

CHAPTER 1

QURAN

Meaning of the Quran

The word Qur'an comes from an Arabic root *qara'a* which means "to read, to rehearse, or to recite." Quran in Arabic is a verbal noun, therefore literally means reciting, reading or something that is continuously recited. In Islam the word Quran is defined as the divine speech of Allah (S.W.T) in exact meaning and wording, sent down upon the last Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H), through the agency of Angel Jibril (A.S) for guidance to human kind, transmitted from one generation to another by means of *tawattur* (numerous people).

Therefore, this depicts that the Holy Quran is a Distinguished Divine Scripture of Allah which starts from Suratul-faatiha and ends at Suratul-Naas. Muslims read the holy Quran for various purposes.

The purposes for reading Quran

The Muslims read the Quran for the following purposes:

- To win and earn the pleasures (*ridhaa*) of Allah (S.W.T).
- To learn Allah's commands explained in the Quran.
- To follow the commandments of Allah (S.W.T) by implementing the teaching of Quran.
- To prepare themselves for this world and hereafter.

Etiquettes that one should observe when reading the Quran

The following are some of the etiquettes that should be observed when reading the Holy Quran:

1. One should keep the Quran in clean place and on top of all the books.
2. A Muslim should concentrate fully on the Quran and leave aside all other preoccupation as if the Quran addresses him or her directly.

3. An individual should be ritually clean (mutwahharah) free from janaba, nifaas and heidh and sit on a clean place.
4. One should face Qibla when reading the Holy Quran.
5. One should observe self-respect, dignity, self-esteem and humility when reading the Quran.
6. One should start with ***audhu-billahi*** and followed with ***bismillah***.
7. One should read the Quran with his or her best and good voice.
8. One should cover his or her private part ('*aura*) as appropriate as possible.
9. One should ask for Allah's forgiveness when reading a verse containing a promise.
10. One should request for Allah's mercy when reading a verse containing a threat or punishment.
11. One should end with dua (supplication) for Allah (S.W.T) to accept his or her recitation.
12. One should consider *sijidatul-tilaawah* where appropriate.

Other Names of the Quran

Some of the names of the Quran have been referred to in the Quran itself while others are derived from the functions of the Quran. Among these names are as follows:

- *Al-Furqaan* (the Distinguisher) "***Blessed is He who sent down the Distinguisher to His servant, that it may be an admonition to all creatures.***" [Q: 25: 1]
- *Al-Nadhir* (the Clear Warner) "***Verily this Quran Do guide to that which is most right and give the Glad tidings to the believers who work deeds of righteousness, that they have a magnificent reward.***" [Q: 17:9]
- *Al-Rahma* (the Mercy) "***A guide and a Mercy to the doers of good***" [Q:31:3]
- *Al-Tanzil* (the Revelation) "***Verily this is a Revelation from the Lord of the Worlds.***" [Q: 26:192]
- *Al-Dhikr* (the Reminder) "***We have without doubt, send down the message; And We will assuredly guard it (from corruption)***" [Q: 15:9]
- *Al-Kitab* (The book) "***We have revealed for you (O men) a Book in which is a message for you: will you not then understand.***" [Q:21:10]

- *Al-Hudaa (the Guidance)* “We gave Moses the book, and made it a Guide to the children of Israel (Commanding): “Take not other than Me as disposer of (your) affair.” [Q: 17: 2:5]
- *Nur (Light)* “...**Those that believe in him (Prophet Mohammed) and honor him, those that aid him and follow the light sent down with him, will surely be successful.**” [Q:7:157]
- *Al-shifaa (the Cure)* “**and we reveal the Quran that which is a cure and a mercy to the believers, though it adds nothing but ruin to the unjust.**” [Q:17:82]
- *Majid (Glorious)* “**Nay! Is a Glorious Quran.**” [Q:85:22]
- *Al-Karim (The Noble)* “**Indeed, it is a noble Qur'an**” [Q:56:77]
- *Mubarak (Blessed)* “**And likewise We revealed this (Book) - a blessed one. Follow it, then, and become God-fearing; you may be shown mercy.** [Q:6:155]
- *Urwatul-uthqaa (firm handhold)* “**There is no compulsion in religion. The right direction is henceforth distinct from error. And he who rejecteth false deities and believeth in Allah hath grasped a firm handhold which will never break. Allah is Hearer, Knower.**” [Q:2:256]

