

# **Brief Explanation of** **Ayat 1-10 of Surah Al-Kahf**

## **1 Introduction**

*Surah Al-Kahf is the 18<sup>th</sup> Surah of the Quran consisting of 110 Ayat and was revealed in Makkah. Al-Kahf means the cave.*

## **2 Amazing Virtues**

*This Surah has many virtues. Some of them are:*

- i) **Reciting the Surah on Friday.** The Messenger Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam (SAW) said: "Whoever reads Surah Al-Kahf on the day of Jumu'ah, a light will shine for him from beneath his feet to the clouds of the sky, which will shine for him on the Day of Resurrection, and he will be forgiven (his sins) between the two Fridays." (Al-Targheeb wa'l-Tarheeb)*
- ii) **Reciting the Surah Any Day.** The Messenger (SAW) said: "Whoever recites Surah Al-Kahf as it was revealed, it will be a light for him on the Day of Resurrection." (Al-Bayhaqi)*
- iii) **Memorizing First or Last Ten Ayat of the Surah.** The Messenger (SAW) said: "Whoever memorizes the first ten Ayat of the Surah Al-Kahf, will be protected from (the trial of) Ad-Dajjal." In another narration, he said: "Whoever memorizes the last ten Ayat of Surah Al-Kahf, he will be protected from (the trial of) Ad-Dajjal." (Sahih Muslim)*

*Let's learn a little bit about this amazing Surah so that we can ponder over its message meant for us and be benefited by acting upon them.*

## **3 Significant Messages in Wonderful Stories**

*The central theme of the Surah is giving our attention to the Quran and its messages. Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala (SWT) invited us to believe firmly in taoheed, risalah and akhirah. For our own benefit, we should accept these principles, mend our ways accordingly and live our life with the sense of accountability to Allah. Otherwise we shall ruin our life and all our doings will be worthless. This was mentioned in the first ten Ayat of the Surah and also reiterated in the last ten Ayat. This message was further explained through four incredible stories where the believers were comforted and the careless people were warned of their deeds –*

- i) The story of companions of the cave*
- ii) The story of man of two gardens*
- iii) The story of Musa (A) and Khidr (A)*
- iv) The story of Zul-Qarnain*

## 4 Explanation of First 10 Ayat

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful.

**Ayah 1:** الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ عَلَىٰ عَبْدِهِ الْكِتَابَ وَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ عِوَجًا

[All] praise is [due] to Allah, who has sent down upon His Servant [Muhammad] the Book and has not made therein any deviance.

- **الْكِتَابَ** means 'the book' which is a name for 'Al-Quran'. Al-Quran has many other names such as Al-Furqan, Kalamullah, Az-Zikr, At-Tanzeel, Al-Huda etc.
- We should praise Allah (SWT) and express gratitude for sending down His greatest favor 'Al-Quran' to us as our guidance.
- **عِوَجًا** means deviance, crookedness, distortion etc. **قِيَمًا** (from Ayah 2) means absolutely straight.
- It is another favor from Allah that He has made the Quran free from all crookedness and made it straight so that the mind of a truth-loving person does not hesitate in accepting its teachings. The Quran is itself devoid of any deviation and keeps people who believe in it from deviating from the straight path.
- Thus, Allah made the Quran easy for our understanding and following so that we may stay on the path of the truth. Therefore, it is upon us to be benefited by Allah's words. We should always be connected to the Quran – recite it, understand its meanings, ponder over its messages, extract its teachings and follow in our everyday life.

**Ayah 2&3:** قَيِّمًا لِّيُنذِرَ بَأْسًا شَدِيدًا مِّن لَّدُنْهُ وَيُبَشِّرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا حَسَنًا

[He has made it] strictly straight, to warn of severe punishment from Him and to give good tidings to the believers who do righteous deeds that they will have a good reward.

مَا كَثَبْنَ فِيهِ أَبَدًا

In which they will remain forever.

