

# Islamic Studies - SS1 Second Term E-Notes

## Week 1: Articles of Faith (Iman) - Overview

### What is Iman?

**Definition:** Iman means faith or belief. It is the foundation of Islamic practice and refers to firm conviction in the heart, verbal declaration with the tongue, and action with the limbs.

### The Six Articles of Faith (Arkanul Iman)

Every Muslim must believe in six fundamental articles of faith:

1. **Belief in Allah (God)**
2. **Belief in the Angels**
3. **Belief in the Books**
4. **Belief in the Prophets**
5. **Belief in the Day of Judgment**
6. **Belief in Qadar (Divine Decree/Destiny)**

### Evidence from Qur'an and Hadith

**Qur'anic Evidence:** The six articles are mentioned in Surah Al-Baqarah (2:177): *"Righteousness is not that you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but [true] righteousness is [in] one who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and the prophets..."*

**Hadith Evidence:** In the famous Hadith of Jibreel (Angel Gabriel), when asked about Iman, the Prophet (SAW) said: *"Iman is to believe in Allah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day, and to believe in Divine Decree (Qadar), both good and bad."* (Sahih Muslim)

### Importance of the Articles of Faith

1. **Foundation of Islam:**
  - Without proper faith, actions have no value
  - Distinguishes Muslims from non-Muslims
  - Forms the basis of Islamic worldview
2. **Complete Belief:**
  - One must believe in all six articles
  - Rejecting even one nullifies faith
  - Partial belief is not acceptable
3. **Spiritual Development:**
  - Strengthens connection with Allah
  - Provides purpose and meaning to life
  - Guides moral and ethical behavior
4. **Inner Peace:**

- Brings tranquility to the heart
- Provides answers to life's questions
- Offers hope and comfort

## **Brief Overview of Each Article**

### **1. Belief in Allah:**

- He is One, without partners
- Creator and Sustainer of everything
- Has beautiful names and attributes
- Worthy of all worship

### **2. Belief in Angels:**

- Created from light
- Obey Allah completely
- Have specific duties
- Cannot be seen in normal form

### **3. Belief in Books:**

- Revealed by Allah to guide humanity
- Include Torah, Psalms, Gospel, and Qur'an
- Qur'an is the final and preserved revelation

### **4. Belief in Prophets:**

- Messengers sent to all nations
- Taught Tawhid (Oneness of Allah)
- Muhammad (SAW) is the final prophet

### **5. Belief in the Day of Judgment:**

- Everyone will be resurrected
- Judged according to deeds
- Paradise or Hell as final destination

### **6. Belief in Qadar:**

- Allah has knowledge of all things
- Everything happens by His will
- Humans have free will within Allah's plan

## **Relationship Between Iman and Islam**

### **Islam vs. Iman:**

- **Islam** (submission): Outward practice, the five pillars
- **Iman** (faith): Inner belief, the six articles
- Both are required for complete religion

**Levels of Faith:** Faith increases and decreases:

- Increases through: worship, knowledge, good deeds, remembrance of Allah
- Decreases through: sins, negligence, heedlessness, bad company

## Signs of True Iman

A believer with strong faith:

- Loves Allah and His Messenger above all
- Follows Islamic teachings willingly
- Feels joy in worship
- Avoids major sins
- Repents when making mistakes
- Trusts in Allah's decree
- Shows good character
- Treats others with kindness

## Application in Daily Life

**Practical Implications:**

1. Worship Allah alone
2. Study and follow the Qur'an
3. Follow the Prophet's example (Sunnah)
4. Prepare for the afterlife
5. Accept Allah's decree with patience
6. Seek knowledge about faith

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## Week 2: Belief in Angels - Names and Functions

### What are Angels?

**Definition:** Angels (Mala'ikah in Arabic) are celestial beings created by Allah from light (Nur) to worship Him and carry out His commands.

### Characteristics of Angels

#### 1. Creation:

- Created from light
- Created before humans
- Number known only to Allah
- Created to worship and obey Allah

## 2. Nature:

- Have no free will like humans
- Never disobey Allah
- Do not eat, drink, or sleep
- Do not have gender (neither male nor female)
- Can take different forms when commanded

## 3. Abilities:

- Very powerful and strong
- Can take human form (with Allah's permission)
- Execute Allah's commands perfectly
- Travel vast distances instantly
- Cannot be seen in their true form by humans normally

## Evidence from Qur'an

### Qur'anic Verses:

1. **Their Creation:** *"Praise be to Allah, Creator of the heavens and earth, who made the angels messengers with wings - two, three, or four."* (Surah Fatir 35:1)
2. **Their Obedience:** *"They do not disobey Allah in what He commands them and do what they are commanded."* (Surah At-Tahrim 66:6)
3. **Their Number:** *"And none knows the soldiers of your Lord except Him."* (Surah Al-Muddaththir 74:31)

## Major Angels and Their Functions

### 1. Jibril (Gabriel) - جبريل

### Functions:

- Angel of revelation
- Delivered Allah's messages to the prophets
- Brought the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad (SAW)
- Strengthens believers
- Most important angel mentioned in the Qur'an

**Evidence:** *"Say: Whoever is an enemy to Jibril - it is [none but] he who has brought the Qur'an down upon your heart by permission of Allah."* (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:97)

## Historical Role:

- Appeared to Maryam (Mary) announcing Isa (Jesus)
- Came to Prophet Muhammad in cave Hira
- Accompanied the Prophet during Isra and Mi'raj

## 2. Mika'il (Michael) - مِيكَائِيلُ الْمَلَكُ

### Functions:

- Angel of sustenance and mercy
- Controls rain, wind, and weather
- Distributes provisions to creatures
- Manages natural phenomena

**Evidence:** Mentioned alongside Jibril in Surah Al-Baqarah 2:98

### Duties:

- Ensures crops grow
- Controls water distribution
- Manages climate patterns
- Provides sustenance to all creation

## 3. Israfil - إِسْرَافِيلُ الْمَلَكُ

### Functions:

- Angel of the Trumpet (Sur)
- Will blow the trumpet on the Day of Judgment
- First blast: everything dies
- Second blast: resurrection begins

**Evidence:** *"And the Trumpet will be blown, and whoever is in the heavens and whoever is on the earth will fall dead except whom Allah wills."* (Surah Az-Zumar 39:68)

### Role in End Times:

- Awaits Allah's command
- Signals the end of the world
- Announces the resurrection

## 4. Azra'il (Malak al-Maut) - أَزْرَافِيلُ الْمَلَكُ

### Functions:

- Angel of Death

- Takes souls at the appointed time
- Has assistants to help
- Treats souls according to their deeds

**Evidence:** "Say: 'The angel of death who has been entrusted with you will take you, then to your Lord you will be returned.'" (Surah As-Sajdah 32:11)

### **Manner of Taking Souls:**

- Gentle with believers
- Harsh with disbelievers
- Accompanied by other angels
- At the exact appointed time

### **5. Munkar and Nakir - المُنكَرُ والنَّكِيرُ**

#### **Functions:**

- Angels of the grave
- Question the deceased in the grave
- Three questions asked:
  1. Who is your Lord?
  2. What is your religion?
  3. Who is your prophet?

#### **Purpose:**

- Test faith after death
- Determine comfort or punishment in grave
- First stage of afterlife examination

### **6. Kiraman Katibin (Noble Recorders)**

#### **Functions:**

- Recording angels
- Two angels for each person
- One on the right records good deeds
- One on the left records bad deeds
- Record everything a person does

**Evidence:** "And indeed, [appointed] over you are keepers, noble and recording; they know whatever you do." (Surah Al-Infitar 82:10-12)

#### **What They Record:**

- All actions

- Words spoken
- Intentions
- Everything until death

**Special Note:** The angel on the left waits before recording a sin, giving time for repentance.

#### 7. Malik - مَلِكُ الْمَلَكِ الْمَلِكِ

##### Functions:

- Guardian/Keeper of Hellfire
- Chief angel in charge of Hell
- Controls punishment
- Has 19 chief assistants (Zabaniyah)

**Evidence:** *"And they will cry: 'O Malik! Let your Lord put an end to us.' He will say: 'You shall remain.'"* (Surah Az-Zukhruf 43:77)

##### Characteristics:

- Never smiles
- Very stern
- Executes Allah's justice
- Shows no mercy to disbelievers in Hell

#### 8. Ridwan - رِذْوَانُ الْمَلَكِ الْمَلِكِ

##### Functions:

- Guardian/Keeper of Paradise
- Welcomes believers into Jannah
- Oversees the pleasures of Paradise
- Greets believers with peace

##### Characteristics:

- Kind and welcoming
- Cheerful to believers
- Announces entry to Paradise

## Other Important Angels and Their Roles

### 9. Hamalat al-Arsh (Bearers of the Throne):

- Carry Allah's Throne (Arsh)
- Currently four, will be eight on Judgment Day
- Extremely powerful

### **10. Hafaza (Guardian Angels):**

- Protect humans from harm
- Work in shifts
- Guard by Allah's command
- Record deeds

### **11. Angels of Mountains, Clouds, and Seas:**

- Manage natural phenomena
- Control elements
- Execute Allah's commands in nature

### **12. Angel Who Appeared to Maryam:**

- Jibril took human form
- Announced birth of Prophet Isa (Jesus)
- Demonstrated Allah's power

## **Duties of Angels in General**

### **Worship:**

- Constantly glorify Allah
- Never tire or rest
- Perform various forms of worship
- Some in constant prostration

### **Service to Humanity:**

- Protect believers
- Record deeds
- Bring revelation
- Pray for forgiveness for believers

### **Natural Functions:**

- Control weather
- Manage sustenance
- Oversee creation
- Execute Allah's commands in universe

### **Afterlife Duties:**

- Question in grave
- Present on Judgment Day
- Guard Paradise and Hell

- Bring records of deeds

## **Belief in Angels: What it Means**

### **Muslims Must Believe:**

- 1. In Their Existence:**
  - Angels exist as real beings
  - Cannot be seen normally
  - Created from light
- 2. In Their Characteristics:**
  - Sinless and obedient
  - Possess great power
  - Have no free will to disobey
- 3. In Their Functions:**
  - Each has specific duties
  - All serve Allah
  - Work for benefit of creation
- 4. In What is Known:**
  - Believe in those mentioned by name
  - Accept their roles as taught
  - Don't speculate about details not revealed

## **Lessons from Belief in Angels**

### **1. Awareness of Being Watched:**

- Angels record all deeds
- Encourages good behavior
- Deters from sin
- Promotes accountability

### **2. Hope and Comfort:**

- Angels protect believers
- Pray for forgiveness
- Bring mercy and blessings
- Strengthen faith

### **3. Respect for Allah's Creation:**

- Angels are honorable beings
- Created for worship
- Demonstrate Allah's power
- Show diversity in creation

### **4. Preparation for Afterlife:**

- Angels question in grave
- Present on Judgment Day
- Guard Paradise and Hell
- Remind of ultimate accountability

## **Common Misconceptions**

### **Wrong Beliefs to Avoid:**

- Angels are female (rejected in Qur'an)
- Angels are Allah's children (major shirk)
- Angels have free will like humans
- Angels can be worshipped
- Humans become angels after death

### **Correct Understanding:**

- Angels are servants of Allah
- They have no free will
- They cannot disobey
- Only Allah deserves worship
- Humans and angels are different creations

## **Practical Application**

### **How This Belief Affects Daily Life:**

- 1. In Private:**
    - Remember angels are watching
    - Maintain good behavior
    - Avoid sins even when alone
  - 2. In Speech:**
    - Guard your tongue
    - Everything is recorded
    - Speak good or remain silent
  - 3. In Actions:**
    - Do good deeds
    - Help others (angels pray for helpers)
    - Maintain cleanliness (angels love clean places)
  - 4. In Worship:**
    - Angels surround gatherings of remembrance
    - Increase dhikr (remembrance)
    - Pray in congregation (angels witness)
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## Week 3: Belief in Books - Torah, Zabur, Injil, Qur'an

### What are the Divine Books?

**Definition:** Divine Books are revelations sent by Allah through His angels to His prophets to guide humanity to the straight path.

