

STUDY GUIDE



STORIES OF THE PROPHETS

PART 4



SHAIKH YUSUF ESTES

COURSE OUTLINE



Course Topics

1. Yusuf Interpreting the dream
2. During the lean years
3. His plan to retain his brother
4. Getting to know Yusuf and the happy end
5. Lessons we learn from the stories of the prophets
6. Tests suffered by the prophets
7. Misconceptions related to punishment and reward in Islam
8. Test of the prophet Ayyub
9. This life vs. the hereafter
10. Easy and tough life in the world
11. Being grateful to the wrong person
12. Fear of loss and hope of reward
13. The people of Shu'aib
14. The believer is never at loss
15. The baby prophet
16. The men fighting

COURSE OUTLINE



Course Objectives

1. To be able to derive lessons from the stories of the prophets
2. To follow the example of the prophets in submission and patience
3. To learn about the ways Allah preserves the believer

Question & Answer Bucket

Transcripts

Assessment

Multiple Choice Questions

Match the Columns

True or False

Course Duration

Video – 2 hours 30 min

Study Guide – 30 min

Assessment – 15 min

Total Duration – 3 hours 15 min



LESSON 1

STORIES OF THE PROPHETS

PART 19



1

Interpreting the dream elevates Yusuf

When the king heard of Yusuf's interpretation of the dream, he called him, asked him about its interpretation and listened to the way Yusuf showed how the resources should be managed to come out of the seven-year crisis.

He told him that there's going to be seven years of abundant crops followed with seven years of drought and severe shortage of food supplies.

How to use the resources of seven years through fourteen years, this requires good management. And Yusuf was the best candidate since he had the knowledge and honesty. Like this, he became the controller of the treasury of Egypt.

يوسف
عليه السلام



2

During the lean years

People from remote regions came to get grains and food supplies. They gave gold and other things in return. This gives us a lesson of how important it is to have a strong economy, and abundant reserves.

Among the people who came seeking supplies were the brothers of Yusuf, whom he recognised but remained unknown to them. They came from the Holy Land from Jerusalem from Palestine, seeking food supplies, and for that they had to trade gold, silver, animal skins, etc.



Through conversing with them, he asked them to bring their other brother Benjamin to get them more supplies.

They told him that they would seek the permission of his father for that. He knew the whole story. Yusuf had one of his worker put back what they paid in their bags.

They went and started convincing their father to send their brother with them. He refused and reminded them of their past experience with Yusuf. They went back to their bags and found what they paid to get grains already packed in their saddle bags.

This strengthened their position to ask their father for their brother. After solemn oaths, and unceasing attempts, he let his son go with them.





3

His plan to retain his brother



SECRET

In the presence of Yusuf, he uncovered his identity to his brother, Benjamin and told him to keep it secret. He told his men to put his golden chalice in Benjamin's bags. After loading up their bags and the caravan started moving out, suddenly someone started shouting thief! Thief!

They come running out what's going on? The answer was; Somebody stole the golden chalice, the cup of the king.

The Egyptians asked them, what would the punishment be, according to your religion, in case it is proven it was you, who stole it?



They replied, prison for the stealer. They started checking their bags one after another, and checked Benjamin's bags last.

The cup of the king was found! And the person in whose bags the cup was found should be detained. Under this legal justification, Yusuf planned to keep his brother with him.

They offered to leave one of them in prison in his place and let him go to his father. The offer was not accepted. Only the culprit should be caught.

They went back to their father explaining the matter but the father suspected it. He was crying and crying and couldn't see. He said, You have done it again. They said, but father it's not our fault. He said you always have some excuses.

So they went back pleading to get their brother released for any kind of ransom, explaining that their father was almost dying for missing his sons.





4

Getting to know Yusuf and the happy end

Now Yusuf comes and speaks about something in their language and now they recognise him. They apologise to him, and he forgives them.

He sent for his father and gave his shirt to the now repentant brothers. Before it was time for them to arrive, he could smell the shirt of Yusuf. On revealing that to the members of the family, they accused him of losing his reason.

And then the brothers came. And when they came, and put the shirt on him he regained his sight. And then they took him back into Egypt with them.

There they all bowed to Yusuf – the eleven brothers, shown in the dream as the stars, as well as the two parents, who are shown in the dream as the sun and the moon.

Happy End!



