Friday Sermon 9 October 2020
Delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih Al-Khamis (a.b.a.)

After Tashahhud, Ta’awwaz and the recitation of Surah Al-Fatehah, Huzur-e-Anwar said:

Last week we were discussing Hazrat Abu Obaida bin Jarrah (ra). Today we shall continue on this topic. Huzur-e-Anwar gave details of the Battle of Yarmuk and said that, “before this battle took place, the Muslims had pulled their army back from the point of Hamas. As the Muslims were not going to stay there, they returned the local tax collected from the residents. When this money was returned to the Christian residents they were completely convinced of the honest and sympathetic nature of the Muslims. They would keep crying and saying, oh merciful rulers, may God bring you back quickly.

Regarding the Battle of Yarmuk it is written in the history books that before this battle started, the Romans sent a general by the name of George as an ambassador to the Muslims. He met with Hazrat Abu Obaida (ra) and when this meeting took place, General George asked him about the Islamic teaching concerning Hazrat Isa (as). Hazrat Abu Obaida (ra) recited some verses from the Holy Quran regarding Hazrat Isa (ra). When the Roman ambassador heard these verses, he said “These are indeed the attributes of a Messiah. Indeed your prophet is true” and he converted to Islam.

The Muslims won the Battle of Yarmuk. There were many tribes and many ethnicities living in the area of Shaam (Syria). Hazrat Abu Obaida (ra) established a brotherhood amongst all these people. He established the rule of justice and law and he gave complete religious freedom to all people. A lot of Arab and Roman Christians converted to Islam as a result of his dealings with them. Later on Huzur-e-Anwar gave more details of how the Battle of Baitul Muqadas was won and was taken. In this battle which ended in conquering Baitul Muqadas, Hazrat Abu Obaida (ra) took part in this battle with one of his armies. When Muslims got together and circled Jerusalem, the local people, after having watched the Muslim army on all sides of Jerusalem, wanted to have peace talks but under the condition that Hazrat Umar (ra) himself should come and talk to them. When he heard this he decided to accept this condition and he appointed Hazrat Ali (ra) as his acting Emir in Medina and he himself left for Palestine to hold negotiations.

Hazrat Abu Obaida (ra) passed away in 18 Hijri due to a plague in Shaam (Syria). He was 58 years old. His last advice to the people before his passing was that people should pray salaat, pay zakat and fast in the month of Ramadan, give sadqa, perform Hajj and Umrah, try and say good things to one another and obey the rulers and Emirs and not to deceive them. He also said, “Beware that your wives do not make you irresponsible towards your other duties. Even if a man lives a 1000 years, one day he has to leave this world. The one who is always ready to leave this world is a wise one. Give my message to Hazrat Amir-ul-Momineen that I have returned everything that was given to me as a keepsake”.

Towards the end of the sermon Huzur-e-Anwar discussed a few of the deceased and announced their funeral in absentia.