

# LESSONS FROM THE QURAN

Part 2



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## Dedication

I dedicate this book “The Lessons in the Quran part 2” to my parents, may Allah make it a source of ongoing charity for the forgiveness of their sins and elevation of their ranks in the Hereafter. Ameen! I pray to Allah<sub>(SWT)</sub> to forgive all their sins and also make me a source of ongoing charity for them. Ameen! At the same time, may Allah<sub>(SWT)</sub> make this book a source of reward and guidance for me, my family, relatives, friends, and all those who read it. Ameen!

## Preface Lessons in Quran Part 2

O Muslims! When we read the Quran without under-standing, then they are mere words that we utter. When we read it with understanding, we will realize that it is a treasure of morality, with justice as its pivotal axis. When we meditate deeply on the Quran, Allah's love enchants us. And when we use our intellect to meditate on the signs of the universe, the signs around us, the signs within us and the signs in the Quran, we will know our Creator, Allah. Before it is too late, let us resolve to study the Quran with understanding and adjust our conduct accordingly.

Memorizing the Quran is good, but its true purpose of Quran is to seek guidance from it. Regrettably, when we read the Quran without understanding, we fail to comprehend the message about Allah being our Lord and His boundless love and mercy towards His creation. As a result, we miss out on the benefits of this knowledge in both this life and the Hereafter. Reading the Quran with translation helps us grasp the message to a certain extent. By contemplating in the meanings, we come to know the greatness of Allah's attributes and His love for His creatures. By meditating on the Quran, we realize that it is the word of Allah.

The Quran tells us that Allah wants us to acquire His attributes and treat each other accordingly. When we acknowledge that this is the word of Allah, we will then submit to Him, love Him, obey Him, and for His pleasure, perform good deeds and take care of His creatures. The Quran clearly states that there is no god but Allah, and that the order in the universe reflects Oneness of His existence. The Quran states that if there were other gods, the universal order would have collapsed. He knows the unseen and the manifest; nothing is hidden from Him. He is the Most Forbearing, the Most Compassionate, the Most Forgiving. He always existed and will always exist, He is immortal. **Everything will perish, and only the faultless Gracious Self of your Lord will remain (55:26-27).** His existence is ingrained in our genes and our subconscious. He is the Sovereign ruler of the universe, Whose reign is eternal. He is the Most Holy, free from all flaws, deficiencies, and needs. He provides sustenance for His creatures and communicates guidance through prophets for their salvation. He is the Guardian who vigilantly watches over His creatures. He is the enforcer whose decrees are upheld and cannot be annulled. He is the Planner who orchestrated, designed, and fashioned creation as He willed. **His names (attributes) are the most beautiful.** Everything in the heavens and the earth glorifies His Majesty; He is the Most Mighty and the Most Wise.

O Muslims, when we study the Quran with understanding, we will be surprised and happy to know that Allah in the Quran says: **We have bestowed upon you a Book that mentions you. Do you not understand (21:10)?** Let's analyze it to gain an understanding of what the Quran says about us. Allah states: Surely, We created man in the best mold; then We reverted him to the lowest of the low, **except those who have faith and do righteous deeds.** Their's is a never-ending reward for them (95:4-6). Quran mentions six categories of people.

**The First Category:** The Quran tells us about them: They avoid grave sins and shameful deeds, and whenever they are angry, forgive; they obey their Lord and establish Prayer; they conduct their affairs by consultation, **and spend out of what We have bestowed upon them**, who, when a wrong is done to them, seek its redress (42:37-39). They pass their nights in prostrating themselves and standing before their Lord (25:64). Verily they did good works before the coming of the Day (death). They sleep but little by night, and would ask for forgiveness at past midnight, **and in their wealth, there was a rightful share for him who would ask, and for the destitute (51:16-19).** Those who, for the love of Him, feed the needy, and the orphan, and the captive, (saying): "We feed you only for Allah's sake; we do not seek of you any recompense or thanks" (76:8-9). **They spend in the way of Allah both in plenty and hardship, they restrain their anger, and forgive others.** Allah loves such good doers" (3:134). It also belongs to those who were already settled in this abode (of migration) having come to faith before the (arrival of the) emigrants. They love those who have migrated to them and do not covet what has been given to them; they even prefer them above themselves though poverty be their own lot. And whosoever are preserved from their own greed, such are the ones that will prosper (i.e., those who take care of the Muslims who have migrated) (59:9). O Allah, I acknowledge my deeds (without Your mercy), I do not consider myself to be among them! O Allah, help all of us to love You above all and to follow Your commandments. O Allah, give me and all Muslims the strength to care for each other and to avoid jealousy. Ameen!

**The Second Category:** Quran illustrates it like this: Whenever it was said to them: "There is no true deity apart from Allah," they waxed proud and said: "Shall we forsake our deities for the sake of a distracted poet (37:35-36)?" The Quran further tells that: When Allah alone is mentioned, the hearts of those who do not believe in the Hereafter contract with bitterness, but when deities apart from Allah are mentioned, **they are filled with joy** (the polytheists) (39:45). O Allah! Protect us from being associated with this category and guide us to the Right Way. Ameen!

**The Third Category:** Quran illustrates it like this: Then there are some who say, “We believe in Allah and the Last Day”, whereas they do not believe at all. They thus try to deceive Allah and the believers, but they succeed in deceiving none except themselves and they realize it not. In their hearts is a disease which Allah has increased more, and a painful doom is in store for them for the lie they utter (2:8-10). O Allah! We seek Your refuge from being among the hypocrites and disassociate ourselves from them. O Allah, guide us to the Right Way. Ameen!

**The Fourth Category:** Quran illustrates it like this: As for those who have rejected (these things), it is all the same to them whether you warn them or do not warn them, they are not going to believe. Allah has sealed up their hearts and ears and a covering has fallen over their eyes, and they have incurred the severest punishment (2:6-7). I.e., they have boxed themselves in their prejudices. O Allah, we seek Your refuge from being associated with this category. O Allah, we believe in You, so guide us to the Right Way. Ameen!

**The Fifth Category:** Moving on, Quran mentions people who, when asked: “What drove you to Hell?” They will answer: “We were not among those who observed Prayer, and we did not feed the poor, and we indulged in vain talk with those who indulged in vain talk, and we gave the lie to the Day of Judgement until the inevitable event overtook us” (74:42-47). They give the lie to the Reward and Punishment of the Hereafter, repulses the orphans away, and urges not the feeding of the needy, those who pray, but are heedless in their Prayers, who do good to be seen and deny people the articles of common necessity (107:1-7). O Allah, we again seek refuge in You from being associated with this group. O Allah, guide us to the straight path. Ameen!

**The Sixth Category:** Flipping through the pages of the Quran, we find the mention of this group: There are some others who have confessed their sins, they have a mixed record of deeds, good and bad. It may be that Allah will turn to them again with kindness for He is Forbearing and Compassionate (9:102). And on the Heights will be men who will recognize each person by his mark and will cry, out to the people of Paradise: “Peace be to you. “These will be the ones who had not yet joined them in Paradise, though they long to do so. And when the eyes of the people of the Heights will be turned towards the people of Hell they will say: “O Lord! Do not cast us among the wrongdoing people” (7:46-47). Oh Allah, this group is the closest to my character. I admit that I am a sinner, but I am not your rebel. I am pleased to accept You as my Lord, Islam as my religion, and Mohammed(SAW) as my Prophet. O Allah, be pleased with me as your servant. O Allah, in the Quran You said: “O My servants who have committed excesses against themselves, do not despair of

Allah's Mercy. Surely Allah forgives all sins. He is Most Forgiving, Most Merciful (39:53). O Allah, you have given us hope, so forgive us. Ameen!

O readers, ponder and reflect on which group you belong to? O Allah, forgive us, guide us, and make us leaders among the guided ones. Ameen! O Allah, there are many rights of Yours that we have not fulfilled, and many rights of Your creation that we have not fulfilled. O Allah, forgive Your rights that we owe to You, and O Allah, compensate the rights of Your creatures that we owe from Your treasures on our behalf. O Merciful Lord, save us from the fire of Hell with Your mercy. O Allah, if You act with justice, we will surely be among the losers. O Allah, Your mercy is far greater than our sins, we look forward to Your mercy, not to our deeds. Ameen!

In need of supplication  
A. H. Siddiq

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## 19. Lessons in Surah Maryam (Marry)

The surah Maryam is the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 98 verses. It was revealed in Makkah in the early years of Prophethood before the migration to Abyssinia. This was the time when the opposition of the Makkan tribes went from verbal abuse to physical torture and socio-economic boycott.

### Summary of subjects

**Prophets: Zechariah<sub>(AS)</sub> and Jhon<sub>(AS)</sub>:** Zechariah<sub>(AS)</sub> was worried about the evil deeds of his kinsmen, so he prayed to Allah to grant him a successor who would inherit the inheritance of the children of Jacob<sub>(AS)</sub>. Although he was old and his wife was barren, he still believed in the fulfillment of his prayer. Zakariya<sub>(AS)</sub> was given the tiding of a son whose name will be Yahya (John) (2-12). **John<sub>(AS)</sub>** was told to hold tightly to the Book of Allah. Allah blessed him with command, gentleness, purity, and piety. He was very obedient and loyal to his parents and was neither overbearing nor disobedient (13-15). **Marry<sub>(AS)</sub>:** The Quran narrates the story of Mary<sub>(AS)</sub> how she secluded herself from the people towards the east in solitude. There an angel appeared in human form and told her that he has been sent by Allah to give her the tiding of a pure son. On this she said, how can she have a son when no man has even touched her, and she is not an unchaste woman. The angel replied, it will be so, it is easy for the Lord. **He will make this child a sign and a mercy for the people.** Accordingly, Mary conceived the child, and with it she went away to a distant place. Then the throes of childbirth forced her to take shelter under a date palm. There she began to cry, "Oh! would that I had died before this and sunk into oblivion." At this the angel consoled her and told her that her Lord has set a spring under her; as for food, shake the trunk of this tree and fresh, ripe dates will fall down for you; so eat and drink and refresh your eyes; and if you see a man, say to him, that you vowed to observe the fast (of silence) for the sake of the Merciful. Mary then brought the child to her people. They said, "O Mary! This is a heinous sin that you have committed. O daughter of Aaron's family! your father was not a wicked man, nor was your mother an unchaste woman. **Jesus<sub>(AS)</sub>:** (In answer to this) Mary pointed towards the infant. The people said, "How shall we talk with him, who is but an infant in the cradle?" Whereupon the child spoke out, "I am a servant of Allah, He has given me the Book and He has appointed me a Prophet, and He has made me blessed wherever I may be. He has enjoined upon me to offer Salat and give Zakat so long as I shall live. He has made me dutiful to my mother, and He has not made me arrogant or wretched. Jesus<sub>(AS)</sub> declared: "Allah is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him; this is the Right Way." But later, despite this, they

split into sects and started having differences. So those who adopted the ways of disbelief shall suffer a horrible woe, when they witness the Judgment Day. That day their ears and eyes will be sharp, but sadly, then it will be too late. That is why the Prophet(SAW) was told to warn the disbelievers about the horrors of that Day, because they will be left with nothing but regrets. Allah is the inheritor of the earth and all that is on it, and to Him all will return (29-40).

**Abraham<sub>(AS)</sub>** was a good person and a prophet. He asked his father why he worships things that cannot hear, see, or benefit him. You are following in the footsteps of the disobedient Satan. He also said that some knowledge has been revealed to him, if he followed him he would show him the straight path. His father warned him that he would stone him to death if he forsook his deities, so leave me forever. Abraham left his family and the deities they invoked besides Allah. Then Allah granted him descendants like **Isaac<sub>(AS)</sub>** and **Jacob<sub>(AS)</sub>** and made each of them a Prophet and gave them a true renown. **Ishmael<sub>(AS)</sub>** his son was keeper of promise and a prophet. **Moses<sub>(AS)</sub>** was chosen messenger and a prophet. Allah conversed with him directly from the right side of mount Tur, and made his brother **Aron<sub>(AS)</sub>** a prophet to assist him. **Enoch<sub>(AS)</sub>** was a saint and a prophet. They all preached to worship the Lord and almsgiving. These are whom Allah choose from among the seeds of **Adam<sub>(AS)</sub>**, **Noah<sub>(AS)</sub>**, **Abraham<sub>(AS)</sub>**, **Israel<sub>(AS)</sub>**, and from among those He guided and chose. When the revelations of the Lord were recited unto them, they fell down, adoring and weeping. But later generations ruined the worship and followed their lust (51-59).

**Paradise:** Eternal Paradise has been promised by the Most Merciful to His servants and this promise will be fulfilled. The inheritors of paradise are pious people, and **those who repent and believe and do good deeds will also enter Paradise** (60-63).

**Believers:** Those who follow the straight path, Allah guides them to those good deeds which are better in terms of reward in the Hereafter, and the Merciful will create love in their hearts (76,96).

**Disbelievers:** Disbelievers while boasting of their wealth and group, claim without Lord's decree that they will be blessed with wealth and children in the hereafter, rather they will face extra punishment for it. Forgetting their existence, then as a joke ask will they be raised again? Yes, they will be resurrected and brought down on their knees around the Hellfire. It is the fixed ordinance of the Lord that everyone shall approach the Fire, then He will rescue those who did good deeds, while the most rebellious of the Merciful from each group will be plucked out first to be burned therein. **Therefore, being rich and strong is not the criterion of entering the Paradise.** That is why many nations were destroyed which were superior in outward glory and splendor. Allah gives respite to the

misguided people until they face His punishment or until the day when they will appear before Allah alone without their wealth and children. Then they will know whose condition is bad and whose group is weak (66-81).

**Polytheists:** They have chosen other gods for their support besides Allah. No, they will deny their worship and oppose them. The devils are confounding them with confusion. **O Mohammed don't make haste for punishment to descend on them, their days are counted.** On Resurrection Day we will gather the righteous unto the Beneficent, and the criminals will be driven to Hell like thirsty animals. **There no one will be able to intercede for anyone except for whom the Most Merciful will allow.** Such people say The Merciful has taken unto Himself a son, it is utter nonsense. Taking someone as a son does not suit His Awe. Everything cometh unto the Merciful as a slave. All are encompassed by Him and He has count of them. **On Resurrection Day everyone appears unto Him alone** (81-95).

**Lessons:** Although the universe is governed by specific laws, but Allah is beyond all these laws, He is Omnipotent. He miraculously impregnated Maryam<sub>(AS)</sub> without any man touching her. She later gave birth to Jesus<sub>(AS)</sub> who was prophesied and spoke as an infant in his cradle. On Zechariah's supplication, his ninety-year-old barren wife conceived, and John<sub>(AS)</sub> was born. He is the One Who bestows His messengers with miracles to help propagate the message. Therefore, it is illogical that because of miracles, people should leave the Creator and worship His creation, just like most Christians worship Jesus<sub>(AS)</sub>. The purpose of miracles is to strengthen our belief in the powers of Allah, and that all other entities are zero compared to Him. **It does not behoove God to beget a son for He is far above this.** When He decrees a thing to be, it comes into being. The angels descend only by the command of Allah, Who forgets nothing, and there is none equal to Him. So, worship Him and be steadfast. Think, is there any entity equal to Him (64-65)? Allah made Quran easy in the Arabic language, so that glad tidings may be given to the pious and warned the rebellious that many nations who rejected the message before them have perished (97-98).

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## 20. Lessons in Surah Taha

The Surah Taha is the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 135 verses. This surah was revealed in the early Makkah period. The theme of the surah is to reassure the Prophet and his followers that the message of the Quran will ultimately succeed.

## Summary of subjects

**Allah(SWT):** Allah the Most compassionate tells us through the Prophet that He is Allah, there is no god but Him, all the best names (attributes) belong to Him. He created the earth and the heavens and whatever is in them. He is the Owner of the Throne of the whole universe. He is the Lord of all that is in the heavens and the earth and in between, and that which is under the earth. **He hears everyone's prayers, whether they are uttered in a loud voice or in a low voice or in the hearts (1-8).** It is He who spread out the land, made paths in it, sent down rain from the sky, made different kinds of vegetation, pastures for cattle grow by it. He created man from dust and will return to dust and will be resurrected from it (53-55). He is All-Knowledgeable, and everything is prerecorded in the Book. He does not err, nor does He forget. His knowledge encompasses everything. **He will forgive those who believe, repent, do righteous deeds, and follow the straight path (82).** Your God is only one God, besides whom there is no other God, His knowledge encompasses everything (98). Allah provides sustenance to His creatures, while He Himself is Self-Sufficient and is Self-Subsisting. **These are signs for people who ponder.**

**Quran:** Quran is the revelation from the creator of the universe. **It is an admonition for those who fear the Lord (3-4).**

**Mohammed(SAW):** We did not reveal the Quran to you to cause you distress, it's a reminder for the God fearing (2-3). O Prophet(SAW), We narrated to you the tidings of the past, and have bestowed upon you an admonition (the Quran), revealed it in Arabic and have expounded in it warnings in diverse ways so that they may avoid evil or be heedful. Hasten not with reciting the Quran before its revelation is finished and pray: "Lord! Increase me in knowledge" (113-114). O Prophet, even though the teachings of the previous scriptures had come to them, they still did not listen to you. **If We had destroyed them by some calamity before your coming, they would have cried out on the Day of Judgment: O Lord! Why did you not send a messenger to us so that we would have followed Your signs and avoided being humiliated today?** Tell them that everyone is waiting for their own end, then everyone will know who is on the right path.

**Adam:** Most certainly We gave Adam(AS) a command before, but he forgot. We found him lacking in resolve. Recall when We said to the angels to Prostrate to Adam; all prostrated except Satan who refused. Allah said to Adam(AS) Satan is enemy to you and to your wife. So let him not drive both of you out of Paradise and plunge you into affliction. Because in Paradise you are not hungry, naked, thirsty or face extreme heat. But Satan deceived them by saying that the fruit of this tree would give them eternal life and an everlasting

kingdom. Then they both ate the fruit of that tree, and their private parts became visible to each other, they then covered themselves with the leaves of the garden. Thus, Adam disobeyed his Lord and strayed into error. Yet his Lord exalted him, accepted his repentance, and bestowed guidance upon him, and said: "Get down, both of you, (that is, man and Satan), each of you shall be an enemy to the other (115-122). **Lesson:** Due to weakness of hearsay, a person gets seduced by devils. Yet Allah is Most Merciful and Forgiving. Whoever follows the guidance of Allah will neither go astray nor be afflicted with misfortune. The difference between Adam and Satan is Satan insisted on his rebellious attitude and even blamed Allah for it, while Adam accepted his mistake and repented, and Allah forgave him. So, get into the habit of repenting often.

**Moses<sub>(AS)</sub>:** In this surah, the story of Musa<sub>(AS)</sub> is briefly narrated when he was returning from Midian to Egypt. On the way he saw a fire in the distance, as a precaution he asked his family to wait there, so that he could bring them some burning coal or find the way (9-10). When he reached there, a voice called out, "O Moses<sub>(AS)</sub>, I am your Lord; take off your shoes, for you are in the sacred valley of Tuwa. I have chosen you as a prophet, so give ear to what is revealed. **"Verily I am your Lord, there is no god but Me, so worship Me and establish prayers to remember Me. The Hour of Resurrection is sure to come but is kept secret so that every soul is recompensed according to his deeds. Let not any disbeliever turn you away from it, lest you perish."**" Then Allah gave him his first two signs. He was told to throw his staff on the ground, it turned into a rapidly moving snake. He was told not to be afraid just pick it up it will turn back to stick. He was then told to place his hand in his armpit it will come out glowing without blemish. He was then told to go to Pharoah who had transgressed all bounds. Moses<sub>(AS)</sub> said: "Lord! Open my breast; ease my task and loosen the stuttering of my tongue so that they may understand my speech; and appoint for me my brother Aaron<sub>(AS)</sub> to strengthen me and to share my task (11-36). Allah accepted his request and reminded him how He inspired his mother to place him in a casket and cast it in the river. Since you weren't drinking milk from any midwife, your sister who had been secretly following the casket, came forward, saying that she could guide them to a household that would nurture the baby well. Thus, we brought you back to your mother to comfort her. **Recall, when you slew a person. We delivered you from distress and made you go through several trials.** Then you stayed for several years among the people of Midian, and now you have come at the appointed moment. I have chosen you for My Mission. **You and your brother go to Pharaoh with my signs, talk to him in gentle manner perhaps he may take heed.** Both said they were afraid he would treat them cruelly. Allah said, don't be afraid, I listen and see

everything. Tell him that you are messengers of the Lord with signs, let children of Israel go with us and do not oppress them. It has been revealed to us that punishment awaits the disbelievers. Pharaoh asked them who is their Lord. Moses<sub>(AS)</sub> said, "Our Lord is He Who gave everything its form and then guided it." Pharaoh then asked regarding previous generations. Moses<sub>(AS)</sub> replied that the knowledge of this is with my Lord recorded in the Book. He neither errs nor forgets. Pharaoh denied the signs and called it magic and said that he would fight them with magic like theirs. So, the Day of Celebration was fixed in front of the people before noon. Pharaoh gathered all the magicians. They threw their ropes and sticks on the floor; due to their magic it appeared as if their ropes and staffs were running. Allah said to Moses<sub>(AS)</sub>: Throw your staff, it will swallow all their lies. Eventually the magicians fell in prostrate and said: "We believe in the Lord of Moses<sub>(AS)</sub> and Aaron<sub>(AS)</sub>." Pharaoh said: "You believed in Him without my permission to do so, surely, he must be your chief who taught you magic. I will cut off your hands and feet on opposite sides and crucify you on trunks of palm-trees so you know who can inflict sterner and more lasting torment." **They answered: By Him Who has created us, we shall never prefer you to the Truth after manifest Signs have come to us. So, decree whatever you will. Your decree will pertain, at the most, to the present life of the world.** We believe in our Lord that He will forgive our sins and forgive our practice of witchcraft. Allah ordered Moses<sub>(AS)</sub> to leave with Israelite in the night and make for them a dry path in the sea by striking it with your staff, and fear not of being overtaken, nor when treading through middle of the sea (37-77). Pharaoh pursued them with his forces, but they were completely overwhelmed by the sea (78). Allah the Exalted said to the Children of Israel that He delivered them from their enemy and made a covenant with them on the right side of Mount Tur and sent down on them manna and quail as sustenance and warned them not to transgress the limit or else His Punishment will descend upon them, and they will be destroyed. When Moses (AS) hurriedly reached mount Toor to speak to Allah(SWT). Allah asked Moses (AS) what brought him before his people. He said, "they are close by, and he hastened to please Him." He told him that when He tempted his people in his absence, Samiri led them astray. Moses<sub>(AS)</sub> returned to his people full of anger and said: "O people! Didn't your Lord make good promises to you, or has a long period of time passed, or did you want to bring the Lord's wrath on yourselves that you broke your promise to me?" They said: "We did not intentionally break our promise, we just threw the people's jewelry into the fire, then the Samiri also threw in something and brought out of the molten gold the effigy of a calf that lowed." Then the people cried out, this is your god and the god of Moses<sub>(AS)</sub>, knowing that it neither

responds to what they say, nor could benefit or harm them. Aaron<sub>(AS)</sub> had warned them that they have fallen into error because of the calf. Your Lord is Most Compassionate; so, follow me and obey me. They were adamant not to cease worshipping it until Moses<sub>(AS)</sub> returns. After rebuking his people, Moses turned to Aaron and asked: "When you saw the people going astray, what prevented you from stopping them? Have you disobeyed my order?" Aaron<sub>(AS)</sub> replied, "I was afraid that you would come and say, you sowed discord among the Israelite and did not pay heed to my words." Moses<sub>(AS)</sub> then asked Samri, he replied, he saw what others didn't noticed. I picked a handful of dust from the trail of the angel's horse, and I threw it in the fire. Moses<sub>(AS)</sub> said: "Be gone, then. Rest of your life you shall keep calling, don't touch me", and on the Day of Resurrection you will be held accountable. **We will burn this god of yours and scatter its remains in the sea** (83-97). **Lessons in Moses<sub>(AS)</sub>'s story:** Your God is none else than Allah, beside Whom there is no god. His knowledge embraces everything (98). Hell awaits the unbelievers, polytheists, and those who come to their Lord laden with sins, in it, they will neither die nor live. While those who are equipped with faith and righteous deeds will be exalted to high ranks and dwell in the Everlasting Gardens (74-77). People followed Pharaoh blindly, who led them astray and did not guide them aright (79).

**Polytheists:** How can one worship a thing which cannot answer to them, nor has power to either hurt them or benefit them (89)?

**Judgment Day:** Sinners will be mustered together on Judgment Day, where their eyes will turn blue with horror and whisper to each other that they barely lived on earth for ten days, the prudent will say only one day. On that day the mountains will crumble, and the earth will turn into a flat plain. On Resurrection Day when the caller calls, every soul will resurrect and come out at the call of the caller. There no one will dare to be arrogant, nor intercede for someone except for whom Allah will allow, because He knows everything about them that no one else knows. That Day, all will surrender before their Lord. That Day those who have carried the burden of injustice will fail (99-111).

**Admonishing and Lessons:** The Quran is a book of guidance from Allah, whoever follows the guidance will not go astray. But whoever turns away from it, will have a straitened life, and will be raise blind on the Day of Resurrection. If the Lord had not fixed a period of respite for the nations, He would have destroyed them. Destruction of a nation only occurs on the pre-decreed time. Allah requites those nations who rejected His signs and His admonition. Their punishment in the Hereafter is severe and eternal. There are signs in the ruined ruins of the nations for people of intellect. A

Muslim should be patient with what the disbelievers say, enjoin prayers on his household and he himself should also observe it. Glorify his Lord in the prayers before sunrise (Fajr), before the sunset (Asr), at the end of the day (Maghrib) and at night (Isha). Do not greed for the worldly wealth which Allah has given to test people. The pure sustenance given by your Lord is better for the Hereafter. The pious will end up with true success. In the hereafter everyone will know who the rightly guided ones are (123-135). A believer always prefers truth with clear signs. Believers believe in their Lord that He will forgive their sins. Whosoever does righteous works, being a believer, shall have no fear of suffering wrong or loss (112).

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## 21. Lessons in Surah Anbiya

The Surah Anbiya is the 21st chapter of the Quran with 112 verses. Both the subject and the style of the Surah indicates that it was revealed in the latter stage of the Makkan Period. The main subject of this surah is the Prophets of the past who preached the same faith that Mohammed(SAW) was preaching.

### Summary of subjects

**Allah:** The Lord fully knows every word spoken in the heavens and the earth. He is the All-Hearing, All-Knowing (4).” He knows what you say loudly and what you hide (110). And only He knows the appointed time.

**Mohammed(SAW):** Mohammed(SAW) has been sent with the message as a guide and mercy to the whole world. To warn them that their God is only one and to submit to Him. **This worldly respite is a trial or an opportunity to enjoy for a limited time** (107-108). (O Mohammed), We did not grant everlasting life to any human being even before you. If you were to die, neither will they live forever. Every living being shall taste death and We shall subject you to ill and good by way of trial, and to Us shall all of you return (34-35). When the unbelievers see you they mock you, saying: “Is he the one who mentions your gods?” They say so, and yet reject with disdain the very mention of the Most Compassionate Lord. Man is hasty by nature. I shall certainly show them My Signs. Don’t be hasty (36-37). The Prophet(SAW) told the unbelievers: Our Compassionate Lord alone is our support against your (blasphemous) utterances (112). Allah tells the Prophet that other Messengers before him were also mocked, but those who scoffed at the Messengers were overtaken by the same scourge that they had scoffed at. And asks him to tell them, “Who can protect you from the Compassionate Lord by night

or by day?" And yet they turn away from the Admonition of their Lord (41-42).

