

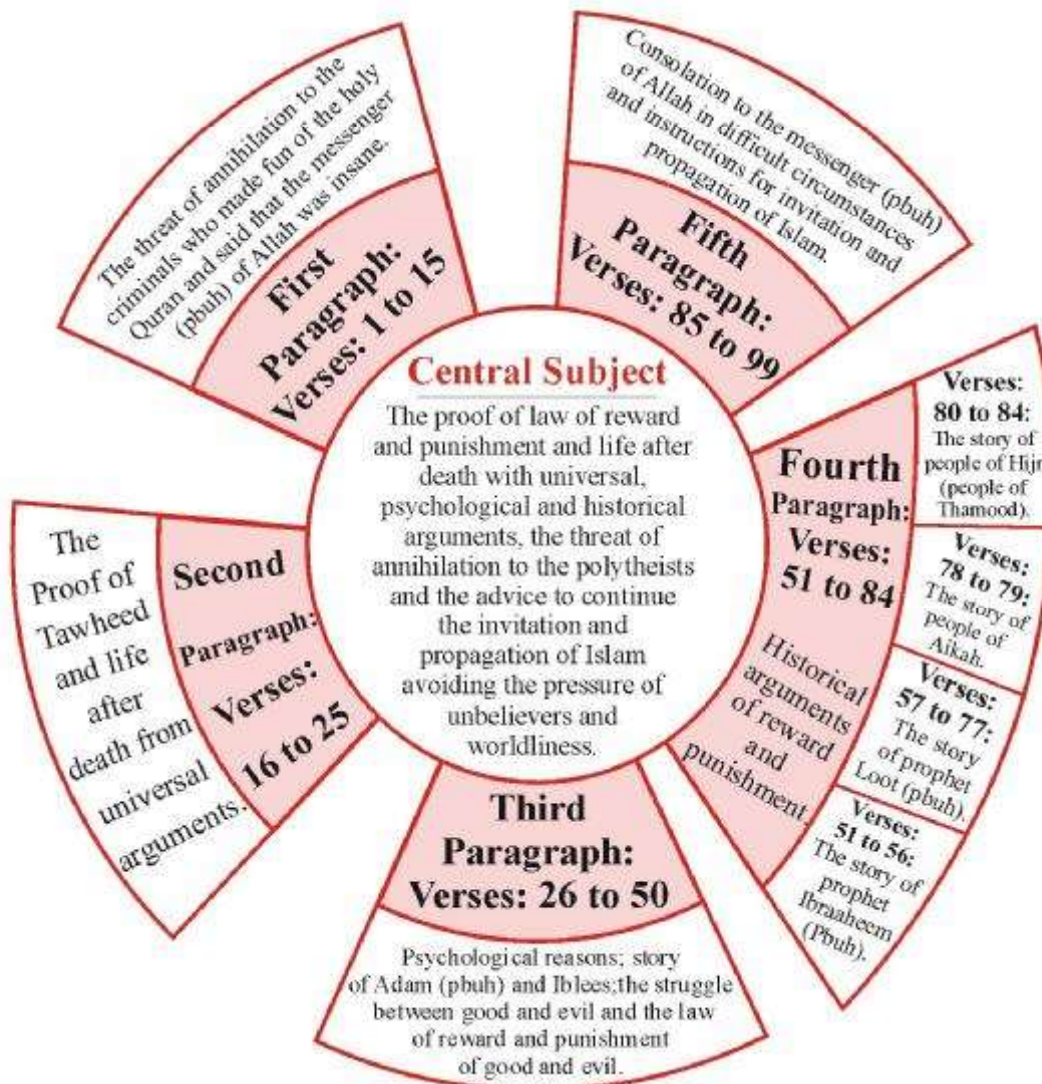
Flow Chart of Macro-Structure of Soorah Al-Hijr

15- Soorah Al-Hijr

Makkan

Verses: 99

Paragraphs: 5



• Period of revelation

Probably, it was revealed in 12 Prophet-hood when the allegations of insanity and having magical power were widely spread about the messenger (pbuh) of Allah and his enmity was at peak. The leaders of Quraish were saying that the holy Quran was result of insanity. ﴿وَقَالُوا الْآيَاتُ الَّتِي نَزَّلَ عَلَيهِ الدِّينُ كُرْآنُكَ لَسَجْنُونَ﴾ "And they say: 'O you to whom the reminder (Quran) is being revealed! You are surely insane.'" (Verse: 6)

The leaders of Quraish who derided the prophet (pbuh) and made fun of him, were threatened with the annihilation of people of Loot, people of Al-Aikah and the people of Al-Hijr. In soorah Al-Hijr, there is consolation for the prophet (pbuh) that within a few years, these leaders will be ashamed of their attitude and they will say: ﴿لَوْ كَانُوا مُسْلِمِينَ﴾ "We wish that we were Muslims." This prophecy was fulfilled in 2 A.H., When the great leaders of Quraish were killed in the battle of Badr and in 8 A.H., when Makkah was conquered.

