

Lajna Ima'illah UK Ta'lim Lesson Plan

Month: JANUARY 2023 (Term -2 February 2023 to May 2023)

Learning Objectives:

- ☞ To learn the key points from Holy Qur'an Surah An-Nazi'at Verses 1-47
- ☞ To learn the response prayers (salat section)
- ☞ To understand the key points on 'Barahin-e-Ahmadiyya' written by the Promised Messiah^{AS}

ACTIVITY Holy Qur'an: Key points from Surah An-Nazi'at Verses 1-47

RESOURCE: Lajna Ima'illah UK Ta'lim Syllabus - Feb 2022 to Jan 2024, Page 165-184

Verse 2-6: The five verses (2-6) are taken to apply to angels by some scholars and commentators of the Quran, and **واو** being a particle of swearing and meaning "I call to witness," they have been understood as signifying that angels bear witness to the occurrence of the great event mentioned in vv. 7-8. But the evidence of angels is beyond human knowledge or comprehension. The verses, therefore, as the context shows, seem to refer to the Companions of the Holy Prophet and may be taken as embodying a prophecy about the spread of Islam far and wide through their selfless and vigorous efforts and a further prophecy about their being entrusted with the responsibility of conducting and administering public affairs of great importance with ability and justice. Briefly, the verses mention some of the prominent qualities of the Holy Prophet's Companions, viz. that they will diligently acquire spiritual knowledge, and will establish firm relationship with God, and then will carry the Message of Islam to the farthest ends of the earth, will try to excel one another in carrying out their mission and will attain high standards of righteousness in administering public affairs.

Verse 7: The verse means that the prophecy proclaimed in the foregoing verses will be fulfilled as the result of fighting that will take place between God's righteous servants and the forces of evil in which the latter shall be routed (... meaning to prepare for war). The utter defeat of disbelief announced long time beforehand will constitute a strong proof of the Resurrection. The verse may apply to the Day of Reckoning also.

Verse 8: The verse purports to say that once the fighting starts between Muslims and infidels, it will not cease till the forces of evil are fully and finally crushed as the result of successive blows.

Verse 15: The reference in the verse seems to be to the Battle of Badr when disbelievers had a foretaste of the crushing defeats which they were destined subsequently to suffer at the hands of Muslims.

Verse 21: "The great Sign" was the sign of the rod, which had precedence over all other signs of Moses (20:21). When confronted with the magic of the magicians it was his rod that swallowed that which the magicians had wrought (20:70). When Moses had to cross the sea he was enjoined to strike the sea with his rod (26:64); and when he prayed for water for his people he was told to strike the rock with his rod (2:61). The sign of the white hand was shown only after the sign of the rod (20:23).

Verse 28: The complex, but flawless and consummate, creation of the solar system, constitutes, indeed, an invincible argument about life after death, viz. that the Great God Who could bring into being from nothing such a vast universe could also give man, who is but a mere speck in it, a new life after he is dead. This is the purport of the present and the following six verses. The verses further point out that when God has created such a complete system for man's physical needs. He could not have failed to make similar provision for his spiritual needs.

Verse 30: The phenomenon of night and day, which pertains to the earth, has been attributed to the heaven because it is due to the working of the solar system that we have day and night.

Verse 35: Besides the Final Resurrection the reference here may be to the Fall of Mecca which proved to be a great calamity for the Meccans.

Verse 41: The verse means: (1) who fears to stand before his Lord as a guilty person; (2) who fears the Majesty of his Lord.

Verse 46-47: It is disbelievers' way that whenever they are warned that they will be overtaken by Divine punishment if they rejected the Divine Message they impudently demand from their Prophet, half mockingly and half in doubt, that he should let them know the exact time when the punishment will take place. In verses 43-46 they are told that knowledge of the time when they would render themselves deserving of God's punishment is within God's own special prerogative; the Prophet's duty is only to administer a warning to them. But, says the verse, it is not the time, or the place or the manner or the form of the punishment that matters. What matters is that disbelievers should realize that when Divine punishment comes, it will be so swift, sudden and severe that they will feel as if the period of their prosperity and enjoyment was of a very short duration, and that the punishment had come too soon. This seems to be the purport of vv. 43-47.

