Stories from the Qur'an
Series 34

A Town by the Sea

The Story of Those Who Broke the Sabbath According to the Qur'an and Authentic Hadith



Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

STORIES FROM THE QUR'AN

SERIES 34

A TOWN BY THE SEA

The Story of Those Who Broke the Sabbath According to the Qur'an and Authentic Hadith

فَلَمَّا نَسُوا۟ مَا ذُكِّرُوا۟ بِهِۦٓ أَنجَيْنَا ٱلَّذِينَ يَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ ٱلسُّوٓءِ وَأَخَذْنَا ٱلَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا۟ بِعَذَابٍۭ بَـِٔيسٍۭ بِمَا كَانُوا۟ يَفْسُقُونَ

"And when they forgot that by which they had been reminded, We saved those who had forbidden evil and seized those who wronged, with a wretched punishment, because they were defiantly disobeying."

SURAH AL-A'RAF 7:165

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise is due to Allah, who tests His servants with what they desire, and saves those who call to what is good. Blessings and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, who gave the parable of the ship for a society that guards the limits of Allah, and upon his family and his Companions.

This eBook is specially dedicated to my beloved wife,

ZAHARAH MOHD LATIF;

my dear children,

MUHAMMAD HAFIZ, NOOR HAZWANI, ABDUL HAKIM, NOOR HIDAYAH, NOR AQILA and **NOR ATIQAH**;

and my sons- and daughters-in-law,

FAZILAH, MALEK, HANIN, FAIRIZAL and **FIRWAN**.

May Allah make us among those who enjoin good and forbid evil, and keep us far from tricks that make lawful what He has forbidden. May this knowledge be ‘ilmun yuntafa‘u bih, knowledge that brings benefit.

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ABOUT THE COVER OF THIS EBOOK

The cover of this eBook does not depict any human being or animal. It shows the **scenery** of a **calm bay** by the sea, with **old houses** along the shore and **clear sea water**, at sunrise.

The scene is taken from the words of Allah: ***"And ask them about the town that was by the sea"*** (7:163). The Qur'an does not name the town, so the cover does not depict any actual town.

The cover does not depict the people of the town, the fish or the apes. The **dark blue band** at the bottom, framed by **fine gold lines**, is where the author's name appears.

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CONTENTS

A TOWN BY THE SEA — *Introduction*

1. FISH ON THE SABBATH — *Al-A'raf 7:163*

2. TRICKS TO MAKE THE FORBIDDEN LAWFUL — *Al-A'raf 7:163; Sahih al-Bukhari 2223*

3. THREE GROUPS — *Al-A'raf 7:164*

4. THOSE WHO FORBADE WERE SAVED — *Al-A'raf 7:165; Sahih al-Bukhari 2493*

5. "BE APES, DESPISED" — *Al-A'raf 7:166; Al-Baqarah 2:65–66; Sahih Muslim 2663*

6. A WARNING FOR THIS UMMAH — *Al-Ma'idah 5:78–79; Sahih al-Bukhari 7320*

7. WHAT THE QUR'AN DOES NOT TELL — *Israiliyyat and Archaeological Note*

8. DO NOT STAY SILENT — *Synthesis and Conclusion*

REFERENCES

SUPPORT & DONATIONS

Colour guide: green box = verses of the Qur'an; gold box = Hadith; brown box = archaeological note; blue table = comparison. Underlined blue narrator names can be clicked to open the narrator's page on sunnah.com.

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A TOWN BY THE SEA

The Children of Israel were commanded to honour the ***Sabbath*** (Saturday) and not to work on it. In a town by the sea, Allah tested them with fish that surfaced only on the Sabbath. Some broke the command with a trick, some gave advice, and some stayed silent.

