

The 4 Supreme Objectives

In Quran translates to the: Maqasid Arba'ah Aliyah

The four threads that weave the entire Qur'an together:

Tawḥīd (Oneness of Allah),

Risālah (Prophethood),

Ṣidq al-Kitāb (Truthfulness of Revelation),

Īmān bil-Ākhirah (Belief in the Hereafter)

The "Four Supreme Objectives" form the spiritual and intellectual architecture of the Qur'an. These four are not separate topics, they are **interconnected strands** that run through every surah and every story, giving the Qur'an its unity (*nazm*), coherence (*tartīb*), and living power (*hudā* - guidance).

The Four Threads of Qur'anic Coherence

1. Tawḥīd (توحيد) *The Oneness of Allah*

The foundational thread.

It answers the question: **Who is the Truth?**

- Everything in the Qur'an begins and ends with Allah, His Names, His Power, His Mercy, His Will.
- All creation, law, and morality are reflections of His unity.
- Every command and story points back to this: **There is no true authority, mercy, or refuge except Him.**

Key Ayah (verses):

"Say: He is Allah, the One.": Al-Ikhlāṣ (112:1)

"Allah; there is no deity except Him, the Ever-Living, the Sustainer.": Al-Baqarah (2:255)

Qur'anic Role:

Tawḥīd anchors every concept, it gives the Qur'an its vertical coherence: everything points *upwards* to the One.

2. Risālah (الرسالة) *Prophethood & Revelation*

The messenger thread.

It answers: **How does Truth reach humanity?**

- The Qur'an presents a *chain of messengers*, from Adam to Muhammad ﷺ, all carrying one divine message: worship Allah alone.
- Their lives are **living commentary** on Tawhīd.
- The Prophet ﷺ is the final link, through whom revelation becomes complete and universal.

Key Ayah (verses):

"We have certainly sent to every nation a messenger, [saying], 'Worship Allah and avoid false gods.'": An-Naḥl (16:36)

Qur'anic Role:

Risālah is the **horizontal coherence** — it connects human history into one moral story based upon Tawhid.

3. Sidq al-Kitāb (صدق الكتاب) *Truthfulness of the Book*

The truth thread.

It answers: **How can we trust the message?**

- The Qur'an constantly testifies to its own **truth, consistency, and divine origin**.
- It challenges doubters: *"Produce a surah like it, if you are truthful."*
- Its coherence, timeless wisdom, and linguistic perfection are all *signs* (āyāt) of its truth and proving it's from Allah.

Key Ayah:

"This is the Book in which there is no doubt, a guidance for the God-conscious."": Al-Baqarah (2:2)

"Falsehood cannot approach it from before or behind."": Fussilat (41:42)

Qur'anic Role:

Sidq al-Kitāb weaves the **intellectual coherence**, the Qur'an justifies, explains, and proves itself throughout.

4. Īmān bil-Ākhirah (الإيمان بالآخرة) *Belief in the Hereafter*

The accountability thread.

It answers: **Why does the truth matter?**

- The Qur'an ends every major discourse by turning the reader's heart to **the Day of Judgment** (the Hereafter).
- The unseen (al-ghayb) becomes the test of sincerity, do you live by faith in what's beyond?
- Heaven and Hell are not just destinations; they're mirrors of our inner truth in this world and how we lived.

Key Ayah:

"And they are certain of the Hereafter.": Al-Baqarah (2:4)

"To Us is their return, then upon Us is their reckoning.": Al-Ghāshiyah (88:25–26)

Qur'anic Role:

Īmān bil-Ākhirah gives the Qur'an its **moral coherence** — every truth and law finds its meaning in accountability before Allah.

How the Four Threads Interweave

Thread	Function	Qur'anic Direction	Example
Tawḥīd	Foundation	Vertical: connects creation to Creator	<i>Al-Ikhlāṣ, Al-An'ām</i>
Risālah	Transmission	Historical: connects nations and messengers	<i>Yunus, Al-Anbiya</i>
Ṣidq al-Kitāb	Verification	Rational: connects revelation to reason	<i>Al-Baqarah 2:23, Al-Isra 17:88</i>
Ākhirah	Accountability	Ethical: connects action to destiny	<i>Al-Mu'minun, Al-Qiyamah</i>

Together, they form a **complete cycle of guidance**:

Tawḥīd → Risālah → Ṣidq al-Kitāb → Ākhirah → Tawḥīd again.

Because belief in the Hereafter ultimately brings the servant back to the One.

