

Surah az-Zumar (continued)

Here are some highlights from the remaining part of this surah:

1. The Quran divides the whole of humanity into two groups. The rejecters, who lie against Allah, and reject the Quran and the Prophet sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam; their destination is jahannum. The second group consists of the prophets and their followers; their destination is jannah.
2. It is a great mercy that Allah keeps the door of taubah i.e. repentance open for the wrong doers and rejecters, and keeps inviting them to repent and to turn back to the Quran. He does not let the rejecters lose all hope and fall into despair, but in fact reminds them that he may forgive all their sins. Indeed He is Most Gracious and Most Merciful.
3. The surah then presents some scenes from the day of judgment: on that day some faces will be dark because they lied against Allah. When the last trumpet is blown, everyone will stand in front their Lord, to give account. The rejecters will be dragged to hell, while the true believers will be invited to enter into jannah, where they will be welcomed by the angels, given salaam and will enter their residences praising Allah.

Surah Ghaafir

This is a Makkan surah consisting of 82 ayaat. It is also known as surah Mo'min. This surah distinguishes the truth from the falsehood, and guidance from misguidance. The surah starts by mentioning the eternal miracle of the Prophet sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam, i.e. the Quran, which is still a miracle today, as it is the speech of Allah which does not change with time. In fact the more progress we make and the more scientific discoveries we make, the more evident it becomes that this Quran is from Allah. However, this is only evident to the person who has a sound heart and mind. It does not help the person who suffers from prejudice, hatred and jealousy.

The surah then proceeds to tell us about four of Allah's attributes:

- Forgiver of sins.
- Acceptor of repentance.
- Severe in punishment.
- Owner of abundance.

The other main topics in this surah are as follows:

1. The angels who are assigned to carry the throne of Allah, glorify and praise Allah, pray for the true believers saying:

"Our Lord, You have encompassed all things in mercy and knowledge, so forgive those who have repented and followed Your way and protect them from the punishment of Hellfire. "

"Our Lord, and admit them to gardens of perpetual residence which You have promised them and whoever was righteous among their fathers, their spouses and their offspring. Indeed, it is You who is the Exalted in Might, the Wise."

"And protect them from the evil consequences [of their deeds]. And he whom You protect from evil consequences that Day - You will have given him mercy. And that is the great attainment." (Ayat 7-9).

May Allah make us amongst those for whom these angels supplicate. Ameen!

2. One of the styles of the Quran is to mention opposites after each other e.g. it mentions jannah and jahannum, believers and disbelievers. So it does so here also:

"Indeed, those who disbelieve will be addressed, "The hatred of Allah for you was [even] greater than your hatred of yourselves [this Day in Hell] when you were invited to faith, but you refused."

They will say, "Our Lord, You made us lifeless twice and gave us life twice, and we have confessed our sins. So is there to an exit any way?"

[They will be told], "That is because, when Allah was called upon alone, you disbelieved; but if others were associated with Him, you believed. So the judgement is with Allah, the Most High, the Grand." (Ayaat 10-12).

3. In order to show the consequence of such disbelievers Allah brings the story of Musa and Firaun once again. However, this time it mentions a true believer who was present in the courtyard of Firaun when he passed the decree to kill both Musa and Haroon alaihim as salaam. He argued his point by saying, "will you kill them only for saying that your Lord is One Allah and that he has brought evidences for this". When Firaun feared that this opinion may become popular, he mocked at Musa and asked his minister Haamaan to construct a building in order for him to see the Lord of Musa. Despite this, the true believer stood his ground. In the end Firaun and his helpers were destroyed, but this true believer was saved.

4. Allah then mentions some of his favours:

- He made the night for us to rest in and the day for activity.
- He made the earth as a resting place and the sky as a canopy.
- He has given us beautiful forms and provided us with a range of provisions.

However man is ungrateful, as he does not use these provisions for fulfilling the purpose of his life, and neither does he reflect on these in order to recognise the Creator.

If one was to reflect on the human body itself, it would be sufficient to recognise the Creator and the favours He has bestowed on us.

Surah Fussilath

This is a Makkan surah consisting of 54 ayaat. As the surah contains the prostration for recitation, it is known as Haa Meem as Sajdah. The surah starts with the huroof muqath'ath i.e. broken letters, Haa Meem. There are seven such surahs which start with Haa Meem. These surahs are found in the mushaf in the same order in which they were revealed. Abdullah ibn Masud radhi Allahu anhu has called these surahs the beauty of the Quran while Abdullah ibn Abbas radhi Allahu anhu says that everything has a core, and the core of the Quran are these Haa Meem surahs.

The surah starts by mentioning that this book has been revealed by the One who is Most Gracious and Most Merciful.

1. Despite the book being clear and without any ambiguity in it's examples, subjects, stories, accounts, warnings and glad tidings, it is unfortunate that the rejecters claim that they are unable to understand it:

"And they say, "Our hearts are within coverings from that to which you invite us, and in our ears is deafness, and between us and you is a partition, so work; indeed, we are working."

They are then told by the Prophet sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam:

"I am only a man like you to whom it has been revealed that your god is but one God; so take a straight course to Him and seek His forgiveness." And woe to those who associate others with Allah."

2. The surah then mentions the end of those nations who rejected the message. The nation of Aad whom were given extraordinary strength, to the extent that one man could split a mountain. They should have been thankful to Allah, but instead they became proud and challenged if there was anyone stronger than them. They were told to think about the One who had created them, but they did not take any heed. As a result they were punished by a cold strong wind that blew for 7 days and nights, that would blow them about as if they were made of straw.

Similarly Thamud also rejected the guidance and the proofs, so one day while in the midst of their enjoyment, an awful cry overtook them, and an earthquake destroyed them.

3. Then there is mention of the day of judgement, when the disbelievers will be brought in front of Allah, and their limbs and even their skins will be given the ability to speak.

4. The surah then mentions the truly sincere believers, and the fact that they are always steadfast on the deen. This is a beautiful description which needs to be etched into our minds and hearts:

"Indeed, those who have said, "Our Lord is Allah " and then remained steadfast - the angels will descend upon them, [saying], "Do not fear and do not grieve but receive good tidings of Paradise, which you were promised."

"We [angels] were your allies in worldly life and [are so] in the Hereafter. And you will have therein whatever your souls desire, and you will have therein whatever you request [or wish] as accommodation from a [Lord who is] Forgiving and Merciful."

"And who is better in speech than one who invites to Allah and does righteousness and says, "Indeed, I am of the Muslims."

"And not equal are the good deed and the bad. Repel [evil] by that [deed] which is better; and thereupon the one whom between you and him is enmity [will become] as though he was a devoted friend."

"But none is granted it except those who are patient, and none is granted it except one having a great portion [of good]."

"And if there comes to you from Satan an evil suggestion, then seek refuge in Allah . Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Knowing." (Ayat 30-36)

This section gives us an insight into the characteristics both inward and outward, of the true sincere believers who remain steadfast. (Allahumma rabba ja'alnaa minhum - ameen.)

The 24th part ends by informing us of Allah's justice:

"Whoever does righteousness - it is for his [own] soul; and whoever does evil [does so] against it. And your Lord is not ever unjust to [His] servants." (Ayat 46).