

RAMADAN

IMMERSION



Shaykh Hamzah
Imtiaz

The First of Ulul 'Azm - Nuh AS

- Nuh AS is mentioned in the Quran 43 times in total across 28 surahs
 - Many surahs mention him multiple times
 - All of them are Makki surahs except for 1, which is Surah Tahrim (the wife of Nuh AS is mentioned in it)
 - Surah Aali 'Imran and other Madani surahs mention him in passing
- Details of his story are found in 14 surahs
- Surah Nuh is the only surah that talks only about a prophet for the entire surah
 - Other surahs, such as Surah Ibrahim, Yusuf, and Hud, mention other things along with the stories of the prophets

Four Major Incidents of Nuh AS Mentioned in the Quran

- Incident #2: Surah Al Qamar, ayahs 9-15

كَذَّبَتْ قَبْلَهُمْ قَوْمُ نُوحٍ فَكَذَّبُوا عَبَدَنَا وَقَالُوا مَجْنُونٌ وَازْدَجَرَ (٩) فَدَعَا رَبَّهُ أَنِّي مَغْلُوبٌ فَأَنْتَصِرْ (١٠) فَفَتَحْنَا أَبْوَابَ السَّمَاءِ بِمَاءٍ مُنْهَمِرٍ (١١) وَفَجَّرْنَا الْأَرْضَ عُيُونًا فَالْتَقَى الْمَاءُ عَلَى أُمَّزٍ قَدْ قُدِرَ (١٢) وَحَمَلْنَاهُ عَلَى ذَاتِ الْأَوْحِجِ وَدُسِرِ (١٣) تَجْرِي بِأَعْيُنِنَا جَزَاءً لِمَنْ كَانَ كُفِرَ (١٤) وَلَقَدْ تَرَكْنَاهَا آيَةً فَهَلْ مِنْ مُدَكِّرٍ

The people of Noah denied before them, and they denied Our servant and said, "A madman," and he was repelled. So he invoked his Lord, "Indeed, I am overpowered, so help." Then We opened the gates of the heaven with rain pouring down and caused the earth to burst with springs, so the waters met for a fate already set. And We carried him on a [construction of] planks and nails, Sailing under Our observation as reward for he who had been denied. And We left it as a sign, so is there any who will remember?

- This is a Makki surah, it was revealed sometime in the middle or beginning of the Makkan phase
- This mentions the flood after Nuh's rejection
 - The Christians and Jews both believe in this incident. Apart from them, nearly every faith/civilization has the concept of a flood that engulfed the entire world.
- The people of Nuh rejected him and called him a madman.
 - This shows the level of hate that they had for him.
 - They tried to put him down
 - **أَزْدَجَرَ** comes from **zajr**, which is when someone hammers at someone's personality and family to make things difficult for them
 - This ayah shows what those who call to Allah have to go through.
- Nuh AS called upon Allah and made dua: "I am overcome and helpless, so help me."
- Allah opened up the gates of the sky for rain
 - This wording helps us understand how much rain was coming down. It was not droplets, water was falling on every single patch of land
- Springs were coming out of the ground
 - The springs from the ground and the rain from the sky met at the middle
- Allah carried Nuh AS on something of planks and nails
 - This refers to the ark
- Allah describes this as a worthy punishment on behalf of the one who had been denied (Nuh)
 - Allah SWT left this as a sign.

• **Reflections from Incident #1**

- Nuh's people are the first people to deny a messenger.
 - The rejection of his people are always mentioned first when mentioned along with the rejection of other nations
 - Shirk was not widespread at the time, the concept of tawheed was still alive.
 - The Prophet SAW was asked about the period of time between Adam and Nuh, and he said that it was ten centuries. In this small time, shirk already started to spread.
 - Nuh's people were engulfed in this shirk.
- Prophets are servants of Allah
 - Nuh AS cried out to Allah
 - He made dua with humility.
 - The fact that prophets are not divine allows us to relate to them as humans.
- Allah comes to the aid of his servants.
 - Sometimes this is immediate and extraordinary, and sometimes His aid comes later on and is subtle.

