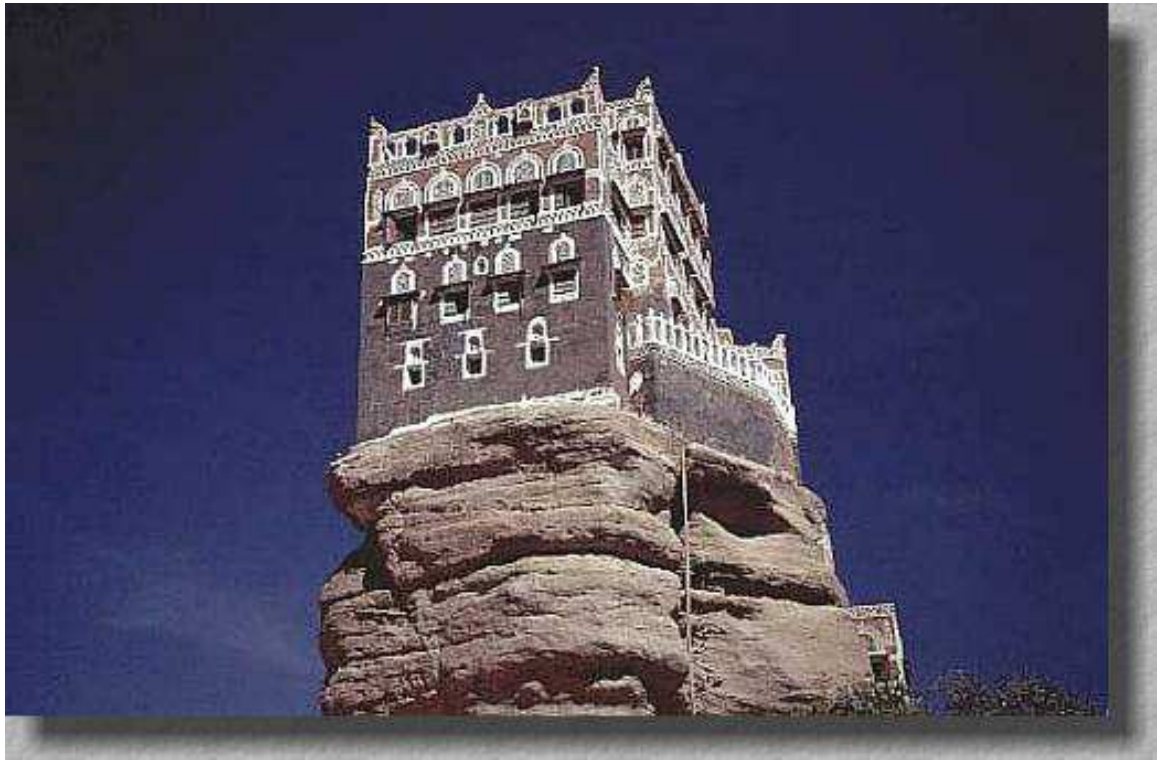


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The story of Prophet Saalih

This is a story of Prophet Saalih عليه السلام and his people known as *Thamood*. They use to live in the Northwest part of Arabia, and they were known to have a lot of cattle and agriculture. They were also known to receive the favors of Allaah Ta'aala (the Most High). They also built their homes on the side of the mountains where they decorated it with adornments.



The people of *Thamood* forgot about the favors of Allaah, and began to worship idols besides Allaah. Allaah sent from among them their brother Saalih عليه السلام whom they knew his lineage, and they knew that he is trustworthy and they knew him for his truthfulness. So he called them to worship Allaah alone,



and to be sincere in directing their worship to Him alone, and that they abandon all that they worship besides Allaah. Saalih reminded them of the favors of Allaah upon them, and what happened to the nation before them who were the people of 'Aad. The people of 'Aad rejected their Prophet Hood (عليه السلام).

