

Quran Appreciation - Winter Term (Jan-Mar 2018)

The Story of Nabi Isa (a)

Nabi Isa

Verse for the session

إِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَا عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ اذْكُرْ نِعْمَتِي عَلَيْكَ وَعَلَىٰ وَالِدَتِكَ إِذْ أَيَّدتُّكَ بِرُوحِ
الْقُدُسِ تُكَلِّمُ النَّاسَ فِي الْمَهْدِ وَكَهْلًا

When Allah will say: O Isa son of Maryam! Remember My favour on you and on your mother, when I strengthened you with the holy Spirit, you spoke to the people in the cradle and in adulthood

(Sura Maidah, verse 110)

Reflections

- Why does Allah call him son of Maryam? (to emphasize he is not son of Allah)
- Which favours is God talking about? (helping him through the holy spirit to talk)
- What is the holy spirit?

Cross reference verses

Nabi Isa speaks while in the cradle - Sura Maryam, 19:29-33

Ruhul Quds and Nabi Isa (a) - 2:87, 2:253

Tafsir

This verse talks about Nabi Isa and his mother, informing the Muslims about their position and the blessings given to them by Allah. This is to help Muslims become aware of the past Prophets and their status in Islam.

Allah reminds Nabi Isa about the blessings He gave them, specifically assistance of the holy spirit and being able to speak in the cradle as well as he could speak in adulthood. Speaking as a baby was the miracle given to Nabi Isa so he could defend his mother and be a proof of his miraculous birth. This was a blessing for the mother also as she would not have been able to answer the questions of the people herself. They would not believe what she said but they could

not deny the miracle behind a baby speaking like an adult. Thus Allah relieved her of her worry of explaining to her people.

Ruhul Quds - the holy spirit could refer to;

- 1) Angel Jibrail who assists the Prophets
- 2) A strengthening force that helps the Prophet face whatever he needs to with patience and calmness. This is to help him in his mission. According to tafsir this type of spirit is also given to people other than Prophets although in a weaker form.

With the help of this spirit Nabi Isa is able to speak while in the cradle. He spoke just like an adult would.

Reminding the Prophet of His favours is to give him comfort that Allah has never left him alone and will continue to bless him with favours. Whenever a person remembers special favours that Allah has blessed him with, it inspires him and gives him strength. That is why gratitude is so necessary in life. It brings confidence and contentment in life.

Note - Nabi Isa is referred to in the Quran as Isa son of Maryam, or al-Masih (the Messiah) (5:17, 5:72 . . .)

Hadith

The grateful one prospers more as a result of his gratitude than as a result of the blessing which incited the thanks, because blessings are sources of delight in this world while gratitude brings blessings of this world and the Hereafter.

Imam al-Hadi (a)

Tuhaf al Uqul, pg 483

Important Lessons

- 1) Allah helps people who carry out His mission
- 2) Miracles such as a baby speaking in the cradle is possible when Allah wishes it to happen.
- 3) Remembering Allah's favours is a strengthening force that helps believers in their mission.

Story

Nabi Isa the Optimist

Nabi Isa always saw the best in things. He was positive and thought about the good side of things. This optimism and positivity helped him preach his mission and win the hearts of people.

It also gave him calmness and inner peace. Nothing bothered him much and he could always find something good to say about others.

One day he was walking with his companions and they passed by the corpse of a dead animal. The men were distressed by the sight and smell of the corpse. 'Look at it' they said ' how rotten it smells!'

'Look at it' said Nabi Isa ' how white and shining are its teeth.'

Ideas

- 1) Children can write out facts about Nabi Isa. See [http://www.musalla.org/articles/Prophet_Isa_\(as\)165.html](http://www.musalla.org/articles/Prophet_Isa_(as)165.html)
- 2) Discuss importance of gratitude in lifting your spirits. Check <https://rhythmsofplay.com/year-round-gratitude-activities-for-kids/>

Sources

Tafsir Namune, Ayt. Nasir Makarim Shirazi

Tafsire Nur, Aghae Muhsin Qaraati

Shaykh Rizwan Arastu, God's Emissaries