**MODULE 2**

**Class title**: Perished Nations

**Aim of lesson**: To take lessons from past nations that invoked Allah (swt)’s wrath so much, that they were wiped out from the face of earth forever!

**Category**: *Tazkiyah*

**Class Format**: Power Point Presentation, mind map, activity

Slide 1:

The Quran is the last book of Allah and His only unaltered revelation. Therefore, we are responsible for assuming it as our true guide along with the *sunnah* of Prophet (pbuh) and we need to explore very carefully and attentively what the Quran relates and then contemplate upon it. In Qur’an, Allah swt states that the purpose of revealing Quran is to lead people to think:

“**Here is a message for mankind; Let them take warning therefrom and let them know that He is one Allah; let men of understanding take heed” (surah Ibrahim 52)**

Slides 2-3:

The news of previous people which constitutes a great part of the Quran is certainly one of the matters that need contemplation.

Most of these people rejected the prophets sent to them, moreover, showed animosity towards them. Because of their audacity, they brought Allah (swt)’s wrath upon themselves and have been wiped off the face of earth.

The Quran tells us that these cases of destruction should be a warning for succeeding generations. For instance, right after destruction of one group of people, it is revealed

“So, we made it an example to their own time and to their posterity and a lesson to those who fear Allah” (Surah al Baqarah 2: Verse 66)

First reason is ‘example to their own time’ so that they can set a ‘warning’

Second reason we examine these destructions is to show manifestations of Quran externally in the world. In the Quran Allah (swt) certifies that His verses are observable in the external world

**“Praise be to Allah, who will soon show you His signs, so that you shall know them”**

Nearly all the incidents of destruction in Quran have become ‘observable’ and ‘identifiable’, thanks to the current studies and archaeological finds.

Slides 4-5:

**NUH (as)**

Nuh (as) preached for 950 years but only a handful of people converted. His own son didn’t obey and along with other disbelievers ridiculed him incessantly. Finally, after a long span of time Allah swt commanded Nuh (as) to gather his household (believers) in a ship constructed by the prophet himself and to abandon the disbelievers to be drowned in a mighty flood.

Slide 6:

We learn the lesson of perseverance from this story mentioned in the Quran. Preaching for 950 years is not an easy job. Also notice that Allah’s (swt) penalty didn’t strike them as soon as the message was delivered. Allah (swt) gave them 950 years, but they remained adamant in their disbelieving ways.

We tend to point fingers at someone who preaches any good especially if any member of his clan isn’t on the right path. “*pehlay apnay bachon ko tou seedha kar lay phir hamain batain*”is the general mantra. We learn from the example of prophet Nuh as that Allah swt guides whoever He wishes and leaves astray whom He wills.

Slides

**THE PEOPLE OF ‘AD:**

According to Ibn Jarir, Hud (as) was the great grandson of Nuh(as)and was sent as a prophet to this rebellious nation. After Nuh (as), people remained upon the worship of one Allah until the people of Ad. They were the first people to commit shirk after the Great Flood.

 The people of Hud were known as Ad of Iram. They lived in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula in an area between Yemen and Oman in a place called *Al Ahqaf.*

*“Have you not seen how your Lord dealt with Ad of Iram, with lofty pillars; the like of which was never created in any land.” ( Surah al Fajr, 89: 6-8)*

They were well built in stature and known for constructing tall buildings. Ad were also blessed with much power and wealth but they became arrogant and ungrateful for the blessings that Allah swt had bestowed upon them.

In addition to *tawhid,* Hud (as) preached to his people regarding life after death and that Allah swt would hold them all to account for what they had done.

The tribe of Ad refused to believe in the message and thought that Hud (as) had ulterior motives and wanted mastery over them. In response, Hud (as) said;

*“O my people, I do not ask for any reward. My reward is only from the One who created me. Then will you not reason? O my people, ask forgiveness of your Lord and then repent to Him. He will send (rain from) sky upon you in showers and increase you in strength (added) to your strength. And do not turn away (being) criminals” (surah Hud 11, 50-52)*

Slide 9:

Ultimately when no more of Ad were going to believe in the message, Allah swt fulfilled His promise. After a period of drought, Hud (as )warned the people that Allah swt was angry with them and that there was still time to reform; instead of heeding his warning, they mocked him.

