

## 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 An-Naml (The Ant)

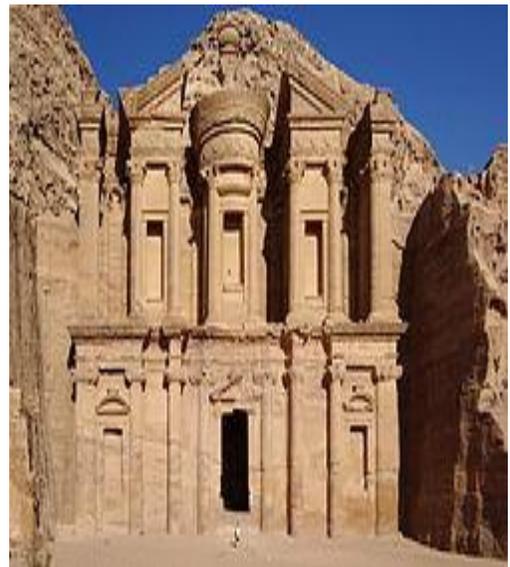
سورة النمل

Verse 45-53

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَىٰ ثَمُودَ أَخَاهُمْ صَالِحًا أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ فَإِذَا هُمْ  
فَرِيقَانِ يَخْتَصِمُونَ ﴿٤٥﴾

And We had certainly sent to Thamud their brother Salih, [saying], "Worship Allah ,"  
and at once they were two parties conflicting.

1. Who was the Nation of Thamud?



2. What kind of brother was Salih to his nation?
3. Who are the two parties mentioned in this verse?
4. What is the root of “yakhtasimun”?
5. What else do we learn about the people of Thamud from Surah Al Araaf 75, 76?

قَالَ يَاقَوْمِ لِمَ تَسْتَعْجِلُونَ بِالسَّيِّئَةِ قَبْلَ الْحَسَنَةِ لَوْلَا  
تَسْتَغْفِرُونَ اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ ﴿٤٦﴾

He said, "O my people, why are you impatient for evil instead of good? Why do you not seek forgiveness of Allah that you may receive mercy?"

1. What do “sayeeah” and “hasana” mean in this verse?
2. What was the Nation of Salih asking for?
3. What do we learn about Thamud from verse 77 of Al Araaf?
4. What happens if someone goes to a soothsayer, fortune teller or an astrologer?

قَالُوا أَطِيرْنَا بِكَ وَبِمَنْ مَعَكَ قَالَ طَيْرُكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ بَلْ أَنْتُمْ قَوْمٌ  
تُفْتَنُونَ ﴿٤٧﴾

They said, "We consider you a bad omen, you and those with you." He said, "Your omen is with Allah. Rather, you are a people being tested."

1. What is the root of “taiyurna”?
2. Why did they call Prophet Salih a bad omen?
3. What happens when a nation does not believe in their prophet?
4. What is the root of “tuftanun”?
5. What does a trial mean to a Momin?

وَكَانَ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ تِسْعَةٌ رَهْطٍ يُفْسِدُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا

يُصْلِحُونَ ﴿٤٨﴾

And there were in the city nine family heads causing corruption in the land and not amending [its affairs].

1. What does Medina mean here?
2. What is “raht”?

قَالُوا اتَّقَاسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ لَنُبَيِّتَنَّهُ وَأَهْلَهُ ثُمَّ لَنَقُولَنَّ لِوَلِيِّهِ مَا شَهِدْنَا

مَهْلِكِ أَهْلِهِ، وَإِنَّا لَصَادِقُونَ ﴿٤٩﴾

They said, "Take a mutual oath by Allah that we will kill him by night, he and his family. Then we will say to his executor, 'We did not witness the destruction of his family, and indeed, we are truthful.' "

1. What was the plot of the People of Thamud?
2. Who was the wali of Prophet Salih (pbuh)?
3. What is the meaning of “shahida”?
4. What is the meaning of “mahlika”?
5. Why is this story of the plotting of Thamud being narrated to Prophet (pbuh)?

وَمَكْرُوا مَكْرًا وَمَكْرْنَا مَكْرًا وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ ﴿٥٠﴾

And they planned a plan, and We planned a plan, while they perceived not.

1. What was their plot and what was Allah’s plan?

فَأَنْظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ مَكْرِهِمْ أَنَا دَمَّرْنَاهُمْ وَقَوْمَهُمْ

أَجْمَعِينَ ﴿٥١﴾

Then look how was the outcome of their plan - that We destroyed them and their people, all.

1. Why was the whole nation destroyed when only a group was plotting against the Prophet?
2. Why is the verse saying “fanzurr”?

