

## Sūrat al-Hud Verse 94

وَلَمَّا جَاءَ أَمْرُنَا نَجَّيْنَا شُعَيْبًا وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِنَّا وَأَخَذَتِ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا الصَّيْحَةَ فَأَصْبَحُوا فِي دِيَارِهِمْ جَاثِمِينَ

11:94 - When Our decree came, We delivered Shu‘ayb and the faithful who were with him by a mercy from Us. And the Cry seized those who were wrongdoers, whereat they lay lifeless in their homes.

### Questions for Reflection

- 1) What is the decree mentioned in this verse? (consequences for rejecting the Creator and His Messenger)
- 2) Is the mercy of Allah only for those who believe in Him? (no, it is for all human beings. But some choose not to take it and are in a loss. see commentary)

### Commentary

When Prophets were sent to people their first role was to explain the truth to the people. They would invite them to the belief in One God and reason with them about their wrong beliefs. They would show concern for the people. If this did not work the next stage would be to warn people about the result of their stubbornness. This might turn some people towards the truth. The third stage would be when the punishment of Allah would come down on the people. For the people of Madyan to whom Prophet Shu‘ayb had been sent, the first two stages had been traversed. Now the punishment of Allah comes down, as mentioned in this verse. The Prophet and those who believed were able to escape before the punishment came down.

The ‘cry’ mentioned in this verse is a loud sound. Many people have been destroyed are mentioned in the Quran as hearing a loud sound before being destroyed. The sound could be a result of lightening. Sometimes the sound waves are so loud that it causes the death of people.

The people of Prophet Shu‘ayb collapsed and died in their homes as a result of this sound. Their bodies remained like that for some time, as lessons for other people. All their wealth because of which they had rejected him, all what they had accumulated and lived for, was destroyed. It was like they had never been there (as mentioned in the verse after). This is a lesson for people of all times.

The punishment of Allah is part of His mercy on the human being. He does not need our obedience and our disobedience does not hurt Him. So why would He punish disobedience? It is for the perfection of the human being. If there was no warning about punishment for our deeds, many would not obey Him. Discipline and authority need to reward and warn. It is not enough to just reward. Some people would obey only because of the warnings and would thus benefit themselves. Just like a school that wishes its pupils to be successful needs to have rules. Obeying the rules would result in appreciation, praise, reward and success. Disobeying the rules would have negative

consequences. Without such a system in place the students in the school would not take learning seriously.

Verses of Quran also talk about punishment as essentially the essence and truth of our wrong deeds. It is the deed manifested in a different form. When a person usurps an orphan's property, for example, the essence of his act is nothing but fire. In fact, he is eating fire (Q4:10) but he does not feel its heat because he is like a person who is not conscious. He will feel and recognize the fire on the Day of Judgment. This is similar to telling someone that excess in eating can result in a stomach ache. Our body has been designed in such a way that overeating can result in a stomach ache. The same thing is true about our souls; committing sins results in undesirable influences upon our souls. A few recognize the influence right away, others may recognize them after a while. Allah warns us about the natural laws that run in this world. We will face the consequences of these natural laws. This system has been kept in place by Allah so that human beings would take obedience more seriously and find success through perfection of their souls. And so that the good doers are distinguished from the wrong doers.

### Lessons

- 1) Allah gives many chances to people before punishing them.
- 2) The history of past peoples has lessons for all times.
- 3) Allah's mercy is not different from His anger.
- 4) Punishment of Allah is a natural consequence of our deeds.

### Cross reference verses

- 1) People receive just consequences of their deeds – 3:117, 16:33
- 2) Mercy and grace of Allah – 39:53, 24:14, 5:98

### Connecting topics

Mercy and Punishment

<https://www.erfan.ir/english/83397.html>