



12 sections

Mecca # 53

Surat Yusuf #12

111 verses

سُورَةُ يُوسُفَ (١٢)

Surah 12. Joseph

Bismi Allabi alrrahmani alrrabeemi

In the name of God, the Mercy-giving, the Merciful!

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

1. Alif-lam-ra

1. A.L.R.

tilka ayatu alkitabi almubeenu

These are verses from the Clear Book.

١- أَلر
تِلْكَ آيَاتُ الْكِتَابِ الْبَيِّنِ
٢- أَنَا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ قُرْءَانًا عَرَبِيًّا لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ

2. *Inna anzalnahu qur-anan AAarabiyyan laAAallakum taAAaqiloona*

2. We have sent it down as an Arabic reading so that you may reason.

3. *Nahnu naqussu AAalayka absana alqasasi*

bima awhayna ilayka hatha alqur-ana wa-in kunta min qablihi lamina alghafileena

3. We relate the best stories to you, since We have revealed this Reading to you.

You were someone quite unaware previously.

٣- نَحْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ أَحْسَنَ الْقَصَصِ بِمَا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ وَإِنْ كُنْتَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ لَمِنَ الْغَافِلِينَ

The first three verses of Surah 12 (يوسف) introduces the story of Joseph in the context of the Koran as a revelation of God's message to mankind through his prophet Muhammad. The words that immediately follow the title, the Basmalah (بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ), are used to introduce all of the Surat of the Koran, with the exception of Surah 9 (which some believe was originally a continuation of Surah 8). For the Muslim Muhammad is the last of a long line of prophets who were sent by God. The Hadith (early Muslim traditions) suggest a total of 124,000 prophets had been sent as messengers from God to emphasize that apostles had been sent to every people (Surah 10:47a). Muhammad, like all of the prophets sent before him, spoke "in the

name of God." In a similar way in Hebrew Scripture, "Now the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel who was over them." (וְהַתְּנַבִּי חַגִּי וְזִכְרְיָה בֶרֶעֱדוּא) (נְבִיאֵי אֱלֹהֵי יְהוּדָיָא דִּי בִיהוּד וּבִירוּשָׁלַם בְּשֵׁם אֱלֹהֵי נְבִיאֵי אֱלֹהֵי יְהוּדָיָא עֲלֵי-הוֹדִיָא דִּי בִיהוּד וּבִירוּשָׁלַם בְּשֵׁם אֱלֹהֵי יְהוּדָיָא עֲלֵי-הוֹדִיָא: Ezra 5:1). For Muhammad the message of all of the prophets were the same. "... and that given to Moses and Jesus and that given to (all) the prophets from their Lord; We make no differences between them: And we bow to God (in Islam)," (وَ مَا) (أَوْي مَوْسَى وَ عِيسَى وَ مَا أَوْتِيَ النَّبِيُّونَ مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ لَا نَفَرَّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ أَوْي مَوْسَى وَ عِيسَى وَ مَا أَوْتِيَ النَّبِيُّونَ مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ لَا نَفَرَّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ: Surah 2:136b).

الر (A,L,R). No explanation is given in the text of the Koran for these three mysterious letters at the beginning of this Surah. There are 29 Surat which begin with unexplained letters like this and they have been the subject of much speculation. The three letters الر appear before Surat 11 through 15, with the exception of Surah 13 which inserts the letter م (M), making four letters: المر (ALMR).

These six adjacent surat are all said to have been revealed toward the end of the time that Muhammad was still in Mecca before he lead his followers to Medinah. It was a time when Muhammad and his followers were being persecuted for their new faith. The story of Joseph fits this setting well, since the young Joseph suffered mistreatment by his brothers, being sold into slavery and only through his intelligence and virtue and God's providence was able to become a leader and a savior for his people. Beyond this observation of historical setting and content, the inclusion of these unexplained letters before so many surat give testimony to the faithfulness of the scribes who copied the mss. through the centuries, committed to not alter any detail of a text believed to be the record of the very words of God.

تلك آيات الكُتُبِ البين (ايا، singular آية) The word translated "verses" 'ayat appears four times in Surah 12, the other three occurrences it is translated "sign."

لَقَدْ كَانَ فِي يُوسُفَ وَ أَخْرَجَتْهُ آيَاتٌ لِلسَّالِئِي -12:7 . Laqad kana fee yूसofa wa-ikhwatibi *ayatun lilssa-ileena* ... there were signs for inquirers

ثُمَّ يَدَالَهُمْ مِّنْ بَعْدِ مَا رَأَوْا الْآيَاتِ لَيْسَجُنَّهُ حَتَّى حِين -12:35
Thumma bada lahum min baAdi ma raawoo *al-ayati* layasjununna hatta heenin
Then it occurred to them to jail him for a while even after they had seen the signs.

وَكَايِّنَ مِّنْ آيَةٍ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ يَمُرُّونَ عَلَيْهَا وَهُمْ عَنْهَا مُعْرِضُونَ -12:105
Wakaayyin min *ayatin* fee alsamawati waal-ardi yamurroona AAalayha wahum AAanha mu AAridoona
How many a sign do they pass by in Heaven and Earth, and pay no attention to them?

The cognate of آيه 'ayat in Hebrew is אות 'ot.

The first five verses of Surah 96 are designated as the first revelation to Muhammad on mount Jabal al-Nour جبل النور (The Mountain of Light) near Mecca in 610 CE.

سُورَةُ الْعَلَقِ (٩٦) Surah 96. Iqraa

- بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
- ١ - اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ○
1 - Proclaim in the name of your Lord who created,
- ٢ - خَلَقَ الْاِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ○
2 - created man out of a clot of blood.
- ٣ - اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْاَكْرَمُ ○
3 - Proclaim and your Lord is most bountiful.
- ٤ - الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ○
4 - He who taught the pen,
- ٥ - عَلَّمَ الْاِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ○
5 - taught man what he did not know.