Surah 73 Surah Muzzammil

THE ONE WRAPPED IN A SHAWL

THE LINK BETWEEN SURAH MUZZAMMIL AND THE PRECEDING SURAHS

Surahs Muzzammil and Muddathir both discuss the same subject matter. The Surahs preceding these two discussed an aspect of Towheed i.e. the belief that only Allaah is the source of all blessings. This was discussed at great length, using logical proofs, warnings and various other modes and methods of address. In this way, Shirk is effectively refuted.

Now, the message is that the Qur’aan must be recited because it is a means of guidance and that men must hold onto Towheed. Surah Muzzammil contains the instruction to recite the Qur’aan properly, while Surah Muddathir exhorts the Muslims not to confine themselves only to the recitation of the Qur’aan but that they should also propagate its injunctions, especially that of Towheed.

A SUMMARY OF THE SURAH

The first nine verses of the Surah contain the first instruction to stand in prayer (Tahajjud salah) during a part of the night in which the Qur’aan should be recited. Allaah should then be worshipped in earnestness and no partners should be associated with Him.

Thereafter, verses 10 and 11 console Rasulullaah ﷺ by telling him not to be grieved by what the Kuffaar say because Allaah will settle their affair. Allaah then warns the Kuffaar and the Mushrikeen about the various forms of punishment that they will have to suffer in the Aakhirah [verses 12 to 14].

From the words “Verily We have sent a Rasool (Muhammad ﷺ) to you people…” until the end of verse 16 Allaah reminds the Mushrikeen that He has sent to them a great prophet, just as He had sent a prophet to Fir‘oun. When Fir‘oun refused to believe in Moosa ﷺ and rejected his message, Allaah destroyed him along with his entire army. Allaah warns the Mushrikeen that they will also suffer Allaah’s punishment if they choose to oppose Rasulullaah ﷺ.

In verses 17 and 18, Allaah again warns people about the Aakhirah, reminding them that punishment in this world will not end the affair, but that they will have to suffer dreadful consequences in the Aakhirah as well. Thereafter, Allaah impresses upon them that they should follow the advice of the Qur’aan, when He says, “(All of) This (already mentioned) is advice indeed. So whoever wishes to do so, should adopt a path (the path of Islaam) to (attain the pleasure of) his Rabb.”

The concluding verse of the Surah echoes the beginning of the Surah because of its reference to performing Salah during the late hours of the night. Allaah says that He is Aware of that fact that some people are ill, some are weak, others are on journey and there are those who are fighting in Jihaad. Therefore, Allaah makes the concession that people can perform the Tahajjud salah as they please without any compulsion. In their Salah, they may recite as much of the Qur’aan as they can.
1. (Affectionately addressing Rasulullah ﷺ according to his dress at the time, Allah says,) O you wrapped in a cloth (shawl)!

2. Stand up all night (in Tahajjud salaah) except for a little while (to rest)...

3. ...(stand in salaah for) half the night or slightly less (than half, such as a third of the night)...

4. ...or add some more (time to the half, making it two-thirds). And recite the Qur’aan clearly (and steadily so that each letter is distinct and accurately pronounced).

5. Verily We shall soon cast a weighty (important) word (the Qur’aan) upon you.

6. Undoubtedly, waking at night (for salaat) is extremely difficult (but most effective for controlling the Nafs) and speech (du’as and recitation of the Qur’aan) is most correctly spoken then (because it is a time when one is free of duties and disturbances).

7. You certainly have intensive (important) work (of propagating Islaam) during the day (and will be unable to devote your attention exclusively for worship during the day. The night is therefore best for this purpose).
8. Mention the name of your Rabb (engage in Dhikr) and (when doing this) cut yourself off from everything (of this world) to focus your attention solely on Him.

9. He is the Rabb of the East and the West. There is no Ilaah but Him, so adopt Him as your guardian (for none other can safeguard you).

10. Patiently bear whatever they (the Kuffaar) say (to insult you) and (when they become unbearable,) separate from them in a most pleasant manner (without fighting them and without the desire for revenge). (This surah is Makki revealed before Hijraat. The order of Jihad came in Madinah.)

11. Leave me (to deal) with the rejecters (of Imaan) who (think that they) are blessed with bounties (of this world) and grant them grace for a while (bear with them until they learn their lesson the hard way).

12. Verily We have (in store for them in Jannah) handcuffs, and the Blazing fire...

13. ...food that gets stuck in the throat (cannot be swallowed because of its terrible taste and texture) and a painful punishment.

14. (This punishment will take place) On the day (of Qiyaamah) when the earth and mountains will shake (shiver and quake) and the mountains will be reduced to (become) a heap of dust.

15. Verily We have sent a Rasool (Muhammad ﷺ) to you as a witness (to your actions so that he may testify on the Day of Qiyaamah) just as We sent a Rasool (Moosa ﷺ) to Fir’oun.
16. Fir’oun refused to obey the Rasool so We seized (punished) him most severely.

17. So if you (choose to) disbelieve, how will you save (yourselves) from (the punishment of) the day that will (be so frightening that it will) turn children’s hair white?

18. The sky will be split apart on that day. His (Allaah’s) promise always takes place. (is definite).

19. (All of) This (that has been mentioned already) is advice indeed. So whoever wishes to do so, should adopt a path (of Islam) to (attain the pleasure of) his Rabb.

20. (In trying to put into practice verses 3 and 4 above, Rasulullah ﷺ and the Sahabah ﷺ found it tedious to precisely calculate two-thirds, half or one-third of the night. Fearing that they should miscalculate and fail to stand for the stipulated periods, the Sahabah ﷺ therefore stood in salaah almost the entire night. As a result of this exertion, their feet used to swell and they grew extremely pale. Taking pity on them, Allaah revealed the verse saying,) Verily your Rabb knows that you (O Rasulullah ﷺ) and a group of those (Sahabah ﷺ) with you stand (in salaah) close to two-thirds of the night, (sometimes) half the night and (sometimes) a third (of the night). Allaah determines the (duration of the) night and the day. He knows that you are unable to precisely calculate (the duration of each portion of the night) so He has turned to you in mercy. Therefore, (instead of trying to recite too much) recite that part of the Qur’aan (in Tahajjud) which is easy (stand in Tahajjud only as long as you can manage). Allaah knows that some of
you may fall ill, others will travel in the world in search of Allaah’s bounty (to earn a living) and others will fight in Allaah’s path. (In each case, they will be unable to perform Tahajjud as they do at home.) Therefore, recite (only) that of the Qur’aan (in Tahajjud) which is easy. (Although Tahajjud is not obligatory, do not neglect to) Establish (the Fardh) salaah, pay zakaah and give to Allaah a good loan (spend in charity for Allaah’s pleasure). Whatever good you send ahead for yourselves (as reward to the Aakhirah), you will find it with Allaah in a better and more rewarding state. Seek forgiveness from Allaah. Verily Allaah is Most Forgiving, Most Merciful.