

(وَإِنَّ الشَّيَاطِينَ لَيُوحُونَ إِلَىٰ أَوْلِيَآئِهِمْ لِيُجَادِلُوكُمْ)

(And certainly, the Shayatin do inspire their friends to dispute with you,) Ibn Abi Hatim recorded that Abu Ishaq said that a man said to Ibn `Umar that Al-Mukhtar claimed that he received revelation. So Ibn `Umar said, "He has said the truth," and recited this Ayah,

(وَإِنَّ الشَّيَاطِينَ لَيُوحُونَ إِلَىٰ أَوْلِيَآئِهِمْ)

(And certainly, the Shayatin do inspire their friends...) Abu Zamil said, "I was sitting next to Ibn `Abbas at a time when Al-Mukhtar bin Abi `Ubayd was performing Hajj. So a man came to Ibn `Abbas and said, `O Ibn `Abbas! Abu Ishaq (Al-Mukhtar) claimed that he received revelation this night.' Ibn `Abbas said, 'He has said the truth.' I was upset and said, `Ibn `Abbas says that Al-Mukhtar has said the truth' Ibn `Abbas replied, `There are two types of revelation, one from Allah and one from the devil. Allah's revelation came to Muhammad , while the Shaytan's revelation comes to his friends.' He then recited,

(وَإِنَّ الشَّيَاطِينَ لَيُوحُونَ إِلَىٰ أَوْلِيَآئِهِمْ)

(And certainly, the Shayatin do inspire their friends...) We also mentioned `Ikrimah's commentary on the Ayah,

(يُوحَىٰ بَعْضُهُمْ إِلَىٰ بَعْضٍ زُخْرَفَ الْقَوْلِ
عُرُورًا)

(Inspiring one another with adorned speech as a delusion.) Allah said next,

(لِيُجَادِلُوكُمْ)

(to dispute with you,) Ibn Jarir recorded that Ibn `Abbas commented;

(وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا مِمَّا لَمْ يُذْكَرْ اسْمُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ)

(Eat not of that on which Allah's Name has not been mentioned...) until,

(لِيُجَادِلُوكُمْ)

(...to dispute with you,) "The devils inspire their loyal supporters, `Do you eat from what you kill but not from what Allah causes to die" As-Suddi said; "Some idolators said to the Muslims, `You claim that you seek Allah's pleasure. Yet, you do not eat what Allah causes to die, but you eat what you slaughter' Allah said,

(وَإِنْ أَطَعْتُمُوهُمْ)

(and if you obey them...), and eat dead animals,

(إِنَّكُمْ لَمُشْرِكُونَ)

(then you would indeed be polytheists.) Smilar was said by Mujahid, Ad-Dahhak and several others among scholars of the Salaf.

Giving Preference to Anyone's Saying Over the Legislation of Allah is Shirk

Allah's statement,

(وَإِنْ أَطَعْتُمُوهُمْ إِنَّكُمْ لَمُشْرِكُونَ)

(and if you obey them, then you would indeed be polytheists.) means, when you turn away from Allah's command and Legislation to the saying of anyone else, preferring other than what Allah has said, then this constitutes Shirk. Allah said in another Ayah,

(اتَّخَذُوا أَحْبَارَهُمْ وَرُهْبَانَهُمْ أَرْبَابًا مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ)

(They (Jews and Christians) took their rabbis and their monks to be their lords besides Allah.) 9:31 In explanation of this Ayah, At-Tirmidhi recorded that `Adi bin Hatim said, "O Allah's Messenger! They did not worship them." The Prophet said,

«بَلَىٰ إِنَّهُمْ أَحَلُّوا لَهُمُ الْحَرَامَ وَحَرَّمُوا عَلَيْهِمُ الْحَلَالَ فَاتَّبَعُوهُمْ فذَلِكَ عِبَادَتُهُمْ إِيَّاهُمْ»

(Yes they did. They (monks and rabbis) allowed the impermissible for them and they prohibited the lawful for them, and they followed them in that. That was their worship of them.)

(أَوْ مَن كَانَ مَيِّتًا فَأَحْيَيْنَاهُ وَجَعَلْنَا لَهُ نُورًا يَمْشِي
بِهِ فِي النَّاسِ كَمَن مَّتَلَّهُ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ لَيْسَ
يَخْرُجُ مِنْهَا كَذَلِكَ زَيْنٌ لِلْكَافِرِينَ مَا كَانُوا
يَعْمَلُونَ)

(122. Is he who was dead, and We gave him life, and set for him a light, whereby he can walk among men -- like him who is in the darkness from which he can never come out Thus it is made fair seeming to the disbelievers that which they used to do.)

The Parable of the Disbeliever and the Believer

This is an example that Allah has given of the believer who was dead, meaning, wandering in confusion and misguidance. Then, Allah brought life to him, by bringing life to his heart with faith, guiding him to it and guiding him to obeying His Messengers,

(لَهُ نُورًا يَمْشِي بِهِ فِي النَّاسِ كَمَن)

(And set for him a light whereby he can walk amongst men.) for he became guided to where he should go and how to remain on the correct path. The light mentioned here is the Qur'an, according to Ibn `Abbas, as Al-`Awfi and Ibn Abi Talhah reported from him. As-Suddi said that the light mentioned here is Islam. Both meanings are correct.

(مَّتَلَّهُ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ لَيْسَ)

(Like him who is in the darkness) of ignorance, desires and various types of deviation,

(يَخْرُجُ مِنْهَا كَذَلِكَ)

(From which he can never come out) for he is unable to find a way out from what he is in. In Musnad Ahmad, it is recorded that the Prophet said;

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَلَقَ خَلْقَهُ فِي ظِلْمَةٍ، ثُمَّ رَشَّ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ نُورِهِ، فَمَنْ أَصَابَهُ ذَلِكَ النُّورُ اهْتَدَى، وَمَنْ أخطأه ضلَّ»

(Allah created creation in darkness, then He showered His Light upon them. Whoever was struck by that light is guided, whoever it missed is astray.) Allah said in other Ayat,

(اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا يُخْرِجُهُمْ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَوْلِيَاؤُهُمُ الطَّغُوتُ يُخْرِجُونَهُمْ مِنَ النُّورِ إِلَى الظُّلُمَاتِ أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ)

(Allah is the Guardian of those who believe. He brings them out from darkness into light. But as for those who disbelieve, their friends are Taghut, they bring them out from light into darkness. Those are the dwellers of the Fire, and they will abide therein forever.) 2:257 , and

(أَفَمَنْ يَمْشِي مُكَبِّاً عَلَىٰ وَجْهِهِ أَهْدَىٰ أَمَّنْ يَمْشِي سَوِيّاً عَلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ)

(Is he who walks prone on his face, more rightly guided, or he who walks upright on the straight way) 67:22 , and

(مَثَلُ الْفَرِيقَيْنِ كَالْأَعْمَىٰ وَالْأَصْمَىٰ وَالْبَصِيرِ وَالسَّمِيعِ هَلْ يَسْتَوِيَانِ مَثَلًا أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ)

(The parable of the two parties is as the blind and the deaf and the seer and the hearer. Are they equal when compared Will you not then take heed) 11:24 , and,

(وَمَا يَسْتَوِي الْأَعْمَى وَالْبَصِيرُ - وَلَا الظُّلُمَاتُ
وَلَا النُّورُ - وَلَا الظُّلُّ وَلَا الْحَرُورُ - وَمَا
يَسْتَوِي الْأَحْيَاءُ وَلَا الْأَمْوَاتُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُسْمِعُ مَنْ
يَشَاءُ وَمَا أَنْتَ بِمُسْمِعٍ مِّنْ فِي الْقُبُورِ - إِنَّ أَنْتَ
إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ)

(Not alike are the blind and the seeing. Nor are darkness and light. Nor are the shade and the sun's heat. Nor are the living and the dead. Verily, Allah makes whom He wills to hear, but you cannot make hear those who are in the graves. You are only a warner.) 35:19-23 There are many other Ayat on this subject. We explained before why Allah mentioned the light in the singular sense and the darkness in the plural sense when we explained the Ayah at the beginning of the Surah,

(وَجَعَلَ الظُّلُمَاتِ وَالنُّورِ)

(And originated the darknesses and the light.) 6:1 Allah's statement,

(زُيِّنَ لِلْكَافِرِينَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ)

(Thus it is made fair seeming to the disbelievers that which they used to do.) means, We made their ignorance and misguidance appear fair to them, as Allah decreed out of His wisdom, there is no deity worthy of worship except Him alone without partners.

(وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَا فِي كُلِّ قَرْيَةٍ أَكْبَرًا مُّجْرِمِيهَا
لِيْمَكُرُوا فِيهَا وَمَا يَمْكُرُونَ إِلَّا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ وَمَا
يَشْعُرُونَ - وَإِذَا جَاءَهُمْ آيَةٌ قَالُوا لَنْ نُؤْمِنَ
حَتَّى نُؤْتَى مِثْلَ مَا أُوتِيَ رُسُلُ اللَّهِ اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ
حَيْثُ يَجْعَلُ رِسَالَتَهُ سَيُصِيبُ الَّذِينَ أَجْرَمُوا

صَغَارٌ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَعَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ بِمَا كَانُوا يَمْكُرُونَ
(

(123. And thus We have set up in every town great ones of its wicked people to plot therein. But they plot not except against themselves, and they perceive (it) not.) (124. And when there comes to them a sign they say: "We shall not believe until we receive the like of that which the Messengers of Allah received." Allah knows best with whom to entrust His Message. Humiliation and disgrace from Allah and a severe torment will overtake the criminals for that which they used to plot.)

Evil Plots of the Leaders of the Criminals and their Subsequent Demise

Allah says: Just as We appointed chiefs and leaders for the criminals who call to disbelief, hinder from the path of Allah, and oppose and defy you in your town, O Muhammad. Such was also the case with the Messengers before you, who were tested with the same. But the good end was always theirs.' Allah said in other Ayat,

(وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَا لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ عَدُوًّا مِّنَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ)

(Thus have We made for every Prophet an enemy among the criminals.) 25:31 Allah said,

(وَإِذَا أَرَدْنَا أَنْ نُهْلِكَ قَرْيَةً أَمَرْنَا مُتْرَفِيهَا فَفَسَقُوا فِيهَا)

(And when We decide to destroy a town, We send a definite order to those among them who lead a life of luxury, and they transgress therein.) 17:16 meaning, We command them to obey Us, but they defy the command and as a consequence, We destroy them. It was also said that, "We send a definite order", in the last Ayah means, "We decree for them," as Allah stated here

(لِيَمْكُرُوا فِيهَا)

(to plot therein.) Ibn Abi Talhah reported that Ibn `Abbas explained the Ayah

(أَكْبَرَ مُجْرَمِيهَا لِيَمْكُرُوا فِيهَا)

(. ..great ones of its wicked people to plot therein.) "We give the leadership to these wicked ones and they commit evil in it. When they do this, We destroy them with Our torment." Mujahid and Qatadah said that in the Ayah,

(أَكْبَرَ مُجْرِمِيهَا)

(great ones) refers to leaders. I say that this is also the meaning of Allah's statements,

(وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا فِي قَرْيَةٍ مِّنْ نَّذِيرٍ إِلَّا قَالَ مُتْرَفُوهَا
إِنَّا بِمَا أُرْسِلْتُمْ بِهِ كَافِرُونَ - وَقَالُوا نَحْنُ أَكْثَرُ
أَمْوَالًا وَأَوْلَادًا وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمُعَذَّبِينَ)

(And We did not send a warner to a township, but those who were given the worldly wealth and luxuries among them, said: "We believe not in what you have been sent with." And they say: "We have too much wealth and too many children and we are not going to suffer punishment.")
34:34-35 And,

(وَكَذَلِكَ مَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ فِي قَرْيَةٍ مِّنْ نَّذِيرٍ
إِلَّا قَالَ مُتْرَفُوهَا إِنَّا وَجَدْنَا آبَاءَنَا عَلَىٰ أُمَّةٍ وَإِنَّا
عَلَىٰ ءَأْتَرِهِمْ مُّقْتَدُونَ)

(And similarly, We sent not a warner before you to any town but the luxurious ones among them said: "We found our fathers following a certain way and religion, and we will indeed follow their footsteps.") 43:23 `Plot' in the Ayah 6:123 refers to beautified speech and various actions with which the evil ones call to misguidance. Allah said about the people of Prophet Nuh, peace be upon him,

(وَمَكَرُوا مَكْرًا كُبَّارًا)

(And they have plotted a mighty plot.) 71:22 Allah said,

(وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَن نُّؤْمِنَ بِهَذَا الْقُرْءَانِ وَلَا
بِالَّذِي بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذِ الظَّالِمُونَ مَوْقُوفُونَ

عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ يَرْجِعُ بَعْضُهُمْ إِلَى بَعْضٍ الْقَوْلَ يَقُولُ
الَّذِينَ اسْتُضْعِفُوا لِلَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا لَوْلَا أَنْتُمْ لَكُنَّا
مُؤْمِنِينَ - قَالَ الَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا لِلَّذِينَ اسْتُضْعِفُوا
أَنْحُنُّ صَدَدْنَاكُمْ عَنِ الْهُدَى بَعْدَ إِذْ جَاءَكُمْ بَلْ
كُنْتُمْ مُجْرِمِينَ وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ اسْتُضْعِفُوا لِلَّذِينَ
اسْتَكْبَرُوا بَلْ مَكَرُ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ إِذْ تَأْمُرُونَنَا أَنْ
نَكْفُرَ بِاللَّهِ وَنَجْعَلَ لَهُ أَنْدَادًا)

(But if you could see when the wrongdoers will be made to stand before their Lord, how they will cast the (blaming) word one to another! Those who were deemed weak will say to those who were arrogant: "Had it not been for you, we should certainly have been believers." And those who were arrogant will say to those who were deemed weak: "Did we keep you back from guidance after it had come to you Nay, but you were criminals." Those who were deemed weak will say to those who were arrogant: "Nay, but it was your plotting by night and day, when you ordered us to disbelieve in Allah and set up rivals for Him!") 34:31-33 . Ibn Abi Hatim reported that Ibn Abi `Umar said that Sufyan said, "Every `plot' mentioned in the Qur'an refers to actions." Allah's statement,

(وَمَا يَمْكُرُونَ إِلَّا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ)

(But they plot not except against themselves, and they perceive (it) not.) means, the harm of their wicked plots, as well as misguiding those whom they lead astray, will only strike them. Allah said in other Ayat,

(وَلِيَحْمِلَنَّ أَثْقَالَهُمْ وَأَثْقَالًا مَّعَ أَثْقَالِهِمْ)

(And verily, they shall bear their own loads, and other loads besides their own.) 29:13 and,

(وَمِنْ أَوْزَارِ الَّذِينَ يُضِلُّونَهُمْ بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ أَلَا سَاءَ
مَا يَزِرُونَ)

(And also of the burdens of those whom they misled without knowledge. Evil indeed is that which they shall bear!) 16:25 . Allah said;

(وَإِذَا جَاءَهُمْ ءَايَةٌ قَالُوا لَنْ نُؤْمِنَ حَتَّى نُؤْتَى
مِثْلَ مَا أُوتِيَ رُسُلُ اللَّهِ)

(And when there comes to them a sign they say: "We shall not believe until we receive the like of that which the Messengers of Allah received.") When there comes to them a sign they say,

(لَنْ نُؤْمِنَ حَتَّى نُؤْتَى مِثْلَ مَا أُوتِيَ رُسُلُ اللَّهِ)

("We shall not believe until we receive the like of that which the Messengers of Allah received.") until the angels bring us the Message from Allah, just as they brought it to the Messengers. In another Ayah, Allah said,

(وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَرْجُونَ لِقَاءَنَا لَوْلَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْنَا
الْمَلٰٓئِكَةُ أَوْ نَرَى رَبَّنَا)

(And those who expect not a meeting with Us said: "Why are not the angels sent down to us, or why do we not see our Lord") 25:21 . Allah's statement,

(اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ حَيْثُ يَجْعَلُ رِسَالَتَهُ)

(Allah knows best with whom to entrust His Message.) means, He knows best with whom His Message should be given and which of His creatures are suitable for it. Allah said in other Ayah,

(وَقَالُوا لَوْلَا نُزِّلَ هٰذَا الْقُرْءَانُ عَلَى رَجُلٍ مِّنَ
الْقَرْيَتَيْنِ عَظِيمٍ اَهُمْ يَقْسِمُونَ رَحْمَةَ رَبِّكَ)

(And they say: "Why is not this Qur'an sent down to some great man of the two towns" Is it they who would portion out the mercy of your Lord) 43:31-32 . They said, why was not this Qur'an revealed to a mighty, respectable leader, honored by us,

(مِّنَ الْقَرْيَتَيْنِ)

(...from one of the two towns) Of Makkah and At-Ta'if. This is because they, may Allah curse them, belittled the Messenger out of envy, transgression, rebellion and defiance. Allah described them,

وَإِذَا رَأَوْكَ إِن يَتَّخِذُونَكَ إِلَّا هُزُوعًا أَهَذَا الَّذِي
بَعَثَ اللَّهُ رَسُولًا)

(And when they see you, they only mock: "Is this the one whom Allah has sent as a Messenger")
25:41 and

وَإِذَا رَأَى الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِن يَتَّخِذُونَكَ إِلَّا هُزُوعًا
أَهَذَا الَّذِي يَذْكُرُ آلِهَتَكُمْ وَهُمْ بِذِكْرِ الرَّحْمَنِ هُمْ
كَافِرُونَ)

(And when those who disbelieved see you, they only mock at you: "Is this the one who talks about your gods" While they disbelieve at the mention of the Most Gracious (Allah).) 21:36 ,
and,

وَلَقَدْ اسْتَهْزَىءَ بِرُسُلٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ فَحَاقَ بِالَّذِينَ
سَخِرُوا مِنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ)

(Indeed Messengers were mocked before, but the scoffers were surrounded by that, whereat they used to mock.) 21:41

The Disbelievers Admit to the Prophet's Nobility of Lineage

The disbelievers did all of this although they admitted to the Prophet's virtue, honorable lineage, respectable ancestry and purity of household and upbringing, may Allah, His angels, and the believers send blessings upon him. The disbelievers used to call the Prophet , before he received revelation, `Al-Amin' -- the Truthful. The leader of the Quraysh disbelievers, Abu Sufyan, had to admit to this fact when Heraclius, emperor of Rome, asked him, "How honorable is his (the Prophet's) ancestral lineage among you" Abu Sufyan answered, "His ancestry is highly regarded among us." Heraclius asked, "Do you find that he lied, before he started his mission" Abu Sufyan replied, "No." The emperor of Rome relied on the honor and purity of the Prophet to recognize the truth of his prophethood and what he came with. Imam Ahmad recorded that Wathilah bin Al-Asqa` said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَىٰ مِنْ وَدِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِسْمَاعِيلَ،
وَاصْطَفَىٰ مِنْ بَنِي إِسْمَاعِيلَ بَنِي كِنَانَةَ
وَاصْطَفَىٰ مِنْ بَنِي كِنَانَةَ قُرَيْشًا وَاصْطَفَىٰ
مِنْ قُرَيْشٍ بَنِي هَاشِمٍ وَاصْطَفَانِي مِنْ بَنِي هَاشِمٍ»

(Verily, Allah has chosen Isma`il from the offspring of Ibrahim, Bani Kinanah from the offspring of Isma`il, Quraysh from Bani Kinanah, Bani Hashim from Quraysh and, He has chosen me from Bani Hashim.) Muslim recorded this Hadith. Al-Bukhari recorded that Abu Hurayrah said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«بُعِثْتُ مِنْ خَيْرِ قُرُونِ بَنِي آدَمَ قَرْنَا فَقَرْنَا، حَتَّى
بُعِثْتُ مِنَ الْقَرْنِ الَّذِي كُنْتُ فِيهِ»

(I was chosen from a succession of the best generations of the Children of Adam, until the generation I was sent in.) Allah's said,

(سَيُصِيبُ الَّذِينَ أَجْرَمُوا صَغَارٌ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ
وَعَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ)

(Humiliation and disgrace from Allah and a severe torment will overtake the criminals...) This is a stern threat and sure promise from Allah for those who arrogantly refrain from obeying His Messengers and adhering to what they came with. On the Day of Resurrection, they will suffer humiliation and eternal disgrace before Allah, because they were arrogant in the worldly life. This is why it is befitting that they earn disgrace on the Day of Resurrection. Allah said in another Ayah,

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِي سَيَدْخُلُونَ
جَهَنَّمَ دَخَرِينَ)

(Verily, those who scorn My worship, they will surely enter Hell in humiliation!) 40:60 disgrace and dishonor. Allah said next,

(وَعَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ بِمَا كَانُوا يَمْكُرُونَ)

(and a severe torment for that which they used to plot.) Since plotting usually takes place in secret and involves treachery and deceit, the disbelievers were recompensed with severe torment from Allah on the Day of Resurrection, as a just reckoning,

(وَلَا يَظْلِمُ رَبُّكَ أَحَدًا)

(And your Lord treats no one with injustice) 18:49 Allah said in another Ayah,

(يَوْمَ تُبْلَى السَّرَائِرُ)

(The Day when all the secrets will be examined.) 86:9 Meaning, the secrets, hidden thoughts and intentions will be exposed. In the Two Sahihs, it is recorded that the Messenger of Allah said,

«يُنْصَبُ لِكُلِّ غَادِرٍ لِيَوَاءٍ عِنْدَ اسْتِهِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ،
فَيُقَالُ: هَذِهِ غَدْرَةُ فُلَانِ بْنِ فُلَانِ بْنِ فُلَانِ»

(A banner will be raised for every deceitful person from his anus on the Day of Resurrection, and it will say; `This is the treacherous plot of so-and-so, son of so-and-so, son of so-and-so..') The wisdom in this is that since a plot occurs in secret, and people are usually unaware of it, then on the Day of Resurrection the plot itself will become public news testifying to the actions of those who committed it.

(فَمَنْ يُرِدِ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَهْدِيَهُ يَشْرَحْ صَدْرَهُ لِلْإِسْلَامِ
وَمَنْ يُرِدْ أَنْ يُضِلَّهُ يَجْعَلْ صَدْرَهُ ضَيِّقًا حَرَجًا
كَأَنَّمَا يَصْعَدُ فِي السَّمَاءِ كَذَلِكَ يَجْعَلُ اللَّهُ الرَّجْسَ
عَلَى الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ)

(125. And whomsoever Allah wills to guide, He opens his breast to Islam; and whomsoever He wills to send astray, He makes his breast closed and constricted, as if he is climbing up to the sky. Thus Allah puts the wrath on those who believe not.) Allah said,

(فَمَنْ يُرِدِ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَهْدِيَهُ يَشْرَحْ صَدْرَهُ لِلْإِسْلَامِ)

(And whomsoever Allah wills to guide, He opens his breast to Islam;) He makes Islam easy for him and strengthens his resolve to embrace it, and these are good signs. Allah said in other Ayat,

(أَفَمَنْ شَرَحَ اللَّهُ صَدْرَهُ لِلْإِسْلَامِ فَهُوَ عَلَى نُورٍ
مِّن رَّبِّهِ)

(Is he whose breast Allah has opened to Islam, so that he is in light from His Lord (as he who is a non-Muslim)) 39:22 and,

(وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ حَبَّبَ إِلَيْكُمُ الْإِيمَانَ وَزَيَّنَهُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ
وَكَرَّهَ إِلَيْكُمُ الْكُفْرَ وَالْفُسُوقَ وَالْعِصْيَانَ أُولَئِكَ
هُمُ الرَّشِدُونَ)

(But Allah has endeared the faith to you and has beautified it in your hearts, and has made disbelief, wickedness and disobedience hated by you. Such are they who are the rightly guided.) 49:7 Ibn `Abbas commented on Allah's statement,

(فَمَنْ يُرِدِ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَهْدِيَهُ يَشْرَحْ صَدْرَهُ لِلْإِسْلَامِ)

(And whomsoever Allah wills to guide, He opens his breast to Islam;), "Allah says that He will open his heart to Tawhid and faith in Him." This is the same as was reported from Abu Malik and several others, and it is sound. Allah's statement,

(وَمَنْ يُرِدْ أَنْ يُضِلَّهُ يَجْعَلْ صَدْرَهُ ضَيِّقًا حَرَجًا)

(and whomsoever He wills to send astray, He makes his breast closed and constricted,) refers to inability to accept guidance, thus being deprived of beneficial faith.