Ulumul-Quran

The term **Ulum** means ‘scientific study of a subject’. Therefore, *Ulumul-Quran* is a scientific study of the Holy Quran including all the skills and branches of knowledge related to its understanding. Such knowledge that includes its:

- Revelation of the Holy Qur’an.
- Collection and compilation of the Holy Qur’an.
- Order and arrangement of verses and chapters of the Qur’an.
- Translation and Interpretation of the Quran (*tafsir wa-tahweelul Quran*).
- Information about Reasons for and occasions of revelation of the verses and chapters of the Qur’an (*Asbaabu Nnuzul*)
- Characteristics and nature of language of Quran.
- About Abrogating and abrogates verses of Qur’an (*al-nasikh wal Mansukh*)
- Style of writing of the Qur’an
- Themes of the Quran

- Recitation of Qur'an (Tajweed li-Qiraatul Qur'an)
- About the clear and unclear verses (muhkamaat and mutashaabihaat).

Need for the revelation of the Quran

Some of the reasons as to why mankind and jinns need revelation are as follows:

- The earlier scriptures were tampered and interfered with by man to suit their needs and aspirations thus losing their authenticity. Hence the revelation of the Quran was to correct the wrong message.
- The Quran was given to Prophet Muhammad, the seal of the prophet with a universal message unlike the other books which were sent to particular generations at specific time and people.
- To fulfill Allah's promise as well as prophecies of the other earlier revealed scriptures on the coming of the Quran and that of prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H).
- To narrate and summarize stories and events of the earlier generation in order to offer teachings, lessons, warnings and guidance to shape community.
- To promote the belief in True God so as to re-affirm *tawheed* in the society and reject all false gods
- To remind all people and jinns about the Day of Judgment so as to make us remember both death and accountability and thus encourage us to be righteous.
- For giving us the Islamic code of life so as we fulfill the intended way of life as prescribed by Allah (S.W.T).

Themes of the Quran

Quran has discussed many themes and several topics. Some of them include the following:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| a) Tawheed and shirk | g) Battles |
| b) Day of Judgment | h) Morality |
| c) Honesty and truthfulness | i) Patience and tranquility |
| d) Commercial ethics | j) Hellfire |
| e) Paradise and Hellfire | k) Stories of prophets. |
| f) Pillars of Islam: <i>shahada, swala, swaum, zakat and hajj</i> . | |

Importance of Qur'an

The following are some of the importance of the Holy Qur'an to Muslim community:

- a. It is an eternal miracle of Islam because no society can produce its similitude.
- b. Quran is the first source of Islamic *sharia* (law) that touches all the human aspects of life.
- c. It purifies one's moral and conduct for the betterment of the society.
- d. Its recitation is considered as a form of worship; therefore, Muslims get rewards by reading and conducting themselves as per its teachings.
- e. Quran is a source of spiritual satisfaction and thus way It guides the believers on how to worship appropriately.
- f. It is superior to what was revealed to the former messengers of Allah. It contains all the teachings of the earlier generations and it has brought them to maturity.
- g. Muslims solve their problems through the Quran either directly or indirectly. Its teachings cover the past, present as well as the future without limits.
- h. It is the best guide for seeking Allah's pleasure and obtaining a perfect moral code.
- i. Quran is the most truthful speech, the most eloquent advice to Muslims which they need to listen to it carefully in order to preserve the words of Allah (s.w).
- j. The Qur'an guides us to all aspects of life i.e. socially, morally, politically and spiritually, thus enabling people to live in peace and harmony.
- k. Our supplications get answered if we were to pray after reading the Holy Qur'an, thus it also helps in strengthening our faith.
- l. Students get wise when they start reading the Qur'an in their childhood, thus Holy Book is the best intellectual treasure a student can have.
- m. The Quran reminds the Christians and Jews about the right path of their religions and the correct commands and guides in their holy books. It thus explains the deviations in their holy books, and therefore invites them to the new message which subsumes all what is true in their Scriptures.
- n. It also calls Muslims to think deliberately in God creations that are the right way to believe in God. In this regard, Quran contained a wide variety of scientific statements that become only proven by state of art of technology, science, and information. These scientific statements are considered as miracles of Quran that prove Quran is a God revelation and not human wrote text.

