



The Thinking Muslim

SURAH AL-ASR EXPLAINED

By

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INTRODUCTION TO AL-ASR

- Some reports say that the companions of the Prophet (pbuh) would never depart from each other before reciting this surah
 - The reason is because it encapsulates the message of the whole Quran in just three verses. This surah is like a seed and the rest of the Quran is its tree
- Imam Shafi' is reported to have said that if Allah had sent nothing down except for this surah, it would have sufficed the people
- The focus of this surah is around our time running out and mentions that we are wasting it by running after things which are nothing but loss



VERSE 1

وَالْعَصْرِ

By Time

Explanation:

- This is an oath to prepare us for what's coming after this verse
 - It is a form of literary style to draw importance to something so that it will be taken seriously
 - Oaths in Arabic are used to capture attention
- The Arabic word العَصْرِ
 - It has several meanings
 - It is used for juicing fluids out of grapes, oranges, olives, etc.
 - In the context of this verse, it means time is continuously dripping drop by drop
 - When the sun starts going down and turning red because it look as if the sun is being pushed down and its light being squeezed out
 - This is why we call the afternoon prayer 'Asr
 - This word was also used in classical Arabic poetry to indicate time that has already been lost and you have regret that you did not take better advantage of it



VERSE 2

إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لِفِي خُسْرٍ

Indeed, mankind is in loss

Explanation:

- This is the heart and thesis of this surah
 - It is saying that all of mankind is already drowning in loss
- The Arabic word **الإنسان**
 - Those who express love and want to be loved
 - Those who forget
- The Arabic word **خُسْرٍ**
 - It means any type of loss
 - Overall, the word loss is used in the Quran to indicate missing out on opportunities that you could have taken advantage of
- The classical commentators said the word loss in this verse means: human beings are headed towards destruction, retribution from Allah, etc.



VERSE 3

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ
وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ

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

Explanation:

- Allah made an exception for those with four qualities:
 - Belief - they believe in Allah and His messenger and what he came with
 - Righteous actions - they prefer obedience to Allah and do the fardh and nafi
 - Advise to truth - by advising to do acts of obedience and leaving the haram
 - Advise to patience - by advising patience during calamities and difficulties until death



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CONCLUSION OF AL-ASR

- Imam Shafi' said if Allah had only revealed this surah, it would suffice
 - Because it lays out all the means to success
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