

- 3:35. [Remember] when the wife of 'Imrân said: O my Lord, I dedicate entirely unto You what is in my womb, so accept this from me, for You are the All-Hearing, All-Knowing.
- 3:36. When she gave birth, she said: O my Lord, I have given birth to a female! – and Allah knew best what she had given birth to – and the male is not like the female. I have named her Maryam, and I seek refuge with You for her and her offspring from the accursed Shaytân.
- 3:37. Her Lord graciously accepted her and caused her to grow in a good manner, and entrusted her to the care of Zakariyâ. Every time Zakariyâ entered the chamber to see her, he found some provisions with her. He said: O Maryam, where has this come from? She said: From Allah; for Allah grants provision without measure to whomever He will.

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Here Allah tells us about those whom He selected among His close friends, beloved and chosen ones. He tells us that he chose Adam above all other created beings; He created him with His own Hand and breathed into him a spirit created by Him; he instructed the angels to prostrate to him and caused him to dwell in His paradise; He gave him knowledge, forbearance and virtue by means of which he superseded all other created beings. Hence Allah favoured his descendants and said:

﴿We have indeed honoured the sons of Adam, given them means of transportation on land and sea, provided them with good things, and have favoured them above many of those whom We have created.﴾

(*al-Isrâ' 17: 70*)

He chose Nooh and made him the first Messenger to the people of earth, when they began to worship idols, and He gave him patience, perseverance and gratitude that enabled him to call the people to Allah at all times. Hence Allah chose him and brought him close to Him, and He caused the people of earth to drown in response to his