

(وَأَقِيمُوا الْوَزْنَ بِالْقِسْطِ وَلَا تُخْسِرُوا الْمِيزَانَ)

(And observe the weight with equity and do not make the balance deficient.) (55:9) Allah destroyed the people of Shu`ayb and wiped them out because of their cheating in weights and measurements. Verily, they take their right by demanding full measure and extra as well.

(وَإِذَا كَالُوهُمْ أَوْ وَّزَنُوهُمْ يُخْسِرُونَ)

(And when they have to give by measure or weight to (other) men, give less than due.) meaning, they decrease. Verily, Allah commanded that the measure and weight should be given in full. He says in another Ayah,

(وَأَوْفُوا الْكَيْلَ إِذَا كِلْتُمْ وَزَنُوا بِالْقِسْطِ
الْمُسْتَقِيمِ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا)

(And give full measure when you measure, and weigh with a balance that is straight. That is good and better in the end.) (17:35) Allah also says,

(وَأَوْفُوا الْكَيْلَ وَالْمِيزَانَ بِالْقِسْطِ لَا نُكَلِّفُ نَفْسًا
إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا)

(And give full measure and full weight with justice. We burden not any person, but with that which he can bear.) (6:152) and He says,

(وَأَقِيمُوا الْوَزْنَ بِالْقِسْطِ وَلَا تُخْسِرُوا الْمِيزَانَ)

(And observe the weight with equity and do not make the balance deficient.) (55:9) Allah destroyed the people of Shu`ayb and wiped them out because of their cheating in weights and measurements. be able to bare. Imam Malik reported from Nafi` who reported from Ibn `Umar that the Prophet said,

«يَوْمَ يَقُومُ النَّاسُ لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، حَتَّى يَغِيبَ
أَحَدُهُمْ فِي رَشْحِهِ إِلَى أَنْصَافِ أُذُنَيْهِ»

(This will be the Day that mankind will stand before the Lord of all that exists, until one of them will sink up to the middle of his ears in sweat.) Al-Bukhari recorded this Hadith from Malik and `Abdullah bin `Awn, both of whom reported it from Nafi`. Muslim also recorded it from two routes. Another Hadith: Hadith;uA ? give less than due.) meaning, they decrease.

Verily, Allah commanded that the measure and weight should be given in full. He says in another Ayah,

(وَأَوْفُوا الْكَيْلَ إِذَا كِلْتُمْ وَزَنُوا بِالْقِسْطَاسِ
الْمُسْتَقِيمِ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا)

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(وَأَوْفُوا الْكَيْلَ وَالْمِيزَانَ بِالْقِسْطِ لَا نُكَلِّفُ نَفْسًا
إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا)

(And give full measure and full weight with justice. We burden not any person, but with that which he can bear.) (6:152) and He says,

(وَأَقِيمُوا الْوَزْنَ بِالْقِسْطِ وَلَا تُخْسِرُوا الْمِيزَانَ)

(And observe the weight with equity and do not make the balance deficient.) (55:9) Allah destroyed the people of Shu`ayb and wiped them out because of their cheating in weights and measurements.

Threatening the Mutaffifin with standing before the Lord of all that exists

Then Allah says as a threat to them,

(أَلَا يَظُنُّ أُولَئِكَ أَنَّهُمْ مَبْعُوثُونَ - لِيَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ)

(Do they not think that they will be resurrected, on a Great Day) meaning, do these people not fear the resurrection and standing before He Who knows the hidden matters and the innermost secrets, on a Day that contains great horror and tremendous fright Whoever loses on this Day will be made to enter into a blazing fire. Then Allah says,

(يَوْمَ يَقُومُ النَّاسُ لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ)

(The Day when (all) mankind will stand before the Lord of all that exists) meaning, they will stand barefooted, naked and uncircumcised at a station that will be difficult, hard, and distressful for the criminals. They will be covered by the command from Allah, and it will be that, which the strength and the senses will not be able to bare. Imam Malik reported from Nafi` who reported from Ibn `Umar that the Prophet said,

«يَوْمَ يَقُومُ النَّاسُ لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، حَتَّى يَغِيبَ
أَحَدُهُمْ فِي رَشْحِهِ إِلَى أَنْصَافِ أُذُنَيْهِ»

(This will be the Day that mankind will stand before the Lord of all that exists, until one of them will sink up to the middle of his ears in sweat.) Al-Bukhari recorded this Hadith from Malik and `Abdullah bin `Awn, both of whom reported it from Nafi`. Muslim also recorded it from two routes. Another Hadith: Hadit u ?? ? u A ? Threatening the Mutaffifin with standing before the Lord of all that exists Then Allah says as a threat to them,

(أَلَا يَظُنُّ أَوْلِيَاكَ أَنَّهُمْ مَبْعُوثُونَ - لِيَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ)

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(This will be the Day that mankind will stand before the Lord of all that exists, until one of them will sink up to the middle of his ears in sweat.) Al-Bukhari recorded this Hadith from Malik and `Abdullah bin `Awn, both of whom reported it from Nafi`. Muslim also recorded it from two routes. Another Hadith: Imam Ahmad recorded from Al-Miqdad, who was Ibn Al-Aswad Al-Kindi, that he heard the Messenger of Allah saying,

«إِذَا كَانَ يَوْمُ الْقِيَامَةِ أُذُنَيْتِ الشَّمْسُ مِنَ الْعِبَادِ
حَتَّى تَكُونَ قَدْرَ مِيلٍ أَوْ مِائَتَيْ مِيلِينَ قَالَ فَتَصْهَرُهُمُ
الشَّمْسُ فَيَكُونُونَ فِي الْعَرَقِ كَقَدْرِ أَعْمَالِهِمْ،
مِنْهُمْ مَنْ يَأْخُذُهُ إِلَى عَقْبِيهِ، وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ يَأْخُذُهُ إِلَى

رُكِبَتِيهِ، وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ يَأْخُذُهُ إِلَىٰ حَقْوَيْهِ، وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ
يُلْحِمُهُ الْجَمَامَا»

(On the Day of Judgement, the sun will draw near the servants until it is a mile or two away from them. Then the sun will burn them, and they will be submersed in sweat based upon the amount of their deeds. From among them there will be those whose sweat will come up to their two heels. From among them there will be those whose sweat will come up to their two knees. From among them there will be those whose sweat will come up to their groins. From among them there will be those who will be bridled in sweat (up to their necks.) This Hadith was recorded by Muslim and At-Tirmidhi. In Sunan Abu Dawud it is recorded that the Messenger of Allah used to seek refuge with Allah from the hardship of standing on the Day of Judgement. It has been reported from Ibn Mas`ud that they will be standing for forty years with their heads raised toward the sky. No one will speak to them, and the righteous and wicked among them will all be bridled in sweat. It has been reported from Ibn `Umar that they will be standing for one hundred years. Both of these statements have been recorded by Ibn Jarir. In the Sunans of Abu Dawud, An-Nasa'i, and Ibn Majah, it is recorded from `A'ishah that the Messenger of Allah used to begin his late night prayer by declaring Allah's greatness ten times, praising Allah ten times, glorifying Allah ten times, and seeking Allah's forgiveness ten times. Then he would say,

«اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَاهْدِنِي وَارْزُقْنِي وَعَافِنِي»

(O Allah! Forgive me, guide me, provide for me, and protect me.) Then he would seek refuge from the hardship of the standing on the Day of Judgement.

(كَلَّا إِنْ كَتَبَ الْفُجَّارَ لَفِي سَجِّينٍ - وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ
مَا سَجِّينٌ - كَتَبُ مَرْفُومٌ وَيَلُ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلْمُكَذِّبِينَ
الَّذِينَ يُكذِّبُونَ بِيَوْمِ الدِّينِ وَمَا يُكذِّبُ بِهِ إِلَّا كُلُّ
مُعْتَدٍ أَثِيمٍ إِذَا تُنْذِرُ عَلَيْهِ ءَايَاتُنَا قَالَ أَسَاطِيرُ
الْأَوَّلِينَ كَلَّا بَلْ رَانَ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِم مَّا كَانُوا
يَكْسِبُونَ كَلَّا إِنَّهُمْ عَنْ رَبِّهِمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ لَّمَحْجُوبُونَ ثُمَّ
إِنَّهُمْ لَصَالُوا الْجَحِيمِ ثُمَّ يُقَالُ هَذَا الَّذِي كُنْتُمْ بِهِ
تُكَذِّبُونَ)

(7. Nay! Truly, the Record of the wicked is in Sjjin.) (8. And what will make you know what Sjjin is) (9. A Register inscribed.) (10. Woe, that Day, to those who deny.) (11. Those who deny the Day of Recompense.) (12. And none can deny it except every transgressor beyond bounds, the sinner!) (13. When Our Ayat are recited to him, he says: "Tales of the ancients!") (14. Nay! But on their hearts is the Pan (covering) which they used to earn.) (15. Nay! Surely, they will be veiled from seeing their Lord that Day.) (16. Then verily, they will indeed enter the burning flame of Hell.) (17. Then, it will be said to them: "This is what you used to deny!")

