Surah 35 Surah Faatir

THE CREATOR

THE LINK BETWEEN SURAH FAATIR AND SURAH SABA

By Name: Surah Saba refutes the false belief that any person's intercession can change Allaah's decision. It also replies to many incorrect beliefs and narrates the incident of the people of Saba, who were annihilated because of their kufr and ingratitude.

Surah Faatir now proceeds to provide proofs for the above. Allaah states in the very first verse, “All praise be to Allaah, the Creator of the heavens and the earth...” By not accepting this fact, people will be punished like the people of Saba.

By Content: Surah Saba negates the belief that anyone can overrule Allaah's decision. The Surah also dispels certain doubts regarding the Ambiyaa, the jinn and the angels, explaining that they can never reverse Allaah's decision by their intercession.

Surah Faatir goes on to explain that since none can overrule Allaah's decree, it follows that He must be the Only Deity. Therefore, only He should be called upon when in need.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE SURAH

This Surah primarily negates Shirk in Tasarruf (division in duties). It emphasises that Only Allaah is the Master and Controller of the universe, and that Only He has knowledge of the unseen. Therefore, Only He must be called upon whenever one is in need.

The Surah presents twelve proofs to substantiate the above. Together with these, three verses explicitly state the message of the Surah.

* The first is verse 3 which states, “O people! Call to mind Allaah's favour to you. Is there another creator besides Allaah who sustains you from the sky and the earth?” After establishing that Allaah is the only source of mercy and blessings, one can only conclude that “There is no Ilaah besides Him. So to where are you retregressing (turning away from Touheed)?”

* The second is verse 13 which states, “Allaah enters the day into the night and the night into the day and has made the sun and the moon subservient (so that they benefit man). Each one travels to an appointed term (when even they will come to an end)” [verse 13]. In this verse, Allaah explains that He controls the alternating and
length of the day and night. He also controls the solar and lunar systems. Therefore, one is forced to acknowledge, “This (Magnificent Creator and Controller of all these things) is Allaah, your Rabb! To Him belongs all kingdom. (Let alone having even some of the powers of Allaah), Those (gods) whom you (Kuffaar) worship besides Allaah do not have control of even the skin on the date seed (They are unable to even create something that seems as insignificant as this.) If you call them (your gods), they will not even hear your call. Even if (one assumes that) they hear, they will be unable to respond (for they can do nothing to assist you). (In fact) On the Day of Qiyaamah they will reject your Shirk (they will claim that you did not worship them at all). None can inform you (of this and all other matters) like the Informed (Allaah).”

* The third is verse 40 in which Allaah asks the Mushrikeen to show what their gods have created, or to prove what partnership they share in the creation of the universe. If they continued to believe that their gods are really deities although they have not created anything, then they are requested to furnish proof to this effect.

The Surah also contains many warnings and reproaches as well as glad tidings as the occasion demands.
In the name of Allaah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.

1. All praise be to Allaah, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, Who made (some of) the angels messengers (carrying His messages to the Ambiyaa), possessing two, three and four wings. Allaah increases His creation as He pleases (making some larger and more powerful than others). Verily Allaah has power over all things (like granting Jibraeel 600 wings).

2. There is none to withhold the mercy Allaah opens to His people (such as rain, sustenance, spiritual upliftment), and there is none to release the mercy that He withholds. He is the Mighty (able to do as He pleases without anyone to challenge Him), the Wise (knows exactly when and on whom to shower His mercy).

3. O people! Remember Allaah’s favour to you. Is there another creator besides Allaah who sustains you from the sky and the earth? There is no Ilaah but Him. So to where are you retrogressing (turning away from Touheed)?

4. If they (the Kuffaar) reject you (O Rasulullaah ﷺ), then (this is nothing new because) many Rusul were falsified (denied) before you. All affairs return to Allaah (and the Kuffaar will then have to answer for their falsehood).

5. O people! Allaah’s promise (of resurrection) is (most) certainly true, so never let the
worldly life deceive you (into thinking that you will never be resurrected), nor should the great deceiver (Shaytaan) deceive you about Allaah (by telling you that you may continue sinning because Allaah will forgive you).

6. Indeed Shaytaan is your (obvious) enemy, so treat him as an enemy. He calls to his party (followers) only so that they become inmates (dwellers) of the Blaze (Jahannam).

7. There shall be severe punishment for the Kuffaar (those who follow Shaytaan), and forgiveness and tremendous reward for those who have Imaan and who do good deeds (by ignoring Shaytaan).

