

PROPHETS OF ISLAM SERIES



THE BIOGRAPHY OF

DAWOOD

عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ



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BIOGRAPHY OF DAWOOD (عليه السلام)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله رب العالمين، والصلاة والسلام على
سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين

1. DAWOOD (عليه السلام)

Dawood (عليه السلام) was the descendant of Yaqoob (عليه السلام). He was one of the many prophets that were sent after Musa (عليه السلام) among the children of Israel. Dawood (عليه السلام) was the Apostle of Allah and was given the book Zaboor (Psalms).

It is in Quran - وَلَقَدْ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَ النَّبِيِّينَ عَلَى بَعْضٍ ۖ وَآتَيْنَا دَاوُودَ زَبُورًا - [Certainly We gave some prophets an advantage over others, and We gave Dawood (عليه السلام) the Zaboor (the Psalms).] (Al-Isra - 55)

Dawood (عليه السلام) is one of the few prophets who were also the Kings. As a King, he was not only responsible for restoration of Sahih Iman of the people, but also take care of the administration and security of the nation.

Dawood (عليه السلام) is mentioned in the Quran 17 times, many times along with his son Sulaiman (عليه السلام).

It is in Quran - وَوَهَبْنَا لَهُ إِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ ۗ كُلًّا هَدَيْنَا ۚ وَنُوحًا هَدَيْنَا مِنْ قَبْلُ ۚ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِهِ دَاوُودَ وَسُلَيْمَانَ وَأَيُّوبَ - [And We bestowed upon him (Ibrahim - عليه السلام), Is-haq and Yaqoob (عليهم السلام). We guided all of them. And We guided Nooh before them and of his descendants, Dawood and Sulaiman and Ayyub and Yusuf and Musa and Haroon (عليهم السلام); and this is the way We reward the righteous.] (Al-An'aam - 84)

2. TALOOT

Many prophets were sent to the children of Israel after Musa (عليه السلام). One of these prophets, whose name is not mentioned in the Quran, was requested by his people (Israelis) to pray Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) to appoint a King for them so that they fight under him to regain their lost lands. Their prophet told them, 'if Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) appoints a King and commands you to fight, I am afraid, you will not be able to fulfill that command'. They said, 'what is the matter with us that we should not fight in Allah's cause whereas we have been driven away from our homeland and our children?'

The prophet prayed for them and Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) answered his supplication. As per the command of Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) a person named Taloot was appointed as King.

Israelis were expecting that one of their nobles will be appointed as King. The selection of Taloot as a King was surprising for them. They objected on the selection because Taloot did not belong to their nobles. They said, 'why should he have kingship over us whereas we deserve the kingship more than that poor man'. Their prophet told them, 'Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) has chosen him above you and has bestowed him with vast knowledge and excellent physique. Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) bestows His kingdom to whoever He wills; and Allah is Most Capable, All Knowing'.

As a sign of Taloot's appointment, the Israelis were told that from Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) a wooden box will be brought to them by angels which contains the relics of Prophets Musa and the Haroon (عليهم السلام). This will be sign for them to establish their Kingdom. When that box arrived, they accepted Taloot as their King.

When Taloot came to power, he organized a large army to fight in Allah's cause. This army was required to travel long distance in the heat of the sun to fight the enemy.

When the army set out for this travel, they were told that Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) will test them with a river on the way. They are forbidden from drinking water from that river. Those who do not drink will be the chosen soldiers. And those who drink a handful of water from that river will also be included in the fighting Army. But those who drink stomach full, will not be part of the Army.

When the river arrived, the army was fully exhausted and they all drank water extensively from that river, except a few who refrained from drinking as per the command. Those who drank from that river found themselves weak to fight the enemy as no strength was left in them. Thus, they stopped middle way.

It is reported that out of the thousands of people who had joined the army, only 313 people were left with Taloot who proceeded further to fight with the enemy.

