Surah 53 Surah Najm

THE STAR

THE LINK BETWEEN SURAH NAJM AND SURAH TOOR

Surah Toor emphasises that the rewards and punishment of the Day of Qiyaamah are a certain reality and that none can avert Allaah’s punishment. Surah Najm stresses that no intercessor can change Allaah’s decision of punishment. Not Laat, not Manaat, not Uzzah, nor any of the other idols of the Quraysh can achieve this to save their devotees from punishment. Therefore, it is futile to worship and supplicate to them.

A SUMMARY OF THE SURAH

Linked to the subject matter contained in the previous Surahs, Surah Najm deals with the following aspects.

* The central theme of the Surah is the negation of the belief that any being can alter Allaah’s decision.
* An introduction with encouragement.
* The first assertion i.e. do not worship idols like Laat, Manaat and Uzza.
* The second assertion, i.e. do not think that any intercession of the angels can alter Allaah’s decree.
* Repetition of the first assertion in verse 23.
* Repetition of the second assertion in verses 26 to 28.
* Consolation for Rasulullaah ﷺ.
* Reproaches for the Mushrikeen.
* A repetition of the central theme.
1. By the star when it sets...

2. Your companion (Rasulullaah) is neither astray (misguided) nor has he lost his direction (purpose).

3. He does not speak of his own desires.

4. (Rather) Whatever he says is revelation (which Allaah has) revealed to him (through the agency of Jibra’eeel).

5. He has been taught by one of tremendous might (Jibra’eeel)...

6....and who is extremely powerful (so powerful that he used only the tip of one of his 600 wings to lift the city of Sodom). (Whereas Jibra’eeel usually appeared before Rasulullaah in human form) He (Jibra’eeel) (once) appeared (before Rasulullaah) in his original form (in Makkah)...

7....when he (Jibra’eeel) was on the highest part of the horizon. (Rasulullaah saw
8. Then (seeing Rasulullah ﷺ fall unconscious) he (Jibra’eeel ﷺ) approached (Rasulullah ﷺ to revive him) and (doing this, he) drew close...

9. ...and was as close (to Rasulullah ﷺ) as two bows (with each end of a bow touching the corresponding end of the other bow) or even closer.

10. Then (Allaah) sent that revelation to His slave, which He revealed. (This refers to the revelation of verse 6 of Surah 93 up to verse 4 of Surah 94 and the proclamation that no person shall enter Jannah until Rasulullah ﷺ has entered and that no Ummah shall enter Jannah before his Ummah have entered Jannah).

11. The heart (of Rasulullah ﷺ) does not mistake what it sees (whatever Rasulullah ﷺ reported that he saw was the absolute truth).

12. Are you (Mushrikeen) disputing with him (Rasulullah ﷺ) concerning what he saw (when you have not seen anything like it) ?

13. He (Rasulullah ﷺ) certainly saw him (Jibra’eeel ﷺ in his original form) once more (a second time)...

14. ...at the Sidratul Muntahaa (near the lote tree when Rasulullah ﷺ went on the miraculous journey of Mi’raaj to the furthest Jannah)...

15. ...close to which is Jannatul Ma’waa (a comfortable dwelling above which is Allaah’s Throne).
16. (Rasulullah saw Jibra’eel before he saw) When the Sidratul Muntahaa (which) was covered by that which covered it. (When the Sidratul Muntahaa was covered by magnificent colours or angels, it assumed a new appearance and became more beautiful beyond description.)

17. The sight (of Rasulullah saw) neither wavered (saw any less than it was supposed to see) nor transgressed (did not exaggerate what it saw).

18. He definitely saw some of Allaah’s great Aayaat (signs on the journey of Mi’raaj).

19. Have you seen Laat and Uzza (the names of two idols that the Mushrikeen of Makkah worshipped)…

20. . . . and the third one Manaat (another idol of theirs)?

21. Are males (sons reserved exclusively) for you (because you like having them) and (you attribute) females for Him (saying that the angels are Allaah’s daughters)?

22. This is certainly an unjust distribution.

23. These (idols) are merely names which you and your forefathers have kept, for which Allaah has not revealed any permission (authority). They (the Mushrikeen) follow only
assumptions (false belief in choosing their gods) and what their (fleeting) desires fancy (wish for) whereas (true) guidance has already come to them from (foolishly follow) their Rabb.

24. Can man have whatever he wishes for?

25. (Man cannot have whatever he desires because) The Aakhirah and the world belong to Allaah (and He is the only One Who decides which of his wishes man should have).

