Surah 39 Surah Zumar

THE GROUPS

THE LINK BETWEEN SURAH ZUMAR AND SURAH SAAD

By Name: Surah Saad explains to people that the beings whom they regard as persuasive intercessors in Allaah's court have all experienced trials and even physical hardship. Therefore, they should not be regarded as such. Surah Zumar now mentions that the people of Imaan and the people of Shirk (who regard their gods as imposing intercessors) will be separated into two groups (Zumar) on the Day of Judgement. The Mu'mineen will be admitted into Jannah while the Mushrikeen will be doomed to Jahannam.

By Content: Surah Saba negates the belief in anyone being an effective intercessor. Thereafter, Surah Faatir discusses the fact that Only Allaah can be man's deity, Helper and the Only Knower of the unseen. Surahs Yaaseen, Saaffaat and Saad continue with the same discussion that is noted in Surah Saba but in greater detail.

Surah Zumar, on the other hand, discusses the theme proposed in Surah Saba, as well as what was discussed in Surah Faatir. Verse 43 of Surah Zumar for example asks, “Do they take intercessors besides Allaah?”

The Surah therefore presents the message that all acts of worship and supplications should be sincerely for Allaah Alone because He is the Only Helper and none can be an intercessor before Him.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE SURAH

Surah Zumar deals with the following aspects.

* An introduction coupled with encouragement.
* Mention of the primary assertion thrice.
* Factors linked to this assertion.
* Fourteen arguments to prove the assertion that no one can be an intercessor for another in front of Allaah.
* Four reproaches.
* Three comparisons between the Mu'mineen and the Kuffaar.
* Encouragement to migrate.
1. This Qur’aan is a revealed book from Allaah, the Mighty, the Wise.

2. Undoubtedly, We have revealed the Book to you O Rasulullah (ﷺ) with the truth, so worship Allaah, making Deen (worship) exclusively His (only for His pleasure).

3. Behold! Deen (worship) is exclusively for Allaah. Those people who take others (false gods) as partners of Allaah say, “We worship them only so that they may draw us close to Allaah (without really believing that they are as powerful as Allaah).” Verily Allaah shall decide between them (on the Day of Qiyaamah) concerning the matters about which they differ (quarrelled). Undoubtedly, Allaah does not guide the one who is a liar (in his speech) and a Kaafir (in his beliefs). (Such a person refuses to accept the truth and will therefore not be rightly guided).

4. If (one assumes that) Allaah intended (willed) to have a child, He would have chosen whatever He desires from His creation (and is not forced to take those whom the Mushrikeen name as His children). (However, the fact is that) He is Pure (from needing children), and He is the One, the Omnipotent.

5. He has created the heavens and the earth (and whatever lies between the two) with the truth.
He folds the night into the day, folds the day into the night (one comes after the other without intervals), and has subjugated the sun and the moon. Each one runs to a prescribed term (for a stipulated time when all will eventually come to an end). Behold! He is the Mighty, the Most Forgiving.

6. He has created you (mankind) from a single soul (Adam ﷺ), after which He made a spouse (Hawwa) from the soul, and also made eight pairs (male and female) for you from the livestock (camels, cows, sheep and goats). Allaah creates you in the wombs of your mothers, as a creation after a creation (taking you through various stages of foetal development as described in Sura An’am) in three layers of darkness (the abdomen, the womb, and the membrane in which the foetus develops). That is Allaah, your Rabb, to Whom all kingdoms belong. There is none worthy of worship but He, so where are you turning to? (Why are you turning to worship other gods when it is Allaah Who gave you everything?)

If you commit kufr, then (this will harm only yourself because) Allaah is certainly Independent of you (and does not need your worship). (However, this does not permit anyone to commit kufr because) Allaah is not pleased with kufr for His slaves (and will punish them for it). If you are grateful (for all He gives you and worship only Him), then (remember that) this is what He likes for you. None shall bear the burden of another (person’s sins because every person will have to account for his/her own sins). Thereafter, (after spending your lives in this world) your return shall be to your Rabb, Who will inform you of what you used to do (and either reward or punish you for your actions). Verily, He has knowledge of the secrets of the heart (and nothing therefore is hidden from Him).

