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Assignment 3

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Ghazawaat (The Battles of the Prophet S.A.W)

Introduction:

In the earlier days of when the Holy Prophet (PBUH) carried the message of Islam, He had to go through many difficulties from the opposing non-Muslims. The holy Prophet and his companions fought in many battles in order to save the name of Islam. At that time, the land of Arab was in disarray and there were no moral values amongst the people whatsoever. Countless Killings, stealing, rapes and all sorts of injustice behaviors. Back in the age of ignorance, the Arabs considered the war to be a good chance of committing all sorts of evil things, destroying villages, cattle's, women being raped etc. But when Holy Prophet came and carried the guidance of Islam, its main purpose was to maintain peace and security in the society even in terms of battles being fought. Even when Holy Prophet and his companions fought alongside many battles, there was always this code of conduct, humility and a grace that Muslims fought wars in.

Ghazawaat:

A battle or Military Expedition in which the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) took part in himself with a large army is called in Arabic, غزوة "Ghazwa".¹ At that time, the main purpose of the battles fought by Muslims (Ghazawaat) was to convey Allah's message to everyone in order to save everyone from idol worshipping. At that time the main reason of all the evil acts was due to the non-Muslims or the so called idol worshippers of that time. According to different Muslim scholars, Holy Prophet took part in number of battles. For example according to Imam Bukhari (RA) 17 battles were fought. Some of the most known battles that took place are called "Badr", "Uhud", "Khandaq" etc. Also the Muslims resorting to fighting was only when no other option could be found and that peace could not be achieved in any way. It is already said in Quran that if the enemies of Islam or the non-Muslims incline towards peace then there should be no hesitation from the Muslims and that they must respond in a peaceful manner as well. Hence if the enemies have already surrendered and want to come to a peaceful conclusion then there is no need to continue fighting. As Allah Almighty says in Quran **"But if they incline to peace, then incline to it, and trust in God."** (Translation of Quran 8:61). **"If they withdraw and desist from fighting you, and offer you peace, then God assigns no way to you against them."** (Translation of Quran 4:90).² Also when Holy Prophet brought Islam to the land of Arab, the Arabs responded in a violent manner. At first the Arabs were against him and fought him at many times. But due to the peaceful and calm message and demeanor, the way Holy Prophet carried his self and the message of Allah Almighty, He was able to conquer many Arab's hearts. But there were times that the Holy Prophet and his companions had no other way but to fight battles in order to save

¹ <https://www.csstimes.pk/important-battles-islam-css-islamic-studies-notes/>

² <https://thequranblog.wordpress.com/2010/06/14/ghazawat-battles-of-the-prophet/>

the name of Islam. There have been various battles that took place but some of the most important of them all are the following:

The Battle of Badr:

On the 17th of Ramadan 2 AH, one of the first major battle took in the Islamic History. Holy Prophet and his companions fought Abu Sufyan's huge army that outnumbered the muslims in huge numbers. The battle took place as a big caravan led by Abu Sufyan was passing through about 200 miles from Mecca and 80 miles from Medina. This caravan was full of goods and wealth that had been put into it by the Quraish so that they could attack Medina. The Holy Prophet ordered his companions and the Muslim soldiers to intercept this caravan in order to stop the Quraish from attacking the Muslims and obtain the goods of the caravan in the process. The Muslims were in about 313 in numbers while the Abu Sufyan's army were about 1000 in numbers. This battle resulted in the favor of the Muslims as they fought and defeated the non-Muslims. But this could not have happened if it was not for Allah Almighty's help. It is said that on the decree of Allah, 5000 angels descended from heaven to help the Prophet's army against the Quraysh in the Battle of Badr. This act is seen as divine intervention amongst the followers of Islam. **"Well, if you are steadfast and mindful of Allah, your Lord will reinforce you with five thousand swooping angels if the enemy should suddenly attack you!"** (Quran, 3:125)³

The Battle of Uhud:

This is another one of the biggest and most important battles that the Muslims took part in. This battle took place on 7-15th of Shawwal 3AH. This battle took place one year after the battle of Badr on the Mount Uhud. The Quraish were enraged of how they lost the battle to the small Muslim army as compared to their huge army of 1000 soldiers. The main objective of the Quraish was to Kill the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and erase the name of Islam completely. Holy Prophet led the Muslims to fight the Quraish with bravery and valor. He set up defense systems and set up archers on the different strategically positions on the mount. The Muslim army was greatly outnumbered this time with the ratio of 50:1. During this battle, some of the Muslim soldiers got full of pride and greed and decided to neglect the orders of Holy Prophet (PBUH). Due to this, The Quraish were able to attack the Muslim Army from the behind and as a result this battle ended in a disaster as many Muslim soldiers got killed and the holy Prophet got injured very seriously himself. At this point, the Battle of Uhud became a significant lesson for Muslims. It was a hard lesson to learn, that caused a lot of deaths. Due to the pride and greed of those marksmen, it caused them to be reckless in battle. This act taught the muslims to never give into their pride and to always be humble. It taught them about the evils of greed and the need to be disciplined and the need for humility.⁴

³ <https://zamzam.com/blog/battle-of-badr/>

⁴ <https://zaahara.com/blogs/writers-corner/the-battle-of-uhud-the-second-important-war-in-islamic-history>

The Battle of Khandaq or Ahzab:

The Battle of Khandaq, which occurred two years later the Battle of Uhud, is one of the significant fights that played a significant part in dispensing with the obstructions impeding the advancement of Islam. Ahzab is one more name for the Clash of Khandaq, which was given this name due to the channels (khandaqs) burrowed around Madinah upon the request for the Courier of God to stop the assault of the adversary without any problem. This battle is an early Muslim triumph that eventually constrained the Meccans to perceive the political and strict strength of the Muslim people group in Medina. A Meccan multitude of 3,000 men had crushed the unrestrained Muslim powers at Uhud close to Medina in 625, injuring Holy Prophet (PBUH) himself. In Walk 627, when they had convinced various Bedouin clans to join their goal, the Meccans brought a power of 10,000 men against Medina once more. Holy Prophet (PBUH) then, at that point, turned to strategies new to the Middle Easterners, who were acclimated with brief, segregated attacks. As opposed to sally excursion to meet the adversary in the standard manner—the slip-up made at Uhud — he had a trench burrowed around Medina, as indicated by custom, at the idea of a Persian believer, Salmān. The Meccan horsemen were bothered and before long exhausted, and the alliance of Bedouin clans fired separating. Later a fruitless attack, the Meccans scattered. With the Muslim and Meccan powers currently more equally coordinated and the Meccans feeling burnt out on a conflict that was harming their exchange, Muhammad utilized his triumph to arrange more noteworthy concessions for the Muslims in a deal at al-Ḥudaybiyah (628). **"Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with God: Of them some have completed their vow (to the extreme), and some (still) wait; but they have never changed (their determination) in the least."** (Quran, 33:23)⁵

Other Important Battles:

This shows that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) fought many different battles in order to save the name of Islam and some of the other ones that he took part in are:

- Banu Quraizah (End of Dhul Qa'da 5 AH)
- Khaybar (Dhul Hijjah 7 AH)
- Banu Mustalaq (12 Shaban 5,6 AH)
- Muta (Jumad al Awwal 8 AH)
- Al Fath (10 Ramadhan 8 AH)
- Hunayn (10 Shawwal 8 AH)
- Autaas (8 AH)
- Taif (8 AH)⁶

⁵ <https://www.erfan.ir/english/89572.html>

⁶ <https://www.csstimes.pk/important-battles-islam-css-islamic-studies-notes/>

Conclusion:

From this, We can see the number of battles that took part in that period in the land of Arab. And holy Prophet (PBUH) was the corner stone for the Muslims during these battles. Without him, his leadership, his bravery and his focus and determination there's no doubt that the Muslims at that time could not have carried Allah's message and preserve it. Islam is also called the religion of Peace, Holy prophet (PBUH) carried the message of Islam in the most peaceful and calm way as possible. These battles were fought because the Muslims at the time were forced to retaliate in order to preserve Islam and its teachings. Hence, we as Muslims should always be grateful and keep the names of Holy Prophet and his companions in our hearts because of the sacrifices they laid out for us.

Reference:

1. <https://www.csstimes.pk/important-battles-islam-css-islamic-studies-notes/>
2. <https://thequranblog.wordpress.com/2010/06/14/ghazawat-battles-of-the-prophet/>
3. <https://zamzam.com/blog/battle-of-badr/>
4. <https://zaahara.com/blogs/writers-corner/the-battle-of-uhud-the-second-important-war-in-islamic-history>
5. <https://www.erfan.ir/english/89572.html>
6. <https://www.csstimes.pk/important-battles-islam-css-islamic-studies-notes/>