Only a few believed in Saalih (عليه السلام) and only a few followed him. When Saalih showed them the proofs against them; that they should only worship Allaah alone they turned away from him, and Allaah says in the Qur'aan:

وَالْيَ تَمُودُ أَخَاهُمْ صَالِحًا قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُمْ مِنْ إِلَهٍ غَيْرُهُ هُوَ أَنْشَأَكُمْ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ وَاسْتَعْمَرَكُمْ فِيهَا فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ ثُمَّ تَوْبُوا إِلَيْهِ إِنَّ رَبِّي قَرِيبٌ مُجِيبٌ

And to Thamûd (people, We sent) their brother Sâlih (Saalih). He said: "O my people! Worship Allâh, you have no other Ilâh (God) but Him. He brought you forth from the earth and settled you therein, then ask forgiveness of Him and turn to Him in repentance. Certainly, my Lord is Near (to all by His Knowledge), Responsive." (Hud 11:61)

قَالُوا يَا صَالِحُ قَدْ كُنْتَ فِينَا مَرْجُوًّا قَبْلَ هَذَا أَتَنْهَانَا أَنْ نَعْبُدَ مَا يَعْبُدُ آبَاؤُنَا وَإِنَّ لَفِي شَكٍّ مِمَّا تَدْعُونَا إِلَيْهِ مُرِيبٌ.

They said: "O Sâlih (Saalih)! You have been among us as a figure of good hope (and we wished for you to be our chief), till this (new thing which you have brought; that we leave our gods and worship your God (Allâh) Alone)! Do you (now) forbid us the worship of what our fathers have worshipped? But we are really in grave doubt as to that which you invite us to (monotheism)." (Hud 11:62)

So this was their response to Saalih (عليه السلام).

Answer the following questions

1. Where did the people of Saalih (عليه السلام) use to live?
2. What were they known for? And what did they have a lot of?
3. Who sent Saalih (عليه السلام) to the people of *Thamood*?
4. What did the people of *Thamood* use to worship?
5. Where the people of *Thamood* believers?

The people of *Thamood* said to Saalih (عليه السلام): "because of your perfection that we thought and your morality and etiquette we were surprised to hear this from you".

So the people of *Thamood* had accepted the qualities of Saalih until he (عليه السلام) called them to worship Allaah 'azza wa jal (most Mighty and Majestic) to the true happiness. And Saalih's only mistake was that he opposed their four fathers, and the way of their four fathers.

Allaah says in the Qur'aan :

قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُ عَلَىٰ بَيِّنَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّي وَآتَانِي مِنْهُ رَحْمَةً فَمَنْ يَنْصُرُنِي مِنَ اللَّهِ إِنْ عَصَيْتُهُ فَمَا تَزِيدُونَنِي غَيْرَ تَخْسِيرٍ

He said: "O my people! Tell me, if I have a clear proof from my Lord, and there has come to me a Mercy (Prophethood, etc.) from Him, who then can help me against Allâh, if I were to disobey Him? Then you increase me not but in loss. (Hud 11:63)

وَيَا قَوْمِ هَذِهِ نَاقَةُ اللَّهِ لَكُمْ آيَةٌ فَذَرُوهَا تَأْكُلْ فِي أَرْضِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تَمَسُّوهَا بِسُوءٍ فَيَأْخُذَكُمْ عَذَابٌ قَرِيبٌ

"And O my people! This she-camel of Allâh is a sign to you, leave her to feed on Allâh's earth, and touch her not with evil, lest a near torment will seize you." (Hud 11:64)

Prophet Saalih (عليه السلام) had warned his people about not killing the she-camel, and he warned them of not banning it from drinking; but they did the same thing that he warned them against.

Allaah says in the Qur'aan :

إِذْ أَنْبَعَثَ أَشْقَاهَا

" When the most wicked man among them went forth (to kill the she-camel)."
(Ash-Shams 91:12)

So the people of *Thamood* killed the she-camel and when Saalih saw the killing of the she-camel he knew that the torment is about to come upon them. There was no hope for them. This is why Saalih told them to enjoy themselves for 3 days and that it's a promise to them that this promise will not be belied. So this is something that the people of Thamud did not believe Saalih (ﷺ) in.