This story is not merely the history of the Children of Israel. It is a mirror for every society: how a ***trick*** can make the forbidden lawful, and how ***advising*** can become a cause of salvation. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 7:163

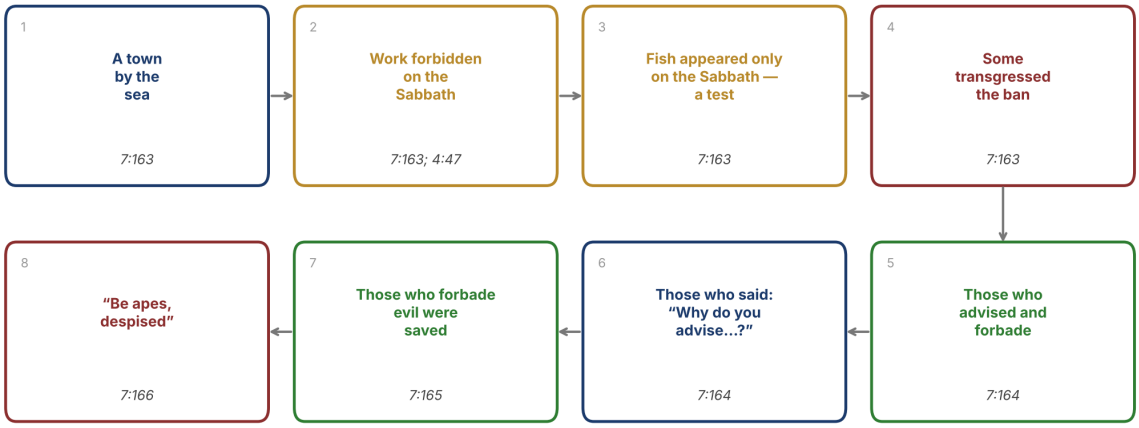


Figure 1: The flow of the story of the town by the sea according to Surah Al-A'raf 7:163–166.

Note: The translation of the Qur'anic verses in this eBook is Sahih International. The grade of every Hadith is stated in the Hadith box, with a link to sunnah.com.

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FISH ON THE SABBATH

SURAH AL-A'RAF 7:163

وَسْـَٔلْهُمْ عَنِ ٱلْقَرْيَةِ ٱلَّتِى كَانَتْ حَاضِرَةَ ٱلْبَحْرِ إِذْ يَعْدُونَ فِى ٱلسَّبْتِ إِذْ تَأْتِيهِمْ حِيتَانُهُمْ يَوْمَ سَبْتِهِمْ شُرَّعًا وَيَوْمَ لَا يَسْبِتُونَ لَا تَأْتِيهِمْ ۚ كَذَٰلِكَ نَبْلُوهُم بِمَا كَانُوا۟ يَفْسُقُونَ ﴿١٦٣﴾

And ask them about the town that was by the sea - when they transgressed in [the matter of] the sabbath - when their fish came to them openly on their sabbath day, and the day they had no sabbath they did not come to them. Thus did We give them trial because they were defiantly disobedient.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/7:163

COMMENTARY ON VERSE 7:163 — A TEST THAT APPEALS TO DESIRE

First: A history known to the People of the Book. ***"And ask them about the town that was by the sea"***. Allah commanded the Messenger of Allah ﷺ to ask the Jews about a story they themselves knew.

Tafsir Ibn Kathir 7:163

Second: A precise test. ***"when their fish came to them openly on their sabbath day, and the day they had no sabbath they did not come to them"***. The test came in what tempted them most, at the very time it was forbidden.

Third: The reason for the test. ***"Thus did We give them trial because they were defiantly disobedient"***. Persistent disobedience invites heavier trials.

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TRICKS TO MAKE THE FORBIDDEN LAWFUL

HOW DID THEY TRANSGRESS?

First: The trick mentioned by the commentators. Ibn Kathir and other commentators mention that they set nets or dug pools on Friday, let the fish be trapped on the Sabbath, then took them on Sunday — as if they had not worked on the Sabbath. The Qur'an itself only states that they ***transgressed*** (ya'dun) in the matter of the Sabbath. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 7:163

Second: A trick does not change reality. Changing the outward form of an act does not make the forbidden lawful. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ mentioned a similar trick:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 2223

حَدَّثَنَا الْحُمَيْدِيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا سُفْيَانُ، حَدَّثَنَا عَمْرُو بْنُ دِينَارٍ، قَالَ أَخْبَرَنِي طَاوُسٌ، أَنَّهُ سَمِعَ ابْنَ عَبَّاسٍ ـ رضى الله عنهما ـ يَقُولُ بَلَغَ عُمَرَ أَنَّ فُلاَنًا بَاعَ خَمْرًا فَقَالَ قَاتَلَ اللَّهُ فُلاَنًا، أَلَمْ يَعْلَمْ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « قَاتَلَ اللَّهُ الْيَهُودَ، حُرِّمَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ الشُّحُومُ فَجَمَلُوهَا فَبَاعُوهَا ».

