Surah 14 Surah Ibraheem

IBRAHEEM

THE LINK BETWEEN SURAH IBRAHEEM AND THE PREVIOUS SURAHS

The Link By Name It has already been mentioned that Nabi Yusuf ﷺ even preached Towheed in prison and the angels, including the angel Ra’d constantly hymn Allaah’s purity from all partners. Now mention will be made of Allaah’s friend, Ibraheem ﷺ, who was prepared to sacrifice his family upon Allaah’s command. He left them on a waterless, barren desert having complete trust that Allaah has knowledge of everything and that He shall assist them.

He then made a lengthy du’a to Allaah saying, “O my Rabb! Make this city peaceful and safeguard my children and myself from worshipping idols”… (until the words) …“All praise be to Allaah, Who has gifted (blessed) me with (my sons) Isma’eel ﷺ and Is’haaq ﷺ despite (my) old age. Undoubtedly, my Rabb hears all prayers.” [verses 35 to 39]

The Link By Content While the previous Surahs proved the belief in Towheed beyond doubt, Surah Ra’d added further proofs so that no doubts remain about the issue. However, many rejecters still remain adamant because of their obstinacy. Surah Ibraheem mentions certain incidents of this world and of the Aakhirah (pertaining to the consequences and favours related to people’s actions) because some people are impressed and convinced by hearing good news, while others are influenced by hearing warnings.

A SUMMARY OF THE SURAH

Allaah introduces the Surah by saying, “This is a Book that We revealed to you (O Muhammad ﷺ) to remove people from a multitude of darkness (kuft, Shirk, sin), taking them towards light…” i.e. the light of Imaan and Towheed. This is achieved by elucidating the proofs and arguments presented by the Qur’aan. Thereafter, the Surah presents three logical proofs of Towheed.

The objective of Surah Ibraheem is to guide people to the straight path by means of the narratives of the Ambiyaat and by reminding people of the days when Allaah punished certain disobedient nations. Allaah refers to the central theme of the Surah in the concluding verse when He says, “This (Qur’aan) is a message for people so that they are warned by it and so that they may know (by the proofs and examples it contains) that He (Allaah) is but One Ilaah, and so that the intelligent ones take heed (listen, learn and prepare for Aakhirah).”

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1. Alif Laam Raa (Allaah Alone knows the meaning of these letters). This is a Book (Quraan) that We revealed to you (O Muhammad ﷺ) to remove people from a multitude of darkness (kufr, Shirk, sin), taking them towards light (Imaan/Islaam), by the command of your Rabb (and leading them) to the path of The Mighty, The One Worthy of praise (the path of Islam).

2. Allaah is He to Whom belongs all that is within the heavens and the earth. Destruction be to the Kuffaar (which will come to them) by way of a severe punishment.

3. (The Kuffaar are) Those who prefer (solely) the life of this world to the Aakhirah, who (always) forbid (others) from Allaah’s path (Islaam) and who seek (ways to make it seem as if there is) crookedness in it. These people are far astray (having no hope of return to the straight path).

4. We sent every Rasool with the language of his nation so that he may clearly explain to them (Touheed and the Injunctions of their Deen in a manner that they can understand). Then (even after the Rasool explains to them) Allaah allows whoever He wills to stray (totally) and guides (perfectly) whoever He wills. He is The Mighty, The Wise (He knows why He does this).
5. Indeed we sent Moosa with Our (nine) Aayaat (see verses 107, 108, 130 and 133 of Surah 7). We instructed him saying, “Remove your people (the Bani Israa’eel) from the multitude of darkness, take them into the light (Imaan) and remind them of the days of Allaah (the favours and punishment that Allaah gave various nations). Verily there are Aayaat in this for every person who exercises extreme sabr and gratitude.” (Reminded about Allaah’ s punishment, the people will fulfil His commands and stay away from what He prohibits. Reminded about His favours, they will express gratitude to Him.)

6. (Remember the time) When (acting on Allaah’s command to remind the Bani Israa’eel about Allaah’s favours,) Moosa told his people, “Recall Allaah’s bounties on you when He rescued you from the people of Fir’oun, who were inflicting a severe punishment on you by slaughtering (most of) your sons and keeping your daughters alive (to serve them). In this was a great trial (test of your Imaan) from your Rabb.”