3. DAWOOD (عليه السلام) KILLS JALOOT

It is reported that Dawood (عليه السلام) had two older brothers who were part of the army of Taloot. Dawood (عليه السلام) also accompanied Taloot's army but as he was young, he was made responsible to help army men in other ways.

The enemy with whom this army was marching to fight were known as the people of Philistines who had occupied Jerusalem from the Israelis earlier. Their king's name was Jaloot who had a hefty big physic. The army of Taloot consisted of only 313 men while Jaloot had thousands of well-trained and experienced warriors.

When these two armies met face to face, the people among Taloot's army were terrified looking at Jaloot's army.

It was the custom during those days that before the start of the war, there used to be one on one fight between the people of the opposing armies. For this purpose, Jaloot came forward and called Taloot to send someone from them to have individual fight.

Dawood (عليه السلام) who was a young man then, came forward saying he will fight Jaloot. Dawood (عليه السلام) was not wearing any protective armory nor he was holding a sword in his hand because he was responsible to serve the army from behind. Taloot told him, 'you are too young and will not be able to fight the mighty Jaloot'. He called his army men to come forward for this one on one fight. No one stepped forward seeing Jaloot in front of them.

When no one came forward, Taloot agreed to send Dawood (عليه السلام) to have individual combat with Jaloot. When Jaloot saw Dawood (عليه السلام), he exclaimed, 'I will not fight with such a young and weak boy'.

Dawood (عليه السلام) had no sword or spear, not even a shield. He only had a slingshot with him which was not visible to the people. He took out the slingshot with a small stone in it, pulled the sling back as far as he could and released the small stone. The small stone went zooming through the air and hit Jaloot on his forehead. Jaloot fell to the ground dead with a thunderous noise.

When philistines saw this, they were frightened. Some of them started running away from the battlefield. In a swift battle that followed, Taloot won and Israelis entered the blessed city of Jerusalem victorious.

Dawood (عليه السلام) became popular after the battle. Taloot married his daughter to Dawood (عليه السلام) and he was also appointed Chief Adviser to the King.

4. DAWOOD (عليه السلام) AS KING OF ISRAELIS

When Taloot died, Dawood (عليه السلام) took over as the King of Israelis. During his reign, Dawood (عليه السلام) succeeded in uniting all Israeli tribes. He was a just and righteous ruler who brought peace and prosperity to his people.

It is reported that Dawood (عليه السلام) delivered Allah's message to the people through the precious gift of his melodious voice. When he recited the Zaboor, it looked the rest of creation was reciting with him; people listened as if they were in spiritual elation (Wajd).

It is in Quran - وَأَقْدَأْتَيْنَا دَاوُودَ مِنَّا فَضْلًا يَا جِبَالُ أُوْبِي مَعَهُ وَالطَّيْرُ وَأَلْنَا لَهُ الْحَدِيدَ - أَنْ أَعْمَلَ سَابِغَاتٍ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرًا [Indeed, We bestowed grace on Dawood (عليه السلام) (saying): 'O mountains! (echo in) Glorifying (Allah) with him!' The birds also! And We made the iron soft for him, (instructing him to) 'make full-length armor, (perfectly) balancing the links.' And 'work (with) righteousness. Indeed, I see what you (all) do.'](**Saba - 10-11**)

Dawood (عليه السلام) not only used to listen to the people complaints personally, he had also appointed deputies to listen to the peoples' complaints so that in his absence people's problems were not be neglected. As a king, he did not have to work to earn his living, but he used to make iron armor and instruments and lived on that income.

It is in Quran - يَا دَاوُودُ إِنَّا جَعَلْنَاكَ خَلِيفَةً فِي الْأَرْضِ فَاحْكُم بَيْنَ النَّاسِ بِالْحَقِّ وَلَا تَتَّبِعِ الْهَوَى فَيُضِلَّكَ عَنْ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَخِلُّوْنَ عَنْ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ بِمَا نَسُوا يَوْمَ الْحِسَابِ [(We said), 'O Dawood (عليه السلام), We have certainly appointed you Our Vicegerent on the land. Therefore, settle the disputes between people with justice. Do not follow the desires and whims (of the people) that may lead you away from Allah's path. Indeed, there is a severe punishment for those who stray from the path of Allah, because they forget the day of reckoning.](**Saad - 26**)

Sulaiman (عليه السلام) was the son of Dawood (عليه السلام) and it is reported that he was 11 years old when Dawood (عليه السلام) took over as King after the death of Taloot.