(كَأَنَّمَا يَصَّعَّدُ فِي السَّمَاءِ)

(...as if he is climbing up to the sky.) because of the heaviness of faith on him. Sa`id bin Jubayr commented that in this case, "(Islam) finds every path in his heart impassable." Al-Hakam bin Aban said that `Ikrimah narrated from Ibn `Abbas that he commented on:

(كَأَنَّمَا يَصْعَدُ فِي السَّمَاءِ)

(...as if he is climbing up to the sky), "Just as the Son of Adam cannot climb up to the sky, Tawhid and faith will not be able to enter his heart, until Allah decides to allow it into his heart." Imam Abu Ja`far bin Jarir commented: "This is a parable that Allah has given for the heart of the disbeliever, which is completely impassable and closed to faith. Allah says, the example of the disbeliever's inability to accept faith in his heart and that it is too small to accommodate it, is the example of his inability to climb up to the sky, which is beyond his capability and power." He also commented on Allah's statement,

(كَذَلِكَ يَجْعَلُ اللَّهُ الرَّجْسَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ لَا
يُؤْمِنُونَ)

(Thus Allah puts the Rijs (wrath) on those who believe not.) "Allah says that just as He makes the heart of whomever He decides to misguide, closed and constricted, He also appoints Shaytan for him and for his likes, those who refused to believe in Allah and His Messenger. Consequently, Shaytan lures and hinders them from the path of Allah." `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported that Ibn `Abbas said that, Rijs, refers to Shaytan, while Mujahid said that it refers to all that does not contain goodness. `Abdur-Rahman bin Zayd bin Aslam said that, Rijs, means, 'torment'.

(وَهَذَا صِرَاطُ رَبِّكَ مُسْتَقِيمًا قَدْ فَصَّلْنَا الْآيَاتِ
لِقَوْمٍ يَذَّكَّرُونَ - لَهُمْ دَارُ السَّلَامِ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ وَهُوَ
وَلِيَّهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ)

(126. And this is the path of your Lord leading straight. We have detailed Our Ayat for a people who take heed.) (127. For them will be the abode of peace with their Lord. And He will be their Wali because of what they used to do.) After Allah mentioned the way of those who were themselves led to stray from His path and who hindered others from it, He emphasized the honor of the guidance and religion of truth that He sent His Messenger with. Allah said next,

(وَهَذَا صِرَاطُ رَبِّكَ مُسْتَقِيمًا)

(And this is the path of your Lord leading straight.) that is, Islam, that We have legislated for you, O Muhammad, by revealing this Qur'an to you, is Allah's straight path.

(قَدْ فَصَّلْنَا الْآيَاتِ)

(We have detailed Our Ayat...) We have explained the Ayat and made them clear and plain,

(لِقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ)

(for a people who take heed) those who have sound comprehension and understand what Allah and His Messenger convey to them,

(لَهُمْ دَارُ السَّلَامِ)

(For them will be the abode of peace) Paradise,

(عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ)

(with their Lord.) on the Day of Resurrection. Allah described Paradise as 'the abode of peace', because its residents are safe due to their access to the straight path, which conforms to the way of the Prophets. And just as their way was not wicked, they earned the abode of peace which is free from all wickedness .

(وَهُوَ وَلِيُّهُمْ)

(And He will be their Wali) Protector, Supporter and Helper,

(بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ)

(because of what they used to do,) As reward for their good deeds, Allah has favored them and been generous with them, and awarded them Paradise.

(وَيَوْمَ يَحْشُرُهُمْ جَمِيعًا يَمَعَشَرَ الْجِنَّ قَدْ
اسْتَكْبَرْتُمْ مِّنَ الْإِنْسِ وَقَالَ أَوْلِيَاؤُهُمْ مِّنَ الْإِنْسِ
رَبَّنَا اسْتَمْتَعَ بَعْضُنَا بِبَعْضٍ وَبَلَّغْنَا أَجَلَنَا الَّذِي

أَجَلَّتْ لَنَا قَالَ النَّارُ مَثْوَاكُمْ خَلِيدِينَ فِيهَا إِلَّا مَا
شَاءَ اللَّهُ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ حَكِيمٌ عَلِيمٌ)

(128. And on the Day when He will gather them together (and say): "O you assembly of Jinn! Many did you mislead of men," and their friends among the people will say: "Our Lord! We benefited one from the other, but now we have reached our appointed term which You did appoint for us. " He will say: "The Fire be your dwelling place, you will dwell therein forever, except as Allah may will. Certainly your Lord is All-Wise, All-Knowing.") Allah says, ` Mention, O Muhammad, in what you convey and warn,' that,

(وَيَوْمَ يَحْشُرُهُمْ جَمِيعًا)

(on the Day when He will gather them (all) together.) gather the Jinns and their loyal supporters from mankind who used to worship them in this life, seek refuge with them, obey them and inspire each other with adorned, deceitful speech. Allah will proclaim then,

(يَمَعَشَرَ الْجِنَّ قَدْ اسْتَكْتَرْتُمْ مِّنَ الْإِنْسِ)

(O you assembly of Jinn! Many did you mislead of men,) So the Ayah;

(قَدْ اسْتَكْتَرْتُمْ مِّنَ الْإِنْسِ)

(Many did you mislead of men) refers to their misguiding and leading them astray. Allah also said;

(أَلَمْ أَعْهَدْ إِلَيْكُمْ يَبْنَىٰ ءَادَمَ أَنْ لَا تَعْبُدُوا الشَّيْطَانَ
إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ - وَأَنْ اعْبُدُونِي هَذَا صِرَاطٌ
مُّسْتَقِيمٌ - وَلَقَدْ أَضَلَّ مِنْكُمْ جِبَلًا كَثِيرًا أَفَلَمْ
تَكُونُوا تَعْقِلُونَ)

(Did I not command you, O Children of Adam, that you should not worship Shaytan. Verily, he is a plain enemy to you. And that you should worship Me. That is the straight path. And indeed he (Shaytan) did lead astray a great multitude of you. Did you not, then, understand) 36:60-62 , and

وَقَالَ أَوْلِيَاؤُهُمْ مِّنَ الْإِنْسِ رَبَّنَا اسْتَمْتَعَ بَعْضُنَا
بِبَعْضٍ

(and their friends among the people will say: "Our Lord! We benefited one from the other...")
The friends of the Jinns among humanity will give this answer to Allah, after Allah chastises them for being misguided by the Jinns. Al-Hasan commented, "They benefited from each other when the Jinns merely commanded and mankind obeyed." Ibn Jurayj said, "During the time of Jahiliyyah, a man would reach a land and proclaim, 'I seek refuge with the master (Jinn) of this valley,' and this is how they benefited from each other. They used this as an excuse for them on the Day of Resurrection." Therefore, the Jinns benefit from humans since humans revere the Jinns by invoking them for help. The Jinns would then proclaim, "We became the masters of both mankind and the Jinns."

وَبَلَّغْنَا أَجَلَنَا الَّذِي أَجَّلْتَ لَنَا

(but now we have reached our appointed term which You did appoint for us.) meaning, death, according to As-Suddi.

قَالَ النَّارُ مَثْوَاكُمْ

(He (Allah) will say: "The Fire be your dwelling place...") where you will reside and live, you and your friends,

خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا

(you will dwell therein forever.) and will never depart except what Allah may will.

وَكَذَلِكَ نُؤَلِّى بَعْضَ الظَّالِمِينَ بَعْضًا بِمَا كَانُوا
يَكْسِبُونَ

(129. And thus We do make the wrongdoers supporters of one another, because of that which they used to earn.)

The Wrongdoers Are the Supporters of Each other

Ma` mar said that Qatadah commented on this Ayah, "Allah makes the wrongdoers supporters for each other in the Fire by following one another into it." `Abdur-Rahman bin Zayd bin Aslam commented on Allah's statement,

(وَكَذَلِكَ نُؤَلِّي بَعْضَ الظَّالِمِينَ بَعْضًا)

(And thus We do make the wrongdoers supporters of one another.) "It refers to the wrongdoers of the Jinns and mankind." He then recited,

(وَمَنْ يَعِشْ عَنْ ذِكْرِ الرَّحْمَنِ نُقَيِّضْ لَهُ شَيْطَانًا
فَهُوَ لَهُ قَرِينٌ)

(And whosoever turns away blindly from the remembrance of the Most Gracious (Allah), We appoint for him Shaytan to be a companion to him.) 43:36 He said next -- concerning the meaning of the Ayah; "We appoint the wrongdoer of the Jinns over the wrongdoer of mankind." A poet once said, "There is no hand, but Allah's Hand is above it, and no wrongdoer but will be tested by another wrongdoer." The meaning of this honorable Ayah thus becomes: `Just as We made this losing group of mankind supporters of the Jinns that misguided them, We also appoint the wrongdoers over one another, destroy them by the hands of one another, and take revenge from them with one another. This is the just recompense for their injustice and transgression.'

(يَمَعَشَرَ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسِ أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِّنكُمْ
يَقُصُّونَ عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِي وَيُنذِرُونَكُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَذَا
قَالُوا شَهِدْنَا عَلَى أَنْفُسِنَا وَغَرَّبْنَاهُمْ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا
وَشَهِدُوا عَلَى أَنْفُسِهِمْ أَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا كَافِرِينَ)

(130. O you assembly of Jinn and humans! "Did not there come to you Messengers from amongst you, reciting unto you My verses and warning you of the meeting of this Day of yours" They will say: "We bear witness against ourselves." It was the life of this world that deceived them. And they will bear witness against themselves that they were disbelievers.)

Chastising the Jinns and Humans after their Admission that Allah Sent Messengers to Them

Allah will chastise the disbelieving Jinns and humans on the Day of Resurrection, when He asks them, while having better knowledge, if the Messengers delivered His Messages to them,

(يَمَعَشَرَ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسِ أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِّنكُمْ)

("O you assembly of Jinn and humans! Did not there come to you Messengers from among you")
We should note here that the Messengers are from among mankind only, not vice versa, as Mujahid, Ibn Jurayj and others from the Imams of Salaf and later generations have stated. The proof for this is that Allah said,

(إِنَّا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ كَمَا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَى نُوحٍ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ
مِنْ بَعْدِهِ)

(Verily, We have sent the revelation to you as We sent the revelation to Nuh and the Prophets after him.) 4:163 , until,

(رُسُلًا مُّبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنذِرِينَ لِنَّاسٍ لِّئَلَّا يَكُونَ لِلنَّاسِ عَلَى
اللَّهِ حُجَّةٌ بَعْدَ الرُّسُلِ)

(Messengers as bearers of good news as well as of warning in order that mankind should have no plea against Allah after the (coming of) Messengers.) 4:165 Allah said, concerning the Prophet Ibrahim,

(وَجَعَلْنَا فِي ذُرِّيَّتِهِ النُّبُوَّةَ وَالْكِتَابَ)

(And We ordained among his offspring prophethood and the Book) 29: 27 , thus sending the prophethood and the Book exclusively through the offspring of the Prophet Ibrahim. No one has claimed that there were Prophets from among the Jinns before the time of Ibrahim, but not after that. Allah said,

(وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا قَبْلَكَ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ إِلَّا إِنَّهُمْ لِيَأْكُلُونَ
الطَّعَامَ وَيَمْشُونَ فِي الْأَسْوَاقِ)

(And We never sent before you any of the Messengers but verily, they ate food and walked in the markets.) 25:20 , and,

(وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ إِلَّا رَجَالًا نُوحِيَ إِلَيْهِمْ مِنْ
أَهْلِ الْقُرَى)

(And We sent not before you any but men unto whom We revealed, from among the people of townships.) 12:109 Therefore, concerning prophethood, the Jinns follow mankind in this regard and this is why Allah said about them,

(وَإِذْ صَرَفْنَا إِلَيْكَ نَفَرًا مِّنَ الْجِنِّ يَسْتَمِعُونَ
الْقُرْءَانَ فَلَمَّا حَضَرُوهُ قَالُوا أَنصِتُوا فَلَمَّا قُضِيَ
وَلَّوْا إِلَى قَوْمِهِمْ مُنْذِرِينَ - قَالُوا يَا قَوْمَنَا إِنَّا سَمِعْنَا
كِتَابًا أَنْزَلَ مِن بَعْدِ مُوسَى مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ
يَهْدِي إِلَى الْحَقِّ وَإِلَى طَرِيقٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ - يَا قَوْمَنَا
أَجِيبُوا دَاعِيَ اللَّهِ وَآمِنُوا بِهِ يَغْفِرَ لَكُمْ مِّن
ذُنُوبِكُمْ وَيُجِرْكُمْ مِّنْ عَذَابِ أَلِيمٍ - وَمَنْ لَا يُجِبْ
دَاعِيَ اللَّهِ فَلَيْسَ بِمُعْجِزٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَيْسَ لَهُ
مِن دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءُ أُولَئِكَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ)

(And (remember) when We sent towards you a group of the Jinn, listening to the Qur'an. When they stood in the presence thereof, they said: "Listen in silence!" And when it was finished, they returned to their people, as warners. They said: "O our people! Verily, we have heard a Book sent down after Musa, confirming what came before it, it guides to the truth and to the straight way. O our people! Respond to Allah's caller, and believe in him. He (Allah) will forgive you your sins, and will save you from a painful torment (i.e. Hell-fire). And whosoever does not respond to Allah's caller, he cannot escape on earth, and there will be no helpers for him besides Allah. Those are in manifest error.) 46:29-32 A Hadith collected by At-Tirmidhi stated that the Messenger of Allah recited Surat Ar-Rahman, to these Jinns, in which Allah said,

(سَنَقْرُغُ لَكُمْ أَيُّهَا الثَّقَلَانِ فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا
تُكذِّبَانِ)

(We shall attend to you, O you two classes (Jinn and men)! Then which of the blessings of your Lord will you both (Jinn and men) deny) 55:31-32 Allah said in this honorable Ayah,

يَمَعَشَرَ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِّنكُمْ
يَقْصُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِي وَيُنذِرُونَكُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَذَا
قَالُوا شَهِدْنَا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِنَا

(O you assembly of Jinn and humans! "Did not there come to you Messengers from amongst you, reciting unto you My verses and warning you of the meeting of this Day of yours" They will say: "We bear witness against ourselves.") meaning, we affirm that the Messengers have conveyed Your Messages to us and warned us about the meeting with You, and that this Day will certainly occur. Allah said next,

(وَعَرَّتْهُمُ الْحَيَوةُ الدُّنْيَا)

(It was the life of this world that deceived them.) and they wasted their lives and brought destruction to themselves by rejecting the Messengers and denying their miracles. This is because they were deceived by the beauty, adornment and lusts of this life.

(وَشَهِدُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ)

(And they will bear witness against themselves) on the Day of Resurrection,

(أَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا كَافِرِينَ)

(that they were disbelievers...) in this worldly life, rejecting what the Messengers, may Allah's peace and blessings be on them, brought them.

ذَلِكَ أَن لَّمْ يَكُنْ رَبُّكَ مُهْلِكَ الْقُرَىٰ بِظُلْمٍ وَأَهْلِهَا
غَافِلُونَ - وَلِكُلِّ دَرَجَةٍ مِّمَّا عَمِلُوا وَمَا رَبُّكَ
بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا يَعْمَلُونَ)

(131. This is because your Lord would not destroy the (populations of) towns for their wrongdoing while their people were unaware.) (132. For all there will be degrees according to what they did. And your Lord is not unaware of what they do.) Allah said,

ذَلِكَ أَنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ رَبُّكَ مُهْلِكَ الْقُرَى بِظُلْمٍ وَأَهْلُهَا
غَافِلُونَ)

(This is because your Lord would not destroy the (populations of) towns for their wrongdoing while their people were unaware.) meaning: `We sent the Messengers and revealed the Books to the Jinns and mankind, so that no one has an excuse that he is being punished for his wrongs although he did not receive Allah's Message. Therefore, We did not punish any of the nations, except after sending Messengers to them, so that they have no excuse.' Allah said in other Ayat,

(وَإِنْ مِنْ أُمَّةٍ إِلَّا خَلَا فِيهَا نَذِيرٌ)

(And there never was a nation but a warner had passed among them.) 35:24 , and

وَلَقَدْ بَعْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنْ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ
وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ)

(And verily, We have sent among every Ummah a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allah, and stay away from At-Taghut (all false deities).") 16:36 , and

(وَمَا كُنَّا مُعَذِّبِينَ حَتَّى نَبْعَثَ رَسُولًا)

(And We never punish until We have sent a Messenger.) 17:15 , and,

كُلَّمَا أُلْقِيَ فِيهَا فَوْجٌ سَأَلَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ
نَذِيرٌ قَالُوا بَلَى قَدْ جَاءَنَا نَذِيرٌ فَكَذَّبْنَا)

(Every time a group is cast therein, its keeper will ask: "Did no warner come to you" They will say: "Yes, indeed a warner did come to us, but we belied him.") 67:8-9 There are many other Ayat on this subject. At-Tabari said, "Allah's statement,

(وَلِكُلِّ دَرَجَةٍ مِمَّا عَمِلُوا)

(For all there will be degrees according to what they did.) means, every person who obeys Allah or behaves disobediently, has grades and ranks according to their works, which Allah

gives them as recompense, good for good and evil for evil." I say, it is possible that Allah's statement,

(وَلِكُلِّ دَرَجَةٌ مِّمَّا عَمِلُوا)

(For all there will be degrees according to what they did.) refers to the disbelievers of the Jinns and mankind who will earn a place in the Fire according to their evil deeds. Allah said,

(قَالَ لِكُلِّ ضِعْفٌ)

(He will say: "For each one there is double (torment).") 7:38 , and,

(الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَصَدُّوا عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ زِدْنَاهُمْ عَذَابًا فَوْقَ الْعَذَابِ بِمَا كَانُوا يُفْسِدُونَ)

(Those who disbelieved and hinder (others) from the path of Allah, for them We will add torment to the torment because they used to spread corruption.) 16:88 Allah said next,

(وَمَا رَبُّكَ بِغَفِلٍ عَمَّا يَعْمَلُونَ)

(And your Lord is not unaware of what they do.) Ibn Jarir commented, "All these deeds that they did, O Muhammad, they did while your Lord is aware of them, and He collects and records these deeds with Him, so that He recompenses them when they meet Him and return to Him.

(وَرَبُّكَ الْغَنِيُّ ذُو الرَّحْمَةِ إِن يَشَأْ يُدْهِبْكُمْ وَيَسْتَخْلِفْ مِن بَعْدِكُمْ مَا يَشَأْ كَمَا أَنشَأَكُم مِّن دُرِّيَّةٍ قَوْمٍ ءآخَرِينَ - إِنَّا مَا نُوْعِدُونَ لَأَتِيَنَّكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ بِمُعْجِزِينَ - قُلْ يَقَوْمِ اعْمَلُوا عَلَىٰ مَكَانَتِكُمْ إِنِّي عَامِلٌ فَسَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ مَن تَكُونُ لَهُ عَقِبَةُ الدَّارِ إِنَّهُ لَا يُفْلِحُ الظَّالِمُونَ)

(133. And your Lord is Al-Ghani, full of mercy; if He wills, He can destroy you; and in your place make whom He wills as your successors, as He raised you from the seed of other people.)
(134. Surely, that which you are promised, will verily come to pass, and you cannot escape.)
(135. Say: "O my people! Work according to your way, surely, I too am working, and you will come to know for which of us will be the (happy) end in the Hereafter. Certainly the wrongdoers will not be successful.")

If They Disobey, They Will Perish

Allah said,

(وَرَبُّكَ)

(And your Lord...), O Muhammad,

(الْغَنِيُّ)

(is Al-Ghani) Rich, free from needing His creatures in any way or form, while they stand in need of Him in all situations,

(ذُو الرَّحْمَةِ)

(full of mercy;) towards creation. Allah said in another Ayah,

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِالنَّاسِ لَرَّءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ)

(Truly, Allah is full of kindness, the Most Merciful towards mankind.) 2:143

(إِنْ يَشَأْ يُدْهِبْكُمْ)

(if He wills, He can destroy you.) if you defy His commandments,

(وَيَسْتَخْلِفُ مِنْ بَعْدِكُمْ مَا يَشَاءُ)

(And in your place make whom He wills as your successors,) who behave obediently,

(كَمَا أَنْشَأَكُمْ مِنْ ذُرِّيَّةِ قَوْمٍ ءآخَرِينَ)

(As He raised you from the seed of other people.) and surely, He is able to do this, and it is easy for Him. And just as Allah has destroyed the earlier nations and brought their successors, He is able to do away with these generations and bring other people in their place. Allah has also said;

(إِنْ يَشَأْ يُذْهِبْكُمْ أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ وَيَأْتِ بِآخَرِينَ وَكَانَ
اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ ذَٰلِكَ قَدِيرًا)

(If He wills, He can take you away, O people, and bring others. And Allah is Ever Capable over that.) 4:133 ,

(يَأْيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَنْتُمُ الْفُقَرَاءُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ
الْحَمِيدُ - إِنْ يَشَأْ يُذْهِبْكُمْ وَيَأْتِ بِخَلْقٍ جَدِيدٍ وَمَا
ذَٰلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ بِعَزِيزٍ)

(O mankind! It is you who stand in need of Allah. But Allah is Rich (free of all needs), Worthy of all praise. If He willed, He could destroy you and bring about a new creation. And that is not hard for Allah.) 35:15-17 , and,

(نَفْسِهِ وَاللَّهُ الْغَنِيُّ وَأَنْتُمُ الْفُقَرَاءُ وَإِنْ تَتَوَلَّوْا
يَسْتَبْدِلْ قَوْمًا غَيْرَكُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَكُونُوا)

(But Allah is Rich (free of all needs), and you are poor. And if you turn away, He will exchange you for some other people and they will not be your likes.) 47:38 . Muhammad bin Ishaq said that Ya`qub bin `Utbah said that he heard Aban bin `Uthman saying about this Ayah,

(كَمَا أَنْشَأَكُمْ مِنْ ذُرِّيَّةِ قَوْمٍ ءآخَرِينَ)

(As He raised you from the seed of other people.) " The seed' means the offspring and the children." Allah's statement,

(إِنَّ مَا تُوعَدُونَ لَآتٍ وَمَا أَنْتُمْ بِمُعْجِزِينَ)

(Surely, that which you are promised, will verily, come to pass and you cannot escape.) means, tell them, O Muhammad, that what they have been promised of Resurrection will surely occur,

(وَمَا أَنْتُمْ بِمُعْجِزِينَ)

(and you cannot escape.) from Allah. Rather, He is able to resurrect you even after you become dust and bones. Certainly, Allah is able to do all things and nothing ever escapes His power. Allah said;

(قُلْ يَاقَوْمِ اعْمَلُوا عَلَىٰ مَكَانَتِكُمْ إِنِّي عَامِلٌ
فَسَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ)

(Say: "O my people! Work according to your way, surely, I too am working and you will come to know.") This contains a stern warning and a sure promise, saying; remain on your way, if you think that you are rightly guided, for I will remain on mine. Allah said in another Ayah,

(وَقُلْ لِلَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ اعْمَلُوا عَلَىٰ مَكَانَتِكُمْ إِنَّا
عَامِلُونَ - وَانْتَظِرُوا إِنَّا مُنْتَظِرُونَ)

(And say to those who do not believe: "Act according to Makaanatikum, We are acting (in our way). And you wait! We (too) are waiting.") 11:121-122 . `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported that Ibn `Abbas said that,

(عَلَىٰ مَكَانَتِكُمْ)

(according to Makaanatikum...) means, your way.

(فَسَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ مَنْ تَكُونُ لَهُ عَقِبَةُ الدَّارِ إِنَّهُ لَا
يُفْلِحُ الظَّالِمُونَ)

(And you will come to know for which of us will be the (happy) end in the Hereafter. Certainly the wrongdoers will not be successful) 6:135 , You will come to know if the happy end will be mine (Muhammad's) or yours (the disbelievers). Allah has indeed kept His promise and allowed Muhammad to prevail in the land and rise above those who defied him. He conquered Makkah for him and made him triumphant over his people who rejected and showed enmity towards him. The Prophet's rule soon spread over the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen and Bahrain, and all this occurred during his lifetime. After his death, the various lands and provinces were

conquered during the time of his successors, may Allah be pleased with them all. Allah also said,

(كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَأَغْلِبَنَّ أَنَا وَرُسُلِي إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَوِيٌّ
عَزِيزٌ)

(Allah has decreed: "Verily, it is I and My Messengers who shall be the victorious." Verily, Allah is All-Powerful, Almighty.) 58:21

(إِنَّا لَنَنْصُرُ رُسُلَنَا وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا فِي الْحَيَاةِ
الدُّنْيَا وَيَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْأَشْهَادُ - يَوْمَ لَا يَنْفَعُ الظَّالِمِينَ
مَعذِرَتُهُمْ وَلَهُمُ اللَّعْنَةُ وَلَهُمْ سُوءُ الدَّارِ)

(Verily, We will indeed make victorious Our Messengers and those who believe in this world's life and on the Day when the witnesses will stand forth. The Day when their excuses will be of no profit to the wrongdoers. Theirs will be the curse, and theirs will be the evil abode.) 40:51-52 and,

(وَلَقَدْ كَتَبْنَا فِي الزَّبُورِ مِنْ بَعْدِ الذِّكْرِ أَنَّ
الْأَرْضَ يَرِثُهَا عِبَادِيَ الصَّالِحُونَ)

(And indeed We have written in the Zabur after the Dhikr that My righteous servants shall inherit the land.) 21:105

(وَجَعَلُوا لِلَّهِ مِمَّا ذَرَأَ مِنَ الْحَرْثِ وَالْأَنْعَامِ نَصِيبًا
فَقَالُوا هَذَا لِلَّهِ بِزَعْمِهِمْ وَهَذَا لِشُرَكَائِنَا فَمَا كَانَ
لِشُرَكَائِهِمْ فَلَا يَصِلُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَمَا كَانَ لِلَّهِ فَهُوَ
يَصِلُ إِلَى شُرَكَائِهِمْ سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ)

(136. And they assign to Allah a share of the tilth and cattle which He has created, and they say: "This is for Allah," according to their claim, "and this is for our partners." But the share of

their "partners" reaches not Allah, while the share of Allah reaches their "partners"! Evil is the way they judge!)

Some Acts of Shirk

Allah chastises and criticizes the idolators who invented innovations, Kufir and Shirk, and called on partners and rivals with Allah among His creation, although He created every thing, all praise is due to Him. This is why Allah said,

(وَجَعَلُوا لِلَّهِ مِمَّا ذَرَأَ)

(And they assign to Allah from that which He has created,)

(مِنَ الْحَرْثِ)

(of the tilth) meaning, fruits and produce,

(وَالْأَنْعَامِ نَصِيبًا)

(and of the cattle a share) meaning a part and a section.

(فَقَالُوا هَذَا لِلَّهِ بِزَعْمِهِمْ وَهَذَا لِشُرَكَائِنَا)

(and they say: "This is for Allah," according to their claim, "and this is for our partners.") Allah said next,

(فَمَا كَانَ لِشُرَكَائِهِمْ فَلَا يَصِلُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَمَا كَانَ لِلَّهِ فَهُوَ يَصِلُ إِلَى شُرَكَائِهِمْ)

(But the share of their "partners" reaches not Allah, while the share of Allah reaches their "partners"!)

`Ali bin Abi Talhah and Al-`Awfi narrated that Ibn `Abbas said; "When they, the enemies of Allah, would cultivate the land or collect produce, they would assign a part of it to Allah and another part to the idol. They would keep the share for the idol, whether land, produce or anything else, and preserve its division to such an extent that they would collect anything that accidentally falls from the share they assigned to Allah and add it to the share of the idol. If the water that they assigned for the idol irrigated something (a section of land, for instance) that they assigned for Allah, they would add whatever this water irrigated to the idol's share! If the land or produce that they assigned for Allah was accidentally mixed with the

share that they assigned for the idol, they would say that the idol is poor. Therefore, they would add it to the share they assigned for the idol and would not return it to the share they assigned for Allah. If the water that they assigned for Allah irrigated what they assigned for the idol they would leave it (the produce) for the idol. They also made some of their other property sacred, like the Bahirah, Sa'ibah, Wasilah and Ham, assigning them to the idols, claiming that they do so as way of seeking a means of approach to Allah. Allah said,

(وَجَعَلُوا لِلَّهِ مِمَّا ذَرَأَ مِنَ الْحَرْثِ وَالْأَنْعَامِ
نَصِيبًا)

(And they assign to Allah a share of the tilth and cattle which He has created...). Similar was said by Mujahid, Qatadah, As-Suddi and others. `Abdur-Rahman bin Zayd bin Aslam commented; "Every type of slaughter that they would assign for Allah, would never be eaten unless they mentioned the names of their idols when slaughtering it. Yet for what they sacrificed in the names of the idols, they would not mention Allah's Name when slaughtering it." He then recited the Ayah (6:136) until he reached,

(سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ)

(Evil is the way they judge!) This Ayah means, evil is that which they determined, for they committed error in the division. Certainly, Allah is the Lord, Owner and Creator of all things and His is the dominion. All things are His property and under His supreme control, will and decree. There is no deity worthy of worship, or Lord, except Him. And even when the polytheists made this evil division, they did not preserve it, but cheated in it. Allah said in other Ayat,

(وَيَجْعَلُونَ لِلَّهِ الْبَنَاتِ سُبْحَانَهُ وَلَهُمْ مَا يَشْتَهُونَ)

(And they assign daughters unto Allah -- glory be to Him -- and unto themselves what they desire.) 16:57 , and

(وَجَعَلُوا لَهُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ جُزْءًا إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَكَفُورٌ
مُبِينٌ)

(Yet, they assign to some of His servants a share with Him. Verily, man is indeed a manifest ingrate!) 43:15 , and,

(الْكُمُ الذَّكَرُ وَلَهُ الْأُنثَى - تِلْكَ إِذًا قِسْمَةٌ ضِيزَى
(

(Is it for you the males and for Him the females That indeed is a division most unfair!) 53:21-22 .

(وَكَذَلِكَ زَيْنَ لِكَثِيرٍ مِّنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ قَتَلَ أَوْلَادِهِمْ
شُرَكَاءُهُمْ لِيُرُدُّوهُمْ وَلِيَلْبِسُوا عَلَيْهِمْ دِينَهُمْ وَلَوْ
شَاءَ اللَّهُ مَا فَعَلُوهُ فَذَرُهُمْ وَمَا يَفْتَرُونَ)

(137. And so to many of the idolators, their "partners" have made fair seeming the killing of their children, in order to lead them to their own destruction and cause confusion in their religion. And if Allah had willed, they would not have done so. So leave them alone with their fabrications.)

Shaytan Lured the Idolators to Kill Their Children

Allah says, just as the Shayatin lured the idolators to assign a share for Allah from what He created of agriculture and cattle - and a share for the idols, they also made it seem fair for them to kill their children, for fear of poverty, and burying their daughters alive, for fear of dishonor. `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported from Ibn `Abbas that he commented;

(وَكَذَلِكَ زَيْنَ لِكَثِيرٍ مِّنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ قَتَلَ أَوْلَادِهِمْ
شُرَكَاءُهُمْ)

(And so to many of the idolators, their "partners" have made fair seeming the killing of their children...) "They make killing their children attractive to them." Mujahid said, "Idolators' partners among the devils ordered them to bury their children for fear of poverty." As-Suddi said, "The devils commanded them to kill their daughters so that they,

(لِيُرُدُّوهُمْ)

(lead them to their own destruction), and to,

(وَلِيَلْبِسُوا عَلَيْهِمْ دِينَهُمْ)

(cause confusion in their religion.)" Allah said,

(وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مَا فَعَلُوهُ)

(And if Allah had willed, they would not have done so.) meaning, all this occurred by Allah's leave, will and decree, but He dislikes these practices, and He has the perfect wisdom in every decree. He is never questioned about what He does, but they all will be questioned.

(فَدَّرَهُمْ وَمَا يَفْتَرُونَ)

(So leave them alone with their fabrications.) meaning, avoid and abandon them and what they do, for Allah will judge between you and them.

(وَقَالُوا هَذِهِ أُنْعَمٌ وَحَرَّتْ حِجْرٌ لَا يَطْعَمُهَا إِلَّا
مَنْ نَشَاءُ بِزَعْمِهِمْ وَأُنْعَمٌ حُرِّمَتْ ظُهُورُهَا
وَأُنْعَمٌ لَا يَذْكُرُونَ اسْمَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهَا افْتِرَاءً عَلَيْهِ
سَيَجْزِيهِمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ)

(138. And according to their claim, they say that such and such cattle and crops are Hijr (forbidden), and none should eat of them except those whom we allow. And (they say) there are cattle forbidden to be used for burden, and cattle on which (at slaughtering) the Name of Allah is not pronounced; lying against Him (Allah). He will recompense them for what they used to fabricate.)

The Idolators Forbade Certain Types of Cattle

`Ali bin Abi Talhah reported that Ibn `Abbas said, "Hijr refers to what they forbade, such as the Wasilah, and the like." Similar was said by Mujahid, Ad-Dahhak, As-Suddi, Qatadah, `Abdur-Rahman bin Zayd bin Aslam and others. Qatadah commented on,

(وَقَالُوا هَذِهِ أُنْعَمٌ وَحَرَّتْ حِجْرٌ)

(They say that such and such cattle and crops are Hijr,) "It is a prohibition that the Shayatin appointed for their wealth, and a type of exaggeration and extremism that did not come from Allah." `Abdur-Rahman Ibn Zayd bin Aslam said that, d

(حِجْرٍ)

(Hijr,) refers to what the idolators designated for their deities. As-Suddi said that the Ayah,

(لَا يَطْعَمُهَا إِلَّا مَنْ نَشَاءُ بِزَعْمِهِمْ)

(And none should eat of them except those whom we allow, they claimed...) means, "They said, only those whom we choose can eat of them., and the rest are prohibited from eating them." Similar to this honorable Ayah, Allah said,

(قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ مِنْ رِزْقٍ فَجَعَلْتُمْ
مِنْهُ حَرَامًا وَحَلَالًا قُلْ ءَاللَّهُ أَذِنَ لَكُمْ أَمْ عَلَى اللَّهِ
تَقْتَرُونَ)

(Say: "Tell me, what provision Allah has sent down to you! And you have made of it lawful and unlawful." Say: "Has Allah permitted you (to do so), or do you invent a lie against Allah")
10:59 , and,

(مَا جَعَلَ اللَّهُ مِنْ بَحِيرَةٍ وَلَا سَائِبَةٍ وَلَا وَصِيلَةٍ
وَلَا حَامٍ وَلَكِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يَقْتَرُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ
الْكَذِبَ وَأَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ)

(Allah has not instituted things like Bahirah or a Sa'ibah or a Wasilah or a Ham. But those who disbelieve invent lies against Allah, and most of them have no understanding.) 5:103 As-Suddi said that cattle forbidden to be used for burden were the Bahirah, Sa'ibah, Wasilah and Ham, as well as cattle for which the idolators did not mention Allah's Name when slaughtering them nor when they were born. Abu Bakr bin `Ayyash said that `Asim bin Abi An-Najud said, "Abu Wa'il said to me, ` Do you know the meaning of the Ayah,

(وَأَنْعَمُ حُرِّمَتْ ظُهُورُهَا وَأَنْعَمُ لَا يَذْكُرُونَ اسْمَ
اللَّهِ عَلَيْهَا)

(And (they say) there are cattle forbidden to be used for burden, and cattle on which the Name of Allah is not pronounced.) I said, `No.' He said, `It is the Bahirah, which they would not use

to for Hajj (either by riding it or carrying things on it)." Mujahid also said that they were some of the camels belonging to idolators on which Allah's Name was not mentioned when riding, milking, carrying things, copulation or any other action.

(افْتَرَاءً عَلَيْهِ)

(lying against Him.) against Allah. The idolators indeed lied when they attributed this evil to Allah's religion and Law; He did not allow them to do that nor did He approve of it,

(سَيَجْزِيهِمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ)

(He will recompense them for what they used to fabricate.) against Him, and falsely attribute to Him.

(وَقَالُوا مَا فِي بُطُونِ هَذِهِ الْأَنْعَمِ خَالِصَةٌ
لِّذُكُورِنَا وَمُحَرَّمٌ عَلَىٰ أُنثَىٰنَا وَإِن يَكُن مِّيتَةً فَهُمْ
فِيهِ شُرَكَاءُ سَيَجْزِيهِمْ وَصَفَّهُمْ إِنَّهُ حَكِيمٌ عَلِيمٌ)

(139. And they say: "What is in the bellies of such and such cattle is for our males alone, and forbidden to our females, but if it is born dead, then all have shares therein." He will punish them for their attribution (of such false orders to Allah). Verily, He is All-Wise, All-Knower.) Abu Ishaq As-Subay`i narrated that `Abdullah bin Abi Al-Hudhayl reported that Ibn `Abbas said that,

(وَقَالُوا مَا فِي بُطُونِ هَذِهِ الْأَنْعَمِ خَالِصَةٌ
لِّذُكُورِنَا)

(And they say: "What is in the bellies of such and such cattle is for our males alone...") refers to milk. `Awfi said that Ibn `Abbas said about this Ayah,

(وَقَالُوا مَا فِي بُطُونِ هَذِهِ الْأَنْعَمِ خَالِصَةٌ
لِّذُكُورِنَا)

(And they say: "What is in the bellies of such and such cattle is for our males alone...") "It is about milk, which they prohibited for their females and allowed only their males to drink. When a sheep would give birth to a male sheep, they would slaughter it and feed it to their

males, but not to their females. If the newly born lamb was a female, they would not slaughter it, but if it was stillborn, they would share in it (with their females)! Allah forbade this practice." Similar was said by As-Suddi. Ash-Sha`bi said, "The Bahirah's milk was only given to the men. But if any cattle from the Bahirah died, both men and women would share in eating it." Similar was said by `Ikrimah, Qatadah and `Abdur-Fahman bin Zayd bin Aslam. Mujahid commented;

(وَقَالُوا مَا فِي بُطُونِ هَذِهِ الْأَنْعَمِ خَالِصَةٌ
لِدُكُورِنَا وَمُحَرَّمٌ عَلَىٰ أَرْوَاجِنَا)

(And they say: "What is in the bellies of such and such cattle is for our males alone, and forbidden to our females...") "It refers to the Sa'ibah and the Bahirah." Abu Al-`Aliyah, Mujahid and Qatadah said that Allah's statement,

(سَيَجْزِيهِمْ وَصَفَّهُمْ)

(He will punish them for their attribution.) means, uttering such falsehood. This is explained by Allah's statement,

(وَلَا تَقُولُوا لِمَا تَصِفُ أَلْسِنَتُكُمُ الْكَذِبَ هَذَا حَلَلٌ
وَهَذَا حَرَامٌ لِّتَقْتَرُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ
يَقْتَرُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ لَا يُفْلِحُونَ)

(And say not concerning that which your tongues falsely utter: "This is lawful and this is forbidden." so as to invent lies against Allah. Verily, those who invent lies against Allah will never prosper.) 16:116 Allah said,

(إِنَّهُ حَكِيمٌ)

(Verily, He is All-Wise.) in His actions, statements, Law and decree,

(عَلِيمٌ)

(All-Knower), in the actions of His servants, whether good or evil, and He will recompense them for these deeds completely.

(قَدْ خَسِرَ الَّذِينَ قَتَلُوا أَوْلَادَهُمْ سَفَهًا بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ
وَحَرَّمُوا مَا رَزَقَهُمُ اللَّهُ افْتِرَاءً عَلَى اللَّهِ قَدْ
ضَلُّوا وَمَا كَانُوا مُهْتَدِينَ)

(140. Indeed lost are they who have killed their children, foolishly, without knowledge, and (they) have forbidden that which Allah has provided for them, inventing a lie against Allah. They have indeed gone astray and were not guided.)

**Allah says that those who committed these evil acts have earned
the loss of this life and the Hereafter.**

As for this life, they lost when they killed their children and made it difficult for themselves by prohibiting some types of their wealth, as an act of innovation that they invented on their own. As for the Hereafter, they will end up in the worst dwellings, because they used to lie about Allah and invent falsehood about Him. Allah also said,

(قُلْ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَفْتَرُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ لَا
يُفْلِحُونَ - مَتَّعْ فِي الدُّنْيَا ثُمَّ إِلَيْنَا مَرْجِعُهُمْ ثُمَّ
نُذِقُهُمُ الْعَذَابَ الشَّدِيدَ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْفُرُونَ)

(Say: "Verily, those who invent a lie against Allah will never be successful." (A brief) enjoyment in this world! And then unto Us will be their return, then We shall make them taste the severest torment because they used to disbelieve.) 10:69-70 Al-Hafiz Abu Bakr bin Marduwyah recorded that Ibn `Abbas commented, "If it pleases you to know how ignorant the Arabs used to be, then recite the Ayat beyond Ayah one hundred and thirty in Surat Al-An`am,

(قَدْ خَسِرَ الَّذِينَ قَتَلُوا أَوْلَادَهُمْ سَفَهًا بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ
وَحَرَّمُوا مَا رَزَقَهُمُ اللَّهُ افْتِرَاءً عَلَى اللَّهِ قَدْ
ضَلُّوا وَمَا كَانُوا مُهْتَدِينَ)

(Indeed lost are they who have killed their children, foolishly, without knowledge, and they have forbidden that which Allah has provided for them, inventing a lie against Allah. They have indeed gone astray and were not guided.)" Al-Bukhari also recorded this in the section of his Sahih on the virtues of the Quraysh.

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَنْشَأَ جَنَّاتٍ مَّعْرُوشَاتٍ وَغَيْرَ
مَّعْرُوشَاتٍ وَالنَّخْلَ وَالزَّرْعَ مُخْتَلِفًا أَكْلُهُ
وَالزَّيْتُونَ وَالرُّمَّانَ مُتَشَابِهًا وَغَيْرَ مُتَشَابِهٍ كُلُوا
مِنْ ثَمَرِهِ إِذَا أَثْمَرَ وَعَآئُوا حَقَّهُ يَوْمَ حَصَادِهِ وَلَا
تُسْرِفُوا إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ - وَمِنَ الْأَنْعَامِ
حَمُولَةٌ وَفَرَشَاتٌ كُلُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا
خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ)

(141. And it is He Who produces gardens Ma` rushat and not Ma` rushat, and date palms, and crops of different shape and taste, and olives, and pomegranates, similar, and different. Eat of their fruit when they ripen, but pay the due thereof on the day of their harvest, and waste not by extravagance. Verily, He likes not the wasteful.) (142. And of the cattle (are some) for burden and (some smaller) for Farsh. Eat of what Allah has provided for you, and follow not the footsteps of Shaytan. Surely, he is to you an open enemy.)

Allah Created the Produce, Seed Grains and Cattle

Allah states that He created everything, including the produce, fruits and cattle that the idolators mishandled by their misguided ideas, dividing them into various designated parts, allowing some and prohibiting some. Allah said,

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَنْشَأَ جَنَّاتٍ مَّعْرُوشَاتٍ وَغَيْرَ
مَّعْرُوشَاتٍ)

(And it is He Who produces gardens Ma` rushat and not Ma` rushat,) `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported that Ibn `Abbas commented, "Ma` rushat refers to what the people trellise, while `not Ma` rushat' refers to fruits (and produce) that grow wild inland and on mountains." `Ata' Al-Khurasani said that Ibn `Abbas said, "Ma` rushat are the grapevines that are trellised, while `not Ma` rushat' refers to grapevines that are not trellised." As-Suddi said similarly. As for these fruits being similar, yet different, Ibn Jurayj said, "They are similar in shape, but different in taste." Muhammad bin Ka`b said that the Ayah,

(كُلُوا مِنْ ثَمَرِهِ إِذَا أَثْمَرَ)

(Eat of their fruit when they ripen,) means, "(Eat) from the dates and grapes they produce." Allah said next,

(وَأَتُوا حَقَّهُ يَوْمَ حَصَادِهِ)

(but pay the due thereof on the day of their harvest,) Mujahid commented, "When the poor people are present (on the day of harvest), give them some of the produce." `Abdur-Razzaq recorded that Mujahid commented on the Ayah,

(وَأَتُوا حَقَّهُ يَوْمَ حَصَادِهِ)

(but pay the due thereof on the day of their harvest.) "When planting, one gives away handfuls (of seed grains) and on harvest, he gives away handfuls and allows them to pick whatever is left on the ground of the harvest." Ath-Thawri said that Hammad narrated that Ibrahim An-Nakha`i said, "One gives away some of the hay." Ibn Al-Mubarak said that Shurayk said that Salim said that Sa`id bin Jubayr commented;

(وَأَتُوا حَقَّهُ يَوْمَ حَصَادِهِ)

(but pay the due thereof on the day of their harvest,) "This ruling, giving the poor the handfuls (of seed grains) and some of the hay as food for their animals, was before Zakah became obligatory." Allah has chastised those who harvest, without giving away a part of it as charity. Allah mentioned the story of the owners of the garden in Surat Nun,

(إِنَّا بَلَوْنَهُمْ كَمَا بَلَوْنَا أَصْحَابَ الْجَنَّةِ إِذْ أَقْسَمُوا لَيَصْرِمُنَّهَا مُصْبِحِينَ - وَلَا يَسْتَأْذِنُونَ - فَطَافَ عَلَيْهَا طَائِفٌ مِّن رَّبِّكَ وَهُمْ نَائِمُونَ - فَأَصْبَحَتْ كَالصَّرِيمِ - فَتَنَادُوا مُصْبِحِينَ - أَنْ اغْدُوا عَلَيَّ حَرِّتِكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَرْمِينَ - فَاَنْطَلِقُوا وَهُمْ يَتَخَفَتُونَ - أَنْ لَا يَدْخُلَهَا الْيَوْمَ عَلَيْكُمْ مَسْكِينٌ -

وَعَدَوْا عَلَى حَرْدٍ قَدِيرِينَ - فَلَمَّا رَأَوْهَا قَالُوا إِنَّا
لَضَالُّونَ بَلْ نَحْنُ مَحْرُومُونَ قَالَ أَوْسَطُهُمْ أَلَمْ
أَقُلْ لَكُمْ لَوْلَا تُسَبِّحُونَ قَالُوا سُبْحَانَ رَبِّنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا
ظَالِمِينَ فَأَقْبَلَ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ يَتْلَمُونَ
قَالُوا يَوَيْلَنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا طٰغِينَ عَسَى رَبُّنَا أَنْ يُبَدِّلَنَا
خَيْرًا مِّنْهَا إِنَّا إِلَى رَبِّنَا رٰغِبُونَ كَذٰلِكَ الْعَذَابُ
وَلَعَذَابُ الْآخِرَةِ أَكْبَرُ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ)

(When they swore to pluck the fruits of the (garden) in the morning. Without saying: "If Allah wills." Then there passed by on the (garden) a visitation (fire) from your Lord at night, burning it while they were asleep. So the (garden) became black by the morning, like a pitch dark night (in complete ruins). Then they called out one to another as soon as the morning broke. Saying: "Go to your tilth in the morning, if you would pluck the fruits." So they departed, conversing in secret low tones (saying). "No poor person shall enter upon you into it today." And they went in the morning with strong intention, thinking that they have power (to prevent the poor taking anything of the fruits therefrom). But when they saw the (garden), they said: "Verily, we have gone astray." (Then they said): "Nay! Indeed we are deprived of (the fruits)!" The best among them said: "Did I not tell you, why say you not: `If Allah wills'." They said: "Glory to Our Lord! Verily, we have been wrongdoers." Then they turned one against another, blaming. They said: "Woe to us! We have transgressed. We hope that our Lord will give us in exchange a better (garden) than this. Truly, we turn to our Lord." Such is the punishment (in this life), but truly, the punishment of the Hereafter is greater if they but knew.) 68:18-33 .

