

# Quran Study

Following Sahih International translation: <https://quran.com/1>

Using <http://corpus.quran.com/> to verify translations that stand out, since it provides multiple translations/interpretations.

Someone beat me to it: <https://skepticsannotatedbible.com/quran/>. Useful for identifying when surahs were released: <https://skepticsannotatedbible.com/quran/chrono.htm>

Note that verse enumeration assumes that bismillah is counted as the first verse (i.e. the verses are offset by +1) but if you don't see the verse cited here, it is either before or after the number listed (I'm only human after all)

## General Thoughts (rough notes)

- Not an inspiring read at all - it just laments on how you need to obey the messenger and this book because it says so. For a divine book, I would expect more talk on how people should behave, and how to be a good individual with your family and friends. How to lead a society. How to prevent people from committing harm against each other. The Quran is almost devoid of any moral/ethical code of conduct.
- Essentially repeats/reskins stories from the Bible: the same characters appear as well
- Nothing in here indicates knowledge that men would not have had at the time (more specifically, it highlights the *incorrect* knowledge held at the time, such as the sun rotating around the Earth)
- We should fear God, because he says so. Also, hell is an eternal place of fire, you don't want to be there. Instead, you want to go to paradise, which contains gardens beneath which rivers flow. I have to say that the afterlife is mentioned ad nauseum, with the same boring description (hell = fire and boiling water, heaven = gardens and rivers)
- It is as repetitive as it can get. Probably 80% of the book spends its time telling you to believe because disbelieving is bad, and in case you're not convinced yet, listen to our stories of what happened to the people who disbelieved. It just seems like a bad use of the limited amount of text God directly sent down to Earth.
- Seems like it's talking to men most of the time, as well as has verses indicating men's superiority/advantages over women.
- I guess the concept of "show, don't tell" didn't exist back then because the Quran knows only how to tell you to believe but never makes a single convincing argument for why you should.
- God is one and has no son, so the Christians are wrong.
- Quran doesn't really talk about *how to* practice Islam: there's no mention of how to pray, the prayers to say, Eid etc.

- Noticing quite a few stories around part 10 of the Quran (e.g. Moses vs. Pharaoh, Noah's Ark, Joseph) but worth noting that they share a lot with what's written in the Bible (does that confirm there's one God or that Muhammad was just relaying stories which he heard? Hmm)
- While there are some instances of morals, God is more concerned you believe in him than anything else (and we all know that belief in one God doesn't inherently make you a better person)
- God has beef with disbelievers and they will spend an eternity in hell: also, God can choose who to misguide. *In the name of Allah, the most gracious, the most merciful*
- Quran likes to mention that it is in Arabic *for you*. I thought it talks to all of mankind
- A lot of the statements in the Quran are vague, poetic understandings of the world as human beings would see it. It's essentially ripe for metaphoric interpretation, leading people to think the Quran had signs of truth 1,400 years ago.
- Incorrect science (geocentric Earth, human development etc.)
- It's really interesting that the Quran acknowledges people called it out at the time (e.g. people said it was just poetry, or dreams, or inventions), and when they ask Muhammad for signs, he simply says "look at what's around you: these are clear signs from God, and if God wanted, he could destroy all of you at any time"
- I am very impressed by the constant mention of Zakat - it's interesting how much charity plays a part in the Quran
- The Quran tries to prove the existence of God (signs of God) by simply telling the reader to look at nature around them (e.g. sun, moon, mountains), and to just know that these are signs proving that God is real
- Quran likes to say that the disbelievers will enjoy the current life but will be punished in the afterlife. I guess the two needn't be mutually exclusive (is it not possible to enjoy life in a good way and still be granted way to heaven?)
- The Quran is filled with language depicting destruction, punishment, pain: I always thought the Quran to be a book of peace but it seems to like detailing how bad hell will be, and how God has destroyed civilizations prior which did not believe in him in particular
- God's understanding of ancient Egypt is extremely poor, inaccurate, and honestly incorrect.
- The justification for alcohol/gambling is that things can go horribly wrong if people are not moderate, hence it's banned. But when you look at how Islam has been interpreted, it's the exact same situation (e.g. stoning in Iran due to Islamic interpretations).
- God testing Abraham to kill his son is pretty cruel: I understand that God wants his loyalty but this just sounds like some criminal-level behaviour.
- Quran is not always from God's tongue directly  
(<https://skepticsannotatedbible.com/quran/topics/author.html>)
- Quran is too focused on the Middle East - why does it not talk about stories beyond that?
- The Quran has a lot of vague/poetic verses which can be re-interpreted after the fact to fit contemporary evidence. However, the Quran is extremely specific in matters known at that time (e.g. rain, mountains, sun, moon etc.) as well as describing hell in full detail

(lots of fire, boiling water, eternal), and heaven (gardens, rivers, everything people wish for, fair maidens, wine etc.) - why could it not apply the same level of accuracy to things which people would not have known at that time?

- Paradise is overly sexual, catering to men's desires only. Read more here:  
[https://wikiislam.net/wiki/72\\_Virgins](https://wikiislam.net/wiki/72_Virgins)
- Quran doesn't expand on any of its practices (e.g. how to pray, when to pray, how much zakat etc.) so it needs Hadith/Sunnah to succeed
- God plays by his rules: if you believed, you will go to heaven. If you disbelieved or if you do harm, you'll go to hell. Note that you can disbelieve and do good and you'll still go to hell because you rejected the Quran and Muhammad
- I wish the Quran evolved over time

