

July 14

**Surah Al-Hijr** (refers to the area where Thamud used to live in the north-western part of Arabia).

The Surah was revealed at a time when persecution of the Prophet and his followers was at its peak and Islam was making little headway in the face of Arab opposition and resistance.

**Two main topics of the Surah** are **1-** warning to those who rejected the Message (of the Prophet (s.a.w.)), **2-** comfort and encouragement to the Holy Prophet. Stories of Prophet Lut's people, Thamud and other groups have been told.

**Biggest Miracle of Human History** – Preservation of Qur'an, "As for the Admonition (Qur'an), indeed it is We Who have revealed it and it is indeed We Who are its guardians". A claim at the time when no printing press, no readily available paper, no instrument of recording, no microfilms, no other means of preservation, seems incredible. But history testifies that miraculous claim stands valid today and not a single dot has been changed in this book since.

**Reflect on the earth**, how amazing that it carries millions of other creatures, their sustenance and other signs of Allah.

**Creation of Adam**- Man was made out of clay from an altered black mud, then transformed in to a moving being and then was given higher intellect given to no other creature, using that he is advancing himself in knowledge and technology. This all didn't happen itself.

**Story of Iblis (Satan)** – When he refused to bow to Adam as Allah had commanded him, he was cursed and rejected. He asked for respite till the end of time so that he could misguide the children of Adam. He announced, he would make the worldly things attractive for them and will lead them to error and sins. He would make the enjoyment of this world, its transitory benefits so alluring for man that he would forget the responsibilities of the vicegerent of Allah, and eventually would disobey Allah. **True servants** – Allah announced, he (Satan) will have no power to exercise over true servants (who choose to obey Allah).

**Hell with 7 gates** - is the promised place for all those who will follow Satan while disobeying Allah.

**Garden and springs** of Paradise promised for those who will live this life in obedience of Allah and His messenger. They will enter in peace and security, with no rancour in their hearts for others, in eternal abode.

**People of Lut** – Disobeyed Allah and indulged in what Allah has forbidden (homosexuality). They have been declared 'guilty' and hence punished severely like no other nation was punished. A mighty blast caught them, rained down stones upon them, and the land they were living on, was turned upside down. (O Allah save us from such a sin and its consequences).

**7 oft-repeated verses** - We have indeed bestowed on you the seven oft-repeated verses and the Great Qur'an. These verses refer to Surah Al-Fatiha, which are recited over and over again in every prescribed salat. (Importance of Al-Fatiha).

**Surah An-Nahl (The Bees)** - revealed at Makkah

Central theme is similar to previous six surah's (Yunus, Hud, Yusuf, al-Ra'd, Ibrahim and al-Hijr). All are revealed consecutively. It includes the message of the Holy Prophet, its proof, and consequences of its rejection, opposition and antagonism.

**Countless blessings of Allah**- "For, were you to count the favours of Allah, you will not be able to count them" Don't be ungrateful to Him. Don't rebel against Him. Don't be disobedient to Him.

**Allah is ever Forgiving, Most Merciful** - Were Allah to take people to task for their wrong-doing, He would not have spared even a single living creature on the face of the earth. He grants them respite until an appointed term.

**Reflect on milk production** (in cattle), "We provide you to drink out of that which is in their bellies between the chime (dissolved food) and the blood - pure milk", refers to the most wonderful process of the formation of pure milk in the bellies of the cattle. A scientific statement that was discovered accurately more than 1000 years after it is revealed in the Quran.

**Honeybee** – Another scientific statement (and fact) which was not known to us until the 20th century. And your Lord revealed (inspired) to the bee saying..... "Set up hives..., Collect nectar..., and make honey. The Bee is mentioned three times particularly in the feminine gender. We came to know in the 20<sup>th</sup> century that these 3 tasks are performed by female honeybee.

Allah inspired the honeybee to setup hives - that is why a hive is a miraculous structure. The design of the cells in which she will live, raise larvae and store pollens, is a mathematical wonder (honeycombs in the form of hexagons), leaving many questions unanswered for researchers, as to why the hexagon shaped cells remained constant and no rectangles, heptagons or octagons. All the answer we are getting through evolution of scientific knowledge, point towards the fact that these wonders are inspired by the Creator of all things and the universe...(So blessed be Allah, the Best of Creators).