

(وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَشْرَأَ الَّذِي كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ)

(and certainly, We shall requite them the worst of what they used to do.) means, for their evil deeds.

(ذَلِكَ جَزَاءُ أَعْدَاءِ اللَّهِ النَّارِ لَهُمْ فِيهَا دَارُ الْخُلْدِ
جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يَجْحَدُونَ - وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ
كَفَرُوا رَبَّنَا أَرْنَا الَّذِينَ أُضَلْنَا مِنَ الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنْسِ
نَجْعَلُهُمَا تَحْتَ أَقْدَامِنَا لِيَكُونَا مِنَ الْأَسْفَلِينَ)

(That is the recompense of the enemies of Allah: the Fire. Therein will be for them the eternal home, a recompense for that they used to deny Our Ayat. And those who disbelieve will say: "Our Lord! Show us those among Jinn and men who led us astray, that we may crush them under our feet so that they become the lowest.") It was reported that `Ali, may Allah be pleased with him, said, concerning the phrase,

(الَّذِينَ أُضَلْنَا)

(those who led us astray): "Iblis and the son of Adam who killed his brother." As-Suddi reported that `Ali, may Allah be pleased with him, said; "Iblis is followed by everyone who commits Shirk and the son of Adam is followed by everyone who commits a major sin. So Iblis is the one who calls people to every evil thing, such as Shirk and lesser sins." As for the first son of Adam, it is as confirmed in the Hadith:

«مَا قُتِلَتْ نَفْسٌ ظُلْمًا إِلَّا كَانَ عَلَى ابْنِ آدَمَ الْأَوَّلِ
كَفْلٌ مِنْ دَمِهَا، لِأَنَّهُ أَوَّلُ مَنْ سَنَّ الْقَتْلَ»

(No soul is wrongfully killed, but a share of the burden)of that sin(will be upon the first son of Adam, because he was the first one who set the precedent of killing another.)

(نَجْعَلُهُمَا تَحْتَ أَقْدَامِنَا)

(that we may crush them under our feet) means, 'make them beneath us in the torment, so that they will be punished more severely than us.'

(لِيَكُونَا مِنَ الْأَسْفَلِينَ)

(so that they become the lowest.) means, in the lowest level of Hell, as already mentioned in Al-A`raf, where the followers ask Allah to multiply the torment for their leaders:

(قَالَ لِكُلِّ ضِعْفٌ وَلَكِنْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ)

((Allah) said: "For each one there is double (torment), but you know not.") (7:38) i.e., Allah will give each of them the torment and punishment they deserve for their deeds. This is like the Ayah:

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

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

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَمُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنْتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ - نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَائُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهُ أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدَّعُونَ - نُزُلًا مِّنْ غُفُورٍ رَّحِيمٍ)

(30. Verily, those who say: "Our Lord is Allah," and then they stand firm, on them the angels will descend (saying): "Fear not, nor grieve! But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised!") (31. "We have been your friends in the life of this world and are (so) in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have (all) that your souls desire, and therein you shall have (all) for which you ask.") (32. "An entertainment from the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.")

Glad Tidings to Those Who believe in Allah Alone and stand firm

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَمُوا)

(Verily, those who say: "Our Lord is Allah," and then they stand firm,) means, they do good deeds sincerely for the sake of Allah, and they obey Allah, doing what Allah has prescribed for

them. Ibn Jarir recorded that Sa`id bin `Imran said, "I read this Ayah to Abu Bakr As-Sddiq, may Allah be pleased with him:

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَمُوا)

(Verily, those who say: "Our Lord is Allah," and then they stand firm,) He said, `Those are the ones who do not associate anything with Allah.'" Then he reported a narration of Al-Aswad bin Hilal, who said, "Abu Bakr As-Sddiq, may Allah be pleased with him, said, `What do you say about this Ayah:

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَمُوا)

(Verily, those who say: "Our Lord is Allah," and then they stand firm,)' They said:

(رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَمُوا)

("Our Lord is Allah," and then they stand firm,) `They shun sin.' He said, `You have not interpreted it improperly.' They say: `Our Lord is Allah, then they stand firm and do not turn to any other god besides Him. "' This was also the view of Mujahid, `Ikrimah, As-Suddi and others. Ahmad recorded that Sufyan bin `Abdullah Ath-Thaqafi said, "I said, `O Messenger of Allah, tell me something that I can adhere to.' He said:

«قُلْ: رَبِّيَ اللَّهُ، ثُمَّ اسْتَقِمِ»

(Say, my Lord is Allah, then stand firm.) I said, `O Messenger of Allah, what do you fear most for me' The Messenger of Allah took hold of the edge of his tongue and said,

«هَذَا»

(This is.)" This was also recorded by At-Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah; At-Tirmidhi said, "Hasan Sahih." Muslim also recorded it in his Sahih, and An-Nasa'i recorded that Sufyan bin `Abdullah Ath-Thaqafi said, "I said, `O Messenger of Allah, tell me something about Islam that I will not have to ask anyone about it after you.' He said:

«قُلْ: آمَنْتُ بِاللَّهِ ثُمَّ اسْتَقِمِ»

(Say: I believe in Allah, then stand firm.)" -- then he mentioned the rest of the Hadith.

(تَنْزَلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ)

(on them the angels will descend). Mujahid, As-Suddi, Zayd bin Aslam and his son Zayd said, "This means, at the time of death, and they will say,

(أَلَّا تَخَافُوا)

(Fear not). " Mujahid, `Ikrimah and Zayd bin Aslam said, "This means not to fear "that which you will face in the Hereafter."

(وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا)

(nor grieve!) `for what you have left behind of worldly things, children, family, wealth and debt, for we will take care of it for you.'

(وَأَبَشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنْتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ)

(But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised!) So they give glad tidings of the end of bad things and the arrival of good things. This is like what is said in the Hadith narrated by Al-Bara', may Allah be pleased with him:

«إِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ تَقُولُ لِرُوحِ الْمُؤْمِنِ: اخْرُجِي أَيُّهَا
الرُّوحُ الطَّيِّبَةُ فِي الْجَسَدِ الطَّيِّبِ كُنْتَ تَعْمُرِينَ،
اخْرُجِي إِلَى رَوْحٍ وَرِيحَانٍ وَرَبٍّ غَيْرِ
غَضَبَانَ»

(The angels say to the soul of the believer, "Come out, O good soul from the good body in which you used to dwell, come out to rest, and provision and a Lord Who is not angry.") It was said that the angels will come down to them on the Day when they are brought out of their graves. Zayd bin Aslam said, "They will give him glad tidings when he dies, in his grave, and when he is resurrected." This was recorded by Ibn Abi Hatim, and this view reconciles all the opinions; it is a good view and it is true.

(نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَآؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ)

(We have been your friends in the life of this world and are (so) in the Hereafter.) means, the angels will say to the believers when death approaches: "We have been your friends, i.e., your close companions, in this world, protecting you and helping you by the command of Allah, and we will be with you in the Hereafter, keeping you from feeling lonely in your graves and when the Trumpet is blown; we will reassure you on the Day of Resurrection and will take you across the Srat and bring you to the Gardens of delight."

(وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهُ أَنفُسُكُمْ)

(Therein you shall have (all) that your souls desire,) means, 'in Paradise you will have all that you wish for and that will delight you.'

(وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدْعُونَ)

(and therein you shall have (all) for which you ask.) means, 'whatever you ask for, it will appear before you as you wish it to be.'

(نُزُلًا مِّنْ غَفُورٍ رَّحِيمٍ)

(An entertainment from the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.) means, 'a welcoming gift and a blessing from the One Who has forgiven your sins and Who is Merciful and Kind towards you, Who has forgiven you, concealed your faults and been Kind and Merciful.'

(وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ قَوْلًا مِّمَّنْ دَعَا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَعَمِلَ
صَالِحًا وَقَالَ إِنَّنِي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ - وَلَا تَسْتَوِ
الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ فَإِذَا
الَّذِي بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَهُ عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ وَلِيٌّ حَمِيمٌ - وَمَا
يُلْقَاهَا إِلَّا الَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا وَمَا يُلْقَاهَا إِلَّا دُونَ حَظٍّ
عَظِيمٍ - وَإِنَّمَا يَنْزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْعٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ
بِاللَّهِ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ)

(33. And who is better in speech than he who invites to Allah, and does righteous deeds, and says: "I am one of the Muslims.") (34. The good deed and the evil deed cannot be equal. Repel (the evil) with one which is better, then verily he, between whom and you there was enmity, (will become) as though he was a close friend.) (35. But none is granted it except those who are patient -- and none is granted it except the owner of the great portion in this world.) (36. And if an evil whisper from Shaytan tries to turn you away, then seek refuge in Allah. Verily, He is the All-Hearer, the All-Knower.)

The Virtue of calling Others to Allah

(وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ قَوْلًا مِّمَّنْ دَعَا إِلَى اللَّهِ)

(And who is better in speech than he who invites to Allah,) means, he calls the servants of Allah to Him.

(وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا وَقَالَ إِنَّي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ)

(and does righteous deeds, and says: "I am one of the Muslims.") means, he himself follows that which he says, so it benefits him as well as others. He is not one of those who enjoin good but do not do it themselves, or who forbid evil yet they do it themselves. He does good and avoids doing evil, and he calls people to their Creator, may He be blessed and exalted. This is general in meaning and applies to everyone who calls people to what is good and is himself guided by what he says. The Messenger of Allah is the foremost among people in this regard, as Muhammad bin Srin, As-Suddi and `Abdur-Rahman bin Zayd bin Aslam said. It was also said that what was meant here is the righteous Mu'adhdhin, as it was mentioned in Sahih Muslim:

«الْمُؤَدِّثُونَ أَطْوَلُ النَّاسِ أَعْنَاقًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ»

(The Mu'adhdhins will be the ones with the longest necks on the Day of Resurrection.)" In As-Sunan it is reported that the Prophet said:

«الْإِمَامُ ضَامِنٌ، وَالْمُؤَدِّنُ مُؤْتَمَنٌ، فَأَرْشَدَ اللَّهُ
الْأئِمَّةَ وَغَفَرَ لِلْمُؤَدِّينَ»

(The Imam is a guarantor and the Mu'adhdhin is in a position of trust. May Allah guide the Imams and forgive the Mu'adhdhin.)" The correct view is that the Ayah is general in meaning, and includes the Mu'adhdhin and others. When this Ayah was revealed, the Adhan had not been prescribed at all. The Ayah was revealed in Makkah, and the Adhan was prescribed in Al-Madinah after the Hijrah, when it was shown to `Abdullah bin `Abd Rabbihi Al-Ansari in a dream. He told the Messenger of Allah about it, and he told him to teach it to Bilal, may Allah be pleased with him, who had a more beautiful voice, as we have discussed elsewhere. So the correct view is that the Ayah is general in meaning, as `Abdur-Razzaq said, narrating from Ma` mar, from Al-Hasan Al-Basri, who recited this Ayah:

(وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ قَوْلًا مِّمَّنْ دَعَا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَعَمِلَ
صَالِحًا وَقَالَ إِنَّي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ)

(And who is better in speech than he who invites to Allah, and does righteous deeds, and says: "I am one of the Muslims.") and said, "This is the beloved of Allah, this is the close friend of Allah, this is the chosen one of Allah, this is the most beloved of the all the people of earth to Allah. He responded to the call of Allah and called mankind to that to which he had responded. He did righteous deeds in response and said, `I am one of the Muslims.' This is Allah's Khalifah."

Wisdom in Da` wah etc.

(وَلَا تَسْتَوِي الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ)

(The good deed and the evil deed cannot be equal.) means, there is a huge difference between them.

(ادْفَعْ بِأَتَىٰ هِيَ أَحْسَنُ)

(Repel (the evil) with one which is better,) means, `when someone does you wrong, repel him by treating him well,' as `Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "There is no better punishment for one who has disobeyed Allah with regard to you, than your obeying Allah with regard to him."

(فَإِذَا الَّذِي بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَهُ عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ وَلِيٌّ حَمِيمٌ)

(then verily he, between whom and you there was enmity, (will become) as though he was a close friend.) means, `if you treat well those who treat you badly, this good deed will lead to reconciliation, love and empathy, and it will be as if he is a close friend to you and he will feel pity for you and be kind to you.' Then Allah says:

(وَمَا يُلْقَاهَا إِلَّا الَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا)

(But none is granted it except those who are patient) meaning, no one accepts this advice and works according to it, except for those who can be patient in doing so, for it is difficult for people to do.

(وَمَا يُلْقَاهَا إِلَّا دُوَّ حَظٍّ عَظِيمٍ)

(and none is granted it except the owner of the great portion) means, the one who has a great portion of happiness in this world and in the Hereafter. `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported that Ibn `Abbas explained this Ayah: "Allah commands the believers to be patient when they feel angry, to be forbearing when confronted with ignorance, and to forgive when they are mistreated. If they do this, Allah will save them from the Shaytan and subdue their enemies to them until they become like close friends."

(وَإِمَّا يَنْزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْعٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ)

(And if an evil whisper from Shaytan tries to turn you away, then seek refuge in Allah.) means, the devils among men may be deceived by your kind treatment of him, but the devils among the Jinn, when they insinuate their evil whispers, cannot be dealt with except by seeking refuge with the Creator Who gave him power over you. If you seek refuge with Allah and turn to Him, He will stop him from harming you and bring his efforts to naught. When the Messenger of Allah stood up to pray, he would say:

«أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ السَّمِيعِ الْعَلِيمِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ،
مِنْ هَمَزِهِ وَنَقَحِهِ وَنَقْتِهِ»

(I seek refuge in Allah the All-Hearing, All-Knowing, from the accursed Shaytan and his evil insinuations, breath and impurity.)" We have already stated that there is nothing like this in the Qur'an, apart from the passage in Surat Al-A`raf, where Allah says:

(خُذِ الْعَفْوَ وَأْمُرْ بِالْعُرْفِ وَأَعْرِضْ عَنِ الْجَاهِلِينَ
- وَإِمَّا يَنْزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْعٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ
إِنَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ)

(Show forgiveness, enjoin what is good, and turn away from the foolish. And if an evil whisper comes to you from Shaytan, then seek refuge with Allah. Verily, He is All-Hearer, All-Knower.) (7:199-200) and the passage in Surat Al-Mu'minun where Allah says:

(ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ السَّيِّئَةِ نَحْنُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا
يَصِفُونَ - وَقُلْ رَبِّ أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ هَمَزَاتِ
الشَّيْطَانِ - وَأَعُوذُ بِكَ رَبِّ أَنْ يَحْضُرُونِ)

(Repel evil with that which is better. We are Best-Acquainted with the things they utter. And say: "My Lord! I seek refuge with You from the whisperings of the Shayatin. And I seek refuge with You, My Lord! lest they should come near me.") (23:96-98)

(وَمِنْ ءَايَاتِهِ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ وَالشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ لَا
تَسْجُدُوا لِلشَّمْسِ وَلَا لِلْقَمَرِ وَاسْجُدُوا لِلَّهِ الَّذِي
خَلَقَهُنَّ إِن كُنتُمْ إِيَّاهُ تَعْبُدُونَ - فَإِن اسْتَكْبَرُوا
فَالَّذِينَ عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ يُسَبِّحُونَ لَهُ بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَهُمْ
لَا يَسْمُونَ)

(وَمِنْ ءَايَاتِهِ أَنْكَ تَرَى الْأَرْضَ خَاشِعَةً فَإِذَا
أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْهَا الْمَاءَ اهْتَزَّتْ وَرَبَّتْ إِنَّ الَّذِي أَحْيَاهَا
لَمُحْيِ الْمَوْتَى إِنَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ)

(37. And from among His signs are the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. Do not prostrate yourselves to the sun nor to the moon, but prostrate yourselves to Allah Who created them, if you worship Him.) (38. But if they are too proud, then there are those who are with your Lord glorify Him night and day, and never are they tired.) (39. And among His signs; that you see the earth barren, but when We send down water to it, it is stirred to life and growth. Verily, He Who gives it life, surely is able to give life to the dead. Indeed He is Able to do all things.)

Here Allah reminds His Creation of His power, and that He is the One Who has no equal, and He is Able to do all things. Allah's saying;

(وَمِنْ ءَايَاتِهِ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ وَالشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ)

(And from among His signs are the night and the day, and the sun and the moon.) means, He created the night with its darkness and the day with its light, and they alternate without ceasing. And He created the sun with its shining light, and the moon with its reflected light. and He allotted their stages and gave them separate orbits in the heavens, so that by the variations in their movements man may know the stages of night and day, of weeks, months and years, and time periods related to people's rights, acts of worship and various transactions. Moreover, because the sun and moon are the most beautiful of the heavenly bodies that can be seen in both the upper and lower realms, Allah points out that they are created entities which are in a state of enthrallment to Him, subject to His dominion and control. So He says:

(لَا تَسْجُدُوا لِلشَّمْسِ وَلَا لِلْقَمَرِ وَاسْجُدُوا لِلَّهِ
الَّذِي خَلَقَهُنَّ إِن كُنْتُمْ إِيَّاهُ تَعْبُدُونَ)

(Do not prostrate yourselves to the sun nor to the moon, but prostrate yourselves to Allah Who created them, if you (really) worship Him.) meaning, 'do not associate anything in worship with Him, for your worship of Him will be of no benefit to you if you worship others alongside Him, because He does not forgive the association of others in worship with Him.' He says:

(فَإِنْ اسْتَكْبَرُوا)

(But if they are too proud,) i.e., to worship Him Alone, and they insist on associating others with Him,

(فَالَّذِينَ عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ)

(then there are those who are with your Lord) i.e., the angels,

(يُسَبِّحُونَ لَهُ بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَهُمْ لَا يَسْأَمُونَ)

(glorify Him night and day, and never are they tired.) This is like the Ayah:

(فَإِنْ يَكْفُرْ بِهَا هَؤُلَاءِ فَقَدْ وَكَّلْنَا بِهَا قَوْمًا لَّيْسُوا
بِهَا بِكَافِرِينَ)

(But if these disbelieve therein, then, indeed We have entrusted it to a people who are not disbelievers therein.) (6:89).

(وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ)

(And among His signs) means, signs of His ability to bring the dead back to life.

(أَنْتَ تَرَى الْأَرْضَ خَاشِعَةً)

(that you see the earth barren,) means, lifeless, with nothing growing in it; it is dead.

(فَإِذَا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْهَا الْمَاءَ اهْتَزَّتْ وَرَبَّتْ)

(but when We send down water (rain) to it, it is stirred to life and growth.) means, it brings forth all kinds of crops and fruits.

(إِنَّ الَّذِي أَحْيَاهَا لَمُحْيِ الْمَوْتَى إِنَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ
شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ)

(Verily, He Who gives it life, surely is able to give life to the dead. Indeed He is Able to do all things.)

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُلْحِدُونَ فِي آيَاتِنَا لَا يَخْفَوْنَ عَلَيْنَا
أَفَمَنْ يُلْقَى فِي النَّارِ خَيْرٌ أَمْ مَنْ يَأْتِي ءَامِنًا يَوْمَ

الْقِيَمَةَ اَعْمَلُوا مَا شِئْتُمْ إِنَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ -
 إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِالذِّكْرِ لَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ وَإِنَّهُ لَكِتَابٌ
 عَزِيزٌ - لَا يَأْتِيهِ الْبَطْلُ مِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَلَا مِنْ
 خَلْفِهِ تَنْزِيلٌ مِّنْ حَكِيمٍ حَمِيدٍ - مَا يُقَالُ لَكَ إِلَّا مَا
 قَدْ قِيلَ لِلرُّسُلِ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَدُوٌّ مَّغْفِرَةٌ وَدُوٌّ
 عِقَابٍ أَلِيمٍ)

(40. Verily, those who Yulhiduna Fi Our Ayat are not hidden from Us. Is he who is cast into the Fire better or he who comes secure on the Day of Resurrection Do what you will. Verily, He is All-Seer of what you do.) (41. Verily, those who disbelieved in the Reminder when it came to them. And verily, it is an honorable well-fortified respected Book.) (42. Falsehood cannot come to it from before it or behind it, (it is) sent down by the All-Wise, Worthy of all praise.) (43. Nothing is said to you except what was said to the Messengers before you. Verily, your Lord is the Possessor of forgiveness, and (also) the Possessor of painful punishment.)

The Punishment of the Deniers and the Description of the Qur'an

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُلْحِدُونَ فِي آيَاتِنَا)

(Verily, Yulhiduna Fi Our Ayat) Ibn ` Abbas said, "Al-Ilhad means putting words in their improper places." Qatadah and others said, "It means disbelief and obstinate behavior."

(لَا يَخْفُونَ عَلَيْنَا)

(are not hidden from Us.) This is a stern warning and dire threat, stating that He, may He be exalted, knows who denies His signs, Names and attributes, and He will punish them for that. He says:

(أَفَمَنْ يُلْقَى فِي النَّارِ خَيْرٌ أَمْ مَنْ يَأْتِي ءَامِنًا يَوْمَ
 الْقِيَمَةِ)

(Is he who is cast into the Fire better or he who comes secure on the Day of Resurrection) means, are these two equal They are not equal. Then Allah warns the disbelievers:

(اعْمَلُوا مَا شِئْتُمْ)

(Do what you will.) Mujahid, Ad-Dahhak and `Ata' Al-Khurasani said that

(اعْمَلُوا مَا شِئْتُمْ)

(Do what you will.) is a threat. Meaning, `do what you will of good or evil, for He knows and sees all that you do.' He says:

(إِنَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ)

(Verily, He is All-Seer of what you do.)

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِالذِّكْرِ لَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ)

(Verily, those who disbelieved in the Reminder when it came to them.) Ad-Dahhak, As-Suddi and Qatadah said, "This is the Qur'an."

(وَإِنَّهُ لَكِتَابٌ عَزِيزٌ)

(And verily, it is an honorable well-fortified respected Book.) means, it is protected and preserved, and nobody can produce anything like it.

(لَا يَأْتِيهِ الْبَطْلُ مِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَلَا مِنْ خَلْفِهِ)

(Falsehood cannot come to it from before it or behind it,) means, there is no way to corrupt it, because it has been sent down by the Lord of the worlds. Allah says:

(تَنْزِيلٌ مِّنْ حَكِيمٍ حَمِيدٍ)

((it is) sent down by the All-Wise, Worthy of all praise.) meaning, He is Wise in all that He says and does, Praiseworthy in all that He commands and forbids; everything that He does is for praiseworthy purposes and its consequences will be good.

(مَا يُقَالُ لَكَ إِلَّا مَا قَدْ قِيلَ لِلرُّسُلِ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ)

(Nothing is said to you except what was said to the Messengers before you.) Qatadah, As-Suddi and others said, "Nothing is said to you by way of rejection and disbelief, that was not said to the Messengers who came before you. Just as you have been rejected, they were also rejected. Just as they bore their people's insults with patience, so too you must bear your people's insults with patience."

(وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَذُو مَغْفِرَةٍ)

(Verily, your Lord is the Possessor of forgiveness,) means, for those who turn to Him in repentance.

(وَذُو عِقَابٍ أَلِيمٍ)

(and (also) the Possessor of painful punishment.) means, for those who persist in disbelief, transgression and stubborn opposition.