Prohibiting Extravagance

Allah said,

(وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ)

(And waste not by extravagance. Verily, He likes not the wasteful.) It was said that the extravagance prohibited here refers to excessive charity beyond normal amounts. Ibn Jurayj said, "This Ayah was revealed concerning Thabit bin Qays bin Shammas, who plucked the fruits of his date palms. Then he said to himself, `This day, every person who comes to me, I will feed him from it.' So he kept feeding (them) until the evening came and he ended up with no dates. Allah sent down,

(وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ)

(And waste not by extravagance. Verily, He likes not the wasteful.)" Ibn Jarir recorded this statement from Ibn Jurayj. However, thhe apparent meaning of this Ayah, and Allah knows best, is that;

(كُلُوا مِنْ ثَمَرِهِ إِذَا أَثْمَرَ وَءَاتُوا حَقَّهُ يَوْمَ حَصَادِهِ
وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا)

(Eat of their fruit when they ripen, but pay the due thereof on the day of their harvest, and waste not...) refers to eating, meaning, do not waste in eating because this spoils the mind and the body. Allah said in another Ayah,

(وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا)

(And eat and drink but waste not by extravagance.) 7: 31 In his Sahih, Al-Bukhari recorded a Hadith without a chain of narration; a

«كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا وَابْسُوا مِنْ غَيْرِ إِسْرَافٍ وَلَا
مَخِيلَةٍ»

(Eat, drink and clothe yourselves without extravagance or arrogance.) Therefore, these Ayat have the same meaning as this Hadith. and Allah knows best.

Benefits of Cattle

Allah's statement,

(وَمِنَ الْأَنْعَامِ حَمُولَةٌ وَفَرَشَاتٌ)

(And of the cattle (are some) for burden and (some smaller) for Farsh.) means, He created cattle for you, some of which are suitable for burden, such as camels, and some are Farsh. Ath-Thawri narrated that Abu Ishaq said that Abu Al-Ahwas said that `Abdullah said that `animals for burden' are the camels that are used for carrying things, while, `Farsh', refers to small camels. Al-Hakim recorded it and said, "Its chain is Sahih and they did not record it." `Abdur-Rahman bin Zayd bin Aslam said that `animals for burden' refers to the animals that people ride, while, `Farsh' is that they eat (its meat) and milk it. The sheep is not able to carry things, so you eat its meat and use its wool for covers and mats (or clothes). This statement of `Abdur-Rahman is sound, and the following Ayat testify to it,

(أَوْلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّا خَلَقْنَا لَهُمْ مِمَّا عَمِلَتْ أَيْدِينَا أَنْعَمًا
فَهُمْ لَهَا مَلَكَونَ - وَذَلَّلْنَاهَا لَهُمْ فَمِنْهَا رَكُوبُهُمْ
وَمِنْهَا يَأْكُلُونَ)

(Do they not see that We have created for them of what Our Hands have created, the cattle, so that they are their owners. And We have subdued them unto them so that some of them they have for riding and some they eat.) 36:71-72 , and,

(وَإِنَّ لَكُمْ فِي الْأَنْعَمِ لَعِبْرَةً نُسْقِيكُمْ مِمَّا فِي
بُطُونِهِ مِنْ بَيْنِ قَرْتٍ وَدَمٍ لَبَنًا خَالِصًا سَائِغًا
لِلشَّارِبِينَ)

(And verily, in the cattle, there is a lesson for you. We give you to drink of that which is in their bellies, from between excretions and blood, pure milk; palatable to the drinkers.) 16:66 , until,

(وَمِنْ أَصْنُوفِهَا وَأُوبَارِهَا وَأَشْعَارِهَا أَثْنَا وَمَتَعًا
إِلَى حِينٍ)

(And of their wool, fur and hair, furnishings and articles of convenience, comfort for a while.) 16:80 .

Eat the Meat of These Cattle, But Do Not Follow Shaytan's Law Concerning Them

Allah said,

(كُلُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ)

(Eat of what Allah has provided for you,) of fruits, produce and cattle. Allah created all these and provided you with them as provision.

(وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوتِ الشَّيْطَانِ)

(and follow not the footsteps of Shaytan.) meaning, his way and orders, just as the idolators followed him and prohibited fruits and produce that Allah provided for them, claiming that this falsehood came from Allah.

(إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ)

(Surely, he is to you) meaning; Shaytan, O people, is to you,

(عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ)

(an open enemy) and his enmity to you is clear and apparent. Allah said in other Ayat,

(إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ فَاتَّخِذُوهُ عَدُوًّا إِنَّمَا يَدْعُو حِزْبَهُ لِيَكُونُوا مِنْ أَصْحَابِ السَّعِيرِ)

(Surely, Shaytan is an enemy to you, so take (treat) him as an enemy. He only invites his Hizb (followers) that they may become the dwellers of the blazing Fire.) 35:6 and,

(يَبْنِي آدَمَ لَا يَفْتِنَنَّكُمْ الشَّيْطَانُ كَمَا أَخْرَجَ أَبَوَيْكُمْ مِّنَ الْجَنَّةِ يَنْزِعُ عَنْهُمَا لِبَاسَهُمَا لِيُرِيَهُمَا سَوْءَتَهُمَا)

(O Children of Adam! Let not Shaytan deceive you, as he got your parents out of Paradise, stripping them of their raiment, to show them their private parts.) 7:27 and,

(أَفَتَتَّخِذُونَهُ وَذُرِّيَّتَهُ أَوْلِيَاءَ مِن دُونِي وَهُمْ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ بِئْسَ لِلظَّالِمِينَ بَدَلًا)

(Will you then take him (Iblis) and his offspring as protectors and helpers rather than Me while they are enemies to you What an evil is the exchange for the wrongdoers.) 18:50 There are many other Ayat on this subject.

(تَمَنِيَةَ أَزْوَاجٍ مِّنَ الضَّأْنِ اثْنَيْنِ وَمِنَ الْمَعَزِ اثْنَيْنِ
 قُلْ ءَالذَّكَرَيْنِ حَرَّمَ أَمِ الْأُنثَيَيْنِ أَمَّا اشْتَمَلَتْ عَلَيْهِ
 أَرْحَامُ الْأُنثَيَيْنِ نَبِّئُونِي بِعِلْمٍ إِن كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ -
 وَمِنَ الْإِبِلِ اثْنَيْنِ وَمِنَ الْبَقَرِ اثْنَيْنِ قُلْ ءَالذَّكَرَيْنِ
 حَرَّمَ أَمِ الْأُنثَيَيْنِ أَمَّا اشْتَمَلَتْ عَلَيْهِ أَرْحَامُ
 الْأُنثَيَيْنِ أَمْ كُنْتُمْ شُهَدَاءَ إِذْ وَصَّكُمُ اللَّهُ بِهَذَا فَمَنْ
 أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنْ افْتَرَى عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا لِيُضِلَّ النَّاسَ
 بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ)

(143. Eight pairs: of the sheep two (male and female), and of the goats two (male and female). Say: "Has He forbidden the two males or the two females, or (the young) which the wombs of the two females enclose Inform me with knowledge if you are truthful. ") (144. And of the camels two, and of oxen two. Say: "Has He forbidden the two males or the two females or (the young) which the wombs of the two females enclose Or were you present when Allah ordered you such a thing Then who does more wrong than one who invents a lie against Allah, to lead mankind astray without knowledge. Certainly Allah guides not the people who are wrongdoers.")

These Ayat demonstrate the ignorance of the Arabs before Islam.

They used to prohibit the usage of some of their cattle and designate them as Bahirah, Sa'ibah, Wasilah and Ham etc. These were some of the innovations they invented for cattle, fruits and produce. Allah stated that He has created gardens, trellised and untrellised, and cattle, as animals of burden and as Farsh. Allah next mentioned various kinds of cattle, male and female, such as sheep and goats. He also created male and female camels and the same with cows. Allah did not prohibit any of these cattle or their offspring. Rather, they all were created for the sons of Adam as a source for food, transportation, work, milk, and other benefits, which are many. Allah said,

(وَأَنْزَلَ لَكُمْ مِّنَ الْأَنْعَامِ تَمَنِيَةَ أَزْوَاجٍ)

(And He has sent down for you of cattle eight pairs...) 39:6 Allah said;

(أَمَّا اشْتَمَلَتْ عَلَيْهِ أَرْحَامُ الْأُنثَيَيْنِ)

(...or (the young) which the wombs of the two females enclose...) This refutes the idolators' statement,

(مَا فِي بُطُونِ هَذِهِ الْأَنْعَمِ خَالِصَةٌ لِّذُكُورِنَا
وَمُحَرَّمٌ عَلَىٰ أَرْوَاجِنَا)

(What is in the bellies of such and such cattle is for our males alone, and forbidden to our females.) 6:139 Allah said,

(نَبِّؤَنِي بِعِلْمٍ إِن كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ)

(Inform me with knowledge if you are truthful.) meaning, tell me with sure knowledge, how and when did Allah prohibit what you claimed is prohibited, such as the Bahirah, Sa'ibah, Wasilah and Ham etc. Al-`Awfi said that Ibn `Abbas said, "Allah's statement,

(تَمَنِيَةَ أَزْوَاجٍ مِّنَ الضَّأْنِ اثْنَيْنِ وَمِنَ الْمَعْزِ
اثْنَيْنِ)

(Eight pairs: of the sheep two, and of the goats two...) these are four pairs,

(قُلْ ءَأَلذَّكَرَيْنِ حَرَّمَ أَمِ الْأُنثَيَيْنِ)

(Say: "Has He forbidden the two males or the two females...") I (Allah) did not prohibit any of these.

(أَمَّا اشْتَمَلَتْ عَلَيْهِ أَرْحَامُ الْأُنثَيَيْنِ)

(or (the young) which the wombs of the two females enclose) and does the womb produce but males and females So why do you prohibit some and allow some others

(نَبِّؤَنِي بِعِلْمٍ إِن كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ)

(Inform me with knowledge if you are truthful.) Allah is saying that all of this is allowed." Allah said,

(أَمْ كُنْتُمْ شُهَدَاءَ إِذْ وَصَّكُمْ اللَّهُ بِهَذَا)

(Or, were you present when Allah ordered you such a thing) mocking the idolators' innovations, and their lies that Allah made sacred what they have prohibited.

(فَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنْ افْتَرَى عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا لِيُضِلَّ
النَّاسَ بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ)

(Then who does more wrong than one who invents a lie against Allah, to lead mankind astray without knowledge.) Therefore, no one is more unjust than the people described here and

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ)

(Certainly, Allah guides not the people who are wrongdoers.) The person most worthy of this condemnation is `Amr bin Luhay bin Qum`ah. He was the first person to change the religion of the Prophets and designate the Sa'ibah, Wasilah and Ham, as mentioned in the Sahih.

(قُلْ لَا أَجِدُ فِي مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيَّ مُحَرَّمًا عَلَى طَاعِمٍ
يَطْعَمُهُ إِلَّا أَنْ يَكُونَ مَيْتَةً أَوْ دَمًا مَسْفُوحًا أَوْ لَحْمَ
خِنْزِيرٍ فَإِنَّهُ رَجْسٌ أَوْ فِسْقًا أُهْلًا لِغَيْرِ اللَّهِ بِهِ
فَمَنْ اضْطُرَّ غَيْرَ بَاغٍ وَلَا عَادٍ فَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ غَفُورٌ
رَّحِيمٌ)

(145. Say: "I find not in that which has been revealed to me anything forbidden to be eaten by one who wishes to eat it, unless it be Maytah (a dead animal) or blood poured forth, or the flesh of swine; for that surely, is unclean (Rijs), or immorally slaughtered in the name of other than Allah. But whosoever is forced by necessity without willful disobedience, nor transgressing due limits; (for him) certainly, your Lord is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.")

Forbidden Things

Allah commands His servant and Messenger, Muhammad ,

(قُلْ)

(Say) O Muhammad to those who prohibited what Allah has provided them, claiming this falsehood to be from Allah,

(لَا أُجِدُ فِي مَا أُوْحِيَ إِلَيَّ مُحْرَمًا عَلَى طَاعِمٍ
يَطْعَمُهُ)

(I find not in that which has been revealed to me anything forbidden to be eaten by one who wishes to eat it,) This Ayah means, I do not find any animals that are prohibited, except these mentioned here. We should mention here that the prohibited things mentioned in Surat Al-Ma'idah and the Hadiths on this subject amend the meaning of this Ayah.

(أَوْ دَمًا مَّسْفُوحًا)

(or blood poured.) Qatadah commented, "Poured blood was prohibited, but the meat that still has some blood in it is allowed." Al-Humaydi said that Sufyan narrated to us that `Amr bin Dinar narrated to us, "I said to Jabir bin `Abdullah, `They claim that the Messenger of Allah prohibited the meat of donkeys during (the day of) Khaybar.' He said, `Al-Hakam bin `Amr narrated that from the Messenger of Allah . That scholar - refering to Ibn `Abbas - denied it, reciting the Ayah;

(قُلْ لَا أُجِدُ فِي مَا أُوْحِيَ إِلَيَّ مُحْرَمًا عَلَى طَاعِمٍ
يَطْعَمُهُ)

(Say: "I find not in that which has been revealed to me anything forbidden to be eaten by one who wishes to eat it...)" Al-Bukhari and Abu Dawud collected it. Abu Bakr bin Marduyah and Al-Hakim, in his Mustadrak, recorded that Ibn `Abbas said, "During the time of Jahiliyyah, the people used to eat some things and avoid some other things, because they disliked them. Later on, Allah sent His Prophet , revealed His Book, allowed what He allowed, and prohibited what He prohibited. Therefore, whatever Allah allowed is lawful and whatever He prohibited is unlawful. Whatever He did not mention, there is no sin in it." He then recited the Ayah,

(قُلْ لَا أُجِدُ فِي مَا أُوْحِيَ إِلَيَّ مُحْرَمًا عَلَى طَاعِمٍ
يَطْعَمُهُ)

(Say: "I find not in that which has been revealed to me anything forbidden to be eaten by one who wishes to eat it...") This is the wording with Ibn Marduyah. Abu Dawud also recorded this

statement, and Al-Hakim said, "Its chain is Sahih and they did not record it." Imam Ahmad recorded that Ibn ` Abbas said, "A sheep belonging to Sawdah bint Zam` ah died and she said, ` O Allah's Messenger! So-and-so (sheep) has died.' He said,

«قَلِمَ لَّا أَخَذْتُمْ مَسْكَهَا؟»

(Why did you not use its skin) She said, ` Should we use the skin of a sheep that has died' Allah's Messenger said,

«إِنَّمَا قَالَ اللَّهُ:

قُلْ لَا أُجِدُ فِي مَا أُوْحِيَ إِلَيَّ مُحَرَّمًا عَلَى طَاعِمٍ
يَطْعَمُهُ إِلَّا أَنْ يَكُونَ مَيْتَةً أَوْ دَمًا مَسْفُوحًا أَوْ لَحْمَ
خِنزِيرٍ)

وَإِنَّكُمْ لَّا تَطْعَمُونَهُ أَنْ تَذَبَعُوهُ فَتَنْتَفِعُوا بِهِ»

(Allah only said, (Say: "I find not in that which has been revealed to me anything forbidden to be eaten by one who wishes to eat it, except Maytah (a dead animal) or blood poured forth, or the flesh of swine....) You will not be eating it if you tan its skin and benefit from it.) So she had the sheep skinned, the skin was tanned and made into a water skin that she kept until it wore out." Al-Bukhari and an-Nasa'i collected a similar Hadith. Allah said,

(فَمَنْ اضْطُرَّ غَيْرَ بَاغٍ وَلَا عَادٍ)

(But whosoever is forced by necessity without willful disobedience, nor transgressing due limits;) Therefore, whoever is forced by necessity to eat anything that Allah has forbidden in this honorable Ayah, without transgressing his limits, then for him,

(فَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ)

(certainly, your Lord is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.) We mentioned the explanation of this Ayah in Surat Al-Baqarah. This honorable Ayah contradicts the idolators' innovated prohibitions for certain kinds of wealth, relying merely on their misguided ideas, such as the Bahirah, Sa'ibah, Wasilah and Ham. Allah commanded His Messenger to inform them that he does not find that such types of animals are prohibited in what Allah revealed to him. In this Ayah, Allah only prohibited dead animals, poured blood, the flesh of swine and what has been slaughtered

for something other than Allah. Other things were not prohibited here, but rather treated as that which does not have a ruling, i.e., permissible. Therefore, how do you -- idolators -- claim that such items are prohibited, and why did you prohibit them when Allah did not prohibit them

(وَعَلَى الَّذِينَ هَادُوا حَرَّمْنَا كُلَّ ذِي ظُفْرٍ وَمِنَ الْبَقَرِ وَالْغَنَمِ حَرَّمْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ شُحُومَهُمَا إِلَّا مَا حَمَلَتْ ظُهُورُهُمَا أَوْ الْحَوَايَا أَوْ مَا اخْتَلَطَ بِعَظْمٍ ذَلِكَ جَزَيْنَهُمْ بِبَغْيِهِمْ وَإِنَّا لَصَادِقُونَ)

(146. And unto those who are Jews, We forbade every (animal) with undivided hoof, and We forbade them the fat of the ox and the sheep except what adheres to their backs or their Hawaya, or is mixed up with a bone. Thus We recompensed them for their rebellion. And verily, We are Truthful.)

Foods that were Prohibited for the Jews Because of their Transgression

Allah says, We forbade for the Jews every bird and animal with undivided hoof, such as the camel, ostrich, duck and goose. Allah said here,

(وَمِنَ الْبَقَرِ وَالْغَنَمِ حَرَّمْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ شُحُومَهُمَا)

(and We forbade them the fat of the ox and the sheep...) The Jews used to forbid these types of foods saying that Isra'il, or Ya`qub, used to forbid them for himself so they too forbid them. This was mentioned by As-Suddi. `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported that Ibn `Abbas said that,

(إِلَّا مَا حَمَلَتْ ظُهُورُهُمَا)

(except what adheres to their backs) refers to the fat that clings to their backs. Allah said next,

(أَوْ الْحَوَايَا)

(or their Hawaya) that is, the entrails, according to Abu Ja`far bin Jarir. He also said, "The meaning here is, `And from ox and sheep, We forbade their fat for the Jews, except the fat on their backs and what the entrails carry." `Ali bin Abi Talhah said that, Ibn `Abbas said that the, Hawaya, are the entrails. Similar was reported from Mujahid, Sa`id bin Jubayr and Ad-Dahhak. Allah's statement,

(أَوْ مَا اخْتَلَطَ بِعَظْمٍ)

(...or is mixed up with a bone.) means, We allowed the Jews the fat that is mixed with bones. Ibn Jurayj commented, "The fat on the rump that is mixed with the tailbone was allowed for them, and also the fat on the legs, head, eyes and what adheres to the bones." As-Suddi said similarly. Allah said,

(ذَلِكَ جَزَيْنَهُمْ بِبَعْغِهِمْ)

(Thus We recompensed them for their rebellion.) meaning, We imposed this restriction on them as recompense for their rebellion and defying Our commandments. Allah said in another Ayah,

(فَبِظُلْمٍ مِّنَ الَّذِينَ هَادُوا حَرَّمْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ طَيِّبَاتٍ
أُحِلَّتْ لَهُمْ وَبِصَدِّهِمْ عَنِ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ كَثِيرًا)

(For the wrongdoing of the Jews, We made unlawful for them certain good foods which had been lawful for them -- and for their hindering many from Allah's way) 4:160 . Allah's statement,

(وَإِنَّا لَصَادِقُونَ)

(And verily, We are Truthful.) means, We were justified in the penalty We gave them. Ibn Jarir commented, "We are Truthful in what We informed you of, O Muhammad; Our forbidding these foods for them, not as they claimed, that Israel merely forbade these things for himself (so they imitated him, they claimed)."

The Tricks of the Jews, and Allah's Curse

Abdullah bin `Abbas narrated, "When `Umar bin Al-Khattab was told that Samurah sold liquor, he commented, `May Allah fight Samurah! Did he not know that the Messenger of Allah said,

«لَعَنَ اللَّهُ الْيَهُودَ حُرِّمَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ الشُّحُومُ فَجَمَلُوهَا
فَبَاعُوهَا»

(May Allah curse the Jews! The fats were forbidden for them, so they melted the fat and sold it.)" This Hadith is recorded in the Two Sahihs. Jabir bin `Abdullah said, "In the year of the victory of Makkah, I heard Allah's Messenger saying;

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ حَرَّمَ بَيْعَ الْخَمْرِ وَالْمَيْتَةِ
وَالْخَنزِيرِ وَالْأَصْنَامِ»

(Allah and His Messenger have forbidden selling alcoholic drinks (intoxicants), dead animals, swine and idols.) He was asked, `What about the fat of dead animals They are used to dye skins, paint ships and are used as light by the people.' He said,

«لَا هُوَ حَرَامٌ»

(No, it is still unlawful.) He then said,

«قَاتِلَ اللَّهُ الْيَهُودَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَّا حَرَّمَ عَلَيْهِمْ شُحُومَهَا
جَمَلَوْهُ ثُمَّ بَاعُوهُ وَأَكَلُوا ثَمَنَهُ»

(May Allah fight the Jews! When Allah forbade them the fats of animals, they melted the fat, sold it and ate its price.)" The Group recorded this Hadith.

