

Madrasat Ahlul'Bait Islamic School

Grade 4 History



Story of Muharram

History of Prophets

Idrees (s)
Salih (s)
Ismaeel (s)
Isa (s)
And more...



Prophet Yusuf

Cover Design by: Zain Kazmi

Shia-Muslim Association of Bay Area

First Edition (Revision 2.0)
First Printing **May, 2005**
Second Printing **February, 2006**

Compilers and Co-Authors:

Urooj Kazmi, Chair, Syllabus Committee,
Madrasat Ahlul’Bait, Shia-Muslim Association of Bay Area

Editors:

Sister Urooj Kazmi, Chair Syllabus Committee,
Madrasat Ahlul’Bait, Shia-Muslim Association of Bay Area

Copyright Free & Non-Profit Notice:

Madrasat Ahlul’Bait curriculum material can be freely copied, duplicated, reproduced, quoted, distributed, printed, used in derivative works and saved on any media and platform for non-profit and educational purposes only. A fee no higher than the cost of copying may be charged for the material.

Note from Madrasat Ahlul’Bait:

The Publishers and the Authors have made every effort to present the Quranic verses, prophetic and masomeen traditions, their explanations and the material from the sources referenced in an accurate, complete and clear manner. We ask for forgiveness from Allah (SWT) and the readers if any mistakes have been overlooked during the review process.

Contact Information:

Any correspondence related to this publication and all notations of errors or omissions should be addressed to Syllabus Committee, Madrasat Ahlul’Bait, Shia-Muslim Association of Bay Area at saba@saba-igc.org.

Published by:

Madrasat Ahlul’Bait
Shia-Muslim Association of Bay Area
2380 Owen Street, Santa Clara, CA 95054, USA
www.saba-igc.org
saba@saba-igc.org

LIMIT OF LIABILITY/DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY: THE PUBLISHER AND THE AUTHORS MAKE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS WORK AND SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION WARRANTIES OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. NO WARRANTY MAY BE CREATED OR EXTENDED BY SALES OR PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS. THE ADVICE AND STRATEGIES CONTAINED HEREIN MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR EVERY SITUATION. NEITHER THE PUBLISHER NOR THE AUTHORS SHALL BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGES ARISING HEREFROM. THE FACT THAT AN ORGANIZATION, BOOK OR WEBSITE IS REFERRED TO IN THIS WORK AS A CITATION AND/OR A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF FURTHER INFORMATION DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE AUTHORS OR THE PUBLISHER ENDORSES THE INFORMATION THE ORGANIZATION OR WEBSITE MAY PROVIDE OR RECOMMENDATIONS IT MAY MAKE. FURTHER, READERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT BOOKS AND INTERNET WEBSITES LISTED IN THIS WORK MAY HAVE CHANGED OR DISAPPEARED BETWEEN WHEN THIS WORK WAS WRITTEN AND WHEN IT IS READ. SHIA ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH ANY ORGANIZATION, PRODUCT OR VENDOR MENTIONED IN THIS BOOK.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
Foreword	5
Preface	6
SECTION I: Islamic History	7
Chapter 1: Introduction to Prophethood	8
1.1 Who is a prophet?.....	8
1.2 How was a prophet chosen?	8
1.3 What was the role of a prophet?.....	9
1.4 Why did Allah send us prophets?.....	9
1.5 Difference between Nabi and Rasul:.....	9
1.6 The Ulul Azm Prophets:.....	9
1.7 Why laws were changed each time:	10
1.8 Worksheet: Introduction to Prophethood	11
Chapter 2: Prophet Adam (a).....	13
2.1 Worksheet: Prophet Adam (a).....	16
Chapter 3: Habil and Qabil.....	18
3.1 Worksheet: Habil and Qabil.....	21
Chapter 4: Prophet Idris (a).....	23
4.1 Worksheet - Prophet Idris (a).....	26
Chapter 5: Prophet Nuh (a)	28
5.1 Worksheet: Prophet Nuh (a).....	31
Chapter 6: Prophet Hud (a)	34
6.1 Worksheet: Prophet Hud (a).....	37
Chapter 7: Prophet Salih (a)	39
7.1 Worksheet: Prophet Salih (a)	42
Chapter 8: Prophet Ibrahim (a) - Part I.....	44
8.1 Worksheet: Prophet Ibrahim (a) - Part I.....	47
Chapter 9: Prophet Ibrahim (a) - Part II	49
9.1 Worksheet: Prophet Ibrahim (a) - Part II.....	52
Chapter 10: Prophet Isma'il (a).....	55
10.1 Worksheet: Prophet Isma'il (a).....	58
Chapter 11: Prophet Ayyub (a)	60
11.1 Worksheet: Prophet Ayyub (a).....	63
Chapter 12: Prophet Yunus (a).....	65
12.1 Worksheet -Prophet Yunus (a)	68
Chapter 13: Prophet Ya'qub (a)	70
13.1 Worksheet - Prophet Ya'qub (a).....	73
Chapter 14: Prophet Yusuf (a) - Part I.....	75
14.1 Prophet Yusuf (a) Comes to Egypt:.....	75
14.2 Prophet Yusuf (a) Sent to Jail:.....	75
14.3 Prophet Yusuf (a) Released from Jail:.....	76
14.4 Prophet Yusuf (a) as the Aziz of Egypt:.....	77
Chapter 15: Prophet Yusuf (a) - Part II	78
15.1 The First Journey to Egypt:	78
15.2 The Second Journey to Egypt:.....	78
15.3 The Third Journey to Egypt:.....	79
15.4 The Fourth Journey to Egypt:.....	80
15.5 Worksheet: Prophet Yusuf (a) - Part I and II.....	81
Chapter 16: Prophet Musa (a) - Part I	83
16.1 Worksheet - Prophet Musa (a) - Part I.....	87
Chapter 17: Prophet Musa (a) - Part II	91
17.1 Prophet Musa (a) - Part II.....	95

Chapter 18: Prophet Dawud (a) (David)	98
18.1 Worksheet - Prophet Dawud (a)	100
Chapter 19: Prophet Sulayman (a) (Solomon)	101
19.1 Worksheet: Prophet Sulayman (A).....	104
Chapter 20: Prophet Zakariya (a) & Prophet Yahya (a).....	105
20.1 Worksheet: Prophet Zakariya (a) and Yahya (a).....	107
Chapter 21: Prophet Isa (A).....	108
21.1 Worksheet: Prophet Isa.....	111
SECTION II: Special Occasions	114
Chapter 22: Understanding Kerbala.....	115
22.1 Prophet Muhammad’s (s) Family Tree.....	115
22.2 Maps of the Middle East.....	117
22.3 Route of Imam Hussein (a).....	118
22.4 Events at Kerbala.....	119
22.5 ASHURA Day.....	120
22.6 Worksheet: Understanding Kerbala.....	121
Chapter 23: Meaning of Shahadat and Imam’s readiness to die for Islam	123
23.1 Worksheet: Shahadat.....	125
Chapter 24: Importance of turbat-e-Husayn: Khak-e-shifa	127
24.1 Worksheet: Khak-e-Shifa	128
Chapter 25: A Glimpse at Some of the Shuhadaa of Kerbala	129
25.1 Worksheet: A Glimpse at Some of the Shuhadaa of Kerbala.....	131
Acknowledgements	133

Foreword

The material presented in this document is a result of an effort made by the personnel of the school of Ahlul'Bait of the Shia-Muslim Association of Bay Area Islamic Center at San Jose, California in cooperation with several schools of Ahlul'Bait at London-Stanmore, London-Hujjat, Vancouver, Minnesota and Toronto.

We, at San Jose, looked at material from London-Stanmore, London-Hujjat, Vancouver, Minnesota, Toronto and Irvine's Islamic institutions, as well as that available at various web-sites to compile age appropriate textbooks for use by our students. We thank the institutions that were kind enough to provide us with the electronic files of their curriculum. We used some of what they had and added to it what we felt was appropriate. We included more worksheets and pictures where deemed necessary. We also added some new topics that, we felt are important to the students.

We had two important goals in mind while working on this document. First, introduce the students to the important Islamic concepts and beliefs that are crucial for him/her to know. Second, expose the students to as many Quranic verses and sayings from Prophet Muhammad (p) and his Ahlul'Bait (a) as possible.

We thank Hujjatul Islam Maulana Nabi Raza Abidi for his spiritual guidance. We hope future efforts will continue taking place until reaching our goal of having a strong, rich and unified curriculum for the schools of Ahlul'Bait for all ages.

**Syllabus Committee
Madrasat Ahlul'Bait**

Preface

In fourth grade history, the student will learn about the historical accounts of most past prophets (who have been mentioned in the Holy Qur'an). They learn about 17 different Prophets and their history. As in all the other grades, especial occasion lessons on Kerbala are covered so as to maintain a continuity of this important historical period of Islam.

SECTION I: Islamic History

Chapter 1: Introduction to Prophethood

1.1 Who is a prophet?

A prophet is someone sent directly by Allah to lead us on the right path. Allah sent us 124,000 prophets from Prophet Adam (a) to Prophet Muhammad (s). Prophet Muhammad (s) was the last prophet and there are no other prophets after him.

The prophets were able to communicate directly with Allah and it is for this reason that there is a difference between prophets and imams. Prophets were sent directly from Allah and communicated directly with Allah; whereas Imams were appointed through Prophet Muhammad (s) and could not communicate directly with Allah.

We do not know who all the prophets were. In the Qur'an, Allah says, "***We sent prophets before you (Prophet Muhammad): there are some whose story We have told you and some whose story We have not told you.***"

- Surah-e-Mo'min, chapter 40, verse 78.

1.2 How was a prophet chosen?

Allah chose the people that were the most perfect at the time to be prophets. Prophets are *maasum* — they never commit a sin. The Christian bible talks about many prophets that have committed sins, but they are wrong because Allah would never choose a person who was sinful to become a prophet. If prophets committed sins, then people would not listen to them because no one respects a person that commits a sin. The principle of your school is capable of running around the school acting as a child, but he doesn't because he knows that no one would respect him if he did that. In the same ways, the prophets were capable of committing sins, but they never committed a sin, because no one would listen to them if they did.

1.3 What was the role of a prophet?

The prophets were sent from Allah to guide us on the right path. They brought laws from Allah to enable us to be better people. Just as a mirror receives light from a lamp and reflects it somewhere else, in the same way, the prophets received the knowledge from Allah and brought it to us. Once we receive that knowledge, it is our choice whether we want to accept that knowledge or not.

1.4 Why did Allah send us prophets?

The main reason Allah sent us prophets was to prevent us from going onto the evil path. Because of Allah's kindness, He has sent us prophets and we should be thankful for that. Also, if Allah were to reward or punish us on the Day of Judgment without sending us any prophets, then those people that would have been sent to Jahannam would complain to Allah for not sending them any guidance. That is why Allah sent us the prophets.

1.5 Difference between Nabi and Rasul:

Both *Nabi* and *Rasul* is the Arabic way of saying *prophets*. They are both sent directly by Allah to the people. But there is a difference. A *Nabi* is one that follows the laws from the previous prophets while a *Rasul* is one that brings new laws.

1.6 The Ulul Azm Prophets:

The *Ulul Azm* Prophets are the Prophets that brought new laws to the people. When each one came, they canceled the previous set of laws and brought in the new ones.

There are five *Ulul Azm* Prophets. The first was Prophet Nuh (a). Prophet Nuh (a) brought a very simple set of laws from Allah. These laws were used till the time of Prophet Ibrahim (a). When Prophet Ibrahim (a) came, he canceled the old laws, and brought in new laws from Allah that were a little more detailed. Those laws were used until the time of

Prophet Musa (a). Prophet Musa (a) brought in some complicated laws from Allah that were used until Prophet Isa (a) came. Prophet Isa (a) brought a fully detailed set of laws from Allah for a period of time. Finally, when Prophet Muhammad (s) came, he canceled all the old laws, and brought in the new fully detailed laws from Allah — the Qur'an — that we still use until today. After Prophet Muhammad (s), there were no more prophets and no more laws.

1.7 Why laws were changed each time:

When a child is born, you buy clothes that fit him. When he grows older, the old clothes don't fit him any more, and so you have to buy new clothes that are his size. But once that child reaches the age where he will not grow anymore, he can continue wearing the same clothes.

Similarly, in the beginning, people were very simple; therefore, Prophet Nuh (a) brought them simple laws. As time and people advanced, they needed more detailed laws. Finally, when they had reached the stage where they had advanced to the highest level, Allah sent Prophet Muhammad (s) with the final set of laws that we use today.

1.8 Worksheet: Introduction to Prophethood

True or False — Circle either “T” for True or “F” for False.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Imams can communicate directly with Allah. | T | F |
| 2. Prophets are Maasum (sinless). | T | F |
| 3. Prophets were sent to guide us. | T | F |
| 4. Nabi’s and Rasul’s are both Prophets. | T | F |

Multiple Choice — Circle the best answer.

- Why do prophets have to be maasum (sinless)?
 - So that people listen to them.
 - So that they can be well liked by the people.
 - So that they can go to heaven.
- How were prophets chosen?
 - Anybody who passed Allah’s written exam became a prophet.
 - Those people who were the most perfect at that time were chosen as the prophet.
 - Those people who were well liked by people were chosen as the prophet.
- The five Ulul Azm Prophets are:
 - P. Muhammad (s), P. Isa (a), P. Nuh (a), P. Dawood (a), and P. Musa (a).
 - P. Adam (a), P. Nuh (a), P. Musa (a), P. Isa (a), and P. Muhammad (a)..
 - P. Isa (a), P. Ibrahim (a), P. Nuh (a), P. Muhammad (a), and P. Musa (a).

Short-Answer Questions — Answer the questions: Do NOT put one word answers down.

1. What is the difference between a Prophet and an Imam?

2. What is the difference between a Nabi and a Rasul?

3. What was the role of the Prophets?

4. Why were laws changed each time?

Chapter 2: Prophet Adam (a)

Allah created the earth. He put mountains and valleys in it. He put seas and rivers in it. He put all kinds of animals and plant life in it. Allah also created the heavens and the stars. He created the sun and the moon. And thus he created the whole universe.



In Surah-e-Fateha, we read: “*Al hamdu lil-lahi rabbil ‘alamin,*” which means, “All thanks is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.” The reason we say this, is because we want to thank Allah for all that he has created. He has created so much for us that we have to thank him for it.

Allah also created the angels who worshipped and glorified Allah. Allah then informed the angels that He was going to make a new creation that would live on earth. The angels were surprised because they thought that the creatures Allah was going to create would fight amongst themselves on earth. The reason the angels thought this was because they had seen the jinn’s fight amongst themselves on the earth. However, there were a few jinns that were good such as Iblis, who used to worship Allah with the other angels.

The story of Prophet Adam (a) starts in Chapter 2, verse 30, of the Holy Qur’an. Allah created Prophet Adam (a) from special clay brought by Jibrail. Allah then gave him a soul which turned him into a perfect human being. Allah taught Prophet Adam (a) all the names of the Ahlul-bayt. Allah gave Prophet Adam (a) more knowledge than the angels and made him His messenger. After Prophet Adam (a) was created, Allah ordered all the angels to prostrate (do *sajdah*) before Prophet Adam (a). All the angels obeyed Allah, except Iblis (later known as Shaytan).

Shaytan had committed a sin by disobeying Allah. Shaytan argued with Allah that he was superior to Prophet Adam (a) because he was made from fire and Prophet Adam (a) was made from clay, and that fire could burn clay. To prove to the angels that Prophet Adam (a)

was more superior and had more knowledge, Allah asked the angels to name the Ahlul-bayt. The angels were not able to give the names, but Prophet Adam (a) was. Prophet Adam (a) had more knowledge and this was why he was made the messenger of Allah.

Allah punished Iblis and sent him out of heaven to earth. Iblis asked Allah to allow him to live till the Day of Judgement. Allah granted him this request. Instead of being thankful, Iblis went astray and told Allah that he would lead Allah's servants to the wrong path. Allah said to Iblis, "Those of My servants who are My true believers will never go to the wrong path". On the Day of Judgement, Allah will punish Shaytan and his followers and throw them in the fire of hell.

Allah permitted Prophet Adam (a) to stay in the garden of Heaven. Allah also created a wife for Prophet Adam (a), and called her Bibi Hawa (a). Prophet Adam (a) and Bibi Hawa (a) enjoyed the blessings of Allah in heaven. Allah let them do anything they liked except one thing. He told them not to go near one of the trees of Heaven and not to eat its fruits.

Now, Shaytan was jealous of Prophet Adam (a) and Bibi Hawa (a). He blamed Prophet Adam (a) for his misfortune and wanted revenge. So, one day, Shaytan entered Heaven and started talking to Prophet Adam (a) and Bibi Hawa (a). He pretended to be their friend. He whispered into their ears and tempted them to eat from the forbidden tree. Shaytan also swore by Allah that he was their real friend, and he would never harm them.

Prophet Adam (a) and Bibi Hawa (a) had never heard anyone lie before in their lives, and because Shaytan swore by Allah, they believed him. They broke the command of Allah. Prophet Adam (a) and Bibi Hawa (a) realized what they had done, and so they asked for forgiveness from Allah.



Allah thought it was time for Prophet Adam (a) and Bibi Hawa (a) to start life on earth, so he sent them there. Prophet Adam (a) and Bibi Hawa (a) did not like earth at first. They cried and asked for Allah's forgiveness. Almighty Allah accepted their repentance and forgave

them for their mistake, but he told them that they had to remain on earth. Prophet Adam (a) and Bibi Hawa (a) thanked Allah for forgiving them. Allah taught them that there were two paths in life. One was the path of obedience to Allah which led to happiness and Heaven; and the other path was that of the sinners which lead to sorrow and Hell.

Sources: 1) Commentary of Al-Qur'an by Mir Ahmad 'Ali; 2) Tareekh Notes from London and Vancouver.

2.1 Worksheet: Prophet Adam (a)

True or False — Circle either “T” for True or “F” for False.

1. Allah created the universe. T F
2. At first, Shaytan was a good jinn. T F
3. The Angels were more knowledgeable than Prophet Adam (a). T F
4. Prophet Adam (a) and Bibi Hawa (a) were sent down to earth. T F

Multiple Choice — Circle the best answer.

Shaytan was a:

- a) Man.
b) Jinn.
c) Angel
2. What did Iblis ask Allah after he was sent out of heaven?
a) To make him the most powerful being in the world.
b) To make him able to live forever.
c) To give him life until the Day of Judgement.
3. How does Shaytan trick us?
a) He whispers things into our ears and makes bad things appear good.
b) He uses magic.
c) He pretends he’s a magician and makes us listen to him.
4. Who is the wife of Prophet Adam (a)?
a) Bibi Aasiya. b) Bibi Hawa. c) Bibi Zainab.

Short-Answer Questions — Answer the questions. Do NOT put one word answers down.

1. What does “*Al hamdu lil-lahi rabbil ‘alamin*” mean?
2. Why do we thank Allah?
3. Why didn't Shaytan prostrate when Allah ordered him to?
4. Why Prophet Adam (a) was made the messenger of Allah?

Chapter 3: Habil and Qabil

Prophet Adam (a) and Bibi Hawa (a) gradually settled down after they were sent down on earth. After some time, Allah blessed them with children which made them very happy. They gave birth to two sets of twins. Qabil and his sister were born first and then Habil and his sister some years later.

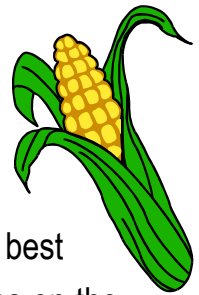
The sisters helped Bibi Hawa (a) in the home. The two brothers decided to do work outside the home. The brothers were very close and the family of Prophet Adam (a) passed their days happily.

Habil grew up to be a good, pious, and obedient person while Qabil was the opposite. When Habil grew up, he became a shepherd and looked after his stock. Qabil, on the other hand, became a farmer and grew crops on the land.

The story of Habil and Qabil starts in Chapter 5, verse 27, of the Holy Qur'an. Almighty Allah sent the revelation to Prophet Adam (a) that he should test his sons as to who would be the next prophet. So Prophet Adam (a) called his sons and told them to make a sacrifice (gift) in the way of Allah. The one whose sacrifice was accepted by Allah, would be the successor of Prophet Adam (a).

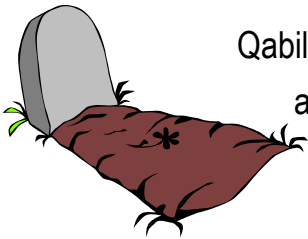


Habil decided to sacrifice the best animal from his herd; therefore, he brought a strong, healthy camel. Qabil thought to himself that since Allah would not eat his crops, he did not have to sacrifice his best grain. So he brought some spoilt corn to sacrifice. They both left their sacrifices on the mountain just like their father told them to. In a flash the camel disappeared while the crop was left behind. Thus, Habil's sacrifice was accepted because he was sincere, while Qabil's was rejected.



