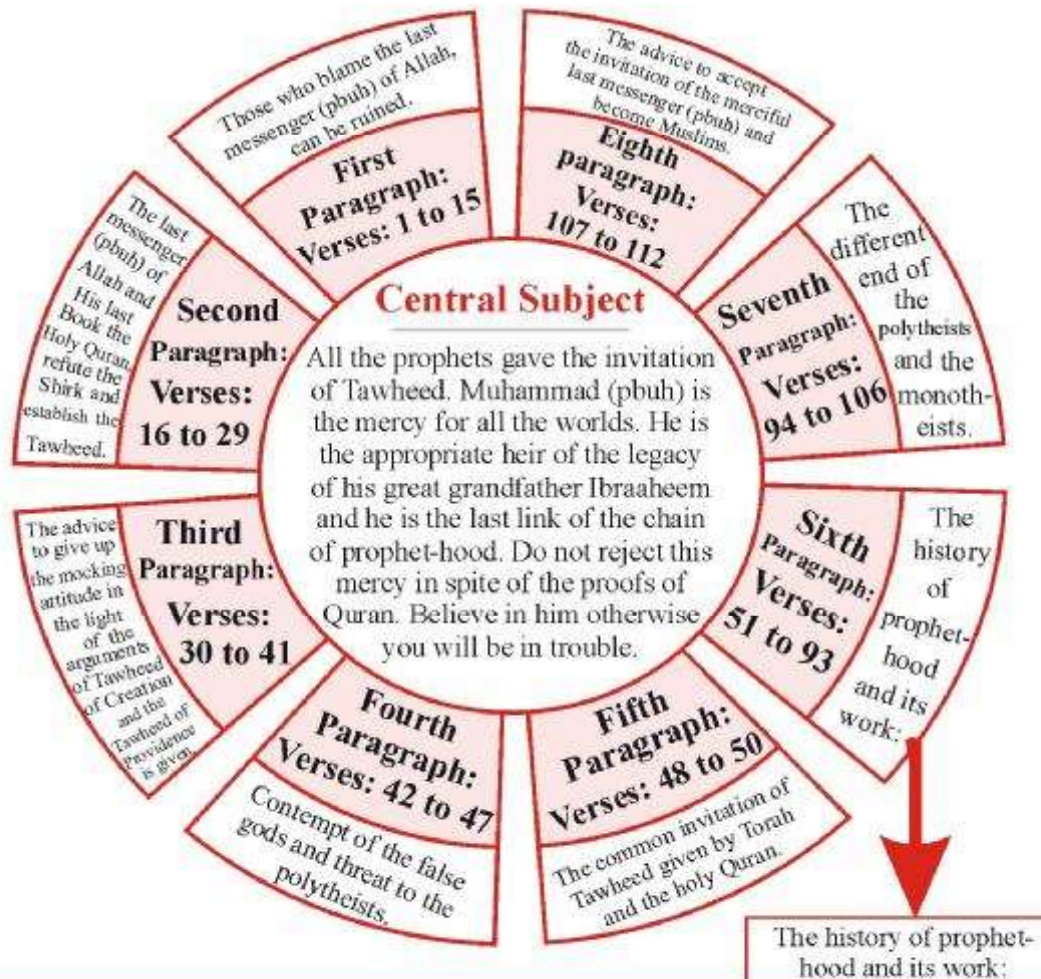


## Flow Chart of Macro-Structure of Soorah Al-Anbiyaa

# 21-Soorah Al-Anbiyaa Makkan

Verses: 112

Paragraphs:8



The story of prophet Ibraaheem, (verses: 50 to 71) the story of prophets Is'haaq and Ya'qoob and the work of prophet-hood, (verses: 72,73) the story of prophet Loot, (verses: 74, 75) the story of prophet Nooh, (verses: 76,77) the story of prophets Sulaimaan and Dawood, (verses: 78 to 82) the story of prophet Ayyoob, (verses: 83, 84) the story of prophets Ismaa'eel, Idrees and Zul-Kifl, (verses: 85,86 ) the story of prophet Yoonus, (verses: 87,88) the story of prophets Zakariyya and Yahya, (verses: 89, 90) the story of Maryam and prophet Eesaa, (verse: 91) the invitation of Tawheed by the messengers, (verses: 92, 93) and the invitation of the last messenger (pbuh) of Allah (verse: 107).



