



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

I dedicate this book “Lessons in Quran part 1” to my parents, may Allah make it a source of ongoing charity (source of forgiveness and elevation of ranks) for them. I ask Allah(SWT) to forgive all their sins and make me a source of charity for them. Amin! May Allah reward me, my family, relatives, friends and all Muslims. Amin!

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Preface Lessons in Quran Part 1

The main purpose of this book is to motivate people to read the Quran with understanding. The Quran says: The parable of those who were given the Torah and then they failed to live up to it is that of a donkey laden with books, i.e., just like donkey does not know what it is carrying (62:5). Allah in the Quran says: Men! Now there has come to you an exhortation from your Lord, a healing for the ailments of the hearts, and a guidance and mercy for those who believe. Tell them (O Prophet!): “Let them rejoice in Allah’s grace and mercy through which this (Book) has come to you. It is better than all the riches that they accumulate” (10:57-58). Further Allah says: Do they, then, not reflect on the Quran? Or are there locks on their hearts (47:24)? Quran is the constitutional Book of Islam, without studying it, how can we follow the scholars blindly? That’s why the Prophet (SAW) said: **“Seeking knowledge is a duty upon every Muslim”** (Ibn Majah 224). If anyone pursues a path in search of knowledge, Allah will then make easy for him a path to paradise (Dawud 3643). “The best of charity is when a Muslim man gains knowledge, then he teaches it to his Muslim brothers” (Ibn Majah 243). On the other hand, Quran says: This is the Book that We have revealed to you, so that people of understanding may reflect over its verses, and those with understanding derive a lesson from it (38:29). Those who did not read the Quran with understanding, will say when in hell: Had we but listened or pondered, we would not have been among the inmates of the burning fire (67:10). So long as Muslim were attached to the Quran, they led the world in education, culture and science. When the Muslims started following their scholars blindly, not only they split the ummah in sects, but also made them least educated and ignorant nation in the world. Now I am presenting the first part of this book to you, in which I have tried to cover the first 18 chapters or half the Quran. They take the law into their own hands, and even kill people on

false accusations. Calling one another infidels has become their occupation.

The Quran enhances the wisdom and laws clarified in the previous Divine Books (Torah, Gospel etc.). The Quran being the mother of all Books, in short, it teaches us four things: **a) Allah's relation with His creation:** Since the test of this worldly life is believing in the unseen, the Quran briefly describes Allah and His attributes. So that we may recognize Him by the signs in the universe, the signs around us and the signs within us. **b) Creature's relationship with the Creator:** Being His creature and His slaves, in the Quran Allah has issued commandments on how to live this worldly life. As we have been given the free will to follow or not to follow. Therefore, on the Judgment Day He will call us to account. **c) Humans' relationship with each other:** The Quran stresses on caring for each other. Allah in Quran tells us to acquire His attributes for peace and tranquility in the worldly life. **d) Warns not to alter the environment balance.**

In Quran Allah says: **It is guidance to Godfearing people** (2:1). **These are the verses of the Book overflowing with wisdom** (10:1). The Book is devoid of all crookedness, and speaks straightforwardly (18:1-2). Ali_(RA) narrates a hadith in Sunan al-Tirmizi which says that the wonders of the Quran can never end. The more you study it, the more information you will find (both ethical and scientific). The Quran itself emphasizes self-contemplation and says that it has been made easy. Allah says: **We have made the Quran easy to derive lessons from.** Is there, then, any who will take heed (54:22)? The Quran was revealed on Mohammed_(SAW) who could not read nor write, and so did most of the Arabs. In Surah Yusuf Allah says: These are the verses of a Book that clearly expounds the truth. We have revealed it in Arabic language so that you may fully understand (12:1-2). The one who follows it never fails. People who were proud of their lineage and killed each other for the slightest thing, when they followed the Quran, they attained the status of Leadership, and showed mastery in every sphere of life. The revolution in their lives came from meditating in the Quran.

The miscreant scholars say, to understand the Quran we need twelve types of knowledge. Did the Prophet^(SAW) first teach twelve types of knowledge so that they could understand? No. As the Quran was revealed in Arabic, when it was recited to them, they understood it (it is like reading a book in English to a British). Allah in the Quran tells us: **Those who had knowledge of Devine Books before this**, when Quran is recited to them, they weep and fall prostrate on their faces and cry out, "Our lord is glorious and His promise is sure to be fulfilled." It increases their humility (those who are above position, prejudice and self-interest) (17:105-109). That is why Allama Iqbal said: You are so trapped in the trap of ignorant Sufis (saints) and miscreant scholars that you have stopped taking guidance from Quran. All you do with the verses of the Quran is that when the soul of your old man gets stuck, you sit down and start reciting Surah Yaseen. There is no doubt that his soul will exit easily. I am sorry for you that you only learned to die from the Book whose every word gives life. The Quran from which you learned to die; I wish you could have learnt to live from it. To properly understand the Quran one should learn Arabic, otherwise at least read a translation. May Allah give us guidance to follow His commandments. Amin!

There are two types of verses in the Quran, one is commandments and the other are analogies. We should follow the commandments. With the passage of time, the analogies verses of Quran are being proven by different departments of sciences. Thus, the truthfulness of the Quran is becoming clearer.

In need of supplication
A. H. Siddiq

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

1. Lessons in Surah Fatiha

Surah al-Fatihah is the first chapter of the Quran. Its six verses are a prayer for the guidance. It teaches us how to call upon the Lord, and also tells us the best supplication for the Hereafter. That is why it is obligatory to recite it in every rakah of the prayer **with under-standing**, so that He may guide us to His way. In response of the supplication, Allah presents the whole Quran (the guidance Book). That is why it is also called the essence of the Quran, a cure for all ailments of the heart.

Allah: In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate (Ar-Rahman is the One who is merciful to everyone in this world, however Ar-Raheem describes the additional mercy of Allah for the believers on the Day of Resurrection). Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the entire universe. The Merciful, the Compassionate. The Master of the Day of Recompense (1-3).

Lessons: The Lord being the Most Merciful and Compassionate, it leaves no room to supplicate to anyone else then Him. Being the Master of the Day of Recompense, we should follow His instructions (the Quran) to gain His pleasure and save ourselves from His wrath. **Allah the Omnipotent, Who is Most Compassionate, is there any room left to call upon anyone else after that?**

Rejection of Polytheism: You alone do we worship, and You alone do we turn for help (4). **Lesson:** In it we declare that **He alone we worship and He alone we ask for help, then how can we call on others?**

Supplication: Direct us on to the Straight Way, the way of those whom You have favoured, who did not incur Your wrath, who are not astray (5-6). **Lesson:** It is only Allah who is seventy times more merciful than a mother. If a mother would not want her child to burn in a fire, then, would Allah? No! As He is Just, it is our doings that will lead us to Hellfire.

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2. Lesson in Surah Baqarah

Surah Baqarah is the longest Quranic chapter. It has 286 verses and 40 sections. It tells the stories of previous nations (especially Jews) so that we can learn from them and follow the commandments of Allah. It warns those who break the covenant with Allah, sever blood ties, and spread mischief on earth that they will be the losers in the Hereafter. We are reminded that we were lifeless and He gave us life, then He will cause death and resurrect us in the Hereafter (28). This surah categorizes three traits of humans. It especially addresses the Israelites and rebukes their previous mis-conducts, killing of prophets and for not following Mohammed(SAW), although he is mentioned in Tora and the Gospel. It also discusses the creation of Adam, the objection raised by the angels and Satan, building of Kaaba by Abraham(AS), stories relating to resurrection of dead etc.

Summary of Topics

Allah: There is no god but He, He has power over all things, and He is the Creator of all things. The sovereignty of the heavens and the earth only belongs to Him, and there is no protector or helper beside Him. He is all-Aware, all-hearing, all-Wise and Bountiful. Without exemption, everyone will return to Him. He is most Relenting and most Merciful. We are accountable to Him in the Hereafter. He knows the secrets of our hearts, whether we disclose it or hide it, He forgives or punishes whom He wills (284). **Leaves no room for calling on others.**

The Quran's challenge: The surah tells us that Quran is the Book of Allah, and there is no doubt about it, and it is a guidance for the righteous. In response to the Quran being fabricated, Allah challenges the humanity to come up with a surah like it (the smallest surah being just three verses) (23-24).

The Commandments: The verses 163-242 mainly consists of the laws and directives of the Shariah revealed to the

Muslim Ummah. The order aims at the general education and reformation of the Muslims. Briefly stated these directives are:

1) Tawheed: Deity is Allah alone, there is no deity save the All-Beneficent and All-Merciful. So, adore Him most ardently and acquire His colors i.e., His attributes ⁽¹³⁸⁾. Sovereignty of the heavens and the earth belongs to Allah alone.

2) Halal Food: Allah has only forbidden to eat what dies of itself, blood, flesh of swine and what has been consecrated to any other name than that of Allah. But one will not incur sin if, forced by absolute necessity to eat any of these forbidden things ⁽¹⁷³⁾.

3) Piety and Salat: Piety is believing sincerely in Allah, the Hereafter, the angels, the Book of Allah, the prophets^(AS) and out of love of Allah spending ones wealth on relatives, orphans, needy, wayfarer, beggars and ransoming of slaves, praying salat, giving Zakat, keeping ones pledges and being patient under all circumstances. When praying stand before Allah like a devoted servant ⁽¹⁷⁷⁾.

4) Zakat and Charity: A kind word is better than the charity that is followed by insult. Give charity openly or secretly, but giving secretly is better. One will receive full reward for wealth spent in charity. Spend the best of wealth in the way of Allah, especially on white collared people. Satan encourages stinginess out of fear of poverty, while Allah promises forgiveness and bounty. Zakat is obligatory ^(263,268,271-2).

5) Pledges: The virtuous are those who keep their pledges, who persevere in difficulties, troubles, and in the struggle between truth and falsehood. Do not take oaths that are meant to prevent from virtue, piety and the welfare of mankind. Unintentional and meaningless oaths are excused ⁽¹⁷⁷⁾.

6) Retribution and Blood money: If a free man commits a murder, the free man shall be punished for it, likewise if a

slave or a woman is guilty of murder the same shall be accountable for it. But in case the kin of the murdered man are willing to show leniency to the murderer, the blood money should be decided in accordance with the common law and the murderer should pay it in a genuine way (178-79).

7) legacies and wills: He who is wealthy should make a will in a well-known way for his parents and relatives. It is an obligation on God fearing (it's an initial instruction) (80).

8) Fasts: It is obligatory to fast in the month of Ramadan, except if someone is sick or traveling. He should make up for the same number by fasting later. Those who are able to fast, yet do not fast, they should pay a fine. The redemption for a fast is to at least feed a poor person, but it is better to fast. It is lawful to have intercourse with your wives, eat and drink during the nights of the Fast month, until dawn. Then abstain from all these things till sunset. Intimacy with wives is forbidden during Itikaf in the mosque (183-187).

9) Bribery and illegal wealth: Do not usurp one another's property by unjust means nor offer it to the judges so that you may devour knowingly and unjustly the goods of others (188).

10) Jihad: Fight in the way of Allah against those who confront you in combat and drive them out from where they drove you out, **but do not transgress, for God does not like transgressors.** Although killing is bad, but persecution is worse than killing. Allah is merciful that is why He repels one set of people by means of another to save the earth from oppression (190-191).

11) Hajj: When you intend to perform Hajj or Umrah to please Allah, fulfill it. Sacrifice an animal during Hajj, and if one cannot afford it, then he should fast three days during Hajj and seven on reaching home. After sacrifice, shave your heads. But whoever is sick or has an ailment of the head and does not shave his head, atonement for this is either fasting or give alms or offering a sacrifice. All kinds

of marital relations, fights and mistrust are forbidden in ihram during Hajj and Umrah (196-97).

12) Principles of lending and borrowing: In this Surah, it is instructed that when you lend or borrow, write a document in the presence of two witnesses. The witnesses should not refrain from testifying. If your debtor is in trouble, give him time until his financial situation improves. But if you forgive the debt as a charity, it is better for you (282).

13) Prohibition of interest: Those who devour interest become like the one whom Satan has bewitched. They say, "Trade is also like interest", whereas Allah has made trade lawful and interest unlawful. Therefore, avoid it, otherwise wait for the declaration of war by Allah and His Messenger (275,279).

14) Prohibition of intoxicants and gambling: There is great harm in both, though there is some benefit also for the people. But the harm is far greater than the benefit (219).

15) Marriage, divorce, and other matters of marital life like, menstruation period, Ella, khula, breastfeeding, maintenance etc. During menstrual periods avoid marital relation until they are clean. Divorced women should wait for three menstrual periods. Divorce can be pronounced twice, then either stop the wife with respect or say goodbye in the best way. And if the husband divorces his wife (for the third time), one shall not marry her, unless she marries another husband and the second husband divorces her. The widow should abstain from marriage for four months and ten days. It is no offence if you make indirect proposal of marriage to widows during their waiting term. But you should not settle anything about the marriage until the waiting term expires. If you divorce your wives before intimacy, then one should pay them according to one's means, it's an obligation on the righteous, or if the Mehr was fixed, pay at least half of the fixed Mehr (222-237).

16) Prohibition of marriage with idolaters (221).

17) Orphans: Treat orphans in a way that is good for their well-being. It is permissible for the guardian to incorporate the wealth of the orphans in his business, **but with justice** (220).

Mohammed_(SAW): This surah calls on the Israelites to believe in the prophethood of Mohammed_(SAW), about which their own scriptures clearly testify. They were also reminded of the covenant mentioned in the Torah in which they were to outdo each other to support and help the mission of Mohammed_(SAW). They have been warned not to forget this covenant simply because of the jealousy that Mohammed_(SAW) is not from the progeny of Isaac_(AS). Despite this, they showed complete indifference to the Quran, and broke all their promises to Allah (that's what we Muslims are doing today) (64-121).

Scenario: It depicts the scenario when the Prophet_(SAW) started preaching the message of Allah, that brought the advocates and opponents of Islam (submitting to the God) face to face. The angels' initial objection of the human caliphate, and subsequent satisfaction, is example of those who initially stayed away from Islam out of scepticism, but later, when the truth became clear to them through the Quran, they became its supporters and allies. On the contrary, the opposition offered by Satan is actually an example of those who opposed Islam and the Prophet_(SAW) merely because of their ego and prejudice. The Jewish and the tribal leaders of Quraish represent this category. It has been made clear to them that just as the caliphate of man was established against the wishes of Satan, so the prophethood of Mohammed_(SAW) would be established against the wishes of the leaders of Quraish.

Abraham_(AS): Verses 122-162, relate to the part of Abraham_(AS)'s life in which the building of the Kaaba is covered. When Abraham_(AS) started to build the Kaaba, he prayed to the Allah to raise a Muslim Ummah from his progeny and a Prophet from amongst them as well

(Mohammed_(SAW)). It has been made clear that the religion of Abraham_(AS) and his descendants was Islam and not Judaism or Christianity. Allah created a nation of middle path for the propagation of Islam in acceptance of Abraham_(AS)'s supplication. It tells us that Jerusalem was only a temporary direction for prayers and was soon changed to Kaaba. A subtle indication is made that since the Kaaba was under the control of the idolaters of Makkah, it has to be liberated and taken control off. In addition to the sacrifice of life and property, the success of this endeavour depends on the help of Allah obtained through perseverance in prayer and purpose. The real purpose of narrating this tale was to highlight the fact that Abraham_(AS)'s prayer was answered in the form of Prophethood of Mohammad_(SAW), and that he is the true inheritor of Abrahamic mission. Therefore, all distortions and tampering the Jews did with their scriptures was brought to light. The Jews, hid every evidence which relates to Abraham_(AS) and the Kaaba. **Lesson: All prophets were Muslims.**

Miracles relating to resurrection: a) When Abraham_(AS) asked Allah how He would raise the dead. Allah said, "Raise four birds, when they are accustomed to you, then cut them into small pieces and scatter them on different mountains." Then call them, and they will come to you alive. b) When Ezra_(AS) passed by a deserted town, he wondered how God could bring it back to life. God put him to sleep, and raised him after hundred years, his food and water were in their original state, while the donkey had turned into a skeleton. **God revived the donkey with meat and flesh to show that God is omnipotent** (259-260). c) To reveal the culprits of a blind murder, Allah ordered the Israelites to strike the corpse of the murdered man with part of the sacrificed cow. The victim came back to life, named the killer and died (67,73). **Lesson: Allah will resurrect on Judgment Day.**

Tale of Satan: The surah discusses the tale of Satan's enmity towards the human caliphate, his refusal to prostrate to Adam, and how by deceit he tempted them to eat the forbidden fruit. As a result, Adam and Eve were expelled from Paradise and sent to earth for a prescribed period (30-36). Allah told them that from time to time He would send guidance for humanity, whoever follows it would prosper in the Hereafter ⁽³⁸⁾. It tells us that since human beings are endowed with intellect and authority, they are accountable for their actions.

The Believers, are those who believe in the unseen, the life after death, the Quran, the Books that were revealed before, establish Salat, pay Zakat and charity, do good deeds and worship none but Allah. They are good to their parents, relatives, orphans and the helpless, and speak aright with the people. They neither shed blood nor displace each other, nor ask unnecessary questions regarding the religion. They have sincerely accepted the guidance sent down on the Messenger^(SAW) from his Lord, and believe in Allah, His Angels, His Books and all His Messengers, and say, "**We do not discriminate between any of His Messengers.** We have heard the Message and submitted to it. Our Lord, we look up to You for forgiveness, for to You we shall all return" ⁽²⁸⁵⁾.

The non-believers, are those who rejected the Quran. Their mental status is like that of cattle whom the shepherd calls, they hear the sound of shouts and cries but they understand nothing. Such people prefer the worldly life to the Hereafter.

The hypocrites, are those who pretend they believe in Allah and the Last Day, whereas they do not believe. This surah mentions two types of hypocrites: The first type is the one to whom the message of the Quran was conveyed and did not bother to understand it. They rely on empty hopes, conjecture and guess-work. The second type is the one who only accepts what he likes, rejects what he

detests. When such people are empowered, all their efforts are directed towards spreading chaos and disorder. They repeatedly call upon Allah as witness to show their piety to the people (8-22).

Nullification of polytheism: Enter Islam completely and do not follow in the footsteps of Satan, he is your open enemy. He commands you evil, immorality and polytheism (208). Follow the way of Abraham^(AS), who was not a polytheist (165). On seeing the torment, those who were followed will show indifferent to their followers (165). It also tells us that a person will attain Paradise in the Hereafter on the basis of his faith and deeds, and not on the basis of affiliation with a particular family, tribe or sect. It also warns us against the Day when no one shall avail anyone anything; nor will any intercession be of any use, nor be acquitted for any ransom, nor the guilty one helped from any quarter. Prophets do not associate anyone with Allah. Abraham^(AS), Ishmael^(AS), Isaac^(AS), Jacob^(AS), Moses^(AS), Jesus^(AS), Mohammed^(SAW) were all Muslims (surrendering to the will of Allah (the God)).

The Jews: The verses 64-121 relate history of breach of promises and betrayals of the Jews, how they disobeyed the commandments. As the Jews were the only monotheistic nation, God made way in the sea for them to free them from Pharaoh's bondage, and drowned Pharaoh and his army before their eyes (50). Allah ordered Moses^(AS) to strike the rock with his staff, twelve springs gushed forth for them (60). He also caused the clouds to overshadow them and provided them with heavenly food (57). In spite of this the Jews cherished the love of calf in their hearts, and when Moses^(AS) went to Mount Tur, in his absence they built a calf with their ornaments and started calf worship. In the sight of Allah, polytheism is an unforgivable sin, and in the presence of a prophet, it is so grave a sin that He ordered the polytheists to be killed (54). In addition to rid them of cow worship, they were ordered to slaughter a cow. The Jews always rebelled against that

did not suit them (blind following of the scholars). Those who broke the law of Sabbath were turned into apes (65).

Allah raised the Mount Tur over the Jews and took a covenant from them that they will hold fast to the Book and His Commandments (63). After Moses^(AS) Allah sent many messengers in succession with clear signs, including Jesus^(AS) (87). Yet in spite of the covenant and knowing nothing happens without Allah's will, **and that whoever practices magic or goes to a magician will have no share in the Hereafter.** Yet the Jews learned the magic that the two angels Harut and Marut brought to Babylon as a test (102-103). **lessons:** 1) If Allah wills, He can give victory to a weak group and destroy the other. 2) Miracles are to boost the faith in God. 3) God's religion is not subject to our desires. 4) Where Allah blesses, He also punishes. 5) In the presence of Allah's scripture blind following is prohibited. 6) Slaughtering of the cow further teaches us three lessons: i) The cow is not a deity. ii) Polytheism is a heinous crime. iii) The resurrection of the slain indicates that God will resurrect.

Warnings: a) It warns us to fear Allah and follow His instructions, and not to barter His Revelations for paltry worldly gain, nor confound the truth with falsehood. Follow His way and enjoin others to it, and seek help with salat and fortitude. Since we shall return to Him, therefore, if we fulfill our promise to Allah, then Allah will also fulfill His promise (of Paradise) to us. b) It also warns that whosoever is enemy to Allah, His angels, His messengers, Gabriel and Michael, Allah is enemy to such disbelievers (98). c) It warns us that **superstition plays an important role in deviating from the rules of Shariah and the Book of Allah.** d) It also tells us that anyone who shows indifference to the divine Book, will be deposed from the position of leadership (just like us). e) Further warns that **being the progenies of the prophets, or higher cast or creed does not guarantee salvation in the Hereafter.** f) It says any group that claims **that Paradise is exclusively for**

them, they should long for death. In fact, this attitude is an obstacle in accepting the divine law. g) We are also told, where God is oft forgiving, He also punishes the ungrateful.