(وَلَوْ جَعَلْنَاهُ قُرْءَانًا أَعْجَمِيًّا لَقَالُوا لَوْلَا فُصِّلَتْ
آيَاتُهُ أَعَجَمِيٌّ وَعَرَبِيٌّ قُلْ هُوَ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا
هُدًى وَشِفَاءٌ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ فِي آذَانِهِمْ وَقْرٌ
وَهُوَ عَلَيْهِمْ عَمًى أُولَئِكَ يُنَادُونَ مِنْ مَّكَانٍ بَعِيدٍ
وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ فَاخْتَلَفَ فِيهِ وَلَوْلَا
كَلِمَةٌ سَبَقَتْ مِنْ رَبِّكَ لَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمْ وَإِنَّهُمْ لَفِي
شَكٍّ مِنْهُ مُرِيبٍ)

(44. And if We had sent this as a Qur'an in a foreign language, they would have said: "Why are not its verses explained in detail What! Not in Arabic nor an Arab" Say: "It is for those who believe, a guide and a cure. And as for those who disbelieve, there is heaviness in their ears, and it is blindness for them. They are called from a place far away.") (45. And indeed We gave Musa the Scripture, but dispute arose therein. And had it not been for a Word that went forth before from your Lord, and the matter would have been settled between them. But truly, they are in grave doubt thereto.)

Rejection of the Qur'an is pure Stubbornness

Allah tells us that the Qur'an is so eloquent and perfect in its wording and meanings, yet despite that the idolators do not believe in it. He tells us that their disbelief is the disbelief of stubbornness, as He says elsewhere:

(وَلَوْ نَزَّلْنَاهُ عَلَى بَعْضِ الْأَعْجَمِينَ)

(فَقَرَأَهُ عَلَيْهِمْ مَا كَانُوا بِهِ مُؤْمِنِينَ)

(And if We had revealed it unto any of the non-Arabs, and he had recited it unto them, they would not have believed in it.) (26:198-199). If the Qur'an had been revealed in the language of the non-Arabs, they would have said, because of their stubbornness:

(لَوْلَا فَصَّلَتْ آيَاتُهُ أَعْجَمِيٌّ وَعَرَبِيٌّ)

(Why are not its verses explained in detail What! not in Arabic and an Arab) meaning, why is it not revealed in detail in Arabic And by way of denunciation they would have said, "What! not in Arabic nor from an Arab -- i.e., how can foreign words be revealed to an Arab who does not understand them This interpretation was reported from Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Sa`id bin Jubayr, As-Suddi and others.

(قُلْ هُوَ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا هُدًى وَشِفَاءً)

(Say: "It is for those who believe, a guide and a cure...") means, `say, O Muhammad: this Qur'an, for the one who believes in it, is guidance for his heart and a cure for the doubts and confusion that exists in people's hearts.'

(وَالَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ فِي آذَانِهِمْ وَقْرٌ)

(And as for those who disbelieve, there is heaviness in their ears,) means, they do not understand what is in it.

(وَهُوَ عَلَيْهِمْ عَمًى)

(and it is blindness for them.) means they are not guided to the explanations contained therein. This is like the Ayah:

(وَنُنزِّلُ مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ مَا هُوَ شِفَاءٌ وَرَحْمَةٌ
لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَلَا يَزِيدُ الظَّالِمِينَ إِلَّا خَسَارًا)

(And We send down of the Qur'an that which is a healing and a mercy to those who believe, and it increases the wrongdoers nothing but loss.) (17:82).

(أُولَئِكَ يُنَادُونَ مِنْ مَّكَانٍ بَعِيدٍ)

(They are called from a place far away.) Mujahid said, "Far away from their hearts." Ibn Jarir said, "It is as if the one who is addressing them is calling to them from a distant place, and they cannot understand what he is saying." This is like the Ayah:

وَمَثَلُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا كَمَثَلِ الَّذِي يَنْعِقُ بِمَا لَا
يَسْمَعُ إِلَّا دُعَاءً وَنِدَاءً صُمُّ بُكْمٌ عُمْى فَهُمْ لَا
يَعْقِلُونَ)

(And the example of those who disbelieve is as that of him who shouts to those (flock of sheep) that hears nothing but calls and cries. (They are) deaf, dumb and blind. So they do not understand.) (2:171)

Taking Musa as an Example

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ فَاخْتَلَفَ فِيهِ)

(And indeed We gave Musa the Scripture, but dispute arose therein.) means, they disbelieved in him and did not show him any respect.

فَاصْبِرْ كَمَا صَبَرَ أُولُوا الْعَزْمِ مِنَ الرُّسُلِ)

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

وَلَوْ لَا كَلِمَةٌ سَبَقَتْ مِنْ رَبِّكَ إِلَى أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى)

(And had it not been for a Word that went forth before from your Lord,) i.e., to delay the Reckoning until the Day of Resurrection,

لَفُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمْ)

(the matter would have been settled between them.) means, the punishment would have been hastened for them. But they have an appointed time, beyond which they will find no escape.

وَإِنَّهُمْ لَفِي شَكٍّ مِنْهُ مُّرِيبٍ)

(But truly, they are in grave doubt thereto.) means, their words of disbelief are not due to any wisdom or insight on their part; rather they spoke without any attempt at examining it thoroughly. This was also the interpretation of Ibn Jarir, and it is a plausible interpretation. And Allah knows best.

(مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَلِنَفْسِهِ وَمَنْ أَسَاءَ فَعَلَيْهَا وَمَا رَبُّكَ بِظَلَمٍ لِلْعَبِيدِ - إِلَيْهِ يُرَدُّ عِلْمُ السَّاعَةِ وَمَا تَخْرُجُ مِنْ ثَمَرَاتٍ مِّنْ أَكْمَامِهَا وَمَا تَحْمِلُ مِنْ أُنثَىٰ وَلَا تَضَعُ إِلَّا بِعِلْمِهِ وَيَوْمَ يُنَادِيهِمْ أَيْنَ شُرَكَائِيَ قَالُوا ءَآذِنَاكَ مَا مِنَّا مِنْ شَهِيدٍ - وَضَلَّ عَنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يَدْعُونَ مِن قَبْلُ وَظَنُّوا مَا لَهُم مِّن مَّحِيصٍ)

(46. Whosoever does righteous good deed, it is for himself; and whosoever does evil, it is against himself. And your Lord is not at all unjust to (His) servants.) (47. To Him is referred the knowledge of the Hour. No fruit comes out of its sheath, nor does a female conceive nor brings forth (young), except by His knowledge. And on the Day when He will call unto them (saying): "Where are My (so-called) partners" They will say: "We inform You that none of us bears witness to it!") (48. And those whom they used to invoke before (in this world) shall disappear from them, and they will perceive that they have no place of refuge.)

Everyone will be requited according to His Deeds

(مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَلِنَفْسِهِ)

(Whosoever does righteous good deed, it is for himself;) means, the benefit of which will come to him.

(وَمَنْ أَسَاءَ فَعَلَيْهَا)

(and whosoever does evil, it is against himself.) means, the consequences of that will come back on him.

(وَمَا رَبُّكَ بِظَلَمٍ لِلْعَبِيدِ)

(And your Lord is not at all unjust to (His) servants) means, He only punishes people for their sins, and He does not punish anyone except after establishing proof against him and sending a Messenger to him.

Knowledge of the Hour is with Allah Alone

Then Allah says:

(إِلَيْهِ يُرَدُّ عِلْمُ السَّاعَةِ)

(To Him is referred the knowledge of the Hour.) meaning, no one knows about that apart from Him. Muhammad , the leader of mankind, said to Jibril, who is one of the leading angels, when he asked him about the Hour:

«مَا الْمَسْئُولُ عَنْهَا بِأَعْلَمَ مِنَ السَّائِلِ»

(The one who is asked about it does not know more than the one who is asking.)" And Allah says:

(إِلَى رَبِّكَ مُنْتَهَاهَا)

(To your Lord belongs the term thereof.) (79:44)

(لَا يُجَلِّيهَا لِوَقْتِهَا إِلَّا هُوَ)

(None can reveal its time but He) (7:187).

(وَمَا تَخْرُجُ مِنْ ثَمَرَاتٍ مِّنْ أَكْمَامِهَا وَمَا تَحْمِلُ
مِنْ أَنْثَى وَلَا تَضَعُ إِلَّا بِعِلْمِهِ)

(No fruit comes out of its sheath, nor does a female conceive nor brings forth (young), except by His knowledge.) means, all of that is known to Him, and nothing is hidden from your Lord the weight of a speck of dust on the earth or in the heaven. Allah says:

(وَمَا تَسْقُطُ مِنْ وَرَقَةٍ إِلَّا يَعْلَمُهَا)

(not a leaf falls, but He knows it) (6:59).

(يَعْلَمُ مَا تَحْمِلُ كُلُّ أُنْثَىٰ وَمَا تَغِيضُ الْأَرْحَامُ
وَمَا تَزْدَادُ وَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ عِنْدَهُ بِمِقْدَارٍ)

(Allah knows what every female bears, and by how much the wombs fall short or exceed. Everything with Him is in (due) proportion) (13:8).

(وَمَا يُعَمَّرُ مِنْ مُعَمَّرٍ وَلَا يُنْقَصُ مِنْ عُمُرِهِ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ إِنَّ ذَلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرٌ)

(And no aged man is granted a length of life nor is a part cut off from his life, but is in a Book. Surely, that is easy for Allah.) (35:11)

(وَيَوْمَ يُنَادِيهِمْ أَيْنَ شُرَكَائِي)

(And on the Day when He will call unto them (saying): "Where are My (so-called) partners") means, on the Day of Resurrection, Allah will call out to the idolators before all of creation and say, "Where are My partners whom you worshipped besides Me"

(قَالُوا ءَاذَنَّاكَ)

(They will say: "We inform You..." means, `we tell You,')

(مَا مِنَّا مِنْ شَهِيدٍ)

(that none of us bears witness to it.) means, `not one of us will bear witness today that You have any partner.'

(وَضَلَّ عَنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يَدْعُونَ مِنْ قَبْلُ)

(And those whom they used to invoke before (in this world) shall disappear from them,) means, they will go away, and will be of no benefit to them.

(وَوَظَنُوا مَا لَهُمْ مِنْ مَّحِيصٍ)

(and they will perceive that they have no place of refuge) means, they will have no way of escaping from the punishment of Allah. This is like the Ayah:

(وَرَأَى الْمُجْرِمُونَ النَّارَ فَظَنُّوا أَنَّهُمْ مُوَاقِعُهَا
وَلَمْ يَجِدُوا عَنْهَا مَصْرَفًا)

(And the criminals shall see the Fire and apprehend that they have to fall therein. And they will find no way of escape from there.) (18:53)

(لَا يَسْمُ الْإِنْسَانُ مِنْ دُعَاءِ الْخَيْرِ وَإِنْ مَسَّهُ
الْشَّرُّ فَيَبُوسٌ قَنُوطٌ - وَلَئِنْ أَدْقَنَهُ رَحْمَةً مِّنَّا مِنْ
بَعْدِ ضَرَّاءَ مَسَّهُ لَيَقُولَنَّ هَذَا لِي وَمَا أَظُنُّ
السَّاعَةَ قَائِمَةً وَلَئِنْ رُجِّعْتُ إِلَى رَبِّي إِنَّ لِي عِنْدَهُ
لِلْحُسْنَى فَلَنُنَبِّئَنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِمَا عَمِلُوا
وَلَنُذِيقَنَّهُمْ مِّنْ عَذَابٍ غَلِيظٍ - وَإِذَا أَنْعَمْنَا عَلَى
الْإِنْسَانِ أَعْرَضَ وَنَأَىٰ بِجَانِبِهِ وَإِذَا مَسَّهُ الشَّرُّ
فَدُودٌ دُعَاءِ عَرِيضٍ)

(49. Man does not get tired of asking for good; but if an evil touches him, then he gives up all hope and is lost in despair.) (50. And truly, if We give him a taste of mercy from Us, after some adversity has touched him, he is sure to say: "This is due to my (merit); I think not that the Hour will be established. But if I am brought back to my Lord, surely there will be for me the best with Him. "Then, We verily will show to the disbelievers what they have done, and We shall make them taste a severe torment.) (51. And when We show favor to man, he turns away and becomes arrogant; but when evil touches him, then he has recourse to long supplications.)

Man is fickle when Ease comes to Him after Difficulty

Allah tells us that man never gets bored of asking his Lord for good things, such as wealth, physical health, etc., but if evil touches him -- i.e., trials and difficulties or poverty --

(فَيَبُوسٌ قَنُوطٌ)

(then he gives up all hope and is lost in despair.), i.e., he thinks that he will never experience anything good again.

(وَلَئِنْ أَدْقَنَهُ رَحْمَةً مِّنَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ ضَرَّاءَ مَسَّهُ
لَيَقُولَنَّ هَذَا لِي)

(And truly, if We give him a taste of mercy from Us, after some adversity has touched him, he is sure to say: "This is due to my (merit)...") means, if something good happens to him or some

provision comes to him after a period of difficulty, he says, `this is because of me, because I deserve this from my Lord.'

(وَمَا أَظُنُّ السَّاعَةَ قَائِمَةً)

(I think not that the Hour will be established.) means, he does not believe that the Hour will come. So when he is given some blessing, he becomes careless, arrogant and ungrateful, as Allah says:

(كَلَّا إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لِرَبِّهِ لَكَنَّاظِرٌ - أَنْ رَاءَهُ اسْتَعْتَصَبَ)

(Nay! Verily, man does transgress. Because he considers himself self-sufficient.) (96:6)

(وَلَئِنْ رُجِّعْتُ إِلَىٰ رَبِّي إِنَّ لِي عِنْدَهُ لَلْحُسْنَىٰ)

(But if I am brought back to my Lord, surely there will be for me the best with Him.) means, `if there is a Hereafter after all, then my Lord will be generous and kind to me just as He was in this world.' So he expects Allah to do him favors in spite of his bad deeds and lack of certain faith. Allah says:

(فَلَنُنَبِّئَنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِمَا عَمِلُوا وَلَنُذِيقَهُمْ مِّنْ عَذَابٍ غَلِيظٍ)

(Then, We verily will show to the disbelievers what they have done, and We shall make them taste a severe torment.) Thus Allah threatens punishment and vengeance to those whose conduct and belief is like that.

(وَإِذَا أَنْعَمْنَا عَلَىٰ الْإِنْسَانِ أَعْرَضَ وَنَأَىٰ بِجَانِبِهِ)

(And when We show favor to man, he turns away and becomes arrogant;) means, he turns away from doing acts of obedience and is too proud to obey the commands of Allah. This is like the Ayah:

(فَتَوَلَّىٰ بِرُكْنِهِ)

(But)Fir`awn(turned away along with his hosts) (51:39).

(وَإِذَا مَسَّهُ الشَّرُّ)

(but when evil touches him,) means, difficulties,

(قُدُو دُعَاءِ عَرِيضٍ)

(then he has recourse to long supplications.) means, he asks at length for one thing. Long supplications are those which are long on words and short on meaning. The opposite is concise speech which is brief but full of meaning. And Allah says:

(وَإِذَا مَسَّ الْإِنْسَانَ الضُّرُّ دَعَانَا لِجَنبِهِ أَوْ قَاعِدًا
أَوْ قَائِمًا فَلَمَّا كَشَفْنَا عَنْهُ ضُرَّهُ مَرَّ كَأَن لَّمْ يَدْعُنَا
إِلَى ضُرِّ مَسَّهُ)

(And when harm touches man, he invokes Us, lying on his side, or sitting or standing. But when We have removed his harm from him, he passes on as if he had never invoked Us for a harm that touched him!) (10:12)

(قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ كَفَرْتُمْ بِهِ مَنْ
أَضَلُّ مِمَّنْ هُوَ فِي شِقَاقٍ بَعِيدٍ - سُنُّرِيهِمْ ءَايَاتِنَا
فِي الْأَفَاقِ وَفِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ حَتَّى يَتَبَيَّنَ لَهُمْ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ
أَوَلَمْ يَكْفِ بِرَبِّكَ أَنَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ - أَلَا
إِنَّهُمْ فِي مِرْيَةٍ مِّنْ لِّقَاءِ رَبِّهِمْ أَلَا إِنَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ
مُّحِيطٌ)

(52. Say: "Tell me, if it is from Allah, and you disbelieve in it Who is more astray than one who is in opposition far away.") (53. We will show them Our signs in the universes, and within themselves, until it becomes manifest to them that this is the truth. Is it not sufficient in regard to your Lord that He is a Witness over all things) (54. Lo, Verily, they are in doubt concerning the meeting with their Lord. Verily, He is surrounding all things!)

The Qur'an and the Proofs of its Truth Allah says:

(قُلْ)

(Say) -- `O Muhammad, to these idolators who disbelieve in the Qur'an'--

(أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ كَانَ)

(Tell me, if it) -- this Qur'an --

(مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ كَفَرْتُمْ بِهِ)

(is from Allah, and you disbelieve in it) means, `what do you think your position is before the One Who revealed it to His Messenger' Allah says:

(مَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّنْ هُوَ فِي شِقَاقٍ بَعِيدٍ)

(Who is more astray than one who is in opposition far away.) means, he is in a state of disbelief, stubbornness and opposition to the truth, and is following a path that leads far away from guidance. Then Allah says:

(سَنُرِيهِمْ ءَايَاتِنَا فِي الْأَفَاقِ وَفِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ)

(We will show them Our signs in the universe, and within themselves,) meaning, `We will show them Our evidence and proof that the Qur'an is true and has indeed been sent down from Allah to the Messenger of Allah, through external signs,

(فِي الْأَفَاقِ)

(in the universe), ' such as conquests and the advent of Islam over various regions and over all other religions. Mujahid, Al-Hasan and As-Suddi said, "And signs within themselves means, the battle of Badr, the conquest of Makkah, and other events which befell them, where Allah granted victory to Muhammad and his Companions, and inflicted a humiliating defeat on falsehood and its followers." It may also be that what is meant here is man and his physical composition. As detailed in the science of anatomy, which indicates the wisdom of the Creator -- may He be blessed and exalted -- and the different inclinations and opposite natures that people have, good and bad, etc., and the (divine) decrees to which man is subjected, having no power to change and over which he has no control.

(حَتَّىٰ يَتَبَيَّنَ لَهُمْ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ أَوَلَمْ يَكْفِ بِرَبِّكَ أَنَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ)

(until it becomes manifest to them that this (the Qur'an) is the truth. Is it not sufficient in regard to your Lord that He is a Witness over all things) means, sufficient is Allah as a Witness over the words and deeds of His servants, and He bears witness that Muhammad is telling the truth in what he says, as Allah says:

(لَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَشْهَدُ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ إِلَيْكَ أَنْزَلَهُ بِعِلْمِهِ)

(But Allah bears witness to that which He has sent down unto you; He has sent it down with His knowledge) (4:166).

(أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ فِي مَرِيَّةٍ مِّنْ لِّقَاءِ رَبِّهِمْ)

(Lo, Verily, they are in doubt concerning the meeting with their Lord.) means, they doubt that the Hour will come, they do not think about it or strive for it or pay heed to it; on the contrary, they regard it as irrelevant and do not care about it. But it will undoubtedly come to pass. Then Allah states that He is Able to do all things and He encompasses all things, and it is very easy for Him to bring about the Hour:

(أَلَا إِنَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ مُّحِيطٌ)

(Verily, He is surrounding all things!) means, all of creation is subject to His control, dominion and knowledge; He is controlling all things by His power, so whatever He wills happens, and whatever He does not will does not happen, and there is no god worthy of worship apart from Him. This is the end of the Tafsir of Surah Fussilat. To Allah be praise and blessings.

The Tafsir of Surat Ash-Shura

(Chapter - 42)

Which was revealed in Makkah

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(حم- عسق- كَذَلِكَ يُوحَىٰ إِلَيْكَ وَإِلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ
قَبْلِكَ اللَّهُ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ- لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ
وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ- تَكَادُ
السَّمَوَاتُ يَتَّقَطُرْنَ مِنْ فَوْقِهِنَّ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ يُسَبِّحُونَ
بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَ لِمَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا إِنْ

اللَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ- وَالَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِهِ
أَوْلِيَاءَ اللَّهُ حَفِيفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَمَا أَنْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِوَكِيلٍ-

(1. Ha Mim.) (2. `Ain Sn Qaf.) (3. Likewise Allah, the Almighty, the All-Wise sends revelation to you as to those before you.) (4. To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth, and He is the Most High, the Most Great.) (5. Nearly the heavens might be rent asunder from above them, and the angels glorify the praises of their Lord, and ask for forgiveness for those on the earth. Lo, Verily, Allah is the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.) (6. And as for those who take as protecting friends others besides Him -- Allah is Hafiz over them, and you are not a trustee over them.)

The Revelation and Allah's Might

We have previously discussed the individual letters.

كَذَلِكَ يُوحَىٰ إِلَيْكَ وَإِلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ اللَّهُ
الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ)

(Likewise Allah, the Almighty, the All-Wise sends revelation to you as to those before you.) means, 'just as this Qur'an has been revealed to you, so too the Books and Scriptures were revealed to the Prophets who came before you.'

(اللَّهُ الْعَزِيزُ)

(Allah, the Almighty) means, in His vengeance

(الْحَكِيمُ)

(the All-Wise) means, in all that He says and does. Imam Malik, may Allah have mercy on him, narrated that `A'ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, said, "Al-Harith bin Hisham asked the Messenger of Allah , `O Messenger of Allah, how does the revelation come to you' The Messenger of Allah said:

«أَحْيَانًا يَأْتِينِي مِثْلَ صَلْصَلَةِ الْجَرَسِ، وَهُوَ أَشَدُّهُ
عَلَيَّ فَيَقْصِمُ عَلَيَّ وَقَدْ وَعَيْتُ مَا قَالَ، وَأَحْيَانًا
يَأْتِينِي الْمَلَكُ رَجُلًا فَيُكَلِّمُنِي فَأَعِي مَا يَقُولُ»

(Sometimes it comes to me like the ringing of a bell, which is the most difficult for me; then it goes away, and I understand what was said. And sometimes the angel comes to me in the image of a man, and he speaks to me and I understand what he says.)" `A'ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, said, "I saw him receiving the revelation on a very cold day, and when it departed from him, there were beads of sweat on his forehead." It was also reported in the Two Sahihs, and the version quoted here is that recorded by Al-Bukhari.

(لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ)

(To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth,) means, everything is subject to His dominion and control.

(وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ)

(and He is the Most High, the Most Great.) This is like the Ayat:

(الْكَبِيرُ الْمُتَعَالَى)

(the Most Great, the Most High) (13:9), and

(وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْكَبِيرُ)

(He is the Most High, the Most Great) (22:62). And there are many similar Ayat.

(تَكَادُ السَّمَوَاتُ يَتَفَطَّرْنَ مِنْ فَوْقِهِنَّ)

(Nearly the heavens might be rent asunder from above them,) Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, Ad-Dahhak, Qatadah, As-Suddi and Ka`b Al-Ahbar said, "Out of fear of His might."

(وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ يُسَبِّحُونَ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَ لِمَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ)

(and the angels glorify the praises of their Lord, and ask for forgiveness for those on the earth.) This is like the Ayah:

(الَّذِينَ يَحْمِلُونَ الْعَرْشَ وَمَنْ حَوْلَهُ يُسَبِّحُونَ
بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَيُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَ لِلَّذِينَ
ءَامَنُوا رَبَّنَا وَسِعْتَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ رَّحْمَةً وَعِلْمًا)

(Those who bear the Throne and those around it glorify the praises of their Lord, and believe in Him, and ask forgiveness for those who believe (saying): "Our Lord! You comprehend all things in mercy and knowledge,") (40:7)

(أَلَا إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ)

(Lo! Verily, Allah is the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.) This is a reminder, to take heed of this fact.

(وَالَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ)

(And as for those who take as protecting friends others besides Him) This refers to the idolators,

(اللَّهُ حَفِيفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ)

(Allah is Hafiz over them.) meaning, He is Witness to their deeds, recording and enumerating them precisely, and He will requite them for them in full.

