Stories from the Qur'an

Series 20

At the Gate of the Holy Land

The Story of Prophet Moses (Part 7) and the Forty Years in the Wilderness According to the Qur'an and Authentic Hadith



Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron
AK (Kelantan)
quranscience.my

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron AK (Kelantan) • quranscience.my • @QuranDanSains
This eBook is FREE for Muslims — not for sale.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

STORIES FROM THE QUR'AN

SERIES 20

AT THE GATE OF THE HOLY LAND

The Story of Prophet Moses (Part 7) and the Forty Years in the Wilderness According to the Qur'an and Authentic Hadith

قَالَ رَجُلَانِ مِنَ ٱلَّذِينَ يَخَافُونَ أَنۡعَمَ ٱللَّهُ عَلَيۡهِمَا ٱدۡخُلُواْ عَلَيۡهِمُ ٱلۡبَابَ فَإِذَا دَخَلۡتُمُوهُ فَإِنَّكُمۡ غَٰلِبُونَ وَعَلَى ٱللَّهِ فَتَوَكَّلُوٓاْ إِن كُنتُم مُّؤۡمِنِينَ

"Said two men from those who feared [to disobey] upon whom Allah had bestowed favor, "Enter upon them through the gate, for when you have entered it, you will be predominant. And upon Allah rely, if you should be believers."."

SURAH AL-MA'IDAH 5:23

HJ CHE ALIM HJ CHE HARON

quranscience.my | @QuranDanSains

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH quranscience.my — free eBook. Not for sale.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise is due to Allah, who promises victory to those who rely upon Him, and who does not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves. Blessings and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, whose face shone at the loyalty of his Companions, and upon his family and his Companions.

This eBook is specially dedicated to my beloved wife,

ZAHARAH MOHD LATIF;

my dear children,

MUHAMMAD HAFIZ, NOOR HAZWANI, ABDUL HAKIM, NOOR HIDAYAH, NOR AQILA and **NOR ATIQAH**;

and my sons- and daughters-in-law,

FAZILAH, MALEK, HANIN, FAIRIZAL and **FIRWAN**.

May Allah make us courageous for His sake, reliant upon Him and loyal to the truth; and may we never be those who say “we are remaining right here” when called to good. May this knowledge be ‘ilmun yuntafa‘u bih, knowledge that brings benefit.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

ABOUT THE COVER OF THIS EBOOK

The cover of this eBook does not depict any human being. It shows the **scenery** of a vast, barren desert at dawn, with **a winding trail of footprints** crossing it. At the end of the trail, beyond **an ancient open stone gateway**, **green hills** glow in the sunlight.

The gateway is taken from the advice of the two believing men: ***"Enter upon them through the gate, for when you have entered it, you will be predominant"*** (5:23). The winding desert recalls the punishment: ***"it is forbidden to them for forty years [in which] they will wander throughout the land"*** (5:26).

The cover depicts two choices: the open gate for those who rely on Allah, and the desert for those who refuse. The **dark blue band** at the bottom, framed by **fine gold lines**, is where the author's name appears.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

CONTENTS

AT THE GATE OF THE HOLY LAND — *Introduction*

1. THREE FAVOURS REMEMBERED — *Al-Ma'idah 5:20*

2. "ENTER THE HOLY LAND" — *Al-Ma'idah 5:21*

3. "A PEOPLE OF TYRANNICAL STRENGTH" — *Al-Ma'idah 5:22; Sahih Muslim 2664*

4. TWO MEN WHO FEARED ALLAH — *Al-Ma'idah 5:23*

5. "GO, YOU AND YOUR LORD" — *Al-Ma'idah 5:24; Sahih al-Bukhari 3952*

6. THE PRAYER OF A LEADER — *Al-Ma'idah 5:25*

7. FORTY YEARS — *Al-Ma'idah 5:26*

8. THE DEATH OF PROPHET MOSES — *Sahih al-Bukhari 1339*

9. A NEW GENERATION — *Sahih al-Bukhari 3124, Ar-Ra'd 13:11*

10. WHAT THE QUR'AN DOES NOT TELL — *Israiliyyat and Archaeological Note*

11. COURAGE BORN OF RELIANCE ON ALLAH — *Synthesis and Conclusion*

REFERENCES

SUPPORT & DONATIONS

Colour guide: green box = verses of the Qur'an; gold box = Hadith; brown box = archaeological note; blue table = comparison. Underlined blue narrator names can be clicked to open the narrator's page on sunnah.com.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

AT THE GATE OF THE HOLY LAND

In Part 6 (Series 19), we saw Qarun tested with wealth. This Part 7 closes the story of Prophet Moses عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ with the Children of Israel with a different test: the test of ***courage and reliance on Allah***.