- Here the purpose of revealing the Quran is outlined. It has dual purposes -
  - To warn people of a severe punishment.
  - To give the believers glad tidings of a good reward.
- The warning is directed to all humans who disobey guidance of Allah.
- The good news however is directed towards the believers only. It also takes into account good deeds.
- To be a believer is not enough, one must follow that with appropriate deeds. This is a condition that faith should have practical evidence in real life. Islam is not confined to theoretical principles without effect in practice.
- The reward will not be for a short time. Rather, the believers will enjoy the good reward

forever. In this worldly life, we can be dissatisfied even with the things that are most enjoyable to us after certain time period. But in Jannah no one will be bored, they will be content and satisfied forever.

#### **Ayah 4:** وَيُنذِرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا اتَّخَذَ اللَّهُ وَلَدًا

And to warn those who say, "Allah has taken a son."

- The warning is then reiterated for a particular group of people who claim, 'Allah has taken to Himself a son.' These people include the Christians, the Jews and the mushrik Arabs who assigned offspring to Allah.

#### **Ayah 5:** مَا لَهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ وَلَا لِآبَائِهِمْ ۚ كَبُرَتْ كَلِمَةً تَخْرُجُ مِنْ أَفْوَاهِهِمْ ۚ إِنَّ يَفْهَمُونَ إِلَّا كَذِبًا

They have no knowledge of it, nor had their fathers. Grave is the word that comes out of their mouths; they utter nothing but a lie.

- *كَبُرَتْ كَلِمَةً* 'Grave is the word' means the seriousness and enormity of the lie they have made up. It has no basis and no evidence. They had merely exaggerated their love for someone and invented such a relationship. They do not realize that it is a dreadful blasphemy, impudence and fabrication that they and their predecessors used to utter about Allah, the Lord of the worlds.
- We should be cautious at our highest level when uttering words in regards to Allah and His religion.
- We should also be careful when we say things about other people. Uttering words without validating their truth will certainly bring sufferings to the speaker.

#### **Ayah 6:** فَلَعَلَّكَ بَاخِعٌ نَفْسِكَ عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِمْ ۚ إِنَّ لَّهُمْ يُؤْمِنُوا بِهَذَا الْحَدِيثِ أَسَفًا

Then perhaps you would kill yourself through grief over them [O Muhammad], if they do not believe in this message, [and] out of sorrow.

- The Prophet (SAW) was deeply grieved by his people's attitude of denying the truth of the Quran. He was not as much pained by their torture on him and the believers, as their rejection of the truth and their insistence on following the way that would lead them to ruin. It shows the amount of love Prophet (SAW) had for his ummah. If we want to show our love for our beloved Prophet, we must have to know him, do things as he asked us to do etc. A good example we can set by praying our daily sunnah prayer and making lots of salam to him.
- This verse is also an indication to the Prophet (SAW) that it is not his responsibility if they don't pay heed to his message.

#### **Ayah 7:** إِنَّا جَعَلْنَا مَا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ زِينَةً لَهَا لِنَبْلُوهُمْ أَيُّهُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا

Indeed, We have made that which is on the Earth as an adornment for it, in order that We may test them [mankind] as to which of them is best in deeds.

- Allah tells us that He has made this world a temporary abode, adorned with transient beauty and placed in it various sort of comfort and pleasure.
- Then Allah mentions that His purpose for all these adornment is to test mankind. This world is a place of trial rather than a permanent abode of enjoyment. The test will prove who among them does good in this life, so as to earn its benefit, as well as a happy destiny in the life to come.
- So, what do you think? Who is smarter? The one who spends most of his/her time beautifying self and this dunya? Or the one who does things that will stay longer in the hereafter? Allah wants to see who wants to do things in the best possible way only to please Him.

### **Ayah 8:** وَإِنَّا لَجَاعِلُونَ مَا عَلَيْهَا صَعِيدًا جُرُزًا

And indeed, We will make all that is on it [the earth] into a barren ground.

- The eventual outcome of all such adornment that is available on Earth, is inevitable. Allah will make everything on it bare and dry, with no vegetation or any other benefit. Thus before the Day of Resurrection, the earth will be nothing more than a coarse and lifeless surface.

### **Ayah 9:** أَمْ حَسِبْتَ أَنَّ أَصْحَابَ الْكَهْفِ وَالرَّقِيمِ كَانُوا مِنْ آيَاتِنَا عَجَبًا

Or have you thought that Ashab-ul-Kahf (the companions of the cave) and Ar-Raqeem (the inscription) were a wonder among Our signs?