The major portion of soorah Al-Hijr was revealed after soorah Ibraaheem during the fourth and last period (11 to 13 prophet-hood) of prophet's (pbuh) stay in Makkah. Some verses were, probably, revealed at the occasion of general proclamation. For example: ﴿فَاصْدَعْ بِمَا تُؤْمَرُ﴾ "Therefore, proclaim publicly what you are commanded." (Verse: 94)

The relationship of soorah Al-Hijr with the Book

- 1- In the last soorah (Ibraaheem), there was a brief description of "Days of Allah"; here, in this soorah (Al-Hijr), the criminal Quraishi leadership, who followed the cursed Iblees and made fun of the prophet (pbuh), are warned by the detailed description of the annihilation of the people of Al-Aikah and the people of Al-Hijr (Thamood).
- 2- In the next soorah (An-Nahl), the criminal leadership of Quraish and the pious leadership of the companions of the prophet (pbuh) have been compared. At the end of both the soorahs, the etiquettes of invitation and propagation of Islam have been described and the Muslims have been given consolation and instructions.

Important key words and subjects

- 1- **Four principles of annihilation of nations have been described in soorah Al-Hijr:**

In soorah Al-Hijr, four things have been stated in connection with the annihilation of nations.

The time for the annihilation of nations is fixed. When the appointed time comes, it cannot be advanced or delayed.

﴿وَمَا أَهْلَكْنَا مِنْ قَرْيَةٍ إِلَّا وَلَهَا كِتَابٌ مَّعْلُومٌ. مَا تَسْبِقُ مِنْ أُمَّةٍ أَجَلَهَا وَمَا يَسْتَأْخِرُونَ﴾

"Never did We destroy a town whose term of life was not ordained beforehand. No people can forestall their doom, nor can they postpone it." (Verses: 4,5)

- (b) The people of Al-Hijr (Thamood) denied the prophets in 2,500 B.C. when Allah destroyed them with a mighty blast. Their labour did not avail them anything. ﴿فَأَخَذَهُمُ الصَّيْحَةُ مُضْجِعِينَ﴾ “But the mighty blast seized them one morning and all their labour (of building their homes through carving the rocks) did not avail them.” (83, 84)
- (c) The people of Loot were destroyed in 2,100 B.C. They were homosexuals. Allah turned their town upside down and sent down the rain of brimstones on them. As a review, it was said that there was a lesson in it for the wise. ﴿فَجَعَلْنَا عَالِيهَا سَافِلَهَا. وَأَمْطَرْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ حِجَارَةً مِنْ سِجِّيلٍ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّمَنْ تَوَدَّعَيْنِ﴾ “Thus We turned the town upside down and rained down on them brimstones of baked clay. Surely, there are signs (lessons) in this for those who investigate.” (Verses:74,75)
- (d) The people of Al-Aikah (nation of Sho'aib) were destroyed in 1,400 B.C. They were an oppressive nation. Allah took revenge from them. ﴿وَإِنْ كَانَ أَصْحَابُ الْأَيْكَةِ لَظَالِمِينَ﴾ “The people of Al-Aikah (the nation of prophet Sho'aib) were also wrongdoers. So We inflicted retribution on them. The ruined towns of these two nations are lying on an open road.” (Verses: 78, 79)

2- The introduction of holy Quran in soorah Al-Hijr:

It has been clarified in soorah Al-Hijr that the holy Quran is not the word of any insane person; rather it is a Book which is read and which makes things clear. It is a living miracle.