8. The person whose evil acts have been beautified for him, causing him to regard them as good (can he be like the one who does good?). Verily Allaah sends astray whoever He wills and guides whoever He wills. So do not let your soul leave (do not grieve) in remorse over them (if they do not accept Imaan). Indeed Allaah has knowledge of what they do (and He will punish them accordingly).

9. Allaah is the One Who sends the winds which carry a cloud. We then waft (lift) it (the cloud) to a dead (arid, barren) land, and with it (the rain) We revive the earth after its death. Thus shall be the resurrection (on the Day of Qiyaamul i when dead souls will be revived).

10. Whoever desires honour, (respect) then know that all honour belongs to Allaah (and can be achieved only through obeying Him). The Pure Word (the Kalimah as well as other forms of Dhikr) climbs (goes) up to Him, propelled by good deeds (coupled with good deeds, a Muslim's Dhikr is readily accepted by Allaah). There shall be a severe punishment for those who devise evil schemes (to harm Islaam and the Muslims). The plots of these people will certainly be destroyed (will fail completely).

وَبَلۡ لَهُمُ الْمَلَأُ الْمُخْتَلِفُونَ فِي نَفَقَةٍ فِي نُطُفَةٍ تُضَعِّفُهُمْ أَرْوَاهُمْ وَمَا تَحْمِيلُ مِنْ أَنْثى وَلَا فَتَحُّ الْإِبْلِيَّةَ وَمَا
11. Allaah has created you (your father Aadam) from sand, then (the generations after him) from a seed (sperm), and then made you in pairs (male and female). He has knowledge of every female that conceives and delivers. Recorded in the Book (the "Lauhul Mahfoodh") is (each and) every aged person who ages (who reached old age) and (every person) whose age is decreased (who does not reach old age). This (keeping records of everything) is (very) simple for Allaah (do not think that He will find it difficult to record everything you do).

12. The two water masses (oceans and rivers/lakes) are not the same. The one (river/lake fresh water) is sweet (drinkable), quenching and easy to drink, while the other (seawater) is salty and bitter. (Nevertheless,) From each of these (masses of water) you eat fresh meat (fish) and you extract jewels (pearls) that you wear. You will see ships cleaving (through the waters because Allaah had made them useful to you) so that you seek from Allaah’s bounty (your livelihood) and (so that you) show gratitude (to Him for this bounty).

13. Allaah enters the day into the night and the night into the day and has made the sun and the moon subservient (so that they benefit man). Each one (the sun and moon) travels to an appointed term (when even they will come to an end). This (Magnificent Creator and Controller of all these things) is Allaah, your Rabb! To Him belongs all kingdom. (Let alone having even some of the powers of Allaah,) Those (gods) whom you (Kuffaar) worship besides Allaah do not have control of even the skin on the date seed. (They are unable to create even something as insignificant as this.)

14. If you call them (your gods), they will not even hear your call. Even if (one assumes that) they hear, they will be unable to respond (for they can do nothing to assist you). (In fact) On the Day of Qiyaamah they will reject (denounce) your Shirk (they will claim that you did not worship them at all. See verse 28 of Surah 10). None can inform you (of this and all other matters) like the Informed (Allaah).
15. O people! You are all beggars (in need) before Allaah (dependant on Him for everything) and (Only) Allaah is Independent (not in need of anyone or anything), Most Worthy of praise.

وَمَاذِلَكَ عَلَيْنَا الْهَيْبَةُ الْكَبِيرَةُ

16. If He wills, He could remove you (if you fail to accept Imaan) and replace you with a new creation (because He has no need for those who reject Him).

وَإِذَا أَرْضَىٰ لَهُمْ مِنْهُمْ يُصَلِّونَ وَيُعْبِدُونَ وَيُصْلِبُونَ وَيُعْتَفِفُونَ وَيَقُولُواُلَوْ كَانَتِ النَّارُ أَحَلَّ وَلَوْ كَانَ اللَّهُ مَيْتًا مَا ضَعِفَتْهُ وَلَوْ كَانَ اللَّهُ مَيْتًا مَا ضَعِفَتْهُ وَلَوْ كَانَ اللَّهُ مَيْتًا مَا ضَعِفَتْهُ وَلَوْ كَانَ اللَّهُ مَيْتًا مَا ضَعِفَتْهُ

17. This is not at all difficult for Allaah (and it has been done in the past).

18. None shall be burdened with (suffer punishment for) the load (the sins) of another (because each person will be responsible for his/her own actions). If any burdened (sinful) person has to call for his load (of sin) to be carried (by another), none of it will be carried, even though it be his close relative (that he calls to carry for him). You (O Rasulullaah ﷺ) can warn only those who fear their Rabb without seeing Him, and who establish salaah (because such people will take heed of the warning). Whoever (spiritually) purifies himself, purifies himself only for his own good (because this spiritual purification will lead him to deeds that will earn him Jannah). To Allaah will be the return (of every soul after death).