# 1. *Al-Fatihah* (The Opening)

- Praying to God for guidance towards the right path

# 2. *Al-Baqarah* (The Cow)

- Begins by talking about disbelievers, saying some people have their heart sealed and there will be punishment for them
- Hell will contain fire
- God built the Earth, then made the seven heavens (2:23)
- Repeats the story of Adam and Eve, and the tree which they were not to approach
- Those who disbelieve will remain the fire eternally (2:40)
- Talks about Moses/Children of Israel and God's favours
- The sinners said that the fire (of hell) will touch them for a few days, but God says they will stay there forever (2:82)
- Talks more about how you need to believe. Anyone who doesn't is bound for hell, while those who believe know that goodness/reward awaits them.
- There are certain people whom God will not talk to, nor purify, and as always, they will have a painful punishment (2:175)
- Recommends to free slaves
- Allows men to go to their wives for sexual relations - just another instance of when it could have simply been written "and you are allowed sexual relations with your spouse" (2:187)
- Men are not allowed to marry polytheistic women, and the believers are not to marry polytheistic men to their women - it attributes the responsibility of the marriage to the man, not the woman (2:222)
- Your wives are a tilth for you (2:224). While I know that women bear children, it just seems a bit off-putting to describe them as a tilth (land used for cultivation)
- Men have a degree over women (2:228) - also interesting to note how the divorce talks about the man divorcing the woman (not a mutual option that goes in both directions). Divorce is complicated in Islam.
- Financial sacrifice pays dividends (2:246)
- After all this talk of disbelieving, the Quran says "there shall be no compulsion in religion" (2:257)
- Another reminder of eternal hell (2:258)
- God will multiply your reward the same way you spend a grain, which then grows into seven spikes, each containing 100 grains, implying 700x return (2:262)
- If you deal in interest/usury, you are going to hell eternally (2:276)
- If you can't find two men witnesses for a financial transaction, get one man and two women, such that the one woman can remind the other if she errs. Because this can only happen to women (2:283)

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- Chapter contains a few rulings (e.g. no interest, don't marry polytheists, fasting, prayer, zakat), but spends a lot of time saying to believe in God because otherwise, you will be part of those who will abide in hell eternally

### 3. *Al-Imran* (The Family of Amran)

- The Quran admits that some verses are precise (those are the foundation of the Book) while others are unspecific. Only those whose hearts are in deviation will follow the unspecific. Only God knows the true understanding. Those who are firm in knowledge will believe in all of it (3:8). Just seems weird that God would not be direct to his people.
- Paradise tends to be described as gardens beneath which rivers flow, where you'll live forever and there will be purified spouses
- Talks about Mary (recall that Imran is the father of Mary)
- Allah loves those who fear him (3:77)
- No one dies if by the permission of God (3:146) - what does that imply about people who commit suicide and are therefore sent to hell?
- Those who die in the way of God are alive with their lord (3:170)
- If disbelievers live for a long time, it's so that they may increase in sin (3:179) - how could this ever be a good thing? People should be informed of their wrong as soon as possible (or at least be given a sign), instead of being provided additional freedom to do wrong
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- We're about 1/10 of our way in, and so far, it's just more of believe in one God, don't disbelieve, fear God, don't focus on the current life but think of the Hereafter.

### 4. *An-Nisa'* (The Women)

- God created Adam, then created Eve from Adam (4:2)
- If you can't deal justly with the orphans, then marry up to 4 women (4:4)
- Men obtain 2x the inheritance of women (4:12).
- If someone (assuming a disbeliever, could be wrong) has unlawful sex with your women, bring 4 witnesses, and if they testify, confine the guilty women to their houses until death takes them (4:16). Sex is a private/intimate thing, not sure why the verse would ask for 4 witnesses.
- More rulings for men on who they cannot marry (4:23)
- All married women are off limits except those your right hands possess (4:25)
- If you cannot marry free women, you can marry your slaves. (4:26)
- Men are in charge of women because God has given them more than women. If you fear disobedience from your wives, first advise them, then forsake them in bed, then strike them (4:35)

- If you touch women, you need to clean yourself before prayer (4:44).
- If something is good, it's from Allah. If it's bad, it's because of yourself (4:79)
- Don't ever kill a believer, unless it's by mistake, in which case you can free a slave. (4:93)
- Jesus was not crucified (4:158)
- Another reminder of males having twice the share of females (4:177)
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- About 1/6 of our way in, and it's more of the same: Allah knows all that there is. Believe in one God. Don't associate partners. Satan will lead you away. This chapter also tells men they can marry multiple wives, and how they inherit twice as much as women.

## 5. *Al-Ma'idah* (The Food)

- Describes how to perform wudu (one of the few instances where the Quran discusses actual Islamic practices)
- Lots of verses are repeated (lawful food, when to clean yourself etc.)
- Eternal hell visits again for the disbelievers (5:37)
- Cut off the hands of thieves? (5:39)
- Jesus was given the gospel (5:47). Differs from the Christian belief that people wrote about Jesus, not that Jesus had revelations that he requested be written down.
- God admits that it was necessary for there to be multiple religions so that we are tested (5:49)
- Discouraged from befriending Jews and Christians (5:52)
- The Jews are hostile towards the believers while the Christians are nearest in affection towards the believers because they have priests and monks who are not arrogant (5:83)
- Alcohol, gambling, superstition are works of Satan and should be avoided (5:91)
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- We are now 20% done with the Quran (slightly over 6/30 parts finished) - this chapter talks a bit about what foods are allowed (e.g. fish, not swine), talks about how God gave the Torah and the Gospel, and now the Quran is here for them to accept it. If you are good, you will be granted to Paradise where there are gardens beneath which rivers flow. Also, Jesus was only a messenger: don't say that God is part of a trinity.

## 6. *Al-An'am* (The Cattle)

- People were created from clay (6:3)
- The worldly life is not but amusement and diversion (6:33)
- Every creature on Earth is part of a community like humans (6:39)
- Abraham does not like that the sun and the moon are not constant, so he decides to believe in a power that creates them instead (6:76 - 6:80), but if all he wanted was

consistency, there are so many things around him that don't change (e.g. seas, mountains etc.)

- God can choose who to guide and who to misguide (6:126)
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- Roughly completed around 25% of the Quran - we don't really learn anything new in this chapter. There are warnings to only eat food upon which God's name has been called. Know that God can do anything, no one should tell lies against him, God created the sun and the moon and the stars

## 7. *Al-A'raf* (The Elevated Places)

- Reference to a weighing of deeds at the Day of Judgment (7:9). This is really similar to the weighing of hearts I learned during my ancient Egyptian religious course (beliefs from around 6,000 years ago)
- Story of Adam and Eve and Satan (7:12 - 7:28). This honestly reads like a fairy tale.
- God created the heavens and earth in six days (7:55)
- Prophet Lot finds gays and tells them not to commit sin: they don't listen, so God punishes them by raining down stones, also calling them criminals in the process (7:81 - 7:85)
- Contains a lot of stories of how God sent his messengers, no one listened, and then there were earthquakes/other natural disasters destroying those people
- We learn of how Moses went to the Pharaoh to convince him to believe in God, and used magic to convince the magicians that his God was true. Pharaoh was mad and ordered them to leave the city, and that he would kill all their men. And then God destroyed the Pharaoh (7:104 - 7:137). Once again, reads like a fairy tale. Also, there is no evidence that Moses existed, despite us having access to rich amounts of history from that era (re: ancient Egypt).
- Another verse about creating Adam, then creating Eve from Adam (7:190)
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- We learn about some previous prophets (e.g. Moses, Hud, Lot), and we learn that all of God's messengers tend to be rejected, then he punishes the people who transgresses. So now Muhammad is bringing you signs - be sure to listen, otherwise you'll face doom.