It was now confirmed that Habil was to be the successor. Knowing this, Qabil became very jealous of his brother and he began to hate him. Iblis, the Shaytan, started to whisper in Qabil's ear, "Kill Habil! Kill Habil!"

Qabil began to threaten and frighten his brother. Habil loved his brother very much and tried to calm him down. Habil told his brother not to go astray from the right path. He also told Qabil to ask for forgiveness from Allah for his sins. Qabil became too proud and selfish to listen to his brother's advice. Finally, one day, Qabil killed his brother.



Qabil did not know what to do with the body of his brother. He put it in a sack and carried it on his back. He was ashamed of what he had done and thought all night about what he should do with the body.

At this time, Allah decided to guide this foolish and proud young man. Since he was not worthy of receiving direct instructions from Allah, he had to learn from a crow.

Allah sent down two crows before Qabil. Qabil saw that one crow killed the other one. It then dug a hole in the ground with its beak and buried the dead crow. Qabil realized that this was what he had to do, and with much sadness, he buried the body of his brother Habil. This was a sign from Allah, for not only Habil, but all of mankind that the dead should be buried.

In Surah Al-Fateha, Verse 2, Allah says, "*Ar Rahmanir Raheem*," which means, Allah is "The Most Kind, The Most Merciful". Thus Allah showed His kindness to Qabil by sending down the two crows and showing him what he should do with his brother's dead body.

Prophet Adam (a) and Bibi Hawa (a) missed Habil very much because he had been a good son. They prayed to Allah to give them another son like him. At last their prayers were answered and they had a son, Prophet Sheeth (a).

Prophet Adam (a) lived for a long time and when he died, there were many people living on this earth. Prophet Adam (a) was the first father and husband on this earth. He was a very

kind and loving man, both to his children and his wife. Bibi Hawa was the first mother and wife on this earth. She too was very kind and caring. This is how a good family should be. We should take their example and be loving and caring to each other in our family. And we should certainly not try to be like Qabil. We should always obey Allah and our parents. That is what Allah wants us to do. After all, “*Allah hu Akbar*” — “Allah is the greatest”.

Sources: 1) Tareekh Notes from London and Vancouver.

3.1 Worksheet: Habil and Qabil

True or False — Circle either “T” for True or “F” for False.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Habil and Qabil were the sons of Prophet Adam (a) and Bibi Hawa. | T | F |
| 2. The two brothers helped their father outside, while the two sisters helped in the home. | T | F |
| 3. Habil sacrificed his worst camel. | T | F |
| 4. Habil was a good young man. | T | F |

Multiple Choice — Circle the best answer.

1. What did Qabil sacrifice?
 - a) Wheat.
 - b) Corn.
 - c) A camel.

2. Whose sacrifice was accepted?
 - a) Qabil's.
 - b) Habil's
 - c) Prophet Adam's (a).

3. Which one of the following is **NOT** a son of Prophet Adam (a)?
 - a) Habil.
 - b) Prophet Salih (a).
 - c) Prophet Sheeth (a).

4. What does “Ar Rahmanir Raheem” mean?
- a) “All praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.”
 - b) “Allah is the Greatest.”
 - c) “The Most Kind, the Most Merciful”

Short-Answer Questions — Answer in complete sentences.

1. How was Allah going to choose the successor of Prophet Adam (a)?

2. Why did Qabil want to kill his brother?

3. How did Allah show Qabil what to do with Habil’s body?

4. What must we do when someone dies?

Chapter 4: Prophet Idris (a)

Prophet Idris (a) was the great-grandson of Prophet Sheeth (a) and was born 100 years after the death of Prophet Adam (a). He was the third Prophet of Allah.

Prophet Idris (a) used to tell people to worship Allah and not to commit sins. He was a very clever man and taught the people many new skills. He taught the people how to stitch clothes. He taught them how to measure weights and balances. He was the first man to teach them how to write. And besides all that, he was also the first man to teach them how to make weapons for hunting and defense.

Prophet Idris (a) lived during the time of cruel king. The king had full control over the people and their properties. One day, the king decided to go on an outing, and on his way he saw a beautiful garden. The garden was so attractive that the king wanted it for himself. After finding out who the garden belonged to, the king ordered that the owner be brought to him. When the owner came, the king told the owner to hand over the garden. The owner, who was a pious and God-fearing man, replied that the garden supported his family, and he would not hand it over. This made the king very angry, so he told the owner that he would buy the garden. The owner refused. The king returned to his palace very upset.

Now the king's wife was also a cruel person. When she heard what happened, she advised the king to call a few of his friends, and to tell them to lie in the court that the owner of the garden was plotting against the king.

The king decided to follow his wife's advice. So the next day, the owner was called to court and was accused of plotting against the king. Even though the owner swore that he was innocent, the king did not listen to him and killed him instead. The king then took the owner's garden for himself. This made the owner's wife and children very unhappy.

Allah sees and hears everything. The murder by the greedy king displeased Allah, and so He commanded Prophet Idris (a) to go to that tyrant king and tell him that not only did he kill a very pious man, but he also left his family penniless. Prophet Idris (a) was also commanded to tell the king that Allah would punish the king by taking his kingdom from him and causing the flesh of his wife to be eaten by dogs.



Prophet Idris (a) brought the message of Allah to the king. The king got very angry and drove Prophet Idris (a) away from the palace. The queen decided she would send some men after Prophet Idris (a) to kill him. Since his life was in danger, Prophet Idris (a) left town and hid himself. He took shelter in a cave of a mountain, and by the help of Allah, an angel used to provide Prophet Idris (a) with food everyday. Prophet Idris (a) prayed to Allah not to send any blessings to the town.

Prophet Idris's (a) prayers were answered by Allah. The kingdom was overthrown, the king died a shameful death, and the queen's flesh was eaten by dogs. The kingdom was then passed on to yet another cruel king.

Twenty years passed after the disappearance of Prophet Idris (a). During this time, not a drop of rain fell on the town and the people suffered terribly. There was neither food, nor crops, nor gardens, and the ground was all dry. All these hardships and misfortunes made people think. They began to realize that their troubles were due to the curse of Prophet Idris (a). So they prayed to Almighty Allah to forgive them for their sins, and to send them His mercy and blessings.

Almighty Allah accepted their prayers and sent prophet Idris (a) back to the town. People came to Prophet Idris (a) and promised that they would obey him and worship Allah. As a result, Prophet Idris (a) prayed to Allah, and down came the rains.

Prophet Idris (a) guided his people on the right path for many years. He was one Prophet who had the respect and love of all his people. Finally Allah raised him to the heavens where he is alive even till today.

Sources: 1) Tareekh Notes from London and Vancouver

4.1 Worksheet - Prophet Idris (a)

True or False — Circle either “T” for True or “F” for False.

1. Prophet Idris (a) was the great-grandson of Prophet Sheeth (a). T F
2. The farmer was a very pious and obedient man. T F
3. Prophet Idris (a) hid inside a cave. T F
4. Prophet Idris (a) was one Prophet who had the respect and love of all his people. T F

Multiple Choice — Circle the best answer.

1. What skills did Prophet Idris (a) teach his people?
 - a) He taught them how to write and how to make weapons for hunting and defense..
 - b) He taught them how to read the Holy Qur'an.
 - c) He taught them how to sing.
2. Who owned the garden?
 - a) The king.
 - b) The queen.
 - c) The farmer.
3. How was the town saved?
 - a) The people called in another prophet to pray for them.
 - b) The people moved to another town.
 - c) The people prayed to Allah to send them his mercy and blessings.
4. Where is Prophet Idris (a) today?

- a) In his grave.
- b) Alive in heaven.
- c) Alive on earth.

Short-Answer Questions — Answer the questions. Do NOT put one word answers down.

1. Who were the first, second, and third prophets?

2. What did the queen advise the king to do, after she heard what had happened?

3. How were the king and queen punished for what they did?

4. What happened to the town after Prophet Idris (a) left?

Chapter 5: Prophet Nuh (a)

A long time after Prophet Adam (a) was sent down to earth; the number of people in the world had increased to thousands. Many of these people forgot Allah. As a result, Allah sent down a number of prophets to guide them.

But the people became proud just like Iblis (Shaytan) and stopped listening to the prophets. They started making their own gods (or “idols”) out of wood and stone. They asked their idols for good crops, good health, and a lot of wealth. They used to worship their idols so much, that everything in their lives became dependent on these idols. Some of these idols were called “Wadd” (Man god), “Suwa” (Women goddess), “Yaguth” (Lion god), “Yauq” (Horse god), and “Nasr” (Eagle god).



The story of Prophet Nuh (a) is in Surah-e-Nuh (Chapter 71) of the Holy Qur'an:

When we sent Nuh to his people, punishment came upon them. He said, “O my people, I warn you clearly that you should worship only Allah and fear Him, and follow.” Surae Nuh, 71 : 1-3

Allah sent Prophet Nuh (a) as His messenger to guide the idol worshippers to the right path. Prophet Nuh (a) invited these people towards Allah but they turned away. He encouraged them to do good deeds for reward from Allah but they did not listen. He warned them about Allah's punishment but they still did not listen.

Prophet Nuh (a) was a very patient man and he never gave up his mission. He explained to the people the mysteries of the Universe. He talked about the dark nights, the shining moon, the dazzling hot sun, the round earth, the flowing streams, the winding rivers, the fresh vegetables, the lovely animals, the white clouds, and the pouring rain. He told the people that all these wonders of nature were the signs of Allah's greatness and power.

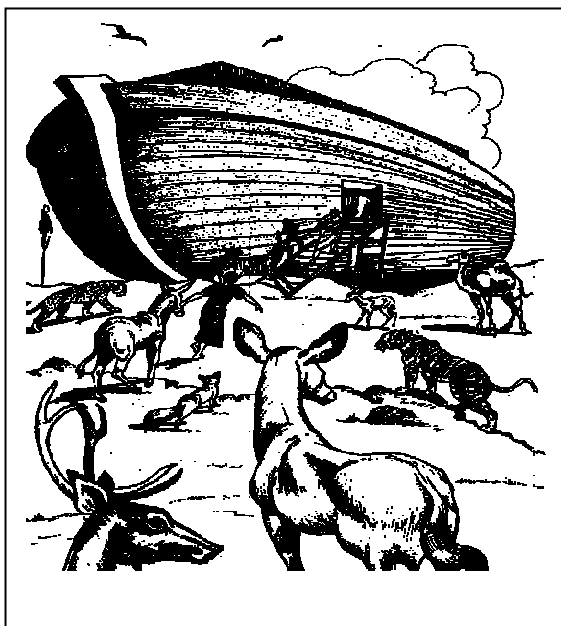
Most of the people at that time were very stubborn and still did not listen to Prophet Nuh (a). Despite their stubbornness, Prophet Nuh (a) tried for hundreds of years to make people believe in the oneness of Allah. He told them not to worship their idols that were built with wood and stone. He also informed them of the punishment they would face on the Day of Judgement when they would return to Allah.

As time passed, the people grew worse, and began to attack Prophet Nuh (a) with stones whenever he tried to talk to them. Finally, Prophet Nuh (a) got very tired and prayed to Allah to punish these idol worshippers.



Almighty Allah listened to his prayers and commanded him to make an ark (a big boat). When Prophet Nuh (a) began building the ark, people started to laugh and make fun of him. They thought he was crazy since there was no lake, nor river, nor ocean nearby for the ark to go in. But Prophet Nuh (a) paid no attention to them and finished building the ark.

Almighty Allah then commanded Prophet Nuh (a) to fill the ark with a pair of each type of animal, along with some food and water. When this was done, Prophet Nuh (a) told all his followers to get inside the ark as well.



Once the ark was full, Allah began to send down a heavy rainfall which caused a great flood. As the water rose up, the ark started to float. All the unbelievers started to drown but those who were in the ark were saved. Some unbelievers climbed mountains thinking that they could be saved, but the water rose higher and higher and drowned them too.

One of the unbelievers that climbed up a mountain was Prophet Nuh (a)'s very own son, Kanan. Kanan did not believe in what his father was teaching and so Almighty Allah did not save him. Allah told Prophet Nuh (a) that since Kanan did not believe in Allah, he was not a part of Prophet Nuh (a)'s family, and that is why he was drowned with all the other unbelievers. The Holy Quran says:

And Nuh cried to his Lord and said, "My Lord! Verily my son is of my family, and verily Your promise is true and You are the most of the judges." (God) said, "O Nuh, verily he is not of your family, his conduct is not righteous..."

Surah Hud, 11:45, 46 (Part)

Finally, after a long time, the rain stopped and the water drained away. It is said that the ark of Prophet Nuh (a) landed on Mount Judi. From there the believers spread out all over the world and started a new life. Prophet Nuh (a) lived for nine hundred and fifty years in this world.

Our Holy Prophet Muhammad (s) says: "The likeness of my Ahlul-bayt is that of the ark of Nuh (a). He who goes into it is saved, and he who turns away from it is drowned." In other words, Prophet Muhammad (s) is saying that those who follow and act upon the teachings of his Ahlul-bayt will be saved on the Day of Judgment just like those people who were saved from the flood by going into the ark. Those who will reject the teachings of our Prophet and his family will not be saved on the Day of Judgment just like those unbelievers who were drowned in the great flood.

In Surah-e-Fateha, we say, "Maalik-i Yaum-e-Deen," which means Allah is, "The Master of the Day of Judgment." We say this because He will Judge us on that day. If we follow Him by following the teachings of Prophet Muhammad and his Ahlul-bayt, then we will be saved from the punishments on the Day of Judgment.

Sources: 1) Tareekh Notes from London and Vancouver.

5.1 Worksheet: Prophet Nuh (a)

True or False — Circle either “T” for True or “F” for False.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Prophet Nuh (a) tried for a long time to show the people the right path. | T | F |
| 2. Prophet Nuh (a) was Kanan’s son. | T | F |
| 3. People laughed at Prophet Nuh (a) because he was a funny person. | T | F |
| 4. The Ark landed on Mount Judi. | T | F |

Multiple Choice — Circle the best answer.

1. What did the people worship?
 - a) They worshipped Allah.
 - b) They worshipped idols.
 - c) They worshipped Prophet Nuh (a).

2. What is an idol?
 - a) A God.
 - b) A person who does not like to work.
 - c) A man-made object, made of stone or wood, that people worship.

3. What did Allah command Prophet Nuh (a) to do?
 - a) To build an ark.
 - b) To continue preaching to the people.
 - c) To go to another town.

4. Why did Allah tell Prophet Nuh (a) that Kanan was not really his son?

- a) Because Kanan was an adopted son.
- b) Because Kanan was a disbeliever.
- c) Because Kanan was really his brother.

Short-Answer Questions — Answer in complete sentences.

1. Why did people in Prophet Nuh's (a) time stop worshipping Allah?

2. How was Prophet Nuh (a) and his followers saved from the flood?

3. What does "Maalik-i Yaum-e-Deen" mean?

4. The people who believed in Prophet Nuh (a) and went into the Ark were saved from the flood. Those people who rejected Prophet Nuh (a) were drowned. How is the Ark of Prophet Nuh (a) similar to the Ahlul-bayt?

Chapter 6: Prophet Hud (a)

Within the deserts of Saudi Arabia was a tribe by the name of Aad. They lived in a place called Ahqaaf, an area between Yemen and Oman.



Almighty Allah had granted the Tribe of Aad many blessings. They lived in peace and comfort. They were clever and strong people, and had built beautiful cities. In their tribe, no disease existed and no one got sick. Despite all the favors that Allah had granted them, the people of Aad did not believe in the One God, and instead worshipped their stone-carved idols. When anything good happened to them they would thank their idols, and when they were in trouble, they used to pray to these idols for help.

After some years, the tribe of Aad began to lose its unity. The powerful people treated the weak and poor members very badly. To guide these proud and ignorant people, the Merciful Allah sent Prophet Hud (a) to them as their prophet.

The story of Prophet Hud (a) starts in Chapter 11 (Surah-e-Hud), verse 50 of the Holy Qur'an:

And We sent to the people of Aad their brother Hud, who said, "O my people, worship Allah, You have no other god besides He. (As for the idols), You are only inventing lies. O my people I ask no reward for it (my work), my reward is with Him who created me. Will you not then understand?"

Prophet Hud (a) was from the tribe of Aad itself, and was respected because of his noble family and his good manners. He was the great-grandson of Prophet Nuh (a). He was a very patient and kind man. He told his people not to worship idols which they had carved themselves. He told them that their idols could do nothing for them. He pleaded to them to use the mind that Allah had granted them. He explained to them that there was only one God,

Allah, who had created them, given them health and wealth, and made them a powerful nation. And he reminded them of what happened to the idol worshippers during the time of Prophet Nuh (a).

Prophet Hud (a) tried hard to make the people understand the error of their ways, but instead of listening to him, they became more stubborn. They asked him why they should listen to him and not follow what their forefathers used to do. They told him that he was just a man like them — a man who ate like them, who drank like them, who slept like them, and who talked like them. They even called him a liar who had lost his senses.

The people thus made fun of Prophet Hud (a). His tireless preaching brought him only a few followers. When Prophet Hud (a) warned the people of Aad about the punishment of Allah, they said:

“. . . Then bring down on us what you have threatened, if you are truthful.”

- Holy Qur'an: Surah-e-A'raf, chapter 7, verse 70.

When the people of Aad invited Allah's punishment with their proud words, the rain stopped falling. For three years there was a terrible drought. During this time, Prophet Hud (a) told the people to be sorry for their actions and seek the forgiveness of Allah before it was too late. But the people were blind to the truth and continued praying to their idols for rain. Finally, Prophet Hud (a) gave up and said: "You can do what you want. I only depend on Allah, my Protector."

At last the punishment of Allah appeared. A large dark cloud came. When the people of Aad saw it, they thought it was going to rain. Instead of rain, a strong and terrible wind came down and uprooted their houses and tossed them into the air. Showers of lightening began to come down and strike them. The violent storm continued for eight days and by the end of it the proud people of Aad were totally destroyed. The Holy Qur'an describes this event:

“And as for Aad, they were destroyed by a roaring violent blast. He made it rage against them for seven nights and eight days, uprooting, so you might see the people bowing like the trunks of hollow palm tress. Do you then see any of them surviving?”

- Surah-e-Haqqah, chapter 69, verses 6 to 8

What lesson can we learn from this story? Let's turn back to Surah-e-Fateha. In it, we recite, "Iyyaka na'budu, we Iyyaka nas-ta'een," which means, "Only You (Allah) do we worship, and only You do we ask for help." We have to remember this, at all times. Let us not forget that it is Allah alone who is worth worshipping and it is Him who is Kind and Beneficial yet He can also cause misfortune to fall upon us.

As for Prophet Hud (a) . . . well at the first sign of the storm, Prophet Hud (a) had gathered his followers and family and taken them to a safe place. They were the only survivors of the terrible punishment from Allah. When the storm was over, Prophet Hud (a) took his companions to a place called Hazramaut, where they spent the rest of their days.

Sources: 1) Tareekh Notes from London and Vancouver.

6.1 Worksheet: Prophet Hud (a)

True or False — Circle either “T” for True or “F” for False.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. The tribe of Aad lived in Mecca. | T | F |
| 2. The tribe of Aad received many blessings. | T | F |
| 3. During the first punishment, the tribe of Aad asked for forgiveness. | T | F |
| 4. Prophet Hud (a) and his family and followers were saved from the punishment. | T | F |

Multiple Choice — Circle the best answer.

1. What is the name of the tribe that Prophet Hud (a) was sent to?
 - a) The Tribe of Nuh (a).
 - b) The Tribe of Aad.
 - c) The Tribe of Thamud.

2. How did the people respond to Prophet Hud (a)'s teachings??
 - a) They called him a liar and made fun of him.
 - b) They accepted his teachings and became good people.
 - c) They killed him.

3. What did the people say after Prophet Hud (a) warned them of the punishment from Allah?
 - a) They asked for forgiveness.
 - b) They ran away as quickly as they could.
 - c) They proudly told Prophet Hud (a) to call on Allah's punishment.

Chapter 7: Prophet Salih (a)

After the tribe of Aad had been destroyed by Allah, a new tribe decided to settle in the area of Ahqaf. This new tribe was the tribe of Thamud. The people of Thamud were very strong and worked very hard. They made beautiful gardens and parks, and built magnificent buildings. In order to protect themselves from storms, they built their houses inside the caves of mountains. The people lived in ease and comfort. Despite all these blessings, however, they were not thankful to Allah. In fact, they believed that their good life was a result of their own strength, and so they became arrogant as well. Instead of turning to Allah, they turned to their mountain and offered it sacrifices. As a result, Allah the Merciful sent Prophet Salih (a) to the people of Thamud, in order to guide them to the right path.