The Children of Israel had witnessed the sea split, Pharaoh drowned, clouds shading them, food descending from the sky and water gushing from a rock. Now they stood at the gate of the Holy Land they had been promised. Only one step remained — but they refused to take it.

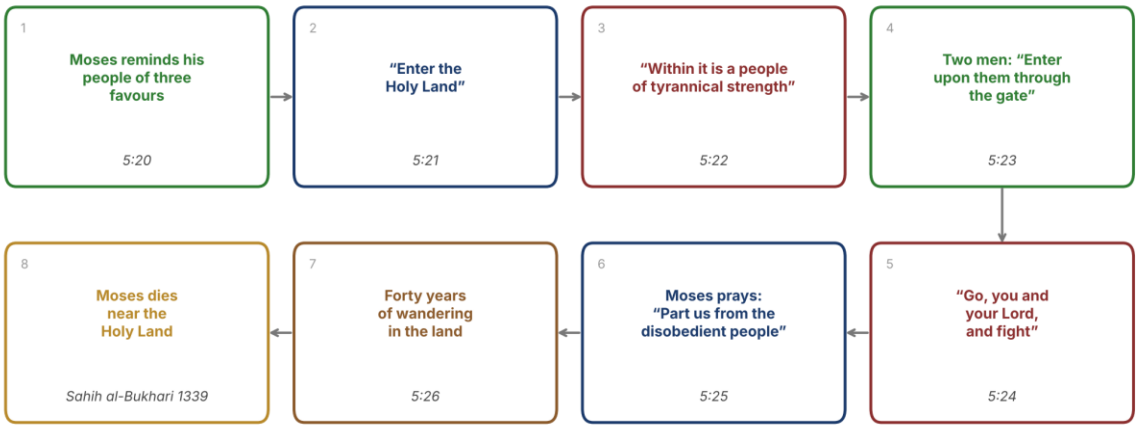


Figure 1: The flow of the story of the Children of Israel at the gate of the Holy Land — from the reminder of favours to the death of Prophet Moses.

Figure 1 shows eight main events. The story is contained in Surah Al-Ma'idah (5:20–26), and its ending was told by the Messenger of Allah ﷺ in the Hadith of Sahih al-Bukhari 1339.

Note: The translation of the Qur'anic verses in this eBook is Sahih International. The translations of the Hadith are our own, from the Arabic text. The grade of each Hadith is stated in its Hadith box, with a link to sunnah.com.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

THREE FAVOURS REMEMBERED

SURAH AL-MA'IDAH 5:20

وَإِذْ قَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِقَوْمِهِۦ يَٰقَوْمِ ٱذْكُرُوا۟ نِعْمَةَ ٱللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ جَعَلَ فِيكُمْ
أَنۢبِيَآءَ وَجَعَلَكُم مُّلُوكًا وَءَاتَىٰكُم مَّا لَمْ يُؤْتِ أَحَدًا مِّنَ ٱلْعَٰلَمِينَ ﴿٢٠﴾

And [mention, O Muhammad], when Moses said to his people, "O my people, remember the favor of Allah upon you when He appointed among you prophets and made you possessors and gave you that which He had not given anyone among the worlds.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/5:20

COMMENTARY ON 5:20 — REMINDING BEFORE COMMANDING

Before giving a heavy command, Prophet Moses عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ first reminded his people of the favours of Allah: ***"O my people, remember the favor of Allah upon you"***. This is the method of a wise caller: a heart that remembers blessings finds it easier to obey.

First: Prophets. ***"when He appointed among you prophets"*** — Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and Aaron عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ.

Second: Freedom. ***"and made you possessors"*** — from slaves of Pharaoh to a free people who owned their own affairs.

Third: A special gift. ***"and gave you that which He had not given anyone among the worlds"*** — the sea that was split, the clouds that shaded them, the manna and quails (Series 16 and 17). Tafsir Ibn Kathir 5:20

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

"ENTER THE HOLY LAND"

SURAH AL-MA'IDAH 5:21

يَٰقَوۡمِ ٱدۡخُلُواْ ٱلۡأَرۡضَ ٱلۡمُقَدَّسَةَ ٱلَّتِي كَتَبَ ٱللَّهُ لَكُمۡ وَلَا تَرۡتَدُّواْ عَلَىٰٓ أَدۡبَارِكُمۡ فَتَنقَلِبُواْ خَٰسِرِينَ ٢١

O my people, enter the Holy Land which Allah has assigned to you and do not turn back [from fighting in Allah's cause] and [thus] become losers."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/5:21

COMMENTARY ON 5:21 — A COMMAND ACCOMPANIED BY A PROMISE

First: A clear command. ***"O my people, enter the Holy Land which Allah has assigned to you"***. The words ***kataba Allāhu lakum*** — "which Allah has assigned to you" — are a promise. Victory was already guaranteed; all that was asked was their step.