- After its brief introduction, the Surah speaks about Ashab-ul-Kahf (the people of the cave), depicting the effect of faith on believers - giving them reassurance and inner peace. Hence, they prefer faith to all material riches and pleasures.
- Their story begins with the expression that - Do you think that Ashab-ul-Kahf and Ar-Raqeem were a wonder among Our signs? This means that indeed this is a wonderful sign. However, among the signs of Allah are things that are more amazing than this.

### **Ayah 10:** إِذْ أَوْىءَ الْفُتَيَّةُ إِلَى الْكَهْفِ فَقَالُوا رَبَّنَا آتِنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً وَهَيِّئْ لَنَا مِنْ أَمْرِنَا رَشَدًا

[Remember] when the youths fled for refuge to the cave and said, "Our Lord, grant us mercy from Yourself and prepare right guidance for us from our affair."

- Here Allah tells us about those young men who fled from their people for the sake of their religion, fearing persecution. They took refuge in the cave of a mountain to hide from their people.
- When they entered the cave, they asked Allah to show mercy towards them and prayed for His care and protection.
- The interesting side of this story is that Allah loves the youths who believed in Allah and put their trust in Him. They were not scholars, but they will be remembered until the Day of Judgement only for their belief and trust. Subhanallah.

You know what? Even we can be as appreciated as they are. We won't be mentioned in the book, but we will be mentioned in the gathering beside Allah (SWT). Want to know how?

*Abu Hurairah (R) reported: The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "Allah, the Exalted, has teams of angels who go about on the roads seeking those who remember Allah. When they find some people remembering Allah they call to one another and say, 'Come to what you are looking for;' and they surround them with their wings till the space between them and the lowest sky is fully covered.*

*Allah, the Exalted and Glorious, asks them (although He is best informed about everything): 'What are my slaves saying?'*

*They say: 'They are glorifying Your Tasbih, Tahmid, Takbir, Tamjid, (i.e., they were declaring Your Perfectness, praising, remembering the Greatness and Majesty of Allah).'*

*He asks: 'Have they seen Me?' They reply, 'No, indeed, they have not seen You.'*

*He asks: 'How would they act if they were to see Me?'*

*Thereupon they reply: 'If they were to see You, they would engage more earnestly in worshipping and glorifying You and would extol You more.'*

*He would say: 'What do they beg of Me?' They say, 'They beg You for Your Jannah.'*

*Allah says, 'Have they seen My Jannah?' They say, 'No, our Rabb.'*

*He says: 'How would they act if they were to see My Jannah?'*

*They reply, 'Were they to see it, they would more intensely eager for it.'*

*He asks, 'Against what do they seek Protection?'*

*They (the angels) say, 'They seek Protection from the fire of Hell.'*

*(He, the Rabb) says, 'Have they seen the fire of Hell?'*

*They say, 'No, By Your Honour, they have not seen it.'*

*He says: 'How would they act if they were to see My Fire?'*

*They say: 'If they were to see it, they would more earnest in being away from it and fearing it.'*

***He says: 'I call you to witness that I hereby grant pardon to them.'***

*One of the angels says: 'Our Rabb, there is amongst them such and such slave who does not belong to the assembly of those who are participating in Your remembrance. He passed by them and sat down with them.'*

*He says: 'I also grant him pardon because they are the people by virtue of whom their associates will not be unfortunate'. "[Al-Bukhari and Muslim][Riyadus Saleheen 1447].*

*Also, the Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "When a group of people assemble for the remembrance of Allah, the angels surround them (with their wings), (Allah's) mercy envelops them, Sakinah (tranquility) descends upon them and Allah mentions about them before those who are near Him."*  
*[Muslim]*

*[Memorizing the first and last ten Ayat of Surah Al-Kahf and understanding the meanings within them will protect us against the trials and temptations thrown by this temporary worldly life and the Dajjal. May Allah (SWT) help us comprehend and follow the messages and teachings of this Surah in our everyday life. Aameen.]*

*You may enjoy:*

<https://youtu.be/Yc6iAQPvOe0>

<https://youtu.be/dJTNHSxhPRO>