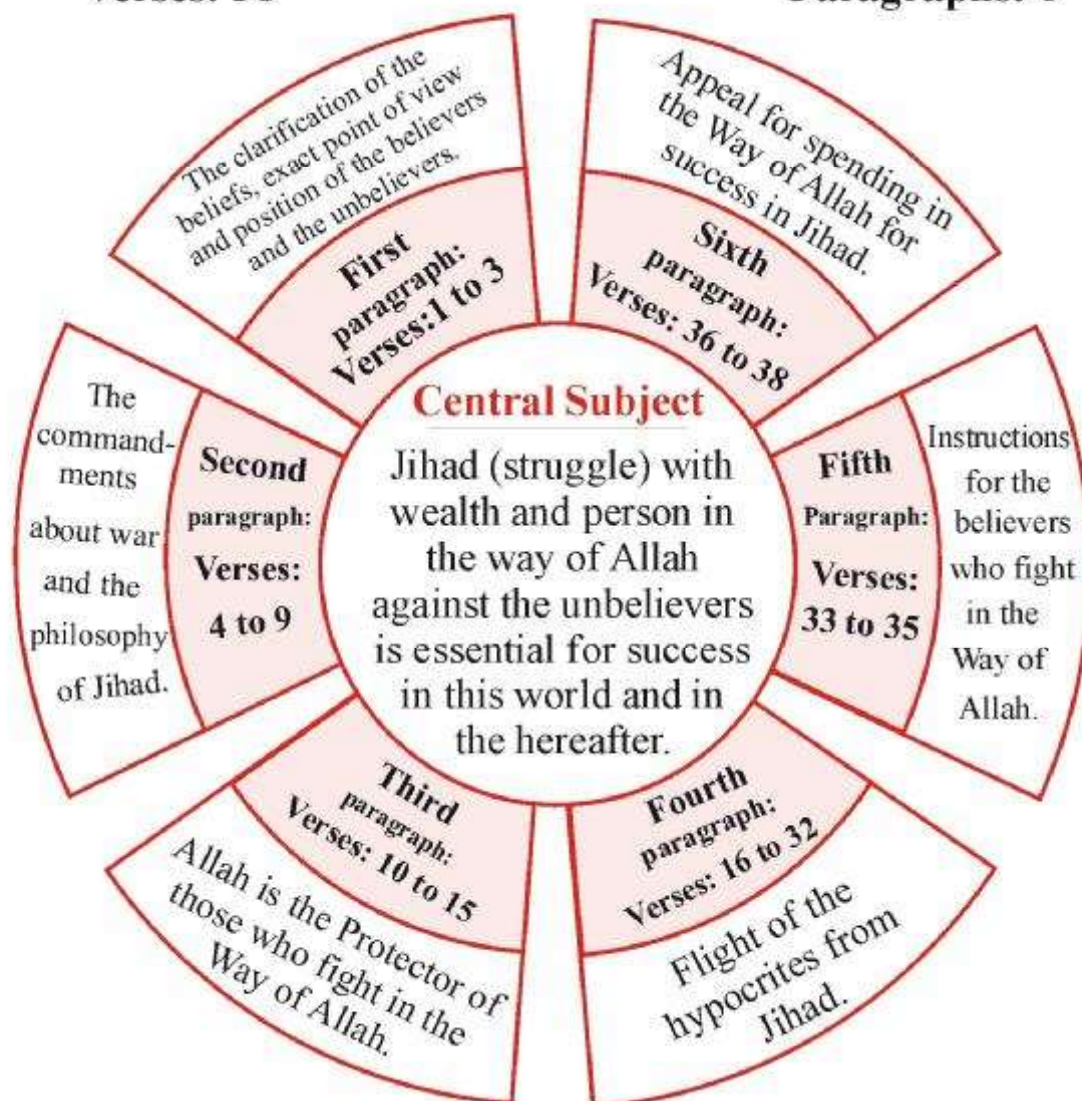


Flow Chart of Macro-Structure of Soorah Muhammad

47-Soorah Muhammad Madeenan

Verses: 38

Paragraphs: 6



• The period of revelation and the background

The other name of soorah Muhammad is soorah Al-Qitaal. It was revealed, probably, in Sha'baan or Ramadhaan, 2 A.H., before the battle of Badr. Soorah At-Taghaabun, soorah Al-Baqarah and soorah At-Talaaq were revealed before this. In soorah At-Taghaabun, there is demand only for spending in the Way of Allah; while in soorah Muhammad, there is demand both for spending and fighting in the Way of Allah.