### • The period of revelation:

Soorah Al-Anbiyaa, probably, was revealed in 9 or 10 prophet-hood, along with soorah Al-Mo'minoon, in Makkah when the prophet (pbuh) was alleged with different allegations that he is a poet and a slanderer and not a prophet. He is merely a man. The education of the history of prophets and the position of prophet-hood was necessary in these circumstances. This was the period when a severe struggle between the followers of Tawheed and the followers of Shirk was going on. Hence, Allah has been asked in the last verse to pass His Judgement.

### The relationship of soorah Al-Anbiyaa with the Book

- 1- In soorah Maryam, the Christians were debated about their creed and they were asked to give up the belief of Trinity and follow the pure Tawheed.
- 2- In soorah TaaHaa, the Jews were debated and they were invited towards Islam by giving arguments from the life of prophet Moosaa.
- 3- In the last two Soorahs, there were references of prophet Moosaa and prophet Eesaa. Here, in soorah Al-Anbiyaa many prophets have been mentioned briefly and prophet Ibraaheem in detail and then invitation to believe in Muhammad (pbuh), who is the last link in the chain of prophet-hood and a mercy for the worlds, is given.
- 4- Here, in soorah Al-Anbiyaa, the polytheists have been warned that soon they will be in difficulty and the Muslims will be given power.
- 5- In the next soorah (Al-Hajj), the Muslims have been allowed to fight against them in self-defence.

### The important key words and subjects

#### 1- Many prophets have been mentioned by name in soorah Al-Anbiyaa.

The following prophets have been mentioned by name and it has been told that all of them were pious people and chosen men of Allah who were given revelation.

Moosaa (verse: 48), Haaron (verse: 48), Ibraaheem (verse: 51), Is'haaq (verse: 72), Ya'qoob (verse: 72), Loot (verse: 74), Nooh (verse: 76), Dawood (verse: 78), Sulaimaan (verse: 78), Ayyoob (verse: 83), Ismaa'eel (verse: 85), Idrees (verse: 85), Zul-Kifl (verse: 85), Zun-Noon Yoonus (verse: 87), Zakariyya (verse: 89), Yahya (verse: 90), Eesaa ibn Maryam (verse: 91) and Muhammad (verse: 107) Peace be upon all of them.



## 2- The status, invitation, responsibilities and the high moral character of the prophets have been explained in soorah Al-Anbiyaa.

Different prophets have been mentioned by name in this soorah, and their invitation and character have been highlighted briefly.

- (a) All the prophets were human beings. They used to eat and drink like ordinary human beings. They were not safe from death. They were not given everlasting life.

﴿وَمَا جَعَلْنَاهُمْ جَسَدًا لَا يَأْكُلُونَ الطَّعَامَ. وَمَا كَانُوا خَالِدِينَ﴾ “We did not give them bodies which could survive without food, nor were they immortal.” (Verse: 8)

﴿وَمَا جَعَلْنَا لِبَشَرٍ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ الْخُلْدَ﴾ “(O Muhammad,) We have not granted immortality to any human before you.” (Verse: 34)

- (b) All the prophets were given revelation that there is no god except Allah therefore, He Alone should be worshipped.

﴿وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رُسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوْحِي إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُونِ﴾ “To every prophet whom We sent before you, We revealed the same message: 'There is no god but Me, so worship Me Alone'.” (Verse: 25)

- (c) All the prophets were appointed as leaders of people and they used to guide them with the order of Allah. ﴿وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ أَئِمَّةً يَتَّبِعُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا﴾ “We made them leaders who guided their people by Our command.” (Verse: 73)

- (d) All the prophets used to do pious deeds and were the first to participate in the deeds of piety. ﴿وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْهِمْ فِعْلَ الْخَيْرَاتِ﴾ “We sent them revelations to do good deeds.” (Verse: 73) ﴿إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا يُسْرِعُونَ فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ﴾ “They were ever quick in emulating good deeds.” (Verse:90)

- (e) All the prophets were enjoined to establish the prayer and pay the obligatory charity and they followed this commandment. ﴿وَاقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَوُا الزَّكَاةَ﴾ “Establish Salah (prayers) and pay Zakah (Obligatory charity).” (Verse: 73)

