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UNDERSTANDING SURAH AR-RA'D





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Surah Ar-Ra'd is the thirteenth chapter in the order of the Qur'an. It is a Makki surah, consisting of 43 verses and 6 rukus.

Surah Ar-Ra'd was revealed in the later part of Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ stay in Makkah, specifically after the revelation of Surah Yusuf. It was a time when the disbelievers of Makkah were intensifying their conspiracies against Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. The surah addresses the denial of prophethood and the Hereafter with emphasis and power.

The name of this surah is “Ar-Ra’d,” which translates to “Thunder” or “Lightning.” The surah mentions the lightning in the context of divine power. Hence, it is named Surah Ar-Ra’d.

In contrast to the narrative style in the previous Surah Yusuf, Surah Ar-Ra'd emphasizes the concept that the truth is ultimately victorious, and falsehood remains false. It conveys this truth through rational and empirical evidence.

The main objective of Surah Ar-Ra'd is to establish the concept of Tawhid (the oneness of Allah) and the Rububiyyah (Lordship) of Allah. The surah aims to guide people to distinguish between truth and falsehood, encouraging them to embrace faith in the last Prophet ﷺ while adhering to the oneness of Allah and avoiding polytheism.

In this surah, it is emphasized that the truth always prevails, even if it appears weak outwardly. Falsehood is ultimately destroyed, regardless of its apparent strength. The proof of the truth remains valid and is not affected by the numerical strength or weakness of its followers.

Allah is established above the Throne (Arsh) in a manner that befits His majesty and transcends human comprehension. The nature of “Istawa” (His establishment) cannot be fully described, and nothing is comparable to Him. While it is obligatory to affirm this belief without distortion or denial, delving into its specifics or questioning its nature is an innovation.

The verses of the Qur'an invite contemplation and reflection for those with intellect and understanding. The resurrection of disbelievers after death might seem surprising, but Allah, who created humans for the first time, has the power to recreate them for the second time.

Iman (faith) is a balance between fear and hope. A believer should neither become indifferent to Allah's punishment nor despair of His mercy. The role of a caller to Islam is to warn and deliver the message, while guidance remains solely in Allah's Hands.

Whoever calls upon anyone other than Allah will receive no response, much like a person standing at the water's edge, splashing in vain to bring water to their mouth. This analogy illustrates that those who seek help from others besides Allah have no power to fulfill their needs, just as water cannot flow back to its source on its own.

Every creature in the universe prostrates before Allah, reflecting His immense power and greatness as the Lord of all worlds. The Qur'an offers profound analogies, such as beneficial rain symbolizing the believer's heart. Just as rain fills a valley with water, the Qur'an fills the believer's heart with guidance and wisdom.

In this worldly life, those who bring benefit to others are the ones who endure and leave a lasting impact. Allah has presented examples in the Qur'an to help understand and contemplate the truths, as examples are an effective method of teaching.

The characteristics of believers are outlined, stating that they fulfil the covenant with Allah, do not break promises, establish relationships, fear Allah, fear the severity of the reckoning, observe patience, perform prayers, give charity openly and secretly, and repay evil with good.

The distribution of sustenance is solely dependent on Allah's wisdom and will. He provides abundant sustenance to whomsoever He wills and tightens the livelihood of whomsoever He wills. Therefore, the abundance of sustenance is not an indication of Allah's pleasure, and the scarcity of sustenance is not a sign of Allah's displeasure.

The comparison between the Hereafter and the worldly life is expressed by Prophet Muhammad ﷺ who said, “By Allah, this world (is so insignificant in comparison) to the Hereafter that it’s like if one of you should dip his finger in the ocean and then he should see what has stuck to it”.

(Muslim:2858)

In the remembrance of Allah,
hearts find tranquillity and
stability. Previous nations were
destroyed for denying their
messengers. Therefore, the
nation of Prophet Muhammad
ﷺ should not reject Allah's
messenger and his message.

The scholars of the Muslim community have been cautioned that, despite the clear evidence from the Qur'an and Hadith, if they turn away from the straight path to appease the psychological desires of the masses and issue fatwas based on those desires, they should fear Allah's severe punishment.

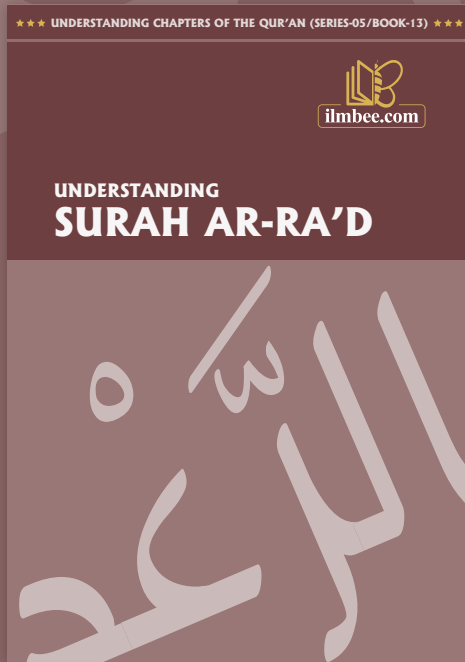
Like Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, all the prophets and messengers were human beings with wives and children. None of them were angels or divine beings. The practice of marriage among the prophets is the Sunnah, and whoever seeks to emulate the prophets in righteousness should follow the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah.

The duty of a caller to Islam is not to persuade people but to convey the message of the religion to them. The believers have always faced deceit and falsehood from the disbelievers, but Allah has granted victory to the believers. The testimony of Allah is sufficient for the truth of the Prophet's ﷺ mission.

The opening message of this chapter calls people to embrace the true belief in the oneness of Allah and the reality of the Hereafter. It then contrasts the intellectual and moral qualities of the people of truth and falsehood, using various examples to highlight their attributes and consequences. Finally, the chapter emphasizes the call to accept the message of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

REVIEW YOUR READING

1. What lies between fear and hope in faith?
2. What always prevails according to Surah Ar-Ra'd?
3. What does every creature do before Allah?



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