The foundation of an Islamic state was laid after the migration to Madinah; but the hypocrites, the Quraish of Makkah and the other rebellious forces were trying to weaken and destroy it. The first battle between the polytheists and the believers took place at Badr when 313 Muslim warriors defeated the army of more than 1,000 Makkan pagans. The wisdom behind revealing this soorah before the battle of Badr was to persuade and incite the Muslims for Jihad and charity. Its purpose was to establish the legitimacy of war for the Muslims so that they may fight with their property and person with full conviction of their hearts. Another purpose was to clarify the aims and objectives of war and to warn the hypocrites who used to make big claims before but became quiet when the call for Jihad was given.

Three Madeenan soorahs after the Hawaameem

After the Hawaameem, three Madeenan soorahs (soorah Muhammad, soorah Al-Fat-h and soorah Al-Hujuraat) have been placed in the holy Quran. After these three, seven Makkan soorahs are placed in which the arguments for the possibility of life hereafter are given and events of the Day of Judgement have been mentioned. This series begins with soorah Qaaf and ends with soorah Al-Waaqi'ah. After this, ten Madeenan soorahs have been placed of which most are ﴿مُسَبِّحَاتٌ﴾ “Musabbahaat”.

Relationship of soorah Muhammad with the Book

- 1- In the last soorah (Al-Ahqaaf), the annihilation of nations and specially the annihilation of the people of Aad with direct action by Allah was mentioned.

(46: 21 to 27)

Here, in soorah Muhammad, the indirect destruction of unbelievers at the hands of Muslims is ordered.

Allah wants to test the Muslims in their belief and deeds by enjoining them to make Jihad against the unbelievers. ﴿وَلَوْ يَشَاءُ اللَّهُ لَآتَيْنَهُمْ مِنْهُمْ وَلَكِنْ لِيَبْلُوَ بَعْضَكُمْ بِبَعْضٍ﴾

“If Allah wanted, He Himself could have punished them; but (He adopted this way) so that He may test some of you by means of others.” (Verse: 4)

- 2- There is commandment for Jihad in this soorah, and in the next soorah (Al-Fat-h), the good news of plenty of spoils has been given which can be achieved as a result of spending and fighting in the Way of Allah.

Important Key words and Subjects

1- Comparison between the two groups who fought each other:

There is comparison between the two fighting groups - the believers and the unbelievers - in this soorah so that the Muslims may know the reason for fighting against the unbelievers and may know the difference between themselves and the unbelievers. This is the explanation of the words ﴿هُدًىٰ إِنْ خَصَمَانِ﴾ “Haazaane- Khasmaane” (these two enemies) which have come in soorah Al-Hajj. It was essential to provide the argument for the legitimacy of war against the unbelievers in the soorahs revealed during the first two years of Hira.

- (a) ﴿الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا﴾ “Those who believe” have been mentioned in four verses. (Verses: 2, 3, 12, 33)
- (b) ﴿الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا﴾ “Those who do not believe” have been mentioned in seven verses. (Verses: 1, 3, 8, 10, 12, 32, 34)

2- Use of the word “Maulaa” (protector) and the good news of victory in soorah Muhammad:

The Muslims have been told clearly that their Protector, Supporter, Ally, Guardian and Helper is Allah. ﴿ذٰلِكَ بِاَنَّ اللّٰهَ مَوْلٰى الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْا وَّ اَنَّ الْكٰفِرِيْنَ لَا مَوْلٰى لَهُمْ﴾ “This is because Allah is the Protector of the believers while the unbelievers have no protector.” (Verse: 11) They need not fear or get nervous. Although they are less in number, yet they will succeed in the end.

