

## **SAFAR ISLAMIC STUDIES BOOK 7**

### **UNIT 4 – THE HISTORY OF ISLAM**

#### **Stories of the Prophets : Isa (A.S)**

Notes:

1. All Ahadith have been highlighted **blue**.
2. All revision questions have been highlighted **yellow**.

#### **Q1. What made Maryam (A.S) well known amongst the Banu Israil?**

- Her worship, piety and Taqwa.

#### **Q2. What was Maryam (A.S)'s habit?**

- She would seclude herself from everyone and spend time in the worship of Allah.

#### **Q3. One day, which event took place with Maryam in a place eastward of Masjid ul Aqsa?**

- Maryam was worshipping Allah when a man appeared before her. Maryam thought this man had bad intentions so she told the man to fear Allah.
- The man replied, "I am a messenger from Allah, I have come to tell you the good news of having a pure son."
- Maryam (A.S) replied, "How can I possibly have a baby when no man has ever touched me?"
- The man told Maryam the words from Allah - "It is easy for me, we will make the baby a sign for all the people, this is a blessing from us and a matter which has already been decided."
- The man then blew on Maryam and the soul of Prophet Isa was now inside Maryam, she was pregnant.

#### **Q4. Who was the man that visited Maryam?**

- Angel Jibrail, in human form.

#### **Q5. What is Prophet Isa also called?**

- Al-Masih.

**Q6. Why did Maryam (A.S) move far away to Bethlehem?**

- She was worried about all the talks and gossip that would take place once people could see that she was pregnant. She knew that people would blame her for having done Zina and they would question her piety.

**Q7. Explain the labour of Maryam (A.S).**

- Maryam was feeling strong pain. She started walking and came to a palm tree and clung to the dead trunk. She was very worried about what people were going to say when they saw her with a baby so she started to wish she was dead and that this never happened.
- Allah did not leave Maryam alone and she heard a voice "Don't worry, your Lord has just caused a stream to gush beneath you, and if you shake the dead palm tree towards you a little, it will give you ripe dates."
- These were miraculous favours from Allah for Maryam (A.S). She quenched her thirst with the water and her hunger with the dates and gave birth to a beautiful baby boy.

**Q8. What did Allah tell Maryam (A.S) to do after the birth?**

- Allah told Maryam (A.S) to say to every person that she sees back in the city that she has made a vow to Allah to fast and so will not speak to anybody on that day. This was also a tradition at the time that they would not speak to anyone when fasting.

**Q9. After how many days did Maryam return to the city?**

- After 40 days.

**Q10. What did the people in the city say to Maryam when she returned?**

- They hounded her with questions and thought the worst of her. They asked how she could possibly do this when her father and mother were not evil or sinful.

**Q11. What did Isa (A.S) say to the people?**

- When Maryam (A.S) pointed to baby Isa, he said: "I am a servant of Allah. He will give me a scripture, make me a prophet and has blessed me. He will command me to pray, give charity for as long as I live, and commands me to be good to my mother. He has not made me harsh or wretched. Peace is on me the day I was born, the day I shall die and the day I will be raised again."

**Q12. What was the state of Banu Israil when Prophet Isa came to them?**

- They had strayed away from the teachings of Allah.
- They had corrupted the teachings in the Tawrah.
- They had murdered prophets who were sent to guide them.

**Q13. Describe some of Isa (A.S)'s qualities.**

- Soft and gentle.
- Loved the poor and the weak.
- Devout in worshipping Allah.

**Q14. What did Isa (A.S) receive when he was in his mid-thirties?**

- Knowledge of the original, unchanged Tawrah.
- A new scripture called the Injil (Bible) and a new Shariah (set of rulings).

**Q15. Did the Banu Israil accept the new message of Isa?**

- No, many were stuck in their ways. The rabbis (Jewish leaders) also demanded that Isa prove his prophethood.

**Q16. Which miracles did Allah send to Isa (A.S) to prove his prophethood?**

- Isa (A.S) could cure those people who had leprosy simply with his touch (leprosy had no cure at this time).
- He had the power to cure the blind people by passing his hands over their eyes.
- He had the ability to bring back to life those people who had just died.
- He used clay to make the shape of a bird and when he blew onto it, the bird would come to life.
- He could tell people with accuracy what they had eaten and what was stored inside their homes.

**Q17. Did the Banu Israil believe in Prophet Isa after witnessing all his miracles?**

- Some simply dismissed everything as magic.
- Some of the people were inspired by Isa (A.S)'s teachings and they listened.

**Q18. Why did Isa (A.S) call for people to help him and who were they?**

- Many of the religious leaders in Banu Israil had become Isa (A.S)'s enemies and they were plotting against him. When Isa (A.S) sensed this, he called for people to help him in Allah's cause.
- A handful came forward and these were the Hawariyyin - the helpers and disciples of Isa.

**Q19. Who was ruling at the time of Banu Israil?**

- The Roman Empire.
- They were pagans (worshipped many Gods) and didn't care about Banu Israil.
- They held the power to execute people and imprison them.

**Q20. Why did some of the Rabbis go to the governor of the Romans?**

- The rabbis felt that they could influence the Roman governor into thinking that Prophet Isa was a troublemaker and they presented lies about him. They said he was not just interested in his religion, but he is also plotting to rebel and fight the Romans. The rabbis kept making case after case against Isa (A.S).

