

SURAH-109

AL-KAFIRUN

This Surah takes its name from the word al-Kafirun which appears in the first verse. It is a Makkan Surah which consists of 6 verses.

According to Traditions, this Surah was revealed when the idolaters of Makkah were making proposals to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) for a compromise in the matters of religion. Once they came to the Prophet and said: "If you worship our gods, Lat and Uzzah for a year, we will worship your God for the same period." At some other time they came to the Messenger of Allah and said: "If you like we would enter your faith for a year and you would enter our faith for a year." Yet another report says that Walid bin Mughirah, 'As bin Wa'il, Aswad bin al-Muttalib and Umayyah bin Khalf came to the Prophet and said: O Muhammad! Let us agree that we would worship your God and you would worship our gods... If what you have brought was better than what we possess, we would be partners in it with you, and have our shares in it; and if what we possess is better than what you have brought, you would be partner in it with us and have your share in it." It was against this background that this Surah was revealed.

Prophet has been enjoined in this Surah to say to the disbelievers clearly: "I do not worship the idols which you worship and you do not worship Allah (alone) Whom I worship. So my religion is absolutely distinct and separate from your religion. Therefore, there can be no compromise. You keep your religion, and I would keep my religion." This Surah, by no stretch of imagination, offers any compromise as is claimed by the modern proponents of the doctrine of compromise and tolerance. In fact this Surah openly rejects the possibility of compromise, rather it expresses disgust with objects of worship of the polytheists. So far as tolerance is concerned this is always there in Islam as well as in this Surah. Muhammad (PBUH) and his followers are not allowed, in any circumstances, to force the polytheists and other non-Muslim people to accept Islam. However, the non-Muslims can be converted (and are in fact converted) to Islam through preaching.

The excellence and virtues of this Surah have been highlighted by the following Traditions of the Prophet:

- Abdullah bin Umar has related that he heard the messenger of Allah recite this Surahs Qul Ya-ayyuhalkafirun and Qul Huwa-Allahu Ahad in the two rakahs before

the Fajr obligatory prayer and in the two rak'ahs after the Maghrib obligatory prayer (Nasai, Ibn Majah)

- Anas says that the Prophet said to Mu'adh bin Jabal: Recite Surah Qul Ya-Ayyuhal-Kafirun at the time you get to bed, for this is immunity from polytheism. (Baihaqi)

SURAH-110

AN-NASR

This Surah derives its title from word "Nasr" which occurs in the first verse and which mean help or succour. It has 3 verses only.

According to Abdullah bin Abbas it was the last Surah of the Qur'an which was revealed (as a whole) to the messenger of Allah. After this no complete Surah was revealed to him except few verses of other Surahs. This Surah was revealed at Mina in the days of Hajj during the Farewell Pilgrimage of the Prophet in the month of Dhul-Hijjah, 10 A.H. According to Abdullah bin Umar, after its revelation, the Prophet gave his well known Sermon. So this is a Madni Surah though revealed in the vicinity of Makkah because it was revealed during Madni period of Prophet's life, a few weeks before his demise. When it was revealed Abu Bakr understood that the mission of the Prophet was accomplished and the time of his departure from the world had arrived. So he began to weep.

According to Abdullah bin Abbas, by the revelation of this Surah, the Prophet was informed of his departure from the world. It has been reported by Hadrat Umm Habibah that when this Surah was revealed, the Prophet said that he would leave the world that year. Hearing this Hadrat Fatimah wept. Then the Prophet said: From my family you will be the first to join me. At this she laughed.

This Surah enjoins the Prophet that when he gets ultimate victory and religion of Allah prevails in Arabia and people start entering this religion in multitudes (he should understand that the time of his departure from the world has arrived). He should then engage himself more in glorification of the praises of Allah than ever before and ask Allah for forgiveness. So after the revelation of this Surah, according to Ibn Abbas, the Prophet began to labour so intensively and devotedly for the Hereafter as he had done never before.

This Surah is a lesson for the believers also. It teaches them that when they get any victory or success, they should become more humble and remember Allah and give

more thanks to Him instead of rejoicing or feeling pride over it, as victory comes from the help of Allah.

SURAH-111

AL-LAHAB

This Makkan Surah derives its designation from the word "Lahab" which occurs in its very first verse. Its other name is Al-Masad which is derived from word "Masad" in its last verse. It is the only Surah in the Qur'an which denounces and curses an opponent of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by name. It has 5 verses only.

Abu Lahab (The Father of the Flame), whose real name was Abdul 'Uzza, was the uncle and the next door neighbour of the Prophet. He was called Abu Lahab on account of his beauty which was especially expressed in his glowing face. According to traditions, when the Holy Prophet was commanded to preach message of Islam openly and warn first of all his own kith and kin, one day he ascended the Mount As-Safa and called the Quraish to assemble. When they assembled, he asked them after addressing each of the tribe by name: If I were to inform you that behind the hill there was an enemy army ready to attack you, would you believe me? They answered with one voice: Yes we would as we have never heard you telling lie. Thereupon he said: "Behold, then I warn you of the coming of the Last Hour" At that, Abu Lahab exclaimed: "Was it for this purpose that you have summoned us? May you perish." After this he made it his business to oppose the Prophet, to ridicule his message, and to torment him at every possible opportunity. Before call of Prophethood, two daughters of Muhammad (PBUH) had been married to two of Abu Lahab's sons. But when the Prophet started preaching Islam, Abu Lahab compelled his sons to divorce them. When food was being prepared in the courtyard of Prophet's house, Abu Lahab would arrange to throw filth at the cooking-pot. His wife Umm Jamil (sister of Abu Sufyan) took pleasure in carrying thorn bushes which she would throw at the door of the Prophet so that the Prophet and his children would run thorns in their feet. Abu Lahab's wickedness and his hostility to the Prophet can be judged from the fact that when Prophet's son died, Abu Lahab, instead of condoling with the Prophet, went hurriedly to inform the Quraish that the Prophet had become childless.

