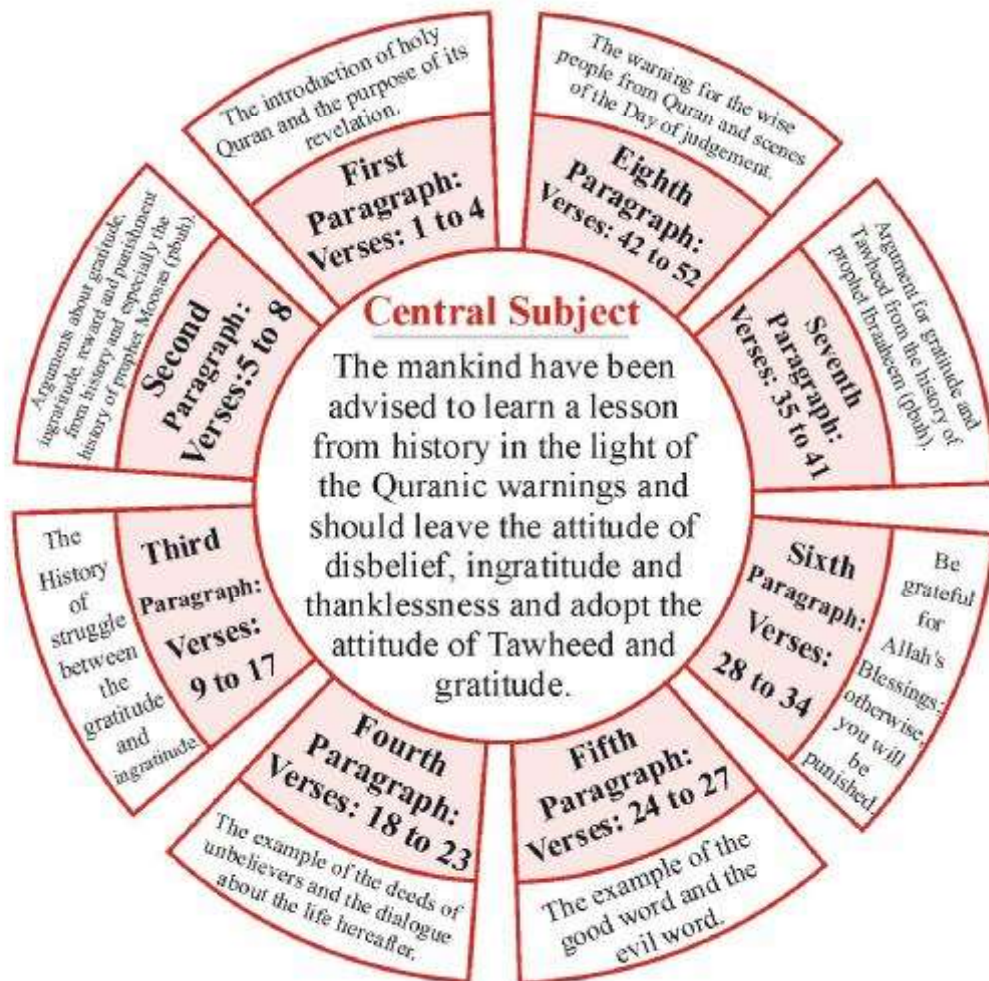


Flow Chart of Macro-Structure of Soorah Ibraaheem

14- Soorah Ibraaheem Makkan

Verses: 52

Paragraphs: 8



• **Period of revelation:**

Soorah Ibraaheem was revealed after soorah Ar-Ra'd during the middle of the fourth and last period (11 to 13 prophet-hood) of prophet's stay in Makkah. This is the period when plans were being made for the expulsion of the messenger (pbuh) of Allah from Makkah. (Verse: 46)

