

The Great Messengers

HAZRAT ISHAQ عليه السلام



Published By:



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HAZRAT ISHAQ ﷺ

Ishaq ﷺ is mentioned seventeen times in the Noble Qur'an.

When Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ was about 100 years old, Allah conveyed to him the good news of a son that was to be born to him from his wife Hazrat Sarah who was then between 80 and 90 years of age. Hazrat Ishaq ﷺ was therefore approximately 13 years younger than his brother Hazrat Ismaeel ﷺ.

The angels came to Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ in the form of human beings whom he did not recognise. As was his habit, Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ had prepared meals for them. When the roasted mutton was ready, he served it to them, but they did not take any of it because angels do not eat. Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ sensed some fear for the strangers because it was common that the only people who would not eat from a person were those who had come with sinister motives, such as murderers or robbers.

Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ then asked them why they had come and they promptly bade him not to have any fear. They then told him that they were angels deputed to punish the people of Hazrat Loot ﷺ. They also informed him that he was to father a son of great knowledge (Ghulam Aleem), who was Hazrat Ishaq ﷺ.

Describing him as a son with tremendous knowledge meant that the son would be a Nabi, since the messengers were the most knowledgeable of all humanity. When Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ expressed astonishment that he could father a child at such a late age, the angels assured him that the day would certainly come to pass.

Hazrat Ibraheem's ﷺ wife, Hazrat Sarah was standing nearby, so she overheard the conversation. She was also surprised, but the angels reassured her as well with the news of a son, Ishaq. In addition to this, they even told her that her son Ishaq would be the father of Yaqoob, who would also be a messenger of Allah.

In the Words of the Qur'an

In verses 69 to 73 of Surah Hud, Allah says:

“Indeed, Our messenger angels came to Ibraheem عليه السلام with good news (that he will father a son and have grandsons afterwards) and greeted him with (the words of) Salaam. He said, “Salaam (Peace be on you too),” and did not hesitate to bring a roasted calf (to entertain them). (However, they did not partake of the meal because angels do not eat.) When he noticed that their hands were not reaching towards it (to eat), he grew fearful of them (thinking that they had come to harm him). They said, “Do not fear. We (are angels who) have been sent to (destroy) the nation of Lut عليه السلام.” His wife (Sarah), standing by, laughed (with happiness) as We conveyed to her the good news (that she would be giving birth to a son by the name) of Ishaq عليه السلام, and (that she will have a grandson by the name of) Yaqub عليه السلام after Ishaq عليه السلام. She said (in astonishment), “Oh dear! Shall I bear a child when I am an old woman (of over 80 years) and my husband here is an old man (of over 100 years)? This is indeed a strange event!” They (the angels) said, “Are you surprised at the command (and power) of Allah (Who can do anything)? May Allah’s mercy and blessings be on you, O members of the household (of Ibraheem عليه السلام). Verily He is Worthy of all praise, The Exalted.”

Verses 24-30 of Surah Zariyat relate the incident in the following words

“Has the story of Ibraheem عليه السلام’s honourable guests (some angels) reached you? When they came to him and greeted with Salaam, he (thinking them to be travellers) said, “Peace be upon you too. You must be strangers (to this place).” He then went to his family and returned with a fat (roasted) calf. He served it to them and (when they did not partake of it because angels do not eat food) he said, “Are you not going to eat (Will you not accept my hospitality)?” He grew afraid of them (thinking that they may have come for some sinister purpose). They said, “Do not be afraid,” and they gave him the good news of an intelligent child (that was to be born to him). His

wife (Sarah) arrived calling loudly (in amazement upon hearing the news), smote her face (because of her surprise) and said, “(How can) An old barren woman (like me bear a child)?” They (the angels) said, “Thus has your Rabb said (you will therefore certainly bear a child). He is the Wise, the All Knowing (He knows why and to whom a child should be born).”

Marriage

The Qur'an does not give details of Ishaq's ﷺ life nor does the hadith give reference to this part of his life. According to the Torah when Ibraheem ﷺ felt that his life was drawing to a close, he wished to see Ishaq ﷺ married. He did not want Ishaq to marry one of the Canaanites, who were pagans, so he sent a trustworthy servant to Iraq to choose a bride for Ishaq.

He told the servant that if they agree then tell them that since I cannot part with Ishaq, would you please send your daughter. They agreed and sent her with many gifts and items that she would need.

Sons from the People of the Book

The People of the Book said that when Ishaq was forty or sixty years old, he got married during his father's life. They said his wife was sterile, so Ishaq ﷺ prayed to Allah and then she became pregnant. She gave birth to twin boys. The first one was called Esau whom the Arabs called Al-Eis. He became the father of Rum. The second one was called Yacoob (Jacob), which means Israel, (belonging to the people of Israel).

Death and Demise

Yaqub ﷺ came to his father Ishaq ﷺ and settled with him in the village of Hebron which lies in the land of Canaan where Ibraheem ﷺ had lived. Then Ishaq ﷺ fell ill and passed away when he was one hundred eighty years old. His sons Esau and Yacoob ﷺ buried him with his father Ibraheem Al Khalil ﷺ in a cave which he had bought.

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About Darul Ihsan

Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre provides education, guidance, social, empowerment and welfare services to the community. In providing this service, we adopt a holistic approach, that gives due importance to basic needs as well as human rights and dignity of those that we serve.

Founding Philosophy

Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre is a multi-purpose, humanitarian-services providing organisation. 'Ihsan' means compassion towards mankind and to act with excellence. The Centre was established in the year 2000 with the primary objective of serving humanity and alleviating poverty and hardship locally and abroad. Since its inception, it has developed and established many humanitarian projects and provides a variety of free services to the community.

Key Objectives

One of the key objectives of the Centre is to promote a better understanding of humanity and peace, thereby serving as a bridge-builder between faiths and communities. Through guidance, Ubuntu and empowerment, the organisation hopes to train and develop the youth to become torch bearers of hope, peace and compassion to humanity.