- o. Quran recitation inculcates love and fear of Allah. This is because some verses of the Quran contain soothing effect while others contains harsh tone to the disbelievers and the evil doers.
- p. Inculcates love and respect for the Prophet (SAW) to whom the Qur'an was revealed.
- q. It also contains narratives of peoples and nations of the past and prophets.
- r. Helps to improve Arabic and services as an incentive for the study of Arabic

REVELATION

The role of Angel Jibril (A.S) in the revelation of Qur'an

The following are the duties played by Angel Jibril (A.S) in the revelation of the Holy Qur'an:

1. He lowered the Quran from Lauhil Mahfudh (well preserved tablet) to the seventh heaven (Baitul- Izza); the lowest heaven in the night of power.
2. He lowered the Quran from Baitul-Izza to earth and revealed it in portions to the prophet Mohammed throughout his 23 years of prophet hood.
3. He taught the prophet Mohammed how to recite the Holy Quran correctly.
4. He assisted the prophet in the order and arrangement of the Quran. He used to appear before the prophet at the beginning of every month of Ramadhan and the prophet used to recite all the chapters while Jibril would guide him on the order and arrangement.
5. He played an intermediary role (a link) between the Almighty Allah (S.W.T) to the prophet Mohammed (P.B.U.H) carrying across the message.
6. He assisted the prophet in memorizing the Quran during revelation; he would only leave after the prophet had grasped the verses.
7. Angel Jibril (A.S) assisted the prophet in interpreting and understanding the Quran.

The roles played by Angel Jibril in the perfection of Islamic religion

The following are the roles that Angel Jibril (A.S) played in the perfection of Islamic religion:

- a) He used to bring down the Quran from lauhul mahfudh to baitul izza then down to the prophet
- b) Angel jibril taught the prophet how to recite the Holy Quran
- c) There were times when angel jibril would descend in human form to teach the prophet different aspects of religion on behalf of the prophet's companions (sahabas)
- d) Angel Jibril used to give comfort and spiritual support to the prophet in times of hardship.
- e) Angel Jibril accompanied the prophet during the Isra-wal-miraaj.
- f) Angel Jibril would also accompany the prophet during battles where himself fought to protect the prophet.
- g) He would also come to revise the Holy Quran and its order with the prophet for its proper preservation. He was the comforter of the prophet because revelation was a difficult experience.
- h) He was an instructor who instructed the prophet on how to carry out a certain action.
- i) He was a protector who protected the prophet from his enemies and the evils of non-Muslims so as to ensure the receiver of the revelation is safe until the mission was completed.
- j) Angel Jibril was a true friend in need and indeed who consoled the prophet whenever he experienced emotional and psychological stresses.
- k) He accompanied the prophet in some battles where he participated in the fight to protect the prophet and in some cases, he came with revelation as well.
- l) He used to listen the prophet's recitation of the Quran from time to time and in his last year he revised with him the Qur'an twice.

The role of the prophet Mohammed (p.b.u.h) in the revelation of Qur'an

The following are roles of the prophet Mohammed (p.b.u.h) in the revelation of Qur'an:

- 1) He was first receiver of the message hence enabled the Quran to be revealed.
- 2) He facilitated the preservation of the Quran by memorization
- 3) He asked the scribes to write it down so as to be used as a reference
- 4) He used to listen to the scribes reciting it after recording to ensure that the message was captured correctly to avoid sending of wrong message

- 5) He taught the companions the intended message of the revolution thus facilitating the following of its teachings
- 6) He interpreted the Quranic verses by use of hadith and sunnah to make the message clear to the companions
- 7) There are times which circumstances required his response and where he was unable answer Allah SWT revealed specific verses to give the responses.
- 8) Some verses were revealed to correct mistakes that he made. For example during the incident of lady Aisha when she was slandered and when he ignored Abdullah ibn Ummu Makthum
- 9) He used to send teachers to various places to teach the Quran.

