

Period of revelation:

- 1- Soorah Ash-Sho'araa was revealed during the third phase of prophet's stay in Makkah (6 to 10 prophet-hood) when the Arabic Quran was suspected and objections were being raised against it. It was revealed when the prophet (pbuh) was alleged with insanity and the leadership of Quraish was advised to learn a lesson from the end of the six nations of Nooh, Aad, Thamood, Loot, Sho'aib and Moosaa.
- 2- The verse No. 214 "And admonish your close relatives" was revealed in 4 prophet-hood a little before the general proclamation of Islam, after which the prophet (pbuh) invited the people to Tawheed openly from the mount of Safaa.
 (Saheeh Bukhari: Hadeeth: 4,492)

The relationship of soorah Ash-Sho'araa with the Book

- 1- In the previous soorah (Al-Furqaan), the rational, universal and psychical arguments of veracity of the holy Quran and the invitation of the messenger of Allah were given and the silencing answers of the objections and allegations were provided.
- 2- Here, in soorah Ash-Sho'araa, the historical arguments of the Tawheed of Power and Authority have been provided by two Attributive Names of Allah the Mighty and the Merciful.
- 3- Two things are common in the next three Soorahs (Ash-Sho'araa, An-Naml, Al-Qasas).
- (a) The true story of the struggle between prophet Moosaa and Pharaoh has been told and the rebellious leadership of Quraish has been ordered to give up their arrogant attitude in all three Soorahs.
- (b) In all the three Soorahs, the rebellious leadership of Quraish has been advised to learn a lesson from the annihilation of different nations.

Important key words, subjects and repeated verses

1- Meaningfulness of use of the words "Alaa Yattaqoon" and "Alaa Tattaqoon" in soorah Ash-Sho'araa:

The words "Alaa Yattaqoon" (Do they have no fear of Allah?) and "Alaa Tattaqoon" (Do you have no fear of Allah?) have been used many times in

soorah Ash-Sho'araa. The basic meaning of the word "Taqwaa" is piety and to guard against the unlawful, guard against the prohibited things, guard against the Wrath of Allah, and guard against the evil result of vices in this world and in the life hereafter.

(a) Prophet Nooh's invitation of piety (3,500 B. C.):

"Do you have no fear of Allah?" (Verse: 106) The people of Nooh and their leaders have been invited here to guard themselves against the Shirk of worshipping their five idols. They have been ordered to save themselves from threatening prophet Nooh that they will stone him to death and save themselves from considering the common people as mean. They should save themselves from the denial of the prophet-hood of Nooh so that they may save themselves from the punishment of Allah in this world and in the hereafter as a result of their piety.

(b) Prophet Hood's invitation of piety (3,000 B. C.):

"Do you have no fear of Allah?" (Verse: 124) The people of Aad and their leaders have been invited to adopt piety and to guard themselves against the Shirk and following the traditions of their forefathers. They should repent for their creed of denying the life hereafter. They should save themselves from calling prophet Hood a liar and a foolish person. They should save themselves from arrogance and they should leave the slogan:

"Who is stronger than us?" They should give up oppression, infidelity and enmity. They should not attack the other nations like tyrants so that they may save themselves from the punishment of Allah in this world and in the life hereafter as a result of their piety.

(c) Prophet Saleh's invitation of piety (2,500 B. C.):

"Don't you want to save yourselves?" (Verse: 142) The people of Thamood have been given the invitation of piety that they should save themselves from killing the female camel of Allah, save themselves from the denial of life hereafter, save themselves from Shirk and following the traditions of their forefathers and save themselves from obedience of their nine leaders who were mischief mongers, very arrogant and rebellious. They should save themselves from calling prophet Saleh to be bewitched and sniping at prophet Saleh and his family during the night. They were advised to believe in prophet Saleh so that they may be saved from the punishment in this world and in the hereafter as a result of their piety.

