

## Surah al-Zalzalah (99)

## سورة الزلزلة

### 'The Earthquake'

This surah is also called al-Zilzala, both names being nouns related to the verb-form *zulzilat*, meaning to quake. There is disagreement as to whether the surah is Madinan or Makkan, but it deals with matters of faith which indicates that it is Makkan. As Surah al-Bayyinah concluded on the theme of the recompense of the obedient in paradise and of the disobedient in the fire, this surah opens on the theme of the conditions of the hour and the signs of the resurrection, that is, the day of separation and requital.

***By the name of Allah, the Compassionate the Merciful***

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

A beginning ***by the name of Allah***, who is the First, for there is none before Him nor with Him; corresponding to beginning a thing in the world of action, by placing the name of Allah, glory be to Him, as a maxim.

***The Compassionate, the Merciful***, who bestows His mercy on whoever seeks His mercy, and on those who do not seek it, although there is a difference between them in the extent of His bestowal and in the recompenses and suchlike.

***When the earth is shaken with its shaking, (1)***

إِذَا زُلْزِلَتِ الْأَرْضُ زِلْزَالَهَا ﴿١﴾

That is, when it moves with its violent movement, and is overturned with a dire overturning.

***And the earth sends forth its burdens, (2)***

وَأُخْرِجَتِ الْأَرْضُ أَثْقَالَهَا ﴿٢﴾

Everything will come out of the earth: its minerals and all that is buried within it and of course the bodies and suchlike; for it will be turned inside-out at the time of the hour.

***And man will say, 'What is with it?' (3)***

وَقَالَ الْإِنْسَانُ مَا هَآءَا ﴿٣﴾

On that day people will be in amazement at what is happening to the earth, and will ask what has made it shake and be turned upside down and cast out whatever was within it.

***That day it will report its accounts, (4)***

يَوْمَئِذٍ تُحَدِّثُ أَخْبَارَهَا ﴿٤﴾

That day is the day of resurrection. It is stated that the Messenger asked his followers whether they knew what are its accounts. They said that Allah and His Messenger knew best. He said: 'Its accounts are that it will testify as to every person and what he has done on its surface.'

*And all of this shaking and overturning and casting out and reporting is performed by the earth on account of:*

***In that thy Lord has inspired it. (5)***

بِأَنَّ رَبَّكَ أَوْحَىٰ لَهَا ﴿٥﴾

Your Lord, O Messenger of Allah, inspires the earth to do that. The skies and the earth are obedient to Allah, glory be to Him, in whatever He commands, as He says: *'The two said, 'We come obediently.'* [41: 12]

***The day when humankind issue forth disparately to be shown their deeds. (6)***

يَوْمَئِذٍ يَصْدُرُ النَّاسُ أَشْتَاتًا لِّيُرَوْا أَعْمَلَهُمْ ﴿٦﴾

On the day of resurrection mankind will come forth from their graves to the rising-ground in separated groups, some for a good ending others for a bad one. They will be shown their deeds and each will be rewarded for his deeds.

***So he who does a particle's weight of good will see it, (7)***

فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ ﴿٧﴾

He who has performed the tiniest good deed in the world will see its reward on that day. 'Particle' is given for *dharrah*, meaning the tiny specks visible in a ray of light.

***And he who does a particle's weight of evil will see it. (8)***

وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ شَرًّا يَرَهُ ﴿٨﴾

He who is guilty of evil, disbelief and disobedience, will see its reward that day. None will be in the slightest way wronged. The only exception is if a doer of wrong is saved by intercession, if he qualified for it. Or if a doer of a good is disqualified from receiving the reward of that good by the weight of his evil deeds, i.e. his evil deeds annul his good ones.