The relationship of soorah Ibraaheem with the Book

- 1- In the previous soorah (Ar-Ra'd), the philosophy of the Truth and the Falsehood, was presented through rational and universal arguments. Here, in soorah Ibraaheem, it has been told that the natural sentiments of Tawheed are generated as a result of gratitude. Tawheed is the Truth and Shirk is the Falsehood.
In verse 37 of the previous soorah (Ar-Ra'd), the Quran was called ﴿حُكْمًا عَرَبِيًّا﴾ "Hukman Arabiyun" (Commandment in the Arabic language). Here, in soorah Ibraaheem, it has been explained that all the prophets were given the duty of inviting their nations in their own languages so that they could explain it properly. Hence, the Quran is revealed in the language of the Arabs.
- 2- In the previous as well in this soorah, the wise people have been mentioned who can only be those who believe in Tawheed. The invitation of Tawheed consisting of good word has its roots in the human nature. It has its contact with the heaven and it is useful for the whole mankind. Those who follow the good word, Allah almighty will keep them steadfast in this world and in the hereafter.
- 3- In the next soorah Al-Hijr, the annihilation of the peoples of Loot, Sho'aib and Thamood is mentioned and here, in soorah Ibraaheem the advice has been given to learn a lesson from the important events of annihilation.

The important key words and subjects

1- Tawheed and Shirk have been called the light and the darkness in soorah Ibraaheem:

- (a) In the very first verse, the purpose of revelation of holy Quran has been mentioned that Allah, the Dominant and the Praiseworthy wants to bring people out of the darkness of misguidance and Shirk and put them in the light of the straight path.
- ﴿الَّذِي كُنْتُ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ لِتُخْرِجَ النَّاسَ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ﴾
- "Alif Laam Raa. (O Muhammad!) This is a Book which We have revealed to you so that you may bring mankind out of utter darkness (ways of ignorance) to the light, by the leave of their Lord." (Verse: 1)
- (b) It has been argued from history that the purpose of signs given to prophet Moosaa was to bring his nation out of the darkness of Shirk into the light of Tawheed.
- ﴿وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا مُوسَى بِآيَاتِنَا أَنْ أَخْرِجْ قَوْمَكَ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ﴾
- "We sent Moosaa with Our signs, saying: 'Lead your people out of utter darkness into light.'" (Verse: 5)

2- A special word ﴿أَيَّامُ اللَّهِ﴾ “Ayyaamullah” (Days of Allah-History) has been used for historical arguments in soorah Ibraaheem.

A special word has been used for historical arguments in soorah Ibraaheem. The literal meanings of the word ﴿أَيَّامُ اللَّهِ﴾ “Ayyaamullah” are “the Days of Allah” but it means the famous days of history when the rise and fall of nations was decided and when the people who denied the messengers of Allah were annihilated.

For example: ﴿يَوْمَ الْبَدْرِ﴾ The day of Badr, the 17th of Ramadhaan, 2 A.H., when seventy unbelievers were killed including Abu Jahl; or the day of ‘Aashooraa, the 10th of Muharram, when the armies of Pharaoh and Haamaan were drowned and the Israelites were delivered. The word ﴿أَيَّامُ اللَّهِ﴾ “Ayyaamullah” has also been used in verse 14 of soorah Al-Jaathiyah.

The prophet (pbuh) was advised to make the Makkan pagans understand Allah's law of reward and punishment through historical arguments. The patient and grateful wise people learn a lesson from these signs and arguments.

The impatient and foolish people do not learn any lesson from these events.

﴿وَذَكِّرْهُمْ بِأَيَّامِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّكُلِّ صَبَّارٍ شَكُورٍ﴾ “And remind them (to learn lessons from) the Days of Allah (their history). Surely, there are signs in this for every steadfast, thankful person.” (Verse: 5)

3- Meaningfulness of the the word ﴿رِعْمَةٌ لِلَّهِ﴾ “Ne'amatullah” in soorah Ibraaheem:

The word ﴿رِعْمَةٌ لِلَّهِ﴾ “Ne'amatullah” (Allah's favour or blessings) is very important and a key word in soorah Ibraaheem.