LESSON 2

STORIES OF THE PROPHETS

PART 20



5

Lessons we learn from the stories of the prophets

i As the prophet and his companions were travelling in the desert of Arabia, although they were in a dire need for water, they passed by a well from which they took water to drink and they also made some dough. It was a well where some of those old nations – who were destroyed due to their disobedience – lived.

Yet the prophet told them to throw the water and feed the dough to the camels. Despite their need, the companions obeyed the prophet.

Further, he commanded them to keep going and not stay anytime in that area where those condemned lived.





6

The tests suffered by the prophets and their followers



Some of the people of the old even killed their prophet and documented that. And we have such reports even today in the scriptures.

Even the companions of the prophet were tortured to the point that once Abu Bakr was beaten to the point he fainted. The moment he woke up, the first thing he asked about was whether the prophet was in good condition. He also insisted to see him, and was taken to him being supported between two persons.

In this period of tests, one companion came complaining to the prophet about the disbelievers' torture and he said,



Didn't you know that every single prophet, who came with a message like this had to suffer?

So he left his home town, Makkah and went to some people living far away and he had to travel long distance through touch rocky mountains. Once he reached that place (Taif) hoping that they would accept his call, they instigated their children and street people to throw stones at him. They drove him out of their town, chasing them and throwing stones at them.

The angel of the mountains was put under the command of prophet Muhammad, had he wished he could command him to crush them between the mountains. But prophet Muhammad instead, prayed for their guidance.





LESSON 3

STORIES OF THE PROPHETS

PART 21



7

Misconceptions about punishment and reward in Islam

i

How come Muslims suffer tough problems?

Allah tells us in the Quran, something very clear, "Do men think that they will be left alone on saying "We believe" and that they will not be tested?"

And then Allah continues,



he said, "We did test those before them and Allah will certainly know those who are true from those who are false".

What is translated as test is actually Fitnah. Fitnah is not just a test. Fitnah is a deep calamity. It is something really big time. And then He explains that He did the same thing to the people before.

One the bases of these tests, true people are distinguished from false ones.



8

The test of the prophet Ayyub, or Job.

- i First of all, Ayub was worshiping Allah day and night. His mouth is so busy and his heart is so busy with remembering Allah.
- ii He was one of the richest people in the land.
- iii No matter what happened, he was still strong in his belief.



Iblees was commanded to bow to Adam but out of pride he refused, and said that he was created from fire and Adam was created from mud, so he would not bow for him.

Since then, he vowed to mislead the children of Adam.

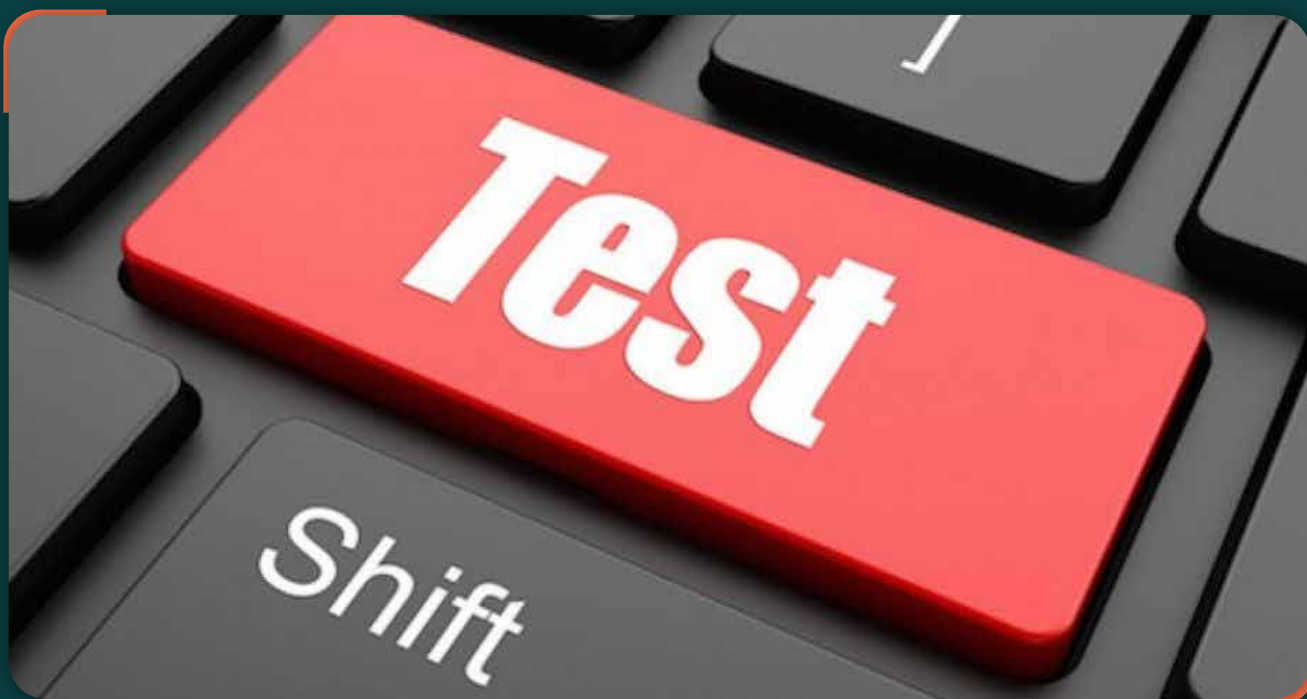
Now he argued with Allah that Ayyub is so pious because he is so keen not to lose these blessings, not because he is really thankful.

