

BENEFITS & LESSONS WE LEARN FROM THE LIVES OF THE PROPHETS

Basil Mohamed Gohar (Abū Hurayrah)

Since the time of *Ādam*, *Allāh* has sent to His Creation Prophets (*ambiyā'*) as Mercies, Blessings, and Guides. *Allāh* has not, however, sent these *ambiyā'* for no purpose. Rather, each *nabī* has been sent for a specific purpose – namely, to be an example for their people in their duties towards *Allāh*. It is, therefore, essential for His slaves to know about them so that they may benefit from them. Among these benefits includes learning our *dīn* from them so that we may worship *Allāh* correctly, knowing their examples, so that we may emulate them, and seeing how they dealt with their people, so that we, too, can deal with our own people in the best of manners.

No *nabī* was sent by *Allāh* except that he would call his people to worship *Allāh* alone. This concept, *tawḥīd*, is the single most important aspect in the *dīn*, and separates *Islām* from all other religions and ways of life, including those in the past, present, and the future. By calling his people to *tawḥīd*, each *nabī* was protecting his people from misguidance, and thus, the Hellfire. Knowing the message of each *nabī*, and especially of the last & final messenger, *Muḥammad*, *salallāhu `alayhi wa sallam*, will likewise save those that heed their warnings from a certainly dreadful fate.

Along with the call to *tawḥīd*, every *nabī* also called his people to follow his example. Every *nabī* said to his people, “Worship *Allāh* and follow me”. The most important examples the *ambiyā'* provided were in the actual acts of worship. Aside from worship, though, all of the *ambiyā'* were also excellent examples of character & manners. Knowing the character & manners of each *nabī* will give the ones that wish to emulate them in these attributes the best behaviors and will lead to a very peaceful life both in the *dunyah* and in the *ākhirah*.

Every *nabī* was sent to his own nation, and every nation has a great diversity amongst its people. It can be expected that most, if not all nations, consist of people that are believers and disbelievers. Likewise, nations can also consist of people with good and bad manners. In fact, there exist a great number of characteristics that can be used to describe any nation, and a *nabī* must be equipped to deal with all of them. Every *nabī* was required to deliver the same message to his people, despite their rejection of it or their treatment of him. Therefore, knowing how each *nabī* dealt with his people will help us in the areas of *da`wah*, community, and leadership so that we can, likewise, deal with people in the best way for the benefit of our own nation.

The benefits and lessons we can get from the lives of the *ambiyā'* are without limit, as the entirety of their lives were examples worthy of following. If we know this, and we follow their examples in their worship, their character, and their dealings with their people, then we will be guided, *in shā' Allāh*, and *Allāh* will spare us from a certain torment.