By Abu al-Naja Musa ibn Ahmad ibn Musa al-Hajjawi

(895–968 A.H.) May Allah have mercy on him.

These lessons teach us about major and minor sins, the signs of a major sin and the 72 serious sins we must avoid. We learn about Tawheed, Salah, manners, money, families and the rights of others so we can worship Allah alone and follow the Qur'an and Sunnah as understood by the Salaf (Pious Predecessors) of this Ummah.

Explanation

A sin means doing something Allah has forbidden or not doing something He has told us to do. There are major sins and minor sins. Major sins are very serious. Smaller sins are wrong too. We must stay away from all sins and ask Allah to forgive us. (Surah An-Nisa 4:31; Surah Az-Zumar 39:53)

Verse 1: Praising Allah

We begin by praising Allah. All praise belongs to Him. We thank Him for all the good He gives us. (Surah Al-Fatihah 1:2)

Verse 2: Sending Salah Upon the Prophet ﷺ

We ask Allah to send Salah and blessings upon Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, his family and his Companions. The Companions believed in him and followed his teachings. (Surah Al-Ahzab 33:56)

Verse 3: Major and Minor Sins

Sins are of two kinds: major sins and minor sins. Both are wrong. Allah tells us to stay away from major sins. (Surah An-Nisa 4:31; Surah An-Najm 53:32)

Verse 4: How to Recognize a Major Sin

A major sin may have a punishment given by Islamic law or a strong warning about the Hereafter. Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal explained these signs. Punishments are not for ordinary people to carry out.

Verse 5: Other Signs of a Major Sin

Ibn Taymiyyah also explained that a warning about faith or a curse can be a sign of a major sin. A curse is a strong warning about being kept away from Allah's mercy. We must not say someone has left Islam just because they have sinned.

Verse 6: The First Five Sins

1. Shirk (worshipping others besides Allah). Shirk means giving worship to someone or something besides Allah. We pray to Allah alone and ask Him for what only He can give. (Surah An-Nisa 4:48; Sahih al-Bukhari 2766)

2. Taking a life without a right. It is a very serious sin to kill someone without a right. Every person's life matters. We must never harm people. (Surah Al-Isra 17:33; Sahih al-Bukhari 2766)

3. Riba (forbidden interest). Riba includes extra money taken or paid on a loan because of the loan. Allah forbids Riba and tells us to be fair with money. (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:275; Sahih Muslim 1598)

4. Sihr (magic). Magic and sorcery are forbidden. We stay away from magic and seek Allah's protection. (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:102; Sahih al-Bukhari 2766)

5. Falsely accusing an innocent woman of Zina. Zina means sexual relations outside marriage. Never accuse an innocent woman of this serious sin without proof. Do not spread lies about anyone. (Surah An-Nur 24:4; Sahih al-Bukhari 2766)

Verse 7: Orphans and Duty During Battle

6. Taking an orphan's money unfairly. An orphan is a child whose father has died. We must protect the child's money and never steal it or use it unfairly. (Surah An-Nisa 4:10; Sahih al-Bukhari 2766)

7. Running away from a duty during a lawful battle. This means leaving when a person is required to stay and has no valid reason to leave. It is a rule about war, not school fights or personal arguments. (Surah Al-Anfal 8:15–16; Sahih al-Bukhari 2766)

Verse 8: Zina, Liwat, Intoxicants and Robbery

8. Zina (sexual relations outside marriage). Allah forbids sexual relations outside a lawful marriage. We must be modest and protect our private parts. (Surah Al-Isra 17:32)

9. Liwat (a forbidden sexual act between males). Allah forbids this act. We must obey Allah's rules about our bodies and private behaviour. (Surah Al-Araf 7:80–81)

10. Drinking alcohol and other intoxicants. An intoxicant is something that affects your mind, such as alcohol. These drinks and substances are forbidden. (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:90)

11. Robbing and frightening travellers. Attacking people, stealing from them or making them afraid on the road is a serious wrong. People must be safe when they travel. (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:33)

Verse 9: Stealing and Taking Money Unfairly

12. Stealing. Never take something that belongs to someone else without permission. Return anything you have taken that is not yours. (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:38)

