

The structure of the two chapters of al-Nisa and al-Ma'ida

AL-NISA (Ns)

AL-MA'IDA (Md)

Contents

Overall

Al-Nisa: 1-43 ; Al-Ma'ida: 1-11

Subject: Religious rules (Sharia)

Subtheme: Rules with regard to marriage and inheritance in Ns; variety of rules that need further clarification in Md

Main Addressees: Bani Ishmael of the time

Objective: Establishing and clarifying some of the rules of religion (Sharia) for the new nation of God

Al-Nisa:44-126 ; Al-Ma'ida: 12-86 Subject: Bani Israel and Hypocrites

Subtheme: Muslims vis a vis Bani Israel and Hypocrites

Main Addressees: Bani Ishmael of the time

Objective: To safeguard Muslims against the enmity of Bani Israel and hypocrites of the time in Medina

Note: In Ns the advice is mostly related to dealing with the above groups when it comes to Jihad, while in Md, in particular from verse 67, the ultimate verdict about them (in particular the Bani Israel of the time) is given

Al-Nisa: 127-162 ; Al-Ma'ida: 87-108 Subject: Further clarification and elaboration

Subtheme: In Ns first further issues with regard to marriage are clarified then further criticism to behaviour of hypocrites and Bani Israel takes place. In Md mostly rules of edibles (particularly those that were made complicated directly or indirectly by the Jews or polytheists) are further clarified.

Main Addressees: Bani Ishmael of the time

Objective: Establishing and clarifying some of the rules of religion (Sharia) for the new nation of God and separating them from non-believers and their practices

Al-Nisa: 163 – 176 ; Al-Ma'ida: 109 - 120 Subject: The Messengers and the nations of God Subtheme: Emphasis on the role of Messengers and the destiny of the nations who receive Messengers

Main Addressees: Bani Ishmael of the time

Objective: To emphasize on the covenant of the Almighty with the chosen nations when a Messenger is sent to them

Note: In Ns Bani Ishmael are reminded about the covenant of God with them while there is another warning to Christians of the time. The chapter ends with a further clarification on the rules of inheritance that was needed at the time. In Md the example of Jesus and his disciples and followers is given as a warning to Christians of the time and a lesson to Bani Ishmael

Specifics of Al-Nisa and AlMa'ida:

Associated Group:

One (Chapters 1-5)

Subject: Bani Ishmael versus Bani Israel and Hypocrites, the God's Covenant

Theme:

Itmam al-Hujjah with Bani Israel and hypocrites and institution of a new nation as the witnesses of God

Main Addressees: Bani Ishmael. Indirectly addresses Bani Israel and hypocrites within Bani Ishmael

Objective: Leaving no excuses for Bani Israel. Warning hypocrites.

Forming the covenant with Bani Ishmael as the new nation of God and instructing on parts of religious law (Sharia). Advising Bani Ishmael about the threat of Bani Israel and hypocrites

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