**Prophets(AS):** Allah gave **Moses(AS)** and **Aaron(AS)** the standard of right and wrong and sent the Torah as a light and admonition for the pious (48). Allah gave wisdom to **Abraham(AS)**, he asked his father and his people: Who are these idols that you worship? He said that he found his ancestors worshiping him (blind imitation). He said, you and your forefathers have been in manifest error. They asked if he was expressing his true thoughts or jesting. He said, I bear witness before you, your Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth which He created. He swore and said that he would carry out his plan against their idols in their absence. When he got the opportunity, he broke all their idols and spared the big one so that they may possibly question him. Seeing the state of their idols, some of them said that they heard Abraham speak ill of the idols. They brought him before the people to punish him. They asked Abraham, did he do this to their gods? He replied, it must have been the big idol who did it, ask your gods, if they can speak? They said, you know they can't speak. Abraham said, then why do you worship those besides Allah who can neither benefit you nor harm you. In response, they said, "Burn him alive to support your gods." Allah made the fire cool and safe for Abraham. They intended to burn him, but instead Allah disgraced them. Allah saved him and **Lot** and brought them to Palestine. We gave him **Isaac(AS)** and **Jacob(AS)**, made each of them righteous and made them prophets to guide the people according to Our command. We ordained them to do good deeds, establish prayers, and give alms. They worshiped Allah alone (51-73). We bestowed upon **Lot(AS)** commandment and knowledge and delivered him from the city of wicked people who were exceedingly disobedient and immersed in foul deeds. Verily he was of the righteous (74-75). We bestowed the same favour upon **Noah(AS)**. We delivered him and his household from the great distress, helped him against his people who rejected Our signs, We drowned them all (76-77). We did the same favour to **David(AS)** and **Solomon(AS)**. When the two were judging a farm case in which other people's goats had wandered into his field at night. We guided Solomon to the right decision and gave each of them judgment and knowledge. It was Allah who taught David the art of making armour for their benefit, so that it would protect them from the violence of one another, and We subdued the strong winds for Solomon which blew at his bidding towards the land We blessed. And We subdued many jinn (devils) for him who used to dive (into the sea) and do other things for him (78-82). We bestowed the same wisdom, judgement, and knowledge upon **Job(AS)**. When he cried to his Lord that disease has struck him and You are the Most Merciful of those that are merciful. We accepted his prayer and removed the affliction from him, and

not only restored to him his family but as many more with them, as a lesson to the worshippers (83-84). Allah bestowed the same favour upon **Ishmael<sub>(AS)</sub>**, **Enoch<sub>(AS)</sub>**, and **Dhu al-Kifl<sub>(AS)</sub>**, for they were all steadfast and righteous (85-86). And We bestowed Our favour upon **Jonah<sub>(AS)</sub>**. Recall, when he left his people in rage, thinking Allah will not cause him hardship. He cried out in the darkness (from the belly of whale), “there is no god but You. Glory be to You! I have done wrong.” Allah accepted his prayer and rescued him from grief (87-88). And We bestowed favor upon **Zechariah<sub>(AS)</sub>** when he called: “Lord! Leave me not solitary. You are the Best Inheritor.” So, We accepted his prayer and bestowed upon him **John<sub>(AS)</sub>**, and We made his wife fit (to bear a child). Verily they hastened in doing good works and called upon Us with longing and fear and humbled themselves to Us (89-90).

**Scientifical facts in the Quran:** Haven’t the unbelievers considered that the heavens and the earth were one solid mass, then We tore them apart (Big Bang), and made every living being out of water? Will they, then, not believe? And We placed firm mountains on earth lest it sways. And We made the sky a secure canopy; and yet they turn away from these Signs. It is He Who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. Each of them is floating in its orbit (30-33).

**The believer:** The righteous believers shall be kept far from Hell. They shall not hear even a whisper of it. The Judgment Day shall not grieve them, the angels shall receive them saying, this is your Day which you had been promised, and they shall live forever in the Paradise (101-103).

**The Disbelievers:** The disbelievers whisper with each other and say that this person is a human like you. Would you fall for this witchcraft knowingly? They say, this Quran is just a set of confused dreams which he has fabricated, rather it is his poetry. Let him bring us a tangible sign like previous prophets (3,5). **In response Allah says**, all the societies that we destroyed, not a single society believed in the signs sent to them. Would they, then, believe? To their second objection (being a human) Allah tells the Prophet that all Messengers sent before him<sub>(SAW)</sub> were also humans, to whom We revealed Our Message, We did not endow them bodies that could survive without food, nor were they immortal. If you have no knowledge of this, then ask the people of the Book. **Allah warns:** We delivered those who believed and destroyed the transgressors. We destroyed many societies of wrongdoers and raised others after them. When the wrongdoers realized the coming of Our punishment, they began to flee from their cities. They were told: “Flee not, return to the comforts of your dwellings. You are likely to be questioned.” Then they acknowledged that they were wrong

doers, and kept acknowledging, till We destroyed them (6-15). They ask: "When will the threat of punishment come to pass if you are truthful?" That Day the unbelievers shall not be able to keep off the Fire from their faces, nor from their backs; nor shall they be helped. It will suddenly come upon them and stupefy them. They will not be able to ward it off, nor get a moment's respite (38-40).

**Polytheism:** Allah asks them: **Have they taken worldly gods other than Him that can resurrect?** **Then tells them:** Had there been any gods in the heavens and the earth apart from Allah, the order of both the heavens and the earth would have gone to ruins. Glory be to Allah, the Lord of the Throne, Who is far above their false descriptions of Him. None shall question Him about what He does, but they shall be questioned. **Asks Mohammed(SAW) to ask them:** "Bring forth your proof! Here is the Book with admonition for those of my time and there are also scriptures with admonition for people before me." But most people do not know the Truth, and have, therefore, turned away from it. Never did We send any Messenger before you to whom We did not reveal: "There is no god but Me. So, serve Me alone." **They say:** "The Compassionate Lord has taken to Himself a son." Glory be to Him! **Those whom they so designate are only His honored servants. They do not outstrip Him in speech and only act as He commands.** He knows whatever is before them and whatsoever is remote from them and they do not intercede except for him, on whose behalf He allows, and they stand constantly in awe of Him. And if anyone of them were to claim: "Indeed I am a god apart from Him," We shall recompense both with Hell (21-29). You and the gods you worship besides Allah will be the fuel of Hellfire. If they (human gods) had any power, they would not be there. You all will be in it forever. There they will groan in anguish and the condition will be that they will only hear sounds of groaning (98-100). **Allah tells them:** The gods you have chosen to protect you against Us, they have no power even to help themselves; nor do they enjoy Our support. **Tells them:** He only warn you by the Revelation. But the deaf do not hear the cry when they are warned. Were only the slightest whiff from your Lord's punishment to touch them, they would cry out: "Woe to us; we were indeed wrong doers (43-46)."

**Admonishing:** Every living being shall taste death and We shall subject you to ill and good by way of trial, and to Us shall all of you be eventually sent back (35). The time of people's reckoning is drawing nearer, yet they turn aside in heedlessness. Whenever any fresh admonition comes to them from their Lord, they barely heed it and remain immersed in play, and on other concerns (1-3). We have revealed to you a Book in which is salvation for you. Would you not use your intellect? Then warns them: We fulfilled the promise

We had made to the prophets; We rescued them and those whom We wished, and destroyed those who exceeded all bounds. **Then advised man:** We did not create for pastime the heavens and the earth and all that lies between the two. Had it been Our will to find a pastime, We would have found one near at hand; **if at all We were inclined to do so.** Nay, We hurl the Truth at falsehood so that the Truth crushes falsehood, and lo! it vanishes. To Him belongs whosoever dwells in the heavens and on earth. The angels that are with Him neither disdain to serve Him out of pride, nor do they weary of it. They glorify Him night and day, without flagging (16-20).

**End Times:** When Gog and Magog are let loose, and begin swooping from every mound, the time of Doomsday will draw near, whereupon the eyes of those who disbelieved will startle in fear and will accept they were heedless and wrongdoers (96-97). On that Day We shall roll up the heavens like a scroll for writing. Just as We originated the creation, we shall repeat it. This is a promise binding on Us (104). We shall set up just scales on the Day of Resurrection so that none will be wronged in the least. (We shall bring forth the acts of everyone), even if it be the weight of a grain of mustard seed. We shall suffice as Reckoners (47).

**Important Verses:** The time of reckoning is near for the people, but they are turning away from the advice of the Quran (1). Had there been other gods in the heavens and the earth apart from Allah, the harmony and order of both the heavens and the earth would have gone fallen into ruins. Allah, the Lord of the Throne, is far above this (22). All human beings are one community and Allah is their Lord, so only worship Him. It is the miscreants that divide the religion into pieces, forgetting that everyone is bound to return to Him. Whoever does good and is a believer, his work will be appreciated. It has been ordained that every town that We destroy will not re-live (92-95). We wrote in the Psalms, after the exhortation, that the earth shall be inherited by My righteous servants. Herein, surely, is a message for those devoted to worship (105-106). These verses of surah Anbiya is about the people in the end times who shall inherit the earth, that is, they will rule over the world. This is one of the definite predictions of the Quran, that when the Mahdi comes, he will defeat all the oppressors, and later Jesus<sub>(AS)</sub> and the righteous among his followers will inherit the earth i.e., they will rule the world with justice.

**Lessons:** All prophets came with the same message of submission to one God (a Muslim), all were mocked and faced the same resistance! Worldly respite is a trial or an opportunity to enjoy till death. All messengers were mortal humans. Every living being will be subjected to trials and taste death. And all shall return to Him.

Those who invoke other than Allah cannot help themselves, so how can they help others?

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## 22. Lessons in Sura Hajj

The Surah Hajj is the 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 78 verses. The Surah takes its name from verse 27. The first 24 verses were revealed in the last Makkan period before migration, while the remaining 54 verses were revealed in the early Medinan period.

### Summary of subjects

**Allah:** Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise. He does whatever He pleases. He is Immensely Strong, Over-whelming Mighty, and all-Watchful. He guides whomever He wills, and he whom Allah humiliates; none can give him honor. The end of all matters, rests with Him. To Him are all destined to return. He is Most Forbearing; He alone is Self-Sufficient and Praiseworthy. He is All-Pardoning, All-Forgiving, All-Knowing and Most Forbearing. **He is the Best of all providers.** It is He Who causes the night to emerge out of the day and causes the day to emerge out of the night and He is All-Hearing, All-Seeing. **He is the Truth, and all those invoked besides Him are false.** He is Most High and All-Great. **Do you not see that Allah sends down water from the sky whereby the earth turns green?** Verily He is Subtle and All-Aware. To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth (61-64). He chooses Messengers from angels and humans to convey His command. He knows all what is before them and what is hidden from them. **And it is to Him that all affairs are returned (75-76).**

**Mohammed(SAW):** Allah consoles the Prophet by telling him that if they give the lie to you, the people of Aad and Thamud, Noah, Abraham, Lot, Moses, and dwellers of Midian also gave the lie to the Prophets before them. He first gave respite to all these deniers, then seized them in a dreadful punishment. How many sinful settlements have been destroyed; their wells lie deserted and their palaces in ruins. **Haven't they roamed the earth so that their hearts might understand, and their ears might listen? Because the eyes are not blind. Rather, the hearts in the breasts are blind.** They urge you to hasten the punishment. Allah does not break His promise; but with your Lord, a Day is equal to a thousand years of your count. Tell them that you have been sent to them only as a warner before the Doom strikes them. **Then for those who believe and do righteous deeds, there is forgiveness and sustenance of honor. And those who try to belittle Allah's verses are friends of Hellfire.** Tells the

Prophet! There was no Messenger or Prophet before you, when he preached, Satan did not try to mislead his people. Whatever disturbances Satan creates, Allah erases them and strengthens His verses. He permits this as a trial for those whose hearts are hypocritical or severely corrupted. Indeed, these wrong doers have gone too far in their dissension. He also does this so that those endowed with knowledge may know that it is the Truth from their Lord, so that they may have faith in it and their hearts may humble themselves before Him (42-54). **For every people We have prescribed a way of worship which they follow. So, let them not dispute with you concerning this, but call them to the way of Your Lord.** You are certainly on the Straight Path. And if they dispute with you, say: "Allah knows well what you do. Allah will judge among you on the Day of Judgment concerning matters about which you disagree (67-69)."

**Pilgrimage and its commandments:** Allah entrusted Abraham (AS) with the task of building the Kaaba and **commanded him not to associate anyone with Him.** And to keep this house pure for those who circumambulate it, and those who bow and prostrate in prayers. And announce Hajj to all mankind. So that people come from far and wide on foot and on thin camels to witness the benefits for themselves. And on the prescribed days of Hajj, mention the name of Allah on the cattle that Allah has provided for them. Eat from it and feed the poor and the needy. After that purify yourselves, fulfill the vows and circumambulate the Kaaba. Then the person who respects the sanctity of the Kaaba will find himself good in the sight of Lord. Livestock have been made lawful for you except those mentioned. A person who respects the sanctity of all things that have been ordained as signs of Allah does so because of the true piety of the hearts.

For every nation Allah has ordained a ritual of sacrifice. Invoke the name of Allah over the cattle while sacrificing which He has provided for you. Glad tidings are for those who humble themselves before Allah, whose hearts tremble at the remembrance of Allah, who persevere in whatever calamity befalls them, establish prayer, and give charity out of the sustenance given by Him. We have appointed sacrificial camels among the signs of worship of Allah. They have many benefits for you. So, when you sacrifice, make them stand up and invoke upon them the name of Allah, and when they fall on their sides after being slaughtered, eat yourself, and feed those who do not ask and the destitute. Neither their flesh nor their blood reaches Allah; it is your piety that reaches Him. He has subjected these animals so that you glorify Him for the guidance He has bestowed upon you. **O Prophet, give glad tidings, to those who do good (26-37).**

**The believer:** Those who act righteously, Allah will enter them in the Gardens beneath which rivers flow. They will be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls and their clothes will be of silk. **They followed the pure guidance; that guided them to the Way of their Lord** (14,23-24). Surely Allah defends those who believe. **He has no love for the disloyal and the thankless.** Permission to fight has been granted to those who were wronged. They were unjustly expelled from their homes just because they say, **“Allah is Our Lord”** (38-40). **Verily Allah always directs those that believe to the Right Way** (54). Then those who believed and acted righteously shall be in Gardens of Bliss. As for those who migrated in the way of Allah, whereafter they were slain, or died, Allah will certainly grant them a goodly provision. He will surely admit them to a resort which will please them. **For him who retaliates in proportion to the excess committed against him**, and is thereafter again subjected to transgression, Allah will surely aid him (56,58-60). Believers, bow down and prostrate yourselves before Your Lord and **serve Your Lord and do good** that you may prosper. Strive in the cause of Allah in a manner worthy of that striving. He has chosen you for His task, and He has not laid upon you any hardship in religion. **Keep to the faith of your father Abraham**(AS). Allah named you Muslims earlier and even in this Book, so that the Messenger may be a witness over you, and that you may be witnesses over all mankind. So, establish Prayer, and pay Zakah, and hold fast to Allah’s rope (Quran). He is your Protector and Helper (77-78).

**The Disbelievers:** These are the people who follow rebellious devils and dispute about Allah without knowledge. They were admonished and told that devils would lead them to Hellfire (3-4). That is why without any knowledge and guidance or enlightening Book, they wrangle about Allah just to lead people astray from His path. For such people there is disgrace in the world and on the Day of Judgment they will taste the torment of the Hellfire. **This is their future which their own hands have earned for them, for Allah never wrongs His creatures** (8-10). For them garments of fire have been cut out; boiling water shall be poured over their heads, causing their skins as well their bellies and what’s in them to melt. They will be lashed with maces of iron. Whenever because of distress they try to escape from the Hell, they will be driven back into it, and told to taste the torment of burning (19-22). They prevent people from Allah’s Way and entering the Al-Ihram Mosque which was established by Allah as a place of worship for its inhabitants and outsiders alike. They will taste a painful chastisement (25). The unbelievers will not cease doubting Allah’s Way until the Hour suddenly comes upon them, or the chastisement of an ominous day overtakes them. That Day all sovereignty shall be Allah’s and He will judge them.

Humiliating chastisement awaits those who disbelieved and denied His revelations (55-57).

**Hypocrite:** He is the one who worships Allah by staying on the edge, if there is benefit, he is satisfied, and if there is any trouble, he turns away. His world is gone and the hereafter too, this is a clear loss (11).

**Rejection of polytheism:** Polytheists invoke others instead of Allah, those who can neither harm nor benefit him. That indeed is straying too far. **They invoke those that would cause them more harm than benefit. Such are surely evil patrons, and evil associates** (12-13). Your Lord is one God. So, surrender yourself only to Him. **Avoid idolatry and falsehood. Be completely devoted to Allah, do not associate anyone in His Divinity.** He who associates anyone with Allah in His Divinity, it is as though he has fallen from the sky, he will either be picked up by the birds, or the wind will throw him far away to crumble (31). **Instead of Allah they worship those concerning whom He has revealed no sanction and concerning whom they have no true knowledge.** None shall be able to help such evil doers. And when His clear signs are recited to them, their faces begin to change, and seems they will soon pounce on those reciting His verses. Allah has promised for those who refuse to accept the truth Hellfire, which is the worst abode, which is truly an evil end. O people, a parable is set forth, pay heed to it. **Those deities you call upon other than Allah, if all of them joined forces they cannot create even a fly. Rather if a fly steals something from them, they cannot redeem it. Powerless is the supplicant; and powerless is he to whom he calls upon. He did not form a true estimate of Allah** (71-74).

**Admonishing:** O people! If you have any doubts about life after death, then consider that We first created you (Adam) from dust, then you from sperm, then turned it into a clot of blood, then into lump of flesh, formed and formless. This is to make the truth clear to you. We keep the sperm we want in the womb for a certain period, then bring you out as a baby, then nurture you so that you may reach your maturity. And there will be some of you who will die early and there will be those who will reach the abject age where memory fades. Consider! When We send down rain upon the barren land, it quivers and swells and sprouts all kinds of vegetation. This is because Allah is the Truth, He brings the dead to life, and He has power over all things. **This is a similitude to show that the Hour of Resurrection is bound to come and there is absolutely no doubt about it. And We shall surely resurrect those who are lying in the graves** (5-7). Whoever thinks that Allah will not help him in this world and the Hereafter, he should reach up to the sky with a rope and make a crack, then see if his contrivance can reject

anything that which enrages him. We have sent down this Quran with such open words. On the Day of Judgment, Allah will judge among those who believe, and those who became Jews, and Sabaeans, and Christians, and Magians, and those who associate others with Him in His Divinity. All those in the heavens and all those in the earth prostrate to Him; and so, do the sun and the moon, and the stars and the mountains, and the trees, and the beasts, **and so do many human beings, and even many of those who are condemned to chastisement** (15-18)? Have you not seen how Allah has subjected to you all that is in the earth, and the vessels that sail in the sea by His command, and it is He Who holds back the sky that it may not fall on earth except by His leave? Surely Allah is Most Gentle, Ever Compassionate to people. And it is He Who has endowed you with life and it is He who causes you to die, and it is He Who will then resurrect you. Man is indeed extremely prone to denying the Truth (65-66). Are you not aware that Allah knows all that is in the heaven and the earth? Surely it is all preserved in a Book. Indeed, that is easy with Allah (70).

**End Times:** People! Beware of the wrath of your Lord, the truth is that the earthquake of the Dooms Day is a terrible thing. On that day you will see that every nursing mother will be oblivious of her child, every pregnant woman will abort, and people will look drunk, although they will not be drunk, it will be because Allah's punishment will be so severe (1-2).

**Important Verses:** If Allah did not to repel some through others, monasteries and churches and synagogues and mosques would have been pulled down where the name of Allah is mentioned. Allah will most certainly help those who will help Him, those whom, if authority is bestowed on them, will establish Prayers, render charity (Zakat), enjoin good, and forbid evil (40-41).

**Lessons:** **Your Lord is one God. So, surrender yourself only to Him.** Allah is the Truth, and all those invoked besides Him are false. Together they cannot even create a fly, and if the fly took away something, they cannot retrieve it. Day of Resurrection is bound to come. On the Day of Judgment, Allah will judge among those who split his religion "Islam" into sects are people of Hellfire including Jews Christians etc. (the religion of all of them was Islam). Lots of humans who bow to One True God will be in Hell due to in justice. Most human beings deny the truth. Allah does not break His promise, but one day of His is equal to a thousand years of our reckoning, so be patient. Call people to the way of your Lord and don't dispute concerning way of worship. **Hereafter is what your hands have earned.** Keep to the faith of your father Abraham(AS). Retaliate in proportion to the abuse, it is better to forgive.

## 23. Lessons in Surah Al-Mominoon

The Surah Al-Mominoon is the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 118 verses. The Surah takes its name from the first verse. Both its style and theme indicate that it was revealed during the middle stage of Makkah period. Bitter conflict had begun between the Prophet and the disbelievers of Makkah, though tyrannical persecution had not yet started. It was revealed during the climax of the famine in Makkah. The central theme of the surah invites the people to accept and follow the Message of the Prophet Mohammed(SAW).

### Summary of subjects

**Allah:** Allah is the best of all creators. He is the Best of providers. So, exalted be Allah, the True King! There is no god but He, the Lord of the Great Throne. Therefore, whoever invokes any other god along with Allah, whereof he has no proof, his reckoning is with his Lord alone. Indeed, these unbelievers shall not prosper (116-117).

**Important Verses:** Most certainly, those believers have attained true success, who perform their Salat with humility, refrain from vain and frivolous things. Who spend their Zakat in appropriate ways. Who conscientiously guard their private parts, except regarding their wives and those women who are legally in their possession. Those who go beyond this are transgressors. Who are true to their trusts and their promises, and who strictly guard their Prayers. These are the heirs who will inherit Paradise and dwell therein for ever (1-11). **O Messengers**, eat of pure things and do righteous deeds, for We are fully aware of what you do. **You all belong to one and the same community, and I am your Lord: so, fear Me** (51-52).

**Scientifical facts in Quran:** We created man **from an essence of clay, then from a sperm-drop in a safe place, then changed the sperm drop into a clot of blood and the clot into a piece of flesh, then turned the piece of flesh into bones, then clothed the bones with flesh, and then brought him forth as quite a different creation from the embryo.** Then after this you shall all die, then most certainly you shall be raised up on the Day of Resurrection (12-16). We created above you seven layered heavens, never were We unaware of the task of creation. **We sent down water from the sky in right measure, and placed it to stay in the earth**, and We have the power to cause it to vanish. Then through water We caused gardens of date-palms and vines to grow for you wherein you have an abundance of delicious fruits and from them you derive your livelihood. And We also produced the tree which springs forth from Mount Sinai, containing oil and sauce for those that eat (17-20).

**Mohammed(SAW):** O Prophet, you are not demanding some recompense from them, what Allah has given you is the best. You are calling them to the Straight Path, but those who do not believe in the Hereafter always want to go astray (72-74). Were We to be merciful to them and remove from them their famine, they would blindly persist in their transgression. Even now, when We seized them with chastisement, yet they did not bow themselves nor humble themselves before their Lord. However, when We smite them with a dreadful scourge, then behold, in this state they are despair of all good (75-77). O Mohammed, pray: "Lord, if You bring the scourge of which they had been warned in my presence, then do not include me among these wrongdoing people. The fact is that We have the power to make you a witness of what they are being threatened with. O Mohammed, repel evil in the best manner. We are aware of all that they say about you. And pray: "My Lord! I seek Your refuge from the suggestions of the evil ones (humans and devils); I even seek Your refuge, my Lord, lest they should approach me" (93-98). Say O Mohammed: "My Lord, forgive us and have mercy on us, for You are the Best of those that are merciful" (118).

**Prophets(AS): Noah(AS)** said to his people, "**O people! Serve Allah; you have no deity other than He. Do you have no fear?**" But the notables who had refused to believe said: "**He is none other than a human like yourselves who desires to attain superiority over you.** Had Allah wanted to send any Messengers He would have sent down angels. Since the time of our forefathers, we have never heard that a human being came as a Messenger. He has been seized with a little madness; so, wait for a while perhaps he will improve." Noah(AS) prayed, "Lord, help me against these people for they have treated me as an impostor". At this, We revealed to him, "Build an ark according to Our instructions. Then, when Our Command comes and the oven begins to gush, take aboard a pair of every species of animals, and the members of your own family except those against whom the judgment has already been passed; and do not plead with Me for the workers of iniquity, for they are doomed to be drowned. Then, when you have boarded the ark along with your companions, say, "Praise be to Allah Who has delivered us from the wicked people", and say, "Lord, let our landing from this ark be at a blessed place, for Thou art the best Who can cause people to land in safety." There are many Signs in this story, and **We always put people to the test** (23-30).

After them We brought forth another generation, and then We sent a Messenger from among themselves, saying, "Serve Allah; you have no god other than He. Do you have no fear?" **The chiefs of his people, who had rejected the Message and denied the life of the**

Hereafter, and those who were given prosperity in this worldly life, said, “He is no more than a human being like yourselves, for he eats what you eat and drinks what you drink. If you submit to a human like yourselves, you indeed will be losers. He promises you that when you are dead and are reduced to dust and bones, **at the appointed time, you will be brought forth alive from the graves. Far-fetched, utterly far-fetched is what you are being promised. There is no other life than this worldly life. We will live here and die here and will not be raised up again.** This man is merely an impostor, who is inventing lies in the name of Allah, and we are not going to believe in what he says”. The Messenger said: “My Lord! Come to my help at their treating me as an impostor.” In answer, it was said, “The time is nearing when they shall be remorseful.” Then a mighty blast quite justly overtook them, and We reduced them to a rubble (31-41). After them, We brought forth other generations. **No nation was destroyed before its time nor outlived it.** Then We sent Our Messengers in succession. Whenever a Messenger came to his people they rejected him, calling him a liar. Thereupon, We destroyed one people after the other, reducing them to mere legends. Scourged be the people who do not believe (42-44).

Then We sent **Moses**<sup>(AS)</sup> and his brother **Aaron**<sup>(AS)</sup> with Our Signs and a clear Authority to Pharaoh and his chiefs. But they behaved scornfully, for they were very arrogant people. They said, **“What! should we believe in these two men who are human beings like ourselves and whose people are our bondsmen?”** So, they rejected them, calling them liars, and they too eventually became of those that were destroyed. As regards Moses, We gave him the Book so that the people might be guided by it (45-49). And We made the **Son of Mary**<sup>(AS)</sup> and his **mother**<sup>(AS)</sup> a Sign to mankind and We gave them shelter on a plateau where they could have peace, and which was watered by running springs (50).

**The believer:** Surely those who stand in awe for fear of their Lord, who have full faith in the Signs of their Lord; who associate none with their Lord in His Divinity, who give charity, with their hearts trembling at the thought that they are destined to return to their Lord. They are the ones who rush in good deeds and try to outdo each other (57-61). Today (Judgment Day) I will recompense them for their steadfastness, so that they alone, are triumphant (111).

**The Disbelievers:** Do they think that We are helping them with wealth and children and lavishing them with all kinds of good? No, they do not perceive the reality of the matter (55-56). Their hearts are lost in ignorance; and their actions are astray from the straight path. They will persist in their misdeeds, until the punishment befalls them and those who were given a luxurious life. They will then

begin to groan. Stop groaning now! Surely no help shall be provided to you from Us. My Signs were rehearsed to you, and you turned and ran away, and scornfully mocking the book in your nightly conversation (63-67). Did they never ponder over this Word of Allah? Or has the Messenger brought something the like of which did not come to their forefathers of yore? Or did they not know their Messenger that they hate him as a stranger? Or do they say that he is insane? Nay, he has brought them the Truth and it is the Truth that is offensive to most of them. Were the Truth to follow their desires, the order of the heavens and the earth and those who dwell in them would have been ruined. Nay, rather We have sent them their own remembrance, and yet they are turning away from our counsel (68-71). On Judgment Day Allah will ask the disbelievers, how many years did you stay on earth? They will say, for a day or part of a day. It will be said, you stayed only for a while (just Resurrection Day equals fifty thousand years). What a pity! you did not realize it then. Did you think that We had created you without any purpose, and that you will not be brought back to Us (112-115)?

**Hypocrites:** Afterwards people divided their religion into different sects, and each sect rejoices in what it has. So, leave them immersed in their heedlessness till an appointed time (53-54).

**Polytheism:** Never did Allah take unto Himself any son, nor is there any god other than He. Had there been other gods, each god would have taken his creatures away with him, and each would have rushed to overpower the other. Glory be to Allah from all that they characterize Him with. He knows both what is visible and what is not visible. Exalted is Allah above all that they associate with Him (91-92).

**Admonishing:** In fact, there is a lesson for you in the cattle: We give you as a drink of that which is in their bellies, and besides this you get other benefits from them. You eat their flesh and are travel from place to place on them and on ships (21-22). We do not lay a burden on anyone beyond his capacity. We have a Book with Us that speaks the truth about everyone; and they shall in no wise be wronged (62). It is Allah Who has endowed you with the faculties of hearing and sight and has given you hearts (intellect) to think. But you scarcely show any gratitude. It is He Who has dispersed you in the earth, and it is unto Him that you shall all be mustered. It is He Who gives life and causes death, and He holds mastery over the alternation of night and day. Do you not understand? No, they say what their predecessors of yore had said: "When we are dead and have been reduced to dust and bones, shall we then be raised up again? We were promised such things and so were our forefathers before us. All these are nothing but tales of the past" (78-86).

**End Times:** We have a Book with Us that speaks the truth about everyone; and no one will be wronged. Nay, rather their hearts are oblivious of all these things; and their actions are also astray. They will persist in these deeds. Those who persisted in their deeds until when death comes to anyone of them, he will say: "My Lord, send me back to the world that I have left behind. I am likely to do good." Nay, it is merely words that he is uttering. There is a barrier between the dead until the Day when they will be raised up. **And then no sooner the Trumpet is blown than there will remain no kinship among them, nor will they ask one another.** When the Hour come those, whose scales are heavy, they will be the one who will attain success; and those whose scales are light, will be the ones who will have courted loss. They will abide in Hell. The Fire shall scorch their faces, exposing their jaws. They will be asked, "Are you not those to whom My revelations were recited, and you dubbed them as lies?" They will say: "Our Lord! Our misfortune prevailed over us. We were indeed an erring people. Our Lord! Take us out of this, then if we revert to evil doing, we shall indeed be wrongdoers. Allah will say: "Away from Me; stay where you are and do not address Me." You are those when a party of My servants said: "Our Lord, we believe, so forgive us, and have mercy on us, for You are the Best of those that are merciful," you made a laughingstock of them and your hostility to them caused you to forget Me, and you simply kept making fun (99-110).

