

Prophets in the Qur'an: Noah, Part 4

In the last article, we discussed how, despite the divine call to board the ark, not all of Prophet Noah's (pbuh) household joined him. his wife was among the disbelievers and thus chose to remain behind. Similarly, one of Noah's sons, who had outwardly feigned belief while harboring disbelief in his heart, also refused to embark.

The test of faith was straightforward and uncomplicated, just board the Ark. Yet those who chose to disbelieve rejected the call to board the Ark. This serves as a profound lesson: While one may not always comprehend the wisdom behind certain divine commandments, true faith lies in trusting the Almighty, the All-Knowing, and following His guidance without hesitation. This is the essence of the meaning of faith. It does not mean to stop using your faculties to question and to understand, on the contrary, we are always asked to think about who is worthy of worshiping and which path to choose. Noah's people clung to their rejection and ignored the call to safety, not because of a lack of clarity, but because they had already made their choice.

This narrative powerfully illustrates that Prophets are solely tasked with conveying the divine message they receive from God, rather than ensuring its acceptance. Even Noah

(pbuh), despite living under the same roof, could not convince his own wife of his prophetic mission. She continued to align herself with her people, refusing to accept her husband as a true messenger of God. The same was true of one of his sons. Another profound lesson emerges: those who are truly blessed by God are the ones who believe and accept the message, as it is His divine guidance and mercy that open their hearts to the truth. Faith itself is a gift, granted to those whom God wills to guide, allowing them to recognize and embrace His message.

The fact that Noah's other sons, among the few who followed him, believed in his message is particularly significant, demonstrating that their faith was genuine rather than based on familial ties. Nepotism had no place in this divine mission, nor should it have. The story of Noah teaches us that those who believed "with" Noah were chosen to become the new progenitors of humanity precisely because of their sincere and unwavering faith. They needed to possess a genuine and robust belief that they could pass down to their descendants — a faith strong enough to resist Satan's persistent attempts to lead the children of Adam astray.

When we refer to those who believed "with" Noah, we mean that Noah himself was required to have



Guest Column

HATIM HEGAB

strong faith in the message he received, which he did faithfully. Those who followed him did not believe in Noah the person, rather, they believed alongside him in the divine message he was commanded to deliver.

The message was unambiguous: there is One God to worship, who created everything for mankind and created mankind for His worship. Neither Noah nor any other Prophet ever called upon their people to believe "in" them personally. Instead, they invited their people to embrace "with" them the divine message they had received. This distinction emphasizes that the Prophets were messengers and fellow believers, not the objects of worship "themselves".

We also learn from Prophet Noah's (pbuh) story the remarkable sincerity and dedication he demonstrated in his mission. He exhausted every means available to call his people to the worship of the One True God and to abandon the idols they had falsely taken as partners with Him. Noah (pbuh) tirelessly appealed to their reason, hearts, and conscience, showing unwav-

ering commitment despite their persistent rejection.

Noah reminded his people repeatedly that his call was not motivated by personal gain or material benefit. He assured them that he did not seek their wealth or profits, nor did he ask to tax their earnings or demand any compensation for his efforts. Instead, Noah emphasized that his only reward was with God, hoping this would prompt them to reflect on his mission and that he truly received a divine order to call them to the true path.

Noah's sincere and tireless efforts spanned centuries, raising the question: what could possibly compel a man to endure such hardship for so long, other than the truth of his message and his deep concern for his people? Noah's unrelenting dedication and refusal to abandon his mission was a profound example of true prophetic resolve and the ultimate sincerity in serving God's cause. The Qur'an says, "And O my people! I ask of you no wealth for it, my reward is from none but Allah. I am not going to drive away those who have believed. Surely, they are going to meet their Lord, but I see that you are a people that are ignorant." [Qur'an 11: 29] and along the same line, "But if you turn away [from accepting the message], then no reward have I asked of you, my reward is only from Allah, and I have been

commanded to be one of the Muslims (those who submit to Allah's Will)." [Qur'an 10: 72].

We also see that Noah (pbuh) delivered a severe and painful blow to Satan through his embodiment of sincerity as a value, a trait, and a moral quality. The same holds for those who follow his guidance. Remember that Iblis [Satan] threatened, 'By Your might, I will surely mislead them all' [Qur'an 38: 82-83]

So the sign came and the Ark sailed through devastating conditions, as vividly described in the Noble Qur'an: "42. And so it sailed with them amidst waves like mountains. And Noah called out to his son, who stood apart, 'O my son! Embark with us, and be not with the unbelievers.' 43. The son replied: 'I will betake myself to a mountain, it will save me from the water.' Nuh (Noah) said: 'This day there is no savior from the Decree of Allah except him on whom He has mercy.' And waves came in between them, so he (the son) was among the drowned." [Qur'an 11: 42-43].

While the Qur'an does not specify the exact duration of the Ark's journey, the context and narrative suggest that it sailed for several days. Once all those who had rejected faith were drowned, God commanded: "O earth! Swallow up your water, and O sky! Withhold (your

rain)." And the water subsided, fulfilling Allah's decree (the destruction of Noah's disbelieving people). The ship came to rest on Mount Judi, and it was proclaimed: "Away with the people who are unjust (to themselves and others for being polytheists and wrong-doing)" [Qur'an 11: 44].

Noah, moved by paternal love, appealed to his Lord saying, "O my Lord! Verily, my son is of my family! And certainly, Your Promise is true, and You are the Most Just of the judges." [Qur'an 11: 45]. God's response was definitive: "O Nuh (Noah)! Surely, he is not of your family; verily, his work is unrighteous, so ask not of Me that of which you have no knowledge! I admonish you, lest you be one of the ignorants." [Qur'an 11: 45]. Noah (pbuh) immediately recognized his error and repented, saying: "O my Lord! I seek refuge with You from asking You that of which I have no knowledge. And unless You forgive me and have Mercy on me, I will indeed be one of the losers." [Qur'an 11: 46]

This response mirrors the repentance of Adam and Eve when they realized their disobedience to the Lord — in stark contrast to Satan's reaction.

Author: hatim.hegab@gmail.com

More Information: icstillwater.org/school

Episcopal bishop says she'll continue to pray for Trump, who lashed out at her over sermon

WASHINGTON — The Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, bishop of the Diocese of Washington, said Wednesday that she will continue to pray for President Donald Trump, hours after he lashed out at her over a sermon.

"I don't consider him an enemy," Budde told The Associated Press.

"I believe we can disagree respectfully and put our ideas out there and

continue to stand for the convictions we've been given without resorting to violence of speech."

Budde made a direct appeal to Trump during a post-Inauguration prayer service he attended on Tuesday, asking him to show mercy to members of the LGBTQ+ community and migrants who are in the country illegally.

Trump called Budde a "Radical Left hard line

Trump hater" on his Truth Social site on Wednesday.

"Apart from her inappropriate statements, the service was a very boring and uninspiring one. She is not very good at her job!" he posted after midnight. "She and her church owe the public an apology!"

Referencing Trump's belief that he was saved by God from assassination, Budde preached, "You

have felt the providential hand of a loving God. In the name of our God, I ask you to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now."

As the president looked on, Budde said, "There are gay, lesbian and transgender children in Democratic, Republican and independent families, some who fear for their lives."

She preached that the "vast majority of immi-

grants are not criminals," but "good neighbors" and "faithful members" of religious communities.

The Trump administration has already issued executive orders rolling back transgender rights and toughening immigration policies.

Trump and Vice President JD Vance looked visibly disgruntled at times as they sat in the front pew with their wives. Vance

raised his eyebrows and said something to second lady Usha Vance, who stared straight ahead.

At the White House on Tuesday, Trump said, "I didn't think it was a good service." Later, on Truth Social, he criticized Budde for failing to mention crimes committed by immigrants in the U.S. illegally.