

Man in the Glorious Quran

Dr Zaghoul Al Najjar

Course Outline

Course Topics:

1. The Qur'an affirms the existence of the Creator
2. The creation of man
3. Creation of Aadam and Eve versus the creation of their descendants
4. The origin of man
5. False embryological theories across history
6. Embryological development in the Qur'an
7. The starting point of the creation of man
8. The earth components in man
9. The similarity between a leech and the embryo in the Alaqah stage
10. The firmly protected place of the creation of man

Course Objectives:

1. To know the origin, and the developmental stages of man
2. To be able to prove that man has a creator
3. To prove the precedence the Qur'anic description of the development stages over modern scientific embryological discoveries

QUESTION & ANSWER BUCKET

TRANSCRIPTS

ASSESSMENT

Multiple Choice Questions

Match the Columns

True or False

COURSE DURATION

Video	–	2:05 min
Study Guide	–	35 min
Assessment	–	15 min
Total Duration	–	2 hours 55 mins

1. The Qur'an affirms the existence of the Creator

Allah in Suratil Kahf, verse number 51, says "I was not to make them witness the creation of the heavens and the earth, nor the creation of themselves. And I was not to take such misleaders as helpers [to Me]). At the same time, we read in Suratul Ankaboot: (Roam the earth and see how Allah did originate the creation).

How to understand the creation

When we combine such verses in the Glorious Quran, that man did not witness the creation of the universe, nor the creation of himself, at the same time, we find a divine instruction to roam the earth and look for the creation, how it was originated, we can understand that despite the fact that man did not witness the creation of himself, nor the creation of the universe, we can understand that Allah has placed in the rocks of the earth, and in outer space, many signs that can help men to understand the process of creation.

The key factor to this understanding of creation

- i. The process of creation, the process of annihilation and the process of resurrection, can never ever be taken in the right direction without reading what the creator says about this process, in the Glorious Quran, and in the traditions of Muhammad (pbuh).
- ii. Understanding that Allah is the Creator of all things. And he is the guardian and disposer of all affairs (Surah Az Zumar: 62)

2. The creation of man

- i. Allah says (As Sajdah:7) He who has made everything, which He has created, most-good, He began the creation of man with nothing more than **clay**).
- ii. He also said (Ar Room: 20) Among His Signs is this, that He created you from **dust**, and then behold, you are human beings, scattered far and wide).
- iii. Allah also said, (Al Mu'minoon 12 to 14) (man, We did create from **a quintessence of clay**, not all the clay, but an extract from the clay).
- iv. Allah said, (Al Hijr:26 to 28), We have created man from clay moulded into shape, Hama'in Masnoon). Actually, this is the colour of the **clay that actually has got a bad smell**.
- v. Allah also said (As Saaffaat: 11, (Just ask their opinion, are they more difficult to create, or the other beings? We have created them out of **sticky clay**)
- vi. Allah said, (Surat Ar Rahmaan:14) He (meaning Allah, all Glory be to Him), created man from **sounding clay**, like unto pottery.

These are successive stages in the creation of man: earth, if it's wet, it becomes mud. And mud, when it partially dries becomes clay, and clay before it hardens, it becomes black in colour and smelly in nature. And then when it dries completely, it becomes sounding clay.

A dying man illustrates these stages

And we can see these successive stages reversal in our lifetime. When a person dies, his muscles solidify and becomes like a statue of stone actually. And this is the sounding clay, and then the cells and the tissues start to decay, it becomes a rotten mud. And then this mud dries further when it loses its water content, and then goes to Earth.

3. Creation of Adam and Eve versus the creation of his descendants

These are two very distinctive processes:

- i. The creation of Adam and Eve was a special creation that was not imitated afterwards. So, Allah created Adam and Eve, from the soil of this earth.
- ii. And then He made their descendants produced by the process of reproduction of marrying of male and female getting together.

And we also have in the Hadith, the Prophet, (Verily, Allah, the Almighty, created Adam, from a handful of soil He took from all the corners of the earth. Hence, all the children of Adam, come according from the colour and nature of the earth. Among them are the red, the white, the black, and what is between them are easy-going, and some are difficult to deal with. Some are wicked, and some are kind).

Allah also said, (Al Baqarah: 30 – 31) Behold, your Lord said to the angels, I will create a vicegerent on earth. They said, will you place therein one who will make mischief on the earth and shed blood, whereas we do celebrate Your praises and glorify Your holy name. He said, I know what you know not.

And this defies completely all allegations to link man with a long chain of animals that were created before him, because this is an escape from admitting belief in the Creator and in glorifying Him above all His creation, and believing in the divine nature of the Glorious Quran, and the correct message of Muhammad.

Most scholars in the field of anthropology claim that man started ignobly and started unbelieving started unable to speak and unable to really do anything of value. And that's why the Quran here emphasises the fact that Allah has taught Adam, the names of all things.

They also claim that he started to learn how to speak from the language of birds and other animals. And he started to worship a supreme being, being threatened by the many natural disasters that surrounded him.

