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The Stories of the PROPHETS



HAZRAT ZAKARIYA^{AS}



HAZRAT YAHYA^{AS}

Publication Department Lajna Ima'illah UK

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The Stories of The Prophets Hazrat Zakariya^{as} & Hazrat Yahya^{as}

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بِسُمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, Ever Merciful My dear children,

I hope and pray that you read the series of books on the stories of prophets and learn from them.

Allah the Almighty has sent hundreds of thousands of prophets over the course of humanity for our benefit. All prophets have one main message and that is to bring their people closer to God.

There is so much to learn from these books like power of prayers, importance of being truthful and kind, how brave and resilient they were and much more. May Allah enable you to read these books and learn from them for your own benefit and knowledge. All that you learn at this age helps your understanding of your faith and makes it stronger. These stories are also very inspiring and have many moral lessons to learn.

Please read them yourself or even better, with your parents.

Wasalaam,

Yours sincerely,

Fariha Khan

Serving as Sadr Lajna UK

بِسُمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْلُنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

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The following members of the writing team require a special mention for their splendid work together, sharing knowledge and experience in the process of producing these books. Nargis Qudsia Ahsan, Aalia Rehman; Humda Bilal; Atifa Ahmad, Hadiqa Asma.

May Almighty Allah bless them all and enable them to continue to work successfully in the service of Jama'at.

Mrs. Lubna Sohail

Serving as National Secretary Isha'at UK

Guide for Parents

This book, one of a series of books, produced by Lajna Ima'illah UK, is based on the stories narrated in the Holy Qur'an. The books are designed for children of primary school age who can read and try the activities independently.

It is intended that after reading and enjoying these stories you can help your children to find the stories in the Holy Qur'an and read them for themselves.

We hope that you will also be able enjoy sharing the stories with younger children by reading to them and discussing the story events. We also hope you will enjoy sharing the activities with your children.

May Almighty Allah enable us to follow the illuminating path of the righteous people who are a beacon of light for all humanity.

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Prophets - Allah's Messengers

Our universe and all that it contains is the creation of Allah, the Wise. He has created everything with a purpose and to achieve that purpose, He has provided all necessary guidance and means. He has created man in His own image and has made him the chief of His creation.

Both good and bad have been made manifestly clear to man. He has also been blessed with wisdom by which he can find out the right path, can sift right from wrong and truth from falsehood.

The Holy Qur'an tells us that man has been endowed with both spiritual and physical eyes by

which he can distinguish good from evil and has been given a tongue and two lips that he might ask for guidance, and above all, Allah has placed before him a supreme object of his life that he may devote all his faculties and energies to achieve it. Man has been granted the choice of both selection and action. Hence, he is the master of his own destiny.

To achieve the object of life, Allah, out of His benevolence raises prophets, who serve as models. Prophets are ordinary men chosen by Almighty Allah to teach and to explain to their communities about the purpose of life; how to develop a relationship with their Creator and how to live successfully with others in this world.

Their mission has always been to guide mankind to its Creator, through their example and model. These prophets have been appearing in every people and in all parts of the world.

Prophets lived in their communities for many years before God asked them to be teachers and leaders of their communities, so they are well known to them. They are known to be honest, truthful men, trusted by their family and friends, known for their integrity and reliability and often they are already looked upon as leaders in one way or another.

The guidance revealed through each prophet was designed to cater for the specific needs of the time and location; hence they were essentially temporary in nature. With the advancement and

maturity of mankind God sent advanced and matured teachings suitable to their time. God's guidance for human race commenced through Hazrat Adam^{as} and reached the zenith through Hazrat Muhammad^{sa}.

According to one saying of the Hazrat Muhammad^{sa}, the number of prophets who were chosen to convey the message of God to mankind is 124,000. The names of all of them are not mentioned anywhere. However, the Holy Qur'an states in very clear words:



"and there is no people to whom a Warner has not been sent." Surah Fatir, Verse 25.

