20940 - How the people will be divided on the Day of Resurrection

the question

How the people will be divided on the Day of Resurrection
“And you (all) will be in three groups.
So those on the Right Hand (i.e. those who will be given their Records in their right hands) how (fortunate) will be those on the Right Hand! (As a respect for them, because they will enter Paradise).
And those on the Left Hand (i.e. those who will be given their Record in their left hands) how (unfortunate) will be those on the Left Hand! (As a disgrace for them, because they will enter Hell).”
[al-Waaqi’ah 56:7-9 – interpretation of the meaning]

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Ibn Katheer said: i.e., the people will be divided into three groups on the Day of Resurrection.

Al-Tabari said: thus they will be divided into the three groups mentioned at the end of the soorah at the time when they are dying.

Then Allaah explained the state of the (three) groups. He said “those on the Right Hand” to point out how great is their status and how respected they are.

“And those on the Left Hand (i.e. those who will be given their Record in their left hands) how (unfortunate) will be those on the Left Hand”; their being on the left indicates how terrible their situation will be.

“And those foremost [(in Islamic Faith of Monotheism and in performing righteous deeds) in the life of this world on the very first call for to embrace Islam] will be foremost (in Paradise)”

[al-Waaq’iah 56:10 – interpretation of the meaning]

This means that those who were foremost in doing good deeds in this world will be foremost in the Hereafter and will be the first to enter Paradise. Those who are of this caliber are the ones who will be closest to Allaah in gardens of delight, in the heights of ‘Illiyeen, in a lofty status above which there are no higher status. We ask Allaah to make us among those who are foremost. And Allaah knows best.

See Tafseer Ibn Sa’di, p. 832