- (a) ﴿الرِّبِّكَ آيَاتُ الْكِتَابِ وَقُرَّانٍ مُبِينٍ﴾ “Alif Laam Raa. These are the verses of the Divine Book, the Glorious Quran which makes the things clear.” (Verse: 1)
- (b) Those who make fun of this Quran are told clearly that the Creator of this universe has revealed this Reminder (Quran) and He will protect it. It is not the conversation of a mad or insane person that will be obliterated. ﴿إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ﴾ “Surely, We have revealed this reminder (the Quran); and We will surely preserve it Ourselves.” (Verse: 9)

3- The consolation of prophet (pbuh) on being derided in soorah Al-Hijr:

The prophet (pbuh) has been consoled that he is not the first to be derided but all the previous prophets were derided as well.

- (a) ﴿وَمَا يَأْتِيهِمْ مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ﴾ “But whenever a messenger came to them, they mocked him.” (Verse: 11)
- (b) The prophet (pbuh) was consoled that Allah is sufficient for his help against those who make fun of him. ﴿إِنَّا كَفَيْنَاكَ الْمُسْتَهْزِئِينَ﴾ “Surely, We Ourselves will suffice you against the scoffers.” (Verse: 95)

4- Meaningfulness of the use of the word ﴿مُجْرِمِينَ﴾ “Mujrimeen” (criminals) in soorah Al-Hijr:

The word ﴿مُجْرِمِينَ﴾ “Mujrimeen” (criminals) is also important in soorah Al-Hijr. The criminal nations make fun of the prophets. They call them insane. They cannot believe.

- (a) ﴿كَذَلِكَ نَسُكُّهُ فِي قُلُوبِ الْمُجْرِمِينَ﴾ “Thus do We let (doubt) creep into the hearts of the criminals.” (Verse: 12)
- (b) The angels who gave good news of a son to prophet Ibraaheem were sent to annihilate the people of Loot. ﴿قَالُوا إِنَّا أُرْسِلْنَا إِلَى قَوْمٍ مُّجْرِمِينَ﴾ “They said: ‘We have been sent to (punish) the nation of criminals’.” (Verse: 58)

5- An important revelation about the earth in soorah Al-Hijr:

In soorah Al-Hijr, a strange explanation has been given about the planet earth that Allah has grown things of every kind with a special measure. Every atom and every element of this earth is measured and weighed.

﴿وَالْأَرْضُ مَدَدُهَا وَالْقَيْنَا فِيهَا رَوَاسِيَ وَأَنْبَتْنَا فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ مَّوْزُونٍ﴾ “We have spread out the earth and set mountains upon it; and caused to grow everything in due balance.” (Verse:19)

6- A beautiful example to explain the Power and Wisdom of Allah in soorah Al-Hijr:

Another strange revelation has also been made that Allah sends down only a fixed amount of His unlimited treasures. This is also an explicit proof of Allah's Wisdom. ﴿وَإِنْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِلَّا عِنْدَنَا خَزَائِنُهُ وَمَا نُنزِّلُ إِلَّا بِقَدَرٍ مَّعْلُومٍ﴾ “There is nothing which is not in Our (inexhaustible) treasure and sent down in appropriate measure.” (Verse: 21)

7- The comparison between the misguided and the pious people in soorah Al-Hijr:

In this soorah, there is a comparison between the misguided people, who follow Iblees and the pious people, who save themselves from his trap.

- (a) The misguided people follow the cursed Iblees; but he has no power over the pious people who are loyal to Allah. ﴿إِنَّ عِبَادِي لَيْسَ لَكَ عَلَيْهِمْ سُلْطَانٌ إِلَّا مَنِ اتَّبَعَكَ مِنَ الْغَاوِينَ﴾ “You will not have any authority over My devotees except those misguided ones who follow you.” (Verse: 42)
- (b) The insolent Iblees challenged Allah that he will misguide all the people on earth and make the world look charming and attractive to them. Iblees said: ﴿قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي أَخَوَيْتُكَ. لَآ أَرِيكَ لَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا أَعْوَيْتُهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ﴾ “O my Lord! Since You let me go astray, I will make evil fair-seeming to them on earth and I will seduce them all.” (Verse: 39)

Macro-structure of soorah Al-Hijr

Soorah Al-Hijr consists of five (5) paragraphs.

- 1- Verse: 1 to 15: In the first paragraph, the criminals who said that the messenger (pbuh) of Allah was insane and made fun of the holy Quran, have been threatened with annihilation, and the good news of domination of Islam has been given.**

It has been told about the holy Quran that it is a clear Book which is read and not the word of an insane person. It is a reminder from Allah which will be preserved by Him. ﴿إِنَّا مَن نَّرَلْنَا الَّذِي كَرَّوَأَنَّا لَهُ نَحَافِظُونَ﴾ “Surely, We have revealed this reminder (the Quran); and We will surely preserve it Ourselves.” (Verse: 9)

Those who make fun of the prophet (pbuh) and the holy Quran will soon regret and say they wish they had become Muslims.

