

## Familiarization with Quranic Sūras

### Month of Ramadan 1440 – Day 12

### Sūrat al-Naml, No. 27



#### Sūra Information

Sūra al-Naml, No.27, Revealed in Makkah, 93 verses.

A significant section of this sūra discusses the story of Prophet Sulaymān عليه السلام. The sūra gets its name from the valley of ants through which the army of Prophet Sulaymān passes. Some narrations refer to it as Sūrat Sulaymān.

#### Sūra Significance

*Whoever recites the three Tawasin (Sūras Shu'ara, Naml and Qasas that all start with Tā Sīn) on Thursday night will be from the friends of Allah and will receive His grace and protection.*

Imam Ja'far al-Sādiq عليه السلام (*Tafsīr Nūr al-Tahqalayn*)

#### Synopsis of contents

- 1) Judgment and the hereafter.
- 2) Prophet Musa (a)'s conversation with God.
- 3) The story of Prophet Sulaymān عليه السلام.
- 4) Prophet Sālih عليه السلام and Prophet Lūt عليه السلام.
- 5) Signs of God in nature.
- 6) Occurrences at the end of the world.

#### Some Lessons from the Sūra

- 1) The deeds of those who do not believe in the Hereafter are adorned for them and they have the misplaced notion that their deeds are very good (verse 4)
- 2) A good leader consults with others (verse 32)
- 3) Blessings and achievements are opportunities for gratitude (verse 40)
- 4) Nature reminds us of the existence of One Creator (verses 61-64)
- 5) People whose inner senses are dead may be physically alive but are spiritually dead (verse 80)
- 6) Virtue will be rewarded with a reward better than itself (verse 89)

## Important Messages

- 1) The chance to thank God is a blessing which must be requested from God.
- 2) Material and worldly ventures can be recognized and acknowledged through exchange of worldly things.
- 3) Spiritual people are not affected by material gifts.
- 4) Reflecting on nature is one of the best ways to get closer to God.
- 5) Not being affected by the message of God is not because of a fault in the message. The fault is the heart that is diseased or dead and cannot receive it.

## Select verses from the Sūra to know (learn, reflect, memorize)

- 1) 27:36 - *What Allah has given me is better than what He has given you*
- 2) 27:40 - *This is by the grace of my Lord, to test me if I will give thanks or be ungrateful.*
- 3) 27:73 - *Indeed your Lord is gracious to mankind, but most of them do not give thanks.*

## Activities for self-study

- 1) Read the story of Prophet Musa عليه السلام in this story (verse 7-14). Compare and connect with the story in Sūrat Tāhā (verses 9-23).
- 2) Many different lessons can be learned from the story of Prophet Sulaymān عليه السلام. Pick one of the stories about him in this passage (the encounter with the ants, conversation with Hudhud, interaction with the queen of Sheba) and outline the points made.
- 3) Ponder over verses 61-64. What are the common themes in these verses?

**Sources** Āyatullāh Nāsir Makārim Shirazi (Ed.), *Tafsir Namīne*; Organization of Quran and Itrah Nūr al-Thaqalayn, *Zikre Mubarak*; S.H. Nasr (Ed.), *The Study Quran*

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