The reasons why the Qur'an was revealed in portions

The following are some of the reasons as to why the Quran was revealed bit by bit (in piecemeal):

1. To address the prophet continuously in order to strengthen his heart.
2. The process of revelation was a very difficult experience considering human ability and limitations; therefore, it was revealed in portions to ease the task.
3. To provide room for spiritual growth and development for the prophet and his companions.
4. To progressively implement the *sharia* (laws) of Allah (S.W.T) that is providing continuous guidance.
5. To make it easy for the believers to understand and apply the rules of the Quran.
6. To make its memorization easier because the Arabs chiefly relied on memory to preserve information.
7. To respond to the events and incidences. And thus, to Deal with problems as they arise whenever a new happening emerges the Quran was there to provide the necessary solutions and answer.
8. To show that Qur'an is the real speech of Allah (S.W.T). An indication of the true source of the Quran as it was revealed in a period of 23 years without any contradictions.

SURAH FATIHAH

The translation of Surah Fatihah

In the name of Allah, Most Merciful, Most Gracious. All the praises be to Allah, The cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds. The Most Merciful, Most Gracious. Master of the Day of Judgment. You alone we worship and You alone we ask for help. Guide us to the straight path. The path of those on whom you have bestowed your Grace, and not the path of those who earned your anger, or of those who went astray.

Commentary of Surah Fatihah

Al-Fâtiḥa is the first sūrah (chapter) of the Quran and was one of the earliest portions of the Quran revealed to the prophet Muḥammad by the angel Jibril. The word ‘Fatiha’ comes from the Arabic root verb ‘Fataha’ which means an *opening, beginning or commencement*. It was revealed in the fourth year since the prophet Mohammed (P.B.U.H) began his mission in the Holy city of Mecca before hijra. It was revealed so as to offer a way through which believers can communicate with Allah (S.W.T) during prayers. It is said to be the first complete sūrah that was revealed to the Prophet Mohammed (P.B.U.H). It has seven verses, BISMILLAH being one of them. It is concluded by the word AMEEN, this simply means LORD ACCEPT IT.

Parts of Surah Fatiha

The chapter has three distinctive parts basing on its themes. Such parts are as follows:

- a) ***The praises of Allah (S.W.T) through His beautiful names, attributes and nature of His work.*** That’s is Allah is the Most Gracious, Most Merciful, The Cherisher of the universe and the King of the Day of Judgement.
- b) ***The declaration and loyalty pledge of the believers.*** That the believers will worship no any other deities save Allah and will exclusively depend on Him alone.
- c) ***The supplication of guidance*** of the believers towards their Lord so as to guide them on the straight path of prophets and *swaalihina* (righteous peoples). And protect them from following the path of those whom they earned His wrath neither of those who went astray.

Attributes of Allah mentioned in surah faatihah

- ✓ Allah: He is the only one God worth to be worshiped without being associated with any being.
- ✓ Ar-Rahman: The Most merciful to his creatures and all beings.
- ✓ Ar-Rahim: The Most Gracious to the righteous beings.
- ✓ Ar-Rabu: The Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds.
- ✓ Al-Malik: The King

Themes of suratul-faatiha

The following are the four major principles of surah fatiha basing on its themes:

- The principle of *tawheed* (oneness of Allah).
- The principle of *Akherah* (life after death).
- The principle of *Hudaa* (Guidance).
- The principle of *falaahu-din* (continuation of religion).

Other names of suratul-faatiha

- *Suratul swalaat*- The chapter of prayer
- *Faatihalul kitaab*- The opening chapter.
- *Ummul-kitaab*- The mother of the book.
- *Ummul-Quran*- The mother of Holy Quran.
- *Assabaul-mathaani*- The seven repeatedly verse.
- *Al-kaafiyah*- The sufficient.
- *Ashifaa*- The cure.
- *Arruqyah*- The incarnation.
- *Al-assaas*- The foundation.
- *Al-waafiyah*- The complete.