Admonishing: 1) To Allah belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth. He has complete power over all things. For those who have taken the path of disbelief, the worldly life has been made attractive. 2) Prophets are only giver of glad tiding and warner, and are not responsible for the actions of the people. So, purify your worship for Allah alone. 3) No Paradise without faith, trial and suffering. Paradise is for those who, after faith, strive to outdo one another in good deeds. 4) He will test our faith with fear, hunger, poverty, wealth, sickness, and health. Those who persevere will succeed. 5) In the Hereafter Allah will call us to account and all our actions will come to light. He will forgive whom He wills and punish whom He wills. 6) Allah gives sustenance to whomever He wills without reckoning. 7) Allah says that He is very close to his servant, when they call on Me, I hear their prayers and I answer them. So, let them believe in Me and obey Me, maybe they will find the right way. 8) Being pious does not guarantee pious children. 9) It is not necessary to be a believer for sustenance. 10) Muslim means submission to the will of Allah. 11) Cursed are those who conceal the clear teachings of Allah. 12) Allah sends down severe punishment on those who buy misguidance in return for Allah's guidance. 13) The martyrs are alive in the heavens with Allah. 14) When difference of opinion arises in the religion, Allah sends a prophet to give glad tidings to those who follow the right way and to warn those who deviated. 15) We are commanded to convey the religion to the people. If we convey the message of Allah to them, we will be witnesses over them, while the Prophet is a witness over us for conveying the message to us. 16) Those who try to impress people with their piety, when in power become tyrants. 17) Allah inflicts severe chastisement on

the people who exchange His favours with wretchedness. 18) It is not necessarily that what you like, be good for you, and that which you dislike, be bad for you. Allah knows, you do not know. 19) Allah is with those who show fortitude. 20) Give charity before the Day where there shall be no buying or selling, **where friendship and intercession will be of no avail.** 21) There is no compulsion and coercion in regard to religion, the right has been made distinct from the wrong.

The surah ends with a warning and a prayer: Allah does not burden any human being with a responsibility heavier than he can bear. Everyone will enjoy the fruit of the good that one has earned and shall suffer for the evil that one has committed. (O Believers, pray like this to Allah: “Our Lord, take us not to task if we forget and lapse into error inadvertently. Lord! lay not on us the kind of burdens that You had lain on the people before us. Lord, lay not on us the kind of burden that we have not the strength to bear. Be kind to us, forgive us and show mercy to us. You are our Protector, help us against the disbelievers” (286).

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3. Lessons in Surah Ale Imran

Surah Ale Imran brief commentary & back ground

This Surah(chapter) consists of 200 verses divided into 20 sections. This is the third Surah of the Quran which was revealed in Medina after migration. The major portion of this Surah was revealed after the battle of Uhud. Ale Imran means “the family of Imran”. It takes its name from the 33rd verse. It starts with the sentence: Allah, the Ever-Living, the Self-Subsisting, Who maintains the whole order of the universe, there is no God but He. This surah addresses two groups of people. The first group it addresses are the People of the Book, especially the Christians. It admonishes them on their erroneous beliefs, and tells them to accept the truth (Quran) to rectify their

ways. It tells them that the religion that Mohammed^(SAW) is preaching is the same religion that their prophets^(AS) preached, i.e., submitting to one Lord. Therefore, deviating from it would be wrong even according to their own scriptures. The second group addressed are the Muslims, who have been declared to be the best community and torch bearer of the truth, and entrusted with the responsibility of guiding and reforming the humanity. They enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah ⁽¹¹⁰⁾. At the same time the Muslims are warned to refrain from treading on the footsteps of the people of the Book. It also gives instructions on how to deal with the people of the Book and the hypocrites who are hindering the spread of Islam. The Muslims are advised to learn from the history of the People of the Book, and guard themselves from their mischiefs.

Summary of Topics of Surah Ale Imran

Allah: He is the Ever-Living, the Self-Subsisting and the omnipotent. He sustains the entire universe, **there is no God but He**. Nothing in the earth and in the heavens is hidden from Him, He even knows the secrets of our hearts, and has power over everything. To Allah belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth, and all matters are referred to Him for decisions. The Day of Resurrection about the coming of which there is no doubt, He will surely gather mankind together and hold them accountable for their deeds. This is His promise and He never goes against His promise. He is the one Who fashions us in the wombs as He wills. He revealed the Quran which confirms the earlier books, the Torah and the Gospel. It is the true guide for mankind that distinguishes the truth from the falsehood. A severe chastisement lies in store for those who deny the signs ⁽²⁻⁶⁾. **Being Omnipotent, it leaves no room for any other deity.**

Story of Mary_(AS) and Zechariah_(AS): Allah chose Adam_(AS), Noah_(AS), descendants of Abraham_(AS) and Imran from among human beings for his message (33). Imran's wife vowed to dedicate her unborn child to Allah. She gave birth to Mary_(AS). As a result of a draw, Mary_(AS) was given under the guardianship of Zechariah_(AS). Whenever Zechariah visited her in the sanctuary, he found her provided with food, so he asked her where it came from? She replied: "It is from Allah". Zechariah_(AS) supplicated: "O Lord! Grant me the gift of a goodly offspring, who would be a torch bearer for the people". Allah gave him glad tiding of John the Baptist_(AS) (35-44). (In my opinion) it was because of Jesus_(AS) (because John_(AS) was to be sent to confirm the prophethood of Jesus_(AS)). That is why Allah accepted Zechariah_(AS)'s prayer in his old age. **He knows best when to answer someone's prayers** (Allah knows best).

Birth of Jesus_(AS): Gabriel_(AS) (referred as the soul) gave glad tiding of Jesus_(AS) to Mary_(AS). She_(AS) exclaimed how can she have a child, when no man has touched her. Gabriel_(AS) replied, Allah does what He intends. When Mary_(AS) was pregnant, she wished she did not exist. Due to her patience, **Allah exalted Mary_(AS) over the entire women of the world**. Jesus_(AS) was born and he spoke in the cradle and acquitted his mother of all blames. He_(AS) was sent as a messenger to the children of Israel, to confirm the truth of whatever there still remains of the Torah. The Quran describes his miraculous birth, and his miracles, and also testifies that Mary_(AS) was pious and a virgin. Jesus_(AS) said to the children of Israel: "I have come to you with clear signs from your Lord. I will make from clay the likeness of a bird and then blow on it, and by the leave of Allah it will become a bird." And by the leave of Allah, he also healed the blind, the leper, and brought the dead to life. When the Jews conspired to kill Jesus_(AS), God raised him to the heavens₍₄₅₋₅₅₎.

Negation of trinity: The Quran tells us that the similitude of Jesus_(AS) is like the creation of Adam, whom He created out of dust (without father and mother), and then said: “Be”, and he was ⁽⁵⁹⁾. Thus, creation of Jesus is easier. All prophets have a great significance both in Islam and Christianity. **Lesson:** Allah is omnipotent, He made Zechariah’s wife give birth to a child in her nineties. Allah created Jesus_(AS) without a father, so never despair of Him.

Challenge: Allah tells the Prophet that after revelation those who still dispute with you, tell them: “Let us gather with our wives and children and send the curse of Allah on the liar” ⁽⁶¹⁾. It tells us that when an ignorant stubborn person rejects the truth and quarrels, you have no choice but to do so.

The People of the Book were invited to come to a word common between us and them, **foremost being that we shall serve none but Allah and shall associate none with Him in His divinity, and not to take one another as lords** (beyond means, the provider, reliever of needs and difficulties) **besides Him**. Allah says why dispute about Abraham_(AS) when the Torah and the Gospel were revealed after his demise. **Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian; he was a Muslim, wholly devoted to the God** ⁽⁶⁴⁻⁶⁷⁾. **So, follow the way of Abraham, who was not a polytheist**. The first House of Prayer established for mankind on earth is the one at Bakkah (Makkah) ⁽⁹⁵⁻⁹⁶⁾. The People of the Book rejected the signs of Allah even though they themselves witness them. The Jews confounded the Truth with falsehood to conceal it knowingly ⁽⁷⁰⁻⁷¹⁾. **They say: “Do not follow anyone except those who follow our religion (this is what every sect says).” Although the real guidance is the guidance of Allah**. Allah revealed the Quran as He revealed the books in the past. Allah loves only those who fulfil their covenant and fear Him. A prophet would never say, worship me or the angels besides Allah, nor command disbelief. O People of

the Book, why do you hinder men from the Path of Allah when you are witnesses of its truthfulness (73-80,99)? Among the People of the Book there are upright people who recite the Book of Allah, and in the late night prostrate to Him. **It tells us that in all religious books one thing is common that, none is worthy of worship except Allah.**

The trait of the Jews: The Jews threw an insult at Allah that He is poor and we are rich, they fabricated a lie against Him. They demanded fire sacrifice as a sign to accept Mohammed's prophethood. Allah asks: Then why did you slay the prophets who came with this sign (181-183). The Jews say they will not be taken to task for whatever they do to the non-Jews, fixing a lie upon Allah, they will be punished for it. They believe and retract. They change the meaning of the verses with the twist of their tongue. All food were lawful except what Jacob^(AS) had made unlawful for himself, there is no mention of it being forbidden in Torah. Humiliation awaits those people of the Book who are fighting Mohammed^(SAW), because they disbelieved in the verses of the God, and killed the prophets without right. Although all are not alike, among the People of the Book there are also upright people (72-80,93,111-113). **This shows that just being a Muslim does not guarantee paradise, good deeds are also necessary.**

Covenant from all the Prophets: Allah took a covenant from all Prophets^(AS) that should a Prophet come to them confirming that which is already with you, **they shall believe in him and help him** (81-83).

Covenant from People of the Book: Recall when Allah took a covenant from those who were given the Book: "You shall explain it to men and not hide it." Then they cast the Book behind their backs, and sold it away for a trivial gain (187). **Today it applies to us as well. We too have put the Quran behind us and are following the scholars blindly due to ignorance.**

Indirect mention of battle of Badr, where two armies encountered each other. The army fighting in the way of Allah, and the other army of the polytheists who were fully armed and double in number. Allah helped the Muslims in Badr when they were very weak. Muslims were told that it was with the help of Allah that they were victorious. **The result proved that Allah bestows victory on whomever He wills** ⁽¹³⁾. **The duty of the prophets is to convey the message, not to force anyone to become a Muslim.**

Battle of Uhud: Although the Muslims were victorious in the Battle of Badr, they were now in greater danger as the number of their enemies increased. They now faced the covert incitements of the Jewish tribes living on the outskirts of Medina. Despite being monotheist, they conspired with the polytheists. Due to their conspiracies, the Makkans just a year after the battle of Badr, again attacked Medina, and the battle of Uhud was fought. The Makkan army was three thousand fully armed, while the Muslims were only one thousand in number. To demoralize the Muslims, the hypocrites in the Muslim army made excuses and returned to Medina. The hypocrites who remained caused chaos and anarchy during the war. The Prophet^(SAW) lined up for battle and stationed a group of archers on Mount Uhud, to protect the pass between hill of Al-Ain and Mount Uhud to stop the enemy from attacking from behind. Initially, the Muslims were winning, and the enemy was retreating. Most of the archers stationed at Uhud disobeyed the order of the Prophet^(SAW) and descended to collect war booty, and this weakness of the Muslims led to their defeat. After the grief, Allah not only restored peace of mind to them, but also forgave them. He ordered the Prophet^(SAW) to pray for their forgiveness, and to consult them on important matters. A comprehensive review of the Battle of Uhud is discussed to inform the Muslims of their shortcomings, and issue instructions

for their reform. He further said do not consider the martyrs dead, they are alive, they have their provision with their Lord. Allah reveals the unseen through His messengers. **The lesson from this is that man is prone to error, so learn to ignore his shortcomings** (121-129,139-143,143,152-169,179). **Prophets do not know the unseen.**

Verses of Quran: Some of its verses are absolutely clear and lucid, and these are the core of the Book, and others are ambiguous. The believers believe in both; as it is all from Allah. On the other hand, the perverse hearts always give the ambiguous verse illogical meaning to fool people. Only Allah knows its true meaning (science has proved the actual meaning of many of the ambiguous verses). This is a plain exposition for men, and a guidance and admonition for the Godfearing (139).

Human psyche: Allah warns that men are tempted with women, children, wealth and plantations which is temporary, while what they will receive in the Hereafter is much better and everlasting (14). **That is, the main goal of man is success in the Hereafter, which is achieved through the love of Allah and His pleasure.**

Believers: A believer recognizes Allah by His signs and submits to Him. In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and in the alternation of night and day, there are signs for men of understanding (190). They believe in the Quran and what was revealed to Abraham^(AS), Ishmael^(AS), Isaac^(AS), Jacob^(AS) and his descendants, and the teachings which Allah gave to Moses^(AS) and Jesus^(AS) (84). And makes no distinction between any of the prophets. This is Islam, and whoever seeks a way other than Islam, it will not be accepted and he will be loser in the Hereafter. These are the best people brought forth for the guidance and reform of mankind. They believe in the Day of Judgment, enjoin what is right, forbid what is wrong and motivate each other to do good (114-117). They spend out of what they love in the way of Allah (charity etc.). **Their traits:** They hasten

to the forgiveness of their Lord and to a Paradise as vast as the heavens and the earth, prepared for the God-fearing, they spend in the way of Allah both in plenty and hardship, they restrain their anger, and forgive others. When a sin is committed by them, they immediately seek forgiveness from Allah and do not persist in the wrong they did. They are steadfast, truthful, obedient, spend in the way of Allah and implore the forgiveness of Allah in late nights ⁽¹⁷⁾. There must be a group of believers who invite people to the truth and forbid all that is wrong. The believers have been ordered not take the unbelievers for their allies in preference to the believers, except when the purpose is to protect oneself from their mischief, who love to see them hurt and disturbed. The hatred they show is clear, but what their breasts conceal is even greater. They are grieved if anything good happens to them, and rejoice if misfortune befalls them ⁽¹¹⁸⁾. **Those seduced by Satan, fight against the true religion of God.**

Stinginess: Those who are stingy think that stinginess is good for them; but actually, it is bad for them. What they accumulate will turn into a collar round their necks on the Day of Judgment. To Allah belongs the inheritance of the heavens and the earth; and He is well aware of what you do ⁽¹⁸⁰⁾.

Disbelievers: Disbelievers are warned that a severe chastisement lies in store for those who deny the signs of Allah. Similarly, the Muslims who reject the Quran will be doomed to hell if they do not repent in this world. But those who reject faith after accepting it and excel in it, their repentance will not be accepted, even if they pay weight of earth in Gold. How will they fare on the Judgment Day, where every human being will be repaid in full, and none shall be wronged ^(2-7,18,28, 84-92, 109-110)?

Mohammed^(SAW) is a human messenger: Mohammed is no more than a messenger, and many messengers have passed before him. If, then, he was to die or be slain, will

you turn about on your heels? Whoever turns about on his heels can in no way harm the God. As for the grateful ones, Allah will soon reward them (144).

Rejection of polytheism: Terror will be cast into the hearts of those who disbelieved and associated others with Allah in His divinity. Hell will be their abode, which is an evil resting-place (151). Neither their wealth nor their offspring will avail them against Allah, and will be the fuel of the Fire.

Admonishing: The true religion with Allah is Islam. Never enjoin anyone with the Lord. Muslims are warned not to assume like the Jews and Christians that the fire of hell will not touch them. Enjoin right and forbid wrong. Everyone is accountable for his own deeds. Obey Allah and His messenger. **Hold fast together to the rope of Allah (Quran) and be not divided.** For the believers, Allah is Sufficient (173). On the Day of Judgement faces of righteous will be bright and will be dwellers of Paradise, as for those who disbelieved after believing, their faces will be blackened and they will face severe chastisement. Fear Allah as He should be feared, and die not except in the state of submission to Him. People are warned not to consume interest, and to be mindful of Allah to attain true success. For the God-fearing there are, gardens beneath which rivers flow; where they will abide forever, and enjoy the good pleasure of Allah. The day is approaching near where every soul shall be held accountable for his good and bad deeds. Those who love Allah should obey Allah and His Messenger, Allah will love them and forgive their sins. There is no share in the Hereafter for those who sell the covenant of Allah for a trivial gain. Righteousness can only be attained if one spends in the way of Allah, and hold fast to the Book of Allah for guidance. The believer should put his trust in Allah. Let not the strutting of the disbelievers deceive you, their abode in the Hereafter is Hellfire (14-32,77,92,95,96, 103,109,110, 118,130-132,173,196-7).

Supplications: O Lord! Do not let our hearts swerve towards crookedness after You have guided us to the right way, and bestow upon us Your mercy. Surely, only You, are the Munificent Giver. You surely will gather mankind together on a Day about which there is no doubt. Surely Allah never goes against His promise (8-9). O Lord! We do indeed believe, so forgive us our sins and keep us safe from the chastisement of the Fire (16). O Allah, Lord of all dominion! You give dominion to whom You will, and take away dominion from whom You will, and You exalt whom You will, and abase whom You will. In Your Hand is all good. Surely You are All-Powerful (26). O Lord! We believe in the commandment You have revealed and we obey the messenger; make us, then, one of those who bear witness (53). O Lord! Forgive us our sins, and our excesses, and set our feet firm, and succor us against those who deny the Truth (147). O Lord! You have not created this in vain. Glory to You! Save us, then, from the chastisement of the Fire. O Lord! Whomever You cause to enter the Fire, him You indeed bring to disgrace, and there will be none to succour the wrong-doers. O Lord! Indeed, we heard a crier calling to the faith saying: "Believe in your Lord"; so, we did believe. O Lord, forgive us our sins, and wipe out our evil deeds and make us die with the truly pious. O Lord, fulfil what You promised to us through Your Messengers, and disgrace us not on the Day of Resurrection; indeed, You never go back on Your promise (191-194).

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

4. Lessons in Surah Nisa

Surah Ale Imran brief commentary & back ground

The main purpose of this Surah is to educate the Muslims how to stay united, steadfast and strong. Since a family is the basic unit of the society, instructions have been given for its stability. The Surah An-Nisa (the women) derives its name from verse four. This Surah contains 176 verses, and

was revealed in Medina. Its contents invite us to faith and justice. By citing the examples of the past nations, it urges us to strengthen the ties of kinship, to sever ties of secrecy with God's enemies, and to stand up for the rights of the orphans. It contains injunctions concerning orphans, marriage, inheritance, obedience to pious leaders, migration, jihad etc.

Summary of Topics of Surah Nissa

Allah^(SWT): The first verse is a universal message for the humanity, which says, fear your Lord Who created you from a single being and out of it created its mate; and out of the two spread many men and women ⁽¹⁾. He will gather everyone on the Day of Resurrection, regarding which there is no doubt. Never forge lies on Allah, for it is a major sin. **Allah is sufficient for protection and help, and He knows everything. We cannot hide our deeds from Him. He is the Forgiver and the Most Merciful.**

Quran is free from inconsistencies: Allah says: Do they not ponder in the Quran? Had it been from any other than Allah, they would surely have found inconsistencies in it ⁽⁸²⁾. Since the Quran contain the laws of God for humanity, it is obligatory to judge accordingly. As there is no contradiction in the verses of the Quran, this proves that it is the word of Allah.

Commandments

1) Justice: Uphold justice and bear witness to truth even if it be against yourselves or against your parents or kinsmen, or the rich or the poor. Do not follow your desires, lest it makes you unjust ⁽¹³⁵⁾. Allah does not like speaking evil publicly, unless one has been wronged. Although the oppressed has the right to speak evil, but if he speaks in good manner, or pardons the oppressor, is better (Allah's attribute). Judge between people with justice.

2) Orphan: Return orphan's property, and do not exchange their good things with the bad things. Allah has

given injunctions regarding female orphans whom one wishes to marry out of greed, or treat them unjustly (127), or if one fears that if he marries an orphan, he might not be able to treat her properly, then don't marry (2-3). Instructions are given on how to handle the wealth of an orphan. When they reach puberty and are mature, return their wealth to them in the presence of witnesses. It also warns on devouring orphan's property. In case the guardian is rich, he should abstain from consuming any of their wealth, if poor he can partake in a fair measure (6).

3) Wives: These verses allow four marriages, provided one can do justice. The bridal due (mahr) is obligatory on husband (3-4). If a man wants to divorce his wife to marry another woman, he should avoid making false allegations on the present wife to take back what he had given her. Treat them well even if you dislike them. If you divorce your wife, don't take back what you have gifted them, even if it is heap of gold. After divorce don't try to be their heirs against their will, neither unjustly slander them (19-21). If a woman is guilty of promiscuity, you should have four eye witnesses against her. If four witnesses bear witness, then confine her to her house until either death takes her away or Allah opens some way for her (15).

4) Divorce settlement: If a woman fears ill-treatment or aversion from her husband, as settlement is better, it is allowed for the spouses to reconcile by compromising on their rights. By nature, men cannot do justice to their wives even if they want to, so it would be enough for them not to lean towards a single wife in order to fulfill the law (128-134).

