

Prophet Nuh (a) – An Introduction

Prophet Nuh (a) was the first of the Ulul Azm Prophets and the first to bring a Shariah – code of laws – for humanity. He is the third prophet after Prophet Adam (a) and the first Prophet whose people were punished by Allah. He is mentioned in Quran multiple times and one of the suras that talks about his story is named after him. Because of his long life, he is known as Shaykh al-Anbiya' (elder of the Prophets).

Prophet Nuh is believed to be the ninth-generation descendants of Prophet Adam. He was born and lived in Mesopotamia, in Kufa. He also lived in Palestine and Syria. The name of Prophet Nuh is mentioned as Abd al-Ghaffar, or Abd al-Malik, and Abd al-'Ali. The reason for naming him as Nuh is his crying and mourning for himself and for his people for 500 years. Prophet Nuh was a carpenter by trade.

Prophet Nuh had four sons, Shem, Ham, Japheth, and Canaan, all of whom except Canaan believed in him and went in the ark with him. Canaan is that son of Prophet Nuh who did not believe in his father and was drowned in the flood.

According to the Quran, during his prophethood before the flood, Prophet Nuh invited and warned people and told them to worship One God. He was mocked and harassed by those who rejected him. His people worshiped idols such as Wadd, Suwa', Yaghuth, Ya'uq, and Nasr.

Many reports say that Prophet Nuh lived for 2,500 years. The Quran mentions that he preached for 950 years (29:14).

Du'a of Prophet Nuh (a)

It is narrated from Imam al-Baqir (a) and Imam al-Sadiq (a) that in the mornings and in the evenings, Prophet Nuh would thank Allah ten times, saying;

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَشْهَدُكَ أَنَّهُ مَا أَصْبَحَ وَ أَمْسَى بِي مِنْ نِعْمَةٍ وَ عَافِيَةٍ فِي دِينٍ أَوْ دُنْيَا فَمِنْكَ وَ حَدَاكَ لَأَ شَرِيكَ لَكَ
لَكَ الْحَمْدُ وَ لَكَ الشُّكْرُ بِهَا عَلَيَّ حَتَّى تَرْضَى وَ بَعْدَ الرِّضَا

O God, I take You as witness that any blessing which exists in my religion or in the world, in the mornings and in the evenings, is from You. You are One and have no partner. All Praise and gratitude belong to You, as much as pleases You, and more.

Allah called him a 'very grateful servant' (Q17:3).

Other Du'as of Prophet Nuh mentioned in the Quran include:

- 26:118: *Judge between me and them with a just judgment and deliver me and the faithful who are with me.*
- 71:28: *My Lord! Forgive me and my parents, and whoever enters my house in faith, and the believing men and women.*
- 54:10: *I am overcome, so help me.*
- 23:29: *My Lord! Land me with a blessed landing, for You are the best of those who bring to land.* (to be recited when you reach a destination)

e) 11:47: *My Lord! I seek Your protection lest I should ask You something of which I have no knowledge.*

Story from Prophet Nuh (a)

It is mentioned in many narrations that even though Prophet Nuh had a long life and was known as Shaykh al-Anbiya' (elder of the prophets), when the angel of death approached him to take his soul, he was sitting in the sun and he asked permission to go to the shade. The angel of death asked him how he felt about the world. Prophet Nuh answered: 'My life in this world seems like my going from the sun to the shade'.

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