7. (Remember also) When your Rabb announced, “If you show gratitude (for the favours I grant you), then I will definitely grant you (many) more (physical, spiritual and worldly favours), and if you are ungrateful, then (I shall punish you and remember that) indeed My punishment is severe.”

8. Moosa Ṣallallâhu ‘alayhi wasallam said, “If you people and all the people on the earth are ungrateful (to Allaah), then (this will not harm Allaah in the least because) verily Allaah is Independent (He does not need the gratitude or worship of anyone), Worthy of all praise.” (He deserves praise even if a person does not praise Him By expressing gratitude and worshipping Allaah, people do themselves a favour and are not doing Allaah a favour.)

9. Have (reports of) the incidents of those before you not come to you? (Namely,) The incidents (history) of the nation of Nooh, the Aad, the Thamud, and those after them? Only Allaah knows them (only He knows the many nations that came after these people). Their Rusul came to them with clear signs (to prove that they were Rusul), but they placed their hands in their mouths (in an attempt to suppress their unwarranted anger) and said, “Verily we do not believe in what you have been sent with. We are so much in doubt about that
10. Their Rusul said, “Are you in any doubt about Allaah, Who is the Creator of the heavens and the earth? He calls you to worship so that He may forgive all your sins and grant you respite until the appointed term. They said, “You are but mere humans like ourselves, so why should we follow you? You intend always to prevent us from what our forefathers used to worship. So if you want us to follow you, you should produce a clear proof (a miracle of our choice to convince us that you really are messengers of Allaah).”

11. Their Rusul told them, “We are but humans like yourselves, but this does not prevent us from being Rusul because Allaah favours whoever He wills from His bondsmen. We are unable to produce a proof (miracle) for you without Allaah’s order. Only on Allaah should the Mu’mineen rely. Only in Allaah will you protect us from you.”

12. “Why should we not rely (only) on Allaah when He has guided us to our paths? He has shown us the ways in which we can prosper and benefit. Therefore, we owe everything we have to Him and we will continue to trust in Him. We shall definitely exercise patience through the difficulties that you cause us. Only in Allaah should those who have trust place (all) their trust.”

13. (After years of trying to convince the people,) The Kuffaar (finally) said to their Rusul, “We shall certainly drive you out of our land, unless you return (completely) to our religion (because we are not prepared to follow your religion).” At that stage Their Rabb sent revelation to them (to the Rusul, saying), “We shall surely destroy the oppressors (the Kuffaar)...”
14. “...and We shall definitely make you occupy the land after them. This (promise) is for him who fears standing before Me (on the Day of Qiyamaah) and who fears My warning (of punishment).”

15. (When the Rasul warned the Kuffaar that Allaah’s punishment would soon destroy them if they did not accept Imaan.) They (the Kuffaar foolishly) sought (asked for) the decision (punishment) and (when the punishment came to them,) every obstinate tyrant (Kaafir) lost (everything good in both the worlds).

16. Before him (waiting for the Kaafir in the Aakhirah) is Jahannam, where he will be given (oozing) pus to drink.

17. He will drink it (because of his extreme thirst) in sips (not all at once because of its terrible taste and odour) and it will not go down his throat. (The causes of) Death will come to him from all sides, but he will not die (because there is no death in the Aakhirah). (This will not be the end because) Before him (still to come) will be (even more) severe punishment (from head to toe).

18. The example of the (good) actions of those who do not believe in their Rabb is like that of ashes that are blown away by a wind on a stormy day. They have absolutely no control of what (actions) they earn. Just as none can gather together the ashes once they are scattered, so too the Kuffaar will not have any good acts to show on the Day of Qiyamaah because there will be no rewards for them there. Their rewards will have been already given to them in this world. This is a distant (far) deviation (from the straight path).

19. Do you not see that Allaah has created the heavens and the earth with the truth (wisdom)? If He wills, He could remove you and bring (create) a new creation.
20. This is not at all difficult for Allaah. (Therefore, no nation should think that they are indispensable. Allaah needs no one but everyone needs Allaah.)