5) Men have slight edge over women: Men being provider and protector of women they have an edge over them. Thus, righteous women are obedient and protect their chastity. In case of ill conduct, men are

instructed to admonish them, then separate the beds, then slightly beat them. However, if a dispute persists, appoint mediators from both sides to settle the matter (34-35).

6) Women that a man cannot marry: Father's wives, mother, daughters, sisters, sisters of your parents, nieces, foster mothers, their daughters, step mothers, stepdaughters if marriage is consummated, else allowed. Forbidden are wives of the sons, and to take two sisters together in marriage. And also forbidden are all married women. Marry any women except these. Pay their bridal-dues as an obligation. Free to marry slave women, especially those of you who cannot afford to marry free, believing women, then marry believing slave women with permission of her owner. Punishment: If a slave wife commits an act of immorality after wedlock, she will face half the penalty that of a free woman (22-27).

7) Laws of inheritance: There is a share for men and for women in what their parents and kinsfolk leave behind. After paying off the debts of the deceased and fulfilment of a will, Allah has fixed the shares of the heirs. 1) The share of the male is like that of two females. 2) If the heirs are more than two daughters, they shall have two-thirds of the inheritance; and if there is only one daughter, then she shall have half the inheritance. 3) If the deceased has offspring, each of his parents shall have a sixth of the inheritance. 4) And if the deceased has no child and his parents alone inherit him, then one-third shall go to his mother and two third to his father. 5) If the deceased has brothers and sisters, then one-sixth shall go to his mother, one third to the father rest to brothers and sisters. 6) If the wife dies childless then to husband belongs half of whatever she has left behind, but if she has children then a fourth belongs to him. 7) And to wives belongs a fourth of what you leave behind, if you die childless; and if you a child then to them belongs one-eighth. 8) And if a man or woman have no heir, but have siblings, then each of these

shall inherit one-sixth; but if they are more than two, then they shall inherit one-third of the inheritance. 9) At the time of division of inheritance if near of kin orphans and needy are present, give them something, considering, if you would leave behind helpless offspring, you would be worried about them. These are the bounds set by Allah, whoever transgresses will be in Hellfire (7-9,11-14).

8) Special children: Don't entrust wealth that is a means of your sustenance, to the mentally weak, but do feed them, clothe them, and take care for them (5).

9) Devouring wealth: Do not devour each other's possessions wrongfully; but by trade with mutual consent. Those who devour by transgression and injustice, Hellfire will be their abode (29-30). Allah does not love one who betrays trust or persists in sin. Allah commands that the trusts be delivered to its rightful owner.

10) Repentance: Allah accepts the repentance of those who sin in ignorance. He does not accept the repentance of those who repent when death approaches, or die in the state of unbelief (17-18).

11) Prohibition of Praying when drunk until one is sober and knows what he is reciting, or is impure due to ejaculation, until one has bathed. If water is not available for ablution and bathing or one is ill and water could harm him, instruction is to cleanse with pure earth by swiping face and hands till elbows (43). Injunctions regarding shortening of prayers during travel and during wars (101-107).

12) Rumours: News should be forwarded to the authority to investigate, and is prohibited to spread rumors. Everyone is responsible for his own deeds. Interceding for good cause or bad cause, one will be recompensed accordingly. Return salutation with better or equal. Everyone will be gathered on the Day of Resurrection (83-88).

13) Migration: Until the conquest of Makkah, the order was, He who does not emigrate for no reason is a hypocrite, so do not make them your ally until they migrate. Whoever of them helps the enemy, kill him wherever you find him, except for those who take refuge with whom you have a treaty. Allah will forgive those who are weak or have no means of migration. Similarly, it is permissible to kill groups that do not want peace with you and do not refrain from fighting against you. Exceptions to murder are the hypocrites who remain neutral, the tribes with whom there is a peace treaty. Those who did not emigrate will show themselves oppressed on the Day of Judgment, the angels will reject their excuse and ask, “Was not Allah’s earth spacious for you to migrate?” Allah will forgive those who are weak or had no means to migrate. Those who emigrate in the cause of Allah will find ample shelter and resources in the land of Allah, and those who die during the migration, their reward is secure with Allah. (89-91,97-100). **The importance of migration when needed is explained.**

14) Retribution: If a believer slays a believer or a non-Muslim with whom you have a covenant by mistake, the atonement is to pay the blood-money to his heirs, and to set free a believing slave or fast two consecutive months. And if the slain person belonged to a hostile people, then the atonement is to set free a believing slave. And if one slays a believer willfully, reward is Hellfire (92-96).

15) Slandering: No one will be able to defend perpetrators who do not repent before the Day of Resurrection, not even the Prophet_(SAW). If anyone sins, he harms himself, and if he puts it on an innocent person, he will have to bear the burden of false accusation and his own sin (108-113).

16) Secret conferring: Whispering is devoid of goodness, except for charity, good deeds, and to fix men's affairs (114-126).

17) Various: Those who believe and then disbelieve and get entrench in it, Allah will not forgive them. Do not sit where the verses of Allah are being mocked, until they engage in some other talk. Allah does not want to burden you, for man was created weak. It is prohibited to commit suicide (137-153). **Never boast about your righteousness.**

The Messengers^(AS): Allah sends messengers to be obeyed. Allah revealed to Mohammed^(SAW) as He revealed to Noah^(AS), Abraham^(AS), Ishmael^(AS), Isaac^(AS), Jacob^(AS) and his offspring, Job^(AS), Jonah^(AS), Aaron^(AS), David^(AS), Solomon^(AS) and Jesus^(AS) (163). Prophets are bearers of glad tidings and warner, so that people have no plea in front of Allah. Mohammed^(SAW) will be raised as a witness for conveying the message to us. Those who rejected the truth and barred others from the way of Allah have strayed. Allah will neither forgive those who rejected the truth nor will He show them any other way but that of Hell. Thus, obey Allah, the Prophet^(SAW) and in just matters the rulers. In case of dispute, turn back to Quran and sunnah (59-64). Accept the Prophet's mediation (Quran and Sunnah) wholeheartedly in all matters. Those who do not accept whole heartedly the decision of the Prophet^(SAW), have disbelieved (59-65,163-170). Prophets are the best people from humanity; therefore, we should love them all. Mohammed^(SAW) being the last prophet, we should all follow and obey him.

Jews are warned: Despite being the People of the Book, they want Muslims to stray from the right path. They have been warned to accept the Quran which supports their book or be cursed like the people of Sabbath. Instead of saying "We heard and obey", they denied it (44-47). The Jews in collaboration with polytheists asked to see the Book descend from the heaven, earlier, they were killed by a

thunderbolt on the insistence of seeing Allah with their own eyes ⁽¹⁵³⁾. Allah took their covenant by raising Mount Sinai over their heads, yet, they broke their covenant, rejected the signs of Allah, killed the Prophets, and slandered Mary^(AS), and the wrath of Allah came upon them ⁽⁴⁶⁻⁵⁸⁾. They prevented people from following the path of Allah, consumed usury and misappropriated the wealth of others. That is why many halal things were forbidden for the Jews ⁽¹⁶⁰⁻¹⁾. Despite seeing clear miracles, they started calf worship in absence of Moses^(AS). They were jealous of Mohammed^(SAW) because he was not from Israelite. We are warned not to fall in Satan's trap like the Jews. **The Prophet^(SAW) told us that you will surely follow the footsteps of the Jews.**

Jesus^(AS): Jesus^(AS) son of Mary was only a Messenger of Allah, and a command that He conveyed unto Mary, and a spirit from Him (which led to Mary's conceiving). So, believe in Allah and His messengers and do not say Allah is a trinity. Allah is indeed one God. The Messiah^(AS) was servant of Allah ⁽¹⁷¹⁻⁵⁾. The Jews claim they slew the Jesus son of Mary^(AS), whereas in fact they neither slew him nor crucified him but the matter was made dubious to them; Allah raised him to Himself. And there will not be a single person of the People of the Book who will not believe in him after his descent ⁽¹⁵⁷⁻¹⁵⁹⁾. **The lesson from this is that Allah can do whatever He wants. He is the Omnipotent.**

Believers: They believe in Allah and His Messenger and in the Book, He has revealed to him. They believe in Allah's angels, all His Books, all His Messengers and in the Last Day ⁽¹³⁶⁾. They are good to their parents, near of kin, orphans, the needy, the neighbors, companion by one's side, the wayfarer, and the slaves. They are neither arrogant, nor show offs, nor stingy. They neither encourage others to be stingy, rather, gladly give charity. People of knowledge from the people of Book believe in the Book that was revealed to Mohammed^(SAW). They establish Prayers, pay Zakat, and do not take the unbelievers as their allies in

preference to the believers. Those who believed and do righteous deeds, Paradise is their abode. Those who repent shall be numbered with the believers.

Jihad: Fight in the way of Allah and arouse the believers to fight ⁽⁸⁴⁾. Always be prepared to encounter enemy attack or any danger, and fight the oppressor for the sake of the oppressed. Those believers who stayed at home for no good reason, and those who fought in the cause of Allah with their wealth and their lives cannot be equal. Believers fight in the cause of Allah, while those who disbelieve fight in the cause of Satan ⁽⁶⁶⁻⁸¹⁾. When you fight in the way of Allah, discern between friend and foe ⁽⁹⁵⁾. It describes the method of praying in times of war ⁽¹⁰²⁾.

This gives an idea of the virtue of prayers.

Hypocrites: Those who take the unbelievers for their allies in preference to the believers are hypocrites and Hell is their abode. They pray only to show. If Muslims are victorious, they are with them, otherwise with the enemy. In reality they are neither with the believers nor with the disbelievers. That is why the hypocrites will be in the lowest level of Hell. The hypocrites spend out of their wealth only to show people, they neither believe in Allah nor the Last Day ⁽³⁸⁾. They reject the Quran and the laws of Allah and accept other decisions. They pretend to secure themselves from the Muslims and the polytheists. Whenever they get a chance to do mischief, they jump into it. The hypocrites are promised a painful chastisement. Thus, save yourself from hypocrisy, it's a heinous crime ⁽⁹¹⁾.

Polytheist and non-believers: Those who invoke others besides Allah are in fact invoking rebellious Satan. Allah says, if they had any share in Allah's dominion, they wouldn't even grant people the speck on a date-stone. Thus, serve Allah and ascribe no partner to Him. He does not forgive associating others in His divinity, but forgives anything besides that to whoever He wills. Whoever associates others in Allah's divinity, have indeed strayed

far away. **We are told to fear Allah not His creation** (116-117). **Satan** promised that he will lead humans astray, engross them in vain desires, command them to cut off the ears of the cattle, and to disfigure Allah's creation. Those who take him as their guardian will suffer a manifest loss. Satan's promises are merely delusion (118-121).

Admonishing: All good is from Allah; and misfortune is due to your own actions. When greeted, return it with a better or at least the same. The dwellers of the Hellfire will have their skins replaced, as often as they get burned out to fully taste the chastisement. Allah says, "If you dislike something, you may dislike that in which Allah has kept good for you." Avoid major sins, Allah will forgive your minor sins, and admit you to Paradise. **Do not covet for what Allah has conferred abundantly on others.** Allah does not love the arrogant, the boastful and niggardly. Charity spent for showoff is a sin, while sincere charity He multiplies. Allah wrongs none, not even as much as an atom's weight. Those who disbelieve and disobey the Prophet(SAW) will be losers (31,32,36-42). Those who believe in Allah and His Messengers, **and do not differentiate between them,** Allah will give them their reward (152). **Nothing can be concealed from Allah.**

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5. Lessons in Surah Maida

This Surah has 120 verses divided into 16 sections. It was revealed in Medina shortly after the Treaty of Hudaibiyah. This surah takes its name from verse 112. It mentions when the disciples of Jesus(AS) asked him to ask the Lord to send down to them a repast from the heaven?" He(AS) said: "Fear Allah if you are believers". **Lesson:** A believer does not feel the need to see miracles, but he works hard to achieve the goal in the light of faith in God and religion.

Major topics of discussion: This surah stresses on fulfilment of promises, pledges and justice, cleansing of body and soul, and living a righteous life. As it discusses the intention of the Prophet to do umrah and the treaty of Hudaibiya, therefore, it sets out the rules for Hajj and Umrah journey. Lawful (halal) and forbidden are categorized. **The story of Adam's sons Abel and Cain is mentioned so that under no circumstance should a believer give up his righteous attitude and behavior.** Rulings on the method of ablution, ghusl (bathing) and tayammum are mentioned. Punishment for spreading discord, corruption and theft have been specified. Similarly, drinking and gambling are unlawful. Expiation for the breaking the oath have been laid. Jews and the Christians were warned for their attitude, the errors of their dogmas have been clearly pointed out and are invited to follow the Islam. Mention of Jesus^(AS)'s disciples demanding a repast from the heaven.

Allah: To Him belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth, He chastises whom He wills and forgives whom He wills, He is All-Powerful. The disbelievers have despaired of your religion, so do not fear them but fear Me. Today I have completed the religion for you and completed my mercy on you and have accepted Islam as your religion. Obey the limits that have been imposed on you. Fear Him, and struggle in His way for success (3).

Commandments

1) Symbols: Do not desecrate the symbols of devotion to Allah, the holy months, the animals of offering wearing collars, nor ill-treat those who have set out for Makkah seeking Allah's pleasure (2).

2) Restrictions in state of Ihram: It is also prohibiting for the pilgrim in state of ihram to hunt, but can hunt after fulfilling pilgrimage obligations. If a pilgrim kills a game while in the state of ihram willfully, he has to pay in

expiation the like of it in cattle, to be slayed in the Makkah to feed the destitute, or fast for three days. All aquatic animals are lawful for you, whether you are on land, on a sea voyage, or in ihram.

3) Rulings on Haram and Halal: All grazing animals are permitted except swine. Forbidden are animals slaughtered without takbeer, those **slaughtered at the altars**, carrion, blood, flesh of animals which die by strangulation, or by blows, or falling from height, or by goring, or devoured by beast of prey unless slayed by invoking Allah's name while still alive. All clean things have been made lawful, and one may eat what one's trained animal catches for him by invoking Allah's name on them.

Exempted: A hungry person can eat haram food to survive. The food of the people of the Book is permitted for you, and yours for them. It is permitted to marry chaste women, either from among the believers or from among those who have received the Book before you, and do not commit fornication. **Warning:** Those who reject will be losers in the Hereafter. And do not make unlawful what is lawful for you (87).

4) Gambling and fortune telling: Desist intoxicants, gambling, and from fortune telling etc., these are handiwork of Satan, with them he creates enmity and hatred amongst you, and turns you away from the remembrance of Allah and prayers (1-5,94-96,100).

5) Ablution & Tayummum: For wudu, wash the face, hands up to the elbows, wipe the head, and wash feet up to the ankles. And if you are in the state of ritual impurity, purify by bathing. But if someone is ill, or travelling, or went for call of nature, or had sex with his wife and finds no water, then have recourse to clean earth and wipe your faces and your hands therewith (6).

6) Punishments: Slaying a soul unfairly is as if one has slayed all mankind; and if one saves a life, it is as if one has given life to all mankind. It has been ordained: A life for a

life, an eye for an eye, a nose for a nose, an ear for an ear, a tooth for a tooth, and for all wounds, like for like. But if someone forgives, it will be an expiation for him. A thief's hand to be chopped off (except for a hungry person who steals food). For armed robbery cut off from opposite sides their hand and foot. Those who do not judge by what Allah has revealed are indeed the wrong-doers. Those who wage war against Allah, His messenger and the believers, and spread mischief on earth, they should either be killed, or crucified, or banished from the land, except those who repent before being overpowered. On the Day of Recompense, if the disbelievers had more than double the wealth the size of earth, and offered it as a ransom from chastisement (everything is Allah's), it will not be accepted (32-34,36,38,45).

7) Oaths: Keep your promise. Swearing uttered unintentionally carry no weight, but the one sworn with intention and broken, its expiation is feeding ten destitute with food you eat, or clothe them, or set free a bondage, or if poor, then fast for three days. But keeping the promise is better (89).

8) Justice: Be upright bearers of witness for Allah, and let not the enmity of any people move you to deviate from justice. Fear Allah and put your trust in Allah alone. Those who do not judge by what Allah has revealed have disbelieved.

9) Mockers: Do not take the Jews, the Christians and those who mock your faith for your allies, rather they are the allies of each other. And amongst you he who takes them for allies, shall be regarded as one of them (51,57).

10) Bequest: If you are bedridden or on a journey, make a will in the presence of two just witnesses, and if deemed an oath may be taken from the witnesses in the mosque (106-107).

Revealed Books: Allah says: Surely, We revealed the Torah, wherein there is guidance and light for the Jews.

And We gave Jesus^(AS) the Gospel, wherein is guidance, light and admonition for the God-fearing. Then We revealed the Book to you O Mohammed^(SAW), with truth, confirming the Books revealed before. Thus, Judge, in the affairs of men in accordance with the Law that Allah has revealed. If God wished, He would have made you all a single community; instead, He gave you a Law and a way of life in order to test you by what He gave (free will). Allah orders to compete, with one another in good deeds (44,46-50).

Israelites: Allah took a covenant from the Jews to establish prayer and pay zakat and believe in His prophets and to help them, and give charity. On the contrary, they perverted the words from its context to distort the meaning, committing acts of treachery. Due to their breach of the covenant, they were cast away from Allah's mercy. Moses^(AS) reminded them of Allah's favors, how He raised up prophets from among them, He made them rulers and granted them what He had not granted to anyone else in the world. But when they were told to enter (Palestine), they refused and said: you and your Lord go and fight them. The holy land was forbidden for them for forty years. Because of this characteristic of the Jews, the Prophet^(SAW) was told to judge between them according to the Torah if they came to him for judgment other than the Torah. Torah commands "an eye for an eye, a nose for a nose, an ear for an ear, a tooth for a tooth". The verses mention the Jews who were turned into apes and swine for disobedience. Jews slandered God, by saying His hand is fettered (i.e., He is miser). The attitude of the Jews towards the prophets was such that they denied most, and killed many (12-13,20-26,41-47,60,64,70-71). The People of the Book hate Muslims simply because they believe in Allah and the teachings that were revealed to Mohammed^(SAW), and also in the teachings that were revealed before (59). Anyone who believes in one God, the Last Day and does good deeds, whether be

Muslim, Jew, Christian, Sabaeen, they all will enter the Paradise (69).

Christians: A covenant was taken from the Christians; they too forgot a good portion of the teaching they had been imparted with. The people of the Book are being told that Allah's messenger has come to them with a clear Book, through which Allah shows the right path and makes clear to them many good things of their Book which they have concealed. Unfortunately, the Christians by saying "Christ, the son of Mary^(AS), is God", have disbelieved. **In Quran Allah asks, who can stop Him if He willed to destroy the Christ, the Mary, and all those who are on earth?** To Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them. The Jews and the Christians claim that they are Allah's loved ones. Allah asks, then, why does He chastise them for their crime? Allah put a parable to ponder and says, both Jesus^(AS) and his mother ate food (thus can't be god). **Quran says Christians are nearer to Muslims than Jews and polytheists. Jesus^(AS)'s miracles:** Jesus^(AS) spoke in his cradle, cured leprosy, blind by birth, made living bird out of clay, and was taught the wisdom of Torah and Gospel, and was saved from crucifixion etc. The disciples of Jesus^(AS) demanded table spread from heaven. Allah approved on condition that if later they disbelieve, then they will face severest punishment. On the Day of Judgment Allah will question Jesus^(AS), "Did you tell your followers to take you and your mother as deities besides Allah"? Jesus will reply that he told them to worship Allah, my Lord and their Lord, and I was a witness until I dwelt among them. Allah will say truthfulness will profit the truthful (14-19,72-75,82,110-117).

Abel and Cain: It is the story of the two sons of Adam, when they made an offering, Abel's offering was accepted while Cain's was rejected. Cain said to Abel: "I will kill you". Abel said, even if you stretch forth your hand to kill, I will not reciprocate. Cain murdered his brother, and was from

the losers. Thereupon Allah sent a crow to show him how to cover the corpse of his brother (27-31).

Hypocrites: Those believers who do not go out for jihad, instead try to stop others, have actually disbelieved and are hypocrites. When Muslims are victorious, they will feel remorseful at their hypocrisy. Such hasten towards sin and transgression, and gulping unlawful earnings (52-53,61-62).

Polytheism: Allah has not appointed cattle devoted to idols such as Bahirah, Saibah, Wasilah nor Ham. These people are deluded and have fabricated lies against Allah (categories of domestic cattle which the pre-Islamic Arabs dedicated to various deities). Such people when asked to come to what Allah has revealed, they reply, the way of their forefathers suffices them, even if they are in manifest error (103-4).

Admonishing: If a nation becomes apostate, Allah will bring forth in their place, a people He will love and who will love Him. Your allies are Allah, His Messenger, and those who believe, establish prayer, pay Zakat, and bow before Allah (54,56). Good and evil cannot be equal, even if evil looks pleasing because of its abundance. Allah warns Muslims not to ask unnecessary questions like the Jews, if you were told, you would be upset, but if asked at the time of revelation, it will be explained (101-102). All prophets were Muslims. Help one another in acts of righteousness and piety, and not in sin and transgression. (7-11,44). Do not transgress on your enemies. Allah does not love those who betray trust and persists in sin (107). He promised the righteous believer forgiveness and a great reward, and for the disbeliever, there is a blazing fire.

