

Read! In the Name of your Lord...

We begin this Juz with the chapter of al-Isra' (Night Journey). The chapter is named after the miraculous event in which the Prophet (peace be upon him) travelled from Makkah to Jerusalem and then through the Heavens in one single night, which is mentioned in the opening verse of the chapter. This is followed by a discussion on the nature of Allah's Message and the role of the Prophets. In another example of the Qur'an's continuous linguistic brilliance, the chapter begins by glorifying Allah and ends by praising Him, and the sense of the whole chapter is one of praise; it includes stories about the Children of Israel as relate to Masjid al-Aqsa, the destination of the Prophet's Night Journey, and it tackles aspects of individual and societal behaviour. The next chapter is that of al-Kahf (Cave), named after the Sleepers of the Cave mentioned in verses 9 onwards and its central theme is that of purging faith of all deviancy and superstition; it stresses the reward of true and sincere faith in Allah and absolute submission to Him, and explains that it is true faith which is the benchmark of judging ideas and values.



What can we learn from this Juz?

- Al-Isra' begins by talking about Masjid al-Aqsa, how the Children of Israel came to it and their subsequent corruption;
- The chapter contains 20 pieces of advice dealing with morals, manners and society;
- Allah addresses the arguments of Satan following the creation of Adam;
- The Prophet (peace be upon him) is advised not to depend on the pagans, rather upon Allah;
- Al-Kahf deals with tribulations in four areas: religion, property, knowledge and strength. Religion: The story of the people of the cave in which lies lesson for every person intending to walk the path of truth; Property: The story of the garden and the two people, the wealthy man who denied the resurrection and the poor man who believed in Allah and the Last Day; Knowledge: the story of Musa (Moses) with Khidr teaching us issues linked to moral conduct, lofty aspirations and enjoining the good and prohibiting evil. Strength: the story of Dhul-Qarnayn and the Ya'juj (Gog) and Ma'juj (Magog) - in the next Juz.

Surahs & Ayaat

- 17. Al-Isra / Bani-Isra'el
- 18. Al-Kahf (1-74)