Abu Lahab had enormous wealth and he was very proud of that. He disliked the idea of Islam that all human beings are equal before God and will be judged by Him on their merits alone. Wherever the Prophet went to preach the message of Allah, Abu Lahab followed him and forbade the people to listen to him either by tongue or by waving his hands. When the Quraish boycotted the Prophet and his clan Bani Hashim and put them in siege in Shi'b Abi Talib, Abu Lahab was the only person who

openly sided with Quraish against his own clan. This boycott lasted for three years and Bani Hashim began to starve. When a trade caravan came to Makkah and the starving persons approached it to buy some articles of food, Abu Lahab would ask the merchants to demand exorbitant prices so that Bani Hashim could not purchase goods.

It was on account of these transgressions of Abu Lahab that this Surah was revealed and he and his wife were condemned. Prediction in this Surah about the destruction of Abu Lahab and his hands was fulfilled within a few years. His hands (meaning power and sources of strength) perished when most of the chiefs of Makkah were killed in the Battle of Badr in 2 A.H. His own death was very miserable. When the news of the defeat at Badr reached him, he was extremely shocked. He became afflicted with some malignancy and the people of his house left him to himself fearing contagion. No body came near his body for three days after his death, until the body decomposed and started smelling. When the people taunted his sons, they got a pit dug out and pushed down his body into it with a stick and covered the pit with earth and stones. Thus neither his wealth nor what he earned (his children) availed him.

Narrated Sa'id bin Jubair: "when Surah No. 111 'Al-Lahab' was revealed, the wife of Abu Lahab came looking out for the Prophet while Abu Bakr was sitting beside him. Abu Bakr said to the Prophet, 'I wish if you get aside (or go away) as she is coming to us, she may harm you'. The Prophet said: There will be a screen set between me and her'. So she did not see him. She said to Abu Bakr: 'Your companion is saying poetry against me.' Abu Bakr said: 'By Allah he does not say poetry.' She said: 'Do you believe that'. Then she left. Abu Bakr said, 'O Allah's Messenger! She did not see you'. The Prophet said: 'An angel was screening me from her.' " (Tafsir Al-Qurtubi, Vol. 10, P.269).

Lesson-364 :

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

1. Say (O Muhammad): O disbelievers!
2. I worship not that which you worship.
3. Nor worship you that which I worship.
4. And I shall not worship that which you worship.
5. Nor will you worship that which I worship.
6. To you is your religion, and to me is my religion.

آيَاتُهَا (١٠٩) سُورَةُ الْكَافِرِينَ وَكُتِبَتْ فِيهَا
 بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْكَافِرُونَ ۝
 لَا أَعْبُدُ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ ۝
 وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عِبِدُوهُنَّ مَا أَعْبُدُ ۝
 وَلَا أَنَا عَابِدٌ مَّا عَبَدْتُمْ ۝
 وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عِبِدُوا مَا أَعْبُدُ ۝
 لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ ۝

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

1. When Allah's help comes (O Muhammad) and you get the victory.
2. And you see the people entering the religion of Allah (Al-Islam) in troops (i.e. in multitudes).
3. Then glorify the praises of your Lord and ask for His forgiveness. Verily, He is ever ready to accept repentance (and to forgive).

آيَاتُهَا (١١٠) سُورَةُ النَّصْرِ وَكُتِبَتْ فِيهَا
 بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 إِذَا جَاءَ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ وَالْفَتْحُ ۝
 وَرَأَيْتَ النَّاسَ يَدْخُلُونَ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ أَفْوَاجًا ۝
 فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ
 تَوَّابًا ۝

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

1. Perish the hands of Abu Lahab, and perish he!
2. His wealth and what he earned will not avail him anything.
3. Soon he will be plunged in a Fire of blazing flames.
4. And his wife too, who carries fire wood.
5. In her neck will be a twisted rope of palm fibre.

آيَاتُهَا (١١١) سُورَةُ الْهَامِ وَكُتِبَتْ فِيهَا
 بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 تَبَّتْ يَدَا أَبِي لَهَبٍ وَتَبَّ ۝
 مَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُ مَالُهُ وَمَا كَسَبَ ۝
 سَيَصْلَىٰ نَارًا إِذْ أَتَىٰ لَهَبًا ۝
 وَامْرَأَتُهُ حَمَّالَةَ الْحَطَبِ ۝
 فِي جِيدِهَا حَبْلٌ مِّن مَّسَدٍ ۝