

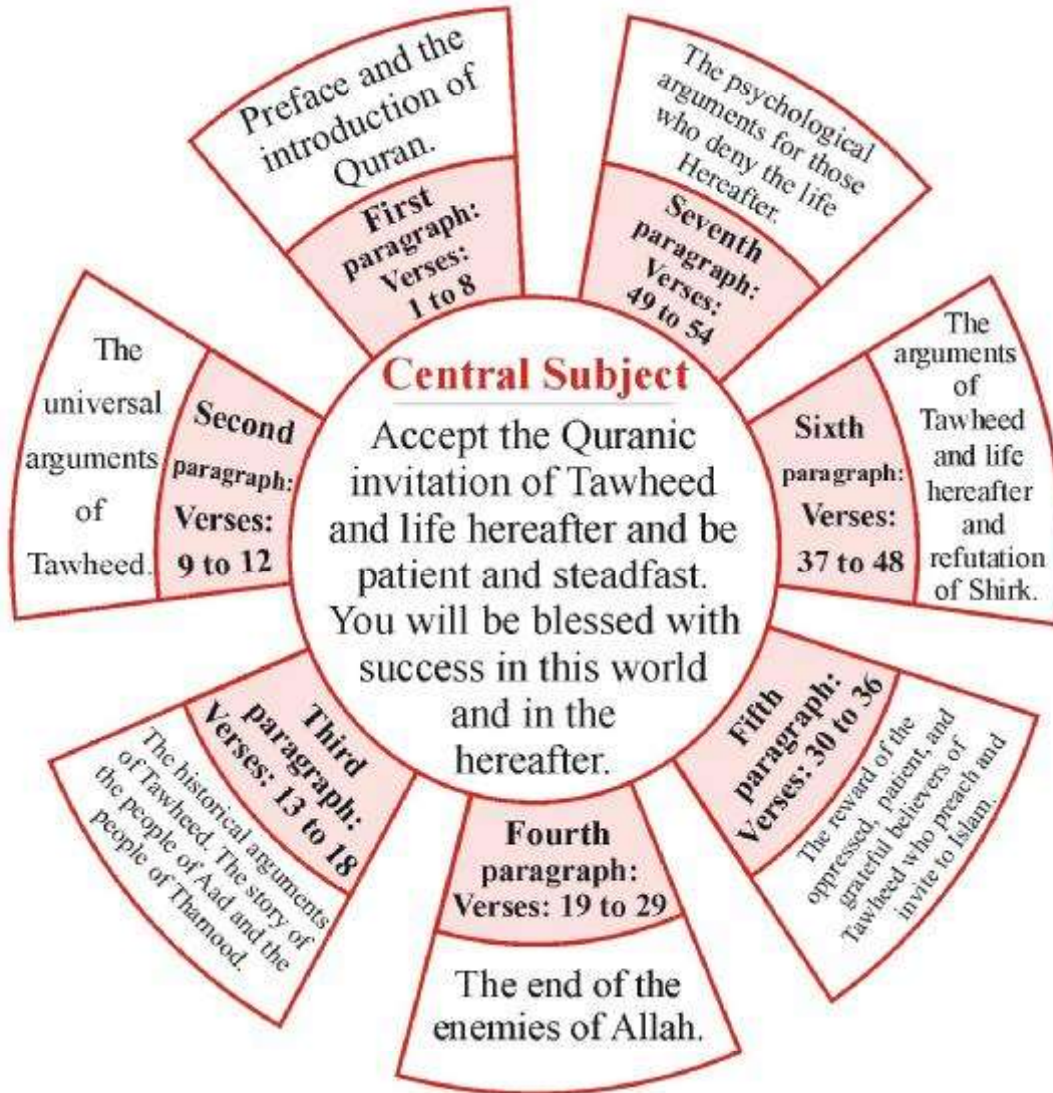
Flow Chart of Macro-Structure of Soorah Haa-Meem As-Sajdah

41-Soorah Haa-Meem As-Sajdah

Makkan

Verses: 54

Paragraphs: 7



• Period of revelation:

It is the second of the soorahs that begin with the letters Haa-Meem. It was revealed towards the end of the third phase of prophet's stay in Makkah, (6 to 10 prophet-hood) probably in 10 prophet-hood. According to some narrations it was revealed during the period between the acceptance of Islam by

Hamzah (R.A.) and Omar (R.A.) in Zul-Hijjah, 6 prophet-hood. The tradition of Tirmizi shows that there was the difference of only three days between the acceptance of Islam by these two.