(d) Prophet Loot's invitation of piety (2,100 B. C.):

"Don't you want to save yourselves?" (Verse: 161) The people of Loot and their leaders have been given the invitation of piety. They have been told to save themselves from mischief, criminal assault, rebellion, robbery, lust and homosexuality. They should not deny the prophets so that they may be saved from punishment in this world and in the life hereafter as a result of piety.

(e) Prophet Sho'aib's invitation of piety (1,400 B. C.):

"Don't you want to save yourselves?" (Verse: 177) The people of Sho'aib and their leaders have been given the invitation of piety here. They have been told to save themselves from Shirk, giving less measure and weight, robbery, mischief and illegal earnings so that they may be saved from the punishment of Allah in this world and in the life hereafter as a result of their piety.

(f) Prophet Moosaa's invitation of piety (1,300 B. C.):

"Do they not want to save themselves?" (Verse: 11) Pharaoh and his military government have been given the invitation of piety here. They have been told to avoid tyranny and save themselves from killing the Israelites on the basis of racial prejudice. They should save themselves from exaltation and mischief in the land so that they may save themselves from punishment of Allah in this world and in the life hereafter as a result of their piety.

2- There are some repeated verses in soorah Ash-Sho'araa which have been repeated many times.

For example:

﴿ اللَّا تَتَقُون هِ إِنِّ لَكُم رَسُولٌ آمِين هِ فَا تَقُوْا الله وَ الطِيعُون هِ وَمَا اَسْتَلَكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِن اَجِرٍ إِن اَجِرِ يَ إِلَّا عَلَى رَبِّ الْعَالَمِين ﴾ العَالَمِين ﴾ (آيات:109 ،127 ،145 ،180)

"Have you no fear of Allah? Rest assured that I am a trustworthy messenger of Allah towards you, so fear Allah and obey me. I do not ask you for any reward for my services, for my reward will be given by the Lord of the worlds."

(Veres: 106-109, 124-127, 142-145, 161-164, 177-180)

The following things are revealed by theses repeated verses:

(a) All the six prophets gave the invitation of piety. In other words they invited them to guard against the Shirk, innovation in religion and the trials of their time.

- (b) All the six prophets proclaimed that they were not only the messengers of Allah but were trustworthy and honest as well.
- (c) All the six prophets invited people to fear Allah, worship Him and obey the prophet because he was the messenger of Allah.
- (d) All the six prophets made clear to their nations that they do not ask them for any money or for any kind of contribution. They come to give the nation not take from them. The prophets work for Allah and they seek their reward from Him. They invite to the religion sincerely.
- 3- The wisdom behind using the words "Rabbul-'aalameen" (Lord of the worlds) for eleven (11) times in soorah Ash-Sho'araa:

The word ﴿وَرَبُّ الْعَالَبِين ﴾ "Rabbul-'Aalameen" (Lord of the worlds) has been used in the following verses in this soorah.

(Verses: 16, 23, 47, 77, 98, 109, 127, 145, 164, 180, 192)

The word "Rab" has five meanings:

- (a) The one who rears, nourishes and grows,
- (b) the one who looks after and takes care,
- (c) master and owner,
- (d) the one who has the central position, gathers together and assimilates,
- (e) the leader, the one who has power domination and authority.
 The repetition of the word "Rabbul-'Aalameen" (Lord of the worlds) reveals the following things:
- (a) All the prophets invite to the Tawheed of Providence in the beginning. Tawheed of providence leads to the Tawheed of Divinity.
- (b) The Makkan pagans believed in the Tawheed of Providence but they committed Shirk in Tawheed of Divinity, Tawheed of Worship, Tawheed of Arbitration and Tawheed of Legislation.
- 4- The wisdom behind using repeatedly the verse: "Surely, in this, there is a sign, yet, most of them do not believe".

