



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# Deriving Lessons from Qur'anic Stories

---

AlI 209, 1/6: April 2012/Jumadi I, 1433

**Objective:** The course will cover selected passages from the Holy Qur'an that discuss brief historical events which have moral and ethical lessons for believers.

**Note:** If there is enough interest we can continue the to more levels of this subject.



# Three Questions for your pondering

- Why does the Holy Qur'an include stories? Give one reason with specific reference to the Holy Qur'an
- What would you say to someone who says: “The Qur'an is too holy to discuss stories?”
- Which is your favorite story in the Qur'an?

# Let us look at the Holy Qur'an for answers

- Try to find questions on HQ from the Qur'an
- 

- Why stories 7:176: فَاقْصُصِ الْقَصَصَ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

- After Mubahila in 3:61: إِنَّ هَذَا لَهُوَ الْقَصَصُ الْحَقُّ

- Favorite story of Bal'am Baoor in 7:175 & 76:

- وَاتْلُ عَلَيْهِمْ نَبَأَ الَّذِي آتَيْنَاهُ آيَاتِنَا فَانْسَلَخَ مِنْهَا فَاتَّبَعَهُ الشَّيْطَانُ فَكَانَ مِنَ الْغَاوِينَ\* وَلَوْ شِئْنَا لَرَفَعْنَاهُ بِهَا وَلَكِنَّهُ أَخْلَدَ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ وَاتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ

- 7:175 Relate to them an account of him to whom We gave Our signs, but he cast them off. Thereupon Satan pursued him, and he became one of the perverse.

- 7:176 Had We wished, We would have surely raised him by their means, but he clung to the earth and followed his [base] desires.



# Story of the People of the Ditch/Pit

## ○ Aayaat/Verses 85: 1- 7

○ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ \* وَالسَّمَاءِ ذَاتِ الْبُرُوجِ 1 وَالْيَوْمِ الْمَوْعُودِ 2  
وَشَاهِدٍ وَمَشْهُودٍ 3 قَتَلَ أَصْحَابُ الْأُخْدُودِ 4 النَّارِ ذَاتِ الْوَقُودِ 5  
إِذْ هُمْ عَلَيْهَا قُعُودٌ 6 وَهُمْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَفْعَلُونَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ شُهُودٌ 7

- In the Name of Allah, the All-beneficent, the All-merciful. 85:1 By the sky with its houses, 85:2 by the Promised Day, 85:3 by the Witness and the Witnessed: 85:4 perish the Men of the Ditch! 85:5 The fire, abounding in fuel, 85:6 above which they sat 85:7 as they were themselves witnesses to what they did to the faithful.

# Reflections on the first seven verses

- Aim of the sura: warn depots & give hope to early believers who were persecuted severely
- By the skies & constellations which all could see. By the Day of Judgment. Ref: 56: 49-50
- 30 diff interpretations of *shahid* & *mashhud*.
- Holy Prophet (33:45); Day of Judgment (11: 103); our limbs against our deeds (24:24), etc.
- *Ukhdud* = a wide & deep ditch spread on land
- *Waqud* = fuel or wood to make fire (66:6)
- Pagans watching indifferently & enjoying
- Believers torched due to their belief

## People of the Ditch/Pit 85: 8 - 9

○ وَمَا نَقَمُوا مِنْهُمْ إِلَّا أَنْ يُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ 8  
الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ۖ وَاللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ  
شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ 9

- 85:8 They were vindictive towards them only because they had faith in God, the All-mighty, the All-laudable, 85:9 to whom belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth, and God is witness to all things.

## Reflections verses 85: 8 - 9

- *Naqam* = : to devour, to dislike, or to reject by tongue, or by deed like punishment & vengeance
- how ignorant they were and how low their culture had been that they considered their greatest sin as their greatest pride
- See response of magicians to Pharaoh 7: 126
- وَمَا تَنْقِمُ مِنَّا إِلَّا أَنْ آمَنَّا بِآيَاتِ رَبِّنَا لَمَّا جَاءَتْنَا ۚ رَبَّنَا أَفْرِغْ عَلَيْنَا صَبْرًا وَتَوَفَّنَا مُسْلِمِينَ
- And you take revenge on us only because we have believed in the signs of our Lord when they appeared to us! Our Lord! Grant us patience and cause us to die in submission.
- But Allah is Almighty and witness to all these

## People of the Ditch/Pit 85:10 - 11

○ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ فَتَنُوا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَتُوبُوا فَلَهُمْ عَذَابُ  
جَهَنَّمَ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابُ الْحَرِيقِ 10 إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا  
الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ ۚ ذَلِكَ الْفَوْزُ  
الْكَبِيرُ 11

- 85:10 Indeed those who persecute the faithful men and women, and then do not repent, for them there is the punishment of hell, and for them there is the punishment of burning. 85:11 Indeed those who have faith and do righteous deeds, —for them will be gardens with streams running in them. That is the supreme success.



# Reflections verses 85: 10 & 11

○ *Fatanu* from *fatn* = to try or prove;  
here used in the sense of examination  
& persecution. See e.g. 51:13-14

○ يَوْمَ هُمْ عَلَى النَّارِ يُفْتَنُونَ \* ذُوقُوا فِتْنَتَكُمْ هَذَا الَّذِي كُنْتُمْ بِهِ تَسْتَعْجِلُونَ

- It is the day when they will be tormented in the Fire, \*[and will be told]: ‘Taste your torment. This is what you used to hasten.’
- Hope given to persecutors if they repent
- Promise to believers who perform good deeds
- Great success is belief, patience & good deeds.

# Hadith from Imam ‘Ali (a)

- Allah appointed a Prophet from people of Abyssinia, but they rejected him. They fought against him and his followers in which, finally, some of the prophet's disciples were killed and some were captured and along with the prophet kept as captives. Then they prepared a ditch full of blazing fire, and called people to come besides it. They commanded that any of them who followed the same religion as theirs could go aside and those who believed in the prophet's religion and that of his disciples should jump into the fire. The prophet's followers, who could do nothing, bravely threw themselves into the fire. They outran each other (as if in a competition) . Then, at that moment there came a woman carrying a one-month-old baby. She was about to jump into the fire but her motherly affection stopped her. There the little baby called her and said: ‘Do not fear, Mother, throw yourself and me both. By Allah, surely this is a little thing on the path of Allah...’ And this baby was one of those who spoke in the cradle.

# References for this other sessions

- *Enlightening Commentary on the Light of the Qur'an*, Isfahan; [www.maaref-foundation.com](http://www.maaref-foundation.com)
- Brief commentary of the Qur'an by Agha M Mahdi Puya [www.al-islam.org/quran](http://www.al-islam.org/quran)
- S M Suhufi, *Stories from the Qur'an*
- *Atlas of the Quran* (Sunni source that contains good maps where the events took place) at [www.kalamullah.com/atlas-of-the-quran.html](http://www.kalamullah.com/atlas-of-the-quran.html)