

SURAH AL-ASR

LEVEL:
INTERMEDIATE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالْعَصْرِ (1)

إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ (2)

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ (3)

TRANLITRATION

Wal 'asr

TRANSLATION

By time,

Innal insaana lafee khusr

Indeed, mankind is in loss,

Illal ladheena aamanoo wa
'amilus saalihaati wa tawaasaw
bilhaqqi wa tawaasaw bissabr

Except for those who have
believed and done righteous
deeds and advised each other to
truth and advised each other to
patience.



Surah Al-Asr is the Surah number 103 and it's a Makki surah. It is one of the shortest Surahs of the Quran even though it is one of the greatest.

Imam Shafee said: "If this was the only chapter sent to humanity, it would suffice them." Whenever two companion of the Prophet ﷺ would meet, they wouldn't disperse without reading Surah Al-Asr.

THE MEANING OF THE AYAT

Allah started this Surah by saying Walasr, there are different explanations for the word Asr

- 1- General meaning: which is time or life.
- 2- Specific meaning: Time of Asr (afternoon).

According to the first meaning, the general meaning, Allah is swearing by the time which is our capital in this world, time is our life.

Our life spans are composed of days, hours, minutes and seconds. We are all a set of minutes and seconds. Wasting your time means wasting your life. Everyday that goes a part of us has left and will never come back until the Day of Judgment.

According to the second meaning, Allah is swearing by the time of Asr prayer due to the importance of Asr prayer which is very significant to Muslims.

The word Asr which is derived from the verb Asara عَصَرَ which means to squeeze something. Asara aththawb عَصَرَ الثَّوْبَ means squeezed it from water to dry it. So, Asr is called Asr because the day is being squeezed and not too long is left in it. According to this meaning Allah wants to say that our lives are being squeezed from us while we are heedless of it.

That is why the second Ayah says: Verily, the man is [deep] in loss, Generally mankind is in loss because we are running after life, pleasures, money, power, and other materialistic and worldly benefits. Allah is saying that almost all of mankind are seeking these things, and whoever is doing that is going to be at a loss, because he or she can not keep these gains forever. One day they will die and leave everything behind.

The way to eternal happiness

Allah did not leave us there, otherwise, everyone would be desperate and hopeless, instead, Allah with His mercy, gave us hope and showed us the way.

Allah made an exception for the people who would do four things. this group of people won't have the same destiny as the first group, and they will not be at a loss, because they filled their time with the four good things.

Their lives were not wasted because they consumed most of their lives doing the four aspects of success as follows:

- 1- Believe (belief in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, The Day of Judgment, and divine destiny).
- 2- Doing the good and avoiding the forbidden.
- 3- Advise and remind each other of the truth (the Quran and what it contains) from commandments and prohibitions.
- 4- Advise and remind each other to patience.

ACTIVITIES

- 1- Surah Al-Asr emphasizes the importance of accumulating wealth and worldly gains.
- 2- The word 'Asr' can be interpreted as both time and the specific time of Asr prayer.
- 3- Surah Al-Asr is a Makki surah.

TRUE OR FALSE

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- 1- What is the Surah number of Surah Al-Asr in the Quran?
a) 101 b) 102 c) 103 d) 104
- 2- According to Imam Shafee, what would suffice humanity if it were the only chapter revealed?
a) Surah Al-Ikhlās b) Surah Al-Asr
c) Surah Al-Fatihah d) Surah Al-Kawthar

1- Why is Surah Al-Asr considered one of the greatest chapters of the Quran?

2- What is the word Asr derived from?

3- How does Allah provide hope after mentioning mankind's loss in Surah Al-Asr?

ANSWER THE QUESTION