

Lessons from Surat Ibrahim (Abraham) Chapter 14 of the Qur'an

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God's messengers

- 1-God's message comes in the **language of the messenger**, so that he may explain God's message to his own people and that they may understand
- 2-Gos's messengers **were rejected by their own people**, who refused to believe and demanded miracles or angels
- 3-God's messengers **explain and apply the message on themselves and become examples for others**. They have **no power of their own**, and are only human

God's message comes in the language of the Prophet's own people

“We sent not a messenger except in the language of his own people, in order to make things clear to them. So Allah leads astray whom He pleases and guides whom He pleases, and He is Exalted in power, full of wisdom”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 4

If the message came in a foreign tongue
people will not understand it

“Had We sent this as a Qur’an in a language other than Arabic, they would have said: “Why are not its verses explained in detail? What a foreign tongue, and a messenger an Arab?”

Fusselat (Explained in detail) 41: 44

“Had We revealed it to any of the non-Arabs, and had We recited it to them, they would not have believed in it”

Ash-Shura’a (The Poets) 26: 198 & 199

The Qur'an was revealed in Arabic because Muhammad (PBUH) was an Arab

“It is a Qur'an in Arabic, without any crookedness therein in order that they may be righteous”

Az-Zumar (The Groups) 39: 28

“We have sent it down as an Arabic Qur'an, in order that you may learn wisdom”

Yusuf (Joseph) 12: 2

“We have made it a Qur'an in Arabic that you may be able to understand”

Az-Zukhruff (Gold adornments) 43: 3

“A book, its verses are explained in detail; a Qur'an in Arabic for people who understand”

Fusselat (Explained in detail) 41: 3

God's messengers were rejected by their own people

“Had not the story reached you of those who were before you? Of the people of Noah, and of A’d, and of Thamud? And of those who came after them? None knows them but Allah. To them came messengers with clear signs, but they put their hands up to their mouths, and said: “We do deny the mission on which you have been sent, and we are really in suspicious doubt as to which you invite us”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 9

God's messengers were rejected

“We know indeed the grief which their words do cause you. It is not you they reject: it is the signs of Allah, which the wicked deny. Rejected were the messengers before you; with patience and constancy they bore their rejection and their persecution until Our aid did reach them; there is none that can alter the words of Allah; You have already received some account of those messengers”

Al-An'am (The Cattle) 6: 33 & 34

God's messengers were rejected, even killed

“We took the covenant of the Children of Israel and sent them messengers. Every time there came to them a messenger with what they themselves desired not they called them imposters, and some they killed”

Al-Ma'ida (The Table) 5: 70

The powerful and rich reject God's messengers

“Never did We send a warner to a population but the wealthy ones among them said: “We believe not in the message with which you have been sent.” They said: “We have more in wealth and in sons, and we cannot be chastised”. Say: “Indeed my Lord enlarges and restricts the provision to whom He pleases, but most people know not. It is not your wealth nor your sons that will bring you closer to Us in degree; but only those who believe and work righteousness, these are the ones for whom there is a multiplied reward for their deeds, while secure they reside in the dwellings on high”

Sa' Ba 34: 34-37

God's messengers have no power of their own

“Their messengers said to them: “True we are human like yourselves, but Allah does grant His grace to such of His servants as He pleases. It is not for us to bring you an authority except as Allah permits. And on Allah let al people of faith put their trust”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 11

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had no power of his own

“Say: “I have no power over any good or harm to myself except as Allah wills. If I had knowledge of the unseen, I should have multiplied all good, and no evil should have touched me. I am but a warner, and a bringer of glad tidings to those who have faith”

Al-Araf 7: 188

“Say: “It is not in my power to cause you harm, or to bring you to the right conduct”

Al-Jinn (the Jinn) 72: 21

God's messengers were patient and had faith in Allah

“why we should not put our trust on Allah. Indeed He has guided us to the ways we follow. We shall certainly bear with patience all the hurt you caused us. For those who put their trust should put their trust on Allah”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 12

“Therefore patiently persevere as did messengers of firm resolve, and be in no haste about the unbelievers”

Al-Ahqaf 46: 35

God's messengers applied the message on themselves and became examples to follow

“You have indeed in the messenger of Allah a good example for those who hope in Allah and the Final Day, and who remember Allah often”

Al-Ahzab (The Confederates) 33: 21

“Ibrahim was indeed a model, devoutly obedient to Allah and true in faith, and he joined not gods with Allah”