The true stories of nine (9) prophets have been told in soorah Ash-Sho'araa and the following verse has been repeated after every story:

﴿ اِنَّ فِي أَلِكَ لَا يَهُ وَمَا كَانَ ٱ كُثْرُهُمْ مُؤْمِنِين ﴾ "Surely, in this, there is a sign, yet, most of them do not believe." (Verses: 8, 67, 103,121, 139, 158, 174, 190,)

This repeated verse reveals the following things:

- (a) In all the nine (9) true stories of prophets, there are signs of His Power and signs of His Reward and Punishment. Allah Almighty ruins the nations who disobey the messengers and saves the messengers and their companions.
- (b) The verse: ﴿ وَمَا كَانَ ٱ كُثْرُهُمْ مُؤْمِدِين And most of them do not believe," shows that the hard hearted people do not learn any lesson from the true historical events and they do not believe.
- 5- The wisdom behind using two Attributes of Allah The Mighty and The Merciful in soorah Ash-Sho'araa:

The following verse has also been repeated eight (8) times, after the true story of every prophet: ﴿ وَإِنَّ رَبُّكَ لَهُوَ الْعَزِيْزُ الرَّحِيْمِ "Surely, your Lord is the One Who is The Mighty, The Merciful." (Verses: 9, 68, 104, 122, 140, 159, 175, 191)

The following things are revealed by this repeated verse:

- (a) The first thing we learn is that the Lord who nourishes is Mighty for the unbelievers and Merciful for the believers.
- (b) Every prophet introduced Allah through His Attributes.
- (c) It is established by the history of annihilation of every nation that the Lord Who nourishes people, also monitors them. He is watching to see who is grateful and who is ungrateful among the people.
- (d) It is established from the history of annihilation of every nation that the Lord Who nourishes the people is Mighty for the mischief mongers and ungrateful people. He punishes them in this world. This is the lesson of history. They will also be punished in the life hereafter.
- (e) It is established from the history of annihilation of every nation that the Lord Who nourishes is Merciful as well. He saves His grateful people from the punishment in this as well as in the next world.
- 6- Use of the words "By the glory of Pharaoh" in soorah Ash-Sho'araa:

In soorah Ash-Sho'araa, the magicians used the words: "By the glory of Pharaoh" (verse: 44), before they threw their cords and sticks on the ground, which means that they shouted the slogan of Pharaoh's power, might, dictatorship, domination and authority. Later on, the same magicians became sincere and staunch believers. They were prepared to suffer any kind of trial and punishment. They had realised the Power of Allah and accepted His Might instead of Pharaoh's.

7- Description of rejection of different nations in soorah Ash-Sho'araa:

In soorah Ash-Sho'araa, mankind have been threatened by the end of different nations who had rejected their prophets.

- "The people of Nooh also rejected the messengers." ﴿ كُنَّتِبُ قُوْمُ نُوْحٍ وِ الْمُرْسَلِيْنَ ﴾ (a) (Verse: 105)
- "The people of 'Aad, too disbelieved their messengers." ﴿ كُنَّبَتُ عَادُوالْبُرُسَلِيْنَ ﴾ (b) ﴿ كُنَّبَتُ عَادُوالْبُرُسَلِيْنَ ﴾ (Verse: 123)
- (c) ﴿ كُنَّبَتْ ثَمُودُالْمُرْسَلِيْنَ ﴾ (The people of Thamood also disbelieved their messengers." ﴿ كُنَّبَتْ ثَمُودُالْمُرْسَلِيْنَ ﴾ (Verse:141)
- "The people of Loot also disbelieved their messengers." ﴿ كُنَّتِكَ قُوْمُ لُوْطِ بِالْمُرْسَلِيْنَ ﴾ (d) (Verse: 160)
- (e) ﴿ كُنَّبَٱصُّبُ لُغَيْكَةِ الْمُرْسَلِيْنَ ﴾ (The people of Aikah, also, disbelieved their messengers." (Verse: 176)
- (f) The Quraish rejected the last messenger, Muhammad (pbuh) and made fun of him.

