

MODULE 4

Class Title: Story of Musa (as) part 2 (2nd part of a 2 lesson series)

Aim of the lesson: To understand & learn lessons from the story

Category: Scripture

Lesson Format: Power point presentation with discussion

Greeting to students) *AssalamalaikumwaRahmatullahiwaBarakatuh*

(Ta'awwudh) Aoodhubillahi min AsShaytanirRajeem

(Tasmiyah) BismillahirRahmanirRaheem

(Du'a) Rabbishrahlisadriwayassirliamriwahluluqdatummillisaniyafqahuqawli (Surah At Ta-Ha 20: Verse 25-28)

Slide 1:

How many people were present last time? As you can see we are doing the story of Hazrat Musa (as) and this is the second part. Most of you already know the story of Prophet Musa (as) right? Why are we doing this story Are we doing it as an entertainment? No, we are doing it to take lessons.

Remember, in our last class we talked about how Musa (as) was born. How he reached the Pharaoh's palace and what happened to him and we reached the part where Musa (as) is summoned by Allah (swt) and he is asked to go and give Pharaoh, Allah (swt)'s message. Can somebody tell me what happened? Musa (as) was moving from Madyan to Egypt with his family, then what happened in the desert?

Student: He saw a light and got attracted to it.

Teacher: And then what happened?

Student: It was a fire

Teacher: It was actually what seemed like a burning bush. What happened over there?

Students: Allah (swt) spoke to Musa (as)

Teacher: Allah (swt) spoke to Musa (as) over there. There was a conversation that went on between Musa (as) and Allah (swt) as we have discussed last time. It was quite a lengthy conversation, Allah (swt) asked Musa (as) a lot of questions. Musa (as) prolonged the answers and we also discussed why Musa (as) did that?

Teacher: Why did Musa (as) prolong the conversation? He was initially scared. If you are caught in a situation that you are really scared of, what would you want to do?

Student: get over it

Teacher: When Musa (as) went there, his initial reaction at seeing a burning bush and hearing a voice addressing him out of nowhere was fear but he continued to prolong the conversation. Imagine you have gone down to get yourself a glass of water, and sometimes it happens that the mind plays games on you, and you feel like there is somebody in the kitchen, what do you want to do? Take the water and run without looking back, right? Why didn't Musa (as) do that? Why didn't he want that situation to be over and done with?

Student: maybe he enjoyed it.

Teacher: But to enjoy, you need to be convinced about something right? What was he convinced about? He was convinced that it is Allah (swt) talking to him. He had no doubt about that and once he was convinced of this idea that Allah (swt) is conversing with him, he didn't want to cut it short. This is what we do when we are talking to friends or people we are fond of, we prolong the conversation.

Teacher: What was the mission that Allah (swt) gave Musa (as)?

Student: To invite Pharoah to worship only Allah (swt) and to free Bani Israel from his cruel reign.

Teacher: What was Musa (as)'s reaction to it?

Student: He was afraid.

Teacher: Yes, he was afraid particularly because he thought that he lacked eloquence and also because he was raised in Pharoah's palace and he knew how cruel he was so he requested that his brother Harun be made his helper. Then he made that *du'a* which I did at the beginning of lesson to seek Allah (swt)'s guidance. Allah (swt) told them both to go to Pharoah and deliver the Truth.

Slide 2:

Allah (swt) answered,

اذْهَبَا إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ إِنَّهُ طَغَىٰ
فَقُولَا لَهُ قَوْلًا لَّيِّنًا لَّعَلَّهُ يَتَذَكَّرُ أَوْ يَخْشَىٰ

"Go, both of you, to Pharaoh, verily, he has transgressed all bounds in disbelief and disobedience and behaved as an arrogant and as a tyrant. And speak to him mildly, perhaps he may accept admonition or fear Allah." (Surah At-Taha 20, verses 43-44)

