

MODULE 4

Class Title: Surah Al Inshiqaq

Aim of the lesson: To understand the message of the surah

Category: Scripture

Lesson Format: Power point presentation with discussion

Greeting to students) *Assalam alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*

(Ta'awwudh) Aoodhubillahi min As Shaytanir Rajeem

(Tasmiyah) Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem

(Du'a) Rabbish rahli sadri wa yassirli amri wahlul uqdatum mil lisani yafqahu qawli(Surah Ta-Ha 20: Verse 25-28)

Slide 1:

Today I want to talk about a *surah* of the Qur'an that I really like and which really scares me. It's called Surah Al-Inshiqaq. Let's first listen to its recitation.

[Surah Al-Inshiqaq playing]

Slide 2:

The name of this *surah* is taken from a word which is in its first *ayah*. This *surah* was revealed in the early period of Makkah when Rasoolullah (saw) had recently started preaching Islam. The *surah* begins by describing how the day of *Qiyamah*, will start.

It then talks about the struggle of human beings with time - whatever struggles we make, are with our time. Whatever we do, every activity is framed in time.

Next, there is the distribution of records and final destinations; people will be graded according to what they did.

This is an invitation to man to reflect on the gradual changes that take place in nature and here we will talk about the journey of the human. Finally, there is a warning from Allah (swt). These are some of the major topics covered in this *surah*.

Slide 3:

In order to understand the Last Day, the first thing I will talk about is an *ayah* from Surah An-Nazi'at, verse 6 which says;

يَوْمَ تَرْجُفُ الرَّاجِفَةُ

“On the day (when the first blowing of the trumpet is blown) the earth and the mountains will shake violently (and everybody will die).”

This is how the end of the world will start; there will be a very loud noise which will start the destruction of the universe. One of the angels, Israfeel (as), will blow a trumpet. First when he blows the trumpet the destruction of the universe will start; it will start splitting and crumbling up and once all other creation is destroyed, the angels will be destroyed one by one as well.

Slide 4:

Surah Al-Inshiqaq starts with the explanation of how the universe will be destroyed; the first thing that Allah (swt) tells us is that the sky that we see over our heads every day and which we are so used to looking at and don't really think about, will not be over our heads anymore - it will split - and do you have any idea why it will do that? Because it is a creation of Allah (swt) and it has been programmed to obey Him (swt) under all conditions, no matter what. Other creations of Allah (swt) don't have the freedom of choice, only human beings and *jinn*s have free choice. The rest of Allah's (swt) creations do as they are told. The only reason the sky will start splitting up is because Allah (swt) will ask it to split up and it will start breaking.

Slide 5:

Then there will be massive earth quakes and lots of destruction everywhere. The earth will be stretched forth and it will bring out whatever is inside it; human beings, gold, silver; whatever is inside will come out of the ground and the whole earth will become one big plain with no curves or bends, no mountains - just one big flat plain; and it will do all that because Allah (swt) will command it to do so and it is designed to obey Allah (swt) unconditionally.

Slide 6:

Now we come to the sixth *ayah* of the *surah*, which is very important, because in this Allah (swt) tells us:

يَا أَيُّهَا الْإِنْسَانُ إِنَّكَ كَادِحٌ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ كَدْحًا فَمُلَاقِيهِ

“Oh man, surely you must strive (to attain) to your Lord, a hard striving until you meet Him.”

This *ayah* tells us that all human beings, whether they are believers or non believers, good people or bad people; no matter what kind of people they are, are all working very hard. They all have their struggles and every man has a tendency to strive towards something; it's natural. We should not have any doubts in our minds that we have to meet Allah (swt) after death and when we meet Him we shall be meeting our deeds also, no matter what kinds of deeds they were.

