

لُقْمَانَ

31. Luqman

PERIOD OF REVELATION

This surah was revealed in late middle stage of the Prophet's residence at Makkah. Its subject matter indicates that it was revealed in the same period when Surah Ankabut was revealed. It consists of 34 verses and is named after the sage, Luqman, who counsels his son.

VIRTUE

عَنِ الْبَرَاءِ قَالَ: كُنَّا «نُصَلِّي خَلْفَ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ الظُّهْرَ، فَنَسْمَعُ مِنْهُ الْآيَةَ بَعْدَ الْآيَاتِ مِنْ سُورَةِ لُقْمَانَ، وَالذَّارِيَاتِ» (السنن الكبري للنسائي 1045)

Al-Bara' is reported to have said: "We prayed behind the Prophet (saw) zuhr prayer and we would hear him reciting verses from surah Luqman and al-Dhariyat." [As-Sunan Al-Kubra of Nasai 1045]

KEY THEMES AND MESSAGES

- The Quran is the book of wisdom and a blessing for the righteous.
- Luqman's advice to his son not to commit shirk.
- Rights of the mother and the parents.
- Not to obey the parents if they ask you to commit shirk.
- Islamic moral behaviour and interaction.
- The main reason of misguidance is the blind following of one's forefathers.
- If all trees were pens and oceans ink, Allah's words could not be put to writing.
- Allah is the only Reality. All others whom people invoke besides Him are false.
- Mankind, fear that Day when not even a father shall avail his son, nor a son his father, let not Satan deceive you concerning this fact.

SELECTED VERSES

31:7 Unbelievers and the Quran

﴿وَإِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِ آيَاتُنَا وَآلَىٰ مُسْتَكْبِرًا كَأَن لَّمْ يَسْمَعْهَا كَأَنَّ فِي أُذُنَيْهِ وَقْرًا فَبَسَّطَهَا بَعْدَآبِ الْيَمْرِ ﴿٧﴾﴾

"And when our verses are recited to him, he turns away arrogantly as if he had not heard them, as if there was in his ears deafness. So give him tidings of a painful punishment."

31:10 The creation of the world without pillars

﴿خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ بِغَيْرِ عَمَدٍ تَرَوْنَهَا وَالْأَرْضِ رَواسِيَ أَن تَمِيدَ بِكُمْ وَبَثَّ فِيهَا مِن كُلِّ دَابَّةٍ وَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَنْبَتْنَا فِيهَا مِن كُلِّ زَوْجٍ كَرِيمٍ ﴿١٠﴾﴾

"He created the heavens without pillars that you see and has cast into the earth firmly set mountains, lest it should shift with you, and dispersed therein from every creature. And We sent down rain from the sky and made grow therein [plants] of every noble kind."

31:14 Being grateful to parents

﴿وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُ وَهْنًا عَلَىٰ وَهْنٍ وَفَصَّلَهُ فِي غَامَيْنِ إِنَّ أَشْكُرَ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيْكَ إِلَىٰ الْمَصِيرِ ﴿١٤﴾﴾

"And We have enjoined upon man [care] for his parents. His mother carried him, [increasing her] in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning is in two years. Be grateful to Me and to your parents; to Me is the [final] destination."

31:15 Importance of learning from good practice

﴿وَإِنْ جَاهَدَاكَ عَلَىٰ أَنْ تُشْرِكَ بِي مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ فَلَا تُطِعْهُمَا وَصَاحِبُهُمَا فِي الدُّنْيَا مَعْرُوفًا وَاتَّبِعْ سَبِيلَ مَنْ أَنَابَ إِلَيَّ ثُمَّ إِلَيَّ مَرْجِعُكُمْ فَأُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٥﴾﴾

"But if they endeavor to make you associate with Me that of which you have no knowledge, do not obey them but accompany them in [this] world with appropriate kindness and follow the way of those who turn back to Me [in repentance]. Then to Me will be your return, and I will inform you about what you used to do."

31:13-19 Luqman's advice to his son

﴿وَإِذْ قَالَ لُقْمَانُ لِابْنِهِ وَهُوَ يَعِظُهُ يَا بُنَيَّ لَا تُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿١٣﴾ وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُ وَهْنًا عَلَىٰ وَهْنٍ وَفَصَّلَهُ فِي غَامَيْنِ إِنَّ أَشْكُرَ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيْكَ إِلَىٰ الْمَصِيرِ ﴿١٤﴾ وَإِنْ جَاهَدَاكَ عَلَىٰ أَنْ تُشْرِكَ بِي مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ فَلَا تُطِعْهُمَا وَصَاحِبُهُمَا فِي الدُّنْيَا مَعْرُوفًا وَاتَّبِعْ سَبِيلَ مَنْ أَنَابَ إِلَيَّ ثُمَّ إِلَيَّ مَرْجِعُكُمْ فَأُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٥﴾ يَا بُنَيَّ إِنَّهَا إِنْ تَكُ مِثْقَالَ حَبَّةٍ مِنْ خَرْدَلٍ فَتَكُنْ فِي صَخْرَةٍ أَوْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ أَوْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَأْتِ بِهَا اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَطِيفٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٦﴾ يَا بُنَيَّ أَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ وَأْمُرْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَانْهَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَأَصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا أَصَابَكَ إِنَّ ذَلِكَ مِنْ عَزْمِ الْأُمُورِ ﴿١٧﴾ وَلَا تُصَعِّرْ خَدَّكَ لِلنَّاسِ وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرْحًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ مُخْتَالٍ فَخُورٍ ﴿١٨﴾ وَأَقْصِدْ فِي مَشْيِكَ وَأَغْضُضْ مِنْ صَوْتِكَ إِنْ أَنْكَرَ الْأَصْوَاتِ لَصَوْتُ الْحَمِيرِ ﴿١٩﴾﴾

1. Do not commit shirk
2. Knowledge that Allah is aware of everything
3. Establish prayer
4. Enjoin good and forbid evil
5. Bearing with patience whatever (misfortune or calamity) that befalls
6. Not to turn away from people with pride
7. Not to walk arrogantly on earth
8. Be moderate in walking
9. Lowering the voice

31:22 Total submission to Allah

﴿وَمَنْ يُسَلِّمْ وَجْهَهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَهُوَ مُحْسِنٌ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ عَنَقَبَةُ الْأُمُورِ ﴿٢٢﴾﴾

"And whoever submits his face to Allah while he is a doer of good - then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold. And to Allah will be the outcome of [all] matters."

31:24 Enjoyment – to what end?

﴿مُتَّعُهُمْ قَلِيلًا ثُمَّ نَضْطَرُّهُمْ إِلَىٰ عَذَابٍ غَلِيظٍ﴾

"We grant them enjoyment for a little; then We will force them to a massive punishment."

31:27 Words of Allah

﴿وَلَوْ أَنَّمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مِنْ شَجَرَةٍ أَقْلَمٌ وَالْبَحْرُ يَمُدُّهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ سَبْعَةُ أَنْهَارٍ مَا نَفَذْتُ كَلِمَتُ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ

حَكِيمٌ﴾

"And if whatever trees upon the earth were pens and the sea [was ink], replenished thereafter by seven [more] seas, the words of Allah would not be exhausted. Indeed, Allah is Exalted in Might and Wise."

31:33 The world is a delusion

﴿يَتَأْتِيَ النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ وَأَحْشَوْا يَوْمًا لَّا يَجْزِي وَالِدٌ عَن وَلَدِهِ وَلَا مَوْلُودٌ هُوَ جَازٍ عَن وَالِدِهِ شَيْئًا إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ فَلَا تَغُرَّنَّكُمُ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا وَلَا يَغُرَّنَّكُم بِاللَّهِ الْغُرُورُ﴾

"O mankind, fear your Lord and fear a Day when no father will avail his son, nor will a son avail his father at all. Indeed, the promise of Allah is truth, so let not the worldly life delude you and be not deceived about Allah by the Deceiver."

31:34 Five things known only to Allah

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ عِلْمُ السَّاعَةِ وَيُنزِلُ الْغَيْثَ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا فِي الْأَرْحَامِ وَمَا تَدْرِي نَفْسٌ مَّاذَا تَكْسِبُ غَدًا وَمَا تَدْرِي نَفْسٌ بِأَيِّ أَرْضٍ تَمُوتُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ﴾

1. Knowledge of the Hour
2. Sending of rain
3. Knowledge of what is in the womb
4. No person knows what they will accrue tomorrow
5. No person knows where they will die

SELECTED VOCABULARY

Advising him [v.13] يَعْظُمُهُ	The commandments [v.17] الْأُمُورِ	The falsehood [v.30] الْبَطْلُ
Weakness and hardship [v.14] وَهْنًا	Insolence [v.18] مَرَحًا	Patient [v.31] صَبَّارٍ
Unto me [v.14] إِلَيَّ	Boaster [v.18] فَخُورٍ	Grateful (person) [v.31] شَكُورٍ
The final [v.14] الْمَصِيرُ	Your voice [v.19] صَوْتِكَ	A wave [v.32] مَوْجٌ
O my son! [v.16] يَبْنِي	The donkey [v.19] الْحَمِيرِ	A son [v.33] مَوْلُودٌ
The important [v.17] عَزَمَ	Hand-hold [v.22] بِالْعُرْوَةِ	Tomorrow [v.34] غَدًا
	The most trustworthy [v.22] الْوُثْقَى	

السَّجْدَةُ

32. As-Sajdah: The Prostration

PERIOD OF REVELATION

This is a Makki surah and consists of 30 verses. The title is taken from verse 15 in which the believers are described as falling down to prostrate when the divine messages are revealed to them.

VIRTUE

عَنْ جَابِرٍ أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ كَانَ لَا يَنَامُ حَتَّى يَقْرَأَ أَلَمَ تَنْزِيلُ، وَتَبَارَكَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ الْمُلْكُ. (الترمذي 2892)
Jabir reported that the Prophet (saw) would not sleep before reciting Alif Lam Meem Tanzeel (i.e. surah al-Sajdah) and Tabarak alladhi biyadihi al-Mulk. [Tirmidhi 2892]

KEY THEMES AND MESSAGES

- The Quran is beyond all doubt and is sent to warn those people to whom no warner has come before.
- On the Day of Judgement, the disbelievers shall believe but that belief will be of no benefit to them.
- There is a special reward for those who forsake their beds and invoke their Lord with fear and hope, and spend in charity.
- The Quran is similar to the book which was given to Prophet Musa.

SELECTED VERSES

32:7 Perfection in Allah's creation

﴿الَّذِي أَحْسَنَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقَهُ وَبَدَأَ خَلْقَ الْإِنْسَانِ مِن طِينٍ﴾

"Who perfected everything which He created and began the creation of man from clay."

32:16 Qiyamul Layl

﴿تَتَجَافَى جُنُوبُهُمْ عَنِ الْمَضَاجِعِ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ﴾

"They arise from [their] beds; they supplicate their Lord in fear and aspiration, and from what We have provided them, they spend."

32:17 The hidden joy

﴿فَلَا تَعْلَمُ نَفْسٌ مَّا أُخْفِيَ لَهُم مِّن قُرَّةِ أَعْيُنٍ جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ﴾

"And no soul knows what has been hidden for them of comfort for eyes as reward for what they used to do."