فَتِلْكَ بُيُوتُهُمْ خَاوِيَةٌ بِمَا ظَلَمُوا إِنَّا فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةٌ لِّقَوْمٍ

يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٥٢﴾

So those are their houses, desolate because of the wrong they had done. Indeed in that is a sign for people who know.

1. Who can take lesson from the stories of the past?

وَأَنْجَيْنَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَكَانُوا يَتَّقُونَ ﴿٥٣﴾

And We saved those who believed and used to fear Allah

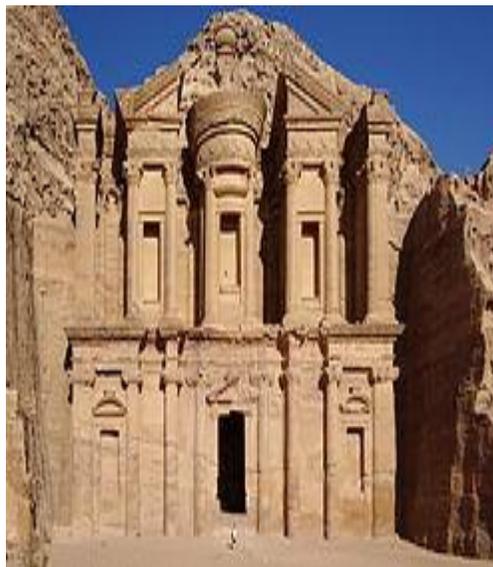
1. What are the lessons learned from the above verses?

## Verse 45

### Who was The Nation of Thamud?

Ashab ul Hijr is called Thamud. They are known by this name as they lived in a rocky mountain area. They lived in the area of Hijr. This nation came after the Nation of Ad. They used to carve

Their homes in mountains



**What kind of brother was Salih to his nation?**

He was an influential and intelligent person and belonged to a noble family of his nation. He was one of them and that is why he is being called their brother.

**Who are the two parties mentioned in this verse?**

The two parties are the believers and the non believers.

**What is the root of “yakhtasimun”?**

Kha saad meem. “Khasm” means to fight.

**What else do we learn about the people of Thamud from Surah Al Araaf 75, 76?**

The two groups were, the chiefs, and the poor and weak of the nation.

From these verses we learn that it was the weak people of that nation who believed.

قَالَ الْمَلَأُ الَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا مِنْ قَوْمِهِ لِلَّذِينَ اسْتَضَعُوا  
لِمَنْ ءَامَنَ مِنْهُمْ أَتَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّ صَالِحًا مُرْسَلٌ مِنْ رَبِّهِ ؕ قَالُوا  
إِنَّا بِمَا أُرْسِلَ بِهِ ءَمُومُونَ ﴿٧٥﴾

Said the eminent ones who were arrogant among his people to those who were oppressed - to those who believed among them, "Do you [actually] know that Salih is sent from his Lord?" They said, "Indeed we, in that with which he was sent, are believers."

قَالَ الَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا إِنَّا بِالَّذِي ءَامَنْتُمْ بِهِ  
كَافِرُونَ ﴿٧٦﴾

Said those who were arrogant, "Indeed we, in that which you have believed, are disbelievers."

### Verse 46

#### What do “sayeeah” and “hasana” mean in this verse?

“Sayeeah” means torment or kufr and “hasana” means seeking repentance and divine mercy or iman in this verse.

#### What was the Nation of Salih asking for?

In Surah Al Araaf verse 77

فَعَقَرُوا النَّاقَةَ وَعَتَوْا عَنْ أَمْرِ رَبِّهِمْ وَقَالُوا يُصَلِّحُ اتِّنَابِمَا  
تَعِدُّنَا إِن كُنْتَ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ ﴿٧٧﴾

So they hamstrung the she-camel and were insolent toward the command of their Lord and said, "O Salih, bring us what you promise us, if you should be of the messengers."

The nation was asking Salih to bring the torment.

## **What do we learn about Thamud from verse 77 of Al Araaf?**

They had crossed all limits in mocking the Prophet because of their arrogance. In the times of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) the people of Mecca also behaved in a similar manner.

## **What happens if someone goes to a soothsayer, fortune teller, and astrologers?**

According to many ahadith his du'a is not accepted for 40 days.

## **Verse 47**

### **What is the root of “taiurna”?**

It is tau ya ra. It means a bird. The Arabs used to take omen from birds. For example if they saw a bird flying to the right they took it as good omen.

