

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The National Amīr/ President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadīyya,

Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by *Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 22nd September 2023 at *Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, Tilford, UK.*

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Previously, I spoke about the Battle of *Badr* in the context of the life of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him). Today, I will relate further incidents in this regard. As mentioned in past sermons, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) remained at *Badr* for three days. He dispatched Ḥaḍrat ‘*Abdullah Bin Rawāḥa* and Ḥaḍrat *Zaid Bin Ḥāritha* (May Allāh be pleased with them) to Madinah with the glad tidings of the victory, before embarking on his journey back to Madinah.

Seventy prisoners of *Quraish* were also among this victorious caravan. It is related that two of these prisoners, *Naḍr bin Ḥārith* and ‘*Uqbah bin Abi Muait*, were put to death on the way because of their crimes. But not all historians agree on this. ‘*Allāma Ibn Ishāq* writes that when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) reached *Ṣafrā’*, *Naḍr bin Ḥārith* was killed by Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him). His sister recited some couplets lamenting her brother's death. When the Messenger of Allāh heard them, he wept and said that if these verses had reached him before *Naḍr* was killed, he would have pardoned him. Some biographers deny this, while others deny the whole event. Allāh knows best.

Ḥaḍrat *Mirzā Bashir Ahmad* (May Allāh be pleased with him) writes that some historians have mentioned the name of ‘*Uqbah bin Abi Muait* among the leaders who were taken prisoner, and have said that he was killed while in captivity, but this is not true. It is very clear from *Ḥadīth* and historical records that ‘*Uqbah bin Abi Muait* had been killed on the battlefield at *Badr* and was among the leaders of *Quraish* whose bodies were buried.

The execution of *Naḍr bin Ḥārith* is established from most accounts. The reason for his execution was his direct involvement in the killing of innocent Muslims in Makkah. It is certain that if anyone was killed, it was *Naḍr bin Ḥārith* who was executed as a retribution for his crimes.

During the Battle of *Badr*, seventy polytheists, including many of their leaders, were killed, and seventy were taken prisoner. It is recorded in *Ṣaḥīḥ Bukhārī* that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and his companions inflicted a loss of one hundred and forty men on the day of *Badr*. These included seventy prisoners and seventy who were killed.

The Companions treated these prisoners with great kindness. Some of them were fortunate enough to embrace Islām after being inspired by the teachings of Islām and the exemplary character of the Companions. Among those who embraced Islām by paying their ransom were ‘*Abbās bin ‘Abdul Muṭṭalib*, ‘*Aqīl bin Abi Ṭālib*, *Nawfal bin Ḥārith*, *Abul ‘Aṣ bin Rabī’*, *Abu ‘Azīz*, *Khālīd bin Hishām*, *Abu Wadā‘a bin Sahnī*, ‘*Abdullah bin Abi Khalaf Jumahī*, *Wahab bin Umair Jumahī*, and *Suhail bin ‘Amr ‘Āmrī*.

A significant connection exists between the Battle of *Badr* and the triumph of the Roman Empire. During the fifth year of Prophethood, *Surah Rūm* was revealed, foretelling the victory of the Roman Empire. When Allāh revealed the initial verses of this *Surah*, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr Siddique* (May Allāh be pleased with him) went around Makkah reciting them:

اَلَمْ غُلِبْتِ الرَّوْمُ ﴿۱﴾ فَاِنَّ اَدْنٰى الْاَرْضِ وَهُمْ مِّنْۢ بَعْدِ عَلَیْهِمْ سَيَعْلَبُوْنَ ﴿۲﴾ فِیۡۤ اَبْصَحِۡ سِنِیۡنَ ﴿۳﴾ لِلّٰهِ الْاَمْرُ مِنْۢ قَبْلُ وَمِنْۢ بَعْدُ ۗ وَیَوْمَیۡذِ یَفْرَحُ الْمُؤْمِنُوْنَ ﴿۴﴾

Alif Lam Mim. The Romans have been defeated. In the land nearby, and they, after their defeat, will be victorious. In a few years — Allah’s is the command before and after that — and on that day the believers will rejoice,. (30:2-5)

According to *Ṣaḥīḥ Bukhāri*, when a conflict erupted between the Persians and the Romans, Muslims aligned themselves with the Romans because of their status as People of the Book, while the disbelievers supported the Persians due to their adherence to the Magian faith.