"They have indeed rejected (the message of Muhammad): so they will soon know the truth of what they mocked at!" (Verse: 6)

Macro-structure of soorah Ash-Sho'araa

Soorah Ash-Sho'araa consists of ten (10) paragraphs. The first and the last paragraphs consist of the introduction of holy Quran and the arguments of Providence. The second paragraph has got the earthly arguments of Allah's Might and Mercy. The third paragraph contains the historical arguments from the story of prophet Moosaa and Pharaoh. The fourth paragraph has got the historical arguments of annihilation of nation of Ibraaheem, the fifth has got from the story of Nooh, the sixth from the story of Aad, the seventh from the story of Thamood, the eighth from the story of Loot and the ninth from the story of Sho'aib.

1- Verses: 1 to 6: The first paragraph is introductory which consists of the arguments of Providence and the introduction of holy Quran. The last paragraph also consists of the introduction of holy Quran.

The compassion of Muhammad (pbuh) has been mentioned: "Will you fret yourself to death with grief, O Muhammad, if these polytheists do not believe?" (Verse: 3) The Quraish have been threatened for rejecting the messenger (pbuh) of Allah and making fun of him.

"But now that they have rejected the warning, they will soon come to know the reality of what they have been mocking at." (Verse: 6)

2- Verses: 7 to 9: The second paragraph consists of the earthly arguments of two of the Attributes of Allah: Might and Mercy.

Man has been invited to think about the earth. The earth provides man with every kind of vegetables and fruits and the same earth becomes his grave. The earth provides the arguments for Allah's Might and Mercy.

3- Verses: 10 to 68: The third paragraph consists of the historical arguments of the story of prophet Moosaa and Pharaoh.

The historical proof of Allah's Might has been provided by the annihilation of Pharaoh and his followers, and the proof of Allah's Mercy has been provided by the deliverance of prophet Moosaa and the Israelites.

Allah ordered prophets Moosaa and Haaroon to go to Pharaoh and tell him that they are the messengers of Allah.

"Go to Pharaoh and tell him: 'We are the messengers from the Lord of the worlds'." (Verse: 16)

Pharaoh asked, "Who is this Lord of the worlds?"

Prophet Moosaa continued his speech; but Pharaoh interjected and said to his courtiers, ﴿قَالَ اللَّهُ مُنْ اللَّهُ اللَّهِ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ

Pharaoh threatened prophet Moosaa and said,

"If you serve any other god besides me" ﴿ قَالَ لَئِنِ اثْقَلْتَ الْهَا غَيْرِى لاَجْعَلَنَكَ مِنَ الْمَسْجُوْنِيْنَ ﴾ "Ishall have you thrown into the prison." (Verse: 29)

Pharaoh gave his opinion and said to his chiefs around him,

"This fellow is certainly a skilled magician."(Verse:34) (وَقَالَ لِلْمَلَا حَوْلَةَ إِنَّ هَٰنَا لَسْحِرٌ عَلِيْمٌ ﴿ This fellow is certainly a skilled magician."(Verse:34) (Verse:34) "He wants to drive you out of your land by the force of his magic. Now what is your advice?" (Verse: 35)

Pharaoh called the magicians from all the cities to combat prophet Moosaa. The day was fixed for this combat. The magicians sought the guarantee for the reward. Pharaoh not only guaranteed the reward but also promised to make them his courtiers. Pharaoh replied, ﴿وَقَالُ نَعُمُ وَاتَّكُمُ اللَّهُ اللَّهِ اللَّهُ اللَّهِ اللَّهُ اللَّهِ اللَّهُ اللَّهِ اللَّهُ اللَّهِ اللَّهُ الل

"He must be your master who taught you the witchcraft. But soon you shall find out. ﴿ وَالْفَالُكُمُ السِّعْرَ ﴾ Witchcraft. But soon you shall find out. ﴿ وَالْعَلِينَ كُمُ النِّهِ وَالْمَلِّينَ كُمُ النِّهِ وَالْمَلِينَ عُلِينَ اللهِ وَالْمَلِينَ عُلِينَ اللهِ وَالْمَلِينَ عُلِينَ اللهِ وَالْمَلِينَ عُلِينَ اللهِ وَاللهِ وَالْمُلِينَ عُلِينَ وَاللهِ وَاللّهُ وَلّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُو

The magicians showed steadfastness and said, ﴿ وَعَالُوَالْالِ وَيُعَالِّنَا الْمُنْقَلِبُونَ﴾ "We dont care! we are going to return to our Lord anyway." (Verse: 50)

4- Verses: 69 to 104: In the fourth paragraph, the story of prophet Ibraaheem has been told and the two Attributes of Allah - His Might and His Mercy - have been established.