- (a) The Israelites were an ungrateful and thankless people. Their prophet Moosaa (pbuh) had advised them to remember the favours of Allah. Allah had delivered them from the tyranny of Pharaoh and his followers. Pharaoh used to kill their sons. But after deliverance from him, the Israelites were again involved in Shirk and disobedience. ﴿وَإِذْ قَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِقَوْمِهِ إِذْ كُرُوا رِعْمَةً لِلَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ أَنْجَاكُمْ مِنْ آلِ فِرْعَوْنَ﴾

“Recall! When Moosaa said to his people: 'Remember Allah's favour upon you when he delivered you from the people of Pharaoh.'” (Verse: 6)

- (b) The Makkan pagans were invited to think and learn a lesson from the history. The ungrateful, thankless and unfaithful leaders, who do not show gratitude for the blessings of Allah, lead their nation to annihilation and Hell.

﴿أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ بَدَّلُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ كُفْرًا وَأَحَلُّوا قَوْمَهُمْ دَارَ الْبَوَارِ﴾ “Have you not seen those people who have responded to the favours of Allah with ingratitude and drive their nation into the House of Perdition?” (Verse: 28)

(c) Allah has invited mankind to think that He has equipped this world with all the necessities of life. His blessings are countless. You cannot enumerate them even if you want to count them. Indeed, Man is a great usurper and very ungrateful. He obeys and worships the creation instead of the Creator and thus commits the crime of unfaithfulness. He follows Shirk instead of Tawheed, which is the greatest injustice. ﴿وَاللّٰهُمَّ إِنِّي أَنسَأَلُكَ الْغِنَىٰ وَالْكَفَىٰ، إِنَّ الْإِنسَانَ لَقَفُورٌ كَفَّارٌ﴾
 “He has given you all that you could ask for and if you want to count the favours of Allah, you will never be able to count them. In fact, man is unjust, thankless.” (Verse: 34)

4- Meaningfulness of four words ﴿شُكْرٌ﴾ “Shukr”, ﴿كُفْرٌ﴾ “Kufr”, ﴿صَبَّارٌ﴾ “Sabbaar” and ﴿شُكُورٌ﴾ “Shukoor” in soorah Ibraaheem:

The words ﴿شُكْرٌ﴾ “Shukr” (gratitude), ﴿كُفْرٌ﴾ “Kufr” (ingratitude), ﴿صَبَّارٌ﴾ “Sabbaar” (steadfast) and ﴿شُكُورٌ﴾ “Shukoor” (thankful) are very important in this Soorah.

(a) The warning and admonition does exist in the history. Only those who are highly patient and grateful, learn a lesson from the warnings of history.

﴿وَذُرِّهُمْ أَيُّهَا اللَّهُ، إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّكُلِّ صَبَّارٍ شُكُورٍ﴾ “And remind them (to learn lessons from) the Days of Allah (their history). Surely, there are signs in this for every steadfast, thankful person.” (Verse: 5)

(b) Allah has informed the whole mankind about His conditional offer that if they are grateful for Allah's Blessings, He will increase them; and if they are ungrateful, He will punish them severely.

﴿وَإِذْ تَأْتِيَنَّهُم بَرَآئَةُ لِقَائِهِمْ، لَوْ شِئْنَا لَازِيدَنَّهُم مِّنْ فَضْلِهِ إِنِ كَانُوا شَاكِرِينَ﴾ “Remember that your Lord had forewarned: 'If you are grateful, I will bestow abundance upon you, but if you are ungrateful My punishment will be terrible indeed.’” (Verse: 7)

(c) If all the creatures of this world become ungrateful and adopt the attitude of ingratitude, it will make no difference in the Grandeur of Allah. Allah Almighty is the praised One and He does not need any one's praise.

