

ALI 337 Short Introduction to Surahs: Surah Aali Imran (#3)



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Introduction

- Revealed at Madina
- Contains 200 *ayaat*; begins with Huruf Muqatlaat Alif-Lam-Meem.
- Named after the Family of Imran, mentioned in verse 33.
- Only Surah to be named after a family. Other families are mentioned in the Quran but no other Surah is named after them.

The Family of Imran

■ Imran was a leader of Banu Israel; he did not have any children for a long time with his wife Hannah. She became pregnant at a late age and Imran passed away.

■ Hannah gave birth to Maryam, who was given in the *ma'bad* in the service of Allah swt. Zakariyah was her uncle or her mother's sister's husband. He was attached to the *ma'bad* as an elder of Banu Israel.

■ He built a special place of worship for Maryam and she stayed there while he would visit her. At one time she was visited by Jibraeel who brought her news of the birth of Isa.

Period of Revelation

- The first discourse (vv. 1-32) was probably revealed soon after the Battle of Badr.
- The second discourse (vv. 33-63) was revealed in 9 A. H. on the occasion of the visit of the deputation from the Christians of Najran. (V. 61 is verse of the event of Mubahila)
- The third discourse (vv. 64-120) appears to have been revealed immediately after the first one.
- The fourth discourse (vv. 121-200) was revealed after the Battle of Uhd.

First Discourse (v.1-32)

• اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ نَزَّلَ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَأَنزَلَ التَّوْرَةَ وَالْإِنْجِيلَ

Allah—there is no god except Him— is the Living One, the All-sustainer. He has sent down to *you* the Book with the truth confirming what was [revealed] before it, and He had sent down the Torah and the Evangel. 2 &3.

• هُوَ الَّذِي أَنزَلَ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ مِنْهُ آيَاتٌ مُحْكَمَاتٌ هُنَّ أُمُّ الْكِتَابِ وَأُخَرُ مُتَشَابِهَاتٌ ۚ فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ زَيْغٌ فَيَتَّبِعُونَ مَا تَشَابَهَ مِنْهُ ابْتِغَاءَ الْفِتْنَةِ وَابْتِغَاءَ تَأْوِيلِهِ ۚ وَمَا يَعْلَمُ تَأْوِيلَهُ إِلَّا اللَّهُ ۚ وَالرَّاسِخُونَ فِي الْعِلْمِ

It is He who has sent down to *you* the Book. Parts of it are definitive verses, which are the mother of the Book, while others are metaphorical.¹ As for those in whose hearts is deviance, they pursue what is metaphorical in it, courting temptation and courting its interpretation. But no one knows its interpretation except Allah and those firmly grounded in knowledge.⁷

• قَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ آيَةٌ فِي فِئَتَيْنِ الْتَقَتَا ۚ فِئَةٌ تُقَاتِلُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَأُخَرُ كَافِرَةٌ ۖ يَرَوْنَهُمْ مِثْلَيْهِمْ رَأْيَ الْعَيْنِ ۚ وَاللَّهُ يُؤَيِّدُ بِنَصَرِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ

There was certainly a sign for you in the two hosts that met: one host fighting in the way of Allah and the other faithless, who saw them visibly twice as many.¹³

زُيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ حُبُّ الشَّهَوَاتِ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ وَالْبَنِينَ وَالْقَنَاطِيرِ الْمُقَنْطَرَةِ مِنَ الذَّهَبِ
وَالْفِضَّةِ وَالْخَيْلِ الْمُسَوَّمَةِ وَالْأَنْعَامِ وَالْحَرْثِ

To mankind has been made to seem decorous the love of
[worldly] desires, including women and children, accumulated
piles of gold and silver, horses of mark, livestock, and farms.

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قُلْ أُوْنِبِّئُكُمْ بِخَيْرٍ مِّنْ ذَٰلِكُمْ ۖ لِلَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا
الْأَنْهَارُ

Say, ‘Shall I inform you of something better than that? For
those who are Godwary there will be gardens near their
Lord, with streams running in them.15

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ ۗ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

*Say, 'If you love Allah, then follow me; Allah will love you and forgive you your sins, and Allah is all-forgiving, all-merciful.'*³¹

Second Discourse (v.33-63)

إِذْ قَالَتِ امْرَأَتُ عِمْرَانَ رَبِّ إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لَكَ مَا فِي بَطْنِي مُحَرَّرًا فَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي

When the wife of Imran said, ‘My Lord, I dedicate to You what is in my belly, in consecration. Accept it from me; 35.

فَتَقَبَّلَهَا رَبُّهَا بِقَبُولٍ حَسَنٍ وَأَنْبَتَهَا نَبَاتًا حَسَنًا وَكَفَّلَهَا زَكَرِيَّا

Thereupon her Lord accepted her with a gracious acceptance, and made her grow up in a worthy fashion, and He charged Zechariah with her care.37.

إِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَا عِيسَىٰ إِنِّي مُتَوَفِّيكَ وَرَافِعُكَ إِلَيَّ وَمُطَهِّرُكَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا
وَجَاعِلُ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوكَ فَوْقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ

When Allah said, ‘O Jesus, I shall take you and I shall raise you up toward Myself, and I shall clear you of [the calumnies of] the faithless, and I shall set those who follow you above the faithless until the Day of Resurrection.55

فَلَمَّا أَحَسَّ عِيسَىٰ مِنْهُمُ الْكُفْرَ قَالَ مَنْ أَنْصَارِي إِلَى اللَّهِ قَالَ الْحَوَارِيُّونَ نَحْنُ
أَنْصَارُ اللَّهِ آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَاشْهَدْ بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ

And when Jesus sensed their faithlessness, he said, ‘Who will be my helpers toward Allah?’ The Disciples said, ‘We will be helpers of Allah. We have faith in Allah, and bear witness that we are *muslims*.52

Third Discourse (v.64-120):

مَا كَانَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ يَهُودِيًّا وَلَا نَصْرَانِيًّا وَلَكِنْ كَانَ حَنِيفًا مُّسْلِمًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ

Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian. Rather he was a *ḥanīf*, a *muslim*, and he was not one of the polytheists.⁶⁷

يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لِمَ تَلْبِسُونَ الْحَقَّ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتَكْتُمُونَ الْحَقَّ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ

O People of the Book! Why do you mix the truth with falsehood, and conceal the truth while you know [it]?⁷¹

وَلَا تُؤْمِنُوا إِلَّا لِمَنْ تَبَعَ دِينَكُمْ قُلْ إِنَّ الْهُدَىٰ هُدَىٰ اللَّهِ

And do not believe anyone except him who follows your religion.’ Say, ‘Indeed [true] guidance is the guidance of Allah.⁷³

وَمَنْ يَتَّبِعْ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

Should anyone follow a religion other than Islam, it shall never be accepted from him, and he will be among the losers in the Hereafter.⁸⁵

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَمَاتُوا وَهُمْ كُفَّارًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْ أَحَدِهِمْ مِلْءُ الْأَرْضِ ذَهَبًا وَلَوْ افْتَدَىٰ بِهِ

Indeed those who turn faithless, and die while they are faithless, a world of gold will not be accepted from any of them should he offer it for ransom.⁹¹

Fourth Discourse: (121-200):

إِذْ هَمَّتْ طَائِفَتَانِ مِنْكُمْ أَنْ تَفْشَلَا وَاللَّهُ وَلِيُّهُمَا ۖ وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ

When two groups among you were about to lose courage, —though Allah is their guardian, and in Allah let all the faithful put their trust.¹²²

بَلَىٰ ۚ إِنْ تَصْبِرُوا وَتَتَّقُوا وَيَأْتُوكُمْ مِنْ فُورِهِمْ هَذَا يُمْدِدْكُمْ رَبُّكُمْ بِخَمْسَةِ آلَافٍ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ مُسَوِّمِينَ

Yes, if you are steadfast and Godwary, and should they come at you suddenly, your Lord will aid you with five thousand marked angels¹²⁵

إِنْ يَمَسُّكُمْ قَرْحٌ فَقَدْ مَسَّ الْقَوْمَ قَرْحٌ مِثْلُهُ ۚ وَتِلْكَ الْأَيَّامُ نُدَاوِلُهَا بَيْنَ النَّاسِ
وَلِيَعْلَمَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَيَتَّخِذَ مِنْكُمْ شُهَدَاءَ

If a wound afflicts you, a like wound has already afflicted those people; and We make such vicissitudes rotate among mankind, so that Allah may ascertain those who have faith.140.

أَمْ حَسِبْتُمْ أَنْ تَدْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ وَلَمَّا يَعْلَمِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا مِنْكُمْ وَيَعْلَمَ الصَّابِرِينَ

Do you suppose that you would enter paradise, while Allah has not yet ascertained those of you who have waged *jihād* and not ascertained the steadfast?142

وَلَقَدْ كُنْتُمْ تَمَنَّوْنَ الْمَوْتَ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ تَلْقَوْهُ فَقَدْ رَأَيْتُمُوهُ وَأَنْتُمْ تَنْظُرُونَ

Certainly you were longing for death before you had encountered it. Then certainly you saw it, as you looked on.143.

وَمَا مُحَمَّدٌ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ ۖ أَفَإِنْ مَاتَ أَوْ قُتِلَ انْقَلَبْتُمْ عَلَى أَعْقَابِكُمْ

Muḥammad is but an apostle; [other] apostles have passed before him. If he dies or is slain, will you turn back on your heels? 144.

Benefits

- Ibn Abbas has related from the Prophet Muhammad (s.a) that whoever recites this Surah on the day of Friday, Allah swt Himself & His Angels will send mercy upon that person until the setting of the sun (of Friday or until the end of time)
- If someone is infertile, then this Surah is read upon them in order to help in conception
- The last 10 verses are to be recited on Thursday mornings before embarking on important work
- The Messenger of Allah (s.a) said that reciting this surah will guarantee safety on the Bridge (*Sirat*)

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