

Surat Yaasin verses 18 - 22

Learning Objectives

- Provide an explanation of verses 18 and 19 of Surat Yasin
- Provide an introduction to the story of Sahib Yasin mentioned in verses 20 onwards
- Memorise Surat Yasin up to verse 22

Verses 18-19

قَالُوا إِنَّا تَطَيَّرْنَا بِكُمْ ۖ لَئِن لَّمْ تَنْتَهُوا لَنَرْجُمَنَّكُمْ وَلَيَمَسَّنَّكُم مِّنَّا عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ

They said, 'Indeed we take you for a bad omen. If you do not desist we will stone you, and surely a painful punishment will visit you from us.'

قَالُوا طَائِرُكُم مَّعَكُمْ ۚ أَئِن ذُكِّرْتُم ۚ بَلْ أَنْتُمْ قَوْمٌ مُّسْرِفُونَ

They said, 'Your bad omens attend you. What! If you are admonished.... Indeed, you are an unrestrained lot.'

As we saw in the last lesson, the rulers of the community the messengers were sent to stubbornly rejected the arguments of the messengers. The messengers returned to the community and continued to preach their message.

Around the same time as the coming of these messengers to the community, some difficulties had started afflicting the community, possibly as a result of their sins and as a Divine warning for the people to change their ways. According to some *mufassirun* of the Qur'an, rain ceased to stop for a long period of time. However, instead of taking this as a Divine sign, the rulers blamed the messengers for this, referring to them as "bad omen" and threatening them with death by stoning if they did not desist. The messengers replied to them informing them that if misery, misfortune, and evil events have encompassed the environment of their society, they should realise that this is a direct consequence of their evil deeds, as opposed to the preaching of the messengers.

Verses 20-22

وَجَاءَ مِنْ أَقْصَى الْمَدِينَةِ رَجُلٌ يَسْعَى قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اتَّبِعُوا الْمُرْسَلِينَ

There came a man hurrying from the city outskirts. He said, 'O my people! Follow the apostles!

اتَّبِعُوا مَنْ لَا يَسْأَلُكُمْ أَجْرًا وَهُمْ مُّهْتَدُونَ

Follow them who do not ask you any reward and they are rightly guided.

وَمَا لِي لَا أَعْبُدُ الَّذِي فَطَرَنِي وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ

Why should I not worship Him who has originated me, and to whom you shall be brought back?

According to a *hadith* from the Holy Prophet (S), there are 3 individuals that have stood out from the rest of mankind for the great help they provided to the prophets of God:

سَبَاقُ الْأُمَمِ ثَلَاثَةٌ لَمْ يَشْرِكُوا بِاللَّهِ طَرْفَةَ عَيْنٍ: عَلِيُّ بْنُ أَبِي طَالِبٍ. وَصَاحِبُ يَاسِينَ. وَمُؤْمِنُ آلِ فِرْعَوْنَ

“The foremost of (the people of) all nations are three – they did associate any partners to Allah even for a blinking of an eye: Ali b. Abi Talib; Saahib Yasin; and Mu’min Aal Fir’awn”

We all know about the legacy of Imam Ali (A), the one who always gave precedence to the Holy Prophet (S) over himself throughout his life, such that the Qur’an refers to him as the “self” (*nafs*) of the prophet. As for Mu’min Aal Fir’awn (the believer from the family of Fir’awn) and Saahib Yasin (the person mentioned in Surat Yasin), their stories have a lot of similarities.

Mu’min Aal Fir’awn was a very prominent member of the family of Fir’awn during the life of Prophet Musa (A). Some reports suggest that he was the heir apparent of Fir’awn and someone who was influential enough to raise an objection to Fir’awn with regards to the killing of Musa (A). In Surat al-Ghaafir, Allah (SWT) describes him as:

... رَجُلٌ مُؤْمِنٌ مِّنْ آلِ فِرْعَوْنَ يَكْتُمُ إِيمَانَهُ ...

...a man from the family of Fir’awn, who concealed his faith... (40:28)

He rejected the religion of the Egyptians and instead was from a group of believers who followed the teachings that Prophet Yusuf (A) had introduced in Egypt many hundreds of years before.

In Surat al-Qasas, this person is introduced in a very similar manner to how Saahib Yasin is described in Surat Yasin:

وَجَاءَ رَجُلٌ مِّنْ أَقْصَى الْمَدِينَةِ يَسْعَى قَالَ يَا مُوسَى إِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ يُاتِمُّونَ بِكَ
لَيَقْتُلُونَكَ فَأَخْرِجْ إِنِّي لَكَ مِنَ النَّاصِحِينَ

There came a man from the city outskirts, hurrying. He said, ‘Moses! The elite are indeed conspiring to kill you. So leave. I am indeed your well-wisher.’ 28:20

After Musa (A) accidentally killed one of the soldiers of Fir’awn, Fir’awn plotted to have Musa (A) killed. When Mu’min Aal Fir’awn found out about this, he rushed to inform Musa (A) about the plot and advise him to flee Egypt. Both he and Saahib Yasin were killed for defending and declaring their faith in the messengers of their times.

Returning to Saahib Yasin, many reports mention that his name was Habib Najjaar and he was a man who lived in the remotest part of the city the messengers were sent to. He was a very spiritual man who worshipped Allah (SWT) in seclusion. He was respected by the people of the community because of his great spirituality, although they were always under the impression that he worshipped the same gods as them, not Allah (SWT).

Some reports suggest that when the messengers were heading towards the city where the people lived, they first passed by the area where he resided and after having spoken to them, this man straight away

believed in them and their message. Later, when he heard that the people were going to kill the messengers, he quickly rushed to them to stop them from committing this grave sin.

In the next lesson, we will inshaAllah look at what happened when this man arrived at the city centre where the messengers were preaching.