ACTIVITY SALAT: Response prayer

RESOURCE: Lajna Ima'illah UK Ta'lim Syllabus - Feb 2022 to Jan 2024, Page 185-186

When reciting or listening to the recitation of the Holy Qur'an, response prayers are to be said after certain verses.

	In response to phrase	Response
Al-Fatihah (Chapter 1)	At the end of Prayer ending: <i>Nor of (those) who have gone astray (1:7)</i>	Ameen
Al-Fat'h (Chapter 48)	<i>Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah; (48:30)</i>	Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him!
Ar-Rahmaan (Chapter 55)	after each repetition of the question: <i>Which, then, of the favours of your Lord will you twain deny? (55:14)</i>	None of Your favours do we deny, O our Lord!

ACTIVITY BOOK OF PROMISED MESSIAH^{AS}

RESOURCE: Barahin-e-Ahmadiyya Part 1 by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Sahib^{AS}
Pages 1-13

Please note that to fully understand & achieve full benefit, you must read the complete text. Here, the key points are reproduced in the words of the Promised Messiah^{AS}.

Barahin-e-Ahmadiyya is a monumental work produced by the Promised Messiah^{AS}. Part 1 was written in 1879 and printed at the Safir-e-Hind Press, Amritsar, Punjab in 1880. What could be a better introduction to the book than the one written by our beloved Huzoor-e-Aqdas, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (May Allah be his Helper) for the English rendering of part 1 and 2. One must read it in full in order to gain maximum benefit from it.

It must be noted that each and every word from cover to cover is worth pondering over as they are full of wisdom and deeply connected to the subject matter of the book.

The front page of the book contains some messages which one should look at very carefully and learn from it. The Promised Messiah^{AS} writes with sheer humility, that it is only through Allah's Infinite Grace and Perfect Mercy, Who is the Guide to the whole world and the entire universe and to those who are lost, he has named this irrefutable book 'Barahin-e-Ahmadiyya'. He categorically states that the book contains arguments in support of the Holy Quran and the Prophethood of the Holy Prophet

Muhamad^{SA}. At the very top of the page verse 82 from Surah Bani Isra'il is quoted. Then, in his own words the Promised Messiah^{AS} states, "Subhan-Allah, what a wonderful book it is, It makes one familiar with the True faith in a short time" and, "Considering that it points to the path of salvation, How wonderful it is that the year of publication (1297 AH) is represented by the phrase 'Ya Ghaffur'".

Below are some key points taken from the book. Here too, one should try and read the entire text so as to understand the points fully and acquire a deeper understanding of the book.

The Promised Messiah^{AS} starts the book by making a submission regarding the price of the book and then gives an apology for the delay in publishing. He says,

- ✎ I would like to submit for the kind attention of all honourable and respected buyers of *Barahin-e-Ahmadiyya*, that this is a fairly sizeable book, comprising more than 100 *juz'*, and by the time the complete book is printed, its volume is expected to increase further on account of the footnotes that will be added to it from time to time. It is being printed on high quality paper, in beautiful script, satisfying all the requirements of style and elegance.
- ✎ I had hoped that well-to-do Muslims, who are also generous and resolute, would lend wholehearted support to this immensely important book and the difference would thus be covered. But, somehow, this hope has not yet been realized. Most people have not purchased more than one or two copies, with the exception of His Excellency, Hadrat Khalifa Syed Muhammad Hassan Khan Bahadur, *Dastur-e-Mu'azzam*
- ✎ The current situation is that although—according to the announcement published on December 3, 1879—the price has been fixed at ten rupees instead of five, it is still discounted by one and a half times the cost price. Please note that the new rate does not apply to those who had already made payments before the publication of the announcement. Through this announcement, I wish to appeal to all esteemed buyers—whose names I am honoured to record below—and to other affluent and generous people who are engaged in helping the cause of Islam, that they should come forward in support of this worthy cause that has been undertaken to establish the supremacy of Islam and whose benefits will not be limited to their own persons but will reach thousands of servants of God for all times to come.
- ✎ The Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said that there is no action more appropriate for man than that he should expend his energies in helping people to attain the bliss of the hereafter.
- ✎ I hope and pray that God will not allow this immensely important endeavour to go in vain. In the past, many great objectives of our Faith have been achieved in miraculous ways; I hope that even today someone from the unseen will come forward with help. *We place our trust in Allah. He is an excellent Friend and an excellent Helper.*

The Promised Messiah^{AS} then gives his apology in the delay in publishing the first part.

