

Encyclopedia of Qur'anic Chapters In Simple Language

1- *Ar-Ra'd*

2- *Ibrāhīm*

3- *Al-Hijr*

4- *An-Nahl*

5- *Al-Isrā*

6- *Al-Kahf*



Author: Gholam-Reza Heidari Abhari

Illustrator: Hamid-Reza Beidaghi

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*Dedicated to the first teacher of the Qur'an
Prophet Muhammad (PBUH & HP)*

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*Encyclopedia of Qur'anic Chapters
In Simple Language*

Reference Book of Religion

Gholam-Reza Heidari Abhari

Translator: Amir-Reza Azimi Hassani
Seyed Sajjad Nezhadi

Editor: Zahra Radpasand

Illustrator: Hamid-Reza Beidaghi

Designer: Khosro Ashtari

Page Layout: Aminreza Borhani

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Phone number: 00982166404410

Email: Info@zoha.ca



In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



A gift to the diligent generation who ponder upon the
words of God and act upon it.

~ Publisher



Ar-Ra'd

13
Madani

The Chapter at a Glance:

Sūrah “Ar-Ra’d” is the 13th Chapter of the Holy Qur'an. This Chapter was revealed to the Prophet (PBUH) in Medina and has 43 verses. The first verse of the Chapter begins with the disjointed letters¹ (*Huruf Muqatta'at*)¹ of “الْأَلِفُ الْمَدْنَى الْرَّاءُ” , and is pronounced as: “Alif, Lām, Rā’”.

About the Name of the Chapter:

When rain clouds rub together, a petrifying sound and an eerie light appears in the sky; a phenomenon known as thunder and lightning. The Chapter’s name is derived from verse 13, in which it describes how the thunder with its roaring sound along with the angels, glorify God with His praise.

General Contents of the Chapter:

The wonders of creation have been mentioned in the Qur'an numerous times to remind us of God. An important part of Chapter Ar-Ra'd refers to these secrets of creation, but other topics such as resurrection (Al-Ma'ad), God's greatness, adhering to one's promise, maintaining family ties (Silat ur-Rahim), patience, charity in the way of God, and falsehood of idolatry are discussed. Furthermore, the Chapter speaks of some of the rebellious and sinful predecessors and introduces believers to their social duties.

Excerpts from the Chapter:

Invisible Pillars

In the 2nd verse of Chapter Ar-Ra'd we read: “*God is He who elevated the heavens without any pillars that are visible to you.*” which means that the skies also have pillars that are invisible to us. According to some of the commentators of Qur'an, these invisible pillars are the general attraction between stars and planets in the sky. This attraction causes each star and planet to rotate on a fixed axis in its own orbit, maintaining the order of the solar system.

What is Silat ur-Rahim?

“*Silat ur-Rahim*” in the Arabic language means preserving family bonds and showing affection to them. Maintaining family bonds are of utmost importance in the Islamic view, a teaching emphasized upon in the Qur'an and narrations of the Ahlul-Bayt (Prophet's Family). By maintaining the bonds of kinship,

¹ 1- 29 Chapters of the Qur'an begin with “disjoined letters”. Six of them: Al- Baqarah, Āl 'Imrān, Al-Ankabūt, Ar-Rūm, Luqmān and As-Sajdah, begin with the letters “Alif, Lam, Meem”. Commentators have pointed to a variety of possible explanations for these letters, but they cannot come up with a definite answer. We may be able to say that these letters are codes between God and His Messenger.



love increases, harmony is established in life, and God will shower His countless blessings. In verse 21 of Chapter Ar-Ra'd, we read: "*Those who maintain ties that God has commanded to be maintained*". This verse was revealed to praise the wise and express their good deeds. This bond that God has ordained to be joined is the same as conserving family ties, which is also emphasized in a narration by Imam As-Sadiq (PBUH).

Compensate for Our Wrongdoing

Whenever we commit a wrongdoing, we should never think that there is no way back, and there is no way to compensate for the sin we committed. We should not think that since our book of deeds has become black with sins, we cannot erase those black marks. No, this is not true! Rather, we can erase those black marks by performing good deeds. One day, the Messenger of God (PBUH & HP) told one of the Muslims: "*Whenever you commit a bad deed, then perform an admirable deed so it can wipe it out.*"

This point is emphasized in verse 22 of Chapter Ar-Ra'd, in which it describes the lifestyle of the wise. In this verse, God says: "*They destroy badness, by doing good.*"

Sufferings of the Prophet of Mercy

During the time of the Prophet, the disbelievers harassed and harmed him in different ways. Sometimes, they would walk behind the Prophet, making funny faces. Other times his opponents mocked his words, insulted him by calling him with inappropriate nicknames, and even called him crazy. In verse 32 of Chapter Ar-Ra'd, God gives comfort to the Prophet (PBUH & HP) and says: "*The Messengers before you were also mocked by disbelievers. I gave the disbelievers a short period of relief, and then I punished them.*"

Perennial Fruits of Paradise

Every plant has a different harvesting season. For example, grape vines are harvested during the summer, whereas pomegranate bushes ripen during the fall. While every tree has its own special season to be harvested, the trees of Paradise always bear fruit. The heavenly grape trees are always lush with green foliage and plush purple grapes, and heavenly pomegranate bushes always bear masses of sweet and juicy fruits. All the other trees of Heaven produce an abundance of richly flavored fruits.

In verse 35 of Chapter Ar-Ra'd, this attribute of Heavenly trees is mentioned. In this verse, we read: "*Beneath the trees of Paradise, rivers flow and its fruits are everlasting*".





