

(And We made them a precedent, and an example to later generations.) Abu Mijlaz said, "Precedent for others who do the same as they did." He and Mujahid said, "An example, i.e., a lesson to those who come after them." Allah is the One Who guides to the straight path, and unto Him is the final return.

(وَلَمَّا ضُرِبَ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ مَثَلًا إِذَا قَوْمُكَ مِنْهُ  
يَصِدُّونَ - وَقَالُوا ءَأَلِهَتُنَا خَيْرٌ أَمْ هُوَ مَا ضَرَبُوهُ  
لَكَ إِلَّا جَدَلًا بَلْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ خَصِمُونَ - إِنَّ هُوَ إِلَّا  
عَبْدٌ أَنْعَمْنَا عَلَيْهِ وَجَعَلْنَاهُ مَثَلًا لِبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ -  
وَلَوْ نَشَاءُ لَجَعَلْنَا مِنْكُمْ مَلَائِكَةً فِي الْأَرْضِ  
يَخْلُقُونَ - وَإِنَّهُ لَعِلْمٌ لِلسَّاعَةِ فَلَا تَمْتَرَنَّ بِهَا  
وَاتَّبِعُونَ هَذَا صِرَاطٌ مُسْتَقِيمٌ - وَلَا يَصُدَّكُمْ  
الشَّيْطَانُ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ - وَلَمَّا جَاءَ عِيسَى  
بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ قَالَ قَدْ جِئْتُكُمْ بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَالْأَبْيَنَ لَكُمْ  
بَعْضَ الَّذِي تَخْتَلِفُونَ فِيهِ فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا -  
إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ رَبِّي وَرَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُوهُ هَذَا صِرَاطٌ  
مُسْتَقِيمٌ - فَاخْتَلَفَ الْأَحْزَابُ مِنْ بَيْنِهِمْ فَوَيْلٌ  
لِلَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْ عَذَابِ يَوْمِ الْيَمِّ )

(57. And when the son of Maryam is quoted as an example, behold, your people cry aloud thereat.) (58. And say: "Are our gods better or is he" They quoted not the above example except for argument. Nay! But they are a quarrelsome people.) (59. He was not more than a servant. We granted Our favor to him, and We made him an example for the Children of Israel.) (60. And if it were Our will, We would have made angels to replace you on the earth.) (61. And he shall be a known sign for (the coming of) the Hour. Therefore have no doubt concerning it. And follow Me! This is the straight path.) (62. And let not Shaytan hinder you. Verily, he (Shaytan) to you is a plain enemy.) (63. And when `Isa came with clear proofs, he said: "I have come to you with Al-Hikmah, and in order to make clear to you some of that in which you differ. Therefore have Taqwa of Allah and obey me.") (64. "Verily, Allah! He is my Lord and

your Lord. So worship Him. This is the straight path.") (65. But the sects from among themselves differed. So woe to those who do wrong from the torment of a painful Day!)

## The Contempt of the Quraysh for the son of Maryam, and His true Status with Allah

Allah tells us how the Quraysh persisted in their disbelief and stubborn arguments:

وَلَمَّا ضُرِبَ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ مَثَلًا إِذَا قَوْمُكَ مِنْهُ  
يَصِدُّونَ

(And when the son of Maryam is quoted as an example, behold, your people cry aloud thereat.) Several others narrated that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, Mujahid, `Ikrimah, As-Suddi and Ad-Dahhak said, "They laughed, i.e., they were astounded by that." Qatadah said, "They were repelled by that and they laughed." Ibrahim An-Nakha`i said, "They turned away." The reason for this was mentioned by Muhammad bin Ishaq in As-Srah. He said, "According to what I have heard, the Messenger of Allah sat down one day with Al-Walid bin Al-Mughirah in the Masjid, and An-Nadr bin Al-Harith came and sat down with them. There were also other men from the Quraysh in the gathering. The Messenger of Allah spoke, then An-Nadr bin Al-Harith came up to him and the Messenger of Allah spoke to him until he defeated him in argument. Then he recited to him and to them,

إِنَّكُمْ وَمَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ حَصَبُ جَهَنَّمَ  
أَنْتُمْ لَهَا وَارِدُونَ

(Certainly you and that which you are worshipping now besides Allah, are (but) fuel for Hell! (Surely) you will enter it.) (21:98) Then the Messenger of Allah got up and went to sit with `Abdullah bin Al-Zab`ari At-Tamimi. Al-Walid bin Al-Mughirah said to him, `By Allah, An-Nadr bin Al-Harith could not match the son of `Abd Al-Muttalib in argument. Muhammad claims that we and these gods that we worship are fuel for Hell.' `Abdullah bin Az-Zab`ari said, `By Allah, if I meet with him I will defeat him in argument. Ask Muhammad whether everyone that is worshipped instead of Allah will be in Hell with those who worshipped him, for we worship the angels, and the Jews worship `Uzayr, and the Christians worship the Messiah `Isa bin Maryam.' Al-Walid and those who were sitting with him were amazed at what `Abdullah bin Az-Zab`ari said, and they thought that he had come up with a good point. He said this to the Messenger of Allah, who said:

«كُلُّ مَنْ أَحَبَّ أَنْ يُعْبَدَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ فَهُوَ مَعَ مَنْ  
عَبَدَهُ، فَإِنَّهُمْ إِنَّمَا يَعْبُدُونَ الشَّيْطَانَ وَمَنْ أَمَرَهُمْ  
بِعِبَادَتِهِ»

(Everyone who likes to worship something other than Allah will be with the one whom he worshipped, for indeed they are worshipping the Shaytan and whomever told them to worship that person.)" Then Allah revealed the words:

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ سَبَقَتْ لَهُمْ مِنَّا الْحُسْنَىٰ أُولَٰئِكَ عَنْهَا مُبْعَدُونَ )

(Verily, those for whom the good has preceded from Us, they will be removed far therefrom (Hell)) (21:101), meaning that `Isa, `Uzayr and rabbis and monks who were also worshipped, who spent their lives in devotion towards Allah. The misguided people who came after them took them as lords instead of Allah. Concerning the notion of worshipping the angels as daughters of Allah, the following words were revealed:

(وَقَالُوا اتَّخَذَ الرَّحْمَنُ وَلَدًا سُبْحَانَهُ بَلْ عِبَادٌ مُّكْرَمُونَ )

(And they say: "The Most Gracious has begotten a son (or children)." Glory to Him! They are but honored servants.) (21:26) Concerning `Isa bin Maryam, the fact that he is worshipped instead of Allah, and to the amazement of Al-Walid and the others who were present at the argument, the following was revealed:

(وَلَمَّا ضُرِبَ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ مَثَلًا إِذَا قَوْمُكَ مِنْهُ يَصِدُّونَ )

(And when the son of Maryam is quoted as an example, behold, your people cry aloud thereat.) meaning, they take this argument as a basis for rejecting your message. Then Allah mentions `Isa bin Maryam and says:

(إِنَّ هُوَ إِلَّا عَبْدٌ أَنْعَمْنَا عَلَيْهِ وَجَعَلْنَاهُ مَثَلًا لِّبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ - وَلَوْ نَشَاءُ لَجَعَلْنَا مِنْكُمْ مَلَائِكَةً فِي الْأَرْضِ يَخْلُقُونَ وَإِنَّهُ لَعِلْمٌ لِّلسَّاعَةِ)

(He was not more than a servant. We granted Our favor to him, and We made him an example for the Children of Israel. And if it were Our will, We would have made angels to replace you on the earth. And he (`Isa) shall be a known sign for the Hour. ) meaning, the miracles and signs that happened at his hands, such as raising the dead and healing the sick, are sufficient as signs of the approach of the Hour.

(فَلَا تَمْتَرْنَ بِهَا وَاتَّبِعُونِ هَذَا صِرَاطٌ مُسْتَقِيمٌ)

(Therefore have no doubt concerning it. And follow Me! This is the straight path)." Ibn Jarir mentioned that Al-`Awfi reported that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, commented on the Ayah:

(وَلَمَّا ضُرِبَ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ مَثَلًا إِذَا قَوْمُكَ مِنْهُ  
يَصِيدُونَ)

(And when the son of Maryam is quoted as an example, behold, your people cry aloud thereat.)  
"This means the Quraysh, when it was said to them:

(إِنَّكُمْ وَمَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ حَصَبُ جَهَنَّمَ  
أَنْتُمْ لَهَا وَارِدُونَ)

(Certainly you and that which you are worshipping now besides Allah, are (but) fuel for Hell!  
(Surely) you will enter it.) (21:98) The Quraysh said to him: `What about `Isa bin Maryam' He said:

«ذَلِكَ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ»

(He is the servant and Messenger of Allah.) They said, `By Allah, he means that we should take him as a lord just as the Christians took `Isa son of Maryam as a lord.' Then Allah said:

(مَا ضَرَبُوهُ لَكَ إِلَّا جَدَلًا بَلْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ خَصِيمُونَ)

(They quoted not the above example except for argument. Nay! But they are a quarrelsome people)."

(وَقَالُوا ءَأَلِهَتُنَا خَيْرٌ أَمْ هُوَ)

(And say: "Are our gods better or is he"). Qatadah said, "They were saying, `our gods are better than him'." Qatadah said; "Ibn Mas`ud, may Allah be pleased with him, recited it (هذا أم خير ألهتنا) (Are our gods better or is this (person))" they mean Muhammad .

(مَا ضَرَبُوهُ لَكَ إِلَّا جَدَلًا)

(They quoted not the above example except for argument.) means, for the sake of stubborn argument, for they knew that he ( `Isa ) was not included in the Ayah (21:98), because that would not make sense. The words,

**إِنَّكُمْ وَمَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ حَصَبُ جَهَنَّمَ**

(Certainly you and that which you are worshipping now besides Allah, are (but) fuel for Hell!) (21:98) are addressed to the Quraysh, for they used to worship idols and false gods -- they did not worship the Messiah so why should he be included in what the Ayah says What they said was only for the sake of argument; they did not really believe in it. Imam Ahmad, may Allah have mercy on him, recorded that Abu Umamah, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

**«مَا ضَلَّ قَوْمٌ بَعْدَ هُدًى كَانُوا عَلَيْهِ، إِلَّا أَوْرَثُوا  
الْجَدَلَ»**

g(No people go astray after having been guided, but they resort to (futile) argument.) Then the Messenger of Allah recited this Ayah:

**(مَا ضَرَبُوهُ لَكَ إِلَّا جَدَلًا بَلْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ خَصِمُونَ)**

(They quoted not the above example except for argument. Nay! But they are a quarrelsome people)." It was also recorded by At-Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah and Ibn Jarir. At-Tirmidhi said, "This Hadith is Hasan Sahih, we do not know it except from the Hadith of Hajjaj bin Dinar..."

**(إِنَّ هُوَ إِلَّا عَبْدٌ أَنْعَمْنَا عَلَيْهِ)**

(He ( `Isa) was not more than a servant. We granted Our favor to him,) means, `Isa, peace be upon him; he was no more than one of the servants of Allah whom Allah blessed with prophethood and messengership.

**(وَجَعَلْنَاهُ مَثَلًا لِبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ)**

(and We made him an example for the Children of Israel.) means, `a sign, proof and evidence of Our power to do whatever We will.'

**(وَلَوْ نَشَاءُ لَجَعَلْنَا مِنْكُمْ مَلَائِكَةً فِي الْأَرْضِ  
يَخْلُقُونَ )**

(And if it were Our will, We would have made angels to replace you on the earth.) As-Siddi said, "They would have taken your place on (the earth). " Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased

with him, and Qatadah said, "They would have succeeded one another just as you succeed one another." This view is implied by the former view. Mujahid said, "They would have populated the earth instead of you." Allah's saying:

(وَإِنَّهُ لَعِلْمٌ لِّلسَّاعَةِ)

(And he ( `Isa) shall be a known sign for (the coming of) the Hour.) The correct view concerning this phrase is that it refers to his descent before the Day of Resurrection, as Allah says:

(وَإِن مِّنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ إِلَّا لِيُؤْمِنَنَّ بِهِ قَبْلَ مَوْتِهِ)

(And there is none of the People of the Scripture but must believe in him before his death) (4:159). -- meaning before the death of `Isa, peace be upon him --

(وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَكُونُ عَلَيْهِمْ شَهِيدًا)

And on the Day of Resurrection, he will be a witness against them (4:159). This meaning has the support from an alternate recitation of the AyaOt: (لِّلسَّاعَةِ لَعْلَمٌ وَإِنَّهُ) (And he shall be a known sign for (the coming of) the Hour.) means, evidence that the Hour will surely come. Mujahid said:

(وَإِنَّهُ لَعِلْمٌ لِّلسَّاعَةِ)

(And he shall be a sign for (the coming of) the Hour.) means, sign and "One of the signs of the Hour will be the appearance of `Isa son of Maryam before the Day of Resurrection." Something similar was also narrated from Abu Hurayrah, Ibn `Abbas, `Abu Al-`Aliyah, Abu Malik, `Ikrimah, Al-Hasan, Qatadah, Ad-Dahhak and others. Many Mutawatir Hadiths report that the Messenger of Allah said that `Isa will descend before the Day of Resurrection as a just ruler and fair judge.

(فَلَا تَمْتَرُنَّ بِهَا)

(Therefore have no doubt concerning it.) means, do not doubt that it will surely come to pass.

(وَائْتِعُونِ)

(And follow Me.) means, `in what I tell you about it.'

(هَذَا صِرَاطٌ مُّسْتَقِيمٌ وَلَا يَصُدُّكُمْ الشَّيْطَانُ)

(This is the straight path. And let not Shaytan hinder you.) means, from following the truth.

إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ لَمَّا جَاءَ عِيسَى بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ قَالَ  
قَدْ جِئْتُكُمْ بِالْحِكْمَةِ

(Verily, he (Satan) to you is a plain enemy. And when `Isa came with (Our) clear proofs, he said: "I have come to you with Al-Hikmah...", meaning prophetood:

وَالَّذِينَ لَكُمْ بَعْضَ الَّذِي تَخْتَلِفُونَ فِيهِ)

(and in order to make clear to you some of the (points) in which you differ.) Ibn Jarir said, "This means religious matters, not worldly matters." What he said is good.

فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ)

(Therefore have Taqwa of Allah) means, `with regard to what I command you to do.'

وَأَطِيعُونَ)

(and obey me.) means, `in what I bring to you.'

إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ رَبِّي وَرَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُوهُ هَذَا صِرَاطٌ  
مُسْتَقِيمٌ

(Verily, Allah! He is my Lord and your Lord. So worship Him. This is the straight path.) means, `you and I are enslaved to Him, in need of Him and we commonly share in the worship of Him Alone, associating none with Him.'

هَذَا صِرَاطٌ مُسْتَقِيمٌ)

(This is the straight path) means, `what I have brought to you is the straight path, which is the worship of the Lord, may He exalted, Alone.'

فَاخْتَلَفَ الْأَحْزَابُ مِنْ بَيْنِهِمْ)

(But the sects from among themselves differed. ) means, they differed and became parties and factions, some who stated that he (`Isa) was the servant and Messenger of Allah -- which is true - while others claimed that he was the son of Allah or that he himself was Allah -- glorified be Allah far above what they say. Allah says:

(قَوْلٌ لِلَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْ عَذَابِ يَوْمِ إِلِيمٍ)

(So woe to those who do wrong from the torment of a painful Day)!

(هَلْ يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَّا السَّاعَةَ أَنْ تَأْتِيَهُمْ بَغْتَةً وَهُمْ لَا  
يَشْعُرُونَ - الْأَخِلَاءُ يَوْمَئِذٍ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ عَدُوٌّ  
إِلَّا الْمُتَّقِينَ - يَعْبَادُ لَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْكُمْ الْيَوْمَ وَلَا أَنْتُمْ  
تَحْزَنُونَ - الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَكَانُوا مُسْلِمِينَ -  
ادْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ أَنْتُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُكُمْ تُحْبَرُونَ - يُطَافُ  
عَلَيْهِمْ بِصِحَافٍ مِّنْ ذَهَبٍ وَأَكْوَابٍ وَفِيهَا مَا  
تَشْتَهُيهِ الْأَنْفُسُ وَتَلَذُّ الْأَعْيُنُ وَأَنْتُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ -  
وَتِلْكَ الْجَنَّةُ الَّتِي أُورِثْتُمُوهَا بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ -  
لَكُمْ فِيهَا فَاكِهَةٌ كَثِيرَةٌ مِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ )

(66. Do they only wait for the Hour that it shall come upon them suddenly while they perceive not) (67. Friends on that Day will be foes one to another except those who have Taqwa.) (68. My servants! No fear shall be on you this Day, nor shall you grieve,) (69. (You) who believed in Our Ayat and were Muslims.) (70. Enter Paradise, you and your wives, in happiness.) (71. Trays of gold and cups will be passed round them; (there will be) therein all that their souls desire, and all that eyes could delight in and you will abide therein forever.) (72. This is the Paradise, which you have been made to inherit because of your deeds that you used to do.) (73. Therein for you will be fruits in plenty, of which you will eat (as you desire).)

### **The Resurrection will come suddenly, and Enmity will arise between close Friends among the Disbelievers**

Allah says, `do these idolaters who disbelieve in the Messengers wait'

(إِلَّا السَّاعَةَ أَنْ تَأْتِيَهُمْ بَغْتَةً وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ)

(only for the Hour that it shall come upon them suddenly while they perceive not) means, for it is real and will inevitably come to pass, and these negligent people are unprepared for it.

When it comes, it will catch them unawares, and on that Day they will feel the utmost regret when regret will not benefit them in the slightest and will not afford them any protection.

(الْأَخْلَاءُ يَوْمَئِذٍ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ عَدُوٌّ إِلَّا الْمُتَّقِينَ )

(Friends on that Day will be foes one to another except those who have Taqwa.) means, every friendship that exists for a purpose other than for the sake of Allah will turn to enmity on the Day of Resurrection, except for that which is for the sake of Allah, which will last forever. This is like the statement of Ibrahim, peace be upon him, to his people:

(إِنَّمَا اتَّخَذْتُمْ مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَوْثَانًا مَّوَدَّةَ بَيْنِكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا ثُمَّ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَكْفُرُ بَعْضُكُم بِبَعْضٍ وَيَلْعَنُ بَعْضُكُم بَعْضًا وَمَأْوَاكُمُ النَّارُ وَمَا لَكُم مِّن نَّصِيرِينَ)

(You have taken (for worship) idols instead of Allah. The love between you is only in the life of this world, but on the Day of Resurrection, you shall disown each other, and curse each other, and your abode will be the Fire, and you shall have no helper.) (29:25)

### Good News for Those with Taqwa on the Day of Resurrection, and Their entry into Paradise

(يَعْبَادِ لَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْكُمُ وَلَا أَنْتُمْ تَحْزَنُونَ)

(My servants! No fear shall be on you this Day, nor shall you grieve.) Then He will give them the glad tidings:

(الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَكَانُوا مُسْلِمِينَ )

((You) who believed in Our Ayat and were Muslims.) means, their hearts believed and they submitted inwardly and outwardly to the Laws of Allah. Al-Mu`tamir bin Sulayman narrated that his father said: "When the Day of Resurrection comes and the people are resurrected, there will be no one left who will not be filled with terror. Then a caller will cry out:

(يَعْبَادِ لَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْكُمُ الْيَوْمَ وَلَا أَنْتُمْ تَحْزَنُونَ )

(My servants! No fear shall be on you this Day, nor shall you grieve.) So all the people will be filled with hope, but this will be followed by the words:

(الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَكَانُوا مُسْلِمِينَ )

((You) who believed in Our Ayat and were Muslims.) Then all of mankind will be filled with despair apart from the believers."

(ادْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ)

(Enter Paradise, ) means, they will be told to enter Paradise.

(أَنْتُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُكُمْ)

(you and your wives,) means, your counterparts

(نُحْبَرُونَ)

(in happiness (Tuhbarun).) means, in delight and joy.

(يُطَافُ عَلَيْهِمْ بِصِحَافٍ مِّنْ ذَهَبٍ وَأَكْوَابٍ)

(Trays of gold and cups will be passed round them;) means, fine vessels of gold containing food and drink, without spouts or handles. (الأنفُسُ تُشْتَهَى مَا فِيهَا) (there will be) therein all that their souls could desire). (Some of them recited:

(مَا تَشْتَهِيهِ الْأَنْفُسُ)

(that their souls desire,)

(وَتَلَذُّ الْأَعْيُنُ)

(and all that eyes could delight in) means, of good food, delightful fragrances and beautiful scenes.

(وَأَنْتُمْ فِيهَا)

(and you will therein) means, in Paradise

(خَالِدُونَ)

(abide forever) means, you will never leave it or want to exchange it. Then it will be said to them, as a reminder of the blessing and favor of Allah:

(وَتِلْكَ الْجَنَّةُ الَّتِي أُورِثْتُمُوهَا بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ )

(This is the Paradise, which you have been made to inherit because of your deeds that you used to do.) means, the righteous deeds which were the cause of your being included in the mercy of Allah. For no one will be admitted to Paradise by virtue of their deeds alone; that will be by the mercy and grace of Allah. But the varying ranks and degrees of Paradise will be attained according to one's righteous deeds.

(لَكُمْ فِيهَا فَاكِهَةٌ كَثِيرَةٌ)

(Therein for you will be fruits in plenty,) means, of all kinds.

(مِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ)

(of which you will eat.) means, whatever you choose and desire. When food and drink are mentioned, fruit is also mentioned to complete the picture of blessing and joy. And Allah knows best.

(إِنَّ الْمُجْرِمِينَ فِي عَذَابٍ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدُونَ - لَا يُفْتَرُ عَنْهُمْ وَهُمْ فِيهِ مُبْلِسُونَ - وَمَا ظَلَمْنَاهُمْ وَلَكِنْ كَانُوا هُمُ الظَّالِمِينَ - وَنَادَوْا يَمَلِكُ لِيَقْضِ عَلَيْنَا رَبُّكَ قَالَ إِنَّكُمْ مَكِيدُونَ - لَقَدْ جِئْنَاكُمْ بِالْحَقِّ وَلَكِنْ أَكْثَرَكُمْ لِلْحَقِّ كَرهُونَ - أَمْ أُبْرِمُوا أَمْراً فَإِنَّا مُبْرِمُونَ - أَمْ يَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّا لَا نَسْمَعُ سِرَّهُمْ وَنَجْوَاهُمْ بَلَى وَرُسُلْنَا لَدَيْهِمْ يَكْتُبُونَ )

(74. Verily, the criminals will be in the torment of Hell to abide therein forever.) (75. (The torment) will not be lightened for them, and they will be plunged into destruction with deep regrets, sorrows and in despair therein.) (76. We wronged them not, but they were the wrongdoers.) (77. And they will cry: "O Malik (keeper of Hell)! Let your Lord make an end of us." He will say: "Verily, you shall abide forever.") (78. Indeed We have brought the truth to you, but most of you have a hatred for the truth.) (79. Or have they plotted some plan Then We too are planning.) (80. Or do they think that We hear not their secrets and their private counsel Yes (We do) and Our messengers are by them, to record.)

## The Punishment of the Doomed

The description of the state of the blessed is followed by a description of the state of the doomed.

(إِنَّ الْمُجْرِمِينَ فِي عَذَابٍ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدُونَ لَا يُفْتَرُ عَنْهُمْ)

(Verily, the criminals will be in the torment of Hell to abide therein forever. It will not be lightened for them,) meaning, not even for one moment.

(وَهُمْ فِيهِ مُبْلِسُونَ)

(and they will be plunged into destruction with deep regrets, sorrows and in despair therein,) means, they will despair of any goodness.

(وَمَا ظَلَمْنَاهُمْ وَلَكِنْ كَانُوا هُمُ الظَّالِمِينَ)

(We wronged them not, but they were the wrongdoers.) means, by their committing wrong actions after proof had been established against them and Messengers had been sent to them, but they rejected them and rebelled, so they are to be punished accordingly. And your Lord is not at all unjust to (His) servants.