• **Incident #2: Surah Al Araf, ayahs 59 - 63**

لَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا نُوحًا إِلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ فَقَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُمْ مِنِّي غَيْرُهُ ۖ إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ (٥٩) قَالَ الْمَلَأُ مِنْ قَوْمِي إِنَّا لَنَرُكَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ (٦٠) قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ لَيْسَ بِي ضَلَالَةٌ وَلَكِنِّي رَسُولٌ مِّن رَّبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ (٦١) أَبْلَغْتُكُمْ رَسُولًا مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ عَلَىٰ رَجُلٍ مِّنكُمْ لِيُنذِرَكُمْ وَلِتَتَّقُوا وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ

We had certainly sent Noah to his people, and he said, "O my people, worship Allah; you have no deity other than Him. Indeed, I fear for you the punishment of a tremendous Day." Said the eminent among his people, "Indeed, we see you in clear error." [Noah] said, "O my people, there is not error in me, but I am a messenger from the Lord of the worlds. I convey to you the messages of my Lord and advise you; and I know from Allah what you do not know. Then do you wonder that there has come to you a reminder from your Lord through a man from among you, that he may warn you and that you may fear Allah so you might receive mercy?"

- This surah mentions many topics, including Adam AS and Iblees's story, the Day of Judgement, the people of Jannah and Jahannam, the people of Araf, etc.
- Allah SWT then speaks about messengers and their nations, beginning with Nuh.
- Nuh AS addressed his people as "my people"
 - This shows the natural way the prophets would address their people.
- He tells his people to worship Allah alone.
- Nuh AS said "I fear for you the punishment of a great day"
 - He had concern for them, he isn't telling them that they will be punished, but saying he is scared for them.
- They responded, "we see you as being on clear misguidance".
- Nuh replied, "Oh my people, I am not in misguidance, but I am a messenger sent from the Lord of the worlds. I give you the message of my Lord and sincerely advise you and I know from Allah what you do not. Are you amazed that a reminder comes to you from your Lord upon a man from among you so that you may be warned, be conscious of Him, and be shown mercy?"
- Then they still denied him, and the story continues on with the punishment.
- **Reflections from Incident #2**
 - The prophets are from amongst their people
 - They speak the language of their people as well.
 - This is an important principle for those doing da'wah: there must be some familiarity between the da'ee and the people.
 - They are the first people to reject a messenger
 - They did not deny the existence of Allah
 - They denied the tawheed of Allah
 - The first form of rejection of Allah was rejection of Him being Ahad.
 - Unlike other nations, the people of Nuh did not have an external sin that was highlighted.
 - Humans will always worship someone

- One of the core concepts of tawheed is that if we don't worship Allah alone, we will worship someone or something else.
 - This could be material items of the world, such as a flag, an element of nature, etc.
- This is why Nuh's people associated partners with Allah.
- The fitra still exists, but it's clouded, so instead of worshiping Allah alone people worship other than Him.
- Thus, atheists are still worshiping something, even if it is not Allah.
- Abdul Majeed RA
 - Wrote one of the first English tafseers
 - He wrote an autobiography and explained how he came out of atheism.
 - He had replaced Allah with other things in his life, rather than worshiping nothing.

• **Incident #3: Surah Al Shuara, ayahs 111 - 116**

قَالُوا أَنْتُمِن لَكَ وَاتَّبَعَكَ الْأَرْذَلُونَ (١١١) قَالَ وَمَا عَلِمِي بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ (١١٢) إِنَّ حِسَابَهُمْ إِلَّا عَلَى رَبِّي لَوْ تَشْعُرُونَ (١١٣) وَمَا أَنَا بِظَارِدِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ (١١٤) إِنَّ أَنَا إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ (١١٥) قَالُوا لَيْن لَمْ تَنْتَه يَنْوُحْ لَتَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْمَرْجُومِينَ (١١٦)

They said, "Should we believe you while you are followed by the lowest [class of people]?" He said, "And what is my knowledge of what they used to do? Their account is only upon my Lord, if you [could] perceive. And I am not one to drive away the believers. I am only a clear warner." They said, "If you do not desist, O Noah, you will surely be of those who are stoned."

- Allah calls Nuh the brother of his people.
- "Will we believe in you and the people following you are the lowest of society?"
 - This was one of the biggest complaints of Nuh's people.
 - The "lowest of society" refer to those who were poor.
- Nuh replied, "What do I have to do with that? What they were given will be upon Allah".
- He said that he was not going to kick out the believers.