Second: A warning. ***"and do not turn back [from fighting in Allah's cause] and [thus] become losers"***. Turning back from Allah's command is a loss, even if it looks like safety.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

"A PEOPLE OF TYRANNICAL STRENGTH"

SURAH AL-MA'IDAH 5:22

قَالُواْ يَٰمُوسَىٰٓ إِنَّ فِيهَا قَوۡمٗا جَبَّارِينَ وَإِنَّا لَن نَّدۡخُلَهَا حَتَّىٰ يَخۡرُجُواْ مِنۡهَا فَإِن يَخۡرُجُواْ مِنۡهَا فَإِنَّا دَٰخِلُونَ ٢٢

They said, "O Moses, indeed within it is a people of tyrannical strength, and indeed, we will never enter it until they leave it; but if they leave it, then we will enter."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/5:22

COMMENTARY ON 5:22 — PARALYSING FEAR

First: Seeing the enemy, forgetting Allah. ***"O Moses, indeed within it is a people of tyrannical strength"***. They saw the strength of the enemy, but forgot the Lord who split the sea for them.

Second: An impossible condition. ***"we will never enter it until they leave it"***. They wanted victory without struggle — as if the enemy would leave on its own to make room for them.

Third: The disease of a slave's soul. The exegetes mention that the generation that had long lived in slavery under Pharaoh carried weak and fearful souls. They had been freed physically, but not yet within. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 5:22

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2664

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو بَكْرِ بْنُ أَبِي شَيْبَةَ، وَابْنُ، نُمَيْرٍ قَالاَ حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ إِدْرِيسَ، عَنْ رَبِيعَةَ بْنِ عُثْمَانَ، عَنْ مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ يَحْيَى بْنِ حَبَّانَ، عَنِ الأَعْرَجِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم « الْمُؤْمِنُ الْقَوِيُّ خَيْرٌ وَأَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِ الضَّعِيفِ وَفِي كُلٍّ خَيْرٌ احْرِصْ عَلَى مَا يَنْفَعُكَ وَاسْتَعِنْ بِاللَّهِ وَلاَ تَعْجِزْ وَإِنْ أَصَابَكَ شَىْءٌ فَلاَ تَقُلْ لَوْ أَنِّي فَعَلْتُ كَانَ كَذَا وَكَذَا. وَلَكِنْ قُلْ قَدَرُ اللَّهِ وَمَا شَاءَ فَعَلَ فَإِنَّ لَوْ تَفْتَحُ عَمَلَ الشَّيْطَانِ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"The strong believer is better and more beloved to Allah than the weak believer, and in both there is good. Strive for what benefits you, seek the help of Allah, and do not be weak. If something befalls you, do not say: If only I had done such-and-such, it would have been such-and-such. Rather say: Allah has decreed, and what He wills He does. For "if only" opens the door to the work of Satan."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Abu Bakr ibn Abi Shaybah and Muhammad ibn ʻAbdillah ibn Numayr, from ʻAbdullah ibn Idris, from Rabiʻah ibn ʻUthman, from Muhammad ibn Yahya ibn Habban, from ʻAbd al-Rahman al-Aʻraj, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Divine Decree (Kitab al-Qadar), chapter on the command to be strong and to abandon weakness, Hadith No. 2664.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim, the second most authentic book of Hadith after Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2664

This Hadith teaches that ***the strong believer is more beloved to Allah***. That strength is not only strength of body, but strength of soul: striving, seeking Allah's help, and ***not being weak***.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

TWO MEN WHO FEARED ALLAH

SURAH AL-MA'IDAH 5:23

قَالَ رَجُلَانِ مِنَ ٱلَّذِينَ يَخَافُونَ أَنۡعَمَ ٱللَّهُ عَلَيۡهِمَا ٱدۡخُلُواْ عَلَيۡهِمُ ٱلۡبَابَ فَإِذَا دَخَلۡتُمُوهُ فَإِنَّكُمۡ غَٰلِبُونَۚ وَعَلَى ٱللَّهِ فَتَوَكَّلُوٓاْ إِن كُنتُم مُّؤۡمِنِينَ ٢٣

Said two men from those who feared [to disobey] upon whom Allah had bestowed favor, "Enter upon them through the gate, for when you have entered it, you will be predominant. And upon Allah rely, if you should be believers."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/5:23

COMMENTARY ON 5:23 — A VOICE OF COURAGE AMID FEAR

First: Fear of Allah removes fear of people. ***"Said two men from those who feared [to disobey] upon whom Allah had bestowed favor"***. They feared Allah, so they did not fear the people of tyrannical strength.