﴿رُبَّمَا يَوَدُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَو كَانُوا مُسْلِمِينَ﴾ “The Day will come when the unbelievers will wish that they were Muslims.” (Verse: 3) They have been called criminals and their obstinacy has been highlighted that if We had opened a door into the sky and put a ladder for them to climb, even then they would call the Word of Allah to be magic and would say about the miracles that their eyes have been dazzled, rather we have been bewitched. (Verse: 15)

- 2- Verses 16 to 25: In the second paragraph, the universal arguments of Tawheed have been given.**

Allah is the One Who has created the heavens, the earth and the mountains and has revealed the holy Quran. Then the possibility of the life after death has been proved by giving the example of reviving the dead earth through the system of clouds and rains. Allah has grown everything on earth in a proper measure.

﴿وَأَنبَتْنَا فِيهَا مِن كُلِّ شَيْءٍ مَّوْزُونٍ﴾ “And caused to grow everything in due balance.” (Verse: 19)

Allah has provided the economic resources. His treasures are unlimited; but He sends down a fixed quantity according to His policy.

﴿وَإِن مِّن شَيْءٍ إِلَّا عِنْدَنَا خَزَائِنُهُ وَمَا نُنزِّلُهُ إِلَّا بِقَدَرٍ مَّعْلُومٍ﴾ “There is nothing which is not in Our (inexhaustible) treasure and sent down in appropriate measure.” (Verse: 21)

He is Allah Who sends fertilising winds and irrigates the land through the clouds. He stores the treasures of water in the sky and fertilises the barren land by rain. Likewise, He will recreate all the dead on the Day of Resurrection. He is All Knowing, Wise. The Day of Judgement will reflect the policy of Allah's Justice and His attribute of Knowledge.

- 3- Verses: 26 to 50: In the third paragraph, there are the psychological arguments. The story of Adam (pbuh) and Iblees, the struggle between the good and evil and the law of reward and punishment of good and evil have been described. The end of the unbridled, misguided people and the rightly guided pious people will be different.**

The human beings and the Jinns have been given the freedom of choice. The human beings have been created from the dry clay. The Jinns were created before them from the fire. Iblees who was one of the Jinns used his freedom of choice in a wrong way. He refused to bow down to Adam and declared insolently that he will mislead the people on earth by involving them in the attractions of this world. Allah told him that he will have no power over his sincere slaves. They will remain steadfast on the straight path of Tawheed. However, the misguided people will follow him. They will have the punishment of Hell.

On the contrary, there will be pious people who did not follow Iblees. There will be gardens and springs for them. The mutual resentments of Muslims will be removed in the Paradise. They will live like brothers enjoying the everlasting blessings of Paradise.

In the end, the human beings have been informed of the attributes of Allah that He will give painful punishment to those who are misguided and will be Merciful and Forgiving for those who are pious. O prophet!

﴿تَبَيَّنْتُ عِبَادِي أَنِّي أَنَا الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ وَأَنَّ عَذَابِي هُوَ الْعَذَابُ الْأَلِيمُ﴾ “Tell my devotees that I am indeed the Forgiving, the Merciful; but at the same time My punishment is also the most painful punishment.” (Verse: 50)

- 4- Verses: 51 to 84: In the fourth paragraph, the historical arguments of reward and punishment have been given.**

The history has witnessed that first the people of Al-Hijr (nation of Thamood), then the nation of Loot and then the people of Al-Aikah (nation of Sho'aib) were annihilated. The criminals were punished and the pious people were saved.

- (a) First of all, it was told that the angels who came to give the good news of a son to Ibraaheem in his old age, were appointed to destroy the people of Loot (pbuh). It is established that the lesson of both the reward and the punishment exists in history. Prophet Ibraaheem wondered how he would get a child in his old age! He was told that he need not despair. Only the misguided people despair from the Mercy of their Lord. ﴿فَلَا تَكُن مِّنَ الْفَاطِنِينَ ۚ قَالَ وَمَنْ يُفْتِنُ مِن رَّحْمَةِ رَبِّهِ إِلَّا الضَّالُّونَ﴾ “You should not be of those who despair. He said: Who would despair of the Mercy of his Lord except those who are astray? (Verses: 55, 56)

Prophet Ibraaheem asked the angels what was their mission? They replied that they were appointed to destroy a criminal nation. The people of Loot were a criminal and depraved people. The angels came to them in human form. The people of Loot were after his guests. Prophet Loot (pbuh) tried his best to make them understand that they should marry the girls of the nation but they would not listen. They wanted the men. They threatened prophet Loot and told him not to interfere in their affairs. They were obsessed with their immorality. Allah Almighty ruined them with multiple punishments. The whole town was turned upside down after a big blast and a rain of brimstones was sent on them.