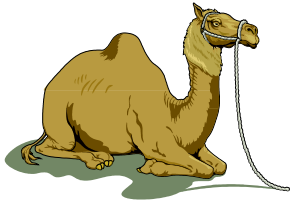
The story of Prophet Salih (a) starts in Chapter 11, verse 61 of the Holy Qur'an. Like Prophet Hud (a), who was from the tribe of Aad itself, Prophet Salih was from the tribe of Thamud itself. Prophet Salih (a) was already respected in his tribe because he was a kind-hearted and wise young man. He invited the people to worship only Allah, the Creator. He tried to teach them how useless it was to worship a mountain, which could not harm or help anyone. He reminded them that he was from their own tribe and wanted them to be on the right path.

However the people of Thamud turned a deaf ear to him. They said, "O Salih, we thought you were a sensible man. Why have you started spreading this nonsense around? Do you want us to stop worshipping what our forefathers used to worship? We will never listen to you!" They even started calling him a madman and a liar.

For many years, Prophet Salih (a) patiently tried to teach them the truth. He made it clear that he was only guiding them so they could benefit themselves, and he did not want anything from them. He said that his reward would come from Allah. He reminded them of the many blessings that Allah had given them.

It turned out that a few people started listening to Prophet Salih (a) and started believing what he told them. Then, a few more people became believers. And as the number of believers started to grow, the leaders of the tribe of Thamud became worried. They were

afraid that if too many people started believing Prophet Salih (a), then Prophet Salih (a) might become powerful and overthrow them. As a result, they decided to make Prophet Salih (a) look weak in front of the people. Therefore, they challenged him to prove his words. They told him that if he was really a prophet, then he should show them a miracle from Allah which they had never seen before.



By the powers of Allah, a huge she-camel appeared out of nowhere. The people had never seen such a camel in their lives. The she-camel was itself a miracle: on one day, it would drink all the water in the town; on the next it would allow the people to drink the water; and on the day that the she-camel drank all the water, it would give the people as much milk as they wanted. Prophet Salih (a) told the people: “Indeed a clear proof of your Lord has come to you. This she-camel of Allah is a sign for you. Leave it free to graze on Allah’s earth and do not harm her; otherwise you will be overtaken by a painful punishment.”

This powerful miracle made a lot of people believe the words of Prophet Salih (a). It also made the leaders of the tribe nervous because they knew that as long as the people could see the she-camel, they would listen to Prophet Salih (a). Now despite the warning from Prophet Salih (a) to leave the she-camel alone, the leaders of the tribe decided to kill her. After surrounding the she-camel, a man by the name of Qadar struck the animal’s neck with his sword and killed it. In reference to this man, our Holy Prophet (s) has said, “The wicked person from the olden times is the one who killed the innocent she-camel of Prophet Salih (a).” After killing the camel, the leaders went to Prophet Salih (a) and arrogantly retorted,

“O Salih! Bring us the punishment if you really are a Prophet.”

Even after what the people had done to the she-camel, Allah (the Merciful) decided to give the people three more days before he would send down the punishment. Prophet Salih (a) told the people that they had three days to ask for Allah’s forgiveness. But the people only laughed at him.

After three days, Prophet Salih (a) received a command from Allah to leave the town with his followers. Then the punishment of Allah came down on the people of Thamud. A great thunderbolt came from the sky and a powerful earthquake shook the town and totally

destroyed the buildings and houses. People fell down dead and the fire from the sky turned their bodies into ashes. No one was left alive in town after that terrible day.

When Prophet Salih (a) saw the tragic end of the people of his own tribe, he turned to their dead bodies and said, "O People, I delivered to you the message of Allah and guided you to the right path; you did not listen to me, and now look what has happened to you."

We too, should remember to walk on the right path. But what is even important, is **STAYING** on that path and not falling away. That is why, in Surah-e-Fateha, we say: "Ih Dinas-Siraat al-Mustaqeem," which means, "Keep us on the right path." We want Allah not only to get us onto that path, but also to **KEEP** us on that path forever.

Sources: 1) Tareekh Notes from London and Vancouver.

7.1 Worksheet: Prophet Salih (a)

True or False — Circle either “T” for True or “F” for False.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Prophet Salih (a) was from the tribe of Aad. | T | F |
| 2. Prophet Salih (a) was sent to guide the tribe of Thamud. | T | F |
| 3. The ark was the miracle of Prophet Salih (a). | T | F |
| 4. The leaders of the tribe of Thamud decided to kill the she-camel. | T | F |

Multiple Choice — Circle the best answer.

1. After the she-camel was killed, Allah sent the punishment three days later because:
 - a) It took three days to get the punishment ready.
 - b) Allah decided to let the people enjoy life for three more days before they would die.
 - c) Allah gave them a chance to ask for forgiveness in those three days.

2. What does “Ih Dinas-Siraat al-Mustaqeem” mean?
 - a) All praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.
 - b) The Most Kind, the Most Merciful.
 - c) Keep us on the right path.

3. What didn’t the leaders of the tribe want people to believe in Prophet Salih (a)?
 - a) The leaders knew Prophet Salih (a) was a bad person.
 - b) The leaders wanted to follow Prophet Salih (a) alone.
 - c) The leaders did not want Prophet Salih (a) to become powerful and overthrow them.

4. What lesson can we learn from this story?
 - a) We should try to help others just like the tribe of Thamud tried to help the she-camel.

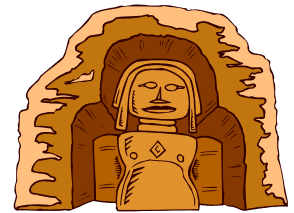
- b) We should not be proud and stubborn like the tribe of Thamud, otherwise we will also be punished like them.
- c) We should follow the leaders of our community even if they are bad people.

Chapter 8: Prophet Ibrahim (a) - Part I

Namrud was the king of Babylon. He was a very powerful king and he told the people to worship him as their lord. Since the people already worshipped idols, they did not mind worshipping Namrud as their god as well.

One day Namrud had a bad dream. He called all the astrologers to explain the meaning of his dream. The astrologers predicted that a boy was going to be born and he would call all the people towards Allah. Namrud did not want his people to worship Allah, so he ordered his guards to examine all the new born babies carefully to see if they showed any signs of miracles. What he failed to realize was that when Allah wanted to send down a prophet, nothing could stop Him.

By Allah's wish when Prophet Ibrahim's (a) mother was going to have a baby, nobody found out. To make sure nobody discovered him, she gave birth to Prophet Ibrahim (a) in a cave in the woods. She then covered the entrance of the cave, left him alone there, and prayed to Allah to take care of him. Almighty Allah indeed took care of him. Whenever Prophet Ibrahim (a) was hungry, He made milk flow from the fingers of Prophet Ibrahim (a). Thus Prophet Ibrahim (a) grew up strong and healthy. At the age of 13 he went back to town to live with his mother.



Prophet Ibrahim (a) had an uncle by the name of Azar. He carved idols from stones and his sons would sell them to the people. Azar gave the same job to Prophet Ibrahim (a). Prophet Ibrahim (a) would tie the idols and drag them to the market. The idols would become dirty and dusty. Then he would tell the people in the market to come and buy the idols that were so lifeless and helpless. In this way, he tried to point out to the idol-worshippers that their idols could neither help nor hurt anyone.

Almighty Allah had sent Prophet Ibrahim (a) to guide people to the right path. Prophet Ibrahim (a) would talk to the idol-worshippers about the Day of Judgment and how people would rise from the dead. Prophet Ibrahim (a) believed Allah could do this, but he wanted to see it with his own eyes.

This story is narrated in chapter 2, verse 260 of the Holy Qur'an. Allah told Prophet Ibrahim (a) to catch hold of four birds, cut them up into little pieces, mix their flesh together, divide them into four parts, put each part on the top of a mountain, and then call each one of them so that by the will Allah, each one of them comes to life again. Prophet Ibrahim (a) did exactly what Allah had told him and surely the birds came to life and flew back to Prophet Ibrahim (a). After witnessing this great power of Allah, Prophet Ibrahim's (a) heart was even more convinced.

Prophet Ibrahim (a) started to work on Allah's mission. First he asked his uncle Azar to worship only Allah. But his uncle became very angry and refused.

“O my father! Do not worship Shaitan, who was disobedient to Allah. O my father! I am afraid that the punishment of Allah might touch you so that you would be Shaitan's companion.” He (Azar) said, “ Do you turn against my gods O Ibrahim? If you do not go away I will stone you. Get away from me for a long while.” He (Ibrahim) said, Peace be on you, I will pray to my Lord to forgive you. He is the most gracious to me.”

Surae Maryam, 19 : 44-47

Prophet Ibrahim (a) did not give up at all. Instead, he became more determined to do his mission. He continued to show people how insane it was to worship idols. In Chapter 21, verses 57-70 of the Holy Qur'an, there is an incident described where Prophet Ibrahim (a) showed the people the helplessness of the idols:



Every year, the people of Namrud used to celebrate a festival. This festival was held outside the town. All the people, young and old, attended the ceremony. Prophet Ibrahim (a) took advantage of this situation and stayed behind. He went to the temple where all the idols were kept. There were no guards keeping a watch. There he took an ax and started breaking idol after idol. Soon he had broken all the idols except one big one. Prophet Ibrahim (a) spared this idol because it was part of his plan to give the people a lesson.

When the people returned to the town and found their gods lying broken, they became very angry. Since they knew that Prophet Ibrahim (a) was against idol

worshipping, they brought him to court and asked him if he had broken the idols. Prophet Ibrahim (a) simply pointed to the big idol that was still standing, and said, "It must have been the big idol. Why don't you ask him about it instead?" Now the people knew the idol could not speak and so they felt quite embarrassed.

Seizing the opportunity to explain how useless the idols were Prophet Ibrahim (a) continued, "Shame on you for worshipping pieces of wood and stone that don't know anything and can neither benefit nor harm you." However, instead of listening to Prophet Ibrahim (a), the people started shouting, "Burn him alive! Burn him alive!"

Namrud decided to burn him down to the stake. For the next few days, people got busy gathering up firewood. Soon there was a big pile of wood, and it was lit to make a huge bonfire. The flames leapt high into the sky and the heat was so intense that no one could go near it. So Prophet Ibrahim (a) had to be thrown in by a catapult.

When Prophet Ibrahim (a) was falling into the fire, Angel Jibrail asked him whether he needed any help to which the Prophet replied, 'Let Allah do what is to be done.' So, as the chosen friend of Allah, Prophet Ibrahim (a) put his trust in Allah. By the miracle of Allah, the fire became cool and harmless for Prophet Ibrahim (a). Namrud and his people watched in amazement as Prophet Ibrahim (a) sat calmly and comfortably in the middle of the fire.

They said "Burn him to ashes if you want to help your gods." We (Allah) said, "O Fire, be cold and peaceful for Ibrahim." **Surae Anbiya, 21: 68,69**

Sources: 1) Commentary of Al-Qur'an by Mir Ahmad 'Ali; 2) Tareekh Notes from London and Vancouver.

8.1 Worksheet: Prophet Ibrahim (a) - Part I

True or False — Circle either “T” for True or “F” for False.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Azar was the king of Babylon. | T | F |
| 2. Namrud was the uncle of Prophet Ibrahim (a). | T | F |
| 3. Almighty Allah took care of Prophet Ibrahim (a) when he was young. | T | F |
| 4. Prophet Ibrahim (a) was saved by Allah from burning in the fire. | T | F |

Multiple Choice — Circle the best answer.

1. When Namrud had the dream, what did the astrologers predict?
 - a) That Namrud would get a baby boy.
 - b) That a boy was going to be born who would call the people towards Allah.
 - c) That Namrud would become king of Babylon.

2. After Prophet Ibrahim (a) had broken all the idols, what did Namrud decide to do?
 - a) He decided to send Prophet Ibrahim (a) to Palestine.
 - b) He decided to make Prophet Ibrahim (a) fix all the idols.
 - c) He decided to burn Prophet Ibrahim (a) in a big fire.

3. Why did Prophet Ibrahim (a) not ask Angel Jibrail to help him.
 - a) Because Angel Jibrail could not do anything.
 - b) Because Prophet Ibrahim (a) put his trust in Allah.
 - c) Because Prophet Ibrahim (a) wore fire-proof clothes.

Chapter 9: Prophet Ibrahim (a) - Part II

After the event of the fire, Namrud called for Prophet Ibrahim (a) and asked him, 'Who is your Lord? Is there any lord other than me?' Prophet Ibrahim (a) replied, 'My Lord is the One that gives life and causes death.' To this, Namrud said, 'I can also give life and cause death since if I send for two prisoners who have been condemned to death, and spare one and get the other killed, then it will be the same as giving one life and causing one to die.' Prophet Ibrahim (a) replied to this, 'No, you are only right if you are able to bring back the dead one to life. Anyway, my Lord makes the sun rise in the east. If you are so powerful, make it rise from the west.' Namrud could not give a reply to this, and instead he ordered Prophet Ibrahim (a) to leave his kingdom. Prophet Ibrahim (a) thus took his family and left for Baytul Muqqaddas in Palestine.

Prophet Ibrahim's (a) wife Sarah was very beautiful. To guard her from the eyes of the people, he would put her in a box whenever they came to a town. On the way to Palestine, he passed a country ruled by an Arab king. The guard at the border asked about the box. Prophet Ibrahim (a) told the guard to charge him as much as he wanted as tax on the box, but not to open it. The guard did not listen and forced open the box. When the guard saw the beautiful woman, he immediately reported it to the king.

The king sent for Prophet Ibrahim (a) and his wife. When the king saw Sarah, he was attracted to her beauty, and so he reached out to touch her. But Prophet Ibrahim (a) prayed to Allah to save the honor of his wife. His prayers were accepted as the king's arm became a solid block of wood. The king asked for forgiveness and begged Prophet Ibrahim (a) to pray to Allah to give him his hand back. Prophet Ibrahim (a) prayed and the king's hand went back to normal.

But once more, the king extended his hand towards Sarah. His hand immediately dried up like a piece of wood again. The king asked for forgiveness a second time, and this time, Prophet Ibrahim (a) told him that Allah would only help him if his intentions were true. Since the king was sincere, when Prophet Ibrahim (a) prayed to Allah, the king's hand turned back to its original form again. The king was impressed and treated Prophet Ibrahim (a) with more

respect. He even presented Prophet Ibrahim (a) a girl named Hajirah to serve as a maid for Sarah.

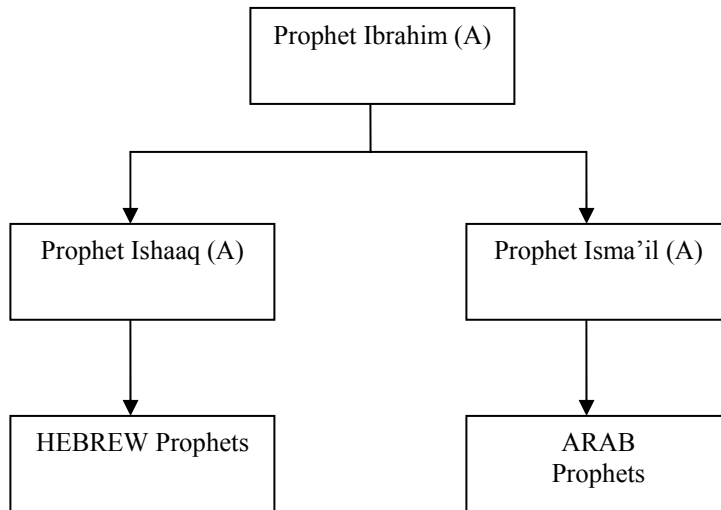
Prophet Ibrahim (a) once again headed for Palestine and this time came across some people who worshipped the stars. When Prophet Ibrahim (a) came to know of this, he decided to invite them towards the right path. This story is narrated in Chapter 6, verse 77 of the Holy Qur'an.

Prophet Ibrahim (a) decided to stay with the star worshippers. When it was night time, Prophet Ibrahim (a) saw the stars and said to the star worshippers, "This star is my Lord." After a while, the star faded away and Prophet Ibrahim (a) said, "I can not love a lord that fades away." Then, the moon came up and Prophet Ibrahim (a) said, "This is my lord, it is bigger than the star." Soon, the moon disappeared too, and Prophet Ibrahim (a) said, "If my lord is not going to lead me, I shall go astray." In the morning, the sun came out and Prophet Ibrahim (a) said, "This is my lord, it is the biggest of all stars." In the evening though, the sun disappeared, and he said, "I am sick of these ever changing creations. Without doubt, I turn my face towards the Lord who created the stars, the moon, the sun, the heavens, and the earth and I worship only Him." This is how Prophet Ibrahim (a) tried to show the right path instead of the wrong one.

In the last verse of Surah-e-Fateha, Allah tells us what path is the right path and what the wrong one is. We say, "Siraat al-Ladheena an-'Amta 'Alayhim; Ghayril Maghdhoobi 'Alayhim, wa lad-Dhaaleen," which means, Keep us on "the path of those upon whom You (Allah) have given Your blessings; not the path of those You are angry with, nor of those who have gone astray." Prophet Ibrahim (a) was a man who was blessed by Allah, and so he was on the right path. Namrud, the idol worshippers, and the star worshippers were people who had gone astray, and so their path was the wrong one.

After trying to show the star worshippers the right path, Prophet Ibrahim (a), Sarah and her maid Hajirah continued the journey to Palestine. Hajirah was a good woman. She worked very hard and never failed in her duty. Sarah could not have any children so she suggested that Prophet Ibrahim (a) marry Hajirah and maybe Allah would give them a child. When Prophet Ibrahim (a) and Hajirah did marry, Allah blessed them with a son, Prophet Isma'il (a).

However by Allah's grace, five years later Sarah also had a son, Prophet Ishaq (a). Prophet Ibrahim (a) is thus called the father of the Prophets because from his son, Prophet Ismail (a), came the Arab Prophets, including the Holy Prophet Muhammad (s); and from his other son, Prophet Ishaq (a) who by Allah's grace was born 5 years later to Sarah, came the Hebrew Prophets (a), including Prophet Isa (a).



The title of Prophet Ibrahim (a) was “Khalilullah”, which means, “Friend of Allah.” When the time came for his death, he told the angel who had come to take his soul, “Does a friend take the soul of his friend?” He meant that Allah should not order Prophet Ibrahim (a)’s death because he was His friend. The angel of death could not answer this question, so he returned to Allah. Allah told the angel to go back to Prophet Ibrahim (a) and say, “Oh Ibrahim, does a friend refuse an invitation to meet his friend?”

Sources: 1) Commentary of Al-Qur'an by Mir Ahmad 'Ali; 2) Tareekh Notes from London and Vancouver.

9.1 Worksheet: Prophet Ibrahim (a) - Part II

True or False — Circle either “T” for True or “F” for False.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Sarah was the wife of Prophet Ibrahim (a). | T | F |
| 2. The king who tried to touch the wife of Prophet Ibrahim (a) was destroyed. | T | F |
| 3. Prophet Ibrahim (a) is known as “The father of the African Prophets.” | T | F |
| 4. Prophet Ibrahim (a) is known as “Khalilullah”. | T | F |

Multiple Choice — Circle the best answer.

- What happened when the king of the Arab country reached out to touch Sarah?
 - Prophet Ibrahim (a) hit the king.
 - The king’s hand froze like a piece of wood.
 - A huge lightning bolt struck the king and his body was turned into ashes.
- The maid given by the king of the Arab country to Prophet Ibrahim (a) was?
 - Hajra.
 - Bilqis.
 - Sarah.
- “Siraat al-Ladheena an-’Amta ‘Alayhim; Ghayril Maghdhoobi ‘Alayhim, wa lad-Dhaalleen” means:
 - “All thanks is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds”.
 - “The path of those upon whom You (Allah) have given Your blessings; not the path of those You are angry with, nor of those who have gone astray”.
 - “Only You (Allah) do we worship, and only You do we ask for help”.

4. Why did the star worshippers worship the sun?
 - a) Because they thought it was the greatest force in the world.
 - b) Because they liked the shape of the sun.
 - c) Because Prophet Ibrahim (a) told them to.

Short-Answer Questions: Do NOT put one word answers down.

1. How did Prophet Ibrahim (a) show that Namrud was not really a Lord?

2. How did Prophet Ibrahim (a) show the star worshippers that they were wrong in worshipping the stars, the moon, and the sun?

3. What does Khalilullah mean?

4. Why is Prophet Ibrahim (a) known as the father of the prophets??

Chapter 10: Prophet Isma'il (a)

When Prophet Isma'il (a) was born Prophet Ibrahim (a) was overjoyed and spent his time loving and caring for his son. Bibi Sarah became a little sad when she saw this because she still did not have any children of her own. Prophet Ibrahim (a) asked for Allah's help, and Allah told him to take Bibi Hajirah and their son away to a far away place.