(وَنَادَوْا يَمَلِكُ)

(And they will cry: "O Malik..." who is the keeper of Hell. Al-Bukhari said, "Hajjaj bin Minhal told us, Sufyan bin `Uyaynah told us, from `Amr bin `Ata, ' from Safwan bin Ya`la that his father, may Allah be pleased with him, said, 'I heard the Messenger of Allah reciting on the Minbar:

(وَنَادَوْا يَمَلِكُ لِيَقْضِ عَلَيْنَا رَبُّكَ)

(And they will cry: "O Malik! Let your Lord make an end of us.") meaning, 'let Him destroy our souls and give us some respite from our predicament.' But it will be as Allah says:

(لَا يُقْضَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ فَيَمُوتُوا وَلَا يُخَفَّفُ عَنْهُمْ مِنْ عَذَابِهَا)

(Neither will it have a complete killing effect on them so that they die nor shall its torment be lightened for them) (35:36).

(وَيَتَجَنَّبُهَا الْأَتْقَى - الَّذِي يُصَلِّي النَّارَ الْكُبْرَى -  
ثُمَّ لَا يَمُوتُ فِيهَا وَلَا يَحْيَا )

(But it will be avoided by the wretched, who will enter the great Fire. There he will neither die (to be in rest) nor live (a good living).) (87:11-13). When they ask to be allowed to die, Malik will answer them:

(قَالَ إِنَّكُمْ مَكِينُونَ)

He will say: Verily, you shall abide forever. meaning, you will have no way out from it and no refuge. Then the reason why they are doomed will be given, which is their stubborn resistance to the truth. Alla0h says:

(لَقَدْ جِئْنَاكُمْ بِالْحَقِّ)

(Indeed We have brought the truth to you, ) meaning, `We have explained it to you clearly and in detail.'

(وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَكُمْ لِلْحَقِّ كَرهُونَ)

(but most of you have a hatred for the truth.) means, `but your nature could not accept it and did not seek it; on the contrary, you followed and venerated falsehood, and you stood in the way of truth and refused it, and despised its followers.' So they will blame themselves and will feel regret at the time when regret will not be of any benefit to them. Then Allah says:

(أَمْ أُبْرَمُوا أَمْراً فَإِنَّا مُبْرَمُونَ )

(Or have they plotted some plan Then We too are planning.) Mujahid said, "They wanted to plot some evil, but We are also planning." What Mujahid said is like the Ayah:

(وَمَكْرُوا مَكْراً وَمَكْرَنَا مَكْراً وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ )

(So they plotted a plot, and We planned a plan, while they perceived not.) (27:50). The idolators were trying their utmost to find ways of refuting the truth with falsehood, but Allah planned it so that the consequences of that would backfire on them. He said in refutation:

(أَمْ يَحْسِبُونَ أَنَّا لَا نَسْمَعُ سِرَّهُمْ وَنَجْوَاهُمْ)

(Or do they think that We hear not their secrets and their private counsel) meaning, what they say secretly and openly.

(بَلَىٰ وَرُسُلْنَا لَدَيْهِمْ يَكْتُبُونَ)

(Yes (We do) and Our messengers are by them, to record.) means, 'We know what they are doing, and the angels are also recording their deeds, major and minor.'

(قُلْ إِنْ كَانَ لِلرَّحْمَنِ وَلَدٌ فَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْعَبِيدِ)

سُبْحَانَ رَبِّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ رَبِّ الْعَرْشِ  
عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ - فَذَرَهُمْ يَخُوضُوا وَيَلْعَبُوا حَتَّى  
يُلْفُوا يَوْمَهُمُ الَّذِي يُوعَدُونَ - وَهُوَ الَّذِي فِي  
السَّمَاءِ إِلَهٌ وَفِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَهٌ وَهُوَ الْحَكِيمُ  
الْعَلِيمُ -)

(وَتَبَارَكَ الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا  
بَيْنَهُمَا وَعِنْدَهُ عِلْمُ السَّاعَةِ وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ - وَلَا  
يَمْلِكُ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ الشَّفَعَةَ إِلَّا مَنْ  
شَهِدَ بِالْحَقِّ وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ - وَلَئِنْ سَأَلْتَهُمْ مَنْ  
خَلَقَهُمْ لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ فَأَنَّى يُؤْفَكُونَ - وَقِيلَ لَهُ رَبِّ إِنْ  
هَؤُلَاءِ قَوْمٌ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ - فَاصْفَحْ عَنْهُمْ وَقُلْ سَلَامٌ  
فَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ )

(81. Say: "If the Most Gracious had a son, then I am the first of the worshippers.") (82. Glorified is the Lord of the heavens and the earth, the Lord of the Throne! Exalted be He from all that they ascribe (to Him).) (83. So leave them (alone) to speak nonsense and play until they meet the Day of theirs which they have been promised.) (84. It is He Who is the only God in the heaven and the only God on the earth. And He is the All-Wise, the All-Knower.) (85. And

Blessed be He to Whom belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them, and with Whom is the knowledge of the Hour, and to Whom you (all) will be returned.) (86. And those whom they invoke instead of Him have no power of intercession -- except for those who bear witness to the truth knowingly, and they know.) (87. And if you ask them who created them, they will surely say: "Allah." How then are they turned away) (88. And his saying: "O my Lord! Verily, these are a people who believe not!") (89. So turn away from them, and say: Salam (peace!) But they will come to know.)

**Allah has no Offspring Allah says:**

(قُلْ)

(Say) -- `O Muhammad' --

(إِنْ كَانَ لِلرَّحْمَنِ وَلَدٌ فَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْعَبِيدِ)

(If the Most Gracious had a son, then I am the first of the worshippers.) meaning, `if this were so, then I would worship Him on that basis, because I am one of His servants; I obey all that He commands me and I am not too arrogant or proud to worship Him.' This conditional phrase does not mean that what is described could happen nor that is possible as Allah says:

(لَوْ أَرَادَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَتَّخِذَ وَلَدًا لَأَصْطَفَىٰ مِمَّا يَخْلُقُ  
مَا يَشَاءُ سُبْحَانَهُ هُوَ اللَّهُ الْوَاحِدُ الْقَهَّارُ )

(Had Allah willed to take a son, He could have chosen whom He willed out of those whom He created. But glory be to Him! He is Allah, the One, the Irresistible.) (39:4). Allah says here:

(سُبْحَانَ رَبِّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ رَبِّ الْعَرْشِ  
عَمَّا يُصِفُونَ )

(Glorified is the Lord of the heavens and the earth, the Lord of the Throne! Exalted be He from all that they ascribe (to Him).) meaning, exalted and sanctified and glorified be the Creator of all things far above having any offspring, for He is Unique, One and Eternally Self-Sufficient. There is none equal to Him or like Him, and He does not have any offspring.

(قَدَرَهُمْ يَحْضُوا)

(So leave them (alone) to speak nonsense) means, in their ignorance and misguidance,

(وَيَلْعَبُوا)

(and play) in their world,

(حَتَّىٰ يُلَاقُوا يَوْمَهُمُ الَّذِي يُوعَدُونَ)

(until they meet the Day of theirs which they have been promised.) which is the Day of Resurrection, i.e., then they will come to know what their end and destination will be on that Day.

### The Uniqueness of the Lord

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاءِ إِلَهٌ وَفِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَهٌ)

(It is He Who is the only God in the heaven and the only God on the earth.) means, He is the God of those who are in the heavens and the God of those who are on earth; all of them worship Him and are humbled before Him.

(وَهُوَ الْحَكِيمُ الْعَلِيمُ)

(And He is the All-Wise, the All-Knower.) This Ayah is like the Ayah:

(وَهُوَ اللَّهُ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَفِي الْأَرْضِ يَعْلَمُ  
سِرَّكُمْ وَجَهْرَكُمْ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا تَكْسِبُونَ)

(And He is Allah in the heavens and on the earth; He knows what you conceal and what you reveal, and He knows what you earn.) (6:3) which means, He is the One who is called Allah in the heavens and on the earth.

(وَتَبَارَكَ الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا  
بَيْنَهُمَا)

(And Blessed be He to Whom belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them,) means, He is their Creator and Sovereign, the One Who is controlling them with none to resist or oppose His rule. Blessed and exalted be He far above the notion of His having a child. He is eternally free of all faults and shortcomings, because He is the Lord, the Exalted, the Almighty, the Sovereign of all things, Who is in control of all affairs.

(وَعِنْدَهُ عِلْمُ السَّاعَةِ)

(and with Whom is the knowledge of the Hour, ) means, no one knows when it will happen except Him.

(وَالِيهِ تُرْجَعُونَ)

(and to Whom you (all) will be returned.) means, and each person will be required for his deeds; if they are good, then he will be rewarded, and if they are bad, then he will be punished.

### The Idols have no Power of Intercession

(وَلَا يَمْلِكُ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ)

(And those whom they invoke instead of Him have no power) means, the idols and false gods.

(الشَّفَعَةَ)

(of intercession) means, they are not able to intercede for them.

(إِلَّا مَنْ شَهِدَ بِالْحَقِّ وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ)

(except for those who bear witness to the truth knowingly, and they know.) This means, but the one who bears witness to the truth has knowledge and insight, so his intercession with Allah will avail, by His leave.

### The Idolators admit that Allah Alone is the Creator

(وَلَئِنْ سَأَلْتَهُمْ مَنْ خَلَقَهُمْ لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ فَأَنَّى يُؤْفَكُونَ)

(And if you ask them who created them, they will surely say: "Allah." How then are they turned away) means, 'if you ask these idolators who associate others in worship with Allah,'

(مَنْ خَلَقَهُمْ لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ)

(who created them, they will surely say: "Allah.") means, they will admit that He Alone is the Creator of all things and He has no partner in that. Yet despite that they still worship others alongside Him who have nothing and are able to do nothing. This is the utmost foolishness and stupidity. Allah says:

(فَأَنى يُؤْفَكُونَ)

(How then are they turned away)

### The Prophet's Complaint to Allah

(وَقِيلَهُ يَرْبِّ إِنَّ هَؤُلَاءِ قَوْمٌ لَّا يُؤْمِنُونَ )

(And his saying: "O my Lord! Verily, these are a people who believe not!") means, Muhammad said this; he complained to his Lord about his people who did not believe in him, and said, 'O Lord, these people do not believe.' This is like the Ayah:

(وَقَالَ الرَّسُولُ يَرْبِّ إِنَّ قَوْمى اتَّخَذُوا هَذَا  
الْقُرْءَانَ مَهْجُورًا )

(And the Messenger will say: "O my Lord! Verily, my people deserted this Qur'an.") (25:30). This is the view of Ibn Mas'ud, may Allah be pleased with him, Mujahid and Qatadah, and this is how Ibn Jarir interpreted it. Al-Bukhari said: " Abdullah -- meaning Ibn Mas'ud, may Allah be pleased with him -- recited (Ayah 88 of Az-Zukhruf): (يَا رَبَّ الرَّسُولُ وَقَالَ) (And the Messenger will say: "O my Lord!") Mujahid said concerning the Ayah:

(وَقِيلَهُ يَرْبِّ إِنَّ هَؤُلَاءِ قَوْمٌ لَّا يُؤْمِنُونَ )

(And his saying: "O my Lord! Verily, these are a people who believe not!") "Allah is stating what Muhammad said." Qatadah said, "These are the words of your Prophet, when he complained about his people to his Lord."

(فَاصْفَحْ عَنْهُمْ)

(So turn away from them, ) means, from the idolators.

(وَقُلْ سَلَامٌ)

(and say Salam (peace!)) means, 'do not respond to them in the same evil manner in which they address you; but try to soften their hearts and forgive them in word and deed.'

## (فَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ)

(But they will come to know.) This is a warning from Allah for them. His punishment, which cannot be warded off, struck them, and His religion and His word was supreme. Subsequently Jihad and striving were prescribed until the people entered the religion of Allah in crowds, and Islam spread throughout the east and the west. And Allah knows best. This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat Az-Zukhruf.

### The Tafsir of Surat Ad-Dukhan

(Chapter - 44)

#### Which was revealed in Makkah

In Musnad Al-Bazzar, it is recorded from Abu At-Tufayl `Amir bin Wathilah from Zayd bin Harithah that the Messenger of Allah said to Ibn Sayyad:

«إِنِّي قَدْ خَبَأْتُ خَبَأً فَمَا هُوَ؟»

(I am concealing something, what is it) And the Messenger of Allah was concealing Surat Ad-Dukhan from him. He (Ibn Sayyad) said: "It is Ad-Dukh." The Messenger of Allah said,

«أَخْسَأُ مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ (كَانَ)»

(Be off with you! Whatever Allah wills happens.)

In the Name of **بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ**  
Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most  
.Merciful

(حم- وَالْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ- إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ  
مُبَارَكَةٍ إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنذِرِينَ- فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ  
حَكِيمٍ- أَمْراً مِّنْ عِنْدِنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا مُرْسِلِينَ- رَحْمَةً  
مِّنْ رَبِّكَ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ- رَبِّ السَّمَوَاتِ

وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا إِنْ كُنْتُمْ مُوقِنِينَ- لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا  
هُوَ يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ رَبُّكُمْ وَرَبُّ آبَائِكُمُ الْأَوَّلِينَ-

(1. Ha Mim.) (2. By the manifest Book that makes things clear.) (3. We sent it down on a blessed night. Verily, We are ever warning.) (4. Therein (that night) is decreed every matter, Hakim.) (5. As a command from Us. Verily, We are ever sending,) (6. (As) a mercy from your Lord. Verily, He is the All-Hearer, the All-Knower.) (7. The Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them, if you (but) have a faith with certainty.) (8. La ilaha illa Huwa. He gives life and causes death -- your Lord and the Lord of your forefathers.)

### The Qur'an was revealed on Laylatul-Qadr

Allah tells us that He revealed the Magnificent Qur'an on a blessed night, Laylatul-Qadr (the Night of Decree), as He says elsewhere:

(إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ )

(Verily, We have sent it down in the Night of Al-Qadr) (97:1). This was in the month of Ramadan, as Allah tells us:

(شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ)

(The month of Ramadan in which was revealed the Qur'an) (2:185). We have already quoted the relevant Hadiths in (the Tafsir of) Surat Al-Baqarah, and there is no need to repeat them here.

(إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنذِرِينَ)

(Verily, We are ever warning.) means, telling them what is good for them and what is harmful for them, according to Shari`ah, so that the proof of Allah may be established against His servants.

(فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ )

(Therein (that night) is decreed every matter, Hakim.) means, on Laylatul-Qadr, the decrees are transferred from Al-Lawh Al-Mahfuz to the (angelic) scribes who write down the decrees of the (coming) year including life span, provision, and what will happen until the end of the year. This was narrated from Ibn `Umar, Mujahid, Abu Malik, Ad-Dahhak and others among the Salaf.

(حَكِيمٍ)

(Hakim) means decided or confirmed, which cannot be changed or altered. Allah says:

(أَمْرًا مِّنْ عِنْدِنَا)

(As a command from Us.) meaning, everything that happens and is decreed by Allah and the revelation that He sends down -- it all happens by His command, by His leave and with His knowledge.

(إِنَّا كُنَّا مُرْسِلِينَ)

(Verily, We are ever sending,) means, to mankind, sending Messenger who will recite to them the clear signs of Allah. The need for this was urgent.

(رَحْمَةً مِّنْ رَبِّكَ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ رَبُّ  
السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا)

((As) a mercy from your Lord. Verily, He is the All-Hearer, the All-Knower. The Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them,) means, the One Who sent down the Qur'an is the Lord, Creator and Sovereign of the heavens and the earth and everything in between them.

(إِنْ كُنْتُمْ مُّوقِنِينَ)

(if you (but) have a faith with certainty.) Then Allah says:

(لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ رَبُّكُمْ وَرَبُّ آبَائِكُمُ  
الْأَوَّلِينَ)

(La ilaha illa Huwa. He gives life and causes death -- your Lord and the Lord of your forefathers.) This is like the Ayah:

(قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا  
الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ  
يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ)

(Say: "O mankind! Verily, I am sent to you all as the Messenger of Allah -- to Whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth. La ilaha illa Huwa. He gives life and causes death...") (7:158)

(بَلْ هُمْ فِي شَكٍّ يَلْعَبُونَ - فَارْتَقِبْ يَوْمَ تَأْتِي  
السَّمَاءُ بِدُخَانٍ مُّبِينٍ - يَعْشَى النَّاسَ هَذَا عَذَابٌ  
أَلِيمٌ - رَبَّنَا اكْشِفْ عَنَّا الْعَذَابَ إِنَّا مُؤْمِنُونَ - أُنزِلَتْ  
لَهُمُ الذِّكْرَى وَقَدْ جَاءَهُمْ رَسُولٌ مُّبِينٌ - ثُمَّ تَوَلَّوْا  
عَنْهُ وَقَالُوا مُعَلَّمٌ مَجْنُونٌ - إِنَّا كَاشِفُوا الْعَذَابَ  
قَلِيلًا إِنَّكُمْ عَائِدُونَ - يَوْمَ نَبْطِشُ الْبَطْشَةَ الْكُبْرَى  
إِنَّا مُنْتَقِمُونَ )

(9. Nay! They play about in doubt.) (10. Then wait you for the Day when the sky will bring forth a visible smoke,) (11. Covering mankind, this is a painful torment.) (12. (They will say): "Our Lord! Remove the torment from us, really we shall become believers!") (13. How can there be for them an admonition, when a Messenger explaining things clearly has already come to them.) (14. Then they had turned away from him and said: "(He is) one taught, a madman!") (15. Verily, We shall remove the torment for a while. Verily, you will revert.) (16. On the Day when We shall strike you with the great Batshah. Verily, We will exact retribution.)

### **Alarming the Idolators with News of the Day when the Sky will bring forth a visible Smoke**

Allah says, these idolaters are playing about in doubt, i.e., the certain truth has come to them, but they doubt it and do not believe in it. Then Allah says, warning and threatening them:

(فَارْتَقِبْ يَوْمَ تَأْتِي السَّمَاءُ بِدُخَانٍ مُّبِينٍ )

(Then wait you for the Day when the sky will bring forth a visible smoke.) It was narrated that Masruq said, "We entered the Masjid -- i.e., the Masjid of Kufah at the gates of Kindah -- and a man was reciting to his companions,

(يَوْمَ تَأْتِي السَّمَاءُ بِدُخَانٍ مُّبِينٍ)

(the Day when the sky will bring forth a visible smoke.) He asked them; `Do you know what that is' That is the smoke that will come on the Day of Resurrection. It will take away the

hearing and sight of the hypocrites, but for the believers it will be like having a cold." He said, "We came to Ibn Mas'ud, may Allah be pleased with him, and told him about that. He was lying down, and he sat up with a start and said, 'Allah said to your Prophet

(قُلْ مَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ وَمَا أَنَا مِنَ الْمُتَكَلِّفِينَ )

(Say: "No wage do I ask of you for this, nor am I one of the pretenders.") (38:86). And it is part of knowledge that when a man does not know something, he should say, 'Allah knows best.' I will tell you a Hadith about that. When the Quraysh did not respond to Islam and they grew stubborn, the Messenger of Allah invoked Allah against them that they would have years like the years (of drought and famine) of Yusuf. They became so exhausted and hungry that they ate bones and dead meat. They looked at the sky, but they saw nothing but smoke." According to another report: "A man would look at the sky and he would see nothing between him and the sky except a smoky haze, because of his exhaustion."

(فَارْتَقِبْ يَوْمَ تَأْتِي السَّمَاءُ بِدُخَانٍ مُبِينٍ - يَغْشَى النَّاسَ هَذَا عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ )

(Then wait you for the Day when the sky will bring forth a visible smoke, covering the people, this is a painful torment) A man came to the Messenger of Allah and said, "O Messenger of Allah! Pray to Allah to send rain to Mudar, for they are dying. So the Prophet prayed for rain for them, and they got rain. Then the Ayah was revealed:

(إِنَّا كَاشِفُو الْعَذَابِ قَلِيلًا إِنَّكُمْ عَائِدُونَ )

(Verily, We shall remove the torment for a while. Verily, you will revert.) Ibn Mas'ud said, "Do you think that the torment will be removed for them on the Day of Resurrection When they were granted ease, they reverted to their former state. Then Allah revealed:

(يَوْمَ نَبْطِشُ الْبَطْشَةَ الْكُبْرَى إِنَّا مُنْتَقِمُونَ )

(On the Day when We shall strike you with the Great Batshah. Verily, We will exact retribution.)" He said, "This means the day of Badr." Ibn Mas'ud said, "Five things have come to pass: the smoke, the (defeat of the) Romans, the (splitting of the) moon, the Batshah, and the torment." This Hadith was narrated in the Two Sahihis. It was also recorded by Imam Ahmad in his Musnad, and by At-Tirmidhi and An-Nasa'i in their (Books of) Tafsir, and by Ibn Jarir and Ibn Abi Hatim with a number of chains of narration. A number of the Salaf, such as Mujahid, Abu Al-'Aliyah, Ibrahim An-Nakha'i, Ad-Dahhak and 'Atiyah Al-'Awfi concurred with Ibn Mas'ud's interpretation of this Ayah and his view that the smoke already happened. This was also the view of Ibn Jarir. According to the Hadith of Abu Sarihah, Hudhayfah bin Asid Al-Ghifari, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah looked out upon us from a room while we were discussing the Hour. He said:

«لَا تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ حَتَّى تَرَوْا عَشْرَ آيَاتٍ: طُلُوعَ  
 الشَّمْسِ مِنْ مَغْرِبِهَا، وَالذُّخَانَ، وَالذَّابَّةَ، وَخُرُوجَ  
 يَأْجُوجَ وَمَأْجُوجَ، وَخُرُوجَ عِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ  
 وَالذَّجَّالَ، وَثَلَاثَةَ خُسُوفٍ: خُسْفٌ بِالْمَشْرِقِ،  
 وَخُسْفٌ بِالْمَغْرِبِ، وَخُسْفٌ بِجَزِيرَةِ الْعَرَبِ،  
 وَنَارًا تَخْرُجُ مِنْ قَعْرِ عَدَنَ تَسُوقُ النَّاسَ أَوْ  
 تَحْشُرُ النَّاسَ تَبِيْتُ مَعَهُمْ حَيْثُ بَاتُوا، وَتَقِيلُ  
 مَعَهُمْ حَيْثُ قَالُوا»

(The Hour will not come until you see ten signs. The rising of the sun from the west; the smoke; the beast; the emergence of Ya'juj and Ma'juj; the appearance of `Isa bin Maryam; the Dajjal; three cases of the earth collapsing -- one in the east, one in the west, and one in the Arabian Peninsula; and a fire which will emerge from the bottom of Aden and will drive the people -- or gather the people -- stopping with them when they stop to sleep at night or rest during the day.)" This was recorded only by Muslim in his Sahih In the Two Sahihs it was recorded that the Messenger of Allah said to Ibn Sayyad:

«إِنِّي خَبَأْتُ لَكَ خَبَأً»

(I am concealing something for you.) He said, It is Ad-Dukh. The Prophet said,

«أَخْسَأَ قَلْبُكَ تَعْدُوَ قَدْرَكَ»

(Be off with you! You cannot get further than your rank.) He said, "The Messenger of Allah was concealing from him the words,

(فَارْتَقِبْ يَوْمَ تَأْتِي السَّمَاءُ بِدُخَانٍ مُبِينٍ )

(Then wait you for the Day when the sky will bring forth a visible smoke.)"This indicates that the smoke is yet to appear. Ibn Sayyad was a fortune-teller who heard things through the Jinn, whose speech is unclear, therefore he said, "It is Ad-Dukh," meaning Ad-Dukhan (the smoke). When the Messenger of Allah was sure what was happening, that the source of his information was the Shayatin, he said:

«اِخْسَاءً فَلَنْ تَعْدُوَ قَدْرَكَ»

(Be off with you! You cannot get further than your rank.) There are numerous Marfu` and Mawquf Hadiths, Sahih, Hasan and others, which indicate that the smoke is one of the awaited signs (of the Hour). This is also the apparent meaning of Ayat in the Qur'an. Allah says:

(فَارْتَقِبْ يَوْمَ تَأْتِي السَّمَاءُ بِدُخَانٍ مُّبِينٍ )

(Then wait you for the Day when the sky will bring forth a visible smoke.) meaning, clearly visible, such that all people will see it. According to Ibn Mas`ud's interpretation, this was a vision which they saw because of their intense hunger and exhaustion. He also interprets the Ayah

(يَغْشَى النَّاسَ)

(Covering mankind,) meaning, it covered them and overwhelmed them. But if it was only an illusion which happened to the idolators of Makkah, Allah would not have said "covering mankind."