The Four Threads in One Verse

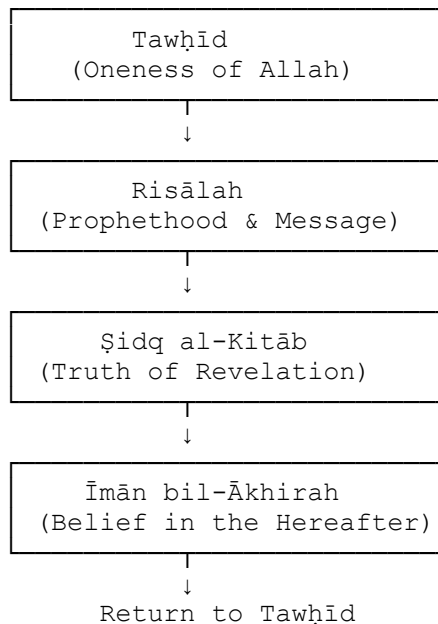
“The Messenger believes in what was revealed to him from his Lord (Risālah), and [so do] the believers. All believe in Allah (Tawḥīd), His angels, His books (Ṣidq al-Kitāb), and His messengers. They say, ‘We hear and we obey.’ ‘Our Lord, forgive us... and to You is the final return (Ākhirah).”

Surah Al-Baqarah (2:285)

This ayah is the Qur’an’s **spiritual map**: the four threads in one verse.

Summary: The Woven Pattern of the Qur’an

THE FOUR THREADS OF THE QUR’AN:



In Essence:

The Qur’an begins with **Tawḥīd**,
is delivered through **Risālah**,
verified by **Ṣidq al-Kitāb**,
and fulfilled in **Ākhirah** —
forming one unbroken thread of divine truth.

1. Tawhīd (توحيد) The Oneness of Allah

Meaning:

- Affirming that **Allah alone** is the Creator, Sustainer, and the only One worthy of worship, without any intercessor, advocate, delegate, representative, deputy, agent, proxy, equal or peer.
- Tawhid is the **central axis** of the Qur'an's entire message.

Qur'anic Evidence:

“Say: He is Allah, the One; Allah, the Eternal.”

Surah Al-Ikhlāṣ (112:1–2)

Role in Qur'anic Coherence:

- **Every surah** relates to Tawhīd either directly (as theology) or indirectly (as moral consequence).
- All other teachings; law, justice, ethics, worship, society **stem from Tawhīd**.
- The Qur'an's coherence begins here: if Allah is One, then truth, morality, and justice all have one divine source.

2. Risālah (الرسالة) Prophethood & Revelation

Meaning:

- Allah's guidance reaches humanity through His chosen messengers — culminating in **Prophet Muhammad ﷺ**.
- The Qur'an repeatedly affirms the **truthfulness, continuity** and **unity**, of all messengers.

Qur'anic Evidence:

“We have certainly sent to every nation a messenger, [saying], ‘Worship Allah and avoid false gods.’”

Surah An-Naḥl (16:36)

Role in Qur'anic Coherence:

- **Link between Tawhīd and guidance:** Without prophethood, the truth of Allah and his message to humankind would not reach mankind.
- The Qur'an uses stories of earlier prophets (Nuh, Ibrahim, Musa, 'Isa, etc.) to show the **one unbroken message** of all revelations.
- Hence, coherence is maintained across history — one message, different eras, one truth of Tawhid.

3. Sidq al-Kitāb (صدق الكتاب) Truthfulness of the Qur'an

Meaning:

- The Qur'an is the **true, unchanged Word of Allah** — confirming past scriptures and correcting distortions.
- This book is from Allah and wasn't created by **Prophet Muhammad ﷺ**.

Qur'anic Evidence:

“This is the Book about which there is no doubt — a guidance for the God-conscious.”
Surah Al-Baqarah (2:2)

“And in truth We have sent down the Book, and in truth it has descended.”
Surah Al-Isrā' (17:105)

Role in Qur'anic Coherence:

- The Qur'an defends its truthfulness through **reason, history, and language**.
- It challenges opponents to produce anything like it (2:23).
- Its coherence, thematic unity, linguistic perfection, and timeless truth is **part of the proof** of its divine origin.

4. Īmān bil-Ākhirah (الإيمان بالآخرة) Belief in the Hereafter

Meaning:

- Faith in **resurrection, accountability (day of judgement), reward, and punishment (Hell & Heaven)**.
- The moral foundation of the Qur'an: humans are **responsible** for their actions, which creates the basis for a god-fearing society; Motivation for righteousness.