## 8. *Al-Anfal* (Voluntary Gifts)

- If you run away from the battlefield, you will face anger from God (8:17)
- Apparently, people remarked back then that the Quran sounded like the "legends of the former peoples" (8:32)
- God prefers those believers who migrated to Madinah (8:73)
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- In this chapter, we learn that God is the only reason why you can win any wars.

- As a sidenote, the Quran is basically the opposite of “show, don’t tell” - it **tells** you to believe in it, but doesn’t give any reason as to why we should. Also, God is really scary and powerful, so don’t make him angry.

## 9. *Al-Bara'at / At-Taubah* (The Immunity)

- **Note:** no bismillar here, so verses are not offset by +1
- Only believers can maintain the mosques of God (9:18)
- Don’t take your fathers or brothers as allies if they have preferred disbelief over belief. And if you do, then you are a wrongdoer (9:23). Not only does it ignore the other gender but it’s sad that the Quran feels the need to purposefully split family if they disagree on beliefs.
- Zakat is for the poor, the needy, the Zakat-collectors, the missionaries, those in debt, those in the cause of Allah and for freeing slaves (9:60)
- To all those who didn’t migrate to Madinah: they were not allowed to fight in any battles after that, and Muhammad couldn’t lead their funeral prayer because they disbelieved in God and his messenger (9:81 - 9:84)
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- We are now 1/3 of our way in: once again, all we learn is that people should believe in God because God says so. If you don’t, you will go to hell: the Quran’s idea of preaching is really just telling people that they should believe. It’s also bent on creating clear differences between those who believe and those who disbelieve (re: father/brother example where you shouldn’t be friends with them if they disbelieve)

## 10. *Yunus* (Jonah)

- Quran says that the book itself was not possible to be produced by anyone but God, and it’s a confirmation of what came before it, referencing the Torah and Gospel (10:38). We know the Quran is from God because God says so.
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- There’s nothing new in this chapter (seems like a recurring theme at this point). Just more of the same, where you should obey God because he says so. If you are tired of my notes, imagine how tired I am from reading this.

## 11. *Hud* (Hud)

- Once again repeats that God created the heavens and the earth in six days (11:8)
- God’s proof for the fact that this is his book is basically asking people to bring surahs like those which are contained in the Quran, and if they cannot, this should prove that the Quran was revealed by God (11:14 - 11:15). This is an impossible task, since there are



no criteria defining what writing is considered a surah, so there's no point to even mentioning this in the first place.

- Noah's ark (11:37 - 11:49)
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- There are more stories of how God sent his messengers (Hud, Lot, Abraham) to various societies: those who disbelieved were struck while those who believed were protected. As always, believe in God, worship him, and God knows everything.

## 12. *Yusuf* (Joseph)

- The Quran was sent in Arabic so that you might understand (12:3). So much for timelessness, eh? I know that it has to be sent down in a language, but it's just interesting that the Quran is aware that it's in Arabic for the people at that time and location.
- Basically tells the story of Joseph: he was sold to slavery by his brothers but then becomes really important in ancient Egypt when the Pharaoh recognizes his truth.
- Joseph asks to die as a Muslim (12:102)
- Quran admits that its stories are a confirmation of what was before: however, it also claims that nothing was invented (12:112).
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- More than a 100 verses long and all it does is tell the story of Joseph

## 13. *Ar-Ra'd* (The Thunder)

- The sun and the moon each run their course (13:3). Geocentric reference?

## 14. *Ibrahim* (Abraham)

- The sun and the moon are continuous in orbit (14:34). Another geocentric reference

## 15. *Al-Hijr* (The Rock)

- Man is made out of clay/mud (15:27). *Metaphors are cool*. But this verse can be interpreted in any way which you want and you can attribute scientific evidence to the Quran (the best so far is finding the common elements between dust and people, such as oxygen and carbon)

## 16. *An-Nahl* (The Bee)

- Horses, mules, and donkeys were created for us to ride them (16:9). Once again, loses a bit on the timelessness factor given those animals are rarely used for transportation services today.
- Eternal hell (16:30)
- Every nation has been sent a messenger that has said to worship one God (16:37). Guess all the messengers who caused polytheistic religions messed up somewhere along the way (*God's plan*)
- God is to be worshiped constantly. Also, fear God (16:53). This is the best way for people to accept your message.
- God extracts you from the womb of your mothers and gives you hearing, vision, and intellect (16:79). Babies are born without anything whatsoever until they are blessed after coming out of the womb.
- God holds birds up. (16:80)
- Chapter talks a lot about things that exist (e.g. mountains, trees, animals), and says that God created them all, and also questions as to why people cannot see the clear signs of God in our world through his creations.
- God orders justice and good conduct (16:91). Nice sentiment but nowhere has the Quran clarified (yet) what it means to lead a good life, and do good for society and people at large.
- God could have made us all believe in one religion, but instead he chose to guide who he wanted and lead astray who he wanted. Also, be ready to get questioned on judgment day. (16:94)
- "Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female" (16:98). Not sure why it bears to mention "whether male or female". If men and women were truly equal in Islam, gender needn't be mentioned at any point.
- The Quran can substitute verses at will and while people say that Muhammad is an inventor of lies, they don't know (16:102). Assuming this actually happened, Muhammad definitely knows how to cover his back - everything is God's will.
- People also apparently said that "it is only a human being who teaches the Prophet" (16:104). There were smart people back then.
- References those who migrated and how they'll receive blessings in the afterlife (16:111). It seems almost cruel at this point, where Muhammad is telling all his followers to migrate as he needs them to, and selling them the concept of God being happy with their decision.
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- I need to make a word cloud from the Quran. I want to see the word "disbeliever" as big as possible. I'm still having so much trouble understanding why the Quran/God is so concerned with the fact that people pray to something that's not one God? It's not like

they are bad people. But instead, the Quran thinks it should just spend all its time telling you to believe in one God because that's all that matters at the end of the day.