It also mentions the following

Hazrat Adam^{as} *Adam*

Hazrat Nuh^{as} *Noah* Hazrat Musa^{as} *Moses*

Hazrat Ishaq^{as} *Isaac*

Hazrat Yaqub^{as} *Jacob*

Hazrat Yusuf^{as} *Joseph*

Hazrat Harun^{as} *Aaron*

Hazrat Dhul-Qarnainas

Hazrat Dhul-Kifl^{as} *Ezekiel*

Hazrat Alyasa^{as} *Elisha*

Hazrat Idris^{as} *Enoch*

Hazrat Yahya^{as} *John*

Hazrat Isaas

Hazrat Uzair^{as}

twenty-eight prophets by name:

Hazrat Isma'ilas Hazrat Lutas Ishmael Hazrat Zakariyaas Hazrat Salehas Hazrat Hudas Zechariah Hazrat Ilyasas Hazrat Yunusas Hazrat Luqmanas Jonah Elijah Hazrat Ayubas Hazrat Sulaimanas Hazrat Dawudas David Hazrat Muhammadsa

Belief in all the prophets and their messages is an integral part of the belief of every Muslim. The Holy Qur'an states:

امَنَ الرَّسُولُ بِمَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ رَّبِّهِ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ كُلُّ

امَنَ بِاللهِ وَمَلْمِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ " لا نُفَيِّ قُ بَيْنَ

أَحَدٍ مِّنْ رُّسُلِهُ ...

"This Messenger of Ou rs believes in that which has been revealed to him from his Lord, and so do the believers; all of them believe in Allah, and in His angels, and in His Books, and in His Messengers, saying, 'We make no distinction

between any of His Messengers.'..." (Surah Al-Baqarah, Verse 286.

In prophethood all are equal, but their ranks are different as is clear from the following verse of the Holy Qur'an:

"These Messengers have We exalted, some of them above others: among them there are those whom Allah spoke; and some of them He exalted in degrees of rank. ..."

(Surah Al-Bagarah, Verse 254) So, wherever and to whichever people prophets have been sent, they are also our prophets as well, and we hold them in great reverence.

In the following pages, we will read more about two of these prophets; Hazrat Zakariya^{as} and Hazrat Yahya^{as} in greater detail.



PEACE BE UPON HIM

'*This is* an account of the mercy of thy Lord, *shown* to His servant, Zachariah.'

[Holy Qu ran, 19:3]

Hazrat Zakariya

(Peace Be Upon Him)

Hazrat Zakariya^{as} was a prophet of Allah who taught the Israelites about the Oneness of God. His story links very closely with a number of Prophets, including Hazrat Yahya^{as} and Hazrat Isa^{as} as well as Hazrat Maryam^{as}.

Hazrat Zakariya^{as} lived and preached in Jerusalem in Palestine. Jerusalem is considered as a very Holy site for all three Abrahamic religions - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

See if you can find out why Jerusalem is impor	tant in:
Judaism:	_ X
Christianity:	
Islam:	(= 1 = 1 = 1 = 1 = 1

A Pious Prophet

Hazrat Zakariya^{as} was a very pious man, he spent a lot of his time in worship and worked at the temple. He lived a humbled and lowly life and possessed little to no worldly goods. This means that he didn't have much money or wealth of any kind, but he still remained grateful and steadfast to Allah. In fact, in the Holy Qur'an Surah Maryam Verse 86, he is described as 'one of the virtuous'.

What do these words mean?

In the Qur'an and other religious texts, prophets and messiahs of Allah are often described as 'pious', 'steadfast' and 'virtuous'.

Let's see what they mean and why they describe these people.

A pious person: someone who is religious. This means they study their religion (for example their Holy Books) and work very hard to live their life as described by their religion. They pray to God often and gain a close relationship with Him.

Steadfast: someone who is loyal. Prophets are often described as steadfast to Allah, meaning they are completely loyal to God, even when times are difficult. They understand that sometimes we go through hardship, and they rely solely on Allah to get them through this time.

A virtuous person is someone with strong morals.

This means they live by a strict code of what is right and good.

Hazrat Zakariya^{as} is described as possessing all these characteristics, meaning he was very close to Allah. Furthermore, the name Zachariah, or Zakariya in Arabic, means someone who 'God remembers'.



Zakariyaas

Desire for Offspring

Although he was married, his wife was unable to bare children, so by the time he reached old age, he began to worry about who would carry on his legacy after his death. He wanted someone to lead the Israelites to Allah, just as he did.

He knew this was very important because he understood the Biblical prophecies very well. They contained warnings that if people continuously rejected god's prophets, prophethood would be transferred from the line of Hazrat Ishaq^{as} to that of Hazrat Ishmael^{as}.

What does this mean?

Hazrat Ibrahimas is a very important prophet in Islam. He had two sons Hazrat Ishaqas and Hazrat Ishmaelas. They were both prophets. Almost all the prophets mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, including Hazrat Zakariyas, are descendants of Hazrat Ishaqas. However, because the Israelites continued to reject the prophets of Allah, there was threat that the line of prophethood would be transferred to the descendants of Hazrat Ishmaelas.



A Guardian to Hazrat Maryamas

Before she was born, Hazrat Maryam's mother, Hannah, dedicated her child to the service of God. She was blessed with a daughter, Hazrat Maryamas, who spent much of her time in worship. Hazrat Zakariya was made the guardian of Hazrat Maryamas. So, although he had no children of this own, he looked after her and visited her frequently.

In the Qur'an, Surah Maryam, a story is mentioned about an interaction between Hazrat Maryam^{as} and Hazrat Zakariya^{as}. It is explained as follows:

Once, when visiting her in her chambers, Hazrat Zakariya^{as} asked Hazrat Maryam^{as} about her provisions. She replied, 'It is from Allah'.



Often when people came for worship, they would bring gifts and food to give to Hazrat Maryam^{as}. These were her 'provisions'.

When Hazrat Maryamas explains that these gifts are from Allah, she means that every good thing from man comes from Allah. It is Allah Who provides people with 'rizq' and kindness. She is obviously grateful to the people who bring her gifts, but she remains most grateful to Allah the Provider.

This reply made a deep impression on Hazrat Zakariya^{as} and showed her unwavering reliance on Allah. He found Hazrat Maryam's^{as} piety inspiring and began to desire a similar virtuous child of his own.

Hazrat Zakariya's^{as} prayer for a child

In Surah Maryam, it says that Hazrat Zakariya^{as} began to call "upon his Lord, crying in secret". This was because he desired for a child for a long time, but he knew he was too old and that his wife was barren. However, when speaking to Hazrat Maryam^{as}, he was reminded that all good things come from Allah.

This part of the story is also mentioned in Surah Aal-e-`Imran and Surah Al-Anbiya'.

What can we understand from this interaction?

- 1. Chambers means a room at the top of the house and can sometimes be associated with places of worship. From this we learn that Hazrat Maryam^{as} lived in or near the Jewish temple.
- 2. Often when people came for worship, they would bring gifts and food to give to Hazrat Maryamas. These are her 'provisions.'

Al-Warith: The Inheritor, is an attribute of Allah. Hazrat Zakariya^{as} calls upon Allah with this attribute because he is asking for a child.

So, he began to cry to God, the Best of Inheritors, and asked Him to grant him his hearts deepest desire. He prayed:

"...but never, my Lord, have I been unblessed in my prayer to Thee". Surah Maryam, Verse 5. This prayer again shows Hazrat Zakariya's steadfastness. After his conversation with Hazrat Maryamas, he is reminded of the goodness of Allah. Even when things seem impossible, Allah allows them to happen. So, in this prayer, he acknowledges that Allah has never let him down, and he knows that Allah will bless and accept his prayer.

He continues to recite this prayer for a long time, a few years even. We know this because it is mentioned in different wording over three different chapters of the Qur'an.



Allah Answers his Prayer

In Surah Maryam, the story continues Allah calls to Hazrat Zakariya^{as} and he is told that he will be blessed with a son named Yahya.

After years of prayers, Hazrat Zakariya^{as} remained steadfast, and his prayer was accepted, despite the impossible nature of it. Allah reassured Hazrat Zakariya^{as} that the son he will be blessed with will grow up in the presence of his father and reach at least middle age. So, he named his son Yahya, who was also a Prophet to the Israelites.

Did you know that Yahya in English is John?

Hazrat Zakariya^{as} was delighted with this news. But he questioned, even in his old age and his wife's state, how would this be possible? Not only a son, but also a special son with great spiritual powers.

In reply, Allah explained that He allowed Hazrat Zakariya^{as} a great spiritual understanding and great high morals, so He can do the same again. So Hazrat Zakariya^{as} asked for a token of this prayer.

What is a token?

A token in this context means a sign and indication of this prayer.

Hazrat Zakariya^{as} was instructed to remain in the remembrance of Allah for three days and three nights. He would not speak to anyone unnecessarily, but if he must, he did so in a quiet, hushed voice.

Hazrat Zakariya^{as} and his wife were blessed with a son, Hazrat Yahya^{as}, who he was able to watch grow to a young age. He grew up to be a pious prophet, blessed with great spirituality.



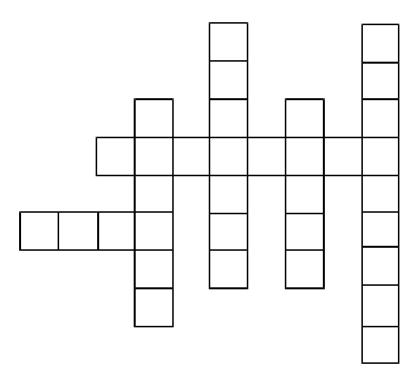
The name 'Yahya' in Arabic calligraphy, followed by 'Peace be upon him'.

Fun Activity!

Let's see what you remember from this story. Have a go at the cross word below!

- 1. Guardian of Hazrat Maryamas.
- 2. Father of Hazrat Ishmaelas and Hazrat Ishaqas.
- 3. What is someone called who prays to God often and gains a close relationship with Him and who is religious?
- 4. What is Hazrat Yahyaas called in English?
- 5. What is someone called who is loyal?
- 6. Mother of Hazrat Maryamas.

Fun Activity!



See answers on the next page.

Answers

- 1. Zakariya
- 2. Ibrahim
- 3. Pious
- 4. John
- 5. Steadfast
- 6. Hannah

References

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HAZRAT ZAKARIYA

PEACE BE UPON HIM

Hazrat Zakariya^{as} was a prophet of Allah who taught the Israelites about the Oneness of God. His story links very closely with a number of Prophets, including Hazrat Yahya^{as} and Hazrat Isa^{as} as well as Hazrat Maryam^{as}.

'We give thee glad tidings of a son whose name *shal I*be Yahya. We have not made any one before him of that name.'

[Holy Qu ran, 19:8]

HAZRAT YAHYA

PEACE BE UPON HIM



Hazrat Yahya

(Peace Be Upon Him)

Hazrat Yahya^{as} is a prophet in Islam. He was the son of Hazrat Zakariya^{as}, another prophet that has also been mentioned in the Holy Qur'an. They were both sent to the Israelites to teach them about the Oneness of God. They were from Jerusalem in Palestine and descendants of Hazrat Ishaq^{as}.

Did you know that Hazrat Yahya^{as} is mentioned in the Bible? He is known as John the Baptist. He is not considered a prophet in Christianity, but he is a prophet in Islam.

A Miraculous Birth

The birth of Hazrat Yahya^{as} was somewhat miraculous. His parents were of old age and his mother was barren (unable to have children). However, analysing the behaviour of the Israelites, Hazrat Zakariya^{as} was very worried about their prospects. They rejected many prophets sent by God and continued to ridicule the rightful teachings of these prophets.

Hazrat Yahya^{as} was close in age to Hazrat Isa^{as}, who was also in Jerusalem, so their story follows a similar time point.

Furthermore, Hazrat Maryam^{as}, Hazrat Isa's^{as} mother, and Hazrat Zakariya^{as}, Hazrat Yahya's^{as} father, play a very important role in rejuvenating the faith.

Read on to find out what the connection was between Hazrat Maryam^{as} and Hazrat Yahya^{as}.

Hazrat Zakariya^{as} was Hazrat Maryam's^{as} guardian. Whilst talking to her one day, she helped him remember the blessings of Allah and that nothing is impossible if Allah wills. He was in awe of Hazrat Maryam's^{as} character and piety. He admired her steadfastness and prayed to Allah for a pious child, like Hazrat Maryam^{as}.

When Hazrat Zakariya^{as} prayed, he remained humble. He understood the situation: he was old, and his wife was barren, it seemed almost impossible that they could have a child together, let alone raise it. However, he knew Allah would help him and answer his prayers. He had never been let down by Allah and had spent years praying.

What is the meaning of the world 'humble'?

'Humble' means modest. It is very important to stay humble, especially when praying.

A Child Named John

In Surah Maryam, verse 6, it is described that Hazrat Zakariya^{as} prays not just for a child, but for a successor. He wanted someone to continue the message he was spreading, for the sake of the Israelites.

Finally, his prayers were answered and fulfilled more than he had asked for. Hazrat Zakariya^{as} was told 3 important things:

- Allah said that his son would grow up to be a young man, in front of his father's eyes.
- (2) He will live till middle age.
- His name will be Yahya. A name never given before.

Now, Hazrat Zakariya's son was not the first ever person to be named Yahya (or John). We know this because his name has been mentioned many times before in the Bible. What it really means is that he was the first outstanding person of that name and was a different kind of prophet.



We know that prophets come to teach specific people about God. They lead them to the right path and help them understand good morals. Hazrat Yahya^{as} however, was a slightly different prophet. He was Hazrat Isa's^{as} harbinger and his main purpose was to prepare the ground for Hazrat Isa's^{as} acceptance.

A harbinger is someone who comes just before another person that is similar to them. For example, a prophet who comes before another prophet. This simply means that Hazrat Yahyaas was the prophet that came just before Jesus. Similarly, Hazrat Zakariyaas was the prophet just before Hazrat Yahyaas.

In the Holy Qur'an, Hazrat Yahya^{as} is described as 'peer-less'. What is meant by this?

Peers are people that stand equal to each another. For example, in a classroom you are surrounded by your peers because you learn and understand things at the same time. Being 'peer-less' explains that Hazrat Yahyaas was alone

in his mission and had no equal. This can be taken 3 ways:



He was more spiritual than some other prophets.



His mission was unique to him. This is because he was a harbinger. A harbinger is someone who announces another person's presence. His mission was to prepare the Israelites for the coming of Jesus. This kind of mission had never been given to any prophet before Hazrat Yahya^{as}.



He was the first prophet to come with the 'power and spirit' of another prophet.

There have been several prophets sent by Allah to different people in different regions of the world. Each prophet has a different level of spirituality, meaning they all have a different level of connection with Allah. They are still all very pious and special to God, but they are all at different levels. Hazrat Yahya^{as} is considered to have a higher spiritual status than some of the prophets that came before him.

His mission as Hazrat Isa's harbinger, was in fulfilment of a biblical prophecy.

HARBINGER

A person or thing that announces or signals the approach of another.

What is a biblical prophecy?

A prophecy is a prediction of something that will happen in the future. When a religious prophecy is fulfilled, it sometimes shows the truthfulness of a prophet. A Biblical prophecy is a prediction written in the Bible. Hazrat Yahya^{as} being the harbinger to Hazrat Isa^{as} shows that he was the prophet mentioned in the Bible.

This prophecy mentioned the Prophet Elijah's coming before Hazrat Isaas. Elijah or Hazrat Ilyasas lived about 900 years before the birth of Hazrat Jesusas. So, it would be impossible for the same Elijah to come again to fulfil this prophecy.

So, Hazrat Yahya^{as} came with the same power and spirit as Hazrat Elijah^{as} instead. In the Holy Qur'an, there are many characteristics to describe Hazrat Yahya^{as} and his family. In fact, they are said to be an ideal family, spiritually. In Surah Maryam, it is explained that Hazrat Yahya^{as} was given wisdom at a young age. He studied the Holy book carefully and gained a lot of knowledge.

Which Holy Book was this?

Hazrat Yahya^{as} and Hazrat Isa^{as} both studied the Torah, the Book, and Law of Hazrat Moses^{as}.

Timeline of Prophets

Can you order the names of the prophets below in order of their appearance?

