

سُورَةُ نُوحٍ

Sūrah Nūh

(PROPHET NŪH^{AS})

Revealed at Makkah, it has two Sections and twenty eight Āyāt.

Section 1

In the Name of Allah

The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful.

1. Verily We! We sent forth Nūh to his people saying: Warn your people before there comes to them an afflictive chastisement.
2. He said: My people! I am to you a manifest warner.
3. Worship Allah, and fear Him, and obey me.
4. He will forgive you your sins, and will defer you to an appointed term. Verily the term of Allah, when it comes, shall not be deferred, if you but know.
5. He said: Rabb! Verily I have called my people night and day.
6. And my calling has only increased their aversion.
7. Verily whenever I call them, that You may forgive them, they place their fingers in their ears, and wrap themselves with their

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَا نُوحًا إِلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ بآن أَنذِرَ قَوْمَكَ مِن قَبْلِ
أَن يَأْتِيَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ ﴿١﴾

قَالَ يَنْقُومِ إِنِّي لَكُمْ نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ ﴿٢﴾

أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاتَّقُوهُ وَأَطِيعُوا أَمْرِي ﴿٣﴾

يَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ مَن ذُنُوبِكُمْ وَيُؤَخِّرْكُمْ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى
إِنَّ أَجَلَ اللَّهِ إِذَا جَاءَ لَا يُؤَخَّرُ لَوْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٤﴾

قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي دَعَوْتُ قَوْمِي لَيْلًا وَنَهَارًا ﴿٥﴾

فَلَمْ يَزِدْهُمْ دُعَائِي إِلَّا فِرَارًا ﴿٦﴾

وَإِنِّي كُلَّمَا دَعَوْتُهُمْ لِتَغْفِرَ لَهُمْ جَعَلُوا أُصْغُرَهُمْ
فِي مَا دَأَبُوهُمْ وَاسْتَعْصَمُوا بِآيَاتِهِمْ وَأَصْرُوا وَاسْتَكْبَرُوا

اسْتِكْبَارًا ﴿٧﴾

garments, and persist in their denial, and are stiff-necked.

8. Then I have called them aloud.
9. Then I spoke to them in public and in private I addressed them.
10. And I said: Beg forgiveness of your Rabb; He is ever Most Forgiving.
11. He will send down upon you rains copiously.
12. And He will increase you in riches and children and will assign to you gardens and will assign to you rivers.
13. What ails you that you look not for majesty in Allah?
14. While He has created you by stages.
15. Do you not see how Allah has created the seven heavens in storeys?
16. And He has placed the moon therein for a light and has made the sun for a lamp?
17. And Allah has caused you to grow from the earth as a growth.
18. And hence He will cause you to return to it and He will bring you forth completely.
19. And Allah has made for you the earth an expanse.

ثُمَّ إِنِّي دَعَوْتُهُمْ جِهَارًا ﴿٥﴾

ثُمَّ إِنِّي أَعْلَنْتُ لَهُمْ وَأَسْرَرْتُ لَهُمْ إِسْرَارًا ﴿٦﴾

فَقُلْتُ اسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ إِنَّهُ كَانَ غَفَّارًا ﴿٧﴾

يُرْسِلُ السَّمَاءَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِدْرَارًا ﴿٨﴾

وَيُضَاعِفْ لَكُمْ بِأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَيُنْزِلْ عَلَيْكُمْ جَنَّاتٍ وَيَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ أَنْهَارًا ﴿٩﴾

مَا لَكُمْ لَا تَرْجُونَ لِلَّهِ وَقَارًا ﴿١٠﴾

وَقَدْ خَلَقَكُمْ أَطْوَارًا ﴿١١﴾

الَّذِينَ نُرَوِّدُ كَيْفَ خَلَقَ اللَّهُ سَبْعَ سَمَاوَاتٍ طِبَاقًا ﴿١٢﴾

وَجَعَلَ الْقَمَرَ فِيهِنَّ نُورًا وَجَعَلَ الشَّمْسَ سِرَاجًا ﴿١٣﴾

وَاللَّهُ أَنْبَتَكُمْ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ نَبَاتًا ﴿١٤﴾

ثُمَّ يُعِيدُكُمْ فِيهَا وَيُخْرِجُكُمْ إِخْرَاجًا ﴿١٥﴾

وَاللَّهُ جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ بِسَاطًا ﴿١٦﴾

Secrets of Revelation

Allah sent Prophet Nūh^{AS} unto his people, whose conduct had so degenerated that His punishment had become imminent. Prophet Nūh^{AS} came as a warner to teach them the ways to avert disaster. He announced that he was Allah's Messenger sent to guide them to worship the One and the Only Allah and to refrain from His disobedience.

The System a Prophet^{AS} Delivers

Prophet Nūh^{AS} said that they could obey Allah by doing what he told them to do. If they moulded their lives according to the System he was giving, Allah would forgive their previous sins by His Grace, and they would not be routed before time, though eventually everyone has to die. Any they know it fully well that when Allah's appointed moment comes, it is not delayed by a moment.

Types of Death

According to the Commentators, two types of death is proved from Aḥādīth. The first one is *Qadha-e-Mubram*, the predestined, which cannot be delayed. The second is *Qadha-e-Mu'allaq* which is conditional and is enforced before time because of sins. This destroyed many a nation who could not live for the term naturally appointed for them. The Ḥadīth that virtue prolongs life actually means that one does not fall prey to the latter and lives his natural term. Prophet Nūh's^{AS} people, however, were not to believe.