Prophet Ibraaheem argued with his father and his nation and asked them: "what do you worship? Idols!" He questioned: "Can these idols listen? Do they have power to give benefit or harm?" (69 to 73)

They replied: ﴿ وَعَالُوْا بِلُ وَجَانَ ثَا كُذَٰ لِكَ يَفْعَلُوْنَ ﴾ "No! But we found our forefathers doing so." (Verse: 74)

Prophet Ibraaheem prayed: "Bestow wisdom upon me and admit me among the righteous, grant me a reputation of truthfulness on the tongue of later generations, count me among the inheritors of the Paradise; forgive my father, for he is among those who have gone astray, do not hold me up in shame on the Day of Judgement." (Verses: 83 to 87)

"Neither wealth nor sons will avail anyone on the Day of Judgement." (Verse: 88)

On the Day of Judgement, only the one who will come فَازَّا مَنْ اَلِّيَ اللَّهُ بِقَلْبٍ سَلِيْمٍ ﴾ On the Day of Judgement, only the one who will come before Allah with a pure heart will be saved. (Verse: 89)

The Paradise will be brought nearer to the righteous on that Day and the Hell will be spread open to those who had strayed.

5- Verses: 105 to 122: The story of prophet Nooh has been described in the fifth paragraph and the two attributes of Allah - His might and His Mercy - have been established.

The people of Nooh were polytheists. They worshipped five idols.

Politically, they were very influential. They threatened prophet Nooh that they will stone him to death. They said: ﴿وَاَلُوا لَكُنُ لِلْمُ لِلْمُ الْمُعْرِينِ وَالْمُعْرِينِ وَالْمُعِلِينِ وَالْمُعْرِينِ وَالْمُعِلِي وَالْمُعْرِينِ وَالْمُعْرِينِ والْمُعْرِي وَالْمُعِلِي وَالْمُعِلِي وَالْمُعِلِي وَالْمُعِلِي وَ

6- Verses: 123 to 140: The story of prophet Hood and the people of Aad has been described in the sixth paragraph and the two attributes of Allah - His might and His Mercy - have been established.

The people of Aad were evil. They rejected prophet Hood and his teachings, therefore, they were destroyed. ﴿وَكَانَاتُوهُ وَالْكُولُوهُ اللَّهِ اللَّهُ اللّلَّا اللَّهُ اللّ

7- Verses: 141 to 159: The stories of prophet Saleh and the people of Thamood have been described in the seventh paragraph and the two attributes of Allah - His might and His Mercy - have been established.

The leaders of the people of Thamood were extravagant. They abused their power and authority. Prophet Saleh forbade the people to follow their evil leaders. ﴿وَلَا تُطِيّعُواۤ الْمُرَالَّهُمْ رِفِيْنَ ﴾ "Do not follow the bidding of the extravagant." (Verse: 151) But they did not listen to him and consequently, they were annihilated.

8- Verses: 160 to 175: The story of the people of Loot has been described in the eighth paragraph and the two attributes of Allah - His might and His Mercy - have been established.

The people of Loot rejected him. Allah delivered him and his family except his old wife; but those who were warned before were destroyed with the rain of brimstones.

9- Verses: 176 to 191: The story of prophet Sho'aib and the people of Aikah has been described in the ninth paragraph and the two attributes of Allah - His might and His Mercy - have been established.

10- Verses: 192 to 227: The tenth and last paragraph is conclusion. There is further introduction of the holy Quran like the first paragraph.

