

Question of the Day

Get to know the Quran

Ramadan Question # 2

There is an ayah in Surat Al-Nisa' that talks about "صلاة الخوف". Prayer during the time of war or time of fear.

1. What is the ayah?
2. What was the occasion for revelation?
3. Who was the companion that this ayah was the reason for him becoming a Muslim?

Masha'Allah all the responses were correct regarding question #2.

It was Ayah #102 from Surah Al-Nisa' that described Salat Al-Khawf (لخوف صلاة). And as everyone in the responses mentioned it was when the Mushrikeen led by Khaled Bin Al-Walid (before he became a Muslim) met the Prophet and his companions in (Usfan). The Mushrikeen felt that they could have attacked the Muslimeen when they were praying Thuhr. Then they said that the Musilmeen have a prayer coming up that is better for them than their children and themselves (indicating the significance of Asr prayer) and they will attack them as they are praying Asr. The ayah then was revealed between Thuhr and Asr to alert the prophet (PBUH) of the plot that the Mushrikeen had. When the Mushrikeen saw how the Prophet (PBUH) and the companions prayed Asr as described in the Ayah, in which the Prophet has the Muslimeen line in two lines behind him, and when it was time to make sojood, the first line behind the prophet made sojood with him as the second line stood up with their weapons protecting. Then during the second raka'a, the two lines swapped positions so the second line can make sojood while the other line that already made sojood stood up protecting. When the Mushrikeen saw that, they were surprised and Khaled Bin Al-Walid, who felt that someone had to tell the Prophet about their plot, otherwise why would they change the way they pray. This was a sign for Khaled Bin Al-Walid and the Mushrikeen that Mohammed must be the prophet of Allah and that Allah (SWT) must have made the prophet (PBUH) aware of the plot through the angel Jibril Alayhiassalam.

This Aayah teaches us several things to learn, among them:

1. It shows the significance of Salat Al-Asr as Allah SWT mentioned in the Quran (الوسطى الصلاة و الصلوات على حافظوا) as the Mushrikeen described it that it is more beloved to the Muslimeen than their children and themselves.
2. It shows the importance of praying in (جماعة) congregation.
3. It shows that we must do our part to protect ourselves (بالأسبابا الأخذ) and not just say, Allah will take care. Allah SWT will take care of us, but we must do our part first.
4. It shows the importance of establishing (الصلاة)Salah and not skipping or delaying it. Even at the time of war, the prophet (PBUH) established the Salah as Allah SWT says in the Quran (موقوتا كتابا المؤمنين على كانت الصلاة ان) Indeed prayer has been decreed upon the believers a decree of specified times. This is in ayah # 103 which follows the ayah #102 here in question.