Hazrat Yahyaas Hazrat Ishmaelas Hazrat Ibrahimas Hazrat Zakariyaas Hazrat Isaas Hazrat Musa^{as} Hazrat Ilyasas Hazrat Ishaqas

Answers on page 53

Unworthy for a Prophet

Hazrat Zakariya^{as} prayed for a righteous successor as a son to continue his message and gain spiritual blessings of Allah. He had hoped that with a successor, the Israelites would be saved.

However, Hazrat Yahya^{as} was unable to soften the hearts of his people. They continued to reject the teachings of Hazrat Isa^{as}, even after the fulfilment of the prophecy. They were no longer considered worthy to be given a prophet from amongst them, so no other prophet did.

This meant that Hazrat Yahya^{as} was unsuccessful in his mission and his father's prayers to save the Israelites was ineffective. This does not mean that Hazrat Yahya^{as} was an ineffective prophet. He was spiritual and pious, as his father had prayed for.

In fact, Hazrat Yahya^{as} and Isa^{as} are both described in very similar way in the Holy Qur'an. Their characteristics are very similar. This is because they were both prophets and both attained a high spiritual status.

About Hazrat Isaas it is said that:

About Hazrat Yahya^{as} it is said that:



1. He was a Prophet of God. (3:50)



1. He was a Prophet. (3:40)

2. He was of the righteous. (3:47)

2. He was noble, chaste and a Prophet from among the righteous. (3:40)

3. God taught him the Book and the wisdom. (3:49)

3. God gave him the Book and granted him wisdom. (19:13)

4. He talked to people as a child i.e. at a rather early age. (3:47)

4. God gave him wisdom while yet a child. (19:13)

5. He was granted nearness to God. (3:46)

5. God was well pleased with him. (19:7)

- 6. He was kind and dutiful to his mother. (19:33)
- 6. He was kind and dutiful to his parents. (19:15)
- 7. He was kind of heart and compassionate. (5:119)
- 7. He was kind-hearted, pure and pious. (19:14)
- 8. He was not haughty and unblessed. (19:33)
- 8. He was not haughty and rebellious. (19:15)
- 9. He was blessed by God and was strengthened with the Spirit of Holiness.
 (2:254;19:32)
- 9. God was pleased with him and he was unequalled in some respects.

 (19:7-8)
- 10. Divine peace enveloped him. (19:34)
- 10. Divine peace enveloped him. (19:16)
- 11. His name Messiah was given to him by God. (3:46)
- 11. His name Yahya was given to him by God. (19:8)

Demise of a Martyr

This meant that Hazrat Yahya^{as} was murdered in his middle age so is considered as a martyr. A martyr is someone who had been killed because of what they believe in. In the Qur'an, a martyr in the eyes of Allah is considered immortal. This is important because 'Yahya', who was named by God, means 'to live'.

Thus, the line of prophethood from Hazrat Ishaq^{as} ended with them. The martyrdom of Hazrat Yahya^{as} and treatment of Israelites towards Hazrat Isa^{as}, show that they did not deserve a prophet to guide them, they were too far gone.

Can you make a list of prayers you should be reciting every day?

Write down who you should pray for every day.

Try to write the words you should use in your prayers. You can ask a grown up to help you.

Here are some examples for who you can pray:

Our Beloved Huzoor

Your parents

Yourself

Your siblings and family

Your friends

Someone who is unwell

Timeline of Prophets Answers

- 1. Hazrat Ibrahimas
- 2. Hazrat Ishmaelas
- 3. Hazrat Ishaqas
- 4. Hazrat Musaas
- Hazrat Ilyas^{as}
- 6. Hazrat Zakariya^{as}
- 7. Hazrat Yahyaas
- 8. Hazrat Isaas

References

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HAZRAT YAHYA

PEACE BE UPON HIM

Hazrat Yahya^{as} is a prophet in Islam. He was the son of Hazrat Zakariya^{as}, another prophet that has also been mentioned in the Holy Qur'an. They were both sent to the Israelites to teach them about the Oneness of God. They were from Jerusalem in Palestine and descendants of Hazrat Ishaq^{as}.



HAZRAT ZAKARIYA^{AS} & HAZRAT YAHYA^{AS}



These stories take us back to the era of Hazrat Zakariya^{as} and Hazrat Yahya^{as}. In this book you will learn about their lives; their great sacrifices and the message that they were sent to teach the Israelites.