Important Verses: Allah has made the Kaabah a cause of communal life, and the holy month of Hajj and the sacrificial animals also assist therein. Remember, Allah is severe in requiting (evil), and He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful. So, turn back to your Lord. Duty of the Prophet(SAW) is only to deliver the message (97-99). The Day

when Allah will gather together all the messengers and ask: “What answer were you given”? They will reply: We have no real knowledge of it. You alone fully know all that lies beyond the reach of human perception (109).

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6. Lessons in Surah Inaam (cattle)

Surah Al-Anaam is a Makki Surah in which 165 verses are divided into 20 sections. It takes its name from verses 136-139 where superstitions regarding halal and haram of some **cattle** is discussed. Like other Makki Suras, the basic aim of this Surah is to invite people to believe in Allah, *all the* prophets^(AS), and on the Day of Resurrection. It emphasizes on monotheism, and forbids polytheism and idolatry (84-86). This surah indicts the polytheistic Arabs of denying the Quran, Mohammed^(SAW) and the Hereafter because of their stubbornness, and also because they kill their new-born daughters, and set the rules of halal and haram without authority. In response the Surah says the authority of halal and haram solely lies with the one who created the gardens and crops, and who created the animals for transportation, meat and milk. Nineteen messengers are mentioned in this surah Mohammed^(SAW), Abraham^(AS), Isaac^(AS), Jacob^(AS), Nuh^(AS), David^(AS), Solomon^(AS), Job^(AS), Joseph^(AS), Moses^(AS), Aron^(AS), Zechariah^(AS), John^(AS), Jesus^(AS), Elias^(AS), Ishmael^(AS), Elisha^(AS), Jonah^(AS), Lot^(AS) (84-86). **They all came with the same message that there is no god but Allah.**

Issues discussed: 1) Refutation of shirk and guidance towards monotheism. 2) Reality of the life after death, and resurrection on the Day of Judgement. 3) Clarification of self-imposed prohibitions by Jews that is falsely attributed to Allah. 4) The commandments of Allah which clarify the basic moral principles of the

Islamic society. 5) This Chapter provides comfort and encouragement to the Prophet_(SAW) and his companions in their state of despondency. 6) The disbelievers are warned and admonished so that they give up their apathy and pride. 7) Prohibition of dividing the religion into sects. 8) **Allah requires the believers to declare that their prayers, devotion, life and death are all for Allah(SWT).** 9) All species are communities like humans.

Allah's Attributes: All praise is for Allah alone, Who created the heavens and the earth, and brought into being light and darkness. He created Adam_(AS) out of clay, and created all humans out of a single being, and decreed for each a term of life and a final resting place. He is the Lord of the universe Who originated the heavens and the earth (with a Big Bang). He is the guardian that feeds the creation and He Himself is in no need of sustenance. To him belongs whatever lies in the universe. He is Self-Sufficient, full of compassion, All-Wise, All-Knowing, All-Aware and All-Hearing. He is aware of both our secret and open deeds (1-4,12-14,133). He exercises mercy and does not chastise for disobedience instantly. Everyone cries out to Allah in times of great distress (being embedded in our gene and sub-consciousness). Had He willed all would be believers (63). He is the judge, Who will gather everyone on the Day of Recompense to be taken to account (38-41). He owns the keys to the realm of the unseen. He knows what is on land and in the sea. He knows which side every falling leaf will fall, and also knows about every grain in the open or darkness of the earth whether green or dry, whether it is day or night (59). **And yet the polytheists reject the Truth and ascribe others as equals to Him.** Everything in the universe belongs to Him. That is why Muslims are commanded to be obedient to Allah and not to associate anyone in His divinity. If Allah afflicts someone with calamity, none can remove it except He, He has supreme hold over His servants (62). Allah is the one Who causes the grain and the fruit-kernel to sprout, and brings forth

the living from the dead and brings forth the dead from the living. He causes the dawn to split forth, and has ordained the night for repose, the sun and the moon for reckoning of time, and the stars a mean of finding the way in the darkness. He sends down rain from the heavens, and through it produces all kinds of plants and green fields and trees (95-99). No vision can perceive Him, while He perceives all visions (103).

Commandments: i) Do not associate partners with Allah. ii) Be good to parents. iii) Do not slay your children for fear of poverty. He provides you and will likewise provide them with sustenance. iv) Do not draw near promiscuity, openly or secretly. v) Do not kill anyone unjustly. vi) Do not draw near the property of an orphan in his immaturity except in the best manner. vii) Give full measures and weight with justice. viii) Be just, even if a near of kin is affected. ix) Fulfil the covenant of Allah. That is what He has enjoined upon you so that you may take heed. x) Forbidden to eat are, carrion, blood, swine, that which is slaughtered in a name other than that of Allah, except for those constrained by necessity. xi) Do not insult false deities, lest they insult Allah (108,145-147,151-152).

Allah tells the Prophet(SAW): Even if the Quran had descended in written book form on them, they would have rejected it, saying it's a magic (7). Such nations have scoffed the messengers, and later faced the very torment they scoffed. Signs of their ruins lay scattered around the globe (10-11). Allah's witness suffices you that this Quran was revealed to you to warn them and wherever it reaches. Despite Quranic knowledge, polytheists associate others as partners with Allah without evidence. O Prophet(SAW) tell them that you are averse to the polytheism they are involved in (19). The Prophet(SAW) is warned not to turn away the believers, because they are accountable for their deeds and you for yours, and that if he obeyed the polytheist, he will turn into a polytheist (121). The

Prophet^(SAW) is not a watcher over anyone, he is only a warner (107).

Rejection of Polytheism: Allah tells the Prophet^(SAW) that the polytheists do not reject him, rather they reject Allah's verses, and warns if their turning away makes you sad, then if you have the power to bring them a sign from the earth or from the sky, bring it (only Allah has the power to do so), so be patient. Had Allah willed, He could have guided all (33-37). Allah says, the polytheists due to utter ignorance associate devils with Allah, although they are creatures, and associate with him sons and daughters, although He is pure and exalted above what they say (100). Even if He had sent angels down to them and the dead spoke to them, and even if He had assembled before them all the things, they would still not believe unless Allah willed that they believe (curb the free will) (100,111). Quran tells the polytheists that Mohammed^(SAW) does not have the keys to the treasures of the unseen, nor the knowledge of the unseen, nor is he an angel, he follows what has been revealed to him. As for intercession, it is only Allah's prerogative (50-53). The Prophet was told to tell the polytheist that he has been forbidden to serve those whom they call on other than Allah(SWT), if he did so he would be astray and face chastisement. And was told to tell them that only Allah can cause Doomsday, and if it was in your power, then the matter would have long been settled (56-58). On their query Allah warns the polytheist that angels only descend when nation is to be destroyed, and if they come in human form the doubt would remain (6-9). On the Day of Judgment, everyone will face Allah alone and empty handed, and those whom they imagined as Allah's equals will reject them (94). On realizing that their deities have forsaken them, they will deny polytheism, and when they will see the Hellfire and know the unseen they were warned about, they will long for another chance, and if given (with washed memory), they will repeat and fail again. Such deniers say, the Quran is fables of ancient

times. They did not believe that they can be raised to life after death. By rejecting the truth, they courted their own ruin (22-31). **Then, can one be afraid of entities for whom Allah has not sent down any authority, those who can neither benefit nor harm? No!** But one should show respect (71,81). Superstitions of polytheists relating cattle (135-144). The polytheists say had Allah willed, neither we nor our forefathers would have associated others with Allah, nor declared anything forbidden which Allah allowed (He willed free will) (148). We have been ordered to follow the way of Abraham^(AS), who was not a polytheist. Our prayers, our sacrifices, our living and dying are only for Allah, the Lord of all. **On the Day of Recompense everyone will bear the consequences of his deeds and no one will bear the burden of others.** Those who disbelieve despite the clear signs are deaf and dumb, chastisement is their destiny (161-164). **Everyone will come before Allah alone, all that they had in the world is left behind, and the intercessors whom the polytheists used to claim and about whom they thought to be their doer deities, they will be no were to be seen** (94). Therefore, our Prayers, our acts of worship, and our living and our dying should be for Allah alone, Who has no partners and Who is the Lord of everything.

Abraham^(AS): The conclusion of Abraham^(AS)'s curiosity about the stars, the moon, and the sun was that **anything that sets or dies cannot be called upon** (prophets, saints, devil, angels, sun, moon, animals etc.) (74-82).

People of the book: Those who were given the Book will recognize Quran and Mohammed^(SAW), just as they recognize their own offspring; but those who have malice in their hearts (not from Israelites) will not believe. And who could be more wrong than he who either foists a lie on Allah or gives the lie to His signs? Surely such wrong-doers shall not attain success (20-21).

Admonishing: Allah warns that He first tests the nations with calamities and then with favors, and destroys those who do not repent (like Pharaoh), and replaces them with others (6-9). Those who deny the signs, chastisement is their fate (49). Those who believe in the Lord's signs, He has made mercy incumbent upon Himself for them, and forgives those who repent and mend their way (54). Similarly, if you follow the majority, they will misguide you, because they only follow guesses and assumptions (116). Allah's name makes a huge difference, eat what is halal, and abstain from Haram (118-119). The Prophet has nothing to do with those who divide their religion and become a faction. Their matter is with Allah and He will indeed tell them (end time) what they have been doing (159). Good deeds will be rewarded ten times while evil deeds by equivalent (160).

Important verses: The life of this world is nothing but a sport and a pastime, and the life of the Hereafter is far better for those who are Godfearing (32). The only people who respond to the call of truth are those who listen to the verses of Allah and meditate on them, and those who deny the truth ascribe partners with Allah (36). Allah sends affliction upon people from above or from beneath, or splits them in sects and makes them taste the oppression of one another (65). Turn away from those who are ridiculing Allah's verses until they change the topic (68). Those who lie and say revelation has come unto them, let them produce the likes of Quran? Such wrongdoers will face chastisement during the agony of death as a reward for the lies they fabricated against Allah in their arrogance (93). The word of your Lord is perfect in truth and justice, no one can change His decrees (115). Satan and category of devils and humans have been enemies of every prophet (112). Allah placed big criminals in every region as a test (123).

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7. Lessons in Surah Al-Araf (The heights)

Araf is the height bordering between Hell and Paradise. It takes its name from verses 46-47. Its a Makki surah, with 206 verses. Its last verse, requires prostration. Surah Al-Araf discusses the creation of Adam^(AS), and the prophecies about the Judgment Day. It tells us how Satan deceived Adam^(AS) and Eve to eat the forbidden fruit, And as a result of the disobedience, all three were sent down to earth.

Main Topics: Creation of Adam^(AS) and Satan's refusal to bow, Judgement Day, the people of the heights, brief mention of various Prophets, slightly detailed story of Moses^(AS), God created all mankind from a single being and took a Covenant from them.

Summary of Topics:

Allah: To Him belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth. There is no god but He. He grants life and gives death. He brought forth descendants from the loins of the sons of Adam, and took a covenant from them that He is their Lord, everyone testified to it. So that they may not claim on the Day of Judgment that they were unaware of it, or say they worshiped other deities because their forefathers associated them in His divinity. They will all face the torment of Hell (172-173). **Lesson:** No excuses, everyone is responsible for his own deeds.

Commandments: All types of sin, transgression, indecent acts, whether overt or hidden are forbidden. Associating anyone in Allah's divinity, or ascribing to Allah things without knowledge are unforgivable sins unless repented in mortal life (33). Adam^(AS) and his offspring were told, when a messenger comes to them from among themselves, who recite to them His commandments, those who mend their ways shall succeed, and those who reject will be the loser in the Hereafter (35-36).

Adam^(AS): Allah created Adam^(AS), and ordered the angels to prostrate before him. They all prostrated except Satan,

who in his arrogance considered himself to be superior, thus, he is from amongst the losers. Instead of repenting, Satan asked for respite till the Doomsday, which was granted to him. He promised Allah that he will mislead nearly all the humans. In response, Allah promised him and his followers the Hellfire. Satan with his deceits was able to lure Adam^(AS) and Eve in eating the fruit of the forbidden tree. All three were evicted from Paradise and sent down to earth to be tested, and will be resurrected in the Hereafter for accountability. Adam^(AS) and Eve repented and were forgiven (11-25). **Lesson:** Those who humble themselves and repent are like Adam^(AS), and those who are arrogant and increase in evil are like the Satan.

Mohammed^(SAW): Allah says: Let there be no impediment in your heart about the Quran, it was revealed to you to warn the unbelievers, and admonish the believers (2). Quran expounds guidance and is a mercy to those who believe (52). He^(SAW) enjoins what is right and forbids what is wrong, he makes pure things lawful and unclean things unlawful. So those who believe in him^(SAW) support him, help him and follow the Quran, will prosper. Since no messenger will come after him^(SAW), Quran is a guide for all mankind till the Day of Resurrection. Allah asks the people of Makkah to ponder over the fact that the Prophet^(SAW) lived among them for forty years, and you considered him to be truthful, honest and trustworthy, How, then, when he admonishes you with My verses, you say that he is insane? He^(SAW) is just a warner and a giver of glad tiding (184). Today His mercy is for those who follow Mohammed^(SAW), who is mentioned in the Torah and the Gospel. Thus, have faith in Allah, His messenger and the Book revealed, so that you may be guided aright (157-8).

Judgment Day and Polytheist: The knowledge of the Hour is only with Allah and He will reveal it on its due time (187). The most unjust person is the one who ascribes lies to Allah or rejects His revelation as false e.g., hypocrites, polytheists, non-believers etc. On the Day of Judgment,

those who denied the admonishing will acknowledge that their messengers had brought the truth. They will then look for their intercessors, on not finding them they will wish they could be retested, but sadly, Hellfire will be their abode. On losing hope of redemption, they will accuse each other of misleading, they will all face the torment of the Hellfire. They will never enter the Paradise, not even if a camel passes through the eye of a needle. Only **believers with good deeds** will enter Paradise (37-45,53).

Rejection of Polytheism: Those whom they associate with Allah have created nothing, rather they are His creation. They can neither help themselves nor anyone else. If you invoke them, they cannot answer to your call. Further Allah tells the Prophet_(SAW) to ask the polytheists to invoke all their false deities to scheme against him and grant him no respite, his guardian is Allah, and He is the Protector of the righteous (191-198). Further to enhance what is said above, Allah tells the Prophet_(SAW) to declare, that he does not **have power to benefit or harm himself except as Allah pleases**. If he had the knowledge of the unseen, he would have amassed all kinds of good, and no evil would have ever touched him. He is merely a warner and the herald of glad tidings to those who believe (then can anyone else have these powers?) (188). In the Quran a covenant was taken from people that they would not ascribe to Allah anything but the truth (169)? **The disbelievers are such that they have heart that does not think, they have eyes that do not see, they have ears that do not hear. They are like cattle; rather worse, they are heedless** (179).

People the heights, Araf: Bordering the Hell and the Heaven is a barrier of heights, and on them will be those whose good and evil deeds are equal. They will cry out to the people of Paradise, "Peace be to you". And when they see the people of Hell, they will seek refuge from them, and tell them, **today neither their numbers, nor their riches availed them**. The people of the Fire will ask the

people of Paradise to pour some food and water on them. **They will be told that Allah has forbidden it for the deniers of the truth.** That Day Allah will forget them just as they forgot their meeting of the Day, and rejected His revelations. God willing the people of Araf shall one day enter paradise (46-51).

Prophets: Allah always sends adversity and hardship on nations before and/or at the time of sending a prophet, so that people might humble themselves. Allah then changes the adversity into ease until they thrive, and then seizes them from where they do not perceive. Had they believed; Allah would have bestowed His blessings on them (94-96). The Prophets mentioned in this surah are: **Noah_(AS)** 59-64, **Hud_(AS)** 65-72, **Salih_(AS)** 73-79, **Lot_(AS)** 80-84, **Shoaib_(AS)** 85-93, **Moses_(AS)** 138-171. **All the Prophets_(AS) said to their people, serve Allah, for there is no god but He,** and that they fear for them the chastisement of the Hereafter. Leaders of all the nations replied to their respective prophets: "We see you in profound error". The messengers replied, "we are in no error, we are messenger from the Lord of the universe, to convey to you His message, and to give you sincere advice". **You are baffled, why the admonition from your Lord comes to you through a man from amongst you?** Except the Israelites, not only did they refuse to forsake the false deities of their forefathers, but they also refused to worship the true God, instead bluntly asked for the torment. On rejection, Allah rescued **Noah_(AS)** and his followers in the Ark, and drowned the later. Allah rescued **Hud_(AS)** and his companions and destroyed the remnant who called the lie to His signs. The people of **Salih_(AS)** were given a she camel miraculously coming out of a mountain and were told not to harm it. They killed it and said, bring upon us the scourge you threaten us with. Thereupon a catastrophe seized them, and they lay dead in their dwellings. **Lot_(AS)'s** people were first to practice homosexuality, there reply to his call was, banish him.

Allah rescued Lot^(AS) and his family except his wife and destroyed the rest with rain of molten rocks, and sunk them in the earth. **Shoaib^(AS)**'s nation were told to weigh justly. In reply their leaders warned Shoaib^(AS) that they will banish him and his followers. A catastrophe seized them too, and they lay dead in their dwellings. **Moses^(AS)** said to the Pharaoh to free the Israelites whose male infants he kills and spares the females. Pharaoh even after witnessing nine miracles and the defeat of his magicians, still refused to believe. Finally, the Israelites crossed the sea while the Pharaoh and his army were drowned. All messengers^(AS) left saying: "O my people! we conveyed the message of the Lord and gave you sincere advice; but you have no liking for your well-wishers. How, then, can we mourn for people who refuse to accept the truth?"

Lesson: When messengers come, nations who deny the admonishing are destroyed. There remains lay scattered around the globe. Allah says that only arrogant turn away from His signs.

Israelites: Israelites inherited the eastern and western land. After crossing the sea safely by the mercy of Allah, when they saw people worshiping idols, they asked Moses^(AS) for a similar deity. Moses^(AS) rebuked them and said, "**should I seek any god for you other than Allah Who has exalted you above all?**" Then Allah appointed for Moses^(AS) a term of forty nights. Moses^(AS) made Aaron^(AS), his viceroy and left for Mount Tur. There Moses^(AS) requested to see the Lord. Allah said, "You cannot bear to see Me, watch glimpse of Me on the mountain", the mountain turned to dust and Moses fell unconscious on ground, he then repented to Allah. Allah ordained Moses^(AS) with tablets of the Law for his people. In his absence, his people moulded the like of a calf from their ornaments, and started worshipping it. On repentance Allah forgave them, but the culprits were slain. On insistence to hear the Lord talk to Moses^(AS), seventy Israelites were taken to Mount Tur, where an earthquake

killed them. On Moses_(AS)'s supplication they were brought back to life. Allah says, His mercy encompasses everything and will show mercy to those who abstain from evil, give charity and have faith in His signs. Allah lifted Mount Tor above their heads and took a covenant from them that they would hold fast to the Book which We are giving them and remember what is written in it. When the Israelites asked Moses_(AS) for water in the wilderness, Allah directed him to hit the rock with his staff. Then twelve springs gushed forth for the twelve tribes, He caused thick clouds to provide them shade, and sent down upon them manna and quails to eat. Allah took covenant from the Israelites to firmly adhere to the teachings of Torah by holding Mount Tur over their heads. Still when they were told to enter a town for dwelling while prostrating and saying the word "repentance". They substituted the word and scourge of Allah fell on them. They also broke the commandment of Sabbath. And when they kept pursuing that which had been forbidden, Allah turned the perpetrators into apes. **Then Allah declare that He would raise against Israelites (till the end times) those who would lay on them a cruel torment, and will scatter them throughout the globe** (138-171). **Lesson:** The beloved nation of Allah is the one who obeys His commands.

Admonishing: 1) Follow the Quran revealed by your Lord. 2) Do not call on any other master other than Allah. When such nations were destroyed by Allah's scourge, their only cry was: "We indeed transgressed (but then it was too late)". 3) Allah will call to account the messengers, the nations to whom they were sent. 4) Allah is always close by. 5) On the Day of Judgment, the deeds will be weighed, those whose scales are heavy will prosper, and those whose scales are light will be the losers. 6) Allah established us on the earth, and arranged for our livelihood (3-10). 7) The finest of all garment is the garment of piety. 8) Let not Satan deceive you in the manner he

deceived Adam^(AS). Remember, his host see you from whence you do not see them. 9) The satanic devils are the guardians of those who do not believe. 10) Never enjoin in indecencies, rather enjoin in justice and righteousness. 11) Guided are those who take Allah as their guardian and call upon Him, knowing to whom we all must return. 12) **Wear full clothes during prayers.** 13) Eat and drink without going to excesses ⁽²⁶⁻³¹⁾. 14) Allah has not forbidden ornament which He brought forth for His creatures or the good things from among the means of sustenance. These are for the enjoyment of the believers in this world, and shall be exclusively theirs after the Day of Recompense ⁽³²⁾. 15) Example of the one who rejects the signs and follows his desires is like that of a dog who lolls out his tongue whether you attack him or leave him alone ⁽¹⁷⁵⁻¹⁷⁶⁾. 16) Whom Allah lets go astray, no one can guide him ⁽¹⁸⁶⁾. 17) Allah via the Prophet tells us to show forgiveness, enjoin equity, and avoid the ignorant. And if it happens that a prompting from Satan should stir you, seek refuge with Allah, He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing ⁽¹⁹⁹⁻²⁰⁰⁾. 18) **When the Quran is recited, listen carefully and keep silent, so that you may understand** ⁽²⁰⁴⁾.