The Record of the Wicked and some of what happens to Them

Allah says truly,

(إِنَّ كِتَابَ الْفُجَّارِ لَفِي سَجِّينٍ)

(Nay! Truly, the Record of the wicked is in Sjjin.) meaning, that their final destination and their abode will be in Sjjin, which is derived from the word prison (Sjn), and here it means straitened circumstances. Thus, Allah expresses the greatness of this matter, saying;

(وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا سَجِّينٌ)

(And what will make you know what Sjjin is) meaning, it is a great matter, an eternal prison, and a painful torment. Some have said that it is beneath the seventh earth. It has been mentioned previously in the lengthy Hadith of Al-Bara' bin `Azib that the Prophet said,

«يَقُولُ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ فِي رُوحِ الْكَافِرِ اكْتُبُوا
كِتَابَهُ فِي سَجِّينٍ. وَسَجِّينٌ هِيَ تَحْتُ الْأَرْضِ
السَّابِعَةِ»

(Allah says concerning the soul of the disbeliever, `Record his book in Sjjin.' And Sjjin is beneath the seventh earth.)" it is known that the destination of the wicked people will be Hell, and it is the lowest of the low. For Allah says,

(ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَاهُ أَسْفَلَ سَافِلِينَ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا
وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ)

(Then We reduced him to the lowest of the low. Save those who believe and do righteous deeds.) (95:5-6) Here Allah says,

(كَلَّا إِنَّ كِتَابَ الْفُجَّارِ لَفِي سِجِّينٍ - وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ
مَا سِجِّينٌ)

(Nay! Truly, the Record of the wicked is in Sijjin. And what will make you know what Sijjin is) and it is full of hardship and misery. Allah says,

(وَإِذَا أُلْقُوا مِنْهَا مَكَانًا ضَيِّقًا مُقَرَّنِينَ دَعَوْا هُنَالِكَ
تُبُورًا)

(And when they shall be thrown into a narrow place thereof, chained together, they will exclaim therein for destruction.) (25:13) Then Allah says,

(كِتَابٌ مَّرْقُومٌ)

(A Register inscribed.) This is not an explanation of His statement,

(وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا سِجِّينٌ)

(And what will make you know what Sijjin is) It is only an explanation of the destination that will be recorded for them, which is Sijjin. Meaning, it is inscribed, written, and completed. No one can add to it and no one can remove anything from it. This was said by Muhammad bin Ka`b Al-Qurazi. Then Allah said,

(وَيْلٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِلْمُكَذِّبِينَ)

(Woe, that Day, to those who deny.) meaning, when they come to the imprisonment, Allah threatened them with, on the Day of Judgement, and the disgraceful torment. The statement, "Woe," has already been discussed previously and there is no need to repeat it here. Basically, it means destruction and devastation. This is like what is said, "Woe to so-and-so." This is similar to what has been recorded in the Musnad and the Sunan collections on the authority of Bahz bin Hakim bin Mu`awiyah bin Haydah,

(مَا سِجِّينٌ)

(Nay! Truly, ! TrulrsA ?the Record of the wicked is in Sijjin. And what will make you know what Sijjin is) and it is full of hardship and misery. Allah says,

وَإِذَا أُلْقُوا مِنْهَا مَكَانًا ضَيِّقًا مُقَرَّنِينَ دَعَوْا هُنَالِكَ
تُؤرَأ)

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«وَيْلٌ لِلَّذِي يُحَدِّثُ فَيَكْذِبُ لِيُضْحِكَ النَّاسَ، وَيَلُ
لَهُ وَيَلُ لَهُ»

(Woe unto whoever speaks, and lies in order to make the people laugh. Woe unto him, woe unto him.) Then Allah says, in explaining who are the wicked, disbelieving deniers,

(الَّذِينَ يُكَذِّبُونَ بِيَوْمِ الدِّينِ)

(Those who deny the Day of Recompense.) meaning, they do not believe it will happen, and they do not believe in its existence. Thus, they consider it a matter that is farfetched. Allah then says,

(وَمَا يُكَذِّبُ بِهِ إِلَّا كُلُّ مُعْتَدٍ أَثِيمٍ)

(And none can deny it except every transgressor, sinner.) meaning, transgressive in his actions by doing that which is forbidden and exceeding the limits when acquiring the permissible. He is a sinner in his statements, because he lies whenever he speaks, he breaks his promises whenever he makes them, and he behaves in an abusive and wicked manner whenever he argues. Concerning Allah's statement,

(إِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِ ءَايَاتُنَا قَالَ أَسَاطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ)

(When Our Ayat are recited to him, he says: "Tales of the ancients!") meaning, whenever he hears the Words of Allah from the Messenger, he denies it and has ill thoughts about it. Thus, he believes that it is a collection gathered from the books of the ancients. This is as Allah says,

(وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ مَآذَا أَنْزَلَ رَبُّكُمْ قَالُوا أَسَاطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ)

(And when it is said to them: "What is it that your Lord has sent down" They say: "Tales of the men of old!") (16:24) Similarly Allah says,

(وَقَالُوا أَسَاطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ اكْتَتَبَهَا فَهِيَ تُمْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا)

(And they say: "Tales of the ancients, which he has written down: and they are dictated to him morning and afternoon.") (25:5) Then Allah continues saying,

(كَلَّا بَلْ رَانَ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ مَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ)

(Nay! But on their hearts is the Ran (covering) which they used to earn.) meaning, the matter is not as they claim, nor as they say: "Verily, this Qur'an is tales of the ancients." Rather, it is the Word of Allah, His inspiration and His revelation to His Messenger. The only thing that blocked their hearts from believing in it is the dark covering cast over it from the many sins and wrong they committed that has covered up their hearts. Thus, Allah says,

(كَلَّا بَلْ رَانَ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ مَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ)

(Nay! But on their hearts is the Ran (covering) which they used to earn.) This dark covering known as Rayn overcomes the hearts of the disbelievers, the covering of Ghaym is for the righteous, and the covering of Ghayn is for those who are near to Allah. Ibn Jarir, At-Tirmidhi, An-Nisa'i, and Ibn Majah all recorded from Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet said,

«إِنَّ الْعَبْدَ إِذَا أَدْنَبَ ذَنْبًا كَانَتْ نُكْتَةٌ سَوْدَاءٌ فِي قَلْبِهِ، فَإِنْ تَابَ مِنْهَا صُقِلَ قَلْبُهُ، ق

uA ay! But on their hearts is the Ran (covering) which they used to earn.) meaning, the matter is not as they claim, nor as they say: "Verily, this Qur'an is tales of the ancients." Rather, it is the Word of Allah, His inspiration and His revelation to His Messenger . The only thing that blocked their hearts from believing in it is the dark covering cast over it from the many sins and wrong they committed that has covered up their hearts. Thus, Allah says, uuA ? "What is it that your Lord has sent down" They say: "Tales of the men of old!" (16:24) Similarly Allah says,

(وَقَالُوا أُسْطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ اِكْتَتَبَهَا فَهِيَ تُمَلَى عَلَيْهِ
بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا)

(And they say: "Tales of the ancients, which he has written down: and they are dictated to him morning and afternoon.") (25:5) Then Allah continues saying,

(كَلَّا بَلْ رَانَ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ مَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ)

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(كَلَّا بَلْ رَانَ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ مَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ)

(Nay! But on their hearts is the Ran (covering) which they used to earn.) This dark covering known as Rayn overcomes the hearts of the disbelievers, the covering of Ghaym is for the righteous, and the covering of Ghayn is for those who are near to Allah. Ibn Jarir, At-Tirmidhi, An-Nisa'i, and Ibn Majah all recorded from Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet said,

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(كَلَّا بَلْ رَانَ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ مَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ)»