13. Taking someone's money by lying or cheating. Do not trick others, make false promises or take their belongings unfairly. Be honest when buying, selling and sharing. (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:188; Surah An-Nisa 4:29)

Verse 10: Lies, Parents and Harmful Speech

14. Giving false testimony. This means telling lies when speaking about what happened. Never blame someone for something they did not do. Always tell the truth. (Surah Al-Hajj 22:30; Surah An-Nisa 4:135)

15. Hurting or disobeying parents. Speak kindly to your parents. Help them and obey them in what is right. Never insult them or hurt them on purpose. (Surah Al-Isra 17:23–24)

16. Gheebah (backbiting). This means saying something bad about another person when they are not there, even if it is true. Protect people's good names. (Surah Al-Hujurat 49:12)

17. Nameemah (gossip that causes trouble). This means passing people's words around to make them argue. Do not turn friends or family members against one another. (Surah Al-Qalam 68:10–11)

Verse 11: False Oaths and Salah

18. A false oath. An oath is a serious promise made using Allah's Name. Never use Allah's Name to support a lie or take what belongs to someone else. (Surah Aal Imran 3:77)

19. Leaving Salah. Muslims must pray the five daily prayers. We should learn them, pray on time and not leave them. (Surah Maryam 19:59)

20. Praying without Wudu on purpose. When you need Wudu, make Wudu before Salah. Do not pray when you know your Wudu has been broken. (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:6)

Verse 12: Prayer Time, Qiblah and Al-Fatihah

21. Praying outside the right time on purpose. Every Salah has a set time. Do not pray before its time or let its time end without a valid reason. (Surah An-Nisa 4:103)

22. Facing away from the Qiblah on purpose. The Qiblah is the direction of the Ka'bah in Makkah. Face it during Salah when you are able. (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:144)

23. Leaving out Al-Fatihah on purpose. Reciting Surah Al-Fatihah is a main part of Salah. The Prophet ﷺ taught us that prayer is not complete without it. (Sahih al-Bukhari 756)

Verse 13: Allah's Mercy and Trust in Him

24. Giving up hope in Allah's mercy. Never think Allah cannot forgive you. Stop doing wrong, ask Him to forgive you and try to do better. (Surah Az-Zumar 39:53)

25. Thinking bad things about Allah. Do not think Allah is unfair or breaks His promises. Allah is perfect, wise and fair. (Surah Fussilat 41:23)

Verse 14: Allah's Warnings, Family and Pride

26. Thinking Allah will never punish you. Do not think you can keep sinning without any fear. We hope for Allah's mercy and take His warnings seriously. (Surah Al-Araf 7:99)

27. Cutting family ties. Stay in touch with your relatives when you can. Speak kindly, help them and try to make peace. (Surah Muhammad 47:22–23; Sahih al-Bukhari 5984)

28. Kibr (arrogance). Arrogance means thinking you are better than others and refusing the truth. Be humble and listen when someone tells you what is right. (Surah Luqman 31:18)

29. Khuyala (showing off with pride). Do not act as if you are greater than everyone else. Do not use your clothes, money or belongings to look down on others. (Surah Al-Isra 17:37)

Verse 15: Lies That Cause Trouble

30. Lying to cause Fitnah. Fitnah here means trouble and fighting between people. Do not make up stories to cause arguments or hatred. (Surah Al-Hujurat 49:6)

31. Making up words about the Prophet ﷺ. Never say the Prophet ﷺ taught something when he did not. The Prophet ﷺ gave a strong warning about lying in his name on purpose. (Sahih al-Bukhari 110)

Verse 16: Forbidden Acts, Family and Marriage

32. Helping people do forbidden things. Do not help someone steal, cheat or do what Allah has forbidden. Help people do good instead. (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:2)

33. Dayyuth (a man who accepts serious shameful acts in his family). Families must care about modesty. They should not support or encourage serious private wrongdoing. (Surah At-Tahrim 66:6)

34. Nikah Al-Muhallil (a marriage trick). This means making a marriage only to allow a woman to return to her first husband after a final divorce. Marriage must not be used as a trick. The Prophet ﷺ warned against it. (Sunan Abi Dawud 2076)

