

## Sūrat al-Saba' Verse 12

وَلَسُلَيْمَانَ الرِّيحَ غُدُوُّهَا شَهْرٌ وَرَوَاحُهَا شَهْرٌ ۗ وَأَسَلْنَا لَهُ عَيْنَ الْقِطْرِ ۗ وَمِنَ الْجِنِّ مَن يَعْمَلُ بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ  
بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِ ۗ وَمَن يَزِغْ مِنْهُمْ عَنْ أَمْرِنَا نُذِقْهُ مِن عَذَابِ السَّعِيرِ

34:12 - And for Sulayman [We subjected] the wind: its morning course was a month's journey and its evening course was a month's journey. We made a fountain of molten copper flow for him, and We placed at his service some of the jinn who would work for him by the permission of his Lord, and if any of them turned aside from Our command, We would make him taste the punishment of the Blaze.

### Questions for Reflection

- 1) How many blessings for Prophet Sulaymān are outlined in this verse?
- 2) Do you know any other blessing he was given which is not mentioned in this verse (communicating with animals and birds)?
- 3) What parts of the verse show that Allah controls these blessings?

### Optional questions (if you think the class is up to it)

- 1) What would be the wind speed to cover in half a day the distance a person would cover walking a month. (for eg. if you walk 5 miles per hour for 10 hours a day, then you would walk 1,500 miles per month. To make this journey in hours, the wind speed would have to be around 200 mph)
- 2) Why did Prophet Sulaymān want a unique kingdom? (see his request in verse 38:35 mentioned in the notes below).

### Commentary

This verse talks about the different blessings granted to Prophet Sulaymān; control over the wind, molten copper, and the Jinn working for him. These blessings were not previously granted to anyone.

The wind is a creation of Allah, *'azza wajall*, and he can grant control over it to whoever He wishes. He often grants control over the forces of nature to His chosen ones. History has not given details of how the wind moved Prophet Sulaymān and his entourage over the land. Human beings have always used the wind to travel, from hot air balloons to airplanes etc. All these show the possibility of using air and wind for travel. For Prophet Sulaymān it was by a miracle and he was able to travel by air easily. He did not need technology or any other apparatus when he travelled by wind. It took him wherever he wanted to go.

The word *ghudu* refers to the morning. It has been used in other verses of Quran, see 7:205 and 24:36. The word *rawah* is usually used for the last part of the day, a time when most of creation returns back to their homes and prepare to rest for the night. History tells us that in the context of Prophet Sulaymān's travels, the morning refers to half the day – he would travel from early morning till Zuhr time and would cover the distance of a month by normal transportation. And then he

would travel the second half of the day, from afternoon to evening and cover another month's journey.

The other blessing he received was melted copper. He had mines of copper, which was a rare metal at that time, and the metal would become like fluid and flow like water for him. Allah, *subhanau wata'ala* taught him the techniques of metallurgy – the art and science of extracting metal from their ores and how to alloy them for specific uses. This skill enhances well-being for people by providing them with quality goods and products. It is interesting to note that iron was made soft for Prophet Dāwūd and copper was made fluid for Prophet Sulaymān. Both used these metals in the work they did. Allah also taught people the use of these resources through His Prophets.

The third blessing was the Jinn who worked for Prophet Sulaymān. It was by the permission of Allah that this control over them was given to the Prophet. Those who disobeyed his commands were punished. This discipline was necessary to ensure the smooth running of the kingdom. The leader must have a strong authority and those who work for him must do what he says. Without that authority and the fear of consequences, there can be a lot of chaos in the running of the kingdom.

To rule a kingdom, especially as large as the one under Prophet Sulaymān, many factors are necessary for success. These include the following important ones;

- 1) Access to all parts of the kingdom. It is necessary for the ruler to be in touch with his people and the services being done for them. This means traveling to different parts often to be informed of the state of affairs throughout the kingdom.
- 2) Goods and raw materials for the people to live a comfortable life.
- 3) Workers who are obedient to the leader and are under his authority. These workers serve the people.

Allah provided all these for Prophet Sulaymān and he used these blessings to be an exceptional leader. He had prayed to Allah to grant him a unique kingdom; *He said, 'My Lord! Forgive me and grant me a kingdom that will not befit anyone except me. Indeed You are the Granter of bounties. (38:35)*. He wanted a kingdom where he would rule miraculously, with justice for all those under him. It would show the people that this was a rule sanctioned by Allah. Allah fulfilled his wish and made it possible for him through these special gifts. When we have a sincere intention and a vision for what we want to accomplish in the world, for the sake of Allah, then He makes it possible for us by the blessings He gives us in our lives. It is necessary to recognize those blessings and use them to fulfill our vision for life. Sometimes the blessings may not be apparent, or may come in the guise of challenges, but they are gifts from Allah as part of His plan for us.

### Lessons

- 1) Allah granted special blessings to Prophet Sulaymān so he could fulfill his vision of having an exceptional kingdom.
- 2) Each gift that Allah gives to people can be used in God's way, to better life both for the receiver as well as for others around him.
- 3) Leadership requires a firm authority so that the outcome is in line with the goal of the leader.

### Connecting verses

- 1) Prophet Sulaymān's du'a and the gifts he received– 38:35-40