The other name of this soorah is Fussilaat. This word has come in verses 3 and 44. The word "Fussilat" means explained in detail. It was the time when the Quraish of Makkah were intensely opposing the invitation of the messenger (pbuh) of Allah and they were still expressing their doubts about it. They objected against the Arabic Quran. Their leaders were forbidding the masses from listening to the holy Quran. (Verse: 26)

The migration to Ethiopia had taken place. The polytheists shunned the invitation of Quran. The attitude of the pagan leaders of Quraish was like that of the arrogant leaders of the people of Aad who used to say: "Who is stronger than us in might" (Verse: 15)

The people of Aad were ruined with a furious hurricane and thunderbolt and the people of Thamood were ruined with the thunderbolt. The Quraish were told that they were also included among the enemies of Allah like the peoples of Aad and Thamood. The steadfast Muslims were consoled that the angels descend on them. They invite towards Tawheed, repel the evil with virtue and show patience and perseverance. At the end of soorah, it has been foretold that soon such signs will appear in the universe and in themselves which will make the Truth clear. The unbelievers were told that they deny the meeting with their Lord but Allah is surrounding them.

Relationship of soorah Haa-Meem As-Sajdah with the Book

In the previous soorah (Al-Mo'min), the arrogant, oppressive and rebellious forces were advised to learn a lesson from the annihilation of Pharaoh. Here, in this soorah (Haa-Meem As-Sajdah), they have been threatened with the annihilation of the peoples of Aad and Thamood. They have been called "the enemies of Allah" who will go to Hell. Their disease has been diagnosed that they are suffering from "the exaltation in the land".

On the contrary, the friends of Allah who believe in Him and show steadfastness have been given the good news of paradise.

Important Key words and Subjects

1- The introduction of holy Quran in soorah Haa Meem As-Sajdah:

There is the introduction of holy Quran that it has been revealed gradually. (Verses: 1, 41) Its verses have been revealed in Arabic language to make its understanding easy for the Quraish and the Arabs and its verses have been explained clearly. (Verses: 3, 44)

2- The enemies of Quran have been declared to be the enemies of Allah in soorah Haa Meem As-Sajdah:

The attitude of the pagan leaders about the holy Quran was that they ordered their followers not to listen to it. ﴿لَا تَسْمَعُوا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ وَالْغَوْا فِيهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ﴾ “Do not listen to this Quran and make noise (when it is recited) so that you may gain the upper hand.” (Verse: 26) Allah has called such leadership as His enemy. They will be sent to hell and there they will be punished according to their enmity with Islam. (Verses: 19, 28)

3- The use of a special Quranic term ﴿إِسْتِكْبَارًا فِي الْأَرْضِ﴾ “Istikbaar Fil Ardh” (exaltation in the land) in soorah Haa Meem As-Sajdah:

The arrogant leadership of Quraish were also involved in ﴿إِسْتِكْبَارًا فِي الْأَرْضِ﴾ “Exaltation in the land” like the peoples of Aad and Thamood as is the case with the rebellious rulers of every period. “Istikbaar fil Ardh” (Exaltation or haughtiness in the land) is a special term of the holy Quran. It is not the arrogance of an ordinary individual; it is, rather conditional with the power on earth. This arrogance is particular with the non-religious and rebellious rulers.

4- The demand to accept the creed of Tawheed and be steadfast on it in soorah Haa Meem As-Sajdah:

There is suggestion to accept the invitation of Tawheed and advice to be steadfast on it. (Verse: 6)

﴿قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ أَنَّمَا إِلَهُكُمُ اللَّهُ وَاحِدٌ. فَاسْتَقِيمُوا إِلَيْهِ وَاسْتَغْفِرُوا لَهُ ۗ وَوَيْلٌ لِلْمُصْرِفِينَ﴾

(O prophet) Say: “I am but a human being like you. It is revealed to me that your God is One God, therefore, take the Right Way towards Him and implore His forgiveness. Woe to those who associate other gods with Allah.” (Verse:6)

Those who accept Allah as their Lord and are steadfast on it, for them there is good news in this world and in the hereafter. (Verses: 30 to 32)

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ﴾ “Surely, those who say: 'Our Lord is Allah', and then stay firm on it, the angels will descend on them.” (Verse:30)

5- Description of evasion of polytheists in soorah Haa Meem As-Sajdah:

The attitude of polytheists was based on evasion regarding the invitation of Tawheed.

(a) They did not want to listen to the invitation of Tawheed.

﴿فَاعْرَضَ أَكْثَرُهُمْ فَهْمَهُمْ لَا يَسْمَعُونَ﴾ “Yet, most of the people turn their backs and do not listen.” (Verse: 4)

(b) They were threatened with the punishment like that of the people of Aad and Thamood. ﴿فَإِنْ أَعْرَضُوا فَقُلْ أَنْذَرْتُكُمْ صُوقَةَ مِثْلَ صُوقَةِ عَادٍ وَثَمُودَ﴾ “Now if they turn away, say to them: 'I have given you the warning of a thunderbolt, like the thunderbolt which struck 'Aad and Thamood'.” (Verse: 13)

6- The comparison between the “enemies of Allah” and the “friends of Allah” in soorah Haa Meem As-Sajdah:

In fact, there is a comparison between the unbelieving leadership of Makkan pagans and the believing companions of the prophet (pbuh). Those who rejected the invitation of Islam have been called “the enemies of Allah” and the companions who accepted this invitation and stood firm on it were called “the friends of Allah”. They have been given the good news that the angels descend on them and their important quality is that they are the preachers and propagators of Tawheed and invite mankind towards Allah.

﴿وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ قَوْلًا مِمَّنْ دَعَا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا وَقَالَ إِنِّي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ﴾ “Who is better in speech than the one who calls people towards Allah, does good deeds and says: 'I am a Muslim'.” (Verse: 33)

Macro-structure of soorah Haa-Meem As-Sajdah

Soorah Haa-Meem As-Sajdah consists of seven paragraphs.

1- Verses: 1 to 8: In the first paragraph, there is the introduction of holy Quran as a preface and the confirmation that the messenger (pbuh) of Allah is a human being and a prophet. There is the invitation of steadfastness on Tawheed.

There is the introduction of holy Quran that this book gives good tidings as well as warns. Its verses have been explained most openly but the unbelievers do not want to listen to them. Now the unbelievers may follow what they want and the believers may follow their course. Man has been given the freedom of choice. It has been confirmed that Muhammad (pbuh) is a man and the messenger of Allah. The invitation to be steadfast on Tawheed has been given. The polytheist will be ruined. They deny the life hereafter and do not give charity. There is unending reward for those who believe and do good deeds

2- Verses 9 to 12: In the second paragraph, there are the universal arguments of Tawheed and the refutation of Shirk.

Allah Almighty is the Creator and the Lord of worlds. It is wrong to make anyone His peer. He has made the earth and the sky. The sky was only the smoke in the beginning. Allah ordered the earth and the sky to come into existence and they came into being obediently. There are seven heavens. Allah issued His commands separately for every heaven.

﴿وَأَوْحَىٰ فِي كُلِّ سَمَاءٍ أَمْرَهَا﴾ “And to each heaven He ordained its laws.” (Verse: 12)
He adorned the lowest heaven with brilliant lamps and made it secure. This planning is the proof that Allah is the All-Mighty and the All-Knowing.

3- Verses: 13 to 18: There are historical arguments of Tawheed in the third paragraph.

Like the Quraish of Makkah, both the peoples of Aad and Thamood were given the invitation of Tawheed but they showed haughtiness and arrogance in the land. Allah is so Powerful that He can suddenly destroy the rebellious nations by an earthly or heavenly punishment. In this paragraph, their end in this life and in the next paragraph, their end in the life Hereafter is mentioned. ﴿فَأَمَّا عَادٌ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَقَالُوا مَنْ أَشَدُّ مِنَّا قُوَّةً﴾ “As for Aad, they conducted themselves with arrogance in the land without any justification and said: “Who is stronger than us in might?” (Verse: 15) Similar was the condition of Thamood. Both were ruined and only those were saved who had believed and were pious. “And We saved those who believed and had the fear of Allah.” (Verse: 18)

4- Verses: 19 to 29: In the fourth paragraph, the end of “enemies of Allah” in the life hereafter is mentioned.

The enemies of Allah will be assembled on the Day of Judgement and they will be graded according to their evil deeds. ﴿وَيَوْمَ يُجْزَىٰ أَعْدَاءُ اللّٰهِ إِلَى النَّارِ فَهُمْ يُوزَعُونَ﴾
 “The Day when the enemies of Allah will be brought together and led to the hellfire in groups.” (Verse: 19) Their ears, their eyes and their skin will stand witness against them. The unbelievers who say: “Do not listen to the Quran and make noise when it is recited so that you may dominate, will be given the worst punishment. This is the recompense of the enemies of Allah that they should be put in the hellfire. ﴿ذٰلِكَ جَزَاءُ اَعْدَاءِ اللّٰهِ النَّارُ﴾ “Hell is the requital for the enemies of Allah.” (Verse: 28) The followers among the unbelievers will request Allah on the Day of Judgement to show them the leaders who misled them during the worldly life so that they may trample them under their feet and thus humiliate them.

﴿وَقَالَ الَّذِيْنَ كَفَرُوْا رَبَّنَا اَرٰنَا الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنَّا مِنْ الْاِنْسٰنِ وَالْجِيْنِ وَالْاِنْسِ وَالْجِيْنِ﴾

“The unbelievers will say: 'Our Lord! Show us those among Jinns and mankind who misled us. We shall trample them under our feet so that they may become utterly disgraced'.” (Verse: 29)

5- Verses: 30 to 36: In the fifth paragraph, the excellent characteristics of the oppressed, patient and grateful Muslims who accepted the invitation of Tawheed and life hereafter have been mentioned.

Opposite to the “enemies of Allah” are the “friends of Allah”. They accept Allah as their Lord and are steadfast on it. The angels descend on them and console them. They are their guardians and helpers in this life and in the life hereafter.

They preach and propagate Tawheed and invite the whole mankind towards Allah. ﴿وَمَنْ اَحْسَنُ قَوْلًا مِّنْ دَعَاۤىِٕكَ اِلَى اللّٰهِ وَعَمِلَ صٰلِحًا وَقَالَ اِنِّىْ مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ﴾ “Who is better in speech than the one who calls (people) towards Allah, does good deeds and says: 'I am a Muslim'.” (Verse: 33)

They repel the evil with a better virtue and their enemies become their fast friends as its result. They are the fortunate people who seek Allah's refuge from the temptations of Satan.

6- Verses: 37 to 48: In the sixth paragraph, there are universal as well as rational arguments of Tawheed and life hereafter.

The day and the night and the sun and the moon are the proofs of Allah's

Power and Wisdom. One should not bow down to the sun and the moon but should bow down to Allah Who is the Creator of the sun and the moon. If the arrogant people refuse to worship Allah, they should know that the angels glorify Him day and night and they are not tired of His praise and glorification. The believers will be in peace on the Day of Judgement and the evil-doers will be thrown into the hell. People have been given the freedom to choose between the virtue and vice. ﴿اعْمَلُوا مَا شِئْتُمْ﴾ “Do as you like.” (Verse: 40)

The holy Quran has been revealed in Arabic language. If it were revealed in a non-Arab language, it would have been objected that why a non-Arabic Quran has been revealed for the Arabs. It is the guidance and the cure for the believers and it is the veil for the disbelievers. It is a curtain for their ears. Differences were created in the Book given to prophet Moosaa. They are involved in suspicion. Allah is not unjust to the people. Justice will be done to both the good and the bad. The knowledge of the Last Hour is possessed only by Allah.

7- Verses: 49 to 54: In the seventh and last paragraph, there are psychological arguments for those who deny the life hereafter.

Man does not get tired of praying to Allah and asking Him for things. But he despairs when he is afflicted and swells when he is blessed and denies the life hereafter. He offers unending prayers during the affliction and shows arrogance during the prosperity. Such irresolute people have been advised to think about their end.

This good news has also been given that the arguments of the veracity of the holy Quran will continue appearing in the universe and in man's self and the Truth will become clear.

﴿سَأُرِيهِمْ آيَاتِنَا فِي الْأَفَاقِ وَفِي أَنفُسِهِمْ حَتَّىٰ يَتَبَيَّنَ لَهُمْ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ﴾ “Soon shall We show them Our signs in the universe and in their own souls, until it becomes clear to them that this Quran is the truth.” (Verse: 53) So those who are in doubt about the meeting with their Lord should acquire the firm belief in it. Allah is surrounding everything.

Central Subject

Accept the Quranic invitation of Tawheed and life hereafter in the light of universal, historical and personal arguments and give up the attitude of “exaltation and haughtiness in the land”! Do not be the “enemies of Allah”! Otherwise, your end will not be different from that of the peoples of Aad and Thamood. Believe in the invitation of holy Quran and be patient and steadfast! You will be blessed with success in this life and in the life hereafter. Ascribe the Providence and Divinity to Allah and stand firm on it! ﴿قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا﴾ They say: “Our Lord is Allah, and then stay firm on it.”

(Verse: 30)

