

Sura Furqaan

- 1. What is the meaning of the word 'Furqaan' in English? Briefly explain what is meant by this word in the context of this sura.**

Remember, there may be some variation depending on which translation you are using!
Furqaan means 'criterion', 'divide' or 'boundary'. In this sura, it means that which distinguishes between right and wrong, truth and falsehood, believers and disbelievers – and the consequences of accepting Allah's (swt) guidance or rejecting it.

In ayat #1, what is 'Furqaan' referring to?

The Holy Quran

- 2. The sura starts with the word تَبْرَكَ . What does this mean in English? Who is it referring to?**

It means 'blessed', 'holy' 'transcendent' or 'abundant goodness'. Here it is referring to Allah (swt) Himself

Two other ayats begin with the word تَبْرَكَ in this sura? Give the ayat numbers.

Ayats #10 and #61.

- 3. One of the main themes of this sura is the inability of the Quraysh to accept Prophet Muhammad (saw) as a prophet. What excuses did they make to reject him, according to this sura – give at least 3.**

The prophet was a regular man who walked in the markets (Ayat #7)

He didn't have an angel with him (Ayat #7)

He was an ordinary human being (Ayat #7)

He was not a wealthy man (Ayat #8)

He doesn't have any miracles to show them (Ayat #21)

In this sura, what replies are given to these arguments? Give the ayat numbers.

All prophets were sent like ordinary people – They walked the markets and ate food like other human beings (Ayat #20)

The example of Prophet Musa is given as evidence of a people who also rejected guidance – and he had taken miracles to Firawn's people (Ayat #35-36)

They will see the angels on the Day of Judgment (Ayats #21-22)

4. **In this sura, Allah (swt) gives the example of which five other peoples who rejected Divine guidance, to their own detriment? Give the ayat number(s).**

Ayats #35-40: Firawn's people, the people of Prophet Nuh, the people of Aad, the people of Thamud and the people of Rass

5. **In ayat #32 of this sura, it tells us that the Quraysh also complained about the Holy Quran and that it was revealed in parts over a long period of time rather than all at once. What response is given to this complaint?**

The Quran was sent gradually over time, and in relation to the course of events, so that the people would better be able to relate with and comprehend it (Ayats #32-33).

The Quran also tells us in Sura Qadr that the Quran was revealed in a night. What is the name of this night and in which month does it occur?

Laylatul Qadr (The Night of Power); Ramadhan

Scholars tell us there are many possible reasons that the Quran is telling us that it was revealed over a long period of time AND in just one night. Read ayats 192-195 of Sura Shu'ara to understand one of the possible explanations as determined by Scholars. Try to explain it in your own words.

Some scholars understand the Quran to have been sent down as a whole into the very heart of the Prophet and then revealed to the people in parts over time.

Some scholars say the Quran was sent down to the lower heavens all in one night first, then gradually revealed to the Holy Prophet (saw) over twenty three years.

(The Study Quran by Seyyed Hossein Nasr)

6. **According to this sura, what will Prophet Muhammad (saw) complain to Allah (swt) about on the Day of Judgment? Give the ayat number.**

Ayat #30 – The Prophet will complain about the abandonment/rejection of the Holy Quran by his people

How does this apply to us?

We also need to be mindful of the Holy Quran and the role it should play in our life. Maybe some of us only make time for the Quran in the month of Ramadhan. Maybe some of us read it ritually and without understanding, rather than trying to seek out its guidance. Maybe some of us only give it importance when we need it, such as on the occasions of marriage and funerals.

7. In ayats #45-62, what does this sura suggest is the best way to know Allah (swt)?

To reflect and ponder over His creation.

Which sura of the Holy Quran talks extensively about Allah's (swt) many blessings and how they should compel us to reflect? (Hint: we had a quiz on it earlier!)

Sura Rahmaan

8. Amongst the blessings mentioned in this sura is the 'shamss' in ayat #45 and the 'qamar' in ayat #61. Draw a 'shamss' and draw a 'qamar'. Which one do you see outside your window right now?

Shamss is the Arabic word for sun and qamar is the Arabic word for moon.



9. Ayats #70-71 discusses the process by which our bad deeds are forgiven by Allah's (swt) and replaced with good deeds? What is this process?

True repentance requires both regret/remorse for the bad deed and a change in one's life/conduct.

10. Name some of the characteristics of those people who have reached the level of عِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ

They are humble, pray Salaatul Layl, have powerful focus on the Hereafter, respond to conflict with dignity rather than retaliation, are moderate in spending, listen to and submit to Divine orders and believe in one Allah (swt). They not only follow the right path, but pray that their families will join them in worship and obedience to Allah (swt), and they set an example for others through true knowledge and righteous action.

What is the meaning of عِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ ؟

Slaves/Servants of the Merciful/Compassionate