وَمَا وَيْسَّنَى الرَّحْمَٰنُ بَالْحَيَاةِ الْحَيَاتِ

19. The blind and the seeing cannot be equal...

وَلَا الْبَلَّامُ وَلَا الطَّيِّبُ

20. …neither can a multiplicity of darkness (shadows) and the light (be equal)...

وَلَا الْظَّلَلُ وَلَا الْفَوْرُ

21. …neither (can) shade and heat (be the same). (Just as all of the above are opposites, so too are kufr and Imaan, sin and virtue, the Kuffaar and the Mu’minuin.)
22. (In the same manner), The (spiritually) living (the Mu'mineen) and the (spiritually) dead (the Kuffaar) cannot be the same. Whoever Allaah wills He makes him hear (the truth), and you (O Rasulullaah ﷺ) cannot make those in the graves hear (without Allaah's will).

23. You (O Rasulullaah ﷺ) are only a warner (you can only warn them about the consequences of kufr but cannot force them to renounce it).

24. Verily We have sent you with the truth as a carrier (bearer) of good news (to the Mu'mineen) and (as) a warner (to the Kuffaar). (Your duty is not near to people because) A warner (who cautioned people about the consequences of kufr) passed in (was sent to) every nation.

25. If they reject you, then (this is also not unexpected because) those before them also rejected (the Ambiyaa ﷺ who came to them). (They rejected their Ambiyaa ﷺ even though) Their Rusul brought to them clear signs (miracles), scriptures and an illuminating Book.

26. Thereafter (after they rejected the Ambiyaa ﷺ and their message) I seized (punished) those who committed kufr. So (see) how (severe) was My punishment (that none of them were left alive so take heed).

27. Do they (the Kuffaar) not see that (the powers of) Allaah (are so great that He) sends rain from the sky (which is colourless), using it to bring forth many fruits of varying colours (each having unique tastes, textures and characteristics)? From the mountains, (you will find that) there are different ridges, varying from white to red of different shades and some which are extremely black (even though all the mountains are similar in composition).
28. There is a similar variation of colours among people, creatures and animals. From Allaah’s bondsmen (servants) it is only the learned ones (those who recognise Him and the Ulema who possess understanding) who fear Him (because they appreciate His powers and greatness). Verily Allaah is Mighty, Most Forgiving.

29. Indeed, those who recite Allaah’s Book (the Qur’aan), who establish salaah and who spend secretly and openly from what We have given them, they can look forward to a trade (a profit) that will never be destroyed (without any fear of loss). (In exchange for their good deeds, they can expect rewards that are everlasting.)

30. (The result of their deeds is) That Allaah will grant them their reward in full and (even) increase (their rewards for) them from His grace. Verily He is Most Forgiving (of their sins), Most Appreciative (even of limited obedience).

31. Those parts of the Book (the Qur’aan) that We have revealed to you (O Muhammad &), are the (undeniable) truth, verifying (confirming) the scriptures before it. Without doubt, Allaah is Informed and Ever Watchful over His bondsmen (and will certainly take that person to task who questions any part of the Qur’aan).

32. Thereafter (after revealing the Qur’aan to Rasulullaah ﷺ), We made those of Our bondsmen whom We chose (the Mu’mineen) inheritors of the Book (the Qur’aan). Of them were those who oppressed (wronged) their (own) souls (by committing sins), while there were those who were moderate (who neither sinned, nor did more than the Faraa’idh and Waajibaat). There were also those who were leaders (advanced) in good deeds by the command of their Rabb (those who refrained from sins and besides the Faraa’idh and Waajibaat, also excelled in performing optional good deeds Nawaafil). This (revelation of the Qur’aan to mankind) is Allaah’s extreme grace.