This was the command of Allah, so Prophet Ibrahim (a) took Bibi Hajirah and Prophet Isma'il (a) on a long journey. They stopped in a valley between two hills. This was later to be known as "Mecca". There was nothing but sand and stones and hills everywhere. Allah ordered Prophet Ibrahim (a) to leave Bibi Hajirah and Prophet Isma'il (a) there, and to return to Palestine alone. It was not easy, but Prophet Ibrahim (a) obeyed Allah's command and left.

At the time of his departure, Hajirah said, "O Ibrahim, in whose care are you leaving us here?" Prophet Ibrahim (a) said, "I leave you in the care of Allah who saved me from Namrud's fire." Hajirah said, "Then I shall rely upon Allah to look after me and my child."

Bibi Hajirah had learned to trust and depend on Allah and was confident she would be fine. Soon the food and water ran out and Prophet Isma'il (a) started crying because of hunger. Bibi Hajirah looked at the hill of Marwa and saw a mirage of water on the hill. She ran to Marwa but found no water. She looked at the opposite hill of Safa and saw water there. She ran to Safa but found no water there either. She ran back and forth between the hills seven times before she returned, sad and tired, to her son. Just then, Prophet Isma'il (a) kicked his heel on the ground, and suddenly water started gushing out. This was a miracle of Allah — later known as the well of Zam-Zam. The stream attracted many birds, animals, and plants. Allah, by his generosity, had provided food and water to Bibi Hajirah and Prophet Isma'il (a).

Year by year, the flow of water attracted more and more people to come and settle there. Soon, it became a flourishing town. Prophet Isma'il (a) grew up here to be a young boy. He was thirteen when Prophet Ibrahim (a) went to visit him.

During this visit one night, Prophet Ibrahim (a) had a dream that he was sacrificing his beloved son for Allah. He was a little confused. On the next day, he had the same dream again, and this time he was convinced that it was a command from Allah.

Prophet Ibrahim (a) told Prophet Isma'il (a) about the dream. Showing great faith and loyalty to Allah, Prophet Isma'il (a) asked his father to carry out Allah's command:

***And when (Isma'il) became Baaligh, he (Ibrahim) said, "O my son! I saw in a dream that I am sacrificing you. What is your view?" He (Isma'il) said, "O father! Do as you have been commanded. If Allah wills, you will find me from the patient ones."
Saffat, 37 : 102***

Prophet Ibrahim (a) was already prepared to obey Allah's command because his loyalty to Allah was even stronger than his great love for his son. So Prophet Ibrahim (a) and his son set off to a place called Mina to carry out Allah's command. At a cross-road, they met a man who asked them where they were going. When Prophet Ibrahim (a) explained, the man tried to stop him from carrying out Allah's command. Prophet Ibrahim knew at once that the man was Iblis in disguise. Both father and son picked up stones and threw them at the man until they got rid of him. As they walked on, they met another man who also tried to persuade them to forget Allah's command. This man was also Iblis in disguise, but Prophet Ibrahim (a) and Prophet Isma'il (a) knew that, so they stoned him too. As they continued on for the third time, they met yet another man. This too was Iblis in disguise who again tempted them not to carry out Allah's command. They stoned this man as well.

Prophet Ibrahim (a) and Prophet Isma'il (a) had faced Iblis three times on their way to Mina, but yet they were able to stay on the right path. This was one of the many tests which they had successfully passed.

Prophet Ibrahim (a) and Prophet Isma'il (a) finally arrived at Mina. Prophet Isma'il (a) told his father to blindfold himself, so that he would not suffer any pain looking at his son's throat being cut. Prophet Ibrahim (a) prayed to Allah, and with his blindfold on, he cut the throat of his sacrifice.

When Prophet Ibrahim (a) opened his blindfold, he saw his son Prophet Isma'il (a) standing at a distance smiling.

And We called out to him, "O Ibrahim, Indeed you have proved your dream true. This is how We pay back people who do good. Indeed this was a clear trial, and We ransomed him with a Great Sacrifice. And We gave (this blessing) to one from the later times." Peace be upon Ibrahim.

Saffat, 37 : 104 - 109

Then what did he slaughter? It was a sheep. This was the miracle of Allah. Allah saved Prophet Isma'il (a) and blessed the family of Prophet Ibrahim (a). The celebration day of sacrifice is known as Eid al-Adha.



Allah made the actions of Prophet Ibrahim (a) and his family Wajib for all Muslims. Thus, when we go for Hajj, we walk between Safa and Marwa seven times just as Bibi Hajirah did. In Mina, we stone the three pillars that represent Iblis who tried to stop Prophet Ibrahim (a) and Prophet Isma'il (a) from carrying out the command of Allah. And also in Mina, we kill a sheep in the memory of Prophet Ibrahim (a) and Prophet Isma'il (a)'s sacrifice.

Later on in life, Prophet Ibrahim (a) and Prophet Isma'il (a) rebuilt the Holy Ka'ba as commanded by Allah.

Sources: 1) Commentary of Al-Qur'an by Mir Ahmad 'Ali; 2) Tareekh Notes from London and Vancouver.

10.1 Worksheet: Prophet Isma'il (a)

True or False — Circle either “T” for True or “F” for False.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. The mother of Prophet Isma'il (a) was Bibi Sarah. | T | F |
| 2. The father of Prophet Isma'il (a) was Prophet Ibrahim (a). | T | F |
| 3. Prophet Isma'il (a) was commanded to sacrifice his son, Prophet Ibrahim (a). | T | F |
| 4. The man who stopped Prophet Ibrahim (a) and his son 3 times, was Iblis in disguise | T | F |
| 5. The well in Mecca is called the well of Zam-zam. | T | F |

Multiple Choice — Circle the best answer.

1. Why did Prophet Ibrahim (a) marry Bibi Hajirah?
 - a) Because Bibi Sarah could not have children.
 - b) Because Bibi Hajirah was a good lady.
 - c) Because he wanted to.

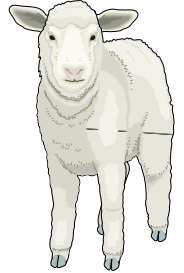
2. Prophet Ibrahim (a) took Bibi Hajirah and Prophet Isma'il (a) to a far away place that was later to be known as?
 - a) “Medina”
 - b) “Mecca”
 - c) “Quwait”

3. Bibi Hajirah ran back and forth between two hills. What were their names?
 - a) Mecca and Medina.
 - b) Mina and Hira.
 - c) Safa and Marwa.

4. Which one of the following did Prophet Ibrahim (a) and Prophet Isma'il (a) build?

Chapter 11: Prophet Ayyub (a)

Prophet Ayyub (a) was the grandson of Prophet Ishaq (a). He was married to a lady by the name of Rahma, who was the daughter of Prophet Yusuf (a). Allah gave Prophet Ayyub (a) many blessings. He was a wealthy man with a large flock of sheep and a lot of land. He had many children and was very well respected by his people. Prophet Ayyub (a) was generous with his wealth as well. He took care of orphans and used to provide food for the poor. For all his blessings, Prophet Ayyub (a) remained ever thankful to Allah.



On seeing how much Prophet Ayyub (a) used to worship Allah, Shaitan decided to try to lead him away from the right path. Since he was dealing with a Prophet, Shaitan requested Allah for power over Prophet Ayyub (a)'s affairs and said, "O Allah, while Ayyub enjoys your blessings, he remains thankful to you. But give me control over his affairs and I will make him turn away from you." Allah was fully aware of the patience of Prophet Ayyub (a), but as a trial for His Prophet and as a lesson for mankind, he granted Shaitan's request.

Shaitan came down to earth and destroyed all of Prophet Ayyub (a)'s animals and property. Worst of all, he killed his children as well. But despite this big misfortune, Prophet Ayyub (a) never lost faith in Allah. In fact, he turned to Allah and began to worship Allah like he never had before.

When Shaitan saw that his plans were not working, he tried something else. He took away Prophet Ayyub (a)'s good health and made him suffer a terrible disease. When the people saw this, they began to say that Prophet Ayyub (a) must have committed a big sin and that was why he was being punished by Allah. So, they started to avoid him. Eventually, he was even told to leave the town.

Prophet Ayyub (a) began to live in the wilderness and spent his time praying to Allah. His only companion was his faithful wife, Bibi Rahma, who supported them by working in people's houses. Sometimes poor people, who suffered great diseases, would come and ask Prophet Ayyub (a) to pray to Allah to relieve them of their sufferings. Prophet Ayyub (a) would pray to Allah, and his prayers would be accepted. The people would be cured of their disease. But when they asked him why he did not pray for himself, Prophet Ayyub (a) replied: "I have enjoyed Allah's blessing for 80 years and it would be very ungrateful of me if now I start complaining just because I have been put in some distress for a little while."

Seven years passed and Shaitan watched helplessly as Prophet Ayyub (a) remained devoted in his love for Allah. Finally, Shaitan decided that he would try Prophet Ayyub's patience through his wife. So, one day Shaitan came in the form of a human being to Bibi Rahma and told her that he was a doctor and that he could cure her husband of his terrible disease. Bibi Rahma was excited since she hated to see her husband suffer so much pain. But Shaitan said that he would only cure Prophet Ayyub (a) on one condition. Bibi Rahma asked what this condition was. Shaitan replied that when Prophet Ayyub (a) was cured, he should say that it was him that cured Prophet Ayyub (a) and not Allah.

Bibi Rahma wanted to see her husband well again, and so went to her husband and suggested this treatment to him. Prophet Ayyub (a) instantly realized what had happened. He knew that the doctor was really Shaitan in disguise. Finally, Prophet Ayyub (a) turned to Allah and complained about Shaitan's repeated efforts to make him forsake his beliefs. Allah accepted the prayers of Prophet Ayyub (a) and cured him of all his troubles. The Holy Qur'an says:

"Remember Our servant Ayyub, when he cried to his Lord: 'Truly, Shaitan has afflicted me with pain and distress.' (We said), 'Stamp on the ground with your foot - this stream is for you to wash with, and a cool and

refreshing drink.’ We gave him back his family and more like them, as a grace from Us, and a reminder to those who understand.”

- Surah Saad, Chapter 38, Verses 41-42.

Prophet Ayyub struck the ground with his foot and a stream of water came out. When he washed himself with the water he saw that his sickness disappeared and he returned to normal. His wife, Bibi Rahma, was worried about him, but when she returned she was amazed to see him so well. Allah then restored Prophet Ayyub (a) to his former status. He was blessed with many children and more followers than he had before. There is a great lesson for us in the patience of Prophet Ayyub (a). He suffered his hardship without bitterness and submitted himself to the will of Allah. Whenever we are in difficulty, we should remember the story of Prophet Ayyub (a) and never lose our faith in Allah.

Sources: 1) Commentary of Al-Qur'an by Mir Ahmad 'Ali; 2) Tareekh Notes from London.

11.1 Worksheet: Prophet Ayyub (a)

True or False — Circle either “T” for True or “F” for False.

1. P. Ayyub (a) was the son of P. Yusuf (a). T F
2. Bibi Rahma was the wife of P. Ayyub (a). T F
3. Shaitan destroyed all of P. Ayyub (a)’s animals, property, and children. T F
4. P. Ayyub (a) never lost his faith in Allah. T F

Multiple Choice — Circle the best answer.

1. What did the people do after they saw P. Ayyub (a) with his terrible disease?
 - a) They looked for doctors all over the land that might be able to help him.
 - b) They forced him to leave the town.
 - c) They killed him so as to relieve him of his suffering.
2. How long did P. Ayyub suffer his hardships?
 - a) 7 years.
 - b) 80 years.
 - c) 10 years.
3. How was Prophet Ayyub (a) cured of his disease?
 - a) The people found a doctor to cure P. Ayyub (a).
 - b) P. Ayyub (a) agreed to Shaytan’s condition, and so Shaytan cured him.
 - c) P. Ayyub hit his foot on the ground, a spring gushed forth, and when he washed himself with that water he was cured by Allah.

Short-Answer Questions: Do NOT put one word answers down.

1. What proposal did Shaytan make to Allah?
2. When the poor people asked P. Ayyub (a) why he did not pray for himself, what answer did P. Ayyub (a) give to them?
3. How did Shaytan try to tempt P. Ayyub (a) and Bibi Rahma to lose faith in Allah??
4. What is one lesson we can learn from this part of the story?

Chapter 12: Prophet Yunus (a)

Prophet Yunus (a) was sent by Allah to the people of Naynivah (Babylon) to guide them on the right path. The people of Naynivah were idol worshippers, and although Prophet Yunus (a) tried night and day to explain to them how useless their worship was, they did not accept his advice. They said to him, "You are a liar. Our forefathers have always worshipped these idols and we will do the same." Prophet Yunus (a) tried to convince the people for a long time to worship One God. He even warned them of Allah's punishment if they continued in their sinful ways. But they refused to give up their idol worshipping.

At last Prophet Yunus (a) was angry and fed up with these stubborn people. He walked out of their town and asked Allah to send His punishment on them. But Prophet Yunus had made a mistake because he left his people without permission of Allah.

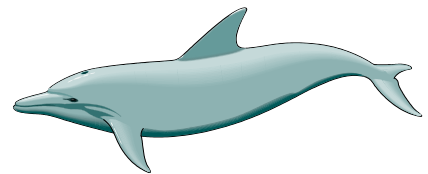
After Prophet Yunus (a) left, the signs of Allah's punishment appeared over Naynivah. A huge cloud came over the whole area and the land was filled with darkness. The people at once realized that they were about to be punished for their sins. A wise man, from amongst them, advised them to ask for Allah's forgiveness at once, before they were all destroyed. All the people — young and old, men and women — came out of their homes and sincerely begged Allah to forgive them. Allah accepted their prayers and withdrew His punishment.

Meanwhile, Prophet Yunus (a) had gone a long distance and had reached the sea. There he saw some people in a big boat that was ready to sail. He asked them to allow him to join them. Since he looked like a very respectable person, the passengers of the boat cheerfully welcomed him on board.

In the sea, the boat was suddenly caught up in a heavy storm. In those times, sailors thought that bad luck happened on the sea if there was a bad person on board. So they cast

lots to find out who this bad person was. The first time, the lot fell to Prophet Yunus, but since he was considered to be a dignified person, the lots were cast again.

When the lot fell to Prophet Yunus (a) the second time, they had no choice but to throw him overboard. At that moment, Prophet Yunus (a) realized his mistake in walking out on his people without waiting for the command of Allah. He knew that his present problems were due to that mistake but he trusted in the Wisdom of Allah and jumped into the stormy sea. Allah commanded a large whale to swallow Prophet Yunus (a) into its belly. Prophet Yunus (a) suddenly found himself in the stomach of the whale, and he lay there, frightened but unharmed. The Holy Qur'an says:



“Truly Yunus was one of the messengers. When we abandoned his people and sailed away in a full ship. The people cast lots and he was thrown into the water. The fish swallowed him up and he deserved this. Had he not glorified Allah, he would certainly have remained inside the fish until the Day of Resurrection.”

- Surah As-Saffat, Chapter 37, Verses 139-144.

Prophet Yunus (a) spent several days and nights inside the whale while it swam across the sea. In the darkness of the stomach, Prophet Yunus (a) prayed to Allah to forgive him for his mistake and his prayers were accepted. The Holy Qur'an says:

“He [P. Yunus (a)] cried out from the darkness: ‘There is no god but You. Glory be to You. Verily I was of the unjust’. Then We responded to him and saved him from his grief. Thus do we save the faithful believers.”

- Surah Al-Anbiya, Chapter 21, Verses 87-88.

In these verses, Allah tells us something very important. No matter what happens to us, we should always remain faithful to Allah. As long as we're one of the faithful believers of Allah, he will save us like he saved Prophet Yunus.

The fish that Prophet Yunus (a) was in, went to the seashore and let him out safely onto the ground. Prophet Yunus (a)'s body was badly hurt by the acids inside the fish and Allah caused a plant to grow whose leaves healed Prophet Yunus (a) and whose fruits fed him. Soon Prophet Yunus (a) had regained his health and he was commanded to return to Naynivah.

When he went back, he was amazed to see that the people had given up their idol worshipping and were worshipping Allah. His people welcomed him and he spent the rest of his life preaching and leading them on the right path.

Sources: 1) Commentary of Al-Qur'an by Mir Ahmad 'Ali; 2) Tareekh Notes from London.

12.1 Worksheet -Prophet Yunus (a)

True or False — Circle either “T” for True or “F” for False.

1. The people of Naynivah worshipped one God. T F
2. The people did not listen to Prophet Yunus (a) at first. T F
3. Prophet Yunus (a) walked away from the people of Naynivah after asking Allah’s permission T F
4. Prophet Yunus (a) is alive today inside the belly of a fish. T F

Multiple Choice — Circle the best answer.

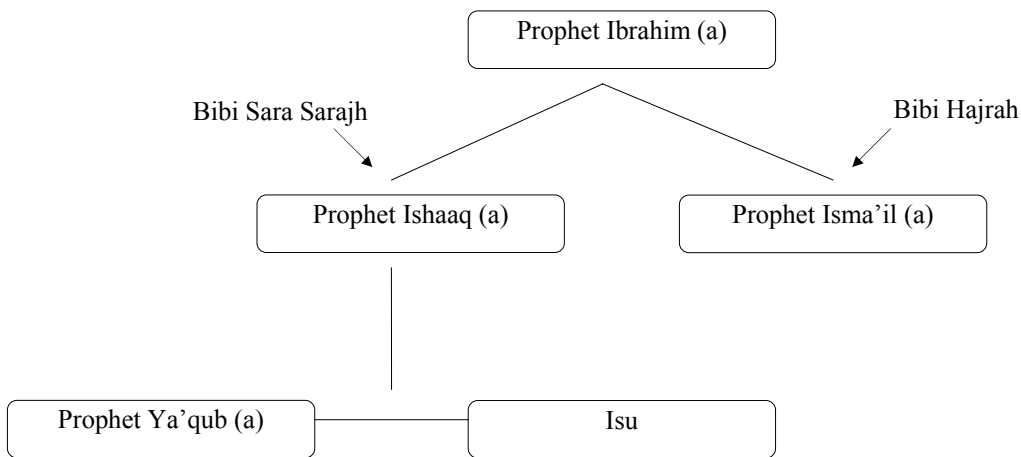
1. Prophet Yunus (a) was sent to the people of:
 - a) Naynivah.
 - b) Aad.
 - c) Thamud.
2. Why was Prophet Yunus (a) thrown out of the boat?
 - a) Because he was too heavy.
 - b) Because he when the people cast the lots, it fell on him.
 - c) Because the people did not like him.
3. How did Prophet Yunus (a) get healed after he came out of the fish?
 - a) Allah sent a doctor from Naynivah to take care of him.
 - b) Allah caused a plant to grow, whose leaves healed him.
 - c) Prophet Yunus (a) struck the ground, Allah caused a spring to form, and the water helped heal him.

Short-Answer Questions — answer the questions. Do NOT put one word answers down.

1. What mistake did Prophet Yunus (a) make?
2. How were the people of Naynivah saved from Allah's punishment?
3. What did Prophet Yunus (a) cry out to Allah while he was in the whale?
4. What is one lesson we can learn from this part of the story?

Chapter 13: Prophet Ya'qub (a)

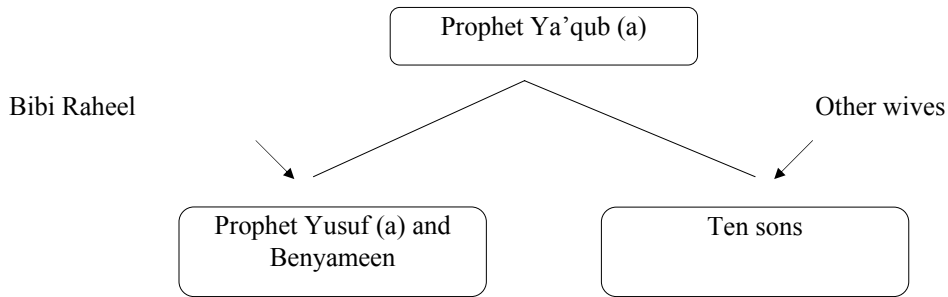
Prophet Ishaq (a) was the younger son of Prophet Ibrahim (a). His mother was Bibi Sarah, who by the miracle of Allah, was able to bear a child even in her old age. Prophet Ishaq (a) married a lady by the name of Rafqa, and they were blessed with twin sons, Isu and Prophet Ya'qub (a).



Prophet Ya'qub (a) was much loved by his parents and this made his twin brother jealous. To prevent trouble between the brothers, Prophet Ishaq (a) advised Prophet Ya'qub (a) to migrate (or move) from their home in Palestine to a place in Iraq where the uncle of Prophet Ya'qub (a) used to live.

Prophet Ya'qub (a) decided to move to Iraq where he began working for his uncle. In return for his work, he was allowed to marry his uncle's daughter, Raheel. After his work was over, Prophet Ya'qub (a) left with his family and returned back to Palestine. In Palestine, Prophet Ya'qub (a) sent presents to his brother, Isu, to show that he wanted to be friends again. Isu accepted the gifts and welcomed his brother warmly. Soon, the hatred between the two brothers was over.