During his life, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) prophesied many future events, among which was a clear and explicit prophecy of the victory of the Romans. At that time, Arabia was wedged between the Persian and Roman Empires, and both were engaged in prolonged warfare. In the fifth year of the Prophet's mission, in 614 AD, a fierce battle broke out between them. Surprisingly, the Romans suffered a devastating defeat. This unexpected outcome led the disbelievers to taunt the Muslims, saying that if they had fought against them, they too would have been victorious.

At this time, the Roman Empire was in dire straits. Its treasury was empty, its army was dispersed, rebellion was widespread, and the ruler, Heraclius, was a profligate king of no merit. The Romans were forced to agree to humiliating conditions set by the Persians, which included the surrender of vast amounts of gold, silver, and silk, as well as one thousand virgin girls. However, Khosrow, the proud emperor of Persia, was not satisfied with this and said that he would only agree to peace if Heraclius was brought to him bound in chains and bowed his head to the sun god.

Edward Gibbon, the renowned author of *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, notes in his depiction of the situation during the era of Heraclius that the Roman emperor had become a feeble observer in his final days. In the year 621 AD, Heraclius ascended to the position of Caesar, and the prophecy of the unlettered Arab prophet was fulfilled word for word. At the same time that the Muslims defeated the infidels in the Battle of *Badr*, the Romans defeated the Persians.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I receive letters from young people and adolescents asking how they can ascertain the authenticity of Islām as the true religion and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) as the true Prophet. The environment they are in has begun to influence their beliefs, leading to doubts about the veracity of Islām. It would be beneficial for them to explore the opinions and testimonies of non-Muslims regarding the Holy Qur'ān and its prophetic revelations.

Parents should take the initiative to read and understand these prophecies themselves and then discuss them with their children, highlighting how these prophecies serve as evidence of the truth of Islām. It is essential for both parents and young individuals to enhance their knowledge. If you have questions, seek knowledge proactively. Our auxiliary organisations should also play a role in disseminating this knowledge.

Historical records indicate that the advent of the Holy Prophet (May Allah's blessings be upon him) commenced in 609 AD. In 610 AD, Rome and Persia began hostilities. A declaration of war was issued in 613 AD. In 614 AD, the decline of the Romans started which was followed by their complete defeat in 616 AD. The Romans launched another invasion in 622 AD. Their triumph began around 623 AD. In 625 AD, they had completed their conquest. The beauty of this prophecy is that it takes exactly nine years from the beginning of defeat to the end of victory. Whether you count the time from the start of defeat to the start of victory, it totals nine years. After this triumph, Heraclius, once again, became indulgent. It appears that fate had woken his mind for a few years, but once the prophecy was realised, he returned to his life of indolence.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that when the disbelievers challenged Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) to a bet, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) instructed him to amend its terms. The Persians at that time were polytheists, while the Caesar of Rome held monotheistic beliefs and did not accept Jesus as the son of God. It was in this context that this verse was revealed. When the Romans suffered defeat, Allāh foretold their ultimate victory, indicating that when the Muslims achieved success, so would the Romans. Consider the sheer grandeur of this prophecy!

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that he would continue this series of sermons.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor spoke about the recent demise of *Firās 'Ali 'Abdul Wāhid Ṣāhib* of the UK who recently passed away. He was originally from Iraq. He was very educated and had an aptitude for learning languages. He moved to the UK in 2009. It was here that he came across MTA and started receiving the answers to his questions. He saw the Fourth Caliph (May Allāh shower His mercy upon him) in a dream, and then he eventually accepted Islām Aḥmadiyyat in 2012. He is survived by his wife and a daughter.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) announced to lead his funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer.

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 26 September 2023