One day Dawood (عليه السلام) was solving the problems of his people when two men, one of whom had a fruit garden, came to him. The owner of the garden said, O Prophet of Allah, this man's sheep came to my field at night and ate up the grapes and I have come to ask for the compensation'. Dawood (عليه السلام) asked the owner of the sheep, 'is this true'? He said, 'Yes'. Dawood (عليه السلام) said, then, you give him your sheep in exchange for the losses'.

Sulaiman (عليه السلام) was there with his father listening to the whole dispute. He said, O' father, I have an opinion and if you permit, I will tell it to you. Dawood (عليه السلام) permitted him to express that opinion. Sulaiman (عليه السلام) said, the owner of the sheep can take the garden to cultivate until the grapes grow, while the other man can take the sheep and make use of their wool and milk until his field is repaired. If the grapes grow, and the field returns to its former state, then the field owner should take his garden and give back the sheep to their owner'. Dawood (عليه السلام) appreciated Sulaiman (عليه السلام) for this opinion and the case was decided as such.

It is in Hadith - Abu Hurairah (رضي الله تعالى عنه) narrated that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) said, 'there were two women, each of whom had a child with her. A wolf came along and took away the child of one of them, and so her companion said, 'it has taken your child!' The other one said, 'no it has taken your child!' So, they both presented their case to Dawood (عليه السلام), who judged in favor of the older woman.

Then both went to Sulaiman (عليه السلام) and told him about it. He said, 'bring me a knife so that I can cut the child in half and share it between both of you. The younger woman said, 'don't do it! May Allah have mercy on you, it is her child (give it to her). (This is how he knew that the real mother was the younger woman). And, he judged in favor of the younger woman'. (Bukhari)

On one occasion when Dawood (عليه السلام) was praying and had instructed his guards not to allow anyone to interrupt him, two men slipped from the sight of the Guards by climbing the wall and entered his presence. Dawood (عليه السلام) asked them, who they were? They said, do not be afraid, we came to you to solve a dispute between us. Dawood (عليه السلام) asked them, what is it? The first man said, this is my brother, who has ninety-nine sheep, and I have one which he gave it to me earlier but has now taken back from me'.

As Dawood (عليه السلام), was busy in prayers and did not think, it was necessary to talk to the other person as this was an open and shut case. He said, 'he did you wrong by taking one sheep back from you as he has 99 with him. Many people oppress one another in this way, except for those who are believers and fear Allah'. The men then slipped back without his Guards noticing them.

After they were gone, Dawood (عليه السلام) got a doubt that these may have been angels who were sent to test him. And he should not have passed the judgment without listening to the other person. When this thought occurred to him, he sought repentance from Allah.

It is in Quran - قَالَ لَقَدْ ظَلَمَكَ بِسُؤَالِ نَعْجَتِكَ إِلَى نِعَاجِهِ وَإِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الْخُلَطَاءِ لِيَبْغِيَ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَقَلِيلٌ مَّا هُمْ وَظَنَّ دَاوُدُ أَنَّمَا فَتَنَّاهُ فَاسْتَغْفَرَ رَبَّهُ وَخَرَّ رَاكِعًا وَأَنَابَ ﴿١١٥﴾ (Dawood (عليه السلام) said, 'He certainly wronged you by asking for your lamb to join his

herd (of ninety-nine lambs). Indeed, most friends and family members often treat each other unjustly, except those who believe and perform righteous deeds. Such ones (however) are few.' And then Dawood (عليه السلام) thought, that We had put him through a test (by this incident). So, he sought forgiveness of his Lord. He fell down prostrate and turned to Him in repentance.] (Saad - 24)

The above is, the 'Verse of Sajda' (آيت سجده)

If someone is reading it alone, should do prostration (سجدة) alone. If it is read loudly in an audience, the reciter and all the listeners should do 'Prostration of Recitation' (Sajda-e-Tilaawah - سجدة التلاوة) individually.