33. In the eternal Jannaat that they (the Mu’mineen) will enter, they will be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls. Their garments there will be (made) of silk.
34. (In Jannah) They will say, “All praise be to Allaah, Who has removed grief from us (by saving us from Jahannam). Undoubtedly our Rabb is Most Forgiving, Appreciative (of Imaan and good deeds, because of which His rewards are so beautiful).”

35. (They will add) “He (our Rabb) has settled us in an eternal home by His grace. Here (in Jannah) no difficulty (toil) will ever afflict (torment) us, nor shall any tiredness touch us.”

36. (On the contrary), those who commit kufr will have the Fire of Jahannam, where no decree (of death) will be passed against them so that they may die (and thereby be relieved of punishment). (Let alone escaping the punishment), Their punishment will also not be lightened. Thus do We punish every Kaafir (ungrateful one).

37. They (the Kuffaar) will be screaming (crying for help) in Jahannam saying, “O our Rabb! Remove us from here and (send us back to the world where) we will do deeds unlike those (evil deeds) that we used to carry out.” (They will be denied this request and it will be said to them), “Did We not grant you sufficient age (time) in which the one who takes heed may take heed? And did a warner not come to you? (You had enough time in the world to do good deeds and the Ambiyaa and others were there to warn you about the consequences of your kufr, yet you failed to take heed.) So taste (the punishment for your wrong-doing) ! The oppressors (Kuffaar and sinners) will not have a helper (against Allaah’s punishment).”

38. Verily Allaah has knowledge of the unseen things of the heavens and the earth. He certainly has knowledge of the secrets of the heart (and is therefore in a perfect position to decide whether people need to be rewarded or punished).
39. It is He Who made you successors (of each other) on earth. Whoever commits kufr, then his kufr is to his own detriment (because it will not harm Allaah in any way). The kufr of the Kaaﬁroon will only increase the wrath of their Rabb for them (causing them to suffer more punishment). The kufr of the Kaaﬁroon will only increase them in loss.

40. Say, “Tell me about your partners (gods) whom you worship besides Allaah. Show me what they have created of the earth, or (if they have created nothing) do they (at least) share a partnership in the heavens and the earth? (When their gods have nothing to show, how can they ever be worshipped?) Or have (the Mushrikeen resolved to adamantly cling to their beliefs because) We (had) given them a Book from which they have a clear proof (to do as they are doing)? (The reason for their adamant behaviour is that) The oppressors (the Mushrikeen) make only deceptive (false) promises to each other (by promising each other that their gods will intercede for them on the Day of Qiyaamah).”

41. Verily Allaah withholds (stabilises) the heavens and the earth from moving (from shaking and thereby causing difficulty for people). If they were ever to move, there will be none to withhold them after Him (after He allows them to move). Indeed He is Tolerant, Most Forgiving.

42. They (the Mushrikeen of Makkah) used to take solemn (sincere) oaths by Allaah (when they saw the Jews and Christians disputing) that if a warner (a Nabi) had to come to them, they would (accept his teachings and thereby) become more rightly guided than any (other) nation. However, when the warner (Rasulullaah ﷺ) came to them, it only increased them in animosity (hatred and instead of being rightly guided, they drove themselves further from it).

43. (They behaved like this because) They were proud on earth (too proud to follow another) and (because)
they devised evil schemes (to oppose and harass Rasulullah ﷺ). The consequences of evil schemes surround (harm) only those who devise them (rather than those against whom they devised the scheme). They (the Kuffaar) seem only to be awaiting the treatment (punishment) of the previous (Kuffaar) generations (to come to them before they can accept Imaan). (They can be rest assured that when they persist in kufr, they will certainly suffer the plight of the previous Kuffaar nations because) You will never find any change in Allaah’s practice (promises, ways), neither will you find any adjustment (change) in Allaah’s practice.

44. Have they not travelled in the lands and seen what was the result of those (Kuffaar nations) before them who were (far) more powerful than them? Allaah is not such that anything in the heavens and the earth can defeat him (He is Capable of destroying people regardless of their power and might.) He is the All Knowing, Powerful (He cannot be made helpless).

45. If Allaah were to take man to task for everything he does, (the punishment of) Allaah would (have destroyed man and everything around him and) not have left a single creature on the face of the earth. However, Allaah defers (postpones the time when He will punish) them until an appointed term (which may either be in this world, in the Aakhirah or in both). (Nevertheless) When their term (time) arrives, then Allaah is Ever Watchful over His bondsmen (and will ensure that they do not escape).