Prophet Ya'qub (a) decided to make his home in the land of Syria. There he was blessed with many children. From his earlier marriages, he had ten sons. From his marriage to Raheel, he was blessed with two more sons, Benyameen and Prophet Yusuf (a). Together the twelve sons became famously known as the "Grandchildren of Ishaaq".



Raheel died early and therefore Prophet Ya'qub (a) always regarded their sons, Benyameen and especially Prophet Yusuf (a) with great fondness. He loved them very dearly.

When Prophet Yusuf (a) was around twelve years old, he dreamt that eleven stars and the sun and moon were prostrating (doing sajdah) to him. He told his dream to his father. Prophet Ya'qub (a) realized that the dream predicted the great future of Prophet Yusuf (a). He immediately advised his son not to tell his brothers about the dream.

The brothers of Prophet Yusuf (a) were jealous of Prophet Yusuf (a), not only because they saw that their father loved him more, but also because Prophet Yusuf (a) was a very handsome boy. As time went by, they became more and more angry. Soon one of the brothers proposed to kill Prophet Yusuf (a). Another one, however, suggested that they throw him in a well, in which case some travelers passing by would pick him up and take him to a far away place. In this way, they would not be guilty of murder.

Once the plot was formed, the brothers went to their father and asked them if Prophet Yusuf (a) could go with them when they took their goats for grazing. At first Prophet Ya'qub (a)

refused. He loved his son so much that he did not want anything to happen to him. However, in the end, Prophet Ya'qub (a) agreed to let Prophet Yusuf (a) go.



As they had planned, the brothers took Prophet Yusuf (a) far away from home, and threw him into a dry well. Then, they took Prophet Yusuf (a)'s shirt and stained it with the blood of a goat. When they got back home, they went to their father and sadly explained to him that while they were grazing their sheep, a wolf came and ate Prophet Yusuf (a). They showed their father the blood-stained shirt as well.

Prophet Ya'qub (a) was very sad that his beloved son, Prophet Yusuf (a), was not with him anymore. But he did not believe the story that his sons had told him. Instead, he remained patient and waited for Allah to reunite him with his beloved son.

Sources: 1) Commentary of Al-Qur'an by Mir Ahmad 'Ali; 2) Tareekh notes from London & Vancouver

13.1 Worksheet - Prophet Ya'qub (a)

True or False — Circle either “T” for True or “F” for False.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Prophet Ishaq (a) was the son of Prophet Ibrahim (a). | T | F |
| 2. The mother of Prophet Ishaq (a) was Bibi Hajrah. | T | F |
| 3. Bibi Raheel was the wife of Prophet Ya'qub (a). | T | F |

Multiple Choice — Circle the best answer.

1. Prophet Ya'qub (a) was the son of:
a) Prophet Isma'il (a).
b) Prophet Ishaq (a).
c) Prophet Ibrahim (a).
2. How many sons did Prophet Ya'qub (a) have?
a) 8
b) 10
c) 12
3. What did Prophet Ya'qub (a) get in return when working for his uncle?
a) He got to marry his uncle's daughter, Raheel.
b) He got a lot of money to spend.
c) He got a lifetime job with his uncle.

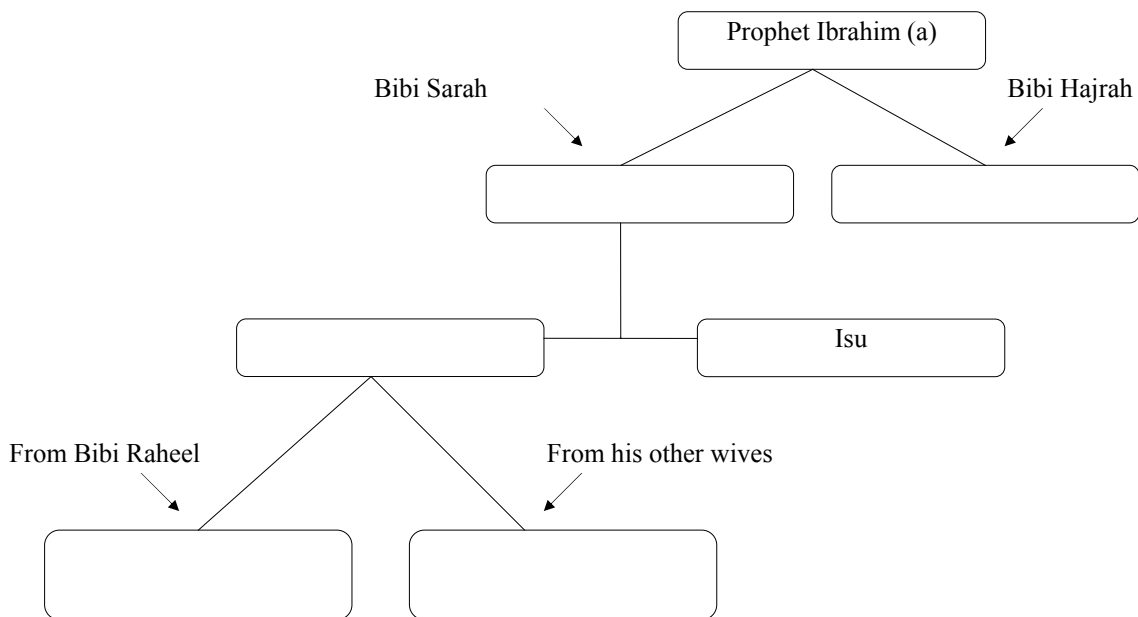
Short-Answer Questions — answer the questions. Do NOT put one word answers down.

1. How did Prophet Ya'qub (a) know that Prophet Yusuf (a) would have a great future?

2. Why were the brothers of Prophet Yusuf (a) jealous of him.

3. What did the brothers do to Prophet Yusuf (a).

4. Fill in the family tree of Prophet Ibrahim (a) right down to the sons of Prophet Ya'qub (a).



Chapter 14: Prophet Yusuf (a) - Part I

14.1 Prophet Yusuf (a) Comes to Egypt:

After Prophet Yusuf (a) was discovered by a caravan of traders passed that had stopped to get some water. They took him with them to Egypt and sold him to some slave traders for a few pieces of silver.

The Governor of Egypt, who was called the “Aziz”, offered a price that none could match and brought Prophet Yusuf (a) home to adopt him as a son.

14.2 Prophet Yusuf (a) Sent to Jail:



After sometime unfortunately, Prophet Yusuf (a) was accused of plotting against the king and sent to prison. On that same day, two other men were also imprisoned on the accusation of trying to poison the king. One used to serve the king wine, while the other was the royal cook. The next day, the wine-server said to Prophet Yusuf (a.), “I saw in a dream that I was crushing grapes to make wine for the king”. The cook said, “I had a dream that I was carrying some bread in a basket on my head and birds were pecking at the bread”. Both men felt that perhaps Prophet Yusuf (a) could interpret their dreams. Prophet Yusuf (a) took this opportunity to preach the

religion of Allah to his prison companions. He promised to tell them the meaning of their dreams and informed them that this was a special power given to him by Allah. He explained to them how senseless it was to believe in various gods.

Finally he said, “O my prison-mates! The man who dreamt that he was crushing grapes will soon be released from here and will go back to his old job of serving wine for the king. The second one, who carried the bread on his head in the dream, will be killed and the birds will start to eat his brain.”

Prophet Yusuf (a) told the wine-server to remind the king that Prophet Yusuf (a) was still in prison. The dreams of both men came true just as Prophet Yusuf (a) had predicted. One of the prisoners was released while the other was hanged. Unfortunately, the wine-server forgot to tell the king about Prophet Yusuf (a) and so Prophet Yusuf (a) had to stay in prison for a few more years.

14.3 Prophet Yusuf (a) Released from Jail:

One day the king told his advisors that he dreamt that seven fat cows being were eaten by seven thin ones. He asked his advisors to tell him the meaning of the dream, but none of them knew how to interpret dreams. The king was very concerned about the meaning of his dream and even his wise could not make sense of it.

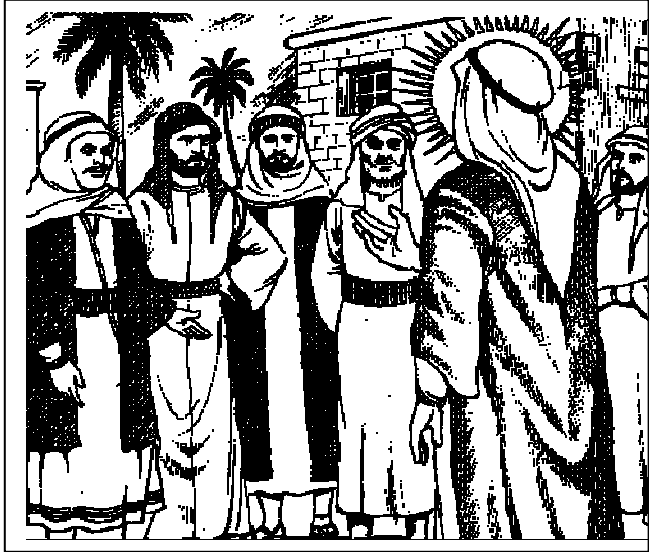
As soon as the wine-server heard about the dream, he remembered Prophet Yusuf (a). He also remembered what Prophet Yusuf (a) had told him to tell the king. So he went to the king and told him about Prophet Yusuf (a).

Prophet Yusuf (a) interpreted the dream. He told the king, "For seven years there will be many crops and food available for the people of Egypt. After that there will be a famine for seven years in which no food will grow and people will starve. Therefore, people should try to grow and store as much extra grain as possible so that they would be able to survive during the years of famine".

On hearing this very sensible interpretation of his dream from the wine-server, the king was delighted. He ordered that Prophet Yusuf (a) be released at once. Not only that, but the king gave Prophet Yusuf (a) a very high position. He became the Aziz of Egypt, and his duties, which he began, right away, included being in charge of the food and money of Egypt. He started to work on making sure that when the famine arrived, nobody would starve.

14.4 Prophet Yusuf (a) as the Aziz of Egypt:

For first seven years, Prophet Yusuf (a) gave his people a little portion of the grain, and stored the rest in very big store-houses. By the time the seven years were over, the store-houses were full. During the next seven years, there was a famine in which the earth became very



dry, and very little food grew. However, because of the planning of Prophet Yusuf (a), the people in Egypt did not starve. The famine also spread to other lands such as Kanaan where Prophet Ya'qub (a) lived with his sons. One day Prophet Ya'qub (a) called his sons and said, "My sons! We are in need of food. You may go the Aziz of Egypt who is known as a kind person and he will sell you food. Let Benyameen stay with me so I won't be lonely." As commanded by their father, the brothers of Prophet Yusuf (a) set off for Egypt to purchase grain.

Chapter 15: Prophet Yusuf (a) - Part II

15.1 The First Journey to Egypt:

When Prophet Yusuf (a) saw his brothers in Egypt, he was very pleased to see them. They did not recognize him but he recognized them. However, he did not reveal who he was.

Prophet Yusuf (a) was disappointed not to see his real brother, Benyameen, and asked his brothers to tell him about themselves. They introduced themselves and told him about their father and mother. Prophet Yusuf (a) was relieved to hear that his father, Prophet Ya'qub (a), was still alive.

Prophet Yusuf sold them some grain, but instead of keeping the money, he secretly put it back into their bags so that they would have some money to come back to buy more grain. He told them that when they came again, they should bring their little brother with them otherwise, he would not sell them any more grain.

When the brothers came back home, they told their father about the kindness of the Aziz and were delighted to see their money when they opened their bags.

15.2 The Second Journey to Egypt:

After some time Prophet Ya'qub's (a) family was out of grain again and the brothers had to go back to Egypt to get more. However, they could not go without Benyameen, so they tried to convince their father to let him come with them.

Prophet Ya'qub (a) was hesitant at first but after he made his sons swear by Allah that they would look after Benyameen at all times, he agreed.

When they reached Egypt, Prophet Yusuf (a) was extremely happy to see his younger brother and invited all of them to have dinner with him. Later he let them all stay at his own house, and asked Benyameen to sleep in his room.

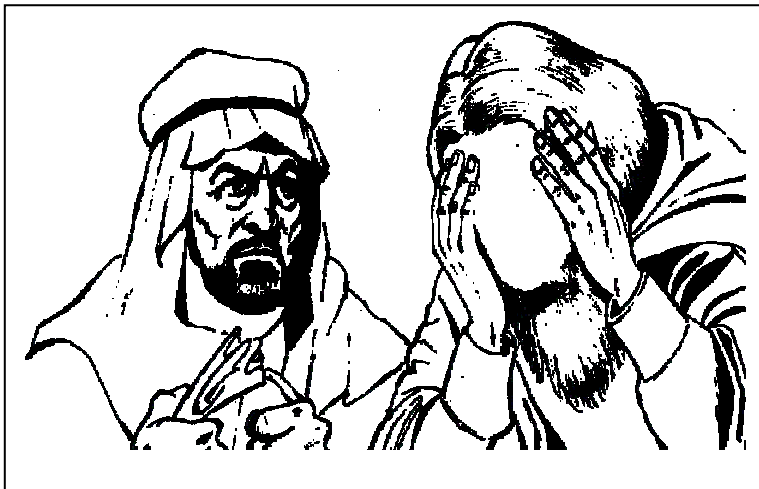
During the night, Prophet Yusuf (a) told Benyameen who he really was. However, he asked Benyameen not to tell their brothers his real identity. Prophet Yusuf (a) wanted Benyameen to stay there with him, and so with Allah's help, they made a plan.

The brothers prepared for their journey home. Meanwhile, according to the command of Allah, Prophet Yusuf (a) carried out his plan to keep Benyameen with him. He ordered his men to put a silver cup belonging to the king in Benyameen's bag.

The brothers of Prophet Yusuf (a) had not gone very far before they were stopped and accused of stealing the silver cup. The brothers said that they were innocent, but after the guards had searched the bags, they found the cup in Benyameen's bag. So, Benyameen was not allowed to go back home.

The brothers pleaded to Prophet Yusuf (a) to take anyone of them instead of Benyameen. But Prophet Yusuf (a) said that he could not take anyone who was not guilty. The brothers had no choice but to return to their father without Benyameen. The eldest brother could not face telling his father the terrible news, so he remained in Egypt.

15.3 The Third Journey to Egypt:



When the brothers returned home and told Prophet Ya'qub (a) what had happened, he was heartbroken. He had already lost his eyesight from crying too much over Prophet Yusuf (a). Now hearing how his other son, Benyameen, had been taken away was too much for him to bear. So, he sent his sons back to Egypt to look for both Prophet Yusuf (a) and Benyameen.

The brothers went back to Egypt, and asked Prophet Yusuf (a) to release Benyameen. Prophet Yusuf (a) knew that it was time to reveal his identity. He reminded his brothers how badly they had treated their brother Yusuf. The brothers were amazed to hear this. Prophet Yusuf (a) then said, "I am Yusuf, and this is my brother. Allah had been gracious to me. Anyone who is patient during hardships is always rewarded by Allah."

On hearing this, the brothers hung their heads in shame and asked Prophet Yusuf (a) for his forgiveness. Prophet Yusuf (a) forgave them at once, and prayed to Allah to forgive them. He then gave his brothers his shirt and told them to cover their father's face with his shirt so that he may regain his eyesight. He then told them to return with the whole family.

15.4 The Fourth Journey to Egypt:

The brothers went back to Kanaan to tell their father about the good news. As soon as the brothers came close, Prophet Ya'qub (a) recognized the fragrance from Prophet Yusuf's(a) shirt. When the shirt was placed on his face, Prophet Yaqub (a) was able to see again and he decided to take his family to Egypt immediately. Prophet Yusuf (a) was delighted to meet them and hugged his father and step-mother. Because they were so happy, the father, the step-mother, and the ten brothers prostrated themselves on the ground.

Thus Allah made true the dream of Prophet Yusuf (a), when he had seen eleven stars and the sun and the moon in doing sajdah in front of him.

Sources: 1) Commentary of Al-Qur'an by Mir Ahmad 'Ali; 2) Tareekh Notes from London and Vancouver.

15.5 Worksheet: Prophet Yusuf (a) - Part I and II

True or False — Circle either “T” for True or “F” for False.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Prophet Yusuf (a) did not interpret the prisoner’s dreams correctly. | T | F |
| 2. Anyone who is patient during hardship is always rewarded by Allah. | T | F |
| 3. Prophet Ya’qub (a) regained his eye-sight after P. Yusuf’s shirt was placed on his face. | T | F |
| 4. Prophet Yusuf (a) was released from prison because he was able to interpret the king’s dream. | T | F |

Short-Answer Questions: Do NOT put one word answers down.

1. How did Prophet Yusuf (a) get to Egypt?

2. What did the prisoners dream and what interpretation did Prophet Yusuf (a) give for their dreams?

3. What did the king dream and what interpretation did Prophet Yusuf (a) give for his dream?

4. Fill in the information for the table below. Some parts are already filled in.

	Who Went?	What happened [in short]?
The First Journey To Egypt	<i>The ten brothers of P. Yusuf.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>P. Yusuf recognized his brothers but they didn't recognize him.</i> • <i>P. Yusuf told them that if they wanted to come back, they had to bring their younger brother with them.</i> • <i>P. Yusuf secretly returned their money back so that they would come again.</i>
The Second Journey to Egypt	<i>The ten brothers of P. Yusuf and Benyameen.</i>	
The Third Journey to Egypt		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The brothers were sent back to Egypt to look for Benyameen and P. Yusuf (a).</i> • <i>P. Yusuf revealed himself.</i> • <i>The brothers felt ashamed for what they had done earlier to P. Yusuf.</i> • <i>P. Yusuf forgave the brothers and sent them back with his shirt to restore the eyesight of their father.</i>
The Fourth Journey to Egypt		

Chapter 16: Prophet Musa (a) - Part I



Several centuries after Prophet Yusuf (a), a cruel man by the name of Fir'aun came to power in Egypt. During his time, the tribe of Bani Isra'il had grown and was still increasing in population. Fir'aun feared that the tribe of Bani Isra'il might overthrow him, so he decided to make life difficult for them by making them his slaves.

One day, Fir'aun was warned by a royal astrologer that a son born to the tribe of Bani Isra'il would destroy his kingdom. So Fir'aun ordered his men to kill each and every male child that was born to the tribe of Bani Isra'il. This was his plan to prevent anyone from destroying his kingdom.

In the Qur'an, Allah says, ***“They plan, and Allah plans; and (surely) Allah is the best of planners.”*** [3 : 54]

Allah had decided that Prophet Musa (a) was to be born in such a dangerous situation, so nobody could stop it from happening. When Prophet Musa (a) was born, his mother hid him to protect him from the king's soldiers. However, there was a great danger that the child would be discovered at any moment. So, upon Allah's command, Prophet Musa's mother made a water-proof basket, put the child in it, and let it float away in the river. She then asked her daughter, Bibi Maryam, to keep a watch over it.

The basket floated on the Nile River, and made its way to Fir'aun's palace. Fir'aun's men saw the basket, and picked it up. When Firaun's wife, Lady Asiya saw the lovely boy, she decided to adopt him, so she took him home. Fir'aun immediately ordered the boy to be put to death, but Lady Asia, who was a very pious woman, pleaded with him, until he accepted to adopt the boy.

Prophet Musa would not feed from any of Firaun's maids and no one knew what to do. Bibi Maryam (Prophet Musa's sister), who had been watching all this from a distance, entered the palace and told Fir'aun that she could find a woman to feed Prophet Musa (a). She went running back home and told her mother the whole story and brought her mother to the palace. Naturally, Prophet Musa (a) accepted to be fed by his own mother. In this way, Allah made Prophet' Musa (a)'s mother look after her own son while he was still young.

As the years passed, Prophet Musa (a) grew up to be a strong and healthy man. He had the knowledge, wisdom and manners that Allah grants all His prophets. Prophet Musa (a) was determined to end the cruelty against his own people.

One day, Prophet Musa (a) tried to stop an Egyptian from torturing a person from the tribe of Bani Isra'il. While trying to help his tribesman, he accidentally killed the Egyptian. An Egyptian believer advised Prophet Musa (a) to leave the town before anyone killed *him*. So, Prophet Musa (a) started on his journey away from Egypt.

After a long, hard journey, Prophet Musa (a) arrived at a well in Madyan. There he saw some shepherds under the shade of a tree watering their sheep. He also saw two maidens standing away from the well waiting to water their sheep. A long time had passed and the maidens still waited. Prophet Musa (a) went to the maidens to find out why. They told him that they could not go to the well until the shepherds moved away. Prophet Musa (a) decided to water their sheep for them, and when it was done, the two maidens left thanking him.