**Lessons:** The polytheists of Makkah were the followers of Abraham<sub>(AS)</sub>, they believed in Allah. But due to blind following of their scholars they shut their eyes and ears to the truth. That is why Allah tells the Prophet to ask them, "Whose is the earth and those who are in it? Tell us if you know" They will say, "Allah's". Say, "Then why do you not take heed?" Ask them: "Who is the Lord of the seven heavens, the Lord of the Great Throne?" They will surely say: "Allah." Say: "Will you not, then, fear Him?" Ask them: "If you indeed know, to whom belongs the dominion over all things; that grants asylum, but against Whom no asylum is available?" They will surely say: "It belongs to Allah." Say, then what is deluding you? The Truth has been brought before them, and there is no doubt that they are lying (84-90).

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## 24. Lessons in Surah Noor

The Surah Noor (the Light) is the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 64 verses. The Surah takes its name from verse 35. It was revealed in Medina. It was revealed to strengthen the morals of the Muslim society, which was shaken by the slander against

Aeysha(RA), wife of the Prophet(SAW) and daughter of Abu Bakr Siddiq(RA).

## Summary of subjects

**Allah:** Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth. The parable of His Light is a niche wherein is a lamp, the lamp is in a glass, the glass as it were a glittering star, lit from a blessed olive tree, neither eastern nor western, whose oil almost lights up, without fire touching it. Light upon light. Allah guides to His Light whomever He wishes. Allah draws parables for mankind, and Allah has knowledge of all things. Those guided by His Light are found in those houses which He has enjoined to raise up and to mention His name therein, they glorify Him morning and evening, neither trade nor bargaining distracts them from the remembrance of Allah and the maintenance of prayer and the giving of zakat. They are fear the Day when the hearts will be overturned, and eyes will be petrified. Then Allah will reward them for their good deeds, and enhance them by His grace, and Allah provides for whomever He wishes without any reckoning (35-38). Do you not observe that all those who are in the heavens and the earth, and the birds with outspread wings, glorify Allah? Each one knows the mode of its prayer and glorification, and Allah has full knowledge of all they do. The kingdom of the heavens and the earth belongs to Allah alone, and all shall have to return to Him. Do you not observe that Allah drives the clouds, then He composes them, then He piles them up, whereat you see that raindrops fall from its midst. And He sends down hail from the sky, out of the mountains that are in it, and He smites with it whomever He wills, and turns it away from whomever He wills. The flash of lightning from it dazzles the eyes. Allah alternates the night and the day. There is indeed a lesson in that for those who have insight. Allah created every creature from water. Among them are some that crawl upon their bellies, and among them are some that walk on two feet, and among them are some that walk on four. Allah creates whatever He wills, for He has power over all things. We have sent down Revelations that make the reality quite plain; however, Allah guides to the straight path whomsoever He pleases (41-46).

**Mohammed(SAW):** We have sent down to you Revelations giving clear guidance and a description of those who passed before you, as an advice for the God fearing (34).

**Commandments:** The woman and the man guilty of fornication, flog each one of them with a hundred lashes and let not pity for them restrain you in Allah's Law, if you believe in Allah and the Last Day, and let their punishment be witnessed by a group of the faithful. The fornicator shall not marry anyone but a fornicates or

an idolatress, and none shall marry a fornicates except by a fornicator or an idolater, such marriages are forbidden to true believers. As for those who accuse chaste women and do not bring four witnesses, flog them eighty lashes, and never accept any testimony thereafter, they are transgressors, except those who later repent and reform, for Allah is indeed all-forgiving, all-merciful. As for those who accuse their own wives but have no witness except themselves, the evidence of one of them is that he shall swear four times by Allah and declare that he is true (in his charge). Then the fifth time he shall declare that Allah's curse be upon him if he be false (in his charge). (As for the woman), it shall avert the punishment from her if she swears four times by Allah that the man is false (in his charge) and the fifth time she invokes Allah's wrath upon herself, if he be true (in his charge). If Allah had not shown you His grace and mercy and if Allah had not been most Forgiving and All-Wise, you would have been in a great fix (2-10). O believers, your slaves and those of your children, who have not yet reached puberty, should seek your permission on three occasions of privacy: before the dawn prayer, and when you put off your garments at noon, and after the night prayer. Apart from these, it is not sinful of you or them to come without permission at other times. Thus does Allah clarify the signs for you, and Allah is all-knowing, all-wise. When your children reach puberty, let them always ask permission just as those [who grew up] before them asked permission. Thus does Allah clarify His signs for you, **and Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise**. There is no sin for such elderly women who have past the age of marriage to lay aside their outer garments if they do not mean to display their adornment. Nevertheless, if they behave modestly, it would be better for them: **for Allah hears everything and knows everything**. There is no blame upon the blind, nor upon the lame, nor upon the sick, nor upon yourselves if you eat from your own houses, or your fathers' houses, or your mothers' houses, or your brothers' houses, or your sisters' houses, or the houses of your paternal uncles, or the houses of your paternal or maternal aunts, or the houses of your uncles, or those whose keys are in your possession, or those of your friends. There will be no blame on you whether you eat together or separately; however, when you enter the houses, you should send greetings of peace on your people, for the prayer of greetings prescribed by Allah is blessed and pure. Thus, Allah clarifies His signs for you so that you will use your common sense to grasp them (58-61).

**The believer:** O Believers, do not follow in Satan's footsteps, for he will incite to indecency and wickedness any who will follow him. Were it not for Allah's grace and His mercy upon you, not one of you would ever become pure. But Allah purifies whomever He wishes, and Allah is all-hearing, all-knowing (21). O Believers do not

enter other houses than your own until you have the approval of the inmates and have wished them peace; that is better for you. Maybe you will take admonition. If you do not find anyone therein, do not enter until you are given permission. And if you are told to go back, you should go back. This is a purer way for you. Allah has full knowledge of what you do. There is, however, no harm if you enter houses which are not dwelling places but contain something useful for you; Allah knows what you disclose and what you conceal. Enjoin the believing men to restrain their gaze and guard their private parts. This is a more righteous way for them. Allah has knowledge of what they do. And tell the faithful women to cast down their looks and to guard their private parts, and not to display their charms, beyond what is acceptably visible, and let them draw their veils over their bosoms, and not display their charms except to their husbands, or their fathers, or their husband's fathers, or their sons, or their husband's sons, or their brothers, or their brothers' sons, or their sisters' sons, or their women, or their slave girls, or male attendants lacking sex desire, or children who are not yet conscious of sex desire. And let them not thump their feet to make known their hidden ornaments. O faithful, rally to Allah in repentance, so that you may attain true success (27-31). As regards the Believers, when they are called towards Allah and His Messenger so that the Messenger may judge between them, they say, "We have heard and obeyed;" such are the people who attain true success. Whoever obeys Allah and His Apostle, and fears Allah and refrains from His disobedience, it is they who will be successful (51-52). Allah has promised those of you who believe and do righteous deeds that He will make them successors in the land, just as He made those who passed away before them, and He will surely establish for them their religion which He has approved for them and will change their present state of fear into peace and security. So, worship Me and do not associate anyone with Me. And whoever disbelieves after that are the transgressors. Therefore, establish prayers, pay the Zakat dues, and obey the Messenger; it is expected that you will be shown mercy. Do not suppose that those who are faithless can frustrate Allah in the land; their abode is Hell, and it is a very evil abode (55-57). The true believers are those who believe in Allah and His Messenger with a sincere heart, and when they are with him for some collective work, they do not leave without permission. Therefore, when they ask your permission for a private business, you may give permission to whomever you like, and ask Allah's forgiveness for such people. Allah is indeed Forgiving and Merciful. O Believers do not misunderstand the calling of the Messenger among you as if calling one another. Allah certainly knows those of you who slip away shielding one another. Those who disobey his orders should beware lest be caught in an affliction

or a painful punishment should befall them. Behold! To Allah indeed belongs whatever is in the heavens and the earth. He certainly knows your present state. The Day they are brought back to Him He will inform them about what they have done, and Allah has knowledge of all things (62-64).

**The Disbelievers:** As for the disbelievers, their deeds are like mirages in the desert, which the thirsty perceive as water. When he comes to it, he finds nothing to drink; but there he finds Allah Who settles his full account, and Allah is swift at reckoning. Or their efforts are like a man trying to swim in a deep dark ocean, covered by billow upon billow, overcast by clouds; manifold [layers of] darkness, one on top of another: when he brings out his hand, he can hardly see it. One whom Allah has not granted any light has no light (39-40).

**The Hypocrites:** As for those, who want indecency to spread among the faithful, there is a painful punishment for them in this world and the Hereafter, and Allah knows, and you do not know. Were it not for Allah's grace and His mercy upon you, this scandal would have produced very evil results. Allah is indeed very Kind and Merciful (19-20). Indeed, those who slander chaste and unwary faithful women shall be cursed in this world and the Hereafter, and there shall be a great punishment for them on the day when witness shall be given against them by their tongues, their hands, and their feet concerning what they used to do. On that day, Allah will give them full recompense they deserve, and they shall know that Allah is the Manifest Reality (23-25). They say, "We believe in Allah and the Messenger and we have submitted". Then, after that, some of them refuse to comply. Such people do not have faith. When they are called to Allah and His Messenger so that the Messenger may judge between them, a party of them turns away. However, if the truth be on their side, they come towards the Messenger in all obedience. Their hearts are afflicted with the disease of hypocrisy, or fear that Allah and His Apostle will be unjust to them? In fact, they themselves are unjust (47-50). The hypocrites swear oaths by Allah that if you order them, they will surely march out. Say, "Do not swear oaths, the state of your obedience is known, and Allah is fully aware of your deeds." Tell them: Obey Allah and His Messenger, but if you turn your backs, then know that he is only responsible for his own burden and you for yours, and if you obey him, you will be guided, he his only responsible for conveying the message to you (53-54).

**Admonishing:** This is a Surah which We have sent down and We have made it mandatory, and We have sent down clear Commandments in it so that you take admonition (1). Those who initiated the slander are a group from amongst you. You should not,

however, regard this matter as evil for it has good in it for you. Whoso took any part in this, he earned his share of the sin accordingly, and the one, who had the greatest share of responsibility in it, shall have a terrible punishment. Why didn't the believing men and the believing women, think well of their folks, and why did they not say, "This is a manifest slander?" Why did the slanderers not bring four witnesses? As they have not brought witnesses, they themselves are liars in the sight of Allah. Were it not for Allah's grace and His mercy upon you in this world and the Hereafter, there would have befallen you a great punishment for what you ventured into, when you passed this lie on from one tongue to the other and uttered with your mouths that of which you had no knowledge. You took it as a trifling matter whereas it was a grave offense in the sight of Allah. And when you heard this, why didn't you say, "It is not for us to utter such a thing. O Allah! You are immaculate! This is a great slander!" Allah admonishes the believers that in future they should never repeat a thing like this. Allah makes His Revelations clear to you, and He is All-Knowing, All-Wise (11-18). The well-off and the opulent among you should not swear an oath that they would withhold their help from their relatives (the slanderer), the indigent and those who have left their homes for the cause of Allah, they should forgive and forbear. Do you not wish that Allah forgives you? Allah is All-Forgiving and Merciful (22). Impure women are for impure men, and impure men for impure women. Pure women are for pure men, and pure men for pure women. These are absolved of what they say about them. For them is forgiveness and a noble provision (26). Arrange marriages between the single men and women among you and between your slave men and slave women, who are righteous, if they are poor, Allah will enrich them out of His grace, Allah has boundless resources, and He is All Knowing. Those who cannot afford marriage should observe continence until Allah enriches them. And if your slaves ask for an emancipation deal, make such a deal with them if you know any good in them, and give them something out of the means Allah has given you. And do not force your slave-girls into prostitution for your own worldly gains when they themselves want to keep chaste; and if anyone forces them into it, after such a compulsion Allah will be forgiving and merciful for them (32-33).

**Lessons:** 1) Avoid slandering anyone, and especially be careful about accusations of adultery against people of good repute. 2) Neither spread it. 3) Spreading indecency and false rumours deserve punishment in Muslim society. 4) Men and women are forbidden to make eye contact or look at each other. 5) Get the unmarried men, women, slaves, and concubines married, because unmarried people are cause of spreading immorality. 6) To discourage slavery, owners and others were ordered to financially support slaves to gain

their freedom under the Makatab Law. 7) Forced prostitution of concubines or women is prohibited by law. 8) Food stolen by blind, lame, crippled, sick and hungry person shall not be considered theft or fraud.

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## 25. Lessons in Surah Furqan

The Surah Furqan is the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 77 verses. The Surah takes its name from the first verse and has a close relation to its subject matter. From its style and subject matter, it appears that it was also revealed during the third stages of Makkah period. The Surah deals with the doubts and objections raised by the polytheists of Makkah against the Quran, the Prophethood of Mohammed(SAW) and his teachings.

### Summary of subjects

**Allah:** He is the blessed One, Who has sent down Al-Furqan (Criterion, the Quran) on His servant **so that it may be a warner to all mankind.** To Him belongs the Sovereignty of the heavens and the earth, He begot no son and has no partner in His Sovereignty. He created everything and ordained its destiny. **Yet the people have set up, besides Him, deities, who do not create anything but are themselves created, who can neither harm nor help even themselves, who have no power over life or death, nor can they raise up the dead (1-3).** He is the blessed one, Who has made fortified spheres in the heavens and has set in it a “lamp” and a shining moon. He causes the night and the day to succeed each other, so that anyone who desires may learn a lesson or be grateful (61-62).

**Quran:** Those who have rejected the Message say, “This Quran is a forgery which this man himself has devised, and some others have helped him at it.” A great injustice and an impudent lie that these people have descended on. They say, these are the writings of the ancients which this person copied, and they are recited to him in the morning and in the evening. O Mohammed, say to them, “This has been sent down by Allah, Who knows the secret of the heavens and the earth.” The fact is that He is ever Forgiving and Merciful (4-6).

**Mohammed(SAW):** **All the Messengers whom We sent before you also ate food and walked the streets.** In fact, We have made you all a means of test for one another. Will you show patience, for your Lord sees everything (20). O Prophet, in this very way We have made the criminals the enemies of every Prophet, but your Lord suffices for you as your Guide and Helper. The disbelievers say **that why the entire Quran was not revealed to this person at the same time. This is because we wanted him(SAW) to memorize it well.**

**So, We have sent it down piecemeal by degrees. And wisdom in this is, whenever they brought to you an odd question, We sent its right answer to you in time and explained it all in the best manner.** Those who are going to be driven to Hell upon their faces, took an utterly wrong stand and their way is most erroneous (31-34). Had We willed, We would have raised up a separate Warner in each habitation. **So, O Prophet, do not yield to the disbelievers, but wage a Jihad against them with this Quran (51-52).** We have sent you only to proclaim good tidings and to give warning. **Tell them, "I do not ask of you any recompense for this work, I only ask of the one, who wills to adopt the way of his Lord."** O Mohammed have trust in Allah Who is Immortal and will never die. Glorify Him with His praise, for He alone is sufficient to be aware of the sins of His servants (56-58). O, Mohammed, tell the people, "My Lord does not care at all if you do not invoke Him. Now that you have denied His Revelations, you will soon be awarded such a punishment which you will never be able to avoid" (77).

**Prophets(AS):** We gave **Moses** the Book and appointed his brother **Aaron** as his advisor. Then We said, "Go to the people who denied Our signs." So, We annihilated them completely. The same was the case with the people of **Noah** when they charged the Messenger with imposture. We drowned them and made them a sign of warning for entire mankind, and We have prepared a painful chastisement for the unjust. Likewise, were destroyed the Ad and the Thamud and the people of the Rass, and many a generation in between. **We admonished each one of them by citing the examples of those who were destroyed before them, and ultimately annihilated all of them.** Surely, these people have passed by that habitation on which was rained an evil rain; have they not seen its ruins? **But they do not expect another life in the Hereafter (35-40).**

**The believer:** Are those who deserve the Garden, they will have a good abode and on Resurrection Day a cool place for midday rest (24). They are the true servants of the Merciful who walk humbly on the earth and when the ignorant people behave insolently towards them, say, "Peace to you", who pass their nights in prostration and standing before their Lord, who pray, "**Our Lord, save us from the torment of Hell, for its torment is killing, it is an evil abode and an evil resting place,**" who are neither extravagant nor miserly, but keep the mean between the two extremes, who do not invoke any god but Allah, nor kill a soul which Allah has forbidden unjustly, nor commit adultery. He who does this shall be punished for his sin, and his torment shall be doubled on the Day of Resurrection, and he shall abide in a state of ignominy, except the one who may have repented after those sins and have believed and done righteous

works, for then Allah will change his evil deeds into good deeds, and He is very Forgiving and Merciful. In fact, the one who repents and does righteous deeds, returns to Allah as one rightly should. They do not bear witness to falsehood and who; if they have ever to pass by what is vain, pass by like dignified people, **When they are admonished by the revelations of their Lord, they do not remain blind and deaf to it.** Those who pray, “**Our Lord, bless us with wives and children, who may be the comfort of our eyes, and make us leaders of the righteous.**” Such are the people who will be rewarded with high palaces for their fortitude, wherein they will be welcomed with due respect, honor, and salutations and wherein they will live forever. What an excellent abode and what an excellent resting place (63-76).

**Disbelievers:** They say, “What sort of a Messenger is he that eats food and walks the streets? Why has not an angel been sent down to accompany him and threaten the disbelievers? Or why has not at least a treasure been sent down for him or a garden given to him for easy sustenance?” And the wicked people say, “You are following a man bewitched.” Just see what strange arguments they bring forward regarding you! They have gone so far astray that they cannot charge anything against you. Highly blessed is He, Who, if He wills, could give you much more and better things than what they propose for you. Many gardens, beneath which rivers flow; and big castles. The fact of the matter is that these people have denied **“the Hour”**. And for the one who denies the coming of the Hour, a blazing Fire awaits them. When they will see it from afar, they will hear its raging and roaring. And when they are chained together and flung into a narrow space therein, they will begin to ask for death. They would be told not to call for one death, but for many deaths. They will be asked, “Is this Fire better or the eternal Paradise that was promised to the God-fearing righteous people?” A recompense of their good deeds and the final abode of their journey, wherein they will get everything they desire and wherein they will dwell forever. This is a promise which your Lord has taken upon Himself to fulfill (7-16). Those people, who have no fear of returning to Us, say, “Why weren’t the angels sent down to us, or see our Lord.” Great arrogance have they assumed about themselves and have transgressed all limits in their rebellion. The Day, when they will see the angels, will not be a day of rejoicing for the criminals; they will cry out, “May Allah save us!” Then We shall turn to what they had done and render it vain like scattered dust (21-23).

**Polytheist:** That Day your Lord will gather all these people together as well as their deities, whom they worship besides Allah. Then He will ask these gods, **“Did you mislead these servants of Mine, or**

**did they themselves go astray?" They will answer, "Glory be to Yee, we dared not take any guardian besides Yee.** They were misled because You gave them and their forefathers all the good things of life till they forgot the Admonition and incurred the punishment." Thus, your deities will deny all that you are professing today. You shall neither be able to repel your punishment nor get any help from anywhere; and whoso is guilty of iniquity among you, We shall make him taste a severe torment (17-19). When these people see you, they scoff at you, saying, "Is this the man whom Allah has sent as His Messenger? He had almost led us astray from our gods, had we not remained firm in our faith regarding them." The time is not far when they will see the torment and realize who had strayed far from the truth (41-42). Yet they worship, instead of Allah, those who can neither benefit them nor harm them, more than this, the disbeliever has become a helper of every rebel against his Lord (55). When it is said to them. "Prostrate yourselves before the Merciful," they retort, "What is the Merciful? Would you have us prostrate ourselves before whomsoever you will?" And this invitation only helps to increase their hatred even more (60).

**Admonishing: Have you ever considered the case of the person who has made his desire his god? Can you take the responsibility of guiding such a one aright?** Do you think that most of them hear or understand? They are only like the cattle, nay, even worse than the cattle. Have you not seen how your Lord lengthens out the shadow? Had He willed, He would have made it constant, but We have made the sun its pilot; then as the sun climbs up, We roll it up little by little. And it is Allah Who has ordained the night as a garment for you, and the sleep as a repose of death, and the day as the time of return to life. And it is He, Who drives the winds to be the harbingers of His mercy, then He sends down pure water from the sky so that He may revive the dead land, and quench the thirst of many of His creatures from among beasts and men. We present the same phenomenon repeatedly before them so that they may learn a lesson from it; but most people decline to adopt any other attitude than of disbelief and ingratitude (43-50).

**End Times:** On that Day, a cloud will appear rending the sky and the angels will be sent down rank after rank. Kingdom on that Day is the right of the Most Gracious, and it will be a very hard day for the disbelievers. That Day the disbeliever will bite his hand and say, "I wish I had taken the path of the Messenger! Woe to me, I wish I had not taken so-and-so as a friend! Indeed, it was he, who had deluded me to reject the Admonition which had come to me. Satan has proved very treacherous to man." And the Messenger will say,

“O my Lord, my people had made this Quran the object of their ridicule” (25-30).

**Scientifical facts:** And it is He, Who has let loose the two seas, one palatable and sweet, the other bitter and salty, and there is a partition between them, which is an in-surmountable barrier. And it is He, Who created man from water: then from him He caused two kinds of kindred, by blood and by marriage, your Lord is All Powerful (53-54). In six days, He created the earth and the heavens and all that is between them; then He established Himself on the Kingdom of the universe. He is the Merciful, as to His Glory, ask the one who know (59).

**Lessons:** 1) To walk humbly on the earth. 2) Pass nights in prostration and standing before the Lord. 3) Be neither extravagant nor miserly but live between the two extremes. 4) Do not invoke any god besides Allah. 5) do not kill a soul which Allah has forbidden unjustly. 6) Do not commit adultery. 7) Do not bear false witness. 8) When you pass by something vulgar, pass by like noble people. 9) **Deities besides Allah cannot create anything, they themselves are created ones. They cannot help themselves, nor can they raise up the dead.**

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## 26. Lessons in Surah Shuara

The Surah Shuara is the 26<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 227 verses. The Surah takes its name from verse 224. The theme of the surah suggests it was revealed during the middle stage of the Makkhan period. Its addresses the disbelievers of Makkah who were constantly refusing to accept the message of Islam. They insisted that Mohammed(SAW) should provide them evidence to support his claim of prophethood. They called him a poet, a magician and mocked his message. It was creating anguish and misery for Mohammed(SAW).

### Summary of subjects

**Allah:** The fact is that your Lord is the Almighty, the Merciful.

**The Quran:** These are the verses of the Clear Book (1-2). The devils did not descend with this book, nor does it behove them, nor does it lie in their power. They are debarred from even hearing it (210-212).

**Mohammed(SAW):** O Prophet, perhaps you will lose your life because these people do not believe. If We will, We can send down upon them from heaven a sign, upon which their necks would be bowed in humility. Whatever new admonition comes to them from the Most Merciful, they turn their backs at it. They denied the truth, they would soon realize what they used to mock (3-6). It has been revealed by the Lord of the worlds. The Holy Spirit (Gabriel)

descended upon your heart with it, so that you may be among those who warn the people in clear Arabic language. It is also present in the scriptures of the previous people. **Is it not a Sign for them that the scholars of the Children of Israel recognized it?** But they are adamant to such an extent that even if We revealed it to a foreigner and he recited it to them, they would not believe in it. Thus, We make this Admonition enter into the hearts of the transgressors (192-200).

**So, O Mohammed(SAW), do not invoke any other deity besides Allah, else you will be of those who will be chastised.** And warn your near kins, and treat those of the believers who follow you with kindness, but if they disobey you, say to them: "I am not accountable of what you do." And put your trust in Allah the Merciful, Who sees you when you rise, and your devotion amidst the worshipers. He is indeed the All-Hearing, the All-Aware (213-220).

**Prophets(AS):** Recall when your Lord called **Moses(AS)**, saying: "Go to the people of Pharaoh. Will they not fear?" He said, "My Lord, I fear they will reject me. And I become stressed, and my tongue is not fluent, so, make **Aaron(AS)** a prophet and send him with me. And they have a charge against me, so I fear they will kill me." He said: "No! So, both of you go with Our Signs. We will be with you and listening to everything. Go to Pharaoh and say, "We have been sent by the Lord of all Creation with the message that let the Israelites go with us (10-17)." Pharaoh said. "Did we not bring you up among us as a child, and did you not live among us for many years, then you did what you did, you are an ungrateful man (18-19)." Moses(AS) answered, "It happened inadvertently; then out of fear I fled from you. Then my Lord gave me wisdom and knowledge and made me a Messenger. As for the favour of raising me, for which you taunt me with, it was because you had enslaved the Israelites (20-22).

Pharaoh said, "And who is this Lord of the worlds?" He(AS) answered, "The Lord of the heavens and the earth and everything between them, if only you believe." Pharaoh said to those around him, "Do you hear?" He says, "Your Lord as well as Lord of your ancestors who have passed before." Pharaoh said to all those present, "This messenger of yours, who has been sent to you, seems to be crazy." Moses(AS) continued, "He is Lord of the east and the west and everything between them, if you understand." Pharaoh said, "If you take any one other than me as a deity, you will rot in the prison." He(AS) said, "Even if I bring forth a clear sign?" Pharaoh replied, "Well, bring it if you are truthful." No sooner he said this, he(AS) cast his staff, and behold, it was a veritable serpent. Then he drew out his hand from the armpit and it was shining bright (23-33).

Pharaoh said to the chiefs around him, "This fellow is certainly a skilled magician, he intends to drive you out of your land by means

of his magic. Now, what is your command?" They said, "Delay him and his brother for a while, and send forth recruiters to the cities to summon every skilled magician." So, the magicians gathered for the contest on the appointed day. Then the people were asked, have you all gathered? So that we follow the magicians if they win. When the magicians arrived for the contest, they said to Pharaoh, "Is there a reward for us if we win?" He said, "Yes, and you will be among those favoured." Moses<sub>(AS)</sub> said, "Present what you intend to present." So, they threw their ropes and their sticks, and said, "By the majesty of Pharaoh, we will be the winners." Then Moses threw his staff, and behold, it started swallowing their trickery. At this, all the magicians fell in prostration, and cried out, "We have believed in the Lord of the worlds, the Lord of Moses and Aaron." Pharaoh said, "Did you believe in Him before I have given you permission? He must be your chief, who taught you magic. You will soon know. I will cut off your hands and feet on opposite sides, and I will crucify you all." They replied, "We care not, to our Lord we will return. We expect that our Lord will forgive us our sins since we are the first to believe" (34-51).

We inspired Moses: "Depart by night with My servants, for you will be pursued." Pharaoh sent emissaries to the cities to gather troops. Saying: "These are a handful of people, who have certainly provoked our wrath, and we are a large force, ever on guard." So, We brought them out of gardens and fountains and treasures and noble houses. This is how they were dealt with. And We made the Children of Israel inherit them. And they pursued them at sunrise. When the two hosts came face to face with each other, the followers of Moses cried out, "We are being overtaken." Moses said, "No, my Lord is with me. He will surely guide me." We inspired Moses, to strike the sea with his staff. Whereupon it parted, and each part was like a huge hill. And We led to the same place the other host, too. We saved Moses and all those with him and drowned the others. In that there is a Sign, but most of them are not believers. Surely, your Lord is Almighty, the Merciful (52-68).

And relate them the story of **Abraham** when he said to his father and his people: "What do you worship?" They answered, "We worship idols and serve them devotedly." Abraham asked, "Do they hear you when you pray? Or do they benefit you, or harm you?" They replied, "No, but we found our ancestors doing so." At this, Abraham said, "Have you considered what you and your ancestors' worship? They are all enemies to me, except the Lord of the worlds, Who created me, Who guides me, Who gives me food and drink, and when I get sick, He heals me. Who will cause me to die and then revive me, and of Whom I expect that He will forgive my sins on the Day of Reckoning." Abraham prayed: "My Lord! Grant

me wisdom, and include me with the righteous, and grant me a reputation of truth among the others and make me among the inheritors of the blissful Garden, and forgive my father, for indeed he is from among those who have strayed, and do not disgrace me on the Day when everyone is resurrected. The Day when nothing will avail, neither wealth nor offspring, Except for him who comes to Allah with a sound heart.” (69-89).

People of Noah rejected the Messengers. Their brother **Noah**<sup>(AS)</sup> said to them: “Do you not fear? I am to you a faithful messenger. So, fear Allah and obey me. I seek of you no reward for this, for my reward is with the Lord of the worlds; so, fear Allah and obey me.” They said, “Shall we accept you, when it is the lowliest who follow you?” Noah said, “I have no knowledge of their deeds, their account is the responsibility of my Lord, if you act wisely. It is not my job to rebuke those who believe. I am only a plain Warner.” They said, “O Noah, If you do not desist, you will be one of the accursed.” Noah prayed: “My Lord, my people have denied me, so, judge between me and them decisively, and deliver me and the believers who are with me.” So, We delivered him and those with him in the laden Ark, and drowned the rest. Indeed, there is a Sign in this, but most do not believe. The fact is that your Lord is Almighty as well as Merciful (105-122).

