

## Sūrat al-Hud Verse 89

وَيَا قَوْمِ لَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شِقَاقِي أَنْ يُصِيبَكُمْ مِثْلُ مَا أَصَابَ قَوْمَ نُوحٍ أَوْ قَوْمَ هُودٍ أَوْ قَوْمَ صَالِحٍ ۚ وَمَا قَوْمُ لُوطٍ مِّنْكُمْ بِبَعِيدٍ

11:89 - O my people, do not let your defiance toward me lead you to be visited by the like of what visited the people of Nuh, or the people of Hud, or the people of Salih, nor are the people of Lut far off from you.

### Questions for Reflection

- 1) What is the Prophet warning the people about?
- 2) What happened to the people of the Prophets mentioned in this verse?

### Commentary

In this verse the Prophet explains an important Akhlaqi point. Sometimes hatred of someone or anger and stubbornness against something makes a person blind to the consequences of his actions. He overlooks his own good in order to get back at the object of his anger. The Prophet asks them not to let anger against him make them oblivious of what the future might hold for them. Their rejection of him might bring down the wrath of Allah.

Prophet Shu‘ayb brings up the examples of what happened to the people of the past. Those who rejected previous Prophets and persisted in their sin and disobedience faced the consequences of their actions. The punishment of Allah came down on them. The people of Prophet Nuh (a) were drowned in the flood. The people of Prophet Hud (a) known as the people of Ad were destroyed by a hurricane. The people of Prophet Ṣāliḥ (a) known as the Thamud were punished with an earthquake and the people of Prophet Lut (a) were destroyed by a rain of stones.

History has many lessons for us. It is not just a field of knowledge to learn about. Rather, it is to learn from, and apply to life. History repeats itself and what happened to others must not be taken lightly. The experiences of others in the past teach us to be careful of not repeating those actions that led to their downfall.

The Quran repeatedly asks Muslims to reflect over the histories of past people. There are many stories in the Quran narrated to teach believers lessons from the experiences of others. Although times and circumstances might be different, the universal principles behind human behavior remain the same. To know history is to have a more holistic picture of the world. It allows us to have the past as well as the present in mind when we make decisions and equips us to anticipate the future.

The verse says that the people of Prophet Lut (a) are not far off from you, referring to the fact that the time distance between the two Prophets, Lut and Shu‘ayb was only a few centuries. Prophet Lut

was there during the time of Prophet Ibrahim and Prophet Shu‘ayb was during the time of Prophet Musa.

#### Lessons

- 1) Don't let anger against someone or something make you forget the consequence of your actions.
- 2) History has many lessons for us to learn from and apply to our lives.
- 3) The principles behind human behavior remain the same throughout the ages.

#### Cross reference verses

- 1) Learning from history – 12:3, 12:111
- 2) People of Prophet Nuh (a) – 11:36-42
- 3) People of Prophet Hud – 46:21-25
- 4) People of Prophet Şālih – 11:66-67
- 5) People of Prophet Lut – 11:82

#### Connecting topics

Imam Ali (a) on learning from history - <https://www.al-islam.org/imam-alis-first-treatise-islamic-ethics-and-education-zainol-aabideen-qorbani-lahiji/24>