SELECTED VOCABULARY

The throne [v.4] الْعَرْشَ	Meeting [v.14] لِقَاءَ	Doubt [v.23] مَرِيئَةً
Sight (eyes) [v.9] الْأَبْصَرَ	Joy [v.17] قُرَّةَ	Crops [v.27] زَرْعًا
Hearts [v.9] الْأَفْئِدَةَ	Eyes [v.17] أَعْيُنِ	The decision [v.28] الْفَتْحُ

الأحزاب

33. Al-Ahzab: The Confederates

PERIOD OF REVELATION

This surah was revealed during the 5th year after migration of the Prophet to Madinah. During that year, three important events took place: the Battle of the Trench or Al-Ahzab, the raid on Bani Quraizah and the Prophet's marriage with Sayyidah Zainab. The surah consists of 73 verses. The title of the surah refers to the tribes who, along with the Makkani Quraysh, besieged Madinah.

VIRTUE

عَنْ حَارِثَةَ بْنِ مُضَرَّبٍ قَالَ: كَتَبَ إِلَيْنَا عُمَرُ بْنُ الْخَطَّابِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ: "أَنْ تَعْلَمُوا سُورَةَ النَّسَاءِ وَالْأَحْزَابِ وَالنُّورِ."
(فضائل القرآن للقاسم بن سلام 367)

Harithah Ibn Mudarrab is reported to have said: Umar Ibn al-Khattab (ra) wrote to us, "Learn surah Al-Nisa', surah Al-Ahzab, and surah Al-Nur." [Fada'il al-Quran of Al-Qasim Ibn Salam 367]

KEY THEMES AND MESSAGES

- Fear Allah and do not obey the unbelievers and the hypocrites.
- Laws relating to divorce and status of an adopted son.
- By word of mouth, neither your wives become your real mothers nor your adopted sons your real sons.
- Prophet's wives are declared to be the mothers of all believers.
- Blood relations have greater claims than others in the Book of Allah.
- Battle of the Trench (Ahzab)
- Favours of Allah.
- Attitudes of the hypocrites.
- Non participants are declared to have no faith at all and that all their deeds are void.
- The life of Prophet Muhammad (as) is declared to be a model for all.
- Admonition to the wives of the Prophet.
- It is not befitting for the believers to have options in what has been decided by Allah and His Messenger.
- Commandment to the Prophet to marry the divorced wife of his adopted son.
- The Prophet Muhammad (as) is not the father of any of your men but a messenger and seal of prophethood.
- Etiquettes concerning the visits to the Prophet's household.
- Allah Himself and His angels send blessings on the Prophet, and the believers are instructed to do the same.
- Laws of hijab (dress code) for women.
- The trust of Allah was presented to the heavens, the earth and the mountains: they refused to take that responsibility but man took it.

SELECTED VERSES

33:3 Trust in Allah

﴿وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ وَكِيلًا﴾

"And rely upon Allah; and sufficient is Allah as Disposer of affairs."

33:4 Pursuing a single objective

﴿مَا جَعَلَ اللَّهُ لِرَجُلٍ مِّن قَلْبَيْنِ فِي حَوْفِهِ...﴾

"Allah has not made for a man two hearts in his interior...."

33:6 Proximity of the Prophet to the believers

﴿النَّبِيُّ أَوْلَىٰ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ مِنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجُهُ أُمَّهَاتُهُمْ وَأُولُو الْأَرْحَامِ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلَىٰ بِبَعْضٍ فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُهَاجِرِينَ إِلَّا أَن تَفْعَلُوا إِلَىٰ أَوْلِيَآئِكُم مَّعْرُوفًا كَانَ ذَٰلِكَ فِي الْكِتَابِ مَسْطُورًا﴾

"The Prophet is more worthy of the believers than themselves, and his wives are [in the position of] their mothers. And those of [blood] relationship are more entitled [to inheritance] in the decree of Allah than the [other] believers and the emigrants, except that you may do to your close associates a kindness [through bequest]. That was in the Book inscribed."

33:9 Remembering favours

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ جَاءَتْكُمْ جُنُودٌ فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيحًا وَجُنُودًا لَّم تَرَوْهَا وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرًا﴾

"O you who have believed, remember the favor of Allah upon you when armies came to [attack] you and We sent upon them a wind and armies [of angels] you did not see. And ever is Allah, of what you do, Seeing."

33:13 'Yathrib' is the ancient name of Madinah

﴿وَإِذْ قَالَتْ طَآئِفَةٌ مِّنْهُمْ يَا أَهْلَ يَثْرِبَ لَا مُقَامَ لَكُمْ فَارْجِعُوا وَيَسْتَأْذِنُ فَرِيقٌ مِّنْهُمُ النَّبِيَّ يَقُولُونَ إِنَّ بُيُوتَنَا عَوْرَةٌ وَمَا هِيَ بِعَوْرَةٍ إِن يُرِيدُونَ إِلَّا فِرَارًا﴾

"And when a faction of them said, "O people of Yathrib, there is no stability for you [here], so return [home]." And a party of them asked permission of the Prophet, saying, "Indeed, our houses are unprotected," while they were not exposed. They did not intend except to flee."

33:21 The best role model

﴿لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا﴾

"There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allah often."

33:23 Fulfilling pledges

﴿مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ رِجَالٌ صَدَقُوا مَا عَاهَدُوا اللَّهَ عَلَيْهِ فَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ قَضَىٰ حُبَّهُ وَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ يَنْتَظِرُ وَمَا بَدَّلُوا تَبْدِيلًا﴾

"Among the believers are men true to what they promised Allah. Among them is he who has fulfilled his vow [to the death], and among them is he who awaits [his chance]. And they did not alter [the terms of their commitment] by any alteration."

33:32 Manners of speech

﴿يٰۤاَيُّهَا نِسَاۗءَ النَّبِيِّ لَسْتُنَّ كَاٰحَدٍ مِّنَ النِّسَاۗءِ اِنَّ اَتَّقِيْنَ فَلَآ تَخْضَعْنَ بِالْقَوْلِ فَيَطْمَعَ الَّذِيۡ فِي قَلْبِهٖ مَّرَضٌ وَقُلْنَ قَوْلًا مَّعْرُوۡفًا﴾

"O wives of the Prophet, you are not like anyone among women. If you fear Allah, then do not be soft in speech [to men], lest he in whose heart is disease should covet, but speak with appropriate speech."

33:33 Staying at home – instruction to the prophet's wives

﴿وَقَرْنَ فِيۡ بُيُوْتِكُنَّ وَلَا تَبَرَّجْنَ تَبَرُّجَ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ الْاُولٰٓءِؕ وَاَقِمْنَ الصَّلٰوةَ وَاَتِينَ الزَّكٰوةَ وَاَطِعْنَ اللّٰهَ وَرَسُوْلَهٗؕ اِنَّمَا يُرِيْدُ اللّٰهُ لِيُذْهِبَ عَنْكُمُ الرِّجْسَ اَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ وَيُطَهِّرَكُمْ تَطْهِرًا﴾

"And stay in your houses, and do not display yourselves like that of the times of ignorance, and perform prayer, and give Zakat and obey Allah and His Messenger. Allah wishes only to remove ar-rijs (evil deeds and sins, etc.) from you, O members of the family (of the Prophet (saw)), and to purify you with a thorough purification."

33:35 Equality of rewards for good deeds for both male and female

﴿اِنَّ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمٰتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنٰتِ وَالْقٰنِتِيْنَ وَالْقٰنِتِيْنَ وَالصّٰدِقِيْنَ وَالصّٰدِقٰتِ وَالصّٰبِرِيْنَ وَالصّٰبِرٰتِ وَالْخٰشِعِيْنَ وَالْخٰشِعٰتِ وَالْمُتَصَدِّقِيْنَ وَالْمُتَصَدِّقٰتِ وَالصّٰتِمِيْنَ وَالصّٰتِمٰتِ وَالْحٰفِظِيْنَ وَالْحٰفِظٰتِ وَالذَّاكِرِيْنَ وَالذَّاكِرٰتِ اَعَدَّ اللّٰهُ لَهُمْ مَّغْفِرَةً وَّاَجْرًا عَظِيْمًا﴾

"Indeed, the Muslim men and Muslim women, the believing men and believing women, the obedient men and obedient women, the truthful men and truthful women, the patient men and patient women, the humble men and humble women, the charitable men and charitable women, the fasting men and fasting women, the men who guard their private parts and the women who do so, and the men who remember Allah often and the women who do so - for them Allah has prepared forgiveness and a great reward."

33:36 The decree of Allah and His messenger

﴿وَمَا كَانَ لِمُؤْمِنٍ وَّلَا مُؤْمِنَةٍ اِذَا قَضٰى اللّٰهُ وَرَسُوْلُهٗۙ اَمْرًا اَنْ يَّكُوْنَ لَهُمْ اٰخِيْرَةٌ مِّنْ اَمْرِهِمْۗ وَمَنْ يَعْصِ اللّٰهَ وَرَسُوْلَهٗۙ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلٰلًا مُّبِيْنًا﴾

"It is not for a believing man or a believing woman, when Allah and His Messenger have decided a matter, that they should [thereafter] have any choice about their affair. And whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger has certainly strayed into clear error."

33:37 Fear Allah, not people
Mention of Zayd by name

﴿... وَتَخْشَى النَّاسَ وَاللَّهُ أَحَقُّ أَنْ تَخْشَهُ فَلَمَّا قَضَىٰ زَيْدٌ مِّنْهَا...﴾

"...And you fear people but Allah deserved to be feared more..."

33:40 Seal of the Prophets

﴿مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ ۗ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا﴾

"Muhammad is not the father of [any] one of your men, but [he is] the Messenger of Allah and last of the prophets. And ever is Allah , of all things, Knowing."

33:41 Remembrance in plenitude

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ ذِكْرًا كَثِيرًا﴾

"O you who have believed, remember Allah with much remembrance."

33:45-46 Attributes of the Prophet

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَهِيدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا ﴿٤٥﴾ وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ ۖ وَسِرَاجًا مُّنِيرًا ﴿٤٦﴾﴾

"O Prophet, indeed We have sent you as a witness and a bringer of good tidings and a warner. And one who invites to Allah , by His permission, and an illuminating lamp."

33:53 Ethics of social engagement

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَدْخُلُوا بُيُوتَ النَّبِيِّ إِلَّا أَنْ يُؤْذَنَ لَكُمْ إِلَى طَعَامٍ غَيْرٍ نَّظِيرِهَا إِنَّهُ وَلَكِنْ إِذَا دُعِيتُمْ فَادْخُلُوا فَإِذَا طَعِمْتُمْ فَانْتَشِرُوا وَلَا مُسْتَقْنَسِينَ لِحَدِيثٍ ۗ إِنَّ ذَٰلِكُمْ كَانَ يُؤْذَى النَّبِيَّ فَيَسْتَحْيِي ۖ مِنْكُمْ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَسْتَحْيِي ۖ مِنَ الْحَقِّ ۗ وَإِذَا سَأَلْتُمُوهُنَّ مَتَاعًا فَسْأَلُوهُنَّ مِن وَرَاءِ حِجَابٍ ذَٰلِكُمْ أَطْهَرُ لِقُلُوبِكُمْ وَقُلُوبِهِنَّ ۗ وَمَا كَانَ لَكُمْ أَنْ تُؤْذُوا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ۗ وَلَا أَنْ تَنْكِحُوا أَزْوَاجَهُ ۚ مِن بَعْدِهِ ۖ أَبَدًا ۗ إِنَّ ذَٰلِكُمْ كَانَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ عَظِيمًا﴾

"O you who have believed, do not enter the houses of the Prophet except when you are permitted for a meal, without awaiting its readiness. But when you are invited, then enter; and when you have eaten, disperse without seeking to remain for conversation. Indeed, that [behavior] was troubling the Prophet, and he is shy of [dismissing] you. But Allah is not shy of the truth. And when you ask [his wives] for something, ask them from behind a partition. That is purer for your hearts and their hearts. And it is not [conceivable or lawful] for you to harm the Messenger of Allah or to marry his wives after him, ever. Indeed, that would be in the sight of Allah an enormity."