The Chapter at a Glance:

Sūrah “Ibrāhīm” is the 14th Chapter of the Holy Qur’ān. This Chapter was revealed to the Prophet (PBUH) in Mecca and has 52 verses. The first verse of the Chapter begins with the disjoined letters² (*Hurūf Muqatta’at*) of “الْأَلِفُ لَامُ رَاءُ”, pronounced as “Alif, Lām, Rā’”.

About the Name of the Chapter:

Abraham (*Ibrāhīm*) is the name of one of God's prophets, who was one of the five great prophets known as Ulul'-Azm (The Possessor of Steadfastness). These five consist of Prophet Noah (Nūh), Abraham, Moses (Mūsā), Jesus ('Isā), and Muhammad (PBUH & HP). The Chapter takes its name from verses 35-41, in which part of Abraham's prayers with God is mentioned.

General Contents of the Chapter:

A major portion of this Chapter is about the history of prophets such as Noah, Moses, Abraham, and tribes such as the tribe of “*Ād*” and “*Thamud*”. Besides these historical discussions, Chapter Ibrāhīm includes very important pieces of advice as well as tips on theology and resurrection (Al-Ma’ad).

Excerpts from the Chapter:

The Days of God

The power of God is best seen and understood in some historical days. Some examples of such days include: the day Abraham (PBUH) was saved from the fire of Nimrūd, or when Pharaoh was drowned in the Nile River, or the day of Noah's great flood. The Holy Qur’ān calls such days “*Ayyam-Allah*”.

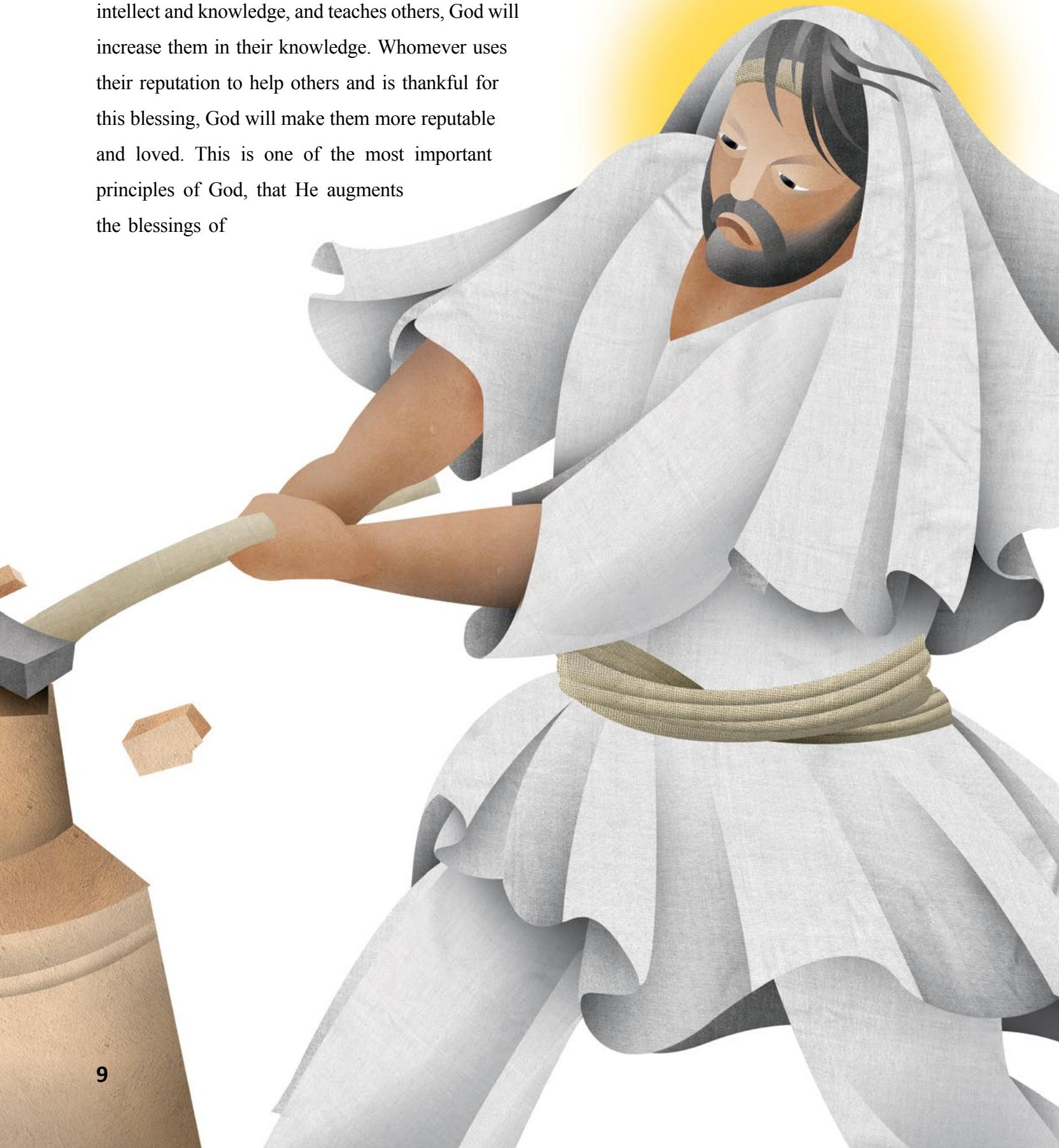
“*Ayyam-Allah*” means the “*Days of God*”. The remembrance of these days is the remembrance of God and his infinite power. Hence why, God commanded Moses to remind people of these days, so they may remember God more often.