The Promised Messiah^{AS}, then makes an urgent appeal. He starts by saying that:

- ✎ How can I express my gratitude to the Lord of the worlds, who first made it possible for my humble self to write this book by His help, grace and divine support, and then brought it to the attention of Muslim leaders, elders, noblemen and other brothers-in faith, and invested them with the desire that it should be printed, published and promoted. I must express my gratitude to all those who helped me and whose generosity kept my religious objectives and efforts from going in vain.
- ✎ At the end of this statement, I have recorded the worthy names of all the generous and dedicated people who have helped this cause by purchasing copies of the book or contributing towards its publication.

- Here I deem it necessary to make special mention of the fact that, thus far, the greatest contribution towards the promotion of this worthy cause has been made by Hadrat Khalifa Syed Muhammad Hassan Khan Bahadur, This gentleman, out of his immense generosity and love for the Faith, has contributed 325 rupees for the purchase of this book—250 rupees of which are from his own pocket and seventy-five rupees have been contributed by his friends through his good offices. Likewise, Hadrat Fakhruddin-Dawlah, Nawwab Mirza Muhammad Alauddin Ahmad Khan Bahadur, Ruler of the State of Loharu, has sent forty rupees, twenty of which are a donation. He has also promised further help and support in the future. The keen interest shown by Nawwab Shah Jahan Begam, Member of the Imperial Order of the Crown of India (CI), Knight Grand Commander in the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India (GCSI), Ruler of Bhopal—may her prosperity endure—also deserves my profound gratitude.
- Here I must also appeal to other [Muslim] noblemen and elders, who are as yet unaware of this book, that if they can assist with its publication, even to a minor extent, they will be of great help in facilitating the process of its publication and making the book generally available—which is my earnest and heartfelt desire.
- Worthy elders! Beacons of Islam! You are surely aware that in this age the propagation of the proofs of the divine origin of Islam has acquired a crucial importance, and teaching our children and families the arguments in support of Islam has become such an obligation and obvious necessity that it cannot be overstressed.
- False beliefs and corrupt ideas find expression in different forms at different times. To refute them, God, by His grace, causes books to be written that vigorously counter such criticisms in the light of His Word, reduce the critics to silence, and completely incriminate them by means of irrefutable arguments. It is in this manner that the tree of Islam stands evergreen, fresh and verdant.
- Honourable elders of Islam! From your own knowledge and experience, you cannot be unaware of the ills of the present age, the details of which are a painful story indeed. If such people are not informed sooner rather than later of the arguments in support of the divine origin of Islam, they either end up as materialistic worldly creatures, caring the least for the Faith, or as atheists and apostates.
- Some people may harbour doubts about this book and ask, ‘Are the books that are already written on religious subjects not sufficient to refute and silence the critics? Why do we need another book?’ Let it be clear that this book is unlike any other in its effectiveness.
- This book, on the other hand, proves the divine origin of Islam and the superiority of the teachings of Islam over all faiths and establishes the authenticity of the Holy Quran through a comprehensive enquiry. It is obvious that truths that unfold in such a manner can never be revealed through focussed arguments.
- This is why a book was urgently required to demonstrate, through rational arguments, the authenticity and divine origin of Islam in a manner that convinces all the other faiths. And *alhamdulillah* [all praise belongs to God] that this book, which meets all these objectives, has been so prepared.
- The second distinction of this book is that it contains a most effective method for refuting the baseless objections of Islam’s opponents and completing our argument against them; that is to say, it includes a challenge that offers a reward of 10,000 rupees to opponents, so that they may not be left with any excuses.
- In short, this is a very vital and important book. It will be of immense benefit to the seekers after truth, for it makes the divine origin of Islam as evident as the sun and reveals the grandeur and glory of the Holy Scripture, on which depends Islam’s honour, supremacy, and truthfulness.

The Promised Messiah^{AS}, then presents a list of gentlemen who, on account of their love for the Faith, helped in the publication of *Barahin-e-Ahmadiyya* or obliged by buying copies of the book.