Important verses: For every community there is an appointed term; and when its term expires, there can be not moments delay nor advancement ⁽³⁴⁾. Vain are the deeds of those who reject Allah's signs and to the meeting of the Hereafter. They will be recompensed accordingly ⁽¹⁴⁷⁾. Keep **admonishing people even those whom Allah is about to destroy or punish severely, so as to avoid disobedience and have an excuse before the Lord.** Allah delivered those who forbid evil, and afflicted the unjust and those who did not admonish with a painful torment (admonition is obligatory) ⁽¹⁶⁴⁾. Allah has the most excellent names, so, call on Him by His names and shun those who distort them. They shall soon be requited for their deeds. And of those whom We have created there is a party who guide men through the truth and act justly

according to it (180-181). Only Allah has the knowledge of the Hour (187).

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8. Lessons in Surah Al-Anfal (War Bounty)

Surah Al-Anfal was revealed in Medina soon after the battle of Badr. It is the 8th chapter of the Quran; it has 75 verses split in ten sections. It takes its name from the first verse. It enunciates instructions particularly regarding war and war spoils. This chapter articulates the principles of war and peace and the doctrine of sacrifice.

Surah Al-Anfal Main topics:

Believers: The true believers are those who fear Allah and set things right, and obey Allah and His messenger. When Allah's name is mentioned to them, their hearts quake, and when His verses are recited to them it increases their faith. They establish prayer, give charity **and have trust in their Lord** (1-4). They are faithful to Allah, His Messenger and their covenant. They fear Allah and hope that He will forgive their sins (27-29).

The migrants: Those who believed and migrated and strove hard in the way of Allah with their possessions and their lives, and those who sheltered and helped them, they alone are the true believers and allies of one another. Yet in the case of inheritance, blood relations have more right. And for those who did not migrate (to Dar-al-Islam), there is no obligation of alliance with them. And should they seek help in the matter of religion, it is incumbent to provide help unless it be against people of pact (72-75).

Battle of Badr and its historical back ground: The Prophet(SAW) and his companions faced severe persecution in Makkah. Four years prior to migration, the people of Medina started embracing Islam, and three years later,

more than seventy-five people from Medina met the Prophet and swore allegiance to him. Although they were warned about the consequences of the allegiance (which meant war with the whole of Arabia), yet they requested the Prophet^(SAW) to migrate to Medina. The battle of Badr was fought two years after migration in 2Hijri or 624 AD. Muslims were mere 313 in number, 86 of them had migrated from Makkah and remaining 227 were from Medina (most of them only had stones and sticks). The army of Makkah was fully armed and constituted of one thousand warriors including hundred cavalry men. Despite the odds, the war ended in clear victory for the Muslims. Seventy men of Makkan army including their leaders were killed, and seventy were made captive.

Review of the Battle: It emphasizes that the victory was only due to Allah's help and blessing, and that a Muslim should place his trust in Allah. Out of the caravan and the army of Makkah, Allah chose the Makkan army to uplift the truth, and to annihilate the falsehood. Allah helped the believers with thousand angels, so that their hearts may rest with a feeling of peace and security. He cast terror in the hearts of Makkan army, and made it look small in the eyes of the believers. Allah says believers of strong faith can vanquish ten times their number, while, due to weakness in faith can still vanquish twice the number. Believers should not turn their backs in a fight, except for tactical reasons, or to join another company. Those who turn their backs in battle field shall incur the wrath of Allah. Allah further says, fight them until the mischief ends and the way prescribed by Allah prevails. The unbelievers are warned to desist from mischief or face chastisement. If they desist their past shall be forgiven (5-40,65-66). For freeing the captives on ransom, Allah says: It does not befit a Prophet to free captives until the enemy is sufficiently suppressed (67-70).

Commandments and battle ethics: Fighting should not be for the spoils or gains but for a just cause. One fifth of

the spoils obtained belong to Allah, to the messenger, to his near of kin, to the orphans, the needy and the wayfarers (41). Believers, whenever you encounter a hostile force of unbelievers, do not turn your backs to them in flight (15). In the sight of Allah, the worst kind of people are those who turn deaf ear to admonishing, especially those with whom the Prophet had made a covenant, but from time to time they violated it (Jews) (22). If you find such people in battle, make them an example so that others may take heed. If you fear treachery from any people of covenant then publicly throw their covenant at them (55-58). To overawe yours and Allah's enemies, always be battle ready to encounter them with all your force and arms that you can muster. If the enemy inclines to peace, incline yourself as well, and trust Allah (60-61).

Admonishing: Obey Allah and His Messenger, and do not quarrel with one another lest you should lose courage and your powers depart (46). Allah does not change the favours bestowed upon a people until they changed their moral attitude (53). O Prophet! Allah is sufficient for you and the believers who follow you.

Important verses: Guard against the communal mischiefs that could bring punishment to the whole community (25). Believers! Do not be unfaithful to Allah and the Messenger, nor be knowingly unfaithful to your trusts (27). Allah is the best of schemer (30). Allah does not chastise a nation, a) when a prophet is in their midst; b) while they seek His forgiveness (33). Those who put their trust in Allah shall find Him (49). Allah is not unjust in the least to His creatures, but the punishment is the earning of their own hands (51). O Prophet! You could not unite their hearts with all the wealth of the earth, as the religion of Allah has united them (63).

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9. Lessons in Surah At-Tauba (Penitence)

Surah At-Tauba is a Madni surah which was revealed partly before, during and after the Battle of Tabuk. It is referred by two names, Al Baraat taken from verse 1 which means repudiation/disassociation from a treaty. The second name is At-Tauba which means penitence as discussed in verses 102-108. It has 129 verses divided into 16 sections. It is the only surah of the Quran that does not start with Bismillah, the reason being it starts with an ultimatum to the Makkans who violated the treaty of the Hudaibiyah, therefore, as an expression of anger (In the name of the God, the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate) was omitted.

Main Topics: This surah re-evaluates the relationship with the polytheists, Jews and the Christians. Therefore, the polytheists were removed from the charge of the Masjid al-Haram and the Muslims were made its trustees. After the polytheists violated the treaty of Hudaibiya, Allah announced its repudiation. He also rebuked the weaknesses of some Muslims for the battle of Tabuk. It was commanded to raise the banner of jihad against the polytheist Arabs, the Jews and Rome. In this surah, Muslims are inspired to spend in the way of Allah and pay Zakat, those who do not pay Zakat are promised severe punishment in the Hereafter. It also tells where it can be spent. The miscreants malign Islam by quoting verse 5 out of context, and do not discuss the next verse in which it is commanded that if any polytheist requests for protection so that he may learn Islam, give him protection till he hears the Word of Allah; then convey him to his place of safety.

Summary of Topics:

Allah: The number of months with Allah is twelve since creation ⁽³⁶⁾. The kingdom of the heavens and the earth belongs to Allah, He ordains life and death, and there is neither any helper nor protector to rescue anyone from

Him ⁽¹¹⁶⁾. Allah calls out to the humanity and says: A Messenger **Mohammed**_(SAW) has come to you, who is from among you, he grieves at your spiritual loss and is greedily anxious for your true success. He is gentle and compassionate for the believers. Now if you turn away from him_(SAW), then Allah suffices for him, there is no god but He, in Him one should put his trust, He is the Lord of the Great Throne ⁽¹²⁸⁻⁹⁾.

Repudiation of treaty: Allah declared the termination of the treaty with the polytheists who had violated the treaty with the Messenger of Allah. They were given ultimatum of four months. When the four months expired, Allah ordered the killing of the culprits wherever they were found. Yet if they repent, and establish Salat and pay the Zakat, then let them go, for Allah is All-Forgiving and All-Compassionate. The polytheists who did not violate any treaty, nor helped anyone against the Muslims are exempted ⁽¹⁻³⁷⁾.

Makkah: Due to importance of Makkah, a year after its liberation the idolaters were banned from entering or maintaining the mosque of Allah. The announcement was made on the occasion of Hajj so that all Arab tribes could hear ^(17,28). They were told that serving the pilgrims is not equal to believing in Allah, the Hereafter and fighting in the way of Allah ⁽¹⁹⁻²²⁾. **Lesson:** Polytheism is a heinous crime, and no deeds are acceptable with it.

Battle of Hunain: When Muslims bragged about their numbers in the Battle of Hunain, they lost the war, if not for the help of Allah ⁽²⁵⁻²⁶⁾. Offer the non-believers three choices. a) Believe and adopt the right way. b) Pay jizya (tax). c) Face war ⁽²⁹⁾. **Lesson:** Never be arrogant or overconfident.

Hypocrites and Battle of Tabuk: These verses were revealed at the time when the Prophet_(SAW) was engaged in making preparations for the campaign of Tabuk. The believers were urged to take active part in Jihad. In it, the

hypocrites and those who stayed behind without any excuse are severely rebuked for saving their wealth and for their reluctance to fight in the cause of Allah (38). Allah warned, if you do not help the Prophet, Allah will help him (40). Due to tough journey and zero prospect of gain, the hypocrites made lame excuses to stay behind. The Prophet accepted their lame excuses. The hypocrites always strived to stir up mischief by sowing discord. This is because their hearts are filled with doubts, they do not believe in Allah and the Last Day. On the other hand, the believers will never ask to be exempted from Jihad with their possessions and their lives (42-48). After returning from Tabuk, due to the mischief of the hypocrites, Allah declared that there is no forgiveness for the hypocrites, no matter how many times the Prophet(SAW) prayed for their forgiveness. On the other hand, after taking the three believers who stayed behind for non-genuine reason to task, Allah pardoned them(118). Zabar Mosque was built by the hypocrites in Medina to cause harm to the Muslims. Allah forbade the Prophet(SAW) to pray in it (73-129).

Believers and Jihad: Believers are comrade to one another, they enjoin good and forbid evil, establish salat, pay Zakat and obey Allah and His messenger. Such will enter Paradise (71-72). Indeed, Allah has bought from the believers their lives and their possessions in return for the Paradise; they fight in His way. The promise of the Paradise is the true pledge of Allah made in the Torah, the Gospel, and the Quran. Believers rejoice in the bargain made with Allah; which is the greatest success. Believers turn back to Allah over and over again; worship Him, sing hymns in His praise, move about in the land for His sake, bow down and prostrate before Him, enjoin virtue and forbid evil, and strictly observe the limits prescribed by Allah (111-112). They fear Allah and side with the truth (119). Whenever a new Surah is revealed to the believers, it increases their faith, and they rejoice (124).

Zakat utilization: Zakat collections are only for the needy and the indigent, and for those who are employed to collect them and for those whose hearts are to be won over and for the ransoming of slaves and for helping the debtors and for the way of Allah and for the hospitality of the wayfarers (60).

Admonishing: Don't give preference to non-believers in friendship or association even if they are the closest relatives. If your fathers, brothers, sons and wives, near of kin, the wealth acquired, the trade, and the homes which delight you are dearer to you than struggling in Allah's Way, then wait till He passes His judgment on you (23-24). Those who hoard gold and silver and spend it not in the way of Allah, the same will be heated in the fire of Hell and their backs and foreheads will be branded with it (35). It does not befit the Prophet and those who believe to pray for the forgiveness of the polytheists, even though they be near of kin, when it is clear to them that they deserve Hell (113). Mention of few nations that were destroyed for disbelief (70). It is not befitting for the people to abandon Allah's messenger and stay home in order to safeguard their interests. For, every hardship like thirst, hunger and any other physical ordeal one suffers in the way of Allah, and every step he takes on that way which enrages the unbelievers, and every act of wreaking vengeance upon the enemies of the truth, is credit in their favour. Allah does not let go unrewarded any deed of the righteous people. (120-121).

Important verses: Indeed, most of the scholars and monks of the people of the Book devour the wealth of others by evil means, and debar them from the Way of Allah (34-35).

Lesson: Result of blind following is bad.

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10. Lessons in Surah Yunus (Jonah)

This surah has 109 verses divided in 11 sections. It's a Makkan surah revealed between 613-618 A.D. It takes its name from verse 98 which says: Has it ever happened that the people of a town believed on seeing God's scourge, and their believing profited them except for the people of Jonah. Like all Makkan surahs it to emphasis on monotheism and discusses various angles of the Islamic beliefs.

It discusses oneness of God, prophethood of Mohammed^(SAW) and life after death. It also answers the objections of disbelievers against the Quran and prophethood of Mohammed^(SAW). It depicts the scenes of Judgement Day, to warns us that the life of this world is just a test and a trial. Through the stories of Noah^(AS) and Moses^(AS), it explains that it is wrong to treat the Prophet^(SAW) like the previous nations. On the other hand the Prophet is urged to be patient, and told that he cannot convert everyone to believe. The first seventy verses present a belligerent dialogue between Islam and the unbelievers. Although the polytheists of Makkah considered Allah to be the Creator and the Lord, but yet they associated others as partners in His worship, divinity, submission and sovereignty. Therefore, in this Surah, the true concept of God is presented. The surah discusses five important subjects.

Main Topics

The Awe of Allah^(SAW): Allah is the one Who created the heavens and the earth in six days, then established Himself on the Throne, and governs all affairs of the universe. No one can intercede in front of Him except by His leave, and to Him we will all return. He is the One who created all creatures, and He will resurrect mankind so that with justice He may reward the believers who have done good deeds and punish the disbelievers. It is He Who gave the sun radiance and moon the light, and determined the stages for the calculation of years and the reckoning of

time. Allah has created all this for a purpose. Likewise, there are signs for mankind in the alternation of night and day, and in the creation of the heavens and the earth (3-13). To fortify what has been said, Allah asks, who provides sustenance out of the heavens and the earth? Who holds mastery over your hearing and sight? Who brings forth the living from the dead and the dead from the living? Who governs all affairs of the universe? **Only to Allah belongs the realm of unseen** (31). He is witness over all, not even an atom's weight or smaller or bigger escapes Him on the earth and the heavens, except that it is on record in a Clear Book. **He is self-sufficient! He owns all that is in the heavens and in the earth** (61). **Lesson:** Worship is solely for Allah.

Quran: As the Quran gives a fix to all the issues of mankind. That is why Allah says, these are the verses of Quran overflowing with wisdom, and asks, why it seem strange to them that **We have revealed Quran to a man from amongst them, to warn those who are heedless; and to give glad tiding to the believers** (1-2). **As the Quran annihilates polytheism, the Quraish demanded that Mohammed(SAW) should make changes in the Quran so that it does not condemn their practice of idolatry and seeking intercessors for Allah. In response Allah says that Mohammed(SAW) does not have the authority to change it** (15). The Quran (with scientific, moral, linguistic and numerical miracles) confirms beyond doubt that it is from Allah, **and that it has been illogically rejected by those who failed to comprehend the message and its consequences.** They are oblivious of everything except enjoyment of the worldly life. For rejecting the Quran and saying that it was composed by the Prophet(SAW), Allah says, then take help of all besides Allah and bring forth just one surah like it (37-38). Allah says, those who turn deaf ear or blind eye to the guidance have wronged themselves (42-44). There is no compulsion in religion, guidance has come, rest it is

one's own choice (108). **Lesson:** Read the Quran with understanding, it is book of guidance!

Stories of the prophets: As prophets resided amongst their people and displayed best moral character and versatility, therefore, when they started preaching Allah's religion, no one could question their background and character. That is why the verse says, the Prophet spent 40 years amongst you before this (to reason with them) (15-16). It discusses Noah^(AS) and his people, the believers were saved on the ark, while the rest were drowned (71-73), story of Moses^(AS), Aaron^(AS), Pharaoh and magicians. God inspired Moses^(AS) to return to Egypt, and the end result was Pharaoh and his soldiers were drowned in sea. Pharaoh while drowning took the Shahadah, his plea was rejected and his body was saved as a sign for people to come (75-92). Belief after seeing the scourge only benefitted the community of Jonah^(AS) (as he left them before time) (98). **Lessons:** When people reject a messenger those nations have always been destroyed. The stories in the Quran are just to warn people.

Rejection of Polytheism: As this surah annihilates paganistic views, thus the hostility of the rivals of the Message became so severe that they couldn't bear the presence of Mohammed^(SAW) and his followers. **They worshiped deities beside Allah, those who could neither harm nor profit them, and yet they assumed that they are their intercessors with Allah.** Allah logically rejects it by asking, "will they inform Allah of something regarding whose existence in the heavens or on the earth He is unaware of"? What would they recommend? **This is denying His attribute of All-knowing and being All-Just.** On the other hand, intercession is for those for whom Allah pleases. Unfortunately, in dire need, people call out solely to Allah, **and when He removes the calamity, the polytheists begin following the old way** (18-30). The dead saint (deities) whom people call, are unaware of being worshiped. **On the Day of Judgment, Allah will remove the**

veil separating them, the true saints will reject their worship and say, Allah's witness suffices that they were totally unaware of their worship. Then one will realize that all the falsehood they had fabricated have forsaken them (28-30). The polytheists rejoice in the pleasant journey with breeze, and when surrounded by a storm with high waves, they call upon Allah with sincerity. And when He saves them, then they turn their back to the truth and become rebellious (22-23). Allah asks, can the claimed associates of His bring about the creation of beings and then repeat it, and can they guide them? No, only Allah can. Thus, only the Creator is worthy to be followed and worshipped. The conjectures can never be a substitute for the truth (32-36). On the Day when Allah will muster all men together, it will become evident that those who rejected life after death are utter losers (45). Even the Prophet(SAW) does not have the power to bring the scourge, nor has the knowledge of the hour, nor is he knower of the unseen (48-49). Those who invoke others beside Allah, follow nothing but conjectures and falsehood, and ascribe false things to Allah without knowledge (66-68). **Allah indirectly warns us:** O Mohammed, the truth that has come to you from your Lord, so never be like those who doubt, or reject His signs, else you shall be utter loss (94-95). Tell them also, that you do not serve those whom they serve beside Allah, **you serve that Allah Who causes death. And that you have been commanded to adhere exclusively and sincerely to the true faith, and not to be one of those who associate others with Allah in His divinity, who have no power to benefit or hurt anyone. And say: If I call upon others than Allah I will be reckoned among the wrong-doers.** If Allah afflicts me with any hardship, none other can remove it; and if He wills any good for me, none can avert it. Allah says, tell the people: Truth has come to you from your Lord, whosoever follows the guidance does so for his own good; and whosoever strays, his straying will be to his own hurt. I am no

custodian over you (104-109). **Lesson:** Even if a prophet commits polytheism, he too will face punishment.

Admonishing: Initially all men were a single community; then they disagreed and formulated different beliefs and rites. Allah tests nations with hardship and ease of sustenance. And no sooner, He bestow mercy on a people after hardship, they begin to scheme against His signs. They are warned that Allah is swifter in scheming, and that angels are recording all their actions. Ephemeral world lures people towards worldly pleasures, while Allah calls them to the abode of the Hereafter. He only guides those who have urge for guidance (19). No sign or warning can be of any use to those who do not use their intellect and are bent on disbelief (100-101).

Important verses: Now We have appointed you as their successors in the earth to see how you act (14). Everyone is accountable for his own deeds (41). Allah sends down sustenance and people without authority declared some of it as unlawful and some as lawful (59)? Allah is very generous to human beings, yet most of them are ungrateful (60). The friends of Allah who believe and lead a righteous life, have no fear or grief (62-63). Had Allah willed, all those who are on the earth would have believed. Will you, then, force people into believing (99)? When Allah's wrath falls upon the wicked, He saves His Messengers and those who believe. Allah says it is incumbent on Him to deliver the believers (103).

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11. Lessons in Surah Hud

Surah Hud is the 11th chapter of the Quran with 123 verses. It derives its name from the story of Hud(AS) in verses 50-60. The subject matter of the surah suggests that it was revealed near about the same period as that of Surah Yunus, but with a sterner warning. In a hadith Abu Bakr(RA) told the Prophet(SAW) that lately he has noticed that he was

growing older by the day. The Prophet^(SAW) replied, “Surah Hud and the Surahs like it have made me old.” At the time of revelations of these surahs, the Prophet^(SAW) was facing very hard times from the infidels, and the stern warnings added greatly to his anxiety, as it meant that the time of respite was nearing its end. He was worried that the torment might befall his people.

This surah discusses the human nature and the punishment that awaits those who deny God. It emphasizes on worship of Allah alone, obedience to the Prophet, abandoning polytheism, and believing in the Day of Judgment, where everyone will be held accountable for their deeds. It also relates stories of Noah^(AS), Hud^(AS), Salih^(AS), Lot^(AS), Shoaib^(AS) and Abraham^(AS). They all warned their people to worship none but one God. So as to avoid the path of destruction, it mentions the polytheistic nations who denied the teachings of the Prophets and were destroyed for their constant disobedience. The people of Makkah were warned not to be deceived by the delay in the scourge. This is a respite from Allah so that they may make amends. From the stories it can be deduced that there are two kinds of humans, those who are after the worldly gain, and the other trying to improve both this world and their Hereafter. Allah created us with freedom of choice, but regretfully the Hellfire will be filled, with humans and devils.

