

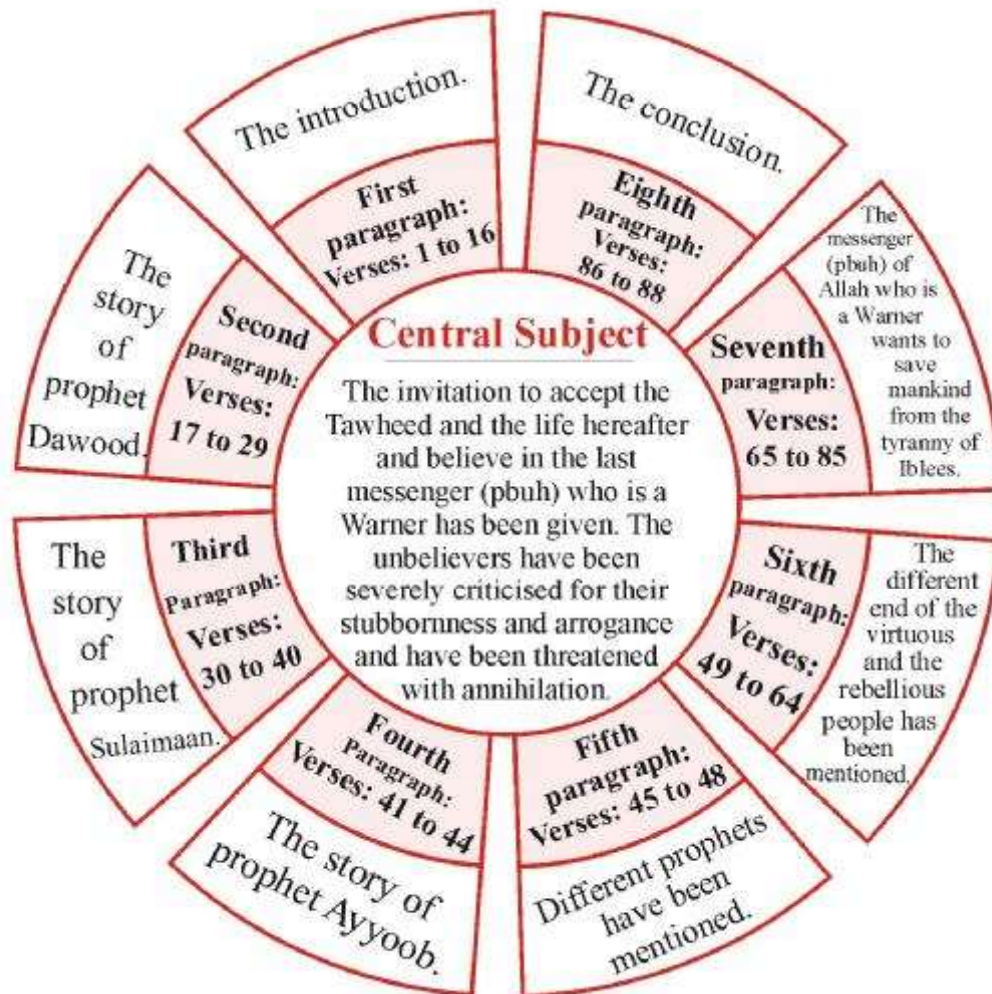
Flow Chart of Macro-Structure of Soorah Saad

38 - Soorah Saad

Makkan

Verses: 88

Paragraphs: 8



• Period of revelation:

Probably, it was revealed in ten (10) prophet-hood when Abu Taalib was suffering from the disease which caused his death and when the prophet (pbuh) was alleged to be a magician and a liar.

The polytheists were being arrogant and stubborn and were rejecting the invitation of Quran.

The relationship of soorah Saad with the Book

- 1- In the previous soorah (As-Saaffaat), the services of prophets Nooh, Ibraaheem, Moosaa, Haaron, Ilyaaas, Loot and Yoonus regarding Tawheed were mentioned and their excellent character was portrayed. Here, in soorah Saad, the repentance of prophets Dawood, Sulaimaan and Ayyoob has been mentioned and the services of a few other prophets regarding Tawheed and their excellent character have been described
- 2- In the next soorah (Az-Zumar), the details of Tawheed have been described and the invitation to follow the pure Tawheed has been given.

Important Key words and Subjects

1- The introduction of holy Quran and its invitation, and the reward on its acceptance in soorah Saad:

In soorah Saad, there is the introduction of the holy Quran, the invitation to ponder over it and also the mention of reward on acceptance of this invitation.