An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 120

“Then We revealed to you: “Follow the ways of Abraham, the true in faith, and he joined not gods with Allah”

An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 123

Prophet Ibrahim prayed to Allah to take care of his family as he left his wife & son in Macca

“My Lord I have made some of my offspring to dwell in a valley without vegetation by Your sacred house, in order that they may establish regular prayer; so fill the hearts of some among men with love towards them, and provide them with fruits so that they may give thanks”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 37

Prophet Ibrahim Dua'a to Allah was answered

“Our Lord send among them a messenger of their own, who shall rehearse Your signs to them and instructs them in scripture and wisdom and purify them, for You are the Exalted in Might, the Wise”

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 129

Allah sent **prophet Muhammad (PBUH)** who is a descendant of Ibrahim & Isma'il

Prophet Ibrahim Dua'a to Allah

“Praise be to Allah, Who has granted me in my old age Isma’il and Isaac, for truly my Lord is He, the hearer of prayer. My Lord make me one who establishes regular prayer, and also among my offspring, and My Lord accept my prayer. Our Lord forgive me and my parents and all believers on the day the reckoning will be established”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 39-41

- Praising Allah for His blessings
- Asking Allah to help him and to accept his prayers
- Seeking forgiveness for himself, parents and all believers

Prophet Musa (Moses) reminded his people of God's many blessings over them

“Remember Moses said to his people: “Call to mind the favors of Allah to you when He delivered you from the people of Pharaoh: they set you hard tasks and punishments, slaughtered your sons, and let your women-folk live; therein was a tremendous trial from your Lord”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 6

We cannot count Allah's blessings over us, and most people are ungrateful

“And He has given you of all that you ask for, but if you count the favors of Allah, never will you be able to count them. Indeed man is given up to injustice and ingratitude”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 34

“If you count up the favors of Allah, never would you be able to count them, for Allah is often-forgiving, most-merciful”

An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 18

What are some of Allah's blessings?

- 1-Our **faculties**: the ability to see, hear, understand and reason
- 2-The **ability to love, be kind, caring** and patient
- 3-Our **health and energy** and ability to work
- 4-Allah **guides us** and puts peace in our hearts
- 5-Allah **hears and answers our prayers**
- 6-Allah gives us **patience, faith and resolve** to cope with difficult situations
- 7-Allah **provides** for us

If we are grateful Allah promised to give us more of His blessings

“And remember your Lord declared: “If you are grateful, I will add more favors unto you; but if you show ingratitude truly My punishment is terrible indeed”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 7

“If the people of the towns had but believed and feared Allah, We should indeed have opened out to them all kinds of blessings from heaven and earth; but they rejected and We brought them to book for their misdeeds”

Al-Araf 7: 96

A good word has far-reaching effects, like a good tree that bears fruit

“Do you not see how Allah sets forth a parable? A goodly word like a goodly tree, whose root is firmly fixed, and its branches reach out to the heavens. It brings forth its fruit at all times, by the leave of its Lord; so Allah sets parables for people in order that they may receive admonition. And the parable of an evil word is that of an evil tree: it is torn up by the root from the surface of the earth, it has no stability”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 24-26

A good word benefits mankind and spreads far

1-A good word is true and has solid foundation

2-It spreads far, both horizontally and vertically

3-It benefits people and it guides them to the truth

4-In contrast a bad evil word has no foundation and is easily torn, but it can harm and cause damage

5-When we use bad words it allows Satan to incite enmity and hatred among us

What benefits mankind stays, whereas falsehood will perish and disappear

“Thus does Allah by parables show forth truth and falsehood. For the scum disappears like froth cast out, while that which is for the good of mankind remains on the earth. Thus does Allah sets forth parables”

Ar-Ra'd (Thunder) 13: 17

Talk to each other in a good way

“Tell My servants to say those things that are best: for Satan sows dissensions among them, for Satan to man is an avowed enemy”

Al-Isra'a (Night Journey) 17: 53

-Bad or unkind words will drive people away, and cause division within the community

