

Chapter: 12

مَنْصُورٌ فَاتِحٌ

إِذَا جَاءَ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ وَالْفَتْحُ - وَرَأَيْتَ النَّاسَ يَدْخُلُونَ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ أَفْوَاجًا -
فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَاسْتَغْفِرْهُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ تَوَّابًا

{When **the help and victory of Allah** come.

And you see people entering the religion of Allah in multitude.
Then proclaim the Purity of your Lord while praising Him,
and seek forgiveness from Him; indeed He is
the Most Acceptor of Repentance (110:01to03)}

This Surah of Quran was revealed in Madinah. Many years ago, when the Prophet was inviting Islam in Makkah, the whole world became his enemy. Eventually he had to migrate to Madinah. Here, in early days, he had some difficult time as well. Abu Jahl had threatened Sa'ad ibn 'Ubada, a Madani Companion, that if you did not stop giving refuge to Muhammad, we would not allow you to perform Hajj. But this Companion steadfastly replied to Abu Jahl that if you stop us from performing Hajj against the tradition, we will also not allow you to pass through the land of Madinah.

▪ **Ghazwa Badr** : Then it happened that the infidels sent a large caravan of traders from Makkah to Syria and decided that if there was any obstruction then a regular war would be fought. So when this caravan of infidels started passing through Madinah, the Muslims wanted to stop it, as a result of which a regular war broke out. The Islamic army consisted of only three hundred and thirteen (313) men, led

by the Noble Prophet (PBUH) personally. The enemy, which was fully armed, had more than a thousand men. Yet the help of Almighty God was involved and He gave victory to the Muslims. This first defensive war in Islam took place in 02AH/624AD, at the place named Badr.

The Jihad in which the Noble Prophet (PBUH) himself took part is called **غزوة** (Ghazwa). The literary meaning of Ghazwa is "to aim", and it meant to go out with army to fight the disbelievers under the personal command of the Holy Prophet. And when the Prophet (PBUH) did not go himself but sent a group of Companions, it is called **سرية** (Sariya). The total number of Ghazwas is 28, while the total number of Sariyas is 47. One year he sent 3 Sariya's troops, but there was no battle between them.

The campaigns that are mentioned in more detail in Islamic history are as follows:

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| (1) Ghazwa Badr
02AH/624AD | (6) Battle of Mautah
08AH/630AD |
| (2) Ghazwa Uhad
03AH/625AD | (7) Victory of Makkah
08AH/630AD |
| (3) Ghazwa Trench
05AH/627AD | (8) Ghazwa Hunain
08AH/630AD |
| (4) Hudaibiya Peace Treaty
06AH/628AD | (9) Ghazwa Taif
08AH/630AD |
| (5) Ghazwa Khyber
07AH/629AD | (10) Ghazwa Tabuk
09AH/631AD |

▪ **Ghazwa Uhad** : The battle of Uhad took place near Mount Uhad, near Madinah. The peculiarity of this war was that at the beginning of the war, the Muslims had won. The Noble Prophet (PBUH) had placed a group of people in a gorge under the supervision of 'Abdullah bin' Jubair, and had given them a definite order not to leave this place and be active in protecting this valley. But when some 40 Muslim saw their victory, they engaged themselves in plundering the booty of the disbelievers against the

command of the Noble Prophet (PBUH). Khalid bin Walid, who had not yet converted to Islam, attacked this gorge. Due to the attack from behind, the Islamic army dispersed, and the situation of the battle totally changed. However, this battle has ended without any result from both factions.

- **Ghazwa Trench** : The important point of this battle is that the Jews invaded Madinah together with the infidels of the Quraish. This army surrounded Madinah from all sides. In order to stop them, the Noble Prophet (PBUH), on the advice of Hazrat Salman Farsi, arranged for digging a trench in between the two factions, in which the Noble Prophet himself participated. One night a strong wind began to blow. The infidels were in open ground, so their tents were uprooted. Pebbles, mud and sand hit them with the force of the wind, making them difficult to stay. So, they were forced to disperse. In the end, Allah gave victory to His beloved and saved Muslims from the evil of the infidels.

- **Hudaibiya Peace Treaty** : This is a great event in the history of Muslims. It had far-reaching results and favorable effects. The importance of the Hudaibiya Peace Treaty can also be gauged with the fact that the Holy Quran calls it as "فَتْحًا مُبِينًا" (clear victory) and "نَصْرًا عَزِيمًا" (Help of the Almighty). All the historians agree that the Hudaibiya Peace Treaty is a masterpiece of the political insight and wisdom of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

- **Ghazwa Khyber** : Verse 20 of Surah Al-Fath gives a signal for the Victory of Khyber. When the Jews, despite claiming to be with the Muslims, joined infidels in the Ghazwa Trench and fought with the Muslims. So, in order to suppress them, the Muslims also besieged them under the leadership of the Noble Prophet. This siege lasted for four

days. Eventually, the Prophet gave the flag to Hazrat Ali and sent him to Khyber. Hazrat Ali, with the power of Wilayat, hit the door of the fort with such force that its flaps were broken and the door was opened. Then the flanks of the door were put over the ditch. After which people passed through and entered the Fort of Khyber. Without bloodshed, the Almighty God bestowed victory and helped His beloved Prophet (PBUH).

- **Battle of Mauta :** It is considered as one of the decisive battles of Islam. It was fought against the Roman Christians. In this, the Noble Prophet appointed three Commanders in a row, but all three of them were martyred. In the beginning the Muslims had to face retreat and defeat but, in this situation, Hazrat Khalid bin Walid took the leadership of the Islamic army who defeated the Romans by uniting the Muslims.

- **Victory of Makkah :** In the Peace Treaty of Hudaibiya, there was an agreement between the Muslims and the infidels that there would be no war between them for ten years. But a war broke out between the two tribes, the Banu Bakr (ally of the non-Muslims) and the Banu Khuza'a (ally of the Prophet), in which the tribe of Banu Khuza'a was severely damaged. The tribe sought the help of the Noble Prophet (PBUH). Muhammad Mustafa (PBUH) was in Madinah at that time. He himself replied from Madinah. "I will definitely come to your aid." So the Prophet marched towards Makkah with his army. On the way some other Muslims also joined him. Thus an army of twelve thousand (12,000) reached Makkah and surrounded the whole city. His uncle, Hazrat Abbas, who had become a Muslim but had not yet migrated, advised Abu Sufyan to ask the Noble Prophet for peace, otherwise all the non-Muslims of Quraish would be killed. Then he took Abu Sufyan to the

Prophet (PBUH). When they reached there, he asked him: O the Messenger of Allah! Abu Sufyan wants to be a Muslim, kindly make out him with some favor. The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Whoever takes refuge in the house of Abu Sufyan has peace." And then said, "He who seeks refuge in the Sacred Mosque has peace, and he who lays down his arms or closes his doors is also safe." Then the Muslim army began to enter the city of Makkah. Finally, the Noble Prophet, reciting the Surah al-Fatah, entered the Masjid al-Haram with complete victory. The main city was conquered, but a total of only 70 people were killed on this occasion, and that too without the order of the Noble Prophet, and by some misunderstanding. This victory of the Muslims was certainly "فَتْحًا مُبِينًا" (a clean victory) for Islam. At the end Rahmatul-lil-Aalamin handed over Makkah to the people of Makkah and he himself returned to Madinah. Today on 1442 AH / 2020AD, the Masjid al-Haram of Makkah appears with all its glory as below:



In the author's view, despite the victory of Makkah the return of Noble Prophet (PBUH) to Madinah was to reward His beloved with a special place in this world forever. To arrange the "Migration to Madinah" was probably an anticipated act of Almighty God for this. The Kalimah of Muslims consists of two parts. First, لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ, and

the second مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ. The city of **Makkah** has been a place of worship from the very beginning. Along with worship, it has now been made the "**Qiblah of Muslims**". When the Almighty granted **Madinah** the status of a special city for Muhammad (PBUH), the Messenger of God, and thus put the entire Muslim Ummah on the path of permanent "**Special Attendance**" to His Beloved. Today, the Prophet's Mosque, stands with its magnificence in Madinah like this:



- **Ghazwa Hunain** : The status of Ghazwa Hunain is also prominent in the decisive battles of Islam. It is also called Ghazwa Hawazin. When the Muslims conquered Makkah, the Hawazin and the tribes of Thaqif also felt threatened by the Muslims. So these tribes and all their branches came together under the leadership of their chief Malik bin Auf Nazari. They were twenty thousand in number. This army marched towards the Muslims. The Prophet (PBUH) also set out with an army of twelve thousand, out of which ten thousand were from Madinah and two thousand from Makkah. Initially, the Muslims were pushed back by the archers of Hawazin and Thaqif, but the Noble Prophet firmly stood among thousands of arrows. He kept calling to the Muslims. Eventually the Muslims gathered and the enemies were defeated. Six thousand of

them were taken captive by the Muslims, while thousands of camels, several thousand goats and four thousand ounces of silver came into the hands of Muslims.

▪ **Ghazwa Taif** : Some of the infidel armies fleeing from Hunain had stayed in Otas and some had taken refuge in the fort of Taif. Therefore, it was necessary to fight these asylum seekers in Taif. Therefore, the Noble Prophet (PBUH) gathered the booty and prisoners of Hunain and Otas at the place named Ja'rana and marched towards Taif. The siege of the city continued for eighteen (18) days but Taif could not be conquered. When the Prophet consulted with the people, he was assured that even if we let them go, there would be no fear on their part, so the Holy Prophet ordered the siege to be lifted.

▪ **Ghazwa Tabuk** : The reason for the Battle of Tabuk was that the Arab Ghassan dynasty ruled Syria under the influence of Caesar Rome. That family was Christian, so Caesar Rome made them as his tool. He decided to attack on Madinah. This news was spread all over Arabia. Therefore, the Noble Prophet also ordered for the preparation of the army. The Battle of Tabuk is one such battle, in the history of the period of the Noble Prophet (PBUH), in which the number of soldiers of the Muslim army was thirty thousand (30,000). Thus, this Ghazwa was the largest military invasion. This was the last military operation of the Holy Prophet as well.

As long as the Noble Prophet (PBUH) remained in Makkah, the Prophet was not allowed to use force, but was instructed by the Almighty God to be patient and for this he was given the glad tidings of Paradise. The first order of Jihad was revealed in Madinah. Here, too, he was initially allowed to fight only in self-defense. The order of regular Jihad was gradually revealed. Firstly it was said:

أُذِنَ لِلَّذِينَ يُقَاتَلُونَ بِأَنَّهُمْ ظَلَمُوا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ نَصْرِهِمْ لَقَدِيرٌ -
الَّذِينَ أُخْرِجُوا مِن دِيَارِهِم بِغَيْرِ حَقٍّ إِلَّا أَن يَقُولُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ

{Permission is granted to those against whom the disbelievers wage war, as they are being wronged; and indeed Allah is able to assist them.

Those were unjustly expelled from their homes just because they said,
"Allah is Our Lord" (22:39,40)}

Then the second command was revealed to fight for the glory and dominance of Islam so that sedition would end in the world and the Oneness of Allah would uphold:

وَقَاتِلُوهُمْ حَتَّىٰ لَا تَكُونَ فِئْتَةٌ وَيَكُونَ الدِّينُ لِلَّهِ فَإِنِ انتَهَوْا فَلَا عُدْوَانَ إِلَّا عَلَى الظَّالِمِينَ

{And fight them until no mischief remains, and only Allah is worshipped; then if they desist, do not harm them, except the unjust (02:193)}

The names of the Prophet (PBUH) include **منصور**, which means who got help from Allah. Obviously, whoever has the help of Allah, his **success in every place** is certain. In this way, Prophet's two good names also stood as **فاتح** and **فتاح** (both means "the Conqueror").

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