

## Surah Al-Isra - Revealed at Makkah

This surah is also known as Surah Bani Isra'il. It mentions the Holy Prophet's journey from Masjid Al Haram to Masjid Al Aqsa and then towards the heavens where he was shown different signs of Allah. This Surah is a combination of warning, admonition and instruction, all blended together in balanced proportion. This surah is a treasure of divine wisdom.

**The Prophet's Journey to heavens** and his observation of what is unseen for the rest of the people, so he could say with conviction that he has seen what he is preaching, (It distinguishes the Prophet from a philosopher whose work is pure conjecture)

**Mischief of children of Israel** and their punishment, mentioned as a historic reference and given warnings like given in the different Books of the Bible. This time with admonition that, believe in this Book and this Prophet to save yourselves.

**A warning to people of Makkah**, if you continue your behaviour of denial to this message and Quran, you will be punished like children of Israel and will be replaced with other nations.

**Human Nature**- Human beings are hasty and impatient. Reward and punishment all have their time. **وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ عَجُولًا**

**Everybody's book of deeds** - is being carried by oneself. On the Day of Resurrection Allah will produce his/her scroll in the shape of a wide open book and will say "Read your scroll; this Day you suffice to take account of yourself"

**Instructions about Islamic social and collective life**, including manners, morals, and other aspects of community life. These include both Allah's rights (حقوق الله) consists of beliefs and rituals and right of people (حقوق العباد) consists of moralities and matters. The Ten Commandment of the Old Testament are fairly similar to these injunctions:

**1-** Worship only Allah, **2** -Treat parents kindly, **3**-Fulfil the rights of relatives, the poor and travellers, **4**-Be neither miserly nor extravagant, **5** - If you cannot be of assistance to a person in need, inform him kindly, **6** - Never kill your children for fear of poverty, **7**-Never even come close to fornication or adultery, **8**-Never slay a person without a legal warrant, **9**- Never misuse the wealth of an orphan, **10**-Always keep your words (promises), **11**- Never cheat in weight and measure, **12**-Never talk about anything that you have not verified, **13**- Never walk with pride.

**Satan's pride** against man and his pledge to mislead human beings; Allah allowed him to muster all forces, to share with them in their wealth and offspring and seduce them with rosy promises. His promise is nothing but a deception. Allah declared he will have no power against His true servants.

**A Prophecy came true** - If the Quraish drove the Prophet out of this city (as seems predictable from their efforts), they themselves would not be able to remain after that for more than a little while. This prophecy came true within 9 years.

**Actual Miracle of the Prophet** (s.a.w) - is Qur'an, declared after demands of miracles from Holy Prophet. This is such a miracle that if mankind and jinn were to get together to produce the like of this Qur'an, they will never be able to produce the like of it.

In the end of the surah, mentioned about the spirit (that it is a command of Allah), wisdom of revealing Quran gradually, etiquettes of offering prayer, and praise and exaltation of Allah, who has taken no partner in His kingdom.

## Surah Al-Kahf (Cave) - Revealed during last stages of stay of Holy Prophet at Makkah.

**In this surah** the story of the Companions of the Cave (Kahf), the story of Moses and Khidr (a.s), the story of Zulqarnayn, and some awakening materials about Origin and End have been discussed. Also mentioned the parable of the people of the gardens. Surah al Kahf is one of the renowned Surahs of Quran. There are several narrations of Hadith on virtues and benefits of reading & reciting Surah Al Kahf. "One who memorizes the first ten verses of Surah al Kahf will be secure against the Dajjal (Anti-Christ)." (Muslim)

**The subject matter of the Surah** deals with the 'struggle between materialism and faith' or the 'Invisible Power and the world of causation'. The spirit of falsehood, deceit and artful trickery pervades modern civilization and prevailing world order. It has turned its back to the over Lordship of God, Prophethood, unseen realities and divine revelation. The reciter and keeper of this surah will be able to identify "the deceit" imbedded in this modern civilization.

**Story of people of Cave** – the companions of the cave believed in the same creed as the followers of the Holy Prophet. Their condition was similar to the condition of the persecuted Muslims of Makkah. With these similarities the consequences of opposing this message made evident for people of Makkah, so they can take heed and stop persecution of believers. Allah miraculously saved the companions of the cave from persecution and put them to sleep for over 300 years. They preferred faith over their land, their kin, assets and everything else. Allah's help was the reward of true and sincere faith in Him.

**The parable of an ungrateful and a grateful person.** The former became absorbed in his new fortune, forgetting completely who granted it to him, responding with challenge and doubt. His companion reminded him to believe in Allah, trust Him and be thankful to Him, but the wealth and possession intoxicated person refused to take heed. Eventually Allah sent a calamity upon his vineyard, all produce was destroyed, and his garden and farm was reduced a barren land.

Disbelieving and attributing bounties to worldly causes and effects is contrary to faith (Iman), bears severe consequences.