**Q21. What order did the Roman governor make for Isa (A.S)?**

- The Roman governor made an order for Isa (A.S) to be executed so he could get rid of this problem.

**Q22. What was the method of execution during this time?**

- They would carry a cross through the city amongst jeering crowds (groups of people mocking and being rude) and then they would be put to death by being nailed to the cross. This is called being crucified.

**Q23. What is another narration for the order given for Isa (A.S)?**

- The roman soldiers went to arrest him and surrounded the house he was in. they wanted to kill him but the Muslims believe they certainly did not manage this.

**Q24. What does Allah say in the Qur'an about Isa's death?**

- "They say we have killed the Masih, Isa - the son of Mary and the messenger of Allah. They did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, it was made to appear like that to them, those that disagreed about him are full of doubt, with no knowledge but only assumptions. They certainly did not kill him, Allah raised him up to Himself. Allah is Almighty and Wise."

**Q25. What is the other narration about what actually happened to Isa (A.S)?**

- Allah changed the face of a man to look like Isa (A.S). The romans assumed that this was Isa and crucified him. The disbelievers became happy and content that Isa had been killed.

**Q26. What did the Banu Israil do over time after Isa (A.S) was raised up by Allah?**

- They began to hold beliefs in things about Allah and Isa which he had never taught them.
- They separated into many different Christian sects.
- The people compiled a new Christian Bible which contained the words of different Christian authors and editors.
- The original Bible spoken by Isa was also lost and it was eventually written in Greek, then translated into Latin and also many other languages.
- Only a handful of Isa (A.S)'s followers (especially Hawariyyin) remained on his teachings. They believed in Tawhid and preached the message the best that they could.

**Q27. The Banu Israil would teach people about a man named Ahmad - who was he?**

- They would give the news of a messenger to come and his name would be Ahmad. This man is the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) and Allah fulfilled this promise over 600 years after Isa (A.S).

**Q28. Which sects were present during the life of the Prophet (S.A.W) and what did they believe in?**

- Yadud (Jews), descendants of Banu Israil and Nasara (Christians).
- Most Christian sects believed in the Trinity, the divinity of Isa and the Bible.
- The Jews followed a text called the Tanakh which is the Hebrew Bible.
- Some Christians like Waraqah bin Nawfal believed in the Oneness of Allah and awaited the arrival of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W).

**Q29. Who was Waraqah bin Nawfal?**

- The cousin of Khadijah (R.A), a very learned Christian.
- When the Prophet first received revelation, Khadijah took him to Waraqah who reassured them both that this was a revelation from Allah.

**Q30. Which verses did Allah reveal about Isa and Maryam (A.S)?**

- "Those who say, Allah is the Messiah (Isa), son of Mary, have disbelieved in God. The Messiah himself said, O Banu Israil, worship Allah alone, who is my Lord and your Lord. If anyone associates others with Allah, He will indeed forbid them from Paradise."
- "Those who say that God is the third of three have disbelieved in God, there is only one God."
- "The Messiah, son of Mary was only a messenger, other messengers had come and gone before him, his mother was a virtuous woman, both ate food like other humans rather than being divine, we make these signs for them."

**Q31. Did everybody accept the message of the Prophet (S.A.W)?**

- Some Jews and Christians did, but some continued with their own beliefs and lived peacefully with the Muslims. Some saw the new Muslim community as a threat and opposed and attacked them.

**Q32. What does Allah say in the Qur'an about the different groups of people?**

- "The people of the Book are not all alike, there are some among the people of the Book who are upright..."

**Important keywords to learn:**

Rabbis	Jewish leaders.
Hawariyyin	The helpers and disciples of Isa (A.S).
Pagans	Those people who believe in or worship many Gods.
Ahlul Kitab	The people of the Book - mainly the Jews and Christians.
Al-Masih	Isa (A.S) and one of the meanings is a person wiped over with goodness.
Taqwa	Being mindful of Allah, which stops a person from doing bad deeds and draws him towards the good.
Trinity	Christian belief that God is made up of three - the father, the son and the holy spirit.

**Lessons from the story:**

1. The help of Allah is always there for those who are close to Him and who remain steadfast on the truth, even through problems etc.
2. The miracles given to Isa centred around human life. This was a clear sign about the hereafter and how Allah will bring everyone back to life.
3. Allah is the best of planners.

The Prophet (S.A.W) said, "Be mindful of Allah and Allah will protect you, if you seek help, then ask Allah alone. Know that if the whole world were to gather together to bring you a benefit, they would not benefit you except with what Allah has prescribed for you. If they were to gather together to harm you, they would not harm you except with what Allah has prescribed for you..."

4. The Qur'an refers to 'People of the Book / Ahlul Kitab' as the Jews and Christians. They were people who received the heavenly revelations of the Tawrah and the Injil before the Qur'an.
5. We should never be rude to or ridicule the Christian and Hebrew Bibles and their followers as Muslims still believe in their original revealed form.

6. Isa will return before the end of time and the Prophet (S.A.W) has also told us of the signs for the Last Hour. The reason for this is so we can prepare and do as many good deeds as possible.

The Prophet (S.A.W) said, "Be quick in doing good deeds before you are overtaken by trials and tests which will be like the darkest part of the night..."

He also said, "If the Last Hour begins and one of you is planting a tree, they should carry on planting the tree."

This teaches us that we should carry on with our lives and good deeds rather than become fascinated with the signs of the Last Hour and speculating when it will happen.

**END OF CHAPTER**