(وَمَا أَنْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِوَكِيلٍ)

(and you are not a trustee over them.) meaning, `you are just a warner, and Allah is the Trustee of all affairs.'

(وَكَذَلِكَ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ قُرْءَانًا عَرَبِيًّا لِنُنذِرَ أُمَّ
الْقُرَى وَمَنْ حَوْلَهَا وَنُنذِرَ يَوْمَ الْجَمْعِ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ
فَرِيقٌ فِي الْجَنَّةِ وَفَرِيقٌ فِي السَّعِيرِ - وَلَوْ شَاءَ
اللَّهُ لَجَعَلَهُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَلَكِنْ يُدْخِلُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ فِي
رَحْمَتِهِ وَالظَّالِمُونَ مَا لَهُمْ مِنْ وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ)

(7. And thus We have revealed to you a Qur'an in Arabic that you may warn the Mother of the Towns and all around it, and warn (them) of the Day of Assembling of which there is no doubt, a party will be in Paradise and a party in the blazing Fire.) (8. And if Allah had willed, He could have made them one nation, but He admits whom He wills to His mercy. And the wrongdoers will have neither a protector nor a helper.)

The Qur'an was revealed to serve as a Warning

Allah says, 'just as We sent revelation to the Prophets before you,'

(أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ قُرْءَانًا عَرَبِيًّا)

(thus We have revealed to you a Qur'an in Arabic) meaning, plain, clear, and manifest

(لَتُنذِرَ أُمَّ الْقُرَى)

(that you may warn the Mother of the Towns), i.e., Makkah,

(وَمَنْ حَوْلَهَا)

(and all around it,) means, all the lands, east and west. Makkah is called Umm Al-Qura (the Mother of the Towns) because it is nobler than all other lands, as indicated by much evidence that has been discussed elsewhere. Among the most concise and clear proofs of that is the report recorded by Imam Ahmad from `Abdullah bin `Adi bin Al-Hamra' Az-Zuhri, who heard the Messenger of Allah say, as he was standing in the market place of Makkah;

«وَاللَّهِ إِنَّكَ لَخَيْرُ أَرْضِ اللَّهِ وَأَحَبُّ أَرْضِ اللَّهِ إِلَيَّ
اللَّهُ، وَلَوْلَا أَنِّي أَخْرَجْتُ مِنْكَ مَا خَرَجْتُ»

(By Allah, you are the best land of Allah, the most beloved land to Allah; were it not for the fact that I was driven out from you, I would never have left you.) This was also recorded by At-Tirmidhi, An-Nasa'i and Ibn Majah; At-Tirmidhi said, "Hasan Sahih. "

(وَتُنذِرَ يَوْمَ الْجَمْعِ)

(and warn (them) of the Day of Assembling) i.e., the Day of Resurrection, when Allah will assemble the first and the last in one plain.

(لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ)

(of which there is no doubt,) means, there is no doubt that it will happen and will most certainly come to pass.

(فَرِيقٌ فِي الْجَنَّةِ وَفَرِيقٌ فِي السَّعِيرِ)

(a party will be in Paradise and a party in the blazing Fire.) This is like the Ayah:

(يَوْمَ يَجْمَعُكُمْ لِيَوْمِ الْجَمْعِ ذَلِكَ يَوْمُ التَّغَابُنِ)

((And remember) the Day when He will gather you (all) on the Day of Gathering, --- that will be the Day of mutual loss and gain) (64:9). which means that the people of Paradise and the people of Hell will gain and lose, respectively. And it is like the Ayah:

(إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّمَنْ خَافَ عَذَابَ الْآخِرَةِ ذَلِكَ
يَوْمٌ مَّجْمُوعٌ لَهُ النَّاسُ وَذَلِكَ يَوْمٌ مَّشْهُودٌ - وَمَا
تُؤَخَّرُهُ إِلَّا لِأَجَلٍ مَّعْدُودٍ - يَوْمَ يَأْتِ لَا تَكَلِّمُ نَفْسٌ
إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ فَمِنْهُمْ شَقِيٌّ وَسَعِيدٌ)

(Indeed in that (there) is a sure lesson for those who fear the torment of the Hereafter. That is a Day whereon will be gathered together, and that is a Day when all (the dwellers of the heavens and the earth) will be present. And We delay it only for a term fixed. On the Day when it comes, no person shall speak except by His leave. Some among them will be wretched and (others) blessed.) (11:103-105) Imam Ahmad recorded that `Abdullah bin `Amr, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah came out to us, holding two books in his hand. He said,

«أَتَدْرُونَ مَا هَذَانِ الْكِتَابَانِ؟»

(Do you know what these two books are) We said, "We do not know unless you tell us, O Messenger of Allah." Concerning the book in his right hand, He said:

«هَذَا كِتَابٌ مِنْ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ بِأَسْمَاءِ أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ
وَأَسْمَاءِ آبَائِهِمْ وَقَبَائِلِهِمْ، ثُمَّ أُجْمِلَ عَلَى آخِرِهِمْ،
لَا يُزَادُ فِيهِمْ وَلَا يُنْقَصُ مِنْهُمْ أَبَدًا»

(This is a book from the Lord of the worlds, containing the names of the people of Paradise and of their fathers and tribes; all of them are detailed, down to the last one of them, and nothing will be added or taken away from it.) Then concerning the book in his left hand, he said:

«هَذَا كِتَابُ أَهْلِ النَّارِ بِأَسْمَائِهِمْ وَأَسْمَاءِ آبَائِهِمْ
وَقَبَائِلِهِمْ، ثُمَّ أُجْمِلَ عَلَىٰ آخِرِهِمْ، لَمْ يُزَادْ فِيهِمْ وَلَا
يُنْقَصُ مِنْهُمْ أَبَدًا»

(This is the book of the people of Hell, containing their names and the names of their fathers and tribes, all of them are detailed down to the last one of them, and nothing will be added or taken away from it.) The Companions of the Messenger of Allah said, "Why should we strive if it is something that is already cut and dried" The Messenger of Allah said:

«سَدِّدُوا وَقَارِبُوا فَإِنَّ صَاحِبَ الْجَنَّةِ يُخْتَمُ لَهُ
بِعَمَلِ أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ، وَإِنْ عَمِلَ أَيَّ عَمَلٍ، وَإِنْ
صَاحِبَ النَّارِ يُخْتَمُ لَهُ بِعَمَلِ أَهْلِ النَّارِ، وَإِنْ
عَمِلَ أَيَّ عَمَلٍ»

(Strive with your deeds as hard as you can for middle course or close to it, for the person who is destined for Paradise will die doing the deeds of the people of Paradise, regardless of what he did before, and the person who is destined for Hell will die doing the deeds of the people of Hell, regardless of what he did before.) Then he made a gesture with his fist and said,

«فَرَعَ رَبُّكُمْ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ مِنَ الْعِبَادِ»

(Your Lord has settled the matter of His servants) and he opened his right hand as if throwing something;

«فَرِيقٌ فِي الْجَنَّةِ»

(A party in Paradise.) and he made a similar gesture with his left hand;

«فَرِيقٌ فِي السَّعِيرِ»

(And a party in the blazing Fire.)" This was also recorded by At-Tirmidhi, and An-Nasa'i; At-Tirmidhi said, "Hasan Sahih Gharib." Imam Ahmad recorded that Abu Nadrah said, "One of the Companions of the Prophet , whose name was Abu Abdullah, was visited by some of his friends,

and they found him weeping. They asked him, `What has caused you to weep Didn't the Messenger of Allah say to you,

«خُدْ مِنْ شَارِكِ ثُمَّ أَقِرَّهُ حَتَّى تَلْقَانِي»

(Trim your moustache and adhere to that practice until you meet me)' He said, `Yes, but I heard the Messenger of Allah say;

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى قَبْضَ بِيَمِينِهِ قَبْضَةً وَأُخْرَى بِالْيَدِ
الْأُخْرَى، قَالَ: هَذِهِ لِهَذِهِ، وَهَذِهِ لِهَذِهِ، وَلَا أُبَالِي»

(Allah picked up a handful in His Right Hand and another in His other Hand, and said, "This is for this and this is for this, and I do not care.") `And I do not know in which of the two handfuls I am.'" There are several Hadiths about Al-Qadr (the Divine Decree) in the books of Sahih, Sunan and Musnad. Including those narrated by `Ali, Ibn Mas`ud, `Aishah and a large number of Companions, may Allah be pleased with them all.

(وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَجَعَلَهُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً)

(And if Allah had willed, He could have made them one nation,) means, either all following guidance or all following misguidance, but He made them all different, and He guides whomsoever He wills to the truth and He sends astray whomsoever He wills, and He has complete wisdom and perfect proof. Allah says:

(وَلَكِنْ يُدْخِلُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ فِي رَحْمَتِهِ وَالظَّالِمُونَ
مَا لَهُمْ مِنْ وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ)

(but He admits whom He wills to His mercy. And the wrongdoers will have neither a protector nor a helper.)

(أَمْ اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ قَالَ اللَّهُ هُوَ الْوَلِيُّ وَهُوَ
يُحْيِي الْمَوْتَى وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ - وَمَا
اِخْتَلَفْتُمْ فِيهِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ فَحُكْمُهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ ذَلِكَمُ اللَّهُ
رَبِّي عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَإِلَيْهِ أُنِيبُ - فَاطِرُ السَّمَوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضِ جَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا وَمِنْ

الْأُنْعَمَ أَزْوَاجًا يَذُرُّكُمْ فِيهِ لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٌ
 وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ - لَهُ مَقَالِيدُ السَّمَوَاتِ
 وَالْأَرْضِ يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيَقْدِرُ إِنَّهُ بِكُلِّ
 شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ)

(9. Or have they taken protecting friends besides Him But Allah --- He Alone is the protector. And He Who gives life to the dead, and He is Able to do all things.) (10. And in whatsoever you differ, the decision thereof is with Allah. Such is Allah, my Lord in Whom I put my trust, and to Him I turn in repentance.) (11. The Creator of the heavens and the earth. He has made for you mates from yourselves, and for the cattle (also) mates. By this means He creates you. There is nothing like Him, and He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer.) (12. To Him belong the keys of the heavens and the earth. He enlarges provision for whom He wills, and straitens. Verily, He is the All-Knower of everything.)

Allah is the Protector, Ruler and Creator

Here Allah denounces the idolators for taking other gods instead of Allah, and declares that He is the True God, and it is not right to worship anyone except Him Alone. He is the One Who is able to bring the dead back to life and He is Able to do all things. Then He says:

(وَمَا اخْتَلَفْتُمْ فِيهِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ فَحُكْمُهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ)

(And in whatsoever you differ, the decision thereof is with Allah.) means, in whatever issue you differ. This is general in meaning and applies to all things.

(فَحُكْمُهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ)

(the decision thereof is with Allah.) means, He is the Judge of that, according to His Book and the Sunnah of His Prophet . This is like the Ayah:

(فَإِن تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ
 وَالرَّسُولِ)

((And) if you differ in anything amongst yourselves, refer it to Allah and His Messenger) (4:59).

(ذَلِكُمُ اللَّهُ رَبِّي)

(Such is Allah, my Lord) means, (He is) the Judge of all things.

(عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَإِلَيْهِ أُنِيبُ)

(in Whom I put my trust, and to Him I turn in repentance.) means, `I refer all matters to Him.'

(فَاطِرَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ)

(The Creator of the heavens and the earth.) means, the Maker of them both and everything in between.

(جَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا)

(He has made for you mates from yourselves,) means, of your own kind. As a blessing and a favor from Him, He has made your kind male and female.

(وَمِنَ الْأَنْعَامِ أَزْوَاجًا)

(and for the cattle (also) mates.) means, and He has created for you eight pairs of cattle.

(يَذُرُّكُمْ فِيهِ)

(By this means He creates you.) means, in this manner He creates you, male and female, generation after generation of men and cattle.

(لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٌ)

(There is nothing like Him,) means, there is nothing like the Creator of these pairs, for He is the Unique, the Self-Sufficient Master, Who has no peer or equal.

(وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ)

(He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer.)

(لَهُ مَقَالِيدُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ)

(To Him belong the keys of the heavens and the earth.) We have already discussed the interpretation of this phrase in Surat Az-Zumar (39:63), the conclusion of which is that He is the One Who is controlling and governing them.

(يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ وَيَقْدِرُ)

(He expands provision for whom He wills, and straitens.) means, He gives plentiful provision to whomsoever He wills and He reduces it for whomsoever He wills, and He is perfectly Wise and Just.

(إِنَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ)

(Verily, He is the All-Knower of everything.)

(شَرَعَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الدِّينِ مَا وَصَّى بِهِ نُوحًا وَالَّذِي
أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ وَمَا وَصَّيْنَا بِهِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَى
وَعِيسَى أَنْ أَقِيمُوا الدِّينَ وَلَا تَتَفَرَّقُوا فِيهِ كَبُرَ
عَلَى الْمُشْرِكِينَ مَا تَدْعُوهُمْ إِلَيْهِ اللَّهُ يَجْتَبِي إِلَيْهِ
مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي إِلَيْهِ مَنْ يُنِيبُ - وَمَا تَفَرَّقُوا إِلَّا
مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَعْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ وَلَوْلَا كَلِمَةٌ
سَبَقَتْ مِنْ رَبِّكَ إِلَى أَجَلٍ مُسَمًّى لَفُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمْ
وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ أُورِثُوا الْكِتَابَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ لَفِي شَكٍّ
مِنْهُ مُرِيبٍ)

(13. He (Allah) has ordained for you the same religion which He ordained for Nuh, and that which We have revealed to you, and that which We ordained for Ibrahim, Musa and `Isa saying you should establish religion and make no divisions in it. Intolerable for the idolators is that to which you call them. Allah chooses for Himself whom He wills, and guides unto Himself who turns to Him in repentance.) (14. And they divided not till after knowledge had come to them, through transgression between themselves. And had it not been for a Word that went forth before from your Lord for an appointed term, the matter would have been settled between them. And verily, those who were made to inherit the Scripture after them, are in grave doubt concerning it.)

The Religion of the Messengers is One

Allah says to this Ummah:

(شَرَعَ لَكُمْ مِّنَ 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,) Allah mentions the first Messenger who was sent after Adam, that is, Nuh, peace be upon them, and the last of them is Muhammad . Then He mentions those who came in between them who were the Messengers of strong will, namely Ibrahim, Musa and `Isa bin Maryam. This Ayah mentions all five, just as they are also mentioned in the Ayah in Surat Al-Ahzab, where Allah says:

(وَإِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ مِيثَاقَهُمْ وَمِنكَ وَمِنْ نُوحٍ
وَإِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَى وَعِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ)

(And (remember) when We took from the Prophets their covenant, and from you, and from Nuh, Ibrahim, Musa, and `Isa son of Maryam.) (33:7). The Message which all the Messengers brought was to worship Allah Alone, with no partner or associate, as Allah says:

(وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ مِن رَّسُولٍ 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). And according to a Hadith (the Prophet said):

«نَحْنُ مَعَشَرَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ أَوْلَادُ عِلَّاتٍ، دِينُنَا وَاحِدٌ»

(We Prophets are brothers and our religion is one.) In other words, the common bond between them is that Allah Alone is to be worshipped, with no partner or associate, even though their laws and ways may differ, as Allah says.

(لِكُلِّ جَعَلْنَا مِنكُمْ شِرْعَةً وَمِنْهَاجًا)

(To each among you, We have prescribed a law and a clear way) (5:48). Allah says here:

(أَنْ أَقِيمُوا الدِّينَ وَلَا تَتَفَرَّقُوا فِيهِ)

(saying you should establish religion and make no divisions in it.) meaning, Allah enjoined all the Prophets (peace and blessings of Allah be upon them all) to be as one and He forbade them to differ and be divided. t

(كَبُرَ عَلَى الْمُشْرِكِينَ مَا تَدْعُوهُمْ إِلَيْهِ)

(Intolerable for the idolators is that to which you call them.) means, `it is too much for them to bear, and they hate that to which you call them, O Muhammad, i.e., Tawhid.'

(اللَّهُ يَجْتَبِي إِلَيْهِ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي إِلَيْهِ مَنْ يُنِيبُ)

(Allah chooses for Himself whom He wills, and guides unto Himself who turns to Him in repentance.) means, He is the One Who decrees guidance for those who deserve it, and decrees misguidance for those who prefer it to the right path. Allah says here;

(وَمَا تَفَرَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِلَّا مَنبَعِدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ)

(And they divided not till after knowledge had come to them,) means, their opposition to the truth arose after it had come to them and proof had been established against them. Nothing made them resist in this manner except their transgression and stubbornness.

(وَلَوْ لَا كَلِمَةٌ سَبَقَتْ مِنْ رَبِّكَ إِلَى أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى)

(And had it not been for a Word that went forth before from your Lord for an appointed term,) means, were it not for the fact that Allah had already decreed that He would delay the reckoning of His servants until the Day of Resurrection, the punishment would have been hastened for them in this world.

(وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ أُورِثُوا الْكِتَابَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ)

(And verily, those who were made to inherit the Scripture after them,) means, the later generation which came after the earlier generation which had rejected the truth.

(لَفِي شَكٍّ مِّنْهُ مُّرِيبٍ)

(are in grave doubt concerning it.) means, they do not have any firm conviction in matters of religion; they merely imitate their forefathers, without any evidence or proof. So they are very confused and doubtful.

(فَلِذَلِكَ فَادَعُ وَاسْتَقِمْ كَمَا أَمَرْتَ وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ وَقُلْ ءَامَنْتُ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ مِنْ كِتَابٍ

وَأْمِرْتُ لِأَعْدِلَ بَيْنَكُمْ اللَّهُ رَبُّنَا وَرَبُّكُمْ لَنَا أَعْمَلْنَا
وَلَكُمْ أَعْمَلَكُمْ لَا حُجَّةَ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ اللَّهُ يَجْمَعُ
بَيْنَنَا وَإِلَيْهِ الْمَصِيرُ)

(15. So unto this then invite (people), and stand firm as you are commanded, and follow not their desires but say: "I believe in whatsoever Allah has sent down of the Book and I am commanded to do justice among you. Allah is our Lord and your Lord. For us our deeds and for you your deeds. There is no dispute between us and you. Allah will assemble us (all), and to Him is the final return.")

This Ayah includes ten separate and independent ideas, each of which is a ruling on its own.

They (the scholars) said that there is nothing else like it in the Qur'an, apart from Ayat Al-Kursi (2:255), which also includes ten ideas.

(فَلِدَاكَ فَادْعُ)

(So unto this then invite (people),) means, 'so call people to this which We have revealed to you and which We enjoined upon all the Prophets before you,' the Prophets of major ways (of Shari'ah) (that were followed, such as the Messengers of strong will, and others.

(وَاسْتَقِمْ كَمَا أُمِرْتَ)

(and stand firm as you are commanded,) means, 'adhere firmly, you and those who follow you, to the worship of Allah as He has commanded you.'

(وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ)

(and follow not their desires) means, the desires of the idolators, in the falsehoods that they have invented and fabricated by worshipping idols.

(وَقُلْ ءَامَنْتُ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ مِنْ كِتَابٍ)

(but say: "I believe in whatsoever Allah has sent down of the Book...") means, 'I believe in all the Books that have been revealed from heaven to the Prophets; we do not differentiate between any of them.'

(وَأْمِرْتُ لِأَعْدِلَ بَيْنَكُمْ)

(and I am commanded to do justice among you.) means, when judging according to the commands of Allah.

(اللَّهُ رَبُّنَا وَرَبُّكُمْ)

(Allah is our Lord and your Lord.) means, `He is the One Who is to be worshipped, and there is no true God but He. We affirm this willingly, and even though you do not do so willingly, everyone in the universe prostrates to Him obediently and willingly.'

(لَنَا أَعْمَالُنَا وَلَكُمْ أَعْمَالُكُمْ)

(For us our deeds and for you your deeds.) means, `we have nothing to do with you. ' This is like the Ayah:

(وَإِنْ كَذَّبُوكَ فَقُلْ لِي أَعْمَالِي وَلَكُمْ أَعْمَالُكُمْ أَنْتُمْ بَرِيئُونَ مِمَّا أَعْمَلُ وَأَنَا بَرِيءٌ مِمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ)

(And if they deny you, say: "For me are my deeds and for you are your deeds! You are innocent of what I do, and I am innocent of what you do!") (10:41)

(لَا حُجَّةَ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ)

(There is no dispute between us and you.) Mujahid said, "This means, no argument." As-Suddi said, "This was before Ayah of the sword was revealed." This fits the context, because this Ayah was revealed in Makkah, and Ayah of the sword)22:39-40(was revealed after the Hijrah.

(اللَّهُ يَجْمَعُ بَيْنَنَا)

(Allah will assemble us (all),) means, on the Day of Resurrection. This is like the Ayah:

(قُلْ يَجْمَعُ بَيْنَنَا رَبُّنَا ثُمَّ يَقْتَحُ بَيْنَنَا بِالْحَقِّ وَهُوَ الْفَتَّاحُ الْعَلِيمُ)

(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.") (34:26).

(وَإِلَيْهِ الْمَصِيرُ)

(and to Him is the final return.) means, the final return on the Day of Reckoning.

(وَالَّذِينَ يُحَاجُّونَ فِي اللَّهِ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا اسْتُجِيبَ لَهُ
حُجَّتُهُمْ دَاحِضَةٌ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ وَعَلَيْهِمْ غَضَبٌ وَلَهُمْ
عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ - اللَّهُ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ
وَالْمِيزَانَ وَمَا يُدْرِيكَ لَعَلَّ السَّاعَةَ قَرِيبٌ -
يَسْتَعْجِلُ بِهَا الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهَا وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا
مُشْفِقُونَ مِنْهَا وَيَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّهَا الْحَقُّ أَلَا إِنَّ الَّذِينَ
يُمَارُونَ فِي السَّاعَةِ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ بَعِيدٍ)

(16. And those who dispute concerning Allah, after it has been accepted, of no use is their dispute before their Lord and on them is wrath, and for them will be a severe torment.) (17. It is Allah Who has sent down the Book in truth, and the Balance. And what can make you know that perhaps the Hour is close at hand) (18. Those who believe not therein seek to hasten it, while those who believe are fearful of it, and know that it is the very truth. Verily, those who dispute concerning the Hour are certainly in error far away.)

A Warning to Those Who dispute concerning Matters of Religion

Here Allah warns those who try to hinder those who believe in Allah, from following His path.

(وَالَّذِينَ يُحَاجُّونَ فِي اللَّهِ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا اسْتُجِيبَ
لَهُ)

(And those who dispute concerning Allah, after it has been accepted,) means, those who dispute with the believers who have responded to Allah and His Messenger, and try to stop them from following the path of guidance.

(حُجَّتُهُمْ دَاحِضَةٌ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ)

(no use is their dispute before their Lord) means, it is futile before Allah.

(وَعَلَيْهِمْ غَضَبٌ)

(and on them is wrath,) means, from Him.

(وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ)

(and for them will be a severe torment.) means, on the Day of Resurrection. Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, and Mujahid said, "They disputed with the believers after they responded to Allah and His Messenger, and tried to prevent them from following the path of guidance, hoping that they would return to Jahiliyyah." Qatadah said, "These were the Jews and Christians who said to them, `Our religion is better than your religion, our Prophet came before your Prophet, and we are better than you and closer to Allah than you. "' This was nothing but lies. Then Allah says:

(اللَّهُ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ)

(It is Allah Who has sent down the Book in truth,) referring to all the Books which were revealed from Him to His Prophets.