- (f) Allah Almighty makes all the prophets pious and righteous. They have the excellent character. ﴿وَكُلًّا جَعَلْنَا صَالِحِينَ﴾ “And We made each of them a righteous man.” (Verse:72) ﴿إِنَّهُمْ مِنْ الصَّالِحِينَ﴾ “They were of the righteous people.” (Verse:86)

- (g) All the prophets are the sincere and faithful servants of Allah and His true worshippers. ﴿وَكَانُوا لَنَا عَابِدِينَ﴾ “Us Alone did they serve.” (Verse: 73)

- (h) All the prophets pray to Allah Almighty with utmost eagerness and fear. ﴿وَيَدْعُونََنَا رَغَبًا وَرَهَبًا﴾ “And called on Us with hope and fear.” (Verse: 90)



- (i) All the prophets are humble before Allah. ﴿وَكَانُوا النَّاسِ خَاشِعِينَ﴾ “Khushoo” is a condition of humility of heart and mind that has its effects on the body as well. “And to Us they had humbled.” (Verse: 90)
- (j) All the prophets are the embodiment of patience and steadfastness. They display the highest degree of patience and forbearance in difficult circumstances and they take a firm stand on Tawheed. ﴿كُلٌّ مِنَ الصَّابِرِينَ﴾ “All of them practised patience.” (Verse: 85)
- (k) All the prophets belong to one nation. They belong to one family. All of them are Allah's servants and representatives and ambassadors of His Government.

### 3- Derision of the messenger (pbuh) of Allah mentioned in soorah Al-Anbiyaa:

- (a) The Makkan pagans were warned because they used to mock the prophet (pbuh) whenever they saw him and said that he abuses our gods. ﴿وَإِذَا رَأَوْكَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِذَا يَتَّبِعُونَكَ إِلَّا هُزُؤًا أَهْذَاءَ الَّذِي يَدُّكَ إِلَهُتَكُمْ؟﴾ “When the unbelievers see you they do not take you but for one to be scoffed at, saying: 'Is this the one who talks against your gods?'" (Verse: 36)
- (b) The prophet (pbuh) was consoled that he should be reassured that all the previous prophets were also derided. ﴿وَلَقَدْ اسْتَعْزَمُوا بِرُسُلِي مِنْ قَبْلِكَ فَمَآءُ بِالَّذِينَ سَخِرُوا مِنْهُمْ مِمَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَعْزِمُونَ﴾ “The messengers before you were also scoffed at, but their scoffers were hemmed in by the very thing at which they used to scoff.” (Verse: 41)

### 4- Allegations against the messenger (pbuh) of Allah in soorah Al-Anbiyaa:

- (a) The polytheists taunted the messenger (pbuh) of Allah that he is nothing except an ordinary man like themselves. ﴿هَلْ هَذَا إِلَّا بَشَرٌ مِثْلُكُمْ؟﴾ “Is this man (Muhammad) not a human being like yourselves?” (Verse: 3)
- (b) When the polytheists heard the revelation from the blessed tongue of the messenger (pbuh) of Allah they said these are the disturbed dreams. ﴿بَلْ قَالُوا أَضْغَاثُ أَحْلَامٍ﴾ “Rather, they say: this (Quran) is a jumble of dreams!” (Verse: 5)
- (c) The prophet (pbuh) was alleged that (God forbid) he has fabricated the Quran himself. ﴿بَلْ افْتَرَاهُ﴾ “He has made it all up.” (Verse: 5)
- (d) He (pbuh) was alleged to be a poet. ﴿بَلْ هُوَ شَاعِرٌ﴾ “He is a poet!” (Verse: 5)
- (e) The Makkan pagans were retorted that no prophet can live without eating and drinking and no prophet lives forever. ﴿وَمَا جَعَلْنَاهُمْ جَسَدًا لَا يَأْكُلُونَ الطَّعَامَ وَمَا كَانُوا خَالِدِينَ﴾



“We did not give them bodies which could survive without food, nor were they immortal.” (Verse: 8)

#### 5- The explanation of a special purpose of creation of the universe and the creation of Man in soorah Al-Anbiyaa:

The purpose of creation of Man is the test of virtue and vice. Man has been given the freedom of choice between the virtue and the vice. There is a special purpose behind the creation of Universe and the creation of Man.

- (a) It has been explained in soorah Al-Anbiyaa that the creation of the heavens and the earth is not a game. It is the result of Allah's planning.

