Surah 88 Surah Ghaashiya

THE OVERWHELMING THING

THE LINK BETWEEN SURAH GHAASHIYA AND SURAH A’LA

Surah Ghaashiya serves as a fitting conclusion for Surah A’la. It summarizes the punishments and the glad tidings of the Aakhirah. In a similar many, many of the following Surahs also as conclusions to the Surahs preceding them.

A SUMMARY OF THE SURAH

The opening seven verses of the Surah sound warnings of the dreadful punishment of the Aakhirah, while the following nine verses discuss the rewards and bounties that the pious bondsmen of Allaah shall receive in Jannah. Thereafter, verses 17 to 20 urge people to reflect on Allaah’s greatness by pondering about four of Allaah’s remarkable creations.

Allaah consoles Rasulullaah ﷺ by again telling him that his task is confined to propagation and that he cannot force people to believe. In conclusion, the Surah warns the Kuffaar of a grave punishment in the Aakhirah.
In the name of Allaah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

1. Has the news of the overwhelming thing (Kiyaamah) come to you? (Kiyaamah is described as "the overwhelming thing" because its hardship and severity will overpower every person.)

2. Many faces on that day will be looking down (disgraced because of embarrassment and fear).

3. (Among these shall be) He who suffered a great deal and who endured many difficulties (thinking that he was pleasing Allaah, but his beliefs and actions did not conform with the decrees of Allaah).

4. He shall enter the blazing fire...

5. ...where he will be given water to drink from boiling springs.

6. The only food for them (the people of Jahannam) shall be thorny trees...

7. ...which will neither nourish (their bodies) nor satisfy (their extreme) hunger.
8. (On the other hand,) Many faces on that day will be resplendent (shining bright with happiness).

9. They (those with shining faces) shall be pleased with their efforts (in this world because their efforts earned them entry)...

10. ...in (to) the lofty (high) gardens of Jannah...

11. ...where they shall not hear futile talk. (Jannah shall have nothing unpleasant. Neither will one see anything unpleasant, nor hear anything unpleasant. There will be no noise and shouting in Jannah, nor any talk that is futile and therefore unpleasant.)

12. In it (Jannah) there are flowing springs.

13. In it (Jannah) there are elevated thrones (for the people to sit on)...

14. ...cups set in place (ready to be served)...

15. ...(exquisite) cushions arranged in rows...

16. ...and (plush) carpets (soft and cosy) spread out.

17. (Allah is Most Capable of creating Jahannam with all its misery as well as Jannah with all its bounties, just as He created many magnificent things in this world. Encouraging people to look around to see Allah's great creative powers, Allah says,) Have they (mankind) not looked at the camel and seen how it was created (perfectly, adapted to the harsh climate of the desert with so many unique features, qualities and capabilities)?
18. And (have they not looked) at the sky, how it was raised (so high without any support)?

19. And (have they not looked) at the mountains, how they were placed firmly (into the earth with their bulk underground)?

20. And (have they not looked) at the earth, how it was spread out (with large tracts of land that seem flat despite the spherical shape of the earth)?

21. So (O Muhammad ﷺ) give advice (to encourage people to accept and sincerely practise Islam), for you are an advisor (and not one to force people).

22. You have not been appointed as a warder (overseer) over them (to force them to accept).

23. However, the one who turns away (from your advice) and commits kufr...

24. Allaah shall punish him most severely.

25. Verily they (all of mankind) shall return to Us (on the Day of Qiyaamah).

26. Thereafter, it is Our responsibility to take their reckoning (make them account for all their Deeds in this world).