Second: A clear plan. ***"Enter upon them through the gate, for when you have entered it, you will be predominant"***. They did not tell their people to fight without a plan; they pointed to ***the gate***.

Third: Reliance after effort. ***"And upon Allah rely, if you should be believers"***. Reliance (tawakkul) is not sitting and waiting, but entrusting the outcome to Allah after taking the step.

The Qur'an does not name these two men. Many exegetes mention that they were ***Yusha' ibn Nun*** (Joshua) and ***Kalib ibn Yufanna*** (Caleb). Allah knows best. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 5:23

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

"GO, YOU AND YOUR LORD"

SURAH AL-MA'IDAH 5:24

قَالُوا۟ يَٰمُوسَىٰٓ إِنَّا لَن نَّدْخُلَهَآ أَبَدًا مَّا دَامُوا۟ فِيهَا فَٱذْهَبْ أَنتَ وَرَبُّكَ فَقَٰتِلَآ إِنَّا هَٰهُنَا قَٰعِدُونَ ﴿٢٤﴾

They said, "O Moses, indeed we will not enter it, ever, as long as they are within it; so go, you and your Lord, and fight. Indeed, we are remaining right here."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/5:24

COMMENTARY ON 5:24 — THE WORST OF ANSWERS

First: An absolute refusal. ***"O Moses, indeed we will not enter it, ever, as long as they are within it"***. The word ***abadan*** — "ever" — closed every door.

Second: Insolence towards Allah and His messenger. ***"so go, you and your Lord, and fight"***. Notice: "***your*** Lord", not "our Lord". They distanced themselves from Allah with their own tongues.

Third: Sitting and waiting. ***"Indeed, we are remaining right here"***. They wanted to enjoy the fruits without bearing the sacrifice.

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 3952

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو نُعَيْمٍ، حَدَّثَنَا إِسْرَائِيلُ، عَنْ مُخَارِقٍ، عَنْ طَارِقِ بْنِ شِهَابٍ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ ابْنَ مَسْعُودٍ، يَقُولُ شَهِدْتُ مِنَ الْمِقْدَادِ بْنِ الأَسْوَدِ مَشْهَدًا، لأَنْ أَكُونَ صَاحِبَهُ أَحَبُّ إِلَىَّ مِمَّا عُدِلَ بِهِ، أَتَى النَّبِيَّ صلى الله عليه وسلم وَهْوَ يَدْعُو عَلَى الْمُشْرِكِينَ فَقَالَ لاَ نَقُولُ كَمَا قَالَ قَوْمُ مُوسَى {اذْهَبْ أَنْتَ وَرَبُّكَ فَقَاتِلاَ} وَلَكِنَّا نُقَاتِلُ عَنْ يَمِينِكَ وَعَنْ شِمَالِكَ وَبَيْنَ يَدَيْكَ وَخَلْفَكَ. فَرَأَيْتُ النَّبِيَّ صلى الله عليه وسلم أَشْرَقَ وَجْهُهُ وَسُرَّهُ. يَعْنِي قَوْلَهُ.

TRANSLATION:

Ibn Mas'ud رضى الله عنه said: I witnessed something from al-Miqdad ibn al-Aswad that I would rather have been the one to do than anything equal to it. He came to the Prophet ﷺ while he was supplicating against the polytheists (before the Battle of Badr), and said: **"We will not say as the people of Moses said: {Go, you and your Lord, and fight}. Rather, we will fight on your right, on your left, in front of you and behind you."** And I saw the face of the Prophet ﷺ shine, and his words pleased him.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Abu Nu'aym al-Fadl ibn Dukayn, from Isra'il ibn Yunus, from Mukharig ibn 'Abdillah, from Tariq ibn Shihab, from 'Abdullah ibn Mas'ud رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Military Expeditions (Kitab al-Maghazi), chapter on the story of the Battle of Badr, Hadith No. 3952. Also narrated in the Book of Tafsir (No. 4609).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:3952

These words of the people of Moses عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ became a lesson remembered by the Companions. Before the Battle of Badr, al-Miqdad ibn al-Aswad رضى الله عنه said: ***"We will not say as the people of Moses said"***. And the face of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ shone with joy.

