

For Fast 6

Chapter 3

- 35** When a woman of Amran said: My Lord, I vow to You what is in my womb, to be devoted (to Your service), so accept (it) from me; surely You, only You, are the Hearing, the Knowing.

Note: This was the mother of Mary (called Hannah according to some sources). She vowed to dedicate her child to the service of religion. Mary was placed in charge of the prophet Zacharias for her religious instruction.

- 38** There did Zacharias pray to his Lord. He said: My Lord, grant me from Yourself goodly offspring; surely You are the Hearer of prayer.

Note: Impressed by the piety and devotion of Mary, Zacharias prayed for similar offspring for himself. In answer to his prayer, God granted him a son whose name in Arabic is Yahya and who is John, the Baptist, of the Gospels. Both the above verses (35 and 38) guide us as to the true hopes we should have in our hearts for our offspring.

One child was a girl, Mary, and other was a boy, Yahya (John). Both are counted among the most righteous of people ever born. The Quran has here cited examples from the past which show that boys and girls can rise to the same rank in righteousness. In fact, it was when he saw the example of the young Mary that Zacharias prayed for offspring for himself who may be like her.

- 52** But when Jesus perceived disbelief on their part [i.e. by his nation], he said: Who will be my helpers in Allah's way? The disciples said: We are Allah's helpers, we believe in Allah, and (ask you to) bear witness that we are submitting ones.
- 53** Our Lord, we believe in what You have revealed and we follow the messenger, so write us down with those who bear witness.

Note: Being a "witness" means that your life, conduct and behaviour testifies to the truth of the messenger. The prayer of his disciples is also a prayer by each of us, saying that we believe in the Quran and follow the Holy Prophet Muhammad, so may we be from among those whose lives can be presented as evidence of the truth of Islam, as examples of the change for good that Islam brings about in people's lives. Regrettably, our lives in most cases are such that they cannot be presented as proof of the truth of Islam.