Lesson 2: Man in the Glorious Quran Part 2

4. The Origin of Man

All the descendants of Adam and Eve were in the backbone of Adam and Eve on the moment of their creation. And that's why Allah said in Surat An Nisaa, verse number one: (O mankind, fear your guardian Lord, Who created you from a single soul created out of it, his mate, and from them, twain scattered like seeds, countless numbers of men and women. Fear Allah, through whom you demand your mutual human rights and be heedful to the wombs, that bore you for Allah ever watches over you.

Also, Prophet Muhammad, (pbuh), tells us in an authentic Hadith: Allah created Adam, in the image of Adam); he was not a monkey. He had nothing to relate to the long chain of animals that were created before him. (Allah created Adam, in the image of Adam, his length is 60 cubits. And since then, creation has been on reduction).

When the chromosomes are split, they become weaker, every time they split, they become weaker. So, the tendency of the human beings is reduction in size and the reduction in the longevity and this has been actually proved through the science of heredity.

Also, prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said:

Allah the Almighty made a covenant with Adam's offspring in Nu'man, on the day of Arafah as he brought forth from Adam's loin all the seeds he had created, Allah glorified be He, scattered them between his hands and said to them, Am I not your Lord? They said, yes, we testify, lest you should say on the Day of Judgment on the Day of Resurrection. Verily, We have never been aware of this. Or lest you should say it was only our fathers after time, who took others as partners in worship, along with Allah, and we were merely their descendants after them. Will you then destroy us because of the deeds of men who practise the polytheism?

No only Adam and Eve, but also all their descendants spoke as Allah spoke to them in a way we cannot understand and made them witness that they are a creation of a great Creator.

The precedence of the Qur'aan over human discoveries

Allah said, (Has there not been over man a long period of time, when he was nothing, not even mentioned. Verily, We created man from two mixed germ cells made it gametes or zygote in order to try him. So, we gave him the power of hearing and sight or we made him capable of both hearing and seeing. The marvellous point here by which the Quran preceded all human knowledge is (Verily, we have created man from a mixed germ cells, or two mixed germ cells,

mixed gamete or zygote in order to try him. So, we gave him the capacity or the power of hearing and seeing

This answers the disputable issue: from whom is the child created, the mother or the father? And it spells out the purpose of creation.

The baby is created from a germ cell from the father and an ovum from the mother two germ cells known as the gamete where they are mixed. The fertilised ovum gives a zygote then the zygote passes into a leech like body, like this worm, called the leech, then a chewed piece of meat, then creation of bones, after that, creation of flesh, and then creation of the baby in the human form, in another form.

5. False embryological theories across history:

- i. Constantinus Africanus 11th century CE, tried to link the status of the embryo with astrology.
- ii. William Harvey, late 16th century, and the early 17th century CE, advocated that the embryo is produced by the mother alone from the menstruation blood.
- iii. In 1672 CE, Regnier De Graaff describes the follicle of the ovum without knowing its role in the development of the embryo.
- iv. Three years later, 1675 Marcello Malpighi suggested that the embryo of the chick is nothing other than a chick in miniature
- v. In 1677, Leeuwenhoek discovered the sperm imagining that it carries a miniature of a fully developed baby in the head of the sperm.
- vi. So, up until the middle of the 18th century, no man knew that the embryo actually is formed by the interaction between a sperm and an ovum of two germ cells, which the Glorious Quran stated it implicitly 14 Centuries ago.
- vii. In 1883, Van Beneden observed the process of fertilisation under the microscope, and this was not confirmed until the beginning of the 20th century CE.

The precedence of the Glorious Quran by emphasising this fact is a living testimony that this noble book cannot be the work of man. It is the divine Word, in its divine purity.

Lesson 3: Man in the Glorious Quran Part 3

6. Embryological development in the Qur'an

The Glorious Quran describes the successive embryological stages of men in great detail as sperm (Nutfah), a fertilised ovum, a leech like stage (Alaqah), a morsel of chewed flesh stage (Mudghah), then the creation of bones (Izaam), covering the bones with flesh (Lahm) and changing this embryo in the image of a human being (Khalqan Aakhar).

Until the beginning of the 20th century, these stages were not known to any human being other than those who read the Quran.

And there were no means of magnification or illustration or photographing at the time of revelation of the Glorious Quran. And for this noble book to describe the successive stages in such very precise stages more precise than their description in our present-day time, which is described as a peak of scientific and technological advancements, is a living testimony that the Quran is the divine word in its divine purity, and it cannot be the work of man.

In Surah Room: 21 (And among His Signs is that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquillity with them, and He has put love and compassion between your hearts. Verily in that are Signs for those who reflect.

So, the process of reproduction is again, one of the great signs of the might knowledge and wisdom of the Creator. And Allah has created everything in pairs from the elementary particles of matter and energy to man, so that He and He alone can remain highly exalted in His singularity.