To prove the contrary, Allah gave the Devil authority over the wealth of Ayyub.

The devil destroyed all that Ayyub had. Ayyub was still as thankful.

He tried to convince Ayyub that Allah did not love him anymore, and He favoured someone else. But Ayyub remained pious and praising Allah.





Iblees thought that perhaps if he lost his family, he would stop being appreciative of Allah. His family were killed all together, and now Iblees came consoling him and told him perhaps Allah loves someone else better than you.

But instead Ayyub says, Allah tests us with many things in our family as a test. And it comes from Allah, it goes back to Allah.

Now Iblees said that it is because he has health so if his health is taken perhaps he would stop thanking Allah.

He became sick; his body was filled with sores and something like maggots going around.

There was one wife, one wife that didn't die. One wife who was very close, and she was taking care. Iblees went to her and pointed out to her how skinny and helpless her husband was.



So she came to him and told him to pray for recovery since he was a prophet. He told her that since we have been in good condition for 80, a seven year test is nothing compared to that. I feel shy in front of Allah.

This is from Allah, and I'm fine with it. But you, you have come to me with the words of Shaitan, Shaitan has whispered in your ear to say these things to me. And he said to her, Wallahi, if I get strong again, I'm going to whip you 100 lashes.





Now go from me, and I don't need from your hand a drink. I don't need from your hand any food. What I need, I need it only from Allah.

The only Two things he had left was his heart and his tongue. His heart was still full of Allah and His tongue was still praising Allah and never even asked Allah to take away his difficulty.

Allah gave him back everything that was taken from him and even doubled that for him.



LESSON 4

STORIES OF THE PROPHETS

PART 22



9

This Life Vs. the Hereafter



The prophet said, "The most affluent of the people of the world of the inhabitants of the Fire will be brought on the day of resurrection and he will be dipped once in the Fire, and it will be said to him, 'O son of Adam, have you ever seen anything good? Have you ever enjoyed any pleasures? He will say, 'No by Allah my lord I have never seen any pleasures'. Then, The most destitute of the people of the world of the inhabitants of Paradise will be brought on the day of resurrection and will be dipped once in Paradise, and it will be said to him, 'O son of Adam, have you ever seen anything bad? Have you ever experienced any hardship? He will say, 'No, by Allah my lord. I have never seen anything bad or experienced any hardship'."

So one dip was enough to wipe all the experiences in the world.



10

Easy and tough life in this world

In the case of the first man, the guy who was getting everything, he was actually a bad man. In fact, he was so bad, he was so evil, that Allah hated him. But the man did do some good deeds. So, Allah gave him all of his reward right here in this life.

The other man, though he was actually a very good man, and Allah loved him so much, he did some bad deeds. And Allah didn't want him to even smell the Hellfire. So, Allah gave him his punishment in this life. He didn't have to go to Hell, because he got some punishment here. Then on the Day of Judgment, he could go right to Paradise.

Complaining about what Allah is testing us with is something extremely hated by Allah.



11

Being grateful to the wrong person

The example of Shirk, worshipping other than Allah is like thanking a person for a favour given by another. Therefore, Allah said he would not forgive Shirk, although He may give any sin below that.

Pride and arrogance prevent us from accepting the truth. Allah will not admit to Paradise any person who has a mustard seed's weight of pride.

It is the devil that stimulate us to do such a wrong thing. And Satan is part of our test in this world. Besides, the devil which is attached to us (Al Qareen) is running through the blood. It keeps commanding us to do evil and preventing us from doing good deeds.





