

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Learn word for word meaning of the following verses, listen to the lecture, take notes and try to answer the following questions.

Surat Al-`Ankabūt (The Spider)

سورة العنكبوت

Verses 45-46

أَتْلُ مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيَّ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ ۖ إِنِ
الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَى عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ
وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ ﴿٤٥﴾

Recite, [O Muhammad], what has been revealed to you of the Book and establish prayer. Indeed, prayer prohibits immorality and wrongdoing, and the remembrance of Allah is greater. And Allah knows that which you do.

Explain the word “utlu”?

Tala-yatlu. It means to recite.

It has two meanings to recite or to follow.

There are two kinds of tilawat. Lafzi and ma’anvi (hukmi)

Lafzi is to recite on a regular basis.

Ma’anvi is to understand and follow the commands mentioned in the verses of Qur’an.

What is “wahee”?

Literal meaning is “Isharaa”—indication or secret message.

It is to tell someone something swiftly and secretly. (isharaa saree’ or isharaa khafi)

In Islamic terminology it is Allah’s message to its messenger in the form of a command or a book.

Why Qur’an is called “al kitaab” here when we know that Qur’an is kalaamAllah?

Kitab means something that has been written.

The Qur’an has been written by “kiramīn barārā” (honourable angels) in laḥ e mahfūz.

Explain “aqeemus salaah”?

As Salaah, here means fardh as well as nafl prayers.

Establishing Salaah means to pray without any mistakes.

To fulfill all zahiri and batini arkaan of Salaah

Purification

Facing Qibla

To eat or earn halal rizq

To perform all steps in a proper manner

To be humble

To have ikhlaas and to pray only to please Allah

Not to pray to show others that one is righteous

To pray according to Sunnah, etc.

What have we learned about dependence on deities other than Allah in the previous verses of this Surah?

Deities other than Allah (ghayr Allah) have been compared to a spider web (Ankabut) in this Surah. The house of a spider is the weakest of all homes. Dependence on anything other than Allah is a weak dependence.

What is the best way of increasing one's faith in dependence upon Allah?

Qur'an and Prayers

What does Suratul Fitn mean?

Surah Ankabut is Suratul Fitn as it speaks of trials and fitna. This Surah does not only tell us that a believer will face trials, it also tells us what to do when one faces trials.

What is the best way to remain steadfast in trials?

أَتْلُ مَا أُوْحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ

To recite Qur'an and pray

What happens when we understand Qur'an?

Ma'rifut Illahi---->increases-> tawakul Allah

Imaan

---->increases->khushu' in Salaah

Strength in imaan

- * *When we recite Qur'an, Allah speaks to us*
- * *When we pray, we speak to Allah*

* *It's a two way communication*

Give some examples of “Fahshaa”?

Adultery, stealing, killing

What did the Prophet peace be upon say to the people who complained about some people who prayed and also committed sins?

The Prophet peace be upon him told them that if they continued to pray it will one day stop them from committing sins.

Why has Allah told us to pray?

So that we remember Allah

What is the benefit of dhikr Allah?

Shaytaan is all the time following us. When we remember Allah we are fortified.

What are the three preferred acts in this verse?

Recite Qur'an, Establish Salaah, Dhikr Allah.



وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ

Explain

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The word tasna'oon is from saad nun ayn. It means skills.

Allah knows what a person is capable of. He knows whether we can sew, paint, build things etc. He is watching how we are using our skills and how we are using them. Everyone says he is busy. Allah is watching what is it that is keeping each of us busy.

What is the summary of this verse?

It tells us how to recognize a Momin or those who depend only on Allah.

Their hearts are free of “fahshaa” and “munkur”.

Their hearts are full of dhikr Allah.

❁ وَلَا تَجَادِلُوا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ إِلَّا بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْهُمْ وَقُولُوا آمَنَّا بِالَّذِي أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْنَا وَأُنْزِلَ إِلَيْكُمْ وَإِلَهُنَا وَإِلَهُكُمْ وَاحِدٌ وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ ﴿٤٦﴾

And do not argue with the People of the Scripture except in a way that is best, except for those who commit injustice among them, and say, "We believe in that which has been revealed to us and revealed to you. And our God and your God is one; and we are Muslims [in submission] to Him."

What is “jahl”?

It means quarrel, arguments, debate.

What is this verse teaching us?

It teaches us that when Muslims debate with People of the Books (it means people of knowledge, Jews and Christians) they should behave with akhlaq. They should be tolerant and keep their anger under control.

This is because when a Muslim will debate, the discussion will be on belief, messengers sent by Allah, worship. These are the topics on which emotions run high. Muslim representation in an interfaith dialogue should be cultured and sophisticated.

Explain “illuladheena zalamu minhun”

وَلَا تُجَادِلُوا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ إِلَّا بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ
ظَلَمُوا مِنْهُمْ

A Muslim must behave in a civilized manner during an interfaith dialogue with the People of the Book. If he realizes that the intention behind the discussion is to create more mischief then he should leave such a discussion and if the other party misbehaves and crosses all limits then a believer has a choice to behave in a similar manner.

- * *In normal conditions a believer should be at his best behavior. (ahsan)*
- * *In situations in which there is injustice a believer should leave the discussion.*

Which part of the revelations that have been sent by Allah before Qur'an do the believers believe in?

The Believers believe in all that has been revealed to the People of the Book by Allah but do not believe in what they have changed. (*They believe in “munazzal” but not in “mubaddal”*).