(Verily, when the servant commits a sin, a black spot appears in his heart. If he repents from it, his heart is polished clean. However, if he increases (in the sin), the spot will continue to increase. That is the statement of Allah: ((Nay! But on their hearts is the Ran (covering) which they used to earn.)) At-Tirmidhi said, "Hasan Sahih." The wording of An-Nasa'i says,

«إِنَّ الْعَبْدَ إِذَا أَخْطَأَ خَطِيئَةً نُكِتَ فِي قَلْبِهِ نُكْتَةٌ
سَوْدَاءٌ ، فَإِنْ هُوَ نَزَعَ وَاسْتَعْفَرَ وَتَابَ صُقِلَ قَلْبُهُ
، فَإِنْ عَادَ زِيدَ فِيهَا حَتَّى تَعْلُو قَلْبَهُ فَهُوَ الرَّانُ
الَّذِي قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى:

(كَلَّا بَلْ رَانَ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ مَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ)»

(Whenever the servant commits a wrong, a black spot is put in his heart. So, if he refrains from it, seeks forgiveness and repents, his heart is polished clean. But if he returns to the sin, the spot will increase until it overcomes his (entire) heart, and this is the Ran that Allah mentions when He says: (Nay, but on their hearts is the Ran (covering) which they used to earn.)) Concerning Allah's statement,

(كَلَّا إِنَّهُمْ عَنْ رَبِّهِمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ لَمَحْجُوبُونَ)

(Nay! Surely, they will be veiled from seeing their Lord that Day.) meaning, they will have a place on the Day of Judgement, and lodging in Sjjin. Along with this they will be veiled from seeing their Lord and Creator on the Day of Judgement. Imam Abu `Abdullah Ash-Shafi`i said, "In this Ayah is a proof that the believers will see Him (Allah), the Mighty and Sublime, on that Day." Concerning Allah's statement,

(ثُمَّ إِنَّهُمْ لَصَالُوا الْجَحِيمِ)

(Then verily, they will indeed enter the burning flame of Hell.) meaning, along with this being prevented from seeing the Most Gracious, they will also be among the people of the Fire.

(ثُمَّ يُقَالُ هَذَا الَّذِي كُنْتُمْ بِهِ تُكَذِّبُونَ)

(Then, it will be said to them: "This is what you used to deny!") (83:17) meaning, this will be said to them by way of scolding, rebuking, belittling, and humili- ation.

(كَلَّا إِنَّ كِتَابَ الْأَبْرَارِ لَفِي عَلِيَيْنَ - وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ
 مَا عَلِيُّونَ كِتَابٌ مَّرْقُومٌ يَشْهَدُهُ الْمُقَرَّبُونَ إِنَّ
 الْأَبْرَارَ لَفِي نَعِيمٍ عَلَى الْأُرَائِكِ يَنْظُرُونَ تَعْرِفُ
 فِي وُجُوهِهِمْ نَضْرَةَ النَّعِيمِ يُسْقَوْنَ مِنْ رَحِيقٍ
 مَخْنُومٍ خَتَمُهُ مِسْكٌ وَفِي ذَلِكَ فَلْيَتَنَافَسِ
 الْمُتَنَفِسُونَ وَمِمَّا جَاءَهُ مِنْ تَسْنِيمٍ عَيْنًا يَشْرَبُ بِهَا
 الْمُقَرَّبُونَ)

(18. Nay! Verily, the Record of Al-Abrar (the righteous believers) is (preserved) in `Illiyyin.)
 (19. And what will make you know what `Illiyyin is) (20. A Register inscribed,) (21. To which
 bear witness those nearest.) (22. Verily, Al-Abrar (the righteous believers) will be in Delight.)
 (23. On thrones, looking.) (24. You will recognize in their faces the brightness of delight). (25.
 They will be given to drink of pure sealed Fahiq.) (26. Sealed with musk, and for this let those
 strive who want to strive.) (27. It will be mixed with Tasnim:) (28. A spring whereof drink those
 nearest to Allah.)

The Record Book of the Righteous and Their Reward

Allah says that truly,

(إِنَّ كِتَابَ الْأَبْرَارِ)

(Verily, the Record of Al-Abrar (the righteous believers)) These people are in a situation that is
 the opposite of the wicked people.

(لَفِي عَلِيَيْنَ)

(is in `Illiyyin.) meaning, their final destination is `Illiyyin, which is the opposite of Sjjin. It
 has been reported from Hilal bin Yasaf that Ibn `Abbas asked Ka`b about Sjjin while he was
 present, and Ka`b said, "It is the seventh earth and in it are the souls of the disbelievers." Then
 Ibn `Abbas asked him about `Illiyyin, so he said, "It is the seventh heaven and it contains the
 souls of the believers." This statement -- that it is the seventh heaven -- has been said by
 others as well. `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported that Ibn `Abbas said concerning Allah's statement,

(كَلَّا إِنَّ كِتَابَ الْأَبْرَارِ لَفِي عَلِيّينَ)

(Nay! Verily, the Record of Al-Abrar (the righteous believers) is in `Illiyyin.) "This means Paradise." Others besides him have said, "Illiyyin is located at Sdrat Al-Muntaha." The obvious meaning is that the word `Illiyyin is taken from the word `Uluw, which means highness. The more something ascends and rises, the more it becomes greater and increases. Thus, Allah magnifies its affair and extols its matter by saying,

(وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا عَلِيّونَ)

(And what will make you know what `Illiyyin is) Then He says by way of affirming what will be written for them,

(كِتَابٌ مَّرْقُومٌ يَشْهَدُهُ الْمُقَرَّبُونَ)

(A Register inscribed. To which bear witness those nearest.) They are the angels. This was stated by Qatadah. Al-`Awfi reported from Ibn `Abbas that he said, "Those nearest to Allah in each heaven will witness it." Then Allah says,

(إِنَّ الْأَبْرَارَ لَفِي نَعِيمٍ)

(Verily, Al-Abrar (the righteous believers) will be in Delight.) meaning, on the Day of Judgement they will be in eternal pleasure and gardens that contain comprehensive bounties.

(عَلَى الْأُرَائِكِ)

(On thrones,) These are thrones beneath canopies from which they will be gazing. It has been said, "This means that they will be gazing at their kingdom and what Allah has given them of good and bounties that will not end or perish. It has also been said,

(عَلَى الْأُرَائِكِ يَنْظُرُونَ)

(On thrones, looking.) "This means that they will be looking at Allah, the Mighty and Sublime." This is the opposite of what those wicked people have been described with,

(كَلَّا إِنَّهُمْ عَنْ رَبِّهِمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ لَمَحْجُوبُونَ)

(Nay! Surely, they (evildoers) will be veiled from seeing their Lord that Day.) (83:15) Thus, it has been mentioned that these (righteous people) will be allowed to look at Allah while they are upon their thrones and elevated couches. Concerning Allah's statement,

(تَعْرِفُ فِي وُجُوهِهِمْ نَضْرَةَ النَّعِيمِ)

(You will recognize in their faces the brightness of delight.) meaning, 'you will notice a glow of delight in their faces when you look at them.' This is a description of opulence, decorum, happiness, composure, and authority that they will be experiencing from this great delight. Concerning Allah's statement,

(يُسْقَوْنَ مِنْ رَحِيقٍ مَخْتُومٍ)

(They will be given to drink of pure sealed Rahiq.) meaning, they will be given drink from the wine of Paradise. Ar-Rahiq is one of the names of the wine (in Paradise). Ibn Mas`ud, Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, Al-Hasan, Qatadah and Ibn Zayd all said this. Ibn Mas`ud said concerning Allah's statement,

(خَتَمُهُ مِسْكَ))

(Sealed with musk,) "This means it will be mixed with musk." Al-`Awfi reported from Ibn `Abbas that he said, "Allah will make the wine have a pleasant aroma for them, so the last thing that He will place in it will be musk. Thus, it will be sealed with musk." Qatadah and Ad-Dahhak both said the same. Then Allah says,

(وَفِي ذَلِكَ فَلْيَتَنَافَسِ الْمُتَنَفِسُونَ)

(and for this let (all) those strive who want to strive.) meaning, for a situation like this, let the boasters boast, compete, and strive to gain more. Let the competitors compete and race toward the likes of this. This is similar to Allah's statement,

(لِمِثْلِ هَذَا فَلْيَعْمَلِ الْعَامِلُونَ)

(For the like of this let the workers work.) (37:61) Allah then says,

(وَمِزَاجُهُ مِنْ تَسْنِيمٍ)

(It will be mixed with Tasnim.) meaning, this wine that is being described is mixed with Tasnim. This refers to a drink called Tasnim, and it is the most excellent and exalted drink of the people of Paradise. This was said by Abu Salih and Ad-Dahhak. Thus, Allah says,

(عَيْنًا يَشْرَبُ بِهَا الْمُقَرَّبُونَ)

(A spring whereof drink those nearest to Allah.) (83:28) meaning, those who are near to Allah, will drink from it as they wish, and the companions of the right hand will be given a drink that is mixed with it. This has been said by Ibn Mas`ud, Ibn `Abbas, Masruq, Qatadah and others.