Then a day came when the sky was full of clouds, raising Ad’s hope that there would be abundant rainfall. The burning dry heat changed to stinging cold, and a wind that shook everything increasing day by day.

*“ And as for Ad, they were destroyed by a screaming, violent wind which Allah swt subjected them to for seven nights and eight days in succession so you would see the people therein fallen as if they were hollow trunks of palm trees (Surah al Haqqah, 69: 6-7)*

The wind did not stop until all the disbelievers were destroyed. The believers were saved and migrated to an area known as Hadramawt, where they established a community that worshipped Allah swt alone.

Slide 10:

The points to ponder upon are that the things that lead to Allah’s wrath are:

1. Being ungrateful for blessings received
2. Arrogance over one’s state, blessings or ability
3. Indifference to or disbelief in *Akhirah* and the Day of Judgment

Slides 11-13:

**THE PEOPLE OF THAMUD**

Salih (as) was the prophet sent to Thamud in the eighth generation after Nuh (as). Prior to his Prophet hood, he was greatly respected by his people, so much so that he was one of the next in line to be the chief of his people. After the destruction of Ad, the tribe of Thamud rose to regional prominence. Thamud was located in the northwestern area of the Arabian peninsula along the route to al Sha’m.

The capital city of this nation was known as Al Hijr, parts of which are still visible today. Like their predecessors Ad, the Thamud also fell prey to idolatry. As their material wealth increased, so did their evil ways while their virtue decreased.

Salih (as) called his people towards the worship of Allah swt without ascribing any partners. Although some people accepted but the majority disbelieved. Fearing his message and the impact it would have on their position and wealth, Thamud demanded a miraculous sign from Salih (as). Pointing to a rock, they asked if he could demand from his Lord to bring out a pregnant she camel out of it. When the people pledged belief in Salih(as) after such a miracle, Salih (as) made *dua* to Allah swt to grant their request. In front of their eyes, a giant she-camel emerged from solid rock.

Salih (as) ordered that the camel have exclusive rights to drink from the wells on one day. For a while the people were in awe, and they left the she camel alone but they gradually came to resent the she camel. A group of nine men united to kill it and one of them struck it in its leg forcing it to lower itself. Then another man struck the camel in its neck; thereby killing it. These men were celebrated by the Thamud for their act of insolence. In their pomp and arrogance, they mocked Salih (as) and asked him to bring forth whatever punishment he was going to bring.

*“So they hamstrung the she-camel and were insolent towards the command of their Lord and said, ‘O Salih, bring us what you promise us; if you are of the messengers’.” (Surah Al A’raf, 7:77)*

Hoping that they would see their error and repent, Salih (as) gave them three days warning prior to the punishment of Allah swt yet they mockingly asked for immediate punishment.

He said*, “O my people, why are you impatient for evil instead of good? Why do you not seek forgiveness of Allah swt that you may receive mercy?” ( Surah Al Naml, 27:46*)

The same nine men from the noble families of Thamud made a secret plan to kill Salih (As), plotting to claim ignorance of the perpetrators later.

After the passing of the third day, thunder and lightning filled the air and severe earthquakes shook the land. Even though Thamud built their houses and buildings into the very mountains themselves, such protection could not save them. A terrible cry filled the air, and all of the disbelievers were struck dead at once.

Abdullah ibn Umar reported: The people landed at the land of Thamud called Al-Hijr along with the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, and they took water from its well for drinking and kneading dough. The Prophet heard this, and he ordered them to pour out the water they had taken from the well and they should feed the camels with the dough, and he ordered them to take water from the well from which the camel of Prophet Salih used to drink.

Source: Sahih Bukhari

Slide 14:

It is important, at this point, to reflect on the fact that permitting evil without reproach can also lead to Allah’s (swt) wrath and punishment. The killers of the camel and those who plotted to kill Salih (as) were only few; the majority not partaking in this, yet they were punished collectively because they did not resist or reproach the criminals. If we too remain silent and allow for evil to spread amongst us, then we may be equally deserving of punishment.