(هَذَا عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ)

(this is a painful torment.) means, this will be said to them by way of rebuke. This is like the Ayah:

(يَوْمَ يُدْعُونَ إِلَى نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ دَعَاً - هَذِهِ النَّارُ  
الَّتِي كُنْتُمْ بِهَا تُكَذِّبُونَ )

(The Day when they will be pushed down by force to the fire of Hell, with a horrible, forceful pushing. This is the Fire which you used to deny.) (52:13-14). Or some of them will say that to others.

(رَبَّنَا اكْشِفْ عَنَّا الْعَذَابَ إِنَّا مُؤْمِنُونَ )

((They will say): "Our Lord! Remove the torment from us, really we shall become believers!") means, when the disbelievers witness the punishment of Allah, they will ask for it to be taken away from them. This is like the Ayat:

(وَلَوْ تَرَى إِذْ وَقَفُوا عَلَى النَّارِ فَقَالُوا يَلَيْتَنَا نُرَدُّ  
وَلَا نُكَذِّبُ بآيَاتِ رَبِّنَا وَنَكُونُ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ )

(If you could but see when they will be held over the (Hell) Fire! They will say: "Would that we were but sent back (to the world)! Then we would not deny the Ayat of our Lord, and we would be of the believers!") (6:27)

وَأَنْذِرِ النَّاسَ يَوْمَ يَأْتِيهِمُ الْعَذَابُ فَيَقُولُ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا رَبَّنَا أَخِّرْنَا إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ قَرِيبٍ نُجِيبُ دَعْوَتَكَ وَنَتَّبِعِ الرَّسُولَ أُولَمْ تَكُونُوا أَقْسَمْتُمْ مِّنْ قَبْلُ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ زَوَالٍ )

(And warn mankind of the Day when the torment will come unto them; then the wrongdoers will say: "Our Lord! Respite us for a little while, we will answer Your Call and follow the Messengers!" (It will be said): "Had you not sworn aforetime that you would not leave (the world for the Hereafter).) (14:44) Allah says here:

أَأَنَّىٰ لَهُمُ الذِّكْرَىٰ وَقَدْ جَاءَهُمْ رَسُولٌ مُّبِينٌ - ثُمَّ تَوَلَّوْا عَنْهُ وَقَالُوا مُعَلَّمٌ مَّجْنُونٌ )

(How can there be for them an admonition, when a Messenger explaining things clearly has already come to them. Then they had turned away from him and said: "(He is) one taught, a madman!") meaning, `what further admonition do they need when We have sent them a Messenger with a clear Message and warning Yet despite that, they turned away from him, opposed him and rejected him, and they said: (He is) one taught (by a human being), a madman.' This is like the Ayah:

(يَوْمَئِذٍ يَتَذَكَّرُ الْإِنْسَانُ وَأَنَّىٰ لَهُ الذِّكْرَىٰ)

(On that Day will man remember, but how will that remembrance (then) avail him) (89:23)

وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذْ فَزِعُوا فَلَا فَوْتَ وَأَخِذُوا مِن مَّكَانٍ قَرِيبٍ - وَقَالُوا ءَامَنَّا بِهِ وَأَنَّىٰ لَهُمُ التَّنَاطُشُ مِنْ مَّكَانٍ بَعِيدٍ )

(And if you could but see, when they will be terrified with no escape, and they will be seized from a near place. And they will say (in the Hereafter): "We do believe (now);" but how could they receive (faith and its acceptance by Allah) from a place so far off...) (34:51-52)

(إِنَّا كَاشِفُوا الْعَذَابَ قَلِيلًا إِنَّكُمْ عَائِدُونَ )

(Verily, We shall remove the torment for a while. Verily, you will revert.) means, `if We were to remove the torment from you for a while, and send you back to the world, you would go back to your former state of disbelief and denial.' This is like the Ayat:

(وَلَوْ رَحِمْنَاهُمْ وَكَشَفْنَا مَا بِهِمْ مِنْ ضُرٍّ لَلَجُّوا فِي  
طُعَيْنِهِمْ يَعْصَمُونَ )

(And though We had mercy on them and removed the distress which is on them, still they would obstinately persist in their transgression, wandering blindly.) (23:75)

(وَلَوْ رُدُّوا لَعَدُّوا لِمَا نُهُوا عَنْهُ وَإِنَّهُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ)

(But if they were returned (to the world), they would certainly revert to that which they were forbidden. And indeed they are liars) (6:28)

### The Meaning of the "Great Batshah"

(يَوْمَ نَبْطِشُ الْبَطْشَةَ الْكُبْرَى إِنَّا مُنْتَقِمُونَ )

(On the Day when We shall strike you with the great Batshah. Verily, We will exact retribution.) Ibn Mas'ud interpreted this to mean the day of Badr. This is also the view of a group who agreed with Ibn Mas'ud, may Allah be pleased with him, about the meaning of the smoke, as discussed above. It was also narrated from Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, in a report related to him from Al-`Awfi and from Ubayy bin Ka`b, may Allah be pleased with him. This is possible, but the apparent meaning is that it refers to the Day of Resurrection, although the day of Badr was also a day of vengeance. Ibn Jarir said, "Ya`qub narrated to me; Ibn `Ulayyah narrated to me, Khalid Al-Hadhdha' narrated to us, from `Ikrimah who said, `Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "Ibn Mas'ud, may Allah be pleased with him, said that "the great Batshah" is the day of Badr, and I say that it is the Day of Resurrection." This chain of narration is Sahih to him. This is also the view of Al-Hasan Al-Basri and of `Ikrimah according to the more authentic of the two reports narrated from him. And Allah knows best.

(وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا قَبْلَهُمْ قَوْمَ فِرْعَوْنَ وَجَاءَهُمْ رَسُولٌ  
كَرِيمٌ - أَنْ أَدُّوا إِلَيَّ عِبَادَ اللَّهِ إِنِّي لَكُمْ رَسُولٌ  
أَمِينٌ - وَأَنْ لَا تَعْلُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنِّي آتِيكُمْ

بِسُلْطَانٍ مُّبِينٍ - وَإِنِّي عُذْتُ بِرَبِّي وَرَبِّكُمْ أَن  
 تَرْجُمُون - وَإِن لَّمْ تُؤْمِنُوا لِي فَاغْتَرِلُون - فَدَعَا  
 رَبَّهُ أَنَّ هَؤُلَاءِ قَوْمٌ مُّجْرِمُونَ - فَأَسْرَ بِعِبَادِي  
 لَيْلًا إِنَّكُمْ مُّتَّبِعُونَ - وَاتْرَكَ الْبَحْرَ رَهْوًا إِنَّهُمْ جُنْدٌ  
 مُّعْرَقُونَ - كَمْ تَرَكُوا مِنْ جَبَّتٍ وَعُيُونٍ -  
 وَزُرُوعٍ وَمَقَامٍ كَرِيمٍ - وَنَعْمَةً كَانُوا فِيهَا فَكِهِينَ  
 - كَذَلِكَ وَأَوْرَثْنَاهَا قَوْمًا آخَرِينَ - فَمَا بَكَتْ  
 عَلَيْهِمُ السَّمَاءُ وَالْأَرْضُ وَمَا كَانُوا مُنظَرِينَ -  
 وَلَقَدْ نَجَّيْنَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ مِنَ الْعَذَابِ الْمُهِينِ -  
 مِنْ فِرْعَوْنَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ عَلِيًّا مِّنَ الْمُسْرِفِينَ - وَلَقَدْ  
 اخْتَرْنَاهُمْ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ - وَءَاتَيْنَاهُمْ  
 مِّنَ الْآيَاتِ مَا فِيهِ بَلَاءٌ مُّبِينٌ (

(17. And indeed We tried before them Fir`awn's people, when there came to them a noble Messenger.) (18. Saying: "Deliver to me the servants of Allah. Verily, I am to you a Messenger worthy of all trust.") (19. "And exalt not yourselves against Allah. Truly, I have come to you with a manifest authority.") (20. "And truly, I seek refuge with my Lord and your Lord, lest you should stone me.") (21. "But if you believe me not, then keep away from me and leave me alone.") (22. So he (Musa) called upon his Lord (saying): "These are indeed the people who are criminals.") (23. (Allah said): "Depart you with My servants by night. Surely, you will be pursued.") (24. "And leave the sea as it is (quiet and divided). Verily, they are a host to be drowned.") (25. How many of gardens and springs that they (Fir`awn's people) left behind, (26. And green crops (fields) and goodly places,) (27. And comforts of life wherein they used to take delight!) (28. Thus (it was)! And We made other people inherit them.) (29. And the heavens and the earth wept not for them, nor were they given respite.) (30. And indeed We saved the Children of Israel from the humiliating torment,) (31. From Fir`awn; verily, he was arrogant and was of the excessive .) (32. And We chose them above the nations (Al-`Alamin) with knowledge,) (33. And granted them signs in which there was a plain trial.)

## The Story of Musa and Fir`awn, and how the Children of Israel were saved

Allah tells us, `before these idolators, We tested the people of Fir`awn, the copts of Egypt.'

(وَجَاءَهُمْ رَسُولٌ كَرِيمٌ)

(when there came to them a noble Messenger.) means, Musa, peace be upon him, the one to whom Allah spoke.

(أَنْ أَدُّوا إِلَيَّ عِبَادَ اللَّهِ)

(Deliver to me the servants of Allah.) This is like the Ayah:

(فَأَرْسِلْ مَعَنَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَلَا تُعَذِّبْهُمْ قَدْ جِئْنَاكَ  
بَيِّنَاتٍ مِّن رَّبِّكَ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَىٰ مَنْ اتَّبَعَ الْهُدَىٰ)

(So let the Children of Israel go with us, and torment them not; indeed, we have come with a sign from your Lord! And peace will be upon him who follows the guidance!) (20:47)

(إِنِّي لَكُمْ رَسُولٌ أَمِينٌ)

(Verily, I am to you a Messenger worthy of all trust.) means, `what I convey to you is trustworthy.'

(وَأَنْ لَا تَعْلُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ)

(And exalt not yourselves against Allah.) means, `and do not be too arrogant to follow His signs. Accept His proof and believe in His evidence.' This is like the Ayah:

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِي سَيَدْخُلُونَ  
جَهَنَّمَ دَخَرِينَ)

(Verily, those who scorn My worship they will surely enter Hell in humiliation!) (40:60)

(إِنِّي آتِيكُمْ بِسُلْطَانٍ مُّبِينٍ)

(Truly, I have come to you with a manifest authority.) means, with clear and obvious proof. This refers to the clear signs and definitive evidence with which Allah sent him.

(وَإِنِّي عُدْتُ بِرَبِّي وَرَبِّكُمْ أَنْ تَرْجُمُونِ )

(And truly, I seek refuge with my Lord and your Lord, lest you should stone me.) Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, and Abu Salih said, "This refers to a verbal assault, which means insults." Qatadah said, "Meaning `stoning' in the literal sense, so that the meaning is: `I seek refuge with Allah, Who created me and you, from your making any harmful words or actions reach me.'"

(وَإِنْ لَمْ تُؤْمِنُوا لِي فَاغْتَرِلُونِ )

(But if you believe me not, then keep away from me and leave me alone.) means, `then let us leave one another alone and live in peace until Allah judges between us.' After Musa, may Allah be pleased with him, had stayed among them for a long time, and the proof of Allah had been established against them, and that only increased them in disbelief and stubbornness, he prayed to his Lord against them, a prayer which was answered. Allah says:

(وَقَالَ مُوسَى رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ آتَيْتَ فِرْعَوْنَ وَمَلَئَهُ  
زِينَةً وَأَمْوَالًا فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا رَبَّنَا لِيُضِلُّوا عَن  
سَبِيلِكَ رَبَّنَا اطْمِسْ عَلَى أَمْوَالِهِمْ وَاشْدُدْ عَلَى  
قُلُوبِهِمْ فَلَا يُؤْمِنُوا حَتَّى يَرَوْا الْعَذَابَ الْأَلِيمَ قَالَ  
قَدْ أَحْبَبْتَ دَعْوَتَكُمْ فَاستَقِيمَا)

(And Musa said: "Our Lord! You have indeed bestowed on Fir`awn and his chiefs splendor and wealth in the life of this world, our Lord! That they may lead men astray from Your path. Our Lord! Destroy their wealth, and harden their hearts, so that they will not believe until they see the painful torment." Allah said: "Verily, the invocation of you both is accepted. So you both keep to the straight way.") (10:88-89) And Allah says here:

(فَدَعَا رَبَّهُ أَنْ هَؤُلَاءِ قَوْمٌ مُجْرِمُونَ )

(So he (Musa) called upon his Lord (saying): "These are indeed the people who are criminals.") Whereupon Allah commanded him to bring the Children of Israel out from among them, without the command, consent or permission of Fir`awn. Allah said:

(فَأَسْرِبْ بِي لَيْلًا إِنَّكُمْ مَتَّبَعُونَ )

(Depart you with My servants by night. Surely, you will be pursued.) This is like the Ayah:

وَلَقَدْ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَى مُوسَى أَنْ أَسْرِ بِعِبَادِي  
فَأَضْرِبْ لَهُمْ طَرِيقًا فِي الْبَحْرِ يَبَسًا لَا تَخَافُ  
دَرْكًا وَلَا تَخْشَى )

And indeed We revealed to Mu0sa0 (saying): Travel by night with My servants and strike a dry path for them in the sea, fearing neither to be overtaken nor being afraid (of drowning in the sea). )20:77(

(وَأَتْرِكِ الْبَحْرَ رَهْوًا إِنَّهُمْ جُنْدٌ مُّعْرَفُونَ )

(And leave the sea as it is (quiet and divided). Verily, they are a host to be drowned.) When Musa and the Children of Israel has crossed the sea, Musa wanted to strike it with his staff so that it would go back as it had been, and it would form a barrier between then and Fir`awn and prevent him from reaching them. But Allah commanded him to leave it as it was, quiet and divided, and gave him the glad tidings that they were a host to be drowned, and that he should not fear either being overtaken by Fir`awn or drowning in the sea. Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said:

(وَأَتْرِكِ الْبَحْرَ رَهْوًا)

(And leave the sea as it is (quiet and divided).) means, leave it as it is and keep moving. Mujahid said:

(رَهْوًا)

(as it is) means, a dry path, as it is. `Do not command it to go back; leave it until the last of them have entered it.' This was also the view of `Ikrimah, Ar-Rabi` bin Anas, Ad-Dahhak, Qatadah, Ibn Zayd, Ka`b Al-Ahbar, Smak bin Harb and others.

(كَمْ تَرَكُوا مِنْ جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ وَزُرُوعٍ)

(How many of gardens and springs that they left behind. And green crops) this refers to rivers and wells.

(وَمَقَامٍ كَرِيمٍ)

and goodly places, means, fine dwellings and beautiful places. Muja0hid and Sa 0d bin Jubayr said:

(وَمَقَامٍ كَرِيمٍ)

(and goodly places,) means elevated places.

(وَنِعْمَةً كَانُوا فِيهَا فَكِهِينَ )

(And comforts of life wherein they used to take delight!) means, a life which they were enjoying, where they could eat whatever they wanted and wear what they liked, with wealth and glory and power in the land. Then all of that was taken away in a single morning, they departed from this world and went to Hell, what a terrible abode!

(كَذَلِكَ وَأَوْرَثْنَاهَا قَوْمًا آخَرِينَ )

(Thus (it was)! And We made other people inherit them.) namely the Children of Israel.

(فَمَا بَكَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّمَاءُ وَالْأَرْضُ)

(And the heavens and the earth wept not for them, ) means, they had no righteous deeds which used to ascend through the gates of the heavens, which would weep for them when they died, and they had no places on earth where they used to worship Allah which would notice their loss. So they did not deserve to be given a respite, because of their disbelief, sin, transgression and stubbornness. Ibn Jarir recorded that Sa`id bin Jubayr said, "A man came to Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, and said to him: `O Abu Al-`Abbas, Allah says,

(فَمَا بَكَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّمَاءُ وَالْأَرْضُ وَمَا كَانُوا  
مُنْظَرِينَ )

(And the heavens and the earth wept not for them, nor were they given respite) -- do the heavens and the earth weep for anybody? He, may Allah be pleased with him, said, `Yes, there is no one who does not have a gate in the heavens through which his provision comes down and his good deeds ascend. When the believer dies, that gate is closed; it misses him and weeps for him, and the place of prayer on earth where he used to pray and remember Allah also weeps for him. But the people of Fir`awn left no trace of righteousness on the earth and they had no good deeds that ascended to Allah, so the heavens and the earth did not weep for them.'" Al-`Awfi reported something similar from Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him.

(وَلَقَدْ نَجَّيْنَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ مِنَ الْعَذَابِ الْمُهِينِ -  
مِنْ فِرْعَوْنَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ عَلِيًّا مِّنَ الْمُسْرِفِينَ )

(And indeed We saved the Children of Israel from the humiliating torment from Fir`awn; verily, he was arrogant and was of the excessive. ) Here Allah reminds them of how He saved them

from their humiliation and subjugation at the hands of Fir`awn, when they were forced to do menial tasks.

(مِنْ فِرْعَوْنَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ عَالِيًا)

(From Fir`awn; verily, he was arrogant) means, he was proud and stubborn. This is like the Ayah:

(إِنَّ فِرْعَوْنَ عَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ)

(Verily, Fir`awn exalted himself in the land) (28:4).

(فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا وَكَانُوا قَوْمًا عَلِينَ)

(but they behaved insolently and they were people self-exalting) (23:46). He was one of the excessive and held a foolish opinion of himself.

(وَلَقَدْ اخْتَرْنَاهُمْ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ )

(And We chose them above the nations (Al-`Alamin) with knowledge,) Mujahid said, "This means that they were chosen above those among whom they lived." Qatadah said, "They were chosen above the other people of their own time, and it was said that in every period there are people who are chosen above others." This is like the Ayah:

(قَالَ يَمُوسَىٰ إِنِّي اصْطَفَيْتُكَ عَلَى النَّاسِ)

((Allah) said: "O Musa I have chosen you above men.") (7:144), which means, above the people of his time. This is also like the Ayah:

(وَاصْطَفَاكِ عَلَى نِسَاءِ الْعَالَمِينَ)

(and (Allah has) chosen you (Maryam) above the women of the nations (Al-`Alamin).) (3:42), i.e., Maryam was chosen above the women of her time. For Khadijah, may Allah be pleased with her, is higher than her in status or is equal to her, as was Asiyah bint Muzahim, the wife of Fir`awn. And the superiority of `Aishah, may Allah be pleased with her, over all other women is like the superiority of Tharid over all other dishes.

(وَأَتَيْنَاهُمْ مِّنَ الْآيَاتِ)

(And granted them signs) means clear proofs and extraordinary evidence.

(مَا فِيهِ بَلَاغٌ مُّبِينٌ)

(in which there was a plain trial.) means, an obvious test to show who would be guided by it.

إِنَّ هَؤُلَاءِ لَيَقُولُونَ - إِنَّ هِيَ إِلَّا مَوْتُنَا الْأُولَى  
وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمُنشَرِينَ - فَأْتُوا بِآبَائِنَا إِنْ كُنْتُمْ  
صَادِقِينَ - أَهْمٌ خَيْرٌ أَمْ قَوْمٌ تُبِعَ وَالَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ  
أَهْلَكْنَاهُمْ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا مُجْرِمِينَ )

(34. Verily, these people are saying:) (35. "There is nothing but our first death, and we shall not be resurrected.") (36. "Then bring back our forefathers, if you speak the truth!") (37. Are they better or the people of Tubba` and those before them We destroyed them because they were indeed criminals.)

### Refutation of Those Who deny the Resurrection

Here Allah denounces the idolators for their denial of the Resurrection and their belief that there is nothing after this life and no life or resurrection after death, which they based on the fact that their forefathers had died and had not returned. They said, If the resurrection is true,

(فَأْتُوا بِآبَائِنَا إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ )

(Then bring back our forefathers, if you speak the truth!) This is false evidence and a specious argument, for the resurrection will happen on the Day of Judgement, not in this world; it will happen when this world has ended and ceased to be. Allah will bring all creatures back, created anew. He will make the evildoers fuel for the fire of Hell, and on that Day you will be witnesses over mankind and the Messenger will be a witness over you. Then Allah threatens them and warns them of the irresistible torment other idolators like who denied the resurrection, suffered. Such as the people of Tubba`, i.e., Saba'. Allah destroyed them, wreaked havoc upon their land and scattered them here and there throughout the land, as we have already seen in Surah Saba'. This was brought about because the idolators denied the Resurrection. Here too, the idolators are compared to them. They Tubba` were Arab descendants of Qahtan, just as these people (Quraysh) were Arab descendants of `Adnan. Among the people of Himyar -- who are also known as Saba' -- when a man became their king, they called him Tubba`, just as the title Chosroes was given to the king of Persia, Caesar to the king of the Romans, Fir`awn to the disbelieving ruler of Egypt, Negus to the king of Ethiopia, and so on among other nations. But it so happened that one of the Tubba` left Yemen and went on a journey of conquest until he reached Samarqand, expanding his kingdom and domain. He is the one who founded Al-Hirah. It is agreed that he passed through Al-Madinah during the days of Jahiliyyah. He fought its inhabitants but they resisted him; they fought him by day and supplied him with food by night, so he felt ashamed before them and refrained from harming them. He was accompanied by two Jewish rabbis who advised him and told him that he would never prevail over this city, for it would be the place to which a Prophet would migrate towards the end of time. So he retreated and took them (the two rabbis) with him to Yemen. When he passed by Makkah, he wanted to destroy the Ka`bah, but they told him not to do that either. They told him about the significance of this House, that it had been built by

Ibrahim Al-Khalil, peace be upon him, and that it would become of great importance through that Prophet who would be sent towards the end of time. So he respected it, performed Tawaf around it, and covered it with a fine cloth. Then he returned to Yemen and invited its people to follow the religion of guidance along with him. At that time, the religion of Musa, peace be upon him, was the religion followed by those who were guided, before the coming of the Messiah, peace be upon him. So the people of Yemen accepted the religion of guidance along with him. `Abdur-Razzaq recorded that Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«مَا أَدْرِي تُبَعُّ نَبِيًّا كَانَ، أَمْ غَيْرَ نَبِيٍّ»

(I do not know whether Tubba` was a Prophet or not.) It was narrated that Tamim bin `Abdur-Rahman said: " `Ata' bin Abi Rabah said, `Do not revile Tubba`, for the Messenger of Allah forbade reviling him." And Allah knows best.

(وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا  
لَعِبِينَ - مَا خَلَقْنَاهُمَا إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا  
يَعْلَمُونَ - إِنَّ يَوْمَ الْفَصْلِ مِيقَاتُهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ - يَوْمَ  
لَا يُغْنِي مَوْلَى عَنْ مَوْلَى شَيْئًا وَلَا هُمْ يُنصَرُونَ  
- إِلَّا مَنْ رَحِمَ اللَّهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ )

(38. And We created not the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them, for mere play.) (39. We created them not except with truth, but most of them know not.) (40. Verily, the Day of Judgement is the time appointed for all of them --) (41. The Day when a near relative cannot avail a near relative in aught, and no help can they receive,) (42. Except him on whom Allah has mercy. Verily, He is the All-Mighty, the Most Merciful.)

### This World was created for a Wisdom

Here Allah tells us of His justice, and that He is far above mere play, folly and falsehood. This is like the Ayah:

(وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاءَ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا بَطْلًا  
ذَلِكَ ظَنُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَوَيْلٌ لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنَ  
النَّارِ )

(And We created not the heaven and the earth and all that is between them without purpose! That is the consideration of those who disbelieve! Then woe to those who disbelieve from the Fire!) (38:27)

(أَفَحَسِبْتُمْ أَنَّمَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ عَبَثًا وَأَنَّكُمْ إِلَيْنَا لَا تُرْجَعُونَ - فَتَعَلَى اللَّهُ الْمَلِكُ الْحَقُّ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ رَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْكَرِيمِ )

(Did you think that We had created you in play, and that you would not be brought back to Us So Exalted be Allah, the True King: La ilaha illa Huwa, the Lord of the Supreme Throne!) (23:115-116) Then Allah says:

(إِنَّ يَوْمَ الْفَصْلِ مِيقَاتُهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ )

(Verily, the Day of Judgement is the time appointed for all of them) This is the Day of Resurrection, when Allah will judge between all creatures, and He will punish the disbelievers and reward the believers.

(مِيقَاتُهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ)

(is the time appointed for all of them) means, He will gather all of them, the first and the last of them.

(يَوْمَ لَا يُغْنِي مَوْلَى عَنْ مَوْلَى شَيْئًا)

(The Day when a near relative cannot avail a near relative in aught,) means, no relative will be able to help another relative. This is like the Ayah:

(فَإِذَا نُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ فَلَا أَنْسَابَ بَيْنَهُمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ وَلَا يَتَسَاءَلُونَ )

(Then, when the Trumpet is blown, there will be no kinship among them that Day, nor will they ask of one another.) (23:101)

(وَلَا يَسْأَلُ حَمِيمٌ حَمِيمًا يُبْصِرُونَهُمْ)

(And no friend will ask a friend (about his condition). Though they shall be made to see one another) (70:10-11) which means, he will not ask his brother about how he is, even though he can see him with his own eyes.

(وَلَا هُمْ يُنصَرُونَ)

(and no help can they receive,) means, no relative will help another, and no help will come to him from outside.

(إِلَّا مَنْ رَحِمَ اللَّهُ)

(Except him on whom Allah has mercy.) means, and nothing will be of any avail that Day except the mercy of Allah towards His creation.

(إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ)

(Verily, He is the All-Mighty, the Most Merciful.) means, he is the Almighty, with immense mercy.

(إِنَّ شَجَرَةَ الزَّقُّومِ - طَعَامُ الْأَثِيمِ - كَالْمُهْلِ يَغْلَى  
فِي الْبُطُونِ - كَغَلَى الْحَمِيمِ - خُدُّهُ فَاعْتَلُوهُ إِلَى  
سَوَاءِ الْجَحِيمِ - ثُمَّ صُبُّوا فَوْقَ رَأْسِهِ مِنْ عَذَابِ  
الْحَمِيمِ - ذُقْ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْكَرِيمُ - إِنَّ هَذَا  
مَا كُنْتُمْ بِهِ تَمْتَرُونَ )

(43. Verily, the tree of Zaqqum) (44. Will be the food of the sinners.) (45. Like boiling oil, it will boil in the bellies,) (46. Like the boiling of scalding water.) (47. (It will be said:) "Seize him and drag him into the midst of blazing Fire,") (48. "Then pour over his head the torment of boiling water.") (49. "Taste you (this)! Verily, you were (pretending to be) the mighty, the generous.") (50. "Verily, this is that whereof you used to doubt!")

## The Condition of the Idolators and Their Punishment on the Day of Resurrection

Allah tells us how He will punish the disbelievers who deny the meeting with Him:

(إِنَّ شَجَرَةَ الزَّقُّومِ - طَعَامُ الْأَثِيمِ )

(Verily, the tree of Zaqqum will be the food of the sinners.) Those who sinned by their words and in deeds. These are the disbelievers. More than one commentator stated that this referred

to Abu Jahl; undoubtedly he is included among those referred to in this Ayah, but it is not specifically about him. Ibn Jarir recorded that Abu Ad-Darda' was reciting to a man:

(إِنَّ شَجَرَةَ الزَّقُّومِ - طَعَامُ الْأَثِيمِ )

(Verily, the tree of Zaqqum will be the food of the sinners.) The man said, "The food of the orphan." Abu Ad-Darda', may Allah be pleased with him, said, "Say, the tree of Zaqqum is the food of the evildoer." i.e., he will not have any other food apart from that. Mujahid said, "If a drop of it were to fall on the earth, it would corrupt the living of all the people of earth." A similar Marfu` report has been narrated earlier.

(كَالْمُهْلِ)

(Like boiling oil,) means, like the dregs of oil.

(كَالْمُهْلِ يَغْلِي فِي الْبُطُونِ - كَغَلَى الْحَمِيمِ )

(it will boil in the bellies, like the boiling of scalding water.) means, because of its heat and rancidity.

(خُذُوهُ)

(Seize him) means the disbeliever. It was reported that when Allah says to the keepers of Hell, "Seize him," seventy thousand of them will rush to seize him.

(فَاعْتَلُوهُ)

(and drag him) means, drag him by pulling him and pushing him on his back. Mujahid said:

(خُذُوهُ فَاعْتَلُوهُ)

(Seize him and drag him) means, take him and push him.

(إِلَى سَوَاءِ الْجَحِيمِ)

(into the midst of blazing Fire.) means, into the middle of it.

(ثُمَّ صُبُّوا فَوْقَ رَأْسِهِ مِنْ عَذَابِ الْحَمِيمِ )

(Then pour over his head the torment of boiling water.) This is like the Ayah:

هَذَانِ خَصْمَانِ اخْتَصَمُوا فِي رَبِّهِمْ فَالَّذِينَ  
كَفَرُوا قَطَعَتْ لَهُمْ ثِيَابٌ مِّنْ نَّارٍ يُصَبُّ مِنْ فَوْقِ  
رُءُوسِهِمُ الْحَمِيمُ - يُصْهَرُ بِهِ مَا فِي بُطُونِهِمْ  
وَالْجُلُودُ )

(boiling water will be poured down over their heads. With it will melt what is within their bellies, as well as (their) skins.) (22:19-20). The angel will strike him with a hooked rod of iron and split his head open, then he will pour boiling water over his head. It will go down through his body, melting through his stomach and intestines, until it goes through his heels; may Allah protect us from that.

(ذُقْ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْكَرِيمُ )

(Taste you (this)! Verily, you were (pretending to be) the mighty, the generous.) means, they (the keepers of Hell) will say that to him by way of ridicule and rebuke. Ad-Dahhak reported that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said: "This means, you are neither mighty nor generous." And Allah's saying:

(إِنَّ هَذَا مَا كُنْتُمْ بِهِ تَمْتَرُونَ )

(Verily, this is that whereof you used to doubt!) is like His saying:

يَوْمَ يُدْعُونَ إِلَى نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ دَعَاً - هَذِهِ النَّارُ  
الَّتِي كُنْتُمْ بِهَا تُكذِّبُونَ - أَفَسِحْرٌ هَذَا أَمْ أَنْتُمْ لَا  
تُبْصِرُونَ )

(The Day when they will be pushed down by force to the fire of Hell, with a horrible, forceful pushing. This is the Fire which you used to deny. In this magic, or do you not see) (52: 13-15) Similarly Allah said:

(إِنَّ هَذَا مَا كُنْتُمْ بِهِ تَمْتَرُونَ )

(Verily, this is that where of you used to doubt!)

(إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي مَقَامٍ أَمِينٍ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ  
يَلْبَسُونَ مِنْ سُندُسٍ وَإِسْتَبْرَقٍ مُتَقَابِلِينَ كَذَلِكَ  
وَزَوَّجْنَهُمْ بِحُورٍ عِينٍ يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِكُلِّ فَاكِهَةٍ  
ءَامِنِينَ لَا يَدْخُلُونَ فِيهَا الْمَوْتَ إِلَّا الْمَوْتَةَ الْأُولَى  
وَوَقَّعَهُمْ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ فَضْلًا مِّن رَّبِّكَ ذَلِكَ هُوَ  
الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ فَأَيُّهَا يَسِّرْنَاهُ بِلسَانِكَ لَعَلَّهُمْ  
يَتَذَكَّرُونَ فَأَرْتَقِبْ إِنَّهُمْ مُرْتَقِبُونَ )

(51. Verily, those who have Taqwa, will be in place of security.) (52. Among Gardens and Springs,) (53. Dressed in Sundus and Istabra, facing each other,) (54. So (it will be). And We shall marry them to Hur (fair females) with wide lovely eyes,) (55. They will call therein for every kind of fruit in peace and security;) (56. They will never taste death therein except the first death, and He will save them from the torment of the blazing Fire,) (57. As a bounty from your Lord! That will be the supreme success!) (58.

JAWAD TO DO AYAH ONLY GOES UP TO AYAH 246

### The State of Those Who have Taqwa and the Delights

They will enjoy in Paradise When Allah describes the state of the doomed, He follows that with a description of the life of the blessed. For this reason the Qur'an is called Al-Mathani (i.e., oft-repeated).

(إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ)

(Verily, those who have Taqwa,) i.e., those who fear Allah and are dutiful towards Him in this world,

(فِي مَقَامٍ أَمِينٍ)

(will be in place of security.) means, in the Hereafter, i.e., in Paradise, where they will be safe from death and the fear of leaving it, and from every kind of worry, grief, terror and exhaustion, and from the Shaytan and his wiles, and from all other troubles and disasters.

(فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ )

(Among Gardens and Springs). This is in direct contrast to the state of the doomed, who will have the tree of Zaqqum and boiling water.

(يَلْبَسُونَ مِنْ سُندُسٍ)

(Dressed in Sundus) means, the finest of silk, such as shirts and the like.

(وَإِسْتَبْرَقٍ)

(and Istabraq) means, silk which is woven with shiny threads, like a splendid garment which is worn over regular clothes.

(مُتَقَابِلِينَ)

(facing each other, ) means, sitting on thrones where none of them will sit with his back to anyone else.

(كَذَلِكَ وَزَوَّجْنَاهُمْ بِحُورٍ عِينٍ)

(So (it will be). And We shall marry them to Hur (fair females) with wide lovely eyes.) This will be a gift in addition to the beautiful wives given to them.

(لَمْ يَطْمِئْنُوهُنَّ إِنْسٌ قَبْلَهُمْ وَلَا جَانٌّ)

(with whom no man or Jinn has had Tamth (sexual intercourse) before them.) (55:56)

(كَأَنَّهُنَّ الْيَاقُوتُ وَالْمَرْجَانُ)

((In beauty) they are like rubies and Marjan.) (55:58)

(هَلْ جَزَاءُ الْإِحْسَانِ إِلَّا الْإِحْسَانُ)

(Is there any reward for good other than good) (55:60)

(يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِكُلِّ فَاكِهَةٍ آمِنِينَ)

(They will call therein for every kind of fruit in peace and security;) means, whatever kinds of fruit they ask for will be brought to them, and they will have the security of knowing that this supply will never come to an end or be withheld; these fruits will be brought to them whenever they want.

## (لَا يَذُوقُونَ فِيهَا الْمَوْتَ إِلَّا الْمَوْتَةَ الْأُولَى)

(They will never taste death therein except the first death, ) This is an exception which reinforces the negation. The meaning is that they will never taste death there. It was reported in the Two Sahihs that the Messenger of Allah said:

«يُؤْتَى بِالْمَوْتِ فِي صُورَةِ كَبْشٍ أَمْلَحَ فَيُوقَفُ  
بَيْنَ الْجَنَّةِ وَالنَّارِ، ثُمَّ يُذَبْحُ، ثُمَّ يُقَالُ: يَا أَهْلَ  
الْجَنَّةِ خُلُودٌ فَلَا مَوْتَ، وَيَا أَهْلَ النَّارِ خُلُودٌ فَلَا  
مَوْتَ»

(Death will be brought forth in the image of a fine ram. It will be made to stand between Paradise and Hell, then it will be slaughtered. It will be said, "O people of Paradise, it is eternal, no more death; and O people of Hell, it is eternal, no more death.") This Hadith was already quoted in our discussion of Surah Maryam. `Abdur-Razzaq recorded that Abu Sa`id and Abu Hurayrah said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«يُقَالُ لِأَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ: إِنَّ لَكُمْ أَنْ تَصِحُّوا فَلَا  
تَسْقَمُوا أَبَدًا، وَإِنَّ لَكُمْ أَنْ تَعِيشُوا فَلَا تَمُوتُوا أَبَدًا،  
وَإِنَّ لَكُمْ أَنْ تَنْعَمُوا فَلَا تَبْأَسُوا أَبَدًا، وَإِنَّ لَكُمْ أَنْ  
تَشِبُّوا فَلَا تَهْرَمُوا أَبَدًا»

(It will be said to the people of Paradise, "It is granted to you that you will be healthy and will never fall ill, you will live and never die, you will enjoy a life of luxury and will never be miserable, you will be youthful and will never grow old.") This was recorded by Muslim. It was reported that Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«مَنْ اتَّقَى اللَّهَ دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ، يَنْعَمُ فِيهَا وَلَا يَبْأَسُ،  
وَيَحْيَا فِيهَا فَلَا يَمُوتُ، لَا تَبْلَى ثِيَابُهُ، وَلَا يَقْنَى  
شَبَابُهُ»

(Whoever has Taqwa of Allah, he will enter Paradise and enjoy a life of luxury and he will never be miserable. He will live therein and never die, his clothes will never wear out and his youth will never fade.)"

(وَوَقَّهْمُ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ)

(and He will save them from the torment of the blazing Fire,) means, along with this great and eternal blessing, He will also have saved them from the agonizing torment in the depths of Hell, so they will have achieved their desired aim and avoided the thing they feared. Allah says,

(فَضْلًا مِّن رَّبِّكَ ذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ )

(As a bounty from your Lord! That will be the supreme success!) meaning, that will be from His bounty and kindness towards them. It was reported in the Two Sahihs that the Messenger of Allah said:

«اعْمَلُوا وَسَدِّدُوا وَقَارِبُوا، وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ أَحَدًا لَّنْ  
يُدْخِلُهُ عَمَلُهُ الْجَنَّةَ»

(Work and strive hard, and know that no one will enter Paradise by virtue of his deeds.) They said, "Not even you, O Messenger of Allah" He said,

«وَلَا أَنَا، إِلَّا أَنْ يَتَّعَمَّذَنِي اللَّهُ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِنْهُ  
وَفَضْلٍ»

(Not even me, unless Allah showers me with His mercy and grace.)

(فَإِنَّمَا يَسَّرْنَاهُ لِسَانِكَ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ )

(Certainly, We have made this easy in your tongue, in order that they may remember. ) means, `We have made this Qur'an, which We have sent down, easy, plain and clear, in your language which is the most eloquent, clear and beautiful of all languages.'

(لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ)

(in order that they may remember.) means, in order that they may understand and know. Despite the fact that it is so plain and clear, there are still people who disbelieve, who stubbornly go against it. Allah says to His Messenger , consoling him and promising him victory, and warning those who reject him that they will be destroyed.

(فَارْتَقِبْ إِنَّهُمْ مُرْتَقِبُونَ )

(Wait then; verily, they (too) are waiting.) meaning, 'they will come to know who will be victorious and whose word will prevail in this world and in the Hereafter. For victory will be for you, O Muhammad, and for your brothers among the Prophets and Messengers, and for the believers who followed you,' as Allah says:

(كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَأَغْلِبَنَّ أَنَا وَرُسُلِي)

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

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

(Verily, We will indeed make victorious Our Messengers and those who believe in this world's life and on the Day when the witnesses will stand forth, -- the Day when their excuses will be of no profit to wrongdoers. Theirs will be the curse, and theirs will be the evil abode.) (40:51-52) This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat Ad-Dukhan. All praise and thanks are due to Allah and in Him is all strength and protection.

## The Tafsir of Surat Al-Jathiyah

(Chapter - 45)

Which was revealed in Makkah

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ )

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

(حَمِ إِنَّ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ  
وَفِي خَلْقِكُمْ وَمَا يَبُتُّ مِنْ دَابَّةٍ ءَايَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ  
يُوقِنُونَ وَآخْتَلَفِ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ وَمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ مِنْ

السَّمَاءِ مِّن رِّزْقٍ فَأَحْيَا بِهِ الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا  
وَتَصْرِيفِ الرِّيَّاحِ ءآيَاتٌ لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ )

(1. Ha Mm.) (2. The revelation of the Book is from Allah, the Almighty, the All-Wise.) (3. Verily, in the heavens and the earth are signs for the believers.) (4. And in your creation, and what He spread (through the earth) of moving creatures are signs for people who have faith with certainty.) (5. And in the alternation of night and day, and the provision that Allah sends down from the sky, and revives therewith the earth after its death, and in the turning about of the winds, are signs for a people who understand.)

### A Directive to contemplate over Allah's Ayat

Allah directs His servants to contemplate His favors and gifts, as well as His great power that is demonstrated by His creating the heavens and the earth and the various types and categories of creatures in them. There are the angels, Jinns, humans, animals, birds, beasts, carnivores, insects and various kinds of sea creatures. The night and day alternate, each follows the other in succession, never ceasing to come, as decreed. One brings darkness and one brings light. Allah the Exalted also sends down the rain from the clouds when it is most needed. He is calling the rain, 'provision', because it is the resource that produces various provisions,

(فَأَحْيَا بِهِ الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا)

(and revives therewith the earth after its death,) after it was dry and had no vegetation or life of any kind. Allah said next,

(وَتَصْرِيفِ الرِّيَّاحِ)

(and in the turning about of the winds,) sometimes towards the south and sometimes towards the north. Some are easterly winds and some are westerly winds, some bringing sea breezes and some blow from the land, some coming at night and some by day. Some winds bring rain, some cause pollination and some winds just revive the soul, while some others bear no benefit. Allah said first.

(لآيَاتٍ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(are signs for the believers), then

(يُوقِنُونَ)

(who have faith with certainty), then

(يَعْقِلُونَ)

(who understand), thus ascending from one honorable stage to what is more honorable and higher in grade. These Ayat are similar to an Ayah in Surat Al-Baqarah

(إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَالْفُلْكِ الَّتِي تَجْرِي فِي الْبَحْرِ بِمَا يَنْفَعُ النَّاسَ وَمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مِنْ مَّاءٍ فَأَحْيَا بِهِ الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا وَبَثَّ فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ دَابَّةٍ وَتَصْرِيفِ الرِّيْحِ وَالسَّحَابِ الْمُسَخَّرِ بَيْنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ لآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ )

(Verily, in the creation of the heavens and the earth, and in the alternation of night and day, and the ships which sail through the sea with that which is of use to mankind, and the water which Allah sends down from the sky and makes the earth alive therewith after its death, and the moving creatures of all kinds that He has spread therein, and in the veering of winds and clouds which are held between the sky and the earth, are indeed signs for people of understanding.) (2:164)

(تَلْكَ آيَاتُ اللَّهِ نَتْلُوهَا عَلَيْكَ بِالْحَقِّ فَبَأَىٰ حَدِيثٍ بَعْدَ اللَّهِ وَآيَاتِهِ يُؤْمِنُونَ - وَيَلُّ لِكُلِّ أَقَاكٍ أَثِيمٍ - يَسْمَعُ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ تُنَلِّي عَلَيْهِ ثُمَّ يُصِرُّ مُسْتَكْبِرًا كَأَن لَّمْ يَسْمَعْهَا فَبَشِّرْهُ بِعَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ - وَإِذَا عَلِمَ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا شَيْئًا اتَّخَذَهَا هُزُوًا أُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّهِينٌ - مَنْ وَرَأَيْهِمْ جَهَنَّمَ وَلَا يُعْنِي عَنْهُمْ مَا كَسَبُوا شَيْئًا وَلَا مَا اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ - هَذَا هُدًى وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مِّن رَّجْزٍ أَلِيمٍ )

(6. These are the Ayat of Allah, which We recite to you with truth. Then in which speech after Allah and His Ayat will they believe) (7. Woe to every sinful liar.) (8. Who hears the Ayat of Allah Tutla (recited) to him, yet persists with pride as if he heard them not. So announce to him a painful torment!) (9. And when he learns something of Our Ayat, he makes them a jest. For such there will be a humiliating torment.) (10. In front of them there is Hell. And that which they have earned will be of no profit to them, nor those whom they have taken as protective friends besides Allah. And theirs will be a great torment.) (11. This is guidance. And those who disbelieve in the Ayat of their Lord, for them there is a painful torment of Rijz.)

## The Description of the Sinful Liar and His Requital

Allah the Exalted says,

(تِلْكَ آيَاتُ اللَّهِ)

(These are the Ayat of Allah) -- in reference to the Qur'an with the proofs and evidences that it contains,

(نَتْلُوهَا عَلَيْكَ بِالْحَقِّ)

(which We recite to you with truth.) for they contain the truth from the Truth (i.e., Allah). Therefore, if they do not believe in Allah's Ayat nor abide by them, what speech after Allah and His Ayat will they then believe in Allah said next,

(وَيْلٌ لِّكُلِّ أَفَّاكٍ أَثِيمٍ)

(Woe to every sinful liar.) who lies in his speech, often swears, who is worthless, commits and utters sinful acts and statements, and disbelieves in Allah's Ayat,

(يَسْمَعُ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ تُنْزَلُ عَلَيْهِ)

(Who hears the Ayat of Allah Tutla (recited) to him,) meaning, being recited to him,

(ثُمَّ يُصِرُّ)

(yet persists) in his disbelief, denial, pride and rebellion,

(كَأَن لَّمْ يَسْمَعْهَا)

(as if he heard them not. ) as if he did not hear them being recited to him,

(فَبَشِّرْهُ بِعَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ)

(So announce to him a painful torment!) convey the news to him that on the Day of Resurrection, he will have a painful, severe torment from Allah. Allah said,

(وَإِذَا عَلِمَ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا شَيْئًا اتَّخَذَهَا هُزُوًا)

(And when he learns something of Our Ayat, he makes them a jest.) if he learns anything from the Qur'an, he disbelieves in it and takes it as the subject of jest and ridicule,

(أُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّهِينٌ)

(For such there will be a humiliating torment.) as recompense for ridiculing the Qur'an and jesting about it. In the Sahih, Muslim recorded from `Abdullah bin `Umar that the Messenger of Allah prohibited traveling with the Qur'an to enemy lands for fear that the Qur'an might be desecrated by the enemy. Allah explained the type of torment that these people earn on the Day of Return;

(مِّن وَرَائِهِم جَهَنَّمُ)

(In front of them there is Hell.) meaning, all those who have these evil characteristics will end up in Hellfire on the Day of Resurrection,

(وَلَا يُغْنِي عَنْهُمْ مَا كَسَبُوا شَيْئًا)

(And that which they have earned will be of no profit to them, ) their wealth and children will not avail them,

(وَلَا مَا اتَّخَذُوا مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ)

(nor those whom they have taken as protecting friends besides Allah.) nor will the false gods that they worshipped besides Allah benefit them in the least,

(وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ)

(And theirs will be a great torment.) Allah the Exalted said,

(هَذَا هُدًى)

(This is Huda (guidance).) in reference to the Qur'an,

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مِّن رَّجْزٍ  
أَلِيمٌ

(And those who disbelieve in the Ayat of their Lord, for them there is a painful torment of Rijz.) that is agonizing and severe. Allah knows best.

(اللَّهُ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ لَكُمُ الْبَحْرَ لِتَجْرِيَ الْفُلُكُ فِيهِ  
بِأَمْرِهِ وَلِتَبْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِهِ وَلِعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ -  
وَسَخَّرَ لَكُم مَّا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ  
جَمِيعاً مِّنْهُ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ -  
قُلْ لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا يَغْفِرُوا لِلَّذِينَ لَا يَرْجُونَ أَيَّامَ  
اللَّهِ لِيَجْزِيَ قَوْماً بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ - مَنْ عَمِلَ  
صَالِحاً فَلِنَفْسِهِ وَمَنْ أَسَاءَ فَعَلَيْهَا ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ  
تُرْجَعُونَ )

(12. Allah, it is He Who has subjected to you the sea, that ships may sail through it by His command, and that you may seek of His bounty, and that you may be thankful.) (13. And has subjected to you all that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth; it is all (as a favor and kindness) from Him. Verily, in it are signs for a people who think deeply.) (14. Say to the believers to forgive those who hope not for the Days of Allah, that He may recompense people, according to what they have earned.) (15. Whosoever does a good deed, it is for himself, and whosoever does evil, it is against (himself). Then to your Lord you will be made to return.)

### **The Subjugation of the Sea, etc., is among Allah's Signs**

Allah the Exalted mentions some of the favors He gave to His servants, such as subjecting the sea for their service,

(لِتَجْرِيَ الْفُلُكُ فِيهِ بِأَمْرِهِ)

(that ships may sail through the sea by His command,) i.e., of Allah the Exalted, Who ordered the sea to carry ships,

(وَلِتَبْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِهِ)

(and that you may seek of His bounty,) in commercial and business transactions,

(وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ)

(and that you may be thankful.) for earning various provisions brought to you from far away provinces and distant areas through the sea. Allah the Exalted said,

(وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمْ مَّا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ)

(And has subjected to you all that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth;) the stars, the mountains, the seas, the rivers and all that you use for your benefit; these are all from His favor, kindness and bounty. Allah's statement next,

(جَمِيعاً مِنْهُ)

(it is all from Him.) Alone without partners in giving any of it. Allah the Exalted said in another Ayah,

(وَمَا بِكُمْ مِنْ نِعْمَةٍ فَمِنَ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ إِذَا مَسَّكُمُ الضُّرُّ<sup>ۙ</sup>  
فَأِلَيْهِ تَجْرُونَ )

(And whatever of blessings you have, it is from Allah. Then, when harm touches you unto Him you cry aloud for help.) (16:53) Ibn Jarir recorded that Al-`Awfi reported that Ibn `Abbas said about Allah's statement,

(وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمْ مَّا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ  
جَمِيعاً مِنْهُ)

(And has subjected to you all that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth; it is all from Him.) "Everything is from Allah, and that is a Name from His Names. So it all comes from Him without rivals to dispute His authority; surely, this fact is completely certain." Allah said.

(إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ)

(Verily, in it are signs for a people who think deeply.)

## The Command to be Patient with the Harm of Idolators

Allah's saying;

قُلْ لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا يَغْفِرُوا لِلَّذِينَ لَا يَرْجُونَ أَيَّامَ  
اللَّهِ

(Say to the believers to forgive those who hope not for the Days of Allah,) means, let the believers forgive the disbelievers and endure the harm that they direct against them. In the beginning of Islam, Muslims were ordered to observe patience in the face of the oppression of the idolators and the People of the Scriptures so that their hearts may incline towards Islam. However, when the disbelievers persisted in stubbornness, Allah legislated for the believers to fight in Jihad. Statements of this meaning were collected from `Abdullah bin `Abbas and Qatadah. Mujahid said about Allah's statement,

(لَا يَرْجُونَ أَيَّامَ اللَّهِ)

(those who hope not for the Days of Allah,) "They do not appreciate Allah's favors." Allah said,

(لِيَجْزِيَ قَوْمًا بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ)

(that He may recompense people, according to what they have earned.) meaning, if the believers forgive the disbelievers in this life, Allah will still punish the disbelievers for their evil in the Hereafter. Allah's statement next,

مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَلِنَفْسِهِ وَمَنْ أَسَاءَ فَعَلَيْهَا ثُمَّ  
إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ تُرْجَعُونَ

(Whosoever does a good deed, it is for himself, and whosoever does evil, it is against (himself). Then to your Lord you will be made to return.) meaning, you will all return to Allah on the Day of Resurrection, when you and your actions will be displayed before Him. Then, He will recompense you for your deeds, good for good and evil for evil.

(وَلَقَدْ ءَاتَيْنَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحُكْمَ وَالنُّبُوَّةَ  
وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِّنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ  
- وَءَاتَيْنَاهُمْ بَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْرِ فَمَا اخْتَلَفُوا إِلَّا مَن  
بَعْدَ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَعْثًا بَيْنَهُمْ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَقْضِي

بَيْنَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ فِيمَا كَانُوا فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ - ثُمَّ  
جَعَلْنَاكَ عَلَىٰ شَرِيعَةٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْرِ فَاتَّبِعْهَا وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ  
أَهْوَاءَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ )

(إِنَّهُمْ لَن يَغْنُؤُوا عَنكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا وَإِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ  
بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ وَاللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الْمُتَّقِينَ - هَذَا  
بَصِيرٌ لِلنَّاسِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّقَوْمٍ يُوقِنُونَ )

(16. And indeed We gave the Children of Israel the Scripture, and the understanding of the Scripture and its laws, and the prophethood; and provided them with good things, and preferred them above the nations.) (17. And gave them clear proofs in matters. And they differed not until after the knowledge came to them, through envy among themselves. Verily, your Lord will judge between them on the Day of Resurrection about that wherein they used to differ.) (18. Then We have put you on a (legal) way of commandment. So follow you that, and follow not the desires of those who know not.) (19. Verily, they can avail you nothing against Allah. Verily, the wrongdoers are protecting friends of one another, but Allah is the Protector of those who have Taqwa.) (20. This is a clear insight and evidence for mankind, and a guidance and a mercy for people who have faith with certainty.)

### **Preference of Allah to the Children of Israel and their dispute thereafter**

Allah the Exalted mentions the favors He granted the Children of Israel, such as revealing the Divine Books to them, sending the Messengers to them and granting them kingship. Allah said,

(وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحُكْمَ وَالنُّبُوَّةَ  
وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِّنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ)

(And indeed We gave the Children of Israel the Scripture, and the understanding of the Scripture and its laws, and the prophethood; and provided them with good things,) such as foods and drinks,

(وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ)

(and preferred them above the nations.) of their time,

(وَأَتَيْنَهُم بَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْرِ)

(And gave them clear proofs in matters.) `We gave them evidences, proofs and unequivocal signs.' Therefore, the proof has been established against them, yet they differed among themselves after the proof came to them, out of transgression against each other,

(إِنَّ رَبَّكَ)

(Verily, your Lord) `O Muhammad',

يَقْضِي بَيْنَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ فِيمَا كَانُوا فِيهِ  
يَخْتَلِفُونَ

(will judge between them on the Day of Resurrection about that wherein they used to differ. )  
He will judge between them by His just judgement.

### Warning to this Ummah against following the Ways of the Children of Israel

This Ayah contains a warning to the Muslim Ummah as well. It warns them not to take the path the Jews took nor adopt their ways. This is why Allah said,

(ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَاكَ عَلَىٰ شَرِيعَةٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْرِ فَاتَّبِعْهَا)

(Then We have put you on a (legal) way of commandment. So follow you that.) `follow what was revealed to you from your Lord, O Muhammad, there is no true deity except Him, and turn away from the idolators.' Allah said,

(وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ إِنَّهُمْ لَن يُغْنُوا  
عَنكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا وَإِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ  
بَعْضٍ)

(and follow not the desires of those who know not. Verily, they can avail you nothing against Allah. Verily, the wrongdoers are protecting friends of one another,) Allah says, `what will the loyalty that the idolators give each other avail them' Indeed, all they will earn from their protecting friends is more loss, destruction and demise,

(وَاللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الْمُتَّقِينَ)

(but Allah is the Protector of those who have Taqwa.) and He will deliver them from the darkness to the light. In contrast, all the false deities are the protecting friends of those who disbelieve, taking them out of the light to the darkness. Allah said,

(هَذَا بَصِيرٌ لِلنَّاسِ)

(This is a clear insight and evidence for man- kind,) in reference to the Qur'an,

(وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يُوقِنُونَ)

(and a guidance and a mercy for people who have faith with certainty.)

(أَمْ حَسِبَ الَّذِينَ اجْتَرَحُوا السَّيِّئَاتِ أَنْ نَجْعَلَهُمْ  
كَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ سَوَاءً مَّحْيَاهُمْ  
وَمَمَاتُهُمْ سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ - وَخَلَقَ اللَّهُ السَّمَوَاتِ  
وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ وَلِيُجْزَى كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ  
وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ - أَفَرَأَيْتَ مَنْ اتَّخَذَ إِلَهَهُ هَوَاهُ  
وَأَضَلَّهُ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ وَخَتَمَ عَلَىٰ سَمْعِهِ وَقَلْبِهِ  
وَجَعَلَ عَلَىٰ بَصَرِهِ غِشْوَةً فَمَنْ يَهْدِيهِ مِنْ بَعْدِ  
اللَّهِ أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ )

(21. Or do those who earn evil deeds think that We shall hold them equal with those who believe and do righteous good deeds, in their present life and after their death Worst is the judgement that they make.) (22. And Allah has created the heavens and the earth with truth, in order that each person may be recompensed what he has earned, and they will not be wronged.) (23. Have you seen him who takes his own lust as his god And Allah, left him astray with knowledge, and sealed his hearing and his heart, and put a cover on his sight. Who then will guide him after Allah Will you not then remember)

## The Life and the Death of the Believers and the Disbelievers are not Equal

Allah the Exalted states here that the believers and the disbelievers are never equal. Allah said in another Ayah,

(لَا يَسْتَوِي أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ وَأَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ  
أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ هُمُ الْفَائِزُونَ )

(Not equal are the dwellers of the Fire and the dwellers of the Paradise. It is the dwellers of Paradise that will be successful.) (59:20) Allah said here,

(أَمْ حَسِبَ الَّذِينَ اجْتَرَحُوا السَّيِّئَاتِ )

(Or do those who earn evil deeds think) those who commit and practice evil,

(أَنْ نَجْعَلَهُمْ كَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ  
سَوَاءً مَحْيَاهُمْ وَمَمَاتُهُمْ)

(that We shall hold them equal with those who believe and do righteous good deeds, in their life and their death) treat them equally in the present life of the world and in the Hereafter

(سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ)

(Worst is the judgement that they make.) `worst is the thought that they have about Us and about Our justice, thinking that We will ever make the pious and the wicked equal in the Hereafter or this life.' At--Tabarani recorded that Shu`bah said that `Amr bin Murrah narrated that Abu Ad-Duha said that Masruq said that Tamim Ad-Dari once stood in voluntary prayer through the night until the morning only reciting this Ayah,

(أَمْ حَسِبَ الَّذِينَ اجْتَرَحُوا السَّيِّئَاتِ أَنْ نَجْعَلَهُمْ  
كَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ)

(Or do those who earn evil deeds think that We shall hold them equal with those who believe and do righteous good deeds) Allah said in reply:

(سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ)

(Worst is the judgement that they make.) Allah said,

(وَخَلَقَ اللَّهُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ)

(And Allah has created the heavens and the earth with truth,) meaning, in justice,

(وَلِيُجْزَىٰ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ)

(in order that each person may be recompensed what he has earned, and they will not be wronged.) Allah the Exalted said,

(أَفَرَأَيْتَ مَنْ اتَّخَذَ إِلَهَهُ هَوَاهُ)

(Have you seen him who takes his own lust as his god), who abides by his lust, and whatever his lust portrays as good he implements it, and whatever his lust portrays as evil, he abandons it! Allah's statement,

(وَأَضَلَّهُ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ)

(And Allah left him astray with knowledge, ) has two meanings. One of them is that Allah knew that this person deserves to be misguided, so He left him astray. The second meaning is that Allah led this person astray after knowledge reached him and the proof was established before him. The second meaning includes the first meaning, but not the opposite. Allah said,

(وَخَتَمَ عَلَىٰ سَمْعِهِ وَقَلْبِهِ وَجَعَلَ عَلَىٰ بَصَرِهِ  
غِشْوَةً)

(and sealed his hearing and his heart, and put a cover on his sight.) so he does not hear what benefits him, understands not what would lead him to the guidance and sees not the evidence with which he can be enlightened. This is why Allah said,

(فَمَنْ يَهْدِيهِ مِنْ بَعْدِ اللَّهِ أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ)

(Who then will guide him after Allah Will you not then remember) Allah said in a similar Ayah,

(مَنْ يُضِلِّ اللَّهُ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ وَيَذَرُهُمْ فِي  
طُغْيَانِهِمْ يَعْمَهُونَ )

(Whomsoever Allah sends astray, none can guide him; and He lets them wander blindly in their transgressions.) (7:186).

(وَقَالُوا مَا هِيَ إِلَّا حَيَاتُنَا الدُّنْيَا نَمُوتُ وَنَحْيَا وَمَا يُهْلِكُنَا إِلَّا الدَّهْرُ وَمَا لَهُم بِذَلِكَ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَظُنُّونَ - وَإِذَا تُتْلَى عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُنَا بَيِّنَاتٍ مَّا كَانَ حُجَّتَهُمْ إِلَّا أَنْ قَالُوا اتَّبُوا بِآبَائِنَا إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ - قُلِ اللَّهُ يُحْيِيكُمْ ثُمَّ يُمِيتُكُمْ ثُمَّ يَجْمَعُكُمْ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ )

(24. And they say: "There is nothing but our life of this world, we die and we live and nothing destroys us except Ad-Dahr (time). And they have no knowledge of it, they only presume.) (25. And when Our Clear Ayat are recited to them, their argument is no other than that they say: "Bring back our (dead) fathers, if you are truthful!") (26. Say (to them): "Allah gives you life, then causes you to die, then He will assemble you on the Day of Resurrection about which there is no doubt. But most of mankind know not.")

### **The Conviction of the Disbelievers, Their Argument and the Refutation of it**

Allah mentions here the creed of Ad-Dahriyyah and the Arab idolators who embraced their creed, denying Resurrection,

(وَقَالُوا مَا هِيَ إِلَّا حَيَاتُنَا الدُّنْيَا نَمُوتُ وَنَحْيَا)

(And they say: "There is nothing but our life of this world, we die and we live...") They say that there is only this life, some people die while others are born to life, without Resurrection or Judgement. This was the creed of Arab idolators who used to deny Resurrection, in addition to, the creed of the atheist philosophers among them who denied the creation and Resurrection. This was also the statement of atheist philosophers who deny the Creator and think that the world will return to its original form once every thirty--six thousand years, when everything will restart its life--cycle again! They claim that this cycle was repeated for infinity, thus contradicting the sound reason and the divine revelation. They said,

(وَمَا يُهْلِكُنَا إِلَّا الدَّهْرُ)

(and nothing destroys us except Ad-Dahr (time).) Allah the Exalted said in reply,

﴿وَمَا لَهُمْ بِذَلِكَ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَظُنُّونَ﴾

(And they have no knowledge of it, they only presume.) they speculate and guess! As for the Hadith recorded by the two collectors of the Sahih, and Abu Dawud and An-Nasa'i, from Abu Hurayrah that the Messenger of Allah said,

«يَقُولُ تَعَالَى: يُؤْذِينِي ابْنُ آدَمَ، يَسُبُّ الدَّهْرَ وَأَنَا الدَّهْرُ، بِيَدِي الْأَمْرُ، أَقْلَبُ لَيْلَهُ وَنَهَارَهُ»

(Allah the Exalted says, "The Son of `Adam annoys Me when he curses Ad-Dahr (time), while I am Ad-Dahr. In My Hand are all matters; I cause the alternation of his days and nights.") In another narration;

«لَا تَسُبُّوا الدَّهْرَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى هُوَ الدَّهْرُ»

(Do not curse Ad-Dahr (time), for Allah is Ad-Dahr.) Ash-Shafi'i, Abu `Ubaydah and several other Imams of Tafsir explained the meaning of the Prophet's statement,

«لَا تَسُبُّوا الدَّهْرَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الدَّهْرُ»

(Do not abuse Ad-Dahr (time), for Allah is Ad-Dahr.) They said, "During the time of Jahiliyyah, when an affliction, a calamity or a disaster struck them, the Arabs used to say, `Woe to Ad-Dahr (time)!' So they used to blame such incidents on Ad-Dahr, cursing Ad-Dahr in the process. Surely, it is Allah the Exalted and Most Honored Who causes these (and all) things to happen. This is why when they cursed Ad-Dahr, it was as if they were cursing Allah Himself, since truthfully, He causes all incidents to happen. Therefore, abusing Ad-Dahr was prohibited due to this consideration, for it was Allah Whom they meant by abusing Ad-Dahr, which -- as we said-- they accused of causing (distressful) incidents." This is the best explanation for this subject, and it is the desired meaning. Allah knows best. We should mention that Ibn Hazm and those of the Zahiriyyah like him made an error when they used this Hadith to include Ad-Dahr among Allah's most beautiful Names. Allah's statement,

﴿وَإِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُنَا بَيِّنَاتٍ﴾

(And when Our Clear Ayat are recited to them,) means, when the truth is made plain to them and used as evidence against them, asserting that Allah is able to resurrect the bodies after they have perished and disintegrated,

﴿مَا كَانَ حُجَّتَهُمْ إِلَّا أَنْ قَالُوا اتُّوْا بِآبَائِنَا إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ﴾

(their argument is no other than that they say: "Bring back our fathers, if you are truthful!") `bring them back to life, if what you say is true.' Allah the Exalted said,

**(قُلِ اللَّهُ يُحْيِيكُمْ ثُمَّ يُمِيتُكُمْ)**

(Say (to them): "Allah gives you life and then causes you to die...") `for you are witnesses that He brings you (or new life) to existence after non--existence,'

**(كَيْفَ تَكْفُرُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَكُنْتُمْ أَمْوَاتًا فَأَحْيَاكُمْ ثُمَّ يُمِيتُكُمْ ثُمَّ يُحْيِيكُمْ)**

(How can you disbelieve in Allah Seeing that you were dead and He gave you life. Then He will give you death, then again will bring you to life.) (2:28) Therefore, He Who is able to initiate creation, is able to restart it, as well and more obviously,

**(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) Allah said next,

**(ثُمَّ يَجْمَعُكُمْ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ)**

(then He will assemble you on the Day of Resurrection about which there is no doubt.) `when He resurrects you, it will be on and for the Day of Resurrection, not in this life. Therefore, your statement is groundless,'

**(انْتُوا بِآبَائِنَا إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ)**

Bring back our (dead) fathers, if you are truthful! Alla0h said,

**(يَوْمَ يَجْمَعُكُمْ لِيَوْمِ الْجَمْعِ)**

The Day when He will gather you (all) on the Day of Gathering. )64:9(,

**(لَأَيِّ يَوْمٍ أُجِّلَتْ - لِيَوْمِ الْفَصْلِ )**

(For what Day are these signs postponed For the Day of sorting out.) (77:12-13), and,

(وَمَا نُؤَخِّرُهُ إِلَّا لِأَجَلٍ مَّعْدُودٍ )

(And We delay it only for a term (already) fixed.) (11:104) Allah said here,

(ثُمَّ يَجْمَعُكُمْ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ)

(then He will assemble you on the Day of Resurrection about which there is no doubt.) there is no doubt that it will come,

(وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ)

(But most of mankind know not.) and this is why they deny Resurrection and discount the fact that the bodies will be brought back to life. Allah the Exalted said,

(إِنَّهُمْ يَرَوْنَهُ بَعِيدًا - وَنَرَاهُ قَرِيبًا )

(Verily, they see it afar off. But We see it (quite) near.) (70:6), they discount the possibility that Resurrection will ever come, while the believers believe that its occurrence is easy and imminent.

(وَاللَّهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَيَوْمَ تَقُومُ  
السَّاعَةُ يُومِذُ يَخْسِرُ الْمُبْطِلُونَ - وَتَرَى كُلَّ أُمَّةٍ  
جَاثِيَةً كُلُّ أُمَّةٍ تُدْعَى إِلَى كِتَابِهَا الْيَوْمَ تُجْزَوْنَ مَا  
كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ - هَذَا كِتَابُنَا يَنْطِقُ عَلَيْكُمْ بِالْحَقِّ إِنَّا  
كُنَّا نَسْتَنسِخُ مَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ )

(27. And to Allah belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. And on the Day that the Hour will be established -- on that Day the followers of falsehood shall lose.) (28. And you will see each nation humbled to their knees (Jathiyah), each nation will be called to its Record (of deeds). This Day you shall be recompensed for what you used to do.) (29. This Our Record speaks about you with truth. Verily, We were recording what you used to do.)

### **Some of the Conditions of the Day of Resurrection and its Horrors**

Allah mentions that He is the King and Owner of the heavens and earth, and the Only Ruler over them in this life and the Hereafter. Allah's statement,

(وَيَوْمَ تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ)

(And on the Day that the Hour will be established) on the Day of Resurrection,

(يَخْسَرُ الْمُبْطِلُونَ)

(the followers of falsehood shall lose.) those who disbelieve in Allah and reject the clear proofs and unequivocal evidences that He has sent down to His Messengers. Allah said,

(وَتَرَى كُلَّ أُمَّةٍ جَاثِيَةً)

(And you will see each nation humbled to their knees (Jathiyah),) kneeling, fearful of the tremendous calamity and events. It was said that this will occur when Hellfire will be brought forth, for she will exhale once, and everyone will fall to their knees, including Ibrahim, the Khalil. He will proclaim, "Myself, myself, myself! Today, I will not ask You (O Allah) but about myself." And even `Isa, will proclaim, "Today, I will only argue before You on my own behalf, I will not ask You about Maryam, who gave birth to me." Allah said next,

(كُلُّ أُمَّةٍ تُدْعَى إِلَى كِتَابِهَا)

(each nation will be called to its Record. ) meaning, Record of deeds. Allah said in a similar Ayah,

(وَوُضِعَ الْكِتَابُ وَجِيءَ بِالنَّبِيِّينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءِ)

(And the Book will be presented; and the Prophets and the witnesses will be brought forward) (39:69). This is why Allah said here,

(الْيَوْمَ تُجْزَوْنَ مَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ)

(This Day you shall be recompensed for what you used to do.) `you will be judged according to your deeds, good and evil.' Allah said in similar Ayat;

(يُنَبِّأُ الْإِنْسَانَ يَوْمَئِذٍ بِمَا قَدَّمَ وَأَخَّرَ - بَلِ الْإِنْسَانُ  
عَلَىٰ نَفْسِهِ بَصِيرَةٌ - وَلَوْ أَلْقَىٰ مَعَاذِيرَهُ )

(On that Day man will be informed of what he sent forward, and what he left behind. Nay! Man will be a witness against himself, though he may put forth his excuses.) (75:13-15) Allah said,

(هَذَا كِتَابُنَا يَنْطِقُ عَلَيْكُمْ بِالْحَقِّ)

(This, Our Record speaks about you with truth.) It contains the record of all your actions, without addition or deletion. Allah also said:

(وَوُضِعَ الْكِتَابُ فَتَرَى الْمُجْرِمِينَ مُشْفِقِينَ مِمَّا فِيهِ وَيَقُولُونَ يَوَيْلَتَنَا مَا لِهَذَا الْكِتَابِ لَا يُغَادِرُ صَغِيرَةً وَلَا كَبِيرَةً إِلَّا أَحْصَاهَا وَوَجَدُوا مَا عَمِلُوا حَاضِرًا وَلَا يَظْلِمُ رَبُّكَ أَحَدًا )

(And the Book will be presented, and you will see the criminals, fearful of that which is therein. They will say: "Woe to us! What sort of Book is this that leaves neither a small thing nor a big thing, but has recorded it with numbers!" And they will find all that they did, placed before them, and your Lord treats no one with injustice.) (18:49) Allah's statement,

(إِنَّا كُنَّا نَسْتَنْسِخُ مَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ)

(Verily, We were recording what you used to do.) means, `We ordered Our scribe angels to record your deeds.' Ibn `Abbas and others commented, "The angels record the deeds of the servants and then ascend to heaven with them. There, they meet the angels entrusted with the Records of deeds sent down from Al-Lawh Al-Mahfuz on each Night of Al-Qadr, containing what Allah has written will occur from the servants, long before He created them. They will compare their records and find out that not a single letter was added or deleted." He then recited this Ayah,

(إِنَّا كُنَّا نَسْتَنْسِخُ مَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ)

(Verily, We were recording what you used to do.)

(فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ فَيُدْخِلُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ فِي رَحْمَتِهِ ذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْمُبِينُ - وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَفَلَمْ تَكُنْ ءَايَتِي تُنزِلُ عَلَيْكُمْ فَأَسْتَكْبِرْتُمْ وَكُنْتُمْ قَوْمًا مُّجْرِمِينَ - وَإِذَا قِيلَ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ وَالسَّاعَةُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهَا قُلْتُمْ مَا نَدْرَى مَا السَّاعَةُ إِنْ نَّظُنُّ إِلَّا ظَنًّا وَمَا نَحْنُ

بِمُسْتَيْقِنِينَ - وَبَدَأَ لَهُمْ سَيِّئَاتُ مَا عَمِلُوا وَحَاقَ  
بِهِمْ مَا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ - وَقِيلَ الْيَوْمَ نَنسَاكُمْ  
كَمَا نَسَيْتُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَذَا وَمَأْوَاكُمُ النَّارُ وَمَا  
لَكُمْ مِّنْ نَّصِيرِينَ - ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّكُمْ اتَّخَذْتُمْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ  
هُزُوءًا وَغَرَّكُمْ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا فَالْيَوْمَ لَا يُخْرَجُونَ  
مِنْهَا وَلَا هُمْ يُسْتَعْتَبُونَ - فَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ رَبِّ  
السَّمَوَاتِ وَرَبِّ الْأَرْضِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ - وَلَهُ  
الْكِبْرِيَاءُ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ  
الْحَكِيمُ )

(30. Then, as for those who believed and did good deeds, their Lord will admit them to His mercy. That will be the evident success.) (31. But as for those who disbelieved (it will be said to them): "Were not Our Ayat recited to you But you were proud, and you were a people who were criminals.") (32. And when it was said: "Verily, Allah's promise is the truth, and there is no doubt about the coming of the Hour," you said: "We know not what is the Hour: we do not think it but conjecture, and we have no firm convincing belief (therein).") (33. And the evil of what they did will appear to them, and that which they used to mock at will completely encircle them.) (34. And it will be said: "This Day We will forget you as you forgot the meeting of this Day of yours. And your abode is the Fire, and there is none to help you.") (35. This, because you took the revelations of Allah in mockery, and the life of the world deceived you. So this Day, they shall not be taken out from there (Hell), nor shall they be returned to the worldly life.) (36. So all praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the heavens and the Lord of the earth, and the Lord of all that exists.) (37. And His is the majesty in the heavens and the earth, and He is Al-`Aziz, Al-Hakim.)