21. They (all of creation) will enter the presence of Allaah (on the Day of Qiyaamah). Then the weak (poor and uninfluential) ones will say to the proud ones (the influential ones who misled them in the world), “Indeed we were your followers (who followed you in the disobedience of Allaah), so because of our loyalty to you (because of our kindness to you) are you able to avert (remove) some of Allaah’s punishment from us?” They (the leaders) will reply, “(How can we help you when we cannot help ourselves, However,) If Allaah guides us (to a way out of the punishment), we would guide you (out) as well. It makes no difference (now) whether we vent (express) our anxiety (pain) or we exercise patience (whatever we do will not help us). We have no escape.” (Nothing can help us now.)

22. When judgement will take place (and the sinners have entered Jahannam), Shaytaan will say (to those with him in Jahannam), “Allaah had certainly made a true promise to you (that you will be resurrected and called to account for your actions). I also made promises to you (that these things will not happen), but I broke them (I failed you). The only control that I exercised over you was that I invited you (but I did not force you to do wrong), and you responded to me. So do not blame me, but blame yourselves. I cannot be a helper to you (against Allaah’s punishment), nor can you be helpers to me. I am absolved of (free of responsibility for) your action of ascribing me as a partner (to Allaah by obeying me instead of Him) from before (in the world). There shall be a torturous (painful) punishment for the oppressors (the Kuffaar).”

23. Those who have Imaan and do good deeds will be entered into Jannaat beneath which rivers flow. There they shall live forever by the order of their Rabb. Their greeting there shall be ‘Salaam’. (They will greet each other with the words of Salaam and the angels and Allaah will also greet them with these words of peace.)
24. Do you not see (reflect upon) how Allaah gives the example of the pure word (the Kalimah) as a pure tree (such as the date palm), the roots of which are set firm and the branches of which reach into the sky (it is firm beneath and above the ground).

25. It bears fruit every season by the command of its Rabb. Allaah gives examples for people so that they may reflect (ponder and understand). (Like this tree, the Kalimah is firm in the heart of a Mu'min and the good actions that it produces reach the heavens and earn great rewards and blessings.)

26. And the example of the evil word (the statements of kufr) is like that of a miserable tree (such as wild weeds) that is uprooted from the ground, having no stability. (Like this unstable plant, the beliefs and statements of the Kuffaar are extremely weak even though they appear to be strong. They give no benefit and are soon destroyed.)

27. Allaah keeps those who have Imaan steadfast by a firm word (the Kalimah) in this world and in the Aakhirah (especially in the grave when it allows a person to correctly answer the questions asked there) and He allows the oppressors (the Kuffaar) to stray (they will therefore be unable to reply to the questions in the grave and will suffer punishment in the grave and in Jahannam). Allaah does as He pleases (He has perfect knowledge of everything and none can question what He does).

28. Have you not seen those (Kuffaar and Mushrikeen) who changed the bounty of Allaah into ingratitude (thereby earning Allaah's punishment) and conveyed (led) their nation to the Home of Destruction...

29. ...to Jahannam, where they shall enter. What an evil place to be!

30. They ascribed (many) partners to Allaah to lead (others) astray from His path (from Islam). Say to them, "Enjoy (yourselves in this world for a little while)! Your (final) destination shall (definitely) be the Fire!”
31. Tell My bondsmen who have Imaan that they should establish salaat and spend of what We have provided for them secretly and (but mostly) openly before a day (the Day of Qiyaamah) arrives when there shall be no trade, nor any friendship. (Then it will be too late to do good actions and neither money nor friends will be able to assist one.)

32. Allaah is He Who created the heavens and the earth and sends rain from the sky, thereby extracting fruits as sustenance for you. He placed the ships at your service so that they may travel (and transport you and your goods) over the oceans by His command and He subjugated (controls) the rivers for you (so that you are able to sail on them as well).

33. He (also) placed the sun and the moon at your service, the two being constantly in motion (giving you light to travel by day and by night as well as numerous other benefits). He also placed the day and the night at your service (each one giving you many benefits).