Summary of subjects

Allah: He to whom we have to return has power over all things. No one can hide himself from Him, even if they cover themselves with clothes. He knows what they cover and what they reveal, He even knows the secrets hidden in the breasts. Every creature on earth receives sustenance by His permission, He also knows where they live and where they will be handed over after death. He created the heavens and the earth in six days, and everything is recorded in a clear Book (3-8). All that is hidden

in the heavens and the earth is within His Power. To Him are all matters referred for judgement. He is not heedless of what one does.

Quran: Whose verses have been narrated firmly and in detail, by the One Who is All-Wise, All-Aware, **so that you may worship none but Allah** (1-2). If this book was written by the Prophet, then bring ten Surahs like it, **and call upon all the deities besides Allah for your help. Then if your deities do not respond to your call, then believe that this Book has been revealed by Allah, and that there is no true god but He** (9-14).

Prophets_(AS): All the prophets exhorted their people to worship Allah alone and gave glad tidings to the believers. **They all said, they don't possess keys to Allah's treasures, nor do they have the knowledge of the unseen, nor do they claim to be angels.** They all said to their people, "They do not ask for any reward from them. Their reward is with Allah." And said: Ask forgiveness of the Lord and repent, for He will do good to those who do good. But if they turn away, then for them is a great punishment. They all refused to expel the weak believers and said if they drove men of faith away, who will protect them from Allah. On rejection, they all said, we take Allah as our witness that we have nothing to do with what you associate with Him. The objection of all leaders regarding the prophets was that they are mere human beings like them, so the majority refused to listen to them.

Noah_(AS): Noah_(AS) people rejected the message. After nine hundred years of preaching, he was told that none of his people would believe anymore. After nine hundred years of preaching, **he was told that none of his people would believe anymore** (Allah waited for the last believing servant), and was ordered to build an ark. The believers were saved and the infidels were drowned including his son and his wife. On interceding for his son, Allah rebuked Noah_(AS) and was told **his unbelieving son is not his family** (25-49).

Saleh_(AS): Saleh_(AS) said to his people, “Look, this she-camel of Allah, which came out from the mountain miraculously, is a sign for you, so, let her pasture freely and don’t hurt her, else Allah’s wrath will befall you”. They killed it. On expiry of three days respite Allah’s scourge fell on them (61-68).

Hud_(AS): Hud_(AS) was sent to Aad an Omani tribe. They rejected the Message. Allah rescued Hud_(AS) and the believers, and afflicted the disbelievers with a terrible torment (50-60).

Abraham_(AS): The angels came to him in human form, thinking that they were human guests, he quickly roasted a calf and offered them to eat. **They did not eat then told him** that they are angels sent to destroy the people of Lot (had he known they are angels, he would not have roasted the calf, had the angels known he was cooking for them, they would have stopped him. Only Allah has the knowledge of the unseen). The angels gave him glad tidings about Isaac and the Jacob_(AS). After the fear had gone, Abraham called on Allah to give people of Lot some respite. The angels warned him to desist, as Allah’s command has come; now the chastisement cannot be averted (69-76).

Lot_(AS): The People of Lot were the first to practice homosexuality. The angels came to them as young beautiful boys. They came rushing to Lot’s house. He offered them his daughters who are purer (in marriage). They refused; it is then he was told that they are angels and by dawn their time expires. Apart from his wife, he should leave with his family, and no one should look back (77-83).

Shoaib_(AS): Shoaib_(AS) was sent to Midian where people weighed less. He told them to measure and weight with justice, and not to create corruption in the land. He fears lest the chastisement befalls them. They said: **Do you enjoin us to forsake the deities that our forefathers worshiped, and that we cannot use our wealth as we please?** He said: I only admonish you for your good, so fear

your Lord and repent. Shoaib^(AS) and the believers were saved, and the rest were destroyed by an explosion ⁽⁸⁴⁻⁹⁴⁾.

Lessons: The only God is Allah. Calling out to others besides Allah is polytheism. Obeying the prophets is a must. Only believers are prophet's family. If the Prophets cannot benefit their immediate kins, then can anyone else? Measuring or weighing less and homosexuality are grave sin. Prophets are not the knower of the unseen. If Abraham^(AS) had known that they were angels, he would not have roasted the calf for them, and similarly if the angels had known that Abraham was cooking for them, they would have stopped him. Humans need to eat, while angels don't. Only Allah has knowledge of the unseen. If a prophet cannot save himself from the punishment of shirk, then who can save others?

Rejection of polytheism: It also tells us that when judgement is passed on a nation, except the believers, no one is spared, not even if he be the nearest kin of a Prophet. All the prophets and divine messages emphasize monotheism and forbid associating partners with Allah. All Prophets acknowledged they do not possess Allah's treasures, nor realm of unseen, and neither are they angels. All the prophets said to their people that they are disgusted with their false deities whom they associate with Allah. Yet all of them refused to abandon their forged deities.

The believer: They ponder on the signs and when a prophet comes, they would believe ⁽¹⁷⁾. When Allah bestows a favor, they are grateful, when He takes away a favor, they show patience ⁽⁹⁻¹¹⁾.

The Non-believer: When Allah bestows on them a favor, they become arrogant, and if he takes it away, they become impatient and ungrateful ⁽⁹⁻¹¹⁾. They are the ones who deny the Book; thus, they shall have nothing in the Hereafter except Fire. All their deeds have come to

naught. They turn blind eye and deaf ear to the admonishing (16,24).

Admonishing: Those who seek worldly adornment, will be recompensed for their work in this world, and they shall have nothing in the Hereafter except Fire (15-16). Allah said to the Prophet(SAW): Do not incline towards the wrong-doers, otherwise you will be engulfed by the Hellfire, nor will you not find any guardian who can save you from Him, nor will you be helped from any quarter. Therefore, establish Prayers at the two ends of the day and in the first hours of the night. Indeed, the good deeds drive away the evil deeds. Be patient; for indeed Allah never lets the reward of those who do good go to waste (113-115). Unfortunately, only few righteous men from a generation forbid other from causing corruption on the land, they will be saved. The wrong-doers who pursue for ease and comfort of this world, are lost in sinfulness. Allah never destroys the settlements whose inhabitants are righteous. Had He willed; He would have made mankind one community. So, they will not cease to differ among themselves and follow erroneous ways (116-118).

Important Verses: Do they say you have forged this message? Tell them: "If so, the guilt of it is upon me, but guilt of your crime is on you (35). Noah said: Embark in it. In the name of Allah is its sailing and its anchorage, my Lord is Ever Forgiving, Most Merciful (41). And say to those who do not believe, "Act according to your way, and we follow our way" (121). These are the news of the unseen which We reveal to you. Neither you nor your people knew about them before this. So, serve Allah, you have no god but He. I have put my trust in Allah, Who is my Lord and your Lord. There is no moving creature which He does not hold by its forelock (49-56). It is for this exercising of freedom of choice that He has created men and devils. Thus, the word of your Lord is fulfilled: "Indeed I will fill the Hell, with men and devils" (119). **Lesson: No compulsion in religion.**

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12. Surah Yusuf (Joseph)

Surah Yusuf is the twelfth surah with 111 verses. It was revealed in Makkah few years before migration in one go, when the Quraish were considering either killing him, or exiling him, or imprisoning him, at that time, they asked a question, “Why did the Israelites go to Egypt” (probably instigated by the Jews to test him)? As the story of Joseph^(AS) was not known to the Arabs, they expected that he would evade it, and get exposed. The surah turned the tables around by revealing the whole story of Joseph^(AS) there and then. In it, Allah warns the Quraysh not to be like the brothers of Joseph^(AS), otherwise they would face the fate.

Quran: This book clearly states its subject, and it was revealed in Arabic, so that the Arabs could understand it. This is an admonishing for the entire world (1-3,104).

Summary: Joseph^(AS) was son of Jacob^(AS), whom God had given the ability to interpret dreams. One day Joseph dreamt that eleven stars, the sun and the moon they were all prostrating to him. He told his dream to his father, who understood that Joseph^(AS) would be a prophet. To avoid harm, Jacob told Joseph not to tell his stepbrothers about it. His stepbrothers wanted to kill him because Jacob loved him a lot. They took him with an excuse and threw him in a dry well and lied to their father that a wolf had eaten him. Joseph^(AS) was rescued by a caravan, who sold him to Aziz of Egypt for fifteen dirhams. Later when he grew to be a young handsome man, Aziz’s wife Zulaikha tried to seduce Joseph^(AS), but he refused and resisted. On seeing her husband at the door, she accused Joseph of trying to sexually assault her, and demanded that either he be punished severely or sent to jail. His innocence was proved by his shirt being torn from the rear (i.e., she was trying to catch him). After the incident she became the talk of the

town. Zulaikha invited the women to a feast, and gave each of them a knife and an apple. When they were cutting the apple she signaled to Joseph_(AS) to enter. Due to his amazing beauty the women cut their hands. To avoid disrepute, Aziz of Egypt imprisoned Joseph_(AS). In the prison two prisoners asked Joseph_(AS) to interpret their dreams. According to the interpretation of the dream, the one who saw in the dream that the birds were eating bread from his head was hanged, and the other was released and became king's attender. One day, the king had a dream and the released prisoner asked permission to go to Joseph_(AS). He interpreted the King's dream, which was about Egypt having seven years of good harvest and seven years of severe drought. As a reward, the King ordered his release. Joseph_(AS) refused and asked the king to first investigate his case. Zulaikha who tried to seduce Yusuf and the other women testified that he was innocent. After gaining the king's trust he was given control over the treasures of Egypt. During the seven-year of drought, Joseph_(AS)'s brothers came to Egypt to get food for their families. He kept his younger brother Binyamin with him on false charges of theft. Later, when they came to get more grain, Joseph revealed his identity, forgave them and asked them to emigrate to Egypt, he gave them his shirt to put on father's face so that his eye sight would return. They all came and prostrated before him. That's how his dream came true.

Objective of the Surah: The objective of the surah is to give conclusive proof regarding Prophethood of Mohammed_(SAW), and that his knowledge is not based on hearsay but rather on Revelations. In it the tribes of Quraish were indirectly warned that just like the brothers of Joseph_(AS) had failed, the conflict between them and the Prophet_(SAW) would end in their failure, and that no one has the power to defeat the Divine will. By applying the story of Joseph_(AS) to the conflict, the Quran made a clear prophecy, which was fulfilled literally by the events that

happened in the succeeding ten years. Hardly two years had passed after its revelation, when the Quraish conspired to kill the Prophet^(SAW) like the brothers of Joseph^(AS). Just like Joseph^(AS), he too had to migrate from Makkah to Medina, where he^(SAW) gained the power as Joseph^(AS) had gained in Egypt. Just like Joseph's brothers asked for forgiveness, and were forgiven, similarly, at the time of the conquest of Makkah, Prophet said to the Quraish "I will give the same answer to your request that Joseph^(AS) gave to his brothers that, no reproach upon you today, may Allah forgive you; and He is the Most Merciful of the merciful."

Islam: Throughout the narrative the Quran has made it clear that the faith of all prophets Abraham^(AS), Isaac^(AS), Jacob^(AS) and Joseph^(AS) was the same as that of Mohammed ^(SAW). The Quran then compares the character of Joseph with that of his brothers, the people of the caravan, the dignitaries, the Aziz of Egypt and his wife, the distinguished women and the ruler of Egypt, and poses a silent question to the reader, to contrast the character molded by Islam due to worship of Allah and fear of accountability in the Hereafter, with the character molded by disbelief, ignorance and the worldly gains, so that one can decide which character to choose. **Lessons:** The surah teaches us seven lessons: i) Even prophets cannot change the divine destiny. ii) One should remain within the prescribed limits of the Divine Law, as success and failure lies entirely in the hands of Allah. iii) It tells us to exert for the cause of truth and righteousness. iv) It instructs to persevere and adhere to his religion without fear, and to leave the consequences to Allah, i.e., have trust in Him. v) **If a believer possesses true Islamic character and is endowed with wisdom, he can conquer a whole country on the strength of his character alone.** vi) If the whole world unites to bring about the down fall of the one whom Allah willed to raise high, they cannot succeed. On the other hand, if Allah willed the fall of a person, then even if

all gather together, they cannot raise him high. In its arguments it relates the story when the brothers of Joseph^(AS) cast him into the well, they thought they have once for all got rid of the obstacle in their way, but in fact, they had paved the way for the Divine purpose of making him the ruler of Egypt, before whom they would one day humble themselves. Likewise, Zulaikha had sent Joseph^(AS) to the prison, thinking that she had wreaked her vengeance on him, but, in fact, she had provided for him the opportunity for becoming the ruler of Egypt, and had to put herself to shame of confessing her own sin publicly. vii) It teaches us to put our trust in Allah, that is why the Prophet^(SAW) said, “Teach your relatives Surah Yusuf, for any Muslim who recites it with understanding and teaches it to his family and slaves, Allah shall ease for him the agony of death, and give him the strength that will prevent him from envying a fellow Muslim”. That’s why the Quran say: Verily in the story of Joseph and his brothers there are many signs for men of understanding (7).

Rejection of polytheism: It is not our business to associate anyone with Allah. While in fact it is the grace of Allah on all human beings that He has not made us slaves of anyone but Himself, but most people do not understand and do not give thanks. Think whether many different lords are better or one God who is omnipotent? Other than that, those whom you worship are nothing but names which you and your fathers have invented. Allah has not sent down any authority for them. There is no power except with Allah, and it is decreed that you should not serve besides Him (38-40). This is an admonishing for the world. Such people pass by the signs in the heavens and the earth without paying attention. Most of them believe in Allah but associate others with Him (104-106). Allah is free from all faults, therefore the Prophets have nothing to do with the polytheists. All the Prophets who came before were human beings and dwellers of the same settlements (108-109).

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13. Lessons in Surah Raad (Thunder)

Surah Raad is the thirteenth surah with 43 verses. It was revealed in Makkah just before migration. The Prophet^(SAW) said, whoever recites this Surah with understanding will be made from among those who fulfil their promise to Allah, and will be rewarded ten times the number of good deeds they have committed. Like all Makkan surahs it too stresses on monotheism, rejects polytheism, and warns the believers of their lacking. **It establishes the truth (Allah) through clear signs of power, and exposes the weaknesses of false deities.** It lays down the truth about the oneness of the God, the message, Judgment Day and the penalty of rejecting the truth.

Allah and His attributes: He raised the heavens without support and made the sun and the moon subservient to a law. He stretched the earth and placed mountains in it as pegs. These are signs for those who reflect. He knows what every female bears, and He knows both what is hidden and what is manifest. Similarly, whether anyone talks secretly or loudly, whether one hides in the darkness, or struts about in broad daylight it's all same to Him. Everything in the heavens and the earth prostrates and praises His awe. He grants provision to some abundantly and others in strict measure. Where He forgives, He is also severe in punishing. **It is He to Whom alone all supplications should be addressed** (1-3, 8-13,26).

Believers: Believers are people of understanding who take heed. They fulfil their covenant with Allah, maintain the kinship, and to gain the pleasure of their Lord, they establish Salah and spend out of the wealth bestowed on them (20-23).

Disbelievers: They exult in the life of the temporal world, break the covenant of Allah, cut asunder the ties of kinship those bidden to be joined, and create corruption in the

land. They reject the message of Quran revealed to Mohammed^(SAW) (25).

Negation of Polytheism: If the blind and the seeing cannot be equal, nor can light and darkness be equal, **then what deceived them that they began to associate others in Allah's divinity, those who are invoked besides Allah are themselves helpless and powerless, they have no control over their own gain or loss, nor can they answer their prayers. Allah created everything; thus, the Creator and the creation can never be equal. Supplicating to others besides Allah is like a man who stretches out his hand towards the water and asks it to reach his mouth, although the water does not have the power to reach his mouth.**

The argument of the **disbelievers has always been**, after being reduced to dust, will we be resurrected? (With DNA resurrection is easy). Even if they have twice as much wealth as the world, they will not be able to redeem themselves from chastisement. They will be subjected to a severe reckoning and Hell shall be their abode (14-18). The polytheists have always challenged the prophets to hasten the torment upon them, although, the remnants of nations who faced exemplary punishment are scattered all around. Allah says, when He decides to make a people suffer punishment, no one can avert it. Nor can anyone be of help to such a people against Allah.

Admonishing: Just as water foams at the time of a flood, and then disappears, in the same way, falsehood is like foam that disappears. Paradise is for those who respond to the call of their Lord, and Hellfire is for those who reject it. One who accepts the truth cannot be equal to one who rejects it. Only people of understanding take heed (17-19).

Important verse: There are guardians over everyone, both before them and behind them, who guard him by Allah's command. Verily Allah does not change peoples' condition, until they change their inner selves. And when Allah decides to make a person suffer punishment, no one

can avert it, nor can anyone be of help to such people against Allah (11).

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14. Lessons in Surah Ibrahim (Abraham)

Surah Ibrahim is the 14th chapter of the Quran, it has fifty-two verses. The tone of the surah suggests that it too was revealed during the last stages of Makkan period. The Surah takes its name from verse 35 which mentions Abraham_(AS). This Surah is an admonition and a warning to the disbelievers who were rejecting the Message revealed to Mohammed_(SAW) and were planning cunning schemes to defeat his mission. Although a good deal of admonition had already been made in the preceding surahs, despite this, their stubbornness, enmity and oppression did not decrease but increased.

Surah's main Topic: The Book has always been sent to the nations in their language so that they may take heed, God based the creation on truth, Satan and the devils have no power over human beings. The example of good and bad words is like a fruit tree with strong roots and a tree without roots, Abraham_(AS)'s prayer, imagery of Day of Judgment.

Allah: He created the heavens and the earth with truth and sent down water from the heavens upon the earth. To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth. He subjected the rivers, the sun and the moon to constantly move on their course. He subjected the night and the day. He answers all prayers. He knows what one conceals and what one reveals, and nothing in the earth or in the heaven is hidden from Him. If He willed, He could bring a new creation instead of us. One cannot count or encompass the favours that Allah has bestowed. Yet man is highly unjust, exceedingly ungrateful (1,19,32,33,34,38).

Lesson: Always be grateful to Allah.

The Quran: It is a message that has been revealed to bring mankind out of darkness into light. It warns, so that they may know that there is no god except the One True God (2-3,52).

Commandments: Before the Day where there will be no bargaining or intercession, establish Prayers (Salah), spend out of what Allah has provided, both secretly or openly (31).

Prophets_(AS): Never has Allah sent a messenger who did not address his people in their language. Allah always fulfills His promise to His Messenger. All messengers said to their people that they have come with clear signs from their Lord, yet most of them rejected the message and said, they are in disquieting doubt about what they call them to. They all said, "You are only human beings like us and want to prevent us from worshiping those whom our forefathers used to worship." All the prophets replied; indeed, they are only human beings like them, but Allah bestows His favour on whom He wills. The torment you are hastening for is not in our power. Allah tells **Mohammed_(SAW)** to warn people of the Day when the heavens and the earth shall be altogether changed; where everyone will appear fully exposed before their Lord. **Moses_(AS)** said: Even if all human beings disbelieve, Allah is selfless and inherently Praiseworthy. **Noah_(AS) and Thamud_(AS)** said to their people, can there be any doubt about Allah, the creator of the heavens and the earth? He summons you to His path so that He may forgive your sins and grant you respite till an appointed term. **Supplication of Abraham_(AS):** "O Lord, make this city secure, and **keep me and my family away from worshipping the idols.** Now, whoever follows my way, he is from me. O Lord, I have made some of my offspring settle in a barren valley near Your Sacred House. O Lord, I did so that they may establish Prayer, so, make the hearts of people affectionately inclined towards them, and provide them with fruits for sustenance, so that they may be grateful. **All praise is to**

Allah Who, despite my old age, has given me Ishmael^(AS) and Isaac^(AS), surely my Lord answers all prayers. O Lord, enable me and my offspring to establish Prayer, and do accept this supplication of mine. O Lord, forgive me and my parents and the believers on the Day when the reckoning will take place" (4,8,9,10,11,35-41,44-45,47-48). **Lesson:** Always repent and ask for forgiveness, He answers the caller's call.

Believers: They believe and put their trust in Allah, Who guided them to His way. They remain steadfast in face of persecution. They are afraid of Day of Reckoning and do good deeds in this world. Their abode is Paradise. Where, they shall abide forever (12,14,23). **Lesson:** Only being worthy of trust is Allah.

Non-believers: They are those who reject the Truth and chose the life of the world in preference to the Hereafter. They hinder people from the Right Way, and seek to make it crooked, their abode is the Hellfire. They all threatened their prophets with deportation if they did not return to their faith. Although they were warned of chastisement by the examples of the nations destroyed, whose remains lay scattered all around them, yet they boasted, they shall never suffer decline. The unbelievers contrived their plan, but it is in Allah's power to nullify their plan, even though their plans were such that would have moved the mountains (2-3,12,44-46). **Lesson:** Think carefully when choosing the path.

Rejection of polytheism: On the Day of Judgment when the truth becomes clear, those who followed blindly will say to those whom they followed, "We merely followed you, can you save us from chastisement?" They will say: "We were wrong ourselves and you followed us. Now we all face the punishment, and there is no escape from it." In Hell the Satan will acknowledge that Allah's promises were true; and that his promises were false. He will also remind them that he had no power to force them, he called them

towards polytheism and disbelief and they followed him voluntarily. So, don't blame me, rather blame yourselves."

