

## The Story of Talut and Jalut

### An Introduction

#### Important Names

Arabic name	English name	Brief Information
Prophet Shamul	Samuel	Prophet of the Banu Israel
Talut	Saul	Chosen as the King of the Banu Israel by God
Jalut	Goliath	A Palestinian warrior
Prophet Dāwūd (a)	David	Became the Prophet and King after Talut's death.

After Prophet Musa (a) rescued the Banu Israel from the oppression of Fir'awn, they became a strong people who were able to overcome many others. Over time these victories made them proud and heedless. They defied the commandments of Allah and rejected those who tried to guide them. They became weak and faced many losses from neighboring enemies. It was a nation that was declining. But a generation came up that wanted to do the right thing and asked Prophet Shamul to assist them. They requested him to pray to Allah to send a king under whom they could become strong again.

Prophet Shamul told them that Allah had chosen Talut to be their King. Talut was tall and strong and was very wise and courageous. He had physical might and knowledge and was a good leader. He was not from the tribe of Levi or from the tribe of Prophet Yusuf, the two tribes from which the Prophets and Kings of Banu Israel came from. Talut was from the tribe of Benyamin. He was also not very wealthy. The Banu Israel initially protested at his appointment. Then they asked Prophet Shamul, 'What is the proof that God has made Talut our king?' The Prophet told them that the proof would be that he would procure the Ark of Covenant which God had sent down and which contained the relics of Musa and Harun (a). When the Bani Israel went out of the town they saw the casket there and this satisfied them. This was the casket which was given by Jibrail to Prophet Musa's mother so she could hide the baby in it. Before he died Prophet Musa placed in it the wooden tablets on which the Taurat was inscribed, his armor, his staff, some of his garments, and other relics in it. This became a blessed Ark of Covenant which passed on to each Prophet of the Banu Israel. The Ark was lost during the time of Prophet Shamul and came back to the people when Talut became king.

Under Talut's leadership a small group of the Banu Israel went to fight the Palestinians. Jalut was part of the Palestinian army and was well known for his strength and warfare. People were afraid of him. Prophet Dāwūd (a) who was very young at that time killed Jalut. By the will of Allah, the Banu Israel won against the Palestinians.

Talut who was the King of the Banu Israel at that time had said he would give half of his kingdom and his daughter in marriage to the person who would kill Jalut. When Prophet Dāwūd was able to do that, the King kept his word. Prophet Dāwūd married his daughter, and after the death of Talut became the next King as well as a Prophet of God.

Imam al-Baqir (a) referred to Prophet Dawud (a) as one of the few Prophets who were rulers as well. Prophet Dawud (a) was in the same period of time as Luqman.