NB: It is also called '*sab al mathani*'. i.e. the seven ayahs as these are seven ayahs that no equivalent of them has ever been sent to the previous prophets before. It is called '*Umm ul Kitab*' i.e. 'the mother of the whole book' because it encompasses the theme of recognition of Allah, belief in Him and worshipping Him only and genuinely.

The supplication (dua) as stated in Surah Al-Fatiha

You alone we worship and You alone we ask for help. Guide us to the straight path. The path of those on whom you have bestowed your Grace, and not the path of those who earned your anger, or of those who went astray.

Teachings of Surah Fatihah

The following are the lessons that Muslims can derive from surah fatihah:

1. Allah is the most Gracious and most Merciful.
2. We should praise Allah for all the favors He has bestowed to us.
3. Allah is the controller and overall judge of everything during the Day of Judgment.
4. Allah is the only one worth of our devotion so all our prayers should be directed to Him.
5. Whoever needs any help should seek divine intervention of Allah.
6. Man should ask for Allah's guidance to the path of righteousness.
7. The path of righteousness is a favor from Allah (S.W.T).
8. Man should shun all evils to avoid the wrath of Allah. The worshipper is reminded not to transgress.
9. Mankind should follow the teachings of Allah (S.W.T) in order to avoid His anger.
10. The recognition of the oneness of Allah brings us closer to Allah and keeps us far from Iblis.

Importance of the Surah Faatihah

Surah Fatiha has several significances. Some of such importances include the following:

1. Surah Fatiha brings us closer to Allah through the words of praise contained in it.
2. It is a supplication (*dua*) that the prophet recommended to be used often.
3. It is the opening chapter of the Holy Quran.
4. It's the foundation of faith since it contains all the aspects of *tawheed* and articles of faith.
5. It is the mother of the Quran.
6. It is one of the pillars of prayers, therefore it is to be recited in every prayer for it to be valid. Without which one's *swalat* is unacceptable.

7. It's one among the surahs that no other prophet was given except prophet Muhammad only.
8. It's a mean by which Muslims communicate with Allah in a dialogue form.
9. It is a loyalty pledge of Muslims to Allah at least 17 times daily during prayer.
10. It psychologically makes a Muslim calm, patient and confident in his or her religion.

Ways through which Surah Fatihah guides a Muslim on the right path

The following are ways through which surah fatiha guides a Muslim on to the right path:

- Through continuous recitation of Surah Fatihah in prayers enables Muslims to be granted the divine guidance of Allah by frequently sending their supplication to be guided.
- By reminding Muslims about the Day of Judgment makes them to be righteous so as to have clean records on that day.
- By recognizing that Allah is the only one rightful for devotion and worship makes Muslims to refrain from shirk and affirms one's faith to one God.
- By reading Surah Fatihah a Muslim learns that only Allah deserves to be thanked for the all favors and that they have to take care of all the bounties to please Allah.
- Through knowing that Allah is the most Merciful, Muslims do their best to enjoin good and ask for forgiveness whenever they error to avoid the punishment of Allah.
- Surah Fatiha teaches that Allah is the beggar of all goodness thus makes Muslims to lead a life of recognizing that Allah is the true owner of everything.
- It helps to develop in Muslims a sense of *tawakul* (dependence) upon Allah only and that nothing can harm or benefit them without the will of Allah.

SURATUL- FIYL (The Elephant)

Historical back ground to the revelation of Suratul Fiil.

Suratul Fiil derived its roots from the incident of the elephants during the period of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H). The term ***Fiil*** refers to the elephants mentioned in the first verse of the Surah. These elephants were used in the army of Abraha Al Ashram who was governor of Yemen on behalf of the King of Ethiopia. He was sent to go and destroy the Al-Kaaba.

It is said that even before the coming of true religion, Islam, the Arabs used to perform pilgrimage at the Kaaba. This allowed trade and eventually growth and popularity of Mecca. Abraham envied this and built a shrine/temple (Al-Qulais) at a place called Sanaa and had wanted the Arabs to perform Pilgrimage at the shrine instead of the Kaaba which they refused.

