

# New Muslims Class

## LESSON 8

# The Seerah of the Prophet Muhammed (Makkan Phase)



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# Today's Agenda

- Review of Last Week's Lesson (Lesson 7 - Isa)
- Part 2: Lesson Eight – The Seerah of the Prophet Muhammed
  - Define Seerah and its importance
  - Explain special courtesies/respect and behaviors that Muslims exhibit towards the prophet Muhammad
  - Review the historical context of Arabia before Islam
  - Review the life of the prophet Muhammad (SAW) before prophethood
  - Give an overview of the Risala (message)
  - Prophethood and the Makkan Phase
  - Give a dua that the prophet Muhammad made

# The Seerah and its Importance

- What is the Seerah?
  - Conduct
  - Behavior
  - Way of life
  - Biography of the Prophet
- The Importance of the Seerah
  - Provides you with wisdom on how to deal with things, confirmation of religious laws {*Shari'aa*}
  - Need for Guidance of Allah
  - Following the Precedence of the Prophet, Human example
  - Explanation of revelation
  - Universal Message to all mankind (compared to other Prophets)

# Respect and Love for the Prophet

- Loving the Prophet more than you love yourself (1)
- Respect and appreciation for him should be practiced in the best manner, includes respect and adherence of the Sunnah
- Follow the example of how the Prophets companions loved him (2)
- Allah has placed His Apostle in a position made clear by Him, we are therefore taught to love and obey his commands as they are from Allah (3)

*“It is not fitting for a Believer, man or woman, when a matter has been decided by Allah and His Messenger to have any option about their decision: if any one disobeys Allah and His Messenger, he is indeed on a clearly wrong Path”*

**Al-Ahzab (The Confederates) 33:36**

# History of Arabia

- Linguistically, the word “Arab” means deserts and waste barren land
- Made inaccessible to foreigners but important because of position
- Strong Tribal Structure
- Followed teachings of Ibrahim taught by Ismail until Idol worship introduced by some traveling to Syria and bringing back idol
- In Judaism, the Rabbis turned into lords to the exclusion of the Lord. Christianity likewise opened its doors to polytheism, and got difficult to comprehend as a heavenly religion
- Women of nobility regarded with great esteem

# History of Arabia

- Prostitution/Indecency prevalent in other social classes
- Women used as spoils of war
- Adultery rampant with slavery
- Infanticide practiced in fear of poverty/humiliation
- Trading was the main form of livelihood but you needed to have security, alliances had to be made etc
- Good characteristics: Competition in hospitality, keeping covenants, forbearance, perseverance and mildness, simple Bedouin life...in readiness for receiving the message

# Life of Muhammed before the Prophethood

- From family of 'Hashim'
- Abdullah (father)
- Muhammad born in Makkah, 571 AD
- Sent to be raised with Bedouins
- Orphaned at early age raised by grandfather and then his Uncle Abu Talib
- Meets Bahira the monk who foretells signs of Prophethood

## Life of Muhammed before the Prophethood

- Works as a shepherd (like other prophets) and then as a merchant for Khadijah
- Khadijah impressed by his manners and proposes marriage & the Prophet accepts
- Spotless character: was known by his people as *Al-Ameen* (the trustworthy) E.g. settles dispute when re-building the Kaba
- Around the age of 40, he began meditating and worshiping in seclusion (Cave of Hira)



# The *Risala* {Message}

- Gabriel appears and orders the Prophet to “Read” (1)

*“Read! In the Name of your Lord, Who has created (all that exists), has created man from a clot (a piece of thick coagulated blood). Read! and your Lord is the Most Generous.” Al-Alaq (The Clot) 96:1-3*

- Prophet scared, returns to Khadijah who comforts him (2)
- After a gap, the revelation starts coming down frequently

*“O you [Muhammad (Peace be upon him) ] enveloped (in garments)! Arise and warn! And your Lord (Allâh) magnify! And your garments purify! And keep away from Ar-Rujz (the idols). And give not a thing in order to have more (or consider not your deeds of Allâh’s obedience as a favour to Allâh). And be patient for the sake of your Lord (i.e. perform your duty to Allâh)!” Al-Muddaththir (The One Enveloped) 74:1-7*

- Various forms of revelation (3)

# Life as a Prophet

## 1. The Makkan Phase (~13 years)

- The stage of the secret Call: three years
- The stage of the proclamation of the Call in Makkah: from the beginning of the fourth year of Prophethood to almost the end of the tenth year
- The stage of the call to Islam and propagating it beyond Makkah lasted from the end of the tenth year of the Prophethood until Muhammad's emigration to Madinah

## 2. The Madinan Phase (~10 Years)

- First Islamic Society established
- Engagement in 'Jihad' (1)
- Islam spreads beyond the peninsula
- Liberation of Mecca

# Makkan Phase

- Started with his family first and those that knew him to be truthful accepted immediately (Khadijah, Zaid, Ali) then Abu Bakr, who then invited others
- The prophet taught in private and verses concentrated on sanctifying the soul, and accounts of Hell and Paradise
- After 3 years revelation to start preaching to public:

*"And warn your tribe [O Muhammad (Peace be upon him)] of near kindred." [26:214]. - same surah talks about Moses and him liberating his people*

- Prophet calls his tribe to Islam (surah Lahab), starts discrediting idol worship. Quraish see it as an attack on their status amongst the Arabs and on their forefathers
- Quraish try discrediting him, calling the Prophet a magician, fortune teller etc amongst pilgrims, but his character was known

## Makkan Phase

- Persecutions started and some Muslims migrate to Abyssinia (Ethiopia) where the King was known to be just
- Quraish tried to convince the King to expel the Muslims (1)
- Quraish try bribing Abu Talib & Muhammad with gifts of kingship, women, wealth etc

# Makkan Phase

- Allah gives Islam strength with conversions of Umar and Hamza
- The Quraish try to bribe the Prophet once more (1)
- Quraish employ boycott on Muslims (2)
- The Year of Grief: Abu Talib & Khadija pass away
- Prophet continues to preach amongst tribes coming for pilgrimage (3)
- The Miraculous Journey (4)

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## LESSON 8 Appendix



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## Du'a that the prophet made

رَضِيتُ بِاللَّهِ رَبًّا وَبِالْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا  
وَبِمُحَمَّدٍ ﷺ نَبِيًّا. (ثَلَاثًا)

'I am pleased with Allah as a Lord, and Islam as a religion and Muhammad as a Prophet.' *(three times)*

# Glossary

**Risala:** revelation, message

**Du'a:** supplication, “prayer”

**Shari'a:** Islamic Law

**Ka'ba:** The house of worship built by Ibraheem which is the structure towards which Muslims face when they worship



# FAQs

*Is Muhammad considered to be the only prophet?*

No. Muslims believe in all of the prophets that came before him, but they believe that Muhammad was the last prophet, the seal of the prophets, and it is the message of Allah that was sent through him that we follow.

# References

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