

**DARUL ULOOM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
A CONCISE COMMENTARY COURSE OF
THE HOLY QURAAAN (2001-2020)**

before him and after him (saying): "Worship none but Allah; truly, I fear for you the torment of a mighty Day."

In this verse, the Prophet (Muhammad ﷺ) was instructed by Allah to inform the polytheists (around him) of the incident of Prophet Hud (A.S) and his people, so that they may take a lesson and warning from it. The incident mentions that after preaching for a long time, the people did not believe in Hud (A.S). On account of this, Hud (A.S) was instructed by Allah to warn them of the punishment which would befall them if they did not believe.

The verse states, 'When he (Hud) warned his people in Al Ahqaf'. Here, 'Al Ahqaf' (after which this Surah has been named) is the plural of the word 'Hiqf', which means 'a sand dune'. The word 'Al Ahqaf' therefore refers to the large sand dunes of Yemen where the nation of A'ad lived. In the verse, Allah states that many prophets who warned their nations passed before Hud (A.S), and after him. All of them came with the same message, saying to the people, '*Worship none but Allah. Truly, I fear for you a mighty Day*'.

When Prophet Hud (A.S) uttered the message to them, calling them towards the worship of Allah, they responded and said:

22. They said: "Have you come to turn us away from our âliha (gods)? Then bring us that with which you threaten us, if you are one of the truthful!"

They said, while considering him to be low and inferior, 'O Hud! Have you come to us in order to turn us away from worshipping our gods?' They then challenged him and said, 'Then bring the punishment which you have promised if you are truthful in what you say'.

In response to this, Hud (A.S) said:

23. He said: "The knowledge (of the time of its coming) is with Allah only, and I convey to you that wherewith I have been sent, but I see that you are a people given to ignorance!"

He made it clear to them that the knowledge of such matters is only with Allah. He alone knows which nation would be punished and when that punishment will arrive. As for me, I am entrusted with the task of only conveying a message, and I possess no ability to inflict a punishment. He also said to them that he saw that they were very ignorant in asking for Allah's punishment.

They sought to hasten Allah's punishment and were requesting that Hud (A.S) should bring it upon them, since they believed that it will never come to them. They were however, ignorant of the fact that Allah's punishment was certainly going to befall them, but they had no understanding of this. It is for this reason Hud (A.S) said that he saw them as an ignorant people who had no understanding and intelligence.

Surah Al Ahqaf states in verse 24:

24. Then, when they saw it as a dense cloud coming towards their valleys, they said: "This is a cloud bringing us rain!" Nay, but it is that (torment) which you were asking to be hastened! A wind wherein is a painful torment!

This verse speaks of the beginning of their punishment. They started to suffer from drought and famine, and rain had not fallen for a long time. They sought rain, and when they saw clouds coming towards them, they became very happy and thought that the clouds were bringing rain to them to grant them relief. So they said out of joy and happiness, '**This is a cloud bringing us rain**'. However, it was contrary to their thought and hope, it was a cloud of destruction and punishment which they were asking for. It is for this reason, Allah responded to them and said, '**Nay, but it is that (punishment) which you were asking to be hastened – a wind wherein is a painful torment**'.

While speaking of the fierce wind which was sent against them, Allah says, '*They were destroyed by a furious, violent wind. He made it rage against them for seven nights and eight days in succession, so*

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that you could see men lying overthrown (destroyed) as if they were hollow trunks of date palms'. (69:7)

The raging wind would come to them. It will pick them up from the ground, lift them high and then let them fall with their heads downwards. When they dropped on the earth, their heads were smashed into pieces and their bodies were left with no heads resembling the stumps of palm trees. About this, the Holy Quran states, *'We sent upon them a raging wind on an ill-fated day of constant calamity. Plucking up people as if they were uprooted trunks of palm trees'. (54:19-20)*

Verse 25 of Surah Al Ahqaf also mentions of their destructive end and states:

25. Destroying everything by the Command of its Lord! So they became such that nothing could be seen except their dwellings! Thus do We recompense the people who are Mujrimûn (polytheists, disbelievers, sinners, etc.)!

The verses indicate that the punishment which came to the people of 'Ad was by the raging, fatal, immensely cold wind which continued for seven nights and eight days, and did not leave anyone alive. It followed them everywhere, and even entered into the caves of the mountains and destroyed them there. It destroyed their huge palaces, castles and high landmarks. As they boasted of their strength and power and said, 'Who is mightier than us?' Allah imposed upon them something which was mightier than their might, and it was the furious wind which destroyed them.

At the end of verse 25, Allah said, **'Thus do We recompense the 'Mujrimun' (polytheists, disbelievers, sinners)**. This is meant to be a warning given to those who wish to reject Allah and His Messengers, that they would be treated in a similar manner for their wrongs.

Surah Al Ahqaf states in verse 26:

26. And indeed We had firmly established them with that wherewith We have not established you! And We had assigned them the (faculties of) hearing (ears), seeing (eyes), and hearts, but their hearing (ears), seeing (eyes), and their hearts availed them nothing since they used to deny the Ayât (proofs, evidences, verses, signs, revelations, etc.) of Allah, and they were completely encircled by that which they used to mock at!

In this verse, Allah addresses the people of Makkah (the polytheists of the Quraish) and says that He had established the people of 'Ad on the earth with power, strength, wealth and long life, and had given them the faculties of hearing, sight and a heart through which they can recognize the favours and kindness of their Lord and believe in Him. However, these faculties did not benefit them, nor did they use it to their advantage.

While commenting on this verse, the great scholar, Imam Fakhrudeen Ar Razi (A.R) says, 'Here Allah says, 'We have opened the doors of favours to them and granted them the ability to hear, but they did not use it to listen to the proofs of Allah. We granted them sight, but they did not use it to reflect, ponder and consider. We granted them a heart, but they did not use it to know and recognize Allah. Instead, they used these strengths to seek the worldly benefits and the pleasures of the earthly life. As such, these could not help them against the punishment of Allah'.(Safwah At Tafaseer vol.3 pg. 186 Maktaba Tawfiqiyah Dar As Sabooni 2009)

The verse states, **'Since they used to deny the verses of Allah'**. It means that they were not able to benefit from their hearing, sight and heart which were great favours of Allah, because they used to deny and reject the verses of Allah which were revealed to the Prophets, and they also disbelieved in the prophets.

The verse further stated, **'and they were completely encircled by that which they used to mock at'**. It means that they were totally encircled by the punishment and torment which they used to deny and mock. When Prophet Hud (A.S) warned them about Allah's punishment, they used to mockingly say to him, **'Bring the punishment upon us if you are truthful'**. For their wicked conduct, the same punishment which they made fun of, surrounded them and brought complete destruction to them.