

Surah an-Naml (continued)

The next section of Surah an-Naml presents 5 proofs for the Oneness of Allah:

1. "Is He [not best] who created the heavens and the earth and sent down for you rain from the sky, causing to grow thereby gardens of joyful beauty which you could not [otherwise] have grown the trees thereof? Is there a deity with Allah? [No], but they are a people who ascribe equals [to Him]." (Ayat 60)
2. "Is He [not best] who made the earth a stable ground and placed within it rivers and made for it firmly set mountains and placed between the two seas a barrier? Is there a deity with Allah? [No], but most of them do not know." (Ayat 61)
3. "Is He [not best] who responds to the desperate one when he calls upon Him and removes evil and makes you inheritors of the earth? Is there a deity with Allah? Little do you remember." (Ayat 62)
4. "Is He [not best] who guides you through the darkneses of the land and sea and who sends the winds as good tidings before His mercy? Is there a deity with Allah? High is Allah above whatever they associate with Him." (Ayat 63)
5. "Is He [not best] who begins creation and then repeats it and who provides for you from the heaven and earth? Is there a deity with Allah ? Say, "Produce your proof, if you should be truthful." (Ayat 64).

After providing proofs for tawheed, the second area that is addressed is the refusal of the mushrikeen to believe in the resurrection. In reply Allah consoles the Prophet sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam and also warns the mushrikeen:

"Say, [O Muhammad], "Travel through the land and observe how was the end of the criminals." (Ayat 69)

"And grieve not over them or be in distress from what they conspire." (Ayat 70).

The surah then mentions the end of the universe and the blowing in the trumpet by the angel Israfeel alaihis salaam:

- i. The first blowing of the trumpet will terrify all the creation.
- ii. The second trumpet will cause every living thing to die
- iii. The third trumpet will resurrect everyone.

Just as this surah started by mentioning the greatness of the book, it also ends in a similar fashion; emphasizing to us that a human's success lies in sticking to the guidance given in this magnificent book.

Surah Al Qasas

This is a Makkan surah consisting of 88 ayaat. The surah starts with the 'huroof muqath'aat' (broken letters) immediately followed by mentioning the greatness of the book. The surah then goes straight into the story of Musa and Firaun.

Firaun had established himself as the sovereign of the land of Egypt, exceeding all limits of pride and arrogance. He had devised the division of the people into groups and clans in order to ensure that they could never unite against him and his power.

Lesson: Disunity is the weapon of shaithan. Unity is the weapon of the believers of arRahman.

The bani Israeel had become a large minority, and were the target of his oppression and injustice. Then Allah intended to lift them up and take them out of this situation. It was at that time that Musa alaihis salaam was born and was saved from the Firaun's soldiers, as his mother was inspired to place him in a basket and give him to the Nile. The baby reached the palace of Firaun, who against all odds, was easily convinced by his wife to keep the boy. The baby then returned to his mother after rejecting numerous nursing mothers. And so it happened that all of Firaun's planning and scheming backfired, and he ended up nurturing the very child he should have killed.

Lesson: No matter how well a person plans, in the end, whatever Allah wishes, comes to pass.

When Musa grew younger he unintentionally killed a Coptic person. On the advice of a well wisher he fled Egypt and ended up in Madyan where he was alone and without any provision. On this occasion prophet Musa supplicated to his Lord saying:

"My Lord, indeed I am, for whatever good You would send down to me, in need." (Ayat 24).

He then helped two shy girls to water their cattle, who reported back to their father prophet Shuaib alaihis salaam, who asked them to bring Musa to him. Then Musa alaihis salaam married one of the daughters. On their way back to Egypt they came across a flame on a cold night. Upon approaching the flame Musa alaihis salaam was granted prophethood and given two miracles, with the mission to go and confront Firaun and his oppression. Firaun did not respond to the message and ended up being drowned along with his army.