Slide 8:

After this, when the earth has become flat and the sky is no more, then there will be a second blowing of the trumpet. We know this from Surah An-Naziat, verse 7:

تَتَّبِعُهَا الرَّادِقَةُ

The second blowing of the Trumpet follows it (and everybody will be raised up)

This time everyone and everything who had died will be brought back to life.

Slides 9-10:

The Day of Judgment will now start because Allah (swt) will start questioning us. He says in the Qur'an in Surah Al-Ghashiyah 88 verses 25 and 26:

إِنَّ إِلَيْنَا إِيَابَهُمْ

“Verily to Us will be their return. Then verily for Us is the taking of their account.”

ثُمَّ إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا حِسَابَهُمْ

We will be going back to Him and He will question us. This is also stated in Surah Al-Ara'f 7, verses 6 and 7:

فَلَنَسْأَلَنَّ الَّذِينَ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِمْ وَلَنَسْأَلَنَّ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

“Most certainly then We will question those to whom (the apostles) were sent, and most certainly We will also question the apostles.”

So you see everyone will be questioned, especially the nations who have been sent some prophet. Has any prophet come to us? Yes, Rasool Allah (pbuh) was sent to us. We have not met him directly but his teachings have been preserved for us in the form of Sunnah and Hadith. And most importantly, the Quran, the last message of Allah (swt) is well preserved. It is in its original form. Not only will we be questioned, all the messengers will be questioned as well. They will be witnesses over us.

Slide 11:

Now, there is a *hadith* where we are told that on the Day of Judgment, Allah (swt) will be talking to us like I am talking to you. Allah will talk to everybody without a translator. You won't have to know Arabic in order to talk to Allah (swt).

“Allah will talk to everyone directly, without a translator. The person will look to his right, and will not see anything but his deeds. Then the person, will look in front of himself and will see nothing but the hellfire facing him. So protect yourself from Hellfire even by giving a charity of half a date.” [Bukhari]

When Allah (swt) is questioning us, all we will be able to see is our deeds and the hell fire so it won't be a very pleasant scene.

Slide 12:

Let's talk about the things that Allah (swt) will ask us about. The first thing that He will ask us about is our *salah*. There is a *hadith* reported by *imam* Ahmed, Abu Dawood, An-Nisai and Al-Hakim in which *Rasool Allah* (saw) said, "The first thing people will be accountable for on the Day of Judgment is prayer. Allah (swt) will say to His angels (even though He already knows) look at my servants prayers; were they complete or not? If they were complete it will be written as complete, if they were not fully complete Allah will say, 'See if my servant has any voluntary prayers; if he has them, Allah will say complete his obligatory prayer shortage with his voluntary prayers.' The rest of his deeds will be dealt with in the same manner."

This *hadith* tells us that we should not only be focusing on our *faraidh* (obligations); yes *Alhamdulillah* we have to perform our *faraidh*, that is crucial and they have to be there, but we need to do other things as well; we need to think about the *sunnah*; we have to think about the *nawafil* and that too, not just in prayers. Our *faridh* is to be kind to our parents, but we should be good to other people around us as well.

Slide 13:

The son of Adam will not pass away from Allah until he is asked about five things;

1. How he lived his life –meaning how we have spent our time.
2. How he utilized his youth - we normally think that youth is a time for fun but that is the crucial time that Allah is going to ask us about - how we used our youth.
3. With what means did he earn his wealth? Where does our money come from?
4. Where did he spend his money? Are we spending in the right places?
5. What did he do with his knowledge? Whatever we are studying in our schools and wherever we are going to study, what is it that we are gaining and what are we doing with it all? We need to be aware of all these things.

Slide 14:

Allah (swt) also says in Surah At-Takathur 102, verse 8:

كُلَّمَا لَسْتُمْ لَسْأَلَنَّ يَوْمَئِذٍ عَنِ النَّعِيمِ

“On that Day (the Day of Judgment) you shall be asked about the delight. (you indulged in this world.)

Whatever you have enjoyed in this world.