26. How many are the angels in the heavens whose intercession (pleading) shall be of no benefit (to anyone) except after Allaah grants permission for whoever He wills and is pleased (to allow their intercession).

27. Indeed those who do not believe in the Aakhirah give feminine names to the angels...

28. ...without (themselves) possessing any knowledge. They follow only assumptions and assumptions are absolutely useless against the truth (because the truth will always prevail).

29. So ignore him who turns away from Our advice and who desires only the life of this world.

30. This (Their objectives in this world) is the extent of their knowledge. (They are concerned only about this world and have no concern for the Aakhirah). (It is therefore futile to persistently preach to them for) Verily your Rabb knows best about the person who deviated (moved away) from His path and He knows best about him who is rightly guided (and He shall punish or reward them accordingly).
31. To Allaah belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth so that (with this Complete Power) He may punish the evil-doers for their (evil) actions and reward those who do good with the best (of rewards, namely Jannah).

32. (Those who do good are) Those who stay away from (avoid) major sins and indecent behaviour except for minor sins (which they sometimes get involved in because no human is free from fault). (However, they are quick to seek Allaah’s forgiveness for these sins and Allaah is ready to forgive them because) Indeed your Rabb is One of infinite mercy. He was best Aware of you when He created you from the earth and when you were foetuses in the wombs of your mothers. (He knows everything about you and knows you even better than you know yourselves.) So do not ascribe purity (piety) to yourselves. He knows best who is the most pious (whose level of Taqwa is highest).

33. Have you seen the person who turns away (from Islaam)?

34. Who gives a little (in charity for ulterior motives) and then stops (spending in charity when his motives are not met)?

35. Does he have knowledge of the unseen so that he can see (that he will lose all his wealth if he spends in charity)?

36. Has he not been informed of what appeared in the scriptures of Moosa (P)...

37....and in the scriptures of Ibraheem (P) who fulfilled (every task that Allaah entrusted to him)?

38. (That which appeared in these scriptures was) That one bearer (a person) shall not be burdened...
39. Man shall have (earn) only what (rewards or punishment that) he strives (for)...

40. ...and (the value of) his efforts shall soon be seen (on the Day of Qiyaamah)...

41. ...after which he will be rewarded in full (for all his actions).

42. The end (destination of every person) shall surely be to your Rabb (Who will evaluate your actions and either reward or punish you for them).

43. It is certainly He (Allaah) Who makes (people) laugh and cry. (Allaah creates the condition which make people happy or sad.)

44. It is only He Who gives death and life.

45. Verily it is only He Who created pairs of male and female...

46. ...from the seed (the sperm) when it issues forth.
47. (Just as He created everything the first time,) The second creation (resurrecting them on the Day of Qiyaamah) is undoubtedly His responsibility.

48. Verily He grants wealth and poverty (to people according to His complete wisdom).

49. He is the Rabb of Sirius. (The star Sirius is also known as the Dog Star. It is the brightest star in the sky and can be seen from almost every part of the earth.)

50. He destroyed the former (ancient) Aad...

51. ....and the Thamud (who are known by some as the later Aad) so that none (of them) remained (alive).

52. And (Allaah also destroyed) the people of Nooh before (the Aad and the Thamud), who were most tyrannical (oppressive) and rebellious (disobedient).

53. He also overturned the capsized cities (the city of Sodom and those around her).

54. So that thing (punishment) engulfed (fell upon) them. (This refers to the shower of stones that rained on the people of Lut.)

55. (It is out of Allaah's Mercy that He reminds you of these incidents so that you do not suffer the fate of these nations.) So (instead of learning lessons from these incidents,) which bounties (blessings) of your Rabb do you doubt? (because of which you do not take heed and choose rather to follow the ill-fated footsteps of the doomed nations)?
56. He (Rasulullah س يس ) is also a warner (a Nabi) from among (just like) the earlier warners (the precious Ambiyaa ﷺ).

57. The swift approaching matter (Qiyaamah) has (almost) arrived (is imminent).

58. There is none to avert it (when it arrives) besides Allaah.

59. Are you astonished (amazed) about this speech (the Qur'aan)?

60. And do you laugh (at it out of ridicule) instead of crying (out of fear for the warnings it sounds)?

61. And (instead of accepting its advice, do you rather) continue being arrogant (misguided)?

62. (Instead of this, you should rather) Prostrate to Allaah and worship Him (if you are wise). (One who recites or hears this verse being recited should perform Sajdah.)