When any adversity afflicts man (the Kaafir), he supplicates to Allaah (for help), turning to Him only (knowing that only Allaah and no other god has the ability to assist). Then, when Allaah confers (bestows) a bounty upon him (by removing the difficulty), he forgets for what he supplicated to Allaah before. He then ascribes partners to Allaah, thereby misleading (others) from Allaah’s path. Say, “Enjoy your kufr for a while (for as long as you live)! You will certainly be from the inmates (dwellers) of the Fire (once you leave this world).”
9. (Is this Kafir better) Or the person who is engrossed (engaged) in (Allah's) worship throughout the hours of the night, prostrating and standing, fearing the Aakhirah and hoping for the mercy of his Rabb? Say, “Can those with (spiritual) knowledge be equal to those who do not have knowledge? Only those with (spiritual) intelligence (wisdom) will heed (good advice).”

10. Say, “O those slaves (servants) of Mine who have Imaan! Fear your Rabb. There shall be good (reward) in this world for those who do good. (One can always find the opportunity to do good because) Allaah's earth is vast (and if one is prevented from practising Islaam anywhere, then one has the rest of the earth to which to migrate). The patient (wise) ones (who practise Islaam despite all odds) shall be granted their reward without reservation.”

11. (O Rasulullaah) Say, “I have been commanded to worship Allaah, making all (my) worship only for Him.”

12. “And I have been commanded to be the first of the Mu'mineen.”

13. Say, “I fear the punishment of a severe day if I disobey my Rabb.”

14. Say, “I worship Allaah only, making my worship only for Him.”

15. “So worship whatever you wish besides Him (this will not affect my worship).” Say, “Verily the losers are those who put themselves and their families at a loss on the Day of
16. They (the Kuffaar and Mushrikeen) shall have flames (of clouds) above them and flames beneath them (in Jahannam). It is with these things (these types of punishment) that Allaah warns His bondsmen. O my bondsmen! Fear Me!

17. There is good news (of Jannah) for those who refrain from worshipping (those things that) Shaytaan (commands them to worship) and (for those) who turn to Allaah. So convey the good news (glad tidings of Jannah) to My bondsmen...

18. ...who listen attentively to the speech (of Allaah and His Rasool ﷺ) and follow (it, knowing that it is) the best of it (of all speech). These are the ones whom Allaah has guided, and these are the ones who possess (true) intelligence (wisdom).

19. (Is the one who abstains from evil better) Or the one against whom the decree for punishment has been passed (because of his kufr)? Can you rescue (save) the one who is (so deep in kufr that it is as if he is already) in the Fire?

20. However, those who fear their Rabb shall have balconies above (and more) balconies (lofty chambers) built (in Jannah). Beneath these, there will be rivers flowing. Allaah has made this promise, and Allaah never breaks His promise.

21. Do you not see that Allaah sends rain from the sky, and then channels (directs) it (to people) in springs within the earth? Thereafter, He brings forth crops of different colours with it (when the water is used to irrigate fields). Then (the time eventually comes when) the crops wither away, and you will see it turn yellow (when it dries up), after which Allaah reduces
it to chaff (unwanted husks). There is certainly a reminder in this for people of intelligence (reminding them that this world like the crops that now it look so green and flourishing will also one day come to an end).

22. (Is the Kaafir better) Or the person whose heart Allaah has opened to Islaam, because of which he is (steadfast) upon a light from his Rabb? Destruction be for those whose hearts have hardened against Allaah’s remembrance (causing them to forget about Allaah). These people are clearly misled.

23. Allaah has revealed the most superb articulation (the best guidance); a Book (the Qur’aan) with subject matter of similar import (to reinforce teachings), which is often repeated (by people for all time throughout the world). The bodies of those who fear their Rabb shiver with it, after which their hearts and bodies soften to Allaah’s remembrance (causing them to do good deeds). This is Allaah’s guidance, with which He guides whoever He wills. There can be no guide for the one whom Allaah sends astray.

24. (Is the person who abstains from evil better) Or the person who (because his hands will be bound) will have to face a terrible punishment on the Day of Qiyaamah? It will be said to the oppressors (the Kuffaar on the Day of Qiyaamah), “Taste (the punishment for) what you (have) earned!”

25. Those before them rejected (the Ambiyaa and their message), so the punishment afflicted them from where (a source) they did not perceive (expert).

26. Allaah made them taste humiliation (disgrace) in this worldly life, while the punishment of the Aakhirah is worse. If only they knew!
27. Verily, We have mentioned every type of example for people in this Qur’aan so that they may take heed (benefit from the lessons).

28. It is an Arabic Qur’aan without any crookedness (discrepancies or falsehood), (which has been revealed) so that they (the people) fear (the consequences of kufr and evil).