﴿إِن تَكْفُرُوا أَنتُمْ وَمَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَغَنِيٌّ حَمِيدٌ﴾ “If you and all the dwellers of the earth become unbelievers, (you should know that He does not stand in need of any of you), Surely, Allah is the Self-sufficient, praiseworthy.” (Verse: 8)

5- The introduction of holy Quran as a Book of warning in soorah Ibraaheem:

(a) The holy Quran is a Book of warning. Its purpose is to warn the people so that they may know that Allah Almighty is the only God. The wise people learn a lesson from this warning and reminder and accept the belief of Tawheed from the core of their hearts; and the foolish people remain involved in the Shirk and ignorance as usual.

﴿هَذَا بَلَدٌ لِلنَّاسِ وَلِيُنذِرُوا بِهِ وَيَلْعَلُوا آتَمَّا هُوَ إِلَهُ الْوَاحِدِ وَلِيُنذِرُوا الْآلِهَاب﴾ “This is a proclamation for mankind: let them take warning therefrom; let them know that He is the One and Only - worthy of worship - and let the men of understanding learn a lesson.”

(Verse: 52)

(b) People have been warned of the Day of Judgement in soorah Ibraaheem. They have been warned to fear that Day. ﴿وَأَنْذِرِ النَّاسَ يَوْمَ يَأْتِيهِمُ الْعَذَابُ فَيَقُولُ الَّذِينَ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا رَبَّنَا

أَجْرْنَا إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ قَرِيبٍ نُجِيبُ دَعْوَتَكَ وَنَتَّبِعُ الرَّسُولَ أَوْلَمَ تَكُونُوا أَقْسَمْتُمْ مِنْ قَبْلِ مَا لَكُمْ مِنْ زَوَالٍ﴾

“O Muhammad! Forewarn mankind of the Day when Our Punishment will overtake them; when the wrong-doers will say: 'Our Lord! Give us a little respite: we will answer your call and follow the messengers!' (But it will be said to them,) 'Are you the same people who once swore that you would never suffer a decline?'” (Verse: 44)

Macro-structure of soorah Ibraaheem

Soorah Ibraaheem consists of eight paragraphs.

1- Verses: 1 to 4: In the first paragraph, there is the introduction of holy Quran and explanation of the wisdom behind revealing it in Arabic language.

The purpose of revelation of Quranic verses is to take people out of the darkness of unbelief and Shirk and bring them to the light of Islam and Tawheed. The invitation of Tawheed, in fact, is the invitation of gratitude. Those who prefer this life over the life hereafter will be punished. All the messengers were given revelations in their own languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic), so that they may be able to explain the message to their nations properly. That is why the holy Quran is revealed in plain Arabic.

2- Verses: 5 to 8: In the second paragraph, the argument about gratitude, ingratitude, reward and punishment has been given from the Days of Allah and the history of prophet Moosaa (pbuh).

Prophet Moosaa was advised to bring his nation, the Israelites, out of darkness into the light of Islam and Tawheed and tell them to learn a lesson from the Days of Allah (their history).

He advised them to remember the blessings and favours of Allah, especially the favour of deliverance from the tyranny of Pharaoh.

The Israelites were told the important and basic principle that if they adopted the attitude of gratitude, the blessings on them will be increased; but if they followed the attitude of ingratitude, the punishment of Allah will be very severe.

3- Verses: 9 to 17: In the third paragraph, the history of struggle between the gratitude and ingratitude has been described. The role of the messengers has been highlighted that they present the introduction of Allah and invite to believe in Tawheed.

The nations of Nooh, Aad , Thamood and those coming after them had also rejected the message of their prophets and expressed doubts and suspicions about their invitation. They said that the prophets were human beings like them and followed the traditions of their forefathers. The prophets remained steadfast and showed their trust in Allah in spite of their tribulations and sufferings.

The unbelievers threatened them with exile if they did not return to their old religion.