﴿وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاءَ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا لِبَهِيمٍ﴾ “Our creation of the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them is not a game.” (Verse: 16)

- (b) The purpose of Man's creation is the test of good and bad. He will be tested with comfort and distress. He is answerable to Allah after his death.

﴿كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ. وَنَبَلُّوكُمْ بِالْقُرِّ وَالْخَيْرِ فَتَنَةً. وَالْيَنَابِتُ تَرْجَعُونَ﴾ “Every soul is bound to have the taste of death. We are putting all of you to a test by passing you through bad and good conditions, and finally you shall return to Us.” (Verse: 35)

#### 6- A marvellous revelation about the heavens and the earth in soorah Al-Anbiyaa:

A marvellous revelation about the heavens and the earth is made that they were joined together in the beginning, then Allah separated them. How close to the Big Bang Theory of our time is this revelation which was made fourteen hundred years before.

﴿أَوَلَمْ يَرِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ كَانَتَا رَتْقًا. فَفَتَقْنَاهُمَا﴾ “Have not the unbelievers ever considered that the skies and the earth were once one mass, then We split them asunder?” (Verse: 30)

#### 7- A marvellous revelation about the water in soorah Al-Anbiyaa:

A marvellous revelation about the water has been made that Allah has created every living thing from the water. People have been asked to believe.

﴿وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ. أَفَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ؟﴾ “And We have created every living thing from water. Will they still not believe?” (Verse: 30)



### Macro-structure of soorah Al-Anbiyaa

Soorah Al-Anbiyaa consists of eight paragraphs.

**1- Verses 1 to 15: In the first paragraph, those who alleged the messenger (pbuh) of Allah with false allegations have been threatened with annihilation.**

- (a) The careless and negligent Makkan pagans have been warned that the time for their reckoning has come. They were alleging the messenger (pbuh) of Allah with different allegations. They used to say that he is only an ordinary human being. How can a man be the messenger of Allah? His revelations are only a jumble of dreams. He has fabricated the Quran himself. He is a poet. They demanded that they should be shown a visible miracle like the miracles of the previous prophets. They were threatened with annihilation.
- (b) The nature of prophet-hood was explained to the Makkan pagans and they were told that all the previous prophets were human beings. They were suggested to ask the scholars of the people of the Book. All the prophets used to eat and drink and they were not immortals. The struggle between the truth and falsehood begins with the coming of a prophet. The believers are saved and the extravagant people are destroyed.
- (c) The Quraish of Makkah are told that Allah has revealed a Book now which is a reminder for them. ﴿وَلَقَدْ أَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكُمْ كِتَابًا فِيهِ ذِكْرُكُمْ﴾ “We have sent down to you a Book (the Quran) which deals with the matters concerning yourselves.” (Verse: 10) Then they have been frightened by drawing a picture of the annihilation of the wrong-doers. This verse shows that the subject of Quran is Man.

**2- Verses: 16 to 29: Tawheed has been established and Shirk has been refuted in the second paragraph.**

- (a) It has been told in this part that there is a purpose behind the creation of the universe. It has not been created as a game. Allah will strike the falsehood with truth. The falsehood will perish. There is destruction for those who consider the world as a game.
- (b) Those who consider the angels as daughters of Allah, they ascribe wrong notions to Allah. The angels of the heavens and the earth and those who are His favourites glorify Him all the time and they never get tired of His worship. There is no god other than Allah who could irrigate the land.



- (c) The rational argument of Tawheed has been presented that if there were different gods of the earth and the heavens, the organisation of the earth and the heavens would have been ruined. Allah the Owner of the Throne is free from the wrong attributes ascribed to Him. He is not answerable to anyone, while everyone is answerable to Him. Those who believe in gods other than Allah should present their arguments.
- (d) Every prophet invites for Tawheed of worship. All the prophets sent in the past were given the revelation that there is no one worthy of worship except Allah and He Alone should be worshipped.
- (e) The polytheists who said that the angels were daughters of Allah were told that Allah is free from their allegations. The angels are His servants who are close to Him. They obey the commands of Allah. They will intercede for those whom Allah likes. The angels tremble with Allah's fear. Whoever claims to be the god, will be thrown in Hell.

