



بلاد الشام

الارض المباركة

BILAD-USH-SHAAM

THE BLESSED LAND



A BRIEF EXPOSITION BY THE HONOURABLE MUFTI ABDOOL KADER SAHEB حفظه الله

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم. أما بعد

All praise is due to Almighty ALLAH, the Sustainer, Nourisher and Cherisher of the Universe. Peace, Blessings and Salutations be upon our Beloved Master and Leader, Nabi Muhammad Mustapha ﷺ.

When we speak of Shaam, or The Levant, we are referring to Syria, Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon, some parts of Egypt, Turkey and Iraq.

These are the incidents, mentioned in the Noble Qur'an, related to Bilad-ush-Shaam:

1. Almighty ALLAH جل وعلی tells us, regarding the Bani Israeel, of Nabi Moosa سلم عليه's time:

قَالَ عَسَى رَبُّكُمْ أَنْ يُهْلِكَ عَدُوَّكُمْ وَيَسْتَخْلِفَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنْظُرَ كَيْفَ تَعْمَلُونَ

Asaa Rabbukum ayuhlika adoowakum wa yastakhlifakum fil ard fa yanthura kayfa ta'maloon

The time for destroying your enemy is near and ALLAH will make you the successors, inheritors, on this Earth. Thereafter, Almighty ALLAH will see how you behave. [Ch. 7: Surah A'raaf, ayaat 129 ff.]

2. Almighty ALLAH جل وعلی drowned the Pharoah and his army and saved Nabi Moosa سلم عليه and his people. Then, Almighty ALLAH made them the rulers of Bilad-ush-Shaam.

وَأَوْرَثْنَا الْقَوْمَ الَّذِينَ كَانُوا يُسْتَضْعَفُونَ مَشْرِقَ الْأَرْضِ وَمَغْرِبَهَا الَّتِي بَارَكْنَا فِيهَا

Wa owrathnal qowmalatheena kanu yustadh'afuna fil ard yustadh'afuna masharikal ardi maghariballati barakna fiha

Almighty ALLAH made the people, who were considered to be weak and meek on this Earth, the rulers in the eastern and western sides where HE placed barakah, as mentioned in Surah A'raaf, ayaat 134 -137. This refers to the *barakah* and blessings of Shaam.

3. *Isra* and *Mi'raaj*, as mentioned in Surah 17, ayat 1, refer to Nabi ﷺ's nocturnal journey: from Makkah Mukarramah to the blessed land, to Masjidul Aqsa in Palestine. This was the *Isra*, and from there to the seven heavens was the *Mi'raaj*.

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِنْ
ءَايَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ

4. Nabi Ebrahim and Nabi Lut عليهم الصلاة والسلام.

ALLAHU TA'ALA says that the enemies wanted to kill Nabi Ebrahim سلم عليه : *wa aradhu bihi kayda* – They intended to do evil. They schemed and plotted against Nabi Ebrahim سلم عليه, but ALLAHU TA'ALA saved him. Similarly, Nabi Lut سلم عليه and his followers were saved from the sinners amongst his people. Both Prophets were brought to the land of Palestine, of Shaam, which is blessed for all people throughout the world. [Ch. 21: Surah Ambiyya, ayaat 70-71]

وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ وَلُوطًا إِلَى الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي بَارَكْنَا فِيهَا لِلْعَالَمِينَ

Wa najjaynahu wa Luta ilal ardillati barakna fiha lil'alameen

And WE saved Nabi Ebrahim and Nabi Lut عليهم الصلاة والسلام and brought them to the most blessed land in the world.