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ أَجْرَمُوا كَانُوا مِنَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا يَضْحَكُونَ - وَإِذَا مَرُّوا بِهِمْ يَتَغَامَزُونَ - وَإِذَا انْقَلَبُوا إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِمْ انْقَلَبُوا فَكِهِينَ - وَإِذَا رَأَوْهُمْ قَالُوا إِنَّ هَؤُلَاءِ لَضَالُّونَ - وَمَا أُرْسِلُوا عَلَيْهِمْ حَافِظِينَ - فَالْيَوْمَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنَ الْكُفَّارِ يَضْحَكُونَ عَلَىٰ الْأُرَائِكِ يَنْظُرُونَ هَلْ تُؤِوبَ الْكُفَّارُ مَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ)

(29. Verily, those who committed crimes used to laugh at those who believed.) (30. And, whenever they passed by them, used to wink one to another.) (31. And when they returned to their own people, they would return jesting;) (32. And when they saw them, they said: "Verily, these have indeed gone astray!") (33. But they were not sent as watchers over them.) (34. But this Day those who believe will laugh at the disbelievers) (35. On thrones, looking.) (36. Are not the disbelievers paid for what they used to do)

The Wicked Behavior of the Criminals and Their mocking of the Believers

Allah informs that the criminals used to laugh at the believers in the worldly life. In other words, they would mock them and despise them. Whenever they would pass by the believers, they would wink at each other about them, meaning in contempt of them.

(وَإِذَا انْقَلَبُوا إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِمْ انْقَلَبُوا فَكِهِينَ)

(And when they returned to their own people, they would return jesting.) meaning, when these criminals turn back, or return to their homes, they go back pleased. This means that whatever they request, they find it. Yet, with this, they still are not grateful for Allah's favor upon them. Rather they busy themselves with despising and envying the believers.

(وَإِذَا رَأَوْهُمْ قَالُوا إِنَّ هَؤُلَاءِ لَضَالُّونَ)

(And when they saw them, they said: "Verily, these have indeed gone astray!") meaning, 'because they are upon a religion other than their own religion.' Allah then says,

(وَمَا أَرْسَلُوا عَلَيْهِمْ حَافِظِينَ)

(But they were not sent as watchers over them.) meaning, these criminals have not been sent as guardians over the deeds and statements of these believers. These wrongdoers have not been made responsible for them. So, why are they so concerned with them, and why have they made them the focus of their attention This is as Allah says,

(قَالَ اخْسَأُوا فِيهَا وَلَا تُكَلِّمُون)

(إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَرِيقٌ مِّنْ عِبَادِي يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا ءَامَنَّا
فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا وَارْحَمْنَا وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الرَّحِمِينَ -
فَاتَّخَذْتُمُوهُمْ سِخْرِيًّا حَتَّى أَنْسَوْكُمْ ذِكْرِي وَكُنْتُمْ
مِّنْهُمْ تَضْحَكُونَ - إِنِّي جَزَيْتُهُمُ الْيَوْمَ بِمَا صَبَرُوا
إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْفَائِزُونَ)

(He (Allah) will say: "Remain you in it with ignominy! And speak you not to Me!" Verily there was a party of My servants, who used to say: "Our Lord! We believe, so forgive us, and have mercy on us, for You are the Best of all who show mercy!" But you took them for a laughing stock, so much so that they made you forget My remembrance while you used to laugh at them! Verily, I have rewarded them this Day for their patience: they are indeed the ones that are successful.) (23:108-111) Thus, Allah says here,

(فَالْيَوْمَ)

(But this Day) meaning, the Day of Judgement.

(الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنَ الْكُفَّارِ يَضْحَكُونَ)

(those who believe will laugh at the disbelievers) meaning, as retribution for how those people laughed at them.

(عَلَى الْأُرَائِكِ يَنْظُرُونَ)

(On thrones, looking.) meaning, looking at Allah as reward for bearing the false claims against them that they were misguided. They were not misguided at all. Rather they were the close Awliya' of Allah, who will be looking at their Lord in the place of His honor. Concerning Allah's statement,

(هَلْ تُؤْتَوْنَ الْكُفَّارُ مَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ)

(Are not the disbelievers paid for what they used to do) meaning, 'will the disbelievers be recompensed for their mockery and belittlement against the believers, or not' This means that they surely will be paid in full, completely and perfectly (for their behavior). This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat Al-Mutaffifin, and all praise and thanks are due to Allah.

The Tafsir of Surat Al-Inshiqaq

(Chapter - 84)

Which was revealed in Makkah

is reported from Abu Salamah that while leading them in prayer, Abu Hurayrah recited,

(إِذَا السَّمَاءُ انشَقَّتْ)

(When the heaven is split asunder.) and he prostrated during its recitation. Then when he completed the prayer, he informed them that the Messenger of Allah prostrated during its recitation. This was recorded by Muslim and An-Nasa'i on the authority of Malik. Al-Bukhari recorded from Abu Rafi' that he prayed the Night prayer with Abu Hurayrah) recited,

(إِذَا السَّمَاءُ انشَقَّتْ)

(When the heaven is split asunder.) then he prostrated. So Abu Rafi' said something to him about it (questioning it). Abu Hurayrah replied, "I prostrated behind Abul-Qasim (the Prophet), and I will never cease prostrating during its recitation until I meet him."

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(إِذَا السَّمَاءُ انشَقَّتْ- وَأَذِنَتْ لِرَبِّهَا وَحُقَّتْ- وَإِذَا
الْأَرْضُ مُدَّتْ- وَأَلْقَتْ مَا فِيهَا وَتَخَلَّتْ- وَأَذِنَتْ
لِرَبِّهَا وَحُقَّتْ- يَا أَيُّهَا الْإِنْسَانُ إِنَّكَ كَادِحٌ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ
كَذْحًا فَمُلْقِيهِ- فَأَمَّا مَنْ أُوْتِيَ كِتَابَهُ يَمِينِهِ-
فَسَوْفَ يُحَاسَبُ حِسَابًا يَسِيرًا- وَيَنْقَلِبُ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِ

مَسْرُورًا- وَأَمَّا مَنْ أُوْتِيَ كِتَابَهُ وَرَاءَ ظَهْرِهِ-
فَسَوْفَ يَدْعُو ثُبُورًا- وَيَصْلِي سَعِيرًا- إِنَّهُ كَانَ
فِي أَهْلِهِ مَسْرُورًا- إِنَّهُ ظَنَّ أَنْ لَنْ يَحُورَ- بَلَى
إِنَّ رَبَّهُ كَانَ بِهِ بَصِيرًا-

(1. When the heaven is split asunder,) (2. And listens to and obeys its Lord -- and it must do so.) (3. And when the earth is stretched forth,) (4. And has cast out all that was in it and became empty.) (5. And listens to and obeys its Lord -- and it must do so.) (6. O man! Verily, you are returning towards your Lord with your deeds and actions, a sure returning, and you will meet.) (7. Then as for him who will be given his Record in his right hand,) (8. He surely will receive an easy reckoning,) (9. And will return to his family Masrur (in joy!)) (10. But whosoever is given his Record behind his back,) (11. He will invoke destruction,) (12. And he shall enter a blazing Fire, and made to taste its burning.) (13. Verily, he was among his people in joy!) (14. Verily, he thought that he would never return!) (15. Yes! Verily, his Lord has been ever beholding him!)

Splitting the Heavens asunder and stretching the Earth forth on the Day of Resurrection

Allah says,

(إِذَا السَّمَاءُ انشَقَّتْ)

(When the heaven is split asunder,) This refers to the Day of Judgement.

(وَأَذِنَتْ لِرَبِّهَا)

(And listens to and obeys its Lord) meaning, it listens to its Lord and obeys His command to split apart. This will occur on the Day of Judgement.