33:56 Sending blessings on the Prophet (saw)

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا﴾

"Indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace."

33:59 Verse of jilbab

﴿يَتَأْتِيهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلًّا لِّأَزْوَاجِكَ وَبَنَاتِكَ وَنِسَاءِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ يُدْنِينَ عَلَيْهِنَّ مِنْ جَلْبَابِهِنَّ ذَٰلِكَ أَدَّبْتِي أَنْ يُعْرَفْنَ فَلَا يُؤْذَيْنَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا ﴿٥٩﴾﴾

"O Prophet, tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to bring down over themselves [part] of their outer garments. That is more suitable that they will be known and not be abused. And ever is Allah Forgiving and Merciful."

33:62 There is no change in the Sunnah of Allah

﴿سُنَّةَ اللَّهِ فِي الَّذِينَ خَلَوْا مِنْ قَبْلُ وَلَنْ تَجِدَ لِسُنَّةِ اللَّهِ تَبْدِيلًا ﴿٦٢﴾﴾

"[This is] the established way of Allah with those who passed on before; and you will not find in the way of Allah any change."

33:67 Blind obedience of leaders and elders

﴿وَقَالُوا رَبَّنَا إِنَّا أَطَعْنَا سَادَتَنَا وَكُبَرَاءَنَا فَأَضَلُّونَا السَّبِيلًا ﴿٦٧﴾﴾

"And they will say, "Our Lord, indeed we obeyed our masters and our dignitaries, and they led us astray from the [right] way."

33:70-71 Upright speech

﴿يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا ﴿٧٠﴾ يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَلَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا ﴿٧١﴾﴾

"O you who have believed, fear Allah and speak words of appropriate justice. He will [then] amend for you your deeds and forgive you your sins. And whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger has certainly attained a great attainment."

SELECTED VOCABULARY

Fear Allah [v.1]	اتَّقِيَ اللَّهَ	Below [v.10]	أَسْفَلَ	With tongues [v.19]	بِاللِّسِنَةِ
Obey not [v.1]	لَا تُطِيعِ	The throats [v.10]	الْحَنَاجِرَ	An example [v.21]	أُسْوَةً
Your mothers [v.4]	أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ	Shake [v.11]	زَلْزَالًا	Faith [v.22]	إِيمَانًا
Sin [v.5]	جُنَاحٌ	Delusions [v.12]	عُرُورًا	Submissiveness [v.22]	تَسْلِيمًا
The blood relations [v.6]	الْأَرْحَامِ	O People of Yathrib	يَا أَهْلَ يَثْرِبَ	Terror [v.26]	الرُّعْبَ
Covenant [v.7]	مِيثَاقًا	[v.13]		Handsome [v.28]	جَمِيلًا
Above you [v.10]	فَوْقَكُمْ	Answered [v.15]	مَسْئُولًا	Display [v.33]	تَبْرُجَ
		Escape [v.16]	الْفِرَارُ		

Evil deeds [v.33] الرَّجَسِ	The way of Allah [v.38] سُنَّةَ اللَّهِ	Helper [v.65] نَصِيرًا
Family of the Prophet أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ [v.33]	The last [v.40] خَاتَمَ	O would that we had [v.66] يَلَيْتَنَّا
The Muslims [v.35] الْمُسْلِمِينَ	A witness [v.45] شَهِيدًا	Our leaders [v.67] سَادَتَنَا
The Believers [v.33] الْمُؤْمِنِينَ	A bearer of good news مُبَشِّرًا [v.45]	Our elders [v.67] كِبْرَاءَنَا
The Obedient [v.33] الْقَانِتِينَ	A warner [v.45] نَذِيرًا	Upright [v.70] سَدِيدًا
The Truthful [v.33] الصَّادِقِينَ	A caller [v.47] دَاعِيًا	The trust [v.72] الْأَمَانَةَ
The Patient ones [v.33] الصَّابِرِينَ	A lamp [v.47] سِرَاجًا	The mountains [v.72] الْجِبَالَ
The Humble [v.33] الْحَاشِعِينَ	Spreading light [v.47] مُنِيرًا	Unjust [v.72] ظُلُومًا
The Charitable [v.33] الْمُتَصَدِّقِينَ	A privilege [v.50] خَالِصَةً	Ignorant [v.72] جَهُولًا
The men who guard their chastity [v.33] الْحَافِظِينَ	It is not lawful [v.52] لَا تَحِلُّ	
He has made legal [v.38] فُرُوجَهُمْ	They hurt [v.57] يُؤْذُونَ	
	He has cursed [v.64] لَعَنَ	

سَبَأٌ

34. Saba: Sheba

PERIOD OF REVELATION

This surah appears to have been revealed during the early Makkah period when persecution had not yet become tyrannical and the Muslims were being suppressed only by ridicule, rumour-mongering, false allegations and casting of evil suggestions in the people's minds. The surah consists of 54 verses and the title is based on the reference to the people of Saba' in Yemen.

VIRTUE

تُبَيِّنُ السُّورَةُ بِجَلَاءِ عَاقِبَةِ الْإِعْرَاضِ عَنْ شُكْرِ النِّعْمَةِ. (أبي السعود، ص. 127، 128، جزء 7)

This surah clearly illustrates the consequence of being ungrateful to Allah's favours. [Tafsir of Abu As-Sa'ud, 7/127-128]

KEY THEMES AND MESSAGES

- The Day of Resurrection is sure to come for Allah's Judgement to reward the believers and punish the disbelievers.
- Those who do not believe in the Hereafter are doomed.
- The mountains and birds used to sing Allah's praises with Prophet Dawud.
- Allah subjected the winds and Jinns to Prophet Sulayman.
- Intercession before Allah can not avail anyone except for whom He permits.
- Muhammad (saw) is sent as a messenger for the whole of mankind.
- Wealth and children are a test to whom they are given.
- Whatever you spend in charity, Allah will pay you back in full.
- The truth has come, falsehood neither originates nor restores anything.
- On the Day of Judgement disbelievers will wish that they were believers.

SELECTED VERSES

34:13 The grateful minority

﴿... وَقَلِيلٌ مِّنْ عِبَادِيَ الشَّاكِرِينَ﴾

"...And few of My servants are grateful."

34:28 The ignorant majority

﴿وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ﴾

"And We have not sent you except comprehensively to mankind as a bringer of good tidings and a warner. But most of the people do not know."

34:36 Allah increases rizq

﴿قُلْ إِنَّ رَبِّي يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيَقْدِرُ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ﴾

"Say, 'Indeed, my Lord extends provision for whom He wills and restricts [it], but most of the people do not know.'"

34:43 The prison of tradition

﴿وَإِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُنَا بَيِّنَاتٍ قَالُوا مَا هَذَا إِلَّا رَجُلٌ يُرِيدُ أَنْ يَصُدَّكُمْ عَنْ مَا كَانَ آبَاؤُكُمْ...﴾

"And when our verses are recited to them as clear evidences, they say, 'This is not but a man who wishes to avert you from that which your fathers were worshipping'..."

34:50 Misguidance is from us and guidance is from Allah

﴿قُلْ إِنْ صَلَّيْتُ فَإِنَّمَا أَضِلُّ عَلَىٰ نَفْسِي وَإِنِ اهْتَدَيْتُ فَبِمَا يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ رَبِّي إِنَّهُ سَمِيعٌ قَرِيبٌ ﴿٥٠﴾﴾

"Say, 'If I should err, I would only err against myself. But if I am guided, it is by what my Lord reveals to me. Indeed, He is Hearing and near.'"

SELECTED VOCABULARY

The All-Wise [v.1] الْحَكِيمُ	New [v.7] جَدِيدٍ	Necks [v.33] أَعْنَاقٍ
The All-Aware [v.1] الْخَبِيرُ	The Jinn [v.12] الْجِنِّ	Which they study يَدْرُسُونَهَا [v.44]
Goes up [v.2] يَعْرُجُ	Images [v.13] تَمَثِيلَ	Pairs [v.46] مَثْنَىٰ
The Most Merciful [v.2] الرَّحِيمُ	A little creature [v.14] دَابَّةٌ	Individually [v.46] فُرَادَىٰ
The Most Forgiving [v.2] الْغَفُورُ	Watchful [v.21] حَفِيفٌ	All-Hearer [v.50] سَمِيعٌ
Yes [v.3] بَلَىٰ	The Opener [v.22] الْفَتْحُ	A place [v.51] مَكَانٍ
Weight [v.3] مِثْقَالُ	Appointment [v.30] مِيعَادُ	
An Atom [v.3] ذَرَّةٌ	The regret [v.33] النَّدَامَةُ	

فَاتِرٌ

35. Fatir: The Creator

PERIOD OF REVELATION

This surah was revealed in the middle of the Makkan period when antagonism had grown quite strong and every sort of mischief was created by the disbelievers to frustrate the mission of the Prophet. It contains 45 verses and the title is taken from verse 1.

VIRTUE

عَنْ نَافِعِ بْنِ عُمَرَ قَالَ: قَالَ لِي أَبُو مُيَيْكَةَ، وَسَمِعَ أَنَسًا يَسْتَتِقِلُونَ قِرَاءَةَ قُرْآنِهِمْ فَقَالَ: قَدْ كُنْتُ أَقُومُ بِسُورَةِ الْمَلَائِكَةِ فِي رَكْعَةٍ وَاحِدَةٍ فَمَا شَكَا ذَلِكَ أَحَدٌ. (الطبقات الكبرى لابن سعد، جزء 4، ص 286)

Nafi` Ibn Umar is reported to have said: Ibn Abu Mulaykah said to me, as he heard some people describing the recitation of those who lead them in prayer as tiresome, "I used to recite surah Al-Mala`ikah (the Angels, which is another name for surah Fatir,) in one rak`ah and no one complained." [At-Tabaqat Al-Kubra of Ibn Sa`d, 4/ 286]

KEY THEMES AND MESSAGES

- None can award or withhold blessings besides Allah.
- Satan is your enemy, so take him as such.
- The person who considers his evil deeds to be good deeds cannot be guided to the right path.
- Real honour is in being obedient to Allah.
- Mankind is in need of Allah while He is not in need of anyone.
- None can make those who are buried in the grave hear you.
- Those who recite the Quran, establish salah and give zakah may hope for Allah's blessings and reward.
- Allah has not sent any Book which has a provision of shirk.
- Plotting evil recoils none but the author of it.
- If Allah was to punish people for their wrongdoing, He would have not left even an animal around them.

SELECTED VERSES

35:2 Mercy of Allah

﴿مَا يَفْتَحِ اللَّهُ لِلنَّاسِ مِنْ رَحْمَةٍ فَلَا مُمْسِكَ لَهَا وَمَا يُمْسِكُ فَلَا مُرْسِلَ لَهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

"Whatever Allah grants to people of mercy - none can withhold it; and whatever He withholds - none can release it thereafter. And He is the Exalted in Might, the Wise."

35:3 Remembering the blessing of Allah

﴿يَتَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ أَذْكَرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ هَلْ مِنْ خَلْقٍ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ يَرْزُقُكُمْ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ...﴾

"O mankind, remember the favor of Allah upon you. Is there any creator other than Allah who provides for you from the heaven and earth?..."

