

- 2:250. When they came out against Jâloot and his troops, they said: Our Lord, bestow on us steadfastness and make us stand firm; and grant us victory over the disbelieving people.
- 2:251. Thus they defeated them by Allah's leave; and Dâwood slew Jâloot; and Allah gave him power and wisdom and taught him whatever [else] He willed. Were it not for Allah restraining the people, some by means of others, the earth would indeed be filled with mischief. But Allah is most gracious to all the worlds.
- 2:252. These are the revelations of Allah, which We recite to you in truth; verily you are one of the Messengers.

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When Tâlout became king of the Children of Israel, and became established in his position, they made preparations to fight their enemies. When Tâlout set out with the Israelite troops, who were huge in number, he tested them, on Allah's command, to show who would be steadfast and assured, and who would not. He said: «Allah will test you with a river: whoever drinks from it does not belong with me» because he is disobedient and cannot follow us because of his lack of patience and steadfastness, and his disobedience. «but whoever does not drink from it does belong with me». «and anyone who scoops up a little with his hand [will be excused]» and there will be no blame on him for that. It may be that Allah will put blessing in it and it will suffice him. This test indicates that the supply of water was little, in order to test them. The majority of them disobeyed him and drank from the river in the manner that was forbidden, and they changed their minds about fighting their enemies. Their lack of patience in refraining from the water for a short while offered the greatest evidence that they had no patience for the fight which would be lengthy and would involve a great deal of hardship. Their turning back from the rest of the army increased the trust in Allah of those who remained steadfast, and made them more earnest in beseeching Him, humbling themselves before Him and declaring