35. Staying away from a good Muslim without a right. Do not stop speaking to someone only because you are angry. Try to make peace when it is safe. The Prophet ﷺ taught us not to stop speaking to a Muslim for more than three days over a personal argument. (Sahih al-Bukhari 6077)

Verse 17: Hajj, Zakat and Fair Judgements

36. Leaving Hajj when able. Hajj is a duty once in a lifetime for Muslims who meet its conditions and can go. Do not refuse it without a valid reason. (Surah Aal Imran 3:97)

37. Not giving Zakat when it is due. Zakat is money that certain Muslims must give to people who have a right to receive it. Give it when it is due. (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:43; Surah At-Tawbah 9:60)

38. A judge giving an unfair decision. A judge must be truthful and fair. It is wrong to make a false decision to help a friend, receive money or please a powerful person. (Surah An-Nisa 4:58)

Verse 18: Bribes and the Ramadan Fast

39. Bribery. A bribe is money or a gift given to get an unfair favour. Never pay or accept money to make someone do what is wrong. (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:188)

40. Breaking the Ramadan fast without an excuse. Muslims who must fast Ramadan should not break the fast on purpose without a valid excuse. (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:183–185)

Verse 19: Knowledge and the Companions

41. Speaking about Islam without knowledge. Do not say Allah has allowed or forbidden something when you do not know. Ask someone who has knowledge and learn from the Qur'an and Sunnah. (Surah Al-Araf 7:33)

42. Insulting the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ. The Companions believed in the Prophet ﷺ and helped others learn Islam. Speak about them with respect and do not curse them. (Surah At-Tawbah 9:100)

Verse 20: Repentance and Cleanliness

43. Keeping on sinning without asking forgiveness. When you do something wrong, stop and ask Allah to forgive you. Do not choose to keep doing it. (Surah Aal Imran 3:135)

44. Not cleaning away urine. Clean yourself after using the toilet. Do not leave urine on your body or clothes. The Prophet ﷺ warned about not protecting oneself from urine. (Sahih al-Bukhari 218)

Verse 21: Two Private Matters for Married Adults

45. A forbidden private act during menstruation. Menstruation means the monthly period of an adult woman. Allah forbids a husband and wife from having sexual relations in the private part during this time. (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:222)

46. Refusing a husband's lawful private rights without a valid reason. Marriage has private rights for adults. A wife must not refuse her husband's lawful private rights without a valid reason. A husband and wife must also be kind and fair to each other. (Surah An-Nisa 4:19)

Verse 22: Family Truth and Sharing Knowledge

47. Lying about a child's father. It is wrong for a woman to say her husband is the father of a child when she knows another man is the father. We must tell the truth about a child's family. (Surah Al-Ahzab 33:5)

48. Hiding Islamic knowledge. Do not hide the truth from someone who needs to learn it when you are able to teach them correctly. (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:159)

Verse 23: Images and Hidden Knowledge

49. Making forbidden images of living beings. The Prophet ﷺ warned against making forbidden pictures and statues of living beings. This has rules that must be learned carefully. Scholars discuss modern photographs separately. (Sahih al-Bukhari 5950)

50. Going to a Kahin (fortune-teller). A fortune-teller claims to know the future or hidden things. Do not visit one or ask about the unseen. Only Allah knows the unseen. (Surah An-Naml 27:65; Sahih Muslim 2230)

51. Going to an Arraf (diviner). An Arraf claims to find hidden things using special signs or powers. The Prophet ﷺ warned us not to go to such a person and ask for answers. (Sahih Muslim 2230)

52. Believing a fortune-teller or diviner. Believing someone who falsely claims to know the unseen is even more serious. No person knows everything Allah has kept hidden. (Surah An-Naml 27:65)

Verse 24: Worshipping Allah Alone and Following the Sunnah

53. Prostrating to someone besides Allah. Sujud means putting your forehead on the ground in worship. Worship belongs to Allah alone. We must not prostrate in worship to a person or statue. (Surah Fussilat 41:37)

54. Calling people to Bid'ah or wrong teachings. Bid'ah means adding new religious worship without proof from the Qur'an and Sunnah. Do not invite others to made-up worship or false beliefs. (Surah An-Nahl 16:25)