35:5 Two deceptions

﴿يَتَأْتِيَا النَّاسُ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ فَلَا تَغُرَّنَّكُمُ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا وَلَا يَغُرَّنَّكُم بِاللَّهِ الْغُرُورُ﴾

"O mankind, indeed the promise of Allah is truth, so let not the worldly life delude you and be not deceived about Allah by the Deceiver."

35:6 Satan is your enemy

﴿إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ فَاتَّخِذُوهُ عَدُوًّا إِنَّمَا يَدْعُوا حِزْبَهُ لِيَكُونُوا مِنْ أَصْحَابِ السَّعِيرِ﴾

"Indeed, Satan is an enemy to you; so take him as an enemy. He only invites his party to be among the companions of the Blaze."

35:8 Bad actions which one views as alluring

﴿أَفَمَنْ زُيِّنَ لَهُ سُوءُ عَمَلِهِ فَرَآهُ حَسَنًا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يُضِلُّ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ فَلَا تَذْهَبْ نَفْسُكَ عَلَيْهِمْ حَسِرَاتٍ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ بِمَا يَصْنَعُونَ﴾

"Then is one to whom the evil of his deed has been made attractive so he considers it good [like one rightly guided]? For indeed, Allah sends astray whom He wills and guides whom He wills. So do not let yourself perish over them in regret. Indeed, Allah is Knowing of what they do."

35:10 Honour and respect

﴿مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْعِزَّةَ فَلِلَّهِ الْعِزَّةُ جَمِيعًا إِلَيْهِ يَصْعَدُ الْكَلِمُ الطَّيِّبُ وَالْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ يَرْفَعُهُ وَالَّذِينَ يَمْكُرُونَ السَّيِّئَاتِ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ وَمَكْرُ أُولَئِكَ هُوَ يُبْورُ﴾

"Whoever desires honor [through power] - then to Allah belongs all honor. To Him ascends good speech, and righteous work raises it. But they who plot evil deeds will have a severe punishment, and the plotting of those - it will perish."

35:11 Knowledge of the unseen

﴿وَاللَّهُ خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ ثُمَّ جَعَلَكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا وَمَا تَحْمِلُ مِنْ أُنْثَىٰ وَلَا تَضَعُ إِلَّا بِعِلْمِهِ وَمَا يُعَمَّرُ مِنْ مُعَمَّرٍ وَلَا يُنْقَصُ مِنْ عُمُرِهِ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ إِنَّ ذَلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرٌ﴾

"And Allah created you from dust, then from a sperm-drop; then He made you mates. And no female conceives nor does she give birth except with His knowledge. And no aged person is granted [additional] life nor is his lifespan lessened but that it is in a register. Indeed, that for Allah is easy."

35:15 Humans are poor

﴿يَتَأْتِيَا النَّاسُ أَنْتُمْ الْفُقَرَاءُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ﴾

"O mankind, you are those in need of Allah, while Allah is the Free of need, the Praiseworthy."

35:18 Will you be asked about others?

﴿وَلَا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ وِزْرَ أُخْرَىٰ...﴾

"And no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another..."

35:24 Messenger to every nation

﴿إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَإِن مِّنْ أُمَّةٍ إِلَّا خَلَا فِيهَا نَذِيرٌ﴾

"Indeed, We have sent you with the truth as a bringer of good tidings and a warner. And there was no nation but that there had passed within it a warner."

35:28 Diversity and true scholarship

﴿وَمِنَ النَّاسِ وَالْأَنْعَامِ وَالْأَنْعَامِ مُخْتَلِفٌ أَلْوَانُهُ كَذَلِكَ إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمَاءُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ غَفُورٌ﴾

"And among people and moving creatures and grazing livestock are various colors similarly. Only those fear Allah, from among His servants, who have knowledge. Indeed, Allah is Exalted in Might and Forgiving."

35:45 Real consequence of our deeds

﴿وَلَوْ يُؤَاخِذُ اللَّهُ النَّاسَ بِمَا كَسَبُوا مَا تَرَكَ عَلَى ظَهَرِهَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ وَلَكِنْ يُؤَخِّرُهُمْ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُهُمْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِعِبَادِهِ بَصِيرًا﴾

"And if Allah were to impose blame on the people for what they have earned, He would not leave upon the earth any creature. But He defers them for a specified term. And when their time comes, then indeed Allah has ever been, of His servants, Seeing."

SELECTED VOCABULARY

Who made [v.1] جَاعِلٍ	He merges [v.13] يُوَلِّجُ	Follow a middle course مُقْتَصِدٌ [v.32]
Can withhold [v.2] مُمَسِّكٌ	Graves [v.22] الْقُبُورِ	Foremost [v.32] سَابِقٌ
Can grant [v.2] مُرْسِلٌ	White [v.27] بَيْضٌ	In good deeds [v.32] بِالْخَيْرَاتِ
Sorrow [v.8] حَسْرَاتٍ	Red [v.27] حُمْرٌ	Most forbearing [v.41] حَلِيمًا
Honour [v.10] الْعِزَّةُ	Black [v.27] سُودٌ	That if [v.42] لَيْسَ
Dust [v.11] تُرَابٍ	Those who have الْعُلَمَاءُ	Any change [v.43] تَبْدِيلًا
Semen [v.11] نُطْفَةٍ	knowledge [v.28]	Any turning around [v.43] نَحْوِيلًا
Alike [v.12] يَسْتَوِي	Give them more [v.30] يَزِيدَهُمْ	
	We chose [v.32] أَصْطَفَيْنَا	

يسين

36. Ya Sin

PERIOD OF REVELATION

This surah was revealed in Makkah and consists of 83 verses. The title consists of two letters of the Arabic alphabet.

VIRTUE

عَنْ مَعْقِلِ بْنِ يَسَارٍ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ: "الْبَقْرَةُ سَنَامُ الْقُرْآنِ وَذُرْوَتُهُ نَزَلَ مَعَ كُلِّ آيَةٍ مِنْهَا ثَمَانُونَ مَلَكًا وَاسْتُخْرِجَتْ {لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ} مِنْ تَحْتِ الْعَرْشِ فَوُصِلَتْ بِهَا أَوْ فَوُصِلَتْ بِسُورَةِ الْبَقْرَةِ. وَيَسَ قَلْبُ الْقُرْآنِ لَا يَقْرُوهَا رَجُلٌ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى وَالِدَارَ الْآخِرَةَ إِلَّا غُفِرَ لَهُ وَأَقْرَبُوهَا عَلَيَّ مَوْتَاكُمْ." (أحمد 20300)

Ma'qil Ibn Yasar is reported to have said that the Messenger of Allah (saw) said, "[Surah] Al-Baqarah is the highest and top of the Quran. Eighty angels descended with each of its verse. The verse that reads, 'Allah! There is no God but Him, the All-Living, the Self-Subsisting [All-Sustaining One]' was taken from under the [Divine] Throne and was attached to it; i.e. to surah al-Baqarah. Moreover, surah Yasin is the heart of the Quran. No one reads it seeking [the pleasure of] the Almighty Allah and [the reward of] the Hereafter except that he will be forgiven. Thus you should recite it on your dying persons." [Ahmad 20300]

KEY THEMES AND MESSAGES

- The Quran is revealed by Allah to warn people and establish a charge-sheet against the disbelievers.
- Allah has created all things in pairs.
- The day, night, sun and moon, all are being regulated by Allah.
- Scenes from the Day of Judgement:
 - Allah's greetings to the residents of Paradise.
 - Allah's address to the criminal sinners.
 - Hands and feet shall bear witness.
- All human beings shall be raised back to life again on the Day of Judgement for accountability of their deeds.
- Surah for those engaged in dawah and reform.

SELECTED VERSES

36:17 Our duty is to communicate

﴿وَمَا عَلَيْنَا إِلَّا الْبَلْغُ الْمُبِينُ﴾

"And we are not responsible except for clear notification."

36:21 No worldly gain from the dawah

﴿اتَّبِعُوا مَنْ لَا يَسْئَلُكُمْ أَجْرًا وَهُمْ مُهْتَدُونَ﴾

"Follow those who do not ask of you [any] payment, and they are [rightly] guided."

36:22 Creation as an argument

﴿وَمَا لِي لَا أَعْبُدُ الَّذِي فَطَرَنِي وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ﴾

"And why should I not worship He who created me and to whom you will be returned?"

36:25 Framing the debate

﴿إِنِّي ءَامَنْتُ بِرَبِّكُمْ فَاسْمَعُونِ﴾

"Indeed, I have believed in your Lord, so listen to me."

36:36 Allah's creation in pairs

﴿سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْأَزْوَاجَ كُلَّهَا مِمَّا تُنْبِتُ الْأَرْضُ وَمِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَمِمَّا لَا يَعْلَمُونَ﴾

"Exalted is He who created all pairs - from what the earth grows and from themselves and from that which they do not know."

36:47 Doubts in spending

﴿وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ أَنْفِقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ قَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَنْطَعِمُ مَنْ لَوْ يَشَاءُ اللَّهُ أَطْعَمَهُ إِنْ أَنْتُمْ إِلَّا فِي ضَلَالٍ مُبِينٍ﴾

"And when it is said to them, 'spend from that which Allah has provided for you,' those who disbelieve say to those who believe, 'should we feed one whom, if Allah had willed, He would have fed? You are not but in clear error.'"

36:54 Action driven results

﴿فَالْيَوْمَ لَا تُظَلَمُ نَفْسٌ شَيْئًا وَلَا تُجْزَوْنَ إِلَّا مَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ﴾

"So today no soul will be wronged at all, and you will not be recompensed except for what you used to do."

36:60-62 Satan as a clear enemy

﴿أَلَمْ أَعْهَدْ إِلَيْكُمْ يَبْنَىءَ آدَمَ أَنْ لَا تَعْبُدُوا الشَّيْطَانَ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ ﴿٦٠﴾ وَأَنْ أَعْبُدُونِي هَذَا صِرَاطٌ مُسْتَقِيمٌ ﴿٦١﴾ وَلَقَدْ أَضَلَّ مِنْكُمْ جِبِلًّا كَثِيرًا أَفَلَمْ تَكُونُوا تَعْقِلُونَ ﴿٦٢﴾﴾

"Did I not enjoin upon you, O children of Adam, that you not worship Satan - [for] indeed, he is to you a clear enemy. And that you worship [only] Me? This is a straight path. And he had already led astray from among you much of creation, so did you not use reason?"

36:65 Bodies to testify

﴿الْيَوْمَ نَخْتِمُ عَلَىٰ أَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَتُكَلِّمُنَا أَيْدِيهِمْ وَتَشْهَدُ أَرْجُلُهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ﴾

"That Day, We will seal over their mouths, and their hands will speak to Us, and their feet will testify about what they used to earn."

36:68 Long life

﴿وَمَنْ نُعَمِّرْهُ نُنَكِّسْهُ فِي الْخَلْقِ أَفَلَا يَعْقِلُونَ﴾

"And he to whom We grant long life We reverse in creation; so will they not understand?"

36:69 The Prophet was not a poet

﴿وَمَا عَلَّمْنَاهُ الشِّعْرَ وَمَا يَنْبَغِي لَهُ إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ وَقُرْءَانٌ مُبِينٌ﴾

"And We did not give Prophet Muhammad, knowledge of poetry, nor is it befitting for him. It is not but a message and a clear Quran."

36:79 Can Allah bring back the dead?

﴿قُلْ يُحْيِيهَا الَّذِي أَنْشَأَهَا أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ خَلْقٍ عَلِيمٌ﴾

"Say, 'He will give them life who produced them the first time; and He is, of all creation, Knowing.'"

