



# The Fortress

7 شعبان 1439  
22.4.18

And certainly did the companions of Thamud deny the messengers

وَلَقَدْ كَذَّبَ أَصْحَابُ الْحِجْرِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ ﴿٨٠﴾



Allah tells us the story of another nation which was destroyed, the companions of the rocky tracts, they share the name of the surah. The nation of Thamud carved the mountains to create their dwellings. After Allah destroyed them, their dwellings which they worked so hard on, were transformed into حجر, abandoned, empty, uninhabited. Their elaborately carved dwellings cannot be lived in any more, all their efforts were in vain. No one wants to live in them. Houses give a sense of security and protection, but their houses are abandoned and uninhabited because of their evil actions.

We are made of → صَلْصَالٍ مِّنْ حَمَإٍ مَّسْنُونٍ → clay from an altered black mud (15:26). We cannot change our nature, so we need the protection or حجر in the inside; our faith protects us.

The nation of Thamud assumed

that their protection lay in their buildings carved out of rocky mountains. But actually your faith protects you, and your offspring for generations to come. Allah assigned Ibrahim عليه السلام and Al-Khidr to build a wall for the two orphans to protect their wealth which was buried in the ground because their forefathers were righteous.

وَأَمَّا الْجِدَارُ فَكَانَ لِغُلَامَيْنِ يَتِيمَيْنِ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ وَكَانَ تَحْتَهُ كَنْزٌ لَهُمَا وَكَانَ أَبُوهُمَا صَالِحًا فَأَرَادَ رَبُّكَ أَنْ يَبْلُغَا أَشُدَّهُمَا وَيَسْتَخْرِجَا كَنْزَهُمَا رَحْمَةً مِّنْ رَبِّكَ

And as for the wall, it belonged to two orphan boys in the city, and there was beneath it a treasure for them, and their father had been righteous. So your Lord intended that they reach maturity and extract their treasure, as a mercy from your Lord

سورة الكهف

18:82

(Part of a longer ayah)

What was their action? Denial. Whoever denies one pillar of faith belies them all, and whoever denies one messenger

وَلَقَدْ كَذَّبَ أَصْحَابُ الْحِجْرِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

belied them all. This is why Allah says المرسلين, in plural form, although they only had one messenger, Salih عليه السلام. Take heed as a whole, not parts. When the roots are strong, you don't have to worry about the branches.

وَلَوْ فَتَحْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ بَابًا مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ فَظَلُّوا فِيهِ يَعْرَجُونَ

And [even] if We opened to them a gate from the heaven and they continued therein to ascend

سورة الحجر

15:14

The people of Thamud told their messenger Salih عليه السلام that they would choose the sign of his truthfulness themselves. So they chose a rock, and demanded that a pregnant she-camel emerge from it. This is such a huge animal. They wanted a sign from rock as well. The believer doesn't need signs to believe, while the disbeliever will demand signs and still not be convinced. They will not believe even if the skies open up in front of their eyes. When you accept what Allah says, this is easy upon you. But they asked for such a complicated sign, which verged on magical.

And We gave them

Our signs, but from them they were turning away

وَأَيُّنَّهُمْ أَيَّتِنَا فَكَانُوا عَنْهَا مُعْرِضِينَ ﴿٨١﴾

They got the she-camel which they had demanded, and now they had to bear the consequences and the responsibilities which came with it. They had made matters difficult for themselves. The condition that was presented to them was that the camel and the people would drink water from the only well in town on alternate days.

فَخَذُوا مَا آتَيْنَاكَ وَكُنْ مِنَ الشَّاكِرِينَ  
So take what I have given you  
and be among the grateful  
سورة الأعراف  
7:144  
(Part of a longer ayah)

Submission makes matters easier for us. The more we ask the more restrictions come. The more we accept the more freedom we enjoy. Allah gave them what they demanded because everything is easy for Him. This great ayah which they had demanded should have made them grateful, but, instead, they turned away.

كَذَّبَتْ ثَمُودُ بِطَغْوَاهَا  
Thamud denied [their prophet] by  
reason of their transgression  
إِذِ انْبَعَثَ أَشْقَاهَا  
When the most wretched of them  
was sent forth  
فَقَالَ لَهُمْ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ نَاقَةَ اللَّهِ وَسُقْيَاهَا  
And the messenger of Allah [Salih]  
said to them, "[Do not harm] the  
she-camel of Allah or [prevent her  
from] her drink."  
فَكَذَّبُوهُ فَعَقَرُوهَا فِدْمَدَمَ عَلَيْهِمْ رَبُّهُمْ  
بِذُنُوبِهِمْ فَسَوَّاهَا  
But they denied him and  
hamstrung her. So their Lord  
brought down upon them  
destruction for their sin and made  
it equal [upon all of them]  
وَلَا يَخَافُ عَقَابَهَا  
And He does not fear the  
consequence thereof  
سورة الشمس  
91:11-15

وَأَتَيْنَاهُمْ آيَاتِنَا فَكَانُوا عَنْهَا مُعْرِضِينَ  
اعرض

تجبرا ظلما كفرا

Allah knew they would never be convinced. They didn't like the she-camel sharing their water from the only well they had. So they decided to kill it. They knew this she-camel was a sign from Allah, so they conspired with

the most wretched of their men to kill the she-camel.

Allah allowed them to kill the she-camel, but not Salih عليه السلام. The way of evil is made easy for the criminals; this is الإستدراج, a downslide into the mouse trap.

And they used to carve from the mountains, houses,  
feeling secure



وَكَانُوا يَنْحِتُونَ مِنَ الْجِبَالِ بُيُوتًا آمِنِينَ

Now Allah tells us their status. They were so strong in mind and body, they could carve the mountains and fashion houses out of the rock face. But they used their intelligence and strength for negative and evil actions, for denial of the truth, and turning away from it. They misused the blessings bestowed upon them by Allah.

نحت

وَكَانُوا يَنْحِتُونَ مِنَ الْجِبَالِ بُيُوتًا آمِنِينَ

They were so advanced in their expertise and intelligence, they made elaborately carved and ornamented and lofty buildings;

imagine their engineering feats at that age without any of the advanced tools at our disposal. Their dwellings, which remain to this day, are above the ground, not even covered with sand, people pass by them all the time. But they are uninhabited, their land is affected by their crimes.

وَتَمُودَ الَّذِينَ جَابُوا الصَّخْرَ بِالْوَادِ  
And Thamud, who carved out  
the rocks in the valley  
سورة الفجر  
89:9

They thought their rock walls could protect them, but Surah Al-Hijr tells us not to depend on ourselves, and our elaborate planning of dunya to protect ourselves and our future generations. Where is their security? Their strong impenetrable fortresses remain, but they have vanished. Security is with Allah, with the Qura'an, with your sincerity. Anyone drawing away from Allah is never secure.

But the shriek seized them at early morning.



فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ الصَّيْحَةُ مُصْبِحِينَ

They were destroyed by a shout from the angel, which made their hearts stop. Their advanced buildings could not save them.