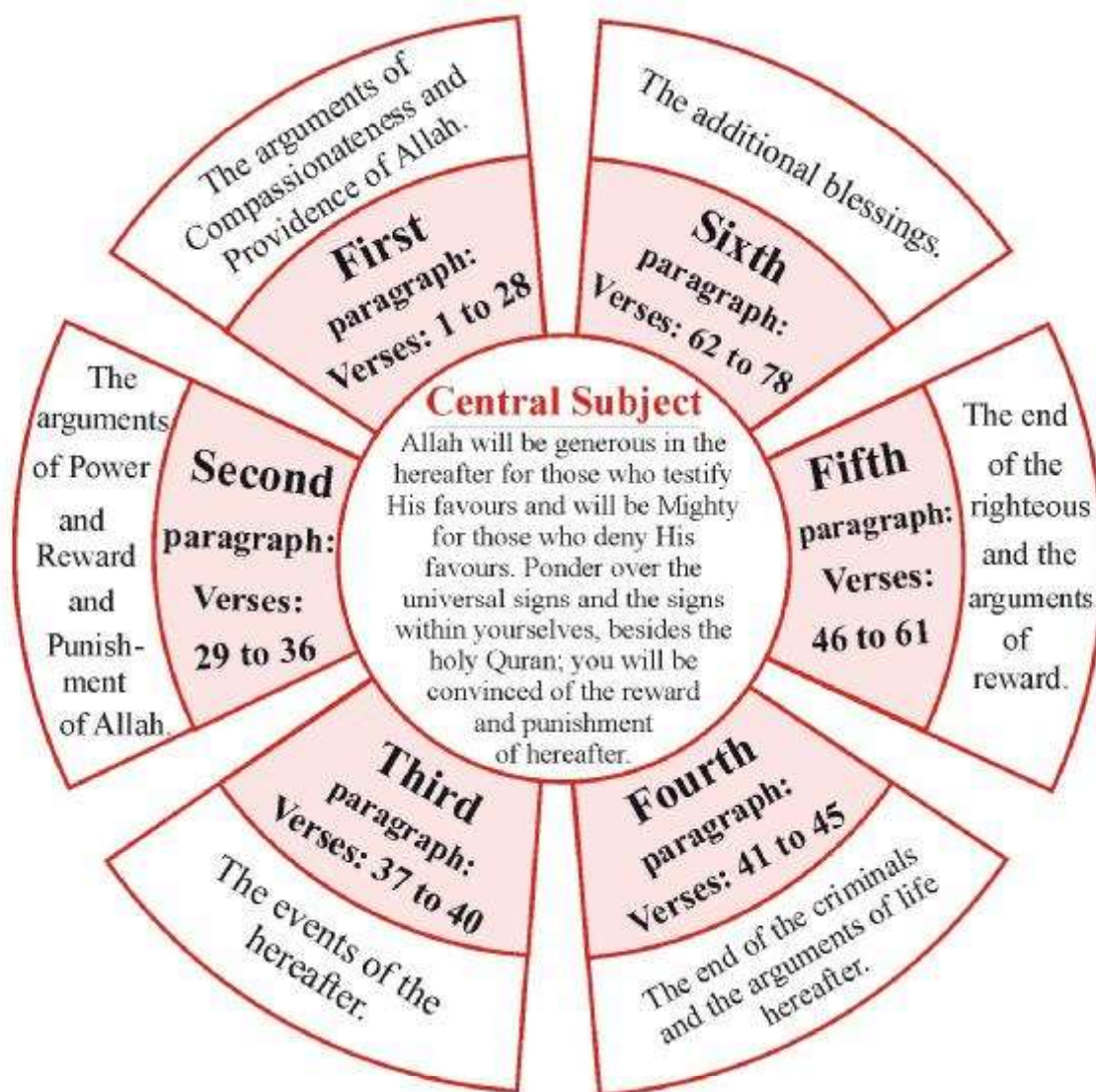


Flow Chart of Macro-Structure of Soorah Ar-Rahmaan

55-Soorah Ar-Rahmaan Makkan

Verses: 78

Paragraphs: 6



• Period of revelation:

Soorah Ar-Rahmaan was revealed after the general proclamation of Islam, during the second phase of prophet's stay in Makkah, when he was denied and rejected. Abdullah bin Mas'ood had recited this soorah in the sacred mosque, near the place of Ibraaheem during the early days of Islam.

This is the external evidence of its being a Makkan soorah. Usually it is considered and written as a Madeenan soorah, but it does not have any internal evidence which could prove it to be a Madeenan soorah. Besides soorah Ar-Rahmaan, soorah Ar-Ra'd, soorah Ad-Dahr, soorah Az-Zilzaal are also considered as Madeenan soorahs; but, in fact, these four are Makkan soorahs. Thus the number of Makkan soorahs is ninety (90) and the number of Madeenan soorahs is only twenty four (24).

Special features

- 1- This soorah has a special melody.
- 2- Shah Wali Allah says that there is a sound melody in the letter “Noon” in this soorah.
- 3- This soorah was revealed during the period of rejection.

Relationship of soorah Ar-Rahmaan with the Book

- 1- In the previous soorah (Al-Qamar), the word ﴿تَكْلِيْبٌ﴾ “Takzeeb” (denial) was mentioned repeatedly. The true story of five nations was related and threat was given by their end. Here, in soorah Ar-Rahmaan, the mankind and the Jinns are asked repeatedly: “Which of the favours of Allah can they both deny?”
- 2- The previous soorah (Al-Qamar) was a majestic and awe-inspiring soorah. Here, in soorah Ar-Rahmaan there is mixture of inspiration of awe and mercy and the mercy is dominant. The hell and its punishments are mentioned only in four (4) verses while the last thirty one (31) verses give the details of blessings of paradise.

Important key words and subjects

- 1- **Use of the repeated verse, “Which of the favours of your Lord will both of you deny” for more than thirty times in soorah Ar-Rahmaan:**

In this soorah, the repeated verse ﴿فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبِينَ﴾ “Which of the favours of your Lord will both of you deny”, has been used more than thirty (30) times to rouse the dead conscience of mankind and Jinns so that they may avoid the denial and may become grateful.

2- Use of the word ﴿آلَاء﴾ “Aalaa” in different meanings in soorah Ar-Rahmaan:

Maulana Hameed-ud-Din Faraahi has made the verbal research of this word and established that its meaning is not limited to blessings alone. But it includes the meanings of blessing, power, strength, wonders of Nature, excellences of Nature, favours, kindnesses, merits, praiseworthy qualities, perfections and excellences as well. The context determines in which meanings the word has been used. Maulana Maudoodi has kept this point in view in his translation in “Tafheemul-Qur'an”.

3- Use of two Attributes of Allah ﴿ذُو الْجَلَالِ﴾ “Zul-Jalaal” (full of Majesty) and ﴿ذُو الْاِكْرَامِ﴾ “Zul-Ikraam” (full of Glory) in soorah Ar-Rahmaan:

Two of the Attributes of Allah “Zul-Jalaal” (full of Majesty) and “Zul-Ikraam” (full of Glory) have been used twice in this soorah. These two Attributes have been used only in this soorah and not in any other soorah. “Zul-Jalaal” (full of Majesty) has been used for those who deny the blessings of Allah and “Zul-Ikraam (full of Glory) has been used for those who testify them.

Macro-structure of soorah Ar-Rahmaan

This soorah consists of six (6) paragraphs.

1- Verses: 1 to 28: In the first paragraph, there are arguments for Allah's Compassionateness, His Power and Providence.

The holy Quran, the creation of Man and giving him the power to speak are the arguments of Allah's Compassionateness. The measured rotation of the sun and the moon, the elevation of the sky and its balance, the fruits of earth and its grains, the creation of mankind and Jinns, the seas and their pearls, the oceans and their ships are the arguments of Allah's Power and His Providence. It has been made clear both for mankind and the Jinns that everything in the earth is going to perish and only Allah is going to survive. “But the face of your Lord will remain full of Majesty and Glory.” (Verse: 27)

2- Verses: 29 to 36: In the second paragraph, the reward and punishment have been proved from the arguments of Power.

The Jinns and mankind have been challenged that they may try to get out of the boundaries of heavens and earth; they will be compelled to confess their own helplessness and accept the Power of Allah.

3- Verses: 37 to 40: In the third paragraph, the events of the Day of Judgement have been mentioned briefly which is the sign of Allah's Power.

The sky will burst and will look like red hide. There will be no need to ask the mankind and the Jinns about their sins.

4- Verses: 41 to 45: In the fourth paragraph, the events of hell have been described briefly.

Those who denied and committed crimes will be seized by their forelocks and their feet will be chained. They will get both the dry punishment (hellfire) and the wet punishment (boiling water). The criminals will wander between these two.

5- Verses: 46 to 61: In the fifth paragraph, the detail of the reward of those who fear the Judgement of the Court of Allah has been described.

They will be blessed with pairs of gardens, springs, fruits, lush green branches, thick rugs and bashful virgins as their wives. They are the righteous people and their goodness will be rewarded with goodness.

6- Verses: 62 to 78: In the sixth and last paragraph, the additional blessings of paradise have been mentioned.

They will be given two additional gardens which will have springs, pomegranates and palm trees in them. There will be green carpets in the tents and they will have chaste and beautiful wives. In the last verse (78) the demand to believe in His Compassionateness, His Power, His Providence, His Majesty and Glory has been made to get these blessings of Allah and achieve the bounties of paradise in the following words

﴿ تَبَارَكَ اسْمُ رَبِّكَ ذِي الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ ﴾ (Blessed be the name of your Lord, Owner of Majesty and Honour).

Central subject

There are many arguments of Allah's Compassionateness, His Power and Providence. Do not be ungrateful! Follow the attitude of gratitude! Those who recognise the favours of Allah will find Him to be generous with them in the life hereafter. Those who deny His favours, Allah will be Mighty for them in the life hereafter. Besides the holy Quran, ponder over the universal signs and the signs within yourselves; you will be convinced of the reward and punishment of the hereafter.