## 17. *Bani Isra'il* (The Israelites)

- There is something known as unlawful sexual intercourse (17:33)
- The Quran realizes that it's repetitive (17:42)
- People would say that Muhammad is deprived of reason (17:48)
- When Muhammad is asked about the soul, he simply says that only God knows what the soul is (17:86). Very convenient answering.
- People asked Muhammad for miracles but his response was that he was but a human messenger (17:91 - 17:94)

## 18. *Al-Kahf* (The Cave)

- Masked Arab on Youtube did an interesting video on this chapter: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRICs4iJd1w>. Apparently, people asked Muhammad to recite a story but instead of providing a clearcut and detailed narrative, he simply said extremely vague things indicating his lack of knowledge.
- Examples of vague statements include: "They will say there were three, the fourth of them being their dog; and they will say there were five, the sixth of them being their dog - guessing at the unseen; and they will say there were seven, and the eighth of them was their dog.", appended with Muhammad saying only God knows the true number of people (18:23). Recall that this is the Quran, the only document which Muslims believe to be only God's words.
- Has some story about Moses
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- With the end of this chapter, we've now completed 50% of the Quran. I really don't think there's much merit to the second half but I'm committed to finishing this. The first half has so far provided little valuable/usable information: around 90% of it has simply been the Quran telling you to believe in God (so that you can go to paradise with gardens and rivers), and if you disbeliever, you'll go to eternal hell that's filled with fire. Also, the Quran has some fun Bible stories in case you've not heard them before. Also, this is from God because the Quran says so. And everything you see is from God because the Quran says so. Will you thus ignore all the signs of your Lord?

## 19. *Maryam* (Mary)

- Jesus was born from virgin Mary (19:20 - 19:23)

- Mary is referred to as “sister of Aaron” (19:29). In chapter 3, Mary is referred to as the son of Imraan (Joachim), while the Aaron mentioned here is the brother of Moses, far predating Imraan (about 1,400 years). Fun fact: Aaron’s sister was called Miriam, which is eerily similar to Maryam. Did Muhammad make a mistake here? Has to be *God’s plan*
- Jesus spoke to the Jewish elders while he was a baby?? (19:30 - 19:35)
- The Quran was made easy in the Arabic language (19:98) Even though no one speaks that type of Arabic anymore, and also the fact that the Quran cannot stop acknowledging that it’s just for a specific population at a specific time

## 20. *Ta Ha* (Ta Ha)

- Moses’ staff turning into a snake (20:18 - 20:23)
- God showed Pharoah his signs (20:57) aka literally Moses describing Earth and then saying how could you not believe this to be from God?
- Some more stories about magic. In the Quran. The word of God.
- God loves to repeat the story of Iblees (Satan) who was the angel who didn’t prostrate to Adam. God in general loves repeating these little stories, instead of teaching people how to live in harmony.
- People ask God for a sign (which God can only interpret as a punishment), and then says he will not punish them because then they would say “why did you not send us a messenger” and he doesn’t want them to think he didn’t do his due diligence (20:134 - 20:135)

## 21. *Al-Anbiya’* (The Prophets)

- More questioning from the general population, where they say that Muhammad is just a poet, inventing all that’s in the Quran. They also ask for signs of God (21:6)
- God decides to not send a sign but simply tell them that he’s destroyed cities before who didn’t believe in him (21:7)
- Sun and moon in orbit (21:34)
- Sidenote but the Quran mentions prayers and zakat a lot. Surprised at how often zakat is spoken about: I suppose charity is a big part of Islam.

## 22. *Al-Hajj* (The Pilgrimage)

- Quran explains the science of human development, incorrectly. (22:6) It states that first there’s sperm, then there’s a clot, then there’s flesh, and then there’s bones, and finally muscles envelope the bones (this was the general understanding around that time). Not only do “clots” not exist in the human development, but bones are generated at the same time as muscle.

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- Chapter contains brief morals, such as don't lie, be kind, forbid injustice (by literally just mentioning them without additional context or expansion of ideas). But still spends most of its time saying that everything which you see is from God, so make sure you believe in God! Unless you want to go to hell.

## 23. *Al-Mu'minun* (The Believers)

- Those who guard their private parts except from their wives or those their right hands possess (23:6 - 23:7). Sex with your female slaves are allowed. Also, the Quran is talking to men once again.
- God says that he's sent messengers to all the nations, and every time they denied him, so he destroyed those civilizations, and turned them into stories of the past (23:45)

## 24. *An-Nur* (The Light)

- 100 lashes for the fornicators (24:3)
- Believers can't marry fornicators (24:4)
- If you don't have 4 witnesses, you (the man) can proxy as 4 voices at once (24:6).
- Men should lower their gaze (24:31)
- Women should also lower their gaze, and not "expose their adornment" and wrap a portion of their head-covers over their chests (24:32).
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- This chapter seemed fairly mild. Kinda laid off the whole "disbelievers will go to hell, so believe in one God" and instead mentioned some general rulings (e.g. lower your gaze, saying salaam, don't fornicate etc.)

## 25. *Al-Furqan* (The Discrimination)

- Talking once again of people who are saying Muhammad is lying about the Quran. God then says that on the day of judgment, they'd wished they had listened to Muhammad. Also, prophets are normal human beings, so don't expect them to get any special treatment from God (the society was asking Muhammad if God sent him a care package from heaven)
- "The night and the day in succession" (25:63). This seems to be mentioned often, almost as if they believed that the two were mutually exclusive (i.e. ignoring that it can be day and night at any point in time in two different locations on Earth)
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- Around 60% done with the Quran at this point.

## 26. *Ash-Shu'ara'* (The Poets)

- Moses and magic and the Pharaoh again. I'm surprised God didn't just mention the Pharaoh by name - that would at least help us to validate the existence of Moses.
- God clearly talks about miracles that existed previously, so why didn't he just do the same for Muhammad and help convince the people around him that he was actually from God?
- Do not commit abuse on earth, spreading corruption (26:184). Once again, a very nice sentiment but the Quran simply mentions it before going back to its repetitive narrative right after. This should have been where God could expand on how to lead healthy, impactful lives in a thriving society.