LESSON 5

STORIES OF THE PROPHETS

PART 23



12

Fear of Loss and Hope of Reward

For the sake of these, people sought these two from other than Allah. The moment Shirk set in among the people of Noah, Allah sent him a prophet to get them back to the true faith, i.e., worshiping Allah alone. Many tribes and nations were destroyed because they insisted on worshiping other than Allah. Therefore, every prophet reminded his people of the bad end of the previous nations.

They warned them of taking objects and attributing to them the bringing of good and the warding off of evil.





13

The people of Shu'aib

Lying Cheating & Stealing

They had a major problem, namely shirk. They had other problems too. They had a habit of stealing, lying and cheating. When anybody would go to their area and they be coming along and be like riding in there like everything's going along good. Then all of a sudden, they would jump out and they would rob them some of what they had in unjust names. And this is called short measure and not giving people full measure.

The first command Shuaib came with is don't worship the tree. He called them to worship Allah.



And they would say, well, why should we believe in Allah? What proof do you have? So Allah sent miracles with Shuaib.

Some accepted his message. Some rejected.

It all starts with worshiping Allah alone. When one believes in Allah as the ultimate truth, he starts avoiding lying and starts to say the truth, to deal fair with others, to avoid oppression and do injustice.

When Allah promises good, it's going to come and when He promises bad, that's going to come too. The disobeyers did not believe it is going to come. When the punishment first showed itself in the form of rain laden clouds, the people of Shu'aib thought it was going to rain.

However, it was not water; it was fire that destroyed them.





14

The believer is never at loss



The prophet Muhammad said, "Amazing is the condition of a true believer. Because only good is going to happen to him. For instance, if anything good comes his way, then he praises Allah. But when the bad things happen, he still thanks and praises Allah and endures patiently."



LESSON 6

STORIES OF THE PROPHETS

PART 24



15

The Baby Prophet

In Egypt, two types of people lived. The pharaohs, who were the ruling class, and the Israelites, who were treated as slaves by the rulers. The pharaohs denied the true God, and thought that by embalming their dead bodies and putting them in the pyramids they were bound to come back to life. Now these pyramids were built through the toil of the vulnerable Israelites.



The vision

At one time, the king of that time saw a vision that a man from the Israelites would take their power and will dethrone them.



So they decided to kill the children of Israel. But then they realised that if they continued like that, there would be no more slaves left. So they decided to kill the newborns one year and spare them in the next.

So one family got a boy in the safe year, and in the next they got another, which put the newborn under threat of murder.

So the mother planned to put him in a basket and put him in the Nile River which goes right by the side of the royal palace. It floated safely as the Nile got unusually calm.

The mother told her daughter to track the basket of her brother. The basket landed in the royal peach and was picked safely.