The messenger of Allah has been given the instructions and consolation and the Quraish of Makkah have been threatened with punishment like the previous nations.

(1) The holy Quran has been revealed by the Lord of the worlds.

(وَوَاتَّهْ لَتَنْوِيْلُ رَبِّ الْعُلَمِيْنَ (Yurely, this (Quran) is a revelation from the Lord of the worlds." (Verse: 192)

"The trustworthy spirit (Angel Jibreel) brought it down." (Verse: 193)

Allah is the Lord of the worlds, Who is Almighty and Who has destroyed many ungrateful nations in the past.

Allah is the Lord of the worlds, Who is Merciful and Who has saved His messengers and those grateful people who believed in them.

(2) This Quran is not the word of Satan. ﴿ وَمَا تَنَزَّلَتْ بِهِ الشَّيْطِيْنَ "This (Quran) is not brought down by the devils." (verse: 210) How can they descend on the person like the messenger of Allah? ﴿ وَمَلْ ٱلْتَبِعُكُمْ عَلَى مَنْ تَنَزَّلُ الشَّيْطِيْنَ ﴾ Shall I tell you on whom the devils descend? (Verse: 221) They descend only on the slandering sinners. (Verse: 222)

- (3) The holy Quran is not the poetry. The poets wander aimlessly in every valley. They say what they don't do. ﴿وَإِنَّا لَهُمْ يَقُولُونَ مَا لَا يَفْعَلُونَ مَا لَا يَعْمَا لَا يَعْمَى لَا يَعْمَلُونَ مَا لَا يَعْمَى لِمِي لَعْمَى لَا يَعْمَى لِمُعْلِي لِمُعْلِمَ لَا يَعْمَى لَا يَعْمِى لَا يَعْمِى لَا يَعْمِى لَا يَعْمَى لَا يَعْمَى لِمِي لِمُ لِعْمِى لَا يَعْمِى لَاعِمِ لَا يَعْمِى لَا يَعْمِى لَا يَعْمِى لَا يَعْمِى لَا يَعْمِى لِمُعْلِمِي لِمَا يَعْمِى لَا يَعْمِى لِمِعْلَى لِمْ لِمِي لِمُ لِمِا يَعْمِى لِمُعْلِمِي لِمُعْلِمِي لِمُعْلِمِ لِمِعْلَى لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِعْلِمُ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمْ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمُ لِمُعْلِمُ لِمُعْلِمُ لِمُعْلِمُ لِمُعْلِمُ لِمُعْلِمُ لِمُ لِمُعْلِمُ لِمُعْلِمُ لِمُعْلِمُ لِمُعْلِمُ لِمُعْلِمُ لِمُعْلِمِ لِمُعْلِمُ لِمُ
- (4) The messenger (pbuh) of Allah has been advised to warn his near relatives, be kind to those who believe, and put his trust in Allah Who is Mighty and Merciful. (Verse: 214)
- (5) One of the principles of annihilation has been stated that the nations are not destroyed until the prophets are raised among them to warn them.

 ﴿ ﴿ وَمَا اَهُلَكُنَا مِنْ قَرْيَةِ إِلَّا لَهَا مُنْلِرُونَ ﴾ "Never have We destroyed a population to whom We did not send Warmers." (Verse: 208)
- (6) Muhammad (pbuh) was ordered to follow the Tawheed in prayer. Those who commit Shirk in prayer deserve Allah's punishment.

 ﴿ وَلَا تَنْ عُمَعَ اللّٰهِ الْهَا اُخَرَ فَتَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُعَلِّمِينَ ﴾ "So do not call on other gods besides Allah, lest you become one of those who incur His punishment." (Verse: 213)

Central subject

All the prophets invited to worship Allah, the Lord of worlds and obey them. People should accept the Omnipotence and Mercifulness of Allah in the light of the earthly and historical arguments and believe in the invitation of reward and punishment of holy Quran.