## 27. *An-Naml* (The Naml)

- Reason on Faith has a section on this chapter:  
[https://reasononfaith.org/my-beliefs/#TheAntMenOfQuran27\\_17-18](https://reasononfaith.org/my-beliefs/#TheAntMenOfQuran27_17-18)
- Prophet Lot and the gays again (27:55 - 27:59).

## 28. *Al-Qasas* (The Narrative)

- Pharaoh killed newborn babies (28:5). Repeated verse with questionable authenticity: this topic never came up in my ancient Egyptian class and the ancient Egyptian religions actually forbade infanticide.
- Moses killed a person and blamed it on Satan (28:16)
- Pharaoh said that the people did not know any god other than him (28:39). Once again, completely inaccurate since we know that the ancient Egyptians believed in multiple gods, and thought of pharaohs as representation of deities on Earth. There are schools of thoughts (e.g. my professor) who say that pharaohs were actually not considered gods until after their death (with reliable evidence to back up this claim), so this doesn't sound like something a pharaoh would say at all.
- Muhammad cannot guide who he likes - only God guides those he wills (28:57)
- God gives you light (day) to break the night and gives you night to break the day for rest and asks you if you can't see the signs since God separates the day from night (28:72 - 28:73). While the verse does say what would happen if the day (or night) was continuous until the end of times, but the midnight sun is a real phenomenon in which the sun doesn't set at all for 60 days (i.e. the day is continuous for a long time without night for rest)

## 29. *Al-'Ankabut* (The Spider)

- Noah was sent to his people and stayed there for 950 years (29:15)
- We believe in that which has been revealed to us and revealed to you (29:47). This is honestly a really nice verse, where it shows that Muslims acknowledge that other people can have other perspectives. If only more of the Quran was written like this
- Is it not sufficient that the Quran was revealed to them? (29:52). It really isn't - we need more to believe in God.
- -----
- 2/3 finished. Just a last push to get it over with once and for all

## 30. *Ar-Rum* (The Romans)

- More verses about nature (e.g. lightning, rain) and how the existence of these prove God's existence
- God tries to explain his superiority by saying that since free humans and slaves are not equal, how could we possibly think God is equal to anything? (30:29) I know that the Quran has spoken about freeing slaves before, but it's quite sad that God resorts to using slaves as an indication of status (i.e. acknowledging their existence and their restricted rights as human beings) instead of outright banning slavery

## 31. *Luqman* (Luqman)

- Nothing new here

## 32. *As-Sajdah* (The Adoration)

- Every time a disbeliever will try to leave hell, they will be returned there, since their refuge is the fire (32:21)

## 33. *Al-Ahzab* (The Allies)

- We learn that adoption in Islam is *not really* adoption (33:5 - 33:6). While you should take care of orphans, they will never be considered family for you (which means you can marry their wives, as we'll soon find out). This is really sad due to its implications (they cannot take your name, they do not inherit from their adoptive parents, you have to observe Purdah with them since they're not family etc.)

- God decides to talk to Muhammad's wives in the Quran (33:29 - 33:35). Because, you know, everyone in the world across all times should know this.
- Men can be attracted to women's voices (33:33)
- This verse mentions both men and women (33:36). This verse was "revealed" because a woman complained that only men were mentioned in the Quran and women were often deprived of importance. First of all, I hear you, lady from 1,400 years ago. Also, nice save Muhammad (unless God was waiting for a woman to raise a concern, instead of just ensuring men and women are given equal treatment)
- Remember how your adopted son is *not really* your son? Muhammad married Zainab, who was the ex-wife of his adopted son Zaid. The Quran says that Muhammad doing so should make it clear once and for all that your adopted children are not family (33:38). This verse makes me feel sick.
- The infamous verse: "he is the Messenger of Allah and the seal of prophets" (33:41). Not sure why this would ever be revealed if God wanted Ahmadiyyat to succeed, given that this verse has been accepted to mean "the last of prophets"
- Muhammad gets special treatment: he has access to slaves, and he can marry whoever he wants, and divorce whoever he wants, and he has no limit to how many wives he wants (33:51 - 33:52) I know that Muslims justify every single one of his marriages but I simply refuse to believe that God in all his wisdom thought that the only solution to all of those issues was for Muhammad to marry these women.
- After a certain point, God now bans Muhammad from additional wives, but he's still allowed female sex slaves (33:53) Imagine a holy man having sex with a female slave. Sad.
- Muhammad is too shy to ask his guests to leave his house, so God's telling you to leave his house after you eat (33:54). Because we all needed to know this.
- Women should cover themselves so they are not molested (33:60)
- -----
- If there's any chapter any person should read, it's this one right here: it's filled with golden nuggets (rulings around adoption, Muhammad's liberty to marry anyone, his specific marriage with Zainab, Muhammad being too shy, women having to cover themselves so as not to be abused). It's almost impossible to read this chapter and not question the divinity of the holy quran.

## 34. *Al-Saba'* (The Saba')

- More verses about people not taking Muhammad seriously (34:44)

## 35. *Al-Fatir* (The Originator)

- Nothing new here



## 36. *Ya Sin* (Ya Sin)

- People who disbelieve now will always disbelieve since God has put a barrier around them and covered them (36:6 - 36:11)
- Everything has been created in pairs (36:37). Not all things are in pairs. The alislam commentary begs to differ however, stating “even the so-called elements do not exist by themselves. They also depend upon other things for their sustenance”.
- The sun moves to a destination (36:39). While the sun is moving as part of our galaxy, the Quran seems to be indicating that the sun actually sets and rests until the following day.
- No soul will be wronged (36:55). This is a nice verse.
- Humans are created from sperm (36:78). While human development does require sperm, sperm is useless without the ovum (and it's only when the zygote is created that development begins), so it's incorrect to say that humans are created from a sperm.
- -----
- 75% finished. The repetition itself is getting repetitive: seems like we've lessened a bit on the whole “believe in one God” and it's more of Muhammad describing the world and nature (more often than not incorrectly), and saying that this is from God, thereby proving that his God is the only one to believe in.