29. Allaah mentions the example of a man who is owned by several masters who keep disputing over him (each master argues with the other for complete ownership of the slave so that the slave can do his work exclusively. Caught up in this struggle, the slave is also left bewildered, and has to suffer the ill temper of each upset master, unable to please any of them and therefore unable to receive the favours of any) and another man who is owned entirely by one person. Can the two be equal? (Similar is the example of a Mu’min who worships One Allaah and receives everything from Him. He is in a much better position than a Mushrik, who has to pay allegiance to several gods, without receiving anything from any of them.) All praise be (belongs) to Allaah, but most of them (the people) do not know.

30. Indeed, you (O Rasulullaah ﷺ) shall certainly die, and they shall all die as well.

31. Then, on the Day of Qiyaamah, you will all quarrel (dispute) in the presence of your Rabb (and He will pass the final judgement, condemning the Mushrikeen to Jahannam. Therefore, do not worry about their harassment. Allaah will take them to task for what they do).

32. Who can be more unjust than he who lies about (against) Allaah (by saying that Allaah has partners), and rejects the truth (the Qur’aan and Touheed) when it comes to him? Is there no abode for the Kaafiroon in Jahannam? (Jahannam is where they will find themselves in the Aakhirah!)

33. Those who bring (receive) the truth (from Allaah and His Rasool ﷺ) and confirm it (accept it to
34. They shall have whatever they desire with their Rabb (in Jannah). This is the reward of those who do good.

35. (They shall have this reward) So that Allaah may cancel (forgive) their evil doings and grant them the best rewards for the good deeds they carried out.

36. Is Allaah not Sufficient (as Protector) for His bondsman (Rasulullah س.)? (Failing to realise that Allaah was always there to protect Rasulullah س. ) They (the Mushrikeen) threaten you (O Rasulullah س.) with (harm from) those (gods whom they worship) besides Him (Allaah). There can be no guide (hope of salvation) for the one whom Allaah sends astray.

37. None can mislead the one whom Allaah guides. Is Allaah not the Mighty, the Most Capable of avenging (the harm done to those close to Him)?

38. Undoubtedly, if you ask them (the Mushrikeen) who created the heavens and the earth, they will certainly reply, “Allaah!” Say, “Tell me about those whom you worship besides Allaah. If Allaah wishes that any harm should afflict me, can they avert (prevent) the harm? Or if Allaah wishes to shower mercy upon me, are they able to restrain (stop) His mercy?” Say, “Allaah is enough for me, and only in Him should those who have trust place their trust.” (Although the Mushrikeen worshipped many idols, they acknowledged that it was Allaah Who created the universe and Who had control over everything.)

39. Say, “O my people (who are Kuffaar)! Carry out your actions as you are, for I am
40. “...to whom a punishment (calamity) will come (in this world) which will humiliate (disgrace) him, and on whom an eternal (everlasting) punishment will descend (in the Aakhirah).” (You will soon receive the punishment you deserve. It was not long after this verse was revealed that the Mushrikeen leaders were killed at Badr, to be doomed thereafter to eternal punishment in Jahannam.)

41. Without doubt, We have revealed to you (O Rasulullaah) a Book (the Qur’aan) with the truth for the people. Whoever is rightly guided, is guided for his own benefit, and whoever is misguided, then it is to his own detriment (own loss). You (O Rasulullaah) have not been sent as a warter (one responsible) over them (you cannot force anyone to accept Imaan and will not be questioned if any one rejects your message).

42. Allaah raises (draws) the souls (of people) at the time of their death (when the time of their death arrives), and Allaah also raises the souls of those (people) who do not die (who are not due to die) during their sleep (causing them to be oblivious of everything around them as they sleep). (When people are asleep) Allaah then withholds the soul upon which death has been decreed (so that the soul does not return to the body), and releases (sends back the souls of) others (allowing them to return to their bodies so that they may continue living) until their appointed term (until the time when they are due to die). There are certainly Aayaat (signs) in this for people who think (which demonstrates to them that Allaah has complete control over His creation).

43. Or (instead of accepting Tawheed despite the clear evidence) do they (the Mushrikeen) take (their idols as) intercessors besides Allaah? Say, “(Do you believe that they can intercede before Allaah) Even though they do not have control over anything, and (even though they) have no understanding?” (Idols have no power or understanding.)

44. Say, “(Even though you may believe that the people or angels whom your idols represent shall intercede for you,
remember that All intercession (pleading for mercy) is subject (belongs) to Allaah's will (intercession can take place only with His permission and on behalf of those whom He wills). To Him belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. Eventually, you will all be returned to Him.”

