

Para 9.75 to 11.

Surah al-Anfal (Chapter 8: The Spoils of War). Madinan. 75 Verses. Over 2 Paras.

Begin and finish Surah al-Anfal, begin Surah al-Tawbah.

The Spoils of War

يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْأَنْفَالِ قُلِ الْأَنْفَالُ لِلَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَصْلِحُوا ذَاتَ بَيْنِكُمْ
وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ إِن كُنْتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿٧٥﴾

(O noble Messenger!) They ask you about the spoils of war. Say: "These spoils belong to Allah and the Messenger. So fear Allah, and set things right between you. And obey Allah and His Messenger, if you are complete believers." [Qur'an 8:1]

Following the Battle of Badr, the first battle between the Muslims and the unbelievers, Allah granted victory to the Muslims and a lot of possessions came into the hold of the Muslims. When it came to distributing the spoils of war this chapter began to be revealed. The Muslims have permission to fight to protect their land and nation, and uphold the truth, but the spoils of war can only be distributed by Allah and His Messenger. This way no Muslim fights and struggles for greed and only for the spoils of war, rather they struggle only to obey Allah and His Messenger.

Background to the Battle of Badr

The people of Makkah could not tolerate the spreading of Islam. They threatened the Jews and hypocrites living in Madinah to fight the Muslims otherwise they would kill their young men and take their women as slaves. When that had no effect, they directly threatened the Muslims that they would kill and destroy them. To practically demonstrate this, they then looted and raided some sheep of the Muslims on the outskirts of Madinah and killed the shepherds.

Battle of Badr

Badr: Approximately 80 miles from Madinah. Size of armies: 313 Muslims vs 1000 non-Muslims. Date: Friday 17th Ramadan, 2 A.H. On paper there was no chance of victory but when you have true Iman, Allah can send down angels to help you. In the end 70 non-Muslims killed and 70 taken as prisoners.

The miracle of the handful of dust

فَلَمْ تَقْتُلُوهُمْ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ قَتَلَهُمْ وَمَا رَمَيْتَ إِذْ رَمَيْتَ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ رَمَىٰ وَلِيُبْلِيَ
الْمُؤْمِنِينَ مِنْهُ بَلَاءً حَسَنًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٧٦﴾

(O warriors of Badr!) You did not kill them, rather Allah killed them. And (O noble Messenger!) you did not throw when you threw (the handful of dust), rather Allah threw. So that He blesses the believers with an excellent favour from Him. Indeed Allah is all-Hearing, all-Knowing. [Qur'an 8:17]

When the Muslims and the unbelievers confronted each other in the Battle of Badr, Allah's Messenger ﷺ threw a handful of dust towards the faces of the unbelievers and said: "May the faces of the unbelievers be darkened." That dust went into the eyes of all the unbelievers, and the noble Companions of the Prophet leapt forward to kill them and capture them. The cause of their defeat was the handful of dust which Allah's Messenger ﷺ threw at them. At that time, Allah revealed this verse. There was not a single individual from the polytheists (*mushrikun*) in whose eyes, nose or mouth the dust thrown by the Prophet ﷺ did not get into; and this was a miracle (*mu'jizah*) of Allah's Messenger ﷺ. [*Jami' al-Bayan*]

**Surah al-Tawbah/Surah al-Bara'ah (Chapter 9: The Repentance/The Disassociation).
Madinan. 129 Verses. Over 2 Paras.**

Only chapter not to begin with *tasmiyah*

'Ali ibn Abi Talib [*ra*] said: "*Bismillah* is a security, and this Surah was revealed with the sword in which there is no security."

In other words, there is mercy within *bismillah* that leads to safety and security, and in this chapter displeasure and severing of ties with the polytheists have been announced, which are contrary to safety and security.

بَرَاءَةٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ إِلَى الَّذِينَ عَاهَدْتُمْ مِّنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ ﴿١﴾

(O Muslims!) Disassociation is declared by Allah and His Messenger from those polytheists with whom you made a covenant. [Qur'an 9:1]

In the year 9 A.H., after the Battle of Tabuk, the declaration of disassociation from the polytheists who had treaties with the Muslims were announced by Sayyiduna 'Ali in the pilgrimage (*hajj*) led by Sayyiduna Abu Bakr. Those polytheists who had broken their treaties, they were declared invalid immediately, as for those who had not broken them, their treaties were to last for 4 months.

Custodians of mosques

Verily the only ones who will populate the mosques of Allah are those who believe in Allah and the Last Day, and establish the prayer, and pay the prescribed charity, and do not fear anyone except Allah; hopefully they are the ones who will be amongst the guided ones.

[*Qur'an 9:18*]

It is clear from this verse that only the people who are firm in their Islamic beliefs, observe the prayer and pay their zakat, i.e.: are firm in their Islamic obligations, and are upright have the right to become custodians and administrators of mosques.

Other topics: Explanation of *jihad*, Battle of Hunayn, *jizyah* (state levy), *zakah*, Expedition of Tabuk, Cave of Thawr and rulings regarding the hypocrites.

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