### Purpose of Divine Books

#### Why Allah Sent Books:

1. Guide humanity to truth
2. Teach Tawhid (Oneness of Allah)
3. Explain halal (permissible) and haram (forbidden)
4. Provide moral and ethical guidance
5. Give examples of previous nations
6. Warn about Day of Judgment
7. Show the path to Paradise

### Number of Divine Books

#### Total Books:

- Allah mentions that He sent books to many prophets
- Some are specifically named in the Qur'an
- Total number known only to Allah

**Evidence:** *"Indeed, We sent down the Torah, in which was guidance and light."* (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:44)

### The Four Major Divine Books

#### 1. Suhuf (Scrolls) of Ibrahim (Abraham)

#### Details:

- Revealed to Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) إبراهيم عليه السلام
- Early divine revelation
- Contained wisdom and guidance
- Not preserved today
- Content not detailed in Qur'an

**Mention in Qur'an:** *"Or has he not been informed of what was in the scriptures of Moses and Abraham who fulfilled [his obligations]?"* (Surah An-Najm 53:36-37)

#### Suhuf of Musa (Moses):

- Also mentioned in Qur'an
- Given before the Torah
- Contained early teachings

## 2. Tawrat (Torah)

### Revelation:

- Revealed to Prophet Musa (Moses) ﷺ
- Given on Mount Sinai (Tur)
- Written in Hebrew
- Original book of law for Bani Israel (Children of Israel)

### Content:

- Laws and commandments
- Guidance for Children of Israel
- Stories of previous prophets
- Warnings and promises
- Ten Commandments

**Evidence from Qur'an:** *"Indeed, We sent down the Torah, in which was guidance and light. The prophets who submitted [to Allah] judged by it for the Jews, as did the rabbis and scholars by that with which they were entrusted."* (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:44)

### Current Status:

- Original Torah has been altered
- Current Old Testament contains changes
- Muslims believe in the original, not altered version
- Parts of truth remain, mixed with human additions

### What Happened:

- Scribes made changes over time
- Human interpretations added
- Some parts lost or removed
- No longer in pure original form

## 3. Zabur (Psalms)

### Revelation:

- Revealed to Prophet Dawud (David) ﷺ
- Book of worship and praise
- Contained hymns and prayers
- Given to the Children of Israel

**Content:**

- Prayers and supplications
- Praise and glorification of Allah
- Wisdom and moral guidance
- Prophecies

**Evidence from Qur'an:** *"And We gave to Dawud the Zabur."* (Surah An-Nisa 4:163)

*"And We have certainly given you, [O Muhammad], seven of the often repeated [verses] and the great Qur'an. And We gave Dawud the Zabur."* (Surah Al-Isra 17:55)

**Current Status:**

- Original text not preserved
- Current Book of Psalms in Bible contains alterations
- Beautiful prayers and praises remain
- Mixed with human additions

**Nature:**

- More devotional than legal
- Focused on worship
- Contained prophecies about future prophets
- Emphasized Allah's oneness and power

#### 4. Injil (Gospel)

**Revelation:**

- Revealed to Prophet Isa (Jesus) ﷺ
- Sent to guide the Children of Israel
- Confirmed the Torah
- Brought some new laws

**Content:**

- Guidance and light
- Confirmation of previous scriptures
- Good news and warnings
- Moral and ethical teachings
- Emphasis on love, mercy, and justice

**Evidence from Qur'an:** *"And We sent, following in their footsteps, Jesus, the son of Mary, confirming that which came before him in the Torah; and We gave him the Injil, in which was guidance and light and confirming that which preceded it of the Torah as guidance and instruction for the righteous."* (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:46)

### **Current Status:**

- Original Injil not preserved
- Current four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) written decades after Prophet Isa
- Written by followers, not revealed text
- Muslims believe in original Injil, not current New Testament versions

### **Major Differences:**

- Original Injil was revelation to Prophet Isa
- Current Gospels are biographical accounts by followers
- Original emphasized Tawhid (Oneness of Allah)
- Current versions contain concept of trinity (rejected in Islam)

### *5. The Qur'an - Final and Preserved Revelation*

#### **Revelation:**

- Revealed to Prophet Muhammad (SAW)
- Final divine book
- Sent through Angel Jibril
- Revealed over 23 years (610-632 CE)
- In Arabic language

#### **Unique Characteristics:**

##### **1. Preservation:**

- Only divine book completely preserved
- No changes or alterations
- Memorized by millions
- Written and compiled during Prophet's lifetime
- Same text worldwide

**Evidence of Preservation:** *"Indeed, it is We who sent down the Qur'an and indeed, We will be its guardian."* (Surah Al-Hijr 15:9)

##### **2. Universal Message:**

- For all humanity, not one nation
- Valid until Day of Judgment
- Supersedes previous scriptures
- Complete and comprehensive

##### **3. Inimitable:**

- Linguistic miracle

- Cannot be imitated
- Challenge to produce similar chapter
- Perfect in language and content

**Evidence:** *"And if you are in doubt about what We have sent down upon Our Servant [Muhammad], then produce a surah the like thereof and call upon your witnesses other than Allah, if you should be truthful."* (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:23)

## **Content of the Qur'an:**

### **1. Aqeedah (Belief):**

- Tawhid (Oneness of Allah)
- Prophethood
- Angels
- Books
- Day of Judgment
- Qadar

### **2. Laws and Rulings:**

- Worship (prayer, fasting, charity, pilgrimage)
- Social interactions
- Family law
- Business transactions
- Criminal justice

### **3. Stories:**

- Previous prophets and nations
- Lessons and morals
- Examples for guidance
- Warnings from history

### **4. Moral Guidance:**

- Character development
- Ethics and values
- Social justice
- Rights and responsibilities

### **5. Description of Afterlife:**

- Paradise and its blessings
- Hell and its punishments
- Day of Judgment
- Resurrection

### Structure:

- 114 Surahs (chapters)
- Approximately 6,236 verses (ayat)
- 30 Juz (parts) for easy recitation
- Divided into Makki and Madani surahs

### Compilation:

- Memorized by companions during Prophet's life
- Written on various materials
- Compiled into one book during Abu Bakr's caliphate
- Standardized during Uthman's caliphate
- Same text preserved to this day

### Relationship Between the Books

#### Continuity:

- All books taught Tawhid
- Same basic message
- Each suited to its time and people
- Qur'an confirms and completes them

#### Qur'an's Role:

- Confirms truth in previous books
- Corrects alterations
- Completes the message
- Abrogates previous laws
- Final authority

**Evidence:** *"And We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], the Book in truth, confirming that which preceded it of the Scripture and as a criterion over it."* (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:48)

### What Muslims Must Believe

#### Required Belief:

1. **Accept All Divine Books:**
  - Believe Allah sent many books
  - Accept the four major books mentioned
  - Believe in books even if names unknown
2. **Believe in Original Form:**
  - Torah, Zabur, and Injil were true when revealed
  - They have been altered by humans
  - Original versions contained truth

### 3. **Qur'an is Final:**

- Complete and preserved
- Supersedes previous books
- Only book in pure original form
- Must be followed

### 4. **Don't Follow Altered Versions:**

- Current Torah and Bible contain changes
- Cannot be fully relied upon
- Where they agree with Qur'an, accept
- Where they contradict, reject

## **Differences Between Qur'an and Previous Books**

| Aspect              | Previous Books                | The Qur'an                     |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Preservation</b> | Altered and changed           | Completely preserved           |
| <b>Language</b>     | Original languages lost       | Original Arabic preserved      |
| <b>Audience</b>     | Specific nations              | All humanity                   |
| <b>Duration</b>     | For specific time periods     | Until Day of Judgment          |
| <b>Compilation</b>  | Written long after revelation | Compiled during Prophet's life |
| <b>Memorization</b> | Not widely memorized          | Memorized by millions          |
| <b>Authority</b>    | Abrogated by Qur'an           | Final authority                |

## **Why Previous Books Were Altered**

### **Reasons:**

1. Not commanded to memorize completely
2. Passed through many hands over centuries
3. Lost original languages
4. Human interpretations mixed with revelation
5. Deliberate changes by some
6. Political and religious influences
7. Lack of divine protection (unlike Qur'an)

## **Practical Implications**

### **How This Belief Affects Muslims:**

#### **1. Respect for Scriptures:**

- Treat all divine revelations with respect
- Don't insult any book revealed by Allah
- Recognize common heritage with People of the Book

## 2. Follow the Qur'an:

- Primary source of guidance
- Study and understand it
- Implement its teachings
- Memorize and recite

## 3. Knowledge:

- Learn about previous revelations
- Understand Islamic history
- Engage in dialogue with People of the Book
- Explain Islam's position clearly

## 4. Dawah (Invitation to Islam):

- Use common ground with Christians and Jews
- Point to prophecies in their books
- Explain preservation of Qur'an
- Invite to original monotheism

## Respect for People of the Book

### Islamic Teaching:

- Jews and Christians are "People of the Book" (Ahl al-Kitab)
- Received divine revelation
- Share belief in prophets
- Special status in Islam
- Can eat their food and marry their women (with conditions)

**Evidence:** *"Say, 'O People of the Scripture, come to a word that is equitable between us and you - that we will not worship except Allah and not associate anything with Him.'"* (Surah Ali 'Imran 3:64)

## Signs of Belief in the Books

A true believer:

- Believes in all books Allah revealed
- Studies and follows the Qur'an
- Respects all divine revelations
- Doesn't insult previous scriptures

- Understands Qur'an's superiority
- Calls others to the Qur'an
- Implements Qur'anic teachings

## Lessons from This Belief

1. **Allah's Mercy:**
  - Sent guidance to every nation
  - Gave repeated chances
  - Final guidance preserved forever
2. **Consistency of Message:**
  - All prophets taught Tawhid
  - Same core beliefs
  - Islam is not new religion
3. **Human Weakness:**
  - Previous communities altered scriptures
  - Need for divine protection
  - Qur'an's preservation is miraculous
4. **Gratitude:**
  - Thank Allah for the Qur'an
  - Appreciate its preservation
  - Value the gift of guidance

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## Week 4: Qur'an Studies - Surah al-Nasr

### Introduction to Surah al-Nasr

#### Name and Meaning:

- **Al-Nasr** (النصر) means "The Help" or "The Victory"
- Also known as "Surah at-Tawdeeh" (The Farewell)
- Called "Al-Fath" (The Conquest) by some

#### Classification:

- Madani Surah (revealed in Madinah)
- One of the last surahs revealed
- Surah number: 110
- Number of verses: 3
- Position in Qur'an: Near the end (Juz 30)

#### Time of Revelation:

- Revealed after the conquest of Makkah (8 AH/630 CE)

- Shortly before the Prophet's death
- Approximately 3 months before his passing
- Signaled completion of the Prophet's mission

## Arabic Text with Transliteration

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

\*\*Bismillah

ir-Rahman ir-Raheem\*\*

1. إِذَا جَاءَ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ وَالْفَتْحُ

Idha jaa'a nasrullahi wal-fath

2. وَرَأَيْتَ النَّاسَ يَدْخُلُونَ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ أَفْوَاجًا

Wa ra'aytan-naasa yadkhuloona fee deenil-laahi afwaaja

3. وَأَبْأَسْبَحَ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَأَسْتَغْفِرُهُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ تَوَّابًا

Fasabbih bihamdi rabbika wastaghfirh, innahu kaana tawwaaba

## English Translation

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

1. When the help of Allah and the conquest comes,
2. And you see the people entering into the religion of Allah in multitudes,
3. Then glorify the praises of your Lord, and ask His forgiveness. Indeed, He is ever Accepting of repentance.

