

For Fast 20

Chapter 21: Prayers of Prophets

76 And Noah, when he cried before (this), so We answered him, and delivered him and his people from the great calamity.

... ..

83 and Job, when he cried to his Lord: Distress has afflicted me, and You are the most Merciful of those who show mercy!

84 So We responded to him and removed the distress he had, and We gave him (back) his people and more like them with them, a mercy from Us and a reminder to the worshippers.

Note: Job (Ayyub) was suffering from distress of many kinds, including illnesses and separation from his family. So he uttered the prayer in v. 83. As a result of the prayer, his distress was removed, and he was reunited with his family, and gained even more offspring, friends and followers than he had before. We too can use the same prayer.

87 And Dhu-l-Nūn, when he went away in anger, and he thought that We would not constrain him, so he called out among afflictions: There is no God but You, glory be to You! Surely I am a sufferer of loss.

88 So We responded to him and delivered him from grief. And thus do We deliver the believers.

Note: Dhu-ul-Nun (meaning ‘Companion of the Fish’) is Yunus, or Jonah of the Bible. He had prophesied punishment coming upon his people after they rejected him, and went away from them hastily, in anger, without the command from God to leave that place. He then had to face other tribulations on his travels. “I am a sufferer of loss” means that he had done the wrong thing. God not only answered his prayer and saved Jonah, but it is added: “And thus do We deliver the believers”, which indicates that believers should make use of the same prayer, especially when a person is surrounded by difficulties brought on by some ill-advised action of his own (not necessarily a sin) which he now regrets.

89 And Zacharias, when he cried to his Lord: My Lord, do not leave me alone and You are the Best of inheritors!

90 So We responded to him and gave him John and made his wife fit for him (for childbearing). Surely they used to hasten in (doing) good deeds and called upon Us, hoping and fearing; and they were humble before Us.

Note: Zacharias’s prayer was accepted because of the qualities mentioned in the second part of v. 90. The boy he was given also possessed the same qualities, which is what Zacharias wished: hastening to do good, praying to God with hope and fear in the heart, and being humble.

112 He said: My Lord, judge with truth. And our Lord is the Beneficent, Whose help is sought against what you ascribe (to Him).

Note: This was the prayer of every prophet with regard to his people who were rejecting him. The prophets preached the truth and wanted God to judge with truth between them and their opponents.

General note: Prophets of God were placed under the most severe distress and difficulties in the course of their missions, and their suffering was much greater than the suffering that other people would face in their lives. This was so that the prophets could set an example to other people of how to behave and conduct yourself in suffering. God made His own loved ones suffer the most, to show that the greater is your connection with God, the more suffering you can withstand, and that those who suffered the most never said, “if there is a God, why am I suffering?” The prophets’ suffering also shows that suffering will lead to a better end than without it.