	The People of Moses (5:24)	The Companions at Badr (Sahih al-Bukhari 3952)
Situation	Just saved from Pharaoh, with clear miracles	Facing a Quraysh army far larger in number
What they said	*"Go, you and your Lord, and fight"*	*"We will fight on your right, left, in front and behind you"*
Attitude	Feared people, not Allah	Relied on Allah and were loyal to the Prophet
Outcome	Wandered for forty years in the land (5:26)	The Prophet's face shone; victory at Badr

Figure 2: Two peoples facing the same test — the people of Prophet Moses, and the Companions of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ at Badr.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

THE PRAYER OF A LEADER

SURAH AL-MA'IDAH 5:25

قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي لَآ أَمۡلِكُ إِلَّا نَفۡسِي وَأَخِيۖ فَٱفۡرُقۡ بَيۡنَنَا وَبَيۡنَ ٱلۡقَوۡمِ ٱلۡفَٰسِقِينَ

٢٥

[Moses] said, "My Lord, indeed I do not possess except myself and my brother, so part us from the defiantly disobedient people."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/5:25

COMMENTARY ON 5:25 — THE SORROW OF A PROPHET

Prophet Moses عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ did not curse his people. He complained to Allah: ***"My Lord, indeed I do not possess except myself and my brother"***. Out of a great multitude, only he and his brother could be counted on to obey.

Then he prayed: ***"so part us from the defiantly disobedient people"***. A leader can only call; guidance and punishment are in the hands of Allah. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 5:25

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

FORTY YEARS

SURAH AL-MA'IDAH 5:26

قَالَ فَإِنَّهَا مُحَرَّمَةٌ عَلَيْهِمْ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً ۚ يَتِيهُونَ فِي ٱلْأَرْضِ ۗ فَلَا تَأْسَ عَلَى ٱلْقَوْمِ ٱلْفَٰسِقِينَ ﴿٢٦﴾

[Allah] said, "Then indeed, it is forbidden to them for forty years [in which] they will wander throughout the land. So do not grieve over the defiantly disobedient people."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/5:26

COMMENTARY ON 5:26 — A PUNISHMENT THAT EDUCATES

First: A land forbidden. ***"Then indeed, it is forbidden to them for forty years"***. They refused to enter when commanded, so they were not allowed to enter when they wanted.

Second: Wandering in confusion. ***"they will wander throughout the land"***. The word ***yatīhūn*** describes people walking without direction — and that wilderness became known as ***al-Tīh***.

Third: The wisdom of forty years. The exegetes explain that during that period the generation with a slave's soul gradually passed away, and a new generation was born and raised in the wilderness — tougher and braver.

Fourth: Do not grieve. ***"So do not grieve over the defiantly disobedient people"***. Allah consoled His Prophet: your task is done. And even during that period, Allah still shaded them with clouds and fed them (2:57). Tafsir Ibn Kathir 5:26

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

THE DEATH OF PROPHET MOSES

Prophet Moses عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ did not live to enter the Holy Land. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ told of his final moments:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 1339

حَدَّثَنَا مَحْمُودٌ، حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الرَّزَّاقِ، أَخْبَرَنَا مَعْمَرٌ، عَنِ ابْنِ طَاوُسٍ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ قَالَ « أُرْسِلَ مَلَكُ الْمَوْتِ إِلَى مُوسَى ـ عَلَيْهِمَا السَّلاَمُ ـ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُ صَكَّهُ فَرَجَعَ إِلَى رَبِّهِ فَقَالَ أَرْسَلْتَنِي إِلَى عَبْدٍ لاَ يُرِيدُ الْمَوْتَ. فَرَدَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ عَيْنَهُ وَقَالَ ارْجِعْ فَقُلْ لَهُ يَضَعُ يَدَهُ عَلَى مَتْنِ ثَوْرٍ، فَلَهُ بِكُلِّ مَا غَطَّتْ بِهِ يَدُهُ بِكُلِّ شَعْرَةٍ سَنَةٌ. قَالَ أَىْ رَبِّ، ثُمَّ مَاذَا قَالَ ثُمَّ الْمَوْتُ. قَالَ فَالآنَ. فَسَأَلَ اللَّهَ أَنْ يُدْنِيَهُ مِنَ الأَرْضِ الْمُقَدَّسَةِ رَمْيَةً بِحَجَرٍ ». قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم « فَلَوْ كُنْتُ ثَمَّ لأَرَيْتُكُمْ قَبْرَهُ إِلَى جَانِبِ الطَّرِيقِ عِنْدَ الْكَثِيبِ الأَحْمَرِ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه said: **"The Angel of Death was sent to Moses, peace be upon them both. When he came to him, Moses struck him. So he returned to his Lord and said: You sent me to a servant who does not want to die. Allah restored his eye and said: Go back and tell him to place his hand on the back of an ox; for every hair covered by his hand he will have a year (of life). Moses said: O my Lord, then what? He said: Then death. Moses said: Then let it be now. And he asked Allah to bring him near to the Holy Land, within a stone's throw."** The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"If I were there, I would show you his grave beside the road, by the red sand dune."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Mahmud ibn Ghaylan, from 'Abd al-Razzaq ibn Hammam, from Ma'mar ibn Rashid, from 'Abdullah ibn Tawus, from his father, Tawus ibn Kaysan, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Funerals (Kitab al-Jana'iz), chapter on whoever loves to be buried in the Holy Land, Hadith No. 1339. Also narrated as No. 3407, and by Muslim (No. 2372).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:1339

REFLECTION — DRAWING NEAR TO THE PROMISED LAND

First: The choice given. Allah gave Moses عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ the choice of a long life — a year for every hair. But he chose to meet his Lord: ***"Then let it be now."*** The scholars explain that the blow happened because the angel came in human form and Moses عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ did not recognise him at first.