(فَإِنْ كَذَّبُوكَ فَقُلْ رَبُّكُمْ ذُو رَحْمَةٍ وَسِعَةٍ وَلَا يُرَدُّ
بَأْسُهُ عَنِ الْقَوْمِ الْمُجْرِمِينَ)

(147. If they deny you say: "Your Lord is the Owner of vast mercy, and never will His wrath be turned back from the people who are criminals.") Allah says, if your opponents among the idolators, Jews and their likes reject you, O Muhammad,

(قُلْ رَبُّكُمْ ذُو رَحْمَةٍ وَسِعَةٍ)

(Say: "Your Lord is the Owner of vast mercy...") encouraging them to seek Allah's vast mercy and follow His Messenger ,

(وَلَا يُرَدُّ بَأْسُهُ عَنِ الْقَوْمِ الْمُجْرِمِينَ)

(and never will His wrath be turned back from the people who are criminals.) discouraging them from defying the Messenger, the Final Prophet, Muhammad . Allah often joins encouragement with threats in the Qur'an. Allah said at the end of this Surah:

(إِنَّ رَبَّكَ سَرِيعُ الْعِقَابِ وَإِنَّهُ لَغَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ)

(Surely, your Lord is swift in retribution, and certainly He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.)
6:165 Allah also said,

(وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَدُوٌّ مَعْفِرَةٌ لِلنَّاسِ عَلَى ظُلْمِهِمْ وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَشَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ)

(But verily, your Lord is full of forgiveness for mankind in spite of their wrongdoing. And verily, your Lord is (also) severe in punishment.) 13:6 , and

(نَبِيٌّ عِبَادِي أَنِّي أَنَا الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ - وَأَنَّ عَذَابِي هُوَ الْعَذَابُ الْأَلِيمُ)

(Declare unto My servants, that truly, I am the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful. And that My torment is indeed the most painful torment.) 15:49-50 , and

(غَافِرِ الذَّنْبِ وَقَابِلِ التَّوْبِ شَدِيدِ الْعِقَابِ)

(The Forgiver of sin, the Acceptor of repentance, the Severe in punishment.) 40:3 and,

(إِنَّ بَطْشَ رَبِّكَ لَشَدِيدٌ - إِنَّهُ هُوَ يُبْدِيهِ وَيُعِيدُ - وَهُوَ الْغَفُورُ الْوَدُودُ)

(Verily, the punishment of your Lord is severe and painful. Verily, He it is Who begins and repeats. And He is Oft-Forgiving, full of love.) 85:12-14 . There are many other Ayat on this subject.

(سَيَقُولُ الَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا لَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مَا أَشْرَكْنَا وَلَا آبَاؤُنَا وَلَا حَرَمْنَا مِنْ شَيْءٍ كَذَلِكَ كَذَّبَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ حَتَّى دَاقُوا بِأَسْنَا قُلْ هَلْ عِنْدَكُمْ

مَنْ عِلْمٍ فَخُذْ جُوهَ لَنَا إِنْ تَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا الظَّنَّ وَإِنْ أَنْتُمْ إِلَّا تَخْرُصُونَ - قُلْ فَلِلَّهِ الْحُجَّةُ الْبَلِيغَةُ فَلَوْ شَاءَ لَهَدَاكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ - قُلْ هَلْ مِنْكُمْ شَهِدَاءُ الَّذِينَ يَشْهَدُونَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ حَرَّمَ هَذَا فَإِنْ شَهِدُوا فَلَا تَشْهَدُوا مَعَهُمْ وَلَا تَتَّبِعِ أَهْوَاءَ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَالَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ وَهُمْ بِرَبِّهِمْ يَعْدِلُونَ)

(148. Those who committed Shirk say: "If Allah had willed, we would not have committed Shirk, nor would our fathers, and we would not have forbidden anything (against His will)." Likewise belied those who were before them, till they tasted Our wrath. Say: "Have you any knowledge (proof) that you can produce before us Verily, you follow the Zann and you do nothing but lie.") (149. Say: "With Allah is the perfect proof and argument; had He so willed, He would indeed have guided you all.") (150. Say: "Bring forward your witnesses, who can testify that Allah has forbidden this." Then if they testify, do not testify with them. And do not follow the vain desires of those who belie Our Ayat, and such as believe not in the Hereafter, and they hold others as equal with their Lord.)

A False Notion and its Rebuttal

Here Allah mentioned a debate with the idolators, refuting a false notion they have over their Shirk and the things that they prohibited. They said, surely, Allah has full knowledge of the Shirk we indulge in, and that we forbid some kinds of wealth. Allah is able to change this Shirk by directing us to the faith, - they claimed - and prevent us from falling into disbelief, but He did not do that. Therefore - they said Allah indicated that He willed, decided and agreed that we do all this. They said,

(لَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مَا أَشْرَكْنَا وَلَا حَرَّمْنَا مِنْ شَيْءٍ)

("If Allah had willed, we would not have taken partners (in worship) with Him, nor would our fathers, and we would not have forbidden anything.") Allah said in another Ayah,

(وَقَالُوا لَوْ شَاءَ الرَّحْمَنُ مَا عَبَدْنَاهُمْ)

(And they said: "If it had been the will of the Most Gracious (Allah), we should not have worshipped them (false deities)") 43:20 . Similar is mentioned in Surat An-Nahl. Allah said next,

(كَذَلِكَ كَذَّبَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ)

(Likewise belied those who were before them,) for by using and relying on this understanding, the misguided ones before them were led astray. This notion is false and ungrounded, for had it been true, Allah would not have harmed them, destroyed them, aided His honorable Messengers over them, and made them taste His painful punishment.

(قُلْ هَلْ عِندَكُمْ مِّنْ عِلْمٍ)

(Say: "Have you any knowledge...") that Allah is pleased with you and with your ways,

(فَتُخْرِجُوهُ لَنَا)

(that you can produce before us.) and make it plain, apparent and clear for us. However,

(إِن تَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا الظَّنَّ)

(Verily, you only follow the Zann) doubts and wishful thinking,

(وَإِن أَنْتُمْ إِلَّا تَخْرُصُونَ)

(and you do nothing but lie) about Allah in the false claims that you utter. Allah said next,

(قُلْ فَلِلَّهِ الْحُجَّةُ الْبَلِيغَةُ فَلَوْ شَاءَ لَهَدَاكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ

(

(Say: "With Allah is the perfect proof and argument; had He so willed, He would indeed have guided you all.") Allah said to His Prophet

(قُلْ)

(Say) O Muhammad, to them,

(فَلِلَّهِ الْحُجَّةُ الْبَلِيغَةُ)

("With Allah is the perfect proof and argument. ...") the perfect wisdom and unequivocal proof to guide whom He wills and misguide whom He wills.

(قُلُوبُ شَاءَ لِهَدَاكُمُ أَجْمَعِينَ)

(had He so willed, He would indeed have guided you all.) All of this happens according to His decree, His will, and His choice. So in this way, He is pleased with the believers, and angry with the disbelievers. Allah said in other Ayat,

(وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَجَمَعَهُمْ عَلَى الْهُدَى)

(And had Allah willed, He could have gathered them together (all) on true guidance,) 6:35 and

(وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ لَأَمَنَّ مِنَ فِي الْأَرْضِ)

(And had your Lord willed, those on earth would have believed, all of them together.) 10:99 and,

(وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ لَجَعَلَ النَّاسَ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَلَا يَزَالُونَ مُخْتَلِفِينَ)

إِلَّا مَنْ رَحِمَ رَبُّكَ وَلِذَلِكَ خَلَقَهُمْ وَتَمَّتْ كَلِمَةُ رَبِّكَ
لَأَمْلَأَنَّ جَهَنَّمَ مِنَ الْجِنَّةِ وَالنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ-

(And if your Lord had so willed, He could surely have made mankind one Ummah, but they will not cease to disagree. Except him on whom your Lord has bestowed His mercy and for that did He create them. And the Word of your Lord has been fulfilled: "Surely, I shall fill Hell with Jinns and men all together.") 11:118-119 Ad-Dahhak said, "No one has an excuse if he disobeys Allah. Surely, Allah has the perfect proof established against His servants." Allah said,

(قُلْ هَلْ مَشِئْتُمْ شُهَدَاءَكُمْ)

(Bring forward your witnesses,) produce your witnesses,

(الَّذِينَ يَشْهَدُونَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ حَرَّمَ هَذَا)

(who can testify that Allah has forbidden this.) which you have forbidden and lied and invented about Allah in this regard,

(فَإِنْ شَهِدُوا فَلَا تَشْهَدْ مَعَهُمْ)

(Then if they testify, do not testify with them.) because in this case, their testimony is false and untrue,

(وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَالَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ وَهُمْ يَرْبِّبُهُمْ يَعْدِلُونَ)

(And do not follow the vain desires of those who belie Our Ayat, and such as believe not in the Hereafter, and they hold others as equal with their Lord.) by associating others with Allah in worship and treating them as equals to Him.

(قُلْ تَعَالَوْا أَتْلُ مَا حَرَّمَ رَبُّكُمْ عَلَيْكُمْ أَلَّا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا وَيَالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ مَنْ إِمْلَاقٍ نَحْنُ نَرْزُقُكُمْ وَإِيَّاهُمْ وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا الْفَوَاحِشَ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ ذَلِكُمْ وَصَّكُمْ بِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ)

(151. Say: "Come, I will recite what your Lord has prohibited you from: Join not anything in worship with Him; be kind and dutiful to your parents; kill not your children because of poverty -- We provide sustenance for you and for them. Come not near to Al-Fawahish (immoral sins) whether committed openly or secretly; and kill not anyone whom Allah has forbidden, except for a just cause. This He has commanded you that you may understand.")

Ten Commandments

Dawud Al-Awdy narrated that, Ash-Sha`bi said that, `Alqamah said that Ibn Mas`ud said, "Whoever wishes to read the will and testament of the Messenger of Allah on which he placed his seal, let him read these Ayat,

(قُلْ تَعَالَوْا أَتْلُ مَا حَرَّمَ رَبُّكُمْ عَلَيْكُمْ أَلَّا تُشْرِكُوا
بِهِ شَيْئًا)

(Say: "Come, I will recite what your Lord has prohibited you from: Join not anything in worship with Him...") until,

(لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ)

(...so that you may have Taqwa) 6:153 ." In his Mustadrak, Al-Hakim recorded that Ibn `Abbas said, "In Surah Al-An`am 6 , there are clear Ayat, and they are the Mother of the Book (the Qur'an)." He then recited,

(قُلْ تَعَالَوْا أَتْلُ مَا حَرَّمَ رَبُّكُمْ عَلَيْكُمْ)

(Say: "Come, I will recite what your Lord has prohibited you from...") Al-Hakim said, "Its chain is Sahih, and they did not record it." In his Mustadrak Al-Hakim also recorded that `Ubadah bin As-Samit said, "The Messenger of Allah said,

«أَيْكُمْ يُبَايِعُنِي عَلَى ثَلَاثَ»

(Who among you will give me his pledge to do three things) He then recited the Ayah,

(قُلْ تَعَالَوْا أَتْلُ مَا حَرَّمَ رَبُّكُمْ عَلَيْكُمْ)

(Say: "Come, I will recite what your Lord has prohibited you from...") until the end of the Ayat. He then said,

«فَمَنْ وَفَى فَأَجْرُهُ عَلَى اللَّهِ وَمَنْ انْتَقَصَ مِنْهُنَّ
شَيْئًا فَأَدْرَكَهُ اللَّهُ بِهِ فِي الدُّنْيَا كَانَتْ عُقُوبَتُهُ،

وَمَنْ أَحْرَأَ إِلَى الْآخِرَةِ فَأَمْرُهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ إِنْ شَاءَ
عَذَّبَهُ وَإِنْ شَاءَ عَفَا عَنْهُ»

(Whoever fulfills (this pledge), then his reward will be with Allah, but whoever fell into shortcomings and Allah punishes him for it in this life, then that will be his recompense. Whoever Allah delays (his reckoning) until the Hereafter, then his matter is with Allah. If He wills, He will punish him, and if He wills, He will forgive him.)" Al-Hakim said, "Its chain is Sahih and they did not record it." As for the explanation of this Ayah, Allah said to His Prophet and Messenger Muhammad : Say, O Muhammad, to those idolators who worshipped other than Allah, forbade what Allah provided them with and killed their children, following their opinions and the lures of the devils,'

(قُلْ)

(Say) to them

(تَعَالَوْا)

(Come) come here, come close

(أَنْتُمْ مَا حَرَّمَ رَبُّكُمْ عَلَيْكُمْ)

(I will recite what your Lord has prohibited you from.) meaning, I will inform you about what your Lord has forbidden for you in truth, not guessing or wishful thinking. Rather, it is revelation and an order from Him.

Shirk is Forbidden

(أَلَّا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا)

(Join not anything in worship with Him;) this Allah has ordained, for He said at the end of the Ayah,

(ذَلِكُمْ وَصَّكُم بِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ)

(This He has commanded you that you may understand.) In the the Two Sahihs, it is recorded that Abu Dharr said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«أَتَانِي جِبْرِيلُ فَبَشَّرَنِي أَنَّهُ مَنْ مَاتَ لَا يُشْرِكُ
بِاللَّهِ شَيْئًا مِنْ أُمَّتِكَ دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ، قُلْتُ وَإِنْ زَنَى
وَإِنْ سَرَقَ؟ قَالَ: وَإِنْ زَنَى وَإِنْ سَرَقَ، قُلْتُ:
وَإِنْ زَنَى وَإِنْ سَرَقَ؟ قَالَ: وَإِنْ زَنَى وَإِنْ
سَرَقَ، قُلْتُ: وَإِنْ زَنَى وَإِنْ سَرَقَ؟ قَالَ: وَإِنْ
زَنَى وَإِنْ سَرَقَ وَإِنْ شَرِبَ الْخَمْرَ»

(Jibril came to me and conveyed the good news that, "Whoever among your followers dies, worshipping none along with Allah, will enter Paradise." I said, "Even if he stole or committed illegal sexual intercourse" He said, "Even if he stole or committed illegal sexual intercourse." I said, "Even if he stole or committed illegal sexual intercourse" He said, "Even if he stole or committed illegal sexual intercourse" He said, "Even if he stole or committed illegal sexual intercourse" He said, "Even if he stole or committed illegal sexual intercourse or even if drank alcohol.") Some of the Musnad and Sunan compilers recorded that Abu Dharr said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«يَقُولُ تَعَالَى: يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ إِنَّكَ مَا دَعَوْتَنِي
وَرَجَوْتَنِي فَأِنِّي أَغْفِرُ لَكَ عَلَى مَا كَانَ مِنْكَ وَلَا
أَبَالِي، وَلَوْ أَتَيْتَنِي بِقَرَابِ الْأَرْضِ خَطِيئَةً أَتَيْتَكَ
بِقَرَابِهَا مَغْفِرَةً مَا لَمْ تُشْرِكْ بِي شَيْئًا، وَإِنْ
أَخْطَأْتَ حَتَّى تَبْلُغَ خَطَايَاكَ عَنَانَ السَّمَاءِ ثُمَّ
اسْتَغْفَرْتَنِي غَفَرْتُ لَكَ»

(Allah said, `O Son of Adam! As long as you supplicate to Me and hope of Me, I will forgive whatever you committed, and it will be easy for Me to do that. And even if you brought the earth's fill of sins to Me, I will bring forth its fill of forgiveness, as long as you do not associate anything or anyone in worship with Me. And even if you err and your errors accumulate until

they reach the boundaries of the sky and you then ask Me for forgiveness, I will forgive you.)
This subject is also mentioned in the Qur'an, for Allah said,

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ
ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ

(Verily, Allah forgives not (the sin of) setting up partners (in worship) with Him, but He forgives whom He wills, sins other than that.) 4:116 Muslim recorded a Hadith in the Sahih that reads,

«مَنْ مَاتَ لَا يُشْرِكُ بِاللَّهِ شَيْئًا دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ»

(Whoever dies associating none with Allah will enter Paradise.) There are many Ayat and Hadiths on this subject.

The Order for Kindness to Parents

Allah said next,

وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا

(be kind and dutiful to your parents;) meaning, Allah has commanded and ordered you to be kind to your parents. Allah said in another Ayah,

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ
إِحْسَانًا

(And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him. And that you be dutiful to your parents.) 17:23 Allah often mentions obeying Him and being dutiful to parents together. Allah said,

وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُ وَهْنًا عَلَىٰ
وَهْنٍ وَفِصَالَهُ فِي عَامَيْنِ أَنْ اشْكُرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيْكَ
إِلَى الْمَصِيرِ - وَإِنْ جَهَدَاكَ عَلَىٰ أَنْ تُشْرِكَ بِي

مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ فَلَا تُطِعْهُمَا وَصَاحِبُهُمَا فِي
الدُّنْيَا مَعْرُوفًا وَاتَّبِعْ سَبِيلَ مَنْ أَنَابَ إِلَيَّ ثُمَّ إِلَيَّ
مَرْجِعُكُمْ فَأُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ)

(Give thanks to Me and to your parents. Unto Me is the final destination. But if they (both) strive with you to make you join in worship with Me others that of which you have no knowledge, then obey them not; but behave with them in this world kindly, and follow the path of him who turns to Me in repentance and in obedience. Then to Me will be your return, and I shall tell you what you used to do.) 31:14-15 Therefore, Allah ordered children to be dutiful and kind to their parents, even if they were idolators. Allah also said,

وَإِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِيثَاقَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ لَا تَعْبُدُونَ إِلَّا
اللَّهَ وَيَالِوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا)

(And (remember) when We took a covenant from the Children of Israel, (saying): Worship none but Allah and be dutiful and kind to parents.) 2:83 There are several Ayat on this subject. It is recorded in the Two Sahihs that Ibn Mas`ud said, "I asked Allah's Messenger about which deed is the best. He said,

«الصَّلَاةُ عَلَى وَقْتِهَا»

(The prayer, when it is performed on time.) I said, `Then' He said,

«بِرُّ الْوَالِدَيْنِ»

(Being dutiful to parents.) I asked, `Then' He said,

«الْجِهَادُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ»

(Jihad in Allah's cause.) Ibn Mas`ud said, "The Messenger of Allah said these words to me, and had I asked him for more, he would have said more."

Killing Children is Forbidden

Allah said,

وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ مِّنْ إِمْلَاقٍ نَّحْنُ نَرْزُقُكُمْ
وَإِيَّاهُمْ)

(Kill not your children because of poverty, We shall provide sustenance for you and for them.)
After Allah commanded kindness to parents and grandparents, He next ordered kindness to
children and grandchildren. Allah said,

وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ مِّنْ إِمْلَاقٍ)

(kill not your children because of poverty,) because the idolators used to kill their children,
obeying the lures of the devils. They used to bury their daughters alive for fear of shame, and
sometimes kill their sons for fear of poverty. It is recorded in the Two Sahih that `Abdullah bin
Mas`ud said, "I asked the Messenger of Allah , `Which sin is the biggest' He said,

«أَنْ تَجْعَلَ لِلَّهِ نِدًّا وَهُوَ خَلَقَكَ»

(To call a rival for Allah, while He Alone created you.) I said, `Then what' He said,

«أَنْ تَقْتُلَ وَلَدَكَ خَشْيَةَ أَنْ يَطْعَمَ مَعَكَ»

(To kill your son for fear that he might share your food.) I said, `Then what' He said,

«أَنْ تُزَانِيَ حَلِيلَةَ جَارِكَ»

(To commit adultery with your neighbor's wife.) Then the Messenger of Allah recited the Ayah,

وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَدْعُونَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ وَلَا
يَقْتُلُونَ النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَلَا
يَزْنُونَ)

(And those who invoke not any other god along with Allah, nor kill such person as Allah has
forbidden, except for just cause, nor commit illegal sexual intercourse...) 25:68 ." Allah's
statement,

(مَنْ إِمْلَقِ)

(Because of Imlaq) refers to poverty, according to Ibn `Abbas, Qatadah, As-Suddi and others. The Ayah means, do not kill your children because you are poor. Allah said in Surat Al-Isra',

(وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ خَشْيَةَ إِمْلَاقٍ)

(And do not kill your children for fear from Imlaq.) 17:31 , that is, do not kill your children for fear that you might become poor in the future. This is why Allah said,

(نَحْنُ نَرْزُقُهُمْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ)

(We shall provide sustenance for them and for you) 17:31 , thus mentioning the provision of the children first, meaning, do not fear poverty because of feeding your children. Certainly, their provision is provided by Allah. Allah said,

(نَحْنُ نَرْزُقُكُمْ وَإِيَّاهُمْ)

(We provide sustenance for you and for them,) thus starting with parents, because this is the appropriate subject here and Allah knows. Allah said next,

(وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا الْفَوَاحِشَ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ)

(Come not near Al-Fawahish (immoral sins) whether committed openly or secretly) Allah said in a similar Ayah,

(قُلْ إِنَّمَا حَرَّمَ رَبِّيَ الْفَوَاحِشَ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ وَالْإِثْمَ وَالْبَغْيَ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَأَنْ تُشْرِكُوا بِاللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يُنَزَّلْ بِهِ سُلْطَانًا وَأَنْ تَقُولُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ)

(Say: "(But) the things that my Lord has indeed forbidden are Al-Fawahish (immoral sins) whether committed openly or secretly, sins (of all kinds), unrighteous oppression, joining partners (in worship) with Allah for which He has given no authority, and saying things about

Allah of which you have no knowledge.") 7:33 We also explained this meaning in the explanation of the Ayah,

(وَدَرُّوا ظَهْرَ الْإِثْمِ وَبَاطِنَهُ)

(Leave sin, open and secret) 6:120 . The Two Sahihs recorded that Ibn Mas`ud said that the Messenger of Allah said,

**«لَا أَحَدٌ أَغْيَرَ مِنَ اللَّهِ، مِنْ أَجْلِ ذَلِكَ حَرَّمَ
الْفَوَاحِشَ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَّنَ»**

(None is more jealous than Allah. This is why He has forbidden the immoral sins committed openly or secretly.) `Abdul-Malik bin `Umayr said that Warrad narrated that Al-Mughirah said that Sa`d bin `Ubadah said, "If I see a man with my wife (committing adultery), I will kill him with the sword." When the matter came to the Messenger of Allah , he said,

**«أَتَعْجَبُونَ مِنْ غَيْرَةِ سَعْدٍ؟ فَوَاللَّهِ لَأَنَا أَغْيَرُ مِنْ
سَعْدٍ، وَاللَّهُ أَغْيَرُ مِنِّي، مِنْ أَجْلِ ذَلِكَ حَرَّمَ
الْفَوَاحِشَ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَّنَ»**

(Do you wonder at Sa`d's jealousy By Allah, I am more jealous than Sa`d, and Allah is more jealous than I. This is why He has forbidden the immoral sins committed openly and in secret.) This Hadith is in the Two Sahihs).

