

Lesson 14a

Surah Al-Asr

After completing this lesson (a & b), you will learn **174 new** words, which occur **36,556** times in the Qur'an.



Introduction: This small Surah provides mankind with a formula to avoid loss. The solution is to do two things for self: faith and good actions; and two things for the society: advise each other to truth and advise each other to perseverance.

﴿أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ﴾ ﴿بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ﴾

وَالْعَصْرِ
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By the time,

- The letter **و** means: (1) and; (2) by (oath).
- Many Surahs in the Qur'an begin with similar oaths, such as **وَاللَّيْلِ**, **وَالْفَجْرِ**, **وَالشَّمْسِ**.
- Allah has taken an oath by time. Time is a witness to what is being said after this oath.

خُسْرٍ 2	لَفِي	الْإِنْسَانِ 65	إِنَّ 1534
Loss	(is) surely in	mankind	indeed
	فِي	إِنْسَان: man	Best example:
	in	الْإِنْسَان: the man, mankind	إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ
	surely		

- In this ayah, we find that in order to show the importance of the subject, Allah began with three distinct forms of emphasis: (1) He took the oath; (2) used **إِنَّ**; and (3) used **لَ**.
- There is a fourth emphasis in the form of **إِلَّا**. In a class of 100 students, if 95 fail in the exam, will we say, "All have passed except 95?" No! We say, "All have failed except five." Therefore, the majority of mankind is in loss.
- This emphasis after emphasis should increase our attention and force us to think again about what we are doing to avoid loss! Remember the example of Ukasha رضي الله عنه and ask Allah to save us from the loss.

الصَّالِحَاتِ	وَعَمِلُوا	آمَنُوا 258	الَّذِينَ 664	إِلَّا
good deeds	and did	have believed	those who	except
صَالِح ← صَالِحُونَ، صَالِحِينَ	عَمِلُوا	إِيمَان	صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ	لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ
صَالِحَة ← صَالِحَات	they did	and	أَنعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ	

- **Du'aa:** O Allah! Grant me the correct, complete, and firm faith.
- **Evaluate:** How is my faith in Allah, the Hereafter, the two angels, the book, the messengers, the fate, and in the Shaitaan that accompanies me throughout the day? Does my faith encourage me to do good things?
- What is the state of my faith in Allah's Book? Do I just have the faith or do I care to develop a relationship with it by studying and practising it?

- The Qur'an deals with the details of our beliefs. Reciting the Qur'an with understanding and studying Hadith strengthens and increases our faith.
- Faith alone is not enough to save me from the loss. Good deeds are also essential. What is the quality of my Salah, fasts, Zakah, manners, morals, dealings, etc.?

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بِالصَّبْرِ 3		وَتَوَاصَوْا		بِالْحَقِّ ٥		وَتَوَاصَوْا	
to [the] patience.		and advised each other		to the truth,		and advised each other	
صَبْرٍ		تَوَاصَوْا		حَقٍّ : Truth		تَوَاصَوْا	
perseverance, patience		advised each other				advised each other	
		وَ				وَ	
		and				and	

- Good deeds include every good action. Two actions are specially mentioned here: to advise others to the truth and to patience.
- Where will one find the truth? In the Qur'an and in the Sunnah of the Prophet, ﷺ. If we are not able to even understand the Qur'an, then how are we going to propagate the truth to others?
- In many chapters of the Qur'an, Allah describes how the prophets and messengers advised people to the truth, righteousness and patience. Learn from them the way to do it.
- In this ayah, Allah is addressing the people in the plural form! i.e. '*those* who do ...' This shows that we have to work as a team and advise each other to obey Allah in every aspect of our life.
- You can start now by selecting a friend in this class and ask him to be a partner in advising each other to learn the Qur'an and practice it till its completion.
- Patience (Sabr) is of three types: (1) Patience to do good deeds including Da'wah work; (2) patience to stay away from sins; and (3) patience while facing difficulties, diseases, etc.
- When we tell our son or daughter to "Get Educated," we have a detailed plan for his education. Do we have a similar plan for advising people to the righteous path?
- وَ and أَوْ²⁸⁰. We need to do four things as mentioned in this Surah because between each task, Allah uses the letter وَ (and). He did not say أَوْ (or).