

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Ahmadīyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by Ḥaḍrat Khalīfa-tul-Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper) on 10th September 2021 at Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) continued with the series of sermons regarding Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him).

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: During the Khilāfat of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him), the siege of Damascus lasted for many months and the Muslims gained victory after Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) had passed away. Since these events occurred in the era of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him), I will mention their details when I speak about him, God willing. For now, I will recount the events that took place after the conquest of Damascus.

After the conquest of Damascus, Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* sent Ḥaḍrat *Khalid bin Walīd* on the *Biqa’* expedition. After gaining victory there, Ḥaḍrat *Khalid* sent some troops further to the spring called *Maisanūn*. However, a group of Romans attacked the Muslims from the rear and martyred many of them. Consequently, this spring came to be called ‘*Ainush-Shuhadā*’ (Spring of Martyrs).

The conquest of Damascus took place in 14 AH. Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* wrote to Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) that Heraclius was stationed at *Hims* and sending troops to Damascus, to which Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) said that Damascus was the fortress and capital of Syria and it should be conquered first, but at the same time some cavalry should be sent to *Fihl*. When the Roman forces saw the advancing of the Muslims towards Damascus, they inundated the surrounding land with water, thus closing all the roads and also stopping Heraclius' relief forces from reaching Damascus. The Muslims, however, remained steadfast and the Christians were forced to agree to a peace settlement. However, due to the stubbornness and arrogance of the Romans, the diplomacy of Ḥaḍrat *Mu‘ādh bin Jabal* and Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah*'s direct talks did not succeed and the war could not be averted. The Roman army is said to have numbered between fifty to a hundred thousand soldiers. When the war broke out, the Roman general was overawed by the bravery of the Muslims and wanted to retreat, but Ḥaḍrat *Khalid* called out the Muslims in such a way that they overcame the enemy. The Christians were trying to delay fighting in the hope of getting help, but, on the advice of Ḥaḍrat *Khalid*, Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* continued fighting. The next day there was a fierce battle that lasted about an hour after which the Romans lost their footing and fled. At the behest of Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him), the local people kept possession of their property,

land, houses and places of worship, while the Muslims only acquired some land for building mosques.

Conquest of *Baisān* and Tiberias: The news of the defeat of the Romans had spread in the Jordanian territories. Therefore, when the people heard of the advance of *Shurahbīl* and his army towards *Baisān*, they barricaded themselves within the fort. After a few days of siege and minor skirmishes, reconciliation was reached with the people of *Baisān*. Similarly, the people of Tiberias also offered peace which was accepted.

Conquest of *Hims* in 14 AH: When Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* and Ḥaḍrat *Khalid bin Walīd* laid siege to *Hims*, the weather was extremely cold and the Muslim soldiers had no equipment to cope with the weather, hence the Romans thought that the Muslims would not be able to fight for long. Heraclius sent an army to help the people of *Hims*, but Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad bin Abi Waqās*, who was fighting in Iraq, stopped it. Heraclius fled to *Ruha* promising to send help to *Hims*, but when the people of *Hims* saw the resilience of the Muslims, they agreed to a peace settlement.

The battle of *Marj-ur-Rūm* took place in the same year. When the news of the encampment of Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* and Ḥaḍrat *Khalid* at *Zul-Qalā'* reached Heraclius, he sent *Tuzara* to counter them. When *Tuzara* reached *Marj-ur-Rūm*, *Shanas Rumi* also reached there and joined him. One night when *Tuzara* vacated his place, Ḥaḍrat *Khalid* followed him. On the other hand, when *Yazid bin Abu Sufyan* heard of *Tuzara's* movement, he stopped him from the front. In this way, the Muslims surrounded the *Tuzara's* army from both sides and defeated them. At the same time, *Abu 'Ubaidah* fought *Shanas* in *Marj-ur-Rūm* and won.

Thereafter, Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* conquered *Hamāt*, *Shaizar* and *Salamyah* and then turned to the Syrian coastal city of *Latakia*.

The conquest of *Latakia* took place in 14 AH. Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* devised a war strategy whereby he dug cave-like pits at night and then lifted the siege in the morning. The townspeople thought that the siege had ended and opened the gates. Meanwhile, Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* returned with his army overnight and hid in the pits that had been dug. When the gates of the city opened in the morning, the Muslims attacked and conquered the city.

The conquest of *Qinnasrīn* in 15 AH: Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* sent Ḥaḍrat *Khalid* to *Qinnasrīn*. When he reached *Hazir*, the Romans countered him under the leadership of *Mīnās* and lost. The people of the area pleaded before Ḥaḍrat *Khalid* that they had been forcibly made to join the war and should be pardoned. Ḥaḍrat *Khalid* accepted their excuse. However, some Romans fled from there and fortified themselves in *Qinnasrīn*. Since they could find no way out of there, they agreed to a peace settlement after a few days, but Ḥaḍrat *Khalid* decided to punish them for contravening the treaty. Thus, the people of *Qinnasrīn* fled to *Antioch*, leaving behind their wealth and possessions. When Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* came, he announced that Ḥaḍrat *Khalid's* decision was based on justice, but, acting with compassion, gave amnesty to the people of the city. Therefore, the fugitives from *Antioch* also returned upon the condition that they would pay *Jizya*.

The conquest of *Caesarea* took place in 15 AH. It is written in *Al-Farooq* that *Caesarea* was invaded by Ḥaḍrat *'Amr bin 'Ās* in 13 AH. After the death of Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah*,

Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) ordered *Yazīd bin Abu Sufyan* to go ahead with the attack. He laid siege to the city with an army of 17,000. However, after he fell ill in 18 AH, he appointed Ḥaḍrat *Amīr Mu’āwiyah* in his place and left for Damascus where he later died. Ḥaḍrat *Amīr Mu’āwiyah* continued to lay siege. One day, a *Badri* Companion, Ḥaḍrat *Tbādah bin Sāmit*, addressed the Muslims with passion and said, “O Muslims! You have not been able to move the Romans because there are people among you who are either traitors or are not sincere.” He then passionately urged them to seek martyrdom. Eventually, one day the Romans came out for battle and suffered a humiliating defeat. About eighty to one hundred thousand Roman soldiers were killed that day.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā‘at of the sad demise of the following members and announced to lead their funeral prayer in absentia:

1. *Khadija Sahiba*, wife of *Maulvi Muhammad ‘Alvi Sahib*, former missionary of Kerala, passed away at the age of 80 years. She was a very patient, devout, pious, hospitable and contented lady. She is survived by two sons and five daughters.
2. *Malik Sultan Rashīd Khan Sahib* of *Kot Fateh Khan*, former *Amīr* of Attock District, passed away on 23rd August. He was greatly devoted to Khilāfat, fond of preaching, devout, supplicant, humble and trustworthy. He helped the poor and needy and was very sagacious in his speech.
3. *Abdul Qayyum Sahib* of Indonesia passed away on 25th August at the age of 82. He was the son of *Maulana Abdul Wahid Sahib Samatri* who was the first non-Indian and non-Pakistani Ahmadiyya missionary. He was greatly devoted to Khilāfat, was meek and humble, and was always at the forefront in making financial sacrifices.
4. *Daouda Razzāq Yunus Sahib* of Benin passed away on 27th August at the age of 74 years. He was one of the earliest Ahmadiīs in Benin. He was very dignified and devout, punctual in offering Tahajjud, virtuous and sincere. He had boundless love for the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) and the Khulafā.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) prayed: May Allāh have mercy on all the deceased and grant them a lofty station in heaven. *Amīn*.

Jazākumullāh
Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 16 September 2021