

Para 21 to 22

Finish Surah al-‘Ankabut, Surah al-Rum, Surah Luqman and Surah al-Sajdah (verse of *sajdah*). Begin Surah al-Ahzab.

أَتْلُ مَا أُوْحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَى عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ
وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ ﴿٤٥﴾

(O Beloved Messenger!) Recite from the book that was revealed to you. And establish the prayer. Indeed, the prayer restrains from evil and indecency. And certainly, the remembrance of Allah is the greatest. And Allah is all-Aware of what you do. [Qur'an 29:45]

The Prophet ﷺ said: “The best amongst you are those who learn and teach the Qur’an.”
[*Sahih al-Bukhari*]

A person used to offer the prayer but would behave immodestly and steal. Some people complained of this to the Prophet ﷺ who said: “One day the prayer will restrain him from evil.” Eventually, that person repented and became a pious person. [*Tafsir al-Qurtubi*]

Everyone is conscious that Allah is watching him during the prayer. This fear of Allah should strengthen when offering the prayer every day punctually.

The Prophet said: “The example of the one who remembers his Lord and the one who does not is like the example of the living and the dead.” [*Sahih al-Bukhari*]

Surah al-Rum (Chapter 30: The Byzantines). Makkan. 60 Verses.

الْم ۝ غَلِبَتِ الرُّومُ ۝ فِي أَدْنَى الْأَرْضِ وَهُمْ مِّنْ بَعْدِ غَلِبِهِمْ سَيَغْلِبُونَ ۝ فِي بَضْعِ سِنِينَ ۝
لِلَّهِ الْأَمْرُ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَمِنْ بَعْدُ وَيَوْمَئِذٍ يَفْرَحُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ ۝

The Byzantines have been defeated. In the nearby land. And after their defeat they will soon be dominant. Within a few years. With Allah is the matter, before and after. And on that day the believers will rejoice. [Qur'an 30:2-4]

The Byzantines vs the Persians

A battle was fought between the Byzantine (eastern half of the Roman Empire) against the Persian empire and the Persians won. The Romans were Christians i.e.: people of the Book, similar to the Muslims but the Persians were Zoroastrians (fire worshippers), like the polytheists of Makkah. When the Persians had won, the polytheists rejoiced. In the beginning of this Surah, the Quran says, in a few years the Byzantines will be victorious over the Persians. Even though on the face of it seemed highly unlikely but history is witness that on the same day as the Battle of Badr, the Romans defeated the Persians. Ibn Abbas [*ra*] says: “The day of Badr was the day the polytheists of Makkah lost, and the fire worshippers of Persia lost. [*Safwat al-Tafasir*]

This a miracle of the Quran and clear evidence of the truthfulness of the Prophet ﷺ for seven years later the Byzantines defeated the Persians.

Surah Luqman (Chapter 31: Luqman). Makkan. 34 Verses

وَلَقَدْ ءَاتَيْنَا لُقْمَانَ الْحِكْمَةَ أَنِ اشْكُرْ لِلَّهِ وَمَن يَشْكُرْ فَإِنَّمَا يَشْكُرُ لِنَفْسِهِ وَمَن كَفَرَ
فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ حَمِيدٌ ﴿١٧﴾

And indeed, we granted Luqman wisdom, (and said): “Be grateful to Allah.” And whoever is grateful (to Allah) is only grateful for his own benefit. And whoever is ungrateful, then indeed Allah is self-Sufficient, Praiseworthy. [Qur’an 31:12]

Once the Quraysh asked the Prophet ﷺ about Luqman and his son, so this Surah was revealed in which he advises his son from verses 12 to 19.

Luqman was an Abyssinian with black skin residing in Egypt who acquired knowledge from Prophet Dawud, he became a judge amongst the Bani Israil and was a Friend of Allah. Allah blessed him with immense wisdom, even though he was not a Prophet, which he passed on and told his son. A person asked him how he became so wise, he said: “Fearing Allah, speaking the truth, fulfilling promises, and not speaking without a purpose. In response to these, Allah has showered his mercy upon me.” [al-Durr al-Manthur]

Luqman said: “The person who lies, the adornment of his face fades away. The person who has bad character, his worries increase. Moving a mountain from its place is easier than explaining a matter to an ignorant person.” [al-Bidayah wa 'l-Nihayah]

Surah al-Sajdah (Chapter 32: The Prostration). Makkan. 30 Verses

The polytheists did not have certainty over the hereafter but when they see it with their own eyes, they will say: “O our Lord! We have seen and heard. Thus, let us return (even once) so we can do good actions.” [Qur’an 32:12] However, regret at that time will be of absolutely no benefit and will not save them from the punishment. Those who have certainty, fear Allah’s punishment, stay away from evil and are hopeful of His mercy, Allah shall enter them into Jannah.

Excellence of Surah al-Sajdah

Jabir [ra] says: “The Prophet ﷺ would not go to sleep except before reciting *alif lam mim tanzil* (Surah al-Sajdah) and *tabaraka 'lladhi* (Surah al-Mulk). [Sunan al-Tirmidhi]

Surah al-Ahzab (Chapter 33: The Alliance). Madinan. 73 Verses.

النَّبِيُّ أَوْلَىٰ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ مِنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجُهُ أُمَّهَاتُهُمْ

The Prophet is closer to the believers than their own selves. And his wives are the mothers of the believers. [Qur’an 33:6]

Topics in this Surah: Zihar, rulings of an adopted son, Battle of the Trench/Alliance (*ahzab*), the excellent character of Prophet ﷺ, Battle of Bani Qurayzah, the *ahl al-Bayt*, marriage with Sayyidah Zaynab [ra], the finality of Prophethood (*khatm nubuwwah*), the Prophet ﷺ being an eyewitness, rulings of *durud* and *salam*, and rulings regarding veiling and modesty.