## 37. *As-Saffat* (Those Ranging in Ranks)

- Women with large beautiful eyes (as if they were well-protected eggs) will wait for the believers (37:49 - 37:50)
- God doesn't like idols (37:96)
- Jonah was swallowed by a whale (37:140 - 37:149)
- God would not have female angels (37:151)

## 38. *Sad* (Sad)

- Penalty for those who denied the messengers (38:15)
- More repeated stories of prophets (Solomon, David)
- More women of equal age waiting for those in paradise (38:53)
- Satan's story of how he didn't prostrate comes back for like ... the 5th time?

## 39. *Az-Zumar* (The Companies)

- Quran is self-aware and knows it's repetitive (39:24)

- Quran is revealed in flawless Arabic (39:29)
- To explain why believing in one God is better, God uses the example of a slave who has multiple masters verses the slave who only has one master (39:30). Not only does it show support of the class system, but is this the best way to explain the benefit of the unity of God?

## 40. *Al-Ghafir* (The Forgiver)

- More stories of Moses and Pharaoh
- Earth as a place of settlement (40:65). Wonder how this will hold up in, I don't know, a few hundred years from now when civilization will be on other planets.

## 41. *Fussilat* (Explained in Detail)

- Arabic Quran strikes again (41:4)
- God created Earth, then created the Heavens (41:10 - 41:13)
- If the Quran was not in Arabic, people would have complained, so that is why it's in Arabic so that it's a guidance for those who believe (41:45)

## 42. *Ash-Shura* (Counsel)

- Quran in Arabic (42:8)
- God could have made one religion but he admits who he wills into his mercy (42:9)

## 43. *Az-Zukhruf* (Gold)

- Quran in Arabic so you might understand (43:4)
- Angels can't be female (43:20)
- Those who believed and were Muslims (submitted their will to the Lord) will enter paradise, where they will be provided with what delights the eyes, and infinite fruit (43:70 - 43:74)

## 44. *Ad-Dukhan* (The Drought)

- Moses and pharaoh again
- Men will be married to fair women with nice eyes in paradise (44:55)
- Quran made easy in your tongue so they can remember it (44:59)

## 45. *Al-Jathiyah* (The Kneeling)

- Nothing new here

## 46. *Al-Ahqaf* (The Sandhills)

- Nothing new here

## 47. *Muhammad* (Muhammad)

- Worldly things promised in the afterlife, including wine, which is banned on Earth (47:16)

## 48. *Al-Fath* (The Victory)

- Punish polytheists who think ill of God (48:7)

## 49. *Al-Hujurat* (The Apartments)

- Do not be loud in the presence of Muhammad (49:3 - 49:4)
- Avoid assumptions, do not spy, do not backbite (49:13). This is a very good teaching. Recall when MGA tried to spy on other Muslims for the British government?

## 50. *Qaf* (Qaf)

- People will have whatever they wish in paradise (50:36). Just sits wrong with me that we are told to believe and do good in wait of an afterlife so we can finally do whatever we wanted to do on earth there

## 51. *Ad-Dhariyat* (The Scatterers)

- Men and jinn were created to worship God (51:57)

## 52. *At-Tur* (The Mountain)

- Men will be married to fair women with large, beautiful eyes (52:21)

## 53. *An-Najm* (The Star)

- Those who do not believe in the Hereafter call angels by female names (53:28)

## 54. *Al-Qamar* (The Moon)

- Nothing new here

## 55. *Ar-Rahman* (The Beneficent)

- Nothing new here

## 56. *Al-Waqi'ah* (The Event)

- God has created new women in paradise, who are virgins and devoted to their husbands for those who followed the right way (56:36 - 56:39)

## 57. *Al-Hadid* (Iron)

- Nothing new here

## 58. *Al-Mujadilah* (The Pleading Woman)

- A woman complains to Muhammad, then God says he's heard her plea, so basically, if a man tells his wife that she's like his mother (in the sense of "you're annoying like my mother and I don't like you"), the husband has to free a slave, fast for 2 months, or feed 60 people before he can have sex with her again (58:2 - 58:5)

## 59. *Al-Hashr* (The Banishment)

- Nothing new here

## 60. *Al-Mumtahanah* (The Woman who is Examined)

- Essentially saying not to be friends with people who kicked Muhammad out of Mecca

## 61. *As-Saff* (The Ranks)

- Nothing new here

## 62. *Al-Jumu'ah* (The Congregation)

- Nothing new here

## 63. *Al-Munafiqun* (The Hypocrites)

- Nothing new here

## 64. *At-Taghabun* (The Manifestation of Losses)

- No disaster strikes except by permission of Allah

## 65. *At-Talaq* (Divorce)

- Nothing new here

## 66. *At-Tahrim* (The Prohibition)

- Muhammad has some domestic problems where two of his wives are talking behind his back concerning him “drinking honey” at another wife’s house, so then God tells Muhammad that he is not prohibited from what’s lawful for him, and that his two wives (Aisha and Hafsa) better repent unless they want God to divorce them from Muhammad and find him better wives (66:2 - 66:6)
- -----
- About ~95% done at this point - only two more parts of the Quran left

## 67. *Al-Mulk* (The Kingdom)

- Nothing new here

## 68. *Al-Qalam* (The Pen)

- Muhammad is not a madman (68:3). This is mentioned pretty often.
- God doesn't like that people call the Quran "legends of the former peoples" (68:16), even though a lot of the Quran is just repeated from the Bible (i.e. the people are correct in their claim)

## 69. *Al-Haqqah* (The Sure Truth)

- If Muhammad was lying, God would have seized him by his right hand and cut his life-vein (69:45 - 69:48). If God can do such miracles, why doesn't he just do them?