Verse 25: Trust, Grief, Bad-Luck Signs and Dishes

55. Ghulul (secretly taking things held in trust). Ghulul includes taking things that belong to a group without permission. It also includes taking war property before it has been shared properly. Be honest with what people trust you to look after. (Surah Aal Imran 3:161)

56. Wailing when someone dies. It is okay to feel sad and cry. Loud wailing in a forbidden way is wrong. The Prophet ﷺ warned against it. (Sahih Muslim 934)

57. Tiyarah (believing in bad-luck signs). Do not think a bird, number or certain day has the power to bring bad luck. Put your trust in Allah. (Sunan Abi Dawud 3910)

58. Eating or drinking from gold or silver dishes. Do not eat or drink from cups, plates or bowls made of gold or silver. The Prophet ﷺ taught us to stay away from them. (Sahih al-Bukhari 5633)

Verse 26: Wills, Inheritance and an Old Legal Rule

59. Making an unfair will. A will tells what should happen to some of a person's money after death. Do not use a will to hurt people or take away their rights. (Surah An-Nisa 4:12)

60. Stopping someone from getting an inheritance. Inheritance is money or belongings that pass to family members after a death. Never take another person's share or stop them from receiving it. (Surah An-Nisa 4:7, 11)

61. An enslaved person running away from an owner. In the past, slavery existed and Islamic law had rules about it. The Prophet ﷺ gave a warning about running away in that old system. Slavery is not lawful in Canada today. (Sahih Muslim 70)

Verse 27: Private Rules, Freedom and the Sacred House

62. Allah has given husbands and wives rules for their private lives. Some actions are not allowed, even in marriage. Muslims must respect these rules and stay away from what Allah has forbidden.

63. It is a major sin to kidnap someone and sell them for money, as if they were an object. People are human beings, not things to buy or sell. The Prophet ﷺ taught us that Allah will be against anyone who does this. (Sahih al-Bukhari 2227)

64. Doing wrong at the Sacred House. The Sacred House is the Ka'bah in Makkah. It is especially serious to do wrong in its holy area. We must respect Al-Masjid Al-Haram. (Surah Al-Hajj 22:25)

Verse 28: Riba Agreements and Being Two-Faced

65. Writing down a Riba agreement. Do not help make a forbidden interest deal by writing the agreement for it. The Prophet ﷺ warned against helping with Riba. (Sahih Muslim 1598)

66. Being a witness to a Riba agreement. A witness confirms that an agreement was made. Do not help a forbidden interest deal by being its witness. (Sahih Muslim 1598)

67. Being two-faced. A two-faced person speaks one way to one group and a different way to another group to trick them. Be truthful to everyone. The Prophet ﷺ warned against this. (Sahih al-Bukhari 6058)

Verse 29: Lying About Your Family

This verse begins one sin: saying you belong to a family that is not yours so people will think you are important.

Verse 30: Your Parents and the Prophet's ﷺ Family

This verse continues the same sin. It warns about turning away from the family of your father and grandfathers and falsely claiming to be from the Prophet's ﷺ family.

68. Lying about your family line. Never claim that another person is your father or say you belong to a different family when you know it is not true. It is especially serious to falsely claim to be from the Prophet's ﷺ family. (Surah Al-Ahzab 33:5)

Verse 31: Honest Leaders and Protecting Animals

69. A leader cheating people. A leader must look after the people under their care. Lying to them, cheating them or taking their rights is a major wrong. (Surah An-Nisa 4:58; Sahih Muslim 142)

70. A forbidden sexual act involving an animal. It is forbidden to use an animal for sexual acts. Animals must not be hurt or used for shameful acts.

Verse 32: Jumu'ah and Fair Treatment

71. Missing Jumu'ah without a valid reason. Jumu'ah is the Friday prayer. Adult Muslim men who must attend should not miss it without a valid excuse. (Surah Al-Jumu'ah 62:9; Sahih Muslim 865)

72. A master treating enslaved people badly. In the past, some people were enslaved. It was wrong for a master to treat them cruelly. The Prophet ﷺ taught us to feed, dress and treat people under our care with kindness. (Sahih al-Bukhari 30)