

Overview**Nabī Yūsuf ‘*alayhis-salām* is established in the land****Reward of good in this world****Reward of Hereafter is better and lasting****God consciousness****Qualities of a true believer**

Sūrat Yūsuf

Verses 56-57

وَكَذَلِكَ مَكَّنَّا لِيُوسُفَ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَتَّبِعُوا مِنْهَا حَيْثُ يَشَاءُ ۚ نُصِيبُ بِرَحْمَتِنَا مَنْ نَشَاءُ وَلَا نُضِيعُ أَجْرَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

That is how We established Yūsuf in the land that he may settle in it wherever he wished. We grant our mercy to whoever We wish, and we do not let the reward of those who do good to be lost

وَلَا أَجْرُ الْآخِرَةِ خَيْرٌ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَكَانُوا يَتَّقُونَ

And the reward of the Hereafter is surely better for those who believe and are God conscious.

Questions for Reflection

1. What reward is verse 56 talking about? of the world or of the Hereafter? If it is of the world what will that reward be? what are the differences between the rewards of the world and that of the Hereafter?
2. Only two groups of people have been mentioned as receiving a better reward of the Hereafter; those who have faith and those who are God conscious. Do these qualities go together? Can you have one without the other?
3. What exactly is God consciousness?
4. Who are those who do good? What did Nabī Yūsuf do to make him part of that group?

Commentary

This section of the life of Nabī Yūsuf ends with a reminder that this was the mercy of Allāh that was granted to Nabī Yūsuf which enabled him to go from place to place until he ended with an honorable position. The position allowed him to do a lot of good for others. Because of his good nature and his efforts to help others Allāh also helps him attain a status in the world.

Not everyone will be rewarded in the world. Sometimes God rewards only in the Hereafter. Knowing that you have pleased Allāh is the biggest reward in this world as well as in the Hereafter. It is a spiritual reward that cannot be compared to physical and material rewards.

Muhsinīn are those who do good, the doers of Ihsān – a beautiful thought, word and/or action. God has praised the Muhsinīn many times in the Qurān as a special group of people. The Qurān says; *Surely Allāh loves the Muhsinīn* (2:195). Nabī Yūsuf has been described as a Muhsin, a Mu'min and a Muttaqī in these verses showing his high rank with God.

Nabī Yūsuf achieved a lot in this world. But Allāh reminds us that the reward of the Hereafter is better. It lasts forever and will not end. It brings complete and absolute happiness without any negativity to spoil its pleasure.

Despite his position Nabī Yūsuf remained a humble servant of Allāh. Imām Sādiq *'alayhis-salām* says about Nabī Yūsuf that he was a free and thoughtful person. Neither the jealousy of his brothers, nor being thrown in the well, imprisonment in the prison, accusations against him, nor the power and authority given to him affected him negatively. That is how a true believer is. Circumstances of this world do not make him too happy or too sad, not too proud or too upset. All is from Allāh and the most important thing is how we react to it.

Lessons

- 1) Everything is done according to the plan that Allāh has for each human being. Allah established Nabī Yūsuf in the land despite all the people who planned against him.
- 2) The good that any human being does never goes unrewarded. Even a small atom of good will be rewarded.
- 3) It is possible to have a high position in this world and to also have a status in the Hereafter.

- 4) 'Those who love Allāh are more concerned about the Hereafter. Things of the world do not affect them much.

Practical Implementation

Whatever comes your way, just remind yourself that no one situation whether good or bad, lasts forever in this world. It is your reaction and how you deal with the situations that will ultimately matter.

Cross reference verses

Balance of emotions in good and bad times – Q 57:23

Achieving pleasure of Allāh is the greatest reward - Q 9:72

Connecting Topics

Aspiring to high spiritual goals

Pleasure of Allāh

Useful Links

<https://www.al-islam.org/mizan-al-hikmah-scale-wisdom/allahs-pleasure>

Activity Ideas

- make a table or chart to show qualities of Muhsinīn, Muminīn, Muttaqīn. Students can choose one quality to discuss/write about/apply in their lives.
- discuss and compare different ways in which God rewards people.