﴿وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِرُسُلِهِمْ لَنُخْرِجَنَّكُمْ مِنْ أَرْضِنَا أَوْ لَتَعُوذُنَّ فِي مِلَّتِنَا﴾

“The unbelievers said to their messengers: 'Return to our religion or we will expel you from our land'.” (Verse: 13)

Allah consoled the messengers at that occasion that He will destroy the wrongdoers and replace them with other people.

﴿فَأَوْحَى إِلَيْهِمْ رَبُّهُمْ لَنُهْلِكَنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ ۖ وَلَنُسَكِّنَنَّكُمْ الْأَرْضَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ ذَٰلِكَ لِمَنْ خَافَ مَقَامِي وَخَافَ وَعِيدِ﴾

“But their Lord revealed His Will to them: 'We shall destroy the wrongdoers and give you the land to dwell in after they are gone! This is (the reward) for the ones who dread to stand before Me and fear my threats'.” (verses 13,14)

The unbelievers asked for a decision and Allah gave His decision. Every despotic, rebellious person who had enmity with Islam and Tawheed had to face the worldly punishment and had to face the disgrace and disappointment.

﴿وَاسْتَفْتَحُوا وَخَابَ كُلُّ جَبَّارٍ عَنِيدٍ﴾ “They asked for the decision (and when the judgement was passed) every powerful, obstinate transgressor was destroyed.” (Verse: 15)

This was the punishment in this world but the punishment of Hell is waiting for them where they will be given the mixture of pus and blood to drink.

﴿وَمِنْ وَّرَائِهِ جَهَنَّمُ وَيُسْقَىٰ مِنْ مَّاءٍ صَدِيدٍ﴾ “Hell is next for him wherein he will be given festering water to drink.”

4- Verses: 18 to 23: In the fourth paragraph, the ungrateful, unbelieving leaders and their weak followers have been warned that both of them should take care of themselves.

- (a) The term ﴿الَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا﴾ “Allazeenas-Takbroo” (those who thought they were mighty) has been used for the proud and arrogant leaders and the term ﴿ضُعَفَاءُ﴾ “Dho'afaa” (weak) has been used for their followers who belonged to the weaker class.

- (b) Iblees also is a leader who seduces and misleads people, but on the Day of Judgement, he will avoid his followers like the unbelieving leaders. The deeds of unbelievers have been compared to the ashes on which severe wind has blown. They have been threatened that Allah has the authority to destroy them and replace them with some other nation. The infidel leaders and their followers have been criticised and they have been told that they will have to face the punishment.
- (c) The dialogue which will take place between the leaders and their followers on the Day of Judgement, has been reported. The leaders will be so helpless on that Day that they will not be able to save themselves from the punishment, leave alone saving their followers.

The same will happen between Iblees and his followers. He will say to his followers: ﴿فَلَا تَلُومُونِي وَلُومُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ﴾ "Do not blame me, rather blame yourselves." (Verse: 22) Why did you follow me? Such wrongdoers will face the painful punishment. Those who believed and did good deeds will be admitted into the Paradise with peace.

5- Verses: 24 to 27: In the fifth paragraph, the good word and the evil word have been compared to two trees.

Every word consisting of Quran and sound Hadeeth is the good word and every word against the Quran and Sunnah is the evil word. The acceptance of Tawheed which is in accordance with the human nature, is good word. The invitation of Tawheed has deep roots in the human soul and heart. These roots get deeper and stronger in the heart with the increase of belief. They get their religious food from the heart and soul. Along with the roots, this tree grows outside as well. It provides shade to the people and gives them fruit. It is a strong and powerful tree. It has strong relation with Allah and it is beneficial for the mankind.

On the contrary, the evil word is a tree which is not deeply rooted in the heart. Its relation with Allah is weak and it does not bear fruit. It is not beneficial for the mankind.