Slides 15-18:

**LUT (as):**

Lut (as) was the nephew (brother’s son) of Ibrahim (as). He was chosen to go to the Nation of Sadum (Sodom). The nation of Sadum and its principal city was located on the western edge of what is now the “Dead Sea”, in the Palestine region.

The people were an evil and corrupt community. They hijacked, robbed and frequently killed travelers passing through their territory. Additionally, they committed sodomy in public without shame.

Lut (as) warned them saying

*“Will you not fear Allah? I am to you a messenger worthy of all trust so fear Allah and obey me. No reward do I ask you of it, my reward is only from the lord of the Worlds. Of all the creatures of the world, will you approach males and leave those whom Allah has created for you to be your mates? Nay, you are a people transgressing (all limits)!!”*

The reaction of the people was outright rejection of his message. Only some members of his family accepted his message; even his wife was averse to the purity he called to. Not only did the people disbelieve Lut (as), they also forbade him from speaking to, or giving shelter to travelers. In the Quran we read:

**‘***If you desist not O Lut (as), you will surely be cast out” (Surah Shura 160 168)*

‘Bring the wrath of Allah if you tell the truth” (Surah Ankaboot 28b -29)

He said, “O my lord, help me against people who do mischief’ (Surah Ankaboot 30)

“O My lord deliver me and my family from such things as they do’ (Surah Ash Shu’ra 169)

Upon Lut’s (as) dua’, Allah swt sent two angels who went to the town of Sadum in the guise of handsome men. The first person to see them was the daughter of Lut (as) who was a believer. Recognizing their beauty and fearing what would happen to them if they entered the city, she asked them to remain outside the city until Lut (as) could safely lead them inside.

As the guests arrived at the house of Lut (as), his wife, who was very much with the disbelievers, informed the town of the arrival of the guests and their beauty. The Qur’an tells us what happened next

‘*And the people of the city came rejoicing. Lut (as) said, ‘Indeed these are my guests so do not shame me and fear Allah (swt) and do not disgrace me.’ They said,’ Have we not forbidden you from protecting people?’ Lut (as) said, ‘These are my daughters- if you would be doers (of lawful marriage).’By your life, (O Mohommad) indeed they were, in their intoxication, wandering blindly’ (Surah Al Hijr, 15:67-72)*

The people had by now become a mob. Seeing his grief and helplessness, the angels revealed their true nature, their purpose and assured Lut (as) that he would not be harmed.

Upon hearing this, the mob fled the house, threatening Lut (as) as they left. The angels warned Lut (as) to leave his house before sunrise taking his entire family (of believers) except his wife.

At the time that Allah (swt) decreed, a terrible earthquake shook the region, and the entire city was uplifted and upturned. A storm of stones followed afterwards, destroying and killing every single inhabitant within the town.

Slide 19:

**POMPEI:**

Pompeii, the symbol of the degeneration of the Roman Empire, was also involved in sexual perversity. Its end was similar to that of the people of Lut.

The destruction of Pompeii came by means of the eruption of the volcano Vesuvius.
The volcano Vesuvius is the symbol of Italy, primarily the city of Naples. Remaining silent for the last two millennia, Vesuvius is named the “Mountain of Warning”. It is not without cause that Vesuvius is known as such. The disaster that befell Sodom and Gomorrah is very similar to the disaster that destroyed Pompeii.

Slides 20-21:

The lava and ash of a huge volcanic eruption, that happened two millennia ago, caught the inhabitants of that city. The disaster happened so suddenly that everything in the town was caught in the middle of its everyday life and remains today exactly as it was two millennia ago. It is as if the time had been frozen.

Despite all these, things have not changed much where Pompeii once stood. The districts of Naples where debauchery prevails do not fall short of those licentious districts of Pompeii. The Island of Capri is a base where homosexuals and nudists reside. The Island of Capri is represented as a “Homosexual paradise” in tourist commercials. Not only on Capri and in Italy, but in nearly all the world, a similar moral degeneration is at work and people insist on not learning from the awful experiences of past peoples.

