

Quran Appreciation - Spring Term (Apr-May 2018) The Disciples of Nabi Isa (a)

Plot against Nabi Isa (a)

Verse for the session

وَمَكَرُوا وَمَكَرَ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ خَيْرُ الْمَاكِرِينَ

And they planned and Allah also planned, and Allah is the best of planners

إِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَا عِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ إِنِّي فَتَوَفِّيكَ وَرَافِعُكَ إِلَيَّ وَمُطَهِّرُكَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَجَاعِلُ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوكَ فَوْقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ ثُمَّ إِلَيَّ مَرْجِعُكُمْ فَأَحْكُمُ بَيْنَكُمْ فِيمَا كُنْتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ

When Allah said, ‘O Jesus, I shall take your soul and raise you up toward Myself, and clear you of accusations of the disbelievers, and I shall make those who follow you above the disbelievers until the Day of Resurrection. Then to Me will be your return, and I will judge between you concerning that about which you used to differ.

(Sura Aale Imran, no.3, verses 54-55)

Reflections

- What did the people plan against Nabi Isa?
- What examples do we know that show Allah is the best of all planners? (Karbala, Imprisonment of Imam Kadhim, . . . personal stories . . .)
- How many things does Allah promise Nabi Isa in verse 55?
- What were the disbelievers accusing Nabi Isa of?

Cross reference verses

4:157 - Nabi Isa was not killed on the cross.

5:110 - Allah talks to Nabi Isa about his mission and his miracles

Tafsir

Although the people witnessed Nabi Isa's noble character and the miracles he brought, many of the leaders of the community at that time did not accept him. For 33 years Nabi Isa taught wisdom and challenged the leadership of the temple. These leaders were powerful and wealthy and in their hearts they knew Nabi Isa was a Prophet of God. But they dismissed him as a magician. They were not grateful to God for sending them guidance through a Prophet. So they plotted against him to kill him.

When they were about to do this, Allah tells Nabi Isa that He will raise him up to Heaven and free him of what they accused him of. Allah's promise to Nabi Isa also includes purification from the accusations of the disbelievers. This could mean;

- he would be taken away to Heaven so he would be free from them
- he would eventually prove their accusations wrong and exonerate himself
- he would be removed from that polluted environment of lying and jealousy

The verse promises Nabi Isa and his followers that they would be successful over the people who rejected Nabi Isa. The people would not be able to stop the spread and success of the faith that Nabi Isa brought and which was the right one at that time, until the advent of the Holy Prophet.

On the last day of his life on this earth Nabi Isa called the Hawariyyun to assemble in a house. It was the 21st of Ramadan according to Hadith. Then he told them of God's promise to him that He would save him from what the people were plotting and would raise him up to Heaven. On the command of Allah Nabi Isa appointed Simon Peter his successor. He asked the disciples to promise that they would support him. Then he asked which one of them would accept to be disguised like him and take his place at the cross and be crucified instead of him. One of the disciples stepped forward and accepted this task. Thus when the people came to crucify Nabi Isa they actually took the young disciple who they thought was Nabi Isa. They crucified him while Nabi Isa was taken to Heaven and is still alive till today. He will appear with Imam Mahdi (a) at the command of Allah.

Important Lessons

- 1) People may plot what they like but it is Allah's plan that will always succeed.
- 2) Allah has a plan for everyone and His plan encompasses the future.

Sources

Ayt. Nasir Makarim Shirazi, *Tafsir Namune*,

Shaykh Rizwan Arastu, *God's Emissaries: From Adam to Jesus*