Second: Longing for the Holy Land. Although he could not enter it, Moses عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ asked to be brought near to it ***within a stone's throw***. Imam al-Bukhari placed this Hadith under the chapter ***whoever loves to be buried in the Holy Land***.

Third: A grave not pointed out. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: ***"If I were there, I would show you his grave… by the red sand dune."*** He did not specify its exact location.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

A NEW GENERATION

After forty years, a new generation of the Children of Israel entered the Holy Land. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ told the story of a prophet who led that campaign:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 3124

حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ الْعَلاَءِ، حَدَّثَنَا ابْنُ الْمُبَارَكِ، عَنْ مَعْمَرٍ، عَنْ هَمَّامِ بْنِ مُنَبِّهٍ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم « غَزَا نَبِيٌّ مِنَ الأَنْبِيَاءِ فَقَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ لاَ يَتْبَعْنِي رَجُلٌ مَلَكَ بُضْعَ امْرَأَةٍ وَهْوَ يُرِيدُ أَنْ يَبْنِيَ بِهَا وَلَمَّا يَبْنِ بِهَا، وَلاَ أَحَدٌ بَنَى بُيُوتًا وَلَمْ يَرْفَعْ سُقُوفَهَا، وَلاَ أَحَدٌ اشْتَرَى غَنَمًا أَوْ خَلِفَاتٍ وَهْوَ يَنْتَظِرُ وِلاَدَهَا. فَغَزَا فَدَنَا مِنَ الْقَرْيَةِ صَلاَةَ الْعَصْرِ أَوْ قَرِيبًا مِنْ ذَلِكَ فَقَالَ لِلشَّمْسِ إِنَّكِ مَأْمُورَةٌ وَأَنَا مَأْمُورٌ، اللَّهُمَّ احْبِسْهَا عَلَيْنَا. فَحُبِسَتْ، حَتَّى فَتَحَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ، فَجَمَعَ الْغَنَائِمَ، فَجَاءَتْ ـ يَعْنِي النَّارَ ـ لِتَأْكُلَهَا، فَلَمْ تَطْعَمْهَا، فَقَالَ إِنَّ فِيكُمْ غُلُولاً، فَلْيُبَايِعْنِي مِنْ كُلِّ قَبِيلَةٍ رَجُلٌ. فَلَزِقَتْ يَدُ رَجُلٍ بِيَدِهِ فَقَالَ فِيكُمُ الْغُلُولُ. فَلْتُبَايِعْنِي قَبِيلَتُكَ، فَلَزِقَتْ يَدُ رَجُلَيْنِ أَوْ ثَلاَثَةٍ بِيَدِهِ فَقَالَ فِيكُمُ الْغُلُولُ، فَجَاءُوا بِرَأْسٍ مِثْلِ رَأْسِ بَقَرَةٍ مِنَ الذَّهَبِ فَوَضَعُوهَا، فَجَاءَتِ النَّارُ فَأَكَلَتْهَا، ثُمَّ أَحَلَّ اللَّهُ لَنَا الْغَنَائِمَ، رَأَى ضَعْفَنَا وَعَجْزَنَا فَأَحَلَّهَا لَنَا ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"A prophet from among the prophets went out to fight, and he said to his people: Let no man follow me who has contracted marriage and wishes to consummate it but has not yet done so; nor anyone who has built houses but has not yet raised their roofs; nor anyone who has bought sheep or pregnant camels and is waiting for them to give birth. Then he fought, and drew near to a town at the time of 'Asr or close to it. He said to the sun: You are commanded and I am commanded. O Allah, hold it back for us. So it was held back until Allah granted him victory …"**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Muhammad ibn al-'Ala', from 'Abdullah ibn al-Mubarak, from Ma'mar ibn Rashid, from Hammam ibn Munabbih, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the One-Fifth (Kitab Fard al-Khumus), Hadith No. 3124. Also narrated by Muslim (No. 1747). The translation above is abridged (…); the Arabic text is shown in full.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:3124

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

The Hadith in Sahih al-Bukhari does not name the prophet. In the narration of Imam Ahmad, he is named as ***Yusha' ibn Nun***, the servant of Prophet Moses عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ in the story of al-Khidr (Series 18). Notice his condition: he did not want to be followed by anyone whose heart was still tied to worldly matters — for the battle required whole hearts.

