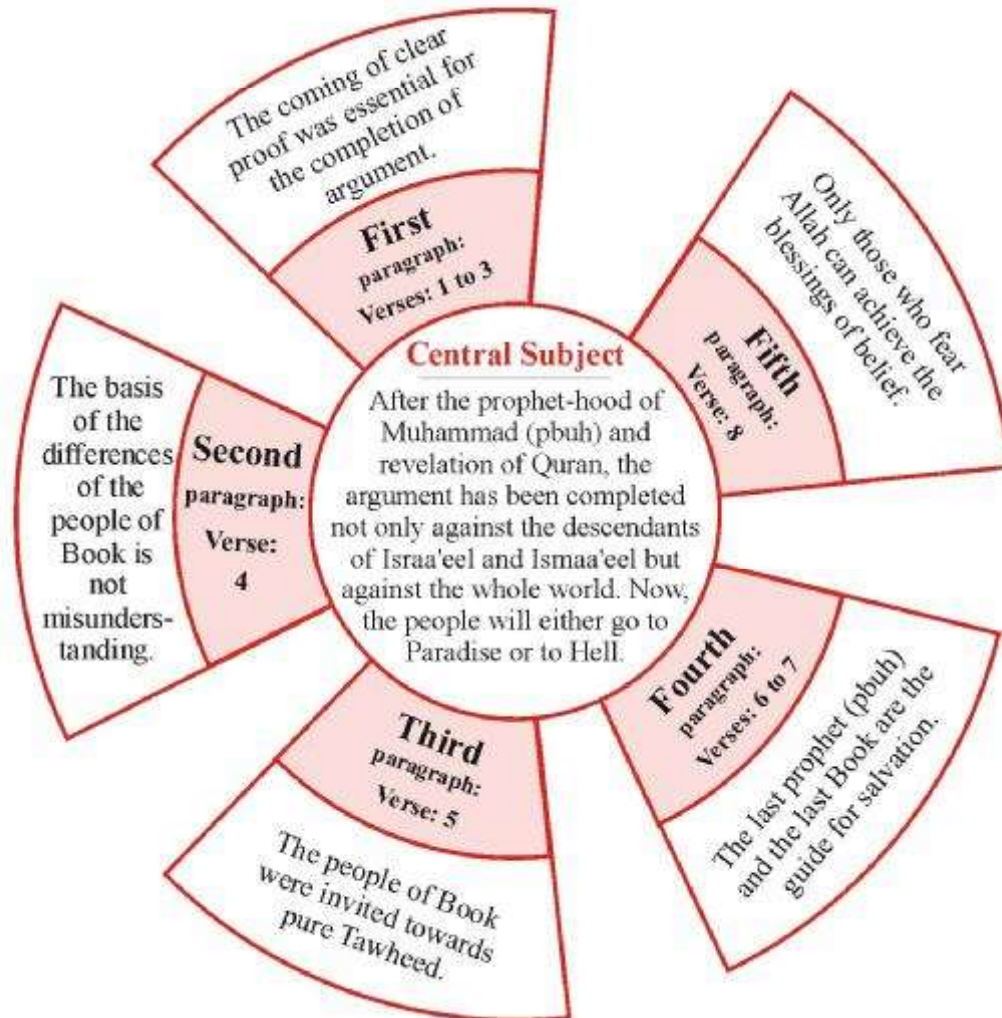


Flow Chart of Macro-Structure of Soorah Al-Bayyinah

98 - Soorah Al-Bayyinah Madeenan

Verses: 8

Paragraphs: 5



• Period of revelation:

Soorah Al-Bayyinah is one of the last two soorahs that were revealed to the prophet (pbuh) in Madinah before his death. After this soorah, probably, only soorah An-Nasr and a few miscellaneous verses were revealed. Perhaps it was revealed towards the end of 10 A.H.

The relationship of soorah Al-Bayyinah with the Book

- 1- In the previous Soorah (Al-Qadr), the night of revelation of Quran was mentioned. In this soorah (Al-Bayyinah), the purpose of revelation of Quran to Muhammad (pbuh), the last prophet has been described that after the revelation of Quran, the argument has been completed against both the branches of Ibraaheem's dynasty - the children of Israa'eel, the people of the Book, and the children of Ismaa'eel, the Makkan pagans. Now, they can include themselves among the best of all creatures and become the people of Paradise by accepting Islam or include themselves among the worst of all creatures and become the people of Hell by rejecting Islam.
- 2- In the next soorah (Az-Zilzaal), it has been told that on the Day of Judgement man will be shown his good and bad deeds and thus the argument will be completed against him.

Important Key words and Subjects

- 1- ﴿الْبَيِّنَاتِ﴾ "Al-Bayyinah" (the clear proof) is the Messenger (pbuh) of Allah who was presenting the Quranic invitation.
- 2- ﴿صُفُفٍ مُطَهَّرَةٍ﴾ "Suhufan Mutahharah" (purified pages) is the holy Quran.
- 3- Those who believe in the last prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and the last Book, the holy Quran and do good deeds are the best of all the creatures.
- 4- Those who reject the last prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and the last Book, the holy Quran are the worst of all the creatures.
- 5- The salvation of both the branches of prophet Ibraaheem - the Makkan pagans (children of Ismaa'eel) and the people of the Book (children of Israa'eel) - depends on believing in the last Book (the holy Quran) and the last prophet (Muhammad pbuh) and doing righteous deeds.
- 6- "That is for him who fears his Lord." (Verse: 8) It has been explained by these words that only those who fear Allah and believe in the last Book and the last prophet among Makkan pagans and the people of the Book will be able to achieve the blessings of Paradise.

The Macro-structure of soorah Al-Bayyinah

Soorah Al-Bayyinah consists of five paragraphs.

- 1- Verses: 1 to 3: In the first paragraph, ﴿الْبَيِّنَةُ﴾ “Al-Bayyinah” (the clear proof) which means the Messenger (pbuh) of Allah and the holy Quran has been high lighted**

﴿لَمْ يَكُنِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ مُتَفَكِّرِينَ حَتَّىٰ تَأْتِيَهُمُ الْبَيِّنَةُ﴾ “Those who are unbelievers from among the people of the Book and from the polytheists were not going to desist (from their unbelief) until the clear proof came to them.” (Verse:1)

﴿رَسُولٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ يَتْلُو صُفْهُا مُطَهَّرَةً﴾ “(That is) a Messenger of Allah reciting to them holy scriptures from purified pages.” (Verse: 2)

﴿فِيهَا كُتِبَ قِيمَةٌ﴾ “Containing infallible books.” (Verse: 3)

The wisdom behind the last arrangement of guidance from Allah to prevent the unbelief spread among both the branches of descendants of prophet Ibraaheem has been described. Most of the descendants of the first branch of prophet Ibraaheem lost their way and became Jews and Christians; while most of the people from the second branch became involved in idol worship and put 360 idols in a sacred place like Ka'bah. These were the Makkan pagans. Coming of the last argument and clear sign was necessary for the guidance of both these branches consisting of the descendants of Israa'eel and Ismaa'eel. Allah is not unjust at all and He does not put His servants into the Hell without sending the Guidance to them. So this guidance was sent to them with clear proof in the form of Muhammad (pbuh) who recited to them the purified pages of holy Quran consisting of Divine Law and Wisdom. As the previous Books were distorted and polluted, a straightforward and unpolluted Book was needed. Hence Allah gave His last Book, the holy Quran to His last Messenger, Muhammad (pbuh).

- 2- Verse: 4: The story of distortions made by the people of the Book in their Books has been reported in the second paragraph.**

﴿وَمَا تَفَرَّقَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَتْهُمْ الْبَيِّنَةُ﴾ “Those who were given the Book before this (Quran) did not divide into sects until after there came to them a clear proof.” (Verse: 4)

The people of the Book became Jews and Christians. They forgot their religion of Islam and their basis of Tawheed. They exaggerated about their prophets and declared Uzair and Jesus Christ to be the sons of Allah; although they had received the clear teachings and open signs. An important thing told here is that the difference and dissension among the people of the Book was not based on any misunderstanding; it rather, occurred after the clear teachings had come to them. The teachings of Torah, Zaboor (psalms) and Bible were very clear and unambiguous. There was no room for any misunderstanding in them. In fact, the difference of the people of Book was based on jealousy; (**Al-Baqarah: 109**) and it was based on exploitation of each other. (**Al-Baqarah: 213**)

- 3- Verse: 5: It has been told in the third paragraph that the people of the Book were also ordered to believe in pure Tawheed, offer the prayer and pay the Zakah (obligatory charity).**

﴿هُوَ مَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ. حُنَفَاءَ وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيَتُؤُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَذَلِكَ دِينُ الْقَيِّمَةِ﴾ “Yet, they were commanded nothing but worship Allah, with their sincere devotion to Him, being true in their faith; to establish Salah (prayers); and to pay Zakah (obligatory charity); and that is the infallible true Religion.” (**Verse: 5**)

Following is the gist of the teachings of previous Messengers and their Books:

- (1) Allah Alone should be worshipped and obeyed sincerely.
- (2) This obedience and worship should be purely for Allah.
“Ad-Deen” means to accept Allah's Sovereignty, man's subjugation to Him, Divine Law of Allah and the Creed of Reward and Punishment.
﴿خَالِصٌ﴾ “Khaalīs” means pure and unadulterated worship and obedience. It means that no one should be associated in Allah's Person, Attributes and Sovereignty. No law should be followed except the Divine Law and everything should be done with the belief of reward and punishment in the Hereafter.
- (3) This worship should be done with sincere devotion to Allah and no attention should be paid to anyone except His commands.
- (4) The people of the Book were also ordered to offer Salah (prayer) and pay Zakah; but they lost the prayer (**Maryam: 59**) and destroyed the Zakah because of their stinginess and love of this world.

(5) It has been told in the end that the way which is based on Tawheed, sincerity, comprehensive view of religion, uprightness, prayer and Zakah is the Straight Way. The damage of the people of Book has been repaired. Now, they should follow the Straight Way. They should embrace Islam because this is the only True and Straight religion.

4- Verses: 6 to 7: In the fourth paragraph, there is the bad news for every disbeliever who denies the last messenger of Allah.

It has been told clearly that anyone who denies the last prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and the last Book Quran will go to Hell for ever; whether he is from the descendants of Israa'eel or the descendants of Ismaa'eel or any other polytheist or unbeliever.

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ فِي نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أُولَئِكَ هُمْ شَرُّ الْبَرِيَّةِ﴾ “Surely, those who disbelieve from among the people of the Book and the polytheists shall be in the fire of Hell, to dwell therein forever. They are the worst of all creatures.” (Verse: 6)

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أُولَئِكَ هُمْ خَيْرُ الْبَرِيَّةِ﴾ “Surely, those who believe and do good deeds, are the best of all creatures.” (Verse: 7)

The second important thing told here is that the deprivation from the last guidance makes man worst of all the creatures. He will have no other chance of benefiting from the heavenly revelation with the result that he will keep stumbling not only in faith and worship but also in means of livelihood and economy. On the contrary, the one who believes in the last Book and the last prophet (pbuh) will live in the shadow of heavenly revelation and will be included among the best of all the creatures whether he is from the Jews, the Christians, the Zoroastrians, the Brahmans or the untouchables. There are only two conditions that he believes sincerely and lives according to the teachings of Islam.

5- Verse: 8: In the fifth and last paragraph, the key to the salvation of both the people of the Book and the polytheists has been described which is fear of Allah.

﴿جَزَاءُ وُهِمَ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا ، رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ خَشِيَ رَبَّهُ﴾

“Their reward with their Lord shall be the gardens of Eden, beneath which rivers flow, to dwell therein forever. Allah shall be well pleased with them

and they shall be well pleased with Him. That is for him who fears his Lord.”

(Verse: 8)

They have been asked: “Have you got the fear of Allah in your hearts?” For, only those who fear their Lord can get the blessing of belief in the last prophet (pbuh) and the last Book. The reward of belief and good deeds will be given in the form of Paradise; but it will be possible only if the servants are pleased with Allah and He is pleased with the sincerity of their intentions and purity of worship which is free of innovations. The Divine Law should be followed with devotion and Allah's complete pleasure should be achieved. Allah's pleasure can be achieved only if the servant of Allah is pleased with the revelation of Allah, His Messenger, His Book and His Law. It is not one sided privilege but two way affair. The pleasure of both the parties is required. ﴿رَضِيََ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ﴾ “Allah shall be well pleased with them and they shall be well pleased with Him.” (Verse: 8)

Central Subject

After the prophet-hood of Muhammad (pbuh) and revelation of Quran, the argument has been completed not only against the descendants of Israa'eel and Ismaa'eel but against the whole world. Now, the people will either go to Paradise or to Hell on the basis of accepting or rejecting Islam.