(وَالْمِيزَانَ)

(and the Balance.) means, justice and fairness. This was the view of Mujahid and Qatadah. This is like the Ayat:

(لَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلَنَا بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَأَنْزَلْنَا مَعَهُمُ الْكِتَابَ
وَالْمِيزَانَ لِيَقُومَ النَّاسُ بِالْقِسْطِ)

(Indeed We have sent Our Messengers with clear proofs, and revealed with them the Scripture and the Balance that mankind may keep up justice) (57:25).

(وَالسَّمَاءَ رَفَعَهَا وَوَضَعَ الْمِيزَانَ - أَلَّا تَطْغَوْا
فِي الْمِيزَانِ - وَأَقِيمُوا الْوَزْنَ بِالْقِسْطِ وَلَا
تُخْسِرُوا الْمِيزَانَ)

(And the heaven He has raised high, and He has set up the Balance. In order that you may not transgress (due) balance. And observe the weight with equity and do not make the balance deficient.)(55:7-9)

(وَمَا يُدْرِيكَ لَعَلَّ السَّاعَةَ قَرِيبٌ)

(And what can make you know that perhaps the Hour is close at hand) This is encouragement (to strive) for its sake, a terrifying warning, and advice to think little of this world.

(يَسْتَعْجِلُ بِهَا الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهَا)

(Those who believe not therein seek to hasten it,) means, they say, 'when will this promise be fulfilled, if you are telling the truth' But they say this by way of disbelief and stubbornness, thinking that it is unlikely to happen.

(وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مُشْفِقُونَ مِنْهَا)

(while those who believe are fearful of it) means, they are afraid of it happening.

(وَيَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّهَا الْحَقُّ)

(and know that it is the very truth.) means, that it will undoubtedly come to pass, so they prepare themselves for it and strive for its sake. It was reported through various chains of narration, a number reaching the level of being Mutawatir, in Sahih and Hasan narrations, in the Books of Sunan and Musnad. According to some versions, a man addressed the Messenger of Allah in a loud voice, when he was on one of his journeys, calling out to him, "O Muhammad!" The Messenger of Allah replied in a similar manner, "Here I am!" The man said, "When will the Hour come" The Messenger of Allah said,

«وَيْحَكَ إِنَّهَا كَائِنَةٌ فَمَا أُعِدَدْتَ لَهَا؟»

(Woe to you! It will most certainly come. What have you done to prepare for it) He said, "Love for Allah and His Messenger." He said:

«أَنْتَ مَعَ مَنْ أَحْبَبْتَ»

(You will be with those whom you love.) According to another Hadith:

«الْمَرْءُ مَعَ مَنْ أَحَبَّ»

("A man will be with those whom he loves.) This is Mutawatir beyond a doubt. The point is that he did not answer his question about when the Hour would happen, but he commanded him to prepare for it.

(أَلَا إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُمَارُونَ فِي السَّاعَةِ)

(Verily, those who dispute concerning the Hour) means, who dispute whether it will happen and think it is unlikely ever to come,

(لَفِي ضَلَالٍ بَعِيدٍ)

(are certainly in error far away.) means, they are clearly ignorant, because the One Who created the heavens and the earth is even more able to give life to the dead, as Allah says:

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي يَبْدَأُ الْخَلْقَ ثُمَّ يُعِيدُهُ وَهُوَ أَهْوَنُ عَلَيْهِ)

(And He it is Who originates the creation, then He will repeat it; and this is easier for Him) (30:27).

(اللَّهُ لَطِيفٌ بِعِبَادِهِ يَرْزُقُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَهُوَ الْقَوِيُّ الْعَزِيزُ - مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ حَرْثَ الْآخِرَةِ نَزِدْ لَهُ فِي حَرْثِهِ وَمَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ حَرْثَ الدُّنْيَا نُؤْتِهِ مِنْهَا وَمَا لَهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنْ نَصِيبٍ - أَمْ لَهُمْ شُرَكَاءُ شَرَعُوا لَهُمْ مِنَ الدِّينِ مَا لَمْ يَأْذَنْ بِهِ اللَّهُ وَلَوْلَا كَلِمَةُ الْفَصْلِ لَفُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمْ وَإِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ - تَرَى الظَّالِمِينَ مُشْفِقِينَ مِمَّا كَسَبُوا وَهُوَ وَاقِعٌ بِهِمْ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ فِي رَوْضَاتِ الْجَنَّاتِ لَهُمْ مَا يَشَاءُونَ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ ذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَضْلُ الْكَبِيرُ)

(19. Allah is very Gracious and Kind to His servants. He gives provisions to whom He wills. And He is the All-Strong, the Almighty.) (20. Whosoever desires the reward of the Hereafter, We give him increase in his reward, and whosoever desires the reward of this world, We give him thereof, and he has no portion in the Hereafter.) (21. Or have they partners with Allah who have instituted for them a religion which Allah has not ordained And had it not been for a decisive Word, the matter would have been judged between them. And verily, for the wrongdoers there is a painful torment.) (22. You will see the wrongdoers fearful of that which they have earned, and it will surely befall them. But those who believe and do righteous deeds (will be) in the flowering meadows of the Gardens. They shall have whatsoever they desire with their Lord. That is the supreme grace.)

The Provision of Allah in this World and the Hereafter

Here Allah speaks of His kindness towards His creation, in that He provides for every last one of them and does not forget anyone. When it comes to His provision, the righteous and the sinner are alike. Allah says:

(وَمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ رِزْقُهَا
وَيَعْلَمُ مُسْتَقَرَّهَا وَمُسْتَوْدَعَهَا كُلُّ فِي كِتَابٍ مُبِينٍ
(

(And no moving creature is there on the earth but its provision is due from Allah. And He knows its dwelling place and its deposit. All is in a Clear Book.) (11:6) And there are many similar Ayat.

(يَرْزُقُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ)

(He gives provisions to whom He wills.) means, He gives generously to whomsoever He wills.

(وَهُوَ الْقَوِيُّ الْعَزِيزُ)

(And He is the All-Strong, the Almighty.) means, there is nothing that can overpower Him. Then Allah says:

(مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ حَرْثَ الْآخِرَةِ)

(Whosoever desires the reward of the Hereafter,) means, whoever does things for the sake of the Hereafter,

(نَزِدْ لَهُ فِي حَرْثِهِ)

(We give him increase in his reward,) meaning, `We will give him strength and help him to do what he wants to do, and We will increase it for him. So for every good, We will multiply it and give him between ten and seven hundred good rewards,' as much as Allah wills.

(وَمَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ حَرْثَ الدُّنْيَا نُؤْتِهِ مِنْهَا وَمَا لَهُ
فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنْ نَصِيبٍ)

(and whosoever desires the reward of this world, We give him thereof, and he has no portion in the Hereafter.) means, whoever strives for the purpose of worldly gains, and never pays any

heed to the Hereafter at all, Allah will deny him the Hereafter; and in this world, if He wills He will give to him and if He does not will, he will gain neither. So the one who strives with this intention in mind will have the worst deal in this world and in the Hereafter. The evidence for that is the fact that this Ayah is reinforced by the passage in Subhan (i.e., Surat Al-Isra') in which Allah says: y

(مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْعَجَلَ عَجَّلْنَا لَهُ فِيهَا مَا نَشَاءُ
لِمَنْ نُرِيدُ ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَا لَهُ جَهَنَّمَ يَصَلُّهَا مَذْمُومًا
مَدْحُورًا - وَمَنْ أَرَادَ الْآخِرَةَ وَسَعَى لَهَا سَعْيَهَا
وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَئِكَ كَانَ سَعْيُهُمْ مَشْكُورًا - كَلَّا
ثُمَّ هَؤُلَاءِ وَهَؤُلَاءِ مِنْ عَطَاءِ رَبِّكَ وَمَا كَانَ
عَطَاءُ رَبِّكَ مَحْظُورًا - انظُرْ كَيْفَ فَضَّلْنَا
بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ وَلِلْآخِرَةِ أَكْبَرُ دَرَجَاتٍ
وَأَكْبَرُ تَفْضِيلًا)

(Whoever desires the quick-passing, We readily grant him what We will for whom We like. Then, afterwards, We have appointed for him Hell; he will (enter) burn therein disgraced and rejected. And whoever desires the Hereafter and strives for it, with the necessary effort due for it while he is a believer -- then such are the ones whose striving shall be appreciated. On each -- these as well as those -- We bestow from the bounties of your Lord. And the bounties of your Lord can never be forbidden. See how We prefer one above another (in this world), and verily, the Hereafter will be greater in degrees and greater in preferment.) (17:18-21) It was reported that Ubayy bin Ka`b, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«بَشِّرْ هَذِهِ الْأُمَّةَ بِالسَّنَاءِ وَالرَّفْعَةِ وَالنَّصْرِ
وَالتَّمَكِينِ فِي الْأَرْضِ، فَمَنْ عَمَلَ مِنْهُمْ عَمَلًا
الْآخِرَةَ لِلدُّنْيَا، لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنْ نَصِيبٍ»

(Give the glad tidings to this Ummah of sublimity, high status, victory and power in the land. But whoever among them does the deeds of the Hereafter for the sake of worldly gain, will have no portion of the Hereafter.)"

Making Legislation for the Creatures is Shirk Allah says:

(أَمْ لَهُمْ شُرَكَاءُ شَرَعُوا لَهُمْ مِّنَ الدِّينِ مَا لَمْ يَأْذَن
بِهِ اللَّهُ)

(Or have they partners with Allah who have instituted for them a religion which Allah has not ordained) means, they do not follow what Allah has ordained for you of upright religion; on the contrary, they follow what their devils (Shayatin), of men and Jinn, have prescribed for them. They instituted taboos, such as the Bahirah, Sa'ibah, Wasilah or Ham. They also permitted eating flesh and blood of animals not slaughtered for consumption, gambling and other kinds of misguidance, ignorance and falsehood. These are things that they invented during Jahiliyyah, when they came up with all kinds of false rulings on what was permitted and what was forbidden, and false rites of worship and other corrupt ideas. It was recorded in the Sahih that the Messenger of Allah said:

«رَأَيْتُ عَمْرَو بْنَ لُحَيِّ بْنِ قَمَعَةَ يَجْرُ قُصْبَهُ فِي
النَّارِ»

(I saw `Amr bin Luhayy bin Qama`ah dragging his intestines in Hell) -- because he had been the first one to introduce the idea of the Sa'ibah. This man was one of the kings of the Khuza`ah tribe, and he was the first one to do these things. He was the one who had made the Quraysh worship idols, may the curse of Allah be upon him. Allah said:

(وَلَوْ لَا كَلِمَةٌ الْفَصْلُ لَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمْ)

(And had it not been for a decisive Word, the matter would have been judged between them.) means, the punishment would have been hastened for them, were it not for the fact that it had already been decreed that it would be delayed until the Day of Resurrection.

(وَإِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ)

(And verily, for the wrongdoers there is a painful torment.) i.e., an agonizing torment in Hell, what a terrible destination.

The Terror of the Idolators in the Place of Gathering

(تَرَى الظَّالِمِينَ مُشْفِقِينَ مِمَّا كَسَبُوا)

(You will see the wrongdoers fearful of that which they have earned,) means, in the arena of Resurrection.

(وَهُوَ وَاقَعُ بِهِمْ)

(and it will surely befall them.) means, the thing that they fear will undoubtedly happen to them. This is how they will be on the Day of Resurrection; they will be in a state of utter fear and terror.

(وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ فِي رَوْضَاتِ
الْجَنَّاتِ لَهُمْ مَا يَشَاءُونَ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ)

(But those who believe and do righteous deeds (will be) in the flowering meadows of the Gardens. They shall have whatsoever they desire with their Lord.) What comparison can there be between the former and the latter How can the one who will be in the arena of resurrection in a state of humiliation and fear, deserving it for his wrongdoing, be compared with the one who will be in the gardens of Paradise, enjoying whatever he wants of food, drink, clothing, dwellings, scenery, spouses and other delights such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and has never crossed the minds of men. Allah says:

(ذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَضْلُ الْكَبِيرُ)

(That is the supreme grace.) means, the ultimate victory and complete blessing.

(ذَلِكَ الَّذِي يُبَشِّرُ اللَّهُ عِبَادَهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا
الصَّالِحَاتِ قُلْ لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا إِلَّا الْمَوَدَّةَ
فِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَمَنْ يَقْتَرِفْ حَسَنَةً نَّزِدْ لَهُ فِيهَا حُسْنًا
إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ - أَمْ يَقُولُونَ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى
اللَّهِ كَذِبًا فَإِنْ يَشِئِ اللَّهُ يَخْتِمْ عَلَىٰ قَلْبِكَ وَيَمْحُ اللَّهُ
الْبَطْلَ وَيُحِقُّ الْحَقَّ بِكَلِمَاتِهِ إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ
الصُّدُورِ)

(23. That is whereof Allah gives glad tidings to His servants who believe and do righteous good deeds. Say: "No reward do I ask of you for this except to be kind to me for my kinship with you." And whoever earns a good righteous deed, We shall give him an increase of good in respect thereof. Verily, Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Ready to appreciate.) (24. Or say they: "He has invented a lie against Allah" If Allah willed, He could have sealed up your heart. And Allah

wipes out falsehood, and establishes the truth by His Word. Verily, He knows well what are in the breasts.)

Good News of the Blessings of Paradise for the People of Faith

Having mentioned the gardens of Paradise, Allah then says to His servants who believe and do righteous deeds:

(ذَلِكَ الَّذِي يُبَشِّرُ اللَّهُ عِبَادَهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ)

(That is whereof Allah gives glad tidings to His servants who believe and do righteous good deeds.) meaning, this will undoubtedly come to them, because it is glad tidings from Allah to them.

(قُلْ لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا إِلَّا الْمَوَدَّةَ فِي الْقُرْبَىٰ)

(Say: "No reward do I ask of you for this except to be kind to me for my kinship with you.") means, `say, O Muhammad, to these idolators among the disbeliever of Quraysh: I do not ask you for anything in return for this message and sincere advice which I bring to you. All I ask of you is that you withhold your evil from me and let me convey the Messages of my Lord. If you will not help me, then do not disturb me, for the sake of the ties of kinship that exist between you and I.' Al-Bukhari recorded that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, was asked about the Ayah:

(إِلَّا الْمَوَدَّةَ فِي الْقُرْبَىٰ)

(except to be kind to me for my kinship with you.) Sa`id bin Jubayr said, "To be kind to the family of Muhammad." Ibn `Abbas said, "No, you have jumped to a hasty conclusion. There was no clan among Quraysh to whom the Prophet did not have some ties of kinship." Ibn `Abbas said, "Except that you uphold the ties of kinship that exist between me and you." This was recorded by Al-Bukhari. It was also recorded by Imam Ahmad with a different chain of narration.

(وَمَنْ يَقْتِرْفْ حَسَنَةً نَّزِدْ لَهُ فِيهَا حُسْنًا)

(And whoever earns a good righteous deed, We shall give him an increase of good in respect thereof) means, `whoever does a good deed, We will increase him in good for it, i.e., in reward.' This is like the Ayah:

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَظْلِمُ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ وَإِن تَكُ حَسَنَةً
يُضَاعِفْهَا وَيُؤْتِ مِنْ لَدُنْهُ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا)

(Surely, Allah wrongs not even of the weight of a speck of dust, but if there is any good, He doubles it, and gives from Him a great reward.) (4:40)

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ)

(Verily, Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Ready to appreciate.) means, He forgives many bad deeds and increases a small amount of good deeds; He conceals and forgives sins and He multiplies and increases the reward of good deeds.

The Accusation that the Prophet fabricated the Qur'an -- and the Response to that

Allah's saying;

(أَمْ يَقُولُونَ افْتَرَى عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا فَإِن يَشَاءِ اللَّهُ
يَخْتِمُ عَلَى قَلْبِكَ)

(Or say they: "He has invented a lie against Allah" If Allah willed, He could have sealed up your heart.) means, `if you had invented any lies against Him, as these ignorant people claim,'

(يَخْتِمُ عَلَى قَلْبِكَ)

(He could have sealed up your heart.) means, `and thus caused you to forget what had already come to you of the Qur'an.' This is like the Ayah:

(وَلَوْ تَقَوَّلَ عَلَيْنَا بَعْضَ الْأَقَاوِيلِ - لَأَخَذْنَا مِنْهُ
بِالْيَمِينِ - ثُمَّ لَقَطَعْنَا مِنْهُ الْوَتِينَ - فَمَا مِنْكُمْ مِّنْ
أَحَدٍ عَنْهُ حَازِئِينَ)

(And if he had forged a false saying concerning Us (Allah), We surely would have seized him by his right hand, and then We certainly would have cut off his life artery, And none of you could have withheld Us from (punishing) him.) (69:44-47) which means, `We would have wrought the utmost vengeance upon him, and no one among mankind would have been able to protect him.' And Allah said:

(وَيُحِقُّ الْحَقَّ بِكَلِمَاتِهِ)

(and establishes the truth by His Word.) means, He establishes it and strengthens it and makes it clear by His Words, i.e., by His evidence and signs.

(إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ)

(Verily, He knows well what are in the breasts.) means, all that is hidden in the hearts of men.

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي يَقْبَلُ التَّوْبَةَ عَنْ عِبَادِهِ وَيَعْفُو عَنِ
السَّيِّئَاتِ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا تَفْعَلُونَ - وَيَسْتَجِيبُ الَّذِينَ
ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَيَزِيدُهُمْ مِّنْ فَضْلِهِ
وَالْكَافِرُونَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ - وَلَوْ بَسَطَ اللَّهُ
الرِّزْقَ لِعِبَادِهِ لَبَغَوْا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَكِن يُنَزِّلُ
بِقَدْرِ مَا يَشَاءُ إِنَّهُ بِعِبَادِهِ خَبِيرٌ بَصِيرٌ - وَهُوَ
الَّذِي يُنَزِّلُ الْغَيْثَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا قَنَطُوا وَيَنْشُرُ
رَحْمَتَهُ وَهُوَ الْوَلِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ)

(25. And He it is Who accepts repentance from His servants, and forgives sins, and He knows what you do.) (26. And He answers those who believe and do righteous good deeds, and gives them increase of His bounty. And as for the disbelievers, theirs will be a severe torment.) (27. And if Allah were to extend the provision for His servants, they would surely rebel in the earth, but He sends down by measure as He wills. Verily, He is, in respect of His servants, the Well-Aware, the All-Seer.) (28. And He it is Who sends down the rain after they have despaired, and spreads His mercy. And He is the Wali, Worthy of all praise.)

Allah accepts Repentance and responds to Supplications

Here Allah reminds His servants that He accepts repentance. If they turn to Him and come back to Him, then by His kindness and generosity He forgives, overlooks and conceals (their sins), as He says:

﴿وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ سُوءًا أَوْ يَظْلِمْ نَفْسَهُ ثُمَّ يَسْتَغْفِرِ اللَّهَ
يَجِدِ اللَّهَ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا﴾

(And whoever does evil or wrongs himself but afterwards seeks Allah's forgiveness, he will find Allah Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.) (4:110) It was reported in Sahih Muslim that Anas bin Malik, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«اللَّهُ تَعَالَى أَشَدُّ فَرَحًا بِتَوْبَةِ عَبْدِهِ حِينَ يَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ
مِنْ أَحَدِكُمْ كَأَنَّ رَاحِلَتَهُ بِأَرْضٍ قَلَاءٍ، فَأَنْقَلَتَتْ
مِنْهُ، وَعَلَيْهَا طَعَامُهُ وَشَرَابُهُ، فَأَيْسَ مِنْهَا فَأَتَى
شَجَرَةً فَاضْطَجَعَ فِي ظِلِّهَا، قَدْ أَيْسَ مِنْ رَاحِلَتِهِ،
فَبَيْنَمَا هُوَ كَذَلِكَ إِذَا هُوَ بِهَا، قَائِمَةٌ عِنْدَهُ، فَأَخَذَ
بِخِطَامِهَا، ثُمَّ قَالَ مِنْ شِدَّةِ الْفَرَحِ: اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ
عَبْدِي وَأَنَا رَبُّكَ، أَخْطَأُ مِنْ شِدَّةِ الْفَرَحِ»

(Allah is more pleased with the repentance of His servant than anyone of you who loses his riding beast in a barren land, and it was carrying his food and drink; he despairs of ever finding it, so he comes to a tree and lies down in its shade, having given up all hope of finding his riding beast; then whilst he is there like that, suddenly he sees it standing near him, so he takes hold of its reins and because of his great joy he says, "O Allah, You are my slave and I am Your Lord!" -- i.e., he makes a mistake because of his great joy.)" A similar report was also narrated in the Sahih from `Abdullah bin Mas`ud, may Allah be pleased with him.

﴿وَهُوَ الَّذِي يَقْبَلُ التَّوْبَةَ عَنْ عِبَادِهِ﴾

(And He it is Who accepts repentance from His servants,) It was reported that Az-Zuhri said, concerning this Ayah, that Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«اللَّهُ أَشَدُّ فَرَحًا بِتَوْبَةِ عَبْدِهِ مِنْ أَحَدِكُمْ يَجِدُ ضَالَّتَهُ
فِي الْمَكَانِ الَّذِي يَخَافُ أَنْ يَقْتُلَهُ فِيهِ الْعَطَشُ»

(Allah rejoices more over the repentance of His servant than one of you feels when he finds his lost camel in a place where he had feared that he would die of thirst.)" Hammam bin Al-Harith said, "Ibn Mas'ud was asked about a man who commits immoral sins with a woman and then marries her. He said, 'There is nothing wrong with that,' and recited:

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي يَقْبَلُ التَّوْبَةَ عَنْ عِبَادِهِ)

(And He it is Who accepts repentance from His servants)."

(وَيَعْفُوا عَنِ السَّيِّئَاتِ)

(and forgives sins,) means, He will accept repentance in the future, and He forgives past sins.

(وَيَعْلَمُ مَا تَفْعَلُونَ)

(and He knows what you do.) means, He knows all your deeds and actions and words, yet He still accepts the repentance of those who repent to Him.

(وَيَسْتَجِيبُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ)

(And He answers those who believe and do righteous good deeds,) As-Suddi said, "This means, He responds to them." This was also the view of Ibn Jarir: "It means that He answers their supplication for themselves, their companions and their brothers."

(وَيَزِيدُهُمْ مِّنْ فَضْلِهِ)

(and gives them increase of His bounty.) means, He answers their supplications and gives them more besides. Qatadah said, narrating from Ibrahim An-Nakha'i Al-Lakhmi about the Ayah:

(وَيَسْتَجِيبُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ)

(And He answers those who believe and do righteous good deeds,) -- (this means) they intercede for their brothers;

(وَيَزِيدُهُمْ مِّنْ فَضْلِهِ)

(and gives them increase of His bounty.) -- (this means) they intercede for their brothers' brothers.

(وَالْكَافِرُونَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ)

(And as for the disbelievers, theirs will be a severe torment.) -- having mentioned the believers and the great reward that is theirs, Allah then mentions the disbelievers and the severe, painful, agonizing torment that they will find with Him on the Day of Resurrection, the Day when they are brought to account.

The Reason why Provision is not Increased

(وَلَوْ بَسَطَ اللَّهُ الرِّزْقَ لِعِبَادِهِ لَبَغَوْا فِي الْأَرْضِ)

(And if Allah were to extend the provision for His servants, they would surely rebel in the earth,) means, `if We gave them more provision than they need, this would make them rebel and transgress against one another in an arrogant and insolent manner.'

(وَلَكِنْ يُنَزِّلُ بِقَدَرٍ مَّا يَشَاءُ إِنَّهُ بِعِبَادِهِ خَبِيرٌ
بَصِيرٌ)

(but He sends down by measure as He wills. Verily, He is, in respect of His servants, the Well-Aware, the All-Seer.) means, but He gives them provision according to what is in their best interests, and He knows best about that. So He makes rich those who deserve to be rich, and He makes poor those who deserve to be poor.