5. Nabi Sulaymaan عليه سلم's kingdom was situated there.

وَلَسْتَيْمَنَ الرِّيحَ عَاصِفَةً تَجْرِي بِأَمْرِهِ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي بَارَكْنَا فِيهَا

Wa li Sulaymaana reeha asifa, tajri bi amrihi ilal ardillati barakna fiha

ALLAHU TA'ALA gave Nabi Sulaymaan عليه سلم a vast kingdom, and a strong wind, which would take him from one place to another, to the land where there was *barakah*, blessings. [Ch. 21: Surah Ambiya, ayat 81]

6. Mention is also made of the people of Sabah, whose ruler was Queen Bilqees.

وَجَعَلْنَا بَيْنَهُمْ وَبَيْنَ الْقُرَى الَّتِي بَارَكْنَا فِيهَا قُرَى ظَهْرَةً

Waja'alan baynal qurralati barakna fiha qurran thahira

WE placed, between them and the towns, *barakah*. [Ch. 34: Surah Saba, ayat 18]

This indicates that the land between Yemen and Shaam is blessed, as well. It is also a further indication that ALLAH جل وعلی has made *Ard-ush-Shaam*, the land of Shaam itself, a place of great esteem.

7. Masjidul Aqsa in Palestine. This masjid was built 40 years after the construction of the Baitullah, the Ka'bah Musharrafah, as mentioned in Bukhari Shareef. Therefore, from time immemorial the area of Shaam had great significance. ALLAHU TA'ALA refers to this land with honour in the Noble Qur'an.

وَالَّتَيْنِ وَالزَّيْتُونَ - وَطُورِ سَيْنِينَ - وَهَذَا الْبَلَدِ الْأَمِينِ

Wa teen wa zaytoon, wa turisineen, wa hathal baladil-ameen. [Ch. 95: Surah Teen, ayat 1]

8. It was not only important in the past but it will be very important in the future, as well. In an hadith narrated by Hazrat Mu'awiyah رضى الله عنه, Nabi ﷺ said: (Sahih Muslim)

حَدَّثَنَا مَنْصُورُ بْنُ أَبِي مُرَاجِمٍ، حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ حَمَزَةَ، عَنْ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنِ يَزِيدٍ،
بْنِ جَابِرٍ أَنَّ عُمَيْرَ بْنَ هَانِيٍّ، حَدَّثَهُ قَالَ سَمِعْتُ مُعَاوِيَةَ، عَلَى الْمِنْبَرِ يَقُولُ سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ
اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ
لَا تَزَالُ طَائِفَةٌ مِنْ أُمَّتِي قَائِمَةٌ بِأَمْرِ اللَّهِ لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ مَنْ
خَذَلَهُمْ أَوْ خَالَفَهُمْ حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ وَهُمْ ظَاهِرُونَ عَلَى النَّاسِ .

Tirmithi also mentions: لَا تَزَالُ طَائِفَةٌ مِنْ أُمَّتِي مَنْصُورِينَ لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ مَنْ خَذَلَهُمْ حَتَّى تَقُومَ السَّاعَةُ

La tazaalu ta-ifatu min Ummati thahireenal Haqq mansureena la yadurruhum man khaalafahum wa la man khathalahum khatta taqumus-sa'at

Umair bin Umm Hani said: I heard Mu'awiya say (while delivering a sermon from the pulpit) that he heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say: There will always be a group of people from my Ummah who will prevail on the Truth, and those who desert or oppose them shall not be able to do them any harm until the Day of Qiyaamah.

This Hadith is authentic and mentioned in Jami-us-Sagheer. Nabi ﷺ said that they will be in Shaam. In some narrations, *wa hum bi Dimashq* is mentioned i.e. Damascus. Some of these Ahadith are mentioned in the **Tareekh** of Bukhari, others in Sahih Muslim.

These are the great virtues mentioned by ALLAHU TA'ALA and Nabi ﷺ regarding Shaam.