It wasn't long before one of the two maidens returned back to Prophet Musa (a). She told him that her father wanted to meet him. Prophet Musa went with the maiden to see her father. The maiden's father was Prophet Shu'ayb (a). He was very thankful to Prophet Musa (a) for watering their sheep. Prophet Musa (a) told Prophet Shu'ayb (a) his story and everything that happened in Egypt. Prophet Shu'ayb (a) said that it was safe to live in Madyan and asked Prophet Musa (a) to stay and work for him for ten years. Prophet Musa (a) agreed. Later, Prophet Shu'ayb (a) gave one of his daughters in marriage to Prophet Musa. Her name was Safura.

As this is the story of Prophet Musa (a), we might be interested to know that he lived during the time of *one* of the ladies of Janna (heaven). Allah has bestowed His blessings upon this lady. This lady is Firaun's wife who had helped bring up Prophet Musa (a). The three other ladies of Janna whom Allah has bestowed His blessings on as well are Bibi Maryam [the mother of Prophet Isa (a)], Bibi Fatima Zahra (a) [the wife of Imam Ali (a)] and Bibi Khadijah [the wife of Prophet Muhammad (s)].

After working for 10 years under Prophet Shu'ayb (a), Prophet Musa (a) decided to leave Madyan with his wife and visit his mother and sister in Egypt. One night, during his journey to Egypt, he saw a fire on a nearby mountain. Since it was a cold night, he told his wife to wait, while he would go check the fire. When he reached Mount Sinai where the fire was glowing, he was surprised to see that flames were burning, though there was nothing there to burn.

Suddenly, he heard a voice saying, "O Musa! I am your Lord! Take off your shoes." Prophet Musa (a) instantly obeyed Allah's command and took off his shoes. Allah ordered Prophet Musa (a) to throw his staff (walking-stick) down onto the ground. When Prophet Musa (a) did so, the staff turned into a ferociously looking serpent. Then, Allah ordered Prophet Musa (a) to pick it up again, and in doing so, the serpent turned back to a staff. Prophet Musa (a) was then commanded to put his hand inside his arm and take it out again. When he did so,

a brilliant light began to glow from his hand. When he put his hand again inside his arm and took it out, it turned back to its original form.

Allah told Prophet Musa (a) that he should use these two signs to warn Fir'aun about Allah's power. Prophet Musa (a) was then given a mission to free all the people of Bani Israel from the cruelty of Fir'aun. Prophet Musa (a) asked Allah if he could take his brother, Prophet Haroon (a), to help him with his mission because Prophet Haroon (a) was a very good speaker. Allah granted him his request.

When prophet Musa (a) arrived in Egypt, he went with his brother to Fir'aun's Palace and warned him about Allah. They told Fir'aun that Allah was the most superior and should alone be worshipped as God. They also made him aware of their mission to release all the Israelites (people of Bani Isra'il) and take them out of Egypt. Prophet Musa (a) showed Fir'aun the miracles he had received. Fir'aun just laughed at the signs of Allah, calling them simple magic tricks. He challenged Prophet Musa (a) and Prophet Harun (a) to a contest with his own magicians.

Sources: 1) Commentary of Al-Qur'an by Mir Ahmad 'Ali; 2) Tareekh Notes from London.

16.1 Worksheet - Prophet Musa (a) - Part I

True or False — Circle either “T” for True or “F” for False.

1. The King of Egypt during the time of Prophet Musa was Namrud. T F
2. Prophet Musa’s sister was Maryam. T F
3. Prophet Musa’s wife was Bibi Khadijah. T F
4. Prophet Musa accidentally killed a person from the tribe of Bani Isra’il. T F
5. Prophet Musa (a) saw the fire on Mount Sinai. T F
6. Prophet Musa (a) asked Allah if his sister could help him in his mission. T F
7. Prophet Haroon (a) was the brother of Prophet Musa (a). T F
8. Fir’aun laughed at the signs of Allah and called them magic tricks. T F

Multiple Choice — Circle the best answer.

1. Who was Fir’aun’s wife?
 - a) Bibi Fatima (a).
 - b) Bibi Maryam (a).
 - c) Lady Asiya (a).
2. Who was the prophet who lived in Madyan?
 - a) Prophet Musa (a).
 - b) Prophet Shu’ayb (a)

- c) Prophet Yusuf (a).
3. Which tribe was Prophet Musa from?
- a) From the tribe of Bani Isra'il.
 - b) He was an Egyptian.
 - c) He was from the tribe of Arabs.
4. Why did Prophet Musa (a) leave Egypt?
- a) He did not like the king anymore.
 - b) He killed an Egyptian and he feared that his life was in danger.
 - c) He wanted to get married and start a family.
5. What was one miracle given to Prophet Musa (a)?
- a) He became a very good speaker.
 - b) His staff could turn into a snake.
 - c) His hand could turn into a block of wood.
6. Why did Prophet Musa (a) want his brother to help him in his mission?
- a) Because his brother was a better speaker.
 - b) Because his brother was a stronger person.
 - c) Because his brother was more liked by Fir'aun.

Short-Answer Questions — Do NOT put one word answers down.

1. Why did Fir'aun kill all the male children?

2. How did Prophet Musa's mother end up feeding her own son?

3. Who are the four ladies of Janna whom Allah has bestowed His blessings on?

4. What two miracles or signs did Allah show Prophet Musa (a)?

5. What was the mission of Prophet Musa (a)?

Chapter 17: Prophet Musa (a) - Part II

When all of Fir'aun's magicians had been called, they threw down their own staffs. These turned into little snakes. But when Prophet Musa (a) threw down his staff, it turned into a much larger snake that ate all the other ones up. Seeing this, the magicians knew that what Prophet Musa (a) had done was not magic but a real miracle. They turned to Prophet Musa (a), accepting belief in Allah, and condemned Fir'aun for misguiding them.

Fir'aun got very angry and as a result, he made life for the Israelites more difficult. He did not listen to Prophet Musa (a) or Prophet Harun (a). Allah commanded Prophet Musa (a) to take his followers and move away from the city. Allah then sent a huge storm on Fir'aun and his people, leaving them homeless. Fir'aun promised Prophet Musa (a) that if the storm would stop he would free the Israelites. However, when the storm did stop, Fir'aun did not stick to his promise.

Allah warned Fir'aun and his followers in many different ways in the form of plagues. Allah sent a storm of locusts that ate all the Egyptian food; he sent frogs and lice; he sent worms that entered people's nostrils; he converted the River Nile into blood so there was no water. Each time, Fir'aun promised Prophet Musa (a) that if the plagues would stop, he would release all the Israelites, but each time the plague stopped, Fir'aun went against his promise.

At last Allah commanded Prophet Musa (a) to take all the Israelites and leave Egypt during the night. Prophet Musa (a) did so but by the next morning, Fir'aun found out about Prophet Musa (a)'s departure and gathered a huge army to go after him.

When the Israelites arrived at the Red Sea and saw Fir'aun's army coming behind them, they got angry at Prophet Musa (a) for making them leave with him, because they thought that they would surely be killed now. Prophet Musa (a) told them to be patient, as

Allah would look after them. Prophet Musa (a) touched the water of the Red Sea with his staff and by the mercy of Allah, a path formed in the sea for Prophet Musa (a) and his people to pass.



Fir'aun reached the Red Sea and saw the path too, so he ordered his army to follow. However, when Fir'aun and his army reached halfway, Allah commanded it to close on them. At this time Fir'aun pleaded with Allah to forgive him, but it was too late. Fir'aun had been given many chances in the past to turn to the right path. Allah told Fir'aun that he was going to preserve his body to show people the example of disobedience. The body of Fir'aun was discovered in 1881, and is kept in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. This should be a lasting lesson for all of us.

After Fir'aun and his men had been destroyed by Allah in the Red Sea, Prophet Musa (a) took the Israelites further on. On their way, they passed a group of people who worshipped idols. On seeing the beautiful idols, the Israelites wanted one for their own selves, and asked Prophet Musa (a) to make them one. Prophet Musa (a) became angry and reminded them of the one-true Allah, who had saved the Israelites and destroyed Fir'aun.

Prophet Musa (a) had promised the Israelites that he would bring them some laws from Allah to follow. When Prophet Musa (a) reached the base of Mount Sinai, he prayed to Allah for a set of laws. Allah ordered him to go up Mount Sinai and spend 30 nights of fasting and prayer, after which he would receive the divine book of laws. Prophet Musa (a) left his brother Prophet Harun in charge and went up the mountain.

Allah made Prophet Musa (a) stay for an extra ten days. So, when Prophet Musa (a) did not return after 30 days, many Israelites became uneasy and started to lose faith in Allah. A man named Samiri, who was a disbeliever, took advantage of the situation and tempted the people to make an idol. He collected gold from people and made it into a calf. Soon, people started to worship the golden calf that they had made. Prophet Harun (a) got angry and warned the people about their faith, but they did not listen. The Holy Qur'an says:

“The people of Musa, in his absence, prepared the image of a calf from their jewelry — a body which seemed to give a lowing sound. Did they not see that it could neither speak to them nor guide them to any way? They adopted it for worship and they were unjust.”

- Surah A'raaf, Chapter 7, Verse 148

At the end of the 40 days, Allah gave Prophet Musa (a) the Tawrat -the Divine laws from Allah written on tablets of stone. Allah also informed Prophet Musa (a) that he had tested the Israelites, and Samiri had managed to lead them astray. When Prophet Musa (a) came to know of this, he got very angry, and on his return, he warned the Israelites of the punishment of Allah. He ordered the Israelites to ask for forgiveness. He also told Samiri that he had done a great sin, and would surely be punished by Allah.

The Israelites gradually started on their journey again, and soon arrived near the Holy land of Baytul Muqqaddas in Palestine. This was the land that Allah had promised He would

give to the Israelites. However, they first had to drive away the people who were already ruling there. The only problem was that the people ruling there were very strong. The Israelites did not have any courage to fight such a group of people. So, when Prophet Musa (a) told them to drive away the rulers of Palestine, the Israelites did not obey him.

Prophet Musa (a) tried many times to tell the Israelites that Allah was on their side, but they were too ignorant to obey. As a result, Allah decided to punish the Israelites by making them wander in the wilderness for 40 years. During these very long and harsh 40 years, both Prophet Musa (a) and Prophet Harun passed away. Finally, after 40 years, the generation of Israelites was able to conquer and rule Palestine.

Sources: 1) Commentary of Al-Qur'an by Mir Ahmad 'Ali; 2) Tareekh Notes from London.

17.1 Prophet Musa (a) - Part II

True or False — Circle either “T” for True or “F” for False.

1. One of the plagues sent to the Egyptians by Allah was the River Nile turning into blood. T F
2. Prophet Musa (a) went up Mount Sinai to bring laws from Allah. T F
3. Prophet Muhammad (s) said to Imam Ali (a): “You are to me as Musa was to Harun.” T F
4. Samiri told people not to worship the golden calf. T F
5. Prophet Musa (a) stayed on the mountain for 40 days instead of 30. T F

Multiple Choice — Circle the best answer.

- I. What happened in the contest with the magicians?
 - A. Prophet Musa (a)’s snake ate all the other snakes, and so the magicians became followers of Allah’s religion.
 - B. Prophet Musa (a)’s snake ate all the magicians as well as their snakes.
 - C. Prophet Musa (a)’s snake was eaten by the other snakes.

- II. How did Prophet Musa (a) and the Israelites cross the Red Sea?
 - A. They dug a hole under it and walked to the other side.
 - B. They built an ark and sailed over the sea.
 - C. Allah formed a path in the Red Sea on which they passed.

- III. What was the name of the set of laws that Prophet Musa (a) brought back from Mt. Sinai?
 - A. Qur’an.

- B. Injeel.
- C. Tawrat.

IV. What was the name of the land that Allah had promised the Israelites to rule in?

- A. Mecca.
- B. Baytul Muqqaddas.
- C. Mount Sinai.

V. What punishment did the Israelites get for disobeying Prophet Musa (a) by not fighting for their land?

- A. They were forced to wander in the desert for 40 years.
- B. A huge earthquake swallowed them up.
- C. They never got their land

Short-Answer Questions — Answer the questions. Do NOT put one word answers down.

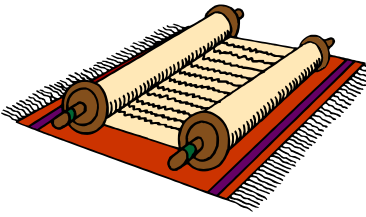
1. What happened to Fir'aun and his army?

2. What is one lesson we can learn from this part of the story?

3. What did the Israelites do while Prophet Musa (a) was on the mountain?

4. What did the Israelites have to do in order to get that land?

Chapter 18: Prophet Dawud (a) (David)



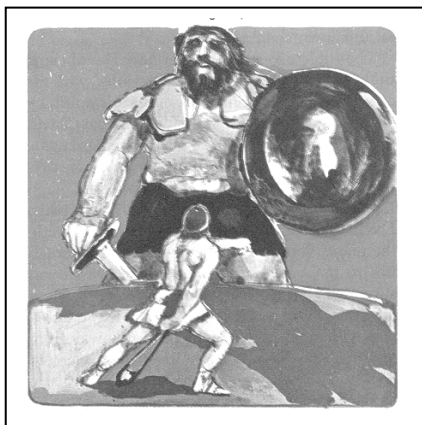
The Bani Isra'il, who had been brought out of Egypt by Prophet Musa (A), had settled in the land of Palestine. However, they were constantly engaged in war against the Philistines who finally managed to banish them from their homes.

In the last battle, the Sacred Casket containing the original Tablets of the Tawrat was lost, and this greatly demoralized the Bani Isra'il..

They spent many gloomy years in exile before they approached Prophet Samuel (A) and asked him to appoint a strong king for them so that they could regain their land. On the command of Allah (S.W.T.), Prophet Samuel (A) appointed Taalut (Saul) as their king. The Bani Isra'il did not like the choice, saying that Taalut was a poor and unknown man. However, Prophet Samuel (A) informed them that Taalut had been chosen because of his knowledge, wisdom and strength, and he would lead them to victory.

It took Taalut 20 years to find the sacred box which had the Tawrat and once it was given back to the Bani Isra'il, they marched to Palestine. The leader of the Philistines was a huge man called Jaalut (Goliath). Just looking at Jaalut terrified the Bani Isra'il.

Prophet Dawud (A) was present in the army of Taalut. He was very young and had not come to fight but to attend to his three older brothers who were soldiers, and to bring news of the war back to their father. When Taalut saw that Jaalut had terrified his army, he tried to encourage his men by promising them great rewards if they faced Jaalut. He even promised that he would marry his daughter to the man who killed Jaalut. Drawn by the commotion at the battlefield, Prophet Dawud (A) left his post and came to find out what was going on. He had never fought a duel before but approached Taalut and said:



"I am fit to fight this devil because I have killed a tiger and a bear that attacked my father's sheep."

Taalut was impressed by this and dressing him in a coat of armor, warned him to be careful.

Before Prophet Dawud (A) approached Jaalut, he removed the heavy armor that restricted his movement. He stood before the enemy, with just a catapult and the staff with which he used to guide his sheep. Before Jaalut could react to this challenge, Prophet Dawud (A) had shot a stone from his

catapult. The stone struck Jaalut's forehead with terrible force and brought him to the ground. Prophet Dawud (A) then drew Jaalut's heavy sword and cut off his head. The sight of their champion dead scared the Philistines, who ran away in panic.

Prophet Dawud (A) married Taalut's daughter Mikal. He was also made commander-in-chief of Taalut's army. He also became the king after Taalut's death.

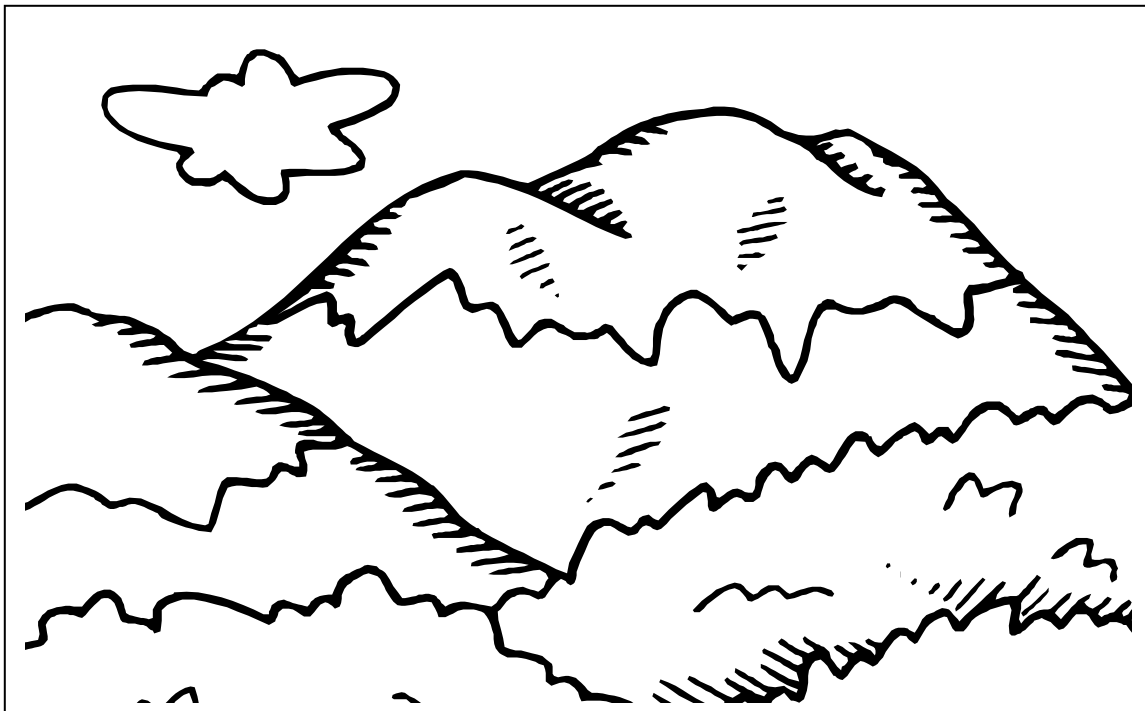
Allah blessed Prophet Dawud (A) with a beautiful voice and revealed to him the Zabur (Psalms of David). When he used to recite from it, the mountains and the birds would also join him.

Allah gifted him so that iron was as soft as wax in his hands, and he used to make special, light-weight battle armor made of iron ringlets joined together. By selling these to the army, he earned his livelihood.

"Indeed We granted Dawud a blessing, saying, "O Mountains! sing the praise of Allah along with him, and you too, O Birds !" And We made iron soft for him."

(Qur'an –Suratus Saba 34:10)

Prophet Dawud (A) ruled for many years. After him his youngest son Prophet Sulayman (A) became king.



"O Mountains! sing the praise of Allah along with him, and you too, O Birds !"

18.1 Worksheet - Prophet Dawud (a)

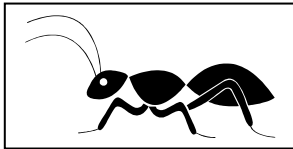
1. Prophet Musa (A) had saved the Bani Israil from _____.
2. Prophet Samuel (A) appointed _____ (Saul) as their king.
3. The Bani Israil did not like the choice, saying that their king was a _____ and unknown man.
4. It took this king 20 years to find the sacred box which had the _____ and once it was given back to the Bani Israil, they marched to Palestine.
5. The leader of the Philistines was a huge man called _____. Just looking at him terrified the Bani Israil.
6. After Taalut died Prophet _____ (A) became the king of the Bani Israil.
7. The other name for Jaalut is _____.
8. Allah blessed him with a beautiful voice and revealed to him the _____. (Psalms of David). When he used to recite from it, the _____ and the _____ would also join him.
9. Allah gifted him so that _____ was as soft as wax in his hands.
10. This prophet ruled for many years. After him his youngest son Prophet _____ (A) became king.

Birds	Dawud	poor	Zabur
Jaalut	Taalut	Sulayman	Taurat
Goliath	Firaun	Mountains	iron

Chapter 19: Prophet Sulayman (a) (Solomon)

He was thirteen years old when his father Prophet Dawud (A) died.

- Allah granted him with the greatest kingdom that any king has ever ruled over.
- He was also granted the blessing of knowing the language of the birds and animal.
- Even the wind would obey him.
- His army consisted of men, jinn, animals and birds.



He was once marching with his army to a place called the **Valley of ants** which had a lot of gems and valuable metals buried in it.

In the valley there were large ants which stopped people from coming into the valley. When the chief of the ants saw the army of Prophet Sulayman (A) coming he told all the other ants to go into their holes (houses) in case Prophet Sulayman (A) and his army would crush them.

Prophet Sulayman (A) heard what the chief of the ants had said. Prophet Sulayman (A) smiled and asked his army to be careful not to hurt the ants. Prophet Sulayman (A) thanked Allah for giving him the wisdom to understand and be able to save lives.

