

سُورَةُ الْعَصْرِ – Time – Sūratu l-‘Aṣr

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالْعَصْرِ ﴿١﴾ إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ ﴿٢﴾ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَّصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَّصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ ﴿٣﴾

In the name of Allāh, the Unimaginably Merciful, the All-Merciful:

¹ By the declining day, * ² man is [deep] in loss, ³ except for those who believe, do good deeds, urge one another to the truth, and urge one another to steadfastness. [M. A. S. Abdel Haleem]

* Other interpretations include ‘time’ and ‘the flight of time’.

Vocabulary Words

they did [3+ M]	عَمِلُوا	I swear by...	وَ (the first one)
righteous deeds	الصَّالِحَاتِ	time	الْعَصْرِ
they urged one another [3+ M]	تَوَّصَوْا	the human	الْإِنْسَانَ
truth	الْحَقِّ	loss	خُسْرٍ
patience	الصَّبْرِ	they believed [3+ M]	ءَامَنُوا

Short-Answer Questions

1. Is this a مَكِّيَّة or a مَدَنِيَّة sūrah? What does that mean?

- a. This sūrah is مَكِّيَّة , meaning it was revealed **1)** while the Prophet Muḥammad, صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ , was residing in Makkah, **2)** in the first 13 years of receiving waḥy (revelation), **3)** before the hijrah (migration).

2. How does this sūrah connect to the one before it, at-Takāthur?

Connection	at-Takāthur	al-‘Aṣr
a.	at-Takāthur means “ competing to get more and more. ”	It speaks about a tremendous loss.
b.	It mentions people being distracted from something without mentioning what it is.	It mentions from what people are distracted—believing, doing righteous deeds, urging one another with truth, and urging one another with patience.

3. What is the significance of using the word **الْعَصْر** ?

- a. It implies that time is being squeezed away, quickly ending.
- b. It refers to a time when merchants used to quickly do business because ‘aṣr is right before sunset when it used to become too dark to continue buying and selling things.
- c. It gives the reader or listener of this sūrah a sense of urgency—that time is running out, and they have to act fast.

4. What is the main message of this sūrah?

- a. It describes how one can avoid failure and tremendous loss.

5. Can someone simply do one of the things mentioned in this sūrah to avoid tremendous loss or must they do them all?

- a. They must do all of them because the ‘āyah has a **و** between each part meaning “and.” If someone does only two or three of them, they will still be in a tremendous loss.