7. The starting point in the creation of man

Allah locates the source of the creation of man (At Taariq: 6-7): let man think from what he is created. He is created from a flowing fluid proceeding from between the backbone and the ribs).

The Qur'an speaks about the origin of this fluid that comes from the male and the female, and which carries the germ cells and which can start the process of reproduction and fertilisation of the ovum. And it comes flowing from both the man and the woman. And it comes from between the backbone and the ribs of the chest.

And only very recently, science came to discover that the original point of the formation of the genetic glands in the male and in the female, actually starts from that point between the backbone and the ribs.

And after being fully developed, and moving to its right positions, both in the male and in the female, these genetic glands still remain connected with this original point between the backbone and the ribs, where the blood flows to them from there, and the nerve cells or their fibres actually attach them to this particular point. And this was very recently discovered that the joining point between the ribs and the backbone, especially the last ribs, are actually the original place in which the genetic glands are created.

Lesson 4: Man in the Glorious Quran Part 4

Sex determination is possible now against the claim of the Qur'aan

Many people asked if a human being can know whether the baby is going to be male or female, Why does Allah say that He alone knows what in the wombs is?

The answer is simple: The medical doctor can know one to 10 cases, 100 cases, but Allah knows every single case. Furthermore, He knows all qualities that concern this baby, whether he will live or die? Will he lead a long life or a short life? Will he lead a happy or unhappy life? Will he be on the straight path or will be corrupted? Will he bear any diseases or would be really well built and safe. So, Allah knows everything, whereas human knowledge is limited.

8. The earth components in man

Allah said, "O mankind. If you have a doubt about resurrection after death, consider that we created you out of dust, then out of a sperm...."

Every one of us carries within his or her body a tiny fraction of the original dust, from which both Adam and Eve, were created.

Then we are fed, while we are in the wombs of our mothers by her blood, and her blood is derived from her food. And her food is derived from the minerals and chemical compositions of the soil of the earth.

When we are born, we live on the milk of our mothers. And this is again derived from her food, and her food is derived from the minerals and chemical compounds of the earth. When we stop being breastfed, we start eating vegetables and fruits, and probably milk and other dairy products. And all this is actually derived from the minerals and chemical compositions of the earth.

9. The similarity between a leech and the embryo in the Alaqah stage

Thumma min Alaqah then from a leech like stage. And actually, when this stage was photographed in the embryological development of man, it looks exactly like the worm called the leech. And this is a parasitic worm that lives on animals as well as on humans.

Once it attaches itself to the skin of the animal, or to the human being, it starts to actually eat the outward cells, until it reaches the blood vessels, to live on that blood. And this is exactly the

same, which this leech like stage, in the development of man reacts. Allah gives it certain eating, or biting cells to actually drill its own way through the wall of the mother's womb, until it reaches the blood vessels, and then starts feeding on the mother's blood.

Lesson 5: Man in the Glorious Quran Part 5

10. The firmly protected place of the creation of man

While listing the steps of creating man, Allah said, (Then we have made this man, a sperm in a very well-preserved place).

We have made the genetic cells in a highly protected place Then we moved from fertilised ovum to the leech like stage. When we created from that leech like stage, we created a stage that looks like gently chewed piece of flesh. Then we have created from that chewed piece of flesh bones. And we have clothed these bones with flesh. (And here again, then we have changed him into another creation. So, Glory be to Allah, blessed be Allah, the best to create.

And here again we see wonderful hint about the language. In Arabic we use the letter ف for the succession, with no loss of time, and use the letter ثم for the succession with a lapse of time.

And look at the beauty of expression here that all these stages are carried out very quickly. And that's why the letter of succession is the ف. And of course, between clothing the bones with flesh, and the changing of the features of that embryo to the foetus stage to the human stage takes some time and that's why the verse uses the letter ثم.

The period for the human embryo to stay in the mother's womb, and to come out safely is six months minimum, and nine months maximum.

Question and Answer Bucket

1. What is the scientific proof that Adam was created with speaking faculties?

Ans. Allah said in Surah Ar Rahman that Allah created man, and gave him the power of expressing himself. And we can see in the creation of man all the organs necessary for speech are there: the mouth, the tongue, the lips, the trachea, all, the lungs, all the organs, the centre of speech in the brain. So, man cannot have been created ignobly and unbelieving, and dumb, incapable of speech. These are two distinctive points between believers and unbelievers.

2. When is the spirit blown into the embryo?

Ans. And Prophet Muhammad said in an authentic of his sayings that after the 42nd night in the development of the human embryo, Allah sends an Angel to blow the spirit to that embryo and he will write down His bounties (the Risq), his lifetime and his deeds.

3. Is there any connection between resurrection and vegetation?

Ans. The Quran repeatedly relates to the process of development of the human embryo with the process of vegetation, and at the same time, relates to the process of resurrection after death with the process of vegetation. And that's how we have to look at both processes. The same thing applies to the related verses 12 to 14 in Surah Al Mu'minoon.