And they said,

قَالَ رَبَّنَا إِنَّا نَخَافُ أَنْ يُفْرِطَ عَلَيْنَا أَوْ أَنْ يَطْغَى

O our Lord, verily we fear lest he should hasten to punish us or lest he should transgress all bounds against us' (Surah At-Taha 20: verse 45)

Now Pharoah has crossed all bounds but what is Allah (swt) telling Musa (as) and Harun (as) to do? Allah (swt) is asking them to speak to him in a mild manner. Now, of all the things that we have heard about Firaun and what little we could have discussed in a forty five minute class, do you think he was a man who could be spoken to mildly?? No, not at all. Musa (as) and Harun (as)'s fears are shown in the second sentence when they say that he may punish us.

Slide 3-4:

As soon as Musa and Harun (as) had these fears, this is what Allah (swt) said,

قَالَ لَا تَخَافَا إِنِّي مَعَكُمَا أَسْمِعُ وَأَرَى

'fear not, verily I am with you both, hearing and seeing', (Surah Taha 20, verse 46)

They were comforted by Allah (swt) that you are not alone so go ahead and fulfill your missions. One was to invite Pharoah to worship Allah (swt) and what was the other? We just discussed it.

Student: Free Bani Israel

Slide 5:

Teacher: These were the two missions. And Allah (swt) also gave Musa (as) two miracles.

- Musa's (as) staff could change into a serpent
- His right hand would shine if he pressed it

Slide 6-7:

What lessons have you learnt until now?

- A *da'ee* should invite people to Islam with gentleness. No matter how bad an opinion of a person we might have. Infact, a *da'ee* should never be judgmental. He should be open and convey the message with openness and sincerity.
- Always go prepared. Plan and take whatever you might require. Home work is crucial for a *da'ee*. You should be very close to the Quran. It should be part of your system.

Slide 8:

So then, Moses (pbuh) and Aaron (pbuh) went together to Pharaoh and delivered their message. Moses spoke to him about Allah, His mercy and His Paradise and about the obligations of monotheism and His worship.

There was a big debate between Firaun and Musa (as). Musa (as) went to Firaun and told him to worship only Allah (swt). Pharaoh was obviously shocked at the audacity of a man who was raised in his own palace, under his supervision. However, Musa (as) very calmly and softly invited him to Allah (swt). He reminded him of His mercy and offered him the infinite rewards of *Jannah*.

Teacher: What was Pharaoh's reaction?

Student: He got angry.

Teacher: Yes and he reminded Musa (as) of his favors that he did to him by taking him in when he was a baby and was at the mercy of River Nile.

Teacher: What is he trying to do to Musa (as)?

Student: Making him feel guilty.

Teacher: Emotional blackmail, I call it. He said you were hungry and we fed you. You enjoyed this entire splendor and this wealth while you were being raised as royalty. He is trying to intimidate Musa (as) but Musa (as) stayed calm and persistent which further infuriated Pharaoh. He reminded Musa (as) that he should have been killed in the year he was born but it was his mercy that he was still alive and breathing. When Pharaoh realized that he had failed to intimidate him, he resorted to yet another tactic. He reminded Musa (as) that he had killed an Egyptian and fled without a fair trial.

Teacher: Now what is he trying to do?

Student: Threatening him.

Teacher: Yes, first he tried emotional blackmail and when that didn't work he began threatening him but Musa (as) was Allah's prophet. He remained steadfast and refused to submit.

Slide 9:

Teacher: Then Pharaoh asked him to show him a miracle, anything extraordinary that would prove that he was the Prophet and not any layman claiming false prophethood. Pharaoh asked Musa (as) to show him his signs.

Remember the two miracles Allah (swt) had given to Musa (as)? Well, when Musa (as) showed Pharoah the staff which could change into a serpent and his glowing hand, Pharoah refused to bow and believe. He was amazed at the miracle but he did not want to accept the truth.

Slide 10:

In fact, Pharaoh got scared. Unfortunately, it was not the fear of Allah (swt) that was born in his heart. He feared that he will lose his traditions and he will lose his kingship.

Slide 11:

Because of these fears he decided to have a contest between Musa (as) and various renowned magicians of that time. The magicians were invited from far and wide to display their skills. Pharaoh's aim was to discourage Musa (as) and to make people believe that these were magic skills and not miracles of prophethood.

Extensive preparations were made for this event and people gathered to see who this man was who challenged Pharaoh's might. The magicians came and they asked Musa (as) whether he would throw his staff first or should they? Musa (as) told them to go ahead. They threw their sticks and they turned into snakes. Musa (as) got a little scared but he was once again comforted by Allah (swt) and was told to throw his staff. When he did, his staff turned into a serpent and ate all the other snakes. The audience was dumbfounded and so were the magicians who immediately understood that what Musa (as) displayed was not magic but signs of Allah (swt). Thus they humbled themselves and bowed to the One who had bestowed Musa (as) with such greatness.

Teacher: Why did the magicians do that? They belonged to Pharaoh's community?

Teacher: How did they know it was not a trick?

Student: They were top magicians. They knew what was trick and what was not.

Teacher: Exactly. Pharaoh was increasingly incensed. He had collected the Egyptians and Bani Israel to demean Musa (as) but the tables had turned upon him. Allah (swt) had greater plans and His plans are far better than any human's. We just need to trust in His wisdom and be humble to Him. Musa (as) didn't know that events would unfold like this but he just placed his trust in Allah (swt) and followed His orders.

Slide 12-13:

Allah (swt) turned the magicians heart towards faith and they submitted. This angered Pharaoh immensely and he threatened to cut their hands and legs from the opposite side.

Teacher: Can you think why he threatened to cut their arms and legs from opposite side and not from the same side?

Student: There will be disbalance.

Teacher: If they have one right foot and one right arm, they can still manage to do something but if they are cut off from the opposite direction, they will be thoroughly disabled. However, they did not waver from their faith and Pharaoh got them hung. This was their level of faith that they acquired instantly and it was so strong that they chose to die than give up.

When I was doing my Qur'an course, a young girl walked into the class in the middle of our course, not in the beginning and she became my friend. She was wearing regular *shalwar kameez* with *dupatta* and during that session, all she did was sob, sob and sob. It was rather disturbing too because it was a small class but *woh kalaam sunti jarahee the aur who rooti jarahee the*. Next day she joined the class. A lot of us did not wear *hijab* at that point in our life. This transformation occurred after understanding *surah Nur* but this was the beginning of the course and the next day, we saw that girl wearing an *abaya* and then *nikaab*. Such sudden transformation made me wonder whether she will be able to handle it and remain steadfast or is it just an emotional thing but masha'Allah, today she is doing so much for *deen* that I can only envy her.

One is never too young for *hidayat*. When your moms tell you to pray, recite Qur'an or cover your head, what comes to your mind? I have my whole life ahead of me, why hurry? My friends are not doing it either. I will do it when I am older. You probably think that my mom changed at a later stage in her life, why does she want me to change now? Does it happen? But you know what, *hidayat* may never come again, Allah (swt) may just give you that one chance, it may never happen again. Maybe your mom found truth at a later stage in life but what did Musa (as) do once he knew? He wanted to bring others in the fold of truth. He wanted everyone to believe so always remember there is no time like now. This is what the magicians did, they saw the truth, *samaina wa ata'na*, we heard it and we accepted it, that's the end of the story. They didn't ask for any more proofs. Was this a wise choice of the magicians or not? They were crucified in front of everybody and hung on barks of trees but it was just their bodies hanging there. Their souls had departed to a place of Eternal Happiness.

Slide 14:

We all face difficult choices and find ourselves at crossroads in various stages of our lives. Choosing different subjects, choosing a college, a school? What about choosing a *deen*? I'm not saying going to a nice college is not important, choosing a good subject is not important, but is Allah going to ask us about our O levels and A levels result? At this moment what is there in your life? What are the tough decisions you all take?

Student: The grades

Teacher: Yes, those seem like tough choices to you but look at the magicians what were they up against? A tyrant Pharaoh! And in this difficult situation, look at the choices they made.

- Recognised the truth, the power of Allah (swt)
- Believed and accepted faith immediately
- Accepted their mistake and asked for Allah's forgiveness
- Did not give in to Pharaoh's threats
- Recognised that Allah's (swt) rewards are better

We need to realize that we are not magicians and we are not in a situation where somebody is putting a gun on our head and saying *yeh karna hai tumhey*. We are talking about our daily issues. You see a group of your friends going one way and the other group going in an opposite direction. You are torn between the two. Deep in your heart you know what is right e.g, you know that covering your head is the right thing but other people might label you as extremists or say that you are *Puraney khayal ki* but if this is what is right, then this is what you need to do.

Slide 15:

Allah (swt) approved of the tough choices that the magicians made and that should be inspiration for us too. He said:

وَمَنْ يَأْتِهِ مُؤْمِنًا قَدْ عَمِلَ الصَّالِحَاتِ فَأُولَئِكَ لَهُمُ الدَّرَجَاتُ الْعُلَى
جَنَّاتٌ عَدْنٌ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَذَلِكَ جَزَاءُ مَنْ تَزَكَّى

But whoever comes to Him (Allah) as a believer and has done righteous good deeds, for such are the high ranks - Everlasting Gardens under which rivers flow, wherein they will abide forever; such is the reward of those who purify themselves (Surah Taha20:75-76).

Remember, we must remain steadfast in problems and difficulties. Musa (as) did not give in to Pharaoh's threats but is somebody threatening us? Does anyone say to you that if you don't pray, you will be hanged? No. We must recognize and believe in Allah (swt)'s promises of Paradise, of everlasting happiness and gardens under which rivers flow which are for those who purify themselves and have the courage to make the tough decisions.

Slide 16:

As for Pharaoh, he found his sea of problems deepening and his dilemmas kept on increasing. You see he had established a kingdom on the basis of his being a god worshipped by the Egyptian people. Now Moses (as) came to destroy what he had built. Moses (as) said that there was no Lord other than Allah in existence. This meant that Pharaoh was a liar.

Slide 17-18:

Then he summoned all the ministers, leaders, and responsible men for a serious meeting. Pharaoh entered the meeting with a rigid face. It was obvious that he would never surrender easily. He said:

وَقَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ يَا هَامَانُ ابْنِ لِي صَرْحًا لَّعَلِّي أَبْلُغُ الْأَسْبَابَ
أَسْبَابَ السَّمَاوَاتِ فَأَطَّلِعَ إِلَى إِلَهِ مُوسَى وَإِنِّي لَأَظُنُّهُ كَاذِبًا.....

O Haman! Build me a tower that I may arrive at the ways, - the ways of the heavens, and I may look upon the Ilah (God) of Moses but verily, I think him to be a liar.“ (Surah Ghafir 40:36-37)

Slide 19:

Allah (swt) responded in the remaining part of ayat 37 by showing His disapproval of Pharaoh. He (swt) said:

وَكَذَلِكَ زَيْنَ لِفِرْعَوْنَ سُوءَ عَمَلِهِ وَضَدَّ عَنِ السَّبِيلِ وَمَا كَيْدُ فِرْعَوْنَ إِلَّا فِي تَبَابٍ

Thus it was made fair seeming, in Pharaoh's eyes, the evil of his deeds, and he was hindered from the Right Path, and the plot of Pharaoh led to nothing but loss and destruction for him. (Surah Ghafir40:37).

Slide 20:

And Pharaoh declared:

وَقَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَلَأُ مَا عَلِمْتُ لَكُمْ مِنْ إِلَهِ غَيْرِي.....

"O chiefs! I know not that you an ilah (a god) other than me." (Surah AlQasas 28:38)

Slide 21:

وَقَالَ الْمَلَأُ مِنْ قَوْمِ فِرْعَوْنَ أَتَدْرُ مُوسَى وَقَوْمَهُ لِيُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَيَذَرَكَ وَآلِهَتَكَ قَالَ سَنُقَتِّلُ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ وَنَسْتَحْيِي نِسَاءَهُمْ وَإِنَّا فَوْقَهُمْ قَاهِرُونَ

‘The Ministers asked: "Will you leave Moosa and his people to cause corruption in the land and to forsake your gods?" Pharaoh said: “We will kill their sons and spare their women, and verily we have a strong hold over them.” (Surah Al A’araf 7: 127)

The ministers of Pharaoh instigated him and advised him not to leave Musa (as) alone despite seeing the Signs. They decide to kill their sons and leave their women and torture them. Pharaoh had power and had always misused it. He never understood that with great power comes greater

responsibility and you will be questioned about it on the Day of Judgement when Allah (swt) alone will be the King and Sovereign. Hazrat Sulaiman (as) was also given power and wisdom but he used it wisely and submitted to Allah (swt). Having power and using it is not bad as long as you don't misuse it but look at the rulers of the World today. What are they doing with their power?? I want you all to ponder on this and not just keep Musa (as)'s story in mind as a story because in the Qur'an Allah (swt) has sent the stories of the Prophet as what? As guidance, so we take it as guidance and apply it in our present day situation.

Slide 22:

وَقَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ ذَرُونِي أَقْتُلْ مُوسَى وَلْيَدْعُ رَبَّهُ إِنِّي أَخَافُ أَنْ يُبَدِّلَ دِينَكُمْ أَوْ أَنْ يُظْهِرَ فِي الْأَرْضِ
الْفَسَادَ

“And Fir'awn said, ‘Let me kill Moosa and let him call on his Lord. I fear he will change your religion or spread mischief in the land.’” (Surah Ghafir 40:26)

Fir'awn just could not accept defeat and he started getting desperate. He was ready to do anything to save his position. He was prepared to kill Musa (as). He was trying to make himself a preacher of religion since he feared that Musa (as) might ‘mislead’ his people.¹

Slide 23:

Now there was a man who was Pharoah's cousin. He had become a believer but was concealing his faith in Musa (as) and his Lord because he feared for himself.² But at this time when Musa's (as) life was in danger he spoke up and tried to persuade Pharoah by speaking to him gently. He incited Pharoah to believe and also warned him of the consequences if he did not.³

Slide 24:

This shows that we should have the courage to speak up the truth and protect other people's life and honour.

Slide 25:

However the elites of the society were not ready to accept the truth.

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا مُوسَى بِآيَاتِنَا وَسُلْطَانٍ مُّبِينٍ
إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ وَهَامَانَ وَقَارُونَ فَقَالُوا سَاحِرٌ كَذَّابٌ

¹ Stories of the Prophets by Ibn Katheer; pg: 391

² Stories of the Prophets by Ibn Katheer; pg: 391

³ Stories of the Prophets by Ibn Katheer; pg: 392

“And We sent Moosa (as) with Our Signs and a clear authority to Pharoah, Haman and Qaroon but they said, ‘A lying magician.’” (Sura Ghafir 40: 23-24)

Now, all these powerful people were shown signs by Musa (as) but none of them accepted the Truth. They were shown very clear signs but they denied Musa (as) and called his signs nothing but magic. We know that Pharoah was the title of the king and Haman was his minister. Haman is also a title. The Quran particularly talks about Qaroon who was originally an Israeli from the people of Musa (as) and was very rich but later followed the religion of Pharoah and his chiefs..

Slide 26-29:

The point to note here is that Allah (swt) did not destroy these Egyptian elites immediately. He gave them a lot of chances by put them through various trials so that they may turn to Allah (swt) begging Him for forgiveness. They were also tried with good times that maybe they will turn to Allah with gratefulness and humility but these times only made them more proud of themselves. And when they were tested with hardships, they would blame Musa (as) and say it is all because of him. They just never realized that all these trials , good and bad times, are a test and wake up calls from Allah (swt). Allah (swt) says in the Quran:

وَلَقَدْ أَخَذْنَا آلَ فِرْعَوْنَ بِالسِّنِينَ وَنَقْصٍ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَذْكُرُونَ
فَإِذَا جَاءَتْهُمْ الْحَسَنَةُ قَالُوا لَنَا هَذِهِ وَإِنْ تُصِيبُهُمْ سَيِّئَةٌ سَيِّئَةٌ يَطَّيَّرُوا بِمُوسَى وَمَنْ مَعَهُ أَلَا إِنَّمَا طَائِرُهُمْ
عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

“And certainly We seized Pharoah’s people with years of scarcity, and diminution of fruits, that they might be mindful. So when good came to them, they said, ‘this is our due’ , but if evil afflicted them, they ascribed it to Musa and those with him. Whereas surely their misfortune was in the Hand of Allah but most of them do not know.

(Surah Al-A’araaf 7: verse 130-131)

They were made to experience famine and scarcity of food and fruits but they just won’t take heed. Infact they had become so arrogant that they used to say:

وَقَالُوا مَهْمَا تَأْتِنَا بِهِ مِنْ آيَةٍ لِّتَسْحَرَنَا بِهَا فَمَا نَحْنُ لَكَ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ

And they said, ‘Whatever sign you bring to us to enchant us, we will not believe in you.’
So Allah (swt) put them through trials after trials.

فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمُ الطُّوفَانَ وَالْجَرَادَ وَالْقُمَّلَ وَالضَّفَادِعَ وَالْدَّمَ آيَاتٍ مُّفَصَّلَاتٍ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا وَكَانُوا قَوْمًا
مُّجْرِمِينَ

So We sent on them the flood the locusts, the lice, the frogs, and the blood, detailed signs, but they became arrogant and were a sinful people.

– (Surah Al A'araaf 7: verse 132-133)

The floods overcame them. The locusts would come in swarms and eat up all their crops. The lice made their lives difficult. According to Ibn Abbas (raa) they are the same lice which are found in wheat. As regards the frogs, they used to be everywhere, even in their food and dishes. It is said that even when one of them opened his mouth to take a bite or to drink water, a frog would jump and land in it.⁴

As regards the blood, it is said that it was mixed with water. So when they drew water from the Nile, it came out mixed with blood. The same was the situation no matter where they drew their water from. All these trials only affected the Egyptians, while the Israelites did not suffer anything. This in itself was a miracle and proves that Musa (as) was a messenger.⁵

Slide 30:

When they had too much of these trials and could bear them no longer they said:

وَلَمَّا وَقَعَ عَلَيْهِمُ الرِّجْزُ قَالُوا يَا مُوسَى ادْعُ لَنَا رَبَّكَ بِمَا عَهِدَ عِنْدَكَ لَئِنْ كَشَفْتَ عَنَّا الرِّجْزَ
لَنُؤْمِنَنَّ لَكَ وَلَنُرْسِلَنَّ مَعَكَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ

"O Moses! Invoke your Lord for us because of His Promise to you. If you will remove the punishment from us, we indeed shall believe in you, and we shall let the children of Israel go with you." (Ch 7:134)

Slide 31:

But, unfortunately they were not people of their word. They just could not keep promises. Musa (as) would pray to Allah for relief and when the relief would come they would forget their promise and start doing the same old bad things and would not let the *Bani Israel* go. Then again some bad thing would afflict them and again they would plea to Musa (as) to ask Allah (swt) to remove the affliction. Then again they would not fulfill their promise.

Notice how they never turned to Allah (swt) themselves but would always ask Musa(as) to pray and plead for them.

⁴ Stories of the Prophets by Ibn Katheer; pg: 398

⁵ Stories of the Prophets by Ibn Katheer; pg: 399

Slide 32:

When the Egyptians, the Coptic, people persisted in their disbelief and stubbornness and followed their king in disobedience of Allah's Messenger, Allah established proof against them.⁶

Musa (as) ordered the *Bani Israel* to put their trust in Allah and seek help from Him only. At that, Allah (swt) helped them and gave them a way out.⁷

Slide 33:

Allah (swt) inspired Musa (as) to take *Bani Israel* and escape in the night. He also warned Musa (as) that Paharaoh and his army will chase them.

وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَسْرِ بِعِبَادِي إِنَّكُمْ مُّتَّبِعُونَ
فَأَرْسَلَ فِرْعَوْنُ فِي الْمَدَائِنِ حَاشِرِينَ
إِنَّ هَؤُلَاءِ لَشِرْذِمَةٌ قَلِيلُونَ
وَأَنَّهُمْ لَنَا لَغَائِظُونَ
وَإِنَّا لَجَمِيعٌ حَاذِرُونَ
فَأَخْرَجْنَاهُمْ مِنْ جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ
وَكُنُوزٍ وَمَقَامٍ كَرِيمٍ
كَذَلِكَ وَأَوْرَثْنَاهَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ
فَاتَّبَعُوهُمْ مُّشْرِقِينَ

“And we revealed to Musa, “Depart with My slaves by night, for you will be pursued.” Then Pharaoh sent heralds to all the cities, “These are only a small band and they have surely enraged us, and we surely are cautiously on our guard.” And so We expelled them from gardens and springs, and from treasures and fine dwelling. Thus we bequeathed them upon the children of Israel. So they pursued them at sunrise.” (Surah Ash-Shuara 26: 52-68)

⁶ Stories of the Prophets by Ibn Katheer; pg: 402

⁷ Stories of the Prophets by Ibn Katheer; pg: 403

The Pharaoh and his people thought they were being very clever and it can't be very difficult to catch a group of runaway slaves. They had confidence in their number and their horses and strength. But they had no idea who they were up against. They thought they were going after the *Bani Israel* but actually it was Allah (swt) who they were up against. They thought they were the chasers but they were actually hunted ones. Allah (swt) had laid down this plan to bring them out of their comfort zones, their luxuries, their gardens and lead them to a terrible fate.

Slide 34:

The *Bani Israel* were running ahead and Pharaoh was following with his army. They came on the edge of River Nile. *Bani Israelites* got scared and thought there is no way out for them now and they will surely be caught now. But even in such a difficult situation, Musa (as) kept his cool. He was sure that Allah (swt) has guided him this far and He was the one who told him to bring the *Bani Israel* here therefore He will not forsake them. And so Allah (swt) inspired Musa (as) to strike the sea with his staff and the river split in two and revealed a path for Musa (as) and his companions.

فَلَمَّا تَرَأَى الْجَمْعَانِ قَالَ أَصْحَابُ مُوسَى إِنَّا لَمُدْرِكُونَ
قَالَ كَلَّا إِنَّ مَعِيَ رَبِّي سَيَهْدِينِ
فَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَى مُوسَى أَنْ اضْرِبْ بِعَصَاكَ الْبَحْرَ فَانْفَلَقَ فَكَانَ كُلُّ فِرْقٍ كَالطَّوْدِ
الْعَظِيمِ
وَأَزَلُّنَا ثُمَّ الْآخِرِينَ
وَأَنْجَيْنَا مُوسَى وَمَنْ مَعَهُ أَجْمَعِينَ
ثُمَّ أَغْرَقْنَا الْآخِرِينَ
إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً وَمَا كَانَ أَكْثَرُهُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ
وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ

‘And when the two groups saw each other, the people of Musa said, “Surely we are overtaken.” He said, “No I, indeed my Lord is with me, He will guide me.” So we revealed to Musa, “Strike the sea with your staff.” And it parted and each separate part became like a mountain. Then We brought near the others [Pharaoh and his people] to that place. And We saved Musa and all those with him. Then We drowned the others. Verily, there is a sign in this, yet most of them are not believers. Verily, your Lord is the All-Mighty, the All-Merciful.” (Surah-AshShura 26: 61-68)

Slide 35- 36:

When the sea split, Musa (as) and his people passed through it and then Pharaoh and his army also entered. At that time Musa (as) wanted to again strike the sea to block the way for Pharaoh. But Allah (swt) ordered him to leave it as it was, allowing Pharaoh and his army to enter.⁸

When the sea was left in its state and Pharaoh saw it, he became frightened because he realized that all this is from the Lord of Musa (as). However he displayed a contrary feeling to his army and said to them, “Look how the sea split apart for me so that I could catch these servants who fled from me.” He did not have any intention to go with his army in that passage.⁹

It is said that the angel Jibrael (as) came there in the guise of a cavalier on a horse. When he passed by Pharaoh’s horse, he neighed to it. Then Jibrael (as) entered the sea and Pharaoh’s horse, which was out of his control by then, also followed him. And his army followed their leader. When they all had entered, Allah ordered Musa (as) to strike the sea with his staff and so the sea returned to its former state.¹⁰ When Pharaoh realized that he was helpless and about to die, he announced his belief in Allah and repented. However, his belief and repentance came at a time when believing cannot help any soul.¹¹

وَجَاوَزْنَا بِبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ الْبَحْرَ فَأَتْبَعَهُمْ فِرْعَوْنُ وَجُنُودُهُ بَغْيًا وَعَدُوًّا حَتَّى إِذَا
أَذْرَكُهُ الْعَرْقُ قَالَ آمَنْتُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا الَّذِي آمَنْتُ بِهِ بَنُو إِسْرَائِيلَ وَأَنَا مِنَ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ

الآن وَقَدْ عَصَيْتَ قَبْلُ وَكُنْتَ مِنَ الْمُفْسِدِينَ

⁸ Stories of the Prophets by Ibn Katheer; pg:406

⁹ Stories of the Prophets by Ibn Katheer; pg:407

¹⁰ Stories of the Prophets by Ibn Katheer; pg:407

¹¹ Stories of the Prophets by Ibn Katheer; pg:408

فَالْيَوْمَ نُنَجِّيكَ بِبَدَنِكَ لِتَكُونَ لِمَنْ خَلَقَكَ آيَةً وَإِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ النَّاسِ عَنْ آيَاتِنَا
لَغَافِلُونَ

Now (you believe) while you refused to believe before and you were one of the mufsideen (evildoers, corrupts, etc.). So this day We shall deliver your dead body out from the sea that you maybe a sign to those who come after you! And verily, many among mankind are heedless or our Ayah (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.). (Surah Yunus 10:90-92)

Slide 37-39:

Ibn Abbas (raa) said, “Some Israelites doubted Pharaoh’s death, to the extent that some said that he could never die. So Allah (swt) ordered the sea to raise his body high on top of the water. He still had on his armour with which he was recognized and they believed in this death.¹² The destruction of Pharaoh and his army was on the Day of Ashoora- 10th of Muharram.¹³

The main lesson of this story is that Allah (swt) is the best planner and He does what He wills and no one can stop Him.

(Du’a for end of a gathering) *SubhanaRabbikaRabbullIzzati ‘ammayasifunwasalamun
‘alalmursaleen, walhamdulillahiRabbil ‘alameen*

(Parting salutation to students) *AssalamalaikumwarahmatullahiwaBarakatuh*

Reference for Teacher:

Stories of the Prophets by Ibn Katheer, International Islamic Publishing House,

ISBN 9960-850-85-4

¹² Stories of the Prophets by Ibn Katheer; pg:409

¹³ Stories of the Prophets by Ibn Katheer; pg:410