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي يُنَزِّلُ الْغَيْثَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا قَنَطُوا)

(And He it is Who sends down the rain after they have despaired,) means, after the people have given up hope that rain will fall, He sends it down upon them at their time of need. This is like the Ayah:

(وَإِنْ كَانُوا مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يُنَزَّلَ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ
لَمُبْلِسِينَ)

(And verily, before that (rain) -- just before it was sent down upon them -- they were in despair!) (30:49)

(وَيَنْشُرُ رَحْمَتَهُ)

(and spreads His mercy.) means, He bestows it upon all the people who live in that region. Qatadah said, "We were told that a man said to `Umar bin Al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him, `O Commander of the faithful, no rain has come and the people are in despair.' `Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, said, `Rain will be sent upon you,' and he recited:

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي يُنَزِّلُ الْغَيْثَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا قَنَطُوا
وَيَنْشُرُ رَحْمَتَهُ وَهُوَ الْوَلِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ)

(And He it is Who sends down the rain after they have despaired, and spreads His mercy. And He is the Protector, Worthy of all praise)." Meaning He is the One Who is in control of His creation, taking care of what will benefit them in this world and the Hereafter, and the consequences of all His decrees and actions are good, for which He is worthy of all praise.

(وَمِنْ ءَايَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَثَّ
فِيهِمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ وَهُوَ عَلَى جَمْعِهِمْ إِذَا يَشَاءُ قَدِيرٌ -
وَمَا أَصَابَكُمْ مِّنْ مُّصِيبَةٍ فِيمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِيكُمْ
وَيَعْفُوا عَنْ كَثِيرٍ - وَمَا أَنْتُمْ بِمُعْجِزِينَ فِي
الْأَرْضِ وَمَا لَكُمْ مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ مِنْ وَلِيٍّ وَلَا
نَصِيرٍ)

(29. And among His Ayat is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and whatever moving creatures He has dispersed in them both. And He is Able to assemble them whenever He wills.)
(30. And whatever of misfortune befalls you, it is because of what your hands have earned. And He pardons much.) (31. And you cannot escape from Allah in the earth, and besides Allah you have neither any protector nor any helper.)

Among the Signs of Allah is the Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

(وَمِنْ ءَايَاتِهِ)

(And among His Ayat) the signs which point to His great might and power,

(خَلْقُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَثَّ فِيهِمَا)

(is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and whatever moving creatures He has dispersed in them both.) means, whatever He has created in them, i.e., in the heavens and the earth.

(مِنْ دَابَّةٍ)

(and whatever moving creatures) this includes the angels, men, Jinn and all the animals with their different shapes, colors, languages, natures, kinds and types. He has distributed them throughout the various regions of the heavens and earth.

(وَهُوَ)

(And He) means, yet despite all that,

(عَلَى جَمْعِهِمْ إِذَا يَشَاءُ قَدِيرٌ)

(is Able to assemble them whenever He wills.) means, on the Day of Resurrection, He will gather the first and the last of them, and bring all His creatures together in one place where they will all hear the voice of the caller and all of them will be seen clearly; then He will judge between them with justice and truth.

The Cause of Misfortune is Sin

(وَمَا أَصَابَكُمْ مِّنْ مُّصِيبَةٍ فَبِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِيكُمْ)

(And whatever of misfortune befalls you, it is because of what your hands have earned.) means, 'whatever disasters happen to you, O mankind, are because of sins that you have committed in the past.'

(وَيَعْفُوا عَنْ كَثِيرٍ)

(And He pardons much.) means, of sins; 'He does not punish you for them, rather He forgives you.'

(وَلَوْ يُؤَاخِذُ اللَّهُ النَّاسَ بِمَا كَسَبُوا مَا تَرَكَ عَلَى ظَهْرِهَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ)

(And if Allah were to punish men for that which they earned, He would not leave a moving creature on the surface of the earth) (35:45). According to a Sahih Hadith:

«وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ مَا يُصِيبُ الْمُؤْمِنَ مِنْ نَصَبٍ
وَلَا وَصَبٍ وَلَا هَمٍّ وَلَا حُزْنٍ إِلَّا كَفَّرَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ بِهَا
مِنْ خَطَايَاهُ، حَتَّى الشَّوْكَةِ يُشَاكُهَا»

(By the One in Whose Hand is my soul, no believer is stricken with fatigue, exhaustion, worry or grief, but Allah will forgive him for some of his sins thereby -- even a thorn which pricks him.)
Imam Ahmad recorded that Mu`awiyah bin Abi Sufyan, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "I heard the Messenger of Allah say:

«مَا مِنْ شَيْءٍ يُصِيبُ الْمُؤْمِنَ فِي جَسَدِهِ يُؤْذِيهِ
إِلَّا كَفَّرَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهُ بِهِ مِنْ سَيِّئَاتِهِ»

(No physical harm befalls a believer, but Allah will expiate for some of his sins because of it.)"
Imam Ahmad also recorded that `A'ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«إِذَا كَثُرَتْ ذُنُوبُ الْعَبْدِ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ مَا يُكَفِّرُهَا،
ابْتَلَاهُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى بِالْحُزْنِ لِيُكَفِّرَهَا»

(If a person commits many sins and has nothing that will expiate for them, Allah will test him with some grief that will expiate for them.)"

(وَمِنْ ءَايَاتِهِ الْجَوَارِ فِي الْبَحْرِ كَالْأَعْلَمِ - إِنْ
يَشَاءُ يُسْكِنِ الرِّيحَ فَيَظْلَنَ رَوَاكِدَ عَلَى ظَهْرِهِ إِنَّ
فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِكُلِّ صَبَّارٍ شَكُورٍ - أَوْ يُوقِفَهُنَّ
بِمَا كَسَبُوا وَيَعْفُ عَنْ كَثِيرٍ - وَيَعْلَمَ الَّذِينَ
يُجَادِلُونَ فِي ءَايَاتِنَا مَا لَهُمْ مِنْ مَّحِيصٍ)

(32. And among His signs are the ships in the sea like mountains.) (33. If He wills, He causes the wind to cease, then they would become motionless on the surface (of the sea). Verily, in this are signs for everyone patient and grateful.) (34. Or He may destroy them because of that which their (people) have earned. And He pardons much.) (35. And those who dispute as regards Our Ayat may know that there is no place of refuge for them.)

Ships are also among the Signs of Allah

Allah tells us that another sign of His great power and dominion is the fact that He has subjugated the sea so that ships may sail in it by His command, so they sail in the sea like mountains. This was the view of Mujahid, Al-Hasan, As-Suddi and Ad-Dahhak. In other words, these ships on the sea are like mountains on land.

(إِنْ يَشَاءُ يُسْكِنِ الرِّيحَ)

(If He wills, He causes the wind to cease,) means, the winds that cause the ships to travel on the sea. If He willed, He could cause the winds to cease, then the ships would not move and would remain still, neither coming nor going, staying where they are on the surface of the water.

(إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّكُلِّ صَبَّارٍ)

(Verily, in this are signs for everyone patient) means, who is patient in the face of adversity

(شَكُورٍ)

(and grateful.) means, in the fact that Allah has subjugated the sea and He sends as much wind as they need in order to travel, there are signs of His blessings to His creation for everyone who is patient, i.e., at times of difficulty, and grateful, i.e., at times of ease.

(أَوْ يُوقَهُنَّ بِمَا كَسَبُوا)

(Or He may destroy them because of that which their (people) have earned.) means, if He wills, He may destroy the ships and drown them, because of the sins of the people on board.

(وَيَعْفُ عَنْ كَثِيرٍ)

(And He pardons much.) means, of their sins; if He were to punish them for all of their sins, He would destroy everyone who sails on the sea. Some of the scholars interpreted the Ayah

(أَوْ يُوقَهُنَّ بِمَا كَسَبُوا)

(Or He may destroy them because of that which their (people) have earned.) as meaning, if He willed, He could send the wind to blow fiercely so that it would take the ships and divert them from their courses, driving them to the right or the left, so that they would be lost and would not be able to follow their intended path. This interpretation also includes the idea of their being destroyed. This also fits the first meaning, which is that if Allah willed, He could cause the wind to cease, in which case the ships would stop moving, or He could make the wind fierce, in which case the ships would be lost and destroyed. But by His grace and mercy, He

sends the wind according to their needs, just as He sends rain that is sufficient. If He sent too much rain, it would destroy their houses, and if He sent too little, their crops and fruits would not grow. In the case of lands such as Egypt, He sends water from another land, because they do not need rain; if rain were to fall upon them, it would destroy their houses and cause walls to collapse.

(وَيَعْلَمَ الَّذِينَ يُجَادِلُونَ فِي آيَاتِنَا مَا لَهُمْ مِّنْ مَّحِيصٍ)

(And those who dispute as regards Our Ayat may know that there is no place of refuge for them.) means, they have no means of escape from Our torment and vengeance, for they are subdued by Our power.

(فَمَا أُوتِيْتُمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ فَمَتَّعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَمَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَى لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ - وَالَّذِينَ يَجْتَنِبُونَ كَبِيرَ الْإِثْمِ وَالْفَوَاحِشَ وَإِذَا مَا غَضِبُوا هُمْ يَغْفِرُونَ - وَالَّذِينَ اسْتَجَابُوا لِرَبِّهِمْ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَمْرُهُمْ شُورَىٰ بَيْنَهُمْ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ - وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَهُمُ الْبَغْيُ هُمْ يَنْتَصِرُونَ)

(36. So whatever you have been given is but (a passing) enjoyment for this worldly life, but that which is with Allah is better and more lasting for those who believe and put their trust in their Lord.) (37. And those who shun the greater sins, and Al-Fawahish, and when they are angry, they forgive.) (38. And those who answer the Call of their Lord, and perform the Salah, and who (conduct) their affairs by mutual consultation, and who spend of what We have bestowed on them.) (39. And those who, when an oppressive wrong is done to them, take revenge.)

The Attributes of Those Who deserve that which is with Allah

Here Allah points out the insignificance of this worldly life and its transient adornments and luxuries.

(فَمَا أُوتِيْتُمْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ فَمَتَّعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا)

(So whatever you have been given is but (a passing) enjoyment for this worldly life.) means, no matter what you achieve and amass, do not be deceived by it, for it is only the enjoyment of this life, which is the lower, transient realm that will undoubtedly come to an end.

(وَمَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَى)

(but that which is with Allah is better and more lasting) means, the reward of Allah is better than this world, and it will last forever, so do not give preference to that which is transient over that which is lasting. Allah says:

(لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا)

(for those who believe) means, for those who are patient in forgoing the pleasures of this world,

(وَعَلَى رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ)

(and put their trust in their Lord.) means, so that He will help them to be patient in doing what is obligatory and avoiding what is forbidden. Then Allah says:

(وَالَّذِينَ يَجْتَنِبُونَ كَبِيرَ الْإِثْمِ وَالْفَوَاحِشِ)

(And those who shun the greater sins, and Al-Fawahish,) We have already discussed sin and Al-Fawahish in Surat Al-A`raf.

(وَإِذَا مَا غَضِبُوا هُمْ يَغْفِرُونَ)

(and when they are angry, they forgive.) means, their nature dictates that they should forgive people and be tolerant. Vengeance is not in their nature. It was reported in the Sahih that the Messenger of Allah never took revenge for his own sake, only when the sacred Laws of Allah were violated.

(وَالَّذِينَ اسْتَجَابُوا لِرَبِّهِمْ)

(And those who answer the Call of their Lord,) means, they follow His Messenger and obey His commands and avoid that which He has prohibited.

(وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ)

(and perform As-Salah) -- which is the greatest act of worship of Allah, may He be glorified.

(وَأْمُرُهُمْ شُورَىٰ بَيْنَهُمْ)

(and who (conduct) their affairs by mutual consultation,) means, they do not make a decision without consulting one another on the matter so that they can help one another by sharing their ideas concerning issues such as wars and other matters. This is like the Ayah:

(وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ)

(and consult them in the affairs) (3:159). The Prophet used to consult with them concerning wars and other matters, so that they would feel confident. When `Umar bin Al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him, was dying, after he had been stabbed, he entrusted the choice of the next Khalifah to six people who were to be consulted. They were `Uthman, `Ali, Talhah, Az-Zubayr, Sa`id and `Abdur-Rahman bin `Awf, may Allah be pleased with them all. Then all of the Companions, may Allah be pleased with them, agreed to appoint `Uthman as their leader.

(وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ)

(and who spend of what We have bestowed on them.) this means kindly treating the creation of Allah, starting with those who are closest, then the next closest, and so on.

(وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَهُمُ الْبَغْيُ هُمْ يَنْتَصِرُونَ)

(And those who, when an oppressive wrong is done to them, take revenge.) means, they have the strength to take revenge on those who commit aggressive wrong and hostile acts against them. They are not incapable of doing so and they are not helpless; they are able to take revenge against those who transgress against them, even though when they have the power to take revenge, they prefer to forgive, as when Yusuf, peace be upon him, said to his brothers:

(لَا تَتْرِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْيَوْمَ يَعْفِرُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ)

(No reproach on you this day; may Allah forgive you) (12: 92). even though he was in a position to take revenge on them for what they had done to him. The Messenger of Allah forgave the eighty people who intended to do him harm during the year of Al-Hudaybiyah, camping by the mountain of At-Tan`im. When he overpowered them, he set them free, even though he was in a position to take revenge on them. He also forgave Ghawrath bin Al-Harith who wanted to kill him and unsheathed his sword while he was sleeping. The Prophet woke up to find him pointing the sword at him. He reproached him angrily and the sword dropped. Then the Messenger of Allah picked up the sword and called his Companions He told them what had happened, and he forgave the man. There are many similar Hadiths and reports. And Allah knows best.

(وَجَزَاءُ سَيِّئَةٍ سَيِّئَةٌ مِّثْلُهَا فَمَنْ عَفَا وَأَصْلَحَ فَأَجْرُهُ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الظَّالِمِينَ - وَلَمَنْ

انْتَصَرَ بَعْدَ ظَلْمِهِ فَأُولَئِكَ مَا عَلَيْهِمْ مِّنْ سَبِيلٍ -
 إِنَّمَا السَّبِيلُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يَظْلِمُونَ النَّاسَ وَيَبْغُونَ
 فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ أُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ -
 وَلَمَن صَبَرَ وَغَفَرَ إِنَّ ذَلِكَ لَمِنَ عَزْمِ الْأُمُورِ)

(40. The recompense for an evil is an evil like thereof; but whoever forgives and makes reconciliation, his reward is with Allah. Verily, He likes not the wrongdoers.) (41. And indeed whosoever takes revenge after he has suffered wrong, for such there is no way (of blame) against them.) (42. The way is only against those who oppress men and rebel in the earth without justification; for such there will be a painful torment.) (43. And verily, whosoever shows patience and forgives, that would truly be from the things recommended by Allah.)

Forgiving or exacting Revenge on Wrongdoers

(وَجَزَاءُ سَيِّئَةٍ سَيِّئَةٌ مِّثْلُهَا)

(The recompense for an evil is an evil like thereof). This is like the Ayat:

(فَمَنِ اعْتَدَىٰ عَلَيْكُمْ فَاعْتَدُوا عَلَيْهِ بِمِثْلِ مَا
 اعْتَدَىٰ عَلَيْكُمْ)

(Then whoever transgresses the prohibition against you, you transgress likewise against him) (2:194), and

(وَإِنِ عَاقَبْتُمْ فَعَاقِبُوا بِمِثْلِ مَا عُوقِبْتُمْ بِهِ)

(And if you punish, then punish them with the like of that with which you were afflicted) (16:126). Justice, has been prescribed, in the form of the prescribed laws of equality in punishment (Al-Qisas), but the better way, which means forgiving, is recommended, as Allah says:

(وَالْجُرُوحَ قِصَاصٌ فَمَن تَصَدَّقَ بِهِ فَهُوَ كَفَّارَةٌ
 لَهُ)

(and wounds equal for equal. But if anyone remits the retaliation by way of charity, it shall be for him an expiation) (5:45). Allah says here:

﴿فَمَنْ عَفَا وَأَصْلَحَ فَأَجْرُهُ عَلَى اللَّهِ﴾

(but whoever forgives and makes reconciliation, his reward is with Allah.) means, that will not be wasted with Allah. As it says in a Sahih Hadith:

«وَمَا زَادَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَبْدًا بِعَفْوِ إِلَّا عِزًّا»

(Allah does not increase the person who forgives except in honor.)"

﴿إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الظَّالِمِينَ﴾

(Verily, He likes not the wrongdoers.) means, the aggressors, i.e., those who initiate the evil actions.

﴿وَلَمَنَ انتَصَرَ بَعْدَ ظُلْمِهِ فَأُولَئِكَ مَا عَلَيْهِم مِّن سَبِيلٍ﴾

(And indeed whosoever takes revenge after he has suffered wrong, for such there is no way (of blame) against them.) means, there is no sin on him for taking revenge against the one who wronged him.

﴿إِنَّمَا السَّبِيلُ﴾

(The way) means, the burden of sin,

﴿عَلَى الَّذِينَ يَظْلِمُونَ النَّاسَ وَيَبْغُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ﴾

(is only against those who oppress men and rebel in the earth without justification;) means, those who initiate wrongful actions against others, as it says in the Sahih Hadith:

«المُسْتَبَّانِ مَا قَالَا فَعَلَى الْبَادِيءِ، مَا لَمْ يَعْتَدِ
المَظْلُومُ»

(When two persons indulge in abusing each other, the one who initiated the wrongful action is to blame, unless the one who was wronged oversteps the mark in retaliation.)

(أَوْلَيْكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ)

(for such there will be a painful torment.) means, intense and agonizing. It was reported that Muhammad bin Wasi` said, "I came to Makkah and there was a security out post over the trench whose guards took me to Marwan bin Al-Muhallab, who was the governor of Basrah. He said, `What do you need, O Abu `Abdullah' I said, `If you can do it, I need you to be like the brother of Banu `Adiy.' He said, `Who is the brother of Banu `Adiy' He said, `Al-`Ala' bin Ziyad; he once appointed a friend of his to a position of authority, and he wrote to him: If you can, only go to sleep after you make sure that there is nothing on your back)i.e., you do not owe anything to anyone(, your stomach is empty and your hands are untainted by the blood or wealth of the Muslims. If you do that, then there will be no way (of blame) against you --

(إِنَّمَا السَّبِيلُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يَظْلِمُونَ النَّاسَ وَيَبْغُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ أَوْلَيْكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ)

(The way is only against those who oppress men and rebel in the earth without justification; for such there will be a painful torment.)' Marwan said, `He spoke the truth, by Allah, and gave sincere advice. ' Then he said, `What do you need, O Abu `Abdullah' I said, `I need you to let me join my family.' He said, `Yes)I will do that(." This was recorded by Ibn Abi Hatim. When Allah condemned wrongdoing and the people who do it, and prescribed Al-Qisas, He encouraged forgiveness:

(وَلَمَن صَبَرَ وَغَفَرَ)

(And verily, whosoever shows patience and forgives,) meaning, whoever bears the insult with patience and conceals the evil action,

(إِنَّ ذَلِكَ لَمِنْ عَزْمِ الْأُمُورِ)

(that would truly be from the things recommended by Allah.) Sa`id bin Jubayr said, "This means, one of the things enjoined by Allah," i.e., good actions for which there will be a great reward and much praise.

(وَمَن يُضِلِّ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِن وَّلِيٍّ مِّن بَعْدِهِ وَتَرَى الظَّالِمِينَ لَمَّا رَأُوا الْعَذَابَ يَقُولُونَ هَلْ إِلَى مَرَدٍّ مِّن سَبِيلٍ - وَتَرَاهُمْ يُعْرَضُونَ عَلَيْهَا خَشِيعِينَ

مِنَ الدُّلِّ يَنْظُرُونَ مِنْ طَرْفٍ خَفِيٍّ وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ
ءَامَنُوا إِنَّ الخَاسِرِينَ الَّذِينَ خَسِرُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ
وَأَهْلِيَهُمْ يَوْمَ القِيَمَةِ أَلَا إِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ فِي عَذَابٍ
مُّقِيمٍ - وَمَا كَانَ لَهُمْ مِّنْ أَوْلِيَاءَ يَنْصُرُونَهُمْ مِّنْ
دُونِ اللَّهِ وَمَنْ يُضِلِلِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ سَبِيلٍ)

(44. And whomsoever Allah sends astray, for him there is no protector after Him. And you will see the wrongdoers, when they behold the torment, they will say: "Is there any way of return") (45. And you will see them brought forward to it (Hell) made humble by disgrace, (and) looking with stealthy glance. And those who believe will say: "Verily, the losers are they who lose themselves and their families on the Day of Resurrection." Verily, the wrongdoers will be in a lasting torment.) (46. And they will have no protectors to help them other than Allah. And he whom Allah sends astray, for him there is no way.)

The State of the Wrongdoers on the Day of Resurrection

Allah tells us that whatever He wills happens and whatever He does not will does not happen, and no one can make it happen. Whomever He guides, none can lead astray, and whomever He leads astray, none can guide, as He says:

(وَمَنْ يُضِلِلْ فَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُ وَلِيًّا مُّرْشِدًا)

(but he whom He sends astray, for him you will find no protecting to lead him.) (18:17). Then Allah tells us about the wrongdoers, i.e., the idolators who associate others in worship with Allah:

(لَمَّا رَأَوْا العَذَابَ)

(when they behold the torment,) i.e., on the Day of Resurrection, they will wish that they could go back to this world.

(يَقُولُونَ هَلْ إِلَى مَرَدٍّ مِّنْ سَبِيلٍ)

(they will say: "Is there any way of return") This is like the Ayah:

وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذْ وَقَفُوا عَلَى النَّارِ فَقَالُوا يَلَيْتَنَا نُرَدُّ
وَلَا نُكَذِّبُ بآيَاتِ رَبِّنَا وَنَكُونُ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ - بَلْ
بَدَأَ لَهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يُخْفُونَ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَلَوْ رُدُّوا لَعَدُّوا
لِمَا نُهُوا عَنْهُ وَإِنَّهُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ)

(If you could but see when they will be held over the (Hell) Fire! They will say: "Would that we were but sent back! Then we would not deny the Ayat of our Lord, and we would be of the believers!" Nay, it has become manifest to them what they had been concealing before. But if they were returned, they would certainly revert to that which they were forbidden. And indeed they are liars.) (6:27-28)

(وَتَرَاهُمْ يُعْرَضُونَ عَلَيْهَا)

(And you will see them brought forward to it) means, to the Fire.

(خَشِعِينَ مِنَ الدُّلِّ)

(made humble by disgrace,) means, in a befitting manner, because of their previous disobedience towards Allah.

(يَنْظُرُونَ مِنْ طَرَفٍ خَفِيٍّ)

((and) looking with stealthy glance.) Mujahid said, "In a humiliated manner." That is, they will steal glances at it, because they will be afraid of it. But the thing that they are afraid of will undoubtedly happen, and worse than that -- may Allah save us from that.

(وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا)

(And those who believe will say) means, on the Day of Resurrection they will say:

(إِنَّ الْخَسِرِينَ)

(Verily, the losers...) means, the greatest losers.

(الَّذِينَ خَسِرُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَأَهْلِيهِمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ)

(are they who lose themselves and their families on the Day of Resurrection.) means, they will be taken to the Fire and deprived of any pleasures in the Hereafter. They will lose themselves, and they will be separated from their loved ones, companions, families and relatives, and they will lose them.

(أَلَا إِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ فِي عَذَابٍ مُّقِيمٍ)

(Verily, the wrongdoers will be in a lasting torment.) means, everlasting and eternal, with no way out and no escape.

(وَمَا كَانَ لَهُمْ مِّنْ أَوْلِيَاءَ يَنْصُرُونَهُمْ مِّنْ دُونِ
اللَّهِ)

(And they will have no protectors to help them other than Allah.) means, no one to save them from the punishment and torment which they are suffering.

(وَمَنْ يُضِلِلِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ سَبِيلٍ)

(And he whom Allah sends astray, for him there is no way.) means, no salvation.

(اسْتَجِيبُوا لِرَبِّكُمْ مِّنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يَأْتِيَ يَوْمٌ لَا مَرَدَّ لَهُ
مِنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَكُمْ مِّنْ مَّלْجَأٍ يَوْمَئِذٍ وَمَا لَكُمْ مِّنْ تَكْوِينٍ
- فَإِنْ أَعْرَضُوا فَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ عَلَيْهِمْ حَفِيظًا إِنْ
عَلَيْكَ إِلَّا الْبَلَاغُ وَإِنَّا إِذَا أَذَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنَّا رَحْمَةً
فَرِحَ بِهَا وَإِنْ تُصِيبُهُمْ سَيِّئَةٌ بِمَا قَدَّمَتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ فَإِنَّ
الْإِنْسَانَ كَفُورٌ)

(47. Answer the Call of your Lord before there comes from Allah a Day which cannot be averted. You will have no refuge on that Day nor there will be for you any denying.) (48. But if they turn away, We have not sent you as a Hafiz over them. Your duty is to convey. And verily, when We cause man to taste of mercy from Us, he rejoices there at; but when some evil befalls them because of the deeds which their hands have sent forth, then verily, man (becomes) ingrate!)

Encouragement to obey Allah before the Day of Resurrection

When Allah tells us about the horrors and terrifying events of the Day of Resurrection, He warns us about it and commands us to prepare for it:

(اسْتَجِيبُوا لِرَبِّكُمْ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يَأْتِيَ يَوْمٌ لَا مَرَدَّ لَهُ
مِنَ اللَّهِ)

(Answer the Call of your Lord before there comes from Allah a Day which cannot be averted.) means, once He issues the command, it will come to pass within the blinking of an eye, and no one will be able to avert it or prevent it.

(مَا لَكُمْ مِنْ مَلْجَأٍ يَوْمَئِذٍ وَمَا لَكُمْ مِنْ نَكِيرٍ)

(You will have no refuge on that Day nor there will be for you any denying.) means, you will have no stronghold in which to take refuge, no place in which to hide from Allah, for He will encompass you with His knowledge and power, and you will have no refuge from Him except with Him.

(يَقُولُ الْإِنْسَانُ يَوْمَئِذٍ أَيْنَ الْمَفْرُ - كَلَّا لَا وَزَرَ -
إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ يَوْمَئِذٍ الْمُسْتَقَرُّ)

(On that Day man will say: "Where (is the refuge) to flee" No! There is no refuge! Unto your Lord will be the place of rest that Day.) (75:10-12)

(فَإِنْ أَعْرَضُوا)

(But if they turn away,) refers to the idolators,

(فَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ عَلَيْهِمْ حَفِيظًا)

(We have not sent you as a Hafiz over them.) means, `you have no power over them.' And Allah says elsewhere:

(لَيْسَ عَلَيْكَ هُدَاهُمْ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ)

(Not upon you is their guidance, but Allah guides whom He wills) (2:272).

(فَإِنَّمَا عَلَيْكَ الْبَلْغُ وَعَلَيْنَا الْحِسَابُ)

(your duty is only to convey (the Message) and on Us is the reckoning) (13:40). And Allah says here:

(إِنْ عَلَيْكَ إِلَّا الْبَلْغُ)

(Your duty is to convey.) meaning, 'all that We require you to do is to convey the Message of Allah to them.'

(وَإِنَّا إِذَا أَذَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنَّا رَحْمَةً فَرَحَ بِهَا)

(And verily, when We cause man to taste of mercy from Us, he rejoices there at;) means, when a time of ease and comfort comes to him, he is happy about it.

(وَإِنْ تُصِيبُهُمْ)

(but when befalls them) means mankind.

(سَيِّئَةً)

(some evil) means, drought, punishment, tribulation or difficulty,

(فَإِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ كَفُورٌ)

(then verily, man (becomes) ingrate!) means, he forgets the previous times of ease and blessings and acknowledges nothing but the present moment. If times of ease come to him, he becomes arrogant and transgresses, but if any difficulty befalls him, he loses hope and is filled with despair. This is like what the Messenger of Allah said to the women:

«يَا مَعْشَرَ النِّسَاءِ، تَصَدَّقْنَ، فَإِنِّي رَأَيْتُكُنَّ أَكْثَرَ
أَهْلِ النَّارِ»

(O women, give in charity, for I have seen that you form the majority of the people of Hell.) A woman asked, "Why is that, O Messenger of Allah" He said:

«لِأَنَّكُنَّ تَكْتَرِينَ الشَّكَايَةَ وَتَكْفُرِينَ الْعَشِيرَ، لَوْ
أَحْسَنْتَ إِلَى إِحْدَاهُنَّ الدَّهْرَ ثُمَّ تَرَكْتِ يَوْمًا،
قَالَتْ: مَا رَأَيْتُ مِنْكَ خَيْرًا قَطُّ»

(Because you complain too much, and you are ungrateful to (your) husbands. If one of you were to be treated kindly for an entire lifetime, then that kindness was lacking for one day, she

would say, 'I have never seen anything good from you!') This is the case with most women, except for those whom Allah guides and who are among the people who believe and do righteous deeds. As the Prophet said, the believer is the one who:

«إِنْ أَصَابَتْهُ سَرَّاءٌ شَكَرَ، فَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُ، وَإِنْ أَصَابَتْهُ ضَرَّاءٌ صَبَرَ، فَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُ، وَلَيْسَ ذَلِكَ لِأَحَدٍ إِلَّا لِلْمُؤْمِنِ»

(... if something good happens to him, he is thankful, and that is good for him. If something bad happens to him, he bears it with patience, and that is good for him. This does not happen to anyone except the believer.)

(لِلَّهِ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ يَهَبُ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ إِنثًا وَيَهَبُ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ الذُّكُورَ - أَوْ يُزَوِّجُهُمْ ذُكْرَانًا وَإِنثًا وَيَجْعَلُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ عَقِيمًا إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ قَدِيرٌ)

(49. To Allah belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. He creates what He wills. He bestows female upon whom He wills, and bestows male upon whom He wills.) (50. Or He bestows both males and females, and He renders barren whom He wills. Verily, He is the All-Knower and is Able (to do all things).)

Allah tells us that He is the Creator, Sovereign and Controller of the heavens and the earth.

Whatever he wills happens, and whatever He does not will does not happen. He gives to whomsoever He wills and withholds from whomsoever he wills; none can withhold what He gives, and none can give what He withholds, and He creates whatever He wills.

(يَهَبُ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ إِنثًا)

(He bestows female upon whom He wills.) means, He gives them daughters only. Al-Baghawi said, "And among them (those who were given daughters only) was Lut, peace be upon him."

(وَيَهَبُ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ الذُّكُورَ)

(and bestows male upon whom He wills.) means, He gives them sons only. Al-Baghawi said, "Like Ibrahim Al-Khalil, peace be upon him, who did not have any daughters."

(أَوْ يُزَوِّجُهُمْ ذُكْرَانًا وَإِنثَاءً)

(Or He bestows both males and females,) means, He gives to whomsoever He wills both males and females, sons and daughters. Al-Baghawi said, "Like Muhammad ."

(وَيَجْعَلُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ عَقِيمًا)

(and He renders barren whom He wills.) means, so that he has no children at all. Al-Baghawi said, "Like Yahya and `Isa, peace be upon them." So people are divided into four categories: some are given daughters, some are given sons, some are given both sons and daughters, and some are not given either sons or daughters, but they are rendered barren, with no offspring.

(إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ)

(Verily, He is the All-Knower) means, He knows who deserves to be in which of these categories.

(قَدِيرٌ)

(and is Able (to do all things).) means, to do whatever He wills and to differentiate between people in this manner. This issue is similar to that referred to in the Ayah where Allah says of `Isa, peace be upon him:

(وَلِنَجْعَلَهُ آيَةً لِلنَّاسِ)

(And (We wish) to appoint him as a sign to mankind) (19:21): i.e., proof for them of His power, for He created people in four different ways. Adam, peace be upon him, was created from clay, from neither a male nor a female. Hawwa', peace be upon her, was created from a male without a female. All other people, besides `Isa, peace be upon him, were created from male and female, and this sign of Allah was completed with the creation of `Isa bin Maryam, may peace be upon them both, who was created from a female without a male. Allah says:

(وَلِنَجْعَلَهُ آيَةً لِلنَّاسِ)

(And (We wish) to appoint him as a sign to mankind) (19: 21). This issue has to do with parents, whilst the previous issue has to do with children, and in each case there are four categories. Glory be to the All-Knower Who is Able to do all things.

(وَمَا كَانَ لِبَشَرٍ أَنْ يُكَلِّمَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَّا وَحْيًا أَوْ مِنْ
 وَرَاءِ حِجَابٍ أَوْ يُرْسِلَ رَسُولًا فَيُوحِيَ بآدْنِهِ مَا
 يَشَاءُ إِنَّهُ عَلَىٰ حَكِيمٍ - وَكَذَلِكَ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ رُوحًا
 مِّنْ أَمْرِنَا مَا كُنْتَ تَدْرِي مَا الْكِتَابُ وَلَا الْإِيمَانُ
 وَلَكِنْ جَعَلْنَاهُ نُورًا نَّهْدِي بِهِ مَنْ نَّشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا
 وَإِنَّكَ لَنَهْدِي إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ - صِرَاطِ اللَّهِ
 الَّذِي لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا إِلَىٰ
 اللَّهِ تَصِيرُ الْأُمُورُ)

(51. It is not given to any human being that Allah should speak to him unless (it be) by revelation, or from behind a veil, or (that) He sends a Messenger to reveal what He wills by His leave. Verily, He is Most High, Most Wise.) (52. And thus We have sent to you Ruh of Our command. You knew not what is the Book, nor what is Faith. But We have made it a light wherewith We guide whosoever of Our servants We will. And verily, you are indeed guiding to a straight path.) (53. The path of Allah to Whom belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth. Verily, all matters at the end go to Allah.)

How the Revelation comes down

This refers to how Allah sends revelation. Sometimes He casts something into the heart of the Prophet , and he has no doubt that it is from Allah, as it was reported in Sahih Ibn Hibban that the Messenger of Allah said:

«إِنَّ رُوحَ الْقُدُسِ نَفَثَ فِي رُوعِي أَنْ نَفْسًا لَّنْ
 تَمُوتَ حَتَّى تَسْتَكْمِلَ رِزْقَهَا وَأَجَلَهَا، فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ
 وَأَجْمِلُوا فِي الطَّلَبِ»

(Ar-Ruh Al-Qudus) i.e., Jibril(breathed into my heart that no soul will die until its allotted provision and time have expired, so have Taqwa of Allah and keep seeking in a good (and lawful) way.)

(أَوْ مِنْ وَرَاءِ حِجَابٍ)

(or from behind a veil) -- as He spoke to Musa, peace be upon him. He asked to see Him after He had spoken to him, but this was not granted to him. In the Sahih, it recorded that the Messenger of Allah said to Jabir bin `Abdullah, may Allah be pleased with him:

«مَا كَلَّمَ اللَّهُ أَحَدًا إِلَّا مِنْ وَرَاءِ حِجَابٍ، وَإِنَّهُ كَلَّمَ
أَبَاكَ كِفَاحًا»

(Allah never speaks to anyone except from behind a veil, but He spoke to your father directly.) This is how it was stated in the Hadith. He)Jabir's father(was killed on the day of Uhud, but this refers to the realm of Al-Barzakh, whereas the Ayah speaks of this earthly realm.

(أَوْ يُرْسِلَ رَسُولًا فَيُوحِي بِيَاذِنِهِ مَا يَشَاءُ)

(or (that) He sends a Messenger to reveal what He wills by His leave.) as Jibril, peace be upon him, and other angels came down to the Prophets, peace be upon them.

(إِنَّهُ عَلَىٰ حَكِيمٍ)

(Verily, He is Most High, Most Wise.) He is Most High, All-Knowing, Most Wise.

(وَكَذَلِكَ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ رُوحًا مِّنْ أَمْرِنَا)

(And thus We have sent to you Ruh of Our command.) means, the Qur'an.

(مَا كُنْتَ تَدْرِي مَا الْكِتَابُ وَلَا الْإِيمَانُ)

(You knew not what is the Book, nor what is Faith.) means, `in the details which were given to you in the Qur'an.'

(وَلَكِنْ جَعَلْنَاهُ)

(But We have made it) means, the Qur'an,

(نُورًا نُّهْدِي بِهِ مَنْ نَّشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا)

(a light wherewith We guide whosoever of Our servants We will.) This is like the Ayah:

(قُلْ هُوَ لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا هُدًى وَشِفَاءً وَالَّذِينَ لَا
يُؤْمِنُونَ فِي ءَاذَانِهِمْ وَقْرٌ وَهُوَ عَلَيْهِمْ عَمًى)

(Say: "It is for those who believe, a guide and a healing. And as for those who disbelieve, there is heaviness (deafness) in their ears, and it (the Qur'an) is blindness for them.") (41:44).

(وَٱنكَ)

(And verily, you) means, `O Muhammad,'

(لَتَهْدِي إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ)

(are indeed guiding to a straight path.) means, the correct behavior. Then Allah explains this further by saying:

(صِرَاطِ ٱللَّهِ)

(The path of Allah) meaning, His Laws which He enjoins.

(ٱلَّذِي لَهُ مَا فِى السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِى ٱلْأَرْضِ)

(to Whom belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth.) means, their Lord and Sovereign, the One Who is controlling and ruling them, Whose decree cannot be overturned.

(ٱلْأَىٰ إِلَىٰ ٱللَّهِ تَصِيرُ ٱلْأُمُورُ)

(Verily, all matters at the end go to Allah.) means, all matters come back to Him and He issues judgement concerning them. Glorified and exalted be He far above all that the evildoers and deniers say.)This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat Ash-Shura(

The Tafsir of Surat Az-Zukhruf

(Chapter - 43)

Which was revealed in Makkah

In the Name of **بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ**
Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most
.Merciful

(حم- وَالْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ- إِنَّا جَعَلْنَاهُ قُرْءَانًا عَرَبِيًّا
لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ- وَإِنَّهُ فِي أُمَّ الْكِتَابِ لَدَيْنَا لَعَلِيٌّ
حَكِيمٌ- أَفَنَضْرِبُ عَنْكُمْ الذِّكْرَ صَفْحًا أَنْ كُنْتُمْ
قَوْمًا مُّسْرِفِينَ- وَكَمْ أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ نَبِيٍِّّ فِي الْأَوَّلِينَ-
وَمَا يَأْتِيهِمْ مِنْ نَبِيٍّ إِلَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ-
فَأَهْلَكْنَا أَشَدَّ مِنْهُمْ بَطْشًا وَمَضَى مَثَلُ الْأَوَّلِينَ-)

(1. Ha Mim.) (2. By the manifest Book.) (3. Verily, We have made it a Qur'an in Arabic that you may be able to understand.) (4. And verily, it is in the Mother of the Book with Us, indeed exalted, full of wisdom.) (5. Shall We then take away the Reminder from you, because you are a people excessive.) (6. And how many a Prophet have We sent amongst the men of old.) (7. And never came there a Prophet to them but they used to mock at him.) (8. Then We destroyed men stronger (in power) than these and the example of the ancients has passed away.)

(حم - تَنْزِيلُ الْكِتَابِ مِنَ اللّٰهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ)

(Ha-Mim. By the manifest Book.) means, plain and clear in both wording and meaning, because it was revealed in the language of the Arabs, which is the most eloquent language for communication among people. Allah says:

(إِنَّا جَعَلْنَاهُ)

(Verily, We have made it) meaning, revealed it,

(قُرْءَانًا عَرَبِيًّا)

(a Qur'an in Arabic) meaning, in the language of the Arabs, eloquent and clear;

(لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ)

(that you may be able to understand.) means, that you may understand it and ponder its meanings. This is like the Ayah:

(بِلِسَانٍ عَرَبِيٍّ مُبِينٍ)

(In the plain Arabic language.) (26:195)

(وَإِنَّهُ فِي أُمِّ الْكِتَابِ لَدَيْنَا لَعَلِيَّ حَكِيمٌ)

(And verily, it is in the Mother of the Book with Us, indeed exalted, full of wisdom.) This explains the high status of the Qur'an among the hosts on high (the angels), so that the people of earth will respect it, venerate it and obey it.

(وَإِنَّهُ)

(And verily, it) means, the Qur'an,

(فِي أُمِّ الْكِتَابِ)

(is in the Mother of the Book) meaning, Al-Lawh Al-Mahfuz (the Preserved Tablet). This was the view of Ibn ` Abbas and Mujahid.

(لَدَيْنَا)

(with Us,) means, in Our presence. This was the view of Qatadah and others.

(لَعَلِيَّ)

(indeed exalted) means, occupying a position of honor and virtue. This was the view of Qatadah.

(حَكِيمٌ)

(full of wisdom.) means, clear, with no confusion or deviation. All of this indicates its noble status and virtue, as Allah says elsewhere:

إِنَّهُ لَقُرْءَانٌ كَرِيمٌ - فِي كِتَابٍ مَّكْنُونٍ - لَا يَمَسُّهُ
إِلَّا الْمُطَهَّرُونَ - تَنْزِيلٌ مِّن رَّبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ)

(That (this) is indeed an honorable recitation. In a Book well-guarded. Which none can touch but the pure. A revelation from the Lord of the all that exists.) (56:77-80)

كَلَّا إِنَّهَا تَذْكِرَةٌ فَمَن شَاءَ ذَكَرْهُ فِي صُحُفٍ
مُّكَرَّمَةٍ مَّرْفُوعَةٍ مُّطَهَّرَةٍ بِأَيْدِي سَفَرَةٍ كِرَامٍ بَرَرَةٍ
(

(Nay, indeed it is an admonition. So whoever wills, let him pay attention to it. (It is) in Records held (greatly) in honor, exalted, purified, in the hands of scribes (angels), honorable and obedient.) (80:11-16)

أَفَنَضْرِبُ عَنْكُمُ الذِّكْرَ صَفْحًا أَن كُنْتُمْ قَوْمًا
مُّسْرِفِينَ)

(Shall We then take away the Reminder (this Qur'an) from you, because you are a people excessive.) means, 'do you think that We will forgive you and not punish you, when you do not do as you have been commanded' This was the view of Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, Abu Salih, Mujahid and As-Suddi, and was the view favored by Ibn Jarir.

أَفَنَضْرِبُ عَنْكُمُ الذِّكْرَ صَفْحًا)

(Shall We then take away the Reminder (this Qur'an) from you,) Qatadah said, "By Allah, if this Qur'an had been taken away when the first generations of this Ummah rejected it, they would have been doomed, but Allah by His mercy persisted in sending it and calling them to it for twenty years, or for as long as He willed." What Qatadah said is very good, and his point is that Allah, by His grace and mercy towards His creation, did not stop calling them to the truth and to the wise Reminder, i.e., the Qur'an, even though they were heedless and turned away from it. Indeed, He sent it so that those who were decreed to be guided might be guided by it, and so that proof might be established against those who were decreed to be.

Consolation to the Prophet for the Disbelief of Quraysh

Then Allah consoles His Prophet for the disbelief of his people, and commands him to bear it with patience.

(وَكَمْ أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ نَبِيٍِّّ فِي الْأَوَّلِينَ)

(And how many a Prophet have We sent amongst the men of old.) meaning, among the sects (communities) of old.

(وَمَا يَأْتِيهِمْ مِنْ نَبِيٍِّّ إِلَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ)

(And never came there a Prophet to them but they used to mock at him.) means, they disbelieved him and mock at him.

(فَأَهْلَكْنَا أَشَدَّ مِنْهُمْ بَطْشًا)

(Then We destroyed men stronger than these) means, 'We destroyed those who disbelieved in the Messengers, and they were stronger in power than these who disbelieve in you, O Muhammad.' This is like the Ayah:

(أَفَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنْظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ
عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ كَانُوا أَكْثَرَ مِنْهُمْ وَأَشَدَّ
قُوَّةً)

(Have they not traveled through the earth and seen what was the end of those before them They were more in number than them and mightier in strength) (40:82). And there are many similar Ayat.

(وَمَضَى مَثَلُ الْأَوَّلِينَ)

(and the example of the ancients has passed away.) Mujahid said, "The way of their life." Qatadah said, "Their punishment." Others said, "Their lesson," i.e., 'We made them a lesson for those disbelievers who came after them, that they would suffer the same end as them,' as in the Ayah at the end of this Surah:

(فَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ سَلَفًا وَمَثَلًا لِلْآخِرِينَ)

(And We made them a precedent, and an example to later generations.) (43:56);

(سُنَّةَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي قَدْ خَلَتْ فِي عِبَادِهِ)

(this has been the way of Allah in dealing with His servants) (40:85).

(وَلَنْ تَجِدَ لِسُنَّةِ اللَّهِ تَبْدِيلًا)

(and you will not find any change in the way of Allah.) (33:62)

(وَلَيْنِ سَأَلْتَهُمْ مَنْ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ
لَيَقُولَنَّ خَلَقَهُنَّ الْعَزِيزُ الْعَلِيمُ - الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمْ
الْأَرْضَ مَهْدًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمْ فِيهَا سُبُلًا لَعَلَّكُمْ
تَهْتَدُونَ - وَالَّذِي نَزَّلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً بِقَدَرٍ
فَأَنْشَرْنَا بِهِ بَلْدَةً مَيْتًا كَذَلِكَ نُخْرِجُونَ - وَالَّذِي
خَلَقَ الْأَزْوَاجَ كُلَّهَا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الْفُلْكِ وَالْأَنْعَامِ
مَا تَرْكَبُونَ - لَتَسْتَوْوُوا عَلَى ظُهُورِهِ ثُمَّ تَذْكُرُوا
نِعْمَةَ رَبِّكُمْ إِذَا اسْتَوَيْتُمْ عَلَيْهِ وَتَقُولُوا سُبْحَانَ
الَّذِي سَخَّرَ لَنَا هَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لَهُ مُقْرِنِينَ - وَإِنَّا
إِلَى رَبِّنَا لَمُنْقَلِبُونَ)

(9. And indeed if you ask them: "Who has created the heavens and the earth" They will surely say: "The All-Mighty, the All-Knower created them.") (10. Who has made for you the earth like a bed, and has made for you roads therein, in order that you may find your way.) (11. And Who sends down water from the sky in due measure, then We revive a dead land therewith, and even so you will be brought forth.) (12. And Who has created all the pairs and has appointed for you ships and cattle on which you ride,) (13. In order that you may mount on their backs, and then may remember the favor of your Lord when you mount thereon, and say: "Glory to Him Who has subjected this to us, and we could have never had it.") (14. And verily, to Our Lord we indeed are to return!")

The Idolators' admission that Allah is the Sole Creator, and Further Evidence of that

Allah says: `If you, O Muhammad, were to ask these idolators who associate others with Allah and worship others besides Him,'

(مَنْ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ لَيَقُولَنَّ خَلَقَهُنَّ
الْعَزِيزُ الْعَلِيمُ)

("Who has created the heavens and the earth" They will surely say: "The All-Mighty, the All-Knower created them.") In other words, they will admit that the Creator of all that is Allah Alone, with no partner or associate, yet they still worship others -- idols and false gods -- alongside Him.

(الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ مَهْدًا)

(Who has made for you the earth like a bed,) means, smooth, stable and firm, so that you can travel about in it, and stand on it and sleep and walk about, even though it is created above water, but He has strengthened it with the mountains, lest it should shake.

(وَجَعَلَ لَكُم فِيهَا سُبُلًا)

(and has made for you roads therein,) means, paths between the mountains and the valleys.

(لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ)

(in order that you may find your way.) means, in your journeys from city to city, region to region, land to land.

(وَالَّذِي نَزَّلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً يَقْدَرِ)

(And Who sends down water from the sky in due measure,) means, according to what is sufficient for your crops, fruits and drinking water for yourselves and your cattle.

(فَأَنْشَرْنَا بِهِ بَلْدَةً مَيْتًا)

(then We revive a dead land therewith,) means, a barren land, for when the water comes to it, it is stirred (to life), and it swells and puts forth every lovely kind (of growth). By referring to the revival of the earth, Allah draws attention to how He will bring bodies back to life on the Day of Resurrection, after they have been dead.

(كَذَلِكَ نُخْرِجُوكَ)

(and even so you will be brought forth.) Then Allah says:

(وَالَّذِي خَلَقَ الْأَزْوَاجَ كُلَّهَا)

(And Who has created all the pairs) meaning, of everything that grows in the earth, all kinds of plants, crops, fruits, flowers, etc., and all different kinds of animals.

(وَجَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِّنَ الْفُلْكِ)

(and has appointed for you ships) or vessels,

(وَالْأَنْعَامَ مَا تَرَكْبُونِ)

(and cattle on which you ride.) means, He has subjugated them to you and made it easy for you to eat their meat, drink their milk and ride on their backs. Allah says:

(لِتَسْتَوُوا عَلَى ظُهُورِهِ)

(In order that you may mount on their backs,) meaning, sit comfortably and securely,

(عَلَى ظُهُورِهِ)

(on their backs) means, on the backs of these kinds of animals.

(ثُمَّ تَذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ رَبِّكُمْ)

(and then may remember the favor of your Lord) means, whereby these animals are subjugated to you.

(إِذَا اسْتَوَيْتُمْ عَلَيْهِ وَتَقُولُوا سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ لَنَا هَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لَهُ مُقْرِنِينَ)

(when you mount thereon, and say: "Glory to Him Who has subjected this to us, and we could have never had it.") means, if it were not for the fact that Allah has subjugated these things to us, we could never have done this by our own strength.' Ibn `Abbas, Qatadah, As-Suddi and Ibn Zayd said: "We could not have done this ourselves."

(وَإِنَّا إِلَى رَبِّنَا لَمُنْقَلِبُونَ)

(And verily, to Our Lord we indeed are to return.) means, `We will return to Him after our death, and our ultimate destination is with Him.' In this Ayah, mention of earthly journeys draws attention to the journey of the Hereafter, just as elsewhere, mention of earthly provision draws attention to the importance of ensuring provision for the Hereafter, as Allah says:

(وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى)

(And take a provision (with you) for the journey, but the best provision is the Taqwa) (2:197).
And mention of earthly garments is also used to draw attention to the raiment of the Hereafter:

(وَرِيْشًا وَّلِبَاسُ التَّقْوَى ذَلِك خَيْرٌ)

(and as an adornment; and the raiment of the Taqwa, that is better) (7:26).

(وَجَعَلُوا لَهُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ جُزْءًا إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَكَفُورٌ مُّبِينٌ - أَمْ اتَّخَذَ مِمَّا يَخْلُقُ بَنَاتٍ وَأَصْفَكُمْ بِالْبَنِينَ - وَإِذَا بُشِّرَ أَحَدُهُمْ بِمَا ضَرَبَ لِلرَّحْمَنِ مَثَلًا ظَلَّ وَجْهُهُ مُسْوَدًّا وَهُوَ كَظِيمٌ - أَوْ مَنْ يُنشأ فِي الْحَيَاةِ وَهُوَ فِي الْخِصَامِ غَيْرُ مُبِينٍ - وَجَعَلُوا الْمَلَائِكَةَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ عِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ إِنثًا أَشْهَدُوا خَلْقَهُمْ سَتُكْتَبُ شَهَادَتُهُمْ وَيُسْأَلُونَ - وَقَالُوا لَوْ شَاءَ الرَّحْمَنُ مَا عَبَدْنَاهُمْ مَا لَهُمْ بِذَلِكَ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَخْرُصُونَ)

(15. Yet, they assign to some of His servants a share with Him. Verily, man is indeed a manifest ingrate!) (16. Or has He taken daughters out of what He has created, and He has selected for you sons) (17. And if one of them is informed of the news of that which he sets forth as a parable to the Most Gracious, his face becomes dark, and he is filled with grief!) (18. A creature who is brought up in adornments, and who in dispute cannot make itself clear) (19. And they make females the angels who themselves are servants of the Most Gracious. Did they witness their creation Their testimony will be recorded, and they will be questioned!) (20. And they said: "If it had been the will of the Most Gracious,

Condemnation of the Idolators' attribution of Offspring to Allah

Here Allah speaks of the lies and fabrications of the idolators, when they devoted some of their cattle to their false gods and some to Allah, as He described in Surat Al-An`am where He said:

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)

(And they assign to Allah 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!) (6:136). Similarly, out of the two kinds of offspring, sons and daughters, they assigned to Him the worst and least valuable (in their eyes), i.e., daughters, as Allah says:

(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) And Allah says here:

وَجَعَلُوا لَهُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ جُزْءًا إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَكَفُورٌ
 مُّبِينٌ)

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

(أَمْ اتَّخَذَ مِمَّا يَخْلُقُ بَنَاتٍ وَأَصْفَكُمْ بِالْبَنِينَ)

(Or has He taken daughters out of what He has created, and He has selected for you sons) This is a denunciation of them in the strongest terms, as He goes on to say:

(وَإِذَا بُشِّرَ أَحَدُهُمْ بِمَا ضَرَبَ لِلرَّحْمَنِ مَثَلًا ظَلَّ
 وَجْهُهُ مُسْوَدًّا وَهُوَ كَظِيمٌ)

(And if one of them is informed of the news of that which he sets forth as a parable to the Most Gracious, his face becomes dark, and he is filled with grief!) means, if one of these people is given the news that there has been born to him one of those which he attributes to Allah, i.e., a daughter, he hates this news and it depresses and overwhelms him so much that he keeps

away from people because he feels so ashamed. Allah says, so how can they dislike that so much and yet they attribute it to Allah

(أَوْ مَن يُنْشَأُ فِي الْحَيَاةِ وَهُوَ فِي الْخِصَامِ غَيْرُ مُبِينٍ)

(A creature who is brought up in adornments, and who in dispute cannot make itself clear) means, women are regarded as lacking something, which they make up for with jewelry and adornments from the time of childhood onwards, and when there is a dispute, they cannot speak up and defend themselves clearly, so how can this be attributed to Allah

(وَجَعَلُوا الْمَلَائِكَةَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ عِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ إِنثًا)

(And they make females the angels who themselves are servants of the Most Gracious.) means, that is what they believe about them, but Allah denounces them for that and says:

(أَشْهَدُوا خَلْقَهُمْ)

(Did they witness their creation) meaning, did they see Allah creating them as females

(سَنُكْتَبُ شَهَادَتَهُمْ)

(Their testimony will be recorded,) means, concerning that,

(وَيُسْأَلُونَ)

(and they will be questioned!) means, about that, on the Day of Resurrection. This is a stern warning and a serious threat.

(وَقَالُوا لَوْ شَاءَ الرَّحْمَنُ مَا عَبَدْنَاهُمْ)

(And they said: "If it had been the will of the Most Gracious, we should not have worshipped them.") means, (they said:) `if Allah had willed, He would have prevented us from worshipping these idols which are images of the angels who are the daughters of Allah; He knows about this and He approves of it.' By saying this, they combined several types of error: First: They attributed offspring to Allah -- exalted and sanctified be He far above that. Second: They claimed that He chose daughters rather than sons, and they made the angels, who are the servants of the Most Gracious, female. Third: They worshipped them with no proof, evidence or permission from Allah. This was based on mere opinion, whims and desires, imitation of their elders and forefathers, and pure ignorance. They used Allah's decree as an excuse, and this reasoning betrayed their ignorance. Fourth: Allah denounced them for this in the strongest terms, for from the time He first sent Messengers and revealed Books, the command was to

worship Him Alone with no partner or associate, and it was forbidden to worship anything other than Him. Allah says:

(وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَّسُولًا أَنْ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ
وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّغُوتَ فَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ هَدَى اللَّهُ وَمِنْهُمْ
مَنْ حَقَّتْ عَلَيْهِ الضَّلَالَةُ فَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ
فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكذِّبِينَ)

(And verily, We have sent among every Ummah a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allah, and avoid all false deities." Then of them were some whom Allah guided and of them were some upon whom the straying was justified. So travel through the land and see what was the end of those who denied.) (16:36)

(وَاسْأَلْ مَنْ أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رُسُلِنَا أَجَعَلْنَا
مِنْ دُونِ الرَّحْمَنِ ءَالِهَةً يُعْبَدُونَ)

(And ask those of Our Messengers whom We sent before you: "Did We ever appoint gods to be worshipped besides the Most Gracious") (43:45) And Allah says in this Ayah, after mentioning this argument of theirs:

(مَا لَهُمْ بِدَلِيلٍ مِنْ عِلْمٍ)

(They have no knowledge whatsoever of that.) meaning, of the truth of what they say and the arguments they put forward.

(وَإِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَخْرُصُونَ)

(They do nothing but lie!) means, they tell lies and fabricate untruths.

(مَا لَهُمْ بِدَلِيلٍ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَخْرُصُونَ)

(They have no knowledge whatsoever of that. They do nothing but lie!) Mujahid said, "They do not appreciate the power of Allah."

(أَمْ ءَاتَيْنَهُمْ كِتَابًا مِّن قَبْلِهِ فَهُم بِهِ مُسْتَمْسِكُونَ -
 بَلْ قَالُوا إِنَّا وَجَدْنَا ءَابَاءَنَا عَلَىٰ أُمَّةٍ وَإِنَّا عَلَىٰ
 ءَآثَرِهِمْ مُّهْتَدُونَ - وَكَذَٰلِكَ مَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ
 فِي قَرْيَةٍ مِّن نَّذِيرٍ إِلَّا قَالَ مُتْرَفُوهَا إِنَّا وَجَدْنَا
 ءَابَاءَنَا عَلَىٰ أُمَّةٍ وَإِنَّا عَلَىٰ ءَآثَرِهِمْ مُّقْتَدُونَ - قُلْ
 أُولُو حِجَّتِكُمْ بَاهِدَىٰ مِمَّا وَجَدْتُمْ عَلَيْهِ ءَابَاءَكُمُ
 قَالُوا إِنَّا بِمَا أُرْسِلْتُمْ بِهِ كَافِرُونَ - فَاذِقْنَا مِنهُمْ
 فَاظْهَرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكْذِبِينَ)

(21. Or have We given them any Book before this (the Qur'an) to which they are holding fast)
 (22. Nay! They say: "We found our fathers following a certain way and religion, and we guide
 ourselves by their footsteps.") e(23. And similarly, We sent not a warner before you to any
 town (people) but the luxurious ones among them said: "We found our fathers following a
 certain way and religion, and we will indeed follow their footsteps.") (24. He said: "Even if I
 bring you better guidance than that which you found your fathers following" They said: "Verily,
 we disbelieve in that with which you have been sent.") (25. So We took revenge on them, then
 see what was the end of those who denied.)

The Idolators have no Proof

Allah condemns the idolators for worshipping others instead of Allah with no evidence or proof
 for doing so.

(أَمْ ءَاتَيْنَهُمْ كِتَابًا مِّن قَبْلِهِ)

(Or have We given them any Book before this) means, before their idolatry.

(فَهُمْ بِهِ مُسْتَمْسِكُونَ)

(to which they are holding fast) means, with regard to what they are doing. This is not the
 case. This is like the Ayah:

(أَمْ أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ سُلْطٰنًا فَهٖوَ يَتَكَلَّمُ بِمَا كَانُوا بِهِ
يُشْرِكُونَ)

(Or have We revealed to them an authority (a Scripture), which speaks of that which they have been associating with Him) (30:35) meaning, that did not happen. Then Allah says:

(بَلْ قَالُوا إِنَّا وَجَدْنَا ءَابَاءَنَا عَلَىٰ أُمَّةٍ وَإِنَّا عَلَىٰ
ءَاثَرِهِمْ مُّهْتَدُونَ)

(Nay! They say: "we found our fathers following a certain way and religion (Ummah), and we guide ourselves by their footsteps.") meaning, they have no grounds for their belief in idolatry apart from the fact that they are imitating their fathers and forefathers who were following a certain Ummah or way, i.e., religion. The word Ummah is used in a similar manner elsewhere, where Allah says:

(إِنَّ هَذِهِ أُمَّتُكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً)

(And verily, this your religion (Ummah) is one religion) (23:52), and they said;

(وَإِنَّا عَلَىٰ ءَاثَرِهِمْ)

(and we by their footsteps) means, behind them

(مُّهْتَدُونَ)

(We guide ourselves) This is their claim with no evidence. Then Allah points out that what these people say was already said by those who were like them among the nations of the past who disbelieved in the Messengers. Their hearts and their words are similar.

(كَذٰلِكَ مَا آتٰى الَّذِيْنَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ مِنْ رَّسُوْلٍ اِلَّا
قَالُوْا سَحِرٌ اَوْ مَجْنُوْنٌ - اَتَوٰصَوْا بِهٖ بَلْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ
طٰغُوْنَ)

(Likewise, no Messenger came to those before them but they said: "A sorcerer or a madman!" Have they transmitted this saying to these Nay, they are themselves a people transgressing beyond bounds!) (51:52-53) And Allah says here:

وَكَذَلِكَ مَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ فِي قَرْيَةٍ مِّنْ نَّذِيرٍ
إِلَّا قَالَ مُتْرَفُوهَا إِنَّا وَجَدْنَا آبَاءَنَا عَلَىٰ أُمَّةٍ وَإِنَّا
عَلَىٰ آثَرِهِمْ مُّقْتَدُونَ)

(And similarly, We sent not a warner before you to any town (people) but the luxurious ones among them said: "We found our fathers following a certain way and religion, and we will indeed follow their footsteps.") Then He says:

(قُلْ)

(Say) -- `O Muhammad, to these idolators --'

(أُولُو حِجَابِكُمْ بِأَهْدَىٰ مِمَّا وَجَدْتُمْ عَلَيْهِ آبَاءَكُمْ
قَالُوا إِنَّا بِمَا أُرْسِلْتُمْ بِهِ كَافِرُونَ)

("Even if I bring you better guidance than that which you found your fathers following" They said: "Verily, we disbelieve in that with which you have been sent.") `Even if they were convinced of the truth of what you have brought to them, they will not follow it, because of their evil intentions and their arrogance towards the truth and its people.'

(فَأَنْتَقَمْنَا مِنْهُمْ)

(So We took revenge on them) means, on the disbelieving nations, by inflicting various kinds of punishments, as Allah has described in the stories of those nations.

(فَانظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكْذِبِينَ)

(then see what was the end of those who denied) means, see what became of them, how they were destroyed and how Allah saved the believers.

(وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ لِأَبِيهِ وَقَوْمِهِ إِنَّنِي بَرَاءٌ مِّمَّا
تَعْبُدُونَ - إِلَّا الَّذِي فَطَرَنِي فَإِنَّهُ سَيَهْدِين -
وَجَعَلَهَا كَلِمَةً بَاقِيَةً فِي عَقِبِهِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ - بَلْ

مَتَّعْتُ هَؤُلَاءِ وَءَابَاءَهُمْ حَتَّىٰ جَاءَهُمُ الْحَقُّ
 وَرَسُولٌ مُّبِينٌ - وَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمُ الْحَقُّ قَالُوا هَذَا
 سِحْرٌ وَإِنَّا بِهِ كَافِرُونَ - وَقَالُوا لَوْلَا نُزِّلَ هَذَا
 الْقُرْآنُ عَلَىٰ رَجُلٍ مِّنَ الْقَرْيَتَيْنِ عَظِيمٍ - أَهْمُ
 يَقْسِمُونَ رَحْمَةَ رَبِّكَ نَحْنُ قَسَمْنَا بَيْنَهُم مَّعِيشَتَهُمْ
 فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَرَفَعْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ
 دَرَجَاتٍ لِّيَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُهُم لِبَعْضٍ سُخْرِيًّا وَرَحْمَةُ
 رَبِّكَ خَيْرٌ مِّمَّا يَجْمَعُونَ - وَلَوْلَا أَن يَكُونَ النَّاسُ
 أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً لَّجَعَلْنَا لِمَن يَكْفُرُ بِالرَّحْمَنِ لِبُيُوتِهِمْ
 سُقْفًا مِّنْ فِضَّةٍ وَمَعَارِجَ عَلَيْهَا يَظْهَرُونَ -
 وَلِبُيُوتِهِمْ أَبْوَابًا وَسُرُورًا عَلَيْهَا يُتَّكِنُونَ - وَزُخْرُفًا
 وَإِن كُلُّ ذَلِكَ لَمَّا مَتَّعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةُ عِنْدَ
 رَبِّكَ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ)

(26. And (remember) when Ibrahim said to his father and his people: "Verily, I am innocent of what you worship,") (27. "Except Him Who created me; and verily, He will guide me.") (28. And he made it a word lasting among his offspring, that they may turn back.) (29. Nay, but I gave to these and their fathers to enjoy, till there came to them the truth, and a Messenger making things clear.) (30. And when the truth came to them, they said: "This is magic, and we disbelieve therein.") (31. And they say: "Why is not this Qur'an sent down to some great man of the two towns") (32. Is it they who would portion out the mercy of your Lord 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. But the mercy of your Lord is better than what they amass.) (33. And were it not that mankind would have become of one community, We would have provided for those who disbelieve in the Most Gracious, silver roofs for their houses, and elevators whereby they ascend,) (34. And for their houses, doors, and thrones on which they could recline,) (35. And adornments of gold. Yet all this would have been nothing but an enjoyment of this world. And the Hereafter with your Lord is for those who have Taqwa.)

Ibrahim's Declaration of Tawhid Here

Allah tells us about His servant, Messenger and close Friend, the leader of the monotheists and the father of all subsequent Prophets, from whom Quraysh were descended and claimed to have taken their religion. He disowned his father's and his people's worship of idols and said:

(وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ لِأَبِيهِ وَقَوْمِهِ إِنَّنِي بَرَاءٌ مِّمَّا تَعْبُدُونَ - إِلَّا الَّذِي فَطَرَنِي فَإِنَّهُ سَيَهْدِينِ وَجَعَلَهَا كَلِمَةً بَاقِيَةً فِي عَقْبِهِ)

("Verily, I am innocent of what you worship, except Him Who created me; and verily, He will guide me." And he made it a Word lasting among his offspring,) The Word means the worship of Allah Alone with no partner or associate, and the denunciation of all gods apart from Him, i.e., La ilaha illallah. He left this word as an example to be followed by those of his progeny who were guided by Allah.

(لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ)

(that they may turn back.) means, come back to this word. `Ikrimah, Mujahid, Ad-Dahhak, Qatadah, As-Suddi and others commented on the Ayah:

(وَجَعَلَهَا كَلِمَةً بَاقِيَةً فِي عَقْبِهِ)

(And he made it a Word lasting among his offspring,) "This means, La ilaha illallah, and there are still those among his offspring who say it." A similar view was narrated from Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him. Ibn Zayd said, "The word of Islam," which refers to the same thing suggested by the group.

How the People of Makkah turned away from the Messenger and opposed Him, and His Response

Allah further says:

(بَلْ مَتَّعْتُ هَؤُلَاءِ)

(Nay, but I gave to these) means, the idolators,

(وَأَبَاءَهُمْ)

(and their fathers) means, they lived a long life in their misguidance.

(حَتَّىٰ جَاءَهُمُ الْحَقُّ وَرَسُولٌ مُّبِينٌ)

(till there came to them the truth, and a Messenger making things clear.) means, his message is clear and his warning is clear.

(وَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمُ الْحَقُّ قَالُوا هَذَا سِحْرٌ وَإِنَّا بِهِ
كَافِرُونَ)

(And when the truth came to them, they said: "This is magic, and we disbelieve therein.") means, they were arrogant and stubborn, and they pushed him away out of disbelief, envy and transgression.

(وَقَالُوا)

(And they say) means, objecting to that which Allah has revealed to him,

(لَوْلَا نُزِّلَ هَذَا الْقُرْآنُ عَلَىٰ رَجُلٍ مِّنَ الْقَرْيَتَيْنِ
عَظِيمٍ)

(Why is not this Qur'an sent down to some great man of the two towns) meaning, why was this Qur'an not revealed to some man who was great and prominent in their eyes, from the two towns, i.e., Makkah and At-Ta'if This was the view of Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, `Ikrimah, Muhammad bin Ka`b Al-Qurazi, Qatadah, As-Suddi and Ibn Zayd. Several scholars of Tafsir stated that by this, the Quraysh meant Al-Walid bin Al-Mughirah and `Urwah bin Mas`ud Ath-Thaqafi. The apparent meaning is that what they meant was a great man from either of the two towns. Allah responded to their rejection by saying:

(أَهُمْ يَقْسِمُونَ رَحْمَةَ رَبِّكَ)

(Is it they who would portion out the mercy of your Lord) meaning, the matter has nothing to do with them; it is for Allah to decide. Allah knows best where to direct His Message, and He does not reveal it except to the one who is the purest in heart and soul, and of the noblest descent. Then Allah points out that He differentiates among His creation in terms of what He gives them of wealth, provision, intellect, understanding and other visible and hidden strengths:

(نَحْنُ قَسَمْنَا بَيْنَهُمْ مَّعِيشَتَهُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا)

(It is We Who portion out between them their livelihood in this world,)

(لِيَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا سُخْرِيًّا)

(so that some may employ others in their work.) It was said that this means that some employ others in their work, because one needs the other, and vice versa. This was the view of As-Suddi and others.

(وَرَحْمَةُ رَبِّكَ خَيْرٌ مِّمَّا يَجْمَعُونَ)

(But the mercy of your Lord is better than which they amass.) means, the mercy of Allah towards His creation is better for them than the wealth and conveniences of this world which they possess.

Wealth is not a Sign of Divine Pleasure

(وَلَوْلَا أَنْ يَكُونَ النَّاسُ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً)

(And were it not that mankind would have become of one community,) means, `were it not for the fact that many ignorant people would think that Our giving them wealth was a sign that We love the person to whom We give it, and thus they would have agreed upon disbelief for the sake of wealth.' This is the view of Ibn `Abbas, Al-Hasan, Qatadah, As-Suddi and others.

(لَجَعَلْنَا لِمَنْ يَكْفُرُ بِالرَّحْمَنِ لِبُيُوتِهِمْ سُقْفًا مِّنْ فِضَّةٍ وَمَعَارِجَ)

(We would have provided for those who disbelieve in the Most Gracious, silver roofs for their houses, and elevators) means, ladders and staircases of silver. This was the view of Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, Qatadah, As-Suddi, Ibn Zayd and others.

(عَلَيْهَا يَظْهَرُونَ)

(whereby they ascend,) means, go up. And their houses would have doors, i.e., locks on their doors,

(وَسُرُرًا عَلَيْهَا يَتَّكِنُونَ)

(and thrones on which they could recline,) means, all of that would be made of silver.

(وَزُخْرُفًا)

(And adornments) means, and gold. This was the view of Ibn ` Abbas, Qatadah, As-Suddi and Ibn Zayd.

