

Surah Yusuf – Verses 54 - 57

Learning Objectives:

- To provide an explanation of verses 54-57
- To memorise Surah Yusuf up to verse 57

P YUSUF (AS), THE TREASURER OF EGYPT

VERSES 54 - 57

وَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ ائْتُونِي بِهِ اَسْتَخْلِصُهُ لِنَفْسِي ۖ فَلَمَّا كَلَّمَهُ قَالَ اِنَّكَ الْيَوْمَ لَدَيْنَا
مَكِينٌ اَمِينٌ

54. The king said, “bring him to me, I will make him my favourite.” Then, when he had spoken with him, he said, “Indeed today (onwards) you will be honoured and trustworthy with us.”

قَالَ اجْعَلْنِي عَلَىٰ خَزَائِنِ الْاَرْضِ ۗ اِنِّي حَفِيظٌ عَلِيمٌ

55. He said, “Put me in charge of the country’s granaries. I am indeed fastidious (and) well-informed.”

وَكَذٰلِكَ مَكَّنَّا لِيُوسُفَ فِي الْاَرْضِ يَتَّبِعُوْا مِنْهَا حَيْثُ يَشَاءُ ۗ نُّصِيبُ بِرَحْمَتِنَا
مَنْ نَّشَاءُ ۗ وَلَا نُضِيعُ اَجْرَ الْمُحْسِنِيْنَ

56. That is how We established Joseph in the land that he may settle in it wherever he wished. We confer our mercy on whomever We wish, and we do not waste the reward of the virtuous.

وَلَا جَزَا الْاٰخِرَةِ خَيْرٌ لِّلَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْا وَكَانُوْا يَتَّقُوْنَ

57. And the reward of the Hereafter is surely better for those who have faith and are Godfearing.

We come to the point in this beautiful story of P Yusuf (AS) where he has been cleared of all charges and everybody was convinced of his innocent and truthfulness. By now everyone was sure that he possessed great management skills and had extraordinary knowledge. The king freed P Yusuf (AS) from jail and offered him an honorable position in his service. He requested the king to give him the responsibility to look after the treasury so he can control Egypt’s natural wealth and food as he had already foretold of hard times to come as a result of drought. Commentators have mentioned that P Yusuf (AS) wanted to preserve the rights of the oppressed especially during the hardships of drought and famine. This also shows that he had the knowledge of the hard times that were to come. It is reported in tafasir that P Yusuf (AS) ordered that storage towers made from stone and clay to be constructed and plastered with lime to store the grains. He cultivated lands throughout Egypt for seven years, distributing food and storing the excess in its husks. The Almighty Allah elevated the status of P Yusuf (AS) from a prisoner to a position of great power. He seized this opportunity that this position of power gave to him to give the due rights of the poor and powerless

in times of difficulty as in such times its often the less fortunate who suffer.

It is reported from Imam Ali ar-Ridha (AS) how P Yusuf (AS) managed his position and turned the king and the nation of Egypt toward his faith.

Zulaikhah came to P Yusuf (AS) during the time of the drought seeking food from him. Her husband had died. When he saw her, he said to her: What is it that has taken you to (the state) that I am seeing. She said: P raise be to God who makes kings slaves through disobedience and makes slaves kings through obedience.

According to some commentaries P Yusuf (AS) was compassionate towards Zulaikha after her husband died and she had come to him to ask for food. He maintained her as one of his dependents until she died. but did not marry her. However there is difference of opinion and in another commentary it is reported that he does marry Zulaikha. But this is not clarified.

IMPORTANT LESSONS

- 1) The Almighty favors whom He wishes.
- 2) The good that we do if we strive in His way is never wasted. Although some are given great rewards in this life, but the rewards in the next life are even greater and far more superior.

REFERENCES

1. Commentary on Surah Yusuf - Compiled by : 'Ali 'Abdur-Rasheed
2. The Holy Quran, Text Translation & Commentary B Ayatullah Nasir Makarem Shirazi