- (a) The holy Quran is the Book of admonition which has been presented as a proof. ﴿ص وَالْقُرْآنِ ذِي الذِّكْرِ﴾ “Saad. And by the Quran which is full of admonition!” (Verse: 1)
- (b) The holy Quran is such a Book of admonition which completes the argument against the whole mankind. ﴿إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِلْعَالَمِينَ﴾ “This Quran is nothing but a reminder to all the worlds.” (Verse: 87)
- (c) The holy Quran is the Book of admonition that guarantees the best end for those who believe in it and follow its commandments. ﴿هَذَا ذِكْرٌ وَإِن لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِحْسَنُ مَأْوٍ﴾ “This Quran is but a reminder. Surely, the righteous shall return to an excellent resort.” (Verse: 49)
- (d) The holy Quran is a blessed and bountiful Book. Every wise person should ponder over it and learn a lesson from it. ﴿كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ مُبَارَكٌ لِيَدَّبَّرُوا آيَاتِهِ وَلِيَتَذَكَّرَ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ﴾ “This Book (the Quran) which We have sent down to you (O Muhammad) is highly blessed, so that they may ponder upon its verses and the men of understanding may learn a lesson from it.” (Verses: 29)

2- The attitude of Makkan pagans has been highlighted in this soorah.

- (a) The Makkan pagans were surprised that Muhammad (pbuh) believes only in One God instead of many gods. ﴿أَجْعَلُ الْإِلَهَةَ إِلَهًا وَاحِدًا إِنَّ هَذَا لَشَيْءٌ عُجَابٌ﴾ “Does he claim that there is only One God in place of all other gods? Surely, this is a strange thing.” (Verse: 5)
- (b) The Makkan pagans were also surprised that the Quran was revealed to Muhammad (pbuh) alone among them. Then they were caught in suspicion. ﴿أَنْزَلَ عَلَيْنَا الدِّينَ مِنْ بَيْنِنَا بَلْ هُمْ فِي شَكٍّ مِنْ ذِكْرِي﴾ “Is he the only fit person among us to whom the admonition is revealed? But in fact, they doubt My admonition.” (Verse: 8)
- (c) The pagan Makkan leaders resolved to remain firm on their belief in their gods with stubbornness and obstinacy. ﴿إِنْ آمَسُوا وَأَصْبَحُوا عَلَيَّ إِلَهَتِكُمْ﴾ “Pay no heed, stand firm in the service of your gods.” (Verse: 6)
- (d) The Makkan pagans were told that the messenger (pbuh) of Allah was only a Warner. There is no god except Allah, the One and only God. O prophet, tell them: ﴿قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا مُنذِرٌ وَمَنْ إِلَهٌ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْوَاحِدُ الْقَهَّارُ﴾ “My mission is only as a Warner; there is no god except Allah, the One, the Irresistible.” (Verse: 65)
- (e) The messenger (pbuh) of Allah did not have any clue about the heavenly world. However, when he was given the revelation, he came to know that he was sent as a plain Warner. ﴿إِنْ يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ إِلَّا أَنَّمَا أَنَا نَذِيرٌ مُبِينٌ﴾ “I am informed (about all this) through a revelation because I am (assigned the mission of) a plain Warner.” (Verse: 70)
- (f) It has been told about the Makkan pagans that they do not want to understand the holy Quran. They are, rather, involved in pride, stubbornness and obstinacy. ﴿بَلِ الْبَلِيغِينَ كَفَرُوا فِي عِزَّةٍ وَشِقَاقِي﴾ “Surely, the unbelievers are in sheer arrogance and perverseness.” (Verse: 2)
- (g) The Makkan pagans have been advised to learn a lesson from the history. They were told that they were not the first to reject the prophet (pbuh); but the people of Nooh, the people of Aad, the people of Pharaoh, the people of Thamood, the people of Loot and the people of Aikah have already rejected their prophets. ﴿كَذَّبَتْ قَبْلَهُمْ قَوْمُ نُوحٍ وَعَادٌ وَفِرْعَوْنُ ذُو الْأَوْتَادِ وَمَوْدُو قَوْمِ لُوطٍ وَأَصْحَابُ الْأَيْكَةِ﴾

“Before them the people of Nooh, Aad, and Pharaoh, the man of stakes, denied their messengers, so did Thamood, the people of Loot and those of Aikah.”

(Verse: 12, 13)

- (h) The polytheists were asked to look at the history and see how many nations were ruined by Allah. They cried and screamed but could not get any refuge. ﴿كَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ مِنْ قَرْنٍ فَنَادَوا وَلا تَجِئْ مِنْنا مَنّاوِينَ﴾ “How many generations have We destroyed before them? (When their doom approached), they all cried out (for mercy), but it was no longer the time to be saved.” (Verse: 3)

3- The repentant nature of three prophets has been mentioned in soorah Saad.

The repentance of three prophets has been mentioned in this soorah - Prophets Dawood, Sulaimaan and Ayyoob, all of them were repentant to Allah.

- (a) Prophet Dawood was a faithful servant of Allah. He was a ruler but he was very repentant as well. He used to turn to Allah frequently. ﴿وَادْكُرْ عَبْدَنَا دَاوُودَ ذَا الأَيْدِ إِنَّهُ أَوّابٌ﴾ “And remember our servant Dawood, the man of strength, who was frequent in turning to Allah.” (Verse: 17)
- (b) Prophet Sulaimaan also was a faithful servant of Allah. He also was a ruler and a very repentant man. He used to turn to Allah frequently. ﴿وَوَهَبْنَا لِدَاوُدَ سُلَيْمَانَ نِعَمَ الْعَبْدِ إِنَّهُ أَوّابٌ﴾ “To Dawood We gave Sulaimaan, an excellent devotee! Who was frequent in returning to Us.” (Verse: 30)
- (c) Prophet Ayyoob also was a faithful servant of Allah. He was very patient and penitent. He used to turn to Allah very frequently. ﴿إِنَّا وَجَدْنَاهُ صَابِرًا نِعَمَ الْعَبْدِ إِنَّهُ أَوّابٌ﴾ “Certainly We found him full of patience. He was an excellent devotee, who turned to Us over and over again.” (Verse: 44)

4- Seeking forgiveness of Allah by Dawood and Sulaimaan is mentioned in this soorah.

In this soorah, seeking forgiveness by two prophets named Dawood and Sulaimaan has been mentioned.

- (a) Prophet Dawood sought Allah's forgiveness. He bowed to Allah and turned to Him in repentance. ﴿فَاسْتَغْفَرَ رَبَّهُ وَخَرَّ رَاكِعًا وَأَنَابَ﴾ “So he sought forgiveness of his Lord and fell down on his knees and turned to Allah in repentance.” (Verse: 24)
- (b) Prophet Sulaimaan also sought Allah's forgiveness and prayed that he

should be granted such kingdom which was suitable only for him.

﴿قَالَ رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَهَبْ لِي مُلْكًا لَا يَنْبَغِي لِأَحَدٍ مِّنْ بَعْدِي إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ﴾ “He said: 'O my Lord! Forgive me and grant me a kingdom similar to which may not be given to anyone after me. Surely, You are the real Giver.” (Verse: 35)

5- Comparison between the end of the pious and the rebellious people in soorah Saad:

It has been told in this soorah that the end of those who appreciate the holy Quran and those who deny it will be different.

- (a) The holy Quran is the Book of admonition. The one who follows the holy Quran carefully will have an excellent abode. ﴿هَذَا ذِكْرٌ وَإِن لِلْمُتَّقِينَ حَسَنٌ مَّا بٍ﴾
“This Quran is but a reminder. Surely, the righteous shall return to an excellent resort.” (Verse: 49)
- (b) The one who ignores the advice of Quran, gives up the piety and lives the life of a rebellious transgressor will have an evil resort. ﴿هَذَا وَإِن لِلطَّاغِينَ لَنَقَرٌ مَّا بٍ﴾
“But for the rebellious, there will be an evil resort.” (Verse: 55)

Macro-structure of soorah Saad

Soorah Saad consists of eight paragraphs. The invitation of Quran is presented in the first, sixth and last paragraphs. There is the history of invitation of different prophets in the second, third, fourth and fifth paragraphs. In the seventh paragraph, it has been told that Iblees is the hindrance in the invitation of Muhammad (pbuh), the last messenger of Allah.

1- Verses: 1 to 16: The first paragraph is introduction. Quran is the Book of advice. Those who deny Muhammad (pbuh) will be ruined.

It has been presented as an argument on the veracity of the holy Quran that it is the Book of admonition. The Makkan pagans have been threatened with annihilation for their stubbornness, obstinacy and arrogance.

The leaders of Quraish used to tell their followers to be steadfast and firm on the belief in their gods. They alleged the messenger (pbuh) of Allah to be a magician and a liar. Their arrogance was disdained and they were asked if

they had the treasures of Allah's Kingdom and His Mercy. They will suffer the defeat.

Their attitude is like the attitude of the previously mentioned six nations that were punished. They are also inviting the punishment.

2- Verses: 17 to 29: In the second paragraph, it has been argued from the life of prophet Dawood that the invitation of holy Quran is based on truth.

- (a) The messenger (pbuh) of Allah has been ordered to be patient on the allegations of magic and falsehood and tell them the story of prophet Dawood for whom the mountains and birds were subjugated and they used to sing the praises of Allah with him. He was not only given the kingdom, but was also bestowed with wisdom and understanding. He was penitent. The angels were sent to him as a test. He realised, later on, that he was being tested. He sought Allah's forgiveness. He was close to Allah.
- (b) **Government and Justice:** Prophet Dawood was made caliph and was given the kingdom. He was ordered to do justice. The greatest hindrance in the way of justice is the personal desires which led astray. Those who are misled will be punished.
- (c) This universe has not been created without a purpose. It is the test ground. Those who deny will be sent to Hell.
- (d) The end of the sinners and mischief-mongers will be different from the end of the pious believers. The reward of paradise and the punishment of hell are just.
- (e) The holy Quran is a blessed Book. Those who have got wisdom have been ordered to ponder over the Quran.

3- Verses: 30 to 40: In the third paragraph, it has been argued from the life of prophet Sulaimaan that the invitation of Quran is based on truth.

Prophet Sulaimaan was the son of prophet Dawood. He also was penitent. He was given the kingdom. His horses were presented to him in the evening. He became so absorbed in their examination that he missed the prayer until the sun set. He regretted so much that he slaughtered all those horses. Then Allah tested him and he sought Allah's forgiveness. His prayer was accepted and he was granted a great kingdom. The wind was subjugated to him and the Jinns

were made obedient to him. Some of the Jinns were expert builders and some of them were divers who brought pearls for him. He had fettered some of the evil Jinns in chains. Sulaimaan was very close to Allah. There will be an excellent abode for him.

4- Verses: 41 to 44: In the fourth paragraph, it has been argued from the life of prophet Ayyoob that patience and steadfastness are essential provision for the Way of Allah.

Ayyoob was a patient prophet of Allah. He was very penitent. His wealth and health were taken away. He prayed to Allah that Satan had afflicted him. Allah ordered him to strike his foot on the ground. A spring will gush out from it. Drink from it and bathe in it. He recovered with this miracle. His family and his wealth were given back to him. The wise people should learn a lesson from this event. He had taken an oath. He was ordered to strike with a bunch of twigs to fulfil his oath. He was very patient and faithful servant of Allah who used to turn to Allah frequently.

5- Verses: 45 to 48: In the fifth paragraph, it has been argued from the services of a few prophets that the invitation of Islam is based on truth.

After the detailed description of the above mentioned three prophets, the brief description of the following six prophets has been given that they were also the chosen servants of Allah. Prophets Ibraaheem, Is'haaq, Ya'qoob, Ismaa'eel, Al-Yasa'a Zul-Kifl were the best chosen people.

6- Verses: 49 to 64: In the sixth paragraph, the suggestion to accept the invitation of holy Quran has been given and the result of accepting or rejecting it has been explained.

- (a) The holy Quran is a reminder. Those who accept it and follow the course of piety will have an excellent abode. They will have the gardens, fruits, delicious drinks, bashful virgins and unending sustenance.
- (b) The end of the rebellious people will be very bad. They will have boiling water and pus to drink. They will be surprised not to see over there those whom they ridiculed and thought to be wicked.

7- Verses: 65 to 85: In the seventh paragraph, the hindrance in the acceptance of the Truth have been mentioned.

The messenger (pbuh) of Allah is a Warner. Accept his invitation that Allah is only One! The greatest hindrance in accepting the Truth is Iblees. All the angels bowed down to Adam but Iblees denied because of arrogance and became an unbeliever. He was proud that he was created from the fire while Adam was created from clay. He has been cursed until the Doomsday. He asked Allah to give him respite until the Doomsday which was given to him. He swore by Allah's Honour and Power that he will mislead the people. However, the sincere servants of Allah will not be trapped by him. Allah told him that He will fill the Hell with him and his followers.

8- Verses: 86 to 88: In the eighth and last paragraph, there is the invitation of Quran. There is good news for the believers and the threat for the unbelievers.

The invitation of the first paragraph is repeated in the last paragraph. It has been made clear to the unbelievers that the messenger (pbuh) of Allah is sincere in his invitation. He does not require any reward from the people. He is not one of those who pretend. The holy Quran is a reminder for the whole mankind and the argument against them.

The Makkan pagans have been threatened in the last verse that it will be known within a few years as to who will be successful and who will have to face the defeat. This is the good news of victory for the believers and the threat of destruction for the unbelievers.

Central Subject

The holy Quran is a reminder for the whole mankind. Muhammad (pbuh) is a Warner like prophets Dawood, Sulaimaan and Ayyoob etc. The unbelievers are rejecting it merely because of their stubbornness and arrogance. They will be ruined.