Ad rejected the Messengers. Remember the time when their brother **Hud**<sup>(AS)</sup> said to them, “Do you not fear? I am to you a faithful Messenger, so fear Allah, and obey me. I ask of you no reward for this, for my reward is with the Lord of the worlds. “You build a monument on every height for vanity’s sake and setup fortresses, hoping to live forever. And when you strike, you strike like tyrants? So, fear Allah and obey me. Fear Him Who has bestowed on you all that you know. He gave you cattle and children and gardens and water-springs. I fear the torment of a dreadful Day for you.” They replied, “Whether you admonish us or not, it is the same for us, such things have been said in the past as well, and we are certainly not going to be chastised.” At last, they rejected him, and We destroyed them. The fact is that your Lord is Mighty as well as Merciful (123-140).

Thamud rejected the Messengers, when their brother **Salih**<sup>(AS)</sup> said to them, “Do you not fear? I am to you a trust-worthy Messenger, so fear Allah and obey me. I ask of you no reward, my reward is with the Lord of the worlds. Do you believe that you will be left here to live securely in the present state? In the gardens and the water-springs? In the cornfields and the date-groves laden with juicy fruit? You skilfully carve out dwellings in the hills. So, fear Allah and obey me, and do not follow the transgressors who spread mischief in the land, and do not reform.” They said, “You are surely

one of the be-witched. You are no more than a man like us, bring forth a sign if you are truthful." Salih said, "Here is a **she-camel**. One day will be for her to drink, and one day for you all to take water. Do not harm her, lest the punishment of a great day seizes you." Yet they slaughtered her and became full of remorse. So, the punishment overtook them. Indeed, in this is a Sign, but most of them are not believers. Your Lord is the Almighty, the Merciful (141-159).

The people of Lot rejected the Messengers. When their brother **Lot<sup>(AS)</sup>** said to them, "Do you not fear? I am to you a trustworthy Messenger, so, fear Allah and obey me. I ask of you no reward for this duty, for my reward is with the Lord of the worlds. Do you approach the males of the world, and forsake the wives your Lord created for you? Indeed, you are intrusive people." They said, "O Lot, if you do not desist, you will be expelled." He said, "I certainly deplore your conduct." "My Lord, save me and my family from what they do." So, We saved him and his family except an old woman among those who tarried. Then We destroyed the others, and rained on them a horrible rain, which fell on those who had been warned. Indeed, there is a Sign in this, but most of these people would not believe. Your Lord is the Almighty, the Merciful (160-175).

The people of the Aykah rejected the Messengers, when **Shuaib<sup>(AS)</sup>** said to them, "Do you not fear? I am a trustworthy Messenger to you, so fear Allah and obey me. I ask of no reward for this, for my reward is with the Lord of the worlds. Give full measure and do not cheat; weigh with accurate scales, and do not defraud people of their belongings, and do not spread corruption in the land. And fear Him Who has created you and those who have gone before you." They said, "You are one of those bewitched, and you are no more than a man like us, we consider you to be a liar. However, if you are truthful, cause a fragment of the sky to fall upon us." Shuaib said, "My Lord is Well Aware of what you do." But they denied him. At last, the torment of the Day of Canopy overtook them, and it was the torment of an extremely dreadful day. Surely there is a Sign in this, but most of them would not believe. The fact is that your Lord is Mighty as well as Merciful (176-191).

**The Disbelievers:** They will not believe in it until they clearly see the grievous chastisement. When unaware it comes upon them suddenly, then they will say, "Can we be granted some respite?" Do they really want Our chastisement to be expedited? Have you considered: if We let them enjoy themselves for some years, and then there comes to them what they were promised, of what avail will be the provisions of life which they were provided (201-207)?

**Polytheists:** That Day, Paradise will be brought near to the God fearing, and the Blaze will be uncovered for those who strayed, and

they will be asked: “Where are those you used to worship besides Allah? Can they help you, or help themselves?” Then they will be toppled into it, together with the seducers, and the soldiers of Satan. There they will quarrel with one another, and the erring ones will say to their deities: “By Allah, We were in evident error, for equating you with the Lord of the Worlds.” It is none but those steeped in guilt who led us astray. Now we have no intercessors, and no sincere friend. If only we could have another chance, we would be among the faithful” (90-102).

**Admonishing:** Do they not look at the earth, how We caused a variety of fine vegetation to grow from it in abundance? Surely in this is a sign, but most of them are not believers. The fact is that your Lord is the Almighty, the Merciful (7-9).

**Important Verses:** Never We destroy a town unless it had its warner to administer admonition. As a reminder, We are never unjust (208-209). O people, shall I inform you upon whom the satanic devils descend? They descend upon every sinful liar, on those who whisper hearsay in the ears of people; and most of them are liars (221-223). As for the poets, the deviators follow them. Do you not see how they wander aimlessly in every valley and say what they do not do. Save those who believed and did good works and remembered Allah much, and when they were treated unjustly, they only defended themselves and did not show vindictiveness. And the iniquitous people will soon come to know what punishment awaits them (224-227).

**Lessons:** 1) Those who are obstinate and do not act with reason are the ones who reject the Admonishing. 2) The story of Moses, Pharaoh and the salvation of the Israelites tells us that those who are steadfast in the way of Allah are successful in this world and the Hereafter. 3) The story of Abraham and his argument against the idolaters tells us that those who call on other besides Allah, are the dwellers of the Hellfire. 4) Apart from Allah, these false deities cannot listen to you, nor can they help anyone, they are incapable of helping themselves. 5) Idol worshippers, the seducers, and the soldiers of Satan will be toppled into the Hellfire. 6) If the Prophet also invokes other than Allah, he will go to hell. 7) Homosexuality is forbidden. 8) Give full measure and do not cheat. Weigh with the right scales. 9) Magic is nothing but deception. 10) No one will avail anyone in the Hereafter.

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## 27. Lessons in Surah Al-Naml

The Surah Al-Naml is the 27<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 93 verses. The Surah takes its name from verse 18 and is believed to have been revealed during the middle Makkan Period. The surah is

called al-Naml (ant) because it narrates the story of ants and the Prophet Solomon<sub>(AS)</sub>. It is recommended to prostrate when reciting verse 26.

## Summary of subjects

**Quran:** These are verses of the Quran, a Clear Book, providing guidance and good news for the believers who establish prayer and give alms and firmly believe in the Hereafter (1-3).

**Mohammed<sub>(SAW)</sub>:** Say, “Praise be to Allah, and peace be on those of His servants whom He has chosen” (59). Undoubtedly, you are receiving this Quran from the Most Wise, the All-Knowing (6). Say to them, that you have been commanded to worship the Lord of this City, Who has sanctified it and is the Owner of everything. I have been commanded to live as a Muslim and to recite the Quran to the people. Those who follow guidance do so for their own benefit, while those who go astray, tell them that you are merely a warner. Say: “All Praise be to Allah, Who will soon show you His Signs that you will recognize; and your Lord is aware of your deeds” (91-93).

**Prophets<sub>(AS)</sub>:** When **Moses<sub>(AS)</sub>** said to the people of his house, “I see a fire. Perhaps I can bring back some information from there, or a burning coal that you can use to warm yourselves.” When he approached the fire, a voice called out, “Blessed is He who is in the fire and all that surrounds it. Glory be to Allah, the Sustainer of all in the Universe. O Moses, this is indeed Me, Allah, the Almighty, the All-Wise. Now throw down your staff.” As soon as Moses saw the staff wriggling like a snake, he turned and fled without looking back. “O Moses do not fear: the Messengers do not fear in My Presence unless someone has committed a wrong. And if one turns from evil to good, I am indeed All-Forgiving, All-Merciful. Now, put your hand into your armpit; it will come out shining, unharmed. These are two of the nine Signs you will take to Pharaoh and his people, who are indeed a wicked people”. But when Our clear Signs came before them, they said, “This is just plain magic.” They rejected the Signs out of wickedness and vanity, although in their heart they were convinced of their truth. See how the fate of those wrongdoers ended (7-14).

However, We granted understanding to **David** and **Solomon**, and they said, “Praise be to Allah Who exalted us over many of His believing servants.” Solomon succeeded David and said, “O people, we have been taught the language of birds and have been given all kinds of things. Surely, this is a manifest favour from Allah.” Hosts of jinn and humans and birds were marshalled for Solomon and were kept under control. When he and his army marched through the valley of the ants, an ant warned, “O ants, enter

your dwellings, lest Solomon and his hosts crush you without realizing it.” Smiling at the ant’s words, Solomon burst into laughter and said: “My Lord, enable me to be grateful for Your blessings, which You have bestowed upon me and my parents, and to do good deeds that please You. Admit me, by Your mercy, among Your righteous servants” (15-19).

Solomon inspected the birds and said, “Why is it that I do not see the hoopoe? I will punish him severely, or even slaughter him, unless he presents a reasonable excuse.” The bird soon came and said, “I have brought information that you do not know. I have brought news about Sheba. I found a woman ruling over them, she has been endowed with all sorts of things, and has a splendid throne. I found that she and her people prostrate themselves before the sun instead of Allah.” Satan has made their deeds seem fair to them, and debarred them from the Right Path, so, they do not find the true guidance that they may prostrate themselves before Allah Who brings to light all that is hidden in the heavens and the earth and knows all that you conceal and that you reveal. None is worthy of worship besides Allah. He is the Lord of the Mighty Throne. Solomon said, “Soon shall we see whether you have spoken the truth, or you are a liar. Take this letter of mine and cast it before them; then get aside and observe what they do” (20-28).

The queen addressed her chiefs, stating that she had received an important letter from Solomon, which began with the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate. The letter instructed her not to act with defiance, but to come to him in submission. After reading the letter, the queen sought counsel from her chiefs, expressing that she does not make decisions without consulting them. The chiefs responded, affirming their strength as a warrior nation, and asked for her orders. The queen explained that when kings enter a land, they ruin it and humiliate its noble people, and she planned to send them a gift and wait to see what the envoys return with. When the Queen’s envoy came to Solomon, he declined the offer of wealth, stating that what God had given him was greater and warning of armies that they would not be able to withstand, and will drive you out of your land in disgrace (29-37).

Solomon asked his nobles, who among you can bring me her throne before she comes to me in submission? A powerful jinn declared, “I will bring it to you before you can even rise from your place. I have the ability and am trustworthy.” The one with knowledge of the Book said, “I will bring it to you in the blink of an eye.” Upon seeing the throne before him, Solomon exclaimed, “This is by the Grace of my Lord so that He may test me to see whether I am grateful or ungrateful! And the one who is grateful is grateful only for the good of his own self; as for the one who is ungrateful, my

Lord is All-Sufficient and Self-Exalted.” Solomon said, “Set her throne before her; let’s see whether she gets the truth, or she is one of those who are not guided.” When the queen arrived, she was asked if her throne is like this?” She replied, “We had already known this, and we surrendered.” What prevented her from believing was the worship of the gods she worshiped besides Allah, because she was from a disbelieving nation. She was asked to enter the palace. When she saw it, she thought it was a pool of water, so she tucked up her skirt to enter it. Solomon said, “It is the glossy floor of crystal.” At this she said, “O my Lord! I have been inflicting much wrong on myself; now I submit myself with Solomon to Allah, Lord of the Universe” (38:44).

And We sent to Thamud their brother **Salih** with the message “Serve Allah”, but suddenly, they split into two quarrelling factions. Salih said, “O my people, why do you hasten for the evil in preference to the good? Why don’t you ask forgiveness of Allah? Maybe that you are shown mercy.” They said, “We regard you and your companions as a sign of bad omens.” Salih said, “Your good and bad omens are from Allah. The fact is that you are a people who are on trial.

In the city, nine ringleaders fostered corruption and refused to rectify their actions. They conspired to attack Salih and his household at night, planning to deceive his guardian by claiming they were not present when the family was killed. Unbeknownst to them We too devised a plan. The result of their scheme was their utter destruction, along with all their followers. Their houses now stand desolate due to their wicked deeds. This serves as a lesson for the knowledgeable. We saved those who believed and refrained from disobedience (45-53).

And We sent **Lot**. Recall when he said to his people, “Do you commit indecency while witnessing it? Do you forsake women and pursue men for your desires? Indeed, you are a people deeply entrenched in ignorance.” However, his people’s only response was, “Expel Lot’s family from your town; they are self-proclaimed righteous.” Eventually, We saved him and his family, except his wife, whom We had destined to remain behind, and We showered upon them a devastating rain, a punishment for those who had been warned (54-58).

**The Disbelievers:** For those who reject the concept of an afterlife, we have made their actions appear pleasing to them, causing them to wander bewildered. They are the ones who will face a severe punishment, and they will be the ultimate losers in the life to come (4-5). The disbelievers’ question, “When we and our ancestors have turned to dust, will we truly be resurrected from our graves? This is the same message that was given to us and our ancestors before, but

it's nothing but fables passed down for generations. Tell them, "Travel through the land and see the end of those who transgressed" (67-69).

**Polytheists:** Ask them: "Who is better, Allah or the false gods that they associate with Him as His partners?" He created the heavens and the earth and sent down rainwater for you from the sky and caused the orchards full of beauty to grow. **Is there any god associated with Allah in these tasks?** He made the earth a place of rest, caused rivers to flow in it, set in it firm mountains, and placed barriers between the two bodies of water? **Is there any god associated with Allah in these tasks?** He listens to the oppressed when he invokes Him and relieves him of his affliction. And made you vicegerents in the earth? **Is there any god associated with Allah in these tasks?** He shows you the way in the darkness of the land and the sea and sends the winds as harbingers of His mercy. **Is there any god associated with Allah in these tasks?** **Far exalted is Allah above what they associate with Him.** He originated the creation and then reproduces it and provides sustenance from the sky and the earth. **Is there any god associated with Allah in these tasks?** Nay, they are a people who are veering away from the Right Path, who have no knowledge, and little do they reflect. Let them bring their proof if they are truthful. Only Allah has the knowledge of the unseen, in the heavens and the earth, **and the false deities do not even know when they will be raised back to life.** These people have lost the knowledge of the Hereafter; nay, they are in doubt about it; nay, they have turned blind eye to it (59-66).

**Admonishing:** O Prophet, do not grieve at their conspiracies. They ask that if you are truthful, when will this threat be fulfilled? Say, "A portion of the chastisement for which you are hastening might have reached you." Your Lord is highly Gracious, but most are ungrateful. Your Lord knows what they hide and reveal. There is nothing hidden from Him in the heavens and the earth that is not recorded in a clear Book. The Quran explained the issues to the Israelites concerning which they differed, and it is a Guidance and a Mercy for the believers. Your Lord will judge between them, He is the All-Mighty, the All-Knowing. So, rely on Allah because you are on the truth. You cannot make the dead hear, nor the deaf who turn their backs and flee from you, nor can you guide the blind of reason, nor prevent them from going astray. You can only guide those who believe in Our revelations (70-81).

**End Times:** When the fulfilment of our command draws near, We will bring forth for them an animal from the earth that will speak to those who rejected Our revelations. On that Day We will gather from every nation a large group of those who rejected Our Signs. Then they all will be ranked according to their actions. Then Allah

will ask them: “Did you consider my verses to be false without comprehending them?” If not, what were you doing? And the promise of punishment will be fulfilled on them because of their cruelty, then they will not be able to say anything. Did He not tell them that He has made the night for them to rest and made the day bright? Indeed, there were many signs in it for the believers. On the Day the Trumpet is blown, everyone in the heavens and on the earth will be terrified, except for those whom Allah wants to save. And all will come to Him humbled. On that Day You will see the mountains flying like clouds of dust. This will be the charisma of the power of Allah who has created all things with wisdom. He is aware of what you do (82-90).

**Lessons:** 1) Quran is clear Book of Guidance for the believers. 2) Those who follow guidance do so for their own benefit. 3) Those who reject the concept of an afterlife will be the losers. 4) Only Allah has the knowledge of the unseen, in the heavens and the earth, and the false deities do not even know when they will be raised back to life.

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## 28. Lessons in Surah Al-Qasas

The Surah Al-Qasas is the 28<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 88 verses. The Surah takes its name from verse 25 and is thought to have been revealed during the middle Makkan Period. The Surah's primary objective is to dispel doubts and objections surrounding Prophet Mohammed(SAW)'s prophethood and to refute the excuses for not believing in him(SAW). It is called Al-Qasas, meaning “to relate events in their proper sequence.”

### Summary of subjects

**Allah:** Your Lord creates whatever He wills and chooses for His task whomsoever He wills. It is not for them to make the choice. Allah is Pure and Your Lord knows what they conceal in their hearts and what they reveal. He is Allah; there is no god but Him. His is the praise in this world and in the Hereafter. Sovereignty is His, and to Him shall all of you be returned. O Prophet, tell them, “Have you ever considered that if Allah were to make the night perpetual for you till the Day of Resurrection, which deity, besides Allah, would bring you light? Don't you hear?” Ask them, “Have you ever considered that if Allah should make the day perpetual for you, till the Day of Resurrection, which deity, besides Allah, would bring you the night so that you may repose in it? Don't you see?” It is His Mercy that He has made the night and the day for you so that you may repose in the night and seek your Lord's bounty in the day; maybe that you might be grateful (68-73).

**Quran:** Ta. Sin. Mim. These are the verses of the Clear Book. We recount to you with truth some parts of the story of Moses<sup>(AS)</sup> and Pharaoh for the benefit of those who believe (1-3).

**Mohammed(SAW):** After destroying the prior generations, We granted Moses the Book as a source of, guidance, enlightenment, and mercy for people to reflect upon. O Mohammed, you were not there when We gave Moses the Law on the western side, nor were you a witness. Many generations had passed since then. You were not among the Midianites to recite Our verses to them. But it is We informing you of that time. Nor were at Mount Sinai when We first called out to Moses. It is by your Lord's mercy that He provides you with this knowledge so that you can warn those to whom no warner had come before you. Perhaps they will take heed. So that when a calamity befalls them due to their own misdeeds, they will not say, "Our Lord, had You sent a messenger to us, we would have followed the revelation and become a believer. Upon receiving the Truth from Us, they questioned, "Why was he not given that which was given to Moses?" Have they not rejected that which was given to Moses before? They claimed that both were magicians supporting each other and denied both (43-48). **O Prophet, you cannot guide whomever you please, but Allah guides whomever He wills. He knows best those who will accept guidance** (56). O Prophet, rest assured that the One who has ordained this Quran for you will surely bring you to the best outcome. Say, "My Lord knows best who has brought the true guidance, and who is in clear error." You did not expect that the Book would be revealed to you. It is only by the Mercy of your Lord that it was sent down to you; so, do not be a supporter of the unbelievers. And never let it happen that when the verses of Allah are revealed to you, the disbelievers prevent you from them. Call people towards your Lord and do not be a polytheist, nor invoke any deity besides Allah. There is no deity but He. All will perish but He. Sovereignty is His, and to Him will all of you return (85-88).

**Prophets<sup>(AS)</sup>:** Pharaoh transgressed in the land, dividing its people into groups. One group of them he humiliated and slew their sons and spared their daughters. Truly, he was among the mischief-makers. We wanted to bestow favor to the oppressed, making them leaders and heirs, and to grant them power in the land, to show Pharaoh and Haman, and their hosts, the same fear they had instilled in others (4-6).

We advised **Moses'** mother to nurse him and, when she fears for his safety, to place him in the river. She need not fear, for We would return him to her and make him a messenger. The Pharaoh's Wife picked him up from the river that he may be their adversary and be a cause of sorrow to them. Surely Pharaoh and Haman and their

hosts erred in their scheming. The Pharaoh's wife said to him, "He is a delight of the eye to me and to you. Do not kill him. Maybe he will prove useful for us, or we may adopt him as a son." And they were unaware of the end. The Moses' mother was very distressed. We strengthened her heart to keep his secret and have faith in Our promise. She told his sister to follow him discreetly. We had already forbidden the breasts of the nurses for the child. So, seeing this the girl said: "Shall I direct you to the people of a household that will rear him with utter sincerity?" Thus, Moses was returned to his mother, fulfilling Allah's promise. But most people are unaware of this (7-13).

When Moses reached adulthood and matured, We granted him wisdom and knowledge. One night, he entered the city and witnessed two men fighting, one from his own people and the other from his enemies. The man from his own people sought his help against the enemy, and in a fit of anger Moses punched him and killed him. Recognizing his error, he sought forgiveness from Allah, who indeed forgave him, being the All-Forgiving, the All-Merciful. Moses then vowed not to support the wrongdoers after this favor from Allah. The following morning, walking through the city in fear, Moses encountered the man who had asked for his help the day before, once again asking for assistance. Moses said to him that you are a very misguided fellow. And as Moses was about to lay his hand on the enemy's man, the first cried out: "Moses, do you intend to kill me as you killed a person yesterday?" You truly seek to become a tyrant in the land and do not want to set things right." Then, a man came running and said: "O Moses, the nobles are planning to kill you, so leave this place. I am your well-wisher." Soon after hearing this Moses departed in a state of fear, looking around as one in apprehension, and prayed: "My Lord, deliver me from these unjust people" (14-21).

When Moses left Egypt for Midian, he prayed, "I trust that my Lord will guide me to the right path." Upon reaching the spring of Midian, he found a group of people watering their flocks, and two women holding back their own. Moses asked the women, "What is your concern?" They replied, "We can't water our flocks until the shepherds leave, and our father is very old." Moses then watered their flocks and prayed, "My Lord, I am truly in great need of all good that You might send down to me." Soon after, one of the women shyly invites him to her father's house to repay him for helping them. When Moses explained his situation to the father, he reassured him, "Do not fear. You are now safe from the wicked people". One of the women advised her father to hire this trustworthy and honest man as a servant. Their father promised Moses that he would marry one of his daughters to him if he would

work for him for eight or possibly ten years. If Allah wills, you will find me an upright man.” Moses agreed, with the condition that there be no injustice to him after the agreed term (22-28).

When Moses had fulfilled the term and was journeying with his family, he perceived a fire in the direction of the Mount Sinai. He instructed his family to stay and said: “Maybe I will bring to you some news or a brand of fire from there that you may warm yourselves.” When he reached the fire, a voice from a tree on the right side of the valley said: “O Moses, I am Allah, the Lord of all creatures of the Universe.” Allah commanded Moses to cast down his staff, which turned into a snake. Moses fled but was told to come back and have no fear, as he was safe. Allah instructed him to put his hand into his armpit, and it came out shining without harm, and to fold back his arm to ward off fear. These are two clear Signs from Allah to be shown to Pharaoh and his courtiers, who were disobedient. Moses submitted, that he killed a man of theirs and feared for his life, and asked to send his brother Aaron who is more eloquent than him as a helper to support him, he feared that they will deny him. Allah assured Moses that both would be given power and that they would prevail with the help of Allah’s Signs (29-35).

When Moses came to them with our clear signs, they said: This is nothing but magic, we never heard these things in the time of our forefathers. Moses responded: “My Lord knows who comes with guidance from Him, and whose end will be good in the Hereafter. As for the wrongdoers, they shall not prosper”. Pharaoh said, “O nobles, I do not know that you have any god besides myself. O Haman, build me a high tower so that I may climb it to see the God of Moses for I consider him to be a liar.” He and his hosts waxed arrogant in the land unjustly, without any right, believing that they will never have to return to Us. Eventually, We seized him and his hosts and drowned them in the sea. Now see what fate the wicked people met. We made them leaders who guide the people to Hell, and on the Day of Judgment, they will not be able to get help from anywhere. We set a curse to follow them in this world and on the Day of Judgment, they shall be among the despised (36-42).

**The believer:** Those who received the Book before the Quran believe in it, and when it is recited to them, they say, “We believe in it; this is the truth from our Lord. Indeed, we were already Muslims.” They will be rewarded twice for their perseverance, repelling evil with good and spending in alms from what We have provided them. When they hear any vain talk, they turn away from it and say, “Our deeds are for us, and your deeds are for you. Peace be to you; we do not desire to act like the ignorant” (52-55). We will reserve the abode of the Hereafter for those who do not seek glory on earth or wish to cause mischief. The good of the Hereafter is only

for the Godfearing. Whoever does good will be rewarded with something better, and whoever does evil, the evildoers will be rewarded according to their deeds (83-84).

**The Disbelievers:** O Prophet, tell them to produce a book from Allah that provides better guidance than these two if they speak the truth, and I shall follow it. If they fail to do so, know that they are merely following their own desires. Who is more misguided than one who follows their own desires without guidance from Allah? Allah does not guide such wrongdoers. We have repeatedly warned them so that they may take heed (49-51).

**Polytheist:** On the Day when He will call them and ask, “Where are those whom you imagined to be My associates?” Those who were co-opted, will say: “Our Lord, these are the ones whom we led astray, just as we ourselves strayed. We absolve ourselves before You of all blame. It was not us that they worshipped.” They will then be told. “Call upon those for help whom you held as Allah’s associates.” They will call them but will get no answer and they will see the torment in front of them. Would they were guided! On the Day He will call them and ask, “What was your response to Our messengers?” They will not be able to offer any excuses, nor will they be able to question one another. But those who repented, believed, and did good deeds can look forward to being among the successful (62-67).

Let them be mindful of the Day when He will call them and ask, “Where are those associates of Mine whom you deemed as such?” And We shall bring forth from every nation a witness (a prophet) and say, “Bring now your proof.” Then they will come to know that the Truth is with Allah alone, and all falsehoods that they had forged will forsake them (74-75).

**Admonishing:** They say, “If we follow guidance with you, we will be snatched from our land.” Is it not a fact that We have made for them a peaceful Haram, towards which all kinds of fruits are drawn, as sustenance from Us? But most of them do not know. And how many a town did We destroy whose people exulted on account of their affluence. These are their dwellings in which very few dwelt after them. Eventually We alone became the heirs. **And your Lord would never destroy a town until He had sent in their central place a Messenger, who recited to them Our verses; Nor would We destroy any town unless its dwellers were wicked.** Whatever you have been given, is just a provision for this worldly life and its adornment; and that which is with Allah is better and more lasting. Do you not use your intellect? Can the person to whom We have made a good promise, which he would certainly obtain, be ever like the one whom We have only given the provisions of the worldly life

and who, on the Day of Judgment, would be presented for punishment (57-61)?

Korah was one of Moses' people, then he transgressed against them. We had given him so many treasures that a group of mighty men could hardly lift their keys. However, when his people warned him not to exult in the riches that Allah has given you but seek by means of the wealth that Allah has given you the abode of the Hereafter, and don't forget your share in the world. Do good as Allah has done good to you and do not try to cause mischief in the land, Allah does not like mischief makers. He replied that his wealth was due to his own knowledge. He failed to realize that Allah had destroyed before him those who were stronger in might than he and were more numerous in multitude? The criminals will not be asked about their acts of sin. Once Korah appeared before his people in full splendor. The worldly ones said, "We wish we had what Korah has! He is so fortunate." But those with true knowledge said, "Woe to you. Allah's reward is better for the believers who do good. None but the patient one will attain it" (76-80).

Finally, we made the earth swallow him and his house. Then there was no group of people that could come to his aid against Allah; nor was he able to help himself. Now the same people who yearned for his lot the day before, began to say, "Woe! We had forgotten that Allah extends the provisions for whom He wills and restricts it for whom He wills. If Allah had not been gracious to us, He would have sunk us also in the ground. Ah, we had forgotten that the unbelievers do not prosper" (81-82).

**Important Verses:** O Prophet, you cannot guide whomever you please, but Allah guides whomever He wills. He knows best those who will accept guidance (56). And your Lord would never destroy a town until He had sent in their central place a Messenger, who recited to them Our verses; Nor would We destroy any town unless its dwellers were wicked.

**Lessons:** 1) The criminals will not be asked about their acts of sin. 2) Allah's reward is better for the believers who do good. 3) None but the patient one will attain the abode of the Hereafter. 4) Allah extends the provisions for whom He wills and restricts it for whom He wills. 5) Unbelievers do not prosper. 6) Those who repented, believed, and did good deeds will be among the successful. 7) Most misguided ones are those who follow their own desires without the guidance of Allah. 8) The abode of the Hereafter is for those who do not seek glory on earth or wish to cause mischief. 9) Everyone's deeds are for himself.

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## 29. Lessons in Surah Al-Ankabot

The surah al-Ankabot is the 29<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 69 verses. It derives its name from verse 41 and is thought to have been revealed during the period of extreme persecution of the Muslims at Makkah. In opposition to Islam, the infidels were oppressing the Muslims to the extreme, and the worst oppression was being done to the weak Muslims.

### Summary of subjects

**Allah:** He is the All-Mighty, and the All-Wise. He has power over all things. He is All-Hearing, All-Knowing. He knows the secrets of the hearts. He knows all that you do. He suffices as a witness. He created the heavens and the earth with the Truth. To Him you all will be returned. Allah gives abundantly to whom He pleases and sparingly to those He wills. He is Independent of all His creations. Allah provides sustenance to all.

**Mohammed(SAW):** Recite the Book that has been revealed to you, and establish Prayers. Surely Prayers restrains from indecent and evil acts, and the remembrance of Allah is a thing even greater than this; Allah knows all that you do. And do not argue with the people of the Book except in the best manner, save those who are utterly unjust among them and say to them, “We have believed in what has been sent down to us and in what had been revealed to you. **Our Lord and your Lord is One**, and to Him we have surrendered. O Prophet, We bestowed the Book on you. So, those on whom We had bestowed the Book before, believe in it, and many of the Arabs too believe in it. It is none but the utter unbelievers who deny Our Signs (45-47).