TRANSLATION:

Ibn 'Abbas رضى الله عنهما said: News reached 'Umar that a certain man had sold wine. 'Umar said: May Allah destroy so-and-so! Does he not know that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"May Allah destroy the Jews; the fat (of animals) was forbidden to them, so they melted it and sold it."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from al-Humaidi, from Sufyan ibn 'Uyainah, from 'Amr ibn Dinar, from Tawus ibn Kaisan, from 'Abdullah ibn 'Abbas, from 'Umar ibn al-Khattab رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Sales, chapter: the fat of dead animals is not to be melted and sold, Hadith No. 2223. Also narrated by Muslim (No. 1582).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:2223

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THREE GROUPS

SURAH AL-A'RAF 7:164

وَإِذْ قَالَتْ أُمَّةٌ مِّنْهُمْ لِمَ تَعِظُونَ قَوْمًا ٱللَّهُ مُهْلِكُهُمْ أَوْ مُعَذِّبُهُمْ عَذَابًا شَدِيدًا ۖ
قَالُوا۟ مَعْذِرَةً إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ وَلَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٦٤﴾

And when a community among them said, "Why do you advise [or warn] a people whom Allah is [about] to destroy or to punish with a severe punishment?" they [the advisors] said, "To be absolved before your Lord and perhaps they may fear Him."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/7:164

COMMENTARY ON VERSE 7:164 — WHY KEEP ADVISING?

First: The group that despaired. ***"Why do you advise [or warn] a people whom Allah is [about] to destroy or to punish with a severe punishment?"*** They did not transgress, but they considered advice to be useless. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 7:164

Second: The answer of the advisors. ***"To be absolved before your Lord and perhaps they may fear Him"***. Two aims: ***to be free of responsibility before Allah***, and the ***hope*** that they would return.

Third: Three groups in every society. Those who transgress, those who stay silent, and those who advise. This story asks us: in which group do we stand?

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THOSE WHO FORBADE WERE SAVED

SURAH AL-A'RAF 7:165

فَلَمَّا نَسُوا۟ مَا ذُكِّرُوا۟ بِهِۦٓ أَنجَيْنَا ٱلَّذِينَ يَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ ٱلسُّوٓءِ وَأَخَذْنَا ٱلَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا۟ بِعَذَابٍۭ بَـِٔيسٍۭ بِمَا كَانُوا۟ يَفْسُقُونَ ﴿١٦٥﴾

And when they forgot that by which they had been reminded, We saved those who had forbidden evil and seized those who wronged, with a wretched punishment, because they were defiantly disobeying.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/7:165

COMMENTARY ON VERSE 7:165 — SAVED FOR FORBIDDING EVIL

First: The reminder forgotten. ***"And when they forgot that by which they had been reminded"***.

Second: Who was saved. ***"We saved those who had forbidden evil and seized those who wronged, with a wretched punishment"***. Those clearly mentioned as saved are ***those who had forbidden evil***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 7:165

Third: The parable of the ship. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ explained why forbidding evil saves the whole society:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 2493

