

### Para 12.25 to 13.5

Finish Surah Hud & Surah Yusuf. Begin Surah al-Rad (Verse of *sajdah*).

Lessons from previous Prophets: Prophet Nuh, Prophet Hud, Prophet Salih, Prophet Ibrahim, Prophet Lut and Prophet Shu'ayb.

### Excellence of good deeds

إِنَّ الْحَسَنَاتِ يُذْهِبْنَ السَّيِّئَاتِ ذَلِكَ ذِكْرٌ لِلَّذِينَ ۞

*Indeed, good deeds wipe out evil deeds. This is an advice for those who accept advice.*  
[Qur'an 11:114]

A reward of a good deed is surely gained by doing a good deed, but a good deed has an additional benefit too, which is that minor sins are forgiven by the blessings of a good deed.

The Prophet said: "The five daily prayers, one Friday to the next Friday, and one Ramadan to the next Ramadan, will all serve as an expiation (*kaffarah*) for the sins that occurred in between them, as long as the major sins are avoided." [Sahih Muslim]

### Taking lessons from previous Messengers

وَكُلًّا نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ مِنْ أَنْبَاءِ الرُّسُلِ مَا نُثَبِّتُ بِهِ فُؤَادَكَ ۚ

*And We narrate to you all the news of the Messengers by which We strengthen your heart.*  
[Qur'an 11:120]

We learn that previous communities also greatly harassed and bothered the noble Prophets which comforts a person knowing they are not alone in the troubles they are facing.

### Surah Yusuf (Chapter 12: Joseph). Makkan. 111 Verses.

### Most beautiful of accounts (*ahsan al-qasas*)

إِذْ قَالَ يُوسُفُ لِأَبِيهِ يَا أَبَتِ إِنِّي رَأَيْتُ أَحَدَ عَشَرَ كَوْكَبًا وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ رَأَيْتُهُمْ لِي

سَاجِدِينَ ۝

*When Yusuf said to his father: "O my father! Verily I saw eleven stars, and the sun and the moon (in my dream); I saw them prostrating to me." [Qur'an 12:4]*

Many similarities between the account of Prophet Yusuf and the prophetic biography (*sirah*): Brothers tried to kill Prophet Yusuf by throwing him into the well out of envy, the Quraysh tried to assassinate the Prophet ﷺ on the night of the migration; Zalikha tried to lure Prophet Yusuf by using worldly incentives and he was imprisoned as a result, the Quraysh also tried to lure the Prophet ﷺ with worldly incentives and was boycotted in the valley of Abu Talib. In the end, Allah granted Prophet Yusuf Egypt to rule over, his brothers submitted to him, and Prophet Yusuf forgave them, in the end Allah granted the Prophet ﷺ Makkah, the people of Makkah submitted to him and he forgave them using the same words of Prophet Yusuf:

قَالَ لَا تَثْرِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْيَوْمَ يَغْفِرُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَهُوَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّحِيمِينَ ﴿٩١﴾

Yusuf said: “There is no reproach against you today. May Allah forgive you. And He is the most Merciful of all the merciful.” [Qur’an 12:92]

### Danger of envy

To be happy at seeing someone’s success and then to hope and try to be like that person is good. This is known as a state of delight (*rashk/ghibtah*). However, to have hatred and ill feelings towards that person, and then to hope and try to damage that person so his condition worsens is bad. This is known as envy/jealousy (*hasad*).

The Prophet ﷺ said: “Stay away from envy, because envy devours good deeds just like fire devours wood.” [Sunan Abi Dawud]

**Surah al-Rad (Chapter 13: The Thunder). Makkan. 43 Verses.**

وَيُسَبِّحُ الرَّعْدُ بِحَمْدِهِ وَالْمَلَيِّكَةُ مِنْ خِيفَتِهِ

And the (angels appointed over the clouds of) thunder and (all the rest of) the angels too extol the praise of Allah out of fear of Him. [Qur’an 13:13]

Even though angels are innocent and free from disobedience they praise Allah and fear Him, as human beings we should fear Allah more and praise Him in abundance.

### Rise and fall of nations

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّى يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ

Verily Allah does not change the condition of a people until those people do not create change within themselves. [Qur’an 13:11]

The basic principle behind the rise and fall of nations is mentioned. The communities that reflect, take account of themselves, end injustice and adopt the way of good succeed.

### Be of benefit

فَأَمَّا الزَّبَدُ فَيَذْهَبُ جُفَاءً وَأَمَّا مَا يَنْفَعُ النَّاسَ فَيَمْكُتُ فِي الْأَرْضِ

So as for the froth, it passes away as something useless. And as for that which benefits the people, it remains in the earth. [Qur’an 13:17]

Stability and longevity in this world are granted to that community which benefits the people. When a community no longer possesses this attribute, then the feeling of being deprived as well as various disputes emerge amongst its people, and in this way the downfall of that community then commences.

[Sublime Word Vol 2, by Shaykh M. I. H. Pirzada]