34. And (in addition to all of this) He grants you whatever you ask of Him. If you try (repeatedly) to count Allaah's bounties, you will never be able to do so. Indeed, man is extremely unjust and very ungrateful (because he fails to obey Allaah despite all that Allaah does for him).

35. (Remember the time) When Ibraheem said (when he left his wife Haajira and son Isma'eel in Makkah), “O my Rabb! Make this city peaceful and safeguard my children and myself from worshipping idols.” (Allaah accepted his du’aa by declaring Makkah a sacred place where no person should be killed.)

36. “O my Rabb! Indeed these idols have misled many people. So whoever will
follow me (by believing in Touheed), then he is certainly from me (from among the followers of my religion). And whoever will disobey me, then (I pray that you give him the ability to obey me because) surely You are Most Forgiving, Most Merciful.”

'O our Rabb! I have settled some of my children (Isma'eel) in a valley that cannot be cultivated, close to Your sacred house (the Kabah). O our Rabb! (I have left them here) So that they establish salaah, so cause (them) the hearts of some people to be inclined towards them (so that people may love them and settle with them). And provide for them fruits (referring to all types of provisions) for their sustenance so that they may be grateful.” (As a result of this du’a, despite being a place where crops do not generally grow, Makkah receives food and manufactured articles from all over the world, especially from Ta’if, a piece of fertile land which Allaah took from Shaam and placed next to Makkah.)

'O our Rabb! Indeed You know what we conceal and what we disclose (so forgive us for all the mistakes we make). Nothing in the heavens and the earth is hidden from Allaah.”

“All praise be to Allaah, Who has gifted (blessed) me with (my sons) Isma’eel and Is’haaq despite (my) old age. Undoubtedly, my Rabb hears all prayers.”

'O my Rabb! Make me one who establishes salaah, and my progeny as well. O my Rabb! Accept my prayer.”

'O our Rabb! Forgive me, my parents and the Mu’mineen on the day when reckoning shall commence (the Day of Qiyaamah).”

'Never think that Allaah is unaware of what the oppressors do. (Allaah does not punish
them immediately because He is only granting them respite until a day (the Day of Qiyamah) when gazes (of people) will be fixed upwards (because of their intense fright).

43. (On that day) They will be running (towards the Plain of Resurrection) with their heads fixed upwards (in astonishment and fright), their gazes never returning to them. And their hearts will be empty (confused and without feeling because of the intense fear).

44. Warn people of a day when punishment will afflict them, and the oppressors will say, “O our Rabb! Grant us respite (a little relief) for a short while. We shall accept Your call and follow (in every way) the Rusul.” (Their plea will be rejected and it will be said to them) “Did you not swear on oath before this (in the world) that you shall never be displaced (from the world)?”

45. (It will be said further) “You lived in the homes of those who oppressed themselves and it was (made very) clear to you how We dealt with them (you saw that they were destroyed, yet you did as they did). And We even cited (gave) examples for you (so that you may mend your ways, but you failed to listen).”

46. They plotted their plots, but their plots rest with Allaah (He knows what they plot and makes their plots fail), even though (their plots seem so powerful that) mountains could be displaced by their plots.

47. Never think that Allaah will break His promise to His Rusul (He promises them His help and His help shall come to them). Indeed Allaah is Mighty, Able to take vengeance (on behalf of whoever He wills from whoever He wills).

48. (Do not forget) The day (of Qiyamah) when the earth will be changed (completely) into another earth, and the skies (will also be changed. People will then be called to account for their actions as they stand on an earth completely different from the earth we know). They will then present themselves before Allaah, the One, the Most Powerful.
49. On that day you will see the criminals shackled together in chains.

50. Their garments will be of tar (which smells terribly and burns easily) and the Fire will cover their faces.

51. (They will present themselves before Allaah) So that Allaah may repay every soul for what it had earned. Indeed Allaah is swift in reckoning.

52. This (Qur’aan) is a message for people so that they are warned by it and so that they may know (by the proofs and examples it contains) that He (Allaah) is but One Ilaah, and so that the intelligent ones take heed (listen, learn and prepare for the Aakhirah).