## 70. *Al-Ma'arij* (The Ways of Ascent)

- Guide your private parts, except from your wives or your slaves (70:30 - 70:31)

## 71. *Nuh* (Noah)

- Nothing new here

## 72. *Al-Jinn* (The Jinn)

- Whoever disobeys God and Muhammad - they will abide forever in Hell (72:24)

## 73. *Al-Muzzammil* (The One Covering Himself)

- Nothing new here

## 74. *Al-Muddaththir* (The One Wrapping Himself Up)

- Nothing new here

## 75. *Al-Qiyamah* (The Resurrection)

- Nothing new here

## 76. *Al-Insan* (The Man)

- Nothing new here

## 77. *Al-Mursalat* (Those Sent Forth)

- Nothing new here
- -----
- 29/30 parts finished! Only one left to do

## 78. *An-Naba'* (The Announcement)

- Night for rest, day for activities (78:10 - 78:12). This would make sense in the past when electrical light didn't exist but in today's world, we are active 24/7.
- Full-breasted companions in heaven (78:34)

## 79. *An-Nazi'at* (Those Who Yearn)

- Nothing new here

## 80. *'Abasa* (He Frowned)

- Nothing new here

## 81. *At-Takwir* (The Folding Up)

- Nothing new here

## 82. *Al-Infitar* (The Cleaving)

- Nothing new here

## 83. *At-Tatfif* (Default in Duty)

- Nothing new here

## 84. *Al-Inshiqaq* (The Bursting Asunder)

- Nothing new here

## 85. *Al-Buruj* (The Stars)

- I want to say nothing new here (which is the case) but I'll explain it briefly: the past few chapters, including this one, as well as the ones coming up (most likely) are talking about the exact same thing: all those who believed will go to heaven while the disbelievers will go to hell. So it really provides no new information which we haven't known previously. I understand repetition to drive a point but the Quran's taking it too far.

## 86. *At-Tariq* (The Comer by Night)

- Sperm comes from between the backbone and the ribs (86:7 - 86:8). This was the (incorrect) belief held at the time.

## 87. *Al-A'la* (The Most High)

- Nothing new here



## 88. *Al-Ghashiyah* (The Overwhelming Event)

- More descriptions of hell (boiling water as drink, thorny plants as food)

## 89. *Al-Fajr* (The Daybreak)

- Nothing new here

## 90. *Al-Balad* (The City)

- Created man into hardship (90:5)
- Difficult pass defined as: freeing of a slave, feeding during fasting, taking care of orphans/the needy, being among those who believed and advise them to be compassionate (90:13 - 90:19). This is a nice set of verses

## 91. *Ash-Shams* (The Sun)

- People harmed the she-camel: this is a story often repeated in the Quran but I didn't pay much attention

## 92. *Al-Lail* (The Night)

- Nothing new here

## 93. *Ad-Duha* (The Brightness of the Day)

- Nothing new here

## 94. *Al-Inshirah* (The Expansion)

- Nothing new here

## 95. *At-Tin* (The Fig)

- Nothing new here

## 96. *Al-'Alaq* (The Clot)

- Nothing new here

## 97. *Al-Qadr* (The Majesty)

- Night of Decree which is better than a thousand months because the angels and the spirit descend by the permission of God. This is what all Muslims aspire to achieve

## 98. *Al-Bayyinah* (The Clear Evidence)

- Those who reject the truth and the polytheists will be in Hell. They are the worst of creatures. (98:7)

## 99. *Al-Zilzal* (The Shaking)

- Nothing new here

## 100. *Al-'Adiyat* (The Assaulters)

- Nothing new here

## 101. *Al-Qari'ah* (The Calamity)

- Nothing new here

## 102. *At-Takathur* (The Abundance of Wealth)

- Nothing new here

## 103. *Al-'Asr* (The Time)

- Nothing new here

## 104. *Al-Humazah* (The Slanderer)

- Nothing new here

## 105. *Al-Fil* (The Elephant)

- Nothing new here

## 106. *Al-Quraish* (The Quraish)

- Nothing new here

## 107. *Al-Ma'un* (Acts of Kindness)

- Nothing new here

## 108. *Al-Kauthar* (The Abundance of Good)

- Nothing new here

## 109. *Al-Kafirun* (The Disbelievers)

- For you is your religion and for me is my religion (109:7). Nice verse - would have loved to see more of this in the Quran instead of casting all disbelievers to hell, eternally

## 110. *An-Nasr* (The Help)

- Nothing new here

## 111. *Al-Lahab* (The Flame)

- Muhammad's uncle, Abu Lahab, rejects Muhammad's message, so this sura is "revealed", where God says that Abu Lahab and his wife will go to hell

## 112. *Al-Ikhlās* (The Unity)

- Nothing new here

## 113. *Al-Falaq* (The Dawn)

- Nothing new here

## 114. *An-Nas* (The Men)

- Prayer to seek refuge from the whisperer who whispers evil into mankind
- -----
- And with the end of An-Nas, we have finished all 30 parts of the Quran! The last part was fairly underwhelming, with small surahs just repeating the same narrative from earlier parts (so concepts such as heaven, hell, believers, disbelievers, day of judgment etc.)

## Rough Notes

### General Themes

- What are the most prominent/discussed topics in the Quran?
  - In my opinion, there is a lot of talk of how you should not disbelieve in Allah: if you do, you're on your way to hell (described as a place filled with fire, boiling water, thorny plants, eternal) and if you believe, you'll go to heaven (gardens, rivers, fruits, wine, fair maidens with big breasts etc.). A lot of it is also dedicated to repeating stories from the Bible: there is a lot on Moses and the Pharaoh, Noah with the Flood, Lot and the homosexuals, Abraham and his wife, Adam and the original sin, Solomon and the animal kingdom. Lots of description of nature (e.g. sun, moon, birth) and how those indicate God's existence. There is a minimal amount of references to morals/ethics: they briefly talk about justice, good conduct, do not commit abuse, and they do emphasize on prayer, zakah, and freeing slaves.
- What are some convincing arguments to believe in God?
  - Note that people asked God for signs but he never delivered any during the time of Muhammad (20:134, 21:6)
- What is some knowledge in the Quran that only God could have known at the time?
- What is the overall language used in the Quran? Merciful? Peaceful? Inviting? Harsh? Angry? Cruel?
- Quran doesn't teach *how to* practice Islam: we only know this from Hadith and Sunnah. We also know that not all Muslims agree on these. Should this have been in the Quran?
- How is the Quran a guidance for mankind? What kind of knowledge is embedded such that it can help people lead better lives individually, for their families, for their societies? How does it encourage peace?
- Quran never talks about anyone or anything beyond the middle east. For example, it only mentions prophets known in the Bible or it references cities such as Mecca and Medina. Why does it not mention prophets such as Buddha, or Krishna, who are much bigger prophets?
- The overall tone in the book seems to reflect it was primarily written to men: how do you feel about that statement?
  - Refer to: 2:188, 2:222, 2:224, 4:4, 4:23, 4:35, 4:44
- What do you make of the fact that there is no historical evidence that someone like Moses existed, despite the fact that he caused miracles with one of the pharaohs in Egypt?