The believers remain steadfast with full confidence and conviction of their hearts on the firm good word. No oppressive power of the world can deflect them from this word. The believers show steadfastness on Tawheed, not only in this world, but also in the grave and on the Day of Judgement.

6- Verses: 28 to 34: In the sixth paragraph, the demand to thank Allah for His Blessings has been made.

The ungrateful, infidel leaders of the world lead their nations to Hell because of their ingratitude. The grateful people have been asked to express their

gratitude for Allah's Blessings by praying and spending in the Way of Allah.

The creation of heavens and earth, provision of sustenance through rain, control of rivers and oceans and rotation of day and night have been mentioned to explain the reality that Allah has arranged everything according to the human needs. Allah's Blessings cannot be enumerated, but Man is very unjust and very ungrateful.

﴿وَإِنَّكُمْ مِنْكُمْ مَنْ كَلَّمَا سَأَلْتُمُوهُ وَإِنْ تَعُدُّوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ لَا تَحْصُوهَا إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَكَفَّارٌ﴾

“He has given you all that you could ask for and if you want to count the favours of Allah, you would never be able to count them. In fact, man is unjust, thankless.” (Verse: 34)

7- Verses: 35 to 41: In the seventh paragraph, the arguments for Tawheed and gratitude have been given through the history of prophet Ibraaheem (pbuh).

When prophet Ibraaheem inhabited Makkah and settled his wife Haajirah and son Ismaa'eel in that barren valley, he prayed to Allah to save his off-springs from the worship of idols, make them establish the prayers, make them the leaders of people, turn the hearts of people towards them and give them sustenance so that they may be grateful. Ibraaheem himself was a very grateful person. He used to thank Allah for giving him sons like Ismaa'eel and Is'haaq in his old age. He was worried about himself and his prayer. He used to pray for his own forgiveness and for the forgiveness of his parents and all the believers.

8- Verses: 42 to 52: In the eighth and last paragraph, the wise people have been advised to forsake the Shirk and follow the Tawheed.

It has been clarified about the holy Quran that it is a clear proclamation and communication and its purpose is to warn the mankind.

﴿هَذَا بَلَاغٌ لِلنَّاسِ، وَلِيُنذِرُوا بِهِ، وَلِيَعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا هُوَ إِلَهُ الْوَاحِدِ وَلِيَذَّكَّرَ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ﴾

“This is a proclamation for mankind: let them take warning therefrom; let them know that He is the One and Only - worthy of worship - and let the men of understanding learn a lesson.”

(Verse: 52)

The prophet has been advised that he should warn the people of the calamity of the Doomsday. ﴿وَإَنْذِرِ النَّاسَ يَوْمَ يَأْتِيهِمُ الْعَذَابُ﴾ “O Muhammad! Forewarn mankind of the Day when Our punishment will overtake them.” (Verse: 44)

The picture of the Day of Judgement has been portrayed and the phrases of unbelievers and wrongdoers consisting of their sorrow and regret, have been reported. It has been told that they will be shackled in chains. Their garments will be of tar and their faces will be covered with flames. The history stands witness that the unbelievers made many moves against the prophets. Some of their moves were so clever that they could have moved the mountains from their place. But the messengers showed steadfastness. All the promises made

by Allah with His messengers will be fulfilled. Allah is Mighty and Irresistible. He has the power to take revenge from the tyrants, unbelievers and polytheists. The soorah began and ended with the introduction of holy Quran and the purpose of its revelation.

Central Subject

The Israelites were ungrateful people, while Ibraaheem was very grateful person. Man can follow the course of Tawheed only as a result of sentiments of gratitude. The invitation of Tawheed is exactly in accordance with the human nature. Its roots are deeply rooted into the heart and soul and its fruitful branches are high in the sky.

The mankind have been advised to learn a lesson from the history in the light of Quranic warnings and should leave the attitude of disbelief, ingratitude and thanklessness, and should adopt the attitude of Tawheed and gratitude.

