

Zahoor

Monthly Taleem Focus Slides
August 2015

ظہور

August in Hijri-Shamsi Calendar

- Islamic calendar (known as Hijri) is based on lunar movements whereas Gregorian calendar is based on solar movements
- Hazrat Musleh Ma'ud^{ra} introduced a new calendar in 1940 which is known as Hijri-Shamsi calendar which is based on solar movements but starts of at Hijrah and the months are named after significant events in the life of Prophet Muhammad^{sa}
- August is called Zahoor ظهور in Hijri-Shamsi calendar. It means “appearance”
- It is so named because Islam appeared outside the Arabian peninsula for the first time with the Battle is Mautah (معركة مؤتة)

Prelude to the battle

- The treaty of Hudaibiyya (صلح الحديبية) was signed in the sixth year of Hijra and in the relative peace after the treaty Prophet Muhammad^{sa} had written letters to different kings
- Upon return from Pilgrimage, as agreed in the treaty, the following year Prophet^{sa} received reports that Syrians were gathering an army to attack Medina
- He dispatched a party of 15 men to investigate. Upon finding the Christian army at the border they tried to invite them to Islam. They were all slaughtered
- Prophet^{sa} dispatched a letter to chief of Ghassan tribe who ruled the city of Busra (in Syria) as a governor of Roman emperor
- However the ambassador al-Harth^{ra} was intercepted and murdered by Shurahbil, a Roman official who was likely behind the attack on the earlier party of 15

The Command & Instructions

- Prophet^{sa} gathered an army of 3000 men and dispatched them under the leadership of Zaid bin Haritha^{ra}, his adopted son
- He instructed that if Zaid^{ra} were to fall, Jafar bin Abi Talib^{ra} (Hazrat Ali's brother) should take command and if he dies then `Abdullah bin Rawaha^{ra} should lead the army
- As Prophet^{sa} walked with the army outside the city of Medina, he gave the following instructions

I urge you to fear God and to deal justly with Muslims who go with you. Go to war in the name of Allah and fight the enemy in Syria, who is your enemy, as well as Allah's. When you are in Syria, you will meet those who remember God much in their houses of worship. You should have no dispute with them, and give no trouble to them. In the enemy country do not kill any women or children, nor the blind or the old; do not cut down any tree, nor pull down any building

Battle of Mautah

- Muslim army was intercepted by the Roman army at the village of Mautah which lies east of Jordan river close to the dead sea
- There were 3000 Muslims who were faced with an army of 100,000 men
- Hazrat Zaid^{ra} was soon martyred and Hazrat Jafar^{ra} took command
- When Hazrat Jafar^{ra} saw that the enemy pressure was increasing he got off his horse and hamstrung it indicating to his army that at least he will not flee
- Hazrat Jafar^{ra} was holding the standard as one of his hands was cut and he held it with the other hand. When the other hand was cut he held it with the stumps of his arms until he was martyred



Battle of Mautah

- It is reported that the body of Jafar^{ra} had over 50 wounds, all of them in front, none of them in the back
- Hazrat `Abdullah bin Rawaha^{ra} then took command but he was soon martyred too
- Khalid bin Walid^{ra} then took command and Muslims were able to hold off the Christians till the end of the day. He broke 9 swords that day while fighting
- Next day Khalid^{ra}, a brilliant military mind, swapped his right and left flank and moved the soldiers in the back to front and those in front to back. Moreover, he stationed a group of soldiers behind a hill and asked them to join the battle later while kicking up as much dust as possible when they joined.
- Seeing this the Roman army thought that Muslims were receiving fresh reinforcements and they fell back. This allowed the Muslim army to retreat as well

Return to Medina

- The Muslim army then returned to Medina. Some Muslims who did not go in the battle taunted the men that they should all have laid down their lives instead of returning
- Prophet^{sa} defended the army against the criticism and praised their conduct in the war. He said that they fought as hard as they could and many laid down their lives
- After the battle Prophet^{sa} gave the title of Saifullah سيف الله (the sword of Allah) to Khalid bin Walid^{ra}
- Even though the Muslim army was not able to defeat the Roman army but it set the stage for battles later in the time of Hadhrat Umar^{ra} and Hadhrat Usman^{ra}, many under the leadership of Khalid bin Walid^{ra}, where Muslims eventually conquered all that territory

Further Reading

- For more information on Battle of Mautah and the event leading up to it, please read Life of Muhammad^{sa} (Pages 147-151)

<https://www.alislam.org/library/books/Life-of-Muhammad.pdf>