(وَإِنْ كُلُّ ذَلِكَ لَمَّا مَتَّعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا)

(Yet all this would have been nothing but an enjoyment of this world.) means, all that belongs to this transient world which is insignificant before Allah. He hastens their reward for good deeds in the form of luxuries in this world, so that when they reach the Hereafter, they will have no good merits with Allah for which they may be rewarded, as was reported in the Sahih Hadith. It was reported in another Hadith:

«لَوْ أَنَّ الدُّنْيَا تَزَنُّ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ جَنَاحَ بَعُوضَةٍ مَّا سَقَى مِنْهَا كَافِرًا شَرْبَةَ مَاءٍ»

(If this world were worth a gnat's wing before Allah, He would not give a disbeliever a drink of water.) Al-Baghawi narrated its chain of narration.

(وَالْآخِرَةُ عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ)

(And the Hereafter with your Lord is (only) for those who have Taqwa.) means, it is exclusively for them, and no one else will share it with them. When ` Umar bin Al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him, visited the Messenger of Allah in seclusion, when he was keeping away from his wives, and he saw him resting on a rough mat which had left marks on his side, his eyes filled with tears and he said, "O Messenger of Allah, look at this Chosroes and this Caesar with all that they have, and you are the best of Allah's creation. " The Messenger of Allah was reclining, but he sat up and said:

«أَوْ فِي شَكِّ أَنْتَ يَا ابْنَ الْخَطَّابِ؟»

(Are you in doubt, O son of Al-Khattab) Then he said:

«أُولَئِكَ قَوْمٌ عَجَّلَتْ لَهُمْ طَيِّبَاتُهُمْ فِي حَيَاتِهِمْ الدُّنْيَا»

(Those are people for whom the enjoyments are hastened in this world.) According to another report:

«أَمَا تَرْضَى أَنْ تَكُونَ لَهُمُ الدُّنْيَا وَلَنَا الْآخِرَةُ»

(Does it not please you that this world is for them and the Hereafter is for us) In as the Two Sahih and elsewhere, it is reported that the Messenger of Allah said:

«لَا تَشْرَبُوا فِي آيَةِ الذَّهَبِ وَالْفِضَّةِ، وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا فِي صِحَافِهَا، فَإِنَّهَا لَهُمْ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَلَنَا فِي الْآخِرَةِ»

(Do not drink from vessels of gold and silver, and do not eat from plates of the same, for these things are for them in this world and for us in the Hereafter.) Allah has granted these things to them in this world because it is insignificant, as was reported by At-Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah via Abu Hazim from Sahl bin Sa`d, who said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«لَوْ كَانَتِ الدُّنْيَا تَرَنُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ جَنَاحَ بَعُوضَةٍ مَّا سَقَى مِنْهَا كَافِرًا شَرْبَةَ مَاءٍ أَبَدًا»

n(If this world were worth a gnat's wing before Allah, He would never give a disbeliever a drink of water.)" At-Tirmidhi said: "Hasan Sahih."

(وَمَنْ يَعِشْ عَنْ ذِكْرِ الرَّحْمَنِ نُقِيبُ لَهُ شَيْطَانًا فَهُوَ لَهُ قَرِينٌ - وَإِنَّهُمْ لَيَصُدُّونَهُمْ عَنِ السَّبِيلِ وَيَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّهُمْ مُّهْتَدُونَ - حَتَّى إِذَا جَاءَنَا قَالَ يَا بَيْتَ بَنِي وَبَيْنَكَ بَعْدَ الْمَشْرِقَيْنِ فَبِئْسَ الْقَرِينُ - وَلَنْ يَنْفَعَكُمُ الْيَوْمَ إِذْ ظَلَمْتُمْ أَنْكُمُ فِي الْعَذَابِ مُشْتَرِكُونَ - أَفَأَنْتَ تُسْمِعُ الصُّمَّ أَوْ تَهْدِي الْعُمْىَ وَمَنْ كَانَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ - فَاِمَّا نَذْهَبَنَّ بِكَ فَإِنَّا مِنْهُمْ مُنْتَقِمُونَ - أَوْ نُرِيكَ الَّذِي وَعَدْنَاهُمْ فَإِنَّا عَلَيْهِمْ مُقْتَدِرُونَ - فَاسْتَمْسِكْ بِالَّذِي أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ إِنَّكَ عَلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ - وَإِنَّهُ لَذِكْرٌ لَكَ

وَلِقَوْمِكَ وَسَوْفَ تُسْأَلُونَ - وَاسْأَلْ مَنْ أَرْسَلْنَا
مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رُسُلِنَا أَجَعَلْنَا مِنْ دُونِ الرَّحْمَنِ
ءَالِهَةً يُعْبَدُونَ)

(36. And whosoever Ya` shu (turns away blindly) from the remembrance of the Most Gracious, We appoint for him Shaytan to be a Qarin (a companion) to him.) (37. And verily, they hinder them from the path, but they think that they are guided aright!) (38. Till, when (such a one) comes to Us, he says, "Would that between me and you were the distance of the two easts (or the east and west) a worst companion (indeed)!") (39. It will profit you not this Day as you did wrong, (and) that you will be sharers in the punishment.) (40. Can you make the deaf to hear, or can you guide the blind or him who is in manifest error) (41. And even if We take you away, We shall indeed take vengeance on them.) (42. Or (if) We show you that wherewith We threaten them, then verily, We have perfect command over them.) (43. So hold you fast to that which is revealed to you. Verily, you are on the straight path.) (44. And verily, this is indeed a Dhikr for you and your people, and you will be questioned.) (45. And ask whom We sent before you of Our Messengers: "Did We ever appoint gods to be worshipped besides the Most Gracious")

The Shaytan is the Companion of the One Who turns away from Ar-Rahman

(وَمَنْ يَعِشْ)

(And whosoever Ya` shu (turns away blindly)) means, whoever willfully ignores and turns away

(عَنْ ذِكْرِ الرَّحْمَنِ)

(from the remembrance of the Most Gracious,) Al-` Asha (the root of Ya` sh) refers to weakness of vision; what is meant here is weakness of insight.

(نُقِيضَ لَهُ شَيْطَانًا فَهُوَ لَهُ قَرِينٌ)

(We appoint for him Shaytan to be a Qarin (a companion) to him.) This is like the Ayat:

(وَمَنْ يُشَاقِقِ الرَّسُولَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُ الْهُدَىٰ)

(And whoever contradicts and opposes the Messenger after the right path has been shown clearly to him) (4:115),

فَلَمَّا زَاغُوا أَزَاغَ اللَّهُ قُلُوبَهُمْ

(So when they turned away, Allah turned their hearts away) (61:5), and

وَقَيَّضْنَا لَهُمْ قُرَنَاءَ فَزَيَّيُوا لَهُمْ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ
وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ

(And We have assigned for them intimate companions, who have made fair seeming to them, what was before them and what was behind them) (41:25). Allah says here:

وَإِنَّهُمْ لَيَصُدُّونَهُمْ عَنِ السَّبِيلِ وَيَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّهُمْ
مُهْتَدُونَ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَنَا

(And verily, they hinder them from the path, but they think that they are guided aright! Until, when he comes to Us,) meaning, for this person who willfully neglects true guidance, We send to him a Shaytan to lead him astray and show him the path to Hell. When he comes before Allah on the Day of Resurrection, he will complain about the Shaytan who was appointed to accompany him.

قَالَ يَلَيْتَ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكَ بُعْدَ الْمَشْرِقَيْنِ فَبِئْسَ
الْقَرِينُ

(he says, "Would that between me and you were the distance of the two easts -- a worst companion (indeed)!") Some of them recited it; (جَاءَنَا إِذَا حَتَّىٰ) (Till, when they both come to Us.) referring to the companion Shaytan and the one whom he accompanies. Then Allah says:

وَلَنْ يَنْفَعَكُمُ الْيَوْمَ إِذْ ظَلَمْتُمْ أَنَّكُمْ فِي الْعَذَابِ
مُشْتَرِكُونَ

(It will profit you not this Day as you did wrong, (and) that you will be sharers in the punishment.) means, `your being together in the Fire will not help you in the slightest, and you will both partake of the painful punishment.' Allah says:

أَفَأَنْتَ تُسْمِعُ الصَّمَّ أَوْ تَهْدِي الْعُمْىَ وَمَنْ كَانَ
فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

Can you make the deaf to hear, or can you guide the blind or him who is in manifest error? means, `that is not up to you. All you have to do is convey the Message, but you do not have to guide them. Allah guides whomsoever He wills and sends astray whomsoever He wills, and He is Wise and Just in doing so.'

Allah's Vengeance upon the Enemies of His Messenger will surely come to pass

Allah further says:

(فَأَمَّا نَذْهَبَنَّ بِكَ فَإِنَّا مِنْهُمْ مُنْتَقِمُونَ)

(And even if We take you away, We shall indeed take vengeance on them.) means, `We will inevitably wreak vengeance upon them and punish them, even if you pass away.'

(أَوْ نُرِيكَ الَّذِي وَعَدْنَاهُمْ فَإِنَّا عَلَيْهِمْ مُقْتَدِرُونَ)

(Or (if) We show you that wherewith We threaten them, then verily, We have perfect command over them.) means, `We are able to do both,' but Allah will not take His Messenger (in death) until He gives him the joy of seeing his enemies brought low and gives him power and authority over them and their wealth. This was the view of As-Suddi and was the opinion favored by Ibn Jarir.

Encouragement to adhere to the Qur'an

Allah then says;

(فَاسْتَمْسِكْ بِالَّذِي أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ إِنَّكَ عَلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ)

(So hold you fast to that which is revealed to you. Verily, you are on the straight path.) means, hold fast to the Qur'an which has been sent down to your heart, for it is truth and what it leads to is truth that shows the way to the straight path that leads to Gardens of Delight and eternal, everlasting goodness.

(وَإِنَّهُ لَذِكْرٌ لَّكَ وَلِقَوْمِكَ)

(And verily, this is a Dhikr for you and your people,) It was said that this means, `it is an honor for you and your people;' this was the view of Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, Mujahid, Qatadah, As-Suddi and Ibn Zayd. This means that it is an honor for them in that it was revealed in their language, so they are the people who have the best understanding of it among mankind and hence are obliged to be the most steadfast in adhering to its commandments. This

is how the best of them were, the first immigrants and those who emulated them and followed them. It was also said that the meaning of the phrase;

(وَإِنَّهُ لَذِكْرٌ لَّكَ وَلِقَوْمِكَ)

(And verily, this is indeed a Dhikr for you and your people,) was that `it was sent to remind you and your people.' The fact that they are singled out does not exclude others. This is like the Ayat:

(لَقَدْ أَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكُمْ كِتَابًا فِيهِ ذِكْرُكُمْ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ)

(Indeed, We have sent down for you (O mankind) a Book in which there is Dhikrukum (your Reminder). Will you not then understand) (21:10)

(وَأَنْذِرْ عَشِيرَتَكَ الْأَقْرَبِينَ)

(And warn your tribe of near kindred) (26:214)

(وَسَوْفَ تُسْأَلُونَ)

(and you will be questioned.) means, `about this Qur'an, and how you acted upon it and what your response to it was.'

(وَاسْأَلْ مَنْ أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رُسُلِنَا أَجَعَلْنَا
مِنْ دُونِ الرَّحْمَنِ ءَالِهَةً يُعْبَدُونَ)

(And ask whom We sent before you of Our Messengers: "Did We ever appoint gods to be worshipped besides the Most Gracious") means, `all the Messengers called their people to the same as that to which you are calling mankind, namely the worship of Allah Alone with no partner or associate, and they forbade the worship of idols and false gods.' This is like the Ayah:

(وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولاَ أَنْ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ
وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ)

(And verily, We have sent among every Ummah (nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allah, and avoid all false deities.") (16:36) Mujahid said that `Abdullah bin Mas`ud recited it: (رُسُلِنَا مِنْ) قَبْلِكَ هُمُ الَّذِينَ أَرْسَلْنَا الَّذِينَ وَاسْأَلْ (And ask those whom We sent before you of Our Messengers.) This was narrated by Qatadah, Ad-Dahhak and As-Suddi from Ibn Mas`ud, may Allah be pleased with him. Yet this appears to be an explanation rather than an alternate version of recitation. And Allah knows best.

(وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا مُوسَىٰ بِآيَاتِنَا إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ وَمَلَئِهِ
 فَقَالَ إِنِّي رَسُولُ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ - فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ
 بِآيَاتِنَا إِذَا هُمْ مِنْهَا يَضْحَكُونَ - وَمَا نُرِيهِمْ مِّنْ
 آيَةٍ إِلَّا هِيَ أَكْبَرُ مِنْ أُخْتِهَا وَأَخَذْنَاهُمْ بِالْعَذَابِ
 لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ - وَقَالُوا يَا أَيُّهَ السَّاحِرِ ادْعُ لَنَا
 رَبَّكَ بِمَا عَهِدَ عِنْدَكَ إِنَّا لَمُهْتَدُونَ - فَلَمَّا كَشَفْنَا
 عَنْهُمْ الْعَذَابَ إِذَا هُمْ يَنْكُتُونَ)

(46. And indeed We did send Musa with Our Ayat to Fir`awn and his chiefs. He said: "Verily, I am a Messenger of the Lord of all that exists.") (47. But when he came to them with Our Ayat, behold, they laughed at them). (48. And not an Ayah We showed them but it was greater than its fellow preceding it, and We seized them with torment, in order that they might turn.) (49. And they said (to Musa): "O you sorcerer! Invoke your Lord for us according to what He has made a pact with you. Verily, We shall guide ourselves.") (50. But when We removed the torment from them, behold, they broke their covenant.)

Musa was sent with the Message of Tawhid to Fir`awn and His Chiefs

Here Allah tells us about His servant and Messenger Musa, peace be upon him, and how He sent him to Fir`awn and his chiefs. That is, his governors, ministers, leaders and followers among the Egyptians and the Children of Israel. Allah sent him to call them to worship Allah alone, with no partner or associate, and to forbid them from worshipping anything other than Him. He sent him with mighty signs, such as his hand and his staff, other signs such as the flood, locusts, Qummal, frogs and blood, and the loss of their crops and lives. Yet despite all that they remained arrogant and stubbornly refused to follow him; they rejected his message and made fun of it, and laughed at the one who had brought it.

(وَمَا نُرِيهِمْ مِّنْ آيَةٍ إِلَّا هِيَ أَكْبَرُ مِنْ أُخْتِهَا)

(And not an Ayah We showed them but it was greater than its fellow preceding it,) but despite that they would not give up their sin, misguidance, ignorance and confusion. Every time one of these signs came to them, they would go and implore Musa, saying,

(يَا أَيُّهَ السَّاحِرُ)

("O you sorcerer!...") meaning, expert or knowledgeable one -- this was the view of Ibn Jarir. The scholars of that time were the sorcerers or magicians, and magic was not regarded as something reprehensible by them at that time, so this was not a slight on their part. They were in a state of need, so it would not have been appropriate for them to insult him. This was a way of honoring him, as they thought. On each occasion, they promised Musa that if the torment was lifted from them, they would believe in him and let the Children of Israel go with him, but on each occasion they went back on their word. This is like the Ayat:

(فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمُ الطُّوفَانَ وَالْجَرَادَ وَالْقُمَّلَ
وَالضَّفَادِعَ وَالدَّمَ آيَاتٍ مَّفَصَّلَاتٍ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا
وَكَانُوا قَوْمًا مُّجْرِمِينَ - وَلَمَّا وَقَعَ عَلَيْهِمُ الرِّجْزُ
قَالُوا يَا مُوسَى ادْعُ لَنَا رَبَّكَ بِمَا عَهِدَ عِنْدَكَ لَئِن
كَشَفْتَنَا عَنَّا الرِّجْزَ لَنُؤْمِنَنَّ لَكَ وَلَنُرْسِلَنَّ مَعَكَ
بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ - فَلَمَّا كَشَفْنَا عَنْهُمْ الرِّجْزَ إِلَى أَجَلٍ
هُم بَلَّغُوهُ إِذَا هُمْ يَنْكُتُونَ)

(So We sent on them: the flood, the locusts, the Qummal, the frogs, and the blood; manifest signs, yet they remained arrogant, and they were of those people who were criminals. And when the punishment struck them, they said: "O Musa! Invoke your Lord for us because of His promise to you. If you remove the punishment from us, we indeed shall believe in you, and we shall let the Children of Israel go with you." But when We removed the punishment from them to a fixed term, which they had to reach, behold! they broke their word!) (7:133-135)

(وَنَادَى فِرْعَوْنُ فِي قَوْمِهِ قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ أَلَيْسَ لِي
مُلْكُ مِصْرَ وَهَذِهِ الْأَنْهَارُ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِي أَفَلَا
تُبْصِرُونَ - أَمْ أَنَا خَيْرٌ مِّنْ هَذَا الَّذِي هُوَ مَهِينٌ
وَلَا يَكَادُ يُبِينُ - فَلَوْلَا أَلْقَى عَلَيْهِ أُسُورَةٌ مِّن
ذَهَبٍ أَوْ جَاءَ مَعَهُ الْمَلِكَةُ مُقْتَرِنِينَ - فَاسْتَخَفَّ
قَوْمَهُ فَاطَاعُوهُ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمًا فَسِيقِينَ - فَلَمَّا

ءَاسَفُونَا اِنْتَقَمْنَا مِنْهُمْ فَأَغْرَقْنَاهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ -
فَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ سَفَافًا وَمَثَلًا لِّلْآخِرِينَ)

(51. And Fir`awn proclaimed among his people (saying): "O my people! Is not mine the dominion of Egypt, and these rivers flowing underneath me. See you not then") (52. "Am I not better than this one (Musa) who is despicable and can scarcely express himself clearly") (53. Why then are not golden bracelets bestowed on him, or angels sent along with him") (54. Thus he fooled his people, and they obeyed him. Verily, they were ever a people who were rebellious.) (55. So when they angered Us, We punished them, and drowned them all.) (56. And We made them a precedent, and an example to later generations.)

Fir`awn's Address to His People and how Allah punished Him

Allah tells us how Fir`awn stubbornly persisted in his rebellion and disbelief. He assembled his people and addressed them in a vainglorious fashion, boasting of his dominion over Egypt.

(أَلَيْسَ لِي مَلِكُ مِصْرَ وَهَذِهِ الْأَنْهَارُ تَجْرِي مِن
تَحْتِي)

(Is not mine the dominion of Egypt, and these rivers flowing underneath me) Qatadah said, "They had gardens and rivers of flowing water."

(أَفَلَا تُبْصِرُونَ)

(See you not then) means, 'do you not see my position of might and power' -- implying that Musa and his followers were poor and weak. This is like the Ayah:

(فَحَشَرَ فَنَادَى - فَقَالَ أَنَا رَبُّكُمُ الْأَعْلَى - فَأَخَذَهُ
اللَّهُ نَكَالَ الْآخِرَةِ وَالْأُولَى)

(Then he gathered (his people) and cried aloud, saying: "I am your lord, most high." So Allah seized him with punishment for his last and first transgression.) (79:23-25)

(أَمْ أَنَا خَيْرٌ مِّنْ هَذَا الَّذِي هُوَ مَهِينٌ)

(Am I not better than this one who is despicable) As-Suddi said, "He was saying, 'indeed I am better than this one, who is despicable.'" Some of the grammarians of Basrah said that Fir`awn -- may the curse of Allah be upon him -- was saying that he was better than Musa, peace be upon him. But this is an obvious lie, may continued curses be upon him until the Day of

Resurrection. By describing Musa as despicable he meant -- as Sufyan said -- insignificant. Qatadah and As-Suddi said, "He meant, weak." Ibn Jarir said, "He meant, he had no power, authority or wealth."

(وَلَا يَكَادُ يُبِينُ)

(and can scarcely express himself clearly) means, he cannot speak clearly, he stammers and cannot speak well. Fir`awn's description of Musa as "despicable" is a lie; rather it is he who was despicable and insignificant, lacking in physical, moral and religious terms, and it is Musa who was noble, truthful, righteous and upright.

(وَلَا يَكَادُ يُبِينُ)

(and can scarcely express himself clearly). This was also a lie. Although something happened to Musa's tongue when he was a child, when it was burnt by a coal. He asked Allah to loosen the knot from his tongue (i.e., to correct his speech defect) so that they could understand what he said, and Allah had answered his prayer and said:

(قَدْ أُوتِيَ سُؤْلَكَ يَا مُوسَى)

(You are granted your request, O Musa) (20:36). It may be the case that some problem remained which he had not asked to be relieved of, as Al-Hasan Al-Basri suggested, and that he had asked only to be relieved of that which stood in the way of his conveying the Message. A person cannot be blamed for physical matters over which he has no control. Even though Fir`awn had the intelligence to understand that, he wanted to confuse and mislead his people, who were ignorant and stupid. So he said:

(فَلَوْلَا أُلْقِيَ عَلَيْهِ أَسْوِرَةٌ مِّنْ ذَهَبٍ)

(Why then are not golden bracelets bestowed on him...) meaning, adornments which are placed on the arms. This was the view of Ibn`Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, Qatadah and others.

(أَوْ جَاءَ مَعَهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ مُقْتَرِنِينَ)

(or angels sent along with him) meaning, to serve him and to testify that he is telling the truth. He looked only at outward appearances and did not understand the true inner matters that are clearer than what he focused on, if only he had understood that. Allah says:

(فَاسْتَخَفَّ قَوْمَهُ فَاَطَاعُوهُ)

(Thus he fooled his people, and they obeyed him.) meaning, he confused them and invited them to misguidance, and they responded to him.

(إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمًا فَسِيقِينَ)

(Verily, they were ever a people who were rebellious.) Then Allah says:

(قَلَمًا ءَاسَفُونَا اِنْتَقَمْنَا مِنْهُمْ فَأَغْرَقْنَاهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ)

(So when they angered Us, We punished them, and drowned them all.) `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said it means: "When they angered Us means, they provoked Our wrath." Ad-Dahhak said, it means "They made Us angry." This was also the view of Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Sa`id bin Jubayr, Muhammad bin Ka`b Al-Qurazi, Qatadah, As-Suddi and other scholars of Tafsir. Ibn Abi Hatim recorded that `Uqbah bin `Amir, may Allah be pleased with him, said that the Messenger of Allah said:

«إِذَا رَأَيْتَ اللَّهَ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى يُعْطِي الْعَبْدَ مَا يَشَاءُ، وَهُوَ مُقِيمٌ عَلَى مَعَاصِيهِ، فَإِنَّمَا ذَلِكَ اسْتِدْرَاجٌ مِنْهُ لَهُ»

(When you see that Allah gives a person what he wants even though he is persisting in sin, that means that Allah is enticing him into destruction.) Then he recited:

(قَلَمًا ءَاسَفُونَا اِنْتَقَمْنَا مِنْهُمْ فَأَغْرَقْنَاهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ)

(So when they angered Us, We punished them, and drowned them all.) It was reported that Tariq bin Shihab said, "I was with `Abdullah, may Allah be pleased with him, and the issue of sudden death was mentioned. He said, `It is a relief for the believer and a source of regret for the disbeliever.' Then he recited the Ayah:

(قَلَمًا ءَاسَفُونَا اِنْتَقَمْنَا مِنْهُمْ فَأَغْرَقْنَاهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ)

(So when they angered Us, We punished them, and drowned them all). " `Umar bin `Abdul-`Aziz, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "I found that punishment comes with negligence, meaning the Ayah:

(قَلَمًا ءَاسَفُونَا اِنْتَقَمْنَا مِنْهُمْ فَأَغْرَقْنَاهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ)

(So when they angered Us, We punished them, and drowned them all)."

(فَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ سَلَفًا وَمَثَلًا لِلْآخِرِينَ)