**O Prophet, you did not recite any Book before nor did you write any with your own hand. If it were so, the worshippers of falsehood would have had a cause for doubt.** But it is a set of Clear Signs in the hearts of those who have been endowed with knowledge. None except the utterly unjust deny Our Signs. They say, “Why were Signs from his Lord not sent down upon him?” Say: “The Signs are only with Allah. As for me, I am no more than a plain warner.” Does it not suffice for them as a Sign that We have revealed to you the Book which is recited to them? In it is mercy and advice for those who believe. Say O Prophet, “Allah suffices as a witness between me and you. He knows whatever is in the heavens and the earth. Those who believe in falsehood and deny Allah, shall be the losers” (48-52).

These people wish that you hasten the torment on them. Had a time not been fixed for it, the torment would already have overtaken them. And most certainly it shall come at the appointed time

suddenly while they would least expect it. They challenge you to hasten the torment, whereas Hell has encompassed the disbelievers. They will know the Day when the chastisement will overwhelm them from above and from under their feet and will be told: “Taste the consequence of the deeds that you used to commit” (53-55).

**Prophets(AS):** We sent **Noah** to his people, and he lived among them for a thousand years save fifty. Eventually, the Flood overtook them while they persisted in wrong- doing. Then We rescued Noah and those in the Ark and made it an object of warning for the people of the world (14-15).

We sent **Abraham**, when he said to his people “Worship Allah and fear Him, this is better for you, only if you know it. **Those whom you worship instead of Allah are mere idols, and you are forging a lie. In fact, those whom you worship, besides Allah, have no power to give you any sustenance.** Ask Allah for sustenance, worship only Him and thank Him, to Him you shall return. And if you deny, many a nation have denied the Truth before you, **and the Messenger's only responsibility is to convey the message clearly** (16-18). Then his people responded, “Kill him or burn him.” At last, Allah saved him from the fire; surely, this holds significance for those who believe (24). Then Lot believed in him, and Abraham said “I shall migrate towards my Lord. He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.” We granted Abraham children like **Isaac** and **Jacob**, and placed Prophethood and the Book in his descendants, and rewarded him this world, and in the Hereafter, he will surely be among the righteous (26-27).

And We sent **Lot** when he said to his people, “You commit an indecency which no other people have ever committed before you. You go to the males, commit robbery, and indulge in indecencies in your assemblies?” Then the only answer his people gave was to say, “Bring forth the torment of Allah if you are truthful.” Lot said, “O my Lord, help me against these mischief makers” (28-30).

When Our messengers came to Abraham with the good news and said that we are going to destroy the inhabitants of Lot's city, for its inhabitants are immersed in wrongdoing. Abraham said, Lot is there. They replied that we know who is in it, we will save him and all his household except his wife. She is among those who will stay behind. Then, when Our messengers came to Lot, he grew anxious and distressed for them. They said, “Do not fear or grieve. We shall save you and your household, except your wife, who will remain behind. We shall bring down upon the people of this city a scourge from the heaven because of their evildoing.” And We have left a Clear Signs of that settlement for those who use their common sense (31-35).

We sent their brother **Shuaib** to the people of Midian. He said to them, “My people, worship Allah and anticipate the Day of Judgment, and do not spread corruption on the earth.” But they denounced him as a liar. So, a mighty earthquake overtook them, and by the morning they lay overturned in their houses (36-37).

And We destroyed Aad and Thamud. You have seen the places where they lived. Satan made their deeds seem fair to them and misled them from the right path, although they were sensible people. And We destroyed Korah and Pharaoh and Haman. **Moses** came to them with clear Signs, but they assumed arrogance in the land, whereas they could not have outstripped Us. So, We seized each for their sins. Then We let loose upon some a violent tornado with showers of stones; some were overtaken by a mighty Cry; some were caused to be swallowed up by the earth, and some We drowned. Allah would not wrong them, but it is they who wronged themselves (38-40).

**The believer:** Do the people think that they will be left alone after they have once said, “We have believed,” and they will not be tested? The fact is that we have put to test all those who have gone before them. Surely, Allah must see who are the truthful and who are the liars (2-3). Let him who looks forward to meeting Allah know that Allah’s appointed term will surely come to pass. He is All-Hearing, All-Knowing. Whoever will exert will exert for his own good. Allah is certainly Independent of all His creations. As for those who believe and do good works, We shall wipe off their evils and reward them for the best of their deeds (5-7). O My servants who believe, verily My earth is vast; so, serve Me alone. Every living being shall taste death; then it is to Us that you shall all return. We shall house those who believed and acted righteously in the lofty mansions of Paradise beneath which rivers flow. What an excellent reward for those who acted in obedience to Allah, who remained steadfast and put their trust in their Lord! There they shall live forever (56-59). As for those who strive in Our cause, We shall surely guide them to Our Ways. Indeed, Allah is with those who do good (69).

**The Disbelievers:** Do those who are committing evil deeds reckon that they will outstrip Us? How evil is their judgment (4). The disbelievers say to the believers, “Follow our way and we will bear the burden of your sins”, whereas they will not bear the burden of your sins. They are utter liars. Of course, they shall bear their own burdens as well as many other burdens in addition to their own. And on the Day of Resurrection, they will surely be questioned concerning the fabrications which they contrived (12-13). Who would be more wicked than he who forges a lie against Allah, or denies

the Truth when it has reached him? Is not Hell the fit abode for such disbelievers (68)?

**The Hypocrites:** There is among the people such a one, who says, "We have believed in Allah", but when he was persecuted in the cause of Allah, he deemed the persecution by the people as the punishment of Allah. Now if there comes help and victory from your Lord, the same person Will say, "We were with you". Is not Allah fully aware of what is in the hearts of the people of the world? Allah will surely ascertain who are the believers and who are the hypocrites (10-11).

**Polytheism:** Have these people not considered how Allah begins the creation and then will repeat it? Indeed, to repeat the creation of a thing is easier for Allah than creating it for the first time (DNA exists). Say to them, "Go about in the earth and see how He initiated the creation; then Allah will recreate it in the Hereafter. Surely Allah has power over all things. He may punish whom He wills and show mercy to whom He wills; to Him you will all return. **You can neither make Him helpless in the earth nor in the heaven, and you have no patron and helper to save you from Allah.** Those who have rejected Allah's signs and in meeting **Him**, they are the ones for whom a painful punishment awaits (19-23). He said, "You have taken up idols instead of Allah as a bond of love among yourselves in the present life, but on the Day of Resurrection you will disown and curse one another. Your refuge shall be the Fire, and none will come to your aid" (25). The likeness of those who took others than Allah as their protectors is the likeness of a spider, who builds a dwelling; and the weakest of all dwellings is the dwelling of a spider, only if they knew. **Allah surely knows whomever they invoke instead of Him.** He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise. These parables We cite for the instruction of the people, but only those endowed with knowledge will comprehend them (41-43).

The present life is nothing but a sport and a pastime! The real life is the life of the Hereafter. Would that they knew! When they board the ship, they invoke Allah, making their Faith pure for Him only; then, when He brings them safe to land, they start committing shirk that they may show ingratitude to Him for safe deliverance and enjoy the life of this world. Well, they will soon come to know. Do they not see that We have made a safe Sanctuary, while the people are snatched away from all around them? Do they yet believe in falsehood and deny the favours of Allah (64-67)?

**Admonishing:** We have conjoined man to do good to his parents, but if they force you to associate with Me another deity whom you do not know as such, you should not obey them. You have all to return to Me, then I shall tell you what you had been doing. And those who will have believed and done good deeds, We shall

certainly include them among the righteous (8-9). Allah has created the heavens and the earth with the Truth. Indeed, there is a Sign in this for the believers (44).

How many creatures are there that do not carry their provisions with them. Allah provides sustenance to them and to you. He is All-Hearing, All-Knowing. If you ask them, “Who has created the earth and the heavens and Who has subjected the moon and the sun?” they will surely say, “Allah.” What is deluding them? Allah gives abundantly to those of His servants He pleases and sparingly to those He wills. Surely Allah knows everything. If you ask them, “Who sends down rainwater from the sky and thereby raises the dead earth back to life?” They will surely say, “Allah Say, Praise be to Allah!” Yet most of them do not use their common sense (60-63).

**Lessons:** 1) Every living being shall taste death. 2) Be steadfast and put your trust in your Lord. 3) Allah is with those who do good. 4) To repeat the creation of a thing is easier for Allah than creating it for the first time (DNA exists). 5) The life of this world is nothing but a sport and a pastime. The home of real life is the Hereafter. 6) You have no patron and helper to save you from Allah. 7) Those who rejected Allah’s signs and the Hereafter, they are the ones for whom a painful chastisement awaits. 8) Those who take others than Allah as their protectors is the likeness of a spider house which is the weakest of all dwellings. 9) Always ask Allah for sustenance, worship Him alone and be grateful to Him, to Him you will be returned. 10) Prayers restrains from indecent and evil acts, and the remembrance of Allah is a thing even greater than this.

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### 30. Lessons in Surah Ar-Rum

Surah Ar-Rum is the 30<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran, with 60 verses. It takes its name from second verse, which revealed the defeat of the Roman Empire by the Persians. Verse 3 predicted that they will be victorious in few years. The Surah serves as a reminder that Allah is in control of everything. Those with limited vision see only that which is manifest but fail to recognize the Creator and Master of the universe Who rules over everything. The ultimate decision rests with Allah. The Hereafter will come to pass, and truth will prevail.

### Summary of subjects

**Allah:** He is the Most Mighty, the Most Compassionate. It is Allah Who created you in a state of weakness; then after weakness He gave you strength, then after strength He made you weak and old. He creates what He pleases. He is All-Knowing, All-Powerful (54). He does not go back on His promise. He brings out the living from the dead and the dead from the living and gives life to the earth after

its death. Likewise, you will be resurrected after death (19). He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

**Commandments:** Glorify Allah **morning** and **evening**. His is the praise in the heavens and the earth; glorify Him in the **afternoon** and when the sun begins to decline (Asr) (17-18). O Prophet and his followers, turn your face single-mindedly to the true Faith and adhere to the true nature on which Allah has created man. There can be no alteration in the Nature made by Allah. This is the right and true Faith, but most people do not know. **Be steadfast on this, turn to Him, and fear Him, and establish Prayers, and do not be of those who associate others with Allah in His Divinity, and divided themselves into sects, each sect rejoicing in what it has** (30-32).

**Give alms to a relative and give alms to the poor and the traveler. This is the best way for those who seek the pleasure of Allah.** It is they who will attain true success. The interest that you give to increase the wealth of the people, does not increase in Allah's sight. As for the alms that you give, seeking to win Allah's pleasure, that is multiplied manifold (38-39).

**Polytheist:** When an affliction befalls them, they invoke their Lord, turning penitently towards Him, then when He lets them have a taste of His Mercy **then some of them begin associating others with Him in His Divinity so that they may show ingratitude for Our favors. Well, enjoy yourselves, for you'll soon know. Have We sent down to them an authority, that testifies to the truth of the polytheism they are committing** (33-35)? Allah created you and provided you your sustenance. He causes you to die, and then He will bring you back to life. **Do any of those whom you associate with Allah in His divinity do such a thing? Glory be to Him and far exalted above what they associate with Allah.**

**Admonishing:** Alif. Lam. Mim. The Romans have suffered a defeat in the nearby land, but they will achieve victory in a few years. The authority belongs to Allah, before and after. On that day the believers will rejoice in the victory granted by Allah. This is Allah's promise, and He never breaks His promise. But most people do not know (1-6). People only know the external aspects of worldly life but are completely unaware of the Hereafter. Have they never reflected on their own selves? Allah has created the heavens, the earth and everything between them with truth and for an appointed time. Yet many deny that they will meet their Lord. Did they not roam the earth to see the end of those who passed before them? They were mightier than these in strength, they tilled the land and built more on it than these people have. Allah's Messenger came to them with clear signs. Allah did not wrong them, but they wronged themselves. Evil was the end of those who had committed evil, for they gave the lie to Allah's Signs and scoffed at them (7-10). Allah

initiates creation, then He repeats it, then to Him you will be returned. And when the Hour is established, the criminals will be dumbfounded; **None whom they had associated with Allah in His Divinity will intercede on their behalf; rather, they will disown those whom they had set up as Allah's associates in His Divinity.** The Day the Hour is established, people will be split into groups. Those who have believed and done good works, will be kept in a Garden, happy and jubilant. As for those who disbelieved and gave the lie to Our Signs and to the encounter of the Hereafter, they will be arraigned for chastisement (11-16). Evil has become rife in the land and the sea on account of men's own doings that He may make them taste some of their evil deeds, maybe they will mend their ways. O Prophet, say to them, "Traverse in the land and see what the end of those was who lived before you. Most of them associated others with Allah in His Divinity. So, turn your face exclusively towards the True Faith before there comes the Day who's coming from Allah cannot be averted, the Day when people will split apart from each other (41-43).

**Ponder:** Of His Signs is this that He has created you from dust; then behold, you are men who are multiplying in the earth. And of His Signs is that He has created mates for you from your own kind that you may find peace in them, and He has set between you love and mercy. **Surely there are Signs in this for those who reflect.** And of His Signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your tongues and colours. **Indeed, there are Signs in this for the wise.** And of His Signs is your sleeping at night and seeking His Bounty during the day. **Indeed, there are Signs in this for those who hearken.** And of His Signs is that He shows you lightning, arousing both fear and hope, and sends down water from the sky and revives the earth after it is dead. **Indeed, there are Signs in this for those who use their reason.** And of his Signs is this that the Heaven and the Earth stand firm by His Command, then as soon as He summons you out of the earth, you shall come out at one call. To Him belong all that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth. All are in obedience to Him. He it is Who originates the creation; then He alone will repeat it, and this is easier for Him. His are the most exalted attributes in the heavens and the earth, and (20-27). He draws out a comparison for you from your own selves: Are there among the slaves that you possess any such slaves also who may be sharing with you equally the wealth that We have given you, and you fear them as you fear one another among yourselves? **Thus, do We make plain the Signs for those who use reason.** But the wrongdoers are following their own desires, without any knowledge. Now, who can guide the one whom Allah has led astray? Such people can have no helper (28-29).

When We make the people taste Our Mercy, they exult at it; and when an affliction befalls them on account of their own misdeeds, they grow despondent. Do they not see that it is Allah Who gives abundantly to whom He wills and sparingly to whom He wills? Surely in this there are Signs for those who believe (36-37).

He who disbelieved will bear the burden of his disbelief, and he who did good deeds paved the way for his true success, so that Allah may reward those who believe and do good deeds with His bounty. Indeed, He does not like the disbelievers (44-45). Among His Signs is that He sends the winds to give good tidings and to shower you with His Mercy, and that the ships may sail by His Command, so that you may seek His bounty and be grateful to Him. We sent before you Messengers to their respective nations, who came to them with clear Signs. Then We took vengeance upon those who acted wickedly. **It was incumbent on Us to come to the aid of the believers** (46-47). It is Allah Who sends the winds, which raise the cloud; then He spreads the clouds in the sky as He wills and splits them up; whereafter you see drops of rain pouring down from them. When He sends this rain on whom He wills among His servants, and lo, they rejoice at it, although before it's coming, they were getting despaired. See then the tokens of Allah's Mercy, how He revives the earth after it is dead. Likewise, He will revive the dead to life. He has power over everything. And if We send a wind due to which they see their crops turn yellow, they do become even more firm in their disbelief. (O Prophet,) you cannot make the dead hear you, nor can you make the deaf to hear your call, when they turn back in retreat, nor can you guide the blind out of their error. You can only make those hear your call, who believe in Our Revelations and have surrendered themselves to Us (48-53).

We have set forth in this Quran every sort of argument to make the people understand. But no matter what Sign you bring to them, the disbelievers will say, "You are following falsehood." **Thus, Allah seals the hearts of those who lack knowledge.** So, (O Prophet,) have patience. Surely Allah's promise is true. and let those who lack certainty not cause you to be unsteady (58-60).

**End Times:** And when the Hour is established, the criminals will swear that they had not stayed in the world for more than an hour. Thus, they used to be deceived in their worldly life. But those who had been endowed with knowledge and faith, will say, "You have stayed, according to the book of Allah, till the Day of Resurrection. Now this is the same Day of Resurrection, but you did not know." So, on that Day, the excuse of the wrong doers will not avail them, nor will they be asked to seek forgiveness (54-57).

**Important Verses: Hearts of those who lack knowledge is sealed.** Allah created the heavens and the earth and whatever lies between them in Truth and for an appointed term.

**Lessons:** 1) Allah does not go against His promise. 2) Give alms to a relative and give alms to the poor and the traveler. 3) Taking interest does not increase wealth in the sight of Allah, Whereas the charity that you give for the sake of Allah, it leads to a manifold increase. 4) **Be steadfast on Islam, turn to Allah, and fear Him, and establish Prayers.** 5) Do not be of those who associate others with Allah in His Divinity. 6) Do not divide your religion into sects and do not be happy about your sect. 7) The Judgment Day cannot be averted, on that day people will be divided according to their deeds. 8) People only know the external aspects of worldly life but are completely unaware of the Hereafter. 9) Allah wrongs no one, people wrong themselves.

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## 31. Lessons in Surah Al-Luqman (Sage)

The surah al-Luqman is the 31<sup>st</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 34 verses. It derives its name from Luqman's advice to his son, verses 12-19, and is thought to have been revealed in the late Makkian period. In this Surah, people have been informed about the meaninglessness and absurdity of polytheism and the reality and reasonableness of monotheism, and they are invited to abandon the blind imitation of their predecessors. They are asked to contemplate with a cool mind on the teachings that Mohammed(SAW) is presenting from the Lord of the worlds.

### Summary of subjects

**Allah:** If all the trees of the earth become pens and the seven oceans were to become ink replenished by seven more oceans, the oceans will finish but the words of Allah will not exhaust. Verily Allah is Most Mighty, Most Wise. Allah is indeed All-Mighty and All-Wise. Your creation and your resurrection are as simple for Him as creation of a single soul. The fact is that Allah is All-Hearing, All-Seeing (27-28). Only Allah has the knowledge of the Hour. It is He Who sends down the rain and knows what is taking shape in the wombs, no one knows what he will earn tomorrow, nor does he know in which land he will die. Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware (34).

**Mohammed(SAW):** O Prophet, let the unbelief of the unbeliever not grieve you. To Us is their return and then We shall inform them what they had been doing. Surely Allah knows even the hidden secrets of the breasts. We allow them to enjoy a while in the world

and then We shall drive them in utter helplessness to a harsh chastisement (21-24).

**Commandments:** We enjoined upon man to be dutiful to his parents. His mother bore him in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning lasted two years. We, therefore, enjoined upon him to give thanks to Me and to his parents. To Me is your ultimate return. But if they press you to associate others with Me about whom you have no knowledge, do not obey them. Yet treat them kindly in the world but follow the way of him who turns to Me with devotion. Eventually to Me will all of you return; then I shall tell you all that you did (14-15).

**The believer:** Alif. Lam. Mim. These are the verses of the Clear Book, a Guidance and Mercy for those who do good deeds, establish prayers, pay alms, and have firm faith in the Hereafter. These are the ones who are rightly guided by their Lord, and they the ones who will prosper (1-5). For those who believe and do good deeds shall have Gardens of bliss, wherein they shall abide forever. This is a firm promise of Allah, He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise (8-9). Whoever surrenders himself to Allah and lives righteously, has indeed taken hold of a reliable support. The ultimate decisions of all affairs rests with Allah (22).

**The Disbelievers:** And there is among the men such a one also, who buys alluring tales so that he may lead the people astray from Allah's Way, without any knowledge, and make a mockery of the invitation to this path. For such people a humiliating chastisement awaits them. When Our verses are recited to him, he turns away with great arrogance as if he did not hear them, as if his ears were deaf. Well, give him the tidings of a painful torment (6-7). Do you not see that Allah has subjected to you whatever is in the earth and the heavens, and has bestowed on you all His Favors, both visible and invisible? Yet there are some among the people who dispute regarding Allah, without any knowledge, or guidance, or an enlightening Book. When they are told, "Follow what Allah has revealed," they say, "We will only follow that which we found our forefathers following." Will they follow them even though Satan might be calling them to the torment of Blazing Fire (20-21)?

**Polytheism:** All is Allah's creation. Show me what have these others created? The fact is that these wrongdoers are in manifest error (11).

**Ponder:** We had bestowed wisdom on Luqman that he may be grateful to Allah. Whoso gives thank to Allah, does so for his own good, and whoso disbelieves, Allah is indeed Self-Sufficient and Self-Praiseworthy. Call to mind when Luqman was admonishing his son, saying, "**My son do not associate others with Allah in His divinity. The truth is that polytheism is a great injustice (12-13).**"

Luqman said: "Son, Allah will bring forth everything even if it be as small as the grain of a mustard seed even though it be hidden inside a rock or (anywhere) in the heavens or earth. Allah is Most Subtle, All-Aware. Son, establish Prayer, enjoin all that is good, and endure with patience all afflictions that befall you. These have been emphatically enjoined. And don't talk to people with face turned away, nor walk arrogantly on the earth, for Allah does not love any self-conceited, boastful person. Be moderate in your stride, and lower your voice, for the most disgusting of all voices is the braying of the donkey (16-19)."

If you were to ask them, "Who has created the earth and the heavens?" they will surely say, "Allah." Say, "All praise and thanks be to for Allah," yet most of them do not know. Whatever is in the heavens and the earth, belongs to Allah. Indeed, Allah is Self-Sufficient and immensely Praiseworthy (25-26). Do you not see that Allah makes the night phase into the day and makes the day phase into the night? He has subjected the sun and the moon, to pursue its course till an appointed time. Do you not know that Allah is aware of all that you do? **This is because Allah alone is the Truth, and all those whom the people invoke instead of Allah, are false. Surely Allah, He alone, is All-High, Incomparably Great (29-30).** Do you not see that the ships sail in the sea by Allah's Grace so that He may show you some of His Signs? Indeed, there are signs in this for every patient and, grateful person. When waves like the mountains engulf them in the sea, they invoke Allah, purifying their faith for Him alone. But when He delivers them safely to the land, some of them follows the middle ways and do not deny Our signs, **except the one who is treacherous and ungrateful (31-32).**

**Admonishing:** O people, avoid the wrath of your Lord, and dread the Day when no father will stand for his child, nor any child stand for his father. Surely Allah's promise is true. So let the life of this world not deceive you, nor let the deluder delude you about Allah (33).

**Scientifical Facts:** He created the heavens without pillars visible to you. He placed mountains in the earth as pegs lest it tilts away with you, and He dispersed all kinds of animals over the earth and sent down water from the sky causing all kinds of excellent plants to grow on it (10).

**Lessons:** 1) If all the trees of the earth become pens and the seven oceans were to become ink replenished by seven more oceans, the oceans will finish but the words of Allah will not exhaust. 2) Allah knows the secrets of the breasts. 3) Only those who do good deeds, establish prayers, pay Zakat, and have firm faith in the Hereafter are on the right path and will be blessed. 4) Do not associate anyone with Allah in His Divinity. 5) Establish prayer, enjoin goodness and

if you fall into trouble, be patient. 6) **Allah is the truth and do not call upon any other entities except Him, they are all false.** 7) Those who are treacherous and ungrateful deny the signs of Allah. 8) No one will stand up for anyone on the Day of Judgment.

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## 32. Lessons in Surah As-Sajdah

The surah As-Sajdah is the 32<sup>nd</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 30 verses. Its name is derived verse 15 and it is believed to have been revealed at the beginning of the middle Makkah period. The Surah discusses certain doubts and arguments of the non-believers against the principles of monotheism, prophethood and the Hereafter. It invites people to think and reflect on their own selves and on the nature surrounding them, so that they may accept the Truth.

### Summary of subjects

**Allah:** It is He Who created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them in six days, then ascended the Throne. You have no supporter or helper except Him, and no intercessor. Will you not then take heed? He governs the affairs of the heavens and the earth, and the report of administration is presented to Him daily, the length of which according to your reckoning is a thousand years. He is the Knower of everything hidden and visible, He is the All-Mighty, the Most Compassionate. He created everything with perfection. He created Adam from dust and then created his offspring from semen of despised water, then He duly proportioned him and breathed His spirit into him; and He gave you ears, sight and the sense of deduction. Yet you are seldom grateful (4-9).

**Mohammed(SAW):** This Book, beyond all doubt, was revealed by the Lord of the Universe. Do the people say that this man himself has forged it? Nay, it is the truth from your Lord, so that you may warn a people to whom no warner has come before you, in order that they may be guided (1-3).

**The believer:** They believe in Our verses, and when they are admonished by reciting the verses, they fall prostrate and glorify their Lord with praise and are not arrogant. Their sides forsake their beds to invoke their Lord in fear and hope; and spend out of what We have bestowed on them. No one knows what comfort of the eyes are in store for them as a recompense for their good deeds (15-17). As for those who believe and do righteous deeds, for them are Gardens of abode as a recompense for their deeds (19).

**The Disbelievers:** They say that when we become dust, will we be raised again? In fact, they deny meeting their Lord. Say to them, “The angel of death, who is appointed over you will seize your soul, and then you will be returned to your Lord (10-11). Hell is the abode

of the transgressors. Whenever they want to get out of it, they will be pushed into it, and they will be told to taste the punishment of the Fire which you used to deny (20).

**Admonishing:** Before We gave the Book to Moses(AS), so you should not have any doubt that Mohammed(SAW) received the same. We had made that Book a Guidance for the children of Israel. And when they showed patience and continued to have faith in Our Revelations, We raised among them such leaders who guided the people by Our Command. Verily, your Lord will judge between them on the Day of Judgment, concerning that wherein they used to differ (23-25). We shall certainly make them taste some chastisement in this world in addition to the greater chastisement of the Hereafter, perhaps they might turn back from their rebellious attitude. And who could be more wicked than the one who is admonished by the verses of his Lord, and yet he turns away from them? We shall certainly take vengeance on such criminals (21-22).

**Ponder:** Do these historical events not make them realize that We destroyed many nations before them amidst whose dwellings they now travel? There are many Signs in this. Do they not hear? Have they not seen how We drive water to the dry land that has no vegetation, and therewith bring forth crops providing food for their cattle and themselves, Will they not then reflect (26-27)? Can he who is a believer be like him who is rebellious? They cannot be equal (18).

**End Times:** And if you only could see when the criminals shall hang their heads before their Lord, saying: "Our Lord, we have seen and heard, so send us back so that we may act righteously. Verily, we now believe with certainty." If We had willed, We would have surely given every soul its guidance, but the Word of Mine, which I had said, has been fulfilled that I shall fill Hell with jinns and mankind. So, taste now the recompense of your having forgotten the meeting of this Day. We too will forget you, now! Taste the everlasting torment in consequence of your misdeeds" (12-14). They ask, "When will this judgment take place if you are truthful? Tell them, "To believe on the Day of Judgment will not in any way profit those who have disbelieved, nor will they get any respite after that." Well, leave them to themselves, and wait, they too are waiting (29-30).

**Lessons:** 1) The Quran is beyond all doubts and is sent to warn those people to whom no Warner has come before. 2) On the Day of Judgement, the disbelievers shall believe but that belief will not avail them. 3) There is a special reward for those who forsake their beds and invoke their Rabb with fear and hope and spend in charity. 4) The Quran is like the Book which was given to the Prophet Moses. 5) Everything points that there is a Wise and Powerful

Creator of this universe. 6) He did not create all this for nothing, but there is a purpose to creation.

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### 33. Lessons in Surah Al-Ahzab (Allies)

The surah Al-Ahzab is the 33rd chapter of the Quran and consists of 73 verses. Its name is derived from verse 20 and is believed to have been revealed after the Battle of Trench in Medina. It addresses various social, political, and moral issues facing early Muslim society, and contains guidance on inter-personal behavior and relationships. It also mentions Battle of the Trench and the hypocrites who opposed the Prophet.

#### Summary of subjects

**Allah:** He is the Almighty. He is All-Forgiving and Most Merciful. He is Most Subtle, All-Aware. He is a Witness over all things. He is All-Forgiving, Most Merciful. He is All-Knowing, All-Wise. He is Sufficient as a Reckoner. He is the Knower of everything. He is sufficient as a Trustee of Affairs. He fully knows what is in your hearts. He is All-Knowing, Most Forbearing. He is ever Watchful over all things. He is All-Forgiving, Most Merciful. He is Most Powerful, Most Mighty.

