

Prophet Musa (A) Journey's to Madyan

Learning Objectives:

- To learn about the journey to Madyan and meeting Prophet Shoaib (A).
- To learn about the outcome of supplicating to Allah (SWT).
- To complete the memorisation of Surat al-A'la

Continuing with Surat al-Qasas, verses 20-28

Prophet Musa (A) has accidentally killed a Coptic guard and Pharaoh's council has decided that he needs to be executed. Pharaoh had a cousin who was a believer in Allah (SWT), however he used to hide his faith. He is called *Mu'min Aal Fir'awn* in the Qur'an, "the believer from the family of the Pharaoh". He wanted to save Prophet Musa and hence, when he heard about the decree of Prophet Musa (A)'s execution, he immediately ran to inform Prophet Musa (A) about it.

وَجَاءَ رَجُلٌ مِّنْ أَقْصَى الْمَدِينَةِ يَسْعَى قَالَ يَا مُوسَى إِنَّ الْمَلَأَ يَأْتَمِرُونَ بِكَ
لِيَقْتُلُوكَ فَاخْرُجْ إِنِّي لَكَ مِنَ النَّاصِحِينَ

And a man came running from the remotest part of the city. He said: O Musa! surely the chiefs are consulting together to slay you, therefore depart (at once); surely I am of those who wish well to you.

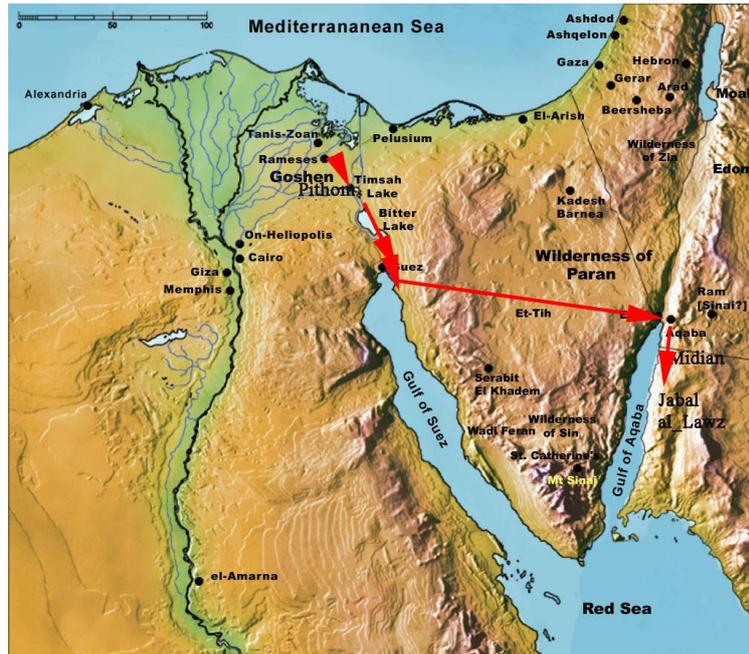
فَخَرَجَ مِنْهَا خَائِفًا يَتَرَقَّبُ ۗ قَالَ رَبِّ نَجِّنِي مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ

So he left the city, fearful and vigilant. He said, 'My Lord! Deliver me from the wrongdoing lot.'

وَلَمَّا تَوَجَّهَ تِلْقَاءَ مَدْيَنَ قَالَ عَسَىٰ رَبِّي أَن يَهْدِيَنِي سَوَاءَ السَّبِيلِ

And when he turned his face toward Midian, he said, 'Maybe my Lord will show me the right way.'
(28:20-22)

Prophet Musa (A) then had to flee from the sovereignty of Pharaoh. As he was a prince and knew that Pharaoh had no power in Madyan, he would be safe there. Therefore, Prophet Musa (A) decided to travel to Madyan. However, he did not have a map or know how to get to Madyan, but he hoped that Allah (SWT) would guide him to the right place. Madyan was very far by foot. Below is a map illustrating a **possible** route taken by Prophet Musa (A) to Madyan.



Reflection:

As you can see from the picture, Madyan is very far from Goshin and Prophet Musa (A) only hoped that Allah (SWT) would guide him. This is an example of how Allah (SWT) guides the believers when they are in need of Him (SWT). This also indicates the importance of trust in Allah (SWT) and the significance of supplicating to Him. When was the last time you were in a difficult situation and you asked Allah (SWT) to guide you?

وَلَمَّا وَرَدَ مَاءَ مَدْيَنَ وَجَدَ عَلَيْهِ أُمَّةً مِّنَ النَّاسِ يَسْقُونَ وَوَجَدَ مِنْ دُونِهِمُ امْرَأَتَيْنِ تَذُودَانِ ۖ قَالَ مَا خَطْبُكُمَا ۖ قَالَتَا لَا نَسْقِي ۖ حَتَّىٰ يُصَدِرَ الرِّعَاءُ ۖ وَأَبُونَا شَيْخٌ كَبِيرٌ

And when he came to the water of Madyan, he found on it a group of men watering, and he found besides them two women keeping back (their flocks). He said: What is the matter with you? They said: We cannot water until the shepherds take away (their sheep) from the water, and our father is a very old man. (28:23)

Allah (SWT) guided Prophet Musa (A) to Madyan. It is not known how long it took Prophet Musa (A) to reach Madyan. When he arrived Madyan, he saw something strange. There were a group of men watering their flocks/sheeps and there were two women standing on the side with their flocks. He was surprised to see women doing men's work. So he asked them why they were there and the women replied that their father is an old man, so they have to come to water the flocks. Prophet Musa (A) decided to help these women.