Another thing we need to be conscious about is fulfilling every covenant. Indeed, every covenant will be questioned about. Whatever promise we make to each other; sometimes we say “I’ll give you my notes tomorrow *inshaAllah*.” and we forget about it. We need to realize that when we’re telling a person that we’ll do something “tomorrow”, that means tomorrow; it is a promise and so we need to be very conscious when we promise something to someone, be it big or small. We need to fulfill it. This is mentioned in Surah Al-Israa 17, Verse 34

وَأَوْفُوا بِالْعَهْدِ إِنَّ الْعَهْدَ كَانَ مَسْئُولًا

“.....And fulfil (every) covenant. Verily! The covenant, will be questioned about. ”

Slide 15:

وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا

“And follow that not of which you have no knowledge; verily the hearing and the sight and the heart of each of you will be questioned by Allah (swt).” (surah Al-Israa 17, verse 36)

Your heart, your sight and your hearing; whatever you see, whatever you hear - everything will be questioned about. To be very honest it looks like there’s not much left, is there? Whatever we experience, whatever we see, whatever happens; everything will be questioned about. We need to be prepared for all these things.

Slide 16:

After making it clear that Allah (swt) will be questioning us about everything, then Allah talks about the distribution of the records.

Slide 17:

On the Day of Judgment there will be two kinds of people; the first kind will be the ones who will be given their records in the right hand and the second kind will be the ones who will be given their records behind their backs.

Slide 18:

The people who will be getting their records in the right hand on the Day of Judgment will be going through a quick and easy questioning - they will be the lucky ones who will go to heaven *inshaAllah* and because their records will be given in their right hands they will be very excited and what do you do when you’re excited? Who do you run to? You want to share the news with your friends and family; siblings and parents. So you see that even on the Day of Judgment when we get our records in our right hand we will be very excited *inshaAllah* and we will run to our family. They will be the first ones we will think about there too.

Slide 19:

On the other hand, the people who get their records behind their backs will be crying for death and they will be very sad. They will want to die then. They will pray for death but death will not come because death will have been destroyed.

Slide 20:

This is a very long *hadith* but it explains how Allah will do the questioning; first He will question the ones who will get their records in their right hands. Allah (swt) will bring the believer very close to Himself and remind him about all the sins he did in the world and the believer will be so scared he'll want to run away and then when he confesses everything, Allah (swt) will say that He covered his sins in his life and He'll forgive his sins that day and he will be given his book of good deeds. This is the easy reckoning of the people with good deeds. Allah will question them in private - nobody will know what is going on. The unbelievers and hypocrites on the other hand, will be asked about their deeds loudly, in front of everyone; "These are the ones who lied against their lord. No doubt, the curse of Allah is on the *zalimoon*." [Surah Hud 11, verse 18] The *zalimoon* are the wrong doers. This *hadith* is mentioned in Bukhari and Muslim.

Slide 21:

However the questioning is being done, there will be witnesses; your tongues, hands and feet will bear witness against you as to their actions. Our own bodies; the hands will be saying this is what I did, the feet will be saying this is where I went, etc. Our bodies will be screaming and telling Allah (swt) whatever we have done with them and people will be very unhappy and will ask their skins why did you bear witness against us? They will say, "Allah has caused us to speak as it has caused all the rest to speak." Just as the sky and earth obeyed Allah (swt), similarly our body will also obey Allah (swt). Allah will ask our body what we did and it shall answer.

Slide 22:

If we look at the difference between the people who are given their records in their right hand and the people who are given their records behind their backs, there are certain differences between their worldly lifestyles. The people of the right hand strove to do good deeds and they were mindful of the hereafter. They knew there was a life after they died and they knew that death wasn't the end; they knew Allah (swt) would bring them back to life.

Slide 23:

However, the people who got their records behind their backs were also happy with friends and family in this worldly life. This is the difference; the people of the right hand were happy on the Day of Judgment and the rest were happy in the world. This doesn't mean that you should not be happy with your family in this world; your family is a blessing of Allah (swt) in this world.

However, your family should not be able to stop you from obeying Allah (swt) - that should never happen. No matter what, Allah (swt)'s commands come first. He must be obeyed. Our priorities need to be set. These people did not fix their priorities; they were unmindful of the hereafter. They forgot that Allah would bring them back to life.

Slide 24:

For the final destination, the people of the right hand will go to Paradise and they will get uninterrupted rewards; whatever they get will be continuous. In this world when we get something, we either get tired and bored of it or it finishes; but in Jannah the pleasures will be continuous. The people who get their records from behind their backs will be led into the blazing hell fire that will be their final destination.

Slides 25-29:

After describing these final destinations and the process of giving records, Allah (swt) invites us in Surah Al-Inshiqaq to reflect on the gradual changes that take place in nature. He (swt) takes three oaths; first He says in *ayah* 16, "So I swear by the afterglow of sunset" that is the *maghrib* (sunset) time which leads to the night and the night is when everybody goes home and relaxes, even animals go home and most of them go to sleep. Then, "By the moon when it is at the full" the moon comes out at night so it's a gradual process; first the sun sets, there is the glow, then the night starts and the moon comes out and the moon itself has many phases - it starts from a thin crescent and it grows into a full moon and then it starts reducing again so there is a progression in all the three oaths and the reason He (swt) has done that is because He wants us to understand that human beings also go through progressions; you will certainly travel from stage to stage. That is what He is telling us; that all human beings start their life in the mother's womb but then we travel from there; we are born, gradually we learn to sit up and then to crawl. Then we stand up, start walking, and then running. We start going to school, then college, then university - we graduate, look for work, start working and then we start getting old; we start bending down, taking a walking stick and some people also end up on wheel chairs and then on the bed and finally people die. The cycle goes on.

Slides 30-31:

The phases follow each other but death is not the end; we know that there is a life after death as well. So the death of human beings is not the end but it leads us to another world; it leads to the Hereafter and then there is the life of the *barzakh*, which is actually the stretch between death and resurrection when we will have to face Allah. Finally we are thrown into Hell or granted Heaven; that is where our journey actually ends and at the end of all of this Allah (swt) asks what is the matter with them that they don't believe; I have been showing them so many things; we witness so many signs one after another but we tend to ignore them, so Allah (swt) is making us think about it by asking us this question and He says that when the Qur'an is recited to them, they don't fall down in *sajdah* (prostration). This is an *ayah* of *sajdah* because we don't want to

be of those who don't bow down to Allah (swt). I will ask all of you to take a few minutes and silently do *sajdah*.

Slides 32-33:

In *ayah* 22 Allah (swt) says that on the contrary, those who disbelieve and don't obey His rules and commands, announce to them a painful torment. Those who do wrong things will be thrown into the hell fire and it will be a very painful place. Allah knows best what they gather of good and bad deeds and He is looking after each and every one. He knows what we are running after.

For those who do good deeds, is a reward that will never come to an end (Jannah). Allah says only those who have faith will be safe from the torment of the Hell fire and having faith necessitates doing good deeds as well. These two things are the prerequisites; faith and good deeds and only then will you be able to get to Jannah *insha Allah* and that is the end that we need to keep in our minds whenever we start doing anything.

(Du'a for end of a gathering) *SubhanaRabbikaRabbullzzati 'ammayasifunwasalamun 'alalmursaleen, walhamdulillahiRabbil 'alameen*

(Parting salutation to students) *AssalamalaikumwarahmatullahiwaBarakatuh*

Reference for teachers:

- *Mu'arif al Qur-an*, Maulana Mufti Muhammad Shafi, Idaratul-ma-Arif , Karachi
- Tafseer Surah Al Inshiqaq – Urdu audio, Huma Najmul Hassan, www.al-ilm.com