According to Allah's Book, he had preached for nine hundred and fifty years, and many generations passed by in his presence. After such a long and arduous struggle, he pleaded to Allah that he had tried his utmost, day in and day out, but the effects on his nation were just the opposite and they runaway from Dīn. Now they plug their ears and wrap their heads whenever spoken to and refute the truth out of spite. It was the height of their arrogance while he had spared no efforts, overt or covert, to invite them to salvation.

Prophets^{AS} are Informed upon Divine Secrets

He tried to unveil before them countless secrets, one of which was that if they repented, they would find their Rabb Most Forgiving, not only in Ākhirah but also shower upon them the temporal blessings. The heaven will pour down timely rains, bringing in prosperity. Their farms and fields would swell with yield and they would be given orchards, springs and streams together with wealth and progeny. So what was wrong with them that they did not pin any hopes on Allah's Magnificence?

He asked them to ponder over their creation through a gradual process by combining countless elements to form their food. And from it He extracted the seed, the origin of a human being. He then provided him a dwelling on earth, and covered it with the canopy of heavens, one over the other.

High into them is the moon, a source of soothing light, and the sun, which is a lamp alight. They must reflect upon this grand system in its detail and know that He has raised mankind from the earth, and returns them to it after enforcing death. And on the Day of Judgment, He would once again quicken them from this very earth which despite its curvatures appears flat everywhere enabling mankind to make path ways for travelling and to live comfortably on it.

Section 2

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 21. | Nūḥ said: Rabb! Verily they have denied me and have followed him whose riches and children has only increased him in loss. | قَالَ نُوحٌ رَبِّ إِنَّهُمْ عَصَوْنِي وَأَتَّبِعُوا مَن لَّمْ يَزِدَّهُ
مَالَهُ وَوَلَدَهُ إِلَّا خَسَارًا ﴿٢١﴾ |
| 22. | And they have plotted a tremendous plot. | وَمَكْرُؤٌ كُبَرًا ﴿٢٢﴾ |
| 23. | And they have said: You shall not leave your gods, nor shall you leave Wadd nor Suwa nor Yaghuth nor Ya'uq nor Nasr. | وَقَالُوا لَا نَذَرُنَّ الْهَيْكَلُؤُا وَلَا نَذَرُنَّ وُدًّا وَلَا سُوعًا
وَلَا يَغُوثَ وَيَعُوقَ وَنَسْرًا ﴿٢٣﴾ |
| 24. | And surely they have led many astray. Increase You these wrongdoers in naught save error. | وَقَدْ أَضَلُّوا كَثِيرًا وَلَا تَزِدِ الظَّالِمِينَ إِلَّا ضَلَالًا ﴿٢٤﴾ |

25. And because of their misdeeds they were drowned, and then made to enter the Fire. Then they did not find for themselves any helpers beside Allah.

مِمَّا حَقَّبْتَنَّهُمْ عِزْفُوا فَأَذْخَلُوا نَارًا فَلَمْ يَجِدُوا لَهُمْ
مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ أَنْصَارًا ﴿٢٥﴾

26. And Nūh said: Rabb: Leave not of the infidels any inhabitant upon the earth.

وَقَالَ نُوحٌ رَبِّ لَا تَذَرْنِي عَلَى الْأَرْضِ مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ
دَيَّارًا ﴿٢٦﴾

27. For should You leave them, they will lead astray Your bondmen and will surely beget sinning infidels.

إِنَّكَ إِنْ تَذَرَهُمْ يُضِلُّوا عِبَادَكَ وَلَا يَلِدُوا إِلَّا فَاجِرًا
كَفَّارًا ﴿٢٧﴾

28. Rabb! Forgive me and my parents and him who enters my house as a believer, and all the faithful men and women, and increase not the ungodly save in perdition.

رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِمَنْ دَخَلَ بَيْتِي
مُؤْمِنًا وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَلَا تَزِدِ الظَّالِمِينَ
إِلَّا تَبَارًا ﴿٢٨﴾

Secrets of Revelation

After a long hard struggle, Prophet Nūh^{AS} prayed to Allah in utter disappointment that his people had refused to heed what he said and had instead resorted to such actions as were certain to bring them havoc and loss. They indulged in vicious conspiracies against him and the law he had brought. They stressed upon each other not to desert their idols namely Wadd, Suwa, Yagh'uth, Ya'uq and Nasr. These were the names of virtuous people gone by whose idols they had carved. They crossed all limits in their waywardness. He beseeched Allah to plunge them deeper into the ignominy of this waywardness, (being informed of the impossibility of their reformation by Him). They were drowned as a result of their sins and were pushed into Fire. And could find no helper against Him.

Water and Fire

Apparently they were drowned in water, yet the Āyah declares that they ended up in Fire whereas the condemnation to Hell will take place after the Day of

Reckoning. So the Commentators, with reference to a consensus of the Ummah, assert that the retribution is awarded in the grave itself or the reprisal in Barzakh is a reality. It is the Fire of Barzakh that they entered upon drowning. Barzakh being a waiting place, each person is lodged there commensurate with his conduct.

Prophet Nūh^{AS} prayed to **Allah** to spare no infidel on the face of earth. He said that if any of them survived, he would not only keep spreading evil himself, but his progeny will also be wicked and stubborn. It means that the effect of their misdeeds had affected their genes. As a result the punishment of inundation was let loose upon all of them, probably the only nation then inhabiting the globe.

Forgiveness must be Sought under all Circumstances

O' **Allah**! Forgive me. I am not proud of the day and night struggle spreading over nine hundred and fifty years. This is the very way of the Prophets^{AS}. And he prayed for the believing men and women, for his family, and those who entered his house as believers and for the total destruction of the infidels. **Allah** had informed him that they would never be guided.