فَسَقَى لَهُمَا ثُمَّ تَوَلَّى إِلَى الظِّلِّ فَقَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي لِمَا أَنْزَلْتَ إِلَيَّ مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَقِيرٌ

So he watered [their flock] for them. Then he withdrew toward the shade and said, 'My Lord! I am indeed in need of any good You may send down to me!' (28:24)

Once he had watered the flock, he sat down under a tree and supplicated. Imam Ali (A) in a hadith mentions that Prophet Musa only wanted a loaf of bread when he said 'My Lord! I am indeed in need of any good You may send down to me!'

What Allah (SWT) gave him in return for this supplication was beyond Prophet Musa (A)'s expectations!

فَجَاءَتْهُ إِحْدَاهُمَا تَمْشِي عَلَى اسْتِحْيَاءٍ قَالَتْ إِنَّ أَبِي يَدْعُوكَ لِيَجْزِيَكَ أَجْرَ مَا سَقَيْتَ لَنَا ۖ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُ وَقَصَّ عَلَيْهِ الْقِصَصَ قَالَ لَا تَخَفْ ۖ نَجَوْتَ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ

Then one of the two women approached him, walking bashfully. She said, 'Indeed my father invites you to pay you the wages for watering [our flock] for us.' So when he came to him and recounted the story to him, he said, 'Do not be afraid. You have been delivered from the wrongdoing lot.'

قَالَتْ إِحْدَاهُمَا يَا أَبَتِ اسْتَأْجِرْهُ ۖ إِنَّ خَيْرَ مَنِ اسْتَأْجَرْتَ الْقَوِيُّ الْأَمِينُ

One of the two women said, 'Father, hire him. Indeed the best you can hire is a powerful and trustworthy man.'

قَالَ إِنِّي أُرِيدُ أَنْ أُنكِحَكَ إِحْدَى ابْنَتَيَّ هَاتَيْنِ عَلَى أَنْ تَأْجُرَنِي ثَمَانِي حَجَجٍ ۖ فَإِنْ أَتَمَمْتَ عَشْرًا فَمِنْ عِنْدِكَ ۖ وَمَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَشُقَّ عَلَيْكَ ۖ سَتَجِدُنِي إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ

He said: I desire to marry one of these two daughters of mine to you on condition that you should serve me for eight years; but if you complete ten, it will be of your own free will, and I do not wish to be hard to you; if Allah please, you will find me one of the good.

قَالَ ذَلِكَ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكَ ۖ أَيَّمَا الْأَجَلَيْنِ قَضَيْتُ فَلَا عُدْوَانَ عَلَيَّ ۖ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ
مَا نَقُولُ وَكَيْلٌ

He said: This shall be (an agreement) between me and you; whichever of the two terms I fulfill, there shall be no wrongdoing to me; and Allah is a witness of what we say. (28:28)

The two women went home after Prophet Musa (A) had helped them and they informed their father (Prophet Shoaib (A)) about what had taken place. Prophet Shoaib (A) asked one of his daughters to bring Prophet Musa (A) to him. When Prophet Musa (A) and Prophet Shoaib (A) met, Prophet Musa (A) told Prophet Shoaib (A) about what had taken place in Egypt. Prophet Shoaib (A) decided to provide Prophet Musa (A) a sanctuary, offered him a job as well as asked him to marry one of his daughters.

So not only did Allah (SWT) hear the supplication of Prophet Musa (A), he gave him a home, a family and a job. This was the best outcome for Prophet Musa (A) as now he has come out of a corrupt environment to a peaceful place, where he can spend his days pondering and his nights supplicating. He was given a pious wife and family.

However, why did Prophet Shoaib (A) do all this for Prophet Musa (A) who was a complete stranger to him?

When Prophet Shoaib (A) met Prophet Musa (A) he immediately realised that Prophet Musa (A) was trustworthy and God-conscious person. At that time, Madyan was full of corrupt individuals and hence he could not trust anyone. Furthermore, there were no good men to marry his daughters and so he asked Prophet Musa (A) to marry one of his daughters. Moreover, he was an old man who could not look after his flocks so Prophet Musa (A) was the perfect person for the job. Lastly and most importantly, Prophet Shoaib (A) used to cry and supplicate to Allah (SWT) a lot and as a reward for all his crying and supplications Allah (SWT) made Prophet Musa (A) a worker for Prophet Shoaib (A). This is a great honour Prophet Shoaib (A) was given - an *ulul 'azm* prophet as a worker for him.

Reflection:

Again the lives of these two Prophets shows us that supplicating to Allah (SWT) continuously and constantly elevates our status. It brings us honour in this world and in the hereafter. Even the smallest of Du'as made to Allah (SWT) with a pure heart and genuine hope will bear great outcomes that one would have ever expected.

For the next decade or more Prophet Musa (A) would live in Madyan, until the time comes when he has to return to his people and the plan of Allah (SWT) begins to unfold.