**Commandments:** Allah does not place two hearts in any person's chest. **Nor do your wives, whom you punish by calling them mothers, become your mothers. Nor does He regard your adopted children as your real children.** These are only your baseless assertions. But Allah declares the truth, and He alone guides to the Right Way. **Let your adopted sons keep their fathers' names.** that is more just in the sight of Allah. If you do not know who their fathers are, then they are your brothers in faith and your friends. **There is no blame on you for what you do unintentionally, but only for what you do intentionally.** Undoubtedly, **the Prophet is a priority for the believers over their own selves, and his wives are their mothers.** As ordained by Allah, **blood relatives are more entitled to inheritance than other believers and immigrants, unless you want to show kindness to your close associates through bequest.** This is decreed in the Book of Allah (4:6). **O wives of the Prophet, if any of you were to commit a manifest indecency, the punishment would be doubled for her.** That is easy for Allah. **And whoever of you devoutly obeys Allah and His Messenger and does good, We will grant her double the reward,** and We have prepared for her an honourable provision. **O wives of the Prophet, you are not like the other women.** If you are mindful of Allah, then do not be overly effeminate in speech with

men or those with sickness in their hearts may be tempted but speak plainly in a moderate tone. **Settle in your homes, and do not display yourselves as women did in the days of pre-Islamic ignorance. Establish prayer, pay alms-tax, and obey Allah and His Messenger.** Allah only intends to keep the causes of evil away from you and purify you. **Remember, the verses of Allah and the words of wisdom, which are recited in your homes.** Surely for Muslim men and women, believing men and women, devout men and women, truthful men and women, patient men and women, humble men and women, charitable men, and women, fasting men and women, men and women who guard their chastity, and men and women who remember Allah often, for all of them Allah has prepared forgiveness and a great reward. **It does not behove a believing man or woman that when Allah and His Messenger decree a matter, to exercise an option in that matter;** and whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger, has strayed into manifest error (30-36). O Prophet, remember when you were saying to (adopted son Zaid<sup>(RA)</sup>) the one whom Allah as well as you had favoured, "Keep your wife and fear Allah." At that time, you were concealing in your heart what Allah was going to reveal. You were fearing the people, whereas Allah is more worthy of being feared. So, when Zaid<sup>(RA)</sup> divorced his wife, We gave her to you in marriage, **so that there would be no blame on the believers for marrying the ex-wives of their adopted sons after their divorce.** And Allah's command is totally binding (37). O believers, when you marry the believing women, and then divorce them before you touched them, **they will have no waiting period for you to count, so give them a suitable compensation, and let them go graciously** (49). O Prophet, We have made lawful for you your wives whose bridle dues you have paid, and those slave-girls (prisoner of war) in your possession. **And you are allowed to marry the daughters of your paternal uncles and aunts, and the daughters of your maternal uncles and aunts, and who have emigrated like you. Also allowed for marriage is the believing woman who has given herself to you, if you want to marry her, this concession is purely for you, not for other believers.** We know well what rulings We have ordained for the believers regarding their wives and those slave-girls (prisoner of war) in their possession. So that, there is no hardship on you. And Allah is All-Forgiving, Most Merciful (50). O believers do not enter the houses of the Prophet without permission. If invited for a meal, do not come in haste, and wait for the food to be cooked. And when you have eaten, leave and do not sit for gossip. This behaviour disturbs the Prophet, yet he is too shy to ask you to leave. But Allah is never shy of the truth. If you must ask the wives of the Prophet for something, ask them from behind a curtain. This is purer for your and their hearts. **It is not at**

**all permissible that you should trouble the Messenger of Allah, nor is it permissible that you should marry his wives after him.** This would certainly be a major offence in the sight of Allah (53-54). There is no blame on the Prophet's wives if they appear unveiled before their fathers, their sons, their brothers, their brothers' sons, their sisters' sons, their fellow Muslim women, and those bondspeople in their possession. O wives of the Prophet, be mindful of Allah. Indeed, Allah showers His blessings upon the Prophet, and His angels pray for him. O believers! Invoke Allah's blessings upon him(SAW), and salute him with worthy greetings of peace. Surely those who offend Allah and His Messenger are condemned by Allah in this world and the Hereafter and has prepared for them a humiliating chastisement. **As for those who slander believing men and women unjustifiably, they will bear the guilt of slander and blatant sin.** O Prophet! Ask your wives, daughters, and believing women to draw their cloaks over their bodies. In this way it is more likely that they will be recognized as virtuous and not be harassed. (55-59). **O believers do not be like those who slandered Moses; then Allah cleared him of what they said, and he was honourable in the sight of Allah. O believers fear Allah and say what is right. He will bless your deeds and will overlook your errors. Whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger, has indeed attained a great success** (69-71).

**Mohammed(SAW):** O Prophet(SAW), be mindful of Allah, and do not yield to the disbelievers and the hypocrites. Follow what is revealed to you from your Lord. Surely Allah is All-Aware of what you do. And put your trust in Allah, for Allah is sufficient as a Guardian (1-3). And remember when We took a covenant from the prophets, as well as from you O Prophet(SAW), and from Noah(AS), Abraham(AS), Moses(AS), and Jesus(AS), son of Mary(AS). We took a solemn covenant from all of them so that We may question them about conveying of Our Message. And He has prepared a painful punishment for the disbelievers (7-8). O Prophet, say to your wives, "If you desire the life of this world and its luxury, then come, I will give you a suitable compensation for divorce and let you go graciously. But if you desire Allah and His Messenger and the abode of the Hereafter, then surely Allah has prepared a great reward for those of you who do good" (28-29). There is no hindrance to the Prophet in any work that Allah has ordained for him. This has been the Way of Allah in the case of all the Prophets who have passed before, and Allah's Command has been firmly decreed. **This is Allah's Way regarding those who deliver the Messages of Allah and who fear Him, and fear no one else than Allah.** O People Mohammed is not the father of any of your men but is the Messenger of Allah and the seal of the Prophets (38-40). O

Prophet, We have sent you as a witness, and a deliverer of good tiding, and a warner, and a caller to the Way of Allah by His command, and a beacon of light. Give good news to the believers that there are great bounties in store for them from Allah. So do not yield to the disbelievers and the hypocrites due to their persecution and put your trust in Allah. For Allah is sufficient as a Trustee of Affairs (45-48). It is up to you to delay or receive whoever you please of your wives. There is no blame on you if you call back any of those you have set aside. Thus, it is expected that they will be content, not grieved, and satisfied with what you offer them. Allah fully knows what is in your hearts. And Allah is All-Knowing, Most Forbearing. No other women are lawful to you after this, nor are you allowed to have other wives instead of them, even if her beauty may attract you, except those bondwomen in your possession (51-52).

**The believer:** O believers! Remember Allah's favour upon you when enemy forces came to besiege you, so We sent against them a strong wind and forces you could not see. And Allah was watching everything that you were doing at that time. Remember when they came at you from east and west, when your eyes were stupefied with horror and your hearts leapt to your throats and began entertaining conflicting thoughts about Allah. At that time the believers were severely tested and badly shaken (9-11). Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent model for whoever has hope in Allah and believes in the Last Day and remembers Allah often. When they saw the invading armies, they said, "This is what Allah and His Messenger had promised us. The word of Allah and His Messenger has come true." And this only increased their faith and devotion even more. Among the believers are those who proved true to what they pledged to Allah. Some of them have fulfilled their pledge with their lives, others are waiting their turn. It did not change their determination in the least. It all happened so Allah may reward the faithful for their faithfulness and punish the hypocrites if He wills or turn to them in mercy (21-24). O believers, remember Allah often and glorify Him morning and evening. It is He Who showers you with blessing, and His angels pray for you to be blessed, so that He may bring you out of darkness into light. For He is ever Merciful to the believers. Their greeting on the Day will be "Peace", and He has prepared for them an honourable reward (41-44).

**The Disbelievers:** People ask you when will the hour take place. Say, "The knowledge of it is only with Allah. You never know, perhaps the Hour is near." Surely Allah has laid curse on the disbelievers and has prepared for them a blazing Fire, to abide there forever and will have no protector and helper. On, that Day their faces will be turned about on the Fire, they will say, "If only we had obeyed Allah and the Messenger!" And they will say, "Our Lord,

we obeyed our leaders and elite, and they led us astray from the Right Way. Lord, give them double chastisement and curse them severely” (63-68).

**Hypocrites:** And remember when the hypocrites and those with sickness in hearts said, “Allah and His Messenger have promised us nothing but delusion!”; And when a group of them said, “O people of Yathrib, there is no point in you staying here, so retreat!” Another group of them asked the Prophet’s permission to leave, saying, “Our homes are vulnerable,” while in fact they were not vulnerable. They only wished to flee the battle front. Had their city been attacked from all sides and they were asked to abandon their faith, they would have done so without hesitation. Although they had already pledged to Allah never to turn their backs in retreat. And a pledge to Allah must be answered for (12-15). Say, O Prophet, “If you flee from death or slaughter, your flight will avail you nothing; if it is not your time, you will only be allowed enjoyment for a little while.” Ask them, “Who can protect you from Allah if He intends to harm you or if He intends to show you mercy?” The fact is, they can never find a protector and helper against Allah (16-17). Allah knows well those of you who create obstructions in war efforts and say to their brethren, “come and join us.” They hardly take any part in battle. When danger comes, you see them staring at you with their eyes rolling like someone in the throes of death. But once the danger is over, they slash you with razor-sharp tongues, ravenous for worldly gains. Such people have not truly believed, so Allah has rendered their deeds void. And that is easy for Allah. They still think that the enemy alliance has not yet withdrawn. And if the allies were to come again, the hypocrites would wish to be away in the desert among nomadic Arabs, only asking for news about you believers. And if the hypocrites were in your midst, they would hardly take part in the fight (18-20). If the hypocrites, and those with sickness in their hearts, and rumourmongers in Medina do not desist, We shall incite you up to take action against them; then they will not be able to live in this city as your neighbours. They deserve to be condemned. If they were to persist, they would get themselves seized and killed relentlessly wherever they are found. This has been Allah’s Way regarding such people before, and you will see no change in the Way of Allah (60-62).

**Admonishing:** Allah turned away the disbelievers empty handed seething in rage without gaining any benefit, and Allah is sufficient for the believers in their fight. For Allah is All-Powerful, Almighty. And He brought down from their fortresses those People of the Book who supported the invading confederates and cast such terror into their hearts that some of them you killed and some you took prisoners. He has also caused you to take over their lands, homes,

and wealth, as well as lands you have not yet set foot on. And Allah is Most Capable of everything (25-27). Indeed, We offered the trust to the heavens and the earth and the mountains, but they refused to bear it and were afraid of it, but man carried it. Surely, he is wrong-doing and ignorant. The consequence of carrying the trust is, that Allah should Punish the hypocritical men and women and polytheistic men and women and accept the repentance of the believing men and women. For Allah is indeed All-Forgiving and Most Merciful (72-73).

**Lessons:** 1) Allah is the Almighty. 2) He is a Witness over all things. 3) He is Sufficient as a Reckoner and Sufficient for you needs. 4) He is the Knower of everything. 5) Call your adopted sons by their fathers' names. 6) You will be held accountable for what you do intentionally. 7) Whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger has strayed. 8) Those who slander others unjustifiably, they will bear the burden of slander and blatant sin. 9) Fear Allah and say what is right.

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## 34. Lessons in Surah Saba

The Surah Saba is the 34<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 54 verses. The Surah takes its name from verse 15 in which the word Saba (Sabaeans) has occurred. It is thought it was revealed during middle Makkah period. The Surah deals with the objections of the disbelievers, which they were raising against the message of monotheism and the Hereafter, and about Mohammed's Prophethood. Most of their objections were based on absurd accusations and insults.

### Summary of subjects

**Allah:** All praise is for Allah, Who is the Owner of everything in the heavens and the earth, and praise be to Him in the Hereafter. He is the All-Wise, the All-Aware. He knows whatever goes into the earth and whatever comes out of it; and whatever descends from the sky and whatever ascends into it. He is the Most Merciful, the All-Forgiving (1-2).

**Quran:** The disbelievers vow, "We will never believe in this Quran, nor in those scriptures which came before it." If only you could see when the wrongdoers will be standing before their Lord, each bandying charge against the other. Those who were suppressed will say to those who waxed arrogant, "Had it not been for you, we would certainly have been believers." The arrogant will respond to the oppressed, "Did we ever hinder you from the guidance when it

came to you? In fact, you yourselves were guilty.” The oppressed will say to the arrogant. “Nay, but it was your plotting by day and night when you told us to deny Allah and to set up others as equals with Him.” When confronted with the chastisement, they will be remorseful in their hearts. and We shall put fetters on the necks of the disbelievers. Can the people be requited except in accordance with their deeds (31-33)?

**Mohammed(SAW):** The disbelievers say, “The Hour will never come upon us?” Say, “By my Lord the Knower of the Unseen, it will certainly come upon you. Not an atom’s weight of anything is hidden from Him in the heavens or the earth, nor anything smaller or larger than that, but is recorded in a Clear Register. “The Hour shall take place, so that Allah may reward those who have believed and did good works. For them is forgiveness and a generous provision. As for those who strive to discredit Our Revelations, for them is a painful torment of the worst kind. O Prophet, those who possess the knowledge know well that whatever has been revealed to you from your Lord, is the Truth, and it guides to the Way of the Almighty, the All-Praiseworthy (3-6). O Prophet ask them, “Who provides you sustenance from the Heavens and the earth?” Say, “Allah! Only one of us is on the Right Way and the other on manifest error.” Say to them, “You will not be questioned for our errors, nor shall we be accountable for your deeds.” Say, “Our Lord will gather us together, then He will judge between us with the truth. For He is All-Knowing Judge.” Say to them, “**Show me those whom you have made associates with Him.**” Nay, in fact He alone is the Almighty, the All-Wise. O Prophet, We have sent you to the entire mankind as a bearer of good news and a warner, but most people do not know (24-28). O Prophet say to them, “I advise you only one thing, think hard singly or in twos for the sake of Allah and reflect as to what is there of madness in your companion. He is only a warner to you before the coming of a grievous chastisement.” Say to them, “If I have ever asked you for a reward, you can keep it, for my reward is with Allah and He is a witness over all things.” Say to them, “My Lord inspires me with the Truth, and He is the Knower of all unseen.” Say, “The Truth has come, and falsehood cannot succeed whatever it may do.” Say: “If I am astray then the hurt of straying will be upon me. But if I am rightly guided, it is only because of the revelation that my Lord makes to me. He is All-Hearing, Ever Near” (46-50).

**Prophets(AS):** We bestowed Our favor upon David. We commanded the mountains and birds to harmonize with him. We made iron mouldable for him, instructing: “Fashion coats of mail and measure their links with care and act righteously. I am watching over whatever you do” (10-11).

And for Solomon We subjected the wind which covered a month's journey in the morning and in the evening. We caused a stream of molten copper to flow for him and subdued some jinn to serve him by Our command. Whoever from among them deviated from Our command, We made him taste the brazing Fire. They used to build for him whatever he wanted, lofty buildings, images, huge bowls like Lagan and immovable heavy pots. O people of David, work gratefully, only a few of My servants are truly grateful (12-13).

When We decreed Solomon's death, nothing indicated to the jinn that he was dead except the termites eating away his staff. So, when he collapsed, the Jinn realized that if they had known the unseen, they would not have stayed in such humiliating servitude (14).

**The Disbelievers:** The disbelievers say to the people, "Shall we show you a man who claims that when your bodies have disintegrated, you will be resurrected back to life? Has he fabricated a lie against Allah or is he insane." In fact, those who do not believe in the Hereafter, will incur the punishment and they are in gross error (7-8). The disbelievers ask, "When will the promise of the Hour be fulfilled if you are truthful?" Tell them, "The appointed Day is fixed, which you can neither hold back for an hour nor hasten it by an hour" (29-30). When Our clear verses are recited to them, they say, "This person only wants to prevent you from your gods that your forefathers used to worship." And this Quran is nothing but a fabricated lie. When the Truth came before the disbelievers, they said, "This is nothing but pure magic." They say so even though We had never given them any scripture to study, nor did We send to them any warner before you. Those destroyed before them denied as well. They have not attained even a tenth of what We had given them. Yet when they denied My messengers, see how severe My response was (43-45). If you could only see when the disbelievers will go about in a state of terror. They will have no escape and will be seized close by. Then they will cry, "We believe in it," but whence can they attain it from so far-off a place (51-52)? They disbelieved in it before and indulged in conjectures from far away. A barrier will be placed between them and what they desire, as was done with the likes of them before. Surely, they were in a disquieting doubt (53-54).

**Polytheist:** Say to the polytheists, "Call upon those whom you claim as deities besides Allah. They do not possess an atom's weight of anything in the heavens or in the earth, nor is any of them an associate of Allah. And intercession with Him is of no avail except for those to whom He permits. When the dread is gone from their hearts, the people will ask their intercessors, "What did your Lord say?" They will reply: "He said what is right, and He is the High, the Great" (22-23).

**Admonishing:** Do they not see how the heavens and the earth encompasses them from the front and the rear? If We willed, We could cause the earth to swallow them, or cause some fragments of the sky to fall down upon them. Surely in this is a Sign for every servant who turns to Allah (9). Indeed, there was a Sign for the Sabbatharians in their dwelling: Two gardens, one to the right and other to the left. They were told: “Eat of the provisions of your Lord and be grateful to Him. A good town and Forgiving Lord. But they turned away. So, We sent upon them a devastating flood bursting the dam, and replaced their gardens by two others producing bitter fruit and tamarisks and a few thorny trees. This was Our reward for their ingratitude, and We recompense none with such a retribution except the ungrateful (15-17). And between them and the towns which We had blessed, We established prominent settlements and set the distances of journeys in them at a measure. “Travel on these ways night and day in complete security.” But they said, “Our Lord, make our journeys longer,” wronging themselves. Consequently, We made them myths and scattered them utterly. Surely in this are lessons for whoever is patient and grateful. In their case Satan found his assumption to be correct, and they all followed him except for a small group of the believers. He had no authority over them, it happened because We willed to distinguish those who believed in the Hereafter from those who are in doubt about it. Your Lord is Watchful over everything (18-21). Whenever We sent a warner to a society, its elite would say, “We deny what you have been sent with.” Adding, “We have more wealth and children than you, and we shall never be punished.” Say O Prophet, “My Lord gives abundantly to whom He wills and sparingly to whom He wills, but most people do not realize this.” It is not your wealth nor your children, which bring you closer to Us, but those who believe and do good works. They are the ones who will have a double reward for their deeds, and they will live in lofty mansions in peace. As for those who strive to discredit Our Revelation, it is they who will be confined in punishment (34-38). O Prophet, say to them, “My Lord gives abundantly to whomever of His servants He wills and sparingly to whom He wills. Whatever you spend, He replenishes it by other provisions, He is the best of Providers” (39).

**End Times:** On the Day when Allah will gather all together, He will ask the angels, “Did they really worship you?” They will reply, “Glory be to Thee, our connection is with Thee, not with them. In fact, it was not us they worshiped, but it was the jinn they used to worship, and most of them believed in them. At that time, We shall say: “Today you can neither benefit or harm one another; and We shall say to the wrongdoers, “Now taste the torment of Hell which you used to deny, calling it a lie” (40-42).

**Lessons:** 1) The Day of Resurrection is sure to come for Allah's Judgement to reward the believers and punish the disbelievers. 2) Those who do not believe in the hereafter are doomed. 3) Blaming others on Judgment Day won't avail anyone. 4) Whoever uses his wits would know that whatever has been revealed by their Lord, is the Truth. 5) Mohammed(SAW) was sent as Messenger for the whole mankind. 6) Everyone is accountable for his own deeds. 7) **The deities you call on besides Allah do not own even an iota in the heavens and the earth, nor are they partners with Allah.** 8) **Intercession before Allah can not avail anyone except for whom He permits.** 9) Wealth and children are test of this world. 10) On the Day of Judgement disbelievers will wish that they were believers. 11) Whatever you spend in charity, Allah will pay you back in full.

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### 35. Lessons in Surah Al-Fatir

The surah Al-Fatir is the 35<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 45 verses. Its name is derived from the first verse and is thought to have been revealed in the earlier Makkah period. It tells us that we are not meant to live this worldly life irresponsibly, otherwise we will face the consequences of our ignorance in the Hereafter.

#### Summary of subjects

**Allah:** Praise be to Allah, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, the One who assigned angels as messengers, with wings in twos, threes, and fours. He adds to His creation as He desires. Indeed, Allah has power over everything. Whatever door of mercy Allah opens for people, no one can close it, and the door that He closes, no one has the power to open it after Him. He is the Most Mighty, the Most Wise (1-2). He is omniscient, selfless, admirable in His Own Right and Most Forgiving. Indeed, Allah is aware of every secret thing in the heavens and the earth, He even knows the hidden secrets of the breasts. He made you vicegerents in the earth. Now whoever disbelieves shall himself bear the burden of his disbelief, and for the disbelievers their disbelief does not increase anything except the wrath of their Lord, and the disbelievers do not gain anything except an increase in their punishment (38-39).

**Mohammed(SAW):** O Prophet, if these people treat you as a liar, it is not a new thing, as many Messengers before you also have been treated as liars. And all affairs shall ultimately be presented before Allah (4). O Prophet, you can only warn those who fear their Lord without seeing Him and establish the Prayer. Whoever purifies himself does so for his own good, and to Allah shall all return. The blind and the sighted are not alike, nor are the darkness and light, nor the cool shade and the torrid heat, nor the living and the dead

are alike. Allah causes whomever He wills to hear, but you O Mohammed(SAW) you cannot make those buried in the graves hear you. You are only a warner. We have sent you with the Truth, as a bearer of good news and a warner. And there has been no nation which was not visited by a warner (18-24). Now if they consider you a liar, those who came before them also considered their Messengers as liars. Their Messengers came to them with clear evidence, Scriptures, and the illuminating Book. Then We seized those who disbelieved, and indeed, how severe was My punishment (25-26)! O Prophet, the Book that We have sent to you by revelation is the Truth, confirming the previous Scriptures. Allah is indeed fully aware of His servants, and Ever Watchful over everything (31).

**The believer:** Those who read the Book of Allah and establish the Salat, and spend out of what We have given them, secretly and openly, do hope for a bargain which involves no loss. A trade in which they have invested their all, so that Allah may give them their full rewards and bless them with even more from His grace. Surely, He is Most Forgiving and Most Appreciative (29-30). Then We bestowed the Book to those of Our servants that We chose. Now some of them wrong themselves, some follow the medium course; and some excel in good deeds by Allah's leave. This is Allah's supreme bounty. There are everlasting Gardens which they shall enter to be decorated with bracelets of gold and pearls, and their dress will be of silk. They will say, "Praise be unto Allah Who has removed sorrow from us. Surely, our Lord is Ever Forgiving and Bounteous, Who by His grace has lodged us in an eternal abode. Here we do neither experience any trial nor any weariness" (32-35).

**The Disbelievers:** And for those who have disbelieved there is the Fire of Hell: neither will, it be decreed that they should die, nor will the torment of Hell be lightened for them in any way. Thus, do We requite every disbeliever. There they will cry out and say, "Our Lord, take us out from here so that we may do good works other than those which we had been doing." (The reply will be) "Did We not give you lives long enough so that he who would, could take a warning? And the warner also had come to you. Now taste (the torment). The wicked will have no helper here" (36-37).

**Polytheism:** Those whom you invoke instead of Him do not even own a blade of grass. If you call them, they cannot hear your prayers, and if they hear, they cannot answer you. On the Day of Resurrection, they will disown your Polytheism. None can inform you of the truth except the One Who is All-Aware (11-14). O Prophet, say to them, "Have you ever seen those associates of yours whom you invoke instead of Allah? Tell me: What have they created in the earth, or what is their share in the heavens?" If they cannot tell this,

ask them: "Have We given them a writing affording a clear sanction for their polytheism?" Nay, but these wicked people are only beguiling one another with delusions. The fact is that it is Allah alone Who is sustaining the heavens and the earth from falling into oblivion and if they fall into the abyss there is none to sustain them after Allah. Indeed, Allah is Most Forbearing and Most Forgiving (40-41). These people used to swear on solemn oaths by Allah that if a warner had visited them, they would certainly have been better guided than any other nation in the world. But when a warner did come to them, it increased them in nothing but aversion to the Truth. They began to behave even more haughtily in the land and to plot evil, whereas the plotting of evil recoils only on the plotters themselves. Now, are these people awaiting that they should be dealt with by Allah in the like way as the preceding nations were dealt with? Well, you will never find any change in the Way of Allah, nor will you see that a power can turn the Way of Allah from its appointed course. Have they never travelled about in the land that they could see the end of those who have passed before them, and who were far mightier than they? There is nothing that could make Allah helpless, neither in the heavens nor in the earth. He knows everything and has power over everything. If Allah were to seize the people for their misdeeds, He would not have left alive any living being on the earth. But He is giving them respite till an appointed time. So, when the appointed time comes, Allah will fully observe His servants (42-45).

**Admonishing:** People, Allah's promise is true. Don't let the worldly life or the great deceiver deceive you about Allah. Satan is your enemy, so treat him as such. He is leading his followers to Hell. Disbelievers will face severe punishment, but believers who do good will be forgiven and rewarded (5-7). Can you imagine the deviation of a person who sees their evil deed as good and fair? Allah leads astray whom He pleases and shows the Right Way to whom He please. So, do not grieve for these people, O Prophet. Allah is aware of their actions. It is Allah who sends the winds, raises the clouds, drives them towards a wasteland, and revives the land after its death. This is how the Resurrection of the dead will be (8-9). Allah created you from dust, then from a sperm-drop, and then made you into pairs i.e., male and females. No woman conceives or gives birth except by the knowledge of Allah. No aging person grows old, nor is anything reduced from their age except in accordance with a Book. This is an easy thing for Allah. And the two bodies of water are not alike. One is sweet and thirst-quenching, pleasant to drink, while the other is salty and pungent; yet from both, you get fresh flesh and bring out decorations to wear. And in the same waters, you see the ships ploughing through it, so that you may seek Allah's bounty and be grateful to Him. He causes the

night to pass into the day and the day into the night, and He has subjected the sun and the moon until an appointed time. The same Allah Whose works are these is your Lord: Sovereignty is His (11-13). Whoever seeks honour should understand that honour belongs to Allah. Only pure words rise to Him, and righteous deeds cause it to rise. Those who plot evil will face severe torment, and their plotting will perish (10). O people, you need Allah. If He wishes, He can remove you and bring a new creation in your place. This is not difficult for Him. No one will bear another's burden, and if a burdened soul cries out for help, no one will come forward to share its burden, even the closest kin (15-18). Do you not see that Allah sends down rain from the sky and bring forth thereby a variety of fruits of different colours? In the mountains also there are streaks, white and red and black, with different hues. And likewise, men, beasts and cattle also have different colours. The fact is that only those of His servants, who possess knowledge, fear Allah. Surely, Allah is All-Mighty, All-Forgiving (27-28).

**Ponder:** O people, remember the favors Allah has bestowed upon you. Is there any creator besides Allah who provides for you from the heavens and the earth? There is no god but He. From where then are you being deceived (3)?

**Lessons:** 1) Allah's promise is true. Don't let the worldly life or the great deceiver deceive you about Allah. 2) Even Mohammed(SAW) cannot make the people of the graves hear him. How can people talk to them. 3) Allah creates His creations as He desires. 4) Truth will certainly succeed over falsehood. 5) None can stop mercy of Allah. 6) Allah's plan cannot be changed or altered. Allah gives time to people to repent. 7) If Allah were to seize the people for their misdeeds, no one would be left alive on the earth. 8) Satan is your enemy, so treat him as such. He leads his followers to Hell. 9) The fact is **that only those of His servants, who possess knowledge, fear Allah.** 10) There is no creator besides Allah, then from where you are being deceived. 11) Allah's scriptures totally deny polytheism. 12) After death there is no turning back, so mend your ways according to the Quran.

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### 36. Lessons in Surah Yaseen

The surah Yaseen is the 36<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 83 verses. Its name is derived from the first two letters of the first verse and is thought to have been revealed in the last Makkah period. It emphasizes reasoning about monotheism by considering the signs in the universe. It talks about the Hereafter and the second life of man, the prophethood of Mohammed(SAW) and his rationality and selflessness in preaching the message of Allah.

## Summary of subjects

**Mohammed(saw):** Ya Sin. By the wise Quran, you are indeed among the Messengers and are on the Straight Path. This Quran has been revealed by the Most Mighty, the Most Compassionate Lord, so that you may warn those whose forefathers had no warner, wherefore they are heedless (1-6). We have not taught this Prophet poetry, nor does poetry behoove him. This is only an Admonition and a lucid Book, so that he may warn everyone who is living, and the charge is established against the disbelievers (69-70).

**The believer:** You can only warn him who follows the admonition and fears the Merciful Lord without seeing Him. For him is glad tidings of forgiveness and a great reward (11).

**The Disbelievers:** Indeed, Most of them have deserved the chastisement, that is because they do not believe. We have put on their necks fetters which reach to their chins, so they stand with heads upright. We have erected a wall in front of them and a wall behind them. We have covered them, they do not perceive anything now. It is all the same for them whether you warn them or warn them not, they would not believe (7-10).

When they are told to guard against what has passed and what is ahead of them so that they may be shown mercy, they still pay no heed to it. Whatever Revelations of their Lord reaches them, they turn away from it. And when it is said to them, “Spend also in the way of Allah out of what He has given you,” those who disbelieve say to those who believe, “Should we feed those whom Allah Himself could have fed had He so willed? You have utterly gone astray (45-47).”