**Allah states to us His judgement in His creation on the Day of  
Resurrection,**

(فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ)

(Then, as for those who believed and did good deeds,) Those whose hearts believed and their limbs performed good deeds, in sincerity to Allah and conforming with Islamic legislation;

(فَيُدْخِلُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ فِي رَحْمَتِهِ)

(their Lord will admit them to His mercy. ) and that is Paradise. In the Sahih, Allah said to Paradise;

«أَنْتِ رَحْمَتِي، أَرْحَمُ بِكَ مِنْ أَشَاءِ»

("You are My mercy, with which I grant mercy to whom I will,") Allah said;

(ذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْمُبِينُ)

(That will be the evident success.) clear and apparent. Allah said,

(وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَفَلَمْ تَكُنْ آيَاتِي تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْكُمْ  
فَاسْتَكْبَرْتُمْ)

(But as for those who disbelieved (it will be said to them): "Were not Our Ayat recited to you But you were proud...") They will be admonished and criticized with this statement, that means, 'have not the Ayat of Ar-Rahman been recited to you But you did not follow them out of pride and turned away upon hearing them,'

(وَكُنْتُمْ قَوْمًا مُّجْرِمِينَ)

(and you were a people who were criminals.), ' by your actions, as well as, the denial that your hearts contained.'

(وَإِذَا قِيلَ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ وَالسَّاعَةُ لَا رَيْبَ  
فِيهَا)

(And when it was said: "Verily, Allah's promise is the truth, and there is no doubt about the coming of the Hour,") ' when the believers said these words to you;'

(قُلْتُمْ مَا نَدْرِي مَا السَّاعَةُ)

(you said: "We know not what is the Hour...") ' we do not recognize what you are talking about,'

(إِنْ نَّظُنُّ إِلَّا ظَنًّا)

(we do not think it but conjecture,) `we only remotely think that it might come,'

(وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمُستَيْقِنِينَ)

(and we have no firm convincing belief (therein).) `we are not sure of it.' Allah said,

(وَبَدَا لَهُمْ سَيِّئَاتُ مَا عَمِلُوا)

(And the evil of what they did will appear to them,) the repercussion of their evil deeds will become apparent to them,

(وَحَاقَ بِهِمْ)

(and will completely encircle them.) from all directions,

(مَا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ)

(that which they used to mock at) of the coming torment and punishment,

(وَقِيلَ الْيَوْمَ نَنسَاكُمْ)

(And it will be said: "This Day We will forget you...") `We will treat you as if We have forgotten you, casting you in the fire of Jahannam,'

(كَمَا نَسِيتُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَذَا)

(as you forgot the meeting of this Day of yours.) `and did not work for it because you did not believe in its coming,'

(وَمَا أَوْلَاكُمْ النَّارُ وَمَا لَكُمْ مِّنْ نَّصِيرِينَ)

(And your abode is the Fire, and there is none to help you.) In the Sahih, it is reported that Allah the Exalted will ask some of His servants on the Day of Resurrection,

«أَلَمْ أَرْوِّجْكَ؟ أَلَمْ أُكْرِمْكَ؟ أَلَمْ أُسَخِّرْ لَكَ الْخَيْلَ  
وَاللَّيْلَ، وَأَدْرَكَ تَرَأْسُ وَتَرْبَعُ؟ فَيَقُولُ: بَلَى

يَا رَبِّ. فَيَقُولُ: أَفَظَنَنْتَ أَنَّكَ مُلَاقِيٌّ؟ فَيَقُولُ: لَا.  
فَيَقُولُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: فَالْيَوْمَ أَنسَاكَ كَمَا نَسِيتَنِي»

("Have I not given you a spouse, honored you and subjected the camels and horses to you Have I not allowed you to be a chief and a master" The servant will say in answer, "Yes, O Lord!" Allah will say, "Did you think that you would ever meet Me" He will say, "No." Allah the Exalted will say, "then this Day, I will forget you as you forgot Me.") Allah the Exalted said,

(ذَلِكُمْ بِأَنَّكُمْ اتَّخَذْتُمْ ءَايَاتِ اللَّهِ هُزُوًا)

(This, because you took the revelations of Allah in mockery.) ` We gave you this punishment as retribution because you mocked Allah's proofs that He sent to you, and made them the subject of jokes and jest,'

(وَوَغَرَّتْكُمْ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا)

(and the life of the world deceived you.) ` this life fooled you and you were seduced by to it, thus becoming among the ultimate losers,'

(فَالْيَوْمَ لَا يُخْرَجُونَ مِنْهَا)

(So this Day, they shall not be taken out from there), from Hellfire,

(وَلَا هُمْ يُسْتَعْتَبُونَ)

(nor shall they be returned to the worldly life.) no apologies shall be sought from them, but they will be punished without limit or delay, just as a group of the believers will enter Paradise without limit or delay. After Allah mentioned His judgement for the believers and the disbelievers, He said,

(قُلِّلَهُ الْحَمْدُ رَبِّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَرَبِّ الْأَرْضِ)

(So all praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the heavens and the Lord of the earth,) He is their Owner and the Owner of all that is in and on them, and surely,

(رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ)

(and the Lord of all that exists.) Allah said next,

(وَلَهُ الْكِبْرِيَاءُ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ)

(And His is the majesty in the heavens and the earth, ) meaning, the kingship, according to Mujahid. This Ayah means, Allah is the Almighty, Worthy of all praise; everything and everyone is subservient and in complete need of and dependent upon Him. In an authentic Hadith, the Prophet said,

«يَقُولُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: الْعِزَّةُ إِزَارِي، وَالْكَبْرِيَاءُ  
رِدَائِي، فَمَنْ نَازَعَنِي وَاحِدًا مِنْهُمَا أُسْكِنُهُ  
نَارِي»

(Allah the Exalted said, "Glory is My robe and pride is My garment; whoever rivals Me for either of them, I will make him reside in My Fire!") Muslim collected a similar Hadith. Allah said,

(وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ)

(and He is the Al-`Aziz,) Who is never resisted or rivaled,

(الْحَكِيمُ)

(Al-Hakim) all wise in His statements, actions, legislation and the decree that He appoints; all glory and praise are due to Him, none has the right to be worshipped but He, Alone. This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat Al-Jathiyah. All praise and thanks are due to Allah alone.

## The Tafsir of Surat Al-Ahqaf

(Chapter - 46)

Which was revealed in Makkah

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(حَمَّ مَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا إِلَّا  
بِالْحَقِّ وَأَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا عَمَّا أُنذِرُوا  
مُعْرِضُونَ قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ مَا تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ  
أَرُونِي مَاذَا خَلَقُوا مِنَ الْأَرْضِ أَمْ لَهُمْ شِرْكٌ فِي

السَّمَوَاتِ ائْتُونِي بِكِتَابٍ مِّن قَبْلِ هَذَا أَوْ أَثَرَةٍ  
مِّن عِلْمٍ إِن كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ وَمَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّن يَدْعُو  
مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَن لَّا يَسْتَجِيبُ لَهُ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ  
وَهُمْ عَن دُعَائِهِمْ غَفْلُونَ وَإِذَا حُشِرَ النَّاسُ كَانُوا  
لَهُمْ أَعْدَاءً وَكَانُوا بِعِبَادَتِهِمْ كَافِرِينَ )

(1. Ha Mim.) (2. The revelation of the Book is from Allah, the Almighty, the All-Wise.) (3. We created not the heavens and the earth and all that is between them except with truth, and for a specified term. But those who disbelieve, turn away from that whereof they are warned.) (4. Say: "Think you about all that you invoke besides Allah Show me what have they created of the earth Or have they a share in (the creation of) the heavens Bring me a scripture prior to this or some trace of knowledge, if you are truthful!") (5. And who is more astray than those who invoke besides Allah others who will not answer them until the Day of Resurrection, and who are unaware of their invocations to them) (6. And when mankind are gathered, they (false deities) will become their enemies and will deny their worship.)

### The Qur'an is a Revelation from Allah and the Universe is His True Creation

Allah informs that He has revealed the Book to His servant and Messenger Muhammad -- may Allah's blessings be upon him until the Day of Judgement. Allah then describes Himself as being of unimaginable glory, possessing ultimate wisdom in His statements and actions. Allah then says,

(مَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا إِلَّا  
بِالْحَقِّ)

(We created not the heavens and the earth and all that is between them except in truth,) meaning, not in idle play and falsehood.

(وَأَجَلٌ مُّسَمًّى)

(and for a specified term.) meaning, for a fixed and specified duration that will not increase or decrease. Allah continues,

(وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا عَمَّا أُنذِرُوا مُعْرِضُونَ)

(But those who disbelieve, turn away from that of which they are warned.) Meaning, the disbelievers are distracted from what is intended for them. Allah has indeed revealed to them a Book and sent to them a Messenger. Yet, they obstinately turn away from all of that. Therefore, they will soon realize the consequence of their behavior.

## Refuting the Idolators

Allah then says,

(قُلْ)

(Say) meaning, to these idolators who worship others besides Allah.

أَرَأَيْتُمْ مَا تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ أَرُونِي مَاذَا  
خَلَقُوا مِنَ الْأَرْضِ

(Think you about all that you invoke besides Allah Show me what they have created of the earth) (46:4) meaning, 'show me the place that they have independently created from the earth.'

(أَمْ لَهُمْ شِرْكٌ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ)

(Or have they a share in the heavens) which means that they are not partners in anything in the heavens, nor on earth. They do not own even the thin membrane covering a date's pit. The dominion and control only belong to Allah, Exalted is He. 'How then would you worship others or join them as partners with Him Who guided you to that Who called you to that Did He command you to do it, or is it something that you suggested yourselves' Thus, He says,

اِنْتُونِي بِكِتَابٍ مِّنْ قَبْلِ هَذَا

(Bring me a scripture prior to this) meaning, 'bring a book from among the Books of Allah that have been revealed to the Prophets, that commands you to worship these idols.'

(أَوْ أَثْرَةٍ مِّنْ عِلْمٍ)

(or some trace of knowledge,) meaning, 'some clear evidence justifying this way you have chosen.'

(إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ)

(if you are truthful!) meaning, `you have absolutely no evidence for that -- neither textual (from revelation) nor rational.' For this reason, some recited it; (علم من أثره أو) "or something inherited from knowledge" meaning, `or true knowledge that you have inherited from anyone before you.' This is similar to Mujahid's statement when he said,

(أَوْ أَثْرَةٍ مِّنْ عِلْمٍ)

(or some trace of knowledge.) "Or anyone who has inherited any knowledge." Allah then says,

وَمَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّن يَدْعُو مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَن لَّا  
يَسْتَجِيبُ لَهُ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ وَهُمْ عَن دُعَائِهِمْ  
غَفُلُونَ )

(And who is more astray than those who invoke besides Allah others who will not answer them until the Day of Resurrection, and who are unaware of their invocations to them) meaning, no one is more misguided than those who invoke idols instead of Allah, asking them for things that they cannot give -- until the Day of Judgment. They (the idols) are unaware of what he asks, they can neither hear, see, or act. This is because they are inanimate, senseless stones. Allah then says,

وَإِذَا حُشِرَ النَّاسُ كَانُوا لَهُمْ أَعْدَاءً وَكَانُوا  
بِعِبَادَتِهِمْ كَافِرِينَ )

(And when mankind are gathered, they will become their enemies and will deny their worship.) This is similar to Allah's saying:

وَاتَّخَذُوا مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ آلِهَةً لِّيَكُونُوا لَهُمْ عِزًّا )  
(كَلَّا سَيَكْفُرُونَ بِعِبَادَتِهِمْ وَيَكُونُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ ضِدًّا )

(They have taken gods beside Allah, that they might give them dignity. No! They will deny their worship of them, and will be opponents to them.) (19:81, 82) meaning, they will betray them when they need them the most. (Ibrahim) Al-Khalil, peace be upon him, said:

إِنَّمَا اتَّخَذْتُمْ مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَوْثَانًا مَّوَدَّةَ بَيْنِكُمْ فِي  
الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا ثُمَّ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَكْفُرُ بَعْضُكُم بِبَعْضٍ

وَيَلْعَنُ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا وَمَأْوَأَكُمُ النَّارُ وَمَا لَكُمْ مِّنْ  
تَّصْرِينٍ)

(You have taken only idols besides Allah! The love between you is only in the life of this world. On the Day of Resurrection, you shall disown each other and curse each other, and your abode will be the Fire, and you shall have no helpers.)(29:25)

(وَإِذَا تُلِيٰ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُنَا بَيِّنَاتٍ قَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا  
لِلْحَقِّ لَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ هَذَا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ - أَمْ يَقُولُونَ  
اِفْتَرَاهُ قُلٌّ إِنَّ اِفْتِرَائِيَّهٗ فَلَا تَمْلِكُونَ لِي مِنَ اللّٰهِ  
شَيْئًا هُوَ اَعْلَمُ بِمَا تُفِيضُونَ فِيهِ كَفٰى بِهِ شٰهِيْدًا  
بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكُمْ وَهُوَ الغَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ - قُلْ مَا كُنْتُ  
بِدْعَا مِّنَ الرُّسُلِ وَمَا اَدْرِى مَا يُفْعَلُ بِي وَلَا بِكُمْ  
اِنْ اَتَّبِعُ اِلَّا مَا يُوْحٰى اِلَيَّ وَمَا اَنَا اِلَّا نَذِيْرٌ مُّبِيْنٌ )

(7. And when Our Clear Ayat are recited to them, the disbelievers say of the truth when it reaches them: "This is plain magic!") (8. Or say they: "He has fabricated it." Say: "If I have fabricated it, still you have no power to support me against Allah. He knows best of what you say among yourselves concerning it! Sufficient is He as a witness between me and you! And He is the Oft--Forgiving, the Most Merciful.") (9. Say: "I am not a new thing among the Messengers, nor do I know what will be done with me or you. I only follow that which is revealed to me, and I am but a plain warner.")

## Refuting Claims of the Idolators about the Qur'an and the Messenger

Concerning the disbelief and rebellion of the idolators, Allah says that when the clear Ayat of Allah are recited to them they say;

(هَذَا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ)

(This is plain magic!) meaning, simple magic. In this statement of theirs, they have lied, invented a falsehood, went astray and disbelieved.

(أَمْ يَقُولُونَ افْتَرَاهُ)

(Or they say: "He has fabricated it." ) They are referring to Muhammad . Allah responds saying,

(قُلْ إِنْ افْتَرَيْتُهُ فَلَا تَمْلِكُونَ لِي مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا)

(Say: "If I have fabricated it, you have no power to support me against Allah..." ) which means, 'if I lie against Allah and falsely claim that He sent me when He actually had not, then He would punish me with a severe punishment. No one on the earth -- you or anyone else -- would then be able to protect me from Him.' It is similar to Allah's saying,

(قُلْ إِنِّي لَنْ يُجِيرَنِي مِنَ اللَّهِ أَحَدٌ وَلَنْ أَجِدَ مِنْ دُونِهِ مُتَحَدًّا إِلَّا بَلَاغًا مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرِسَالَتِهِ)

(Say: "None can protect me from Allah, nor would I find a refuge except in Him. (My duty) is only to convey from Allah and (deliver) His Messages. ") (72:22-23) Allah says,

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

(And if he made up a false saying concerning Us, We surely would have seized him by the right hand. Then we would have cut off his life artery. And none of you could withhold Us from (punishing) him.) (69:44-47) Thus, Allah says here,

(قُلْ إِنْ افْتَرَيْتُهُ فَلَا تَمْلِكُونَ لِي مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا تُفِيضُونَ فِيهِ كَفَىٰ بِهِ شَهِيدًا بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكُمْ)

(Say: "If I have fabricated it, still you have no power to support me against Allah. He knows best of what you say among yourselves concerning it (i.e. this Qur'an)! Sufficient is He as a witness between me and you!..." ) This is a severe threat, intimidation and warning for them. Allah then says,

(وَهُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ)

(And He is the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.) This is an encouragement for them to repent and turn to Allah. It means, `despite all of this, if you turn back and repent, Allah will accept your repentance, pardon you, forgive you, and have mercy upon on.' This is similar to Allah's saying in Surat Al-Furqan,

(وَقَالُوا أُسْطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ اِكْتَتَبَهَا فِيهِ تُمْلَى عَلَيْهِ  
بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلاً - قُلْ أَنْزَلَهُ الَّذِي يَعْلَمُ السِّرَّ فِي  
السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِنَّهُ كَانَ غَفُوراً رَحِيماً )

(And they say: "(This Book is) legends of the ancients that he has written down, and they are dictated to him morning and afternoon." Say: "It has been sent down by the One Who knows every secret within the heavens and the earth. Truly, He is ever Forgiving and Merciful.") (25:5-6) Allah then says,

(قُلْ مَا كُنْتُ بِدْعاً مِّنَ الرُّسُلِ)

(Say: "I am not a new thing among the Messengers...") which means, `I am not the first Messenger who ever came to the world. Rather, Messengers came before me. Therefore, I am not an unprecedented incident that should cause you all to reject me and doubt my being sent to you. Indeed, Allah has sent before me all of the Prophets to various nations.' Allah then says,

(وَمَا أَدْرِى مَا يُفْعَلُ بِي وَلَا بِكُمْ)

(nor do I know what will be done with me or with you.) `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported from Ibn `Abbas that he said, "It (this Ayah) was followed in revelation by,

(لِيَغْفِرَ لَكَ اللَّهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِن ذَنْبِكَ وَمَا تَأَخَّرَ)

(That Allah may forgive for you your sins of the past and future). Similarly, `Ikrimah, Al-Hasan, and Qatadah all said that this Ayah was abrogated by the Ayah;

(لِيَغْفِرَ لَكَ اللَّهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِن ذَنْبِكَ وَمَا تَأَخَّرَ)

(That Allah may forgive for you your sins of the past and future). They said that when the latter Ayah was revealed, one of the Muslims said to Allah's Messenger , "Allah has declared what He will do for you. But what will He do for us" Then Allah revealed;

(لِيُدْخِلَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن  
تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ)

(That He may admit the believing men and the believing women to Gardens under which rivers flow). This is what they said. That which has been confirmed in the Sahih is that the believers said, "May you enjoy that, O Allah's Messenger! But what do we get" So Allah revealed this Ayah. Imam Ahmad recorded that Kharijah bin Zayd bin Thabit, reported that Umm Al-`Ala' -- a woman from the Ansar who had given her pledge of loyalty to Allah's Messenger -- said, "When the Ansar drew lots regarding taking in the Muhajirun to dwell with them, our lot was to have `Uthman bin Maz`un. Later, `Uthman fell sick in our house, so we nursed him until he died, and we wrapped him in his garments (for burial). Allah's Messenger then came in, and I said, `O Abu As-Sa'ib! May Allah have mercy on you. I bear witness that Allah has indeed honored you.' Allah's Messenger asked,

«وَمَا يُدْرِيكَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى أَكْرَمَهُ»

(How do you know that Allah has honored him) I said, `I do not know -- may my father and mother both be ransoms for you!' Allah's Messenger then said,

«أَمَّا هُوَ فَقَدْ جَاءَهُ الْيَقِينُ مِنْ رَبِّهِ، وَإِنِّي لَأَرْجُو لَهُ الْخَيْرَ. وَاللَّهِ مَا أُدْرِي وَأَنَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ مَا يُفْعَلُ

بِي»

(As for him, certainty (death) has reached him from his Lord, and I surely wish well for him. But by Allah, even though I am Allah's Messenger, I do not know what will happen to me (after death).) I then said, `Never will I claim a person to be pious after this.' This incident caused me some distress, and I went to sleep thereafter. I saw in my dream that `Uthman owned a running water spring. I went to Allah's Messenger and told him about that. Allah's Messenger said,

«ذَلِكَ عَمَلُهُ»

(That was his (good) deeds.)" Al-Bukhari recorded this Hadith but Muslim did not. In one of the narrations, Allah's Messenger said,

«مَا أُدْرِي وَأَنَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ مَا يُفْعَلُ بِهِ»

(Even though I am Allah's Messenger, I do not know what will happen to him.) This and similar texts indicate that it is not allowed to declare that a specific person will enter Jannah except for those who were distinctly indicated by Allah or his Messenger . Examples of those are the Ten, Ibn Sallam, Al-Ghumaysa', Bilal, Suraqah, `Abdullah bin `Amr bin Haram (Jabir's father), the Seventy Reciters (of Qur'an) who were assassinated near the Well of Ma`unah, Zayd bin Harithah, Ja`far, Ibn Rawahah, and other similar individuals, may Allah be pleased with them. Allah then says,

(إِنْ أَتَّبِعُ إِلَّا مَا يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ)

(I only follow that which is revealed to me, ) which means, `I only follow what Allah has revealed to me of the revelation.'

(وَمَا أَنَا إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ)

(and I am but a plain warner.) meaning, `my warnings are obvious to every person with sound intellect and reason.' And Allah knows best.

(قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ وَكَفَرْتُمْ بِهِ  
وَشَهِدَ شَاهِدٌ مِّنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ عَلَىٰ مِثْلِهِ فَأَمَنَ  
وَاسْتَكْبَرْتُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ -  
وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَوْ كَانَ خَيْرًا مَّا  
سَبَقُونَا إِلَيْهِ وَإِذْ لَمْ يَهْتَدُوا بِهِ فَسَيَقُولُونَ هَذَا إِفْكٌ  
قَدِيمٌ - وَمِن قَبْلِهِ كِتَابُ مُوسَىٰ إِمَامًا وَرَحْمَةً  
وَهَذَا كِتَابٌ مُّصَدِّقٌ لِّسَانًا عَرَبِيًّا لِّيُنذِرَ الَّذِينَ  
ظَلَمُوا وَبُشْرَىٰ لِلْمُحْسِنِينَ - إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا  
اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَفْتَمُوا فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ  
يَحْزَنُونَ - أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا  
جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ )

(10. Say: "Tell me! If it was from Allah and you disbelieved it, (at the same time), a witness from among the Children of Israel has testified to something similar and believed while you rejected (the truth)!" Verily, Allah does not guide the wrongdoing people.) (11. And those who disbelieve say of those who believe: "Had it been a good thing, they (the poor believers) would not have preceded us to it!" And when they have not been guided by it, they say: "This is ancient falsehood!") (12. And before this was the Scripture of Musa as a guide and a mercy. And this is a Book confirming in the Arabic tongue, to warn those who do wrong, and as glad tidings for the doers of good.) (13. Verily, those who say: "Our Lord is (only) Allah," and thereafter stand firm, on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.) (14. Such shall be the dwellers of Paradise, abiding therein (forever) -- a reward for what they used to do.)

## The Qur'an is Allah's True Speech and the Position of the Disbelievers and the Muslims towards it

Allah says,

(قُلْ)

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

(أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ كَانَ)

(Tell me! If it was) meaning, this Qur'an.

(مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ وَكَفَرْتُمْ بِهِ)

(from Allah, and you disbelieved in it) meaning, `what do you think that Allah will do to you if this Book that I have come to you with is actually revealed to me from Him in order that I convey it to you, and yet you disbelieve in it and deny it

(وَشَهِدَ شَاهِدٌ مِّنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ عَلَىٰ مِثْلِهِ)

((at the same time), a witness from among the Children of Israel has testified to something similar) meaning, `the previous Scriptures that were revealed to the Prophets before me all testify to its truthfulness and authenticity. They have prophesied, well in advance, about things similar to that which this Qur'an informs of.' Concerning Allah's statement,

(فَأَمَّنَ)

(and believed) `this person who testified to its truthfulness from the Children of Israel, due to his realization that it was the truth.'