In verse 5 of Chapter Ibrāhīm we read “*Indeed, we sent Moses with his miracles and said to him: bring your tribe out of the dark into the light and remind them of the days of God.*”

2 - Disjoined letters are explained briefly in the beginning of Chapter Ar-Ra'd.

The Reward of the Grateful

Whomever gives money to the poor, spends it in righteous ways, and is thankful for their blessings, God will increase their wealth. Whomever is thankful for the blessings of their intellect and knowledge, and teaches others, God will increase them in their knowledge. Whomever uses their reputation to help others and is thankful for this blessing, God will make them more reputable and loved. This is one of the most important principles of God, that He augments the blessings of



those who are forever grateful. In verse 7 of Chapter Ibrāhīm God says: “*If you are thankful, I shall increase you your blessings.*”

The Devil’s Answer!

The discussion between Devil and the Residents of Hell in the Hereafter is very interesting. When the Residents of Hell see the Devil, they start to blame him and say: “*It was you who made us miserable*”. The Devil will then respond: “*I did not force you to sin! I only invited you to sin. It was you who went towards sin. Therefore, now do not blame me but blame yourselves. Indeed, neither can I be called to your aid, nor can you be called to my aid. I condemn your wrongdoings in the world!*”. The Devil's response appears in verse 22 of Chapter Ibrāhīm.

The Endless Blessings of God

God Almighty has bestowed us many blessings. You see the boundless blessings of God in every direction you turn. The sun, moon, wind, rain, sea, and the various delicious foods of different colors, are all just part of God’s endless blessings. In our body alone, there are hundreds and thousands of worthy blessings. The world is full of different blessings. Intellectuals have written numerous books about God’s blessings, but still no one can enumerate them. In verse 34 of Chapter Ibrāhīm, we read: “*And if you attempt to count God's blessing, you are unable to number them.*”

Abraham's (PBUH) Prayer

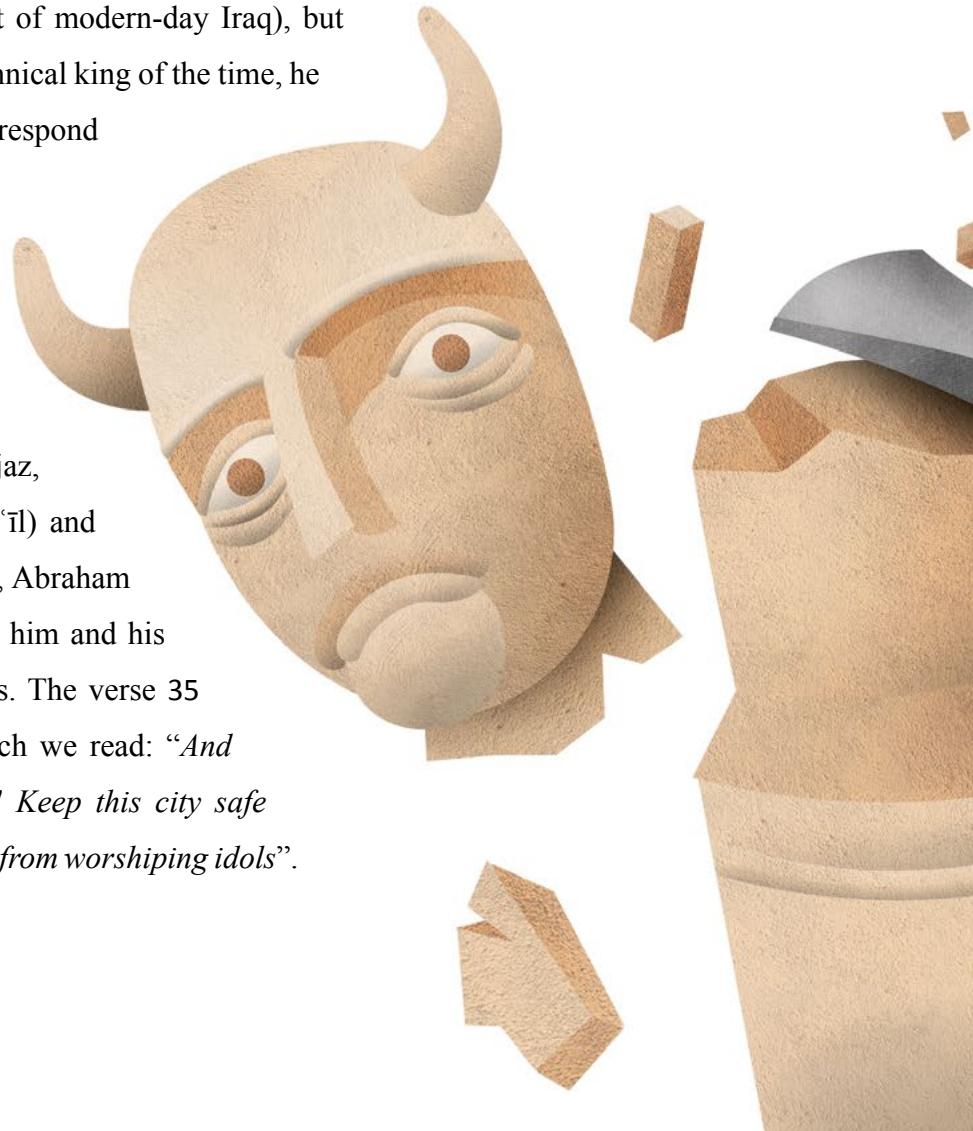
Abraham (PBUH) lived in Babylon (part of modern-day Iraq), but after his difficulties with Nimrūd, the tyrannical king of the time, he went to the Levant. The Ancient Levant correspond

to the modern countries of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine.

