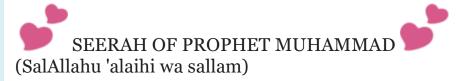
SEERAH(BIOGRAPHY) OF PROPHET MUAHAMMAD(PBUH)

LESSON:18 {IN ENGLISH}



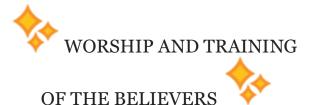








Worship and training of the believers.



Despite the long gap between the first and second revelations, subsequent revelations came in quick succession after Surah Al-Muddaththir. The next Surah to be revealed was Surah Al-Faatihah. Surah Al-Muddaththir was not a set of instructions for the Prophet (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) alone. Its message was explicit for the believers as well. In its verses they were given a set of rules to live by, rules that still bind Muslims to the laws of Allah.

The Surah teaches the believers how to praise and invoke Allah, some of whose principal attributes are also mentioned in the ayaah. We learn through it that each person will reap what good or bad he sows in this world, and that he will receive the recompense for it in the next world. It guides one to the way of true success.

Other duties and acts of worship were instituted with subsequent revelations. Once the bedrock of faith in Allah and His Messenger had been firmly established, the believers were instructed to build on their faith with acts of worship. The first duty ordained at the beginning of the Prophet's (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) mission was Salaah (prayer).

Jibra'eel taught him how to perform prayers and Wudoo (ablution), and asked him to offer two Rak'ah (units of prayer) morning and evening.

"And glorify the praises of your Lord in the 'Ashi (i.e. the time period after the mid-noon till sunset) and in the Ibkar (i.e. the time

period from early morning or sunrise till before mid-noon)." [40: 55]

Since Wudoo was made a prerequisite of prayer, perfect purity became the sign of a believer. Salaah was based on Surah Al-Faatihah, the opening Surah of the Qur'an, and praise and glorification of Allah punctuated each movement made during prayer. Salaah was now established as the mainstay of the believer's faith, an act of worship to be offered twice a day.

Trying to keep their worship pristine, far from the idolatrous practices of Makkah, the believers would perform Salaah in secluded places like mountain valleys and passes. At this stage, the Prophet's (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) revelations focused mainly on the articles of faith and the different aspects of Tawheed (Oneness of Allah).

These early revelations exhorted the Prophet's (SalAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) Companions to purify their souls, aroused in them a sense of morality, and vividly described Paradise and Hell. With their themes of the transience of life, the permanence of the hereafter, eternal joy and everlasting punishment, the verses of the Qur'an offered much in the way of inspiration and admonition.

To Be Continued...



SHURUKH HUSSAIN