Since no one can help anyone there, Satan will deny their polytheism. Allah says that the misguided people associate partners with Him, He is not unaware of their evil deeds in which they are engaged, their abode shall be Hellfire. He is merely granting them respite until a Day when their eyes shall continue to stare in horror (21-22,30,42-

43). **Lessons:** No compulsion in religion. On Judgment Day, there will be no guarantors or intercessors. Polytheism is the most heinous crime. On Judgment Day the preachers of polytheism will disavow their followers.

Hell: In Hell one shall be made to drink the oozing pus, which one will scarcely swallow, and will neither die. This is the example of those who disbelieve in their Lord, their works are like ashes which the wind blows away. They shall find no reward for their deeds. In Hell they shall roast, it's a wretched abode. The guilty ones will be secured in chains; their garments shall be black as if made out of tar coal, and flames of the Fire shall cover their faces (16-18,29,49-51).

Admonishing: On Judgment Day the deeds of every obstinate tyrant who opposed the Truth are brought to naught. Good word is like a good tree, whose roots are firmly fixed, and whose branches reach the sky, yielding fruit in every season. While the example of an evil word is that of an evil tree, uprooted from the surface of the earth, wholly unable to endure (7,15,24-26). **Lesson:** Reward is for good character, lucidity and patience.

Important verse: Lord proclaimed: "If you give thanks, I will certainly grant you more; but if you are ungrateful for My favours, My chastisement is terrible (7).

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15. Lessons in Surah Hijr (Rocky Tract)

This Surah has 99 verses and it takes its title from the rocky tract mentioned in verses 80, which refers to the people of Thamud and the rocky tract refers to their stone cities. They lived in the northern part of Arabia. Its topics suggest that the time of its revelation is the same as that of Surah Ibrahim. The frequent warnings of this surah also indicates that the people in general had not accept the divine message; rather, they had become more inflexible and stubborn in their resentment, enmity, and ridicule.

Surah's main Topics: It warns those who rejected the message and ridiculed the Prophet, while comforting and encouraging him. It discusses creation of Adam, angel's prostration and Satan's refusal, seven doors of Hell, tiding to Abraham^(AS) regarding Isaac^(AS), and people of Lot^(AS), Al Aika, Al Hijr and seven verses of Quran often repeated (first chapter), admonishing and commandments.

Allah: He spread out the earth, and set mountains on it like pegs, and caused everything to grow in measure. And through it He provides for all creatures. He owns all the treasures of the universe, and He has sent down everything in appropriate measure on earth. He sends rain-soaked clouds, so that there is plenty of water for drinking and cultivation. He created man from clay and devils from fire. He gives life and death, and He is the inheritor of all. He has full knowledge of those who lived before, and their successors, and will gather them all on Resurrection Day. Although Allah is Most Forgiving and Most Merciful, His punishment is also very severe. (19-26,49-50). Allah says He has divided the heavens into many fortified spheres (galaxies etc.) for the sake of administration and adorned it with stars, and guard them from every accursed devil (16-18). **Lesson:** Do not be overwhelmed by the mercy of Allah and do not neglect His punishment.

The Quran: These are the verses of the Divine Book, the lucid Quran. Allah has taken the responsibility of

preserving the Quran on Himself. In it is the first chapter of seven verses that are worthy of recitation over and over again (it's a must in prayers) (1,9,87). As water gives life to dead land, in the same way, the Quran revives the human soul. **Lesson:** read Quran with understanding.

Mohammed_(SAW): The Quraish mocked the Quran and called the Prophet_(SAW) insane for the admonishing (6). Allah consoles him and tells him that all the prophets have been ridiculed since ancient times (11). Allah tells the Prophet_(SAW) not to look at worldly things, nor grieve over the condition of disbelievers, instead, pay attention to the believers and tell the disbelievers that you are only a warner (88-89). Allah tells the Prophet to preach as commanded, **and not to pay attention to the polytheists who make fun of you and take others as gods along with Allah.** And when their words grieve you, glorify your Lord and prostrate before Him (94-99). **Lesson:** Preach with patience and good character.

Creation of Adam: Allah created Adam from dried rotten clay, and earlier created devils from flame. He said to the angels that He is going to create a human being and When He has created him, you should all prostrate before him. All the angels prostrated to Adam except Satan who refused on pretext that He created him from dry rotten black ringing clay. Allah placed a curse on him till Day of Recompense (27-35). **Satan:** After being cursed, he asked for respite till the Day of Judgment, he was given respite till the Doomsday. Satan blamed God for his egotism, and promised that he would lead all mankind astray except a few. Allah said this is the straight way that leads to Me. He was told he has no power over mankind except the beguiling ones, and that he and his followers are destined for Hell. Hell has seven gates, each specified for a group (36-44). **Lesson:** Arrogance leads to Hellfire.

Rejection of polytheism: All polytheist nations said to their messengers "you are crazed, and asked why the angels have not come down with them." Allah says when

He sends down angels, then that nation is not granted any respite (6-8). **Abraham^(AS)**: When angels came to Abraham^(AS) in human form and did not eat, he got scared. They told him not be afraid, they have come to give him glad tiding of Isaac^(AS). Abraham^(AS) got worried by the news due to his old age. Although he was not of those who despair mercy of Allah. They told him they have been sent to destroy the people of Lot and rescue Lot's family; excluding his wife (51-60). **Lot**: The angels came to Lot's house as young handsome boys. Since Lot's people were accustomed to homosexuality, they ran to Lot's house rejoicing in their habitual lust. He pleaded they are his guests, therefore fear God and not to put me to shame. They warned him not to plead in this matter. As a last resort Lot pleaded, "Here are my daughters, if you are bent on it." But they did not agree. Later the angels said to Lot that they are angels and have descended to destroy his people by dawn. They told him to depart in the late hours of the night with his family excluding his wife, and that no one should look behind. At dawn a severe blast turned their habitations up-side-down and stones of baked clay rained on them (61-74). **Al- Aikah**: As the people of Al Aikah (Shoaib^(AS)) were unjust, We took vengeance on them. **Al-Hijr**: The people of Hijr also denied the messengers, although Allah sent His Revelations on them and showed them His Signs, yet they ignored it. They hewed their dwellings into the mountains and apparently lived in full security. But at last, a violent blast over took them with the approach of the morning, and all that they had achieved proved of no avail to them (80-84). There are signs in these events for men of understanding. The smitten territory still lies on the high way (78-79). **Lesson**: The prophets do not own the treasures of the unseen. Allah can grant a child in any age.

Believers: The believers will enter paradise in peace. Their breast will be purged of all traces of rancour; and they shall be seated on couches facing one another as brothers. They

shall face no fatigue in it, nor shall they ever be driven out of it (45-48). **Lesson:** Avoid resentment, jealousy, hatred in the world. Whatever remains will be extracted before entering Paradise. Purify your hearts in the world.

Hypocrites: Allah says that He will question those who split their religion into pieces, from those who accept what they like from their Quran and reject the rest (all inspired books were the Quran of their time) (90-93). **Lesson:** Bring unity in religion by following the Quran and the Sunnah.

Non-believers & polytheists: Allah says about such people that even if He opened a gate for them to ascend to the heavens, they would have said they have been affected by magic (14-15). When the time expires, society is destroyed. On the Judgment Day, those who refused to accept the message of Islam will repent and wish they had accepted it (2). **Lesson:** Consider the signs in the universe and the signs around us, we will find God.

Admonishing: The creation of the Earth and the Heavens and everything in them is based on truth, and Judgment Day is sure to come (85).

Important verses: Whenever We destroyed a town, a definite term had been decreed for it. No people can outstrip the term for its destruction nor can it delay it (4-5).

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16. Surah Nehal (The Bee)

This Surah has 128 verses, and its name “Nehl” is taken from verse 68. It was revealed just before the Prophet^(SAW) was allowed to migrate to Madinah. Its message is almost the same as that of Surah Raad and Ibrahim, but with sterner warning. When seven years of famine in Makkah ended, increased persecution of the polytheists forced some Muslims to migrate to Ethiopia. Its central theme is the refutation of Polytheism and emphasis on pondering

in the signs in the universe, signs around us and signs within us. Its major portion is addressed to the idolaters and polytheists. At the same time the Prophet^(SAW) and his companions are advised to remain steadfast in times of persecution. Due to its negation of paganism/ polytheism, the Prophet^(SAW) said that whoever recites this Surah with understanding and follows it, will not be questioned on Judgment Day.

Surah's main Topics: It warns the disbelievers and those who desire punishment, admonishing, emphasis on the Oneness of Allah, rejecting disbelief and polytheism, rejecting the objections of the disbelievers and their false excuse that if Allah had willed, they would not have worshiped anyone else, it also discusses migration for the sake of Allah, and the fact that the Quran revives the human soul and other injunctions.

Allah: He created the heavens and the earth with Truth, and is far above what people associate in his divinity (1-3). He created for man cattle, horses, donkeys and mules for his food, clothing and toiling. He created Man from an insignificant sperm-drop, and yet he disputes about the creator. He has taken upon Himself to show the Right Way. If He willed, He could have guided all aright (4-9). He created the water cycle, which provides water for drinking, which produces fodder for cattle, grows crops, olives, date-palms, vines and lots of other fruits. He also subjected the sea for fresh meat. These are signs for those who ponder (10-11,14). The universe has been subjected to humans; it has signs for those who use their wits (12-13). He placed mountains as pegs on earth from which rivers flow and has placed landmarks and stars for directions (15-16). Allah is aware of all their deeds, both secret and open (23). **Allah is Omnipotent, when He wills something, He only says, "Be", and it is** (40).

The Quran: Allah sent the Quran to explain the truth, and guide those who believe (64). The disbelievers claim it was

forged by Mohammed^(SAW), in reply Allah says, the Holy Spirit has brought it down intact from the Lord to make firm the faith, and to show the Right Way, and gives glad tidings to those who surrendered to it. The other claim of the leaders of Makkah was that the Quran was being taught by a Persian. Allah asks is it possible for a Persian to teach the most eloquent Arabic text? Thus, those who deny His Revelations are liars and a painful torment awaits them. Whoever follows the Quran will be guided, and whoever differs after clear guidance and divides religion into sects, for him is a painful chastisement. (101-105).

Lesson: The Quran being a guide from Allah we should read it with understanding.

Commandments: Allah enjoins justice, generosity and kind treatment with kindred, and forbids indecency, wickedness and oppression. Fulfil your covenant with Allah when you make a covenant (90-93). Do not make your oaths a means of deceiving one another, lest you hinder others (disbelievers) from the way of Allah and face a severe chastisement, nor barter away the Covenant of Allah for transitory gains (94-96). Allah has forbidden carrion, blood, the flesh of swine, and animals over which the name of any other than Allah has been pronounced (except in dire need). Only Allah has authority to declare lawful and unlawful (114-117). Call people towards the Way of Allah with wisdom, excellent admonishing, and reason in a courteous manner (125-128).

Mohammed^(SAW): Allah had sent messengers with clear Signs and Books before, and He has sent the Quran to you to guide the people, so that they may ponder in the Book. All messengers that were sent were humans (43-44). Your only responsibility is to convey the Message of truth (82).

Lesson: Although all the prophets were human beings, they possessed the highest morals.

Believers: They believe in the Divine Book as the best guidance and obey its commandments. Abode of such is

the Paradise, where they shall have whatever, they desire. Angels send peace on such souls (30-32). Those who migrated for the sake of Allah, and bore oppression with fortitude, happy ending awaits them (41-42). They bow to Allah to express their humility and do what is bidden (48-50). **Lesson:** Believers are a manifestation of perseverance, patience and morality.

Disbelievers & polytheists: On Judgment Day, those who disbelieved will bear their own burdens and the burdens of those whom they led astray in their ignorance (24-26). It warns that many nations before them acted with such audacity, and Allah's scourge destroyed them. It was not Allah's wrong-doing; rather they wronged themselves (33-34). The polytheists proffer excuse, saying had Allah willed, they nor their forefathers would have called on others nor made laws of unlawful (*that's the test*). Messengers are sent to tell the people to call on Allah alone. Remains of those who rejected the message are scattered around the globe (35-37). Such people deny the afterlife. The promise of Day of Judgment is binding on Him (38-39). It warns people to fear Allah's punishment and not to take undue advantage of His mercy (45-47). **Lesson:** Never be a source of misguidance. Arrogance is the antithesis of Islam. Allah does not wrong anyone, rather one wrongs oneself.

Rejection of polytheism: a) The created cannot be like Allah (17). b) Those worshipped are dead, not living, and they do not know when they shall be raised back to life (20-21). c) There is no lord besides Allah, those who do not believe in the Hereafter deny it out of ignorance/arrogance (22-23). d) On Judgment Day, Allah will ask where are the deities you associated in His Divinity? e) When the angel will come to seize their souls, they will deny ever being polytheist (27-29). f) Do not take two gods; for there is none but One God (negating all false deities). Can one hold in awe any other than Allah (51-52)? g) In severe distress polytheists call upon Allah, and when He removes their distress, they call on others in ingratitude

(53-55). h) Can share be assigned to the false deities from His provision ⁽⁵⁶⁾? i) Such assign angels as daughters to Allah, which they themselves dislike and even kill ⁽⁵⁷⁻⁶²⁾. j) Allah created spouses, bestows children, provided good things to eat, **yet they worship those who can't provide anything, nor have any power to do so** ⁽⁷²⁻⁷⁴⁾. k) On Judgment Day, the disbelievers will not be allowed to make excuses, nor asked to repent, nor punishment will be lightened ⁽⁸⁴⁻⁸⁵⁾. l) That Day their false deities will not only reject their claim but call them liars. They will face double torment, first for disbelief and second for hindering others from the right Way ⁽⁸⁶⁻⁸⁸⁾. **Signs to ponder:** The water cycle brings the dead land to life. Cattles provide milk to drink out of that which is in their bellies between the dung and the blood. From date-palm and vines comes both intoxicant and pure drink. Bees set up hives in the mountains, in the trees and in the trellises that people put up, sucks the juice of every kind of flower and brings forth from its bellies honey varied in colors, wherein there is healing. There are signs in early death, abject old age with memory loss. Will a man divide his wealth among his slaves so that they become equal to him? Can a slave, who owns nothing, nor has power over anything, be equal to whom Allah has provided provision from which he freely spends openly and secretly? Can a deaf and dumb who cannot perform anything right be equal to one who enjoins justice and follows the Right Way ^(65-71,75-76)? Man is born in a state where he knows nothing, Allah gave him ears and eyes and thinking mind to think, to be grateful to Allah. Observe how the birds are poised in the vault of heaven? There are many Signs in this for those people who believe ⁽⁷⁸⁻⁷⁹⁾. **Satan** makes evil deeds seem fair to those who have taken him as patron, thus they pay no heed to the call of the Messengers ⁽⁶³⁾. **Lesson: Fulfiller of all needs is only Allah. If man does not make his slaves equal to him, why should Allah? Will anyone ask a beggar?**

Admonishing: He sends down this spirit (of prophecy) by His command through His angels on any of His servants whom He wills, **to warn the people that there is no deity but He; so, hold Him alone in fear** (2). If you try to reckon Allah's blessings, you can't count them. He knows all that you conceal and all that you reveal (18-19). Only Allah has full knowledge of the unseen. The Day of Resurrection is bound to come (77). On Judgment Day a witness will be called from every community to testify against it, and the Prophet to testify against his people (89). Whatever you have is bound to pass away and whatever is with Allah is everlasting. Those who are patient, Allah will reward them for their good deeds (96). **Allah forgives those who repent and reform themselves.** On the Day of Resurrection, where every soul will be anxious for its salvation, Allah will forgive those who were persecuted because of their faith, and then emigrated in the way of Allah (110-111). **Just as water revives a barren land, so the Quran revives the human soul.** The liars are not the prophets but the infidels (105). Allah does not guide those who are ungrateful to the blessings of Allah (107). Allah tells us to follow the way of Abraham^(AS) who was not a polytheist. As regards the Sabbath, Allah imposed it on those who differed about its observance (118-124).

Important verses: When you begin to recite the Quran, seek Allah's refuge against the accursed Satan, because he has no authority over those who believe and put their trust in their Lord. He only has authority over those who take him as their guardian. **He tempts them to associate others with Allah** (98-100). Whosoever is forced to disbelieve after belief, while his heart is convinced of the Faith, (he shall be absolved) but whosoever accepts disbelief willingly, he incurs Allah's wrath, and there is severe torment for all such people. This is because they preferred the life of this world to the Hereafter, and Allah does not show the Way of salvation to such people who are ungrateful. Allah has sealed the hearts, the ears and the

eyes of such people and they have become neglectful, therefore, it is inevitable that they should be losers in the Hereafter (106-109).

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17. Lesson in Surah Al-Isra (Ascension)

This Surah has 111 verses divided into 12 sections. It was revealed after the Prophet's Ascension to the Heavens, just few months before his migration to Medina. This Surah was revealed at a time of great suffering, hardship, distress and persecution. The ascension is not the topic of discussion, its mention is to give a stern warning to the disbelievers of Makkah. During this time two major tribes of Medina had accepted Islam and requested the Prophet to migrate to Medina. The second name of this Surah is "Bani Israel."

Surah's main Topics: Discusses twice Israelites mischief in land and God's punishment, commands to be good to parents, give to relatives, destitute, wayfarer etc., not to be miser nor extravagance, Doomsday, that Day everything will cease to exist, story of Adam, tahajjud prayers, question regarding the spirit, challenge in the surah, Moses^(AS) and his nine signs.

Allah: He transported Mohammed^(SAW) by night from Makkah to Mount Temple, to show him some of His signs. He alone is All-Hearing and All-Seeing (1). He made the night devoid of light, and made the day radiant for man to reflect (12). He is fully aware of all the creatures of the heavens and the earth and of the sins of His servants. He gave the Psalms to David (17,55). He is well-aware and fully observant of His servants. He is Most Forbearing and Exceedingly Forgiving (30,44). Call Him by any name, Allah or Rahman, for it is all the same by whichever name you call Him because all His names are most excellent names. And say: "All praise be to Allah Who has neither taken to

Himself a son, **nor has He any partner in His kingdom**, nor does He need anyone, out of weakness, to protect Him.” So, glorify Him in a way that is worthy of His glory (110-111).

Lesson: He is Omnipotent.

The Quran: It guides to the perfect Straight Way, gives glad tidings to the believers and warns the disbelievers of chastisement (9-10). It tells us that every man's omen hangs around his neck (**negates superstition**), and on Judgment Day it will unwrap for him to read. **There no one will bear the burden of others.** When the affluent people of a society defiantly disobey and create chaos, then the punishment of Allah descends on the community (13-14,16). In Quran Allah expounded the truth in diverse ways, so that they may accept it, but it only aggravated their aversion (41). The Quran is a healing and mercy to the believers, and loss to the workers of iniquity. Man is a strange creature, when Allah bestows favour on him, he arrogantly turns his back, but when misfortune befalls him, he begins to despair. The Lord knows who is on the right way (82-84). It indirectly negates the saying of the disbelievers that Mohammed (SAW) invented it. Allah says, if He takes back from him that He has revealed, then none can retrieve it back. Even if all humans and devils help one another to bring forth a book like the Quran, they will never be able to do so. Quran is a favor of your Lord on humanity (86-88). The Quran was sent with the truth so that Mohammed(SAW) may give glad tiding to the Believers and warn the disbelievers. **It was revealed gradually so that it could be recited to the people according to the occasion.** Those who had knowledge of Devine Books before this, when Quran is recited to them, they weep and fall prostrate on their faces and cry out, “Our lord is glorious and His promise is sure to be fulfilled.” It increases their humility (105-109).

Commandments: i) Do not worship any but Him. ii) Be good to your parents; even if they attain dotage, do not even say "fie" to them, but speak respectfully and pray “O

Lord, show mercy to them as they nurtured me when I was small (23-24).” (iii) Give to the near of kin his due, and also to the needy and the wayfarer. (iv) Neither be stingy nor distribute without restraint. (v) And when you have nothing to give, apologize politely. (vi) Do not squander your wealth wastefully, those who squander are Satan’s allies. (26-29). (vii) Do not kill your children for fear of hunger. He will provide sustenance for you and them. (viii) Stay away from fornication. (ix) Do not kill anyone unjustly. The heir of an unjustly murdered person has the right to retribution. (x) And do not even go near the property of an orphan except in the best manner until they mature. (xi) Fulfil the covenant, for you will be called to account regarding the covenant. (xii) Weight with proper scale and give full measure. (xiii) Do not follow that of which you have no knowledge. Surely the hearing, the sight, the heart will be called to account. (xiv) Do not strut about in the land arrogantly. xv) **Do not set up any deity beside Allah lest you are rebuked and deprived of every good, and cast into Hell** (31-39). xvi) **Always say that which is best, because Satan tries to sow discord between human beings. Satan is the avowed enemy of man** (53). xvii) The bad side of each of these matters is disliked by your Lord. xviii) Establish Salat from the declining of the sun to the darkness of the night, and be particular about the recital of the Quran at the dawn of the morning, for the recital of the Quran at the dawn is witnessed. Besides this, offer Tahajjud Prayer at night (78-79). xix) Offer your Prayer not in too loud a voice, nor in a voice too low; but follow a middle course (110).

