

Khadija, a rich widow of Mecca, whose caravan of merchandise he attended, and once more visited Busra (near the Jordan), Aleppo, and Damascus. As a reward of faithful service he secured her hand in marriage, and lived happily with her. His marriage gave him prominence, and he took a leading part in renewing an old federation at Mecca. In his thirty-fifth year he settled a dispute regarding the placing of the Black Stone in the reconstruction of the Kaaba.

**Prophetic
Work until
the Hegira**

At last he received the call to become a prophet in the cave of Hira, and communicated his vision to his wife, Khadija, who believed in its validity. After a period of mental depression other revelations followed, and he began to preach. When the number of converts rose to fifty and Mohammed spoke sharply against the idols of the Kaaba, the hostility of the Mecans was aroused, persecution began, and some fled to Abyssinia. In the tenth year, Khadija died, and the same year Mohammed negotiated two new marriages. Attempting to convert the people of Taif, he was driven out, but he won over a party of twelve from Medina, who came on a pilgrimage and preached the faith on their return. Shortly after Mohammed determined to flee from Mecca to Medina, and this flight dates the Moslem era, the Hegira, 622 A. D.