- In Surah Hud he says: “who would help me from Allah if I do that (kicking his people out)?”
 - His people responded, “If you do not stop, you will be among those who are stoned to death”
- **Reflections from Incident #3**
 - The prophets don’t ask for anything
 - They don’t ask for reward/money
 - This shows their sincerity, as their message was not attached to money.
 - Arrogance and bigotry
 - The poor are often quick to accept Islam
 - This is true with other prophets, including the Prophet SAW
 - In the initial phase, most of the Prophet SAW’s followers were the less wealthy
 - People who are poor are generally more soft-hearted
 - In Makkah, those denying the Prophet SAW were doing so because they feared for their status among the people.
 - When Allah takes something from you, He gives you something else in return.
 - For example: someone who is deaf may have better eyesight, and someone who is blind may have very good hearing.
 - Parallels between Nuh AS and Prophet SAW
 - The Arabs were simple and did not have complicated philosophies that would prevent them from accepting Islam. This is one reason why Prophet SAW was sent to them
 - For both prophets, it was the poor that initially followed them.

• Incident #4: Surah Al Tahreem, ayah 10

ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أُمْرَاتَ نُوحٍ وَأُمْرَاتَ لُوطٍ كَانَتَا تَحْتَ عَبْدَيْنِ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا صَالِحِينَ فَخَانَتَاهُمَا فَلَمْ يُغْنِيَا عَنْهُمَا مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا وَقِيلَ ادْخُلَا النَّارَ مَعَ الدَّاخِلِينَ

Allah presents an example of those who disbelieved: the wife of Noah and the wife of Lot. They were under two of Our righteous servants but betrayed them, so they [i.e., those prophets] did not avail them from Allah at all, and it was said, "Enter the Fire with those who enter."

- Nuh AS is tested not just through his people, but through the two most significant people in one's life: his spouse and his child
- Allah talks about how the wife of Lut and the wife of Nuh were married to His righteous slaves, but betrayed them and did not benefit from being married to prophets.
- Ibn Abbas said, "no wife of a prophet would betray them in a way that would violate the sanctity of their marriage"
 - Meaning, their betrayal would be in the form of rejecting the prophets or helping others against the prophets.
- Surah Hud, ayahs 45 - 47

وَنَادَى نُوحٌ رَبَّهُ ، فَقَالَ رَبِّ إِنَّ ابْنِي مِنْ أَهْلِي وَإِنَّ وَعْدَكَ الْحَقُّ وَأَنْتَ أَحْكَمُ الْحَكَمِينَ (٤٥) قَالَ يَبْنَوحُ إِنَّهُ ، لَيْسَ مِنْ أَهْلِكَ إِنَّهُ ، عَمَلٌ غَيْرُ صَالِحٍ فَلَا تَسْأَلْنِي مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ إِنَّنِي أَعْظُكَ أَنْ تَكُونَ مِنَ الْجَاهِلِينَ (٤٦) قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ أَنْ أَسْأَلَكَ مَا لَيْسَ لِي بِهِ عِلْمٌ وَإِلَّا تَغْفِرْ لِي وَتَرْحَمْنِي أَكُنَ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

And Noah called to his Lord and said, "My Lord, indeed my son is of my family; and indeed, Your promise is true; and You are the most just of judges!" He said, "O Noah, indeed he is not of your family; indeed, he is [one whose] work was other than righteous, so ask Me not for that about which you have no knowledge. Indeed, I advise you, lest you be among the ignorant." [Noah] said, "My Lord, I seek refuge in You from asking that of which I have no knowledge. And unless You forgive me and have mercy upon me, I will be among the losers."

- When the ark was sailing through the mountain-like waves, Nuh AS called out to his son to join the believers.
- His son replied that he would seek refuge on a mountain.
- Nuh replied, “there is no one who will be protected from Allah’s order today” - except those who Allah decided to have mercy on.
- The waves came between them and, in front of Nuh’s eyes, his son drowned.
- After the ark settled, Nuh called out to Allah saying that his son was from his family and Allah’s promise is true.
 - Allah said that He would save Nuh’s ahl (family)
- Allah replied that his son was not from his family because he was unrighteous. “So do not ask Me of which you have no knowledge about”.
- Nuh sought refuge from asking for what he had no knowledge of and asked for forgiveness.
 - On The Day of Judgment, when Nuh AS will be asked for intercession, he will say that he asked Allah this for his son.
- **Reflections from Incident #4**
 - Family can be the biggest blessing or the hardest test
 - Marital issues and issues with children are in all families
 - Even Nuh AS and Lut AS, who were prophets, had to deal with these problems.
 - Submitting to the will of Allah
 - Nuh AS submitted to Allah despite his own family’s rejection.
 - He loved his son, but not more than he loved Allah.
 - Being careful on how we comment on others
 - We can’t judge someone’s tarbiyya because of their child, Nuh’s own son was disobedient
 - We will be called in front of Allah alone
 - Each of us is responsible for our own selves.