

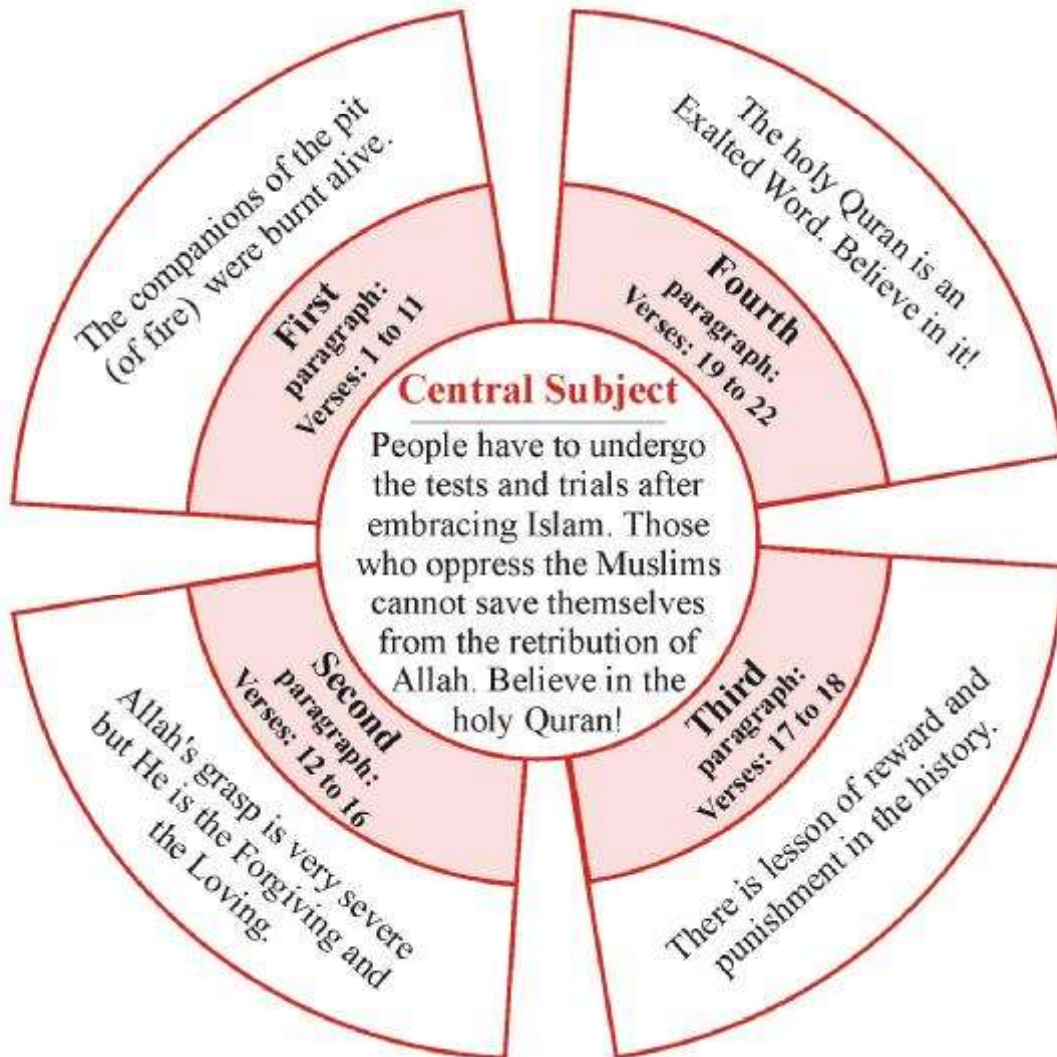
Flow Chart of Macro-Structure of Soorah Al-Burooj

85 - Soorah Al-Burooj

Makkan

Verses: 22

Paragraphs: 4



• **Period of revelation:**

Soorah Al-Burooj was revealed during the third phase of prophet's stay in Makkah (6 to 10 prophet-hood), when the Muslims were being tortured by the pagan leaders of Makkah for following the belief of Tawheed like the companions of the pit (of fire).

The Quraish of Makkah were frightened by the end of the armies of Pharaoh and the people of Thamood.

The relationship of Soorah Al-Burooj with the Book

In the end of soorah Al-Inshiqaaq, the characteristics of the unbelievers were described by the words: ﴿بَلِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يُكَذِّبُونَ﴾ “Nay! The unbelievers will deny.” (Verse: 22) The believers were mentioned in comparison with the unbelievers and they were given the good news of ﴿أَجْرٌ غَيْرٌ مَمْنُونٍ﴾ “a never ending reward”. (Verse: 25) Here, in soorah Al-Burooj, the denial of the unbelievers has been mentioned. ﴿بَلِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فِي تَكْذِيبٍ﴾ “Yet, the unbelievers persist in denying (the truth).” (Verse: 19) The unbelievers have been advised to accept the Quran instead of rejecting it. In this soorah (Al-Burooj), the holy Quran has been called the Exalted Word. In the next soorah (At-Taariq), the Quran has been called the Decisive Word.

Important Key words and Subjects

1- Description of the worldly trials after the acceptance of belief.

In this soorah the companions of the pit (of fire) have been mentioned. It is reported in a Hadeeth of Saheeh Muslim that a king sent an intelligent boy to a great magician to learn magic. Instead of learning the magic, the boy spent his time with a Christian monk, learnt the true teachings of prophet Eesaa and became the follower of Tawheed. People started believing in the teachings of that boy. The king had a pit dug and filled it with fire. Then he had every believer of Tawheed thrown in that pit of fire. Allah has given the threat of Hellfire to such oppressors and the good news of great success of Paradise to the oppressed believers.

It has been explained to the leaders of Quraish that their attitude resembles that of the cruel king. If they did not believe in the Quran, they will have to suffer the punishment of fire in the Hell.

2- The wisdom behind the use of word ﴿مَجِيدٌ﴾ “Majeed” (glorious) in soorah Al-Burooj

The word ﴿مَجِيدٌ﴾ “Majeed” (glorious, exalted) has been used twice in this soorah. It has been used for Allah as well as for Quran. Allah is Elevated, Reverend, Glorious and Worthy of Respect. Those who tyrannise the Muslims are low and mean. The Word of Allah is also elevated, glorious and worthy of respect. All the works of those who are created are low in front of His Word.

The Macro-structure of soorah Al-Burooj

Soorah Al-Burooj consists of four paragraphs.

1- Verses: 1 to 11: The evidence of the sky with its constellations and the Day of Judgement has been presented.

The retribution of the cruelty and oppression will be given. Those who torture the believers will surely be destroyed. This subject has got two aspects. It has got warning for the oppressors and consolation and good news for the oppressed. Those who believe in Allah, will surely be tested. The wrong-doers will have to suffer the punishment of fire in Hell. Those who believe and do righteous deeds have been given the good news of great success.

﴿وَالسَّمَاءِ ذَاتِ الْبُرُوجِ﴾ “By the sky with its constellations!” (Verse: 1)

﴿وَالْيَوْمِ الْمَوْعُودِ﴾ “By the promised Day (of Judgement).” (Verse: 2)

﴿وَشَاهِدٍ وَمَشْهُودٍ﴾ “By the witnesses and that which is witnessed.” (Verse: 3)

﴿قَتِيلِ أَصْحَابِ الْأُخُودِ﴾ “Doomed be the makers of the pit (of fire).” (Verse: 4)

﴿النَّارِ ذَاتِ الْوَقُودِ﴾ “Who lit the fuel-fed fire.” (Verse: 5)

﴿أَدْهَمَ عَلَيْهَا قَعُودِ﴾ “And sat around it.” (Verse: 6)

﴿وَهُمْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَفْعَلُونَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ شُهُودٌ﴾ “To watch what they were doing to the believers.” (Verse: 7)

﴿وَمَا نَقَمُوا مِنْهُمْ إِلَّا أَن يُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ﴾ “They tortured them for no other reason than that they believed in Allah, the Almighty, the Praise Worthy.” (Verse: 8)

﴿الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ﴾ “The One to Whom belongs the Kingdom of the heavens and the earth, and Allah is Witness to all things.” (Verse: 9)

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ فَتَنُوا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَتُوبُوا فَلَهُمْ عَذَابُ جَهَنَّمَ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابُ الْحَرِيقِ﴾ “Those who persecute the believing men and believing women and do not repent, shall receive the punishment of Hell, wherein they shall have the punishment of conflagration.” (Verse: 10)

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ ذَلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْكَبِيرُ﴾ “As for those who believe and do good deeds, they shall have gardens beneath which rivers flow; which will be the greatest success.” (Verse: 11)

2- Verses: 12 to 16: In the second paragraph, the proof of reward and punishment of Hereafter has been given through Allah's Attributes of inspiring awe and manifesting mercy.

﴿إِنَّ يَدَا رَبِّكَ لَشَدِيدَتَا﴾ “Surely, the Grip of your Lord is very severe.” (Verse: 12)

﴿إِنَّهُ هُوَ يُبْدِئُ وَيُعِيدُ﴾ “Surely, He, it is Who originates (the creation of everything) and He, it is Who will repeat (On the Day of Resurrection).” (Verse: 13)

﴿وَهُوَ الْغَفُورُ الْوَدُودُ﴾ “He is the Forgiving, the Loving.” (Verse: 14)

﴿ذُو الْعَرْشِ الْمَجِيدُ﴾ “The Owner of the Throne, the Glorious.” (Verse: 15)

﴿فَعَالٌ لِمَا يُرِيدُ﴾ “And the Executor of His own Will.” (Verse: 16)

Allah's Grip is very severe, but He is the Forgiving, the Loving. The oppressors have been given the warning of severe punishment. The cruel should give up their cruelty immediately, otherwise Allah's Grip is very severe. They should repent, otherwise, Allah will take the revenge from the wrong-doers and He will help those who are victimised. The oppressed Muslims should ponder over the Attributes of Allah and keep them in mind. Allah Almighty is the Forgiving, the Loving. He gives respite and gives the chance for repentance. But He has the Power and the Authority and is the Owner of the Throne. He is not weak and helpless. He can do whatever He likes.

3- Verses: 17 to 18: The historical arguments of Allah's Law of Reward and Punishment have been provided in the third paragraph.

History contains the lesson of annihilation of military powers like Pharaoh and Thamood.

﴿هَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ الْجُنُودِ﴾ “Have you not heard the story of the warriors.” (Verse: 17)

﴿فِرْعَوْنَ وَثَمُودَ﴾ “Of Pharaoh and of Thamood.” (Verse: 18)

Those who oppress the Muslims have been advised to learn a lesson from the history.

Pharaoh used to tyrannize the Israelites and nine leaders of the people of Thamood had planned to kill prophet Saleh (pbuh).

- 4- Verses: 19 to 22: In the fourth and last paragraph, the deniers of the Hereafter have been advised to ponder over the grandeur of the holy Quran and believe in its invitation of Hereafter.

﴿بَلِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فِي تَكْذِيبٍ﴾ “Yet, the unbelievers persist in denying (the Truth).”

(Verse: 19)

﴿وَاللَّهُ مِنْ وَرَائِهِمْ مُحِيطٌ﴾ “Although Allah has encircled them from all around.”

(Verse: 20)

﴿بَلْ هُوَ قُرْآنٌ مَجِيدٌ﴾ “Surely, this is a Glorious Quran.” (Verse: 21)

﴿فِي لَوْحٍ مَحْفُوظٍ﴾ “Inscribed in the Preserved Tablet.” (Verse: 22)

The word ﴿بَلِ﴾ “Bal” has been used twice here which means that something has been omitted before it. It has been told here that it was better for the oppressive and rebellious people to give up tyrannizing the Muslims and believe in the Quran and Muhammad (pbuh). They should have learnt a lesson from the annihilation of the warriors of Pharaoh and of Thamood. But instead of learning a lesson, they are busy in rejecting the Quran and Muhammad (pbuh). However, Allah is watching them and He has encircled them. They will be seized at the appropriate time. The holy Quran is not the word of devils and Jinns. It is the Glorious Word from the Preserved Tablet.

Central Subject

People have to undergo the tests and trials after embracing Islam. The rebellious and dictatorial powers who oppress the Muslims cannot save themselves from the retribution of Allah. Think about the Attributes of Allah inspiring awe and manifesting mercy and believe in the Glorious Quran! The believers should be patient and steadfast.