وَإِنَّمَا كَرَآلِهِ وَحْدَةً اسْتَعْتَنَتَّ قُلْبُ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْأَخْرَجَةَ وَإِنَّمَا كَرَآلِهِ مَنْ دُوِّنَ إِذَا اهْمَرَ يُسَانِدُونَ

45. When Allaah the One is mentioned (without mention of their gods, making it clear that only Allaah wields control over the universe), the hearts of those who do not believe in the Aakhirah contract (fill with hatred and dislike). However, when the other gods (of theirs) besides Allaah are mentioned, they suddenly rejoice (become glad).

فِي اللَّهِ قَاطِرُ الْمَوتِ وَالْأَرضِ عَلَمَ الْغُبُورِ وَالْإِثْنَأَا أَنتَ تُحَكِّمُ بِنَعَمٍ عَبَدَ فَكَيْنَا مَالِكِينَ

46. (Do not be distressed by their stubbornness, but rather) Say, “O Allaah! Originator of the heavens and the earth! Knower of the unseen and the seen! You shall pass judgement on the Day of Qiyaamah between Your bondsmen concerning the matters about which they differed.” (When Allaah passes judgement on the Day of Qiyaamah, the Kuffaar will be forced to realise the error of their ways."

فَلْوَأَنْ لِلَّذِينَ ظَاهِرَاءَ بِالْأَمْرِ جَاهِزَاءَ وَمَلِئَةَ مَعَهَ لاَ فَقَدْ وَأَيْتُمْ مِنْ سَوَاءٍ عَلَى الْعُزَّةِ أَيْمُ وَبَدَا الْهَمْسَاتُ الْلَّهُ مَا مَلَكُوا أَخْشَيْتُونَ

47. (However, this realisation will be too late on the Day of Qiyaamah when nothing will be able to save them. In fact, even) If the oppressors (Kuffaar and sinners) owned whatever is on earth and much more in addition, they would certainly want to offer it as ransom to escape the evil of the punishment on the Day of Qiyaamah. (However, even if they did this, it will not be accepted from them.) Such things will (then) become apparent (appear) to them from Allaah, which they had never imagined. (On the Day of Qiyaamah, the Kuffaar will see before them everything that they denied in the world. Whereas they expect to receive more wealth and status in the Aakhirah, they will be bitterly disappointed.)

وَبَدَا الْهَمْسَاتُ مَا كَسَبُوا وَحَاقَ بِهِمْ مَا كَسَبُوا أَخْشَيْتُونَ

48. (Instead of the wealth and riches they expected to find in the Aakhirah,) The evil of what they earned will become apparent (appear) to them, and they will be enveloped by (the punishment for) what they used to mock.

فَإِذَا مَسَّ الْأَنْسَانَ صُلْطَانًا وَأُذِنَّهُ لَأَخْلَفَهُ بِغَمَّةٍ مَّنَا قَالَ إِنَّمَا أَطْبَقْنَاهُ عَلَى عَلَمٍ بَلْ هُمْ

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49. When any adversity (such as poverty or illness) afflicts man, he supplicates (pleads) to Us (for assistance). Thereafter, when We confer a bounty upon him (by granting him wealth or by restoring his good health), he says, “I have been granted this because of (my) resourcefulness (my ability and wisdom).” Rather (than being a favour to him), it (the bounty We give him) is a test (to examine whether he will thank Allaah), but most of them do not know (and therefore fail the test by attributing the bounty to themselves, thereby succumbing to Shirk).

50. Those (Kuffaar) before them said the same words, but the things that they earned did not benefit them (could not save them from Allaah’s punishment).

51. So (eventually, the repercussions of) the evil acts they earned caught up with them (and Allaah’s punishment arrived). Soon (the repercussions of) the evil deeds that the oppressive ones among these people earn shall (also) catch up with them as well. Then (just like the Kuffaar before them) they will have no escape.

52. (After understanding the manner in which things happen,) Do they not know that Allaah increases sustenance for whoever he pleases, and reduces (sustenance) as well (and that having and not having sustenance has nothing to do with a person’s resourcefulness)? There are certainly Aayaat (signs) in this for people who have Imaan.

53. Say, “O My bondsmen (servants) who have wronged their souls (by committing kufr or other sins)! Never lose hope of Allaah’s mercy (so do not abstain from seeking forgiveness thinking that you will not be forgiven). Verily, Allaah forgives all sins (that are free of kufr and Shirk). Undoubtedly, He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.”

54. Turn to your Rabb and surrender to Him before punishment afflicts you, after which you will not be assisted (and none will be able to help you).
55. Follow the best (the guidance of Islaam), which your Rabb has revealed to you before punishment suddenly afflicts you (for not accepting Islaam) without you realising it (whilst you are unaware).

