

## **NABI DAWUD David (AS\*)**

\*(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**

**24**

My Dear Children,

In the last issues of Al Mujaddid we read the final episode of Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam). This long incident mentioned in the Glorious Qur'an was covered in the last 3 issues of Al Mujaddid. I hope you will remember this incident and use the beautiful ways of this Prophet in your lives and become good examples of people who are righteous and avoid all the evil and bad practices that will make us dishonest. The other day we walked into an Islamic Book shop and found three different sets of children's story books on all the Prophets that we had covered in this paper as well as many more. These books are well illustrated very colourful and very enjoyable to read. Ask your parents to take you along to these bookshops\* and just browse and I am sure if you were obedient and good to your parents they may buy you a book or two.

### **Prophets –Al Yasa'a and Thul-Kifl (alayhis salaam)**

Two other Prophets are mentioned in the Glorious Qur'an after Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam). They were Al Yasa'a (Elijah) and Thul-Kifl (Ezakiel) -Alayhis Salaam. There is very little written about them. They were appointed as Prophets to the Israelites. Al Yasa'a (Alayhis Salaam) was treated very badly by his people for speaking the truth. Thul-Kiefl on the other hand was thrown into prison in order to silence him and stop him from influencing the people to follow the straight path.

### **Prophet Dawud (alayhis salaam)**

In this issue we are going to relate to you the beautiful lessons brought to us by **Prophet Dawud (David - Alayhis Salaam)**. There are wonderful incidents and lessons of the bravery and wisdom of young children. Dawud was a young boy tending to his fathers sheep. Talut (Saul) who was the King of the Israelites at that time was preparing his army to fight against the mighty Philistines. Talut knew the habits of his people and was also fully aware of their character and nature of their ways. He knew that some of his people would run away when they are faced with the army of the Philistines. He had to select the loyal soldiers who will stand by him, be fearless and bravely fight to death to establish truth and justice

### **King Talut selected his brave Soldiers**

When they came to a wide river on their way to the battlefield King Talut decided to test his people to separate the brave from the weak willed ones. Before they crossed this river King Talut called out to his people, "O soldiers listen to your general. I command you not to drink from the water of this river while crossing it. If any soldier is found drinking from this water he will not be allowed to accompany me to the battlefield. He will be sent home." This instruction seem very strange to some of the soldiers. While they were crossing some disobeyed King Talut's instructions and started drinking from this water. They were immediately commended to turn around and head home. When they reached the other bank there was only a small number of them left to face the enemy. King Talut did not mind the numbers as he was confident that these men were loyal, full of trust and prepared to die for the cause of ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala). Among the handful of soldiers was a small boy called, David who ran away from looking after his father's sheep.

### **Meeting Jalut (Goliath)**

When they came face to face with the army of the Philistines they saw a giant of a soldier, called Jalut (Goliath) standing in front and leading the army with hordes of men behind him armed and ready for action. On first site Talut and his braves gasped and were terrified at the site of Jalut. They soon calmed down and remembered the following words mentioned in the Qur'an, "How often, by Allah's will has a small force overpowered a big one by people who are steadfast and persevere." (2:249) While they were praying, "Our Lord pour our constancy on us and make our steps firm. Help us against those that reject faith," (2:250) Jalut open his huge mouth and said, "I challenge your best soldier to step forward and fight me to a dual." The loud sound that came from his mouth momentarily froze Talut's men in their steps.

### **Boy Dawud challenges Jalut**

The ten year old soldier, Dawud, stepped forward to take up the challenge of Jalut. When Jalut saw this small boy he regarded it as a joke and angrily said, "Is this the best that you have amongst you. Do I have to fight this small Shepard boy? Why insult me?"

Dawud's elder brother rushed up to him and stated scolding him, "You are a little Shepard, not a soldier and you should be at home looking after father's sheep. Are you not afraid." Dawud with full faith in ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) said, "I am not afraid as I am fighting in the way of ALLAH." Talut walked up to Dawud and offered him his shield and sword to fight Jalut. Dawud refused this offer but instead took his slingshot, his staff and picked up 5 pebbles and moved forward towards Jalut to take up his position.