Abraham (PBUH) then left Levant to the land of Hijaz (region in the west of present-day Saudi Arabia)

and rebuilt the Ka’ba. In his trip to Hijaz,

he accompanied his son, Ishmael ('Ismā'īl) and wife, Hagar (Hājar). Alongside the Ka’ba, Abraham prayed for the security of Mecca and for him and his children to adhere to monotheistic beliefs. The verse 35 of Chapter Ibrāhīm is about this, in which we read: “*And remember when Abraham said: O Lord! Keep this city safe (Mecca), and distance me and my children from worshiping idols*”.





The Chapter at a Glance:

Sūrah “*Al-Hijr*” is the 15th Chapter of the Holy Qur’ān. This Chapter was revealed to the Prophet (PBUH & HP) in Mecca and has 99 verses. The first verse of the Chapter begins with disjointed letters³ (*Hurūf Muqatṭa‘āt*) of “الْهِجْرَ” and it is pronounced as: “*Alif, Lām, Rā’*”.

About the Name of the Chapter:

“*Hijr*” was the name of the land between Medina and Damascus (Sham), where the Tribe of Thamud lived. The Tribe of Thamud were the people to whom God had sent Prophet Ṣāliḥ to guide them. God speaks of the People of Hijr and their punishment in verses 80-84 of the Chapter. For this reason, the Chapter has been named Hijr. In the 80th verse of Chapter Al-Hijr we read: “*Surely, the People of Hijr denied the words of the prophets.*” According to verse 81 of this Chapter, the Tribe of Thamud would make sturdy houses by carving into the mountains, and by having these sturdy homes they felt secure from many dangers. But when the divine punishment came, these sturdy houses were unable to protect them.

General Contents of the Chapter:

This Chapter discusses many different topics. Some verses speak about theology and signs that remind us of God. Other verses are about resurrection (Al-Ma’ad), the punishment of sinners, the creation of mankind, and the rebellion of Satan. In several verses, the story of the People of Lot (Lūṭ), People of Jethro (Shu’āib), and People of Ṣāliḥ is also mentioned. The importance of the Holy Qur’ān, invitation of the Prophet (PBUH & HP) to resist against hardships, giving glad tidings to the believers and warnings to the wrongdoers are some of the other topics addressed in this Chapter.

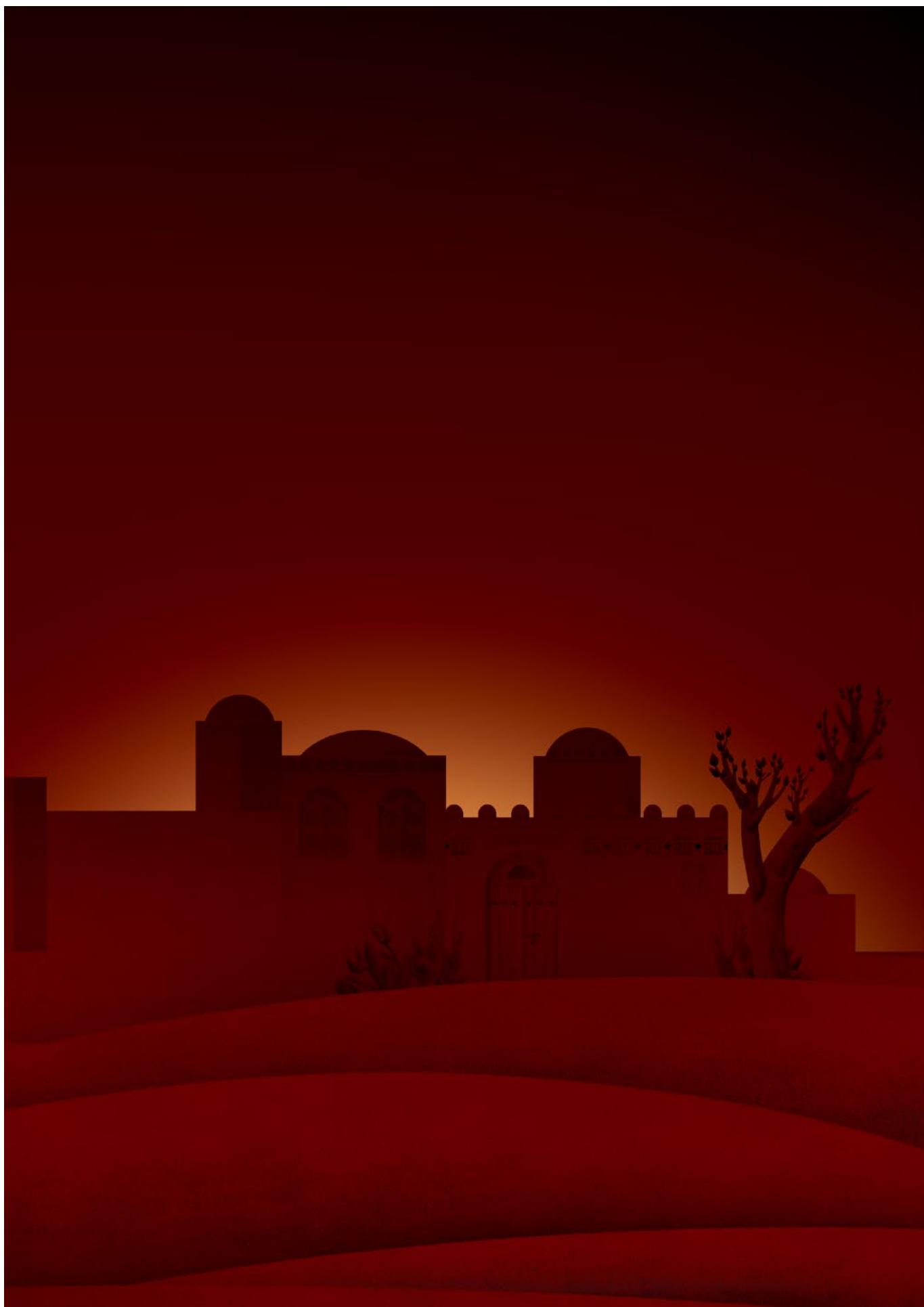
Excerpts from the Chapter:

Verse of Protection!