(وَاسْتَكْبَرْتُمْ)

(while you rejected (the truth!)) `whereas you have arrogantly refused to follow it.' Masruq said: "That witness believed in his Prophet and Book, while you disbelieved in your Prophet and Book."

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ)

(Verily, Allah does not guide the wrongdoing people.) The witness here refers to any witness in general. It includes `Abdullah bin Salam and other from them as well. For indeed, this Ayah was revealed in Makkah before `Abdullah bin Salam had accepted Islam. This is similar to the statement of Allah,

(وَإِذَا يُتْلَى عَلَيْهِمْ قَالُوا ءَامَنَّا بِهِ إِنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِن  
رَبِّنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا مِن قَبْلِهِ مُسْلِمِينَ )

(And when it is recited to them, they say: "We believe in it. Verily, it is the truth from our Lord. Indeed, even before it we have been Muslims.") (28:53) It is also similar to Allah's saying,

(قُلْ ءَامِنُوا بِهِ أَوْ لَا تُؤْمِنُوا إِنَّ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ  
مِن قَبْلِهِ إِذَا يُتْلَى عَلَيْهِمْ يَخِرُّونَ لِلأَذْقَانِ سُجَّدًا -  
وَيَقُولُونَ سُبْحَانَ رَبِّنَا إِن كَانَ وَعْدُ رَبِّنَا لَمَفْعُولًا  
(

(Verily! Those who were given knowledge before it -- when it is recited to them, they fall upon their faces in prostration, and they say: "Exalted is our Lord! Truly, the promise of our Lord has been fulfilled.") (17:107-108) It has been narrated from Sa`d, may Allah be pleased with him, that he said, "I have not heard Allah's Messenger say about anyone walking on the surface of the earth that he is of the people of Jannah -- except for `Abdullah bin Salam. Concerning him the following Ayah was revealed,

(وَشَهِدَ شَاهِدٌ مِّن بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ عَلَى مِثْلِهِ)

((at the same time), a witness from among the Children of Israel has testified to something similar)" This has been recorded in the Two Sahih's and An-Nasa'i. Similarly, Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, Mujahid, Ad-Dahhak, Qatadah, `Ikrimah, Yusuf bin `Abdullah bin Salam, Hilal bin Yasaf, As-Suddi, Ath-Thawri, Malik bin Anas and Ibn Zayd all said that this refers to `Abdullah bin Salam. Allah then says,

(وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَوْ كَانَ خَيْرًا مَّا  
سَبَقُونَا إِلَيْهِ)

(And those who disbelieve say of those who believe: "Had it been good, they (the weak and poor) would not have preceded us to it!") which means that those who disbelieve say of those who believe in the Qur'an: "Had it (the Qur'an) been any good, they (the weak and poor) would not have preceded us to it!" By that, they meant Bilal, `Ammar, Suhayb, Khabbab, may Allah be pleased with them, and others like them of the weak, the male servants, and female servants. The pagans said this only because they thought that they held a high status with Allah, and that He took special care of them. By that, they made a great and obvious error, as Allah says:

وَكَذَلِكَ فَتَنَّا بَعْضَهُمْ بِبَعْضٍ لِيَقُولُوا أَهَؤُلَاءِ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ بَيْنِنَا

(Thus have We tried some of them with others, that they might say: "Is it these whom Allah has favored from among us") (6:53) meaning, they wonder how could those weaklings be the ones who were guided from among them. Thus, Allah says,

لَوْ كَانَ خَيْرًا مَّا سَبَقُونَا إِلَيْهِ

(Had it been good, they (the weak and poor) would not have preceded us to it!) Contrary to this is the position of Ahl us-Sunnah wal-Jama`ah: They say about any act or saying that has not been reported from the Companions: "It is an innovation. If there was any good in it, they would have preceded us in doing it, because they have not left off any of the good characteristics except that they hurried to perform them." Allah continues,

وَإِذْ لَمْ يَهْتَدُوا بِهِ

(And when they have not been guided by it,) meaning, the Qur'an.

فَسَيَقُولُونَ هَذَا إِفْكٌ قَدِيمٌ

(they say: "This is an ancient falsehood!") meaning, an old lie. They mean by this that the Qur'an has been quoted and taken from the ancient people, thereby belittling the Qur'an and its followers. This is clear arrogance, as Allah's Messenger said:

«بَطْرُ الْحَقِّ وَغَمَطُ النَّاسِ»

((Arrogance is) rejecting the truth and belittling the people.) Allah then says,

وَمِنْ قَبْلِهِ كِتَابُ مُوسَى

(And before this was the Scripture of Musa) and it was the Tawrah.

إِمَامًا وَرَحْمَةً وَهَذَا كِتَابٌ

(as a guide and mercy. And this is a Book) meaning, the Qur'an.

مُصَدِّقٌ

(confirming) meaning, that which came before it of the previous Books.

(لِسَانًا عَرَبِيًّا)

(in the Arabic tongue,) means that it is eloquent and clear.

(لِيُنذِرَ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا وَبُشِّرَ بِالْمَحْسِنِينَ)

(to warn those who do wrong, and as glad tidings for the doers of good.) meaning, it contains a warning to the dis- believers and glad tidings for the belie- vers. Allah then says:

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَمُوا)

(Verily, those who say: "Our Lord is (only) Allah," and thereafter stand firm,) The explanation of this has been dis- cussed earlier in Surat As-Sajdah. )See 41:30( Allah then says,

(فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ)

(on them shall be no fear,) meaning, con- cerning their future.

(وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ)

(nor shall they grieve.) meaning, over what they have left behind. Allah continues,

(أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ )

(Such shall be the dwellers of Paradise, abiding therein (forever) -- a reward for what they used to do.) meaning, the deeds are a cause for their attaining the mercy and their being engulfed by it -- and Allah knows best.

(وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ إِحْسَانًا حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُ كُرْهًا وَوَضَعَتْهُ كُرْهًا وَحَمَلُهُ وَفِصْلُهُ ثَلَاثُونَ شَهْرًا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا بَلَغَ أَشُدَّهُ وَبَلَغَ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً قَالَ رَبِّ أَوْزِعْنِي أَنْ أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ

وَعَلَىٰ وِلْدَانِي وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ صَالِحًا تَرْضَاهُ وَأَصْلِحْ  
 لِي فِي دُرِّيَّتِي إِنَّي تُبْتُ إِلَيْكَ وَإِنِّي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ  
 - أَوْلِيكَ الَّذِينَ نَتَقَبَّلُ عَنْهُمْ أَحْسَنَ مَا عَمِلُوا  
 وَنَتَجَاوَزُ عَنْ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ فِي أَصْحَابِ الْجَنَّةِ وَعَدَّ  
 الصَّدَقَ الَّذِي كَانُوا يُوعَدُونَ )

(15. And We have enjoined on man to be dutiful and kind to his parents. His mother bears him with hardship. And she delivers him with hardship. And (the period of) his gestation and the weaning of him is thirty months, till when he attains full strength and reaches forty years, he says: "My Lord! Grant me the power and ability that I may be grateful for Your favor which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents, and that I may do righteous good deeds, such as please You, and make my offspring good. Truly, I have turned to You in repentance, and truly, I am one of the Muslims.") (16. They are those from whom We shall accept the best of their deeds and overlook their evil deeds. (They shall be) among the dwellers of Paradise. That is a promise of truth that they had been promised.)

### Allah's Advice about the Parents

After mentioning that one must confess His Oneness, worship Him with sincerity, and remain upright in obeying Him, Allah follows that by giving instructions regarding the parents. These appear together in many places of the Qur'an, such as Allah's saying,

(وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَيَالِ الَّذِينَ  
 إِحْسَانًا)

(Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and that you be dutiful to your parents.) (17:23) Allah says,

(أَنْ أَشْكُرَ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيْكَ إِلَى الْمَصِيرِ)

(Be grateful to Me and to your parents. Unto Me is the final destination.) (31:14) There are many other Ayat like this as well. Here Allah says,

(وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ إِحْسَانًا)

(And We have enjoined on man to be dutiful and kind to his parents.) (46:15) meaning, ` We have commanded him to treat them well and show compassion towards them. Abu Dawud At-

Tayalisi recorded from Sa`d bin Abi Waqqas, may Allah be pleased with him, that his mother said to him: "Hasn't Allah commanded that you obey your parents Then I will not eat any food or drink any drink until you disbelieve in Allah." Thus she stubbornly abstained from eating and drinking, until they had to open her mouth with a stick. Then this Ayah was revealed,

(وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ إِحْسَانًا)

(And We have enjoined on man to be dutiful and kind to his parents. ) This was also recorded by Muslim and the Sunan compilers, except for Ibn Majah. Allah continues,

(حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُ كُرْهًا)

(His mother bears him with hardship.) which means that the mother suffers hardship because of her child, such as fatigue, sickness, vomiting, heaviness, distress, and other forms of hardship that the pregnant women suffer.

(وَوَضَعَتْهُ كُرْهًا)

(And she delivers him with hardship.) meaning, she also delivers him with hardship, suffering the pains of labor and their severity.

(وَحَمَلُهُ وَفِصَالُهُ ثَلَاثُونَ شَهْرًا)

(And (the period of) his gestation and weaning is thirty months,) `Ali, may Allah be pleased with him, used this Ayah along with the following two Ayat to prove that the minimum period of pregnancy (gestation) is six months:

(وَفِصَالُهُ فِي عَامَيْنِ)

(And his weaning is in two years.) (31:14) and

(وَالْوَالِدَاتُ يُرْضِعْنَ أَوْلَادَهُنَّ حَوْلَيْنِ كَامِلَيْنِ لِمَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يُتِمَّ الرَّضَاعَةَ)

(The mothers suckle their children two complete years -- for those who desire to complete the term of suckling. ) (2:233) This is a strong and valid conclusion, and it was approved by `Uthman and a number of the Companions. Muhammad bin Ishaq bin Yasar narrated from Ba`jah bin `Abdullah Al-Juhani that a man from his tribe (Juhaynah) married a woman from Juhaynah. She delivered a baby after six months. So her husband went to `Uthman, may Allah be pleased with him, and told him about that. Thus, `Uthman summoned her. When she was getting dressed, her sister started crying. She asked her: "Why do you cry By Allah, no one has ever approached me (for sexual relations) of Allah's creation except him (my husband). So let Allah decree (for me) as He wills." When she was brought before `Uthman, he commanded that

she be stoned to death (for adultery). `Ali heard of this, came to `Uthman, and said: "What are you doing" He (`Uthman) said: "She delivered after six months! Can this ever happen" `Ali, may Allah be pleased with him, said: "Don't you read the Qur'an" He said: "Yes, of course!" He (`Ali) then said: `Haven't you heard Allah's saying,

(وَحَمْلُهُ وَفِصْلُهُ ثَلَاثُونَ شَهْرًا)

(and his gestation and weaning is thirty months), and;

(حَوْلَيْنِ كَامِلَيْنِ)

( two complete years) (2:233) (Subtracting the two numbers) we are only left with six months." `Uthman, may Allah be pleased with him, said: "By Allah, I did not see that! Bring the woman back." But they found that she had already been killed. Ba`jah continued: "By Allah, no two crows and no two eggs are more similar than that child turned out to be to his father! When his father saw that he said, `By Allah! This is my son without any doubt.' Later on, Allah afflicted him with a skin abscess in his face (because of his false accusation to his wife). It kept eating him up until he died." Ibn Abi Hatim related from his father that Farwah bin Abi Al-Maghra' told them that `Ali bin Mushir narrated to them from Dawud bin Abi Hind, who narrated from `Ikrimah that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "When a woman delivers after nine months, the baby will only need twenty-one months of suckling. When she delivers after seven months, the baby will need twenty-three months of suckling. When she delivers after six months, the baby will need two full years of suckling, because Allah says,

(وَحَمْلُهُ وَفِصْلُهُ ثَلَاثُونَ شَهْرًا حَتَّى إِذَا بَلَغَ أَشُدَّهُ)

(and his gestation and weaning is thirty months, till when he attains full strength)." meaning, he becomes strong, youthful, and attains full ability.

(وَبَلَغَ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً)

(and reaches forty years,) meaning, his complete intellect, understanding, and patience reach the level of maturity. It has also been said that usually one will not change his ways once he reaches the age of forty.

(قَالَ رَبِّ أَوْزِعْنِي)

(he says: "My Lord! Grant me the power and ability) meaning, `inspire me.'

(أَنْ أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ وَعَلَى وَالِدَيَّ  
وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ صَالِحاً تَرْضَاهُ)

(that I may be grateful for Your favor which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents, and that I may do righteous good deeds, such as please You,) meaning, in the future.

(وَأَصْلِحْ لِي فِي ذُرِّيَّتِي)

(and make my offspring good.) meaning, my offspring and descendants.

(إِنِّي نُبْتُ إِلَيْكَ وَإِنِّي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ)

(Truly, I have turned to You in repentance, and truly, I am one of the Muslims.) This contains an instruction for anyone who reaches forty years of age to renew his repentance and turn to Allah with strong resolution. Allah then says,

(أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ نَتَقَبَّلُ عَنْهُمْ أَحْسَنَ مَا عَمِلُوا  
وَنَتَجَاوَزُ عَنْ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ فِي أَصْحَابِ الْجَنَّةِ)

(Those are the ones from whom We shall accept the best of what they did and overlook their evil deeds. (They shall be) among the dwellers of Paradise.) meaning, those to whom applies the above description -- those who repent to Allah, turn back to Him, and rectify their shortcomings through repentance and seeking forgiveness - those are the ones from whom We will accept the best of what they did and overlook their evil deeds. Many of their errors will be forgiven and Allah will accept from them a modest amount of deeds.

(فِي أَصْحَابِ الْجَنَّةِ)

(among the dwellers of Paradise.) which means that they will be among the dwellers of Paradise. That is Allah's ruling concerning them, as He has promised for those who repent and turn to Him. Thus, He says,

(وَعَدَ الصِّدْقَ الَّذِي كَانُوا يُوعَدُونَ)

(That is the promise of truth that they had been promised.)

وَالَّذِي قَالَ لَوْلَدَيْهِ أُفٍّ لَّكُمَا أَتَعِدَانِي أَنْ أُخْرَجَ  
 وَقَدْ خَلَتْ الْقُرُونُ مِنْ قَبْلِي وَهُمَا يَسْتَعْجِلَانِ اللَّهَ  
 وَيَلِكَ ءَامِنٌ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ فَيَقُولُ مَا هَذَا إِلَّا  
 أَسْطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ - أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ حَقَّ عَلَيْهِمُ الْقَوْلُ  
 فِي أُمَمٍ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ مِنَ الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنْسِ إِنَّهُمْ  
 كَانُوا خَاسِرِينَ - وَلِكُلِّ دَرَجَةٍ مِمَّا عَمِلُوا  
 وَلِيُوقَفِيهِمْ أَعْمَلَهُمْ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ - وَيَوْمَ  
 يُعْرَضُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا عَلَى النَّارِ أَدْهَبْتُمْ طَيِّبَاتِكُمْ  
 فِي حَيَاتِكُمُ الدُّنْيَا وَاسْتَمْتَعْتُمْ بِهَا فَالْيَوْمَ تُجْزَوْنَ  
 عَذَابَ الْهُونِ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَسْتَكْبِرُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ  
 بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَمَا كُنْتُمْ تَفْسُقُونَ )

(17. But he who says to his parents: "Uff to you! Do you promise me that I will be raised up when generations before me have passed" While they invoke Allah for help: "Woe to you! Believe! Verily, the promise of Allah is true." But he says: "This is nothing but the legends of the ancient.") (18. They are those against whom the Word (of torment) has justified among the previous generations of Jinn and mankind that have passed away. Verily, they are ever the losers.) (19. And for all, there will be degrees according to that which they did, so that He might fully recompense for their deeds. And they will not be wronged.) (20. On the Day when those who disbelieve will be exposed to the Fire (it will be said): "You received your good things in the life of the world, and you took your pleasure therein. Today, you will be recompensed with the torment of extreme humiliation, because you were arrogant upon the earth without a right, and because you used to rebel against Allah's command.)

### Mention of the Undutiful Children and Their End

In the previous Ayat, Allah mentions the dutiful offspring who supplicate for their parents and treat them with kindness. He describes the success and salvation He has prepared for them. Here He connects to that discussion the situation of the wretched offspring who are undutiful toward their parents. Allah says,

(وَالَّذِي قَالَ لَوْلِدَيْهِ أَفٌّ لَكُمْمَا)

(But he who says to his parents: "Uff to you! ...") As for the saying "Uff" in this Ayah, it is a general description applying to anyone who says it to his parents. Some people claim that it was revealed about `Abdur-Rahman bin Abi Bakr. But this claim is weak and rejected, because `Abdur-Rahman bin Abi Bakr embraced Islam after this was revealed. His adherence to Islam was excellent, and he was among the best of his contemporaries. Al-Bukhari recorded from Yusuf bin Mahak that Marwan (bin Al-Hakam) was governor of Hijaz (Western Arabia), appointed by Mu`awiyah bin Abi Sufyan. He (Marwan) delivered a speech in which he mentioned Yazid bin Mu`awiyah and urged the people to give a pledge of allegiance after his father. `Abdur-Rahman bin Abi Bakr said something to him in response to that, upon which Marwan commanded his men: "Arrest him!" But he entered `Aishah's house, and they were not able to capture him. Marwan then said: "This is the one about whom Allah revealed:

(وَالَّذِي قَالَ لَوْلِدَيْهِ أَفٌّ لَكُمْمَا أَتَعِدَانِنِي أَنْ أُخْرَجَ  
وَقَدْ خَلَّتِ الْقُرُونُ مِنْ قَبْلِي)

(But he who says to his parents: "Uff to you! Do you promise me that I will be raised -- when generations before me have passed")" From behind the curtain, `Aishah responded: "Allah did not reveal any Qur'an in our regard (i.e. the children of Abu Bakr), except for the declaration of my innocence." In another report recorded by An-Nasa'i, Muhammad bin Ziyad reported that when Mu`awiyah was soliciting people to pledge allegiance to his son, and Marwan declared: "This follows the tradition of Abu Bakr and `Umar." On hearing this, `Abdur-Rahman bin Abi Bakr said: "Father, this is the tradition of Heraclius and Caesar." Marwan responded: "This is the one about whom Allah revealed,

(وَالَّذِي قَالَ لَوْلِدَيْهِ أَفٌّ لَكُمْمَا)

(But he who says to his parents: "Uff to you!")" When that was conveyed to `Aishah, she said: "Marwan is lying! By Allah, that was not revealed about him. If I wish to name the person meant by it, I could. On the other hand, Allah's Messenger placed a curse on Marwan's father (Al-Hakam bin Abi Al-`As when Marwan was still in his loins, so Marwan (bin Al-Hakam) is an outcome of Allah's curse." As for Allah's statement:

(أَتَعِدَانِنِي أَنْ أُخْرَجَ)

(Do you promise me that I will be raised) meaning, resurrected.

(وَقَدْ خَلَّتِ الْقُرُونُ مِنْ قَبْلِي)

(when generations before me have passed) meaning, generations of people have already passed away, and none of them has ever returned to tell (what happened to them)

(وَهُمَا يَسْتَعِينَانِ اللَّهَ)

(While they invoke Allah for help) meaning, they ask Allah to guide him, and they say to their son,

(وَيْلِكَ ءَامِنٌ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ فَيَقُولُ مَا هَذَا إِلَّا  
أَسْطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ)

("Woe to you! Believe! Verily, the promise of Allah is true." But he says: "This is nothing but the legends of the ancient.") Allah then says,

(أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ حَقَّ عَلَيْهِمُ الْقَوْلُ فِي أُمَمٍ قَدْ خَلَتْ  
مِن قَبْلِهِمْ مِّنَ الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنسِ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا خَسِرِينَ  
(

(They are those against whom the Word (of torment) has justified among the previous generations of Jinn and mankind that have passed away. Verily, they are ever the losers.) This indicates that all such people will be among their likes and their peers among the disbelievers, who will lose themselves and their families on the Day of Resurrection. Allah's saying,

(أُولَئِكَ)

(Those are) after He said,

(وَالَّذِي قَالَ)

(But he who says ) confirms what we have mentioned above that the latter is a general description of a type of people including all those who fall under that description. Al-Hasan and Qatadah both said, "This applies to the disbelieving, sinful person who is undutiful to his parents and who denies resurrection." Allah then says,

(وَلِكُلِّ دَرَجَةٍ مِّمَّا عَمِلُوا)

(And for all, there will be degrees according to that which they did,) meaning that there will be degrees of punishment for each of them according to what they did.

(وَلِيُوقَفِيهِمْ أَعْمَالَهُمْ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ)

(so that He might fully recompense them for their deeds, and they will not be wronged.) which means Allah will not be unjust to them even in the amount of a speck of dust or less. `Abdur-Rahman bin Zayd bin Aslam said: "The levels of the Fire descend, and those of Paradise ascend." Allah then says,

(وَيَوْمَ يُعْرَضُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا عَلَى النَّارِ أَدَّهَبْتُمْ طَيِّبَاتِكُمْ فِي حَيَاتِكُمُ الدُّنْيَا وَاسْتَمْتَعْتُمْ بِهَا)

(On the Day when those who disbelieve will be exposed to the Fire (it will be said): "You received your good things in the life of the world, and you took your pleasure therein...") which means that this will be said to them by way of blame and reprimand. The Commander of the faithful, `Umar bin Al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him, gave up many of the joys of food and drink and refrained from them while saying, "I am afraid of being like those whom Allah has reproached and condemned by saying,

(أَدَّهَبْتُمْ طَيِّبَاتِكُمْ فِي حَيَاتِكُمُ الدُّنْيَا وَاسْتَمْتَعْتُمْ بِهَا)

(You received your good things in the life of the world, and you took your pleasure therein)." Abu Mijlaz said: "Some people will lose good deeds that they had in the worldly life, and they will be told,

(أَدَّهَبْتُمْ طَيِّبَاتِكُمْ فِي حَيَاتِكُمُ الدُّنْيَا)

(You received your good things in the life of the world)." Then Allah says,

(فَالْيَوْمَ تُجْزَوْنَ عَذَابَ الْهُونِ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَسْتَكْبِرُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَبِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَفْسُقُونَ)

(Today, you will be recompensed with the torment of extreme humiliation, because you were arrogant upon the earth without a right, and because you used to rebel against Allah's command.) which indicates that their punishment will be of a type comparable to their deeds. They enjoyed themselves, were arrogant in their denial of the truth, and were involved in sinning and disobedience. Thus, Allah punishes them with extreme humiliation, disgrace, severe pains, continued sorrow, and positions in the terrible depths of Hell -- may Allah protect us from all of that.

(وَأَذْكَرُ أَخَا عَادٍ إِذْ أَنْذَرَ قَوْمَهُ بِالْأَحْقَافِ وَقَدْ خَلَّتِ النَّدْرُ مِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا)

إِلَّا اللَّهَ إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ -  
 قَالُوا أَجِئْتَنَا لِنَأْفِكَنَا عَنِ ءَالِهَتِنَا فَأْتِنَا بِمَا تَعِدُنَا إِنْ  
 كُنْتَ مِنَ الصّٰدِقِينَ - قَالَ إِنَّمَا الْعِلْمُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ  
 وَأُبَلِّغُكُمْ مَا أُرْسِلْتُ بِهِ وَلَكِنِّي أَرَأَيْتُمْ قَوْمًا  
 تَجْهَلُونَ - فَلَمَّا رَأَوْهُ عَارِضًا مُّسْتَقْبِلَ أُوْدِيَّتِهِمْ  
 قَالُوا هَذَا عَارِضٌ مُّمْطِرُنَا بَلْ هُوَ مَا اسْتَعْجَلْتُمْ  
 بِهِ رِيحٌ فِيهَا عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ - تُدَمِّرُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ بِأَمْرِ  
 رَبِّهَا فَأَصْبَحُوا لَا يُرَىٰ إِلَّا مَسَكِنُهُمْ كَذٰلِكَ  
 نَجْزِي الْقَوْمَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ )

(21. And remember the brother of `Ad, when he warned his people in Al-Ahqaf. And surely, warners had already passed on before him and after him (saying): "Worship none but Allah; truly, I fear for you the torment of a mighty Day.") (22. They said: "Have you come to delude us from our gods Then bring us that with which you threaten us, if you are one of the truthful!") (23. He said: "The knowledge (of that) is only with Allah. And I convey to you that wherewith I have been sent, but I see that you are a people given to ignorance!") (24. Then, when they saw it as a dense cloud approaching their valleys, they said: "This is a cloud bringing us rain!" Nay, but it is that which you were asking to be hastened - a wind wherein is a painful torment!) (25. Destroying everything by the command of its Lord! So they became such that nothing could be seen except their dwellings! Thus do We recompense the criminal people!)