AHADITH REGARDING THE PEOPLE OF SHAAM:

حَدَّثَنَا عُبَيْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ عُمَرَ، حَدَّثَنَا مُعَاذُ بْنُ هِشَامٍ، حَدَّثَنِي أَبِي، عَنْ قَتَادَةَ، عَنْ شَهْرِ بْنِ حَوْشَبٍ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ : سَتَكُونُ هِجْرَةٌ بَعْدَ هِجْرَةِ فَخَيَارِ أَهْلِ الْأَرْضِ الْأَزْمَهُمْ مُهَاجِرَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَيَبْقَى فِي الْأَرْضِ شِرَارُ أَهْلِهَا تَلْفُظُهُمْ أَرْضُهُمْ تَفْدُرُهُمْ نَفْسُ اللَّهِ وَتَحْشُرُهُمُ النَّارُ مَعَ الْقِرْدَةِ وَالْخَنَازِيرِ

1. Abd Allah bin 'Amr said: I heard the Apostle of Allah (ﷺ) say:

There will be *hijrah* after *hijrah* and the best people will be those who go to *Muhaajar* Ebrahim i.e. the place to which Nabi Ebrahim made *hijrah* – the area of Palestine. Then the worst people will stay there and a fire will come '*ma al qiradati wal khanazeer'* – with monkeys and swine. This means that ALLAHU TA'ALA will let those people have the qualities of such animals. (Abu Dawood)

May ALLAHU TA'ALA save and protect us, Aameen, because times will get more and more difficult as we are seeing today. We also see that there are so many *munafiqeen*, hypocrites. However, ALLAHU TA'ALA will protect us if we have true Imaan, Faith.

2. Narrated Ibn Hawalah: (Abu Dawood)

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: It will turn out that you will be armed troops, one in Syria, one in Yemen and one in Iraq. Ibn Hawalah said: Choose for me, Messenger of Allah, if I reach that time. He replied: Go to Syria, for it is Allah's chosen land, to which his best servants will be gathered, but if you are unwilling, go to your Yemen, and draw water from your tanks, for Allah has on my account taken special charge of Syria and its people.

حَدَّثَنَا حَيْوَةُ بْنُ شُرَيْحٍ الْحَضْرَمِيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا بَيْهَقِيُّ، حَدَّثَنِي بَجِيرٌ، عَنْ خَالِدٍ، - يَعْني ابْنَ مَعْدَانَ - عَنْ أَبِي قُنَيْبَةَ، عَنْ ابْنِ حَوَالَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " سَيَصِيرُ الْأَمْرُ إِلَيَّ أَنْ تَكُونُوا جُنُودًا مُجَنَّدَةً جُنْدُ بِالشَّامِ وَجُنْدُ بِالْيَمَنِ وَجُنْدُ بِالْعِرَاقِ ". قَالَ ابْنُ حَوَالَةَ خِرُّ لِي يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ إِنْ أَدْرَكْتُ ذَلِكَ . فَقَالَ " عَلَيْكَ بِالشَّامِ فَإِنَّهَا خَيْرَةٌ لِلَّهِ مِنْ أَرْضِهِ يَجْتَنِي إِلَيْهَا خَيْرَتَهُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ فَأَمَّا إِنْ أَبَيْتُمْ فَعَلَيْكُمْ بِيَمِينِكُمْ وَاسْتَفُوا مِنْ غُدْرِكُمْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَكَّلَ لِي بِالشَّامِ وَأَهْلِهِ ".

These, and other Ahadith, give us hope that, despite the current turmoil in Syria, the Ummah will prevail and the Truth will be established in these lands again. May ALLAHU TA'ALA protect us and our lands, Aameen.

REFERENCES

COVER PAGE IMAGES:

Top: Masjidul Aqsa, Al Quds (Jerusalem), Palestine

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jerusalem_Al_Aqsa_Moschee_um_1900.jpg

Right: Masjid and tomb of Nabi Shuaib AS. Al Salt, Jordan

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Shoaib_Shrine.jpg

Bottom: Umayyad Masjid, Damascus, Syria

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umayyad_Mosque

Left: Al-Omari Masjid, Beirut, Lebanon

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:3omarimosque.jpg>

QUR'AN AND AHADITH:

<http://www.qtafsir.com/index.php?option=com>

<https://jamiat.org.za/the-excellence-of-shaam-syria/>

<https://muflihun.com/muslim/20/4719>

28 THUL QA'DA ~ 11 AUGUST 2018