(وَحَقَّتْ)

(and it must do so.) meaning, it is right for it to obey the command of its Lord, because it is great and cannot be rejected, nor overcome. Rather it overpowers everything and everything is submissive to it. Then Allah says,

(وَإِذَا الْأَرْضُ مُدَّتْ)

(And when the earth is stretched forth,) meaning, when the earth is expanded, spread out and extended. Then He says,

(وَأَلْقَتْ مَا فِيهَا وَتَخَلَّتْ)

(And has cast out all that was in it and became empty.) meaning, it throws out the dead inside of it, and it empties itself of them. This was said by Mujahid, Sa`id, and Qatadah.

(وَأَذِنَتْ لِرَبِّهَا وَحَقَّتْ)

(And listens to and obeys its Lord, and it must do so.) The explanation of this is the same as what has preceded.

The Recompense for Deeds is True

Allah says,

(يَأْتِيهَا الْإِنْسَانُ إِنَّكَ كَادِحٌ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ كَدْحًا)

(O man! Verily, you are returning towards your Lord with your deeds and actions, a sure returning,) meaning, `verily you are hastening to your Lord and working deeds.'

(فَمُلَاقِيهِ)

(and you will meet.) `Then you will meet that which you did of good or evil.' A proof for this is what Abu Dawud At-Tayalisi recorded from Jabir, that the Messenger of Allah said,

«قَالَ جِبْرِيلُ: يَا مُحَمَّدُ، عِشْ مَا شِئْتَ فَإِنَّكَ مَيِّتٌ، وَأَحْبِبْ (مَنْ) شِئْتَ فَإِنَّكَ مُفَارِقُهُ، وَاعْمَلْ مَا شِئْتَ فَإِنَّكَ مُلَاقِيهِ»

(Jibril said, "O Muhammad! Live how you wish, for verily you will die; love what you wish, for verily you will part with it; and do what you wish, for verily you will meet it (your deed).) There are some people who refer the pronoun back to the statement "your Lord." Thus, they hold the Ayah to mean, "and you will meet your Lord." This means that He will reward you for your work, and pay you for your efforts. Therefore, both of these two views are connected. Al-`Awfi recorded from Ibn `Abbas that he said explaining,

(يَأْتِيهَا الْإِنْسَانُ إِنَّكَ كَادِحٌ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ كَدْحًا)

(O man! Verily, you are returning towards your Lord with your deeds and actions, a sure returning,) "Whatever deed you do, you will meet Allah with it, whether it is good or bad."

The Presentation and the Discussion that will take place during the Reckoning

Then Allah says,

(فَأَمَّا مَنْ أُوتِيَ كِتَابَهُ بِيَمِينِهِ - فَسَوْفَ يُحَاسَبُ
حِسَابًا يَسِيرًا)

(Then as for him who will be given his Record in his right hand, he surely, will receive an easy reckoning,) (84:7-8) meaning, easy without any difficulty. This means that he will not be investigated for all the minute details of his deeds. For verily, whoever is reckoned like that, he will certainly be destroyed. Imam Ahmad recorded from `A'ishah that the Messenger of Allah said,

«مَنْ نُوقِشَ الْحِسَابَ عُذِّبَ»

(Whoever is interrogated during the reckoning, then he will be punished.) `A'ishah then said, "But didn't Allah say,

(فَسَوْفَ يُحَاسَبُ حِسَابًا يَسِيرًا)

(He surely will receive an easy reckoning,)" The Prophet replied,

«لَيْسَ ذَاكَ بِالْحِسَابِ، وَلَكِنْ ذَلِكَ الْعَرْضُ، مَنْ
نُوقِشَ الْحِسَابَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ عُذِّبَ»

(That is not during to the Reckoning, rather it is referring to the presentation. Whoever is interrogated during the Reckoning on the Day of Judgement, then he will be punished.) This Hadith has also been recorded by Al-Bukhari, Muslim, At-Tirmidhi, An-Nasa'i and Ibn Jarir. In reference to Allah's statement,

(وَيُنْقَلِبُ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِ مَسْرُورًا)

(And will return to his family Masrur!) This means that he will return to his family in Paradise. This was said by Qatadah and Ad-Dahhak. They also said, "Masrur means happy and delighted by what Allah has given him." Allah said;

(وَأَمَّا مَنْ أُوتِيَ كِتَابَهُ وَرَاءَ ظَهْرِهِ)

(But whosoever is given his Record behind his back,) meaning, he will be given his Book in his left hand, behind his back, while his hand is bent behind him.

(فَسَوْفَ يَدْعُو بُرُورًا)

(He will invoke destruction,) meaning, loss and destruction.

(وَيَصْلَى سَعِيرًا - إِنَّهُ كَانَ فِي أَهْلِهِ مَسْرُورًا)

(And he shall enter a blazing Fire, and made to taste its burning. Verily, he was among his people in joy!) meaning, happy. He did not think about the consequences, nor feared what (future) was in front of him. His light happiness will be followed by long grief.

(إِنَّهُ ظَنَّ أَنْ لَنْ يَحُورَ)

(Verily, he thought that he would never return!) meaning, he used to believe that he would not return to Allah, nor would Allah bring him back (to life) after his death. This was said by Ibn `Abbas, Qatadah and others. Allah then says,

(بَلَىٰ إِنَّ رَبَّهُ كَانَ بِهِ بَصِيرًا)

(Yes! Verily, his Lord has been ever beholding him!) meaning, certainly Allah will repeat his creation just as he began his creation, and He will reward him based upon his deeds, whether they were good or bad. He was ever watchful of him, meaning All-Knowing and All-Aware.

(فَلَا أَقْسِمُ بِالشَّقَقِ - وَاللَّيْلِ وَمَا وَسَقَ - وَالْقَمَرِ
إِذَا انشَقَّ - لَتَرْكَبُنَّ طَبَقًا عَنْ طَبَقٍ - فَمَا لَهُمْ لَا
يُؤْمِنُونَ - وَإِذَا قُرِئَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْقُرْءَانُ لَا
يَسْجُدُونَ - بَلِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يُكَذِّبُونَ - وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ
بِمَا يُوعُونَ - فَبَشِّرْهُمْ بِعَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ - إِلَّا الَّذِينَ

ءَامِنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُمْ أَجْرٌ غَيْرُ مَمْنُونٍ
(

(16. But no! I swear by Ash-Shafaq;) (17. And the night and what it Wasaqa,) (18. And the moon when it Ittasaq.) (19. You shall certainly travel from stage to stage.) (20. What is the matter with them, that they believe not) (21. And when the Qur'an is recited to them, they fall not prostrate.) (22. Nay, those who disbelieve deny.) (23. And Allah knows best what they gather,) (24. So, announce to them a painful torment.) (25. Save those who believe and do righteous good deeds, for them is a reward that will never come to an end.)

Swearing by the Various Stages of Man's Journey

It has been reported from `Ali, Ibn `Abbas, `Ubadah bin As-Samit, Abu Hurayrah, Shaddad bin Aws, Ibn `Umar, Muhammad bin `Ali bin Al-Husayn, Makhul, Bakr bin `Abdullah Al-Muzani, Bukayr bin Al-Ashaj, Malik, Ibn Abi Dhi'b, and `Abdul-`Aziz bin Abi Salamah Al-Majishun, they all said, "Ash-Shafaq is the redness (in the sky).`Abdur-Razzaq recorded from Abu Hurayrah that he said, "Ash-Shafaq is the whiteness." So Ash-Shafaq is the redness of the horizon, either before sunset, as Mujahid said or after sunset, as is well known with the scholars of the Arabic Language. Al-Khalil bin Ahmad said, "Ash-Shafaq is the redness that appears from the setting of sun until the time of the last `Isha' (when it is completely dark). When that redness goes away, it is said, `Ash-Shafaq has disappeared." Al-Jawhari said, "Ash-Shafaq is the remaining light of the sun and its redness at the beginning of the night until it is close to actual nighttime (darkness)." `Ikrimah made a similar statement when he said, "Ash-Shafaq is that what is between Al-Maghrib and Al-`Isha'." In the Sahih of Muslim, it is recorded from `Abdullah bin `Amr that the Messenger of Allah said,

«وَقْتُ الْمَغْرِبِ مَا لَمْ يَغِبِ الشَّفَقُ»

(The time of Al-Maghrib is as long as Ash-Shafaq has not disappeared.)" In all of this, there is a proof that Ash-Shafaq is as Al-Jawhari and Al-Khalil have said. Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, Al-Hasan and Qatadah, all said that,