3- Allah's Law of annihilation of nations and His Law of replacement have been described in soorah Muhammad:

Allah's Law of Annihilation has been described that He has the authority to destroy the nations. (Verse: 10) After destroying one nation He brings another into the field. This is His Law of Replacement of nations. (Verse: 38)

4- One reason of replacement of nations described in soorah Muhammad:

There are two causes of replacement of nations. The first cause, miserliness and giving up the charity is mentioned here in soorah Muhammad. The second cause giving up the fighting in the Way of Allah, is mentioned in

verse 39 of soorah At-Taubah. Miserliness and stinginess is the greatest hurdle in Jihad. The miserly and coward nations cannot fight for their survival for long. (Verses: 37, 38) Consequently, the state cannot survive. In the last verse, the miserly people have been threatened that if they did not spend generously for Jihad, Allah will bring another nation in their place.

﴿وَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا يَسْتَبْدِلْ قَوْمًا غَيْرَكُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَكُونُوا أَمْثَالَكُمْ﴾ “If you turn away, He will replace you by some other people; who will not be like you.” (Verse: 38)

The nations that give up Jihad and the states which do not pay attention to their defence, are replaced by other nations. This is mentioned in verse 39 of soorah At-Taubah. ﴿إِلَّا تَنْفِرُوا يُعَذِّبْكُمْ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا وَيَسْتَبْدِلْ قَوْمًا غَيْرَكُمْ وَلَا تَضُرُّوهُ شَيْئًا﴾ “If you do not march forth, He will inflict on you painful punishment and replace you with other people and you cannot harm Him at all.” (9: 39)

5- Piety has been described as the pre-requisite for success in Jihad:

Piety is the basic pre-requisite for success in Jihad. “Taqwaa” (piety) has been mentioned in three verses. Following the course of piety during Jihad saves the Muslims from many evils.

- (a) Allah increases the guidance of those who are rightly guided and gives them piety according to their intentions and actions.

﴿وَالَّذِينَ اهْتَدَوْا زَادَهُمْ هُدًى وَآتَاهُمْ تَقْوَاهُمْ﴾ “As for those who follow the Right Way, Allah will increase their guidance and bestow on them their righteousness.”

(Verse: 17)

- (b) The worldly life is a test. Those who will avoid its amusements and follow the course of belief and piety, will be given their reward.

﴿إِنَّمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا لَعِبٌ وَلَهْوٌ وَإِنْ تُؤْمِنُوا وَتَتَّقُوا يُؤْتِيَكُمْ أَجُورَكُمْ وَلَا يَسْأَلْكُمْ أَمْوَالَكُمْ﴾ “The life of this world is but a play and amusement. If you believe and follow the way of piety, He will grant you your rewards and will not ask you to give up your possessions.” (Verse: 36)

- (c) Such pious people have been promised paradise.

﴿مَثَلُ الْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي وَعَدَ الْمُتَّقُونَ﴾

“Here is the parable of paradise which the righteous have been promised.”

(Verse: 15)

6- Description of the disgust of hypocrites and meaningfulness of the use of Word ﴿كَرَهُوا﴾ “Karehoo” (they hated) in soorah Muhammad:

- (a) The hypocrites who were disgusted with the holy Quran have been mentioned in three verses. ﴿ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ كَرَهُوا مَا نَزَّلَ اللَّهُ فَأَحْبَطَ أَعْمَالَهُمْ﴾ “That is because they hate the revelations of Allah; therefore, He rendered their deeds fruitless.” (Verse: 9)
- (b) They used to say that they will obey only some of the commandments and will not follow all of them. ﴿ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ قَالُوا لِلَّذِينَ كَرَهُوا مَا نَزَّلَ اللَّهُ سَنُطِيعُكُمْ فِي بَعْضِ الْأُمْرِ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ أَسْرَارَهُمْ﴾ “That is because they said to those who hate what Allah has revealed: 'We shall obey you in some matters', and Allah knows their secret talks.” (Verse: 26)
- (c) These hypocrites follow only those things which enrage Allah and they hate the things which please Allah; therefore, their deeds are wasted. ﴿ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ اتَّبَعُوا مَا سَخَطَ اللَّهُ وَكَرَهُوا رِضْوَانَهُ فَأَحْبَطَ أَعْمَالَهُمْ﴾ “That is because they followed the way that called for the Wrath of Allah and hated to adopt the way of His pleasure, therefore, He made all their deeds void.” (Verse: 28)

7- Meaningfulness of the use of word ﴿مُتَقَلَّب﴾ “Mutaqallab” (activities) in soorah Muhammad:

The conspiracies and activities of the hypocrites have been described with the word ﴿مُتَقَلَّب﴾ “Mutaqallab” (Activities). Allah is aware of their hide-outs and their activities. ﴿وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مُتَقَلَّبَكُمْ وَمَثْوَاكُمْ﴾ “Allah knows your activities and your resting places.” (Verse: 19)

Macro-structure of soorah Muhammad

Soorah Muhammad has 38 verses and it consists of six paragraphs.

1- Verses: 1 to 3: In the first paragraph, the beliefs, exact points of view and positions of the believers and the unbelievers have been explained.

The Muslims are provided with the arguments of legitimacy of war. The believers are following the Truth and they believe in the revelations given to Muhammad (pbuh). On the contrary, the unbelievers are following the falsehood. The unbelievers refrain from the way of Allah and hinder others

as well; therefore, Allah has wasted their deeds. On the other hand, He has forgiven the sins of believers and has improved their condition.

﴿كَذَلِكَ يَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ لِلنَّاسِ أَمْثَالَهُمْ﴾ “Thus, Allah cites their similitudes for mankind. (Verse: 3) The status of both the groups has been determined.

2- Verses: 4 to 9: The commandments about the war and the philosophy of Jihad have been described in the second paragraph.

Allah uses two ways to eradicate the unbelievers.

(a) Annihilation with direct action by Allah.

(b) Annihilation with indirect action through Jihad by the Muslims.

Muslims should kill them in the war. They can also be made prisoners, and they can be favoured with release as well after they have paid the ransom.

﴿فَشُدُّوا الرِّبَاطَ فَإِنَّمَا مَتْنٌ بَعْدَ وَإِنَّمَا فِدَاءٌ﴾ “Bind them firmly. Then (you have the choice) whether you show them the favour or accept ransom.” (Verse: 4) If Allah willed He Himself could have taken revenge from them; but He wants to test some people through some others. ﴿وَلَوْ يَشَاءُ اللَّهُ لَانْتَصَرَ مِنْهُمْ وَلَكِنْ لِيَبْلُوَ بَعْضَكُمْ بِبَعْضٍ﴾ “If Allah wanted, He himself could have punished them; but He (adopted this way) so that He may test some of you by means of others.” (Verse: 4) The deeds of those who are martyred in the way of Allah will never be wasted. They will enter the paradise.

If the believers help Allah, He will help them and make them steadfast.

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن تَنْصُرُوا اللَّهَ يَنْصُرْكُمْ وَيُثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَكُمْ﴾ “O believers! If you help (the cause of) Allah, He will help you and establish your feet firmly.” (Verse: 7) On the contrary, the deeds of unbelievers are wasted because they expressed their disgust with the revelations of Allah.

3- Verses: 10 to 15: It has been told in the third paragraph that Allah is the Protector of the believers.

The Muslims have been persuaded for Jihad and the four rivers of paradise have been mentioned. The historical argument have been presented that movement should be made on earth and the annihilation of unbelieving nations should be pondered over. Allah is the protector of believers while the unbelievers have no protector. The unbelievers eat and drink like the animals in this world; but their final abode is hellfire.

﴿وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يَتَمَتَّعُونَ وَيَأْكُلُونَ كَمَا تَأْكُلُ الْإِنْعَامُ وَالنَّارُ مَقْوًى لَهُمْ﴾ “While those who are unbelievers, they are to enjoy (only this life) and eat as cattle eat; but (in the hereafter), the fire shall be their abode.” (Verse: 12)

The Quraish have been told that Allah has ruined the towns much stronger than the town from which the messenger of Allah has been driven out. They could not get any helper. The one who has the evidence of revelation and does good deeds cannot be equal to the one who has no evidence and whose evil deeds have been made beautiful for him and who follows his own desires.

There will be four rivers of water, milk, wine and honey for the pious believers who strive in the Way of Allah. They will have every kind of fruit and Allah's forgiveness. They cannot be like the unbelievers who will live in hell forever. They will be given boiling water to drink which will cut their intestines to pieces. ﴿هُوَ خَالِدٌ فِي النَّارِ وَسُقُوا مَاءً حَمِيمًا فَقَطَّعَ أَمْعَاءَهُمْ﴾ "Who shall dwell in hell forever, and they will be given scalding water which will cut their intestines into pieces?" (Verse: 15)

4- Verses: 16 to 32: In the fourth paragraph, the hypocrites' mentality of running away from Jihad has been exposed.

The hearts of the hypocrites who turn a deaf ear to what the messenger (pbuh) of Allah says are sealed. ﴿أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ طَبَعَ اللَّهُ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ﴾ "Such are the men upon whose hearts Allah has set a seal." (Verse: 16) On the contrary, the guidance of the rightly guided sincere people is increased and they are given their share of piety.

The messenger (pbuh) of Allah was told to seek forgiveness for his own and his followers' mistakes.

The hypocrites asked for a soorah to be revealed on Jihad; but when a decisive soorah was revealed they looked as if they were under the shadow of death. They showed their disgust after its revelation and agreed only for its partial obedience. Allah knows well what goes in their hearts.

Woe to the hypocrites! They talk about obedience and good things! Would that they obeyed sincerely! When they turn away, they will spread mischief on the earth and will sever the relations. Allah has cursed them and turned them blind and deaf. Do they not ponder over the Quran? Are there locks on their hearts? ﴿أَفَلَا يَتَذَكَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ أَمْ عَلَى قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَا﴾ "Will they not ponder upon the Quran? Are there locks upon their hearts?" (Verse: 24) The hypocrites who have gone back after accepting Islam, have been seduced by the Satan; therefore, they felt disgust for the revelation of Allah.

They are warned that when the angels will take their souls in their possession, they will be slapped on their faces and on their backs. Allah will

sort out the sincere and patient believers who fight in His way from the hypocrites. The unbelievers cannot do any harm to Allah.

5- Verses: 33 to 35: In the fifth paragraph, the believers who strive in the way of Allah have been given instructions about Jihad.

The believers should obey Allah and His messenger (pbuh); otherwise, their deeds will be wasted. The one who dies as unbeliever will not be forgiven. The Muslims have been advised that they should neither show any weakness nor invite for any compromise. They will be victorious.

﴿فَلَا تَهِنُوا وَتَدْعُوا إِلَى السَّلْمِ وَأَنْتُمْ الْآخِلُونَ وَاللَّهُ مَعَكُمْ﴾ “Therefore, do not be fainthearted crying for peace, for you will surely gain the upper hand. Allah is on your side.” (Verse: 35)

6- Verses: 36 to 38: The commandment to spend in the way of Allah has been given in the sixth and last paragraph.

The worldly life is a play and amusement. You will be given reward for belief and piety. The appeal to spend in the Way of Allah is made for the success of Jihad. The stingy people do wrong to themselves.

It is an eternal principle that spending in the Way of Allah is a basic condition for the success in Jihad. The appeal for Jihad is made and it has been told clearly that those who do not spend in the Way of Allah, the power and the leadership is snatched from those stingy people and they are made subservient to others. They are destroyed and replaced by some generous nations. ﴿وَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا يَسْتَبْدِلْ قَوْمًا غَيْرَكُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَكُونُوا أَمْثَالَكُمْ﴾ “If you turn away, He will replace you by some other people; who will not be like you.” (Verse: 38)

Central Subject

Jihad (struggle) with property and person in the Way of Allah against the unbelievers is essential for success in this world and in the hereafter; otherwise, Allah can replace the coward and stingy nations by some generous and brave nations.