Other parables in the Qur'an

- 1-The house of the spider (Al-Ankabut) 29: 41
- 2-The parable of the fly (Al-Hajj) 22: 73
- 3-The deeds of the unbelievers (Ibrahim) 14: 18
- 4-The good tree and the evil tree (Ibrahim) 14: 24-26
- 5-The slave who cannot do anything, and the person who spends secretly and openly (An-Nahl) 16: 75 & 76
- 6-The village that rejected Allah's blessings (An-Nahl) 16: 112
- 7-The unbelievers reject resurrection (Al-Isra'a) 17: 48-51
- 8-Allah sets parables for mankind (Al-Isra'a) 17: 89
- 9-The two men with gardens (Al-Kahf) 18: 32
- 10-The parable of this worldly life (Al-Kahf) 18: 45
- 11-The parable of the messengers sent to the village (Ya Sin) 36: 13
- 12-The parable of man arguing about resurrection (Ya Sin) 36: 78

We cannot blame Satan for our wrong behavior

“And Satan will say when the matter is decided: “It was Allah who gave you a promise of truth. I too promised you, but I failed in my promise to you. I had no authority over you except to call you, but you listened to me. Then reproach me not, but reproach your own souls. I cannot listen to your cries, nor can you listen to mine. I reject your former act of associating me with Allah. For wrong-doers there must be a grievous chastisement”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 22

We cannot blame others for our wrong-doing

- We had a free choice to make, no one was forcing us against our will
- It is our wrong-doing that we listened to Satan and his false promises
- Those whom we followed and obeyed cannot help us or intercede on our behalf:

“The week will say to those who were arrogant: “We followed you, can you avail us at all against the wrath of Allah?” They will reply: “If we had received the guidance of Allah we should have given it to you; to us it makes no difference now whether we rage or bear these torments with patience; for ourselves there is no way of escape”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 21

Satan promises and his promises are but lies

“Satan makes them promises, and creates in them false hopes, but Satan’s promises are nothing but deception”

An-Nesa’a (The Women) 4: 120

“Iblis said: “O my Lord, because you have put me in the wrong, I will make wrong fair-seeming to them on the earth, and I will put them all in the wrong, except Your chosen servants among them”

Al-Hijr (Rocky Tracts) 15: 39 & 40

“Iblis said: “Then by Your power I will lead them all astray, except those servants among them who are sincere and purified”

Sa’D 38: 82 & 83

Allah protects His righteous servants from the evil influence of Satan

“As for My servants, no authority shall you have over them; enough is your Lord for a disposer of affairs”

Al-Isra'a (Night Journey) 17: 65

“Allah said: “This is for Me a straight path. For over My servants no authority shall you have, except such as put themselves in the wrong and follow you”

Al-Hijr (Rocky Tracts) 15: 41 & 42

“Those who fear Allah, when a thought of evil from Satan assaults them bring Allah to remembrance when lo! They see (right)”

Al-Araf 7: 201

There are devils from among mankind also

“Likewise did We make for every messenger an enemy, Satans from among mankind and Jinn, inspiring each other with flowery discourses by way of deception. If your Lord had willed they would not have done it; so leave them and what they forge”

Al-Ana'm (The Cattle) 6: 112

On the Day of Judgment the righteous will be sorted out of the wicked, and each will get his due reward

“On the day the earth will be changed to a different earth, and so will be the heavens, and people will be marshalled forth before Allah, the One, the Irresistible. And you will see the sinners that day bound together in fetters. Their garments of liquid pitch, and their faces covered with fire. That Allah may requite each soul according to what it earned, for indeed Allah is swift in calling to account”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 48-51

The righteous will be admitted to gardens

“But those who believe and work righteousness will be admitted to gardens, beneath which rivers flow, to dwell therein forever, with the leave of their Lord; their greetings therein will be : “Peace”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 23

“On the day when the Hour will come, that day all people will be sorted out. Then those who have believed and worked righteous deeds shall be made happy in a mead of delight. And those who have rejected faith and falsely denied Our signs and the meeting of the Hereafter, such shall be brought forth to punishment”

Ar-Rum (The Romans) 30: 14-16

The Qur'an warns us and reminds us of our accountability to Allah

“Here is a message for mankind: that they may take warning therefrom, and may know that He is One Allah, let people of understanding take heed”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 52

“So admonish with the Qur'an such as fear My warning”

Qa'F 50: 45

Prepare for your accountability, and do good before it is too late

“Say to My servants who have believed that they may establish regular prayers and spend in charity out of the sustenance We have given them secretly and openly, before the coming of a Day in which there will be neither mutual bargaining nor befriending”

Ibrahim (Prophet Abraham) 14: 31

“And spend something in charity out of the substance which We have bestowed on you, before death should come to any of you and he should say: “My Lord why did You not give me respite for a little while? I should then have given in charity and I should have been one of the doers of good”.

Al-Munafeqoun (The Hypocrites) 63: 10