

Surah al-Anbiya

This surah consists of 122 ayaat. The reason for its name is that many prophets have been named in this surah. The surah contains the following subject areas:

1. The surah starts by presenting a scene from the last day and the end of the world. It emphasizes the fact that the end of the universe is very near and that the accountability is growing closer, yet people are heedless of this. It also mentions such people, whom, when reminded of these signs, mock and turn away.
2. The rejecters would say that the Prophet is not a real prophet, but is a mere man, as he is unable to perform miracles like the previous prophets. The Quran replies to this by saying that the prophets are just humans who eat and drink, sleep, and marry. As far as miracles are concerned, then what can be a greater miracle than the Quran itself. One of the miracles of the Quran is that it allows every personality to see himself mentioned in the light of the Quran. One of the laughable aspects of the mushrikeen's claim regarding the Quran was that they were not united about it, so they would all claim different things about what the Quran was. For example some would claim that it was magic, while others claimed it was poetry, or mixed dreams, inventions, or teachings of the old.
3. After this, the surah draws their attention to the past nations who denied the prophets and as a result were destroyed and were unable to escape from their final destruction. The mushrikeen are being asked to bring proof for their worship of the creation. However, they had no rational proof nor revelation to back their claim.

Then 6 proofs have been given for the Oneness of Allah:

Big bang theory: This is a phenomenon that was only discovered only a century or two ago: "Have those who disbelieved not considered that the heavens and the earth were a joined entity, and We separated them and made from water every living thing? Then will they not believe? (Ayat 20).

Creation of all living things form water: It is known that life without water is impossible, whether it be the animal kingdom or the plant kingdom. Just look at the moon, and how it resembles the earth, but the absence of water means that it is devoid of life.

Mountains: These stabilise the earth and ensure that the hot lava inside the earth does not escape, causing devastation.

Valleys as pathways: These valleys allow people to cross continents through mountainous regions.

The sky as a roof: This sky protects us from all the harmful radiations that could enter into the earth's atmosphere. Further, it contains the orbiting planets and stars which are moving in a precise format, and they do not deviate from their paths. So who is causing this to happen other than Allah?

Creation of the Universe: Allah has created the sun, the moon and the stars, each has its own unique orbit, which does not collide with any other, and neither do they stop from orbiting. The point worthy of mention here is that this is being told at a time when nobody knew that the universe consisted of orbiting bodies.

All these proofs show us that these discoveries were only recently made through scientific experimentation and discovery, and years of study. However, the blinds of prejudice and arrogance need to be lifted to see the fact that this Quran must be revelation.

4. There is mention of 17 prophets and their stories. Then it goes to mention 6 of these in more detail:

- The story of Ibraheem alaihis salaam in which he was thrown into the fire, but Allah protected him.
- Lut was sent to one of the worst nations.
- Nuh who continued his struggle for a mammoth 950 years was given the title of 'shaikh ul anbiya'.
- Daud and Sulaiman who were prophet kings, had been given material and spiritual strength.
- Ayab was tested by severe personal illness, but he remained steadfast, supplicated to Allah, and kept turning to Allah; Allah removed his illness as a result.
- Yunus who was swallowed by the whale, supplicated to Allah in this severe predicament, and Allah rescued him and pardoned him.

Yajooj majooj are mentioned here as they were mentioned in surah al-Kahf. We are told that nearer to the end of time they will reappear and descend from every high mountain.

The surah ends by telling us that the Prophet sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam has conveyed the message and given them all the proofs. If they still do not believe, then he has supplicated to Allah: "But if they turn away, then say, "I have announced to [all of] you equally. And I know not whether near or far is that which you are promised."

Surah al-Hajj

This is a Madinan surah consisting of 78 ayaat. The surah starts by moving the heart and making ones skin to shiver:

"On the Day you see it every nursing mother will be distracted from that [child] she was nursing, and every pregnant woman will abort her pregnancy, and you will see the people [appearing] intoxicated while they are not intoxicated; but the punishment of Allah is severe." (Ayat 2).

The other main topics discussed in this surah are as follows:

1. Evidence for Resurrection: This has been addressed in two ways. Firstly by explaining the 7 stages of the life cycle of a human:

- Father of man Adam was made from soil.
- Every human is made from male and female liquid, which is made from blood, which is made from nourishment which in turn comes from the soil.
- The blood becomes a piece of flesh.
- The flesh is then partly formed in to shape.
- The infant is born weak and needy
- He grows to full strength and ability.
- He then either dies at a young age or reaches old age which resembles his infancy.

How can a human who has passed through these stages have any doubt in how the Creator of such a system can resurrect the dead. We can very easily understand this phenomenon today, as we have made scientific advances such as stem cell regeneration of tissues etc.

The other proof for resurrection is given by reminding us that, just as the rain brings the dead and barren soil back to life, in the same way the Creator will bring back the dead to life.

2. Some people have clearly rejected the message, however, some people are in between belief and rejection, as they are happy to follow the deen as long as there are no hardships or challenges.

3. Ibraheem built the ka'bah by the permission of Allah and then invited people to come to Hajj by standing on jabal abi Qabees. Allah caused this to reach the four corners of the world and everybody was informed of this call. In addition, the rites of Hajj and the sha'aair have been mentioned to emphasise their sanctity.

4. The qualities of a true believer have been mentioned to include:

- a. Fear of Allah.
- b. Patience and steadfastness in the face of adversity.
- c. Regularity and consistency in prayer.
- d. Spending on good causes.

5. Regarding the slaughtering of animals as part of Hajj, we are told that the real spirit of sacrifice is 'taqwa' and this is manifested in a person by him staying away from haraam and performing good deeds for Allah's pleasure.

6. The Muslims are being given the permission to fight with the enemies who would stop them from entering Makkah and practicing their deen. Initially, the Muslims were instructed not to retaliate and to be patient (in approximately 70 ayaat). But when the Muslims settled in Madinah and strengthened their position, the mushrikeen continued to plot against them. The wisdom behind allowing the Muslims to fight was to deter the enemies from their injustice and tyranny. It also stopped them from forcing believers to empty their places of worship.

7. Just like the previous prophets, the mission of the Prophet sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam was also to convey the message. He continued to fulfill his mission while the mushrikeen mocked him, rejected his call and tried to put doubts in the minds of people regarding his message. This has been the case with all the prophets and Allah has always helped them against shaithan.

8. The surah ends by turning its attention to the commandments such as jihaad, establishing prayer and paying the zakat.