**Admonishing:** Tell them, for instance, the story of the people of a town when two Messengers came to them, and they denied both. Then, We sent a third one to strengthen them, and they all said that we have been sent to you as Messengers. The people said that you are mere human like us, and the Merciful Lord has revealed nothing. You are simply lying. The apostles replied that our Lord knows that we have indeed been sent as Messengers to you and our only responsibility is to convey the message plainly. The people said, “We regard you as an evil omen for ourselves. If you do not desist, we shall stone you, and you will receive a painful punishment from us.” The Messengers replied, “Your evil omen is with your own selves. Do you say this because you have been admonished? The fact is that you are a people who have transgressed all limits.” In the meantime, a man came running from the remote part of the city, and he said, “O my people, follow the Messengers, follow those who do not ask any reward of you and are on the Right Way. Why should I not worship the Being Who has created me, and to whom all of us must return? Should I take other

gods than Him? And if the Merciful God intends to harm me, their intercession cannot avail me anything, nor can they rescue me. If I do so, I would be involved in manifest error. I have believed in their Lord, so, you also should listen to me." Consequently, they killed the man, and it was said to him, "Enter Paradise." He said, "Would that my people knew how my Lord has forgiven me and included me among the honored ones" (13-27). After him We did not send any army against his people from heaven nor was it needful for Us to send one. There only occurred a single blast and they all became extinct. Alas for the servants! There came no Messenger to them, but they scoffed at him. Have they not seen many nations We have destroyed before them, and they never returned to them? One day they will all be presented before Us (28-32).

**Ponder:** The dead land is a Sign for these people. We gave it life and produced grain from it, which they eat. We made gardens of date-palms and grapes in it and caused springs to gush out of it so that they may eat fruits thereof. It is not their hands which have made all this. Do they not then give thanks? Glorified is He Who created in pairs all species, whether of vegetation or of their own (i.e., human) kind, or of those things of which they know nothing (33-36).

Another sign for them is the night, when We remove the day from it, darkness falls upon them. The sun is running its course to its appointed place. This is the decree of the All-Mighty, All-Knowing God. And the Moon, We have determined stages for it till it again becomes like an old dry palm-branch. Neither is it possible for the Sun to overtake the Moon, nor for the night to outstrip the day. Each is gliding in its own orbit (37-40).

Yet another Sign for them is that We bore their progeny in a laden ship, and then made for them similar other ships which they board. If We please, We can drown them when they would have no one to hear their cry, nor would they be rescued in any way. It is Our Mercy alone which sustains them and enables them to enjoy life till an appointed time (41-44).

If We had willed, We could so transform them in their places that they would neither be able to go forward nor return. Whomsoever We grant a long life, We just reverse him in nature and constitution. Do they not understand anything from this (66-68)?

**End Times:** We shall certainly one day raise the dead to life. We are recording all the deeds they have done and that which they have left behind. We have preserved everything in an open Book (12). They say, "When will the threat of Doomsday be carried out? Tell us if you are truthful." In fact, what they are awaiting is a single blast, which will suddenly seize them while they will be disputing about their worldly affairs. Then they will neither be able to make

a will, nor be able to return to their families. Then a Trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come out of their graves forthwith to present themselves before their Lord. Bewildered they will say, “Ah! who has roused us from our sleeping-place?” “This is the same which the Merciful God had promised, and the Messengers had spoken the truth.” There shall only be a single loud blast and they shall be presented before Us, all together (48-53).

Today no one shall suffer the least injustice, and you shall not be recompensed except according to your deeds. Today, the people of Paradise will be busy enjoying themselves they and their spouses shall be reclining on their couches in shady groves; therein there will be all kinds of fruits to eat, and they shall have all that they desire. “Peace” shall be the word conveyed to them from their Merciful Lord. “Criminals, separate yourselves from others today! Children of Adam, did I not command you not to serve Satan, he is to you an open enemy, and serve Me alone: this is the Straight Way? Still, he misguided a whole throng of you. Did you have no sense? This is the same Hell with which you used to be threatened. Now be its fuel in consequence of your disbelief in the world (54-64). On that Day We shall seal their tongues: their hands will speak to Us, and their feet will testify as to what they had been earning in the world (65).

**Lessons:** 1) Most people will deserve punishment for their disbelief. 2) Surely on that Day the dead will be resurrected. The traces of their deeds (good and bad) left behind are recorded in an open Book. 3) Those who worship false gods will not be able to intercede for them or benefit them. 4) Out of the sustenance that Allah has given you, spend it in the way of Allah. 5) On the Day of Resurrection, everyone will confess that this is what the Most Merciful Lord promised and what the Messengers said was true. 6) On that Day their mouths will be shut (so that they cannot make excuses) and their hands and feet will testify. 7) He will resurrect from the decayed bones (DNA).

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## 37. Lessons in Surah As-Saaffat

The surah As-Saaffat (Those Ranged in Rows) is the 37<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 182 verses. Its name is derived from first verse and is thought to have been revealed in the last stage of the middle Makkah period, when the Prophet and his Companions were passing through very difficult and discouraging circumstances. The surah emphasizes on Oneness of Allah, Prophethood of Mohammed(SAW) and refutes the polytheistic and heretical beliefs.

### Summary of subjects

**Allah:** By those (angels) who are lined up, by those who rebuke harshly, and by those who recite the Exhortation; surely your God is One, Lord of the heavens and the earth and whatever lies between them, the Lord of the Easts. We have adorned the lower heaven with stars and have protected it from every rebellious devil. These satans cannot listen to what transpires in the High Council for they are pelted away from every side and are repelled. Theirs is an unceasing chastisement (1-10).

**Mohammed(SAW):** Therefore, O Prophet, leave them alone for a while, and watch, soon they will see for themselves. Are they hastening for our chastisement? When it descends in their courtyard, that day will be a dreadful day for those who have been warned. So, leave them alone for a while and see; and they too shall soon see. Exalted is your Lord, Lord of Honor, and free from all that they attribute to Him, and peace on the Messengers, and all praise is only for Allah, Lord of the Universe (174-182).

**Prophets(AS):** Before this **Noah(AS)** had called upon Us. See, how we were good responders. We saved him and his family from a great calamity; and made his generation the only ones to survive and left his praise and admiration in posterity. Peace be upon Noah among all the nations. That's how We reward the righteous. He was indeed one of Our truly believing servants. Thereafter We caused the others to be drowned (75-82).

And **Abraham(AS)** also was who followed the way of Noah. When he approached his Lord with a sound heart. **When he said to his father and his people, “What are these things that you worship? Do you want to serve false deities instead of Allah. So, what do you think about the Lord of the whole Universe” (83-87)?** Then he looked carefully at the stars and said, “I am sick.” So, they left him behind and went away. **Behind them he sneaked into the temple of their gods and said, “Why don’t you eat?” What is the matter with you, why do you not speak?”** Then he turned upon them, striking them with his right hand. Whereupon people came to him running. **Abraham said to them: “Do you worship what you yourselves have carved with your own hands while it is Allah Who has created you and all that you make?”** They said to one another, **“Build him a pyre and throw him into the blazing flames.”** They had contrived an evil plan against him, but We abased them all (88-98). Abraham said, “I shall go to my Lord. He will guide me. Lord, grant me a righteous son.” In response to this prayer, We gave him the good news of a sensible boy. When the boy was old enough to work with him, one day Abraham said to him, “Son, I saw a dream that I am sacrificing you, now tell me what you think.” He said, “father, do as you are being commanded. God willing, you will find me among the patient ones.” At last, when both surrendered to Allah’s

command, and Abraham flung his son down on forehead, We called out, "O Abraham, you have indeed fulfilled your dream. Thus, do We reward the righteous. This was indeed a manifest trial." And We ransomed his son with a great sacrifice and left his praise and admiration forever in posterity. Peace is upon Abraham. Thus, do We reward the good doers. Surely, he was one of Our believing servants. And We gave him the good news of Isaac, a Prophet among the righteous ones. And we blessed him and Isaac. **Among the offspring of the two some are righteous, and someone clearly wronged themselves** (99-113).

We bestowed Our favours on **Moses(AS)** and **Aaron(AS)** and We delivered them and their people from a great distress. We gave them support due to which they prevailed. We gave them a clear Book, and guided them to the Right Way, and left good words for them among posterity. Peace is on Moses and Aaron. Thus, do We reward the righteous. Indeed, they were among Our believing servants (114-122).

**Elias(AS)** also was one of the Messengers. Remember when he said to his people, "Do you not fear? Do you invoke Baal and forsake the Best of Creators, that Allah Who is your Lord and Lord of all your forefathers?" But they denounced him as a liar, so they will certainly be presented for punishment, except for the true servants of God, and We left good words for Elias among posterity. Peace is upon Elias. Thus, do We reward the righteous. Indeed, he was one of Our believing servants (123-132).

And **Lot(AS)** also was one of the Messengers. Remember when We rescued him and all his household, except for an old woman who was among those who remained behind. Then We destroyed the others completely. Now you pass by their ruins by day and by night. Do you still not understand (133-138)?

And indeed **Jonah(AS)** also was a Messenger. Call to mind when he fled to the laden ship; then he took part in the casting of lots and lost. At last, the fish swallowed him, for he was blameworthy. Had he not been of those who glorify Us, he would have remained in the fish's belly till the Day of Resurrection. Finally, We cast him on a bare shore in a state of disrepair, and caused a thicket to grow over him. Then We sent him to a hundred thousand people, or more. They believed in him and We let them live till an appointed time (139-148).

**The Disbelievers:** Ask them: Does it appeal to them that their Lord has daughters (angels) and they should have sons! Have We really created the angels as females, and they witnessed it? Behold, it is one of their fabrications that they say, "Allah has children." They are utter liars. Did Allah choose daughters (they despise) for Himself instead of sons? What is the matter with you that you make such strange judgments? Will you not take heed? Or do you have

clear evidence for such claims? Bring your Book if you are truthful (149-157). They have established a relationship of kinship between Allah and the angels, whereas the angels know very well that these people are going to appear as criminals. And they say: "Exalted be Allah above what they attribute to Him, all of them except His true servants. So, you and your deities cannot turn anyone from Allah, except him who shall burn in the blazing Fire. As for us, there is none but has an appointed station, and we are the ranged servants and the glorifiers of Allah" (158-166). Before this they used to say, "If we had the Admonition which the earlier people had received, we would have been the chosen servants of Allah." But when it did come, they denied it. Now, they will soon come to know the consequences of this attitude. We had promised Our servants whom We sent that they would certainly be helped, and Our army alone would be triumphant (167-173).

**Admonishing:** The disbelievers were told to consider, "Is their creation harder to create than all the objects We created (Universe)?" We created them from sticky clay. You are amazed (at the wonders of God's power), and they are mocking Him, but they are scoffing at it. When they are admonished, they pay no heed. When they see any sign, they mock it, and say, this is plain sorcery. Is it possible that when we are dead and become dust and a cage of bones, we will be raised to life? And will our ancestors be resurrected in the same way? Tell them, yes, and that you are helpless against Allah (11-18).

**End Times:** There will be only a scream, and suddenly they will be looking with their eyes at the thing they have been warned about. Then they will say, woe to us, this is the Day of Requital. It is the same Day of Requital which you used to deny (19-21).

**People of Paradise:** But the chosen servants of Allah will remain safe from this evil end. For them there is a known provision: tasteful things of all kinds and gardens of delight wherein they shall be lodged with honour. They will sit face to face on couches; cups filled with wine from its spring will be passed around to them, white, sparkling wine, a delight to the drinkers. Neither will they be harmed physically thereby nor become drunk. And beside them there will be chaste women with beautiful eyes, restraining their looks, delicate as the thin skin hidden under the eggshell (40-49).

**People of Hell:** On that Day the angels will be ordered to gather all the wrongdoers and their wives and the gods they worshiped besides Allah and lead them to the path of Hellfire, and stop them there, they will be questioned. What happened to you, why don't you help each other now? Oh today, they are surrendering themselves. Then they will turn to each other for mutual reproaches. They will say to their guides: "You used to come to us from the right side." They

will say: “Nay, you yourselves were not the ones who would believe, we had no power over you, you yourselves were a rebellious people. Consequently, we have deserved the verdict of our Lord that we should taste the torment. So, we led you astray for we ourselves had gone astray” (22-32). **On that Day they will all share the torment.** Thus, do We deal with the criminals. These were the people, when it was said to them, “There is no god but Allah,” they waxed proud and said: “Shall we forsake our deities for the sake of a distracted poet?” Whereas he had come with the Truth and confirmed the veracity of the Messengers. Then it will be said to them, **“You shall taste the painful scourge, and your will be recompensed strictly according to your deeds that you have been performing”** (33-39). Say, “Is this feast better or the Zaqqum tree? We have made that tree a trial for the wicked people. It is a tree that grows out from the bottom of Hell. Its buds are like the heads of Satan. The dwellers of Hell shall eat it (willingly) and fill their bellies with it. Then, upon it, they will get boiling water to drink (willingly). **Then, their return shall be to the same Fire of Hell.** These are the people, who found their forefathers astray and they hastened in their footsteps, whereas many people before them had gone astray though We had sent warner among them. Now see what the end of those was, who had been warned. Only such servants of Allah were able to avoid this evil end, whom Allah has chosen for Himself (62-74).

**People of Paradise:** Then they will turn to one another to ask questions. One of them will say, “I had a friend in the world, who used to say, “Are you also of those who affirm? **What! When we are dead and have become dust and bones, shall we really be rewarded and punished?”** Now, do you want to see where that man is?” Saying this as he will look down, he will see him in the depth of Hell. He will say to him, “By Allah! You almost ruined me. But for Allah’s grace, I am among those who have been mustered here. Well! We shall not face another death other than our first death, and neither will we be punished”. Indeed, this is the greatest success. For the like of it should the workers work (50-61).

**Lessons:** 1) Your Lord is One, Lord of the heavens and the earth and whatever lies between them. 2) When death descends in their courtyard, that day will be a dreadful day for those who have been warned. 3) peace be upon all prophets. 4) Worship only Allah, and do not worship any false deities or gods designed by your hands. You and what you created belong to Allah. 5) Even if you become dust, you will be resurrected.

## 38. Lessons in Surah Saad

The surah Saad is the 38<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 88 verses. Its name is derived from first verse and is thought to have been revealed in the start of last stage of the Makkan period. After reciting verse 24 prostration is obligatory. It proves Mohammed's prophethood by citing specific examples of earlier messengers of Allah and cautions the people of Makkah by referencing the consequences that befell nations who rejected Allah's message.

### Summary of subjects

**Allah:** He is the Supreme Lord of the heavens and the earth and everything in between. He is the Almighty, the Most Forgiving, and indeed the real Bounteous Giver.

**Quran:** They say: “We have not heard this in the religious community close to our time. This is nothing but a fabrication. Has this Exhortation been sent down to him from among us?” The fact of the matter is that they doubt My “Admonition”, they say this because they have not yet tasted My punishment (7-8). This is an admonishing.

**Mohammed(SAW):** This is a highly blessed Book, which We have sent down to you O Mohammed, so that the people may ponder over its verses and the men of understanding may learn lessons from it. All this is for the righteous (29). Tell them: “I am only a warner. There is no deity but Allah, the One, the Supreme, the Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them, the Mighty, the Forgiving.” Say: “It is a tiding of importance, from which you are turning away” (65-68). Tell them: “I do not ask you for any recompense for this for the performance of this task; nor am I an imposter. This is an Admonition for all people of the world. After a while You will know the truth of the matter” (86-88).

**Prophets(AS):** O Prophet say to them, “I had no knowledge of the High Council when they were disputing concerning **Adam(AS)**. I am informed of all this by revelation because I am a warner.” When your Lord said to the angels, “I am going to create a human from clay. After I have created him and breathed into him of My spirit, prostrate yourselves before him.” All the angels prostrated to Adam except Satan. He waxed proud and became one of the unbelievers. The Lord asked: “O Satan, what prevented you from prostrating to what I created of My Two Hands. Are you waxing proud, or fancy yourself to be too exalted?” He replied: “I am better than he. You created me from fire and created him from clay.” He said: “Get out of here; surely you are accursed, and My curse shall remain upon you till the Day of Resurrection.” Satan said: “My Lord, then grant me respite till the Day that they are raised up.” He said: “You are of

those who have been granted respite till the Day whose Hour I know.” Satan said: “By Your glory, I shall mislead them all except those of Your servants, the chosen ones from amongst them.” He(SWT) said: “This is the Truth, and I only speak the Truth, I will surely fill hell with you and all those who follow you” (69-85). O Prophet, be patient with what they say and narrate before them the story of our servant **David**(AS), who was endowed with great powers, who turned to Allah in every matter. We subjected for him the mountains, which joined with him in celebrating Allah’s glory, evening, and morning. The birds would gather in their flocks and turn again and again to Allah’s hymns. We strengthened his kingdom and endowed him with wisdom and decisive judgement. Has the story of the litigants, who had entered his upper chamber by climbing over the wall, reached you? When they came before David, he was alarmed to see them. They said, “Have no fear: we are two parties in a suit, one of which has wronged the other, so judge rightly between us, and be not unjust; and guide us to the right way. This is my brother; he has ninety-nine ewes and I have only one ewe.” He said to me: “Give this ewe also me,” and he got the better of me in argument. David said: “He has certainly wronged you in seeking to add your ewe to his ewes; and indeed, many who live together commit excesses on one another, **except those that believe and act righteously; and they are but few.**” While he said this; David realized that We had, in fact, tried him; so, he sought the forgiveness of his Lord, and fell prostrate and penitently turning to Him, and certainly, he has a place of nearness with Us and an excellent abode. We said: “O David, We have appointed you vicegerent on earth, **so, rule among people with justice and do not follow your desire lest it should lead you astray from Allah’s Path.**” **For those who go astray from Allah’s Way, there is a severe punishment because they forgot the Judgment Day** (17-26). And to David We gave a son like **Solomon**(AS). An excellent servant, who constantly turned to Us in devotion. One evening when he was presented with well-groomed horses, he said, “I have taken the love of this property because of the remembrance of my Lord.” And when the horses were out of sight, he ordered them to be brought back, and then began to stroke their shanks and necks. Indeed, We tempted Solomon and placed a mere body on his throne. After that he turned to Allah and repented, saying: “O my Lord, forgive me and grant me a kingdom that no one else deserves after me. Surely You are the Bounteous Giver.” So We made the wind subservient to Him, which moved gently at His command wherever He directed it, and We also subjected the devils to him, all kinds of builders and divers; and others that were bound with chains. “This is Our bestowal, so give or withhold as you wish without account.” Indeed, an exalted position of nearness awaits him and an excellent resort

(30-40). And remember Our servant **Job<sub>(AS)</sub>** when he cried to his Lord, saying, “Satan has afflicted me with much hardship and suffering.” We commanded him: “Stamp your foot on the ground, and here is cool water to bathe and drink.” And We granted him his family and also the like of them, as a mercy from Us, and as a reminder to people of understanding, We said to him: “Take in your hand a bunch of straws and strike her with it, and do not break your oath.” Indeed, We found him steadfast. How excellent a servant of Ours he was, who constantly turned to his Lord (41-44). And remember Our servants **Abraham<sub>(AS)</sub>, Isaac<sub>(AS)</sub> and Jacob<sub>(AS)</sub>**, they were endowed with great power and insight. We had chosen them because of a pure quality the remembrance of the abode of the Hereafter. Indeed, in Our sight they are among the chosen and righteous ones. And remember **Ishmael<sub>(AS)</sub>, Elisha<sub>(AS)</sub>, and Dhu al-Kifl<sub>(AS)</sub>**, they were all were of the righteous (45-48).

**The Believers:** An excellent abode is for the pious, the Everlasting Gardens, whose doors are open to them, in which they will recline, and ask for many fruits and drinks, and will be accompanied well-matched, bashful partners. This is what you are promised for the Day of Reckoning. This is Our provision that will never cease. All this is for the God-fearing (49-55).

**The Disbelievers:** By the Quran full of exhortation! Yet, the disbelievers are steeped in arrogance and stubborn defiance. How many a nation did We destroy before them. **When they approached their doom, they cried out for deliverance, but the time for deliverance had past (1-3).**

**Polytheist:** They wondered that a warner from among themselves has come to them. They began to say: “He is a sorcerer, and a liar.” **Has he made one single God in place of all the gods? This is truly shocking.** And their chiefs went forth saying: “Be steadfast in devotion to your deities. What is being said is with a design” (4-6). Do these deities possess the treasures of your Almighty and Bounteous Lord? Or do they have dominion over the heavens and the earth and of all that is in between them? If so, let them ascend the heights of the realm of causation and see (9-10).

**Hell:** For the transgressors, this evil resort awaits them, in which they will roast. What an evil abode. Here they will taste boiling water and pus, and other sufferings of the kind. Observing their followers advancing to Hell they will say, among themselves: “This is a troop rushing into you. There is no welcome for them. They are destined to roast in the Fire.” They will respond, “No, but you yourselves are burning, there is no welcome for you either. It is you who led us to this end. What an evil resort”. They will say: “Our Lord! Whoever brought this upon us, double their punishment in the Hell.” They will ask one another, “How is it that we not see

those whom we considered to be evil? Where we wrong in mocking them; or do our eyes fail to see them?" Verily this is how the inmates of the Fire will dispute among themselves (55-64).

**Admonishing:** This is a small army out of the several armies that will suffer defeat here. Before them did the people of Noah and Ad and the Pharaoh of the pegs, and Thamud, and the people of Lot and those of Aiykah all rejected the Messengers. These were all leagued together. Each of them treated the Messengers as liars, and justly deserved the decree of My chastisement. They are waiting for nothing except a single Cry, after which there will be no second Cry. They say: "Our Lord, hasten to us our share of chastisement before the Day of Reckoning" (11-16). We have not created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them in vain. That is the fancy of those who have disbelieved, so for such disbelievers there is destruction in the fire of hell. Think: Should We treat those who believe and act righteously like those who spread corruption on earth? Or treat alike the God-fearing and the wicked (27-28)?

**Lessons:** 1) Allah is the Supreme Lord of the heavens and the earth and everything in between them. 2) Allah loves those who use their intellect. 3) The treatment of the God-fearing and the wicked cannot be alike. 4) This is the holy Quran, revealed by Allah for people to reflect on its verses and be guided. 5) Allah did not create the heavens and the earth and all that is between them in vain. 6) All the prophets were from their own people.

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## 39. Lessons in Surah Az-Zumar

Surah Az-Zumar is the 39<sup>th</sup> Surah of the Holy Quran which has 75 verses. Its name is derived from verse 71 and it is believed that it was revealed to the Muslims in Makkah just before the migration to Abyssinia during the period of increasing persecution. This surah eloquently emphasizes monotheism and rejects polytheism.

### Summary of subjects

**Allah:** Had Allah willed to take a son, He would have chosen whomever He wanted from among His creatures. Pure is He that He should have a son (weakness). He is Allah alone, the Omnipotent. He has created the heavens and the earth with the truth. It is He Who wraps the night over the day and the day over the night. He has subjugated the sun and the moon that each is moving till an appointed time. Note it well: He is the All-Mighty, the All-Forgiving. It is He Who created you from a single being, then from that being He created its mate, and it is He Who created for you eight heads of cattle in pairs. He shapes you in your

mothers' wombs, giving you one form after the other, under three dark veils. This same Allah is your Sovereign Lord, there is no god but He. Whence are you, then, being turned away (4-6)? He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth, Knower of the unseen and the seen, He alone shall judge between His servants concerning that in which they differ (46). His is the Kingdom of the heavens and the earth. Then, to Him you will be returned (44). Allah is the Creator of all things, and He is the Guardian over all things. To Him belong the keys of the treasures of the heavens and the earth; and the losers are only those who disbelieve His Revelations (62-63). They did not value Allah as He deserved. Such is Allah's powers that the entire earth on the Day of Resurrection shall be in His grasp and the heavens shall be rolled up in His right hand. **Glorified is He and Exalted above what they associate with Him** (67). Allah never fails in His promise. He knows even the secrets of the hearts.

**Quran:** The revelation of this Book is from the All-Mighty, the All-Wise Allah (1). Allah has sent down the best of discourses, a Book all whose parts are uniform in style and whose themes have been repeated. Those who fear their Lord are filled with awe when they hear it, and then their bodies and their hearts soften and turn to the remembrance of Allah. This is Allah's guidance, whereby He guides to the Right Way whomever He wills; and the one whom Allah does not guide has no guide whatever (23). We have cited for the people in this Quran every kind of parable, so that they may take heed. It is a Quran in Arabic without any crookedness in it, so that they may guard against the evil end (27-28).

**Mohammed(SAW):** We have sent down this Book to you with the truth, so worship Allah alone, making your religion His exclusively. **Beware! Religion is exclusively Allah's right** (2-3). Tell them: "I am bidden to serve Allah, consecrating my devotion to Him, and I am bidden to be the first of those who surrender to Him. **If I disobey my Lord, I fear the torment of a dreadful Day. I shall serve Allah alone, making my religion sincerely His (ie be a Muslim)**" (11-14). You and they are destined to die. Finally, on the Day of Resurrection, each will present his case before his Lord (30-31). O Prophet, does Allah not suffice for His servant? **They frighten you with others apart from Him**, although he whom Allah lets go astray, none can guide him to the Right Way. And he whom Allah guides to the Right Way, none can lead him astray. Is not Allah the Most Mighty, the Lord of Retribution (36-37)? O Prophet: We have sent down to you for all mankind this Book with the truth. Now whosoever adopts the right way, will do so for his own sake, and whosoever goes astray, will himself bear the burden of his deviation: you are not responsible for them (41).

**The believer:** Good tiding awaits those who refrained from serving false gods and turned to Allah, thus O Prophet, give good tiding to them, to those who pay heed to what is said and follow the best of it. **These are they whom Allah has shown guidance, and they are the ones endowed with understanding** (17-18). And the one who came with the Truth, and those who confirmed it, they indeed shall remain secure from the torment. They shall get from their Lord whatever they will desire. This is the compensation of those who do right, so that Allah may wipe off from their account their worst deeds and reward them according to their best deeds (33-35).

**The Disbelievers:** How woeful is the plight of him who has nothing except his face to shield him from severe chastisement on the Day of Judgment? To such wrongdoers it will be said, “Taste now (the fruit of) what you had been earning.” Many a people before them also denied likewise. Consequently, the scourge overtook them from whence they least expected. Then Allah made them to taste disgrace even in their worldly life, but the punishment of the Hereafter is far more terrible. Would that they knew it (24-26)! Who can be more unjust than he who lied against Allah and denied the Truth when it came to him, calling it a lie? Is there no room for such unbelievers in Hell (32)? Even if the wicked people possessed all the wealth of the earth, or double, they would be prepared to offer all of it as ransom to escape the dreadful punishment of the Judgment Day; there, something will come to them from Allah that which they had never imagined. The evil consequences of their deeds will become fully apparent to them, and what they had scoffed at will encompass them (47-48).

**Polytheism:** As for those who have taken other guardians besides Allah, to justify say: “**We worship them only that they may bring us closer to Allah.**” Allah will surely judge between them concerning all that in which they differ. Allah does not guide any liar and denier of the truth (3). When an affliction befalls man, he calls upon his Lord, turning to Him in penitence. Then, when his Lord blesses him with his favour, he forgets the affliction for which he was calling upon Him, and sets up others as equals with Allah, to lead astray from His way. Tell him; “Enjoy your disbelief for a while, you shall certainly go to Hell” (8). So, serve apart from Him, whomsoever you please. Say: “The real losers shall be those who will have lost their own selves and their kith and kin on the Day of Resurrection. Behold, that is the obvious loss. They shall have the canopies of fire covering them from above and from beneath them. This is the end against which Allah warns His servants, so, dread My wrath (15-16). If you ask them, “Who created the heavens and the earth?” they will say, “Allah.” Ask them, “**When the fact is this, do you think that if Allah wills harm for me, these goddesses, whom**

you invoke instead of Allah, will avert His harm from me? Or, if Allah wills to show me mercy, will they be able to withhold His mercy?" Therefore, tell them, "Allah is enough for me. In Him do those who trust place their trust." Tell them, "O people, continue to work in your position as you will, I too will continue with my work. Soon you shall know as to whom comes the disgraceful torment and who gets the enduring punishment (38-40)." **Have they taken besides Allah others as intercessors?** Say to them, "Will they intercede even if they have no power whatsoever nor understanding?" Say, "Intercession is wholly in the power of Allah (43). When Allah alone is mentioned, the hearts of those who do not believe in the Hereafter, are filled with anguish; but when others beside Him are mentioned, they are at once filled with joy (45). O Prophet say to them, "O ignorant ones, do you bid me to worship others besides Allah?" Tell them clearly that it was revealed to you and to all Prophets before you: "If you associate any others with Allah in His Divinity, your works will surely come to naught, and you will certainly be among the losers." Therefore, you should worship only Allah and be among His grateful servants (64-66).

**Admonishing:** If you disbelieve, Allah has no need of you. Yet He does not approve disbelief for His servants. And if you are thankful, He approves it for you. **No bearer will bear the burden of another.** Ultimately, all of you will return to your Lord. Then He will tell you what You have been doing. **He knows even the secrets of the hearts** (7). Whose conduct is better a polytheist's or one who is obedient, who passes the hours of night standing and prostrating in worship, and who dreads the Hereafter and hopes for the mercy of his Lord? Ask them, "**Can those who know and those who do not know ever be equal?**" **Only men of understanding accept the admonition.** Say, "O you servants of Allah who have believed, fear your Lord. A good end awaits those who did good in this world and God's earth is vast (migrate to protect your belief). Those who endure with patience shall be rewarded without measure" (9-10). Do you not see that Allah sent down rainwater from the sky, then made it to flow in the earth in the form of springs and fountains and rivers, then He brings forth thereby a variety of crops of different kinds; then they ripen, and wither and you see them turn yellow, and then, finally, He reduces them to straw? Indeed, there is a lesson in this for the men of understanding. Now, can the person whose breast Allah has opened for Islam, and he is walking in the light shown by his Lord (be like the one who has learned no lesson from these things)? Woe to those whose hearts became even more hardened from Allah's admonition! They are in manifest error (21-22). Allah cites a parable: There is a man who is shared by many harsh masters, each pulling him to himself, and there is the other man who entirely belongs to one master. Can the two be alike in

comparison? Praise be to Allah! But most of the people are unaware (29). It is Allah Who takes the souls at death and the soul of the one, who has not yet died, during sleep. Then He withholds that for whom He decrees death and restores the souls of others till an appointed time. In this there are many signs for the people who reflect (42). Man is such that when an affliction touches him, he calls upon Us, and when We bestow Our favour on him, he says, "I have been given this because of my knowledge!" Nay, it is a trial, but most of them do not know. The same was said also by those who went before them, but whatever they earned did not avail them anything. So, they met the evil consequences of their deeds, and the wicked ones among these people, too, shall soon meet the evil consequences of their deeds. They cannot frustrate Us. And do they not know that Allah provides abundantly for whom He wills and sparingly for whom He wills? In this there are signs for those who believe (49-52).

