

## Surah Fussilath (continued)

This part starts by stating that the knowledge of the hour is only with Allah. It will suddenly overtake people while they are busy in trade and commerce. Then Allah will ask the mushrikeen to bring forth the partners that they used to associate with Him. They will be extremely embarrassed and humiliated, and they will say that none of them associates partners with Him on this day.

At the end of the surah, Allah promises mankind that He will show them evidences and proofs from within themselves and from the Creation around them:

"We will show them Our signs in the horizons and within themselves until it becomes clear to them that it is the truth. But is it not sufficient concerning your Lord that He is, over all things, a Witness?" (Ayat 53).

## Surah Shoorā

This is a Makkan surah consisting of 53 ayaat. In reply to the mushrikeen, Allah has started this surah with the huroof muqath'ath (broken letters) again, to show that this book consists of the letters of the Arabic alphabet; so if you can, then bring a book like it, using the same alphabets. The benefit of you doing so will be that you will not need to indulge in any propaganda or warfare against the Prophet sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam, because you creating a similar book will be enough to discredit all his claims. However, this challenge has never been taken up in the past nor can it ever be taken up in the future.

The surah then informs the Prophet sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam that He has revealed books in the past in the same way. It also mentions the fact that this Quran has been revealed in plain and simple Arabic so that the people of Makkah can easily take admonition from it.

As a continuation of the revelation from the previous prophets, we are being told that the only deen acceptable to Allah is this deen which is detailed in this revelation. The deen has remained the same for all the prophets such as Ibraheem, Nuh, Musa and Eesa alaihim us salaam, and that has been to 'worship one single God without associating any partners with Him'. It is this deen that Allah has commanded the Prophet to convey:

"So to that [religion of Allah] invite, [O Muhammad], and remain on a right course as you are commanded and do not follow their inclinations." (Ayat 15).

The surah also gives a description of the characteristics of the people who believe in this revelation:

- They trust in Allah.
- They refrain from the major sins, and acts of indecency.
- They forgive when they are angry.
- They obey their Lord.
- They are regular in their prayers.
- They consult each other in their affairs.
- They spend out of that which Allah has given them.
- They retaliate to any injustice and oppression in a suitable manner.

If we inculcate these characteristics in our individual and collective affairs then there is no reason why we cannot bring about a very positive change in our surroundings. The surah ends by again mentioning the revelation and prophet hood.

## Surah az-Zukhruf

This is a Makkan surah consisting of 89 ayaat. The surah mentions the miracle of the Prophet again, as it has in the past 'Haa Meem' surahs:

"Indeed, We have made it an Arabic Qur'an that you might understand."

"And indeed it is, in the Mother of the Book with Us, exalted and full of wisdom." (Ayat 3-4).

The surah then mentions the signs in creation.

For all that can see, ears that can hear and a heart that is free from prejudice and pride, these are in themselves proof of the Creator's ability and power.

The surah also addresses the extremely undesirable custom of being ashamed on the birth of a female and burying them alive. However, in sharp contrast, they would associate the angels as being the daughters of Allah.

The surah then proceeds to the story of Ibraheem alaihis salaam whom the mushrikeen claimed to follow. But he was the flag bearer of tawheed, whilst the mushrikeen were fully immersed in shirk. Ibraheem alaihis salaam taught his progeny tawheed, and when the Prophet sal Allahu alaihis salaam invited the mushrikeen to this tawheed, the mushrikeen called it magic and they claimed that this revelation should have been sent to the leaders from amongst them. In replying to this Allah informs them of His wisdom in His choice.

The surah then turns our attention to the story of Musa and Firaun as a lesson for the mushrikeen, who like Firaun, were proud of their status and belongings. But ultimately Firaun was drowned by the very waves that he claimed to control, and to add insult to injury, he became a spectacle of helplessness and desperation for the very people whom he had looked down upon and had enslaved all his life.

The surah ends by telling the Prophet sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam to turn away and have patience.

## Surah ad-Dukhan

This is a Makkan surah consisting of 53 ayaat. Dukhan refers to the smoke which would be seen by the mushrikeen due to severe famine at that time.

The surah starts by taking an oath by the book being clear to understand and believe in. Then Allah tells us that He sent this book down in the blessed night i.e. laylatul Qadr which is better than a thousand months. Allah has revealed this book as a great favour on people, as Allah is not in need of our worship. But it is befitting of the fact that Allah is the Sustainer, to provide for our spiritual sustenance, too.

But the mushrikeen would still not believe in the resurrection or this book. They are being reminded of the consequences of Firaun who had more wealth and power than them, but this did not help him when the punishment came. He was unable to repent at the time of being drowned as his time was up and his respite had come to an end. In the end, whatever he was proud of was inherited by the very people that he belittled.

## Surah al-Jaathiyah

This is a Makkan surah consisting of 37 ayaat. The surah derives its name from the fact that on the Day of Judgment people will be sitting on their knees. After mentioning the greatness of this book the surah points to the signs in creation which are a living proof of the Greatness and Uniqueness of its Creator.

It mentions the people who act as if they are dead, dumb and blind, when they are told about this book.

The surah also mentions the favours that Allah did to the Bani Israeel. They should have become grateful and humble, but instead, they followed the way of rebellion and sin.