Jalut roared with anger and raced forward to slash little Dawud to pieces with one blow of his mighty sword. Dawud stood firm, prepared his slingshot and fired a pebble with the power given to him by the Creator. When the discharged pebble hit Jalut between the eyes he stopped in his tracks, was dazed, staggered sideways and reeled over and fell like a bag of sand with a loud thud shaking the ground (2:251). Talut rushed forward grabbed Jalut's sword and with one severe blow separated Jalut's head from his body. The killing of their huge, strong Jalut drove fear into the hearts of the Philistines. They dropped their weapons turned around and started running away from this small but very powerful army. Talut and his men pursued them and finished all of them off.

### **Dawud (alayhis salaam) as Prophet**

Many years later when King Talut died, ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) appointed Dawud as a Prophet, with power and wisdom (2:251). His people also appointed him as King of their tribe. Nabi Dawud (Alayhis Salaam) was a Prophet, a King, a Shepard, a great warrior as well as a renowned singer and a poet. His Zabur (Psalms of David) is proof of the poetic ability that was given to him by the Creator. When ever he sang the birds, animals and the mountains would listen attentively and as commanded would join in, singing the praises of ALLAH – Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala – (21:79, 34:10, 38:18-19).

He was given the wisdom from the Creator to become an expert at melting iron ore and making armoury for his soldiers so that they can protect themselves from the enemy. He was given the wisdom to make this armoury for the sole purpose of defending themselves and fulfilling the acts of righteousness. It must not be used for acts of violence against innocent people and defenceless women, children and the aged, for the Creator says, "For be sure I see all that you do," (34:11).

He also became famous for his fair and just ruling between the aggrieved parties. People from all over approached him to settle differences between people. He always sang praises to ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) for giving him this gift and wisdom to judge between people because he acknowledged that, "ALLAH had strengthened his kingdom, and gave him wisdom and sound judgement in speech and decision," (38:20). However when he showed a slight weakness of self-pride or even the thought that this wisdom was of his own making, the Creator reminded him with a beautiful example.

### **The Wisdom of Dawud (alayhis salaam)**

One night when Dawud (Alayhis Salaam) was alone in his private room he suddenly saw two men climb over the wall (38:21) to avoid the guards and approach him. At first he was frightened (38:22) but when the two brothers indicated to him that they are here to solve their dispute he calmed down and listened to their problem.

The one brother with 99 sheep was also claiming the one sheep belonging to the other brother. Nabi Dawud (Alayhis Salaam) gave his verdict that it was wrong for the one who has more to become greedy, he also spoke to them about two people going into partnership in business, without giving the other a chance to speak. They had to be fair to one another and be righteous at all times. The men then disappeared. He soon realised that this was a message intended for him never to forget the praises of ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) in whatever judgement he gives. He also learnt that he should have heard the defence of the other brother before he gave his verdict. He threw himself to the ground, prostrated and repented and asked for forgiveness, (38:24) for the little self-pride that he displayed in his weakness. The Creator forgave him with the following words, " O Dawud, WE did indeed make you a vicegerent on earth, so judge you

between men in truth (and Justice). Do not follow the lust of your heart for it will mislead you from the path of Allah ...," (38:26)

### **CONCLUSION**

There are a number of beautiful lessons we have learnt for the excellent example that Dawud (Alayhis Salaam) has set for us to follow. Some of them are:

1. Always remember that all our wisdom, gifts, ability and expertise is due to the blessing of ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) WHO has given us life and is all embracing and HE knows all things.
2. We must have faith in our duty towards our Creator. We must always be firm for committing the righteous deeds and actions.
3. Faith, courage and determination and blessings of ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) are more important than numbers or appearance.
4. Size and strength are of no avail against the truth, courage and careful planning.
5. The hero always relies on his own weapons and those that are available to him at the time and place regardless if people may laugh at him.
6. When the support of ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) is with you the enemy's weapons will become an instrument of their own destruction.
7. A strong righteous personality overcomes all dangers and gives confidence to all other people who have wavering hearts.
8. ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) plan is universal. HE loves and protects all HIS creatures and HIS bounties are for all mankind and the creatures of the worlds. To protect one HE may have to check another. We must never lose faith that HIS love is for all in boundless measure.

**\* Bookshop Taj Islamic Books, 539 Blockhousebay Road, Auckland, New Zealand, Blockhousebay – Telephone Number 627 0053**