

Familiarization with Quranic Sūras

Month of Ramadan 1440 – Day 15

Sūrat al-Isrā, No. 17



Sūra Information

Sūra al-Isrā, No.17, Revealed in Makkah, 111 verses.

The sūra gets its name from the night journey of the Prophet ﷺ that is mentioned in the first verse. The sūra is also known as ‘Banū Israel’ from the many verses that talk about them. Some narrations also mention it as Sūrat Sūbhān, from the first word of the sūra.

Sūra Significance

Many hadith talk about the great rewards for one who recites this sūra. There is specific mention of the one who recites this sūra and whose heart is touched by the verses on behaviour with parents. Such a person increases in love for parents and pleases God.

Whoever recites Sūra al-Isrā every Thursday night will not die without meeting the al-Qāim and will be from his companions. Imam Ja‘far al-Sādiq عليه السلام (Tafsīr Namūne)

Synopsis of contents

- 1) Proofs of Prophethood, especially the Quran and the event of Mi‘rāj.
- 2) Stories from the Banu Israel
- 3) Discussion on the free will of the human being
- 4) Rights of others, especially those of relatives and parents
- 5) Prohibition of negative characteristics
- 6) Knowing God
- 7) Miraculous nature of the Quran and its effect on inner diseases

Some Lessons from the Sūra

- 1) Human beings often pray for what is not good for them (verse 11)
- 2) Those who waste, are ungrateful, like shaytān (verse 27)
- 3) Do not be extravagant, nor miserly (verse 29)
- 4) There is nothing in this universe that does not glorify God (verse 44)
- 5) Shaytān incites ill feeling between people (verse 53)
- 6) Tahajjud Salāt is a significant factor in spiritual upliftment (verse 79)

Important Messages

- 1) The deeds of the human being never leave him.
- 2) The Day of Judgment is the only judgement where the guilty bear witness against themselves.
- 3) Rights of parents involve more than just physical and material duties.
- 4) Fight arrogance by remembering your weaknesses.
- 5) Servitude to God is a protection from the whisperings of shaytān.
- 6) Without man's efforts Allah ﷻ does not grant him any spiritual status.

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

- 1) 17:15 - *Whoever is guided is guided only for his own soul, and whoever goes astray, goes astray only to its detriment. No bearer shall bear another's burden. We do not punish [any community] until We have sent it an apostle.*
- 2) 17:21 - *Observe how We have given some of them an advantage over some others; yet the Hereafter is surely greater in respect of ranks and greater in respect of relative merit.*
- 3) 17:70 - *Certainly We have honoured the Children of Adam, and carried them over land and sea, and provided them with all the good things, and preferred them with a complete preference over many of those We have created.*

Activities for self-study

- 1) Read verses 23-24 of the sūra. Write down the etiquettes prescribed for behaviour with parents.
- 2) Verse 29-39 talk about wise characteristics and behaviour. List the different behaviours mentioned.
- 3) How do the disbelievers react to the verses of Quran? (see verses 45-47)

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

Past lessons on Sūra Familiarization for the month of Ramadan available at:
www.academyofislam.com/resources/quran/sura-familiarization/

Please send your feedback to alioutreach@gmail.com