Slide 22:

It is important to reflect on the point that those who continue to transgress Allah’s swt limits, are bound to face severe repercussions for their insolence. The limits imposed on us by our *deen* in terms of dress, speech, conduct and other areas must be abided without any qualms. Excessive intermingling between opposite gender should be abstained and we must keep in mind that Allah swt is undoubtedly *Ar Raheem* (The Merciful) but He is also *Al Qahhar* (The All Prevailing one)*and Al Jabbar* (The Omnipotent One)…..Let us not forget that.

Slide 23 :

 **Pharaoh**

Ancient Egyptian civilization is known to be the oldest civilizations in the world and the most organized states with the most advanced social order of its age. They discovered writing, they made good use of the River Nile and were protected against overseas dangers on account of the natural setting of their country. But this ‘civilized’ nation denied the truth in the strongest way. They swelled with pride, turned aside, blasphemed, and challenged Allah’s miracles and signs. In the end their prosperity, social and political orders and military strength couldn’t save them.

The absolutism in the regime had given the Pharaoh such power that he could have anything he wished for. It was not hard for the kings or pharaohs to reduce their people to submission. Pharaoh was looked upon as a holy being that held great power and met the needs of his people, who regarded himself as god. As the Quran mentions, “And Pharaoh said, (to his people), ‘O courtiers, I don’t recognize any god for you other than me..’ Surah Qasas 38

Pharaoh and his close circle were so deeply engaged in their polytheism and idolatry that even the miracles shown to them by Musa (AS) weren’t enough to stop them. Moreover, they declared it proudly and openly, “They said, ‘Whatever sign you bring to us to enchant us with, we are not going to believe in you.” Surah Al-Araf 132

Because of their conduct, Allah sent separate disasters to jolt them and recover from their wrongdoings; droughts and scarcity of crops, locusts, lice, blood and frogs. And then ultimately the drowning: “So we revealed to Musa (AS) saying, ‘Strike the sea with your staff.’ So it was severed apart, and each part became like a big mountain. Then we brought others close to that place. And we saved Musa (AS) and all those with him. Then we drowned the others. Surely, in this is a sign, but most of them are not believers.” Surah Ashuara 63-67

We learn lessons of complete submission to Allah. One should not challenge, doubt or reckon with Allah’s message or signs. One should also not swell with pride at any blessing we have.

(The above points are further clarified with the help of a mind map. The idea to be conveyed through the mind map is that our religion doesn’t want us to fall in a sink hole and then plead help. In fact, Allah swt has demarcated boundaries regarding each and everything so that if we stay within those perimeters, we would barr all roads leading to sin and thus we would save ourselves from ultimate destruction)

**ACTIVITY: (team game)**

**Material Needed:**

Student’s shoes

Blindfold

Plastic balls

With the help of a variety of shoes, a path is designed within class (kind of a maze) and one student from each team has to reach the end of the maze blind folded, without disturbing/touching the shoe boundary. In the meantime, the opponent team members will be hurtling plastic balls in the participant’s way to cause distraction. The participant;

* Has to reach the end without touching the boundary created.
* If she touches, that causes negative marking for her team
* Three of her team members will vocally guide her while the opponent team will misguide simultaneously.
* Only’ two physical touch support’ is provided to the participant by one of her grp member in case of dire emergency.
* The team which reaches the end without using one or both touch support tool gains added marks

**Synopsis:**

Life is a path in which we are to stay within the boundaries set by Allah swt and His prophet (pbuh)

Crossing those boundaries results in retribution so it is best to not even come close to those boundaries and keep a decent distance away from them.

It is best to trust the few who are on the right track than to listen to the mob which will mostly lead you astray.

Shaitan and his companions aim to create hurdles and problems in the way of those who take the right path but even if we fall, its necessary not to change the right course but to be steadfast.

In the end it is Jannah which is the ultimate destination and successful are those who aren’t lured into the charms of this world.

“And hold on to the rope of Allah swt and do not become divided” Surah Al e Imran 103

(Du’a for end of a gathering) *SubhanaRabbikaRabbulIzzati ‘ammayasifunwasalamun ‘alalmursaleen, walhamdulillahiRabbil ‘alameen*

(Parting salutation to students) *AssalamalaikumwarahmatullahiwaBarakatuh*

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Harun Yahyas e- book “Perished nations”

Notes from a tertiary level weekend course titled “Prophets of Allah swt” by Al Kauthar Institute