

Familiarization with Quranic Sūras

Month of Ramadan 1440 – Day 22

Sūrat al-Kahf (No. 18) - Part 1



Sūra Information

Sūra al-Kahf, No.18, Revealed in Makkah except verse 28, 110 verses

Sūra Significance

There is extraordinary importance given to this sūra in hadith. The following are some examples:

The Holy Prophet ﷺ once asked his companions, ‘Shall I tell you of a sūra that was escorted by 70,000 angels when it was sent down, and its greatness filled the heavens and the earth?’

‘Yes’ replied the companions ‘please do’. The Prophet ﷺ then said, ‘That is Sūra Kahf. Whoever recites it on Friday Allah will protect him from sins till the next Friday and will grant him a light that will reach the heavens and keep him safe from the evil of Dajjal.’

Whoever memorizes the first 10 verses of Sūra Kahf, Dajjal will not be able to harm him. And whoever memorizes the last verse of this sūra it will be a light for him on the Day of Judgment.

Holy Prophet ﷺ (Both hadiths from *Tafsīr Majma’ul-Bayān*)

Note: *Tafsīr Nammūe* says that because an important part of this sūra talks about the resistance and opposition of a group of youth to the Dajjal of their time and how God protected them, reflecting on this will help believers to counter the Dajjal of their times and be protected from corrupt environments.

Synopsis of contents

- 1) Praise and glorification of God.
- 2) Stories from the past;
 - a) The Ashāb al-Kahf
 - b) Prophet Musa ﷺ and Prophet Khizr ﷺ
 - c) Story of Dhulqarnayn

Note: These stories have not been mentioned in any other part of the Quran, unlike other stories aspects of which are repeated in various sūras. This is also one of the unique characteristics of this sūra. All three stories share the common theme of leaving the comfort of home and journeying for the sake of a higher purpose.

- 3) Parable of the two men and the garden
- 4) Reminders about the Day of Judgment and the Hereafter.

Some Lessons from the Sūra

- 1) The Quran has no crookedness in it, leads to the straight path without deviations (verse 1)
- 2) The Prophet (s) was very much grieved by the disbelief of the people (verse 6)
- 3) Allah increases those who have faith, in guidance and strengthens their hearts (verses 13-14).
- 4) Do not say you will do anything the next day without saying 'If God wills' (verses 23-24). You are not in complete control.
- 5) Wealth and children are only an adornment for this world. Good deeds are better for the hereafter (verse 46)

Important Messages

- 1) The leader of a people should be concerned for them.
- 2) Corruption in society must be faced with opposition or withdrawal.
- 3) Belief of a people in something or their lack of belief is not a criterion for truth of that belief.
- 4) Abundance of wealth and children is often a source of rebelliousness.
- 5) Reminders about the origin of creation can break arrogance
- 6) On the Day of Judgment, the deeds of a human being will be corporeal – they will have a tangible existence.

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

- 1) 18:7-8 - *Indeed We have made whatever is on the earth an adornment for it that We may test them [to see] which of them is best in conduct. And indeed We will turn whatever is on it into a barren plain.*
- 2) 18:49 - *The Book will be set up. Then you will see the guilty apprehensive of what is in it. They will say, 'Woe to us! What a book is this! It omits nothing, big or small, without enumerating it.' They will find present whatever they had done, and your Lord does not wrong anyone.*

Activities for self-study

- 1) What do verse 10-15 tell you about the qualities of the youth who sought refuge in the cave?
- 2) Ponder over the parable in verse 45. Write it out and illustrate it.

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 of Sūra Familiarization for the month of Ramadan available at:

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