## Verse-by-Verses Explanation

*Verse 1: "When the help of Allah and the conquest comes"*

### Key Terms:

- **Nasr (نَصْر)**: Help, victory, support from Allah
- **Al-Fath (الْفَتْح)**: The conquest, specifically referring to the conquest of Makkah

**Explanation:** This verse speaks of two things:

1. **Divine Help (Nasr):** Allah's assistance and support
2. **The Conquest (Fath):** Victory over Makkah

### Historical Context:

- In 8 AH (630 CE), Prophet Muhammad (SAW) peacefully conquered Makkah
- The city that had persecuted Muslims for years was now opened to Islam
- This was a bloodless victory achieved with 10,000 companions
- The idols in the Ka'bah were destroyed
- Most of Makkah's people embraced Islam

### Significance:

- Fulfilled Allah's promise of victory
- Marked turning point in Islamic history
- Showed power of faith and patience
- Demonstrated Allah's support for truth

*Verse 2: "And you see the people entering into the religion of Allah in multitudes"*

### Key Terms:

- **An-Naas (الْأَنَاسَ):** The people
- **Yadhkuloona (يَدْخُلُونَ):** They enter
- **Deen (دِين):** Religion, way of life
- **Afwaajan (أَفْوَاجًا):** In multitudes, in crowds, in groups

**Explanation:** After the conquest of Makkah, people began accepting Islam in large numbers:

- Tribes from all over Arabia came to embrace Islam
- Previously, conversion was slow and difficult
- Now, entire groups and tribes entered together
- Victory made people recognize truth of Islam

### Historical Evidence:

- Year 9 AH called "Year of Delegations" (Aam al-Wufood)
- Delegations from across Arabia came to accept Islam
- Islam spread rapidly throughout the peninsula
- By the Prophet's death, most of Arabia was Muslim

### Wisdom:

- Shows that victory comes from Allah
- Success brings more success
- People are attracted to truth when it prevails
- Patience and perseverance are rewarded

*Verse 3: "Then glorify the praises of your Lord, and ask His forgiveness. Indeed, He is ever Accepting of repentance"*

### **Key Terms:**

- **Sabbih (سَبَّحَ):** Glorify, declare Allah free from imperfections
- **Hamd (حَمْد):** Praise, gratitude
- **Istaghfir (أَسْتَغْفِرُ):** Seek forgiveness
- **Tawwaab (تَوَّاب):** The One who accepts repentance repeatedly

### **Commands Given:**

#### **1. Glorify (Tasbeeh):**

- Say "Subhanallah" (Glory be to Allah)
- Declare Allah's perfection
- Remove any deficiency attributed to Him
- Acknowledge His greatness

#### **2. Praise (Hamd):**

- Say "Alhamdulillah" (All praise to Allah)
- Thank Him for the victory
- Acknowledge blessings
- Attribute success to Allah

#### **3. Seek Forgiveness (Istighfar):**

- Say "Astaghfirullah" (I seek Allah's forgiveness)
- Repent for shortcomings
- Seek pardon for sins
- Humble yourself before Allah

### **Why These Commands?**

#### **At Time of Victory:**

- Don't become arrogant
- Remember all success is from Allah
- Remain humble
- Don't attribute victory to own effort

**Deeper Meaning:** This verse was understood as a sign that:

- The Prophet's mission was complete
- His time in this world was ending
- He should prepare for the Hereafter

- Maximum worship and repentance needed

## Deeper Themes and Lessons

### 1. *The Sign of Approaching Death*

#### Understanding of Companions:

- When this surah was revealed, some companions understood its deeper meaning
- Particularly Umar ibn al-Khattab and Abdullah ibn Abbas
- They realized it indicated the Prophet's approaching death
- It was a gentle, beautiful way to convey this news

**Hadith Evidence:** Ibn Abbas reported that Umar asked the senior companions about this surah. They said it was about victories and conquests. But Umar asked Ibn Abbas, who said: "It is the indication of the death of Allah's Messenger, which Allah informed him about."

#### The Prophet's Response:

- After this surah was revealed, the Prophet increased worship

He frequently said: "Subhanaka Allahumma wa bihamdik, Astaghfiruka wa atoobu ilayk" (Glory be to You, O Allah, and praise. I seek Your forgiveness and repent to You)

- He understood his mission was complete

### 2. *Gratitude in Success*

#### Islamic Teaching:

- Success requires more worship, not less
- Victory demands humility, not pride
- Achievement needs gratitude, not arrogance

**Application:** When Allah blesses you with success:

- Increase in worship
- Thank Allah profusely
- Seek forgiveness for shortcomings
- Remain humble

#### Contrast with Human Nature:

- People often become proud when successful
- Forget Allah when things go well
- Decrease worship in times of ease

- Islam teaches the opposite

### *3. Completion of Mission*

#### **For Prophet Muhammad (SAW):**

- Islam was complete
- Arabia largely Muslim
- Message delivered
- Mission accomplished
- Time to return to Allah

#### **For All Muslims:**

- Complete your life's purpose
- Fulfill your responsibilities
- Prepare for meeting Allah
- Don't delay good deeds

### *4. Constant Need for Forgiveness*

#### **Even the Prophet:**

- Sinless and chosen by Allah
- Still commanded to seek forgiveness
- Model for all humanity
- Shows everyone needs Allah's mercy

#### **For Regular Believers:**

- If the Prophet seeks forgiveness, how much more should we?
- Never stop making istighfar
- Always room for improvement
- Forgiveness available until death

### *5. Allah's Mercy and Forgiveness*

#### **"Tawwaab" (Ever-Accepting of Repentance):**

- Allah's door of repentance always open
- He loves when servants repent
- Forgives sins repeatedly
- Mercy greater than wrath

#### **Hope for Sinners:**

- Never despair of Allah's mercy

- Repent sincerely
- Allah will forgive
- Return to Him always

## **Historical Impact of the Conquest**

### **Immediate Effects:**

1. Makkah became Muslim
2. Ka'bah purified from idols
3. Muslims could worship openly
4. Former enemies became brothers
5. Islam's position strengthened

### **Long-term Impact:**

1. Arabia united under Islam
2. Foundation for Islamic civilization
3. Message spread beyond Arabia
4. Proof of Allah's promise
5. Victory of truth over falsehood

### **The Prophet's Mercy:**

- Forgave his enemies
- General amnesty declared
- No revenge taken
- Model of forgiveness and nobility
- "Go, you are free" to former persecutors

## **Practical Lessons for Muslims Today**

### **1. Patience and Perseverance:**

- Victory may take time
- Stay steadfast in faith
- Trust Allah's plan
- Don't give up

### **2. Humility in Success:**

- Don't become arrogant when winning
- Attribute success to Allah
- Remain humble
- Increase worship

### **3. Constant Worship:**

- Never stop seeking Allah
- Always glorify and praise Him
- Make istighfar regularly
- Don't become complacent

#### **4. Gratitude:**

- Thank Allah for blessings
- Recognize His favors
- Show appreciation through actions
- Don't take blessings for granted

#### **5. Preparation for Death:**

- Death can come anytime
- Always be prepared
- Complete your duties
- Seek forgiveness regularly

#### **6. Forgiveness:**

- Forgive those who wronged you
- Follow the Prophet's example
- Mercy towards others
- Seek Allah's forgiveness

### **Connection to Prophet's Final Days**

#### **After this Surah:**

- Prophet performed his final Hajj (Farewell Pilgrimage)
- Delivered his Last Sermon
- Emphasized key Islamic teachings
- Passed away 3 months later
- This surah prepared him and the ummah

#### **His Last Sermon Emphasized:**

- Unity of believers
- Equality of all humans
- Rights and responsibilities
- Following Qur'an and Sunnah
- Brotherhood in Islam

### **Memorization Tips**

#### **Benefits of Memorizing:**

- Short and easy to memorize
- Beautiful meaning
- Frequently recited
- Reminder of key principles

### **Memorization Strategy:**

1. Learn with meaning
2. Repeat each verse 10 times
3. Connect verses together
4. Recite in prayers
5. Reflect on message

### **Common Recitation Mistakes**

#### **To Avoid:**

- Incorrect pronunciation of "afwaaja"
- Not pronouncing doubled letters (shadda)
- Rushing through verses
- Ignoring rules of tajweed

#### **Tips:**

- Learn from qualified teacher
- Listen to recitation by experts
- Practice regularly
- Record and review yourself

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Why did Allah reveal such an important message in such a short surah?
2. How did the companions react when they understood this surah's meaning?
3. What can we learn from the Prophet's humility at the time of victory?
4. How should Muslims today apply the lessons of this surah in their lives?
5. Why is seeking forgiveness important even when successful?

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## **Week 5: Qur'an Studies - Surah al-Kawthar**

### **Introduction to Surah al-Kawthar**

#### **Name and Meaning:**

- **Al-Kawthar** (الكوثر) means "Abundance," "The River of Abundance," or "The Good in Abundance"
- Refers to a special river in Paradise given to Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

### Classification:

- Makki Surah (revealed in Makkah)
- Surah number: 108
- Number of verses: 3
- **Shortest surah in the Qur'an** (by number of verses)
- Position: Juz 30

### Context of Revelation:

- Revealed in the early Makkan period
- Time of severe persecution
- Enemies mocking the Prophet
- Consolation and promise from Allah

### Historical Background (Sabab an-Nuzul - Reason for Revelation)

**The Mockery:** When Prophet Muhammad's (SAW) sons passed away in infancy (Al-Qasim and Abdullah), his enemies, particularly:

- Al-'As ibn Wa'il
- 'Uqbah ibn Abi Mu'ait
- Abu Lahab

They mocked him, calling him:

- **"Abtar"** (أَبْتَر) - meaning "cut off" or "one without progeny/posterity"
- Said his line would end
- Claimed he would be forgotten
- Believed his message would die with him

**Their Logic:** In Arab culture:

- A man's legacy continued through sons
- Without male heirs, he would be forgotten
- His name and influence would disappear

**Allah's Response:** Allah revealed this surah to:

- Console His beloved Prophet
- Promise him eternal legacy
- Declare his enemies as the truly cut off
- Give him Al-Kawthar (abundant good)

## Arabic Text with Transliteration

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Raheem

1. إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَاكَ الْكَوْثَرَ.

Innaa a'taynaakal-kawthar

2. فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَأَنْحَرْ.

Fasalli li-rabbika wanhar

3. إِنَّ شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ.

Inna shaani'aka huwal-abtar

## English Translation

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

1. Indeed, We have granted you Al-Kawthar (abundance/the river in Paradise).
2. So pray to your Lord and sacrifice [to Him alone].
3. Indeed, your enemy is the one cut off [from all good].

## Verse-by-Verse Explanation

*Verse 1: "Indeed, We have granted you Al-Kawthar"*

### Key Terms:

- Innaa (إِنَّا): Indeed We - emphasis and honor (Allah using royal "We")
- A'taynaa (أَعْطَيْنَاكَ): We have given you
- Al-Kawthar (الْكَوْثَرَ): The abundance, the great good

### Meanings of Al-Kawthar:

#### 1. The River in Paradise:

- Most famous interpretation
- Special river given exclusively to Prophet Muhammad (SAW)
- In the highest level of Paradise

**Description from Hadith:** The Prophet (SAW) described it as:

- Whiter than milk
- Sweeter than honey
- More fragrant than musk
- Banks of gold
- Bed of pearls and rubies
- Those who drink from it will never thirst again
- Vessels (cups) numbering like stars in sky

**Evidence:** *"The Kawthar is a river in Paradise, the banks of which are of gold, and it runs over pearls and corundum. Its water is whiter than milk and sweeter than honey."* (Tirmidhi)

**2. Abundant Goodness:** Al-Kawthar means "abundant good" including:

- The Qur'an
- Prophethood
- Large number of followers
- Intercession on Day of Judgment
- Eternal legacy
- Love in hearts of billions
- Every good given to the Prophet

**3. The Basin (Hawd):**

- Connected to the river Al-Kawthar
- On the Day of Judgment
- Prophet will give water to his ummah
- Before entering Paradise

**Significance:**

- Consolation for Prophet's loss of sons
- Promise of eternal legacy
- Gift surpassing worldly possessions
- Exclusive honor to Prophet Muhammad
- Response to enemies' mockery

*Verse 2: "So pray to your Lord and sacrifice [to Him alone]"*

**Key Terms:**

- **Fasalli (فَصِّلْ):** So pray
- **Li-Rabbika (لِرَبِّكَ):** To your Lord
- **Wanhar (وَأَنْحِرْ):** And sacrifice

**Command 1: Pray (Salli)**

## Types of Prayer Intended:

1. **Obligatory prayers (Salat)**
  - Five daily prayers
  - With devotion and sincerity
2. **Optional prayers**
  - Night prayers (Tahajjud)
  - Duha prayer
  - Extra worship
3. **Salat al-Eid**
  - Specifically Eid prayer
  - Followed by sacrifice

## Lessons:

- Gratitude expressed through worship
- Blessings require increased devotion
- Direct connection: Gift → Worship
- Pray only to Allah, not to what He gave

## Command 2: Sacrifice (Wanhar)

### Meaning of Nahr:

- **Literally:** To slaughter an animal by cutting the throat
- **Specifically:** Sacrifice of animals (camel, cow, sheep, goat)
- **For Allah alone:** Not for idols or anyone else

### Types of Sacrifice:

1. **Eid al-Adha sacrifice (Udhiyah)**
  - Annual sacrifice
  - Following example of Prophet Ibrahim
  - Mandatory or highly recommended (scholarly difference)
2. **'Aqiqah:**
  - Sacrifice for newborn
  - Gratitude for child
3. **General sacrifice:**
  - In gratitude
  - For special occasions
  - Seeking Allah's pleasure