Not only do we have rich documentation from that era but the Quran never mentions the pharaoh by name. Also, it misunderstands and states that the pharaoh thinks he's the only god people should pray to (28:39) when that was not the case (the ancient Egyptians were polytheist and they believed in the sun god)

- Why is the Quran against polytheism (98:7)? Also, why does the Quran not talk about lack of belief (i.e. atheism)?

#### Verses

- Created Earth first, then the heavens (2:29 and 41:10)
- Regarding men's superiority: 2:229 (men have advantage over women), 2:283 (two female witnesses for one male), 4:4 (can marry four wives), 4:12 (men have 2x inheritance), 4:35 (how men can handle their disobedient wives), 23:6 (sex allowed with female slaves – only for men), 37:49 (women waiting for male believers), 56:36 (virgin women in paradise), 70:30 (sex with female slaves), 78:34 (full-breasted companions in heaven – note that the Ahmadiyya translation is the only one which doesn't mention this)
- Don't be friends with family if they are disbelievers (9:24). Also note how it only mentions fathers or brothers.
- Quran sent in Arabic so you might understand (12:3). Who is the Quran talking to? Is it ever indicated that the Quran was to be shared with people from foreign lands? Additionally, no one speaks this kind of Arabic (think Shakespearean English) so it's not timeless on that regard either
- Jesus talking to Jewish elders while he was a baby (19:30 – 19:35)
- The sun and moon in orbit (21:34)
- Incorrect biology describing human development (22:6) – it says first there is sperm, then there is a clot, then flesh, then bones, then muscles envelope the bones (this was the understanding at that time). Not only are clots not generated, but bones and muscles are constructed at the same time. Additionally, it states that semen is from between the backbone and ribs (86:7), which was also an incorrect belief held at the time. It comes from the testicles. Also, the Quran always states that birth comes from semen – why does it never mention the ovum?
- Validating the idea of slaves being part of society (30:29). Maybe it made sense at the time but there has to be a better analogy that would remain timeless and more ethical. Also, slavery not banned.
- Adoption in Islam (33:5) – they do not take your name, they do not inherit from adoptive parents, you have to observe Purdah, you can marry them

- Muhammad revealed a verse for allowing him to marry Zainab, Zaid's ex-wife, making Zainab his daughter-in-law at some point (33:38). Not only was this a controversy at the time, but why does God talk to Muhammad directly instead of making a blanket statement?
- Muhammad can marry any woman he wants (33:51) – was this the best way to handle all of the issues he tried to solve? He can also still have sex slaves (33:53)
- Women should cover themselves so they are not molested (33:60)
- God doesn't like idols (37:96)
- Wine will be found in heaven (47:16)
- Muhammad has domestic problems and God threatens his wives (66:2 – 66:6)
- Eternal hell for those who disobey Allah and Muhammad (72:24)

## Macro Themes:

- **Thesis is to believe in God, not to be a good person. God does not like those who pray to beings aside from him. He doesn't like polytheists. We see that God punishes societies for not praying to him, not because they were morally absent. View 98:7. Found from Reddit: <https://i.redd.it/d1k2o2nvb9sx.png>. Additionally, refer to <https://skepticsannotatedbible.com/quran/int/long.html>.**
  - Combine with: Uses a lot of fear to convince people. Describes at length what hell will be like, how God will punish those who disbelieve etc. Language is filled with punishment, pain, harshness. Eternal hell for those who disbelieve, not necessarily bad people. God also chooses who to guide and misguide (36:6 - 36:11)
- **It is repetitive: the stories of Iblees, Moses, Hud etc. appear multiple times, sometimes close to 10 times. Not only do these stories repeat themselves but they all offer the same takeaway: believe in God or you will be destroyed. These stories don't show you how to be a good person, or how God ensures the peace of those who do good works.**
- Book is largely directed towards men (the Houris waiting for them, who they can marry, who they can have sex with, how to divorce their wives, how to beat their wives etc.)
- Has no convincing arguments to believe in the author: it simply tells you that God did X or Y, but it never provides a logical explanation as to what actually necessitates belief. It can't seem to follow "show, don't tell" - instead of showing you God's existence and goodness, it simply tells you to believe in it unless you wish to face the wrath of God.
- People at the time were not convinced: they recognized that these were repeated stories or that God did not show them any signs. They would call Muhammad a madman. He can't even answer what the soul is. View 68:16
- Knowledge is limited to middle-east: only talks of prophets found in the Bible, and surrounding areas (e.g. Egypt). It never acknowledges other major countries/regions/religions.
- Very selective in its specificity: contrast how it talks about hell to how it talks about reproduction or Earth created in six days.
- Unable to verify claims (e.g. Moses - Exodus)
- **Seems to be locked in time/location - refer to verses where it talks of how it was revealed in Arabic or how mules were used for transportation etc. It additionally never abolishes slavery: while there may be arguments for why that was impossible then, it's important to realize that having slaves, having sex with those slaves (if you're male) is completely Islamic (refer to metaphor)**

## Micro Themes:

- Incorrect science (e.g. sun around earth - link to geocentric image, moon being a light, location of semen, reproduction etc.)
- Incorrect history (e.g. egyptology - link to: [https://www.answering-islam.org/Quran/Contra/old\\_pharaoh.html](https://www.answering-islam.org/Quran/Contra/old_pharaoh.html))



- Status of women (2 witnesses, half inheritance, can beat wives, women cover themselves to not be molested - it can list punishment for stealing but not punishment for rape/unconsented sex, angels couldn't possibly be female, Quran talks to men, Overly sensual description of Houris etc.)
- Catering to Muhammad's needs (marrying Zainab and domestic problems in CH66, God tells his guests to leave his house, he can have multiple wives - Saffiyah, Al-Lahab, he can have sex slaves as per 33:52, ).

Misc:

3:179 - disbelievers live for a long time so they can increase in sin

5:39 - cut off hands of thieves. Use Hadith (Sahih al-Bukhari 6799) to say what is good enough to cut someone's hand.

5:49 - multiple religions so that we are tested. Also view 42:9. Most people do not convert outside their religion.

29:52 - is it not sufficient that the Quran was revealed to them?