

July 12

**Surah Hud** - named after Prophet Hud, revealed in Makkah adjacent to Surah Yunus.

Subjects are the same as Surah Yunus, such as an invitation to the Message, admonition and warning, with the difference that the warning is sterner and harsher here.

Abu Bakr r.a. said to the Holy Prophet, "Of late I have been noticing that you are growing older and older. What is the cause of it?" The Holy Prophet (s.a.w) replied, "Surah Hud and the like Surahs have made me old." (Al-Bukhari)

**Provision of Sustenance (رزق) is on to Allah** - There is not a single moving creature on the earth but Allah is responsible for providing its sustenance. Every single tiniest move is in His knowledge.

**Nature of ungrateful people** - Turn away from Allah at times of ease and despair at times of calamity.

**Stories of messengers and their nations** - Prophet Noah (Nuh), his nation who didn't listen to him and ridiculed him, his dialogue with his son, Prophet Shu'aib's and his people who were cheating in their business transactions, Pharaoh and his chiefs who were warned but they gave no heed, and the nations of Prophet Hud, Salih, and Lot (Lut) all of them did not accept the message of their messengers and eventually were destroyed by the severe punishment from Allah. Saved those only from the wrath were those who believed in the Prophet, and none else, not even their own son's or wives.

**Faith demands from each and every Believer** that he should totally forget his relationships when that judgement comes and remember only the relationship of the Faith. Muslims demonstrated these teachings practically in the Battle of Badr, four years after the revelation of this Surah.

**Belief** is a thoughtful and earned blessing, not an inherited article. Blood relationship or lineage will not avail in front of Allah.

**Purpose of messenger's stories** – Allah narrates these anecdotes of the messengers to strengthen the heart of Prophet (s.a.w) and the believers. These anecdotes come with truth, reassurance, and a reminder for the believers.

**Strong relationship between worship (Islamic rituals) and worldly affairs** – The nation of Shu'aib a.s question him as to why your prayer (صلاة) "interfere in our (wordily) affairs and transactions?" Many people have the same misunderstanding that worship of Allah (Ibadaat) have nothing to do with our social and financial transactions and other affairs of our lives. From this misinterpretation, originates the idea of separation (تفريق) of Deen and Dunya, then extending its domain to religion and politics, church and state and secular and religious spheres.

**Islam is one complete entity** (as an organic whole), and cannot be divided into contrasting domains. (Dr Muhammad Iqbal strongly warned Muslims about this division in his poetry as he had seen this against Islamic teachings and principles: - *"When church and state parted the ways for ever - It set in the rule of avarice and greed, This split is a disaster both for country and faith - And shows the culture's blind lack of vision"*).

**Law of replacing the nations-** Allah described this law in the Quran at several places that when a nation fails to deliver the given duty, or when they turn away from given code (of life), He replaces the failed with better people.

**Surah Yusuf (Joseph)**- named after Prophet Yusuf, revealed during the last stage of the Prophet's residence at Makkah, when the Quraysh were considering the question of killing or exiling or imprisoning him.

It is a complete story framed at either end by an introduction and an epilogue. Allah declared this story the best of stories.

**What makes this story most beautiful (احسن القصص)?**

Scholars expounded the story and concluded that countless lessons in this Quranic story makes it most beautiful. (Renowned Islamic scholar Ibn-ul Qayyim was able to derive 1000 lessons from the story of Prophet Yusuf).

Quraysh challenged the prophet "Why did the Israelites go to Egypt?" Allah revealed this surah which not only foiled their scheme but also warned them that "As you are behaving towards this Prophet, exactly in the same way the brothers of Prophet Yusuf behaved towards him; so you shall soon meet with the same fate." (A Quranic prophecy that soon became true).

This is the story of Deen as well Dunya. It includes tawhid, seerah and biography. It tells the secrets of politics and government. It unfolds human psychology. It communicates the measures of economic prosperity. This story has the contrasting characters of messengers and masses, angels and devils, human and genies, birds and beast. It has observations of kings, businessmen, scholars and ignorant. There is fall and rise in the story as well as, fame and celebration, poverty and wealth, dignity and dishonor, patience and perseverance, devotion and disdain.

All these diverse elements, discourses of wisdom and countless lessons make it a comprehensive and most beautiful story.