Mohammed^(SAW): He was not sent as an overseer over people (54). Indirectly Allah tells us that even if Mohammed^(SAW) turned away from the Quran, he^(SAW) would face double punishment in this world and in the Hereafter (73-75). The Quran employed different ways to make the people understand the Message, but the majority persisted in unbelief, and said, they will not

believe in what Mohammed^(SAW) says until he causes a spring to gush forth, or a garden of date-palms and vines created with canals flowing in it; or cause the sky to fall on them; or brings Allah and the angels face to face before them, or a house of gold comes into being for him, or he ascends the sky and bring down a writing that they may read. **In return he^(SAW) asked them, has he ever claimed to be anything more than a human Messenger** (89-93).

Prophets^(AS): Allah shows miracles so that they mend their ways, but despite seeing miracles, their rebellion increased. The people of Thamud were sent a she-camel, they killed it (59-60). Moses^(AS) showed nine manifest Signs to Pharaoh. He responded: "O Moses, I consider you to be a bewitched man." Although he knew that the lord of the Heavens and the earth had sent them as eye-openers. Moses replied, "I consider you to be indeed a ruined man." When Pharaoh resolved to uproot Moses^(AS) and the Israelites from the land, Allah drowned him and his followers. The Israelites were told to settle in the holy land (101-104).

Bani Israel: Before Quran Allah gave a Book to Moses^(AS) for the Israelites with the same basic commandment, not to take any other guardian besides Him. Being the descendants of Noah^(AS) and his companions, their character should have been better. They were foretold in previous scriptures that they will twice commit mischief and transgression in the land, on each rebellious attitude they will be overpowered and expelled from Jerusalem. In Quran Allah warns them if they revert to their evil ways, so will He revert to chastising them (2-8). (The Prophet^(SAW) said, his ummah will follow the path of the jews step on step).

Satan: Allah commanded the angels to bow to Adam, all bowed except Satan. He arrogantly said, "Should I bow before the one whom you have created from clay? Was he worthy of this that you have exalted him over me? Give

me respite till Resurrection Day, I will uproot his progeny; only a few will be able to save themselves from me.” Allah replied, “Hell is your reward and the reward of those who follow you. You may allure them with your invitation, gather your army against them, share with them in wealth and children, bind them in promises, **but you will not have power or authority over them.**” Your Lord suffices for believers to place their trust in (61-65).

Believers: Allah honored the sons of Adam and blessed them with conveyances on land and sea and provided them with good and pure things and exalted them above many creatures, then those, who will be given their records in their right hands, will read their records and will not be wronged in the least (70-71).

Disbelievers & polytheists: When reading the Quran, the only true Lord is mentioned, they turn their backs in aversion. They have gone astray, so they cannot find the Right Way (45-48). They live in this world as if they were blind. They will be raised blind in the Hereafter, and the end will be even worse. Allah warns them that if they exile the Prophet^(SAW) they too will not be able to stay there for long (72,76). The excuse the disbelievers made for not accepting the guidance was: “Did Allah send a human being as His Messenger?” Allah says, “**If the angels had dwelt on the earth and walked among the people, We would certainly have sent to them an angel**” (94-95). On Resurrection Day, Allah will muster them blind, dumb and deaf and pulling them face down. Their abode will be Hellfire. This is their recompense, for rejecting His Signs. He will raise them up anew, the One Who created the Earth and the Heavens, He has the power to recreate the like of them? He has ordained a time for resurrection, which shall inevitably come, but yet these workers of iniquity persist in their disbelief (97-99).

Rejection of polytheism: Do not set up any other god with Allah lest you will be rendered humiliated and helpless (22).

Has your Lord blessed you with sons and has taken for Himself daughters from among the angels ⁽⁴⁰⁾? **Had there been other gods with Him, as they claim, they would surely have tried to de-throne the Lord.** Holy is He and far above all that they attribute. The seven heavens, the earth, and all that is within them glorify Him ⁽⁴²⁻⁴⁴⁾. They ask, will they really be raised up again when they are reduced to dust? Allah says, most certainly He created you in the first instance will bring you back to life, even if you turn to stone, iron or something which you consider impossible to be brought to life. On Resurrection Day He will call, and everyone will rise up praising Him ⁽⁴⁹⁻⁵²⁾. The surah tells the polytheists to invoke those deities they fancy to be their helpers. They can neither remove nor change any affliction from them or shift them to others. In fact, those they invoke themselves seek means of approach to their Lord in hope for His mercy and fear His chastisement (true saints). The chastisement of your Lord is a thing to be dreaded. There is no town that is not destined to be destroyed or inflicted with severe chastisement before the Day of Resurrection ⁽⁵⁶⁻⁵⁸⁾. By His command the ships sail across the sea. When they are surrounded by hurricane in the sea, they forget their false deities and call upon Allah, and when He delivers them safely on land, they turn away in ingratitude. They forget that Allah may cause them to sink into the earth, or to send winds of stones, or when they sail again, a great storm can drown them for their ungratefulness, and no one can protect them and no one can question Him ⁽⁶⁶⁻⁶⁹⁾.

Admonishing: Hell is a prison for those who are ungrateful of Allah's bounties ⁽⁸⁾. Man prays for evil in the manner he ought to pray for good ⁽¹¹⁾. He who follows the Right Way does it to his own advantage; and he who strays incurs his own loss. No one shall bear another's burden. Allah does not punish any people until He sends a messenger to distinct the Truth from falsehood ⁽¹⁵⁾. When the well-off people of a habitation become disobedient, Allah destroys

it. Whoever desires the life of this world God gives what He wills with no share in the Hereafter, and whoever desires the Hereafter and strives for it, and is a true believer, his striving will come to fruition both in this world and Hereafter (16-21). He forgives those who relent and revert to serving Him (25). The testimony of Allah is sufficient, for He is fully aware of the deeds of His servants (96). Had Lord's treasures been in the possession of man, he would have held them back lest they should be spent up. Man is ever niggardly (100).

Important verses: Proclaim: "The Truth has come, and falsehood has vanished. Surely falsehood is bound to vanish (81). They ask you about the Spirit. Say, "The Spirit (Gabriel) comes by the command of the Lord" (85).

Supplication: O Lord! Cause me to enter wherever it be, with Truth, and cause me to exit, wherever it be, with Truth, and support me with authority from Yourself (80).

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18 Lessons in Surah Al-Kahf

It is the 18th chapter of the Quran. It has 110 verses divided into 12 sections. It includes four historical stories with amazing lessons. It was revealed in Makkah five years before the Prophet_(SAW)'s migration to Madinah. It was the time when the opposition of the Quraish turned from verbal molesting to physical abuse and socio-economic boycott. Because of this, the Prophet_(SAW) ordered many Muslims to emigrate to Abyssinia. While the Prophet_(SAW), his close family members and believers were besieged in "Shaib Abi Talib." The main purpose of the revelation was to answer the three questions asked by the polytheists of Makkah in consultation with the Jews, which they asked the Prophet_(SAW), to test him.

The Prophet_(SAW) said: Whoever memorizes the first ten verses of Surah Al-Kahf will be safe from the temptation of Dajjal

(Anti-Christ) (Muslim). How? The first ten verses tell us about monotheist Christian youths, who, in order to save themselves from being stoned, or forced to reverting to polytheism, opted to hide in a cave. **These verses tell us that after life, faith is the most important thing in our life, we must protect it at all costs, whether we have to hide or emigrate for it.**

Surah's main Topics: Stories of the companions of the cave, Moses^(AS) and Khizr^(AS), and Zul-Qurnain, Divine Laws and Guidance, when intending to do something always say In-sha Allah, parable of believing and non-believing man, similitude of this worldly life and its relationship with the afterlife, the favours of Allah are countless, Mohammed^(SAW) is only a human being.

Allah: He made all that is on the earth an embellishment to test people. On Judgment Day he will turn the earth into a barren plain (7-8). He is Omnipotent. He does not wrong anyone. If the sea were to become ink to record the Words of the Lord, the sea would be all used up before the Words of the Lord are exhausted, and it would be the same even if quantity of ink was doubled. Your Lord is One and Only God. Thus, whoever looks forward to meeting his Lord, let him do righteous works, **so whoever wishes to meet his Lord, let him do good and not associate anyone with the worship of his Lord** (109-110).

The Quran: In the opening verses, Allah is praised for revealing the Quran to Mohammed^(SAW) in which there is no crookedness and which shows the straight path. It gives glad tiding to the believers and warns those who persist in disbelief and out of ignorance associate sons to Him (1-5). The Quran explains matters in diverse ways and parables. Nevertheless, when the guidance came to them, instead of seeking forgiveness, they sought the same treatment as the previous nations and demanded immediate punishment. The disbeliever resort to falsehood to deny the truth and mock the revelations and warnings of Allah.

Those who deliberately neglect the message of the Quran will never find the right way. Allah does not punish them immediately for their misdoings, He has set a term for them, on expiry of which those settlements are destroyed (54-59). **Lesson:** Quran is the Book of Guidance, read it with understanding, follow its instructions and adapt yourself to them.

Mohammed_(SAW): In this verse the Prophet_(SAW) is told not to grieve for those who persist in disbelief ⁽⁶⁾. He was warned not to say about anything that he would do it tomorrow without saying that if Allah wills. If he forgets, then he should say: "I expect my Lord to guide me to what is nearer to rectitude than this" ⁽²³⁻²⁴⁾. **The Prophet is told to recite to people from the Quran, which none has the authority to make changes. Even if the Prophet_(SAW) changed it, he too could not escape the punishment of Allah.** The Prophet_(SAW) was told to be pleased with the believers, and warned not to seek the adornment and splendors of the world, nor follow the heedless ones who follow their desires. You declare the truth from the Lord, to believe or not to believe, is their choice. The believers will be in Paradise, and the disbelievers in Hell ⁽²⁷⁻³⁰⁾. **Tell the people that you are just a human being, on whom Allah has sent his revelation** ⁽¹¹⁰⁾. **Lesson:** All the prophets were human beings, they are neither all present, nor are they doer deities. Can anyone else be?

The story of Moses_(AS) **and Al-Khidr:** Moses_(AS) once claimed that he had the most knowledge among the people. Allah reproved him and said to him, at the junction of two seas there is a slave of Mine who has more knowledge than you (Allah had imparted a special knowledge to him). Moses_(AS) sets out on a journey with Khidr_(AS), on the condition that he will not question him until he himself explains them. They boarded a ship, Khidr_(AS) uprooted one of its boards. Later in the journey he killed an innocent boy. Further in the journey, they came to a village, whose residents refused to host them. Here

Khidr^(AS) rebuilt a wall that was about to fall. As Moses^(AS) objected on all three occasions, thus, the journey came to ended. He then told him the reasons. 1) The boat belonged to orphans and the king on the other side was confiscating faultless ships by force, I stained it. 2) Boy's parents were pious people, he would have plagued them with transgression and disbelief, so I killed him. Allah will give them a good offspring in return. 3) The wall belongs to two orphans, their father was a pious man, he has hidden a treasure for them under the wall. I made it so that when they reach the age they could take out their treasure (60-82).

Lesson: Never claim to be most knowledgeable. Goodness can be hidden in what you consider to be bad. Allah protects his believing slaves. Help can come from Allah, from whence one least expects.

Believers: They are those who believed and do good deeds, they shall dwell eternally in the Paradise. There they will recline on raised couches (29-31,107-108).

Disbelievers & polytheists: A fire has been prepared for the wrong-doers, whose billowing folds will encompass them. If they ask for water, they will be served with a drink like dregs of oil that will scald their faces. How dreadful a drink, and how evil an abode (29). **Doomsday:** Those who had turned a blind eye to the admonishing, that Day the Hell will be place before them. **They took His creatures as their guardian besides Allah.** Though they were astray in the life of this world, yet considered that they were doing good. They disbelieved in the revelations of the Lord, to whom they are to return. On Judgment Day all their deeds will come to naught. Hell is the recompense for the disbelievers who took His revelations and His Messengers as an object of jest (99-106). **Lesson:** The Quran protects from error.

Rejection of polytheism

Companions of the Cave: It retells the Christian folktale. The story is about some young men who had faith in their

Lord and were the only believers in the city. They proclaimed that their Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth, and that they will not call upon any other deity besides Him. When they were being forced to revert to their ancestral religion or face being stoned to death, they fled the city and hid themselves in a cave. They supplicated to Allah for help. Allah answered their prayer and lulled them to sleep for nearly three hundred years. He miraculously maintained them and made turn left and right. After waking up, they estimated that they had slept for half a day or a whole day. One of them went to the town to buy food. Due to his clothing and old coin, he and the rest were discovered (the city had converted to Jesus's religion of Islam). After being discovered the young men laid down and passed away. Instead of pondering in the sign to know that Allah's promise is true, and that the Hour will come to pass, the people disputed over their graves. Some said close the cave with a wall, only Allah knows what they are, but the influential ones said they will build a mausoleum over their graves (against the teachings of the Lord). Allah hears, sees, knows all that is hidden in the heavens and the earth. The creatures have no guardian besides Him, and He does not share His authority with anyone (9-26). **Lesson:** If Allah does not share His authority with anyone, then how can we attribute His authority with others?

Satan: When Allah ordered angels to prostrate to Adam; all prostrated, except Satan. He was from the devils (with free will). Even though he is an open enemy of human beings, deniers still consider him and his offspring as their guardians (indirectly) instead of Allah, those who had no part in the creation of the universe. On Judgment Day when the criminals will see the Hellfire, they will call upon their false deities, they will not respond, and all shall be in the pit, from where there is no escape (50-53).

Parable of two men: The surah discusses two men who were neighbours, one an unbeliever who was blessed with

wealth and the other a poor believer. While walking with his neighbor, the rich man, boasting of his wealth and lineage, said that he did not believe in resurrection, even if he was resurrected, Allah would give him something better. The poor believer admonished him and asked, **are you denying Him Who created you out of dust, then out of a sperm? Allah alone is my Lord, and I associate none with Him in His Divinity.** You should have said: **“Whatever Allah wills shall come to pass, for there is no power save with Allah.”** Eventually all his produce was destroyed and began to wring his hands in sorrow. **He could not help himself, nor there was any host to help him,** then he realized that all powers rest with Allah alone (32-44). **Lesson: Wealth and lineage have no value in the Hereafter.**

The parable of worldly life: It's like the vegetation of the earth which resurrects with the rain water, then turns into dry straw. The wealth and children are an adornment of the worldly life. But righteous deeds are like rain water, but far better source of hope in the Hereafter. The day when Allah will resurrect all human beings, and hand them their book of deeds to read. They will find their deeds confronting them. Your Lord wrongs no one (45-49). **Lesson: Our faith will be tried. One should protect his faith at all cost. Proves Allah will resurrect. Only Allah knows who is on the straight path. Allah protects the righteous who believe in Him no matter how hard their situation is. Doer Deity is only Allah. Wealth is trial not a favour. The one who has faith in Allah, flourishes in both worlds. On Judgment Day, wealth and lineage are of no use. Allah will recreate humans to the details of their finger prints.**

King Zul-Qurnain: He was given power and endowed with all kinds of resources. He set out westwards on an expedition, until he reached where the sun seemed to set in dark turbid waters; and there he met a people. He was given power over them. He said, he will punish the wrong doers, for those who believe and acts righteously, his will be a goodly reward. Then he set out on another expedition

until he reached the limit where the sun rises and he found a people who had no clothing to shelter from it. Then he set out on another expedition until he reached a place between the two mountains, there he found a people who could scarcely communicate. They said to Zul-Qarnain that the Gog and Magog are spreading corruption in their land, they are ready to pay him taxes to set up a barrier between them. Zul-Qarnain answered, my Lord has granted me with enough, help me with your labour and I will erect a rampart between you and them. After filling the space between the two mountain-sides with iron slabs, he said, light a fire and when the slabs were red hot, he poured molten copper over it. Such was the rampart that Gog and Magog could not scale, nor pierce it. Zul-Qarnain said, this is a mercy from my Lord, but when the time of my Lord's promise shall come, He will level the rampart with the ground. That Day they shall surge like waves against others, and the Trumpet shall be blown (84-89).

Supplication

O Allah! I am Your servant, and I am son of Your servant and son of Your female servant. My forehead is in Your hand. You rule over me, and Your judgment on me is just. I call to every name of Yours that you have suggested for yourself, or taught it to one of your creatures, or You revealed it in Your Book, or kept it in the knowledge of the unseen, that you make the Holy Quran the spring of my heart, the light of my heart, make it a source of reduction for my sorrows and a source of distancing for my worries. Amen!

O Allah! Take away my fear and anxiety from my grave, O Allah bless me with the blessings and mercy of the great Quran, make the Quran my guide and lead, and at the same time make it a light and a cause of guidance and

mercy for me. O Allah! Remind me of what I have forgotten, and teach me of what I do not know, and grant me its recitation night and day, and make it a source for me on the Day of Resurrection, O guardian of the worlds. Amen!

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

My Advice to the Ummah

In the Quran Allah emphasizes on justice. Justice has a very wide meaning. In short, it can be said that whoever has a right, give it to him. It is the right of Allah not to associate anyone with Him, not to consider anyone to be doer deity. He should be dearer to us than everyone else, even more than the Prophet. The Prophet^(SAW) has the right to be obeyed, and to be dearer to the believers than their lives. The rulers should be obeyed in legitimate matters. Parents should be loved and obeyed (except for disobedience to the Creator). Relationships should be bonded. Neighbors' rights must be fulfilled. The rights of the poor and orphans should be fulfilled. Justice requires that you keep your environment and your surroundings clean. Plant trees. No one should go to bed hungry. Testify to the truth. Help the oppressed and so on. The Prophet^(SAW) said: You are all responsible, you will be judged for justice in your responsibility. May Allah help us to walk on the path of justice. Ameen.

The Quran states that when an ummah leaves the path of justice, it faces Allah's displeasure and is punished via other nations. After the third time, that ummah is removed from the position of leadership (like the Children of Israel). After the Israelites being twice punished, and yet when they denied the prophethood of Jesus^(AS), they were removed from the position of leadership, and the leadership (imamate) was given to children of Ishmael.

Allah says in Quran: Rest assured that whosoever from among the Muslims or the Jews or the Christians or the

Sabaeans believes in Allah and the Last Day, and performs good deeds, he will have his reward with his Lord and he will have no cause for fear and grief (2:62). Allah had taken a covenant from all the prophets regarding Mohammed that if a prophet comes to them confirming what they already have, then they should believe in him and help him (3:81-83). In the same way, a covenant was taken from the People of the Book. Allah says in the Quran: And recall when Allah took a covenant from those who were given the Book: "You shall explain it to men and not hide it." Then they cast the Book behind their backs, and sold it away for a trivial gain (3: 187). Therefore, here we must not forget that whoever deliberately denies a prophet, he has denied all the prophets, he has denied Allah.

The Israelites put the Torah behind them and started blindly following their scholars. They were fooled by the miscreant scholars to considered themselves to be the people of Paradise. That is why Allah said in the Quran that then they should seek death so that they can get rid of the mess of this world and live luxuriously in Paradise. Allah told the Children of Israel to accept the Mohammed's prophethood, but they refused to accept it, even though they had settled in Madinah for his arrival. But regretfully, they forgot their covenant with Allah. Then Allah in the Quran warned them: "(O Children of Israel! After the revelation of the Quran) Your Lord may well show Mercy to you, but if you revert to your evil behaviour, We shall revert to chastising you. We have made Hell a prison for those who are thankless of Allah's bounties" (17:8). For this reason, Allah Almighty will allow their massacre in Palestine for the first time in human history.

O Ummah of Mohammed(SAW), today we too, like the previous Ummahs, have put the Quran behind us and have started following the scholars blindly out of ignorance. The Prophet(SAW) warned us that we will follow in the footsteps of the Israelites, step on step. Regretfully, we too have been punished twice, the first time we were punished via

the Crusaders, and the second time by the Mongols. The arrival of Imam Mahdi and Jesus^(AS) is the last chance for us, after which the Hour will come.

O Ummah of Mohammed^(SAW), the Quran is a book which is accepted by every sect, but unfortunately they do not allow it to be read with understanding. This is the book that when a non-Muslims become Muslims by reading it, they have very high standard of faith, there are very few Muslims from us like them. Why don't we read the Quran and become a better Muslim? On the Judgment Day, the Prophet will complain that his ummah had abandoned the Quran. What will we say? On the Judgment Day Allah will ask: What had led you astray? Did not My Word reach you? Will you answer that we were following such and such priest, or we did not have time. O Muslims, return to the word of the Lord before it is too late. O Ummah of Mohammed^(SAW), just think, we have a lot of time for worldly knowledge, but we do not have time for Quran? If we led astray because of blind following, we will suffer its consequences. God does not wrong anyone.

O Ummah of Mohammed^(SAW), the Quran says: Those who do not judge by what Allah has revealed are indeed the disbelievers, the wrong-doers and the transgressors (5:44,45,47). It warns: As for those who disbelieve and give the lie to Our signs, they are destined for the Blazing Flame (5:10). And also says: Allah will surely admit those who believe in Him and hold fast to Him to His mercy and bounty, and will guide them on to a straight way to Himself (4:175). How can we succeed without studying the Quran? O Ummah of Mohammed^(SAW), do not look at the Quran from the point of view of a scholar, but recognize the scholars of truth by the teachings of the Quran. In the same way, do not form an opinion about Islam by looking at Muslims, but by studying the Quran. The Quran says: Hold fast to the rope of Allah (the Quran) and do not be divided (3: 103). There is only one sect of the Quran, and that is who submits to the will of Allah (Muslim). A scholar who

teaches against it cannot be a scholar of truth. O Allah forgive us, we have wronged ourselves a lot. Help us to be guided by the Quran. Amin!