### Conditions for Valid Sacrifice:

- Must be for Allah alone
- Proper animal (camel, cow, sheep, goat)
- Right age and health

- Correct method of slaughter
- Right intention (niyyah)

**Historical Context:** This verse responded to Arab pagan practices:

- They would pray to idols
- Sacrifice to false gods
- Dedicate animals to deities
- Mention idols' names while slaughtering

**Islamic Requirement:**

- Pray ONLY to Allah
- Sacrifice ONLY for Allah
- Say "Bismillah, Allahu Akbar" when slaughtering
- Intention purely for Allah

**Connection Between Prayer and Sacrifice:** Both represent:

- Complete submission
- Gratitude
- Devotion
- Sincerity
- Following Allah's commands

*Verse 3: "Indeed, your enemy is the one cut off"*

**Key Terms:**

- **Shaani'** (شَانِي'): Hater, enemy, one who despises
- **Huwa** (هُوَ): He (emphasis)
- **Al-Abtar** (الْأَبْتَر): The cut off one, the one without posterity

**Powerful Reversal:**

- Enemies called Prophet "abtar" (cut off)
- Allah declares THEY are the truly cut off
- Their mockery returned upon them
- Ultimate victory declared

**What They Are Cut Off From:**

**1. Good in This World:**

- True happiness
- Peace of heart
- Honorable legacy

- Lasting influence

## **2. Good in Hereafter:**

- Paradise
- Allah's mercy
- Eternal success
- Any good

## **3. Remembrance:**

- Their names mostly forgotten
- Prophet's name mentioned billions of times daily
- His legacy continues and grows
- They achieved opposite of what they wanted

## **Evidence of Prophet's Abundance:**

### **In This World:**

#### **1. Followers:**

- Started with few
- Now 1.8+ billion Muslims
- Growing daily
- Largest religious community

#### **2. Love and Respect:**

- Name mentioned with honor globally
- "Muhammad" most common name
- Salawat (blessings) sent upon him constantly
- Loved more than any human in history

#### **3. Legacy:**

- Changed world history
- Established civilization
- Teachings followed worldwide
- Influence in every aspect of life

#### **4. Spiritual Children:**

- Every Muslim his spiritual child
- Following his teachings
- Carrying his message
- Continuing his mission

### **In the Hereafter:**

1. Highest position in Paradise (Wasila)
2. Greatest intercession (Shafa'ah al-'Udhma)
3. Al-Kawthar river
4. Meeting with all prophets

5. Allah's special pleasure

### **His Enemies:**

- Names remembered only with disgrace
- Used as examples of evil
- Cursed by believers
- Cut off from all good
- Eternal loss

## **Major Themes and Lessons**

### *1. Allah's Care for His Prophet*

#### **Divine Consolation:**

- In time of grief and mockery
- Allah Himself responds to enemies
- Promises abundant reward
- Elevates Prophet's status

#### **Lesson for Muslims:**

- Allah defends His servants
- Don't worry about enemies' words
- Trust in Allah's plan
- Focus on worship, not mockery

### *2. True Success vs. Worldly Thinking*

#### **Arab Culture:**

- Success = male children, wealth, power
- Without sons = failure, being "cut off"
- Legacy through biological descendants

#### **Islamic Teaching:**

- True success = Allah's pleasure
- Legacy through faith and good deeds
- Spiritual children (followers) more valuable
- Eternal success more important than temporary

#### **Application:**

- Don't measure success by worldly standards
- Value spiritual over material

- Legacy of faith surpasses biological legacy
- Quality of life more important than its length

### *3. Gratitude Through Worship*

**Divine Formula:** Gift from Allah → Increased Worship

**Not:**

- Gift → Arrogance
- Blessing → Neglect of Allah
- Success → Forgetting the Giver

**But:**

- Blessing → More prayer
- Gift → More gratitude
- Success → More devotion

**Practical Application:** When Allah blesses you:

1. Increase salat (prayer)
2. Give charity (modern form of sacrifice)
3. Thank Allah verbally and through actions
4. Help others
5. Use blessings in obedience

### *4. Sincerity in Worship (Tawhid)*

**Clear Message:**

- Pray ONLY to Allah
- Sacrifice ONLY for Allah
- No partners or intermediaries
- Pure monotheism

**Against Shirk:**

- Don't dedicate worship to anyone else
- Don't sacrifice for saints, graves, or idols
- Don't seek help from other than Allah
- Don't make vows to creation

**Modern Applications:** Avoid:

- Slaughtering for anyone other than Allah
- Praying at graves

- Seeking help from dead
- Dedicating worship to "holy men"
- Making vows to saints

#### *5. Apparent Loss May Be Hidden Blessing*

##### **The Prophet's Experience:**

- Lost his sons (apparent tragedy)
- Mocked by enemies (apparent humiliation)
- Given Al-Kawthar (actual honor)
- Billions of followers (true legacy)

##### **Lesson:**

- Don't judge by appearances
- Allah's plan is best
- What seems like loss may be gain
- Trust Allah's wisdom

##### **For Believers Today:** When facing:

- Mockery for faith
- Losses or trials
- Difficult situations
- Apparent setbacks

##### **Remember:**

- Allah may be preparing greater good
- True success is with Allah
- Don't be discouraged
- Keep faith and worship

#### *6. The Power of Brevity*

##### **Despite Shortest Surah:**

- Contains profound meanings
- Multiple layers of wisdom
- Addresses major theological points
- Provides lasting consolation

##### **Lesson:**

- Quality over quantity
- Allah's words are powerful

- Small actions with sincerity are valuable
- Don't underestimate "small" surahs or deeds

## **Fiqh (Jurisprudence) Benefits**

### *1. Obligation of Prayer*

- Clear command to establish salat
- Prayer as expression of gratitude
- Importance of regular worship
- Quality and devotion in prayer

### *2. Ruling on Sacrifice*

#### **Scholars' Opinions:**

##### **Mandatory (Wajib):**

- Hanafi school: Wajib for those who can afford
- Based on command form in verse
- Strong encouragement minimum

##### **Sunnah Mu'akkadah (Strongly Recommended):**

- Majority opinion
- Following Prophet's practice
- Great reward

##### **Conditions:**

- Must have minimum wealth
- Performed on Eid days
- Intention for Allah alone
- Proper animal and method

### *3. Prohibition of Shirk in Worship*

- Sacrifice must be for Allah alone
- Mentioning other than Allah's name is haram
- Pure intention required
- Following Islamic method

## **Connection to Aqeedah (Belief)**

### **1. Tawhid al-Uluhiyyah:**

- Worship Allah alone
- No partners in worship
- Exclusive devotion

## 2. Tawhid al-Asma was-Sifat:

- Allah is "Al-Mu'ti" (The Giver)
- He alone grants blessings
- His attributes are perfect

## 3. Belief in Hereafter:

- Al-Kawthar in Paradise
- Reward for obedience
- Reality of afterlife

## Linguistic Miracles

### 1. Economy of Words:

- Only 42 letters in Arabic
- Contains multiple complete messages
- Every word loaded with meaning

### 2. Sound and Rhythm:

- Beautiful recitation
- Easy to memorize
- Pleasing to ear
- Powerful impact

### 3. Multiple Meanings:

- Al-Kawthar has various interpretations
- All correct and complementary
- Richness of Arabic language
- Depth of divine speech

## Comparison: Enemies vs. Prophet

| Aspect      | The Enemies         | Prophet Muhammad    |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Children    | Had biological sons | Lost his sons       |
| Their Claim | Prophet cut off     | They have posterity |

| Aspect             | The Enemies            | Prophet Muhammad                  |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Reality</b>     | Forgotten, cursed      | Billions follow him               |
| <b>Legacy</b>      | Names rarely mentioned | Name said billions of times daily |
| <b>Honor</b>       | Disgrace in history    | Most honored human                |
| <b>Hereafter</b>   | Cut off from all good  | Al-Kawthar and highest Paradise   |
| <b>Influence</b>   | None remaining         | Changed world history             |
| <b>Remembrance</b> | With shame             | With love and respect             |

## Practical Applications

### 1. When Facing Mockery:

- Remember this surah
- Allah defends believers
- Don't respond with anger
- Increase worship instead
- Trust Allah's plan

### 2. When Receiving Blessings:

- Immediately increase worship
- Perform extra prayers
- Give charity
- Thank Allah verbally
- Use blessing in obedience

### 3. In Worship:

- Ensure pure intention
- Direct all worship to Allah alone
- Don't associate partners
- Follow Islamic method
- Maintain sincerity

### 4. Regarding Success:

- Don't measure by worldly standards
- Value spiritual legacy
- Focus on pleasing Allah
- Remember true success is eternal

## 5. During Difficulty:

- Apparent loss may be hidden blessing
- Allah's wisdom is perfect
- Stay patient
- Keep faith
- Maintain worship

## Memorization and Recitation

### Benefits of Memorization:

- Easy to memorize (3 short verses)
- Frequently recited
- Often recited in prayer
- Powerful meanings
- Source of comfort

### When to Recite:

- In salat (prayer)
- When facing mockery
- When receiving blessings
- During difficult times
- For reflection

### Tajweed Points:

- Pronounce "Kawthar" correctly (with thick "r")
- Clear "dh" sound in "Innaa"
- Proper lengthening (madd)
- Correct stops and starts

## Discussion Questions

1. How does this surah console the Prophet and all believers facing mockery?
2. What is the relationship between receiving blessings and increasing worship?
3. Why is it important that prayer and sacrifice are only for Allah?
4. How can we apply the lessons of this surah in modern life?
5. What does "Al-Kawthar" mean to you personally?
6. How does this surah demonstrate that true success is not measured by worldly standards?

## Reflection Points

- Consider how often the Prophet's name is mentioned vs. his enemies
- Reflect on your gratitude for Allah's blessings
- Examine your sincerity in worship

- Think about your legacy and what you want to be remembered for
  - Ponder Allah's perfect wisdom in apparent trials
- 

## **Week 6: Hadith - On Kindness and Good Neighbourliness**

### **Introduction to the Topic**

**Importance in Islam:** Good treatment of neighbors and showing kindness to all people are fundamental Islamic values that reflect true faith and character.

#### **Definition:**

- **Kindness (Ihsan):** Excellence in treatment, doing good beyond obligation
- **Neighbourliness (Jiwar):** Rights and duties toward those living near you
- **Neighbour (Jaar):** One living close to you (home, work, community)

### **Who is Considered a Neighbour?**

#### **Islamic Definition:**

##### **1. The Closest:**

- Those living immediately next to you (both sides)
- Above and below (in apartments)
- Directly across the street

##### **2. Extended Neighbours:**

- Within 40 houses in each direction (one opinion)
- Those in your immediate vicinity
- Regular people you encounter in your area

##### **3. Categories:**

###### **a) The Neighbour with Three Rights:**

- Muslim relative neighbor
- Rights: as a Muslim, as a relative, and as a neighbor

###### **b) The Neighbour with Two Rights:**

- Muslim non-relative neighbor
- Rights: as a Muslim and as a neighbor

### c) The Neighbour with One Right:

- Non-Muslim neighbor
- Right: as a neighbor

**All deserve good treatment!**

### Selected Ahadith on Kindness

*Hadith 1: The Sign of True Faith*

**Arabic Text:** لَا يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّى يُحِبَّ لِأَخِيهِ مَا يُحِبُّ لِنَفْسِهِ

**Transliteration:** "La yu'minu ahadukum hatta yuhibba li-akheehi ma yuhibbu li-nafsihi"

**Translation:** "None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself." (Bukhari and Muslim)

**Explanation:**

**Key Points:**

- "None of you truly believes" - indicates incomplete faith without this quality
- "His brother" - includes all Muslims, and by extension all humanity
- "What he loves for himself" - same standard for self and others

**Practical Meaning:**

- Want good for others as you want for yourself
- Dislike harm to others as you dislike it for yourself
- Share blessings and opportunities
- Don't be selfish

**Examples:**

- If you find a good job, help others find work too
- If you discover beneficial knowledge, share it
- If you have extra food, share with hungry
- If you want respect, give respect to others

**Benefits:**

- Creates loving community
- Eliminates envy and jealousy
- Promotes cooperation
- Strengthens brotherhood/sisterhood

## Hadith 2: Kindness to All Creation

**Arabic Text:** اَرْحَمُوا مَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَرْحَمْكُمْ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاءِ

**Transliteration:** "Irhamoo man fil-ard, yarhamkum man fis-sama'"

**Translation:** "Have mercy on those on earth, and the One in the heavens will have mercy on you." (Tirmidhi)

### Explanation:

#### Scope of Mercy:

- "Those on earth" includes:
  - All humans (Muslim and non-Muslim)
  - Animals
  - Environment
  - All of Allah's creation