(وَمَا وَسَقَ)

(and what it Wasaqa) means "What it gathers." Qatadah said, "The stars and animals it gathers." `Ikrimah said,

(وَاللَّيْلِ وَمَا وَسَقَ)

(And by the night and what it Wasaqa,) "What it drives into due to its darkness, because when it is nighttime everything goes to its home." Concerning Allah's statement,

(وَالْقَمَرَ إِذَا اتَّسَقَ)

(And by the moon when it lttasaqa.) Ibn `Abbas said, "When it comes together and becomes complete." Al-Hasan said, "When it comes together and becomes full." Qatadah said, "When it completes its cycle." These statements refer to its light when it is completed and becomes full, as the idea was initiated with "The night and what it gathers." Allah said,

(لَتَرْكَبُنَّ طَبَقًا عَن طَبَقٍ)

(You shall certainly travel from stage to stage.) Al-Bukhari recorded from Mujahid that Ibn `Abbas said,

(لَتَرْكَبُنَّ طَبَقًا عَن طَبَقٍ)

(You shall certainly travel from stage to stage.) "Stage after stage. Your Prophet has said this." Al-Bukhari recorded this statement with this wording. `Ikrimah said,

(طَبَقًا عَن طَبَقٍ)

(From stage to stage.) "Stage after stage. Weaned after he was breast feeding, and an old man after he was a young man." Al-Hasan Al-Basri said,

(طَبَقًا عَن طَبَقٍ)

(From stage to stage.) "Stage after stage. Ease after difficulty, difficulty after ease, wealth after poverty, poverty after wealth, health after sickness, and sickness after health."

The Disapproval of Their Lack of Faith, giving Them Tidings of the Torment, and that the Ultimate Pleasure will be for the Believers

Allah said,

(فَمَا لَهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ - وَإِذَا قُرِئَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْقُرْءَانُ لَا يَسْجُدُونَ)

(What is the matter with them, that they believe not And when the Qur'an is recited to them, they fall not prostrate.) meaning, what prevents them from believing in Allah, His Messenger and the Last Day, and what is wrong with them that when Allah's Ayat and His Words are recited to them they do not prostrate due to awe, respect and reverence Concerning Allah's statement,

(بَلِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يُكْذِبُونَ)

(Nay, those who disbelieve deny.) meaning, from their mannerism is rejection, obstinacy, and opposition to the truth.

(وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يُوعُونَ)

(And Allah knows best what they gather,) Mujahid and Qatadah both said, "What they conceal in their chests."

(فَبَشِّرْهُمْ بِعَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ)

(So, announce to them a painful torment.) meaning, `inform them, O Muhammad, that Allah has prepared for them a painful torment.' Then Allah says,

(إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ)

(Save those who believe and do righteous good deeds,) This is a clear exception meaning, `but those who believe.' This refers to those who believe in their hearts. Then the statement, "and do righteous good deeds," is referring to that which they do with their limbs.

(لَهُمْ أَجْرٌ)

(for them is a reward) meaning, in the abode of the Hereafter.

(غَيْرُ مَمْنُونٍ)

(that will never come to an end.) Ibn `Abbas said, "Without being decreased." Mujahid and Ad-Dahhak both said, "Without measure." The result of their statements is that it (the reward) is without end. This is as Allah says,

(عَطَاءً غَيْرَ مَجْدُوذٍ)

(A gift without an end.) (11:108) As-Suddi said, "Some of them have said that this means without end and without decrease." This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat Al-Inshiqaq. All praise and thanks are due to Allah, and He is the giver of success and freedom from error.

The Tafsir of Surat Al-Buruj

(Chapter - 85)

Which was revealed in Makkah

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(وَالسَّمَاءِ ذَاتِ الْبُرُوجِ - وَالْيَوْمِ الْمَوْعُودِ -
وَشَهِدِ وَمَشْهُودٍ - قَتَلَ أَصْحَابُ الْأَخْدُودِ - النَّارِ
ذَاتِ الْوُقُودِ - إِذْ هُمْ عَلَيْهَا قُعُودٌ - وَهُمْ عَلَى مَا
يَفْعَلُونَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ شُهُودٌ - وَمَا نَقَمُوا مِنْهُمْ إِلَّا
أَنْ يُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ - الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ
السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ -
إِنَّ الَّذِينَ فَتَنُوا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَتُوبُوا
فَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ جَهَنَّمَ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ الْحَرِيقِ)

(1. By the heaven holding the Buruj.) (2. And by by the Promised Day.) (3. And by the Witness and by the Witnessed.) (4. Cursed were the People of the Ditch.) (5. Of fire fed with fuel.) (6. When they sat by it.) (7. And they witnessed what they were doing against the believers.) (8. And they had no fault except that they believed in Allah, the Almighty, Worthy of all praise!) (9. To Whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth! And Allah is Witness over everything.) (10. Verily, those who put into trial the believing men and believing women, and then do not turn in repentance, then they will have the torment of Hell, and they will have the punishment of the burning Fire.)

The Interpretation of the Word Buruj Allah swears by the heaven and its Buruj.

The Buruj are the giant stars, as Allah says,

(تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ فِي السَّمَاءِ بُرُوجًا وَجَعَلَ
فِيهَا سِرَاجًا وَقَمَرًا مُنِيرًا)

(Blessed is He Who has placed in the heaven Buruj, and has placed therein a great lamp (the sun), and a moon giving light.) (25:61) Ibn ` Abbas, Mujahid, Ad-Dahhak, Al-Hasan, Qatadah and As-Suddi, all said, "Al-Buruj are the stars." Al-Minhal bin ` Amr said,

(وَالسَّمَاءِ ذَاتِ الْبُرُوجِ)

(By the heaven holding the Buruj.) "The beautiful creation." Ibn Jarir chose the view that it means the positions of the sun and the moon, which are twelve Buruj. The sun travels through each one of these "Burj" (singular of Buruj) in one month. The moon travels through each one of these Burj in two-and-a-third days, which makes a total of twenty-eight positions, and it is hidden for two nights.

The Explanation of the Promised Day and the Witness and the Witnessed

Allah says,

(وَالْيَوْمِ الْمَوْعُودِ - وَشَهِدٍ وَمَشْهُودٍ)

(And by the Promised Day. And by the Witness, and by the Witnessed.) Ibn Abi Hatim recorded from Abu Hurayrah that the Messenger of Allah said,

(وَالْيَوْمِ الْمَوْعُودِ)

يَوْمُ الْقِيَامَةِ

(وَشَهِدٍ)

يَوْمُ الْجُمُعَةِ، وَمَا طَلَعَتْ شَمْسٌ وَلَا غَرَبَتْ عَلَى
يَوْمٍ أَفْضَلَ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ، وَفِيهِ سَاعَةٌ لَا
يُؤَافِقُهَا عَبْدٌ مُسْلِمٌ يَسْأَلُ اللَّهَ فِيهَا خَيْرًا إِلَّا أَعْطَاهُ
إِيَّاهُ، وَلَا يَسْتَعِيدُ فِيهَا مِنْ شَرٍّ إِلَّا أَعَادَهُ.

(وَمَشْهُودٍ)

يَوْمِ عَرَفَةَ»

(And by the Promised Day.) (This refers to the Day of Judgement. (And by the Witness.) This refers to Friday, and the sun does not rise or set on a day that is better than Friday. During it there is an hour that no Muslim servant catches while asking Allah from some good except that Allah will give it to him. He does not seek refuge from any evil in it except that Allah will

protect him. (And by the Witnessed.) (This refers to the day of `Arafah (in Hajj).) Ibn Khuzaymah also recorded the same Hadith. It has also been recorded as a statement of Abu Hurayrah and it is similar (to this Hadith).