Qur'anic Evidence:

“And they are certain of the Hereafter.”
Surah Al-Baqarah (2:4)

“To Us is their return; then upon Us is their reckoning.”
Surah Al-Ghāshiyah (88:25–26)

Role in Qur'anic Coherence:

- Connects **belief with behaviour**; faith in the Hereafter drives ethical conduct.

- Every command (worship, justice, mercy, law, equality, morality) is anchored in the idea of divine accountability.
- The Qur'an begins with faith in the unseen Allah and ends with descriptions of the final return, a perfect thematic circle.

5. How These Four Themes Interconnect

Concept	Relationship	Function
Tawḥīd	Foundation	Who we worship (The Truth)
Risālah	Medium	How guidance reaches us
Ṣidq al-Kitāb	Evidence	Proof that this guidance is true
Ākhirah	Outcome	Why we must follow it

IN SHORT:

Allah is One (Tawḥīd) →
He sends Messengers (Risālah) →
They bring the True Book (Ṣidq al-Kitāb) →
So mankind can prepare for the Hereafter (Ākhirah).

6. Qur'anic Coherence Through These Four

a. Makki Surahs (PBUH life in Makkah) focus on:

- Tawḥīd
- Risālah
- Ākhirah

(to build belief/Iman)

b. Madinan Surahs (PBUH life in Makkah) apply:

- Truthfulness of revelation to implement;
- Law, ethics, worship, justice, equality, morality, society, community

(to build a community based on those beliefs/Iman)

Thus, the Qur'an's **spiritual coherence (Makki)** and **social coherence (Madinan)** work together as one divine system.

1. The Structural Framework of the Qur'an

<i>Aspect</i>	<i>Description</i>
Revelation Period	Revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ over 23 years (610–632 CE), in Makkah and Madinah.
Language	Pure, classical Arabic (فُصْحَى).
Form	114 Surahs (chapters), over 6,000 Ayat (verses).
Order	Divinely arranged (tawqīfī), not chronological, but by Allah's command.
Division	30 Juz' (parts), 60 Hizb , and sections (Rukū') for recitation and memorization.
Compilation	Compiled during Abu Bakr's caliphate, standardized under Uthman ibn 'Affan رضي الله عنه.

3. The Literary and Logical Framework

<i>Element</i>	<i>Function</i>
Surah Structure	Each surah has a core theme, A claim, supported by evidence, stories, parables, and laws.
Ring Composition (Chiastic structure)	Many surahs begin and end with related ideas — e.g., <i>Surah Al-Baqarah</i> starts with guidance for the believers and ends with a prayer for guidance.
Repetition for Reflection	Key themes are repeated in different contexts for deeper understanding.
Transitions (Munāsabah)	Verses and surahs are connected in subtle, coherent ways, a feature of the Qur'an's divine structure.

4. The Qur'an's Functional Framework

1. Aqeedah (Belief System)

- Defines who Allah is, His attributes, and the unseen (angels, Jinn, Qiyamah, Paradise, Hell).

2. Ibadah (Worship System)

- Outlines principles of prayer, fasting, zakah, Jihad and pilgrimage — the pillars of devotion.

3. Mu‘āmalāt (Social & Economic Laws)

- Guidance on justice, contracts, trade, marriage, inheritance, and governance.

4. Akhlaq (Ethical System)

- Promotes honesty, humility, and compassion as social foundations.

5. Tarbiyah (Spiritual and Moral Training)

- Calls believers to purify the soul and develop taqwa (God-consciousness).

5. The Framework by Purpose (According to Scholars)

Classical scholars like **Imam al-Ghazali**, **Ibn Taymiyyah**, and **Fakhr al-Din al-Razi** described the Qur’an as built around **five central objectives**:

<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Description</i>
1. Tawḥīd	Affirming Allah’s oneness and lordship.
2. Shari‘ah	Establishing divine law and justice.
3. Nubuwwah	Confirming the mission of prophets.
4. Ma‘ād	Preparing for the afterlife.
5. Ibādah & Akhlāq	Guiding personal conduct and worship.

6. Qur’anic Framework in Practice

- **Makkan Surahs** focus on **belief**, **moral foundations**, and **Tawḥīd**.
- **Madinan Surahs** focus on **law**, **community**, and **governance**.

Together, they form a *complete system*:

A **spiritual, moral, and legal constitution** for human life.