

## Summary Friday Sermon 15 April 2022

Delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba)

After reciting *Tashahhud*, *Ta'awwuz* and *Surah al-Fatihah*, His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) said that in the last sermon he delivered on the life of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), he presented references which proved that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) did not punish people for their apostasy, rather he punished them on account of their rebellion.

His Holiness (aba) said that the *Hakam* (judge) and *Adl* (just arbiter) of this age, the Promised Messiah (as) has also affirmed that the apostates during the time of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) had taken up rebellion. The Promised Messiah (as) described that dangerous and turbulent time that had transpired due to this open rebellion, in the face of which Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) remained brave and resolute. Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was very saddened by what had become of these people and would weep in prayer. His daughter Hazrat A'ishah (ra) describes that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) witnessed all kinds of rebellion and insurrection at the outset of his Caliphate, such that if the same burden had been placed upon mountains they would crumble. However, with the help of God Almighty, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) stood firm as he eradicated all of the threats which had presented themselves.

His Holiness (aba) said that during this wave of rebellion, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) deployed various envoys. There were those who had turned apostate and refused to give Zakat, but then there were also those who became apostates, then also adopted rebellion and had started killing Muslims. Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) decided to obtain intelligence regarding the movements of this group, and so he gathered the Muslim army and set out from Madinah. Hazrat Ali (ra) requested Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) that rather than accompanying that army himself, he should send someone else in his stead for fear of something happening to him during battle. Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) accepted this suggestion and instructed the army to go forth as he returned to Madinah.

His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) divided the Muslim army into eleven battalions with appointed leaders each assigned their own flag. They were sent to various places where rebels including those under the leadership of false claimants to prophethood were rearing their rebellion. Hazrat Abu Bakr

(ra) also instructed each battalion to leave some strong Muslims behind in the areas to which they were being deployed in order to ensure security was maintained in the region. Historians have commended this plan devised by Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) resulting in great success against the rebellion.

His Holiness (aba) said that during this time, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) penned a letter for all those residing in Arabia, stating that he believed in that which was brought by the Holy Prophet (sa), and all those who deny that message are disbelievers. He said that the Holy Prophet (sa) was sent to this world with truth as a bearer of glad tidings and as a warner. Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) then explained through verses of the Holy Qur'an that after fulfilling his responsibilities, the Holy Prophet (sa) was to pass away just as everyone must pass on, so too would he. I entreat you to follow the teachings of the Holy Prophet (saw) and to hold fast to Allah's religion. The news has reached me that some of you, even after accepting Islam, have deceived Allah and followed Shaytan and have left your religion. I have sent some people towards you and have instructed them to not fight with those who have improved their habits and accepted their religion once more. And to fight with those who refuse till the end. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih said, those who were fought against, the truth of that matter was, that they were rebelling against the Islamic state. They committed cruelties and murder.