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو نُعَيْمٍ، حَدَّثَنَا زَكَرِيَّاءُ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ عَامِرًا، يَقُولُ سَمِعْتُ النُّعْمَانَ بْنَ بَشِيرٍ ـ رضى الله عنهما ـ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « مَثَلُ الْقَائِمِ عَلَى حُدُودِ اللَّهِ وَالْوَاقِعِ فِيهَا كَمَثَلِ قَوْمٍ اسْتَهَمُوا عَلَى سَفِينَةٍ، فَأَصَابَ بَعْضُهُمْ أَعْلاَهَا وَبَعْضُهُمْ أَسْفَلَهَا، فَكَانَ الَّذِينَ فِي أَسْفَلِهَا إِذَا اسْتَقَوْا مِنَ الْمَاءِ مَرُّوا عَلَى مَنْ فَوْقَهُمْ فَقَالُوا لَوْ أَنَّا خَرَقْنَا فِي نَصِيبِنَا خَرْقًا، وَلَمْ نُؤْذِ مَنْ فَوْقَنَا. فَإِنْ يَتْرُكُوهُمْ وَمَا أَرَادُوا هَلَكُوا جَمِيعًا، وَإِنْ أَخَذُوا عَلَى أَيْدِيهِمْ نَجَوْا وَنَجَوْا جَمِيعًا ».

TRANSLATION:

An-Nu'man ibn Bashir رضى الله عنهما narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said: **"The example of the one who abides by the limits of Allah and the one who violates them is like people who drew lots for places on a ship. Some of them got the upper deck and some the lower. When those below needed water, they had to pass by those above. So they said: If we make a hole in our share of the ship, we will not trouble those**

above us. If they are left to do what they want, they will all perish. But if they hold them back, they will be saved, and all of them will be saved."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Abu Nu'aim al-Fadl ibn Dukain, from Zakariyya ibn Abi Za'idah, from 'Amir ash-Sha'bi, from an-Nu'man ibn Bashir رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Partnership, chapter: may lots be drawn in dividing?, Hadith No. 2493.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:2493

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"BE APES, DESPISED"

SURAH AL-A'RAF 7:166

فَلَمَّا عَتَوْا۟ عَن مَّا نُهُوا۟ عَنْهُ قُلْنَا لَهُمْ كُونُوا۟ قِرَدَةً خَٰسِـِٔينَ ﴿١٦٦﴾

So when they were insolent about that which they had been forbidden, We said to them, "Be apes, despised."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/7:166

SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:66

فَجَعَلْنَٰهَا نَكَٰلًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهَا وَمَا خَلْفَهَا وَمَوْعِظَةً لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿٦٦﴾

And We made it a deterrent punishment for those who were present and those who succeeded [them] and a lesson for those who fear Allah.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/2:66

COMMENTARY ON VERSES 7:166 AND 2:65–66 — A PUNISHMENT THAT BECAME A LESSON

First: Insolence after the prohibition. ***"So when they were insolent about that which they had been forbidden"***, Allah said to them: ***"Be apes, despised"***.

Second: A lesson for every generation. ***"And We made it a deterrent punishment for those who were present and those who succeeded [them] and a lesson for those who fear Allah"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 2:65

Third: Today's apes are not their descendants. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ explained that the transformed people left no offspring:

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2663

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو بَكْرِ بْنُ أَبِي شَيْبَةَ، وَأَبُو كُرَيْبٍ - وَاللَّفْظُ لأَبِي بَكْرٍ - قَالاَ حَدَّثَنَا وَكِيعٌ، عَنْ مِسْعَرٍ، عَنْ عَلْقَمَةَ بْنِ مَرْثَدٍ، عَنِ الْمُغِيرَةِ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ الْيَشْكُرِيِّ، عَنِ الْمَعْرُورِ بْنِ سُوَيْدٍ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ، قَالَ قَالَتْ أُمُّ حَبِيبَةَ زَوْجُ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم اللَّهُمَّ أَمْتِعْنِي بِزَوْجِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم وَبِأَبِي أَبِي سُفْيَانَ وَبِأَخِي مُعَاوِيَةَ. قَالَ فَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ صلى الله عليه وسلم « قَدْ سَأَلْتِ اللَّهَ لآجَالٍ مَضْرُوبَةٍ وَأَيَّامٍ مَعْدُودَةٍ وَأَرْزَاقٍ مَقْسُومَةٍ لَنْ

يُعَجِّلَ شَيْئًا قَبْلَ حِلِّهِ أَوْ يُؤَخِّرَ شَيْئًا عَنْ حِلِّهِ وَلَوْ كُنْتِ سَأَلْتِ اللَّهَ أَنْ يُعِيذَكِ مِنْ عَذَابٍ فِي النَّارِ أَوْ عَذَابٍ فِي الْقَبْرِ كَانَ خَيْرًا وَأَفْضَلَ ». قَالَ وَذُكِرَتْ عِنْدَهُ الْقِرَدَةُ قَالَ مِسْعَرٌ وَأُرَاهُ قَالَ وَالْخَنَازِيرُ مِنْ مَسْخٍ فَقَالَ « إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمْ يَجْعَلْ لِمَسْخٍ نَسْلاً وَلاَ عَقِبًا وَقَدْ كَانَتِ الْقِرَدَةُ وَالْخَنَازِيرُ قَبْلَ ذَلِكَ ».

TRANSLATION:

'Abdullah (ibn Mas'ud) رضى الله عنه said: Umm Habibah, the wife of the Prophet ﷺ, supplicated: O Allah, let me enjoy (long life) with my husband the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, my father Abu Sufyan and my brother Mu'awiyah. The Prophet ﷺ said: **"You have asked Allah about durations already fixed, days already numbered and provisions already allotted… Had you asked Allah to protect you from the punishment of the Fire or the punishment of the grave, it would have been better."** Then apes and swine were mentioned in his presence (whether they descended from the people who were transformed). He said: **"Allah did not give the transformed people any offspring or progeny. Apes and swine existed before that."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Abu Bakr ibn Abi Shaibah and Abu Kuraib, from Waki' ibn al-Jarrah, from Mis'ar ibn Kidam, from 'Algamah ibn Marthad, from al-Mughirah ibn 'Abdillah al-Yashkuri, from al-Ma'rur ibn Suwaid, from 'Abdullah ibn Mas'ud رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Destiny, chapter: lifespans and provisions neither increase nor decrease from what has been decreed, Hadith No. 2663.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim, the second most authentic book of Hadith after Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2663b

A WARNING FOR THIS UMMAH

SURAH AL-MA'IDAH 5:78

لُعِنَ ٱلَّذِينَ كَفَرُواْ مِنۢ بَنِيٓ إِسۡرَٰٓءِيلَ عَلَىٰ لِسَانِ دَاوُۥدَ وَعِيسَى ٱبۡنِ مَرۡيَمَۚ ذَٰلِكَ بِمَا عَصَواْ وَّكَانُواْ يَعۡتَدُونَ ٧٨

Cursed were those who disbelieved among the Children of Israel by the tongue of David and of Jesus, the son of Mary. That was because they disobeyed and [habitually] transgressed.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/5:78

SURAH AL-MA'IDAH 5:79

كَانُواْ لَا يَتَنَاهَوۡنَ عَن مُّنكَرٖ فَعَلُوهُۚ لَبِئۡسَ مَا كَانُواْ يَفۡعَلُونَ ٧٩

They used not to prevent one another from wrongdoing that they did. How wretched was that which they were doing?

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/5:79

COMMENTARY ON VERSES 5:78–79 — WHEN A SOCIETY STOPS FORBIDDING

First: The cause of the curse. ***"They used not to prevent one another from wrongdoing that they did"***. Their greatest sin was not only committing sins, but ***ceasing to forbid one another***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 5:79

Second: We will follow in their footsteps. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ warned that this Ummah would follow the ways of earlier nations:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 7320

حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ عَبْدِ الْعَزِيزِ، حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو عُمَرَ الصَّنْعَانِيُّ - مِنَ الْيَمَنِ - عَنْ زَيْدِ بْنِ أَسْلَمَ، عَنْ عَطَاءِ بْنِ يَسَارٍ، عَنْ أَبِي سَعِيدٍ الْخُدْرِيِّ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « لَتَتْبَعُنَّ سَنَنَ مَنْ كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ شِبْرًا شِبْرًا وَذِرَاعًا بِذِرَاعٍ، حَتَّى لَوْ دَخَلُوا جُحْرَ ضَبٍّ تَبِعْتُمُوهُمْ ». قُلْنَا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ الْيَهُودُ وَالنَّصَارَى قَالَ « فَمَنْ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Sa'id al-Khudri رضى الله عنه narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said: **"You will surely follow the ways of those before you, span by span and cubit by cubit, so that even if they entered a lizard's hole, you would follow them."** We said: O Messenger of Allah, (do you mean) the Jews and the Christians? He said: **"Who else?"**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, from Abu 'Umar as-San'ani, from Zaid ibn Aslam, from 'Ata' ibn Yasar, from Abu Sa'id al-Khudri رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Holding Fast to the Qur'an and Sunnah, chapter: the saying of the Prophet ﷺ "You will surely follow the ways of those before you", Hadith No. 7320. Also narrated by Muslim (No. 2669).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:7320