#### Divine Reciprocation:

- Show mercy → receive mercy
- Be kind → receive kindness
- Help others → receive help
- Forgive → receive forgiveness

#### Forms of Mercy:

1. **To Humans:**
  - Help the needy
  - Forgive mistakes
  - Be patient with difficult people
  - Show compassion to suffering
2. **To Animals:**
  - Feed hungry animals
  - Don't overburden animals
  - Avoid cruelty
  - Provide water for thirsty creatures
3. **To Environment:**
  - Don't waste resources
  - Plant trees
  - Keep surroundings clean
  - Preserve nature

#### Rewards:

- Allah's mercy (greatest reward)

- Paradise
- Forgiveness of sins
- Help in times of need

## Selected Ahadith on Good Neighbourliness

### *Hadith 3: Jibril's Emphasis on Neighbours*

**Arabic Text:** مَا زَالَ جِبْرِيلُ يُوصِينِي بِالْجَارِ حَتَّى ظَنَنْتُ أَنَّهُ سَيُورَثُهُ

**Transliteration:** "Ma zaala Jibreelu yooseeni bil-jaari hatta dhanantu annahu sa-yuwarrihuhu"

**Translation:** "Jibril kept urging me to treat neighbors well until I thought he would make them my heirs." (Bukhari and Muslim)

### **Explanation:**

#### **Angel Jibril's Emphasis:**

- Repeatedly advised the Prophet
- Shows extreme importance
- Direct command from Allah
- Essential part of faith

#### **"Until I thought he would make them my heirs":**

- Hyperbole showing great emphasis
- Neighbors almost like family
- Their rights nearly equal to relatives
- Extremely important in Islam

### **Implications:**

- Neighbor's rights are sacred
- Can't ignore or harm neighbors
- Must actively do good for them
- Part of complete faith

**Scholar's Note:** This hadith shows that good neighbourliness is not just recommended but emphasized at the highest level - directly from Allah through Jibril to the Prophet.

### *Hadith 4: Protection from Harm*

**Arabic Text:** يُؤْمِنُ، وَاللَّهِ لَا يُؤْمِنُ وَاللَّهِ لَا يُؤْمِنُ، وَاللَّهِ لَا

قِيلَ: وَمَنْ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ؟

قَالَ: الَّذِي لَا يَأْمَنُ جَارُهُ بَوَائِقَهُ

**Transliteration:** "Wallahi la yu'min, wallahi la yu'min, wallahi la yu'min." Qeela: Wa man ya Rasulallah? Qala: "Alladhi la ya'manu jaaruhu bawa'iqahu"

**Translation:** "By Allah, he does not believe! By Allah, he does not believe! By Allah, he does not believe!" It was asked: "Who, O Messenger of Allah?" He said: "The one whose neighbor is not safe from his harm." (Bukhari)

### **Explanation:**

#### **The Oath:**

- "By Allah" - strongest emphasis
- Repeated three times - extreme seriousness
- Shows gravity of this sin

#### **"He does not believe":**

- Faith is deficient/incomplete
- Not that person leaves Islam completely
- But serious deficiency in faith
- Warning against this behavior

#### **"Not safe from his harm": Types of Harm to Avoid:**

##### **1. Physical Harm:**

- Violence or threats
- Blocking access
- Damaging property
- Loud noises at inappropriate times

##### **2. Verbal Harm:**

- Insults or mockery
- Gossip or backbiting
- Spreading rumors
- Harsh words

##### **3. Emotional Harm:**

- Jealousy and envy
- Spying on them
- Disrespecting their privacy

- Being unfriendly or cold

#### 4. Material Harm:

- Stealing
- Refusing to lend when able
- Taking advantage
- Being stingy

**Positive Duty:** Not just avoiding harm, but:

- Actively doing good
- Helping in need
- Sharing blessings
- Being friendly and kind

*Hadith 5: Giving to Neighbours*

**Arabic Text:** يَا نِسَاءَ الْمُسْلِمَاتِ، لَا تَحْقِرَنَّ جَارَةً لِجَارَتِهَا وَلَوْ فَرَسَيْنِ شَاةٍ

**Transliteration:** "Ya nisa'al-Muslimati, la tahqiranna jaratun li-jaratih wa law firsina shaatin"

**Translation:** "O Muslim women! None of you should consider insignificant (any gift to give) to her neighbor, even if it is (only) a sheep's trotter." (Bukhari and Muslim)

**Explanation:**

**Addressed to Women:**

- Traditionally, women managed household relations
- But applies to all Muslims
- Women often primary point of neighbor contact

**"Do not consider insignificant":** Meaning:

- Give what you can
- Don't be embarrassed by small gifts
- Value of gift is in the intention
- Small gifts maintain relationships

**"Even if it is a sheep's trotter":**

- Cheapest part of sheep
- Shows ANY gift is valuable
- No gift too small
- Intention matters most

## **Lessons:**

### **1. Overcome Pride:**

- Don't let pride stop you from giving
- Small gift better than none
- Relationship more important than gift size

### **2. Overcome Embarrassment:**

- Don't feel ashamed of modest gifts
- Allah values the heart, not the price
- Your neighbor will appreciate the thought

### **3. Regular Sharing:**

- Share frequently, even if small amounts
- Consistent small gifts better than rare large ones
- Builds ongoing relationship

### **4. Gratitude:**

- Recipient should appreciate any gift
- Don't look down on small gifts
- Thank Allah for neighbors who remember you

## **Modern Applications:**

- Share cooked food, even a small portion
- Lend items when neighbor needs
- Small gifts on occasions
- Help with small tasks
- Share garden produce
- Pass along useful items

## **Rights of Neighbours in Islam**

### **What Neighbours Deserve:**

#### **1. Kind Treatment:**

- Greet them warmly
  - Smile and be friendly
  - Show genuine care
  - Be approachable
- 
- 2. Help in Need: Think of them when you have extra

#### **4. Patience:**

- Overlook minor annoyances
- Be patient with their shortcomings
- Don't escalate small issues
- Practice forgiveness

#### **5. Privacy:**

- Don't spy or pry
- Respect their personal space
- Don't gossip about them
- Protect their reputation

#### **6. Visiting:**

- Visit during illness
- Congratulate on happy occasions
- Condole during sad times
- Maintain appropriate contact

#### **7. Protection:**

- Watch their property when they're away
- Alert them to dangers
- Protect their honor in their absence
- Be trustworthy

#### **8. Avoiding Harm:**

- Control your children/pets
- Keep noise reasonable
- Don't block their access
- Respect boundaries

### **Practical Examples from the Prophet's Life**

#### **1. The Jewish Neighbour:**

- Prophet had Jewish neighbors
- Treated them kindly
- Never harmed them
- Set example of tolerance

#### **2. Sharing Food:**

- Always sent food to neighbors

- Encouraged sahaba to do same
- Made it a regular practice
- Even during difficult times

### 3. Concern for Neighbours:

- Would ask about absent neighbors
- Visited sick neighbors
- Helped in their difficulties
- Made them feel valued

### 4. Abdullah ibn Umar's Practice:

- When his sheep was slaughtered
- First question: "Did you give to our Jewish neighbor?"
- Repeated this question
- Showing priority of neighbors

## Modern Challenges and Solutions

### Challenge 1: Apartment Living

- Don't know neighbors well
- **Solution:** Make effort to introduce yourself, greet in hallways, participate in building activities

### Challenge 2: Busy Lifestyles

- No time for neighbors
- **Solution:** Small gestures count, quick greetings, occasional sharing, quality over quantity

### Challenge 3: Cultural Differences

- Diverse neighborhoods
- **Solution:** Islam teaches respect for all, learn about their cultures, find common ground

### Challenge 4: Privacy Concerns

- Fear of being intrusive
- **Solution:** Maintain balance, respect boundaries, be available but not pushy

### Challenge 5: Non-Muslim Neighbours

- Uncertainty about interaction
- **Solution:** Islam requires good treatment of ALL neighbors, be kind example of Islam

## Benefits of Good Neighbourliness

## **Individual Benefits:**

### **1. Spiritual:**

- Increases faith (iman)
- Earns Allah's pleasure
- Forgiveness of sins
- Reward in afterlife

### **2. Personal:**

- Peace of mind
- Good reputation
- Help when you need it
- Emotional satisfaction

## **Community Benefits:**

### **1. Social Cohesion:**

- Stronger communities
- Mutual support systems
- Reduced loneliness
- Better society

### **2. Safety:**

- Neighbors watch out for each other
- Reduced crime
- Quick help in emergencies
- Collective security

### **3. Dawah (Invitation to Islam):**

- Non-Muslims see Islam's beauty
- Actions speak louder than words
- Attracts people to the faith
- Corrects misconceptions

## **Signs of a Good Neighbour**

### **Positive Indicators:**

- Greets you warmly
- Checks on you when you're ill
- Shares good things
- Overlooks your mistakes
- Helps without being asked
- Respects your privacy
- Speaks well of you
- Protects your honor

### **How to Be This Person:**

- Make it a habit

- Start small
- Be consistent
- Seek Allah's pleasure
- Don't expect return
- Be genuine

## **Warning Against Bad Neighbourliness**

### **Consequences:**

#### **In This Life:**

- Strained relationships
- Bad reputation
- No help when needed
- Community problems
- Personal stress

#### **In the Hereafter:**

- Questioned about neighbors
- Possible punishment
- Loss of rewards
- Deficiency in faith
- Allah's displeasure

**The Prophet (SAW) said:** *"Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him honor his neighbor."* (Bukhari and Muslim)

## **Practical Action Plan**

### **Daily:**

- Greet neighbors you see
- Smile and be friendly
- Keep noise down
- Mind your property boundaries

### **Weekly:**

- Check on elderly/ill neighbors
- Share food or treats
- Offer small helps

### **Monthly:**

- Invite for tea/coffee (if appropriate)

- Share seasonal produce
- Offer to borrow/lend items

### **Occasionally:**

- Celebrate good news together
- Help during difficulties
- Exchange appropriate gifts
- Participate in community events

### **Always:**

- Avoid harm
- Respect privacy
- Be patient
- Protect their honor
- Pray for them

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Why does Islam place such emphasis on treating neighbors well?
2. How can we apply these teachings in modern apartment/city living?
3. What should we do if our neighbors are non-Muslim?
4. How do we balance being kind without being intrusive?
5. What small acts of kindness can we do for neighbors today?
6. How does good neighbourliness strengthen the Muslim community?

### **Reflection and Application**

#### **Self-Assessment:**

- Do my neighbors feel safe around me?
- When did I last do something kind for a neighbor?
- Am I a source of comfort or annoyance to them?
- Do I greet them warmly?
- Have I shared anything with them recently?

#### **Commitment:** Choose one action to implement this week:

- Greet neighbors daily
- Share food once
- Check on an elderly neighbor
- Help with a task
- Resolve to avoid a particular harm

Remember: These ahadith teach that faith is not complete without kindness to all and excellent treatment of neighbors. Start small, be consistent, and seek Allah's pleasure in all interactions.