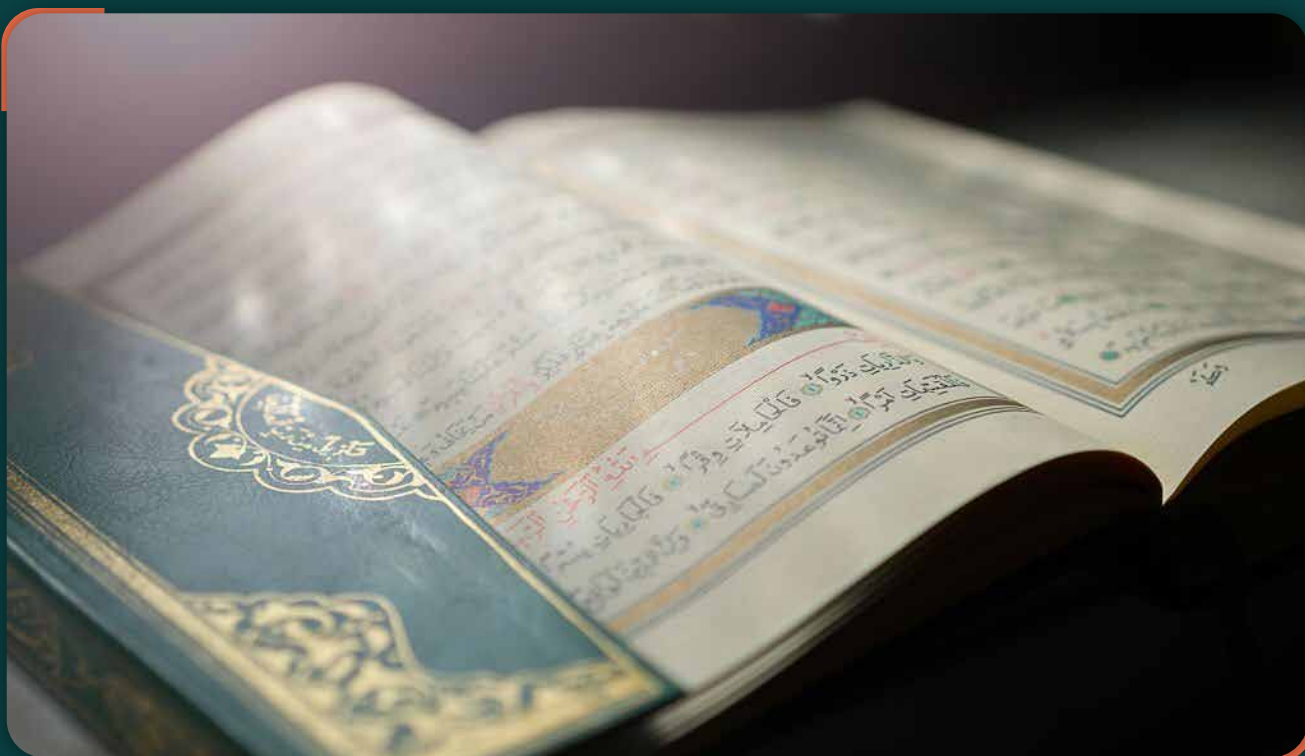
The wife of the pharaoh had no children and was sad since it was a long time after their marriage.

The boy was brought to her and she loved him very much. Smile started to appear on her face after a long time of unhappiness. So she decided to take the baby as her child.

The child now needs someone to nurse him, but despite the large number of nurses that were brought to him to feed him, he liked none of them to nurse him. Now the queen is in a problem.

The sister who has been tracking now gets her way into the palace and tells them that she knew some woman whose milk is sweet and all children liked it.





Now despite the suspicion of the king, he had to accept to bring that woman, who was the real mother of the baby.

Now this baby is the prophet Moses and the other baby who was born in the safe year was Aaron or Haroon.

The royal family asked her to remain with them to nurse the child, and they offered her to give money, food and accommodation.

When the child was weaned, the mother was offered to keep coming whenever she wanted. So she had a chance to look after her other child.

Moses grew in the palace and was treated as a member of the royal family. He was known for his honesty, and fairness.



16

Two men fighting

While in the city, he found two men fighting, one Egyptian and one Israelite. Moses wanted to help the Israelite and pushed the Egyptian away. But all of a sudden, the man died due to this unintended push.

Another fight broke out the other day, and now it is between the same Israelite with another Egyptian. Now Moses blamed him for fighting but again he wanted to help him. He said, are you going to kill me as you killed the man yesterday?





Now the Egyptian knew who murdered the man who were killed the day before. The authorities came to know about the murderer and wanted to kill him, since killing an Egyptian was a big crime, whereas killing an Israelite was nothing. They basically killed them in the cradles.

He was informed of the formal decree of arrest, and so he escaped to Median, the place to which the prophet Shu'aib was sent.



QUESTION AND ANSWER BUCKET



Q1

What is the concept of Targheeb and Tarheeb in Islamic terminology?

Answer

Targheeb means attracting people towards good deeds by reminding them of the good rewards. Tarheeb refers to deflecting the occurrence of sin through mentioning the punishment thereof.

If you believe in Allah, you're afraid of the promise to come to the bad people, which is to get bad in this life and to go to Hell in the next life.

Targheeb is a promise of good for you in this life and good for you in the next life. But this is only going to come to the believers.



Q2

What does it mean that people will go to Paradise not on the basis of their good deeds but through Allah's mercy?

Answer

However much we have of the good deeds, if they are weighed against one single blessing from Allah such as the eye, it will outweigh them. No one will accept to take the entire world in exchange for one single eye, ear sight or hearing.

Our good deeds are only a means for entering Paradise because even our good deeds are granted by Allah; it was He, who guided us to do them and we did them with the body He created.


Q1


Which of the sins did all the prophets attempt to correct first?


Answer


The main focus of all the prophets was to eliminate all forms of false worship. Their people had surely other errors and sins but the prophets' priority was to establish Tawheed and eliminate Shirk.

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