

**Stories of Allah's messengers** have been told here that they suffered for the cause of truth. Their enemies persecuted them and their companions, but then Allah helped his prophets and defeated their enemies. A message to the Quraysh, if you did not accept the truth, you will meet the same fate.

**Prosperity in this world** – comes with submission to Allah. "if the people of these cities had believed and been conscious of Us, We would surely have opened up for them blessings out of heaven and earth.

وَلَوْ أَنَّ أَهْلَ الْقُرَىٰ آمَنُوا وَاتَّقَوْا لَفَتَحْنَا عَلَيْهِم بَرَكَاتٍ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ

**Story of Moses and Pharaoh** – covers a fairly long discourse. Israelites (nation of Moses a.s) have been told to seek help from Allah and be patient in this time of persecution, land belongs to Allah and to whom He wills, He grants. Don't be despair due to fewer in numbers, numbers do not matter in front of Allah. Every messenger comes to free people from the slavery of human being and bring them in to service of their Lord.

**People of Sabbath** (اهل سبت)-People (from the nation of Moses a.s ) living on seaboard (of Red sea), were forbidden to catch fish on Sabbath (Saturday), but in sheer disobedience and rebellion, they made tricks to catch the fish on the Sabbath. Consequently, Allah cursed them because of their trickery and deception and transformed them to Apes.

**Lessons** : 1- Disobedience of Allah results in His punishment, 2- Only those were saved from this punishment who were forbidding people from this act of disobedience, neutral people in this matter and the evil-doers both among punished, 3- When people indulge themselves in forbidden and unlawful (Haram) activities, lawful options are made increasingly limited for them, 4- One of the purpose of calling people towards Allah (and His deen) is to enjoin what is good and to forbid what is wrong (امر بالمعروف و نهي عن المنكر) 5- consequences of committing acts which are forbidden in Islam are not confined only to those who commit them, but the whole society has to suffer the consequences.

**Analogy of a dog**- 'whether you drive him away or leave him alone, it will always loll its tongue out'. This is the example of the person, Allah gave him the knowledge of His revelations, but he discarded it and clanged to mundane earthly things and followed his own desires. (Consequences of running away from book of Allah).

**Turning blind eye** from verses of Allah (His Book)- Such people have hearts with which they cannot understand, they have eyes with which they cannot see and they have ears with which they cannot hear. (They are like cattle - indeed, even more astray. Such are utterly heedless. Use your intellect and faculties properly to understand the message of Allah (Quran)

**Etiquettes of listening Quran** – "when the Qur'an is recited, listen carefully to it, and keep silent so that you may, be shown mercy". وَإِذَا قُرِئَ الْقُرْآنُ فَاسْتَمِعُوا لَهُ وَأَنْصِتُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ.

**Rule of Thumb**- Show forgiveness, enjoin what is good and turn away from the foolish

**Surah Al-Anfal** (The Bounties / Spoils of War) – Revealed in Madinah after the Battle of Badr in 2 A.H

Its topics include a detailed and comprehensive review of the Battle (of Badr), reinforcement of the lessons learned from battle of Badr, commandment relating to the spoils of war, the purpose of war and the virtues necessary for fighting in the Path of Allah, victory against the odds, clemency, laws of peace and war and some articles of the Islamic constitution.

**Be firm united and steadfast** - whenever you encounter a hostile force of unbelievers, do not turn your backs to them in fight. Allah's wrath on the person who run away in cowardice (running away from battlefield is a major sin – Hadith)

**The deciding factor** in battlefield is Allah's help. He said you didn't kill unbelievers in battlefield but He did (His Help)

**A call to a nation** (and reminder through Quran)- "**And recall when you were few in numbers and deemed weak in the land, fearful lest people do away with you. Then He provided you refuge, strengthened you with His help, and provided you sustenance with good things that you may be grateful**"(26)

People of a nation were smaller in numbers, they feared to be out numbered (and will remain subjugated ), They asked Allah to help and He helped them with independent land and refuge and provided fertile land, resources and substance, so they may be grateful to Him. Alas ! they turned away, they forgot their promise they made then to their Lord. Henceforth are the consequence to face...

**Faithfulness** – Allah reminds believers " Do not be unfaithful to Allah and the Messenger, nor be knowingly unfaithful to your trusts. '**Trusts**' embrace all- responsibilities, obligations, agreements, covenants, property office or a position.

**Exclusive love** for money and children drives people off the right path. Be aware of them they are trials (فتنه) in this world.