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# Week 7: Sirah - Persecution in Makkah & Hijrah to Abyssinia

## The Early Period of Persecution

### Timeline:

- First 3 years of prophethood (610-613 CE): Private invitation to Islam
- After public preaching began: Intense persecution started
- Lasted approximately 10 years in Makkah
- Escalated after Prophet's public declaration

## Reasons for Persecution

### Why the Quraysh Opposed Islam:

#### 1. Religious Reasons:

- Islam challenged idol worship
- Threatened their pagan traditions
- Called their ancestors misguided
- Demanded abandonment of false gods

#### 2. Social/Tribal Reasons:

- Feared loss of status and honor
- Worried about tribal unity disruption
- Islam brought equality (threatened class system)
- Slaves and weak accepted Islam (embarrassed the elite)

#### 3. Economic Reasons:

- Ka'bah was center of idol worship
- Pilgrimage to idols brought wealth
- Feared losing income from pilgrims
- Business interests tied to paganism

#### 4. Political Reasons:

- Feared Prophet's growing influence
- Worried he would gain power
- Threatened their leadership
- Concerned about tribal authority

## Types of Persecution

### 1. Persecution of the Prophet (SAW)

#### Physical Abuse:

##### a) Abu Lahab's Hostility:

- Prophet's own uncle
- Followed Prophet wherever he preached
- Contradicted his message publicly
- Threw stones at him
- His wife (Umm Jameel) put thorns in Prophet's path

##### b) Incidents in Makkah:

- Intestines of camel thrown on him while praying
- Dust and dirt thrown on his head
- Attempts to strangle him during prayer
- Surrounded and mocked in the Ka'bah

##### c) In Taif:

- Went to invite people to Islam
- Leaders rejected him harshly
- Set children and slaves to chase him
- Pelted with stones until feet bled
- Angel of mountains offered to destroy them
- Prophet refused, hoped their children would believe

#### Psychological Torture:

- Called names: magician, poet, madman, liar
- Mocked constantly
- Accused of fabricating Qur'an
- Reputation attacked
- Honor questioned

#### Economic Boycott:

- Tried to bribe him with wealth
- Offered kingship if he stopped preaching
- When he refused, boycotted his clan (Banu Hashim)
- Trade restrictions
- Social isolation

#### Prophet's Response:

- Remained patient
- Never retaliated
- Continued preaching
- Trusted in Allah
- Made dua for guidance of his people
- Said: "O Allah, guide my people for they do not know"

## 2. Persecution of Early Muslims

### Different Categories Faced Different Treatment:

#### A. Weak and Slaves (Suffered Most):

##### 1. Bilal ibn Rabah (دع دلا يضر):

- Abyssinian slave
- Accepted Islam early
- Owner (Umayyah ibn Khalaf) tortured him severely

#### Method of Torture:

- Laid on burning desert sand at noon
- Heavy rock placed on chest
- Forced to say "one, one" (Ahad, Ahad - Allah is One)
- Whipped and beaten
- Starved

#### His Response:

- Never renounced faith
- Kept saying "Ahad, Ahad" (One, One - referring to Allah)
- Showed incredible patience
- Remained steadfast

#### His Freedom:

- Abu Bakr bought and freed him
- Became first Muadhdhin (caller to prayer)
- Beloved companion of the Prophet
- Honored in Islam forever

**Lesson:** True faith doesn't break under pressure; it strengthens.

#### 2. Ammar ibn Yasir and His Family: The Yasir Family's Trial:

- Ammar, his father Yasir, and mother Sumayyah
- All accepted Islam

- All tortured together in the desert heat

#### **Yasir (the Father):**

- Elderly man
- Tortured until he died
- Martyr for Islam

#### **Sumayyah (the Mother):**

- First martyr in Islam
- Tortured brutally
- Abu Jahl killed her with a spear
- Prophet consoled Ammar: "Be patient, O family of Yasir, for your promised place is Paradise"

#### **Ammar:**

- Tortured severely
- Once forced to say words against Islam
- Came to Prophet crying
- Prophet consoled him, said heart was firm in faith
- Qur'an revealed allowing concealment under extreme duress

**Qur'anic Verse:** *"Whoever disbelieves in Allah after his belief... except for one who is forced [to renounce his religion] while his heart is secure in faith."* (Surah An-Nahl 16:106)

#### **Lesson:**

- Allah knows what's in the heart
- Extreme circumstances have allowances
- Value of martyrdom
- Strength of family in faith

#### **3. Khabbab ibn al-Aratt (هناك يضر):**

- Blacksmith and slave
- Tortured with hot iron
- Made to lie on burning coals
- Scars remained on his back for life
- Remained steadfast
- Later became honored companion

#### **4. Abu Fukaihah (هناك يضر):**

- Slave
- Tortured in the sun
- Bought and freed by Abu Bakr

## 5. Lubaynah and Zunnirah (امهن ع دلل يضر):

- Female slaves
- Tortured for accepting Islam
- Went blind from torture
- Abu Bakr freed them
- Sight restored (considered a miracle)

## B. Protected Muslims (Less Severe Torture):

### 1. Abu Bakr (هن ع دلل يضر):

- Wealthy and respected
- Still faced harassment
- Beaten while defending Prophet
- Used wealth to free slaves
- Protected by tribal status

### 2. Umar ibn al-Khattab (هن ع دلل يضر) (Before Islam):

- Was a persecutor himself
- After accepting Islam, faced opposition
- His strength protected him
- Announced Islam publicly despite danger

### 3. Uthman ibn Affan (هن ع دلل يضر):

- Wealthy and from noble family
- Uncle tried to force him to renounce
- Tied up and isolated
- Remained firm
- Status provided some protection

## Abu Bakr's Role in Helping Persecuted Muslims

### The Liberator:

- Used his wealth to buy and free tortured slaves
- Freed Bilal ibn Rabah
- Freed six or seven slaves
- Spent large sums for this cause

### His Father's Advice:

- Abu Quhafah (not yet Muslim) advised:
- "If you must free slaves, free strong ones who can protect you"
- Abu Bakr replied: "I seek only Allah's Face (pleasure)"

**Qur'anic Praise:** *"And [We will give such distinction] to the one who is most righteous, who gives his wealth to purify himself."* (Surah Al-Layl 92:17-18)

- Scholars say this refers to Abu Bakr

## **The Boycott of Banu Hashim (7th-10th year of Prophethood)**

**The Agreement:** When persecution failed to stop Islam:

- Quraysh wrote a pact
- Hung it in the Ka'bah
- Terms:
  - No one to trade with Banu Hashim and Banu Al-Muttalib
  - No marriage alliances with them
  - Complete social isolation
  - No food or goods to be sold to them

**The Ordeal:**

- Lasted approximately 3 years (7th to 10th year of prophethood)
- Entire clan confined to a valley (Shi'b Abi Talib)
- Severe hunger and hardship
- Children crying from hunger
- Sounds heard throughout Makkah
- Only during Hajj months could they buy food

**Life During Boycott:**

- Ate leaves and animal skins
- Extreme poverty and hardship
- Yet Muslims remained steadfast
- Prophet and Abu Talib (his uncle) protected by clan loyalty

**End of Boycott:**

- Some fair-minded Quraysh felt guilty
- Hisham ibn Amr and others worked to end it
- Found the pact had been eaten by termites
- Only Allah's name remained
- Miracle recognized
- Boycott ended

**Impact:**

- Prophet's wife Khadijah (RA) died soon after (due to hardship)
- Abu Talib (Prophet's uncle/protector) also died
- **Year of Sorrow (Aam al-Huzn)**

- Prophet lost main support
- Persecution intensified

## **The Year of Sorrow (10th Year of Prophethood - 619/620 CE)**

### **Two Great Losses:**

#### **1. Death of Khadijah (اهن ع دلل ي ضرر):**

- Prophet's first wife
- Mother of his children
- Supported him from beginning
- Comforted him during difficulties
- Believed in him when others didn't
- Provided emotional and financial support

#### **Impact of Her Death:**

- Deep personal grief
- Loss of home comfort
- Loss of strongest supporter
- Prophet mourned her deeply
- Never forgot her devotion

#### **2. Death of Abu Talib:**

- Prophet's uncle and protector
- Raised him after grandfather died
- Defended him for 10 years
- Though never accepted Islam formally
- His protection was crucial

#### **Impact of His Death:**

- Loss of tribal protection
- Quraysh felt free to harm Prophet
- Persecution intensified greatly
- Led to journey to Taif
- Eventually necessitated Hijrah

### **Why This Year Was So Difficult:**

- Lost personal support (Khadijah)
- Lost political protection (Abu Talib)
- Persecution reached peak
- Muslims' situation became desperate
- Prophet's mission seemed blocked in Makkah

## **The First Hijrah to Abyssinia (Ethiopia)**

### **Background:**

- Persecution becoming unbearable for weak Muslims
- No protection for slaves and poor
- Prophet sought safe haven for followers
- Heard about just Christian king in Abyssinia

### **The Negus (Najashi):**

- King of Abyssinia (modern-day Ethiopia)
- Known as just and fair ruler
- Christian but respected truth
- Name: Ashama ibn Abjar
- Later accepted Islam secretly

### **Why Abyssinia?**

1. Known for justice
2. Christian king (People of the Book - closer to Islam than pagans)
3. Far from Quraysh's reach
4. Strong kingdom, wouldn't yield to Makkah's pressure
5. Trade relations existed

### **First Migration (5th Year of Prophethood - 615 CE):**

#### **First Group:**

- 12 men and 4 women
- Led by Uthman ibn Affan and his wife Ruqayyah (Prophet's daughter)
- Migrated secretly
- Reached Abyssinia safely

**Prophet's Statement:** "They are the first to migrate for the sake of Allah after Ibrahim (Abraham)."

#### **Second Migration (Larger Group):**

##### **When:**

- Shortly after first group (same year)
- After first group's safe arrival

##### **Numbers:**

- 83 men

- 18 or 19 women
- Total: approximately 101 people

### **Notable Companions:**

- Ja'far ibn Abi Talib (Prophet's cousin)
- Abdullah ibn Mas'ud
- Uthman ibn Maz'un
- Abu Salamah and Umm Salamah
- Many others

## **Life in Abyssinia**

### **Initial Period:**

- Welcomed by the Negus
- Given protection
- Allowed to practice Islam freely
- Found peace and security
- Could worship without fear

### **Establishing Community:**

- Built small Muslim community
- Practiced Islam openly
- Some Abyssinians curious about Islam
- Good relations with locals

## **Quraysh's Pursuit**

**The Plot:** When Quraysh learned of Muslims' safety:

- Decided to bring them back
- Prepared expensive gifts for the Negus
- Sent two envoys:
  - Amr ibn al-As (not yet Muslim)
  - Abdullah ibn Abi Rabi'ah

### **Their Strategy:**

1. Gave gifts to Negus's advisors first
2. Then presented gifts to the Negus
3. Requested: "Return our foolish youth who abandoned our religion"
4. Claimed Muslims:
  - Left religion of their fathers
  - Invented new religion
  - Created division

- Disrespected their people

### **Advisors' Support:**

- Having received gifts, advised Negus to return Muslims
- Pressure on Negus to comply

### **The Historic Court Scene**

**Negus's Justice:** Instead of immediately agreeing:

- Decided to hear Muslims' side
- Called for Muslim representatives
- Showed fairness and wisdom
- Wouldn't condemn without hearing

### **Muslim Delegation:**

- Ja'far ibn Abi Talib chosen as spokesman
- Others present to support
- Prepared to defend their faith
- Trusted in Allah

### **The Questions:**

#### **Negus Asked:**

1. What is this religion you have invented?
2. Why did you leave your people's religion?
3. Why didn't you accept Christianity or Judaism?

### **Ja'far's Famous Speech:**

**Opening:** *"O King, we were an ignorant people..."*

### **Description of Pre-Islamic Arabia:**

- Worshipped idols
- Ate dead animals
- Committed immoral acts
- Mistreated neighbors
- Strong devoured the weak
- Practiced injustice

**Description of the Prophet:** *"Then Allah sent to us a Messenger from among ourselves..."*

- Known for truthfulness

- Known for trustworthiness
- Of noble lineage
- Of good character

### **What the Prophet Taught:**

- Worship Allah alone
- Abandon idols
- Speak truth
- Fulfill trusts
- Be kind to relatives
- Be good to neighbors
- Abstain from forbidden things and bloodshed

### **What They Did:**

- Believed in him
- Followed his teachings
- Worshipped Allah alone
- Made halal what he made halal
- Made haram what he made haram

**Why They Were Persecuted:** *"Our people attacked us, tortured us, tried to turn us from our religion back to idol worship and immorality."*

**Why They Came to Abyssinia:** *"We chose you above all others, desiring your protection, hoping we would not be wronged in your land, O King."*

**Negus's Request:** "Do you have with you anything revealed by Allah?"

**Qur'anic Recitation:** Ja'far recited the beginning of Surah Maryam (Chapter 19):

- About Prophet Zakariya
- About Maryam (Mary)
- About birth of Prophet Isa (Jesus)

### **The Impact:**

#### **Negus's Reaction:**

- Wept until his beard was wet with tears
- Bishops around him wept
- Moved by the truth they heard

**His Statement:** *"Indeed, this and what Isa (Jesus) brought come from the same source (lamp/light)."*

Then to Quraysh envoys: *"Go, for by Allah, I will never hand them over to you, and they will not be harmed."*

### **Returned Gifts:**

- Negus returned all gifts to Quraysh
- Said: "Allah did not take bribe from me when He returned my kingdom to me, so why should I take a bribe concerning Him?"
- Showed his integrity

### **Amr's Second Attempt**

**The Next Day:** Amr ibn al-As (still not Muslim) tried again:

- Said to Negus: "They say terrible things about Isa (Jesus)"
- Hoped to turn Christian king against Muslims

### **Negus's Response:**

- Called Muslims again
- Asked: "What do you say about Isa ibn Maryam?"