36:81 Creation of the heavens and the earth

﴿أَوَلَيْسَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِقَدِيرٍ عَلَىٰ أَنْ يَخْلُقَ مِثْلَهُمْ بَلَىٰ وَهُوَ الْخَلَّاقُ الْعَلِيمُ﴾

"Is not He who created the heavens and the earth Able to create the likes of them? Yes, [it is so]; and He is the Knowing Creator."

36:82 "Be and it is"

﴿إِنَّمَا أَمْرُهُ إِذَا أَرَادَ شَيْئًا أَنْ يَقُولَ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ﴾

"His command is only when He intends a thing that He says to it, 'Be,' and it is."

SELECTED VOCABULARY

A barrier [v.7] سَدًّا	They will be able يَسْتَطِيعُونَ [v.50]	Multitude [v.62] جِبَالًا
To convey [v.17] أَلْبَلِغُ	The trumpet [v.51] الصُّورِ	It is befitting [v.69] يَنْبَغِي
Running [v.20] يَسْعَى	The graves [v.51] الْأَجْدَاثِ	Bones [v.78] الْعِظَمَ
Follow [v.21] اتَّبِعُوا	Woe to us! [v.52] يَوَيْلَنَا	Have rotten away and become dust [v.78] رَمِيمًا
A host [v.28] جُنْدٍ	Will be busy [v.55] شُغْلٍ	The green [v.80] الْأَخْضَرَ
But [v.47] إِلَّا	Fruits [v.57] فَكِهَةً	Be and it is [v.82] كُنْ فَيَكُونُ
When [v.48] مَتَى		

الصَّافَاتِ

37. As-Saffat: Those who set the Ranks

PERIOD OF REVELATION

This surah was revealed in the last stage of the middle Makkan period when the Prophet and his companions were passing through very difficult and discouraging circumstances. It consists of 182 verses and its title is taken from the first verse: "By those who set themselves in ranks."

VIRTUE

عَنْ ابْنِ عُمَرَ قَالَ: "كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَأْمُرُنَا بِالتَّخْفِيفِ وَإِنْ كَانَ لَيُؤْمِنُنَا بِالصَّافَاتِ". (أحمد 4796)
Ibn Umar is reported to have said: "The Messenger of Allah (saw) would command us to observe short recitation in prayer and he would lead us in prayer with surah As-Saffat." [Ahmad 4796]

KEY THEMES AND MESSAGES

- Allah Himself testifies that your God is one and the shaytans do not have any access to the exalted assembly of angels.
- Life in the Hereafter and the Day of Judgement are real.
- Scenes from the Day of Judgement:
 - Dialogue between the followers and the leaders who mislead them.
 - A view from the scenes of Paradise.
 - A sample of conversation between the residents of Paradise.
 - A view from the scenes of Hell.
- Prayer of Prophet Nuh and Allah's response.
- The story of Prophet Ibrahim:
 - He questioned his people for worshipping idols.
 - His people threw him in the furnace, but Allah saved him.
 - He prayed for a son and Allah granted him a son.
 - Allah tested by asking him to offer the sacrifice of his only son and he passed the test.
- Prophethood of Musa, Harun, Ilyas (Elias) and Lut.
- Story of Prophet Yunus.
- Allah has promised to help His Messengers.

SELECTED VERSES

37:13 Neglecting reminders

﴿وَإِذَا دُكِّرُوا لَا يَذْكُرُونَ ﴿١٣﴾﴾

"And when they are reminded, they remember not."

37:35 Being arrogant

﴿إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ ﴿٣٥﴾﴾

"Indeed they, when it was said to them, 'There is no deity but Allah,' were arrogant."

37:36 An excuse not to accept the truth

﴿وَيَقُولُونَ أَيُّنَا لَتَارِكُوا ءَالِهَتِنَا لِشَاعِرٍ مَّجْنُونٍ ﴿٣٦﴾﴾

"And were saying, 'Are we to leave our gods for a mad poet?'"

37:60-61 Persistence in action

﴿إِنَّ هَذَا هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ ﴿٦٠﴾ لِمِثْلِ هَذَا فَلْيَعْمَلِ الْعَامِلُونَ ﴿٦١﴾﴾

"Indeed, this is the great attainment. For the like of this let the workers [on earth] work."

37:84 A sound heart

﴿إِذْ جَاءَ رَبَّهُ بِقَلْبٍ سَلِيمٍ ﴿٨٤﴾﴾

"When he came to his Lord with a sound heart."

37:99 Turn to Allah

﴿وَقَالَ إِنِّي ذَاهِبٌ إِلَىٰ رَبِّي سَيِّدِينَ ﴿٩٩﴾﴾

"And [then] he said, 'Indeed, I will go to [where I am ordered by] my Lord; He will guide me.'"

37:100 Praying for righteous offspring

﴿رَبِّ هَبْ لِي مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ ﴿١٠٠﴾﴾

"My Lord, grant me [a child] from among the righteous."

37:102-107 Sacrifice of Ibrahim

﴿فَلَمَّا بَلَغَ مَعَهُ السَّعْيَ قَالَ يَبْنَؤُا إِنِّي أَرَىٰ فِي الْمَنَامِ أَنِّي أَذْبَحُكَ فَانظُرْ مَاذَا تَرَىٰ ﴿١٠٢﴾ قَالَ يَتَابَعْتِ أَفْعَلْ مَا تُؤْمَرُ ﴿١٠٣﴾ سَتَجِدُنِي إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ مِنَ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿١٠٤﴾ فَلَمَّا أَسْلَمَا وَتَلَّهُ لِلْجَبِينِ ﴿١٠٥﴾ وَنَدَّيْنَهُ أَنْ يَنْبَرَاهِيمُ ﴿١٠٦﴾ قَدْ صَدَّقْتَ الرُّؤْيَا إِنَّا كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿١٠٧﴾ إِنَّ هَذَا هُوَ الْبَلَاءُ الْأَمِينُ ﴿١٠٨﴾ وَفَدَيْنَهُ بِذَبْحٍ عَظِيمٍ ﴿١٠٩﴾﴾

"And when he reached with him [the age of] exertion, he said, 'O my son, indeed I have seen in a dream that I [must] sacrifice you, so see what you think.' He said, 'O my father, do as you are commanded. You will find me, if Allah wills, of the steadfast.' And when they had both submitted and he put him down upon his forehead, We called to him, 'O Abraham.' You have fulfilled the vision. Indeed, We thus reward the doers of good. Indeed, this was the clear trial. And We ransomed him with a great sacrifice."

Salam on different prophets:

37:79 Nuh

﴿سَلَّمَ عَلَىٰ نُوحٍ فِي الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٧٩﴾﴾

"Peace upon Nuh among the worlds."

37:109 Ibrahim

﴿سَلَّمَ عَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ﴾

"Peace upon Ibrahim."

37:120 Musa & Harun (Aaron)

﴿سَلَّمَ عَلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ وَهَارُونَ﴾

"Peace upon Musa and Harun."

37:130 Ilyas

﴿سَلَّمَ عَلَىٰ إِيَّاسِينَ﴾

"Peace upon Ilyas."

37:154 Arbitrary decisions

﴿مَا لَكُمْ كَيْفَ تَحْكُمُونَ﴾

"What is [wrong] with you? How do you make judgement?"

SUPPLICATIONS

﴿سُبْحٰنَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعِزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ﴾ ﴿وَسَلَّمَ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ﴾ ﴿وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ﴾

37:180-182 "Exalted is your Lord, the Lord of might, above what they describe. And peace upon the messengers. And praise to Allah , Lord of the worlds."

SELECTED VOCABULARY

A flaming fire [v.10] شَهَابٌ

Clay [v.11] طِينٌ

Preserved [v.49] مَكْنُونٌ

The good doers الْمُحْسِنِينَ
[v.80]

With a sound بِقَلْبٍ سَلِيمٍ
heart [v.84]

The sincere الْمُخْلِصِينَ
ones [v.128]

Its stomach [v.144] بَطْنِهِ

Sick [v.145] سَقِيمٌ

Known [v.164] مَعْلُومٌ

ص

38. Saad

PERIOD OF REVELATION

This surah was revealed in Makkah during the social boycott of Prophet Muhammad (s) and his family by the Quraysh. It consists of 88 verses and its title is taken from the letter 'saad' of the Arabic alphabet.

VIRTUE

تُبَيِّنُ سُورَةُ ص بِأَوْضَحِ طَرِيقِ الْبُؤْسِ الشَّاسِعِ بَيْنَ عَاقِبَةِ الْإِسْتِسْلَامِ لِلَّهِ بِالْعُودَةِ إِلَى الْحَقِّ دُونَ عِنَادٍ وَتَبِيحَةِ الْإِسْتِكْبَارِ وَالْعِنَادِ
وَعَدَمِ الْعُودَةِ إِلَى اللَّهِ. (انظر التحرير والتنوير، جزء 23، ص. 202، 203)

Surah Saad demonstrates in the clearest way the great worth of showing submission to Allah through returning to the truth without stubbornness. [At-Tahrir wa At-Tanwir of Ibn Ashur, 23/202-203]

KEY THEMES AND MESSAGES

- The Quran is full of admonition. The disbelievers are in sheer arrogance for calling the Prophet a liar.
- Story of Prophet Dawud:
 - The mountains and birds used to sing the rhymes of Allah with him.
 - The litigants who came to him for a decision.
- Allah has not created the heavens and earth in vain.
- Story of Prophet Sulayman:
 - His inspection of steeds which were to be used in jihad.
 - His prayer to grant him a kingdom similar of which may not be granted to any one.
- Story of Ayub (Job), his sickness, patience and relief.
- Story of Adam and disobedience of Satan.

SELECTED VERSES

38:1 Quran as a reminder

﴿ص وَالْقُرْآنِ ذِي الذِّكْرِ﴾

"Saad. By the Quran containing reminder."

38:17 Facing opposition with patience

﴿أَصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَقُولُونَ وَادْخُرْ عَبْدَنَا دَاوُدَ ذَا الْأَيْدِ إِنَّهُ أَوَّابٌ﴾

"Be patient over what they say and remember Our servant, David, the possessor of strength; indeed, he was one who repeatedly turned back [to Allah]."

38:27 Creation with a purpose

﴿وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاءَ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا بَطْلًا ۖ ذَٰلِكَ ظَنُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا ۖ فَوَيْلٌ لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنَ النَّارِ ﴿٣٨﴾﴾

"And We did not create the heaven and the earth and that between them aimlessly. That is the assumption of those who disbelieve, so woe to those who disbelieve from the Fire."

38:28 Is equal treatment possible?

﴿أَمْ نَجْعَلُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ كَالْمُفْسِدِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَمْ نَجْعَلُ الْمُتَّقِينَ كَالْفُجَّارِ ﴿٣٨﴾﴾

"Or should We treat those who believe and do righteous deeds like corrupters in the land? Or should We treat those who fear Allah like the wicked?"

38:29 Ponder over the Quran

﴿كَتَبْنَا أَنزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ مُبَارَكٌ لِيَدَّبَّرُوا ءَايَاتِهِ ۖ وَلِيَتَذَكَّرَ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ ﴿٣٩﴾﴾

"[This is] a blessed Book which We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], that they might reflect upon its verses and that those of understanding would be reminded."

38:45-47 People of strength and insight

﴿وَأَذْكُرْ عَبْدَنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ أُولَى الْأَيْدِي وَالْأَبْصَارِ ﴿٤٥﴾ إِنَّا أَخْلَصْنَاهُمْ بِخَالِصَةٍ ذَكَرَى الدَّارِ ﴿٤٦﴾
وَأِهِمَّ عِنْدَنَا لَمَنِ الْمُصْطَفَيْنَ الْأَخْيَارِ ﴿٤٧﴾﴾

"And remember Our servants, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - those of strength and [religious] vision. Indeed, We chose them for an exclusive quality: remembrance of the home [of the Hereafter]. And indeed they are, to Us, among the chosen and outstanding."

38:71-85 Story of Adam and Satan

﴿إِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلٰٓئِكَةِ إِنِّي خَلَقْتُ بَشَرًا مِّن طِينٍ ﴿٧١﴾ فَإِذَا سَوَّيْتُهُ ۖ وَنَفَخْتُ فِيهِ مِن رُّوحِي فَقَعُوا لَهُ سَاجِدِينَ ﴿٧٢﴾
فَسَجَدَ الْمَلٰٓئِكَةُ كُلُّهُمْ أَهْمُوعُونَ ﴿٧٣﴾ إِلَّا إِبٰٓلِيسَ ۖ اسْتَكْبَرَ وَكَانَ مِنَ الْكٰفِرِينَ ﴿٧٤﴾ قَالَ يٰٓإِبٰٓلِيسُ مَا مَنَعَكَ أَن تَسْجُدَ لِمَا خَلَقْتَ بِيَدَيَّ ۗ اسْتَكْبَرْتَ ۖ أَمْ كُنْتَ مِنَ الْعٰلِينَ ﴿٧٥﴾ قَالَ أَنَا خَيْرٌ مِّنْهُ خَلَقْتَنِي مِن نَّارٍ وَخَلَقْتَهُ مِن طِينٍ ﴿٧٦﴾
قَالَ فَآخْرَجْ مِّنْهَا فَإِنَّكَ رَجِيمٌ ﴿٧٧﴾ وَإِنَّ عَلَيْكَ لَعْنَتِي إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ ﴿٧٨﴾ قَالَ رَبِّ فَأَنْظِرْنِي إِلَى يَوْمِ يُبْعَثُونَ ﴿٧٩﴾
قَالَ فَإِنَّكَ مِنَ الْمُنظَرِينَ ﴿٨٠﴾ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْوَقْتِ الْمَعْلُومِ ﴿٨١﴾ قَالَ فَبِعِزَّتِكَ لَأُغْوِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ ﴿٨٢﴾ إِلَّا عِبَادَكَ مِمَّنْ
الْمُخْلِصِينَ ﴿٨٣﴾ قَالَ فَالْحَقُّ وَالْحَقُّ أَقُولُ ﴿٨٤﴾ لَأَمْلَأَنَّ جَهَنَّمَ مِنكَ وَمِمَّن تَبِعَكَ مِنْهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ ﴿٨٥﴾﴾

"[So mention] when your Lord said to the angels, 'Indeed, I am going to create a human being from clay. So when I have proportioned him and breathed into him of My [created] soul, then fall down to him in prostration.' So the angels prostrated - all of them entirely. Except Iblees; he was arrogant and became among the disbelievers. [Allah] said, 'O Iblees, what prevented you from prostrating to that which I created with My hands? Were you arrogant [then], or were you [already] among the haughty?' He said, 'I am better than him. You created me from fire and created him from clay.' [Allah] said, 'Then get out of Paradise, for indeed, you are expelled. And indeed, upon you is My curse until the Day of Recompense.' He said, 'My Lord, then relieve me until the Day they are resurrected.' [Allah] said, 'So indeed, you are of those relieved. Until the

Day of the time well-known.' [Iblis] said, 'By your might, I will surely mislead them all. Except, among them, Your chosen servants.' [Allah] said, 'The truth [is My oath], and the truth I say. [That] I will surely fill Hell with you and those of them that follow you all together.'

38:84 Powerful passage about truth

﴿قَالَ فَالْحَقُّ وَالْحَقَّ أَقُولُ﴾

"[Allah] said, 'The truth [is My oath], and the truth I say.'"

38:87 Universality of the Quran

﴿إِنَّ هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِلْعَالَمِينَ﴾

"It is but a reminder to the worlds."

SELECTED VOCABULARY

They wondered [v.4] عَجِبُوا	The speech [v.23] الْحِطَابُ	For the day of لِيَوْمِ الْحِسَابِ
A persistent liar [v.4] كَذَّابٌ	Desire [v.26] الْهَوَى	reckoning [v.53]
The Real Bestower [v.9] الْوَهَّابِ	As criminals [v.28] كَالْفُجَّارِ	Welcome [v.60] مَرْحَبًا
Don't fear [v.22] لَا تَخَفْ	Cool [v.42] بَارِدٌ	A double [v.61] ضِعْفًا
	The best [v.48] الْأَخْيَارِ	All [v.82] أَجْمَعِينَ

الزُّمَر

39. Az-Zumar: The Troops

PERIOD OF REVELATION

This surah was revealed in Makkah in the early stages before permission was granted to the Muslims, who were being persecuted, to migrate to Abyssinia. Some traditions provide the explanation that this verse was sent down in respect of Ja'far bin Abi Talib and his companions when they made up their mind to emigrate to Abyssinia. The surah contains 75 verses and its title is taken from verses 71–73 which refer to the two groups of believers and non-believers which will be formed on the Day of Judgement.

VIRTUE

عَنْ أَبِي لُبَابَةَ قَالَ: قَالَتْ عَائِشَةُ: "كَانَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ لَا يَنَامُ حَتَّى يَقْرَأَ الزُّمَرَ، وَبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ." (الترمذي 3405)

Abu Lubabah is reported to have said that Aisha (ra) said, "The Prophet (saw) would not sleep before reading surah Az-Zumar and surah Banu Israel." [Tirmidhi 3405]

KEY THEMES AND MESSAGES

- The polytheists try to justify their worship of saints saying: "It brings us closer to Allah."
- On the Day of Judgement no one shall bear the burden of others.
- Believers who cannot practise their faith should migrate to other places where they can.
- The real losers are those who lose their souls and families on the Day of Judgement.
- No one can rescue the one against whom the sentence of punishment has been decreed.
- The Quran is consistent yet it repeats the teachings in different ways.
- Allah has cited every kind of example in the Quran so that people may clearly understand.
- Who can be more wicked than the one who invents a lie against Allah.
- Those who have transgressed against their souls should not despair of Allah's mercy, they should repent while they can.
- On the Day of Judgement, everyone's book of deeds shall be laid open and justice shall be done with all fairness.

SELECTED VERSES

39:2-3 Sincerity in faith

﴿إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ فَاعْبُدِ اللَّهَ مُخْلِصًا لَهُ الدِّينَ ۗ أَلَا لِلَّهِ الدِّينُ الْخَالِصُ...﴾

"Indeed, We have sent down to you the Book, [O Muhammad], in truth. So worship Allah, [being] sincere to Him in religion. Unquestionably, for Allah is the pure religion..."

39:7 Being grateful

﴿إِنْ تَكْفُرُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ عَنْكُمْ وَلَا يَرْضَىٰ لِعِبَادِهِ الْكُفْرَ وَإِنْ تَشْكُرُوا يَرْضَهُ لَكُمْ ۗ وَلَا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ وِزْرَ أُخْرَىٰ ۗ ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُم مَّرْجِعُكُمْ فَيُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ۗ إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ ﴿٣٩﴾﴾

"If you disbelieve - indeed, Allah is Free from need of you. And He does not approve for His servants disbelief. And if you are grateful, He approves it for you; and no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another. Then to your Lord is your return, and He will inform you about what you used to do. Indeed, He is Knowing of that within the breasts."

39:8 Calling to Allah in times of adversity

﴿وَإِذَا مَسَّ الْإِنْسَانَ ضُرٌّ دَعَا رَبَّهُ مُنِيبًا إِلَيْهِ ثُمَّ إِذَا حَوَّلَهُ نِعْمَةً مِّنْهُ نَسِيَ مَا كَانَ يَدْعُوًا إِلَيْهِ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَجَعَلَ لِلَّهِ أَنْدَادًا لِّبُضْلٍ ۗ عَنِ سَبِيلِهِ ۗ قُلْ تَمَتَّعْ بِكُفْرِكَ قَلِيلًا ۗ إِنَّكَ مِنْ أَصْحَابِ النَّارِ ﴿٣٩﴾﴾

"And when adversity touches man, he calls upon his Lord, turning to Him [alone]; then when He bestows on him a favor from Himself, he forgets Him whom he called upon before, and he attributes to Allah equals to mislead [people] from His way. Say, 'Enjoy your disbelief for a little; indeed, you are of the companions of the Fire.'"

39:9 Knowledge and ignorance

﴿... قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ۗ ...﴾

"...Say, 'Are those who know equal to those who do not know?'"

39:10 Allah's earth is spacious

﴿قُلْ يٰعِبَادِ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمْ ۗ لِلَّذِينَ أَحْسَنُوا فِي هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةٌ ۗ وَأَرْضُ اللَّهِ وَاسِعَةٌ ۗ إِنَّمَا يُوَفَّى الصَّابِرِينَ أَجْرَهُمْ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ ﴿٣٩﴾﴾

"Say, 'O My servants who have believed, fear your Lord. For those who do good in this world is good, and the earth of Allah is spacious. Indeed, the patient will be given their reward without account.'"

39:13 Fear of punishment

﴿قُلْ إِنِّي أَخَافُ إِنْ عَصَيْتُ رَبِّي عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ ﴿٣٩﴾﴾

"Say, 'Indeed I fear, if I should disobey my Lord, the punishment of a tremendous Day.'"

39:15 Real losses

﴿فَاعْبُدُوا مَا شِئْتُمْ مِّنْ دُونِهِ ۗ قُلْ إِنَّ الْخَاسِرِينَ الَّذِينَ خَسِرُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَأَهْلِيهِمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ ۗ أَلَا ذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الْخُسْرَانُ الْمُبِينُ ﴿٣٩﴾﴾

"So worship what you will besides Him.' Say, 'Indeed, the losers are the ones who will lose themselves and their families on the Day of Resurrection. Unquestionably, that is the manifest loss.'"

39:22 Allah open hearts inclining to Islam

﴿أَفَمَنْ شَرَحَ اللَّهُ صَدْرَهُ لِلْإِسْلَامِ فَهُوَ عَلَىٰ نُورٍ مِّن رَّبِّهِ ۗ فَوَيْلٌ لِّلْقَاسِيَةِ قُلُوبِهِم مِّن ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ ۗ أُولَٰئِكَ فِي ضَلَالٍ

مُبِينٍ ﴿٢٢﴾

"So is one whose breast Allah has expanded to [accept] Islam and he is upon a light from his Lord [like one whose heart rejects it]? Then woe to those whose hearts are hardened against the remembrance of Allah. Those are in manifest error."

39:27 Similitude in the Quran

﴿وَلَقَدْ ضَرَبْنَا لِلنَّاسِ فِي هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنِ مِن كُلِّ مَثَلٍ لَّعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٢٧﴾﴾

"And We have certainly presented for the people in this Quran from every [kind of] example - that they might remember."

39:28 The Quran is in Arabic

﴿قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا غَيْرَ ذِي عِوَجٍ لَّعَلَّهُمْ يَتَّقُونَ ﴿٢٨﴾﴾

"[It is] an Arabic Quran, without any deviance that they might become righteous."

39:29 Metaphor of shirk

﴿ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا رَّجُلًا فِيهِ شُرَكَاءُ مُتَشَاكِسُونَ وَرَجُلًا سَلَمًا لِّرَجُلٍ هَلْ يَسْتَوِيَانِ مَثَلًا ۗ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ ۗ بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا

يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٢٩﴾﴾

"Allah presents an example: a slave owned by quarreling partners and another belonging exclusively to one man - are they equal in comparison? Praise be to Allah! But most of them do not know."

39:36-37 Rules of guidance

﴿... وَمَن يُضِلِلِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِن هَادٍ ﴿٣٦﴾ وَمَن يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِن مُّضِلٍّ ...﴾

"...And whoever Allah leaves astray - for him there is no guide. And whoever Allah guides - for him there is no misleader..."

39:45 Spiritual condition of the disbelievers

﴿وَإِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ اشْمَأَزَّتْ قُلُوبُ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِآلِآخِرَةٍ ۖ وَإِذَا ذُكِرَ الَّذِينَ مِن دُونِهِ إِذَا هُمْ يَسْتَبْشِرُونَ ﴿٤٥﴾﴾

"And when Allah is mentioned alone, the hearts of those who do not believe in the Hereafter shrink with aversion, but when those [worshipped] other than Him are mentioned, immediately they rejoice."

39:49 Navigating through adversity

﴿فَإِذَا مَسَّ الْإِنسَانَ ضُرٌّ دَعَانَا ثُمَّ إِذَا خَوْلَتْهُ نِعْمَةٌ مِنَّا قَالَ إِنَّمَا أُوتِيْتُهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ ۗ بَلْ هِيَ فِتْنَةٌ وَلَٰكِنَّا أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا

يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٤٩﴾﴾

"And when adversity touches man, he calls upon Us; then when We bestow on him a favor from Us, he says, "I have only been given it because of [my] knowledge." Rather, it is a trial, but most of them do not know."

39:53 Do not despair in the mercy of Allah

﴿قُلْ يَاعِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا ۚ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ
الرَّحِيمُ ﴿٥٣﴾﴾

"Say, 'O My servants who have transgressed against themselves [by sinning], do not despair of the mercy of Allah. Indeed, Allah forgives all sins. Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving, the Merciful.'"

39:54 Turn in repentance towards your Lord

﴿وَأَنِيبُوا إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ وَأَسْلِمُوا لَهُ مِن قَبْلِ أَن يَأْتِيَكُمُ الْعَذَابُ ثُمَّ لَا تُنصَرُونَ ﴿٥٤﴾﴾

"And return [in repentance] to your Lord and submit to Him before the punishment comes upon you; then you will not be helped."

39:55 Follow the best

﴿وَاتَّبِعُوا أَحْسَنَ مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكُم مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ مِن قَبْلِ أَن يَأْتِيَكُمُ الْعَذَابُ بَغْتَةً وَأَنتُمْ لَا تَشْعُرُونَ ﴿٥٥﴾﴾

"And follow the best of what was revealed to you from your Lord before the punishment comes upon you suddenly while you do not perceive."

39:62 Allah is the Guardian

﴿اللَّهُ خَلِقُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ ۖ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ ﴿٦٢﴾﴾

"Allah is the Creator of all things, and He is, over all things, Disposer of affairs."

39:73 Greeting of the people of Paradise

﴿وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا رَبَّهُمْ إِلَىٰ الْجَنَّةِ زُمَرًا ۖ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءُوهَا وَفُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ طِبْتُمْ فَادْخُلُوهَا خَالِدِينَ ﴿٧٣﴾﴾

"But those who feared their Lord will be driven to Paradise in groups until, when they reach it while its gates have been opened and its keepers say, 'Peace be upon you; you have become pure; so enter it to abide eternally therein,' [they will enter]."

SELECTED VOCABULARY

Your return [v.7] مَرَجِعُكُمْ	Lofty rooms [v.20] غُرَفٌ	With the prophets بِالنَّبِيِّينَ [v.60]
Prostrating [v.9] سَاجِدًا	Many partners [v.29] شُرَكَاءُ	The witnesses [v.60] الشُّهَدَاءِ
Standing [v.9] قَائِمًا	Do not despair [v.53] لَا تَقْنَطُوا	The arrogance [v.72] الْمَتَكَبِّرِينَ

غَافِرٌ

40. Ghafir: Forgiver

PERIOD OF REVELATION

This surah was revealed in Makkah after surah Az-Zumar. It is also called Al-Mu'min. It consists of 85 verses and its title is taken from verse 3 where Allah describes Himself as the Forgiver of sins and verses 28–45 (in the context of the believer from the family of Pharaoh who defends Musa).

VIRTUE

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: "مَنْ قَرَأَ حَمَّ الْمُؤْمِنِ إِلَى {إِلَيْهِ الْمَصِيرُ} وَآيَةَ الْكُرْسِيِّ حِينَ يُصْبِحُ حَفِظَ بِهِمَا حَتَّى يُمَسِيَ، وَمَنْ قَرَأَهُمَا حِينَ يُمَسِي حَفِظَ بِهِمَا حَتَّى يُصْبِحَ". (الترمذي 2879)

Abu Hurayra is reported to have said that the Messenger of Allah (saw) said, "Whoever reads in the morning from Ha Meem in surah al-Mu'min up to His saying '... to Him is the [ultimate] return' together with the verse of the Divine Seat (i.e. 2:255) will be protected by them until the evening comes; and whoever reads both of them in the evening will be protected by them until the morning comes. [Tirmidhi 2879]

KEY THEMES AND MESSAGES

- The angels who bear the throne of Allah pray for those humans who repent and follow the right way.
- A scene from the Day of Judgement.
- Allah knows the furtive looks and secret thoughts.
- Story of Prophet Musa, Pharaoh, Haman and Qarun.
- An excellent speech of one of the relatives of Pharaoh in favour of Prophet Musa.
- Pharaoh plotted against that relative, who was a believer, but Allah saved him and destroyed the people of Pharaoh, and now they are presented before the fire of Hell every morning and evening.
- Allah says; "Call me, I will answer your prayers."
- No one has the right to be worshipped except Allah.
- Those who argue about the revelations of Allah will soon find out the Truth.
- Allah has sent many messengers before Muhammad (saw): of them some are mentioned in the Quran and some are not.
- Belief after seeing the scourge of Allah is of no avail to the disbelievers.

SELECTED VERSES

40:3 Attributes of Allah

﴿غَافِرِ الدَّنْبِ وَقَابِلِ التَّوْبِ شَدِيدِ الْعِقَابِ ذِي الطَّوْلِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ إِلَيْهِ الْمَصِيرُ﴾

"The forgiver of sin, acceptor of repentance, severe in punishment, owner of abundance. There is no deity except Him; to Him is the destination."

40:11 Acknowledging sins

﴿قَالُوا رَبَّنَا أَمَتْنَا اثْنَتَيْنِ وَأَحْيَيْتَنَا اثْنَتَيْنِ فَاعْتَرَفْنَا بِذُنُوبِنَا فَهَلْ إِلَى خُرُوجٍ مِّن سَبِيلٍ ﴿٤٠﴾﴾

"They will say, 'Our Lord, You made us lifeless twice and gave us life twice, and we have confessed our sins. So is there to an exit anyway?'"

40:19 Knowledge of inner thoughts

﴿يَعْلَمُ خَائِبَةَ الْأَعْيُنِ وَمَا تُخْفِي الصُّدُورُ ﴿١٩﴾﴾

"He knows that which deceives the eyes and what the breasts conceal."

40:37 Arrogance of Pharaoh and perception of evil as good

﴿... وَكَذَلِكَ زُيِّنَ لِفِرْعَوْنَ سُوءَ عَمَلِهِ...﴾

"...And thus was made attractive to Pharaoh the evil of his deed..."

40:39 Akhirah – abode of stability

﴿يَنْقُومُ إِنَّمَا هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا مَتَّعٌ وَإِنَّ الْآخِرَةَ هِيَ دَارُ الْقَرَارِ ﴿٣٩﴾﴾

"O my people, this worldly life is only [temporary] enjoyment, and indeed, the Hereafter - that is the home of [permanent] settlement."

40:44 Leave your affairs to Allah

﴿فَسَتَذْكُرُونَ مَا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ وَأَفِوضُ أَمْرِي إِلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بَصِيرٌ بِالْعِبَادِ ﴿٤٤﴾﴾

"And you will remember what I [now] say to you, and I entrust my affair to Allah. Indeed, Allah is Seeing of [His] servants."

40:57 Creation of the heavens and the earth

﴿لَخَلْقِ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَكْبَرُ مِنْ خَلْقِ النَّاسِ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٥٧﴾﴾

"The creation of the heavens and earth is greater than the creation of mankind, but most of the people do not know."

40:59 The inevitability of the Last Hour

﴿إِنَّ السَّاعَةَ لَأْتِيَةٌ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهَا وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿٥٩﴾﴾

"Indeed, the Hour is coming - no doubt about it - but most of the people do not believe."

40:60 Call upon Allah and He will respond to you

﴿وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمْ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِي سَيَدْخُلُونَ جَهَنَّمَ دَاخِرِينَ ﴿٦٠﴾﴾

"And your Lord says, 'Call upon Me; I will respond to you.' Indeed, those who disdain My worship will enter Hell [rendered] contemptible."

40:78 Untold stories

﴿وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلًا مِّن قَبْلِكَ مِنْهُمْ مَّن قَصَصْنَا عَلَيْكَ وَمِنْهُمْ مَّن لَّمْ نَقْصُصْ عَلَيْكَ وَمَا كَانَ لِرَسُولٍ أَنْ يَأْتِيَ بِبَيِّنَةٍ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ فَجَاءَ بِالْحَقِّ وَخَسِرَ هُنَالِكَ الْمُبْطِلُونَ ﴿٧٨﴾﴾

"And We have already sent messengers before you. Among them are those [whose stories] We have related to you, and among them are those [whose stories] We have not related to you. And it was not for any messenger to bring a sign [or verse] except by permission of Allah. So when the command of Allah comes, it will be concluded in truth, and the falsifiers will thereupon lose [all]."

40:81 Signs of Allah

﴿وَيُرِيكُمْ آيَاتِهِ فَأَيَّ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ تُنْكِرُونَ ﴿٨١﴾﴾

"And He shows you His signs. So which of the signs of Allah do you deny?"

40:82 Travel the earth and take heed from previous nations and civilisations

﴿أَفَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنْظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ كَانُوا أَكْثَرَ مِنْهُمْ وَأَشَدَّ قُوَّةً وَءِثَارًا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَمَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ ﴿٨٢﴾﴾

"Have they not traveled through the land and observed how was the end of those before them? They were more numerous than themselves and greater in strength and in impression on the land, but they were not availed by what they used to earn."

40:83 Be not complacent

﴿فَلَمَّا جَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَرِحُوا بِمَا عِنْدَهُمْ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ وَحَاقَ بِهِمْ مَا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ ﴿٨٣﴾﴾

"And when their messengers came to them with clear proofs, they [merely] rejoiced in what they had of knowledge, but they were enveloped by what they used to ridicule."

SUPPLICATIONS

﴿رَبَّنَا وَسِعْتَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ رَّحْمَةً وَعِلْمًا فَاغْفِرْ لِلَّذِينَ تَابُوا وَاتَّبَعُوا سَبِيلَكَ وَقِهِمْ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ ﴿٧٧﴾ رَبَّنَا وَأَدْخِلْهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ الَّتِي وَعَدْتَهُمْ وَمَنْ صَلَحَ مِنْ آبَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿٧٨﴾ وَقِهِمُ السَّيِّئَاتِ وَمَنْ تَقِ السَّيِّئَاتِ يَوْمَئِذٍ فَقَدْ رَحِمْتَهُ وَذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ ﴿٧٩﴾﴾

40:7-9 "Our Lord, You have encompassed all things in mercy and knowledge, so forgive those who have repented and followed Your way and protect them from the punishment of Hellfire. Our Lord, and admit them to gardens of perpetual residence which You have promised them and whoever was righteous among their fathers, their spouses and their offspring. Indeed, it is You who is the Exalted in Might, the Wise. Our Lord, and admit them to gardens of perpetual residence which You have promised them and whoever was righteous among their fathers, their spouses and their offspring. Indeed, it is You who is the Exalted in Might, the Wise. And protect them from the evil consequences [of their deeds]. And he whom You protect from evil consequences that Day - You will have given him mercy. And that is the great attainment."