56. (Do all this to avoid the situation after death when) A soul says, “Woe betide me (May I be destroyed) for the neglect I showed with regard to Allaah (by not accepting Islaam)! In fact, (far from accepting Islaam) I was (foolish enough to be) from among those who mocked (Islaam and the Muslims)!"

57. Or (turn to Allaah and accept Islaam to avoid the situation after death when) it (a soul) says, “If only Allaah had guided me, I would have certainly been from among those with Taqwa (the Mu'mineen)."

58. Or (do this to avoid the situation after death when) it (a soul) says when seeing the punishment, “If only I had a chance (to return to the world), I would certainly be from among those who do good (the Mu'mineen).”

59. (Allaah will reply to such a soul by saying,) “Indeed (why not?), My Aayaat (and My commands) came to you, but you rejected them, you were arrogant (too proud to accept) and were among the Kaafiroon.”

60. On the Day of Qiyaamah, you will see that the faces of those who lied about Allaah will be dark (gloomy and depressed). Is there not an abode (a place) in Jahannam for the arrogant? (Jahannam is exactly where they will find themselves.)

61. Allaah will rescue (save) those with Taqwa (and take them) to their place of success (Jannah). No evil (punishment or distress) will touch them, neither shall they grieve (over the past as the Kufaar will do).
62. Allaah is the Creator of everything, and He is the Administrator (in charge) of all things.

63. The keys (control) of the heavens and the earth belong to him. Those who disbelieve in Allaah’s Aayaat are the real losers.

64. Say, “O ignorant ones! Do you command (order) me to worship others besides Allaah?”

65. Indeed We have sent revelation to you (O Rasuullaah ﷺ) and to those (Ambiyaa ﷺ) before you (overcoming the people that), “If you commit Shirk, your (good) deeds will certainly be wasted (because you will receive no rewards for them in the Aakhirah), and you will definitely become of the losers.”

66. “Rather worship Allaah and be among the grateful ones (those that show gratitude to Allaah).”

67. They (most people) have not revered (understood or appreciated) Allaah as He deserves to be revered (they do not realise His power and greatness as they ought to). On the Day of Qiyaamah, the entire earth will be in His grasp (control), and the skies will be folded (rolled up) in His right hand (this verse is Mutashaabhaat to be interpreted metaphorically). He is Pure and Exalted above all that they ascribe as partners to Him.

68. The trumpet will be blown (the first time to sound the advent of the Day of Qiyaamah), and everyone in the heavens and the earth will fall unconscious, except those whom Allaah chooses (wills). Thereafter, it will be blown a second time, when they (the dead) will all suddenly stand up, watching (everything that is happening around them).
69. The earth will illuminate (shine) with the light of her Rabb, the records of actions will be placed (before each person), and the Ambiyya and witnesses will be brought (forward to testify against the Kuffaar). Judgement (decision) will be passed between them (creation) with the truth (justice), and they will not be oppressed (no one will be deprived of reward for good deeds nor punished for sins they did not commit).

70. Every soul will be granted full recompense for what it did. Allaah knows best (even better than themselves) what acts people carried out.

71. The Kuffaar will be driven to Jahannam in groups (in disgrace and humiliation). Until, (when) they arrive there, its gates will be opened (each time a dweller of Hell comes) and its keepers will say, “Did the Rusul from among you not come to you, reciting to you the Aayaat of your Rabb and warning you of this day's meeting?” They will say, “Certainly. However, (we failed to heed their advice. Because we died as Kuffaar,) the decision of punishment has been passed against the Kuffaar.”

72. It will be said (to them), “Enter the gates of Jahannam, where you shall live forever. Evil indeed is the abode of the haughty (proud) ones!”

73. (On the other hand) Those who feared their Rabb will be led to Jannah in groups. Until, when they arrive there, its gates will (already be open (in welcome before their arrival) and its keepers will say, “Peace be on you! May you be pleased. Enter Jannah to live forever.”
74. They will say, “All praise be to Allaah, Who has fulfilled His promise to us, made us inheritors of this land (of Jannah) so that we may settle wherever we wish in Jannah. Excellent indeed is the reward of those who perform good deeds!”

75. (On the Day of Qiyaamah) You shall see the angels thronging around (encircling) the Throne, glorifying Allaah’s praises. Then, with justice (and sound) judgement (the decision) will be passed (made) between people, and it will be said, “All praise belongs to Allaah, the Rabb of the universe.”