

moreover, he is poor and does not have enough wealth to enable him to be a king. This was based on the false notion that the prerequisites for kingship and similar positions of authority were noble descent and abundant wealth; they were not aware of the real qualities that qualify a person to take up such a position. Hence their Prophet said to them: «Allah has chosen him over you», and you are obliged to submit to that choice.

«and [He] has increased him abundantly in knowledge and physique». That is, He has favoured him over you and given him more in terms of knowledge and physique; in other words, He has given him deep insight and physical strength by means of which he is qualified for his post as king, for if he has deep insight and the ability to implement the right decision, he will be able to fulfil this role in the best manner, but if he were lacking in either of these two qualities, he would not be able to do his job properly. If he were physically strong but lacked deep insight, then the king would be unsuccessful in running the kingdom's affairs, because his strength would not be used in a wise manner. If he had deep insight but did not have the strength to implement any decisions he made, his insight would not benefit him because he would not be able to achieve anything.

«and Allah is All-Encompassing» in His grace; for His mercy and kindness are not limited to some in exclusion of others, or to the noble in exclusion of the lowly. Nevertheless, He is

«All-Knowing» of who is deserving of His grace, so He bestows it upon him. These words removed any doubt, uncertainty or specious arguments in their hearts, because they explained that Tâloot possessed all the qualifications for kingship, and that Allah bestows His grace on whomever He wills among His slaves, and no one can ward it off. Then their Prophet also gave them a tangible sign that they could see for themselves, which was the coming of the Ark of the Covenant, which had been missing for a long time. The Ark contained reassurance which would give them peace of mind, along