SELECTED VOCABULARY

The sin [v.3] الذَّنْبُ	The irresistible [v.16] الْفَهَّارِ	They deny [v.63] تَجْحَدُونَ
The owner of the رفيعُ	Plot [v.37] كَيْدٍ	Need [v.80] حَاجَةً
high [v.15]	They dispute [v.56] يُجَادِلُونَ	

فُصِّلَتْ

41. Fussilat: Expounded

PERIOD OF REVELATION

This surah was revealed at Makkah and is composed of 54 verses. It is also called Ha Mim Sajdah.

VIRTUE

عَنْ مِسْعَرٍ، عَنْ سَعْدِ بْنِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، قَالَ: " كُنَّ الْحَوَامِيمُ يُسَمَّيْنَ الْعَرَائِسَ " (شعب الإيمان للبيهقي 2253)

Mis`ar reported from Sa`d Ibn Ibrahim that he said, "The Hawameem (surahs that start with the letters Ha Meem) were called the brides [of the Quran]." [Shu`ab Al-Iman of Bayhaqi, 2253]

KEY THEMES AND MESSAGES

- The Quran is revealed to give admonition.
- Woe to those who deny the Hereafter and do not pay zakah.
- Story of the creation of earth, mountains, seas, skies and heavens.
- Example of Allah's scourge upon the nations of 'Ad and Thamud.
- On the Day of Judgement, man's own ears, eyes and skin will bear witness against him relating to his misdeeds.
- Those who say their God is Allah and stay firm on it, have angels assigned for their protection.
- The best in speech is the one who calls people towards Allah, does good deeds and says, "I am a Muslim."
- The message which is revealed to Prophet Muhammad (saw) is the same message which was revealed to previous prophets.
- The Quran is a guide and healing for the believers. It is similar to the Book given to Prophet Musa.

SELECTED VERSES

41:2 The Quran is from the Merciful

﴿تَنْزِيلٌ مِّنَ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ﴾

"[This is] a revelation from the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful."

41:3 "A book whose verses are explained in detail"

﴿كَتَبْنَا فُصِّلَتْ آيَاتُهُ قُرْءَانًا عَرَبِيًّا لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ﴾

"A book whose verses have been detailed, an arabic Quran for a people who know."

41:15 "Who is mightier than us in strength?"

﴿فَأَمَّا عَادٌ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَقَالُوا مَنْ أَشَدُّ مِنَّا قُوَّةً أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي خَلَقَهُمْ هُوَ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُمْ قُوَّةً وَكَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يَجْحَدُونَ ﴿١٧﴾﴾

"As for 'Aad, they were arrogant upon the earth without right and said, "Who is greater than us in strength?" Did they not consider that Allah who created them was greater than them in strength? But they were rejecting Our signs."

41:17 Preferring blindness to guidance

﴿وَأَمَّا ثَمُودُ فَهَدَيْنَاهُمْ فَاسْتَحَبُّوا الْعَمَىٰ عَلَى الْهُدَىٰ فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ صَاعِقَةُ الْعَذَابِ الْهُونِ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ ﴿١٨﴾﴾

"And as for Thamud, We guided them, but they preferred blindness over guidance, so the thunderbolt of humiliating punishment seized them for what they used to earn."

41:20 Testimony of the body

﴿حَتَّىٰ إِذَا مَا جَاءُوهَا شَهِدَ عَلَيْهِمْ سَمْعُهُمْ وَأَبْصَارُهُمْ وَجُلُودُهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٢٠﴾﴾

"Until, when they reach it, their hearing and their eyes and their skins will testify against them of what they used to do."

41:21 Questioning the body/skin

﴿وَقَالُوا لِمَ لُجُودِهِمْ لِمَ شَهِدْتُمْ عَلَيْنَا قَالَُوا أَنْطَقَنَا اللَّهُ الَّذِي أَنْطَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ خَلَقَكُمْ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ ﴿٢١﴾﴾

"And they will say to their skins, 'Why have you testified against us?' They will say, 'We were made to speak by Allah, who has made everything speak; and He created you the first time, and to Him you are returned.'"

41:26 Importance of listening

﴿وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَا تَسْمَعُوا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ وَالْغَوْا فِيهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْلَبُونَ ﴿٢٦﴾﴾

"And those who disbelieve say, 'Do not listen to this Quran and speak noisily during [the recitation of] it that perhaps you will overcome.'"

41:33 Best of speech

﴿وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ قَوْلًا مِّمَّن دَعَا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا وَقَالَ إِنَّنِي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿٣٣﴾﴾

"And who is better in speech than one who invites to Allah and does righteousness and says, 'Indeed, I am of the Muslims.'"

41:34 Dealing with evil

﴿وَلَا تَسْتَوِ الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ...﴾

"And not equal are the good deed and the bad. Repel [evil] by that [deed] which is better..."

41:36 Dealing with the whisper from Satan

﴿وَأَمَّا يَنْزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْغٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ ﴿٣٦﴾﴾

"And if there comes to you from Satan an evil suggestion, then seek refuge in Allah. Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Knowing."

41:40 Freedom of action

﴿... أَعْمَلُوا مَا شِئْتُمْ إِنَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ﴾

"...Do whatever you will; indeed, He is Seeing of what you do."

41:42 The Quran is protected

﴿لَا يَأْتِيهِ الْبَطْلُ مِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَلَا مِنْ خَلْفِهِ تَنْزِيلٌ مِّنْ حَكِيمٍ حَمِيدٍ﴾

"Falsehood cannot approach it from before it or from behind it; [it is] a revelation from a [Lord who is] Wise and Praiseworthy."

41:43 Continuation of previous religious traditions

﴿مَا يُقَالُ لَكَ إِلَّا مَا قَدْ قِيلَ لِلرُّسُلِ مِن قَبْلِكَ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَذُو مَغْفِرَةٍ وَذُو عِقَابٍ أَلِيمٍ﴾

"Nothing is said to you, [O Muhammad], except what was already said to the messengers before you. Indeed, your Lord is a possessor of forgiveness and a possessor of painful penalty."

41:44 The Quran as a guidance and a healing

﴿وَلَوْ جَعَلْنَاهُ قُرْآنًا أَعْجَمِيًّا لَقَالُوا لَوْلَا فُصِّلَتْ آيَاتُهُ ۖ أَعْرَبِيٌّ وَعَرَبِيٌّ قُلْ هُوَ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا هُدًى وَشِفَاءٌ ۗ ﴿٤٤﴾﴾

"And if We had made it a non-Arabic Quran, they would have said, 'Why are its verses not explained in detail [in our language]? Is it a foreign [recitation] and an Arab [messenger]?' Say, 'It is, for those who believe, a guidance and cure'..."

41:49 Human behaviour

﴿لَا يَسْتَعْمِلُ الْإِنْسَانُ مِنْ دُعَاءِ الْخَيْرِ وَإِن مَّسَّهُ الشَّرُّ فَيَعُوسُ ۗ فَنُوحًا ۗ﴾

"Man is not weary of supplication for good [things], but if evil touches him, he is hopeless and despairing."

41:51 Seeking Allah in adversity

﴿وَإِذَا أَنْعَمْنَا عَلَى الْإِنْسَانِ أَعْرَضَ وَنَجَّ جَانِبَهُ ۖ وَإِذَا مَسَّهُ الشَّرُّ فَذُو دُعَاءٍ عَرِيضٍ﴾

"And when We bestow favor upon man, he turns away and distances himself; but when evil touches him, then he is full of extensive supplication."

41:53 Signs of Allah in our ourselves

﴿سَنُرِيهِمْ آيَاتِنَا فِي الْآفَاقِ وَفِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ حَتَّىٰ يَتَبَيَّنَ لَهُمْ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ ۗ أَوَلَمْ يَكْفِ بِرَبِّكَ أَنَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ﴾

"We will show them Our signs in the horizons and within themselves until it becomes clear to them that it is the truth. But is it not sufficient concerning your Lord that He is, over all things, a Witness?"

SELECTED VOCABULARY

End [v.8] مَمْنُون	Water [v.39] الْمَاءَ	In their own فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ
Thunder bolt [v.13] صَعِقَةً	Fruits [v.47] ثَمَرَاتٍ	selves [v.53]
Evil prodding [v.36] تَزَعُّ	The horizons [v.53] الْأَفَاقِ	Surrounding [v.54] مُحِيطٌ

الشُّورَى

42. Ash-Shura: The Counsel

PERIOD OF REVELATION

This surah was revealed at Makkah and consists of 35 verses. Its title is taken from verse 38 which calls for mutual consultation.

VIRTUE

عَنْ مِسْعَرٍ، عَنْ سَعْدِ بْنِ إِبرَاهِيمَ، قَالَ: " كُنَّ الْحَوَامِيمُ يُسَمَّيْنَ الْعَرَائِسَ " (شعب الإيمان للبيهقي 2253)

Mis`ar reported from Sa`d Ibn Ibrahim that he said, "The Hawameem (surahs that start with the letters Ha Meem) were called the brides [of the Quran]." [Shu`ab Al-Iman of Bayhaqi, 2253]

KEY THEMES AND MESSAGES

- The Heaven might have broken apart from above those who elevate Allah's creatures to His level if angels were not begging for forgiveness for the residents of Earth.
- Islam is the same religion which was enjoined on Nuh, Ibrahim, Musa, and Isa. He who desires the harvest in the Hereafter shall be given manifold and he who desires it in this life shall be given a portion here but shall have no share in the Hereafter.
- Whatever inflictions befall people, are the result of their own misdeeds.
- True believers are those who establish salah, give charity and defend themselves when oppressed.
- The real losers are those who will lose on the Day of Resurrection.
- It is Allah who gives daughters and sons as He pleases.
- It is not for any human being that Allah should speak to him face to face.

SELECTED VERSES

42:7 The Quran was revealed in Arabic

﴿وَكَذَلِكَ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا لِتُنذِرَ أُمَّ الْقُرَىٰ وَمَنْ حَوْلَهَا وَتُنذِرَ يَوْمَ الْجَمْعِ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ فَرِيقٌ فِي الْجَنَّةِ وَفَرِيقٌ فِي السَّعِيرِ ﴿٧﴾﴾

"And thus We have revealed to you an Arabic Quran that you may warn the mother of cities [Makkah] and those around it and warn of the Day of Assembly, about which there is no doubt. A party will be in Paradise and a party in the Blaze."

42:8 Reference to one nation

﴿وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَجَعَلَهُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَلَكِنْ يَدْخُلُ مِنَ يَشَاءُ فِي رَحْمَتِهِ وَالظَّالِمُونَ مَا لَهُمْ مِنْ وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ ﴿٨﴾﴾

"And if Allah willed, He could have made them [of] one religion, but He admits whom He wills into His mercy. And the wrongdoers have not any protector or helper."

42:10 Judgement is with Allah

﴿وَمَا اخْتَلَفْتُمْ فِيهِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ فَحُكْمُهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ ذَلِكُمُ اللَّهُ رَبِّي عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَإِلَيْهِ أُنِيبُ ﴿١٠﴾﴾