A man from Qureysh tribe happened to be in Al-Qulais, he was infuriated by it. So, he went inside and relieved himself by the call of nature. He later soiled its walls with the stool and went away.

Abraha became furious and decided to send an army to go and destroy the Kaaba. He therefore, assembled a large army comprised of 13 elephants and among them was the biggest one called Mahmood mounted by Abraha himself.

Allah (S.W.T) sent small birds (*abaabil*) hitting them with pebbles baked clay from Hellfire. Most of them died instantly. The few who remained suffer from incurable diseases which led to their eventual deaths.

Translation of Surah Fiil

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

Have you (O Muhammad) not seen how your Lord dealt with the companions of the Elephant?

Did He not make their treacherous plan into misguidance? And He sent against them birds in flocks,

Striking them with stones of baked clay, then did He make them like an empty field of stalks and straw, (of which the corn) has been eaten.

Teachings of surah Fiil

There are several lessons that can be learnt from this surah as follows;

- Al-Kaaba is the first ancient house of the divine worship and it is protected by Allah.
- Allah is in position to destroy the plans of anybody who intends to harm others.
- Allah is very powerful and sees everything. That's nothing can happen without his knowledge.
- No creature can fight the might of Allah, but rather frustrate them in many ways.

- Material possession of a man cannot defeat the mighty Allah's property.
- Mankind should rely on Allah for anything because Allah can offer divine protection over everything.
- Allah does not allow evil to flourish and dominate for long but rather brings it to a miserable end in a blink of an eye.
- Allah gives protection to the righteous servants and innocent creatures.
- The wrong doers will always be punished by Allah.
- No one can prevail against Allah. He is the most powerful of the so-called powerful.
- Allah has the ability to end a person's pride and arrogance as to bring the powerful one down to the lowest position.
- Allah wanted to honor the birth of the prophet (P.B.U.H). This is because Allah (S.W.T) makes Mecca a safe place for the birth of his beloved Prophet Mohamed (P.B.U.H).

SURATUL-ASR (The Declining Day)

Historical Background of Surah Asr

The early Muslims called it Al-'Asr. Also, in most of the books dedicated to explaining the Quran (*tafsir*), this name is given to the *surah*. The majority of scholars hold that it was sent in the Makkan Period at the early stages of Islam where the Muslim population was small. It's 13th in the order of revelation. The surah consists of three verses, making it the shortest chapter in the Quran but summarizes all the teachings of Islam because of its vast meaning. Imam Shafi commended that SuratulAsr would have sufficed all the other Surahs of the Quran if they had not been revealed.

Translation of Surah-Asr

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

By *Al-'Asr* (the time). Verily! Man is in loss, except those who believe (in tawheed) and do righteous good deeds, and recommend one another to the truth, and recommend one another to patience.

Themes of Surah-Asr

Swearing of Allah upon His creation. Allah swears by the time (Asr) because it is only Allah (S.W.T) who has the sole right to swear by anything because everything belongs to Him.

The loss of the man if lives without imaan. It affirms great loss for those who reject Allah's message after it reached them correctly, and for those who accepted it but failed to live according to its teachings.

The emphasis on doing of *maarufaat* and avoidance of *munkaraat*. Muslims are encouraged to be righteous and discouraged to commit any sinful act.

Important aspects discussed in suratul-Asr

The following are the important aspects discussed in Surah Al-Asr:

- The importance of time management
- The importance of prayers especially the Asr prayers
- The importance of turning away from worldly affairs
- The importance of advising each other on speaking of truth and giving an honest witness
- The importance of advising each other on holding our patience
- The importance of believing in Allah and doing of good deeds

Teachings of the Surah Asr

The following are some of the teachings of suratul-Asr:

1. Surah starts with an oath where Allah swears by the time (Asr) because it is only Allah (S.W.T) who has the sole right to swear by anything because everything belongs to Him.
2. It affirms great loss for those who reject Allah's message after it reached them correctly, and for those who accepted it but failed to live according to it. Loss means losing Allah's blessings and favors for the unbelievers.

