3 hands full of earth on the grave 20: 55.
2. The magicians were offered money to be part of the establishment if they join in and went against the truth. Qur'an 7:113,114.
3. When we are in trouble we beg for spiritual protection and guidance. As soon as the calamity has passed we go back to our old ways Qur'an 7:135
4. In the days of Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) there were clear visual signs to convince the people of the Power and Supremacy of the Lord. But within a short space of time this message was ignored and forgotten. Today we have all these wonderful signs in the Glorious Qur'an but we fail to take heed and follow its direction.