One day Prophet Sulayman (A) noticed that his messenger bird Hud Hud was missing. A little while later Hud Hud came back and reported to him saying:

"...I have brought to you information from Saba (Sheba). Indeed I found a woman ruling over them and she has been given plenty and a great throne. I found her and her people worshipping the sun instead of Allah" Qur'an Suratun Naml 27: 23,24

Prophet Sulayman (A) sent a letter to Bilqees, the Queen of Saba, saying:

"In the name of Allah, the Kind, the Merciful. Do not elevate yourself and come towards me in submission to Allah (as a Muslim). " Qur'an Suratun Naml 27:30,31

When Bilqees received the letter, she consulted her ministers and decided to send Prophet Sulayman (A) gifts and then wait for his reaction.

Prophet Sulayman (A) welcomed the messengers and asked for the reply to his letter. When they presented him with the gifts he said:

"What are these riches? I have been given such blessings from Allah that are matched by none. Return to your country and inform your Queen that I am sending such an army towards Saba that no one will be able to defeat. "

When Bilqees received this message and the report about the power of Prophet Sulayman's (A) she decided to submit herself before him and accept his invitation to embrace Islam. When Prophet Sulayman (A) learnt that she was coming to his kingdom, he turned to his people and said:

**"Which of you can bring me her throne before they come here in submission?"
Qur'an Suratun Naml 27:38**

One jinn said:

'I will bring it before you rise from your place.... Qur'an Suratun Naml 27:39

But one who had been taught the special name of Allah by Prophet Sulayman (A) said.

'Said he who had some knowledge of the Book, "I will bring it to you before your eye blinks',

When he (Sulayman) saw the throne settle beside him, he said,

"This is by the Grace of my Lord so that He may test whether I am grateful or ungrateful... Qur'an Suratun Naml 27:40

In preparation for the arrival of Bilqees, Prophet Sulayman (A) had ordered a palace of glass to be built. Under the glass floors, there was water with various kinds of fish swimming in it. When Bilqees arrived, he took her to the palace. Bilqees was fooled by the appearance of water and hitched up her dress to stop her bare feet from getting wet. When she realized her mistake, she at once understood what Prophet Sulayman (A) was trying to tell her. He was showing her *that things are not always what they seem, and even if the sun she worshipped was the most*

powerful thing to see, it was Allah who created it. Prophet Sulayman (A) then returned her to Saba and allowed her to rule in his name.



Prophet Sulayman (A) ruled over his people with justice for a long time. His power extended across most of the known world. This unique blessing was in response to his prayer which is recorded in the Holy Qur'an:

He said, "O my Lord! Forgive me and grant me a kingdom such as shall not befit anyone after me, verily You are the Granter of bounties (without measure).

Saad, 38 : 35

One day Prophet Sulayman (A) called all his army of men, jinn, animals and birds together. He wanted to inspect them. He climbed on top of his palace to see them. It was there whilst he was viewing his kingdom that the angel of death came. Prophet Sulayman (A) was still leaning on his staff (stick). It was only when a worm ate through the stick and he fell that the men and jinn in his army realized that he had died.

19.1 Worksheet: Prophet Sulayman (A)

Fill in the blanks:

1. Prophet Sulayman (A) was given a _____ no-one else had been given before.
2. Prophet Sulayman (A) had the ability to understand the language of _____.
3. His bird _____ one day informed him of the queen of _____.
4. This queen and her people worshipped the _____.
5. Prophet Sulayman (A) wrote her a letter to accept _____ and come in his presence to submit to _____.
6. The queen only did so after he refused her _____ gifts and threatened to send his _____ to her land.
7. Before the queen arrived Prophet Sulayman (A) summoned a jinn to bring him her _____.
8. Prophet Sulayman had a _____ _____ built before the arrival of the queen.
9. How did this building show the queen what Prophet Sulayman (A) was trying to say?

Chapter 20: Prophet Zakariya (a) & Prophet Yahya (a)

Prophet Zakariya (a) was sent to the people of Bani Israa'il. He was a descendent of Prophet Ya'qub (a). He was well liked and respected by his people because of his cheerful manner. He was in charge of the mosque of Baytul Muqqaddas in Jerusalem, and preached the religion of Allah from there. He guided the people according to the rules laid down in the Tawrat of Prophet Musa (a), who had been the last Rasul (a Prophet who has been given a Book) before him.

Prophet Zakariya (a) had also been entrusted to look after Lady Maryam (a), the mother of Prophet Isa (a). He had provided her with a special chamber in Baytul Muqqaddas. Although Lady Maryam (a) remained in the chamber, busy worshipping Allah, Prophet Zakariya (a) found that she always had fresh fruit in her room. Because he knew that she had no contact with any person, he wondered where the food came from. Lady Maryam (a) informed him that Allah sent her the fruits every morning and evening, and it was a sign of His Grace. Prophet Zakariya (a) realized that he was the guardian of a very special lady whom Allah had specially chosen for a great honor.

Prophet Zakariya (a) had reached the age of 90 years and despite his cheerful and relaxed nature, he was sad that he had no son to succeed him. After listening to Lady Maryam (a) he pondered on the limitless blessings that Allah bestows on His servants and wondered if he could be blessed with a son despite his old age. The same night he went to pray under the Arch of Sanctuary in Baytul Muqqaddas, which was the special place of prayer to Allah. His prayers have been recorded in the Holy Qur'an as follows:

(This is) a mention of the mercy of your Lord to His servant Zakariya. When he quietly called his Lord and said, "My Lord! My bones have become feeble, and my hair has turned white with age. Yet I have never been deprived in receiving from you the answer to my prayers. I am afraid of what my kinsmen will do after (my death) and my wife is barren. Lord, grant me a son who will be my heir and the heir of the family of Ya'qub, and make him, O my Lord, one with whom You are well pleased."

Maryam, 19 : 2 - 6

... "Lord grant me by Your Grace, virtuous offspring, You hear all my prayers." When he was standing during prayer in the sanctuary, the angels called him saying, "Allah gives you the glad news of the birth of your son, Yahya, who will be testimony of the Word of Allah. (He will be) honourable and chaste and one of the righteous Prophets."

Aale Imran, 3 : 37,38

The prayers of Prophet Zakariya (a) were answered and he was blessed with a handsome and virtuous son, Yahya (a). Allah bestowed this child with wisdom and knowledge in his infancy and appointed him His Prophet and Messenger.

From his childhood, Prophet Yahya (a) worshipped and glorified Allah. Among his qualities mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, is the fact that he was always kind to his parents and never spoke to them harshly. Prophet Yahya (a) is mentioned in the Bible as John the Baptist.

Prophet Yahya (a) was well versed in the Divine commandments as laid down in the Tawrat. He used to teach people the religious principles and urged them to stay away from sin. He was particularly serious in discharging his duties as a Prophet and would not hesitate to speak out if he thought that a wrong action was being committed.

One day, Prophet Yahya (a) found out that the Emperor of Palestine, Herodotus, wanted to marry his niece, Herodya. He was extremely annoyed, because this sort of marriage was against the religion and had been forbidden in the Tawrat. His views that this marriage should not occur began to spread around the country, and people began to gossip about the king's unlawful relationship with his niece.

Herodya wanted to marry the king without delay because she dearly desired to become Queen of Palestine. When she heard of Prophet Yahya's (a) objection to the marriage, she became his deadly enemy.

Once when the king was indulging in wine and music, she appeared in front of him in a shameless manner. The king became more infatuated with her than ever, and promised to give her anything she desired. She demanded that Prophet Yahya (a) be killed as soon as possible. The king, who had lost all control of his senses in his love for his niece, issued the order for murdering Prophet Yahya (a).

Soon afterwards, the king's courtiers brought Prophet Yahya (a) before the king and brutally murdered him. However, wherever the sacred blood of this noble Prophet of Allah fell, it began to boil. It was suppressed by heaps of sand, but it continued to boil. Finally, a sand hill was erected over it, but the blood still kept on flowing.

This miracle only stopped when Bakhtun Nasr invaded Palestine and avenged the innocent blood of Prophet Yahya (a) by putting 17,000 people of Bani Israa'il to death on that sand hill.

In his short life Prophet Yahya (a) left behind valuable lessons in Akhlaq for us to follow.

20.1 Worksheet: Prophet Zakariya (a) and Yahya (a)

Fill in the blanks:

1. Prophet Zakariya (a) was the descendant of Prophet _____(A).
2. He was in charge of the mosque of _____.
3. He was well liked due to his _____ personality.
4. Prophet Zakariya (a) was sad because he had no _____.
5. Prophet Zakariya (a) was also entrusted with the care of Bibi _____(a).
6. Impressed by her miracle he prayed to Allah and was blessed by Prophet _____ (a).

Short Answer Questions:

1. What was one of the good qualities mentioned of the Prophet known as John the Baptist, in the Bible?
2. Who was Herodya and why did she become this Prophet's enemy?
3. How did she plan to get the Prophet killed?
4. What was the miracle that took place after the death of the Prophet and how did it stop?

Chapter 21 : Prophet Isa (A)

Prophet Isa (A) was the son of Bibi Maryam (A). One day while she was busy in her worship, Bibi Maryam (A) was startled to see a young man suddenly appear before her. She was scared but the man said,

"Do not be frightened, I am the angel Jibrail and have brought to you the glad news that Almighty Allah is soon going to bless you with a son. He will be great in this world and in the hereafter and will speak while still in his cradle.

Maryam asked, *"How can this be possible?"* How could a baby be born to her without having a father?

Jibrail (A) replied, *"Allah has Power over all things."*

Not long after the angel had left, Prophet Isa (A) was born under an old date tree. Things had happened so quickly that in despair Bibi Maryam cried, *"Would that I had died and been forgotten before all this had happened!"*

The Holy Qur'an says:

[Then (a voice) called out to her from beneath her, "Do not grieve, your Lord has caused a stream (to flow) from beneath you. And shake towards you the trunk of the palm-tree, it will drop on you fresh ripe dates. Then eat and drink..."

Maryam, 19 : 24 - 26]

Thus consoled, she regained her confidence and returned to Baytul Muqqaddas with her baby in her arms. The Jews who saw her were surprised. She merely pointed to her baby without saying anything.

The Holy Qur'an says:

[But she pointed unto him. They said, "How can we speak to one who is a child in the cradle?" He (Isa) said, "Verily I am a servant of Allah. He has given me a Book and made me a Prophet. And He has made me blessed wherever I am and He has enjoined on me prayer and poor-rate (Zakaat) for as long as I live. And (to be) dutiful to my mother and He has not made me insolent ..."

Maryam 19 : 29 - 31]

The miracle of Prophet Isa (A) speaking to them from his cradle silenced the critics and left them astounded. The fame of the baby grew and many came from all over the country to see him and pay tribute to him.

The Jewish emperor, Herodotus, learnt about the birth of Prophet Isa (A) and was immediately concerned about the threat to his power. He thus plotted to kill Prophet Isa (A) to protect himself from any future trouble. However, Bibi Maryam (A) learnt of the danger to her son and she left with him for Egypt.

In Egypt, Prophet Isa (A) lived with his mother until he was 30 years old. Then he received the command of Allah to begin his mission and the Divine Book, Injeel, was revealed to him. Thus Prophet Isa (A) returned to Baytul Muqqaddas to invite the Jews to the true religion of Allah.

As proof of his Divine appointment, Prophet Isa (A) possessed certain miracles. He could raise the dead to life, restore the eyesight of the blind and cure lepers. These remarkable powers attracted the Jews to him and some became believers. The rest of them became his deadly enemies because they felt Prophet Isa had brought a message that superseded that of Prophet Musa (A).

From amongst the few who had embraced the faith, Prophet Isa (A) selected twelve as his apostles. These men learnt directly from Prophet Isa (A) and he gave them authority to preach to people according to the laws laid down in the Injeel.

Prophet Isa (A) and his twelve disciples went from place to place, in towns and villages, inviting people to believe in One God and teaching them the Divine commandments contained in the Injeel.

Thus began the mission of one of the greatest Prophets of Allah. Day by day, his followers increased in number but his popularity made Jewish people hate him even more. Despite their efforts to stop people from following the new faith, they were helpless against the Will of Allah.

There was a great stir amongst the Jews who felt that their own religion being threatened. They were enraged that Prophet Isa's (A) laws were different from those laid down in the Tawrat and that he did not consider Saturday as a holy day. They accused him of causing disruptions in their community with his magic. They refused to recognize him as a Messenger of Allah just like Prophet Musa (A), and they began to plot against him.

They finally decided to kill Prophet Isa (A) and set about trying to find him. They were going to arrest him and crucify him by nailing his hands and feet onto a wooden cross. This was a very painful and slow execution style in which the victim usually suffered a great deal before he died.

When Prophet Isa (A) had found out that the Jews planned to arrest him he took shelter in a vacant house.

Meanwhile the Jews caught and interrogated one of his disciples, whose name was Shamoon as-Safa (Simon Peter), but he gave them no information as to the whereabouts of Prophet Isa (A). Then they came across another disciple, Yahuda (Judas). This man betrayed Prophet Isa (A) after he was bribed with thirty pieces of silver. Yahuda led the Jews to the house where Prophet Isa (A) had taken refuge.

However, Prophet Isa (A) was a great Sign of Allah. His birth had been in remarkable circumstances and his life was also destined to be extraordinary. At the time when his life was in danger, Allah raised him to the heavens.

Meanwhile, Yahuda entered the house but found it empty. Allah caused the features of this treacherous disciple to change so that he exactly resembled Prophet Isa (A). When he came out of the house to report to the Jews, he was shocked when they seized him and dragged him away. Despite his protests, he was crucified. The Jews and even the Christians thus say that Prophet Isa (A) was killed on the cross but the Holy Qur'an says about the Jews:

[That they said (boastfully), "Verily we killed the Messiah, Isa son of Mary, the Apostle of God."; but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but it was made to appear to them (that they had). And those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge. They only pursue a conjecture. They certainly did not kill him. Nay, Allah raised (lifted) him up to Himself; and Allah is Mighty, Wise.

Nisa, 4 : 157,158]

According to a prophecy of the Holy Prophet (S), when our 12th Holy Imam (A) will re-appear, Prophet Isa (A) will descend from the heavens and offer prayers behind him.

The Christian Era (A.D.) dates from the birth of Prophet Isa (A). He was only 33 years old when he was raised to the heavens.

21.1 Worksheet: Prophet Isa

1. The name of Prophet Isa's mother was:
 - a. Bibi Hajrah
 - b. Bibi Maryam
 - c. Bibi Rabab
 - d. Bibi Fatima
2. _____ came to her and told her Allah was going to bless her with a _____.
3. Prophet Isa (a) was born _____ hours later.
4. Allah made food available for Prophet Isa's mother in the:
 - a. date palm-tree above.
 - b. river by the side.
 - c. corn crops growing nearby.
 - d. apple tree.
5. The critics of Prophet Isa's mother were silenced when Prophet Isa _____ from his _____.

Questions:

1. Why did Prophet Isa's (a) mother leave for Egypt and how long did she live there?

2. What miracles was Prophet Isa (a) given to prove his divine appointment?

3. How many apostles did Prophet Isa (a) have?

4. What were the apostles supposed to do?

5. Why did the Jews get upset with Prophet Isa?

6. Why did they decide to kill him?

7. How were they going to kill him?

8. When Prophet Isa (a) went into hiding who gave him away?

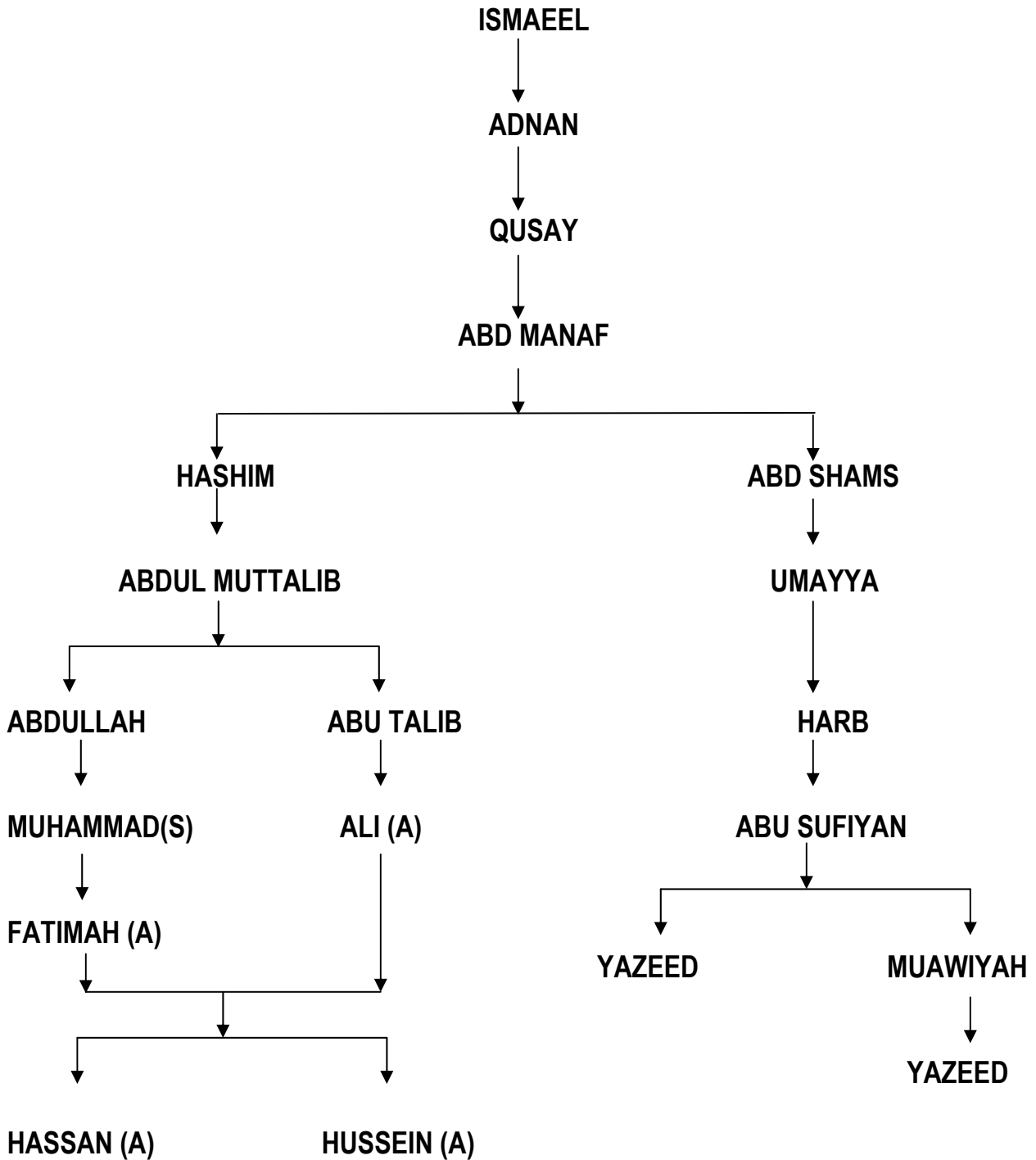
9. How did Allah save Prophet Isa (a)?