This is the way of Allah: ***"Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves"*** (13:11). The gate closed to a fearful generation opened to a courageous one.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

WHAT THE QUR'AN DOES NOT TELL

This story is also found in the books of Numbers and Deuteronomy in the Bible, and is expanded by many Israiliyyat reports. Guided by the Hadith in Sahih al-Bukhari 4485 (Series 1), we do not make outside details part of the story we believe in.

POPULAR STORIES AND WHAT REVELATION SAYS

THE POPULAR STORY	WHAT THE QUR'AN AND AUTHENTIC HADITH SAY
"The people of tyrannical strength" were enormous giants, including 'Uj ibn 'Anaq who caught fish from the seabed.	MUST BE REJECTED. The Qur'an only says "a people of tyrannical strength" (5:22). Ibn Kathir himself rejected the story of 'Uj as fabricated.
Twelve spies were sent; ten frightened the people and two brought good news (Numbers 13–14).	The Qur'an only mentions "two men" who advised their people (5:23), without the story of the spies.
The names of the two men were Yusha' ibn Nun and Kalib ibn Yufanna.	Mentioned by many exegetes, but not stated in the Qur'an or authentic Hadith.
The exact location of the grave of Prophet Moses.	The Messenger of Allah ﷺ only said "beside the road, by the red sand dune", near the Holy Land (Sahih al-Bukhari 1339).
Prophet Aaron died on a mountain during those forty years.	Not mentioned in the Qur'an or authentic Hadith.
The prophet held back the sun because the Sabbath was approaching.	The authentic Hadith only mentions the prayer "hold it back for us" as he approached the town at 'Asr (Sahih al-Bukhari 3124).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTE: THE SHRINE OF NABI MUSA IN THE JUDAEAN DESERT

About **11 km south of Jericho**, in the Judaean Desert, there is a mosque complex known as **Maqam Nabi Musa** (the Shrine of Prophet Moses). According to an inscription at the site, the Mamluk Sultan **Baybars** ordered a small shrine to be built there in **668 AH (1269–1270 CE)**; the present complex was largely rebuilt in the Ottoman era.

Claim not included. This is a **traditional site**, not a grave proven archaeologically. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ himself did not point out its exact location (Sahih al-Bukhari 1339), and the Bible also states that no one knows his grave. Therefore, **the claim that Prophet Moses is buried at this site is not included** as fact.

REFERENCES:

Madain Project. Nabi Musa. https://madainproject.com/nabi_musa

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

COURAGE BORN OF RELIANCE ON ALLAH

The Children of Israel stood at the gate of the Holy Land with Allah's promise in their hands, but fear closed their eyes. The two men who feared Allah saw ***the gate***; the others saw only ***giants***. This story teaches that ***true courage is born of reliance on Allah***, not of one's own strength.

A BRIEF COMPARISON

PARTY	ATTITUDE AND LESSON
Moses and Aaron	Reminded of favours, commanded with a promise, then complained to Allah without cursing their people (5:20–25)
The two men who feared Allah	Pointed to the gate, called to effort and reliance on Allah (5:23)
The people who refused	Feared people, rejected the command — wandered for forty years (5:22–26)
The new generation	Raised in the wilderness, entered the Holy Land with their prophet (Sahih al-Bukhari 3124)
Al-Miqdad and the Companions	Learned from the mistake of the people of Moses and were loyal to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ (Sahih al-Bukhari 3952)

LESSONS FROM THIS STORY

First: Remind people of blessings before calling them to obedience. (5:20).

Second: Allah's promise requires our step. (5:21).

Third: Fear of people paralyses; fear of Allah liberates. (5:22–23).

Fourth: Reliance on Allah is entrusting after striving, not sitting and waiting. (5:23–24).

Fifth: The strong believer is more beloved to Allah; do not be weak. (Sahih Muslim 2664).

Sixth: Learn from the mistakes of earlier nations. (Sahih al-Bukhari 3952).

Seventh: A leader calls; guidance is in Allah's hand. (5:25).

Eighth: Allah does not change a people's condition until they change themselves. (13:11; 5:26).

Ninth: Love blessed places, and be ready to meet Allah. (Sahih al-Bukhari 1339).

CONCLUSION

Each of us has stood at the "gate of the Holy Land" — before a command of Allah that seems heavy, a good deed that requires courage. Some say, "go, you — we are remaining right here"; and some say, "we are with you, on your right, left, in front and behind". This story asks us: which one are we?

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

May Allah make us strong believers, reliant upon Him, and never turning back when called to good. ***Ḥasbunallāhu wa ni'ma al-wakīl.*** Amin.