Allaah says in the Qur'aan:

فَعَقَرُوا النَّاقَةَ وَعَتَوْا عَنْ أَمْرِ رَبِّهِمْ وَقَالُوا يَا صَالِحُ إِنَّا بِمَا تَعِدُنَا إِن
كُنْتَ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

"So they killed the she camel and insolently defied the Commandment of their Lord, and said: "O Sâlih (Saleh)! Bring about your threats if you are indeed one of the Messengers (of Allâh)." (Al-A'raf 7:77)

After the killing of the she camel there were nine men who were plotting to kill again. But this time they were plotting to kill Prophet Saalih (ﷺ)

"Then an awful torment cry overtook the wrong-doers; so they lay dead prostrated in their homes." (11:67).

Answer the following questions

1. What did Saalih (ﷺ) warned the people not to do?
2. What did Saalih (ﷺ) test the people with?
3. What was the mistake that the people said to Saalih (ﷺ)?
4. What happened to the wrong-doers after the 3 days?
5. Did the people of *Thamood* obey Saalih and his warning?

These nine people of *Thamood* started plotting to kill Saalih (ﷺ). So they positioned themselves by the side of the mountain to wait for the right opportunity to attack Saalih. For surely they did not know that Allaah is the best of planners, Allaah sent a rock from the top of the mountain upon them and they were destroyed.



So the 3 days were completed torment that came upon the people of *Thamood* the disbelievers.

And Allaah says in the Qur'aan:

فَلَمَّا جَاءَ أَمْرُنَا نَجَّيْنَا صَالِحًا وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِنَّا وَمِن خِزْيِ يَوْمِئِذٍ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ الْقَوِيُّ الْعَزِيزُ

"So when Our Commandment came, We saved Sâlih (Saalih) and those who believed with him by a Mercy from Us, and from the disgrace of that Day. Verily, your Lord, He is the All-Strong, the All-Mighty." (Hud 11:66)

وَأَخَذَ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا الصَّيْحَةَ فَأَصْبَحُوا فِي دِيَارِهِمْ جَائِعِينَ

"And As-Saîhah (torment - awful cry, etc.) overtook the wrong-doers, so they lay (dead), prostrate in their homes." (Hud 11:67)

What we benefited from the story

1. First of all the call of all messengers is one, and that is to worship Allaah alone.
2. Any one who belies one messenger then he belies the rest; all of them.
3. The proofs/evidences against those who say we accept only one Messenger but not the rest, or they don't have to accept the rest. (Quraan: 26:105,123,141)
4. The punishment of Allaah is inflicted upon those who have reached the utmost in their rejection and transgression. And the punishment of Allaah is inflicted on the transgressed nation when the utmost of their transgression or the highest extent of it is manifested.
5. So the denial and belying necessitates destruction but the implementation of that is when they practice their utmost evil. Why? Because Allaah *subhaanahu wa ta'aala* is ever watchful. He gives respite, until He seizes them completely with a mighty punishment, a punishment from the All-Able. Allaah says in the Qur'aan:

"And they belied them (those Ayât) wrongfully and arrogantly, though their own selves were convinced thereof (i.e. those (Ayât) are from Allâh, and Mûsa (Moses) is the Messenger of Allâh in truth, but they disliked to obey Mûsa

(Moses), and hated to believe in his Message of Monotheism). So see what was the end of the Mufsidûn (disbelievers, disobedient to Allâh, evil-doers, liars.).” (An-Naml 27:14)

6. The corrupt creed taken from their fore-fathers which is one of the most important obstacles against accepting the truth. This is what they said to Prophet Saalih (عليه السلام):

They said: "O Sâlih (Saalih)! You have been among us as a figure of good hope (and we wished for you to be our chief), till this [new thing which you have brought; that we leave our gods and worship your God (Allâh) Alone]! Do you (now) forbid us the worship of what our fathers have worshipped? But we are really in grave doubt as to that which you invite us to (monotheism)." (Hud 11:62)

So this is what we have benefited from the story of Prophet Saalih (عليه السلام). And may Allaah protect us from misguidance, and to continue to keep us upon worshipping Him Alone. Aameen

و السلام عليكم

The End

Based upon the series of "The Stories of the Prophet" by sh. 'Abdur Rahmaan Bin Naasir As-Sa'di, *rahimahullaah*, discussed by Saleh As-Saleh on www.understand-islam.net.

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