10. When will Prophet Isa (a) re-appear?

SECTION II: Special Occasions

Chapter 22: Understanding Kerbala

22.1 Prophet Muhammad's (s) Family Tree



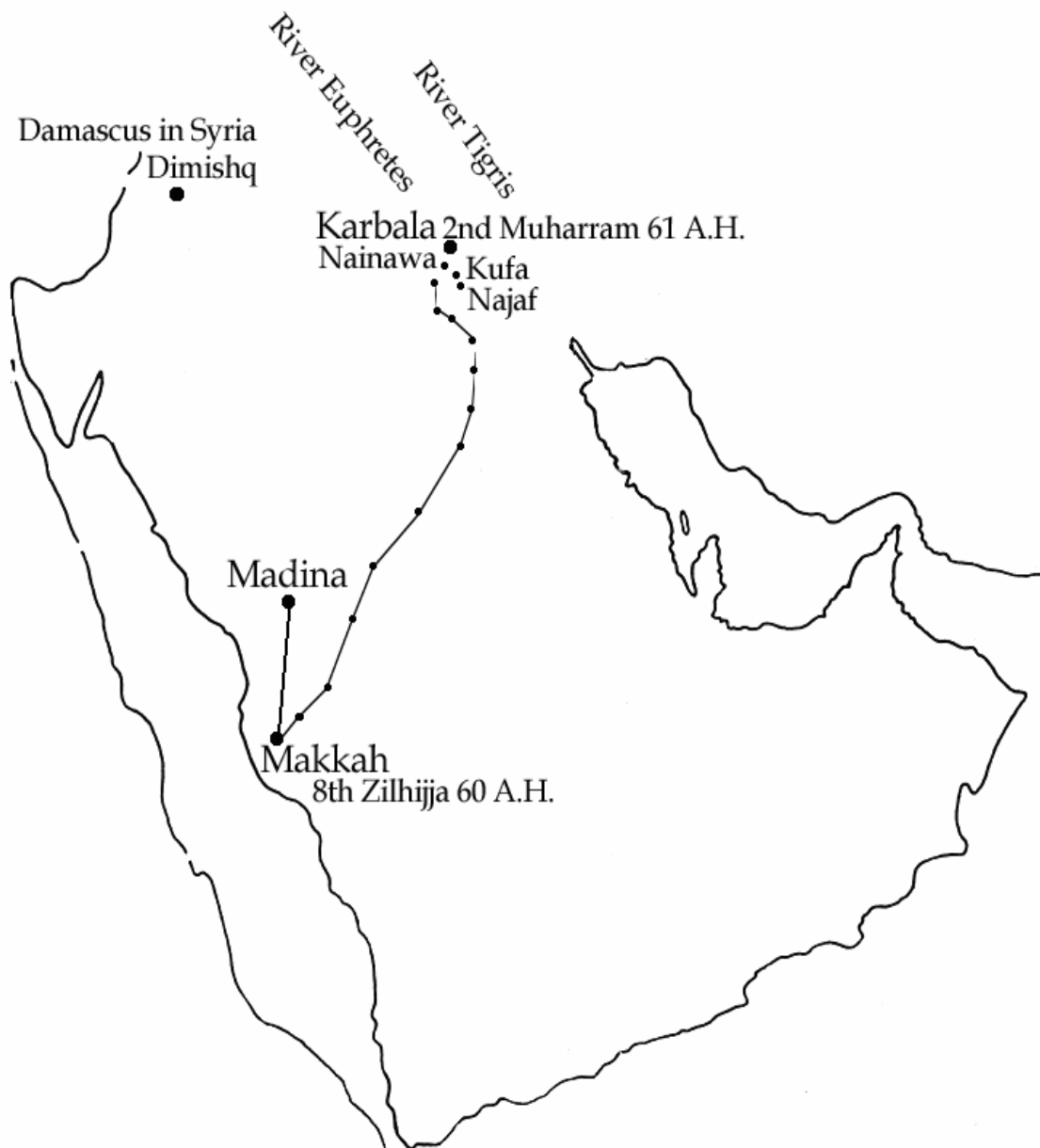
Overview of the life of Imam Hussein (as)

Imam Hussein (a) born	Prophet Mohammed (s) very happy; names him Hussein and calls him his son.
Imam Hussein (a) 7 years old.	Prophet Mohammed (s) dies. Rightful successor is Imam Ali (a). Abu bakr becomes khalifa (against our Prophet's will) for 3 years.
Imam Hussein (a) 10 years old.	Umar becomes 2nd khalifa. He makes Yazeed, then his brother Muawiyah, governor of Syria. Umar rules for 10 years
Imam Hussein (a) 20 years old	Othman becomes khalifa. Him and Muawiyah (governor of Syria) cause a lot of trouble. Othman starts to downfall and asks for Imam Ali's (a) help. Imam helps him. Othman rules for 12 years.
Imam Hussein (a) 32 years old	Imam Ali (a) becomes khalifa. He puts conditions--he will rule only in islamic way and all governors should swear loyalty. Muawiyah does not swear loyalty.
Imam Hussein (a) 37 years old	Imam Ali (a) is martyred. Imam Hassan (a) becomes khalifa. Muawiyah and Ziyad continue to cause problems. Imam Hassan (a) makes a peace treaty with Muawiyah. Muawiyah breaks treaty; nominates his son Yazeed as his successor.
Imam Hussein (a) 47 years	Imam Hassan (a) is poisoned to death.
Imam Hussein (a) 57 years old (60 AH)	Muawiyah dies and now Yazeed is in power. He is immoral, unjust, and cruel. He wants total control. He asks 'bayat' form Imam Hussein (a). Imam refuses and travels to Mecca. The people of Kufa write to him. They want him to be their leader. Imam sends his cousin Muslim bin Aqeel to Kufa. Muslim writes to Imam that Kufa is supportive to islam. Imam starts his journey to Kufa. Yazeed finds out what's happening through his spies in Kufa. He quickly sends Ubaydallah Ziyad. Ubaydallah then becomes governor of Kufa and terrorizes all that support Imam Hussein (a).
On 9 Zilhaj 60 AH	Ubaydallah carries out Yazeed's orders and gets Muslim killed.
After 9 Zilhaj (60 AH)	Imam hears of Muslim's death in the middle of his journey to Kufa. He stops over in Kufa and finds the atmosphere very different now. He decides to move on to Kerbala. At Nainawa, Hurr and his army receive an order from Ubaydallah to stop Imam Hussein (a).
Imam Hussein (a) 58 years old (2nd Muharram 61 AH)	Imam Hussein (a) arrives in Kerbala.

22.2 Maps of the Middle East



22.3 Route of Imam Hussein (a)



22.4 Events at Kerbala

2 – 9 Muharram 61 AH

Muharram date	Event
2nd	+ arrives at Kerbala + camp positioned by Hurr at Alqama
3rd	+ Umar Saad arrives with army unit + More army units arrive
7th	+ Ubaydallah ordered to cut off water supply + Shimr Ziljawshan arrives
9th	+ assault starts; postponed + Imam talks to his group + Both sides prepare for the next day

22.5 ASHURA Day

FRIDAY 10 MUHARRAM 61 AH

(FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER 680 AD)

Dawn + Fajr prayers led by Imam

Early morning

- + Imam's speech to Yazeed's army
- + Kufian's speech to Yazeed's army
- + Hurr, others change sides
- + Umar-e- Saad shoots first arrow
- + Battle begins
- + Shaheed's 1 to 12

Late morning

- + First general attack
- + Shaheed's 13 to 62
- + Imam's camp attacked
- + Shaheed's 63 and 64

After noon

- + Prayer's time, battle not suspended
- Imam shielded during prayers
- + Shaheed's 65 to 82
- + Imam's family Shaheed's: 93 to 111

Early evening

- + heads cut off from bodies
- + Imam's camp looted, set on fire

22.6 Worksheet: Understanding Kerbala

1. When Prophet Muhammad (s) died who was the rightful successor?
 - a. Imam Ali (a)
 - b. Imam Hassan (a)
 - c. Abu Bakr
 - d. Umar

2. Who became the first Khalifa after the death of Prophet Muhammad (s)?
 - a. Umar
 - b. Abu Bakr
 - c. Imam Ali (a)
 - d. Imam Zainul Abideen

3. Who did Umar nominate as governor of Syria?
 - a. Yazeed then Muawiyah
 - b. Abu Bakr then Uthman
 - c. Abu Sufiyan then Yazeed
 - d. None of the above

4. Who broke the Peace Treaty of Imam (a) Hassan?
 - a. Muawiyah
 - b. Yazeed
 - c. Abu Bakr
 - d. Abu Sufiyan

5. When Imam Hassan (a) was poisoned did Imam Hussein (a) the rightful successor fight to become khalifa?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

6. What did Imam Hussein (a) refuse to do?
 - a. Become Khalifa of the time
 - b. Pledge allegiance to Yazeed
 - c. Leave Medina
 - d. None of the above

7. What happened in Kufa when Imam Hussein (a) sent his cousin Muslim bin Aqeel there?
 - a. He was welcomed warmly and got many supporters
 - b. Everyone embraced Islam
 - c. He was betrayed and martyred
 - d. Everyone decided to support Imam Hussein (a)

Short Answer Questions:

1. On what conditions did Imam Ali (a) become khalifa?

2. Name three things included in the Peace Treaty between Imam Hassan (a) and Muawiyah?

3. Did Imam Hussein (a) engage in a war just so that he could become Khalifa?

Chapter 23: Meaning of Shahadat and Imam's readiness to die for Islam

Here are some definitions that will help us understand the important points in this lesson:

Shahadat: martyrdom, or giving one's life for the sake of the Holy struggle of Islam. Shahadat also has a second meaning, testifying to the truth -- for example, when we say *ashhadu an laa ilaaha illallaah* we testify to the truth that there is no god but Allah.

Shaheed: a martyr, or one who gives his or her life for the sake of the Holy struggle of Islam

Jihad: struggle in the way of Islam

Islam: Aside from being the religion and way of life for all Muslims, the word *Islam* in Arabic means submission to Allah

One of the titles of Imam Hussein (a) is **Sayyid al-Shuhadaa'**, meaning the leader of all the **Shuhadaa'** (martyrs). What makes martyrdom such a special concept in Islam? And why is Imam Hussein (a) the leader of all the martyrs? Let us explore.

Once a human being believes in Allah and His Prophet, he becomes a Muslim. By definition, a Muslim is a person who submits to the will of Allah (swt). That means that whatever Allah asks us to do, we obey Him. The basic commandments that he has asked to follow are called the *Furoo-e- din*. Two important branches of *Furoo-e-din* are listed below:

Amr bil Ma'arof : Inviting to good. This means as a Muslim, whenever you can, you should guide people and tell people about what is right and what is good. Give some examples that you can think of where it's important to do *amr bil ma'arof*?

Nahy `anil Munkar : Preventing evil. This means that as a Muslim, whenever you can, if you see something evil or bad, you should do whatever you can to stop that evil from happening and to make changes so that it won't happen again. Give some examples that you can think of where it's important to do *nahy `anil munkar*?

When Imam Hussein (a) refused to accept Yazeed as the leader of the Muslims, he was following the commands of *amr bil ma'arof* and *nahy `anil munkar*. If he had accepted Yazeed as the leader, the people of that time would not have known that Yazeed was an evil person, and that things had to change. How evil was Yazeed? One historian says: "Yazeed was a pleasure-seeking person. He was a man who kept animals for hunting. He had dogs, monkeys and panthers. He always held parties where people drank wine." How could Yazeed become

the leader of Muslims when he did not represent Islam? Imam Hussein (a) was a live model of Islam. How could he accept Yazeed as the leader of Muslims? To follow the tenants of Islam of guiding people and telling them what's evil, he had to refuse bayat.

We also, need to remember to tell people if they are doing wrong and guide them to the right path whenever we can. Sometimes, holding up to the commands of *amr bil ma`aruf* and *nahy `anil munkar* will not be easy. In fact, it will be a struggle, and this struggle is called **jihad**. People will not be happy with us, and we might get hurt. In the most extreme cases, this struggle will mean that we have to give up our life in the way of Islam, and this is what is called **shahadat**, or becoming a **shaheed** (a martyr). This is what Imam Hussein (a) had to do. Because his struggle was extremely great, and because many of his own family members and close companions became **shaheed** with him, he is called the leader of all the martyrs. Martyrs are given the highest respect in Islam. The Qur'an says:

"Do not think of those who were killed in the way of Allah as dead. They are alive, and they get their sustenance from their Lord." (Sura Aal-e-Imran, verse 169)

There are many examples from the life of Imam Hussein (a) that tell us he himself *knew that he would be killed*. In fact, his father Imam Ali (a), his grandfather, the Holy Prophet (s), and all the prophets before him up till Nabi Adam (a) knew that he would be killed. Why, then did he go to Kerbala?

The reason is that sometimes death is more important than life as in the case when one is performing *amr bil ma'aruf* and *nahy `anil munkar*. There was no other way to "wake people up" in the society than for Imam Hussein (a) to become a martyr.

(adapted from <http://www.al-islam.org/al-serat/Concept-Ezzati.htm>, <http://al-islam.org/encyclopedia/chapter5b/4.html>)

23.1 Worksheet: Shahadat

Fill in the blanks:

1. Imam Hussein (a) was following the furoo-e-deen. He was holding up the commandments of _____ and _____.
2. Imam Hussein's (a) refusal to do bayat is actually a public example of a refusal to do something wrong. It can be classified as the furoo-e- deen. Commandment of _____.
3. Imam Hussein (a) was also guiding people to the right path by refusing to do bayat. This shows how he was not only preaching the commandment of _____ but also following it.
4. Imam Hussein (a)'s refusal to do bayat led to his _____ but he accepted death because he was standing up for what was right.
5. Imam Hussein (a) is called _____ because he is known as the leader of all martyrs.
6. _____ is also known as our daily inner struggle to follow the commandments of Allah and submit to Him.

Short Answer Questions:

1. What is the meaning of shahadat?
2. Why was Imam Hussein (a) ready to die for Islam?
3. How do you think Imam Hussein's (a) shahadat gave life to Islam?
4. What kind of jihad can *you* do in daily life?

Chapter 24: Importance of turbat-e-Husayn: Khak-e-shifa

We are only allowed to perform sajdah on natural things that grow or come from the earth, except those things that can be worn or eaten. Performing sajdah on *turbah* (clay/earth) is the practice of the Prophet (s) and Imams. The best thing that you can perform sajdah on is the *turbah* from the *haram* of Imam Hussein (a) in Kerbala. This earth is known as *At-Turbatul Husayniyyah* or *Khak-e-Shifa*. It is sacred because it is earth that has the blood of the martyrs of Kerbala.

During the lifetime of the Holy Prophet (s), his daughter Sayyida Fatima (a) had made a rosary (*tasbeeh*) from the earth taken from Hamzah bin Abdul Muttalib's grave.

Hamzah was known as "chief of the martyrs" during the Holy Prophet's time. Imam Hussein (a) is known as the "chief of the martyrs" of all times.

By using *Khak-e-Shifa* when praying, we remember Imam Hussein (a) and hope for his intercession and assistance (*shifa*) in helping us become closer to Allah. Imam Zaynul Abideen (a) took some clay from near the grave of his father Imam Hussein (a) and used it for sajdah, and we follow the same practice till today.

It is important to note that even though we make sajdah *on* turbah, we do not make sajdah *to* the turbah -- we make sajdah only to Allah.

(adapted from Madressa.net 2002 Fiqh Class)

Even before Imam Hussein (a) was martyred in Kerbala, Imam Ali (a) and Prophet Muhammad (s) foretold importance of the earth of Kerbala. According to one *hadith*, the Prophet (s) gave some sand from Kerbala to his wife Umm-e-Salama and told her what would happen to his grandson, Imam Hussein (a). Years later, when Imam Hussein (a) was killed in Kerbala, the sand turned blood red and Umm-e-Salama knew what had happened in Kerbala even before the news had reached Madinah (where she was staying).

One day, Imam Ali (a) was on a journey with his companions, and they passed by the land of Kerbala. There they recited their Fajr prayers. Afterwards, Imam Ali (a) took a handful of earth, smelled it, and said:

"Peace be upon you, earth of Kerbala! A group of people (who will be buried in you) will enter straight into heaven."

(adapted from <http://al-islam.org/nafas> Nafas al-Mahmoom Section 3 Forty Traditions, 29 and 3)

24.1 Worksheet: Khak-e-Shifa

1. What is the earth of Imam Hussein's (a) grave called?
2. Why do we do sajdah on it?
3. What did Bibi Fatima (a) do from the earth taken from Hamzah's grave?
4. Give two examples of ahadith telling the importance of the earth of Kerbala.
5. What is the act of sajdah on turbat-e-Hussein (a) symbolic of?

Chapter 25: A Glimpse at Some of the Shuhadaa of Kerbala

Muslim bin Aqeel

He was an ambassador sent by Imam to Kufa. He took his two sons Muhammad and Ibrahim with him. When Yazeed found out that the people of Kufa had accepted Muslim and paid allegiance to Imam Hussein (a) as their leader he sent Ibn Ziyad to Kufa. Ibn Ziyad Instilled terror in the hearts of the people of Kufa and they abandoned Muslim who was eventually martyred. His host Hani bin Urwah was also martyred. His two sons Muhammad and Ibrahim were imprisoned but freed by the jailer. Only 8 and 10 years of age they set out to warn Imam Hussein (a) not to come to Kufa. They were caught martyred whilst in salaah.

Qays bin Musheer

He was a messenger sent by Imam after he had left Mecca to tell the Kufians he was on his way. Qays was imprisoned by Ibn Ziyad and told he would be spared his life if he cursed Imam Hussein (a) Qays did just the opposite cursing Ibn Ziyad. He was martyred being pushed off a palace like Muslim bin Aqeel & Hani bin Urwah.

Muslim bin Awsaja

He was one of the leaders of Kufa who had written to ask Imam Hussein to come.

He had seen the Prophet (s). and was more than 90 years old.

He slipped out of Kufa and joined Imam. He fought bravely and when he fell he called out to Imam Hussein (a) who ran to his side with Habib. When Habib asked him if he had any last wish he said holding on to Imam *“Do not leave this man”*

Wahab bin Abdullah Kalbi

He, his mother and his wife of a few months were on their way back from Hajj. They found that the road to Kufa was sealed off. When they saw the caravan of Imam Hussein (a) they asked to join it.

Wahab was martyred on Ashura and so was his young bride who had run out to him. She was the only woman martyred of Kerbala.

John bin Huwai

He was the ex-slave of Abu Dharr Ghifari. An Abyssinian by birth he stood by Imam. He had a habit of not speaking in the presence of Imam until he was spoken to. When he faced the enemy he fought reciting the following poem:

“I am a soul willing to die for Allah; I have a sword which is thirsty for the blood for the enemies of Allah; Before I die I shall fight the enemies of Allah with my tongue and my sword; Thus shall I serve the grandson of the Holy Prophet”

He too was martyred on Ashura day.

Sa'eed Bin Abdullah

He was a prominent member of the Shias in Kufa and had given his support to Muslim Bin Aqeel. True to his words he had pledged to sacrifice his life and he did so protecting Imam whilst Imam was praying his Dhuhr Salaat. He was struck by 13 arrows.

Zuhayr Bin Qayn

He joined Imam on the way to Kerbala after a conversation with Imam. He too gave his life protecting Imam from arrows whilst praying Salaat. When he saw that the enemy was dangerously close to Imam he made his last charge and fell.

Burair Hamadani

On the night of Ashura Burair could not stand the cries of the children 'Al Atash' (thirst). He made his way to the river in the dark of the night and managed to bring some water. When the children heard that water had come they rushed to the water bag. The cap flew open and all the water spilt before the children could drink it.

Imam consoled Burair by saying, "You have earned the Dua's of the son of Fatima"

Burair was a 'Hafidhe Qur'an' (had memorized the whole Qur'an) and was also a companion of Imam Ali (a). He too fought bravely and was martyred on Ashura.

Abu Thumama (Amr bin Abdullah)

As the time of Salaatul Dhuhr approached on Ashura day, Abu Thumama expressed his wish to Imam of praying Salaat behind Imam before he met his Lord. Imam blessed him for remembering Salaat even at the time of peril then he asked him to ask the enemy to stop the war for the duration of the Salaat. On being reminded of Salaat, the enemy got violent and in the violence, Abu Thumama was killed.

Nafi' bin Hilal

He was the chief of his tribe and was also a 'Hafidhe Qur'an'. He had fought with Imam Ali (a) in the battles of Jamal, Siffeen, & Nahrwaan. He was an expert archer. On the day of Ashura he was captured and both his arms were broken. Shimr killed him whilst he thanked Allah that he was dying at the hands of the worst of creatures.'

Anas Bin Harith

He was one of the companions of the Prophet (s) and had heard the Prophet foretell the sacrifice of Imam Hussein (a). He had always wanted to be there should it happen in his lifetime. He too was old and like Muslim Bin Awsaja lifted his sagging eyebrows by tying a handkerchief and straightened his back by tying a turban around it. He too was martyred on the day of Ashura.

25.1 Worksheet: A Glimpse at Some of the Shuhudaa of Kerbala

Short answer questions:

1. Why were Muhammad and Ibrahim, sons of Muslim Bin Aqeel, martyred?
2. What was the last wish of Muslim Bin Awsaja?
3. Who was the only woman martyred in Kerbala?
4. Why was Qays Bin Musheer, martyred?

Fill in the blanks:

5. John Bin Huwai was the _____ of Abu Dharr Ghifari who did not _____ in the presence of the Imam unless he was spoken to.
6. On the night of Ashura Burair Hamadani could not stand the children's cries of 'Al Atash' and managed to sneak some water into the camp but the water

7. Sa'eed Bin Abdullah and Zuhayr Bin Qayn were martyred as they stood guard while Imam _____.

8. When Abu Thumama (Amr Bin Abdullah) asked them the enemy to stop the war for the duration of Salaat they

9. Nafi Bin Hilal was killed by _____.

10. Anas Bin Harith know about Imam Hussein's (a) martyrdom before Kerbala because he had heard the _____ foretell it.

Acknowledgements

Shia-Muslim Association of Bay Area would like to thank the authors, editors and reviewers for their contributions to the Madrasat Ahlul-Bait curriculum development project.

We are especially thankful to Dr. Nabi Raza Abidi for leading the curriculum committee and providing the motivation and invaluable guidance for the project.

We would like to express our special gratitude to the MAB teachers and staff for their support and assistance in the development and testing of the curriculum.

SABA is also very thankful to the Islamic organizations and authors whose syllabus and books were used for the inspiration and creation of this curriculum.

Please remember in your prayers, all the people involved in this project.