With this part, the story of Prophet Moses عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ in this series is complete. In sha Allah, the series **Stories from the Qur'an** will continue with the next story — with the same method: the Qur'an, authentic Hadith, and solid archaeological findings only.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

REFERENCES

THE QUR'AN AND TAFSIR

The Noble Qur'an, Uthmani text and the Sahih International translation. https://quran.com

Ibn Kathir, Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim. https://tafsir.app/ibn-katheer/5/22

Ibn Jarir al-Tabari, Jami' al-Bayan 'an Ta'wil Ay al-Qur'an. https://tafsir.app/tabari/5/26

Al-Qurtubi, al-Jami' li Ahkam al-Qur'an. https://tafsir.app/qurtubi/5/23

Ibn Kathir, Qisas al-Anbiya' (chapter on Moses and al-Tih), consulted for the assessment of Israiliyyat reports.

HADITH AND COMMENTARIES

Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim — Arabic text, chains of narration and narrator pages. https://sunnah.com

Ibn Hajar al-'Asqalani, Fath al-Bari Sharh Sahih al-Bukhari (Book of Funerals; Book of Military Expeditions; Book of the One-Fifth); al-Nawawi, al-Minhaj Sharh Sahih Muslim (Book of Divine Decree; Book of Virtues).

ADDITIONAL HADITH CITED IN THE TEXT

Sahih Muslim 2372 (the story of the Angel of Death and Prophet Moses, Muslim's narration). https://sunnah.com/muslim:2372a

Sahih al-Bukhari 4485 (neither believe nor disbelieve the People of the Book). https://sunnah.com/bukhari:4485

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

Madain Project. Nabi Musa (Maqam Nabi Musa). https://madainproject.com/nabi_musa

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

SUPPORT & DONATIONS

This eBook is published **entirely free** for Muslims and is **never to be sold**. Donations are most welcome to help with the costs of research, hosting the website quranscience.my and publishing further eBooks — but they are **not obligatory**. May Allah accept every donation as an ongoing charity (sadaqah jariyah).

SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:261

مَّثَلُ ٱلَّذِينَ يُنفِقُونَ أَمۡوَٰلَهُمۡ فِي سَبِيلِ ٱللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ حَبَّةٍ أَنۢبَتَتۡ سَبۡعَ سَنَابِلَ فِي كُلِّ سُنۢبُلَةٖ مِّاْئَةُ حَبَّةٖۗ وَٱللَّهُ يُضَٰعِفُ لِمَن يَشَآءُۚ وَٱللَّهُ وَٰسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ٢٦١

The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/2:261

SURAH SABA' 34:39

قُلۡ إِنَّ رَبِّي يَبۡسُطُ ٱلرِّزۡقَ لِمَن يَشَآءُ مِنۡ عِبَادِهِۦ وَيَقۡدِرُ لَهُۥۚ وَمَآ أَنفَقۡتُم مِّن شَيۡءٖ فَهُوَ يُخۡلِفُهُۥۖ وَهُوَ خَيۡرُ ٱلرَّٰزِقِينَ ٣٩

Say, "Indeed, my Lord extends provision for whom He wills of His servants and restricts [it] for him. But whatever thing you spend [in His cause] - He will compensate it; and He is the best of providers."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/34:39

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2588

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ، وَابْنُ، حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - وَهُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « مَا نَقَصَتْ صَدَقَةٌ مِنْ مَالٍ وَمَا زَادَ اللَّهُ عَبْدًا بِعَفْوٍ إِلاَّ عِزًّا وَمَا تَوَاضَعَ أَحَدٌ لِلَّهِ إِلاَّ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "Charity does not decrease wealth.

Allah does not increase a servant who forgives except in honour. And no one humbles himself for the sake of Allah except that Allah raises him in rank."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه .

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Virtue, Good Manners and Joining the Ties of Kinship (Kitab al-Birr wa al-Silah wa al-Adab), chapter on the encouragement of forgiveness and humility, Hadith No. 2588.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2588

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 1631

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ - يَعْنِي ابْنَ سَعِيدٍ - وَابْنُ حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - هُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « إِذَا مَاتَ الإِنْسَانُ انْقَطَعَ عَنْهُ عَمَلُهُ إِلاَّ مِنْ ثَلاَثَةٍ إِلاَّ مِنْ صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ أَوْ عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ أَوْ وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "When a person dies, his deeds come to an end except for three: an ongoing charity, knowledge that is benefited from, or a righteous child who prays for him."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه .

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Wills (Kitab al-Wasiyyah), chapter on the reward that reaches a person after his death, Hadith No. 1631.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:1631

JAZAKUMULLAHU KHAIRAN KATHIRA



Scan the QR code above (DuitNow, Malaysia) to donate.

DONATE

International donors: click the DONATE button or visit paypal.me/quranscience

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims