

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

Here, Allah refers to the Holy Quran and says, ‘**A Clear Message**’, which means ‘This Quran is a clear message to mankind’. It is just like other verses which state, ‘*This (Quran) is a message for mankind in order that they may be warned thereby, and that they may know that He is the only one God, and that men of understanding may take heed*’. (Surah Ibraheem (14) verse 52). Another verse states, ‘*Verily, in this (Quran) there is a plain message for people who worship Allah*’. (Surah Al Ambiya (21) verse 106)

By saying ‘**A Message**’ in the above verse (i.e. v.35 of Surah Ahqaf), Allah shows that if the people ponder over the Quran, and give consideration to its teachings and take its reminders, then it will be sufficient for them as a message, so that through it, they would save themselves from destruction in this world and the hereafter. (Tafseer At Tabari vol.25 pg. 46 Dar Ihya At Turath Al Arabi Beirut 2001; Tafseer Al Qurtubi vol.16 pg. 189 Maktaba Rasheediya Queta)

At the end of the verse, Allah says, ‘**But shall any be destroyed except the people who are ‘Fasiqun’ (sinners, transgressors)**’. It means that when Allah sends His punishment, only those people are destroyed who oppose His commands, are disobedient to Him and disbelieve in Him.

While commenting on the above verse, the great exegete, Qatada (A.R) states, ‘Know well that no one is destroyed by Allah except that one who perishes by putting Islam behind his back or a Munafiq (hypocrite) who testifies to the truth of Islam with his tongue but opposes it with his actions’. (Tafseer At Tabari vol.25 pg. 46 Dar Ihya At Turath Al Arabi Beirut 2001)

SURAH MUHAMMAD

SYNOPSIS OF SURAH MUHAMMAD

Surah Muhammad is from among those Surahs which were revealed in Madinah and comprises of 38 verses. Scholars of the Quran have stated that it was revealed immediately after the Prophet (ﷺ) migrated to Madinah.

Like other ‘Madani’ chapters, this surah also discusses the Ahkam (rulings and injunctions) of the Shariah. It gives detailed explanations regarding the laws of fighting in the way of Allah, prisoners, spoils of war and the states of the hypocrites. Above all, it focuses more on fighting in the way of Allah, and it is for this reason it is also called Surah Al Qitaal (Chapter of the Fighting).

The Surah begins in a unique manner by announcing an open war against the unbelievers who have displayed enmity to Allah and His prophet. They have waged war against Islam, denied the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), and stood in the way of his propagation so that they may block people from entering into the religion of Allah.

On account of this, the permission was granted to the Muslims to fight against them so that they may purify the land from kufr and shirk, until there remain no power and strength for them.

The Surah highlights the ways which should be adopted for the believers to get the help of Allah, and to achieve honour in this world and the hereafter. Examples of the unbelievers of past nations were presented to the Makkans for their consideration so that they may know what the consequences of their actions would be if they failed to believe in Allah.

The Surah also highlights some of the traits of the hypocrites and the threats they pose to Islam and the Muslims. These have been mentioned so that the believers may be alert and protect themselves from their deception.

The Surah then concludes with a call to the believers to tread the path of honour and respect, by defending their religion and spending in Allah’s cause. They should not show weakness and cowardice when confronted with the forces of those who wish to cause harm to the religion of Allah. Instead, they must be brave and courageous, and know that the life of this world will soon come to an end, and what is with Allah is everlasting.

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COMMENTARY OF SURAH MUHAMMAD

Verse 1 states:

1. Those who disbelieve [in the Oneness of Allah, and in the Message of Prophet Muhammad], and hinder (men) from the Path of Allah, He will render their deeds vain.

In this verse, Allah makes a very clear statement to the unbelievers that none of their good deeds will be accepted. The reason is that they have denied the Oneness of Allah and worshipped others besides Him. They have also prevented other people from believing in Him and worshipping Him, and have blocked people from following the Prophet (ﷺ). On account of these, Allah has caused their good actions to be in vain, and they have lost the rewards for those deeds. Whatever good they have done by feeding others, maintaining family ties, entertaining the guests and other good works, they have lost the rewards of these, and will get nothing in return. This is due to their wicked actions of disbelief in Allah and blocking others from the religion of Allah. (Tafseer At Tabari vol.25 pg. 47 Dar Ihya At Turath Al Arabi Beirut 2001; Safwah At Tafaseer vol.3 pg. 191 Maktaba Tawfiqiyah Dar As Sabooni 2009)

Some scholars of the Quran have stated that the words, ‘He will render their deeds vain’ also means that their strategies, plots and schemes which they made against the Prophet (ﷺ) and the believers, would also be futile and go in vain. Allah will destroy all their evil and wicked plans and none of their plots will come into being. (Tafseer Al Qurtubi vol.16 pg. 191 Maktaba Rasheediya Queta)

Surah Muhammad states in verse 2:

2. But those who believe and do righteous good deeds, and believe in that which is sent down to Muhammad ﷺ, for it is the truth from their Lord, He will expiate from them their sins, and will make good their state.

Here, Allah speaks about the believers, and how their good deeds will be beneficial to them. He mentions that those who truly believe in Him and do good deeds, while firmly believing in the revelation which came to His Prophet, Muhammad (ﷺ) as being the truth, they will have their sins forgiven by Allah and washed away. Allah will also make their conditions very good, both in their religious and worldly affairs.

Surah Muhammad states in verse 3:

3. That is because those who disbelieve follow falsehood, while those who believe follow the truth from their Lord. Thus does Allah set forth their parables for mankind.

Here, Allah explains the reason for nullifying the good actions of the unbelievers, and for rewarding the believers for their good deeds. He mentions that the main reason for this difference is that those who disbelieve, follow falsehood and shirk, whereas those who believe, follow the truth and Imaan.

Whoever follows falsehood, indeed follows Shaitan (Satan), and whoever follows the truth, follows the teachings of Allah and His Prophet (ﷺ). The unbelievers are misguided because they have adopted the path of misguidance and have chosen falsehood above truth. Hence, all their deeds (known to be good) shall be futile. As for the believers, they have adopted the path of guidance, and have chosen truth above falsehood. As such, they shall be rewarded for their good deeds, and will be forgiven for their sins.

The verse concludes with the words, ‘Thus does Allah set forth for mankind their parables’. It means that in this manner, Allah presents clear-cut examples and conditions of people so that they may take lessons from it. The state of the believer is mentioned, and that of the unbeliever is also mentioned. Those who possess intelligence can look at the state of each person and make his choice in life.