The Qur’ān that is in our hands, is the same Qur’ān that was revealed to the Prophet (PBUH & HP), nothing has been added nor removed from it. As opposed to the Bible and Torah, that have changed, the Qur’ān is the only Heavenly book that has remained unchanged since its revelation.

In verse 9 of Chapter Al-Hijr, God has promised that the Qur’ān will be protected from any changes or distortions. In this verse we read “*Verily, we have revealed this Qur’ān, and certainly we ourselves shall be the protectors of it.*” Since in this verse, God has affirmed that the Qur’ān will be protected and preserved, they refer to it as the “*Verse of Protection*”.

³ - Disjointed letters are explained briefly in the beginning of Chapter Ar-Ra’d.



Winds Fertilizing Clouds

The wind not only moves the clouds, but it also have a role in stimulating them to rain. The wind takes small particles of dirt, dust, and salt with itself into the clouds, and it combines with the fine particles of water vapor that condense around the dust and salt particles. When these fine water particles accumulate, raindrops are formed, and it begins to rain. This physical phenomenon is known as wind fertilizing the clouds. In verse 22 of Chapter Al-Hijr, God has mentioned the fertilizing role of the winds. In this verse we read "*We sent winds to fertilize clouds and sent down from the sky, water, and quenched your thirst with it.*"

The Consequences of Arrogance

Some of the Qur'anic stories have been repeated in several Chapters of this great book. The repetition of these stories indicates their importance. For example, the story of Satan's rebellion against God's command and his banishment from the sight of God has been repeated in many Chapters.

When God created Adam, he commanded everyone to prostrate to him. At that time, Satan was among the group of angels. All the angels prostrated to Adam (PBUH), but Satan out of his arrogance and pride, refused to accept God's command and did not prostrate. Due to this disobedience, God banished Satan from the company of angels. This story has also been mentioned in verses 27-35 of Chapter Al-Hijr. God has repeated this story several times in the Qur'an so that we understand that the consequences of arrogance and pride are bad.

Number of Hell's Door

According to a narration by Imam Al-Baqir (PBUH), Heaven has eight doors. Then, how many doors does Hell have? In verse 44 of Chapter Al-Hijr, the number of the doors of Hell has been mentioned. In this verse we read "*Hell has seven doors*".

Heaven, The House of Happiness

Life in Heaven and life in this world are very different. One of the features of life in Heaven is that there is not the slightest hardship and difficulty there. In this world, as much joy as we may have, we will eventually face sufferings. But in Heaven there is only joy, happiness, and contentment. In Heaven not a single thorn will get into the feet of the residents of Heaven, nor will their bodies get wounded, nor will anyone get sick, nor will anyone be insulted, nor will anyone get scared, nor will anyone be forced to do anything, nor will anyone feel hot or cold, and there will be no fighting or resentment.

In verses 45-48 of Chapter Al-Hijr, the situation of the residents of Heaven is clearly presented. In these verses we read "*Verily, the pious people will be in the gardens and springs of Heaven. The angels will say to them: 'Enter these gardens in peace and security.' We will remove all hatred and jealousy from their chests. They will be seated on couches facing each other like brothers together. There they do not get tired nor do they suffer, and they will never be expelled from therein.'*"





An-Nahl

16
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The Chapter at a Glance:

Sūrah “An-Nahl” is the 16th Chapter of the Holy Qur’ān. This Chapter was revealed to the Prophet (PBUH & HP) in Mecca and has 128 verses.

About the Name of the Chapter:

“Nahl” in the Arabic language means “Bee”. The Chapter’s name is derived from verse 68, in which it mentions the bee and its hives. In this verse we read: “*And your Lord inspired the Bee to build its hives in hills, on trees, and in men’s habitations*”. An alternative name for the Chapter is “Ne’am”, meaning “Blessings”. The purpose of this name is to remember God’s blessings.

General Contents of the Chapter:

The most important issue dealt with in this Chapter is Divine blessings. Some other verses speak about theology, resurrection (Al-Ma’ad), the deviation of pagans and idolaters, and alludes to their fate. Other verses focus on the topics of justice, benevolence, migration, and gratitude. In several verses, believers are warned against committing bad deeds, such as oppression, and the breaking of one’s promises. In one part of the Chapter, God warns the people about the temptations of Satan.

Excerpts from the Chapter:

All Blessings are from Him

From among all the Divine blessings we have been bestowed, is there a blessing that is given by someone other than God? Is there anything among all these blessings that is not the mercy, the gift, or the creation of God? Were we given eyes and ears from someone other than God? Were our caring parents created by anyone other than God? All the delicious food we consume, was it created by anyone other than God? Were the oceans, trees, rivers, moon, and sun made available to us by anyone other than God? The response to these questions is obvious. All blessings are from God and created by Him. In verse 53 of this Chapter we read: “*And whatever you have of favor, it is from God* ”

They Buried Their Daughters Alive!

Before Islam, the people of Arabia regarded girls as worthless creatures. For this reason, if anyone conceived a daughter, they would feel ashamed. Some people even buried their daughters alive to free themselves from this disgrace.

The verses 58 and 59 of Chapter An-Nahl say: “*And when one of them is informed of the birth of a female, his face becomes dark, and angry. He hides himself from the people because of the evil of the news he has*



been informed, and does not know if he should keep the girl in humiliation or bury it in the ground?"

After Islam, the Prophet (PBUH & HP) changed people's minds and taught everyone to treat girls and boys equally.

The Best Food

Honey is one of the healthiest and most beneficial foods. Honey increases calcium absorption, relieves tiredness, helps cultivate the heart, prevents stomach and liver infections, and helps replenish red blood cells. In addition, honey is effective in the treatment of various illnesses, such as ulcers, rheumatism, numerous neurological disorders, helps reduce coughing, and is proven to beat insomnia.

In verse 69 of Chapter An-Nahl, God has mentioned this beneficial food and said: "*There comes forth from within the bellies of bees a beverage of many colors, in which there is healing for men.*"

Verse of Benevolence (Ihsan)

The verse 90 of Chapter An-Nahl is known as the verse of "Ihsan", meaning benevolence. This verse is named such because in this verse God commands people to do good to others.

In this verse we read: "*God enjoins justice, the doing of good, and generosity towards one's relatives; and He forbids indecency and evil and oppression.*"

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH & HP) has said about this verse: "*This verse is the key to reach all levels of Taqwá (God consciousness) and righteousness.*"

Seeking the Protection of God from Satan

When we recite the Qur'an, and decide to act according to its verses, Satan tempts us not to take the words of God seriously. Sometimes Satan distracts us from focusing and understanding the meaning of Qur'anic verses. It is for this reason that in verse 98 of Chapter An-Nahl, God has asked us to seek refuge in Him before reciting the Qur'an. In this verse we read:

"So when you recite the Qur'an, seek refuge in God from the accursed Satan"

If you have noticed, before reciting the Qur'an, people utter the following phrase:

"**أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ**" (A'udhu bil-lāhi min ash-Shaytāni-r-Rajīm; I seek refuge in God from the accursed Satan). The mentioned phrase is retrieved from verse 98.





Al-Isrā

17
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The Chapter at a Glance:

Sūrah “*Al-Isrā*” is the 17th Chapter of the Holy Qur’ān. This Chapter was revealed to the Prophet (PBUH & HP) in Mecca and has 111 verses.

About the Name of the Chapter:

The word “*Isrā*” in the Arabic language means “*To travel or a journey at night*”. The Chapter was named “*Isrā*” as the first verse speaks about the Prophet’s night journey to the skies. This heavenly journey of the Prophet (PBUH & HP) is called the “*Me’rāj*” or “*Ascension*”. On the journey of ascension, the Prophet was so distant from the world that he could see Paradise and Hell. To perform this journey, the Prophet (PBUH & HP) travelled overnight from “*Masjid Al-Harām*” in Mecca to “*Masjid Al-Aqṣā*” in the Old City of Jerusalem, from where he ascended to the heavens. In the first verse of this Chapter we read: “*Pure and exalted is He [God] who took His Servant by night from Masjid Al-Harām to Masjid Al-Aqṣā*”. This Chapter is also known as “*Banī Israel*” (Children of Israel), because part of this Chapter is about the Israelites.

General Contents of the Chapter:

A part of this Chapter speaks about the pillars of religion, such as the oneness of God (Tawhid), prophethood (Al-Nubuwah), resurrection (Al-Ma’ad). Another portion of the Chapter relates to the history of the Israelites and some of the prophets. Some of the verses of this Chapter speak about wastefulness, greediness, usurping the money of the orphans, defrauding, arrogance, bloodshed, and recalls the ugliness of these actions. Other verses of this Chapter refer to the miraculous nature of the Qur’ān, and its effect on human lives. Other topics such as warning against the devil’s temptations, importance of showing gratitude to parents, and the ugliness of stubbornness is addressed in this Chapter.

Excerpts from the Chapter:

Honoring Your Parents

Regardless of their age, all humans must respect their parents, and avoid upsetting them. But if our parents are old, we need to treat them with more respect and be more careful of our actions than ever before. People who are older tend to get hurt and become aggravated more easily. If someone disrespects their elderly parents, for example raises their voice at them, they will become upset sooner than parents who are young. That is why God has ordered all people to show their utmost respect to their elderly parents. In verses 23 and 24 of Chapter Al-Isrā, God says: “*Your Lord commanded you not to worship except Him and treat your parents with respect. When they reach old age, do not insult them even the slightest, do not raise your voice at them, and speak with them respectfully and kindly, and act humbly to them and say: ‘My Lord! Have mercy on them, since they nurtured me when I was a child.’*”

Spendthrifts, the Brothers of Satan!

Spending money is not bad, however overspending and spending excessively is a bad thing. A person should spend their money reasonably, at the right time and place. In Islam, a person does not have the right to waste their wealth. For example, a person should not prepare extra food for a social event that would ultimately result in them having to throw away the food. According to our religion, spending money in an extravagant, irresponsible way even in doing good deeds, such as giving charity to the needy, and relatives



is not recommended. Spending money must be planned and managed wisely. Wasting and spending lavishly is an evil deed. In verses 26 and 27 of Chapter Al-Isrā, we read “*Do not spend wastefully and lavishly. Indeed, those who needlessly waste and are extravagant are brothers of the devils.*”

Do Not Walk Arrogantly

People who are arrogant and conceited, walk in a way as if they are better and superior than others. They take steps and wave their hands in such a way that suggests people are their servants. These people walk with stern faces, forcefully keep their heads very high, and stomp their feet on the ground. Nobody likes an arrogant person, and nobody enjoys how they walk. Nobody likes to approach or talk to them. Additionally, God dislikes arrogant people. In Qur'an, God has commanded us to avoid walking arrogantly.

In verse 37 of Chapter Al-Isrā, God says: “*And do not walk upon the earth with pride and arrogance; you will never tear the earth apart, and you will never reach the mountains in height*”. This means that an arrogant person, regardless of how hard they stomp their feet, cannot make a hole in the ground, and no matter how high they hold their heads, they will not be as tall as the mountains. So, why is it necessary for one to walk arrogantly?!

The Ingratitude of Man

Some people only remember God when they are faced with danger or hardship. These people raise their hands in prayer, and plead to God during a threatening situation, and when they are in fear. In such situations, they constantly remember God, and proceed to make promises to Him. However, once they feel safe, they will neglect God, engage in His disobedience, and sin. In verse 67 of Chapter Al-Isrā, God criticizes these types of people and says: “*When danger threatens you at sea and you are faced with affliction you forget everyone except for God. But when He saves you and delivers you to the land, you turn away from Him. Man is very ungrateful.*”

Response to a Mistake

During the Prophet's (PBUH & HP) time, the disbelievers raised an objection to God's choice of choosing a messenger among humans and not angels. This was a wrong statement made by the disbelievers. People can communicate easily with a prophet of their own kind. If the prophets were not human, it would have been very difficult for people to interact with them. Humans require a leader that is like them and can live alongside them. If the prophets were different from humans, they could have not been a role model for them. In verse 95 of Chapter Al-Isrā, God has responded to the objection of the disbelievers. In this verse we read: “*If instead of you humans, angels lived on the earth and we wanted to send a prophet for them, we would have sent to them an angel as a prophet*”. This means that the prophet of any people must be of the same species, and the same kind as them.

Al-Kahf

18
Makki

The Chapter at a Glance:

Sūrah “Al-Kahf” is the 18th Chapter of the Holy Qur’ān. This Chapter was revealed to the Prophet (PBUH & HP) in Mecca and has 110 verses.

About the Name of the Chapter:

The word “Kahf” in the Arabic language means “Cave”. This Chapter recounts the journey of chivalrous men who hid in a cave, hence why this Chapter was named Al-Kahf. Those chivalrous men who became known as the “*Companions of the Cave*” lived thousands of years before the emergence of Islam. The people of their country were all idolaters, and an oppressive king ruled over their country. The Companions of the Cave strived hard to save the people from idolatry, guiding them to worship the one God, but they were unsuccessful. Eventually, they left their homeland, and sought refuge in a cave. By God’s power, they were put into a slumber that lasted 309 years. After their long slumber, they awakened and set out to return to their land. When they entered their land, the previous cruel king had died, and a just king had come to power. The 309 years-long slumber of the Companions of the Cave taught people that they should not be astonished of the Day of Judgment and the resurrection of the dead. The same God who awakened those chivalrous men from a 309 years-long slumber, can also resurrect others after death, as death is like a long slumber. The story of the Companions of the Cave has been narrated in verses 9-26 of this Chapter.

General Contents of the Chapter:

A major portion of the Chapter focuses on narrating various stories such as the story of the Companions of the Cave, Moses (Mūsā) and Khiḍr (PBUT), Dhū-l-Qarnayn (Holder of Two Horned Crown), and an arrogant man who owned two lush gardens. The punishment of the Residents of Hell, the bitter fate of rebellious people, the endless knowledge of God, and the invitation of people to believe and perform good deeds are among other topics mentioned in this Chapter.

Excerpts from the Chapter:

Prophet (PBUH & HP) in the Company of the Poor

A group of arrogant conceited rich people came to the Prophet (PBUH & HP), and pointing to few faithful Muslims such as Salman and Abu Dhar, they said: “*O Muhammad! Rid yourself of the company of the poor, so that we can come close to you and benefit from your remarks.*” After this incident, verse 28 of Chapter Al-Kahf was revealed, in which God commanded His Prophet (PBUH & HP) not to surrender to those deceptive statements and keep his faithful companions close, regardless of their financial status. Thus,

the Messenger of God (PBUH & HP) rejected the requests of those conceited people, went to his faithful companions and said “*Praise be to God, that I did not die, when He commanded me to be close with people like you. I will be with you in this life and the Hereafter.*”

Consequences of Ingratitude

Hundreds of years ago, there lived a man who owned two enormous and lush gardens with abundant crops, full of grape and date trees. In between these two gardens there was a large river. The owner of the two gardens, as a result of his assets had become arrogant. He said to his faithful friend: “*I am wealthier than you, and people respect me more. I will never believe in God or resurrection. Even if the Day of Judgement did exist, I will have a higher status than you*”.

The faithful friend of this man advised him and said: “*Do not say such blasphemous words. Are you denying the God whom has created you and provided for you since childhood? God has given you these gardens and assets. It is He who has bestowed you all these blessings. Be afraid of God's punishment, lest He turns your gardens into a dry land.*” This benevolent advice did not influence the arrogant man. He continued to revel in his wealth and denied God. As a result of that man’s ingratitude, God descended His torment overnight, destroying the crops of the man’s gardens. In the morning, when the owner went to visit his gardens, he was appalled to see the destruction. It was then, when he understood that he should not have forgotten God for the sake of wealth and should not have let arrogance despair his heart. This story is narrated in verses 32-44 of Chapter Al-Kahf.

Report of the Deeds

On the Day of Judgement, when sinners see the report of their deeds, they become appalled when they see that even their tiniest actions have been recorded. If they had ever hurt someone, mocked, stolen something, used blasphemous language against someone, abused, or lied, all their misdeeds have been exactly recorded. Therefore, the wrongdoers will scream and say: “*Shame on us! What writing is this that every small and big action has been recorded within it?*” This statement said by the Residents of Hell is mentioned in verse 49 of Chapter Al-Kahf.

Moses and Khidr (PBUT)

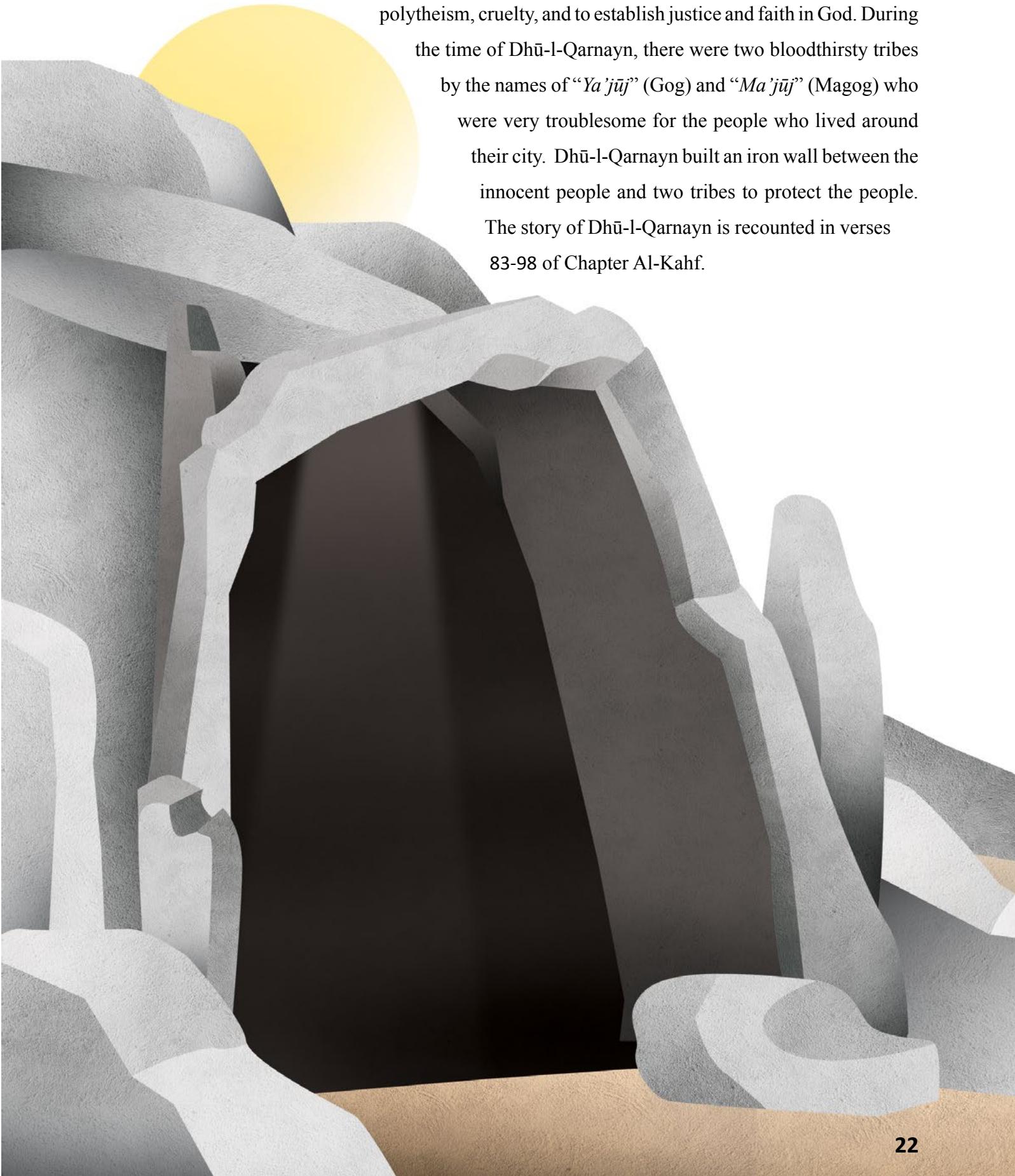
One of the stories of the Qur'an is the story of the journey of Moses accompanied by Khidr (PBUT). Khidr was one of God’s prophets. Moses accompanied Khidr so that he may learn new things from him, as Khidr possessed a great wealth of knowledge.

Although Moses had a higher status than Khidr, God had taught Khidr knowledge that Moses did not know, hereby, testing Moses.

This story is narrated in verses 65-82 of this Chapter.

Who was Dhū-l-Qarnayn?

“*Dhū-l-Qarnayn*” was one of the good servants of God. He had a powerful army, and he himself was a very strong and wise man. He faced many hardships to fight against oppression, polytheism, cruelty, and to establish justice and faith in God. During the time of Dhū-l-Qarnayn, there were two bloodthirsty tribes by the names of “*Ya’jūj*” (Gog) and “*Ma’jūj*” (Magog) who were very troublesome for the people who lived around their city. Dhū-l-Qarnayn built an iron wall between the innocent people and two tribes to protect the people. The story of Dhū-l-Qarnayn is recounted in verses 83-98 of Chapter Al-Kahf.





The Qur'an is a captivating book, containing God's words and His lessons for us! It might be hard to believe, but in His book, God speaks about various life related issues, and guides us to the correct way of life! This book is a mirror image of the Qur'an. It introduces all the Qur'anic Chapters in sequence, and describes some of the lessons of each Chapter in a concise and practical manner. Indeed, whoever reads this book will become acquainted with many Qur'anic lessons.