The Prostration can be done in sitting or standing position. In Hanafi school of thought, 'Prostration of Recitation' (Sajda-e-Tilaawah - سجدة التلاوة) is obligatory (Fardh). With Shafii and Maliki, it is Sunnah.

It is in Hadith - 'When you have recited a verse requiring Sajdah-e-Tilaawaah, you should go down for Sajdah with Allahu-Akbar and rise from Sajdah with Allahu-Akbar, which may be performed sitting, though it is preferable to prostrate oneself from the standing position (**Abu Dawood**)

Have the intention to do Prostration of recitation (سجدة التلاوة). The place where you are reading/reciting should be clean. Turn your face towards Qibla, say (quietly) Allahu Akbar, go into prostration once, recite the 'Tasbih of Sajdah' 'Subhana Rabbi al-A'laa' (سبحان ربي الاعلى) at least 3 times and raise from the Sajda saying Allahu Akbar.

The repentance of Dawood (عليه السلام) is detailed in the following Hadith.

It is in Hadith - Ibn Umar (رضي الله تعالى عنه) narrated that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و) said, 'the prayer which Allah loves most is the prayer of Da'wood (عليه السلام). The fast, which Allah loves most is that of Dawood (عليه السلام). He used to sleep for half of the night, stand up in prayer for a third and sleep for a sixth. He would fast every other day. He wore wool and slept on hair. He ate barley bread with salt and ashes. He mixed his drink with tears. He was never seen to laugh after his error nor to look directly at the sky because of his shyness before his Lord and he continued to weep for the rest of his life. It is said that he wept until plants sprang up from his tears and until tears formed ridges in his cheeks. It is said that he went out in disguise to learn what people thought of him and

hearing himself praised only made him humbler'. (Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Da'wud, Nasa'i, and Ibn Majah)

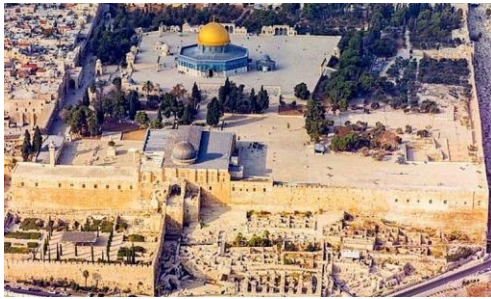
It is in Quran - فَعَفَرْنَا لَهُ ذَلِكَ وَإِنَّ لَهُ عِنْدَنَا لِرُفْقَىٰ وَحُسْنَ مَآبٍ [So We forgave him. He has surely a high rank with Us and an excellent place of final return.] (Saad - 25)

5. THE DEATH OF DAWOOD (عليه السلام)

Dawood (عليه السلام) was the King of Jerusalem for 40 years. During this time there was peace between the different tribes who lived in Palestine.

It is reported that towards the end of his life, he began rebuilding the blessed Bait-al-Maqdis, also known as Al-Harm-ash-Sharif, the noble sanctuary, Masjid al-Aqsa and Qibly Mosque.

Ka'ba and Masjid al-Aqsa were originally built by Adam (عليه السلام). Later these were rebuilt by Ibrahim (عليه السلام).



During the time of Dawood (عليه السلام), it was decided to rebuild Masjid al-Aqsa again. The work was started, but in view of his death, it was delayed. Later it was completed by Sulaiman (عليه السلام).

Dawood (عليه السلام) died at the age of 100 years and was buried in Jerusalem. It is reported that since it was summertime, Sulaiman (عليه السلام) called the birds to cover the dead body of Dawood (عليه السلام) till he was buried. This was the first time that the people realized the birds were under Sulaiman's (عليه السلام) command.