

Sūrat al-Hud Verse 48

قِيلَ يَا نُوحُ اهْبِطْ بِسَلَامٍ مِنَّا وَبَرَكَاتٍ عَلَيْكَ وَعَلَىٰ أُمَّمٍ مِّمَّن مَّعَكَ ۖ وَأُمَّمٍ سَمْتَعْتَهُمْ ثُمَّ يَمَسُّهُمْ مِنَّا
عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ

11:48 - It was said: ‘O Nuh! descend with peace from Us and blessings, on you and on the nations descending from those with you. But other nations from them, we will grant them pleasures (for a while); then there will touch them from Us a painful punishment.’

Questions for Reflection

- 1) On whom will the peace and blessings from Allah descend? Why?
- 2) Why would some people be given pleasures and then punished?

Commentary

This verse concludes the story of Prophet Nuh and the flood. It talks about the end of the voyage and the beginning of a new life on earth. Allah tells the Prophet to disembark and gives him the good news of peace and blessings from Him. The flood had covered everything and all that was on the land had been drowned. There were no farms or buildings etc. left and Prophet Nuh and his people would have to start afresh. There may have been a fear among the people of how they would get the basic necessities of life from land that had been completely flooded. There was also the apprehension of the dangers of swamps and wetlands. Allah assures them that He will open doors of blessings for them.

Almighty Allah knows the innermost thoughts and fears of human beings. He addresses them and reassures the people that He will help them settle on land again. Allah also says that this help will be given to the nations who will descend from the ones on the ark. This could imply that everyone on the ark would go on to form a nation or tribe of his own. Or it could mean that many different nations were represented on the ark, each of which would have their own descendants.

The word ‘umam’ translated as nations could also include the animals that were on the ark. The Quran refers to them as nations. Allah says; *And there is no creature on the earth or bird that flies with its wings except that they are communities like you* (6:38). Just as Prophet Nuh and his people received peace and blessings for a new life on earth, the animals on the ark also received the same for the new life they would now lead on the earth.

The verse then goes on to say that some nations that would descend from the people on the ark would receive blessings and enjoy them, but they would become proud and ungrateful, hence deserving the consequences of such behaviour. Human beings often make poor choices and misuse the free will and blessings given to them. The natural system and laws of Allah rewards or punishes people accordingly. Those who have a small inner capacity respond to blessings with heedlessness and pride. Those who have wisdom and depth respond with gratitude and humility.

Lessons

- 1) Allah knows, and attends to, the needs of people.
- 2) Animals also form nations like human beings.
- 3) Some people who receive blessings respond with heedlessness and ingratitude.

Connecting Topics

- 1) Animal communities
<https://academyofislam.com/quranic-reflection-no-405-ayat-638-animal-communities/>