The story of Musa alaihis salaam has many lessons which have been mentioned in a book titled 'Qisas al Quran' by Maulana Hifz ur Rahman rahimullah as follows:

1. If a person is patient and steadfast in the face of adversity, then this results in success in the world and the hereafter.
2. Whosoever relies on Allah alone, then Allah most definitely makes it easy for him.
3. When a person reaches the extent of falling in love with the truth, then even the greatest power of falsehood is no match.
4. When a person stands upright as a flag bearer of truth, then Allah causes a group from his enemies to become his friends and helpers.
5. When emaan penetrates the heart and is deep rooted, a person is willing to sacrifice all.
6. Slavery deprives a people of will and determination.
7. The nations that strive and remain steadfast, deserve to inherit the earth.
8. No matter how high and mighty falsehood is, it must eventually crumble.
9. It is the sunnah of Allah that the down trodden people eventually inherit the earth.
10. If a person or group knowingly reject the truth, then Allah takes away their faculty to recognise or accept the truth.
11. It is a grave misguidance that if a person leaves guidance after have been given success due to initially following the truth.
12. It is also grave misguidance that one follows his desires instead of the truth.
13. A da'ee must continue to invite to the truth, even if no one responds to his call.
14. Oppressive rulers are a result of the wrongdoings of the people.
15. It is the sunnah of the prophets to free their nations from the slavery of other humans.

After the story of Musa, there is some warning given to the mushrikeen of Makkah. Then the people of the book who accepted the truth, have been praised. There is also mention of the ignorance of the mushrikeen. There is admonition to not fall prey to the pomp and glitter of this worldly life. There are some scenes from the Day of Judgment and mention of Allah's creation and His ability to do anything He wishes.

Then the surah proceeds to mention another arrogant and rebellious person by the name of Qarun who was present at the time of Musa. He was possibly the greatest capitalist ever, as the keys to his treasures were so many and so heavy that they had to be carried by a fleet of strong men. The abundance of wealth had made him proud and haughty.

"Indeed, Qarun was from the people of Moses, but he tyrannized them. And We gave him of treasures whose keys would burden a band of strong men; thereupon his people said to him, "Do not exult. Indeed, Allah does not like the exultant." (Ayat 77)

"But seek, through that which Allah has given you, the home of the Hereafter; and [yet], do not forget your share of the world. And do good as Allah has done good to you. And desire not corruption in the land. Indeed, Allah does not like corrupters." (Ayat 78)

"He said, "I was only given it because of knowledge I have." Did he not know that Allah had destroyed before him of generations those who were greater than him in power and greater in accumulation [of wealth]? But the criminals, about their sins, will not be asked." (Ayat 79)

"And We caused the earth to swallow him and his home. And there was for him no company to aid him other than Allah, nor was he of those who [could] defend themselves." (Ayat 81)

The surah ends by reminding us:

"And never let them avert you from the verses of Allah after they have been revealed to you. And invite [people] to your Lord. And never be of those who associate others with Allah." (Ayat 88)

Surah al-Ankabuth

This is a Makkan surah consisting of 69 ayaat. This surah is also known as 'surah ibtila' i.e. the 'surah of trials', because this life is full of tests and trials. In Makkah the believers were tried and tested to the limit, and it was at these times that these ayaat would console them and strengthen their resolve to stick to the truth. It also highlights the difference between the true believers and the munaafiqoon, as it is only the true believers that remain steadfast in times of adversity, while the munaafiqoon bend with the wind.

"And of the people are some who say, "We believe in Allah , " but when one [of them] is harmed for [the cause of] Allah , they consider the trial of the people as [if it were] the punishment of Allah . But if victory comes from your Lord, they say, "Indeed, We were with you." Is not Allah most knowing of what is within the breasts of all creatures?" (Ayat 10)

The prophets faced the most difficult trials and this surah mentions the prophets Nuh, Ibraheem, Musa and Haroon alaihim us salaam, to show the believers that such trials do not last forever, and that in the end, victory is for the truthful.

The part of the surah which ends the twentieth part, gives a similitude:

"The example of those who take allies other than Allah is like that of the spider who takes a home. And indeed, the weakest of homes is the home of the spider, if they only knew." (Ayat 41).