

Familiarization with Quranic Sūras

Month of Ramadan 1440 – Day 23

Sūrat al-Kahf (No. 18), Part 2



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.

Whoever recites Sūra Kahf every Thursday night will leave this world as a martyr, will be raised as a martyr, and on the Day of Judgment will be placed in the ranks of the martyrs.

Imam al-Sādiq عليه السلام (*Tafsīr Majma'ul-Bayān*)

According to a hadith attributed to Imam al-Sādiq عليه السلام if a person recites the last verse of Sūrat al-Kahf before sleeping, s/he will be able to wake at a desired time (*Tabajjud Salāt: The Spiritual Ladder*, p. 60)

Synopsis of contents

- 1) Praise and glorification of God.
- 2) Stories from the past;
 - a) The Ashāb al-Kahf
 - b) Prophet Musa عليه السلام and Prophet Khizr عليه السلام
 - 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) People on the Day of Judgment will be aghast at how the book of deeds has not left out anything, large or small, of what they did in the world (verse 49)
- 2) Inner veils prevent a person from paying heed to the signs of God (verse 57)
- 3) Knowledge is granted to a person through the mercy of God (verse 65)
- 4) It is difficult to have patience over something you cannot understand (verse 68)
- 5) Those who were blind in this world will be able to see very clearly on the Day of Judgment (verses 100-101)

Important Messages

- 1) Parables in the Quran are for all people to understand and be guided.
- 2) The mission of the Prophets (ﷺ) was to revive what was naturally inside the *fitrat* of the human being and remove the veils over it.
- 3) It may be necessary to travel and spend time when seeking knowledge.
- 4) Seeking knowledge is not just for the sake of knowledge itself, but for improvement and progress.
- 5) The highest honor for a human being is to be God's servant.
- 6) Do not be hasty in judgment.
- 7) Safety and security are vital for a society to function.

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

- 1) 18:103-104 - *Say, 'Shall we inform you who are the biggest losers in their works? Those whose efforts are misguided in the life of the world, while they suppose they are doing good.'*
- 2) 18:109 - *Say, 'If the sea were ink for the words of my Lord, the sea would be spent before the words of my Lord are finished, though We replenish it with another like it.'*
- 3) 18:110 - *Say, 'I am just a human being like you. It has been revealed to me that your God is the One God. So whoever expects to encounter his Lord—let him act righteously, and not associate anyone with the worship of his Lord.'*

Activities for self-study

- 1) Read the story of Prophet Mūsā (ﷺ) and Prophet Khizr (ﷺ) – verses 60-82. What are the difficulties of seeking knowledge? What are some necessary qualities for those who seek knowledge?

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:
www.academyofislam.com/resources/quran/sura-familiarization/

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