Third: So be on guard. This warning is not a reason to despair, but so that we recognise that path and keep away from it.

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WHAT THE QUR'AN DOES NOT TELL

The Qur'an mentions "the town that was by the sea" without a name or an era. Guided by Sahih al-Bukhari 4485 (Series 1), we add no outside details.

POPULAR STORIES AND WHAT REVELATION STATES

THE POPULAR STORY	WHAT THE QUR'AN AND AUTHENTIC HADITH STATE
The town was Aylah (today's Aqaba/Eilat).	The Qur'an does not name it. This view comes from some of the Salaf and commentators, without an authentic marfu' Hadith.
The number of its inhabitants and of each group.	Not mentioned in the Qur'an or authentic Hadith.
They lived as apes for three days, then died.	Authentic Hadith only states that the transformed people left no offspring (Sahih Muslim 2663). How long they lived is not established.
The fate of those who stayed silent.	The Qur'an only states that those who forbade evil were saved (7:165). The fate of the silent group is a matter of scholarly difference.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTE: AILA (AQABA) AT THE HEAD OF THE RED SEA

Excavations of the **Roman Aqaba Project** uncovered the port city of **Aila** at the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqaba, which flourished from the **first century BC until the Islamic conquest**, before the Islamic town of **Ayla** was built beside it (Parker, 1997). The layers at the site record **seven earthquakes** from the 2nd century AD onwards (Thomas et al., 2007).

Claim not included. The claim that Aila is the town mentioned in Surah Al-A'raf is **not included** — no archaeological evidence links any layer at the site to this story, and the Qur'an does not name the town.

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DO NOT STAY SILENT

The story of the town by the sea is the story of ***three groups***: the transgressors were destroyed, those who forbade evil were saved, and the fate of the silent is not mentioned.

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	Action	Outcome and Lesson
The transgressors	Broke the Sabbath ban (7:163)	"Be apes, despised" (7:166)
The silent	"Why do you advise a people...?" (7:164)	Not mentioned; scholars differ
The forbidders	"To be absolved before your Lord" (7:164)	"We saved those who had forbidden evil" (7:165)
Legal tricks	Melting the forbidden fat (al-Bukhari 2223)	A trick does not change Allah's ruling
Forbidding evil	The parable of the ship (Sahih al-Bukhari 2493)	If restrained, all are saved

Figure 2: The actions and outcome of each group, and their lessons according to authentic Hadith.

LESSONS FROM THIS STORY

First: Allah tests with what the soul desires. (7:163).

Second: Persistent disobedience invites trials. (7:163).

Third: A trick does not make the forbidden lawful. (Sahih al-Bukhari 2223).

Fourth: Keep advising even when it seems futile. (7:164).

Fifth: Those who forbid evil are saved. (7:165; Sahih al-Bukhari 2493).

Sixth: Their punishment is a lesson for all generations. (2:66; Sahih Muslim 2663).

Seventh: A society perishes when it stops forbidding evil. (5:78–79).

Eighth: Beware of following the ways of earlier nations. (Sahih al-Bukhari 7320).

CONCLUSION

Every society has its own "Sabbath" — limits set by Allah and tested by temptation. This story teaches us one short phrase: ***do not stay silent***. Advise with wisdom, for the ship of society is saved only when someone holds back the hand of the one who wants to pierce it. Amin.

In sha Allah, the series **Stories from the Qur'an** will continue with the next story — with the same method: the Qur'an, authentic Hadith, and solid archaeological findings only.

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HADITH AND COMMENTARIES

Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim — Arabic text, chains of narration and narrator pages. https://sunnah.com

Ibn Hajar al-'Asqalani, Fath al-Bari Sharh Sahih al-Bukhari (Book of Sales; Book of Partnership; Book of Holding Fast); al-Nawawi, al-Minhaj Sharh Sahih Muslim (Book of Destiny).

ADDITIONAL HADITH CITED IN THE TEXT

Sahih al-Bukhari 4485 (neither believe nor disbelieve the People of the Book). https://sunnah.com/bukhari:4485

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY (ACADEMIC SOURCES)

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SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:261

مَّثَلُ ٱلَّذِينَ يُنفِقُونَ أَمۡوَٰلَهُمۡ فِي سَبِيلِ ٱللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ حَبَّةٍ أَنۢبَتَتۡ سَبۡعَ سَنَابِلَ فِي كُلِّ سُنۢبُلَةٖ مِّاْئَةُ حَبَّةٖۗ وَٱللَّهُ يُضَٰعِفُ لِمَن يَشَآءُۚ وَٱللَّهُ وَٰسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ٢٦١

The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/2:261

SURAH SABA' 34:39

قُلۡ إِنَّ رَبِّي يَبۡسُطُ ٱلرِّزۡقَ لِمَن يَشَآءُ مِنۡ عِبَادِهِۦ وَيَقۡدِرُ لَهُۥۚ وَمَآ أَنفَقۡتُم مِّن شَيۡءٖ فَهُوَ يُخۡلِفُهُۥۖ وَهُوَ خَيۡرُ ٱلرَّٰزِقِينَ ٣٩

Say, "Indeed, my Lord extends provision for whom He wills of His servants and restricts [it] for him. But whatever thing you spend [in His cause] - He will compensate it; and He is the best of providers."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/34:39

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2588

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ، وَابْنُ، حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - وَهُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « مَا نَقَصَتْ صَدَقَةٌ مِنْ مَالٍ وَمَا زَادَ اللَّهُ عَبْدًا بِعَفْوٍ إِلاَّ عِزًّا وَمَا تَوَاضَعَ أَحَدٌ لِلَّهِ إِلاَّ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "Charity does not decrease wealth.

Allah does not increase a servant who forgives except in honour. And no one humbles himself for the sake of Allah except that Allah raises him in rank."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه .

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Virtue, Good Manners and Joining the Ties of Kinship (Kitab al-Birr wa al-Silah wa al-Adab), chapter on the encouragement of forgiveness and humility, Hadith No. 2588.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2588

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 1631

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ، - يَعْنِي ابْنَ سَعِيدٍ - وَابْنُ حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - هُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « إِذَا مَاتَ الإِنْسَانُ انْقَطَعَ عَنْهُ عَمَلُهُ إِلاَّ مِنْ ثَلاَثَةٍ إِلاَّ مِنْ صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ أَوْ عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ أَوْ وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "When a person dies, his deeds come to an end except for three: an ongoing charity, knowledge that is benefited from, or a righteous child who prays for him."

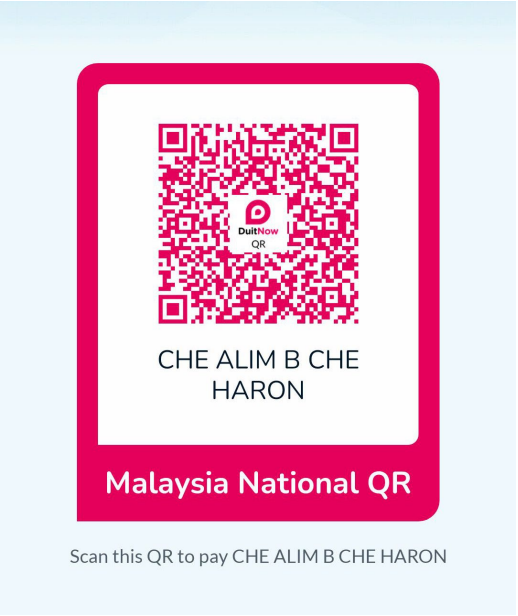
CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه .

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GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:1631

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