**3- Verses: 30 to 41: There are universal arguments in the third paragraph and the threat to those who made fun of the prophet (pbuh).**

- (a) The universal arguments of Tawheed have been presented in this part. Arguments have been presented from the the heavens, the earth, the water, the mountains and the mountain passes. It has been said that Allah is the Creator of the day and night and the sun and moon. Everyone is moving in its orbit.
- (b) It has been clarified about the prophets that they are not given the eternal life. Everyone will have to taste the death. Man is being tested by the virtue and evil and he will go back to Allah after death.
- (c) The polytheists were given the charge sheet that they mocked the prophet (pbuh) when they saw him, and they taunted him for abusing their gods and they themselves are denying the remembrance of compassionate God.
- (d) Those who deny the life after death ask about the last hour. Would that they knew, that they will neither be able to protect their faces from the Hell fire nor their backs. They will not get help from anywhere. The distress of the last hour will come so suddenly that they will be shocked. They will neither be able to avert it nor given respite.
- (e) The prophet (pbuh) has been consoled that the previous prophets were also derided. Then those who derided were encircled by the punishment.



**4- Verses: 42 to 47: In the fourth paragraph, the helplessness of the self-made gods of the polytheists has been described and they have been warned that their days are numbered. The Muslims will be given the power.**

- (a) There is a debate with the Makkan pagans. They have been asked: Who is the god that protects you from Allah's grasp? Is there any other god who can protect them against Allah? Their self-made gods do not have the power to help even themselves. The Makkan pagans were given the charge sheet that they are proud of their hereditary and ancestral authority and riches. However, Islam is spreading now and the earth is getting narrow for the polytheists. They will not be able to keep their domination for long. The Muslims will come to power.
- (b) The messenger (pbuh) of Allah is warning people through the revelation. But how can the deaf people listen to his call? They will regret. Justice will be done on the Day of Judgement. Even the atom's weight of deeds will be shown and Allah is sufficient to take the account.

**5- Verses: 48 to 49: In the fifth paragraph, It has been established that the creed of Tawheed and the life hereafter should be accepted in the light of the teachings of holy Quran and Torah.**

It has been told in this part that prophets Moosaa and Haaron were blessed with Torah which was the light and the reminder. Now a blessed reminder (the Quran) has been revealed to Muhammad (pbuh). Will the Makkan pagans deny it? The pious people believe in Allah, in the Unseen and in the life after death. They fear Allah and tremble with the fear of the Day of Judgement.

**6- Verses: 50 to 93: Many prophets are mentioned in the sixth paragraph and their invitation and character have been highlighted.**

- (a) **The services of prophet Ibraaheem regarding Tawheed:** The creed of Tawheed of prophet Ibraaheem, the great grandfather of the Makkan pagans, has been mentioned in detail in the first twenty four verses (50 to 73) of this part. He had a dialogue with his father and his nation regarding the belief of Tawheed. They were blind followers of the traditions of their forefathers. He gave the rational arguments. He himself used his mind and invited others to use their minds and think deeply. He asked them: "Do you want to leave Allah and worship those who do not have the power to give you any benefit or harm?" He worked with determination and courage and broke all the idols. Consequently, he was thrown into the fire but Allah saved him, and the conspiracies of the polytheists failed. He migrated to the holy land along with prophet Loot. He had to go through the trials. Allah blessed him with his son Is'haaq and grandson Ya'qoob.



- The gist of the matter is that a prophet is a human being. He goes through the trials but finally he becomes eligible for the blessings of Allah.
- (b) The character of other prophets and their services:** Then in verses 74 to 93 many prophets have been mentioned briefly and it has been told that all of them were pious, righteous, grateful, patient and humble servants of Allah.
  - Prophet Loot fought against a nation that was involved in wickedness. Finally, Allah saved him and he entered His Mercy.
  - Prophet Nooh also preached among his nation continuously for a long time and kept asking for Allah's help. Finally, Allah saved him and his followers.
  - Prophets Dawood and Sulaimaan were blessed with knowledge and power. Prophet Dawood was blessed with melodious voice. Even the mountains and the birds joined him in his psalms. He was taught the art of making armours from iron for the army.
  - The winds were subdued to prophet Sulaimaan and the Jinns were subservient to him.
  - Prophet Ayyoob was delivered from his distress. His prayers were heard.
  - Prophets Ismaa'eel, Idrees and Zul-Kifl were blessed with Allah's Mercy because of their patience, steadfastness and righteousness.
  - Prophet Yoonus was delivered from the belly of the fish when he confessed his mistake in the following words: ﴿لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ، سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ﴾  
 "There is no god but You, glory be to You! Indeed I was the one who committed wrong." (Verse: 87)
  - Allah accepted the prayer of prophet Zakariyya and gave him the son like Yahya in his old age. All these prophets had a strong relation with Allah. They used to pray to Allah with eagerness, fear and humility.
  - Then Allah gave a son like Eesaa to a chaste woman like Maryam.
- (c) The gist of all what is said is that all the prophets are human beings. They are not gods. They repent on their mistakes and seek Allah's forgiveness. They are patient and grateful. They face the opposition of their nations with courage and determination in order to disseminate the invitation of Tawheed. Their relation with Allah is very strong. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the last link of the same chain. His honour and respect should be recognised and**



observed instead of blaming him and raising objections against him.

At the end of this part, it has been told that all the prophets are one nation.

﴿إِنَّ هَذِهِ أُمَّتُكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً﴾ “Verily this brotherhood of yours is a single brotherhood.” (Verse: 92) Their God is Allah Almighty and He Alone should be worshipped. However, the people divided their religion into different sects later on. Whoever believes and does good deeds, his efforts will not be wasted.

**7- Verses: 94 to 106: In the seventh paragraph, it has been told the end of those who follow the Tawheed and those who commit Shirk will be surely different.**

**(a) The end of those who commit Shirk:** It has been told in this part that the stubborn people do not repent until they see the punishment of Allah. The Yaajooj and Maajooj (Gog and Magog) will be let loose before the Doomsday. The Last Hour has come close. Then the unbelievers will regret. The polytheists have been told that they themselves and their idols (the leaders whom they made partners with Allah) will become the fuel of Hell. They will cry in the Hell but no one will listen to their cries

**(b) The end of those who follow the Tawheed:** The pious people will be kept away from the Hell. They will not hear even the slightest sound from it. They will have a pleasant life. They will not be embarrassed. The angels will welcome them.

**(c) The rational argument of the life after death has been presented that Allah Who created the first time will create again. The Day of Judgement will surely come. ﴿كَمَا بَدَأْنَا أَوَّلَ خَلْقٍ نُعِيدُهُ﴾ “Just as We originated the first creation, so shall We produce it again.” (Verse: 104)**

**8- Verses: 107 to 112: In the eighth and last paragraph, the messenger (pbuh) of Allah has been declared as the mercy for the whole universe and the invitation to believe in him has been given. The Muslims will get the power.**

**(a) The Muslims have been given the good news that they will get power in the land. This good news was recorded in the Psalms of David.**

﴿أَنَّ الْأَرْضَ يَرِثُهَا عِبَادِيَ الصَّالِحُونَ﴾ “As for the land, My righteous servants shall inherit it.” (Verse: 105)

**(b) The Makkan pagans were told that they should recognise the honour and respect given to the last prophet Muhammad (pbuh). He is the last link of the chain of prophets and he has been sent as a mercy for the whole world.**



﴿وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ﴾ “We have not sent you but as a blessing for all the worlds.” (Verse: 107) Only the Doomsday can be awaited after the last prophet. May be, it is a trial for the people or a respite to benefit from it. All the human beings have been asked if they are ready to accept Islam?

﴿فَهَلْ أَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ؟﴾ “Will you then become Muslims?” (Verse: 108)

**(c) The last Verse:** In the atmosphere of struggle between Tawheed and Shirk, the following prayer of the messenger of Allah has been recorded:

﴿رَبِّ احْكُم بِالْحَقِّ. وَرَبُّنَا الرَّحْمَنُ الْمُسْتَعَانُ عَلَىٰ مَا تَصِفُونَ﴾ “O my Lord! Pass Your Judgement with fairness. And our Lord is most Compassionate, Whose help we seek against the blasphemies you utter.” (Verse: 112)

### Central subject

All the prophets gave the invitation of Tawheed and life after death. Muhammad (pbuh) is the mercy for all the worlds. He is the appropriate heir of the legacy of his great grandfather Ibraaheem and he is the last link of the chain of prophet-hood. They can be ruined, if they reject this mercy in spite of the proofs of Quran and do not accept Islam. The Muslims will achieve the power.

