



NEW MUSLIM  
ACADEMY

# THE STORY OF DAVID

David is a Messenger of God who is mentioned a number of times in the Quran. He was the father of Solomon and was known for his vast kingdom. God favored him with a number of blessings. God revealed the divine scripture of the Written Documents to him and he was known for his powerful and beautiful recitation. God mentions his story in a number of contexts:





# David & Goliath

The Children of Israel went through a period of turbulence, during which they were oppressed and persecuted. The tyrant who persecuted them was a king called Goliath. God sent a Messenger to the Children of Israel, who in turn appointed for them a king to lead them to battle. That king was Saul. Yet, he was not from among the noble families of the Children of Israel, so they disliked his appointment. Their Messenger informed them that God had chosen Saul as their king. God relays this story in 2:246–251.



Saul set out with the army of the Children of Israel. He tested them to check the level of their endurance and fortitude. He informed them they would come across a river, but that they were not to drink from it, except for a single gulp. However, most of his army disobeyed him and were dismissed. Thus, Saul's army was greatly reduced. The reduced army continued and asked God for His help. In the army was a young man by the name of David, a regular soldier, who during the forthcoming battle spotted Goliath. David struck him with a stone and killed him. God gave victory to the Children of Israel and David was appointed a Messenger of God.

# David, the Messenger and King

After Saul, David became a Messenger for the Children of Israel, and inherited the kingdom of Saul. God also revealed the Written Documents to him. David had a powerful and beautiful voice with which he would recite the Written Documents. God says, “O Messenger, endure the things these deniers say which do not please you, and remember My servant David, who had the power to fight his enemies and persevere in God’s obedience. He used to turn to God frequently through repentance and actions which please Him. I subjugated the mountains with David. They would praise Me and exalt Me with his lead at the end of the day and its beginning at sunrise. I subjugated the birds held in the air.

Each of them was obedient, exalting and praising me in following him. I strengthened his kingdom through the awe, strength and help against his enemies I had given him. I gave him prophethood and correctness in his affairs. I gave him clear eloquence in every objective, and decisiveness in speech and wisdom.” [38:17–20].

Thus, David was known for his worship and devotion to God. The Messenger Muhammad stated that David would fast alternate days and spend a good portion of the night awake in worship. Yet God tested David just as God tested all of His Messengers.



# David's Trial

God mentions the trial of David in the Quran, “O Messenger, has the news of the two disputants come to you, when they climbed into David’s prayer chamber? When they entered abruptly upon David, he became frightened due to their strange act of entering upon him in this most unusual way. When they saw his fear, they said: ‘Do not fear. We are two disputants, one of us having wronged the other, so judge between us justly and do not be unjust when you judge between us, and guide us to the right path which is the path of correctness.’ One of the disputants said to David: ‘This man is my brother. He has ninety- nine ewes and I have one ewe. He asked me to give him that too and he has overpowered me in proof.’ Then David judged between them and addressed the claimant, saying: ‘Your brother has wronged you when he asked you to add your ewe to his ewes. And many partners oppress one another by taking their rights and not being fair, except the believers who do good actions, for they are fair with their partners and do not wrong them. But those attributed with that are few.’

David was convinced that I only put him to test through this dispute, so he sought forgiveness from his Lord and bowed down to get close to Him, and repented to Him. So I responded to him and forgave him for that error. And he is amongst the close ones with Me, and for him is a good return in the Afterlife. ‘O David, I made you a deputy on earth to execute worldly and religious rulings and judgments, so judge between people with justice. Do not follow desires in your judgement between people, by inclining towards one of the disputants due to a relationship or a friendship, or by turning away from him due to enmity, such biases will misguide you from Allah’s straight path. Those who go astray from Allah’s straight path will have a severe punishment due to their forgetting the day of reckoning, because if they were to remember it and fear it they would not incline to their desires and biases.’” [38:21-26].



# David's Death & Legacy

It is reported that Adam was shown some of his offspring that would come after him, and when he saw David he asked God to give forty years of his lifespan to him. God granted his request.

David would often have his house secured so that none could enter except by his permission. One day, David found an unexpected man in his house. David questioned him, and he replied that he was the Angel of Death from whom no place is secure. After David, his son Solomon inherited his kingdom and was anointed Messenger. Solomon also had a vast kingdom and God favored him with many blessings.