The Oppression of the People of the Ditch against the Muslims Concerning

Allah's statement,

(قَتِيلَ أَصْحَابِ الْأَخْدُودِ)

(Cursed were (Qutilla) the People of the Ditch (Ukhdud).) meaning, the companions of the Ukhdud were cursed. The plural of Ukhdud is Akhadid, which means ditches in the ground. This is information about a group of people who were among the disbelievers. They went after those among them who believed in Allah and they attempted to force them to give up their religion. However, the believers refused to recant, so they dug a ditch for them in the ground. Then they lit a fire in it and prepared some fuel for it in order to keep it ablaze. Then they tried to convince them (the believers) to apostate from their religion (again), but they still refused them. So they threw them into the fire. Thus, Allah says,

(قَتِيلَ أَصْحَابِ الْأَخْدُودِ - النَّارِ ذَاتِ الْوَقُودِ - إِذْ
هُمْ عَلَيْهَا قُعُودٌ - وَهُمْ عَلَى مَا يَفْعَلُونَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ
شُهُودٌ)

(Cursed were the People of the Ditch. Of fire fed with fuel. When they sat by it. And they witnessed what they were doing against the believers.) meaning, they were witnesses to what was done to these believers. Allah said,

(وَمَا نَقَمُوا مِنْهُمْ إِلَّا أَنْ يُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ
الْحَمِيدِ)

(And they had no fault except that they believed in Allah, the Almighty, Worthy of all praise!) meaning, they did not commit any sin according to these people, except for their faith in Allah the Almighty, Who does not treat unjustly those who desire to be with Him. He is the Most Mighty and Most Praiseworthy in all of His statements, actions, legislation, and decrees. He decreed what happened to these servants of His at the hands of the disbelievers - and He is the Most Mighty, the Most Praiseworthy - even though the reason for this decree is unknown to many people. Then Allah says,

(الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ)

(To Whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth!) Among His perfect Attributes is that He is the Owner of all of the heavens, the earth, whatever is in them, and whatever is between them.

(وَاللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ)

(And Allah is Witness over everything.) meaning, nothing is concealed from Him in all of the heavens and the earth, nor is anything hidden from Him.

The Story of the Sorcerer, the Monk, the Boy and Those Who were forced to enter the Ditch

Imam Ahmad recorded from Suhayb that the Messenger of Allah said,

«كَانَ فِي مَن كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ مَلِكٌ وَكَانَ لَهُ سَاحِرٌ، فَلَمَّا كَبِرَ السَّاحِرُ قَالَ لِلْمَلِكِ: إِنِّي قَدْ كَبُرَ سِنِّي وَحَضَرَ أَجْلِي، فَادْفَعْ إِلَيَّ غُلَامًا لِأَعْلَمَهُ السَّحْرَ، فَدَفَعَ إِلَيْهِ غُلَامًا فَكَانَ يُعَلِّمُهُ السَّحْرَ، وَكَانَ الْعُلَامُ عَلَى الرَّاهِبِ فَسَمِعَ مِنْ كَلَامِهِ فَأَعْجَبَهُ نَحْوُهُ وَكَلَامُهُ، وَكَانَ إِذَا أَتَى السَّاحِرَ ضَرَبَهُ وَقَالَ: مَا حَبَسَكَ؟ وَإِذَا أَتَى أَهْلَهُ ضَرَبُوهُ وَقَالُوا: مَا حَبَسَكَ؟ فَشَكَا ذَلِكَ إِلَى الرَّاهِبِ فَقَالَ: إِذَا أَرَادَ السَّاحِرُ أَنْ يَضْرِبَكَ فَقُلْ: حَبَسَنِي أَهْلِي، وَإِذَا أَرَادَ أَهْلَكَ أَنْ يَضْرِبُوكَ فَقُلْ: حَبَسَنِي السَّاحِرُ، قَالَ: فَبَيْنَمَا هُوَ ذَاتَ يَوْمٍ إِذْ أَتَى عَلَى دَابَّةٍ فَظِيْعَةٌ عَظِيمَةٌ قَدْ حَبَسَتْ النَّاسَ فَلَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ أَنْ

يَجُوزُوا. فَقَالَ: الْيَوْمَ أَعْلَمُ أَمْرُ الرَّاهِبِ أَحَبُّ إِلَيَّ
اللَّهِ أَمْ أَمْرُ السَّاحِرِ؟ قَالَ فَأَخَذَ حَجْرًا فَقَالَ: اللَّهُمَّ
إِنْ كَانَ أَمْرُ الرَّاهِبِ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْكَ وَأَرْضِي مِنْ
أَمْرِ السَّاحِرِ فَاقْتُلْ هَذِهِ الدَّابَّةَ حَتَّى يَجُوزَ النَّاسُ،
وَرَمَاهَا فَقَتَلَهَا وَمَضَى النَّاسُ.

(Among the people who came before you, there was a king who had a sorcerer, and when that sorcerer became old, he said to the king, "I have become old and my time is nearly over, so please send me a boy whom I can teach magic." So, he sent him a boy and the sorcerer taught him magic. Whenever the boy went to the sorcerer, he sat with a monk who was on the way and listened to his speech and admired them. So, when he went to the sorcerer, he passed by the monk and sat there with him; and on visiting the sorcerer the latter would thrash him. So, the boy complained about this to the monk. The monk said to him, "Whenever you are afraid of the sorcerer, say to him: `My people kept me busy.' And whenever you are afraid of your people, say to them: `The sorcerer kept me busy.'" So the boy carried on like that (for some time). Then a huge terrible creature appeared on the road and the people were unable to pass by. The boy said, "Today I shall know whether the sorcerer is better or the monk is better." So, he took a stone and said, "O Allah! If the deeds and actions of the monk are liked by You better than those of the sorcerer, then kill this creature so that the people can cross (the road)." Then he struck it with a stone killing it and the people passed by on the road.

فَأَخْبَرَ الرَّاهِبَ بِذَلِكَ فَقَالَ: أَيُّ بَنِيَّ، أَنْتَ أَفْضَلُ
مِنِّي وَإِنَّكَ سَتُبْتَلَى، فَإِنْ ابْتُلِيتَ فَلَا تَدُلَّ عَلَيَّ،
فَكَانَ الْعُلَمَاءُ يُبْرِيءُ الْأَكْمَةَ وَالْأَبْرَصَ وَسَائِرَ
الْأَدْوَاءِ وَيَشْفِيهِمْ، وَكَانَ لِلْمَلِكِ جَلِيسٌ فَعَمِيَ
فَسَمِعَ بِهِ فَأَتَاهُ بِهَدَايَا كَثِيرَةٍ فَقَالَ: اشْفِنِي وَلَكَ مَا
هَهُنَا أَجْمَعُ، فَقَالَ: مَا أَنَا أَشْفِي أَحَدًا، إِنَّمَا يَشْفِي
اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ، فَإِنْ آمَنْتَ بِهِ دَعَوْتُ اللَّهَ فَشَفَاكَ،
فَأَمَّنَ فَدَعَا اللَّهَ فَشَفَاهُ.

The boy came to the monk and informed him about it. The monk said to him, "O my son! Today you are better than I, and you have achieved what I see! You will be put to trial. And in case you are put to trial, do not inform (them) about me." The boy used to treat the people suffering from congenital blindness, leprosy, and other diseases. There was a courtier of the king who had become blind and he heard about the boy. He came and brought a number of gifts for the boy and said, "All these gifts are for you on the condition that you cure me." The boy said, "I do not cure anybody; it is only Allah who cures people. So, if you believe in Allah and supplicate to Him, He will cure you." So, he believed in and supplicated to Allah, and Allah cured him.

ثُمَّ أَتَى الْمَلِكَ فَجَلَسَ مِنْهُ نَحْوَ مَا كَانَ يَجْلِسُ فَقَالَ لَهُ الْمَلِكُ: يَا فُلَانُ، مَنْ رَدَّ عَلَيْكَ بَصْرَكَ؟ فَقَالَ: رَبِّي. فَقَالَ: أَنَا؟ قَالَ: لَا، رَبِّي وَرَبُّكَ اللَّهُ، قَالَ: وَلَكَ رَبٌّ غَيْرِي؟ قَالَ: نَعَمْ رَبِّي وَرَبُّكَ اللَّهُ، فَلَمْ يَزَلْ يُعَذِّبُهُ حَتَّى دَلَّ عَلَى الْعُلَامِ، فَبَعَثَ إِلَيْهِ فَقَالَ: أَيُّ بَنِي بَلْعٍ مِنْ سِحْرِكَ أَنْ تُبْرِئَ الْأَكْمَهَ وَالْأَبْرَصَ وَهَذِهِ الْأَدْوَاءَ قَالَ: مَا أَشْفِي أَحَدًا إِنَّمَا يَشْفِي اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ، قَالَ: أَنَا؟ قَالَ: لَا. قَالَ: أَوْلِكَ رَبٌّ غَيْرِي؟ قَالَ: رَبِّي وَرَبُّكَ اللَّهُ، فَأَخَذَهُ أَيْضًا بِالْعَذَابِ فَلَمْ يَزَلْ بِهِ حَتَّى دَلَّ عَلَى الرَّاهِبِ فَأَتَى بِالرَّاهِبِ فَقَالَ: ارْجِعْ عَنْ دِينِكَ فَأَبِي، فَوَضَعَ الْمِنْشَارَ فِي مَفْرَقِ رَأْسِهِ حَتَّى وَقَعَ شِقَاؤُهُ، وَقَالَ لِلْأَعْمَى: ارْجِعْ عَنْ دِينِكَ، فَأَبِي، فَوَضَعَ الْمِنْشَارَ فِي مَفْرَقِ رَأْسِهِ حَتَّى وَقَعَ شِقَاؤُهُ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ. وَقَالَ لِلْعُلَامِ: ارْجِعْ عَنْ دِينِكَ، فَأَبِي،