Tell them that Allah says: "**O My servants, who have wronged their own souls: Do not despair of Allah's mercy: surely Allah forgives all sins: He is the All-Forgiving, the All-Merciful.** Return to your Lord and submit to Him before the scourge overtakes you, and then you may get no help from anywhere. And follow the best aspect of the Book sent down by your Lord, before the scourge comes down upon you suddenly while you are unaware, lest afterwards someone should say, "Alas for the negligence (in duty) I showed towards Allah! Indeed, I was among those who mocked." Or: "Would that Allah had shown me guidance so that I too would have been among the righteous!" Or, when he sees the torment: "Would that I could get another chance so that I also should be among the doers of good!" (He will get this answer "Why not! My Revelations did come to you; then you denied them, and showed arrogance, and you were among the disbelievers." You will see that on the Day of Resurrection the faces of those who have invented falsehoods against Allah, will be blackened. Is not there in Hell enough room for the arrogant? On the contrary, those who have adopted righteousness here, Allah will rescue them because of their means of success. No evil shall touch them, nor will they grieve (53-61).

**End Time:** And the Trumpet shall be blown on that Day and all those who are in the heavens and the earth shall fall dead except those whom Allah may allow to live. Then the Trumpet shall be blown again, and they will all stand up, looking around. The earth will shine forth with the light of her Lord and the conduct book will be laid open, and the Prophets and the witnesses shall be brought in, and the people shall be judged with full justice, and none shall be wronged. And every living being shall be recompensed fully for

whatever it had done. Allah knows full well what the people do (68-70).

**People of Paradise:** Of course, those who truly feared their Lord, for them there are high mansions, built with story upon story, beneath which there will be canals flowing. **This is Allah's promise: Allah never fails in His promise** (20). After Judgment: Those who had refrained from the disobedience of their Lord shall be led towards Paradise in groups, when they arrive there, its gates would be open and its keepers will say, "Peace be upon you; you have fared well. So, enter herein to dwell for ever." And they will say, "Praise is for Allah, Who has proved true to us His promise and made us heirs of the earth. Now we can dwell in Paradise wherever we like." How excellent a reward for the virtuous (73-74)!

**People of Hellfire: O Prophet, who can protect the person for whom the torment has already been decreed? Can you rescue him who has already fallen into the fire** (19)? After Judgment: Those who had disbelieved, shall be driven towards Hell, in groups, till, when they have reached there, its gates will be opened, and its keepers will say to them, "Did not Messengers come to you from among yourselves, who recited to you the Revelations of your Lord, and warned you that you shall have to encounter this Day?" They will reply, "Yes, they did come, but the sentence of punishment proved true against the disbelievers." It will be said, "Enter the gates of Hell, to dwell therein for ever. What an evil abode for the arrogant" (71-72)!

**Important Verses:** Tell them: "O My servants, who have wronged their own souls: Do not despair of Allah's mercy: surely Allah forgives all sins: He is the All-Forgiving, the All-Merciful" (53) (Subhan Allah, all praise is for Allah). And you will see the angels circling around the Throne, glorifying their Lord with His praises; and the people shall be judged with full justice, and it will be proclaimed: "Praise is for Allah; Lord of the worlds" (75)!

**Lessons:** 1) If the Prophet cannot save a person from Hell, then can anyone else? 2) Those who fear their Lord are filled with awe when they hear it, and then their bodies and their hearts soften and turn to the remembrance of Allah. 3) Religion is exclusively Allah's right. 4) If you disobey your Lord, then fear the torment of a dreadful Day. 5) Those who use their intellect, would be guided. 6) Intercession is wholly in the power of Allah. 7) **The misguided say they worship other deities only that they may bring them closer to Allah.** 8) Even double the wealth of the world would not be able to reduce their punishment in the least. 9) **Those who associate others with Allah their good works will come to naught.**

## 40. Lessons in Surah Al-Momin

The surah al-Momin is the 40<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 85 verses. Its name is derived from verse 28 and is thought to have been revealed after Surah Az-Zumar.

### Summary of subjects

**Allah:** Ha-Mim. The revelation of this Book is from Allah, the All-Mighty, the All-Knowing, the Forgiver of sin and Acceptor of repentance. He is stern in punishment and is also highly Bountiful (1-3). There is no deity beside Him. To Him shall all return. It is He Who shows you His Signs and sends down for you, sustenance from heaven (13). He the Exalted in ranks and Master of the Throne, sends the Spirit by His Command upon whomever of His servants He wills, to warn of the Day of Meeting (15). He knows even the stealthiest glance of the eyes and all the secrets that hearts conceal. **Allah will judge with justice, whereas those whom they call upon beside Him cannot judge at all.** Surely Allah alone is All- Hearing, All-Seeing (19-20). It is Allah Who made the earth a resting-place for you and the sky a canopy over it, Who shaped you, and shaped you so well, and provided you with pure things. The same Allah Who did all this, is your Lord. Highly blessed is Allah, Lord of the Universe. He is the Living One. There is no god but Him. Call upon Him alone, dedicating your religion sincerely to Him. All praise belongs to Allah, the Lord of the Universe (64-65). He created you from dust, then from a sperm, then from a clot of blood, then He brings you forth as an infant, then He makes you grow to attain full strength, then makes you grow further to reach old age, though some are recalled earlier. This is so that you may reach an appointed time and understand reality. He gives life and ordains death. Whatever He decrees, He only commands it to be, and it is (67-68). He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise, the High, the Great.

**Mohammed(SAW):** We support Our Messengers and the Believers in this world, and We will support them on the Day when the witnesses will stand up. The excuses of the wrongdoers will not avail them. They will be the ones cursed and will have a miserable dwelling. We indeed guided Moses(AS) and made the Children of Israel the inheritors of the Book, **which was guidance and a reminder for the men of understanding.** So, O Prophet, be patient, for Allah's promise is true. Seek forgiveness for your mistakes and exalt your Lord morning and evening with His praise. Indeed, the hearts of those who argue about Allah's Revelations without any authority are filled with arrogance, but they will never achieve their desires. So, seek refuge in Allah. He hears and sees everything (51-56). O Prophet, tell the people, "**I am forbidden to worship those whom you invoke besides Allah. How can I do this when clear**

proofs have come to me from my Lord? I have been commanded to submit to the Lord of all creation” (66).

**Prophets(AS):** We sent **Moses(AS)** to Pharaoh and Haman and Korah with Our Signs and a clear authority of appointment, but they said, “He is a sorcerer and a liar.” Then, when he brought them the truth from Us, they said, “Kill the sons of all those who believed and joined him and spare their daughters.” But the disbelievers plot ended in vain. One day Pharaoh said to his courtiers, “Let me go and kill Moses; and let him invoke his Lord. I fear that he will change your religion, or cause disruption in the land.” Moses said, “**I have taken refuge in my Lord and your Lord against every arrogant person who does not believe in the Day of Reckoning**” (23-27).

A believing man from among the kinsfolk of Pharaoh, who had kept his faith hidden, spoke out, “Would you kill a man merely because he says, My Lord is Allah? Whereas he has brought clear Signs to you from your Lord. If he is a liar, his lie will recoil on him, but if he is truthful, some of the dreadful things with which he threatens you, will certainly befall you. **Allah does not guide the one who is a transgressor and a liar.** O my people, today you rule the kingdom and wield power in the land, but who will aid us if Allah’s punishment befalls us? Pharaoh said, “I only guide based on what I consider correct; I only direct you to the Path of Rectitude” (28-29). He who had faith said, “O my people, I fear that you will face a Day similar to what befell many nations before you, such as the people of Noah, Ad, Thamud, and many others thereafter.” **And Allah intends no injustice to His servants.** “O my people! I fear for you the day of wailing, when you will cry out to one another and run about, but there will be none to protect you from Allah; the truth is that there is none to guide the one whom Allah lets go astray” (30-33). Before this Joseph came to you with clear Signs, yet you continued to doubt his message. When he passed away, you claimed, “Allah will not send any Messenger after him.” Thus, Allah leads astray those who transgress the limits and are given to much doubting. This behavior is loathsome to Allah and the believers. Thus does Allah seal the heart of every proud, high-handed individual (34-35). Pharaoh said, “O Haman, build for me a high tower that I may reach the paths of the heavens, and peep at the God of Moses, for I am certain that Moses is a liar.” Thus, the evil deeds of Pharaoh were made to seem fair to him and he was barred from the Right Way. All his guiles only led him to his own ruin (36-37). The man of faith, said, “O people, I will guide you towards the right path. O people, the life of this world is temporary, only the home of the Hereafter is eternal. **Whoever does an evil shall be recompensed to the extent of the evil done; and whoever does good, whether man or woman, provided he is a believer, all such people shall enter Paradise wherein they shall be provided**

**without measure.** O my people! How it is that I call you to salvation and you call me to the Fire! **You call me to deny Allah and associate with Him those whom I do not know, while I am calling you to the All-Mighty, the All-Forgiving God. Nay, the truth is, and it cannot be otherwise, that those to whom you call me, can neither be called to in this world nor in the Hereafter,** and to Allah we all must return, and the transgressors shall go to Hell. Soon you will remember what I am telling you today. To Allah I entrust my affairs. He is ever Watchful over His servants” **(38-44).** Eventually, Allah saved the believer from all those evil plots that the people devised against him, and a woeful scourge encompassed Pharaoh and his companions. It is the fire of Hell before which they are presented morning and evening. And when the Hour of Resurrection comes, it will be commanded: “Admit the people of Pharaoh to the severest torment” **(45-46).**

**The believer:** The angels who bear the Divine Throne and those who stand around it, all glorify their Lord with His praises. They believe in Him and ask forgiveness for the believers, saying: **“Our Lord, You encompass everything with Your mercy and knowledge, so forgive and save from the torment of Hell those who have repented and followed Your Way, and guard them against the torment of Hell. O Lord, admit them to the eternal Gardens which You have promised, and those of their parents and wives and children who were righteous. Surely You alone are All-Mighty, All-Wise. And deliver them from evils, for whomever You delivered from evils on the Day of Resurrection, to him You showed great mercy. This is indeed the supreme success”** **(7-9).**

**The Disbelievers:** It will be said to the unbelievers on Judgment Day: “Allah was angrier with you when you were called to faith, and you disbelieved than the disgust which you feel for yourselves today.” They will say, “Our Lord, You indeed gave us death twice and life twice. Now we confess our sins. Is there any way out from here? They will be told: **“You have incurred this fate because when you were called towards Allah, the One, you refused to believe, and when others were associated with Him, you readily believed.** Now the Judgment rests with Allah, the High, the Great” **(10-12).** Have they never traveled in the land that they could see the end of those who have gone before them? They were more powerful than them and have left mightier traces in the land. Then Allah seized them because of their sins and there was no one to protect them from Allah. They met end because their Messengers came to them with clear Signs, and they refused to believe in them. Consequently, Allah seized them. Indeed, He is Mighty and very stern in

punishment (21-22). They shall have the curse on them and the worst abode (52).

**Polytheism:** O Prophet, warn them of the Day that has approached near, when the hearts will leap up to the throats and the people will be standing mute, grief stricken: the wrongdoers will neither have any friend nor intercessor who would be heeded. Allah is aware of the treachery of the eyes and even of the secrets that the breasts keep hidden, and Allah shall judge with full justice. As for those whom they the polytheist invoke instead of Allah cannot judge at all (18-20). Have you seen how those who dispute concerning Allah's Revelations are being turned astray? Those who deny this Book and all the Books which We had sent with Our Messengers, shall soon know the truth, when fetters and chains shall be on their necks, and they shall be dragged into boiling water, and cast into the Fire. Then they will be asked, "Where are those whom you associated with Allah in His divinity?" They will say, "We have lost them; nay, we did not call upon anyone before." Thus, will Allah establish the deviation of the disbelievers. They will be told, "You have met this fate because you rejoiced on the earth in things other than the Truth, and then exulted in it. Enter now the gates of Hell to live therein forever. What an evil abode for the arrogant! So, be patient, O Prophet, Allah's promise is true. Whether We let you witness some of the evil consequences with which We are threatening them or recall you from this world before they return to Us (69-77).

**Admonishing:** None dispute about the Signs of Allah but the disbelievers. So let not their strutting about in the land deceive you. Before them the people of Noah also denied, and so did many a nation after them. Every nation sallied upon its Messenger to seize them, they all tried to defeat the Truth by means of falsehood, but, at last, I seized them. Then, just see, how severe was My punishment! Thus, the decree of your Lord became due against the disbelievers. They are destined for the Fire (4-6). He it is Who shows you His Signs and sends down provision for you from the sky. Yet none takes heed except he who constantly turns to Allah. So, call upon Allah, consecrating all your devotion to Him, howsoever much the unbelievers may dislike it (13-14)." Your Lord says: "Call upon Me. I will answer your prayers. Those who disdain My worship on account of pride, shall enter Hell, disgraced." It is Allah Who made the night for you to rest in it and made the day bright. The fact is that Allah is highly Bounteous to the people, yet most people are not thankful. The same Allah Who has done all this for you is your Lord, the Creator of everything. There is no god but He. Whence then are you being deluded? Likewise, were all those people deluded, who denied the Revelations of Allah (60-63). **Ponder:**

**Surely the creation of the heavens and the earth is a greater act than the creation of man.** But most people do not know. Never can the blind and the seeing be equal, nor can the believing and righteous men be equal to the wicked. Little do you understand. The Hour will surely come; there is no doubt about that. Yet most people do not believe (57-59). O Prophet, We have sent many Messengers before you. Of them there are some whose stories We have narrated to you, and there are others that We have not narrated. **Yet it was not in the power of any Messenger to have himself bring any Sign except with Allah's leave.** So, when Allah's decree came, the matter was decided with justice, and the wrongdoers then incurred utter loss. It is Allah Who has provided the cattle that you may ride on some and eat the flesh of others. In them there are also other benefits for you. You ride on them to places that you desire in your hearts to reach, and you are carried on them as well as on ships. Allah shows His Signs to you. Then, which Signs of His will you deny (78-81)? Have they not traveled in the earth that they could see the fate of those who have gone before them? They were more in number and stronger-in might and have left behind more splendid traces in the land. Yet what they earned did not avail them anything. When their Messengers came to them with Clear Signs, they arrogantly exulted in whatever knowledge they had. They were encompassed by what they mocked. When they saw Our scourge, they cried out, "We now believe in Allah, the only One, and we reject all those gods whom we used to associate in His divinity." But after having seen Our scourge, their believing did not avail them. That is Allah's Way concerning His servants. And the unbelievers courted utter loss, then and there (82-85).

**Judgment Day:** The Day when all people shall emerge naked, and nothing of them will be hidden from Allah. On that Day it will be asked: "Whose is the Kingdom today?" The whole world will cry out: It is Allah's, the One, the Omnipotent (16). Just imagine when they will dispute with one another in Hell. **The weak ones will say to those who waxed proud, "We were your followers, can you save us from some part of our punishment in Hell?" The haughty ones will say, "We are all in the same state here, and Allah already has passed judgment among His servants."** Then these dwellers of Hell will say to its keepers, "Pray to your Lord to lighten our torment for just one day." They will ask, "Did your Messengers not come to you with Clear Signs?" They will say, "Yes." The keepers of Hell will say, "Then pray yourselves. But the prayer of the disbelievers only ends in vain" (47-50)."

**Important Verses:** It will be said: "Today every living being shall be recompensed for what it has earned, **none shall be wronged today.** Surely Allah is swift at reckoning" (17).

**Lessons:** 1) Allah does not guide those who transgress and lie. 2) All believers including Mohammed(SAW) have been forbidden from worship anyone but Allah and to only obey Him alone. 3) Allah does not wrong His servants. 4) Allah knows the treachery of the eyes and the hidden secrets of the breasts. 5) Allah will judge with full justice. 6) It is not in the power of any Messenger to bring forth a miracle without Allah's leave.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## 41. Lessons in Surah Al-Fussilat or Ha Mim Sijdah

Surah al-Fussilat is the 41<sup>st</sup> chapter of the Quran, which has 54 verses. Its name is derived from verse 1 and was revealed after surah Momin.

### Summary of subjects

**Quran:** Ha-Mim. This is a revelation from the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate God, a Book whose verses have been well-expounded; an Arabic Quran for those who have knowledge, one bearing good news and warning. Yet most of them turned away from it, and they pay no heed. (1-4).

**Mohammed(SAW):** O Prophet, tell them I am only a human being like you. It is revealed to me that your God is One God; so direct yourselves straight to Him and seek His forgiveness. **Woe to those who associate others with Allah in His Divinity who do not pay Zakat and deny the Hereafter** (6-7). O Prophet, good and evil are not equal. **Repel evil with that is good. You will see that he, with whom you had enmity, has become your closest friend. But none attains to this except those who endure with patience, and none can attain to this rank except those who are steadfast.** And if you are prompted by a provocation from Satan, seek refuge in Allah. He, and He alone, is All-Hearing, All-Knowing (34-36). O Prophet, nothing is said to you but what was already said to the Messengers before you. Surely your Lord is the Lord of forgiveness and the Lord of grievous chastisement (43). O Prophet, tell them, "Did you ever consider: if this Quran is indeed from Allah and you still deny it, who can be in greater error than he who goes far in fiercely opposing it" (52)?

**The believer:** As for those who have believed and do good works, surely for them there is a never-ending reward (8). Those who say, "Allah is our Lord" and then remain steadfast, angels descend on them and say, "Do not fear nor grieve, and receive good tidings of Paradise which you were promised. We are your companions in this world and in the Hereafter. There you shall have all that you desire and all what you will ask for. This is by way of hospitality from Him Who is Most Forgiving, Most Merciful." And who is fairer in

speech than he who calls to Allah and acts righteously and says: "I am a Muslim" (30-33)?

**The Disbelievers:** They say, "Our hearts are securely wrapped up against what you call us to, and our ears have become deaf, and between us and you there is a veil. So do as you please; we shall do as we will" (5). As for Ad, they waxed proud in the land without justification and said, "Who is greater than we in strength?" Did they not realize that Allah, Who created them, is stronger than they in might? Yet they continued to deny Our Revelations. Whereupon, We sent upon them a fierce wind on inauspicious days that We might make them taste a degrading chastisement in the life of this world. And surely the chastisement of the Hereafter is even more degrading. There will be none to help them there (15-16). As for Thamud, We bestowed guidance upon them, but they preferred to remain blind rather than be guided. At last, a humiliating scourge overtook them on account of their misdeeds. And We delivered those, who believed and were God-fearing (17-18). The disbelievers say, "Do not give ear to the Quran and cause interruption when it is recited, so that you might attain the upper hand." We shall certainly make these unbelievers taste a severe chastisement and shall fully requite them according to the worst deeds that they committed. This is the hell that the enemies of Allah will get in return. In it they will abide forever and ever. This is the punishment for the crime of denying Our Revelations. There the unbelievers will say, "Our Lord, show us those that led us astray, both from jinn and humans, and we will trample them under our feet so that they are utterly disgraced" (26-29).

**Polytheists:** When the Messengers of Allah came to them from every side, from front and from behind, saying, "Do not worship any but Allah," they said, "Had our Lord so willed, He would have sent down angels. So, we deny the Message you have brought" (14).

**Admonishing:** And of His Signs are the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. Do not prostrate yourselves before the sun nor before the moon, but prostrate yourselves before Allah, Who created them, if it is Him that you serve. But if they wax proud and persist in their attitude, it does not matter, for the angels near-stationed to your Lord glorify Him night and day, and never grow weary (37-38). Those who misconstrue Our Revelations are not hidden from Us. Just consider who is better: he who will be cast into the Fire, or he who comes secure on the Day of Resurrection? Do as you wish; He sees all what you do. These are the ones who rejected the Admonition when it came to them, although it is certainly a Mighty Book. Falsehood may not enter it from the front or from the rear. It is a revelation that has been sent down from the Most Wise, the Immensely Praiseworthy (40-42). **Had We revealed**

this as a non-Arabic Quran they would have said: “Why were its verses not clearly expounded? How strange, a non-Arabic scripture and an Arab audience!” Tell them, This Quran is a guidance and a healing for the believers. **But to those who do not believe, it is a plug in their ears and a covering over their eyes.** It is as if they are being called from a place far away. And in the past, We gave Moses(AS) the Book and yet it too became an object of dispute. If your Lord had not already decreed a thing, a decisive judgment would have been passed between the disputants. Surely, they are in a disquieting doubt about it. **Whoever does good, does so to his own benefit; and whoever does evil, will suffer its evil consequence.** Your Lord does not wrong His servants. He knows all the fruits that come out of its sheath and knows which woman has conceived and which has given birth to a child (44-47). **Man wearies not of praying for good, but when calamity befalls him, he despairs and gives up all hope.** And if We bestow Our Mercy upon him after hardship, he will surely say: “This is what I truly deserve, and I do not believe that the Hour of Resurrection will ever come to pass; and if I am returned to my Lord, there too I shall enjoy the best.” Surely, We shall fully apprise the unbelievers of what they have done, and We shall certainly make them taste a severe chastisement. When We bless man, he turns away and waxes proud. But when a misfortune touches him, he is full of supplication (49-51).

**Ponder:** O Prophet, tell them, “Do you indeed disbelieve in Him and assign compeers to Him Who created the earth in two days? He is the Lord of all beings of the Universe. After creating the earth, He set up firm mountains on it, blessed it, and provided it with sustenance in proportion to the needs of all who seek sustenance. This was done in four days. Then He turned to the heaven, **which was only smoke at that time.** He said to the heaven and the earth “Come into being, willingly or unwillingly.” They said, “Here we come into being in willing obeisance.” Then in two days He made the seven heavens, and in each heaven, He ordained its law. And We adorned the lower heaven with lights and made it fully secure. Such is the design of the One, Who is the All-Mighty, the All-Knowing.” Now if they turn away, tell them, “I warn you of a sudden scourge like that which struck Ad and Thamud (9-13). And of His Signs is this that you see the earth withered, then We send down rain upon it, it quivers and swells. Surely, He Who gives life to the dead earth will also give life to the dead. Surely, He has power over everything (39).

**End Times:** Imagine the Day when Allah's enemies will be mustered to the Fire. Their former generations will be detained till the arrival of later generations. And when all have arrived, their

ears, their eyes, and their skins shall bear witness against them, stating all that they had done in the life of the world. They will ask their skins. " Why did you bear witness against us?" They will reply, "The same God Who has given speech to everything has given us speech. He it is, Who created you in the first instance, and now to Him you are being brought back. When you used to conceal yourselves while committing misdeeds, you never thought that your ears or your eyes or your skins would ever bear witness against you; you rather fancied that Allah does not know a great deal of what you do. This thought of yours about your Lord has led to your perdition and you have become among the losers" (19-23). As such, whether they bear with patience or not, Fire will still be their abode. And if they seek to make amends, they will not be allowed to do so. We had assigned to them companions who embellished for them all that was before them and behind them. Thus, the same decree of chastisement which had overtaken the previous generations of jinn and human beings also became due against them. Certainly, they were the losers (24-25). The knowledge of the Hour rests solely with Him. **On that Day He will call out to them:** "Where are those associates of Mine?" They will answer: "We have declared to You that none of us can bear witness to that." Then all those deities whom they once used to call upon shall vanish and they will come to know for sure that there is no escape for them (47-48). Soon shall We show them Our Signs on the horizons and in their own beings until it becomes clear to them that it is the Truth. Is it not enough that your Lord is a witness over everything? Lo, they are in doubt concerning their meeting with their Lord. Surely, He fully encompasses everything (53-54).

**Lessons:** 1) Repel evil with that is good. 2) Endure with patience and be steadfast. 3) Consider, if this Quran is indeed from Allah and you still fiercely oppose it. 4) **Do not worship any but Allah.** 5) Do not prostrate yourselves before sun and moon etc., but prostrate to Allah, Who created them. 6) Whoever does good, does so to his own benefit; and whoever does evil, will suffer its evil consequence.

## Concluding Comments

I received a WhatsApp message from an unknown person. It was so relevant to the subject of my book that I decided to make it the concluding commentary of my current book "Lessons in the Quran Part II".

The anonymous person states: I had the opportunity to go to Al-Azhar University, the largest Muslim university in Egypt. At the end of each lecture, the conference participants would ask even tougher questions from the scholars (professors of Jamia Al-Azhar), than the questions that had been in my heart since childhood. They were answering every question with smiles on their faces. A gentleman asked the same question based on which the Molana of my area had declared Mahmood Sahib as insolent. There was no end to my surprise when the professor said, "I was wishing someone would ask this question, and then answered the question with verses from the Quran.

Now I gathered my courage and asked: Sir, when God honors whomever He wills, humiliates whomever He wills, guides whomever He wills, misleads whomever He wills, then does it matter if I believe in Him or not? The professor smiled and said, there are two types of commands in the Quran, one is judgments, and the other is similitudes. It is necessary to see the similitudes together with the judgments in the verses in which Yesha (wills) and Tasha (wants) appear, they are not translated according to the general principle of similitudes and judgments verses, that is why the Muslims of India and Pakistan misunderstand the concept of God. Its Arabic meaning is that whoever wants, Allah gives him honor and whoever wants, Allah humiliates him. Whoever wants, Allah guides him. He said that you should look at this verse in accordance with another verse which is among the judgments, which says that man shall have nothing but what he has striven for, and that (the result of) his striving shall soon be seen, and that he shall then be fully recompensed (53:39-41).

I then asked a weak question that I always heard from the scholars that only if Allah allows, only then can I do something good. Laughter echoed in the conference room, then the professor recited the verse of Surah Raad that **Verily Allah does not change a people's condition unless they change their inner selves.** And when Allah decides to make a people suffer

punishment, no one can avert it. **Nor can any be of help to such a people against Allah (13:11).** Before the professor could complete the sentence, I said that all that I have been hearing for two days in this conference, it is completely different from the Islam that I have been hearing from the scholars till today. On this, the professor recited the verse of Surah Baqarah: **And when it is said to them to follow the revelation of Allah, they will say: We will follow that on which we found our fathers. Even if their forefathers had neither wisdom nor guidance (2:170).** **He continued, “Allah has revealed the Quran for me and you. Why don’t you read and understand it yourself? Why do you need me or any cleric?” The Quran speaks according to human reasoning.**

I asked again that the scholars have told me that faith and reasoning are separate things and reasoning leads you astray. This time, the professor talked about the reasons for the lack of knowledge and narrow-mindedness of Indian and Pakistani scholars and read a verse from Surah Anfal that **in the eyes of Allah, they are worse than animals who remain deaf and dumb and do not reason (8:22).** Then I just became dumb. As darkness shattered before me. I read the shihadah with great sincerity that my God is exactly as the Creator should be. At the end of the conference, the professor gifted me a copy of the Quran with English translation. Every verse sounded like conversing with me. Sometime later I met a reverted-Muslim white man at a university in Canada. He was doing his PhD on the first two centuries of Islam. Together we saw the initial rise of Islam and then the formation of sects in it from the perspective of history. We also saw how people wandered for decades in search of traditions, ignoring a treasure like the Quran.

Today there are millions of Shias and millions of Sunnis as Maliki, Hanbali, Shafi and Hanafi. Each sect has further divisions and sects within sects. It is a pity that such people are hardly seen anywhere who are neither Wahhabi, Deobandi, Barelvi or Ahle Hadith, whose religion is only Islam, those who reason in the Quran and the Sunnah. From the hundredth verse of Surah Yunus, we come to know that the use of intellect and reasoning is the basic condition of faith. **No soul can believe without Allah’s permission, and Allah’s way is that those who do not use their intellect and reasoning, He lays abomination on them (i.e., leaves them to wander in their ignorance).**

Today when I see the Muslims divided into sects and lost in their egos, I wonder if they do not see their humiliation in the whole world. Do they still not realize that by forsaking the rope of Allah (the Quran), they have fragmented into sects. Perhaps due to their dead hearts, they do not feel the humiliation. In Surah Hajj, Allah says: [Have they not walked in the earth that their hearts would have understood, or their ears would have heard? The truth is that the eyes are not blind, but the hearts that are in the breasts become blind \(22:46\)](#). Around me there are Sunni, Shia, Deobandi, Barelvi, Ahl-e-Hadith, Muqlid, person of the Quran, non-maqlid. I am looking for a Muslim, who is only a Muslim. Who does not associate himself to any sect.