

Allah (SWT)'s plan and the birth of Prophet Musa (A)

Learning objectives:

- To understand the plan of Allah (SWT) against the evil plan of Pharaoh
- To learn how Allah (SWT) protected Prophet Musa (A) once he was born
- For students to continue with the memorisation of Surat al-A'la – verses 6-8

Pharaoh planned to kill all the baby boys born to the Banu Isra'il, however Allah (SWT) had another plan. The following verses of Surat al-Qasas (5-6) elaborate Allah (SWT)'s plan:

وَنُرِيدُ أَنْ نَمُنَّ عَلَى الَّذِينَ اسْتُضِعُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَنَجْعَلَهُمْ أَئِمَّةً وَنَجْعَلَهُمُ الْوَارِثِينَ

And We desired to bestow a favor upon those who were deemed weak in the land, and to make them the Imams, and to make them the heirs,

وَنُمَكِّنْ لَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَنُرِيَ فِرْعَوْنَ وَهَامَانَ وَجُنُودَهُمَا مِنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يَحْذَرُونَ

And to grant them power in the land, and to make Firon and Haman and their hosts see from them what they feared. [28:5-6]

Allah (SWT) wanted to bestow His favour on the Banu Isra'il – 'those who were deemed weak in the land' – indicating that no matter how 'weak' one appears, when Allah (SWT) wills, these people would become the leaders and heirs of this world. Banu Isra'il were the progeny of Prophet Ya'qub (A) and Allah (SWT) would not leave them in this destitute state unless they decided to move away from the worship of Allah (SWT). Banu Isra'il had placed their trust in Allah (SWT) and hence Allah (SWT) bestowed His favour on them.

Reflection:

Similarly with us, when we put our trust in Allah (SWT), all the blessing of Allah (SWT) will be bestowed on us. However when we turn our backs to Allah (SWT), we are turning our backs on all the blessings of Allah (SWT).

Allah (SWT) wanted to complete His blessings on the Banu Isra'il as well as to show oppressors like Pharaoh and Haman that no matter what they plan against Allah (SWT), they will always fail as Allah (SWT) is always with the oppressed.

The Birth of Prophet Musa (A)

Banu Isra'il were a big community, how did Pharaoh make sure that all the new born boys are killed?

Pharaoh ordered that a Coptic midwife should be placed at every house that was expecting a baby and a Coptic guard should guard those houses, so that when a baby boy is born, he is immediately killed. Of course, this was the case with Prophet Musa (A). There were guards outside his house. The midwife was waiting for him to be born and when he was born, she saw that the baby was a boy! However, Allah (SWT) states in Surat Taha, verse 39:

وَأَلْقَيْتُ عَلَيْكَ مَحَبَّةً مِنِّي وَلِتُصْنَعَ عَلَى عَيْنِي

and I cast down upon you love from Me, and that you might be brought up before My eyes [20:39]

Allah (SWT) placed love for Prophet Musa (A) on anyone who saw him. So when the midwife saw him, she felt a sense of love for him and decided that she could not get him killed. The midwife came out and the guards asked her about the baby. She lied to them by saying that the baby was a girl who died at birth and she had buried her in the garden. The guards believed her and left. Prophet Musa (A) was saved! However, keeping a baby in the house was not easy and Prophet Musa (A)'s mother was worried that someone will find out and report it to the authorities.

Allah (SWT) then revealed to the mother of Prophet Musa (A) what to do next. The revelation from Allah (SWT) coming straight to the mother of Prophet of Musa (A) is indicative of her high status in the eyes of Allah (SWT).

Surat al-Qasas, verses 7-9 continues from here:

وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ أُمِّ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَرْضِعِيهِ ۖ فَإِذَا خِفْتِ عَلَيْهِ فَأَلْقِيهِ فِي الْيَمِّ وَلَا تَخَافِي
وَلَا تَحْزَنِي ۖ إِنَّا رَادُّوهُ إِلَيْكِ وَجَاعِلُوهُ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

And We revealed to Moses' mother, [saying], 'Nurse him; then, when you fear for him, cast him into the river, and do not fear or grieve, for We will restore him to you and make him one of the apostles.' [28:7-9]

The mother of Prophet Musa (A) now knows that this baby is going to be the saviour that the Banu Isra'il have been waiting for. She then places him in a box and casts him into the river. Allah (SWT) protected Prophet Musa (A) from the crocodiles and other animals that could harm him in the river, leading him straight to the palace of the Pharaoh. The guards picked up Prophet Musa (A) and immediately wanted to kill him. However, the Pharaoh's wife – Lady Asiyah stopped them.

فَالْتَقَطَهُ آلُ فِرْعَوْنَ لِيَكُونَ لَهُمْ عَدُوًّا وَحَزَنًا ۖ إِنَّ فِرْعَوْنَ وَهَامَانَ وَجُنُودَهُمَا
كَانُوا خَاطِئِينَ

And Firon's family took him up that he might be an enemy and a grief for them; surely Firon and Haman and their hosts were wrongdoers.

وَقَالَتِ امْرَأَتُ فِرْعَوْنَ قُرَّتُ عَيْنِي لِي وَلَكَ ۖ لَا تَقْتُلُوهُ عَسَىٰ أَنْ يَنْفَعَنَا أَوْ
نَتَّخِذَهُ وَلَدًا وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ

And Firon's wife said: A refreshment of the eye to me and to you; do not slay him; maybe he will be useful to us, or we may take him for a son; and they did not perceive.

Reflection:

Look at how Pharaoh had planned on making sure that all baby boys would be killed and how Allah (SWT) guaranteed to save Prophet Musa (A). Allah (SWT) led him straight to Pharaoh's palace, making Pharaoh raise the saviour of Banu Isra'il and his own eventual destroyer, right in front of his eyes. This teaches us a lesson that no matter how much control and power evil does seem to have, Allah (SWT) will always ruin their plans right in front of their eyes.

Discussion:

If Allah (SWT) could do this for Prophet Musa (A) and the Banu Isra'il, has He not done a similar thing for us as Muslims by keeping our 12th Imam (A) alive and protected for so many years!