The story of Prophet Dawud (alayhi salaam)

Dawud (as) defeats Jalut

The story of Prophet Dawud (as) follows the story of Musa (as). From the story of Prophet Musa (as) we learned how the Banu Israel escaped from Egypt, and were left wandering in the desert around Palestine.

Dawud (as) was of the people of Banu Israel. When he was still very young, he joined the army of Banu Israel who were planning to fight the people of Jerusalem so that they could enter the holy land and live there.

At that time, the people of Jerusalem were a strong and battle-hardened group of people called the Philistines. The Banu Israel were scared of fighting the Philistines; they had only a few hundred soldiers on their side and the Philistine army had thousands. The leader of the Philistine army was a huge and fiercely strong man called Jalut, or Goliath.

The Banu Israel were terrified when they saw Jalut’s strength and size. But Dawud (as) was incredibly brave, even though he was still so young. He stepped forward and said

“\text{I will fight Jalut.}”

The leader of the army said,

“You are too young.” He was reluctant to let Dawud (as) fight Jalut and asked his soldiers if anyone else would volunteer. When no one else stepped forward, the leader finally agreed to let Dawud (as) fight Jalut.

When Jalut saw Dawud (as) come towards him, he exclaimed

“I will not fight such a young and weak boy.”

Dawud (as) had no sword or spear, not even a shield. He only had a slingshot as a weapon. He prayed to Allah and asked for His help. Then he was ready to fight.

Dawud (as) loaded the slingshot with a small stone. He pulled the sling back as far as it would go, aimed, and released it. The small stone went zooming through the air and hit Jalut directly on his forehead. Jalut fell to the ground with a thunderous noise, dead.

A young boy, armed with nothing but a slingshot and a small stone asked for Allah’s help and defeated the mighty warrior Jalut, leader of the Philistines!

The Banu Israel then fought the Philistine army and won the battle, even though they had fewer soldiers. Dawud (as), his family and his friends finally entered the blessed city of Jerusalem.

Dawud (as) as King of Jerusalem
Years later, Allah blessed Dawud (as) with something wonderful. He made Dawud (as) a Prophet, and the King of Jerusalem.

Dawud (as) was sent special messages from Allah. These messages are called ‘revelations’ and all the revelations were put together in a book called the Zabur (Psalms).

Allah also blessed Dawud (as) with a beautiful and melodious voice. When he would recite the Zabur and glorify Allah, even the animals and birds would gather around him to listen and join in.

Dawud (as) had other blessings from Allah. He was renowned for his great wisdom, and ability to judge between people when they had disagreements. Another gift from Allah to Dawud (as) was that when he held hard metal in his hand, it became soft and he could bend it any way he liked.

Dawud (as) was the King of Jerusalem for 40 years. During this time there was peace between the different tribes who lived in Palestine.

Toward the end of his life, Dawud (as) started to rebuild Masjid al-Aqsa. The blessed Masjid had first been built by Adam (as) after he had built the Ka’bah in Makkah. After many years Masjid al-Aqsa lay in ruins and was rebuilt by Ibrahim (as). After generations, when Dawud (as) was King of Jerusalem, Masjid Al Aqsa was again in need of rebuilding.

Rebuilding Masjid Al Aqsa was a huge project and, sadly, Dawud (as) passed away before he could complete it. It was Dawud (as)’s son, Sulayman (as), who continued the work and completed rebuilding Masjid al-Aqsa.

Dawud (as) lived to be one hundred years old, and was buried in Jerusalem, though no one is sure where. May Allah’s peace be upon him.