The Prohibition of Unjustified Killing

Allah said,

(وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ)

(And kill not anyone whom Allah has forbidden, except for a just cause (according to Islamic law).) This part of the Ayah emphasizes this prohibition in specific, although it is included in the immoral sins committed openly and in secret. In the Two Sahihs, it is recorded that Ibn Mas`ud said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«لَا يَحِلُّ دَمُ امْرِئٍ مُسْلِمٍ يَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ
وَأَنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ، إِلَّا بِأَحَدِي ثَلَاثٍ: النَّيْبُ
الزَّانِي، وَالنَّفْسُ بِالنَّفْسِ، وَالتَّارِكُ لِدِينِهِ الْمُفَارِقُ
لِلْجَمَاعَةِ»

(The blood of a Muslim person who testifies that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah and that I am the Messenger of Allah is prohibited, except for three offenses: a married person who commits illegal sexual intercourse, life for life, and whoever reverts from the religion and abandons the Jama`ah (the community of faithful believers).) There is a prohibition, a warning and a threat against killing the Mu`ahid, i.e., non-Muslims who have a treaty of peace with Muslims. Al-Bukhari recorded that `Abdullah bin `Amr said that the Prophet said,

«مَنْ قَتَلَ مُعَاهِدًا لَمْ يَرِحْ رَائِحَةَ الْجَنَّةِ، وَإِنَّ
رِيحَهَا لِيُوجَدُ مِنْ مَسِيرَةِ أَرْبَعِينَ عَامًا»

(Whoever killed a person having a treaty of protection with Muslims, shall not smell the scent of Paradise, though its scent is perceived from a distance of forty years.) Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Prophet said,

«مَنْ قَتَلَ مُعَاهِدًا لَهُ ذِمَّةُ اللَّهِ وَذِمَّةُ رَسُولِهِ فَقَدْ
أَخْفَرَ بِذِمَّةِ اللَّهِ، فَلَا يَرِحْ رَائِحَةَ الْجَنَّةِ، وَإِنَّ
رِيحَهَا لِيُوجَدُ مِنْ مَسِيرَةِ سَبْعِينَ خَرِيفًا»

(Whoever killed a person having a treaty of protection with the Muslims, and who enjoys the guarantee of Allah and His Messenger, he will have spoiled the guarantee of Allah for him . He shall not smell the scent of Paradise though its smell is perceived from a distance of seventy years.) Ibn Majah and At-Tirmidhi recorded this Hadith, and At-Tirmidhi said, "Hasan Sahih." Allah's statement,

(ذَلِكُمْ وَصَّكُمْ بِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ)

(This He has commanded you that you may understand.) means, this is what He has commanded you that you may comprehend His commandments and prohibitions.

وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا مَالَ الْيَتِيمِ إِلَّا بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ حَتَّى
يَبْلُغَ أَشُدَّهُ وَأَوْفُوا الْكَيْلَ وَالْمِيزَانَ بِالْقِسْطِ لَا
تُكَلِّفُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا وَإِذَا قُلْتُمْ فَاعْدُوا وَلَوْ كَانَ
ذَا قُرْبَىٰ وَبِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ أَوْفُوا ذَلِكُمْ وَصَّكُمْ بِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ
تَذَكَّرُونَ)

(152. "And come not near to the orphan's property, except to improve it, until he (or she) attains the age of full strength; and give full measure and full weight with justice." -- We burden not any person, but that which he can bear -- "And whenever you speak, say the truth even if a near relative is concerned, and fulfill the covenant of Allah. This He commands you, that you may remember.")

The Prohibition of Consuming the Orphan's Property

Ata' bin As-Sa'ib said that Sa`id bin Jubayr said that Ibn `Abbas said, "When Allah revealed,

وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا مَالَ الْيَتِيمِ إِلَّا بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ)

(And come not near to the orphan's property, except to improve it.) and,

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَأْكُلُونَ أَمْوَالَ الْيَتَامَىٰ ظُلْمًا)

(Verily, those who unjustly eat up the property of orphans.) those who were guardians of orphans separated their food from the orphans' food and their drink from their drink. When any of that food or drink remained, they used to keep it for the orphan until he or she ate it or it spoiled. This became difficult for the companions and they talked about it to the Messenger of Allah , and Allah sent down the Ayah,

وَيَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْيَتَامَىٰ قُلْ إِصْلَاحٌ لَّهُمْ خَيْرٌ
وَإِنْ تُخَالِطُوهُمْ فَإِخْوَانُكُمْ)

(And they ask you about orphans. Say: "The best thing is to work honestly in their property, and if you mix your affairs with theirs, then they are your brothers.") 2:220 Thereafter, they mixed their food and drink with food and drink of the orphans." Abu Dawud collected this statement. Allah's statement,

(حَتَّى يَبْلُغَ أَشُدَّهُ)

(until he (or she) attains the age of full strength;), refers to reaching the age of adolescence, according to Ash-Sha` bi, Malik and several others among the Salaf.

The Command to Give Full Measure and Full Weight with Justice

Allah's statement,

(وَأَوْفُوا الْكَيْلَ وَالْمِيزَانَ بِالْقِسْطِ)

(and give full measure and full weight with justice.) is a command to establish justice while giving and taking. Allah has also warned against abandoning this commandment, when He said,

(وَيْلٌ لِّلْمُطَفِّفِينَ - الَّذِينَ إِذَا اكْتَالُوا عَلَى النَّاسِ
يَسْتَوْفُونَ - وَإِذَا كَالُواهُمْ أَوْ وَّزَنُواهُمْ يُخْسِرُونَ -
أَلَا يَظُنُّ أُولَئِكَ أَنَّهُمْ مَبْعُوثُونَ - لِيَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ -
يَوْمَ يَقُومُ النَّاسُ لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ)

(Woe to Al-Mutaffifin. Those who, when they have to receive by measure from men, demand full measure. And when they have to give by measure or weight to (other) men, give less than due. Do they not think that they will be resurrected (for reckoning). On a Great Day The Day when (all) mankind will stand before the Lord of all that exists) 83:1-6 . Allah destroyed an entire nation that was accustomed to giving less in weights and measures. Allah said next,

(لَا نُكَلِّفُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا)

(We burden not any person, but that which he can bear.) that is, whoever strives while pursuing his rights and giving other peoples' full rights, then there is no sin on him if he commits an honest mistake after trying his best and striving to do what is right.

The Order for Just Testimony

Allah said;

(وَإِذَا قُلْتُمْ فَاعْدِلُوا وَلَوْ كَانَ ذَا قُرْبَىٰ)

(And whenever you give your word, say the truth even if a near relative is concerned.) This is similar to His statement,

(يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُونُوا قَوَّامِينَ لِلَّهِ شُهَدَاءَ
بِالْقِسْطِ)

(O you who believe! Stand out firmly for Allah as just witnesses.) 5:8 And there is a similar Ayah in Surat An-Nisa'. So Allah commands justice in action and statement, with both near relatives and distant relatives. Indeed, Allah orders justice for everyone at all times and in all situations.

Fulfilling the Covenant of Allah is an Obligation

Allah said next,

(وَيَعَهْدِ اللَّهُ أَوْفُوا)

(and fulfill the Covenant of Allah.) Ibn Jarir commented, "Allah commands: Fulfill Allah's commandments that He has ordered you. You will do so when you obey Him in what He commanded, refrain from what He prohibited and abide by His Book and the Sunnah of His Messenger . This constitutes fulfilling the covenant of Allah,

(ذَلِكُمْ وَصَّكُم بِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ)

(...This He commands you, that you may remember.) Allah says here, that this is what He has ordered and commanded, and He stressed its importance for you,

(لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ)

(...that you may remember.), that you may be advised and thus refrain from what you used to do before this."

وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا
السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَن سَبِيلِهِ ذَلِكُمْ وَصَّكُمْ بِهِ
لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ)

(153. "And verily, this is My straight path, so follow it, and follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His path. This He has ordained for you that you may have Taqwa.")

The Command to Follow Allah's Straight Path and to Avoid All Other Paths

Ali bin Abi Talhah reported that Ibn ` Abbas commented on Allah's statements,

(وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَن سَبِيلِهِ)

(And follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His path.), and,

(أَنْ أَقِيمُوا الدِّينَ وَلَا تَتَفَرَّقُوا فِيهِ)

((Saying) that you should establish religion and make no divisions in it.) 42:13 , and similar Ayat in the Qur'an, "Allah commanded the believers to adhere to the Jama` ah and forbade them from causing divisions and disputes. He informed them that those before them were destroyed because of divisions and disputes in the religion of Allah." Similar was said by Mujahid and several others. Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal recorded that ` Abdullah bin Mas` ud said, "The Messenger of Allah drew a line with his hand (in the sand) and said,

«هَذَا سَبِيلُ اللَّهِ مُسْتَقِيمًا»

(This is Allah's path, leading straight.) He then drew lines to the right and left of that line and said,

«هَذِهِ السُّبُلُ لَيْسَ مِنْهَا سَبِيلٌ إِلَّا عَلَيْهِ شَيْطَانٌ
يَدْعُو إِلَيْهِ»

(These are the other paths, on each path there is a devil who calls to it.) He then recited,

وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا
السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَن سَبِيلِهِ

(And verily, this is My straight path, so follow it, and follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His path.) 6:153 " Al-Hakim also recorded this Hadith and said; "Its chain is Sahih, but they did not record it." Imam Ahmad and `Abd bin Humayd recorded (and this is the wording of Ahmad) that Jabir said; "We were sitting with the Prophet when he drew a line in front of him and said,

«هَذَا سَبِيلُ اللَّهِ»

(This is Allah's path.) He also drew two lines to its right and two lines to its left and said,

«هَذِهِ سُبُلُ الشَّيْطَانِ»

(These are the paths of Shaytan.) He then placed his hand on the middle path and recited this Ayah;

وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا
السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَن سَبِيلِهِ ذَلِكُمْ وَصَّكُمْ بِهِ
لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

(And verily, this is My straight path, so follow it, and follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His path. This He has ordained for you that you may have Taqwa.) Imam Ahmad, Ibn Majah, in the Book of the Sunnah in his Sunan, and Al-Bazzar collected this Hadith. Ibn Jarir recorded that a man asked Ibn Mas`ud, "What is As-Srat Al-Mustaqim (the straight path)" Ibn Mas`ud replied, "Muhammad left us at its lower end and its other end is in Paradise. To the right of this Path are other paths, and to the left of it are other paths, and there are men (on these paths) calling those who pass by them. Whoever goes on the other paths will end up in the Fire. Whoever takes the Straight Path, will end up in Paradise." Ibn Mas`ud then recited the Ayah;

وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا
السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَن سَبِيلِهِ

(And verily, this is My straight path, so follow it, and follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His path.)" Imam Ahmad recorded that, An-Nawwas bin Sam`an said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«ضَرَبَ اللهُ مَثَلًا صِرَاطًا مُسْتَقِيمًا، وَعَنْ جَنْبَيْ الصِّرَاطِ سُورَانِ فِيهِمَا أَبْوَابٌ مُفْتَحَةٌ، وَعَلَى الْأَبْوَابِ سُورٌ مُرْخَاةٌ وَعَلَى بَابِ الصِّرَاطِ دَاعٍ يَدْعُو: يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ هَلُمُّوا ادْخُلُوا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا وَدَاعٍ يَدْعُو مِنْ فَوْقِ الصِّرَاطِ فَإِذَا أَرَادَ الْإِنْسَانُ أَنْ يَفْتَحَ شَيْئًا مِنْ تِلْكَ الْأَبْوَابِ قَالَ وَيْحَكَ لَا تَفْتَحْهُ فَإِنَّكَ إِنْ فَتَحْتَهُ تَلَجَّهُ فَالصِّرَاطُ الْإِسْلَامُ وَالسُّورَانِ حُدُودُ اللَّهِ وَالْأَبْوَابُ الْمُفْتَحَةُ مَحَارِمُ اللَّهِ وَذَلِكَ الدَّاعِي عَلَى رَأْسِ الصِّرَاطِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ، وَالدَّاعِي مِنْ فَوْقِ الصِّرَاطِ وَاعِظُ اللَّهِ فِي قَلْبِ كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ»

(Allah has given a parable of the straight path, and on the two sides of this path, there are two walls containing door ways. On these door ways, there are curtains that are lowered down. on the gate of this path there is a caller heralding, `O people! come and enter the straight path all together and do not divide. ' There is also another caller that heralds from above the path, who says when a person wants to remove the curtain on any of these doors, `Woe to you! Do not open this door, for if you open it, you will enter it. The (straight) path is Islam, the two walls are Allah's set limits, the open doors lead to Allah's prohibitions, the caller on the gate of the path is Allah's Book (the Qur'an), while the caller from above the path is Allah's admonition in the heart of every Muslim.) At-Tirmidhi and An-Nasa'i also recorded this Hadith, and At-Tirmidhi said, "Hasan Gharib." Allah's statement,

(فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السُّبُلَ)

(so follow it, and follow not (other) paths...) describes Allah's path in the singular sense, because truth is one. Allah describes the other paths in the plural, because they are many and are divided. Allah said in another Ayah,

(اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَوْلِيَاؤُهُمُ الطَّاغُوتُ يُخْرِجُونَهُم مِّنَ النُّورِ إِلَى الظُّلُمَاتِ أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ)

(Allah is the Wali (Protector or Guardian) of those who believe. He brings them out from darknesses into light. But as for those who disbelieve, their supporters are Taghut (false deities), they bring them out from light into darknesses. Those are the dwellers of the Fire, and they will abide therein forever.) 2:257

(ثُمَّ ءَاتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ تَمَامًا عَلَى الَّذِي أَحْسَنَ وَتَفْصِيلًا لِّكُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لَّعَلَّهُم بِلِقَاءِ رَبِّهِمْ يُؤْمِنُونَ - وَهَذَا كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ مُبَارَكٌ فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَاتَّقُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ)

(154. Then, We gave Musa the Book the Tawrah , complete for that which is best, and explaining all things in detail and a guidance and a mercy that they might believe in the meeting with their Lord.) (155. And this is a blessed Book (the Qur'an) which We have sent down, so follow it and have Taqwa, so that you may receive mercy.)

Praising the Tawrah and the Qur'an

After Allah described the Qur'an by saying,

(وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ)

(And verily, this is My straight path, so follow it...) He then praised the Tawrah and its Messenger,

(ثُمَّ ءَاتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ)

(Then, We gave Musa the Book...) Allah often mentions the Qur'an and the Tawrah together. Allah said,

(وَمِن قَبْلِهِ كِتَابُ مُوسَى إِمَامًا وَرَحْمَةً وَهَذَا كِتَابٌ مُّصَدِّقٌ لِّسَانًا عَرَبِيًّا)

(And before this was the Scripture of Musa as a guide and a mercy. And this is a confirming Book in the Arabic language.) 46:12 . Allah said in the beginning of this Surah,

(قُلْ مَنْ أَنْزَلَ الْكِتَابَ الَّذِي جَاءَ بِهِ مُوسَى نُورًا وَهُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ تَجْعَلُونَهُ قُرْطُبًا يُبْذُونَهَا وَيُخْفُونَ كَثِيرًا)

(Say: "Who then sent down the Book which Musa brought, a light and a guidance to mankind which you have made into paper sheets, disclosing (some of it) and concealing (much)") 6:91 , and

(وَهَذَا كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ مُبَارَكٌ)

(And this is a blessed Book which we have sent down. ...) 6:92 Allah said about the idolators,

(فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمُ الْحَقُّ مِنْ عِنْدِنَا قَالُوا لَوْلَا أُوتِيَ مِثْلَ مَا أُوتِيَ مُوسَى)

(But when the truth has come to them from Us, they say: "Why is he not given the like of what was given to Musa") 28:48 . Allah replied,

(أَوَلَمْ يَكْفُرُوا بِمَا أُوتِيَ مُوسَى مِنْ قَبْلُ قَالُوا سِحْرَان تَظْهَرَا وَقَالُوا إِنَّا بِكُلِّ كَافِرُونَ)

("Did they not disbelieve in that which was given to Musa of old" They say: "Two kinds of magic the Tawrah and the Qur'an , each helping the other!" And they say: "Verily, in both we are disbelievers.") 28:48 Allah said about the Jinns that they said,

(يَقَوْمَنَا إِنَّا سَمِعْنَا كِتَابًا أُنزِلَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مُوسَى
مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ يَهْدِي إِلَى الْحَقِّ)

("O our people! Verily, we have heard a Book sent down after Musa, confirming what came before it, it guides to the truth.") 46:30 Allah's statement,

(تَمَامًا عَلَى الَّذِي أَحْسَنَ وَتَفْصِيلًا)

(...complete for that which is best, and explaining all things in detail...) means; ` We made the Book that We revealed to Musa, a complete and comprehensive Book, sufficient for what he needs to complete his Law.' Similarly, Allah said in another Ayah,

(وَكَتَبْنَا لَهُ فِي الْأَلْوَاحِ مِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ)

(And We wrote for him on the Tablets the lesson to be drawn from all things.) 7:145 Allah's statement,

(عَلَى الَّذِي أَحْسَنَ)

(for that which is best,) means: ` as a reward for his doing right and obeying Our commands and orders.' Allah said in other Ayat,

(هَلْ جَزَاءُ الْإِحْسَنِ إِلَّا الْإِحْسَانُ)

(Is there any reward for good other than what is best) 55:60 ,

(وَإِذِ ابْتَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ رَبُّهُ بِكَلِمَاتٍ فَأَتَمَّهُنَّ قَالَ إِنِّي
جَاعِلُكَ لِلنَّاسِ إِمَامًا)

(And (remember) when the Lord of Ibrahim tried him with (certain) commands, which he fulfilled. He (Allah) said (to him), "Verily, I am going to make you an Imam for mankind.") 2:124 and,

(وَجَعَلْنَا مِنْهُمْ أَيْمَةً يَهْدُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا لَمَّا صَبَرُوا
وَكَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يُوقِنُونَ)

y(And We made from among them (Children of Israel), leaders, giving guidance under Our command, when they were patient and believed with certainty in Our Ayat.) 32:24 Allah said;

(وَتَفْصِيلًا لِّكُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً)

(and explaining all things in detail and a guidance and a mercy) praising the Book that Allah sent down to Musa, while,

(ثُمَّ آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ تَمَامًا عَلَى الَّذِي أَحْسَنَ
وَتَفْصِيلًا لِّكُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لَّعَلَّهُمْ بِلِقَاءِ
رَبِّهِمْ يُؤْمِنُونَ - وَهَذَا كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ مُبَارَكٌ
فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَاتَّقُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ)

(. ..that they might believe in the meeting with their Lord. And this is a blessed Book (the Qur'an) which We have sent down, so follow it and have Taqwa so that you may receive mercy.) This calls to following the Qur'an. Allah encourages His servants to follow His Book (the Qur'an) and orders them to understand it, adhere to it and call to it. He also describes it as being blessed, for those who follow and implement it in this life and the Hereafter, because it is the Firm Rope of Allah.

(أَنْ تَقُولُوا إِنَّمَا أَنْزَلَ الْكِتَابُ عَلَي طَائِفَتَيْنِ مِنْ
قَبْلِنَا وَإِنْ كُنَّا عَنْ دِرَاسَتِهِمْ لَغَفْلِينَ - أَوْ تَقُولُوا
لَوْ أَنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ لَكُنَّا أَهْدَى مِنْهُمْ فَقَدْ
جَاءَكُمْ بَيْنَهُ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً فَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ
مِمَّن كَذَّبَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَصَدَفَ عَنْهَا سَنَجْزِي

الَّذِينَ يَصْدُقُونَ عَنْ آيَاتِنَا سُوءَ الْعَذَابِ بِمَا كَانُوا
يَصْدُقُونَ)

(156. Lest you should say: "The Book was sent down only to two sects before us, and for our part, we were in fact unaware of what they studied.") (157. Or lest you should say: "If only the Book had been sent down to us, we would surely have been better guided than they." So now has come unto you a clear proof from your Lord, and a guidance and a mercy. Who then does more wrong than one who rejects the Ayat of Allah and Sadafa away therefrom We shall requite those who turn away from Our Ayat with an evil torment, because of their turning away.)

The Qur'an is Allah's Proof Against His Creation

Ibn Jarir commented on the Ayah, "The Ayah means, this is a Book that We sent down, so that you do not say,

(إِنَّمَا أَنْزَلَ الْكِتَابَ عَلَى طَائِفَتَيْنِ مِنْ قَبْلِنَا)

("The Book was sent down only to two sects before us.") This way, you will have no excuse. Allah said in another Ayah,

(وَلَوْ لَا أَنْ تُصِيبَهُمْ مُصِيبَةٌ بِمَا قَدَّمَتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ
فَيَقُولُوا رَبَّنَا لَوْلَا أَرْسَلْتَ إِلَيْنَا رَسُولًا فَنَتَّبِعَ
آيَاتِكَ)

(Otherwise, they would have suffered a calamity because of what their hands sent forth, and said: "Our Lord! Why did You not send us a Messenger We would then have followed Your Ayat.") 28:47 . The Ayah,

(عَلَى طَائِفَتَيْنِ مِنْ قَبْلِنَا)

(to two sects before us) refers to the Jews and Christians, according to `Ali bin Abi Talhah who narrated it from Ibn `Abbas. Similar was reported from Mujahid, As-Suddi, Qatadah and several others. Allah's statement,

(وَإِنْ كُنَّا عَنْ دِرَاسَتِهِمْ لَغَفْلِينَ)

("...and for our part, we were in fact unaware of what they studied.") meaning: `we did not understand what they said because the revelation was not in our tongue. We, indeed, were busy and unaware of their message,' so they said. Allah said next,

(أَوْ تَقُولُوا لَوْ أَنَّا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْنَا الْكِتَابُ لَكُنَّا أَهْدَىٰ مِنْهُمْ)

(Or lest you should say: "If only the Book had been sent down to us, we would surely, have been better guided than they.") meaning: We also refuted this excuse, had you used it, lest you say, "If a Book was revealed to us, just as they received a Book, we would have been better guided than they are." Allah also said.

(وَأَقْسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ جَهْدَ أَيْمَانِهِمْ لَئِنْ جَاءَهُمْ نَذِيرٌ لَّيَكُونُنَّ أَهْدَىٰ مِنْ إِحْدَى الْأُمَمِ)

(And they swore by Allah their most binding oath that if a warner came to them, they would be more guided than any of the nations (before them).) 35:42 Allah replied here,

(فَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ بَيِّنَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ)

(So now has come unto you a clear proof from your Lord, and a guidance and a mercy.) Allah says, there has come to you from Allah a Glorious Qur'an revealed to Muhammad , the Arab Prophet. In it is the explanation of the lawful and unlawful matters, guidance for the hearts and mercy from Allah to His servants who follow and implement it. Allah said;

(فَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّن كَذَّبَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَصَدَفَ عَنْهَا)

(Who then does more wrong than one who rejects the Ayat of Allah and Sadafa away therefrom) This refers to the one who neither benefited from what the Messenger brought, nor followed what he was sent with by abandoning all other ways. Rather, he Sadafa from following the Ayat of Allah, meaning, he discouraged and hindered people from following it. This is the explanation of As-Suddi for Sadafa, while Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid and Qatadah said that Sadafa means, he turned away from it.

(هَلْ يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَّا أَنْ تَأْتِيَهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَوْ يَأْتِيَ رَبُّكَ أَوْ يَأْتِيَ بَعْضُ آيَاتِ رَبِّكَ لَا يَنْفَعُ نَفْسًا إِيْمَانُهَا لَمْ تَكُنْ ءَامَنَتْ مِنْ قَبْلُ أَوْ كَسَبَتْ فِي إِيْمَانِهَا خَيْرًا قُلِ انْتَضِرُوا إِنَّا مُنْتَظِرُونَ)

(158. Do they then wait for anything other than that the angels should come to them, or that your Lord should come, or that some of the Signs of your Lord should come! The day that some of the signs of your Lord do come, no good will it do to a person to believe then, if he believed not before, nor earned good with his faith. Say: "Wait you! We (too) are waiting.")