### **Why did they call Prophet Salih a bad omen?**

When Prophet Salih conveyed his message to his nation some of them believed and others did not. Families were divided on the issue of belief. The chiefs blamed Prophet Salih for this division amongst the families.

### **What happens when a nation does not believe in their prophet?**

Allah's blessings are not sent to such nations. There is no rain, shortage of food etc. Nation of Firawn and Meccans faced famine as they denied their Prophets.

### **What is the root of “yuftanun”?**

Fa ta nun. The word “fatana” means to purify gold by heating. To subject to trials.



## **What does a trial mean for a Mu'min?**

It is a way by which Allah (swt) purifies a Mu'min.

## **Verse 48**

### **What does Medina mean here?**

It means the area of Hijr near Syria.

### **What is "raht"?**

It means one person or a group or tribe. It may be a group of 3 to 10 people. This group consists of men only. The leader of such a group is also called "raht". This word is used in a bad sense. As in English we say a ring leader. The worst of all those leaders was Qidaar who hamstrung the she-camel.

## **Verse 49**

### **What was the plot of the people of Thamud?**

They took a mutual oath to kill Prophet Salih and his family at night and in the morning they would tell people that they had no knowledge of what might have happened to the Prophet or his family.

### **Who was the wali of Prophet Salih (pbuh)?**

Qur'an does not tell us who the wali of Prophet Salih (pbuh) was, it might have been some influential person of his family or it may have been a Muslim, not from his family.

### **What is the meaning of "shahida"?**

It means to witness, to see with one's eyes or to be present.

### **What is the meaning of "mahlika"?**

It is a zarf in Arabic Grammar. It means place or time of destruction or it means complete destruction.

### **Why is this story of the plotting of Thamud being narrated to Prophet (pbuh)?**

The people of Mecca were also plotting against Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Allah (swt) is trying to relieve his (pbuh) tension and assure him that just like He protected Prophet Salih (pbuh) and his followers He would save him (pbuh) and his followers too.

## Verse 50

### What was their plot and what was Allah's plan?

They took a mutual oath that they would attack and kill Prophet Salih and his family at night. Allah's plan was that before they could reach the Prophet, they would be destroyed.

It is said that when they were taking the oath, Allah informed Prophet Salih through revelation, about their plan and told him to leave the town. Salih left the town with 120 believers for Palestine.

As soon as the Prophet left the town, the town was hit by an Earthquake and a piercing sound that destroyed everything. As mentioned in **Surah Fajr**,

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِعَادٍ ﴿٦﴾

Have you not considered how your Lord dealt with 'Aad -

إِرَمَ ذَاتِ الْعِمَادِ ﴿٧﴾

[With] Iram - who had lofty pillars,

الَّتِي لَمْ يُخْلَقْ مِثْلُهَا فِي الْبِلَادِ ﴿٨﴾

The likes of whom had never been created in the land?

وَتَمُودَ الَّذِينَ جَابُوا الصَّخْرَ بِالْوَادِ ﴿٩﴾

And [with] Thamud, who carved out the rocks in the valley?

وَفِرْعَوْنَ ذِي الْأَوْتَادِ ﴿١٠﴾

And [with] Pharaoh, owner of the stakes? -

الَّذِينَ طَغَوْا فِي الْبِلَادِ ﴿١١﴾

[All of] whom oppressed within the lands

فَأَكْثَرُوا فِيهَا الْفَسَادَ ﴿١٢﴾

And increased therein the corruption.

فَصَبَّ عَلَيْهِمْ رَبُّكَ سَوْطَ عَذَابٍ ﴿١٣﴾

So your Lord poured upon them a scourge of punishment.

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ لِبِالْمُرْصَادِ ﴿١٤﴾

Indeed, your Lord is in observation.

### Verse 51

**Why was the whole nation destroyed when only a group was plotting against the Prophet?**

The rest of the nation was aware of the evil plan and no one tried to stop the wrongdoers from executing the plan.

### Verse 52

**Why is the verse saying “fanzurr”?**

The Pagan Arabs were familiar with the stories of Ad and Thamud and knew how they were destroyed. Qur’an is telling them to look at the outcome of those nations and pay heed to what Prophet (pbuh) was telling them.

## Who can take lesson from the stories of the past?

People who ponder on the rise and fall of nations, who know that the reason behind the destruction of a nation is not only natural causes but it is a divine decree.

### Verse 53

#### What are the lessons learned from the above verses?

- People's transgressions
  - Reasons behind opposing Prophets
  - Attitude people adopt against the Prophets
  - End of such people—destruction
  - Salvation is for the one who adopts Taqwa
-