

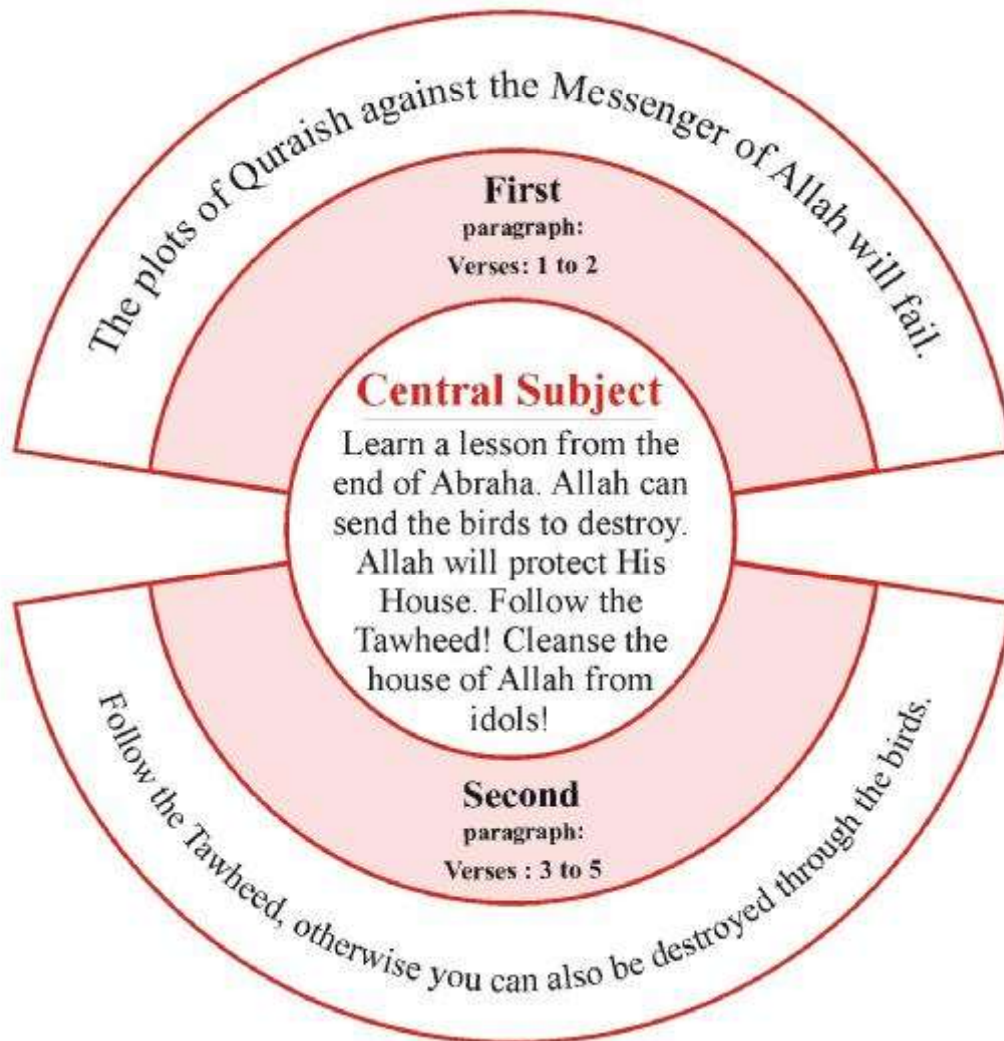
Flow Chart of Macro-Structure of Soorah Al-Feel

105 - Soorah Al-Feel

Makkan

Verses: 5

Paragraphs: 2



• Period of revelation:

Soorah Al-Feel was, probably, revealed during the second phase of prophet's (pbuh) stay in Makkah, after the general proclamation of Islam, in 4 prophethood. The interrogative style of "have you not seen" shows that there is a warning for the Quraish in it and invitation for thinking as well.

The relationship of soorah Al-Feel with the Book

- 1- The immoral and mammon worshipping stingy leadership of Quraish was mentioned in the previous soorah Al-Humazah. Here, in soorah Al-Feel, the leaders of Quraish who were the custodians of Ka'bah have been told that they had forgotten the purpose of its construction and had polluted it with idols. However, the protection of Ka'bah and the protection of its purpose is the responsibility of Allah.
- 2- In the next soorah (Al-Quraish), they have been advised to worship only the Lord of this House. ﴿فَلْيَعْبُدُوا رَبَّ هَذَا الْبَيْتِ﴾ "So they should worship the Lord of this House." (106:3)

Important Key words and Subjects

- 1- ﴿أَبَابِيلَ﴾ "Abaabeel" means flocks of birds. (It is a plural noun which has no singular).
- 2- "Asf" means leaves of the harvest, chaff for the cattle, skin of the eaten fruit.
- 3- Only 50 or 55 days before the birth of the Messenger (pbuh) of Allah, Abraha, the Christian ruler of Yemen attacked Makkah in February, 571 A.D. with an army of sixty thousand men and many elephants.
Allah's punishment descended on Abraha and his army between Muzdalifah and Minaa near the valley of Muhassab. They were killed by the birds.

The Macro-structure of soorah Al-Feel

Soorah Al-Feel consists of two paragraphs.

- 1- Verses: 1 to 2: In the first paragraph, the Makkan leaders have been told that their movements against the Messenger (pbuh) of Allah will fail.

﴿أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِأَصْحَابِ الْفِيلِ﴾ "Have you not considered how your Lord dealt with the owners of Elephant." (Verse: 1)

﴿أَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ كَيْدَهُمْ فِي تَضَلُّلٍ﴾ "Did He not make their treacherous plan go astray."

(Verse: 2)

2- Verses: 3 to 5: In the second paragraph, the Quraish have been warned by the end of the enemies of Ka'bah.

﴿وَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ طَيْرًا أَبَابِيلَ﴾ “And sent against them flocks of birds.” (Verse: 3)

﴿تَرْمِيهِمْ بِحِجَارَةٍ مِّن سِجِّيلٍ﴾ “Which pelted them with stones of baked clay” (Verse: 4)

﴿فَجَعَلَهُمْ كَعَضِبِ مَا كُوِيَ﴾ “Thus rendered them like the chewed-up chaff.” (Verse: 5)

Allah sent on them the flocks of birds which threw stones of clay on them and as a result Abraha and his army became like the chewed-up chaff.

The Quraish have been advised to give up idol worship, accept the invitation of the Messenger (pbuh) of Allah, cleanse the Ka'bah of idols and learn a lesson from the end of Abraha; otherwise they can be punished as well.

Central Subject

The custodians of Ka'bah should keep in view the purpose of its construction. This building is the symbol of Tawheed. It should be clear of idols; otherwise, Allah Himself can protect His House.