The Disbelievers Await the Commencement of the Hereafter, or Some of its Portents

Allah sternly threatens the disbelievers, those who defy His Messengers, deny His Ayat and hinder from His path,

(هَلْ يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَّا أَنْ تَأْتِيَهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَوْ يَأْتِيَ رَبُّكَ)

(Do they then wait for anything other than that the angels should come to them, or that your Lord (Allah) should come...) on the Day of Resurrection,

(أَوْ يَأْتِيَ بَعْضُ آيَاتِ رَبِّكَ يَوْمَ يَأْتِيَ بَعْضُ آيَاتِ رَبِّكَ لَا يَنْفَعُ نَفْسًا إِيْمَانُهَا)

(or that some of the signs of your Lord should come! The day that some of the signs of your Lord do come no good will it do to a person to believe then.) Before the commencement of the Day of Resurrection, there will come signs and portents of the Last Hour that will be witnessed by the people living at that time. In a section explaining this Ayah, Al-Bukhari recorded that Abu Hurayrah said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«لَا تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ حَتَّى تَطْلُعَ الشَّمْسُ مِنْ مَغْرِبِهَا
فَإِذَا رَأَاهَا النَّاسُ آمَنَ مَنْ عَلِيهَا فَذَلِكَ حِينٌ»

(The Last Hour will not commence until the sun rises from the west. When the people witness that, they will all believe. This is when.)

(لَا يَنْفَعُ نَفْسًا إِيْمَانُهَا لَمْ تَكُنْ ءَامَنَتْ مِنْ قَبْلُ)

(no good will it do to a person to believe then, if he believed not before.) Ibn Jarir recorded that Abu Hurayrah said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«ثَلَاثٌ إِذَا خَرَجْنَ لَا يَنْفَعُ نَفْسًا إِيْمَانُهَا لَمْ تَكُنْ
ءَامَنَتْ مِنْ قَبْلُ أَوْ كَسَبَتْ فِي إِيْمَانِهَا خَيْرًا، طُلُوعُ
الشَّمْسِ مِنْ مَغْرِبِهَا وَالدَّجَالُ وَدَابَّةُ الأَرْضِ»

(Three, if they appear, then a soul will not benefit from its faith, if it had not believed before or earned good in its faith: when the sun rises from the west, Ad-Dajjal and the Beast of the earth.) Ahmad also recorded this Hadith, and in his narration, the Prophet mentioned the Smoke. Imam Ahmad recorded that `Amr bin Jarir said, "Three Muslim men sat with Marwan in Al-Madinah and they heard him talking about the signs (of the Last Hour). He said that the first sign will be the appearance of Ad-Dajjal. So these men went to `Abdullah bin `Amr and told him what they heard from Marwan about the signs. Ibn `Amr said, Marwan said nothing. I remember that I heard the Messenger of Allah saying,

«إِنَّ أَوَّلَ الآيَاتِ خُرُوجًا طُلُوعُ الشَّمْسِ مِنْ
مَغْرِبِهَا وَخُرُوجُ الدَّابَّةِ ضُحَى فَأَيُّهُمَا كَانَتْ قَبْلَ
صَاحِبَتِهَا فَالأُخْرَى عَلَى أَثَرِهَا»

(The first of the signs to appear are the sun rising from the west and the Beast that appears in the early morning. Whichever comes before the other, then the second sign will appear soon after it.) Then `Abdullah said - and he used to read the Scriptures - "And I think the first of them is the sun rising from the west. That is because when it sets it comes under the Throne, prostrates and seeks permission to return. So it is permitted to return until Allah wants it to rise from the west. So it does as it normally would, it comes beneath the Throne, it prostrates and seeks permission to return. But it will get no response. Then it will seek permission to return again, but it will get no response, until what Allah wills of the night to pass goes by,

and it realizes that if it is permitted to return it would not be able to reach the east. It says; `My Lord! The east is so far, what good would I be to the people' Until the horizons appear as a lightless ring, it seeks permission to return and is told; `Rise from your place,' so it rises upon the people from where it set." Then he recited,

(لَا يَنْفَعُ نَفْسًا إِيْمَانُهَا لَمْ تَكُنْ ءَامَنَتْ مِنْ قَبْلُ)

(no good will it do to a person to believe then, if he believed not before,) This was also recorded by Muslim in his Sahih, and Abu Dawud and Ibn Majah in their Sunans. Allah's statement,

(لَا يَنْفَعُ نَفْسًا إِيْمَانُهَا لَمْ تَكُنْ ءَامَنَتْ مِنْ قَبْلُ)

(no good will it do to a person to believe then, if he believed not before,) means, when the disbeliever believes then, it will not be accepted from him. As for those who were believers before, if they earned righteous deeds, they will have earned a great deal of good. If they had not done good nor repented before then, it will not be accepted from them, according to the Hadiths that we mentioned. This is also the meaning of Allah's statement,

(أَوْ كَسَبَتْ فِي إِيْمَانِهَا خَيْرًا)

(...nor earned good through his faith.) meaning, one's good deeds will not be accepted from him unless he performed good deeds before. Allah said next,

(قُلْ اِنْتَظِرُوا إِنَّا مُنْتَظِرُونَ)

(Say: "Wait you! We (too) are waiting.") This is a stern threat to the disbelievers and a sure promise for those who delay embracing the faith and repenting until a time when faith or repentance shall not avail. This will occur when the sun rises from the west because the Last Hour will then be imminent and its major signs will have begun to appear. Allah said in other Ayat,

(فَهَلْ يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَّا السَّاعَةَ أَنْ تَأْتِيَهُمْ بَغْتَةً فَقَدْ جَاءَ أَشْرَاطُهَا فَأَنَّى لَهُمْ إِذَا جَاءَتْهُمْ ذِكْرَاهُمْ)

(Do they then await (anything) other than the Hour, that it should come upon them suddenly But some of its portents have already come; and when it is upon them, how can they benefit then by their reminder) 47:18 , and,

فَلَمَّا رَأَوْا بِأَسْنَا قَالُوا ءَامَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَحَدَهُ وَكَفَرْنَا
بِمَا كُنَّا بِهِ مُشْرِكِينَ فَلَمْ يَكُ يَنْفَعُهُمْ إِيْمَانُهُمْ لَمَّا
رَأَوْا بِأَسْنَا)

(So when they saw Our punishment, they said: "We believe in Allah alone and reject (all) that we used to associate with Him as partners." Then their faith could not avail them when they saw Our punishment.) 40:84-85

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ فَرَّقُوا دِينَهُمْ وَكَانُوا شِيَعًا لَسْتَ مِنْهُمْ
فِي شَيْءٍ إِنَّمَا أَمْرُهُمْ إِلَى اللَّهِ ثُمَّ يُنَبِّئُهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا
يَفْعَلُونَ)

(159. Verily, those who divide their religion and break up into sects, you have no concern with them in the least. Their affair is only with Allah, Who then will tell them what they used to do.)

Criticizing Division in the Religion

Mujahid, Qatadah, Ad-Dahhak and As-Suddi said that this Ayah was revealed about the Jews and Christians. Al-`Awfi said that Ibn `Abbas commented,

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ فَرَّقُوا دِينَهُمْ وَكَانُوا شِيَعًا)

(Verily, those who divide their religion and break up into sects...) "Before Muhammad was sent, the Jews and Christians disputed and divided into sects. When Muhammad was sent, Allah revealed to him,

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ فَرَّقُوا دِينَهُمْ وَكَانُوا شِيَعًا لَسْتَ مِنْهُمْ
فِي شَيْءٍ)

(Verily, those who divide their religion and break up into sects, you have no concern with them in the least.) It is apparent that this Ayah refers to all those who defy the religion of Allah, or revert from it. Allah sent His Messenger with guidance and the religion of truth so that He makes it victorious and dominant above all religions. His Law is one and does not contain any contradiction or incongruity. Therefore, those who dispute in the religion,

(وَكَاثُوا شِيْعًا)

(...and break up into sects,) religious sects, just like those who follow the various sects, desires and misguidance - then Allah has purified His Messenger from their ways. In a similar Ayah, Allah said,

(شَرَعَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الدِّينِ مَا وَصَّى بِهِ نُوحًا وَالَّذِي
أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ)

(He (Allah) has ordained for you the same religion which He ordained for Nuh, and that which We have revealed to you.) 42:13 A Hadith reads,

«نَحْنُ مَعَاشِرُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ أَوْلَادُ عِلَاتٍ دِينَنَا وَاحِدٌ»

(We, the Prophets, are half brothers but have one religion.) This, indeed, is the straight path which the Messengers have brought and which commands worshipping Allah alone without partners and adhering to the Law of the last Messenger whom Allah sent. All other paths are types of misguidance, ignorance, sheer opinion and desires; and as such, the Messengers are free from them. Allah said here,

(أَسْتَ مِنْهُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ)

(You have no concern with them in the least...) 6:159 . Allah's statement,

(إِنَّمَا أَمْرُهُمْ إِلَى اللَّهِ ثُمَّ يُنَبِّئُهُم بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ)

(Their affair is only with Allah, Who then will tell them what they used to do.) is similar to His statement,

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَالَّذِينَ هَادُوا وَالصَّابِّينَ
وَالنَّصْرَى وَالْمَجُوسَ وَالَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ
يَفْصِلُ بَيْنَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ)

(Verily, those who believe, and those who are Jews, and the Sabians, and the Christians, and the Majus, and those who worship others besides Allah; truly, Allah will judge between them on

the Day of Resurrection.) 22:17 eAllah then mentioned His kindness in His decisions and His justice on the Day of Resurrection, when He said,

(مَنْ جَاءَ بِالْحَسَنَةِ فَلَهُ عَشْرُ أَمْثَالِهَا وَمَنْ جَاءَ
بِالسَّيِّئَةِ فَلَا يُجْزَى إِلَّا مِثْلَهَا وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ)

(160. Whoever brings a good deed shall have ten times the like thereof to his credit, and whoever brings an evil deed shall have only the recompense of the like thereof, and they will not be wronged.)

The Good Deed is Multiplied Tenfold, While the Sin is Recompensed with the Same

This Ayah explains the general Ayah;

(مَنْ جَاءَ بِالْحَسَنَةِ فَلَهُ خَيْرٌ مِنْهَا)

(Whoever comes with good, then he will receive better than that.) 28:84 There are several Hadiths that are in agreement with the apparent wording of this honorable Ayah. Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal recorded that Ibn ` Abbas said that the Messenger of Allah said about his Lord,

«إِنَّ رَبَّكُمْ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ رَحِيمٌ مَنْ هَمَّ بِحَسَنَةٍ فَلَمْ
يَعْمَلْهَا كُتِبَتْ لَهُ حَسَنَةٌ فَإِنْ عَمِلَهَا كُتِبَتْ لَهُ
عَشْرًا إِلَى سَبْعِمِائَةٍ إِلَى أضعافٍ كَثِيرَةٍ. وَمَنْ
هَمَّ بِسَيِّئَةٍ فَلَمْ يَعْمَلْهَا كُتِبَتْ لَهُ حَسَنَةٌ فَإِنْ عَمِلَهَا
كُتِبَتْ لَهُ وَاحِدَةً أَوْ يَمْحُوهَا اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ وَلَا
يَهْلِكُ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِلَّا هَالِكٌ»

(Your Lord is Most Merciful. Whoever intends to perform a good deed and does not do it, it will be written for him as a good deed. If he performs it, it will be written for him as ten deeds, to seven hundred, to multifold. Whoever intends to commit an evil deed, but does not do it, it will be written for him as a good deed. If he commits it, it will be written for him as a sin, unless Allah erases it. Only those who deserve destruction will be destroyed by Allah.) Al-Bukhari, Muslim and An-Nasa'i also recorded this Hadith. Ahmad also recorded that Abu Dharr said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«يَقُولُ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ: مَنْ عَمِلَ حَسَنَةً فَلَهُ عَشْرُ
أَمْثَالِهَا وَأَزِيدُ وَمَنْ عَمِلَ سَيِّئَةً فَجَزَاؤُهَا مِثْلُهَا أَوْ
أَغْفِرُ وَمَنْ عَمِلَ قُرَابَ الْأَرْضِ خَطِيئَةً ثُمَّ لَقِينِي
لَا يُشْرِكُ بِي شَيْئًا جَعَلْتُ لَهُ مِثْلَهَا مَغْفِرَةً، وَمَنْ
اقْتَرَبَ إِلَيَّ شِبْرًا اقْتَرَبْتُ إِلَيْهِ ذِرَاعًا وَمَنْ
اقْتَرَبَ إِلَيَّ ذِرَاعًا اقْتَرَبْتُ إِلَيْهِ بَاعًا وَمَنْ أَتَانِي
يَمْشِي أَتَيْتُهُ هَرْوَلَةً»

(Allah says, `Whoever performs a good deed, will have tenfold for it and more. Whoever commits a sin, then his recompense will be the same, unless I forgive. Whoever commits the earth's fill of sins and then meets Me while associating none with Me, I will give him its fill of forgiveness. Whoever draws closer to Me by a hand's span, I will draw closer to him by a forearm's length. Whoever draws closer to Me by a forearm's length, I will draw closer to him by an arm's length. And whoever comes to Me walking, I will come to him running.') Muslim also collected this Hadith. Know that there are three types of people who refrain from committing a sin that they intended. There are those who refrain from committing the sin because they fear Allah, and thus will have written for them a good deed as a reward. This type contains both a good intention and a good deed. In some narrations of the Sahih, Allah says about this type, "He has left the sin for My sake." Another type does not commit the sin because of forgetfulness or being busy attending to other affairs. This type of person will neither earn a sin, nor a reward. The reason being that, this person did not intend to do good, nor commit evil. Some people abandon the sin because they were unable to commit it or due to laziness, after trying to commit it and seeking the means that help commit it. This person is just like the person who commits the sin. There is an authentic Hadith that states,

«إِذَا التَّقَى الْمُسْلِمَانِ بِسَيْفَيْهِمَا فَالْقَاتِلُ وَالْمَقْتُولُ
فِي النَّارِ»

(When two Muslims meet with their swords, then the killer and the killed will be in the Fire.) They said, "O Allah's Messenger! We know about the killer, so what about the killed" He said,

«إِنَّهُ كَانَ حَرِيصًا عَلَى قَتْلِ صَاحِبِهِ»

(He was eager to kill his companion.) Al-Hafiz Abu Al-Qasim At-Tabarani said that Abu Malik Al-Ash`ari said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«الْجُمُعَةُ كَقَارَةِ لِمَا بَيْنَهَا وَبَيْنَ الْجُمُعَةِ الَّتِي تَلِيهَا
وَزِيَادَةُ ثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامٍ، وَذَلِكَ لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى قَالَ:

(مَنْ جَاءَ بِالْحَسَنَةِ فَلَهُ عَشْرُ أَمْثَالِهَا)

«

(Friday (prayer) to the next Friday (preayer), plus three more days, erase whatever was committed (of sins) between them. This is because Allah says: Whoever brings a good deed shall have ten times the like thereof to his credit) Abu Dharr narrated that the Messenger of Allah said,

«مَنْ صَامَ ثَلَاثَةَ أَيَّامٍ مِنْ كُلِّ شَهْرٍ فَقَدْ صَامَ
الدَّهْرَ كُلَّهُ»

(Whoever fasts three days every month, will have fasted all the time.) Ahmad, An-Nasa'i, and Ibn Majah recorded this Hadith, and this is Ahmad's wording. At-Tirmidhi also recorded it with this addition;

«فَأَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ تَصْدِيقَ ذَلِكَ فِي كِتَابِهِ»

(So Allah sent down affirmation of this statement in His Book,)

(مَنْ جَاءَ بِالْحَسَنَةِ فَلَهُ عَشْرُ أَمْثَالِهَا)

(Whoever brings a good deed shall have ten times the like thereof to his credit,)

«الْيَوْمَ بَعَشْرَةَ أَيَّامٍ»

(Therefore, a day earns ten days.) At-Tirmidhi said; "This Hadith is Hasan". There are many other Hadiths and statements on this subject, but what we mentioned should be sufficient, Allah willing, and our trust is in Him.

قُلْ إِنِّي هَدَانِي رَبِّي إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ دِينًا
قِيَمًا مِّمَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ -
قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ
رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ - لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَبِذَلِكَ أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا
أَوَّلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ)

(161. Say: "Truly, my Lord has guided me to a straight path, a right religion, the religion of Ibrahim, Hanifan (monotheism) and he was not of the Mushrikin.") (162. Say: "Verily, my Salah, my sacrifice, my living, and my dying are for Allah, the Lord of all that exists.") (163. "He has no partner. And of this I have been commanded, and I am the first of the Muslims.")

Islam is the Straight Path

Allah commands His Prophet , the chief of the Messengers, to convey the news of being guided to Allah's straight path. This path is neither wicked, nor deviant,

(دِينًا قِيَمًا)

(a right religion...) that is, established on firm grounds,

(مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ)

(The religion of Ibrahim, Hanifan and he was not of the Mushrikin.) Allah said in similar Ayat,

(وَمَنْ يَرْغَبْ عَنْ مِلَّةِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِلَّا مَنْ سَفِهَ نَفْسَهُ)

(And who turns away from the religion of Ibrahim except him who deludes himself) 2:130 , and,

وَجَاهِدُوا فِي اللَّهِ حَقَّ جِهَدِهِ هُوَ اجْتَبَاكُمْ وَمَا
جَعَلَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ مِنْ حَرَجٍ مِّلَّةَ أَبِيكُمْ
إِبْرَاهِيمَ)

(And strive hard in Allah's cause as you ought to strive. He has chosen you, and has not laid upon you in religion any hardship: it is the religion of your father Ibrahim.) 22:78 , and,

إِنَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ كَانَ أُمَّةً قَنِئًا لِلَّهِ حَنِيفًا وَلَمْ يَكُ مِنَ
الْمُشْرِكِينَ - شَاكِرًا لِأَنْعُمِهِ اجْتَبَاهُ وَهَدَاهُ إِلَى
صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ - وَءَاتَيْنَاهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَإِنَّهُ
فِي الْآخِرَةِ لَمِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ - ثُمَّ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ أَنْ
اتَّبِعْ مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ)

(Verily, Ibrahim was an Ummah (or a nation), obedient to Allah, a Hanif, and he was not one of the Mushrikin. (He was) thankful for His (Allah's) favors. He (Allah) chose him (as an intimate friend) and guided him to a straight path. And We gave him good in this world, and in the Hereafter he shall be of the righteous. Then, We have sent the revelation to you (saying): "Follow the religion of Ibrahim, (he was a) Hanif, and he was not of the Mushrikin") 16:120-123 . Ordering the Prophet to follow the religion of Ibrahim, the Hanifiyyah, does not mean that Prophet Ibrahim reached more perfection in it than our Prophet . Rather, our Prophet perfectly established the religion and it was completed for him; and none before him reached this level of perfection. This is why he is the Final Prophet, the chief of all the Children of Adam who holds the station of praise and glory, the honor of intercession on the Day of Resurrection. All creation (on that Day) will seek him, even Ibrahim the friend of Allah, peace be upon him to request the beginning of Judgement . Imam Ahmad recorded that Ibn `Abbas said, "The Messenger of Allah was asked, `Which religion is the best with Allah, the Exalted' He said,

«الْحَنِيفِيَّةُ السَّمْحَةُ»

(Al-Hanifiyyah As-Samhah (the easy monotheism))"

The Command for Sincerity in Worship

Allah said next,

(قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ
رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ)

(Say: "Verily, my Salah, my sacrifice, my living, and my dying are for Allah, the Lord of the all that exists.") Allah commands the Prophet to inform the idolators who worship other than Allah and sacrifice to something other than Him, that he opposes them in all this, for his prayer is for Allah, and his rituals are in His Name alone, without partners. Allah said in a similar statement,

(فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَأَنْحِرْ)

(Therefore turn in prayer to your Lord and sacrifice.) 108:2 , meaning, make your prayer and sacrifice for Allah alone. As for the idolators, they used to worship the idols and sacrifice to them, so Allah commanded the Prophet to defy them and contradict their practices. Allah, the Exalted, commanded him to dedicate his intention and heart to being sincere for Him alone. Mujahid commented,

(إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي)

(Verily, my prayer and my Nusuk...) refers to sacrificing during Hajj and `Umrah.

Islam is the Religion of all Prophets

The Ayah,

(وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ)

(and I am the first of the Muslims.) means, from this Ummah, according to Qatadah. This is a sound meaning, because all Prophets before our Prophet were calling to Islam, which commands worshipping Allah alone without partners. Allah said in another Ayah,

(وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِ
أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُونِ)

(And We did not send any Messenger before you but We revealed to him (saying): "None has the right to be worshipped but I, so worship Me.") 21:25 Allah informed us that Nuh said to his people,

(فَإِنْ تَوَلَّيْتُمْ فَمَا سَأَلْتُكُمْ مِنْ أَجْرٍ إِنْ أَجْرِيَ إِلَّا
عَلَى اللَّهِ وَأَمِرتُ أَنْ أَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ)

(But if you turn away, then no reward have I asked of you, my reward is only from Allah, and I have been commanded to be of the Muslims.) 10:72 Allah said,

(وَمَنْ يَرِغَبْ عَنْ مِلَّةِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِلَّا مَنْ سَفِهَ نَفْسَهُ
وَلَقَدْ اصْطَفَيْنَاهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَإِنَّهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ لَمِنَ
الصَّالِحِينَ - إِذْ قَالَ لَهُ رَبُّهُ أَسْلِمْ قَالَ أَسْلَمْتُ
لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ - وَوَصَّى بِهَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ بَنِيهِ
وَيَعْقُوبُ يَبْنَى إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَى لَكُمْ الدِّينَ فَلَا
تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ)

(And who turns away from the religion of Ibrahim except him who deludes himself Truly, We chose him in this world and verily, in the Hereafter he will be among the righteous. When his Lord said to him, "Submit (i.e. be a Muslim)!" He said, "I have submitted myself (as a Muslim) to the Lord of the all that exists." And this was enjoined by Ibrahim upon his sons and by Ya' qub (saying), "O my sons! Allah has chosen for you the (true) religion, then die not except as Muslims.") 2:130-132 . Yusuf, peace be upon him, said,

(رَبِّ قَدْ آتَيْتَنِي مِنَ الْمُلْكِ وَعَلَّمْتَنِي مِنْ تَأْوِيلِ
الْأَحَادِيثِ فَاطِرَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَنْتَ وَلِيٌّ
فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ تَوَقَّنِي مُسْلِمًا وَالْحَقِّنِي
بِالصَّالِحِينَ)

(My Lord! You have indeed bestowed on me of the sovereignty, and taught me something of the interpretation of dreams -- the (Only) Creator of the heavens and the earth! You are my Wali (Protector) in this world and in the Hereafter. Cause me to die as a Muslim, and join me with the righteous.) 12:101 Musa said,

(وَقَالَ مُوسَىٰ يَقَوْمِ إِن كُنْتُمْ ءَامَنْتُمْ بِاللّٰهِ فَعَلَيْهِ
تَوَكَّلُوا إِن كُنْتُمْ مُّسْلِمِينَ - فَقَالُوا عَلَى اللّٰهِ تَوَكَّلْنَا
رَبَّنَا لَا تَجْعَلْنَا فِتْنَةً لِّلْقَوْمِ الظّٰلِمِينَ - وَنَجِّنَا
بِرَحْمَتِكَ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الكٰفِرِينَ)

(And Musa said: "O my people! If you have believed in Allah, then put your trust in Him if you are Muslims." They said: "In Allah we put our trust. Our Lord! Make us not a trial for the folk who are wrongdoers. And save us by your mercy from the disbelieving folk") 10:84-86 Allah said,

(إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا التَّوْرَةَ فِيهَا هُدًى وَنُورٌ يَحْكُمُ بِهَا
النَّبِيُّونَ الَّذِينَ أَسْلَمُوا لِلَّذِينَ هَادُوا وَالرَّبَّانِيُّونَ
وَالْأَحْبَارُ)

(Verily, We did send down the Tawrah, therein was guidance and light, by which the Prophets, who submitted themselves to Allah's will, judged for the Jews. And the rabbis and the priests did also .) 5:44 , and,

(وَإِذْ أَوْحَيْتُ إِلَى الْحَوَارِيِّينَ أَنْ ءَامِنُوا بِي
وَبِرَسُولِي قَالُوا ءَامِنًا وَاشْهَدْ بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ)

(And when I (Allah) inspired Al-Hawariyyun (the disciples) of `Isa to believe in Me and My Messenger, they said: "We believe. And bear witness that we are Muslims.") 5:111 Therefore, Allah states that He sent all His Messengers with the religion of Islam, although their respective laws differed from each other, and some of them abrogated others. Later on, the Law sent with Muhammad abrogated all previous laws and nothing will ever abrogate it, forever. Certainly, Muhammad's Law will always be apparent and its flags raised high, until the Day of Resurrection. The Prophet said, C

«نَحْنُ مَعَاشِرُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ أَوْلَادُ عِلَاتٍ دِينُنَا وَاحِدٌ»

(We, the Prophets, are half brothers, but our religion is one.) Half brothers, mentioned in the Hadith, refers to the brothers to one father, but different mothers. Therefore, the religion, representing the one father, is one; worshipping Allah alone without partners, even though the

laws which are like the different mothers in this parable, are different. Allah the Most High knows best. Imam Ahmad recorded that `Ali said that when the Messenger of Allah used to start the prayer with Takbir saying, "Allahu Akbar" (Allah is the Great) he would then supplicate,

«وَجَّهْتُ وَجْهِيَ لِلَّذِي فَطَرَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ
حَنِيقًا وَمَا أَنَا مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ، إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي
وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ»

(I have directed my face towards He Who has created the heavens and earth, Hanifan and I am not among the Mushrikin. Certainly, my prayer, sacrifice, living and dying are all for Allah, Lord of the worlds.)

«اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ الْمَلِكُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ، أَنْتَ رَبِّي وَأَنَا
عَبْدُكَ ظَلَمْتُ نَفْسِي وَاعْتَرَفْتُ بِذُنُوبِي فَاعْفِرْ لِي
ذُنُوبِي جَمِيعًا لَا يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ، وَاهْدِنِي
لِأَحْسَنِ الْأَخْلَاقِ لَا يَهْدِي لِأَحْسَنِهَا إِلَّا أَنْتَ،
وَاصْرِفْ عَنِّي سَيِّئَهَا لَا يَصْرِفُ عَنِّي سَيِّئَهَا إِلَّا
أَنْتَ، تَبَارَكْتَ وَتَعَالَيْتَ، أَسْتَغْفِرُكَ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْكَ»

(O Allah! You are the King, there is no deity worthy of worship except You. You are my Lord and I am Your servant. I have committed wrong against myself and admitted to my error, so forgive me all my sins. Verily, You, only You forgive the sins. (O Allah!) Direct me to the best conduct, for none except You directs to the best conduct. Divert me from the worst conduct, for only You divert from the worst conduct. Glorified and Exalted You are. I seek Your forgiveness and repent to You.) This Hadith, which was also recorded by Muslim in the Sahih, continues and mentions the Prophet's supplication in his bowing, prostrating and final sitting positions.

(قُلْ أَعْيَرَ اللَّهُ أَبْغَى رَبًّا وَهُوَ رَبُّ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَلَا
تَكْسِبُ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ إِلَّا عَلَيْهَا وَلَا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ وِزْرَ

أُخْرَىٰ ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ مَرْجِعُكُمْ فَيُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ)

(164. Say: "Shall I seek a lord other than Allah, while He is the Lord of all things No person earns any (sin) except against himself (only), and no bearer of burdens shall bear the burden of another. Then unto your Lord is your return, so He will tell you that wherein you have been differing.")

The Command to Sincerely Trust in Allah

Allah said,

(قُلْ)

(Say), O Muhammad , to those idolators, about worshipping Allah alone and trusting in Him,

(أَغَيْرَ اللَّهِ أَبْغَىٰ رَبًّا)

(Shall I seek a lord other than Allah...) 6:164 ,

(وَهُوَ رَبُّ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ)

(while He is the Lord of all things) and Who protects and saves me and governs all my affairs But, I only trust in Him and go back to Him, because He is the Lord of everything, Owner of all things and His is the creation and the decision. This Ayah commands sincerely trusting Allah, while the Ayah before it commands sincerely worshipping Allah alone without partners. These two meanings are often mentioned together in the Qur'an. Allah directs His servants to proclaim,

(إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ)

(You (alone) we worship, and You (alone) we ask for help (for each and every thing).) 1:5
Allah said,

(فَاعْبُدْهُ وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَيْهِ)

(So worship Him and put your trust in Him.) 11:123 , and

(قُلْ هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ ءَامَنَّا بِهِ وَعَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْنَا)

(Say: "He is the Most Gracious (Allah), in Him we believe, and in Him we put our trust".)
67:29 , and,

(رَبُّ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَاتَّخِذْهُ
وَكَيْلًا)

(Lord of the east and the west; none has the right to be worshipped but He. So take Him a guardian.) 73:9 There are similar Ayat on this subject.

Every Person Carries His Own Burden

Allah said,

(وَلَا تَكْسِبُ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ إِلَّا عَلَيْهَا وَلَا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ
وِزْرَ أُخْرَى)

(No person earns any (sin) except against himself (only), and no bearer of burdens shall bear the burden of another.) thus emphasizing Allah's reckoning, decision and justice that will occur on the Day of Resurrection. The souls will only be recompensed for their deeds, good for good and evil for evil. No person shall carry the burden of another person, a fact that indicates Allah's perfect justice. Allah said in other Ayat,

(وَإِنْ تَدْعُ مُثْقَلَةٌ إِلَىٰ حِمْلِهَا لَا يُحْمَلُ مِنْهُ شَيْءٌ
وَلَوْ كَانَ ذَا قُرْبَىٰ)

(And if one heavily laden calls another to (bear) his load, nothing of it will be lifted even though he be near of kin.) 35:18 , and,

(فَلَا يَخَافُ ظُلْمًا وَلَا هَضْمًا)

(Then he will have no fear of injustice, nor of any curtailment (of his reward).) 20:112
Scholars of Tafsir commented, "No person will be wronged by carrying the evil deeds of another person, nor will his own good deeds be curtailed or decreased." Allah also said;

(كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ رَهِينَةٌ - إِلَّا أَصْحَابَ
الْيَمِينِ)

(Every person is a pledge for what he has earned. Except those on the Right.) 74:38-39 , meaning, every person will be tied to his evil deeds. But, for those on the right -- the believers -- the blessing of their good works will benefit their offspring and relatives, as well. Allah said in Surat At-Tur,

(وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَاتَّبَعَتْهُمْ ذُرِّيَّتُهُمْ بِإِيمَانٍ أَلْحَقْنَا بِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ وَمَا أَلْتَنَّهُمْ مِّنْ عَمَلِهِمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ)

(And those who believe and whose offspring follow them in faith, to them shall We join their offspring, and We shall not decrease the reward of their deeds in anything.) 52:21 , meaning, We shall elevate their offspring to their high grades in Paradise, even though the deeds of the offspring were less righteous, since they shared faith with them in its general form. Allah says, We did not decrease the grades of these righteous believers so that those (their offspring and relatives) who have lesser grades, can share the same grades as them. Rather Allah elevated the lesser believers to the grades of their parents by the blessing of their parents' good works, by His favor and bounty. Allah said next (in Surat At-Tur),

(كُلُّ امْرِئٍ بِمَا كَسَبَ رَهِينٌ)

(Every person is a pledge for that which he has earned.) 52:21 , meaning, of evil. Allah's statement here,

(ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ مَّرْجِعُكُمْ فَيُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ فِيهِ
تَخْتَلِفُونَ)

(Then unto your Lord is your return, so He will tell you that wherein you have been differing.) means, work you (disbelievers), and we will also work. Surely, both you and us will be gathered to Allah and He will inform us of our deeds and your deeds and the decision on what we used to dispute about in the life of this world. Allah said in other Ayat,

(قُلْ لَا تُسْأَلُونَ عَمَّا أَجْرَمْنَا وَلَا نُسْأَلُ عَمَّا
تَعْمَلُونَ - قُلْ يَجْمَعُ بَيْنَنَا رَبُّنَا ثُمَّ يَقْتَحُ بَيْنَنَا
بِالْحَقِّ وَهُوَ الْفَتَّاحُ الْعَلِيمُ)

(Say: "You will not be asked about our sins, nor shall we be asked of what you do." Say: "Our Lord will assemble us all together, then He will judge between us with truth. And He is the Just Judge, the All-Knower of the true state of affairs.") 34:25-26 .

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَكُمْ خَلِيفَ الْأَرْضِ وَرَفَعَ
بَعْضَكُمْ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ لِيَبْلُوكُمْ فِي مَا آتَاكُمْ
إِنَّ رَبَّكَ سَرِيعُ الْعِقَابِ وَإِنَّهُ لَغَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ)

(165. And it is He Who has made you generations coming after generations, replacing each other on the earth. And He has raised you in ranks, some above others that He may try you in that which He has bestowed on you. Surely, your Lord is Swift in retribution, and certainly He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.)

Allah Made Mankind Dwellers on the earth, Generation After Generation, of Various Grades, in order to Test Them

Allah said,

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَكُمْ خَلِيفَ الْأَرْضِ)

(And it is He Who has made you generations coming after generations, replacing each other on the earth.) meaning, He made you dwell on the earth generation after generation, century after century and offspring after forefathers, according to Ibn Zayd and others. Allah also said,

(وَلَوْ نَشَاءُ لَجَعَلْنَا مِنْكُمْ مَلَائِكَةً فِي الْأَرْضِ
يَخْلُفُونَ)

(And if it were Our will, We would have made angels to replace you on the earth) 43:60 , and,

(وَيَجْعَلْكُمْ حُلَفَاءَ الْأَرْضِ)

(And makes you inheritors of the Earth, generations after generations.) 27:62 , and

(إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً)

(Verily, I am going to place (mankind) generations after generations on earth.) 2:30 , and,

(عَسَى رَبُّكُمْ أَنْ يُهْلِكَ عَدُوَّكُمْ وَيَسْتَخْلِفَكُمْ فِي
الْأَرْضِ فَيَنْظُرَ كَيْفَ تَعْمَلُونَ)

(It may be that your Lord will destroy your enemy and make you successors on the earth, so that He may see how you act.) 7:129 Allah's statement,

(وَرَفَعَ بَعْضَكُمْ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ)

(And He has raised you in ranks, some above others,) means, He has made you different from each other with regards to provision, conduct, qualities, evilness, shapes, color of skin, and so forth, and He has the perfect wisdom in all this. Allah said in other Ayat,

(نَحْنُ قَسَمْنَا بَيْنَهُمْ مَعِيشَتَهُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا
وَرَفَعْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ لِيَتَّخِذَ
بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا سُخْرِيًّا)

(It is We Who portion out between them their livelihood in this world, and We raised some of them above others in ranks, so that some may employ others in their work.) 43:32 , and,

(انظُرْ كَيْفَ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ وَلِلْآخِرَةِ
أَكْبَرُ دَرَجَاتٍ وَأَكْبَرُ تَفْضِيلًا)

(See how We prefer one above another (in this world), and verily, the Hereafter will be greater in degrees and greater in preferment.) 17:21 Allah's statement,

(لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ فِي مَا آتَاكُمْ)

(that He may try you in that which He has bestowed on you.) means, so that He tests you in what He has granted you, for Allah tries the rich concerning his wealth and will ask him about how he appreciated it. He also tries the poor concerning his poverty and will ask him about his patience with it. Muslim recorded that Abu Sa`id Al-Khudri said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«إِنَّ الدُّنْيَا حُلْوَةٌ خَضِرَةٌ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ مُسْتَخْلِفُكُمْ فِيهَا
فَنَظِرٌ مَّاذَا تَعْمَلُونَ، فَاتَّقُوا الدُّنْيَا وَاتَّقُوا النِّسَاءَ
فَإِنَّ أَوَّلَ فِتْنَةٍ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ كَانَتْ فِي النِّسَاءِ»

(Verily, this life is beautiful and green, and Allah made you dwell in it generation after generation so that He sees what you will do. Therefore, beware of this life and beware of women, for the first trial that the Children of Israel suffered from was with women.) Allah's statement,

(إِنَّ رَبَّكَ سَرِيعُ الْعِقَابِ وَإِنَّهُ لَغَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ)

(Surely, your Lord is swift in retribution, and certainly He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.) this is both discouragement and encouragement, by reminding the believers that Allah is swift in reckoning and punishment with those who disobey Him and defy His Messengers,

(وَإِنَّهُ لَغَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ)

(And certainly He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.) for those who take Him as protector and follow His Messengers in the news and commandments they conveyed. Allah often mentions these two attributes together in the Qur'an. Allah said,

(وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَدُوٌّ مَعْفِرَةٌ لِلنَّاسِ عَلَى ظَلْمِهِمْ وَإِنَّ
رَبَّكَ لَشَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ)

(But verily, your Lord is full of forgiveness for mankind in spite of their wrongdoing. And verily, your Lord is (also) severe in punishment) 13:6 , and,

(نَبِيٌّ عِبَادِي أَنِّي أَنَا الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ - وَأَنَّ
عَذَابِي هُوَ الْعَذَابُ الْأَلِيمُ)

(Declare unto My servants, that truly, I am the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful. And that My torment is indeed the most painful torment.) 15:49-50 There are similar Ayat that contain encouragement and discouragement. Sometimes Allah calls His servants to Him with encouragement, describing Paradise and making them eager for what He has with Him. Sometimes, He calls His servants with discouragement, mentioning the Fire and its torment and punishment, as well as, the Day of Resurrection and its horrors. Sometimes Allah mentions both so that each person is affected by it according to his or her qualities. We ask Allah that He makes us among those who obey what He has commanded, avoid what He has prohibited, and believe in Him as He has informed. Certainly, He is Near, hears and answers the supplication, and He is the Most Kind, Generous and Bestowing. Imam Ahmad recorded that Abu Hurayrah said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«لَوْ يَعْلَمُ الْمُؤْمِنُ مَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ مِنَ الْعُقُوبَةِ مَا طَمِعَ
بِجَنَّتِهِ أَحَدٌ، وَلَوْ يَعْلَمُ الْكَافِرُ مَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ مِنَ
الرَّحْمَةِ مَا قَنَطَ أَحَدٌ مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ، خَلَقَ اللَّهُ مِائَةَ
رَحْمَةٍ فَوَضَعَ وَاحِدَةً بَيْنَ خَلْقِهِ يَتَرَاحِمُونَ بِهَا
وَعِنْدَ اللَّهِ تِسْعَةٌ وَتِسْعُونَ»

(If the believer knew Allah's punishment, no one will hope in entering His Paradise. And if the disbeliever knew Allah's mercy, no one will feel hopeless of acquiring Paradise. Allah created a hundred kinds of mercy. He sent down one of them to His creation, and they are merciful to each other on that account. With Allah, there remains ninety-nine kinds of mercy.) Muslim and At-Tirmidhi also recorded this Hadith, At-Tirmidhi said "Hasan". Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Messenger of Allah said,

«لَمَّا خَلَقَ اللَّهُ الْخَلْقَ كَتَبَ فِي كِتَابٍ فَهُوَ عِنْدَهُ
فَوْقَ الْعَرْشِ إِنَّ رَحْمَتِي تَغْلِبُ غَضَبِي»

(When Allah created the creation, He wrote in a Book, and this Book is with Him above the Throne: `My mercy overcomes My anger.') This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat Al-An`am, all the thanks and appreciation for Allah.

The Tafsir of Surat Al-A`raf

(Chapter - 7)

Which was revealed in Makkah

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

(المص - كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلَ إِلَيْكَ فَلَا يَكُنْ فِي صَدْرِكَ
حَرَجٌ مِّنْهُ لِتُنذِرَ بِهِ وَذِكْرَى لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ - اتَّبِعُوا مَا
أَنْزَلَ إِلَيْكُمْ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا مِن دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ
قَلِيلًا مَّا تَذَكَّرُونَ)

(1. Alif-Lam-Mim-Sad.) (2. (This is the) Book (the Qur'an) sent down unto you, so let not your breast be narrow therefrom, that you warn thereby; and a reminder unto the believers.) (3. Follow what has been sent down unto you from your Lord, and follow not any Awliya' (protectors), besides Him (Allah). Little do you remember!) We mentioned before the explanation of the letters such as, Alif-Lam, that are in the beginning of some Surahs in the Qur'an .

(كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلَ إِلَيْكَ)

((This is the) Book (the Qur'an) sent down unto you (O Muhammad)), from your Lord,

(فَلَا يَكُنْ فِي صَدْرِكَ حَرَجٌ مِّنْهُ)

(so let not your breast be narrow therefrom,) meaning, having doubt about it according to Mujahid, Qatadah and As-Suddi. It was also said that the meaning here is: 'do not hesitate to convey the Qur'an and warn with it,'

(فَاصْبِرْ كَمَا صَبَرَ أُولُو الْعَزْمِ مِنَ الرُّسُلِ)

(Therefore be patient as did the Messengers of strong will) 46:35 . Allah said here,

(لِتُنذِرَ بِهِ)

(that you warn thereby) meaning, 'We sent down the Qur'an so that you may warn the disbelievers with it,'

(وَذِكْرَىٰ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(and a reminder unto the believers). Allah then said to the world,

(اتَّبِعُوا مَا أَنْزَلَ إِلَيْكُم مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ)

(Follow what has been sent down unto you from your Lord) meaning, follow and imitate the unlettered Prophet , who brought you a Book that was revealed for you, from the Lord and master of everything.

(وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا مِن دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ)

(and follow not any Awliya', besides Him (Allah)) meaning, do not disregard what the Messenger brought you and follow something else, for in this case, you will be deviating from Allah's judgment to the decision of someone else. Allah's statement,

(قَلِيلًا مَّا تَذَكَّرُونَ)

(Little do you remember!) is similar to,

(وَمَا أَكْثَرُ النَّاسِ وَلَوْ حَرَصْتَ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(And most of mankind will not believe even if you desire it eagerly) 12:103 , and;

(وَإِن تُطِيعْ أَكْثَرَ مَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يُضِلُّوكَ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ)

(And if you obey most of those on the earth, they will mislead you far away from Allah's path) 6:116 , and,

(وَمَا يُؤْمِنُ أَكْثَرُهُمْ بِاللَّهِ إِلَّا وَهُمْ مُّشْرِكُونَ)

(And most of them believe not in Allah except that they attribute partners unto Him) 12:106 .

(وَكَمْ مِّنْ قَرْيَةٍ أَهْلَكْنَاهَا فَجَاءَهَا بَأْسُنَا بَيِّنًا أَوْ هُمْ
قَائِلُونَ - فَمَا كَانَ دَعْوَاهُمْ إِذْ جَاءَهُمْ بِأَسُنَا إِلَّا أَنْ
قَالُوا إِنَّا كُنَّا ظَالِمِينَ - فَلَنَسَلَنَّ الَّذِينَ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِمْ
وَلَنَسَلَنَّ الْمُرْسَلِينَ - فَلَنَقُصَّنَّ عَلَيْهِم بِعِلْمٍ وَمَا
كُنَّا غَائِبِينَ)

(4. And a great number of towns We destroyed. Our torment came upon them by night or while they were taking their midday nap.) (5. No cry did they utter when Our torment came upon them but this: "Verily, we were wrongdoers.") (6. Then surely, We shall question those (people) to whom it was sent and verily, We shall question the Messengers.) (7. Then surely, We shall narrate unto them (their whole story) with knowledge, and indeed We have not been absent.)

Nations that were destroyed

Allah said,

(وَكَمْ مِّنْ قَرْيَةٍ أَهْلَكْنَاهَا)

(And a great number of towns We destroyed.) for defying Our Messengers and rejecting them. This behavior led them to earn disgrace in this life, which led them to disgrace in the Hereafter. Allah said in other Ayat,

(وَلَقَدْ اسْتَهْزَىءَ بِرُسُلٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ فَحَاقَ بِالَّذِينَ
سَخِرُوا مِنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ)

(And indeed (many) Messengers before you were mocked at, but their scoffers were surrounded by the very thing that they used to mock at) 6:10 , and

(فَكَأَيِّن مِّن قَرْيَةٍ أَهْلَكْنَاهَا وَهِيَ ظَالِمَةٌ فَهِيَ
خَاوِيَةٌ عَلَى عُرُوشِهَا وَيَبُرُّ مُعْطَلَةٌ وَقَصْرٌ مَّشِيدٌ
(

(And many a township did We destroy while they were given to wrongdoing, so that it lie in ruins (up to this day), and (many) a deserted well and lofty castle!) 22:45 , and,

وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِنْ قَرْيَةٍ بَطِرَتْ مَعِيشَتَهَا فَتِلْكَ
مَسَاكِنُهُمْ لَمْ يَنْسُكُنْ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا وَكُنَّا نَحْنُ
الْوَارِثِينَ)

(And how many a town have We destroyed, which was thankless for its means of livelihood And those are their dwellings, which have not been inhabited after them except a little. And verily, We have been the heirs) 28:58 . Allah's saying,

(فَجَاءَهَا بِأَسْنًا بَيِّنًا أَوْ هُمْ قَائِلُونَ)

(Our torment came upon them by night or while they were taking their midday nap.) means, Allah's command, torment and vengeance came over them at night or while taking a nap in the middle of the day. Both of these times are periods of rest and leisure or heedlessness and amusement. Allah also said

(أَفَأَمِنَ أَهْلُ الْقُرَى أَنْ يَأْتِيَهُمْ بَأْسُنَا بَيِّنًا وَهُمْ
نَائِمُونَ - أَوْ أَمِنَ أَهْلُ الْقُرَى أَنْ يَأْتِيَهُمْ بَأْسُنَا
ضَحَى وَهُمْ يَلْعَبُونَ)

(Did the people of the towns then feel secure against the coming of Our punishment by night while they were asleep Or, did the people of the towns then feel secure against the coming of Our punishment in the forenoon while they were playing) 7:97-98 and,

(أَفَأَمِنَ الَّذِينَ مَكَرُوا السَّيِّئَاتِ أَنْ يَخْسِفَ اللَّهُ بِهِمُ
الْأَرْضَ أَوْ يَأْتِيَهُمُ الْعَذَابُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ
- أَوْ يَأْخُذَهُمْ فِي تَقْلِبِهِمْ فَمَا هُمْ بِمُعْجِزِينَ - أَوْ
يَأْخُذَهُمْ عَلَى تَخَوُّفٍ فَإِنَّ رَبَّكُمْ لَرَؤُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ)