

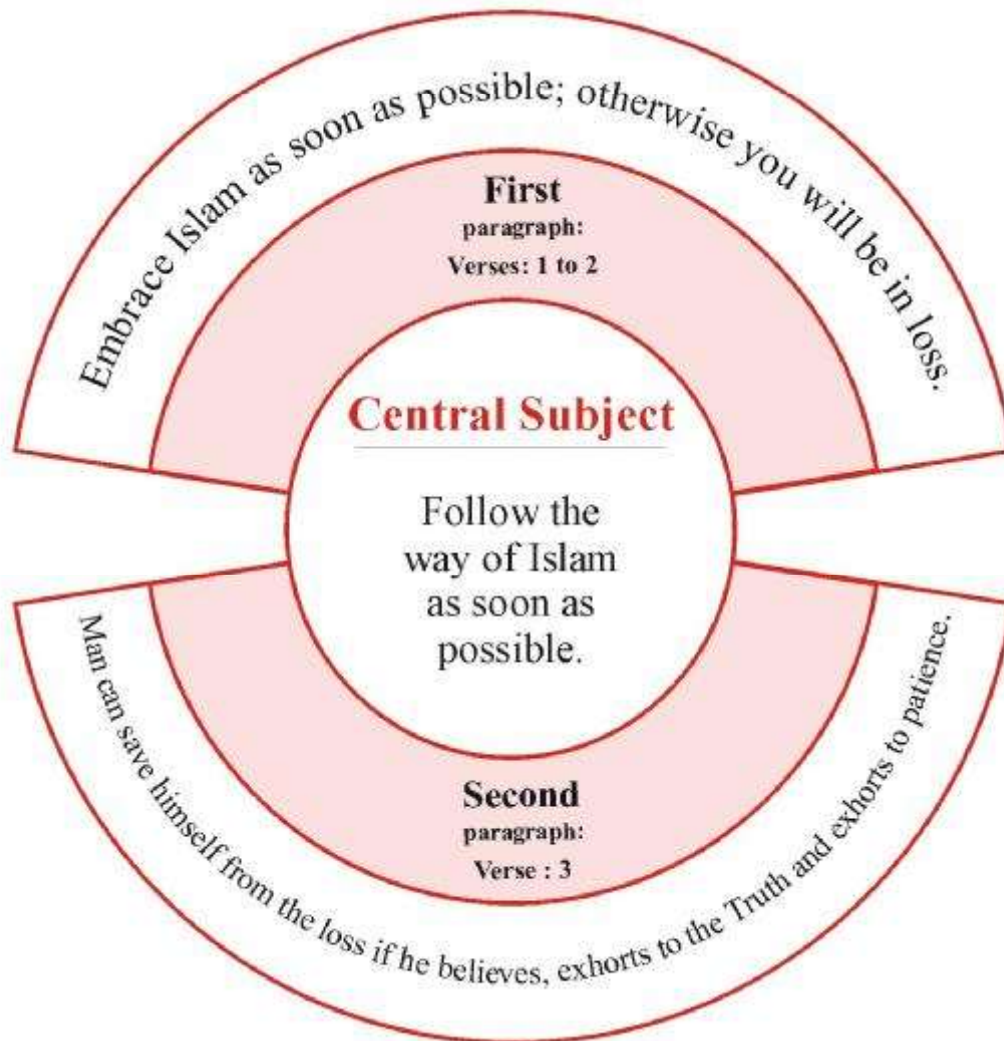
Flow Chart of Macro-Structure of Soorah Al-'Asr

103 - Soorah Al-'Asr

Makkan

Verses: 3

Paragraphs: 2



• **Period of revelation:**

Soorah Al-'Asr was revealed during the first phase of prophet's (pbuh) stay in Makkah (0 to 3 prophet-hood), when the invitation of Islam was being given secretly and when the short, strong and comprehensive soorahs were being revealed in an excellent literary style.

The Excellences of soorah Al-'Asr

Imam Shaafa'ee has said about the comprehensiveness of this soorah:

﴿لَوْلَمْ يُنَزَّلْ غَيْرَ هَذِهِ السُّورَةِ لَكَفَتْ النَّاسَ﴾ “If Allah had not revealed anything except this soorah, it would have been sufficient for the guidance of mankind.”

(Tafseer Roohul Ma'aani, part 30, page 227)

The relationship of soorah Al-'Asr with the Book

In the previous soorah (At-Takaathur), there was explanation of good deeds (gratitude on blessings, firm belief in the hereafter, contentment and sense of responsibility) and bad deeds (accumulation of wealth, negligence, suspicion and lack of sense of responsibility)

Here, in soorah Al-'Asr, it has been told that the belief is essential before doing good deeds and one should not delay it because time is running out of hand.

The important Key words and Subjects

- 1- ﴿عَصْرٌ﴾ “Asr” (Time, the time that is flying away).
- 2- The oath and its answer: The oath of time has been taken and it has been taken to certify the fact that man is in loss. There is deep relation between the object used in oath and the objective for which it is taken. The purpose of oath is evidence and witness. Its purpose is to provide the reason. Every moment of the fleeting time gives evidence that if man dies without accepting the belief and doing good deeds, he will be in loss. Man does not know the time of his death, therefore, he should value every moment and follow the way of worship of his Lord and Creator as soon as possible.
- 3- ﴿تَوَاصَوْا﴾ is past plural verb from the chapter of ﴿تَفَاعَلٌ﴾
﴿تَوَاصَى يَتَوَاصَى، مُتَوَاصٍ، تَوَاصٍ، تَوَاصٍ﴾ It means the people who advised each other.
- 4- ﴿الْحَقِّ﴾ “Al-Haqq” (Reality, Name of Allah, opposite of falsehood, the true saying, Tawheed, the privilege.)
- 5- ﴿صَبْرٌ﴾ “Sabr” (firm intention and resolve, firmness, steadfastness, continuance, perpetuity, to hold oneself, to avoid haste, to wait for the proper time, to avoid wailing, do not be upset, take a firm stand, to make extreme effort.)

The Macro-structure of soorah Al-'Asr

Soorah Al'Asr consists of two paragraphs.

1- Verses: 1 to 2: Argument has been given from the fleeting time in the first paragraph.

Man should think about the fleeting time and his fleeting age and accept Islam as soon as possible, otherwise he will have to suffer the loss in the life Hereafter.

﴿وَالْعَصْرِ﴾ “By the time (through the ages)!” (Verse: 1)

﴿إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لِرَبِّهِ لَكَنُفٍ﴾ “Surely, mankind is in loss.” (Verse: 2)

2- Verse: 3: It has been told in the second paragraph that four things can save man from the loss.

﴿إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ﴾ “Except those who believe and do good deeds; exhort one another to the truth and exhort one another to patience.” (Verse: 3)

(1) Belief, (2) good deeds, (3) exhortation for the truth and (4) exhortation for patience.

Mere belief is not the key for salvation. The righteous deeds are essential after the belief. According to Islam, it is not sufficient to be on the right and to be righteous yourself, rather, one must exhort the others to the truth as well.

Exhortation to the truth includes the invitation of Tawheed and preaching of Islam, good advice, enjoining the good and forbidding the evil etc.

As a result of exhortation to the truth, a believer has to face the difficulties and suffering at the hands of opponents. The prophets, the faithful witnesses of the Truth and the righteous were not welcomed for giving the invitation of Tawheed. They had to face the tortures. This is the permanent lesson of the history.

A righteous person can succumb and yield or be quiet in the face of opposition and difficulties. He has been ordered to be patient in such conditions. All the righteous people should encourage and exhort each other to be firm and steadfast. This is the way to success and the way to avoid the loss.

Central Subject

Man should follow the way of Islam as soon as possible so that he may save himself from the loss in the Hereafter. He should follow the four-point Divine formula of belief, righteous deeds, exhortation to the truth and exhortation to the patience.