**Ja'far's Answer:** *"We say about him what our Prophet brought: He is the servant of Allah, His Messenger, His spirit and His word which He bestowed upon Maryam, the virgin."*

**Qur'anic Basis:** From Surah An-Nisa (4:171): *"The Messiah, Isa son of Maryam, was only a messenger of Allah and His word which He conveyed to Maryam and a spirit from Him."*

### **Negus's Final Decision:**

- Picked up stick from ground
- Said: "By Allah, Isa ibn Maryam does not exceed what you said by the length of this stick"
- Granted Muslims permanent asylum
- Promised full protection

**His Words:** *"Go, you are safe in my land. Whoever curses you will be punished. I would not prefer a mountain of gold over harming one of you."*

To his attendants: *"Return their gifts. I have no need for them."*

### **Return to Makkah**

#### **The Rumor:**

- False news reached Abyssinia that Quraysh accepted Islam
- Some Muslims decided to return

- Found situation unchanged or worse
- Some went back to Abyssinia
- Others endured in Makkah

### **Duration in Abyssinia:**

- Some stayed until after Hijrah to Madinah
- Remained there approximately 15 years
- Returned to Madinah in 7 AH (after Khaybar)
- Prophet received them joyfully

**Ja'far's Return:** Prophet said when Ja'far returned: *"I do not know which makes me happier: the conquest of Khaybar or the arrival of Ja'far!"*

### **The Negus's Conversion to Islam**

#### **Secret Faith:**

- Accepted Islam in his heart
- Couldn't declare publicly (would lose kingdom)
- Maintained contact with Muslims
- Supported Islam secretly
- Protected Muslim refugees

#### **His Death:**

- Died while still in Abyssinia
- Prophet received news through revelation
- Prophet performed Salat al-Ghaib (funeral prayer in absentia) for him
- Great honor
- Only person Prophet prayed for in absentia

**Prophet's Statement:** *"Today, a righteous man has died. So stand up and pray for your brother Ashama."*

**Companions' Question:** "Is he one of us?" (Surprised as he was far away)

**Prophet's Confirmation:** He was indeed a believer.

### **Lessons from the Persecution Period**

#### **1. Patience (Sabr):**

- Prophet and companions showed incredible patience
- Didn't retaliate with violence
- Endured for sake of faith
- Allah rewards patience

**Application:** Face trials with patience, trust Allah's plan

## **2. Sacrifice for Faith:**

- Early Muslims gave up comfort, safety, even lives
- Prioritized faith over worldly matters
- Willing to lose everything for Allah

**Application:** What are we willing to sacrifice for our faith?

## **3. Support for the Oppressed:**

- Abu Bakr freed slaves
- Negus protected refugees
- Muslims helped each other

**Application:** Stand up for oppressed, help those in need

## **4. Women's Strength:**

- Sumayyah's martyrdom
- Khadijah's support
- Female companions' steadfastness

**Application:** Women are full participants in faith struggles

## **5. Justice and Fairness:**

- Negus listened to both sides
- Didn't accept bribes
- Made fair judgment

**Application:** Always be just, even with those you disagree with

## **6. Importance of Truth:**

- Ja'far spoke truth clearly
- Qur'an's power moved hearts
- Truth prevails eventually

**Application:** Always speak and stand for truth

## **7. Strategic Thinking:**

- Prophet found safe haven for vulnerable
- Didn't expose all to danger unnecessarily
- Wise planning with trust in Allah

**Application:** Use wisdom alongside faith

## 8. Allah's Help:

- Termites ate the boycott document
- Negus protected Muslims
- Truth was recognized

**Application:** Trust that Allah's help will come

## Impact on Islamic History

### Immediate:

- Saved lives of early Muslims
- Preserved Islam in critical period
- Built international Muslim community
- Established precedent for migration

### Long-term:

#### 1. Hijrah Concept:

- Established migration for faith
- Later: migration to Madinah
- Ongoing: principle of Hijrah

#### 2. International Relations:

- Muslims learned diplomacy
- Relations with non-Muslim rulers
- Peaceful coexistence model

#### 3. Spread of Islam:

- Some Abyssinians accepted Islam
- Negus became Muslim
- Foundation for Islam in Africa

#### 4. Unity in Diversity:

- Arabs and Africans together
- Different backgrounds united in faith
- Universal message demonstrated

## Comparison: Abyssinia vs. Taif

| Aspect | Abyssinia | Taif |
|--------|-----------|------|
|--------|-----------|------|

|                 |                                        |  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Approach</b> | Christians, People of Book Arab pagans |  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------|--|

|                  |                     |                    |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Reception</b> | Welcomed, protected | Rejected, attacked |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|

| Aspect         | Abyssinia                | Taif                      |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Ruler</b>   | Just, fair, listened     | Arrogant, hostile         |
| <b>Outcome</b> | Safety, acceptance       | Violence, expulsion       |
| <b>Lesson</b>  | Justice recognizes truth | Arrogance blinds to truth |

## Modern Applications

### 1. Seeking Refuge:

- Muslims today fleeing persecution
- Importance of asylum
- Host countries' responsibilities
- Refugees' rights in Islam

### 2. Interfaith Relations:

- Respect for People of the Book
- Common ground with Christians/Jews
- Dialogue and mutual understanding
- Justice over tribal/religious bias

### 3. Standing for Justice:

- Support oppressed regardless of religion
- Fair judgment for all
- Don't accept bribes or favoritism
- Truth above all considerations

### 4. Community Support:

- Help vulnerable members
- Use wealth to protect others
- Collective responsibility
- Strategic planning for community safety

### 5. Patience in Adversity:

- Don't despair in difficulties
- Trust Allah's plan
- Remain steadfast
- Relief will come

## Discussion Questions

1. What can we learn from the different responses to persecution (slaves vs. wealthy)?
2. How did the Negus's justice contrast with Quraysh's oppression?
3. What made Ja'far's speech so effective?
4. How can we apply the lesson of Hijrah today?
5. What responsibilities do we have toward refugees and oppressed people?
6. How did this period prepare Muslims for later challenges?

## Timeline Summary

- **610 CE:** Prophethood begins, private preaching
- **613 CE:** Public preaching, persecution begins
- **615 CE:** First Hijrah to Abyssinia
- **616-619 CE:** Boycott of Banu Hashim
- **619 CE:** Year of Sorrow (deaths of Khadijah and Abu Talib)
- **620 CE:** Journey to Taif
- **622 CE:** Hijrah to Madinah
- **627 CE (7 AH):** Abyssinian Muslims return to Madinah

This period tested the early Muslim community's faith and established principles of sacrifice, migration, and seeking justice that remain relevant today.

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## Week 8: Sirah - Boycott & Night Journey (Isra' & Mi'raj)

### The Boycott (Already Covered in Week 7)

*[Refer to Week 7 notes for detailed coverage of the Boycott of Banu Hashim]*

#### Brief Summary:

- 7th to 10th year of Prophethood
- Social and economic isolation
- Lasted approximately 3 years
- Extreme hardship and suffering
- Ended when pact was eaten by termites
- Led to Year of Sorrow

### The Night Journey and Ascension (Al-Isra' wal-Mi'raj)

#### Date:

- 27th of Rajab, 11th or 12th year of Prophethood (around 621 CE)
- After the Year of Sorrow
- Shortly before Hijrah to Madinah
- During Prophet's most difficult period

## Two Parts:

1. **Al-Isra'** - The Night Journey (from Makkah to Jerusalem)
2. **Al-Mi'raj** - The Ascension (from Jerusalem through the heavens)

## Al-Isra': The Night Journey to Jerusalem

### Qur'anic Evidence:

**Surah Al-Isra (17:1):** *"Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from al-Masjid al-Haram to al-Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs. Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Seeing."*

### Key Points from Verse:

- **"Subhana"** (Exalted is He) - emphasizes Allah's power
- **"His Servant"** - honors Prophet's status
- **"By night"** - occurred at night
- **"al-Masjid al-Haram"** - The Sacred Mosque in Makkah
- **"al-Masjid al-Aqsa"** - The Farthest Mosque in Jerusalem
- **"To show him of Our signs"** - purpose was to strengthen Prophet
- Demonstrates Allah's absolute power

## The Beginning of the Journey

### That Night:

- Prophet was sleeping near the Ka'bah
- Some say in his house
- Angel Jibril came to him

### Preparation:

- Angel Jibril opened Prophet's chest
- Washed his heart with Zamzam water
- Filled it with wisdom and faith
- Physical and spiritual preparation

### Previous Chest Opening:

- Also occurred in childhood (when with foster family)
- Prepared him for prophethood
- This time: prepared for great spiritual journey

### Al-Buraq:

- Special riding animal brought by Jibril

- Name from "Barq" (lightning) - for its speed
- Description:
  - Smaller than a horse, larger than a donkey
  - White in color
  - Could place its hoof at the farthest point its eye could see
  - Very fast, one step covered great distances

### **Journey to Jerusalem:**

- Mounted Al-Buraq
- Traveled from Makkah to Jerusalem instantly
- Distance: approximately 1,200 km
- Occurred in part of one night

### **Stops Along the Way:**

#### **1. Madinah:**

- Stopped briefly
- Prayed two rak'ahs
- Jibril indicated this would be his place of migration (Hijrah)

#### **2. Mount Sinai (Tur):**

- Where Allah spoke to Musa (Moses)
- Prayed two rak'ahs
- Honored the sacred site

#### **3. Bethlehem:**

- Birthplace of Isa (Jesus)
- Prayed two rak'ahs
- Connected with previous prophets

### **At Masjid al-Aqsa (Jerusalem)**

#### **Arrival:**

- Tied Al-Buraq at the gate (where previous prophets tied their mounts)
- Entered the blessed mosque

### **Meeting with Prophets:**

- Found all the prophets gathered
- They had been brought there miraculously
- Included:
  - Ibrahim (Abraham)

- Musa (Moses)
- Isa (Jesus)
- And all other prophets

### **Leading the Prayer:**

- **Jibril asked Prophet Muhammad to lead the prayer**
- He led all the prophets in Salat
- **Symbolic meaning:**
  - He is the final prophet
  - His message supersedes all
- Assist during illness
- Help with emergencies
- Lend items when needed
- Offer support during difficulties

### **3. Sharing:**

- Share food, especially special dishes
- Offer fruits/vegetables from your garden
- Include them in celebrations

previous

- Leader of all messengers
- Islam is the completion of all religions

### **Significance:**

- Showed continuity of prophetic message
- All prophets worshipped same God
- Muhammad (SAW) as seal of prophets
- Unity of divine message

### **Al-Mi'raj: The Ascension Through the Heavens**

#### **Qur'anic Reference:**

**Surah An-Najm (53:13-18):** *"And he certainly saw him in another descent. At the Lote Tree of the Utmost Boundary - near it is the Garden of Refuge - when there covered the Lote Tree that which covered [it]. The sight [of the Prophet] did not swerve, nor did it transgress [its limit]. He certainly saw of the greatest signs of his Lord."*

#### **The Ladder:**

- A ladder (mi'raj) was brought

- More beautiful than anything seen
- Ascended through the seven heavens
- Accompanied by Jibril

## **Journey Through the Seven Heavens**

### **At Each Heaven:**

- Gates were closed initially
- Guardian angel asked: "Who is it?"
- Jibril: "Jibril"
- "Who is with you?"
- "Muhammad"
- "Has he been sent for?"
- "Yes"
- Gates opened
- "Welcome! What an excellent visitor!"