### The Story of `Ad

Allah says, consoling His Prophet in regard to the rejection of those who opposed him among his people,

(وَإِذْ نُنزِّلُ آخَا عَادٍ)

(And remember the brother of `Ad,) This refers to Hud, peace be upon in him. Allah sent him to the first people of `Ad who inhabited Al-Ahqaf. Ahqaf is plural of Haqf. According to Ibn Zayd, it means a sand dune; and according to `Ikrimah, it means a mountain or a cave. Qatadah said: "We were informed that `Ad was a tribe in Yemen. They dwelt among sand (hills), and overlooked the sea in a land called Ash-Shihr." Under the chapter, "He Who

supplicants should first mention Himself," Ibn Majah recorded that Ibn ` Abbas narrated that the Prophet said:

«يَرْحَمُنَا اللَّهُ وَأَخَا عَادَ»

(May Allah have mercy on us and the Brother of ` Ad.) Allah then says,

(وَقَدْ خَلَّتِ النَّدْرُ مِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ)

(And surely, warners had already passed on before him and after him.) meaning, Allah had sent Messengers and warners to the towns surrounding the land of ` Ad. This is similar to Allah's saying,

(فَجَعَلْنَاهَا نَكَالًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهَا وَمَا خَلْفَهَا)

(And We made it a deterrent punishment for those who were present and those who succeeded them. ) (2:66) And it is also similar to Allah's saying,

(فَإِنْ أَعْرَضُوا فَقُلْ أَنْذَرْتُكُمْ صَاعِقَةً مِثْلَ صَاعِقَةِ  
عَادٍ وَثَمُودَ إِذْ جَاءَهُمُ الرَّسُلُ مِنْ بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ  
وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا اللَّهَ)

(But if they turn away, then say: "I have warned you of a thunderbolt like the thunderbolt that struck ` Ad and Thamud. (That occurred) when the Messengers had come to them from before them and after them (saying): "Worship none but Allah." ) (41:13-14) Allah then says,

(إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ )

(truly, I fear for you the torment of a mighty Day.) meaning, Hud said this to them (his people), and they responded to him saying,

(أَجِئْتَنَا لِتُفَكِّنَا عَنْ آلِهَتِنَا)

(Have you come to delude us from our gods) meaning, to prevent us.

(عَنْ آلِهَتِنَا)

(from our gods)

(فَأْتِنَا بِمَا تَعِدُنَا إِنْ كُنْتَ مِنَ الصّٰدِقِيْنَ)

(Then bring us that with which you threaten us, if you are one of the truthful!) They sought to hasten Allah's torment and punishment, believing that it will not happen. This is similar to Allah's saying,

(يَسْتَعْجِلُ بِهَا الَّذِيْنَ لَا يُؤْمِنُوْنَ بِهَا)

(Those who do not believe in it (the Last Hour) seek to hasten it) (42:18). Hud's response was,

(قَالَ إِنَّمَا الْعِلْمُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ)

(He said: "The knowledge (of that) is only with Allah.") which means, 'Allah knows best about you. If you deserve the punishment to be hastened, He will do that to you. As for me, my duty is to deliver my message to you.'

(وَلَكِنِّيٓ أَرَأَيْكُمْ قَوْمًا تَجْهَلُونَ)

(But I see that you are a people given to ignorance!) which means, 'you have no comprehension or understanding.' Allah then says,

(فَلَمَّا رَأَوْهُ عَارِضًا مُّسْتَقْبِلَ أَوْدِيَّتِهِمْ)

(Then, when they saw it as a dense cloud approaching their valleys,) meaning, when they saw the punishment coming towards them, they thought it to be clouds full of rain. That made them happy and joyful, because they had a drought and needed rain. Allah then said,

(بَلْ هُوَ مَا اسْتَعْجَلْتُمْ بِهِ رِيْحٌ فِيْهَا عَذَابٌ أَلِيْمٌ)

(Nay, but it is that which you were asking to be hastened -- a wind wherein is a painful torment!) meaning, this is the torment that you called for saying, "Bring to us what you promise us if you should be of the truthful."

(نُدَمِّرُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ)

(Destroying every thing) meaning, destroying every part of their land that could normally be destroyed.

(بِأَمْرِ رَبِّهَا)

(by the command of its Lord!) meaning, it had Allah's permission to do that. This is similar to Allah's saying,

(مَا تَذَرُ مِنْ شَيْءٍ أَتَتْ عَلَيْهِ إِلَّا جَعَلْتَهُ كَالرَّمِيمِ )

(It spared nothing that it reached, but blew it into broken spreads of rotten ruins.) (51:42) meaning, like something dilapidated (or decrepit). Because of this, Allah says,

(فَأَصْبَحُوا لَا يُرَى إِلَّا مَسَكِنُهُمْ)

(So they became such that nothing could be seen except their dwellings!) means, all of them were destroyed, and none of them were spared. Allah then says:

(كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْقَوْمَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ)

(Thus do We recompense the criminal people!) which means that this is Our judgement regarding those who reject Our Messengers and disobey Our commands. Imam Ahmad recorded from `A'ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, that she said, "I never saw Allah's Messenger fully laughing so that I would see his uvula. He would only smile." She added that when Allah's Messenger saw clouds or wind, that would reflect on his face (as discomfort). She asked him: "O Allah's Messenger! When the people see clouds, they become happy, hoping that they bring them rain. But I notice that when you see them, displeasure appears on your face." Allah's Messenger replied,

«يَا عَائِشَةُ، مَا يُؤْمِنِي أَنْ يَكُونَ فِيهِ عَذَابٌ، قَدْ  
عَذَّبَ قَوْمٌ بِالرَّيْحِ، وَقَدْ رَأَى قَوْمٌ الْعَذَابَ وَقَالُوا:  
هَذَا عَارِضٌ مُمَطِّرُنَا»

(O `A'ishah! What would guarantee to me that they do not bring punishment Some nations had been punished with wind. On seeing the punishment approaching them, a nation once said: "This is a cloud bringing us rain.") This is also recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim. Imam Ahmad recorded that `A'ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, said that when Allah's Messenger saw clouds on any of the horizons, he would leave whatever he was doing -- even if he was in prayer -- and say:

«اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا فِيهِ»

(O Allah! I seek refuge with you from any harm that it (the cloud) contains.) If Allah removed those clouds, the Prophet would praise Allah, and if rain fell, he would say:

«اللَّهُمَّ صَيِّبًا نَافِعًا»

(O Allah! Make it pouring and beneficent.) Muslim also recorded in his Sahih from `A'ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, that when the wind blew, Allah's Messenger would say,

«اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ خَيْرَهَا وَخَيْرَ مَا فِيهَا وَخَيْرَ مَا  
أُرْسِلَتْ بِهِ، وَأَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شَرِّهَا، وَشَرِّ مَا فِيهَا،  
وَشَرِّ مَا أُرْسِلَتْ بِهِ»

(O Allah! I ask You of its good, the good that it contains, and the good with which it has been sent. And I seek refuge in You from its evil, the evil that it contains, and the evil with which it has been sent.) She added that if the sky became cloudy, his color would change; he would exit, enter, come, and go. When it rained, his anxiety would be relieved. When `A'ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, noticed that, she asked him about it and he said:

«لَعَلَّهُ يَا عَائِشَةُ كَمَا قَالَ قَوْمٌ عَادٍ:  
(فَلَمَّا رَأَوْهُ عَارِضًا مُسْتَقْبِلَ أَوْدِيَّتِهِمْ قَالُوا هَذَا  
عَارِضٌ مُمَطِرُنَا)»

(O `A'ishah! It could be like what the people of `Ad said, (Then, when they saw it as a dense cloud approaching their valleys, they said: "This is a cloud bringing us rain!") We have previously mentioned the story of the destruction of the people of `Ad in both Surat Al-A`raf and Surah Hud. Thus, there is no need to repeat it here; and verily Allah is worthy of all praise and gratitude.

(وَلَقَدْ مَكَّنَّهُمْ فِيْمَا إِن مَكَّنَّكُمْ فِيهِ وَجَعَلْنَا لَهُمْ  
سَمْعًا وَأَبْصَرَ وَأَفْئِدَةً فَمَا أَغْنَى عَنْهُمْ سَمْعُهُمْ  
وَلَا أَبْصَرُهُمْ وَلَا أَفْئِدَتُهُمْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِذْ كَانُوا  
يَجْحَدُونَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَحَاقَ بِهِمْ مَا كَانُوا بِهِ  
يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ - وَلَقَدْ أَهْلَكْنَا مَا حَوْلَكُمْ مِنَ الْقُرَى  
وَصَرَّفْنَا الْآيَاتِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ - فَلَوْلَا نَصْرَهُمْ

الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ قُرْبَانًا ءَالِهَةً بَلْ ضَلُّوا عَنْهُمْ وَذَلِكَ إِفْكُهُمْ وَمَا كَانُوا يَفْقَهُونَ )

(26. And indeed We had firmly established them with that wherewith We have not established you! We also gave them hearing, vision, and hearts. But their hearing, vision, and hearts availed them nothing since they used to deny the Ayat of Allah, and they were completely encircled by that which they used to ridicule!) (27. And indeed We have destroyed towns round about you, and We have shown (them) the signs in various ways so that they might return.) (28. As for those whom they had taken for gods besides Allah, as the means of approach to Him, why then did they not aid them Nay, but they vanished completely from them. And that was their falsehood, and what they were fabricating.) Allah says, `We have granted the earlier nations wealth and offspring in the worldly life. That which We granted them, we did not give you anything similar or close to it.' Furthermore,

وَجَعَلْنَا لَهُمْ سَمْعًا وَأَبْصَرَ وَأَفْئِدَةً فَمَا أَغْنَى عَنْهُمْ سَمْعُهُمْ وَلَا أَبْصَرُهُمْ وَلَا أَفْئِدَتُهُمْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِذْ كَانُوا يَجْحَدُونَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَحَاقَ بِهِمْ مَا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ )

(We also gave them hearing, vision, and hearts. But their hearing, vision, and hearts availed them nothing when they used to deny Allah's signs, and they were completely encircled by that which they used to ridicule!) meaning, they were encircled by the torment and exemplary punishment that they denied and whose occurrence they doubted. This means, you listeners must beware of being like them lest a punishment similar to theirs strikes you in this life and the Hereafter. Allah then says,

وَلَقَدْ أَهْلَكْنَا مَا حَوْلَكُمْ مِنَ الْقُرَى )

(And indeed We have destroyed towns round about you, ) This is addressed to the people of Makkah. Allah destroyed the nations who disbelieved in the Messengers who lived around Makkah, such as `Ad who were at Al-Ahqaf in Hadramawt near Yemen, Thamud whose dwellings were between Makkah and Ash-Sham (Greater Syria), Saba' who were in Yemen, the people of Madyan who were on the route and passage to Ghazzah (Western Palestine), and the people of Lut who dwelt by the lake (the Dead Sea) which they used to pass by (on the way to Jordan) as well. Allah then says,

(وَصَرَّفْنَا الْآيَاتِ )

(and We have shown (them) the signs in various ways) meaning, `We explained and clarified them.'

لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ فَلَوْلَا نَصَرَهُمْ الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ  
دُونِ اللَّهِ قُرْبَانًا ءَالِهَةً

(so that perhaps they might return. As for those whom they had taken for gods besides Allah, as the means of approach to Him, why then did they not aid them) meaning, did they help them when they were in the greatest need for them

(بَلْ ضَلُّوا عَنْهُمْ)

(but they vanished completely from them.) Rather, they completely left them alone when they needed them the most.

(وَذَلِكَ إِفْكُهُمْ)

(And that was their falsehood, ) meaning, their lie.

(وَمَا كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ)

(and what they were fabricating.) which means that they fabricated lies by taking them as gods, and they lost and failed in their worship of them and their reliance upon them -- and Allah knows best.

(وَإِذْ صَرَفْنَا إِلَيْكَ نَفْرًا مِّنَ الْجِنَّ يَسْتَمِعُونَ  
الْقُرْءَانَ فَلَمَّا حَضَرُوهُ قَالُوا أَنصِبُوا فَلَمَّا قُضِيَ  
وَلَّوْا إِلَى قَوْمِهِمْ مُنْذِرِينَ - قَالُوا يَقَوْمَنَا إِنَّا سَمِعْنَا  
كِتَابًا أَنْزَلَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مُوسَى مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ  
يَهْدِي إِلَى الْحَقِّ وَإِلَى طَرِيقٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ - يَقَوْمَنَا  
أَحْيَبُوا دَاعِيَ اللَّهِ وَءَامِنُوا بِهِ يَعْفِرُ لَكُمْ مِّنْ  
دُنُوبِكُمْ وَيُجِرْكُمْ مِّنْ عَذَابِ أَلِيمٍ - وَمَنْ لَا يُجِبْ

دَاعِيَ اللَّهِ فَلَيْسَ بِمُعْجِزٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَيْسَ لَهُ  
مِن دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءُ أُولَئِكَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ )

(29. And (remember) when We sent toward you a group of the Jinn, to listen to the Qur'an. When they attended it, they said: "Listen quietly!" And when it was concluded, they returned to their people, as warners.) (30. They said: "O our people! Verily, we have heard a Book sent down after Musa, confirming what came before it, it guides to the truth and to the straight path.") (31. "O our people! Respond to Allah's Caller, and believe in him. He (Allah) will forgive you some of your sins, and protect you from a painful torment.") (32. "And whosoever does not respond to Allah's Caller, he cannot escape on earth, and he will not have besides Allah any protectors. Those are in manifest error.")

### The Story of the Jinns listening to the Qur'an

Imam Ahmad recorded from Az-Zubayr that he commented on the Ayah;

وَإِذْ صَرَقْنَا إِلَيْكَ نَفَرًا مِّنَ الْجِنِّ يَسْتَمِعُونَ  
الْقُرْآنَ

(And (remember) when We sent towards you a group of the Jinn, to listen to the Qur'an.) "They were at a place called Nakhlah while Allah's Messenger was performing the `Isha' prayer, and

كَأَدْوَاءٍ يَكُونُونَ عَلَيْهِ لِبَدًا

(they crowded on top of each other to hear him.) (72:19)" Sufyan said, "They stood on top of each other like piled wool." Ahmad was alone in recording this. Imam Ahmad and the famous Imam, Al-Hafiz Abu Bakr Al-Bayhaqi in his book Dala'il An-Nubuwwah, both recorded that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "Allah's Messenger never recited Qur'an to the Jinns, nor did he see them. Allah's Messenger was heading with a group of his Companions towards the `Ukaz market. At that time, the devils had been prevented from eavesdropping on the news of the heavens, and they were being attacked by burning flames (whenever they tried to listen). When the devils went back to their people, they asked them what happened to them, and they answered, `We have been prevented from eavesdropping on the news of the heavens, and burning flames now attack us.' Their people told them, `You have only been prevented from eavesdropping on the information of the heavens because of something (major) that has happened. So go all over the earth, east and west, and see what is it that has obstructed you from eavesdropping on the news of the heavens.' Thus they traveled all over the earth, east and west, seeking that which had obstructed them from eavesdropping on the news of the heavens. A group of them went towards Tihamah, and found Allah's Messenger while he was at a place called Nakhlah along the way to the `Ukaz market. He was leading his Companions in the Fajr prayer. When the Jinns heard the recitation of the Qur'an, they stopped to listen to it, and then they said: `By Allah! This is what has prevented you from eavesdropping on the news of the heavens.' Then they returned to their people and told them: `Our people! We certainly have heard an amazing recitation (the Qur'an), it guides to the right

path. So we have believed in it, and we will join none in worship with our Lord.' So Allah revealed to His Prophet ,

(قُلْ أَوْحِيَ إِلَىَّ إِنَّهُ اسْتَمَعَ نَفَرٌ مِّنَ الْجِنِّ)

(Say: It has been revealed to me that a group of Jinns have listened (to the Qur'an).) (72:19) Thus, what was revealed to him was only the saying of the Jinns." Al-Bukhari recorded a similar narration, and Muslim recorded it (as it is here). At-Tirmidhi also recorded it, as did An-Nasa'i in his Tafsir. `Abdullah bin Mas'ud reported that the Jinns came down upon the Prophet while he was reciting the Qur'an at a place called Nakhlah. When they heard him,

(قَالُوا أَنْصِتُوا)

(They said: "Listen quietly.") meaning, hush! They were nine in number, and one of them was called Zawba'ah. So Allah revealed,

(وَإِذْ صَرَفْنَا إِلَيْكَ نَفَرًا مِّنَ الْجِنِّ يَسْتَمِعُونَ  
الْقُرْءَانَ فَلَمَّا حَضَرُوهُ قَالُوا أَنْصِتُوا فَلَمَّا قُضِيَ  
وَلَّوْا إِلَى قَوْمِهِمْ مُنْذِرِينَ )

(And when We sent toward you a group of Jinns, to listen to the Qur'an. When they attended it, they said: "Listen quietly!" And when it was concluded, they returned to their people as warners.) until His saying:

(ضَلَّ مَبِينٍ)

( manifest error.) Thus, this report along with the above one by Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, indicate that Allah's Messenger was not aware of the presence of the Jinns at that time. They only listened to his recitation and went back to their people. Later on, they came to him in groups, one party after another, and one group after another. As for Allah's saying,

(وَلَّوْا إِلَى قَوْمِهِمْ مُنْذِرِينَ)

(they returned to their people as warners.) It means that they went back to their people and warned them about what they heard from Allah's Messenger . This is similar to Allah's saying,

(لَيَتَفَقَّهُوْا فِي الدِّينِ وَلَيُنذِرُوْا قَوْمَهُمْ إِذَا رَجَعُوْا  
إِلَيْهِمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَحْذَرُوْنَ)

(...that they may obtain understanding in religion and warn their people when they return to them, so that they might be cautious (of evil).) (9:122) This Ayah has been used as evidence that the Jinns have warners from among themselves, but no Messengers. There is no doubt that Allah did not send Messengers from among the Jinns, because He says,

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

(And We did not send before you as Messengers any but men, to whom We revealed from among the people of cities.) (12:109) And Allah says,

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

(And We never sent before you any of the Messengers but verily they ate food and walked in the markets.) (25:20) And He says about Ibrahim Al-Khalil, upon him be peace,

(وَجَعَلْنَا فِي ذُرِّيَّتِهِ النُّبُوَّةَ وَالْكِتَابَ)

(...And We placed in his descendants prophethood and Scripture.) (29:27) Thus, every Prophet whom Allah sent after Ibrahim was from his offspring and progeny. As for Allah's saying in Surat Al-An`am,

(يَمْعَشَرِ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسِ أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِنْكُمْ)

(O company of Jinns and human beings! Did there not come to you Messengers from among you) (6:130) It only applies to the two kinds collectively, but specifically pertains to just one of them, which is the human. This is like Allah's saying,

(يَخْرُجُ مِنْهُمَا اللُّؤْلُؤُ وَالْمَرْجَانُ)

(From both of them (salty and fresh waters) emerge pearl and Marjan.) (55:22) Although He said "both of them" this applies to only one of the two types of water (the salty water). Allah then explains how the Jinns warned their people. He says,

(قَالُوا يَقَوْمَنَا إِنَّا سَمِعْنَا كِتَابًا أُنزِلَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مُوسَىٰ)

(They said: "O our people! Verily, we have heard a Book sent down after Musa...") They did not mention `Isa, peace be upon him, because the Injil that was revealed to him contained admonitions and exhortations, but very few permissions or prohibitions. Thus, it was in reality like a complement to the legislation of the Tawrah, the Tawrah being the reference. That is why they said, "Sent down after Musa." This is also the way that Waraqah bin Nawfal spoke when the Prophet told him about his first meeting with Jibril, An-Namus, peace be upon him. He said: "Very good, very good! This is (the angel) that used to come to Musa. I wish that I was still a young man (to support you)."

(مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ)

(confirming what came before it,) meaning, the Scriptures that were revealed before it to the previous Prophets. They then said,

(يَهْدِي إِلَى الْحَقِّ)

(it guides to the truth) means in belief and information.

(وَالِى طَرِيقٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ)

(and to the straight path.) which means, in deeds. For verily, the Qur'an contains two things: information and commandments. Its information is true, and its commandments are all just, as Allah says,

(وَتَمَّتْ كَلِمَةُ رَبِّكَ صِدْقًا وَعَدْلًا)

(And the Word of Your Lord has been fulfilled in truth and in justice.) (6:115) Allah says,

(هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ)

(It is He Who has sent His Messenger with the guidance and the religion of truth.) (9:122) The guidance is the beneficent knowledge, and the religion of truth means the righteous good deeds. Thus, the Jinns said,

(يَهْدِي إِلَى الْحَقِّ)

(it guides to the truth) in matters of belief,

(وَالِى طَرِيقٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ)

(and to the straight path.) meaning, in regard to actions.

(يَقَوْمَنَا أَجِيبُوا دَاعِيَ اللَّهِ)

(O our people! Respond to Allah's Caller,) This is proof that Muhammad has been sent to both the human beings and the Jinns. Thus, Allah says,

(أَجِيبُوا دَاعِيَ اللَّهِ وَآمِنُوا بِهِ)

(Respond to Allah's Caller and believe in him.) Then Allah says,

(يَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ مِّنْ ذُنُوبِكُمْ)

(He will then forgive you some of your sins,) Some scholars say that "some" here is auxiliary, but this is questionable since it is rarely used to strengthen an affirmative meaning. Others say that it means partial forgiveness.

(وَيُجِرْكُمْ مِّنْ عَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ)

(and protect you from a painful torment.) meaning, He will protect you from His painful punishment. Then Allah informs that they said,

(وَمَنْ لَا يُجِبْ دَاعِيَ اللَّهِ فَلَيْسَ بِمُعْجِزٍ فِي  
الْأَرْضِ)

(And whosoever does not respond to Allah's Caller, he cannot escape on earth,) meaning, Allah's power encompasses him and surrounds him.

(وَلَيْسَ لَهُ مِنْ دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءُ)

(and he will not have besides Allah any protectors.) meaning, no one can protect him against Allah.

(أُولَئِكَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ)

(Those are in manifest error. ) This is a threat and warning. Thus, those Jinns called their people with encouragement and warning. Because of this, many of the Jinns took heed and came to Allah's Messenger in successive delegations; and verily, Allah is worthy of all praise and gratitude, and Allah knows best.

(أولم يروا أن الله الذي خلق السموات والأرض ولم يعى بخلقهن بقادر على أن يحيى الموتى بلى إنه على كل شيء قدير - ويوم يعرض الذين كفروا على النار أليس هذا بالحق قالوا بلى وربنا قال فذوقوا العذاب بما كنتم تكفرون - فاصبر كما صبر أولوا العزم من الرسل ولا تستعجل لهم كأنهم يوم يرون ما يوعدون لم يلبثوا إلا ساعة من نهارٍ بلاعٌ فهل يهلك إلا القوم الفاسقون )

(33. Do they not see that Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth, and was not wearied by their creation, is Able to give life to the dead Yes, He surely is Able to do all things.) (34. And on the Day when those who disbelieve will be exposed to the Fire (it will be said to them): "Is this not the truth" They will say: "Yes, by our Lord!" He will say: "Then taste the torment, because you used to disbelieve!") (35. Therefore be patient as did those of determination among the Messengers and be in no hurry for them. On the Day when they will see what they are promised, it will be as though they had not remained (in the world) except an hour in a day. (This is) a clear Message. But will any be destroyed except the defiantly rebellious people)

### Evidence for Life after Death

Allah says, those who deny resurrection on Judgement Day, and doubt that the bodies will be raised on that Last Day -- Do they not see,

(أن الله الذي خلق السموات والأرض ولم يعى بخلقهن)

(that Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth, and was not wearied by their creation,) meaning, the creation of the heavens and earth did not exhaust Him.' Rather, He commanded them: "Be," and they were, without any refusal or delay. They obeyed and responded to Him with submission and fear. Is He not then able to revive the dead This is similar to what Allah said elsewhere,