3. Those excluded from the state of loss include the believers, those who perform righteous deeds.
4. It encourages one to follow the truth and enjoin one another to be patient in times of natural calamities and difficulties. More so, to help each other to overcome them.
5. Muslims are also encouraged to be committed, honest and devoted to the truth of Islam for them to attain success (*falaah*).
6. The salvation of man lies in one leading a virtuous life and abiding to the accepted laws.

The four articles of success mentioned in Suratul-Asr.

The four groups of people who are not in a loss according to surah asr include:

Having faith (*imaan*): Muslims should have a complete faith, free from doubtful things.

Performing good deeds (*swaalihaat*): individuals should strive to do the righteous deeds as much as possible. But they should be moderate so as not mistreat and torture themselves.

Enjoining the truth (*al-haq*): every individual is expected to be truthful, honest and of high integrity and hence fight for the truth at any cost.

Enjoining to patience (*swabr*): Enjoining one another to be patient in times of natural calamities and difficulties is a duty of every Muslim. More so, people are expected to help each other to overcome them.

SURATUL-NASR (The Divine Support)

Historical Background of Surah Nasr

The Surah is called Surah Nasr because it is a word that appears in the first verse of the chapter. It literally means help. And here it refers to Allah's help that caused the conquest of Makkah. This Surah was revealed after the conquest of Makkah. It was the time when many people were embracing Islam, thus the Surah was to remind the Prophet and the Muslims believers at large to consider the victory was from Allah only.

The victory in which multitudes of people from different tribes embraced Islam was the victory from Allah (S.W.T) this is believed to be the last surah given to Prophet Muhammad and a sign to his approaching death.

Translation of Surat An-Nasr

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

When the victory of Allah has come and the conquest. And you see the people entering into the religion of Allah in multitudes. Then glorify your Lord by praising Him and ask forgiveness of Him. Indeed, He is ever accepting of repentance.

Teachings of Surah Nasr

This surah has the following teachings:

- It recognizes Allah as the only source of help and victory.
- It is a sign of victory when people are seen accepting Islam in multitudes.
- It encourages people to thank and glorify the praises of Allah for any victory (help), assistance and favors.
- People should glorify Allah's name and also ask for forgiveness. They should also seek Allah's forgiveness with confidence, as he is the one who accepts people's repentance.
- It foretells the prophet Mohammad's (P.B.U.H) death.
- It concludes the message of the Prophet Mohammad (P.B.U.H), that it was a success.
- It predicts the peaceful conquest of Makkatul-Mukarramah.
- It tells us that it is our duty to endeavor in preaching and propagating Islam despite of any difficulties.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN QURAN AND OTHER BOOKS

The Qur'an differs with the other worldly books in many aspects. The following table shows the differences between the Qur'an and other books.

THE HOLY QUR'AN	THE OTHER BOOKS
<p>a) All the words in it are of Allah (s.w.t).</p> <p>b) It must be placed at a respectful place.</p> <p>c) It can be used to take an oath.</p> <p>d) It must be said in swalaat.</p> <p>e) All the words in it are unchangeable and unaltered.</p> <p>f) It has never been revised.</p> <p>g) Thousands of people know it by heart and enjoy doing so.</p> <p>h) There are rules governing its recitation.</p> <p>i) It covers all humankind needs.</p> <p>j) Only (<i>mutwahireen</i>) clean people are expected to hold it.</p> <p>k) It has been translated into all major language of the world.</p> <p>l) Allah has promised to protect it from any interpolation.</p> <p>m) No generation can produce its similitude even if they work together to do so.</p>	<p>a) Some of the words are of human beings.</p> <p>b) They can be placed anywhere.</p> <p>c) Taking an oath using them is invalid.</p> <p>d) Reading other books in swalaat invalidate the prayer.</p> <p>e) Their words have been altered and changed several times.</p> <p>f) They can and have been revised.</p> <p>g) The people do not see the need of learning them by heart.</p> <p>h) They can be read any how without observing any set of rules.</p> <p>i) They cover certain matters only.</p> <p>j) Everyone can hold and touch them in any condition.</p> <p>k) They are sometimes translated into very few languages.</p> <p>l) They lack divine protection of Allah</p> <p>m) Many of them have been produced similar</p>