#### *First Heaven:*

**Met:** Prophet Adam (مآل سلآ ديلع) - Father of Humanity

#### **Description:**

- Greeted the Prophet warmly
- "Welcome, O righteous son and righteous prophet"
- Showed Prophet souls on right and left
- Right: People of Paradise (he smiled)
- Left: People of Hell (he wept)

#### **Lesson:**

- All humanity descends from Adam
- Importance of righteousness
- Reality of Paradise and Hell
- Consequences of good and evil

#### *Second Heaven:*

**Met:** Prophets Isa (Jesus) and Yahya (John) (مآل سلآ ام ديلع) - Cousins

#### **Greeting:**

- "Welcome, O righteous brother and righteous prophet"

#### **Significance:**

- Both performed miracles
- Both faced opposition
- Connection between messengers

#### *Third Heaven:*

**Met:** Prophet Yusuf (Joseph) (م‌السل‌ا هيلع)

#### **Description:**

- Given half of all beauty
- Extremely handsome
- Greeted Prophet Muhammad warmly

#### **Significance:**

- Patience in trials
- Trust in Allah's plan
- From slavery to leadership

#### *Fourth Heaven:*

**Met:** Prophet Idris (Enoch) (م‌السل‌ا هيلع)

#### **Greeting:**

- Welcome to righteous brother and prophet

**Qur'anic Reference:** *"And We raised him to a high station."* (Surah Maryam 19:57)

#### **Significance:**

- Elevated status
- Early prophet
- Known for wisdom

#### *Fifth Heaven:*

**Met:** Prophet Harun (Aaron) (م‌السل‌ا هيلع)

#### **Greeting:**

- Welcomed Prophet Muhammad

#### **Significance:**

- Brother of Musa
- Helper in prophethood
- Importance of support

#### *Sixth Heaven:*

**Met:** Prophet Musa (Moses) (موسى عليه السلام)

#### **Greeting:**

- Welcomed Prophet Muhammad
- Later wept when Prophet passed

#### **Why He Wept:**

- Someone asked: "Why do you weep?"
- Musa: "I weep because a young man sent after me will have more of his Ummah enter Paradise than my Ummah"
- Shows:
  - Prophets' love for their people
  - Muhammad's Ummah is blessed
  - Humility even among prophets

#### **Later Meeting:**

- Musa would advise about Salat (prayer) obligations
- Showed concern for Muhammad's Ummah

#### *Seventh Heaven:*

**Met:** Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) (إبراهيم عليه السلام)

#### **Description:**

- Sitting with his back against Al-Bayt al-Ma'mur
- The heavenly Ka'bah
- 70,000 angels enter daily to worship, never to return

#### **Greeting:**

- "Welcome, O righteous son and righteous prophet"

#### **Conversation:**

- Ibrahim told Prophet: "Pass my greetings of Salam to your Ummah"
- Advised: "Tell them Paradise has pure soil and sweet water"
- "Its plants are: Subhanallah, Alhamdulillah, La ilaha illallah, Allahu Akbar"

### **Meaning:**

- These phrases are like planting trees in Paradise
- Encourage much dhikr (remembrance)
- Simple words, great reward

### **Al-Bayt al-Ma'mur:**

- Heavenly equivalent of Ka'bah
- Directly above the Ka'bah
- Angels worship there constantly
- Shows universality of worship

## **Beyond the Seventh Heaven**

### **Sidrat al-Muntaha (The Lote Tree of the Utmost Boundary):**

#### **Description:**

- At the boundary of the seventh heaven
- Marks furthest point creation can reach
- Beyond it: only Allah's knowledge

#### **The Prophet's Description:**

- Leaves like elephant ears
- Fruits like large clay jugs
- Indescribably beautiful
- Covered by colors and lights beyond description
- Four rivers flowing from its base

#### **The Four Rivers:**

1. Two hidden rivers (in Paradise)
2. Two visible rivers:
  - The Nile
  - The Euphrates

(Their worldly manifestations)

#### **Jibril Stops:**

- Couldn't go further
- Said: "If I go one step further, I will burn"
- Even greatest angel has limits
- Shows Prophet's special status

## Meeting with Allah

### The Greatest Honor:

#### What Happened:

- Prophet continued alone
- Came close to Allah
- No intermediary
- Details mostly kept secret

**How Close:** *"Then he approached and came closer, and was at a distance of two bow lengths or nearer."* (Surah An-Najm 53:8-9)

#### What Was Given:

##### 1. Vision of Allah:

- Prophet saw Allah
- How? Allah knows best
- Different from how we'll see Him in Paradise
- Unique privilege for the Prophet

#### Scholarly Discussion:

- Some say he saw with heart/soul
- Some say actual vision
- All agree it was special blessing

##### 2. Direct Conversation:

- Allah spoke directly to Prophet
- No intermediary
- Private conversation
- Content mostly not revealed

##### 3. Gifts Received:

**a) The Final Verses of Surah Al-Baqarah:** *"The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and [so have] the believers..."* (2:285-286)

#### Significance:

- Contain essential beliefs
- Dua for ease
- Forgiveness
- Recited for protection

**b) Forgiveness for Those Who Don't Commit Shirk:** Great news for the Ummah - sins forgiven except shirk (for those who repent)

**c) The Five Daily Prayers: The Most Important Gift**

**The Prescription of the Five Daily Prayers**

**Initial Command:**

- Allah initially prescribed 50 prayers per day
- Prophet accepted and began returning

**Musa's Advice:**

- Prophet passed by Musa
- Musa asked: "What were you commanded?"
- Prophet: "50 prayers"
- Musa: "Your Ummah cannot bear this. I tested people before you. Return to your Lord and ask for reduction."

**The Process:**

- Prophet returned and asked
- Reduced to 45
- Musa: "Still too much, go back"
- This continued...
- 45 → 40 → 35 → 30 → 25 → 20 → 15 → 10 → 5

**At Five Prayers:**

- Musa: "Still too much, go back"
- Prophet: "I have asked my Lord many times. I am ashamed to ask more. I accept and submit."

**Allah's Call:**

- Voice came: "I have decreed My obligation and lightened the burden on My servants"
- **"Whoever performs them will have the reward of 50"**
- **Each prayer = 10 prayers in reward**

**Meaning:**

- Five in obligation
- Fifty in reward
- Allah's mercy
- Ease for the Ummah

### **Wisdom of Musa's Intervention:**

- Showed prophets' concern for people
- Demonstrated Allah's mercy
- Teaches us to ask for ease
- Shows consultation is good

### **Other Sights Shown**

#### **Paradise (Jannah):**

- Shown its beauty
- Indescribable delights
- Prepared for believers
- Motivation to obey Allah

#### **Hellfire (Jahannam):**

- Shown its horrors
- Punishment for disbelievers
- Warning to avoid sin
- Deterrent from disobedience

**The Inhabitants:** Prophet saw and described various people in Paradise and Hell, showing consequences of actions.

### **The Return Journey**

#### **Back to Jerusalem:**

- Descended through heavens
- Returned to Masjid al-Aqsa
- Mounted Al-Buraq

#### **Back to Makkah:**

- Rode back to Makkah
- Entire journey in one night
- Woke up in Makkah before Fajr

#### **Physical Journey:**

- Not a dream
- Actual bodily journey
- Miracle from Allah
- Defies normal physical laws

## **The Morning After: Telling Quraysh**

### **The Announcement:**

- Prophet told people what happened
- Described the journey
- Explained the miracles

### **Quraysh's Reaction:**

#### **Most Disbelieved:**

- Mocked him
- Called him a liar
- Said it was impossible
- "We take months for that journey!"

#### **Their Test:**

- Asked: "Describe Masjid al-Aqsa"
- Prophet had never been there before (physically)
- Could have been caught in a lie

#### **Allah's Help:**

- Allah showed Prophet vision of Masjid al-Aqsa
- Described it in perfect detail
- They couldn't deny his accuracy

#### **Evidence:**

- Prophet described their caravans he saw returning
- Told them about incidents on the way
- Predicted their arrival
- Everything happened as he said

#### **Some Believed:**

- But many still denied
- Called it magic or sorcery

#### **Some Apostates:**

- Weak Muslims left Islam
- Couldn't accept the miracle

- Test of faith

## **Abu Bakr's Response (من ع دلل ا يضر)**

### **When Told:**

- Enemies went to Abu Bakr
- "Your friend claims he went to Jerusalem and back in one night!"
- Expected him to doubt

**His Famous Response:** *"If he said it, then it is true."*

### **His Logic:**

- "I believe him in something greater than this"
- "I believe he receives revelation from heaven"
- "So why not this?"

### **Title Earned:**

- **"As-Siddiq" (The Truthful One)**
- Given for his unhesitating belief
- Model of true faith
- Trusted Prophet completely

## **Significance and Lessons**

### **1. Consolation After Hardship:**

- Came after Year of Sorrow
- After rejection at Taif
- Allah honored His Prophet
- Showed him His signs

**Lesson:** After hardship comes ease; Allah doesn't abandon His servants

### **2. Proof of Prophethood:**

- Impossible journey made possible
- Described places never seen
- Everything verified
- Miracle for those who believe

### **3. Importance of Salat:**

- Only pillar given in heaven
- Shows its supreme importance

- Direct gift from Allah
- Five times daily connection

**Lesson:** Never neglect prayer; it's our Mi'raj (ascension to Allah)

#### **4. Allah's Power:**

- Normal laws don't limit Allah
- Can do anything
- Nothing is impossible for Him
- Strengthens belief

#### **5. Honor of Prophet Muhammad (SAW):**

- Went where no one else could
- Saw what no one else saw
- Met Allah directly
- Led all prophets in prayer

#### **6. Reality of Unseen:**

- Paradise and Hell are real
- Angels exist
- Seven heavens are real
- Believe in unseen

#### **7. Test of Faith:**

- Separated true believers from hypocrites
- Difficult to believe without seeing
- Requires submission to Allah
- Trust in Prophet's truthfulness

#### **8. Connection of Prophets:**

- All prophets one brotherhood
- Same message
- Support each other
- Unity of purpose

#### **9. Value of This Ummah:**

- Musa's concern
- Reduced obligations
- Multiplied rewards
- Special status

## 10. Allah's Mercy:

- Reduced burden
- Increased reward
- Showed Prophet great signs
- Prepared him for upcoming challenges

## Modern Misconceptions to Avoid

### Wrong Beliefs:

1. It was only a dream (No - it was physical)
2. Only spiritual journey (No - body and soul)
3. Happened multiple times (No - once in this form)
4. Can be repeated by others (No - unique to Prophet)

### Correct Belief:

- Actual physical and spiritual journey
- Occurred in one night
- Body and soul traveled
- Unique miracle for Prophet Muhammad (SAW)
- Happened once
- Must be believed as part of faith

## Connection to Three Sacred Mosques

### The Three Sacred Mosques:

1. **Al-Masjid al-Haram (Makkah):**
  - Starting point
  - Most sacred
  - Direction of prayer
2. **Al-Masjid al-Aqsa (Jerusalem):**
  - Destination of Isra
  - First Qiblah
  - Third holiest site
3. **Al-Masjid an-Nabawi (Madinah):**
  - Prophet's mosque
  - Second holiest
  - Will be built after Hijrah

**Hadith:** "Do not undertake a journey except to three mosques: Al-Masjid al-Haram, Al-Masjid al-Aqsa, and this mosque of mine." (Bukhari and Muslim)

## Impact on Islamic Practice

### **1. The Five Daily Prayers:**

- Became fundamental pillar
- Most important after Shahadah
- Muslims pray 5 times daily worldwide
- Direct connection to Allah

### **2. Jerusalem's Importance:**

- Third holiest city
- Site of Isra and Mi'raj
- Blessed land
- Must be protected and honored

### **3. Increased Devotion:**

- Story inspires worship
- Encourages seeking closeness to Allah
- Model of spiritual ascension

### **4. Proof of Prophethood:**

- Used in dawah
- Evidence of Allah's power
- Strengthens Muslims' faith

## **Practical Applications Today**

### **1. Don't Despair:**

- After difficulty, Allah sends ease
- Keep faith during trials
- Help is near

### **2. Value Prayer:**

- It's our Mi'raj to Allah
- Five times daily connection
- Don't neglect it
- Perform with devotion

### **3. Believe in Unseen:**

- Have faith in what we can't see
- Trust Allah and His Messenger
- Don't limit Allah by our understanding

#### **4. Honor Jerusalem:**

- Remember its significance
- Support Palestinian Muslims
- Make dua for Al-Aqsa
- Visit if possible

#### **5. Emulate Abu Bakr:**

- Believe without hesitation
- Trust the Prophet completely
- Support truth against falsehood

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Why did Allah take the Prophet on this journey at this particular time?
2. What is the significance of leading all prophets in prayer?
3. Why was prayer given in heaven while other pillars on earth?
4. What lessons can we learn from Musa's concern for the Ummah?
5. How should Isra and Mi'raj affect our daily practice?
6. What does this journey teach us about Allah's power?

#### **Conclusion**

Al-Isra wal-Mi'raj stands as one of the greatest miracles in Islamic history. It demonstrates Allah's absolute power, honors Prophet Muhammad (SAW) with unique privileges, establishes the importance of Salat, and provides hope and consolation during times of difficulty.

The five daily prayers are our connection to Allah, our spiritual ascension, and our gift from this blessed journey. We should perform them with the devotion and gratitude they deserve, remembering that they are our direct line to our Creator - a privilege granted through this miraculous night journey.