﴿فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ الضَّيْحَةُ مُشْرِقِينَ ۖ فَجَعَلْنَا عَالِيَهَا سَافِلَهَا ۖ وَأَمْطَرْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ حِجَارَةً مِنْ سِجِّيلٍ﴾

“So the mighty blast overtook them at sunrise. Thus We turned the town upside down and rained down on them brimstones of baked clay.” (Verses: 73, 74)

There is a review at the end that this event contains a lesson about Allah's Law of reward and punishment for those who have understanding. (Verses: 51 to 77)

- (b) **The story of annihilation of people of Al-Aikah:** After this, the story of the nation of prophet Sho'aib (the people of Al-Aikah) has been related. They were wrongdoers and Allah took revenge from them. Aikah is the old name of Tabook. The region of people of Median and people of Aikah, like the region of people of Loot, is on the way from Makkah to Palestine.
- (c) **The story of annihilation of people of Al-Hijr:** After the people of Al-Aikah, the story of annihilation of the nation of prophet Saleh has been mentioned. They are also known as the people of Thamood and the people of Al-Hijr. They denied the prophets. They used to carve their houses inside the mountains. They were satisfied and had no fear. A mighty blast overtook them early in the morning. (Verses: 80 to 84)
- 5- Verses: 85 to 99: In the fifth and last paragraph, the prophet (pbuh) has been consoled in the difficult circumstances of allegations and derision. The instructions for patience have been given and the etiquettes of invitation and propagation of Islam have been described.**
- (a) The opponents should be forgiven in a gracious manner. ﴿فَاصْفَحِ الصَّفْحَ الْجَمِيلَ﴾ “So overlook (their misbehaviour) in a gracious manner.” (verse: 85)
- (b) You should not look at the worldly wealth which We have given to other people. ﴿لَا تَمُدَّنَّ عَيْنَيْكَ إِلَىٰ مَا مَتَّعْتَهُمْ آزْوَاجَهُمْ وَلَا تَحْزَنْ عَلَيْهِمْ﴾ “Do not look at the worldly wealth which We have given to different people among them, nor grieve at their condition.” (Verse: 88)

- (c) Be kind to the believers. ﴿وَاحْفَظْ جَنَاحَكَ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ﴾ “Attend to the believers in kindness.” (Verse: 88)
- (d) Proclaim your invitation in public. ﴿فَاذْعُرْ بِمَا تُوَمَّرُ﴾ “Therefore, proclaim publicly what you are commanded.” (Verse: 94) Allah had revealed the Torah to the Israelites as He has revealed the Quran to Muhammad (pbuh), the messenger of Allah. But the Jews divided their Book into pieces. They used to conceal one part and expose the other.
- (e) You should not care about the polytheists. ﴿وَأَعْرِضْ عَنِ الْمُشْرِكِينَ﴾ “And turn away from the polytheists.” (Verse: 94)
- (f) You should not be distressed at the heart breaking talks of the enemies. ﴿يُضِيقُ صَدْرَكَ بِمَا يَقُولُونَ﴾ “Your heart is distressed by what they say (against you).” (Verse: 97)
- (g) You should prostrate before Allah praising and glorifying Him. ﴿فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَكُنْ مِنَ السَّاجِدِينَ﴾ “(The cure of your heart's distress is that you should) celebrate the praises of your Lord and be of those who prostrate themselves before Him.” (Verse: 98)
- (h) You should worship and obey Allah until the last moment (death) with steadfastness. ﴿وَاعْبُدْ رَبَّكَ حَتَّىٰ يَأْتِيَكَ الْيَقِينُ﴾ “And worship your Lord until there comes to you which is certain (death).” (Verse: 99)

Central subject

The Quranic invitation of belief in Tawheed and belief in the life after death should be continued with universal, psychological and historical arguments avoiding the worldliness and the pressure of unbelievers in the atmosphere of allegations and derision.

