

سُورَةُ الْعَنْكَبُوتِ

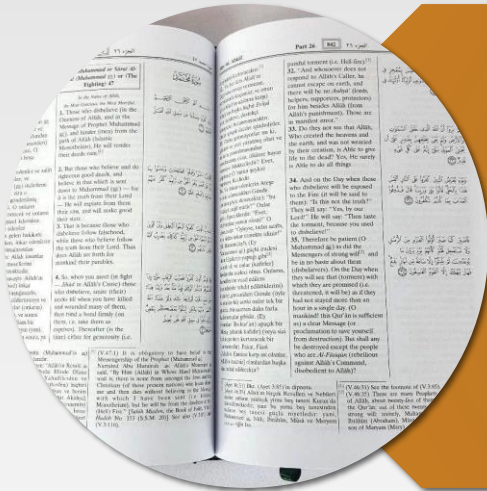
Surat al-‘Ankabūt (29)

The Spider

COMMENTARY OF THE QUR'AN

RAMADAN 2020

Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Review for Today



Session 15
Review for Today
Āyāt 38-39



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Introduction

God’s precedence in testing humans’ faith

Testing people’s faith at all times. (Verses 1-4)

4 Verses



Different groups going through Divine Trials. (Verses 5-13)

9 Verses



Consequences of disbelieving in Prophets sent by God. (Verses 14-44)

31 Verses

The trials which those who opposed the Prophets went through. (Verses 45-68)

24 Verses

Achievements of those who struggle in the way of God – Divine Mercy and Guidance. (Verse 69)

1 Verse



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Introduction

- Prophet Nuh ﷺ
- Prophet Ibrahim ﷺ
- Prophet Lut ﷺ
- Prophet Shuayb ﷺ
- Prophet Hud ﷺ
- Prophet Salih ﷺ
- Prophet Musa ﷺ



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 38 & 39

وَعَادًا وَثَمُودَ وَقَدْ تَبَيَّنَ لَكُمْ مِنْ مَسَاكِينِهِمْ وَزَيْنَ لَهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ
أَعْمَالَهُمْ فَصَدَّهُمْ عَنِ السَّبِيلِ وَكَانُوا مُسْتَبْصِرِينَ ﴿٣٨﴾

And *We destroyed the tribes of 'Ad and Thamud; and this must have become clear to you from their dwellings. Satan made their evil deeds fair-seeming to them and by making them take pride in their doings* turned them away from the right way, though they were enlightened and sagacious people. (38)



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 38 & 39

The Nation of ‘Ād

‘Ad (أَد):

- **Meaning of ‘Ād:** Comes from the Arabic word to “return” to something after having left that thing but here, it refers to a person who was a part of the tribe or community or possibly an elder of the community of Prophet Hūd ﷺ
- **Qur’ānic Usage:** Mentioned 24 times
- **Region:** Between present-day Oman and Yemen
- **Prophet:** Prophet Hūd ﷺ
- **Sins:** Disbelief of God and their Prophet, idol worship, arrogance and conceit



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 38 & 39

The Nation of Thamūd

Thamūd (ثَمُودُ):

- **Meaning of Thamūd:** An Arabic word coming from the root “ثَمَدٌ” meaning something in small quantity – some say it means a small supply of water and it was either the name of a tribe or the grand-father of this specific tribe
- **Qur’ānic Usage:** Mentioned 26 times
- **Region:** Between the Hijaz (western Saudi Arabia) and The Levant (Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine)
- **Prophet:** Prophet Ṣāliḥ ﷺ
- **Sins:** Idol worship, drowned in materialism and lived extravagantly, etc. with no regards for others



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 38 & 39

وَزَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ أَعْمَالَهُمْ

Satan made their *evil* deeds fair-seeming to them... (38)

- **ALSO** used in the Quran in: 6:43, 8:48, 16:63, 27:24, 29:38
- A **metaphor** for the act in which Satan is able to tempt people by presenting their evil acts in a favorable light and are actually good in order to make them develop a greater attraction to those actions.
 - It can be done through stirring the inner emotions of the individual;
 - Not only in our actions, but also where it comes to our beliefs and our thoughts and verbal communications



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 38 & 39

وَكَاُنُوا مُسْتَبْصِرِينَ

...though they were enlightened and sagacious people.

(38)

- In the past, these people had the light of consciousness of God within them – they were not oblivious to the Divine, however slowly that light dwindled until it was completely shut off – allowing them to easily sin.



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 38 & 39

وَقَارُونَ وَفِرْعَوْنَ وَهَامَانَ وَلَقَدْ جَاءَهُمْ مُوسَى بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ
فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا كَانُوا سَابِقِينَ ﴿٣٩﴾

And *We destroyed* Qaroon, Firaun and Haman;
and indeed Musa came to them with clear signs,
so they were arrogant in the land, and they could
never escape from Our control. (39)



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 38 & 39

وَقَارُونَ وَفِرْعَوْنَ وَهَامَانَ

Qaroon

- Mentioned in the Quran in four instances and referred to in the Bible as Korah;
- He was from the Children of Israel and according to some reports was the maternal cousin of Prophet Musa ﷺ;
- Quran describes him as being extremely wealthy (28:76);
- Initially, he was a believer in the message of Prophet Musa ﷺ however he then betrayed his people and Musa ﷺ, due to his material attachments and joined the ranks of the Pharaoh.



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 38 & 39

The Arrogance of Qarun

قَالَ إِنَّمَا أُوتِيْتُهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ عِنْدِي ۗ أَوَلَمْ يَعْلَم أَنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ أَهْلَكَ مِن قَبْلِهِ مِنَ الْقُرُونِ مَنْ هُوَ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُ قُوَّةً وَأَكْثَرُ جَمْعًا...

He, Qarun, said: I have been given *all of this wealth* only on account of the knowledge I have *and Allah has nothing to do with my prosperity*. Did he, *Qarun*, not know that Allah had destroyed before him of the generations those who were mightier in strength than he and greater in numbers... (28:78)



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 38 & 39

وَقَارُونَ وَفِرْعَوْنَ وَهَامَانَ

Fir‘awn

- **Region:** Egypt
- **Meaning of Fir‘awn:** A title for the head of state, there were 26 generations of such leaders in Egypt. The Pharaoh during the time of Prophet Mūsā ﷺ was apparently Qābūs ibn Muṣ‘ab. This title is a non-Arabic word and either comes from the word “فارع” meaning killing, revenge or looting or “فرع” meaning chaos and a lack of order.
- **Qur’ānic Usage:** Mentioned 74 times
- **Prophets:** Prophets Mūsā and Hārūn ﷺ and perhaps others
- **Sins:** Claiming to be the Lord, oppressing people, etc.
- **Outcome:** Drowned to death and a downfall of his authority



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 38 & 39

وَقَارُونَ وَفِرْعَوْنَ وَهَامَانَ

Haman

- **Region:** Egypt
- **Status:** A high-ranking Minister and Advisor to Fir‘awn
- **Qur‘ānic Usage:** Mentioned 6 times and ALWAYS alongside Fir‘awn



Sūrat Al-‘Ankabūt: Verses 38 & 39

Points for Reflection

1. By our nature, humans know good from bad and right from wrong, however through Satan – in his many forms – we are misled and misguided.
2. God gives us our ‘inner nature’, ‘intellect’, and ‘prophets’ to guide us – we have three levels of protection – but Satan still tries to chip away at us.
3. Corruption comes in various forms:
 1. Qarun and **materialism**
 2. Fir‘awn and Haman and **lust for power and authority**