فَبَعَثَ بِهِ مَعَ نَفَرٍ إِلَى جَبَلٍ كَذَا وَكَذَا وَقَالَ: إِذَا
 بَلَغْتُمْ دُرُوتَهُ فَإِنْ رَجَعَ عَنْ دِينِهِ وَإِلَّا فَذَهْدُهُوهُ،
 فَذَهَبُوا بِهِ فَلَمَّا عَلَوْا بِهِ الْجَبَلَ قَالَ: اللَّهُمَّ اكْفِنِيهِمْ
 بِمَا شِئْتَ، فَرَجَفَ بِهِمُ الْجَبَلُ فَذَهْدُهُوُوا أَجْمَعُونَ،
 وَجَاءَ الْعُلَامُ يَتَلَمَّسُ حَتَّى دَخَلَ عَلَى الْمَلِكِ فَقَالَ:
 مَا فَعَلَ أَصْحَابُكَ؟ فَقَالَ: كَفَانِيهِمُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى،
 فَبَعَثَ بِهِ مَعَ نَفَرٍ فِي قَرْفُورٍ فَقَالَ: إِذَا لَجَجْتُمْ بِهِ
 الْبَحْرَ فَإِنْ رَجَعَ عَنْ دِينِهِ، وَإِلَّا فَعَرِّقُوهُ فِي
 الْبَحْرِ، فَلَجَّجُوا بِهِ الْبَحْرَ فَقَالَ الْعُلَامُ: اللَّهُمَّ
 اكْفِنِيهِمْ بِمَا شِئْتَ، فَعَرِّقُوا أَجْمَعُونَ.

Later, the courtier came to the king and sat at the place where he used to sit before. The king said, "Who gave you back your sight" The courtier replied, "My Lord." The king then said, "I did" The courtier said, "No, my Lord and your Lord - Allah" The king said, "Do you have another Lord beside me" The courtier said, "Yes, your Lord and my Lord is Allah." The king tortured him and did not stop until he told him about the boy. So, the boy was brought to the king and he said to him, "O boy! Has your magic reached to the extent that you cure congenital blindness, leprosy and other diseases" He said, "I do not cure anyone. Only Allah can cure." The king said, "Me" The boy replied, "No." The king asked, "Do you have another Lord besides me" The boy answered, "My Lord and your Lord is Allah." So, he tortured him also until he told about the monk. Then the monk was brought to him and the king said to him, "Abandon your religion." The monk refused and so the king ordered a saw to be brought which was placed in the middle of his head and he fell, sawn in two. Then it was said to the man who used to be blind, "Abandon your religion." He refused to do so, and so a saw was brought and placed in the middle of his head and he fell, sawn in two. Then the boy was brought and it was said to him, "Abandon your religion." He refused and so the king sent him to the top of such and such mountain with some people. He told the people, "Ascend up the mountain with him till you reach its peak, then see if he abandons his religion; otherwise throw him from the top." They took him and when they ascended to the top, he said, "O Allah! Save me from them by any means that You wish." So, the mountain shook and they all fell down and the boy came back walking to the king. The king said, "What did your companions (the people I sent with you) do" The boy said, "Allah saved me from them." So, the king ordered some people to take the boy on a boat to the middle of the sea, saying, "If he renounces his religion (well and good), but if he refuses, drown him." So, they took him out to sea and he said, "O Allah! Save me from them by any means that you wish." So they were all drowned in the sea.

وَجَاءَ الْعُغْلَامُ حَتَّى دَخَلَ عَلَى الْمَلِكِ فَقَالَ: مَا
فَعَلَ أَصْحَابُكَ؟ فَقَالَ: كَفَانِيهِمُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى ثُمَّ قَالَ
لِلْمَلِكِ: إِنَّكَ لَسْتَ بِقَاتِلِي حَتَّى تَفْعَلَ مَا أَمْرُكَ بِهِ،
فَإِنْ أَنْتَ فَعَلْتَ مَا أَمْرُكَ بِهِ قَتَلْتَنِي، وَإِلَّا فَإِنَّكَ لَا
تَسْتَطِيعُ قَتْلِي، قَالَ: وَمَا هُوَ؟ قَالَ: تَجْمَعُ النَّاسَ
فِي صَعِيدٍ وَاحِدٍ ثُمَّ تَصْلُبُنِي عَلَى جِدْعٍ وَتَأْخُذُ
سَهْمًا مِنْ كِنَانَتِي، ثُمَّ قُلْ: بِاسْمِ اللَّهِ رَبِّ الْعُغْلَامِ.
فَإِنَّكَ إِذَا فَعَلْتَ ذَلِكَ قَتَلْتَنِي. فَفَعَلَ وَوَضَعَ السَّهْمَ
فِي كَيْدِ قَوْسِهِ ثُمَّ رَمَاهُ وَقَالَ: بِاسْمِ اللَّهِ رَبِّ
الْعُغْلَامِ، فَوَقَعَ السَّهْمُ فِي صُدْغِهِ، فَوَضَعَ الْعُغْلَامُ
يَدَهُ عَلَى مَوْضِعِ السَّهْمِ وَمَاتَ، فَقَالَ النَّاسُ:
أَمَّا يَرْبُّ الْعُغْلَامِ. فَقِيلَ لِلْمَلِكِ: أَرَأَيْتَ مَا كُنْتَ
تَحْذَرُ؟ فَقَدْ وَاللَّهِ نَزَلَ بِكَ، قَدْ آمَنَ النَّاسُ كُلُّهُمْ،
فَأَمَرَ بِأَفْوَاهِ السَّكَّكِ، فَخُدَّتْ فِيهَا الْأَخَادِيدُ
وَأُضْرِمَتْ فِيهَا النَّيِّرَانُ، وَقَالَ: مَنْ رَجَعَ عَنْ
دِينِهِ فَدَعُوهُ، وَإِلَّا فَأَقْحِمُوهُ فِيهَا، قَالَ: فَكَانُوا
يَتَعَادُونَ فِيهَا وَيَتَدَافِعُونَ، فَجَاءَتْ امْرَأَةٌ بَابِنِ لَهَا

ثُرْضِعُهُ، فَكَأَنَّهَا تَقَاعَسَتْ أَنْ تَقَعَ فِي النَّارِ فَقَالَ
الصَّبِيُّ: اصْبِرِي يَا أُمَّةَ فَإِنَّكَ عَلَى الْحَقِّ»

Then the boy returned to the king and the king said, "What did your companions do" The boy replied, "Allah, saved me from them." Then he said to the king, "You will not be able to kill me until you do as I order you. And if you do as I order you, you will be able to kill me." The king asked, "And what is that" The boy said, "Gather the people in one elevated place and tie me to the trunk of a tree; then take an arrow from my quiver and say: `In the Name of Allah, the Lord of the boy.' If you do this, you will be able to kill me." So he did this, and placing an arrow in the bow, he shot it, saying, "In the Name of Allah, the Lord of the boy." The arrow hit the boy in the temple, and the boy placed his hand over the arrow wound and died. The people proclaimed, "We believe in the Lord of the boy!" Then it was said to the king, "Do you see what has happened That which you feared has taken place. By Allah, all the people have believed (in the Lord of the boy)." So he ordered that ditches be dug at the entrances to the roads and it was done, and fires were kindled in them. Then the king said, "Whoever abandons his religion, let him go, and whoever does not, throw him into the fire." They were struggling and scuffling in the fire, until a woman and her baby whom she was breast feeding came and it was as if she was being somewhat hesitant of falling into the fire, so her baby said to her, "Be patient mother! For verily, you are following the truth!") Muslim also recorded this Hadith at the end of the Sahih. Muhammad bin Ishaq bin Yasar related this story in his book of Srah in another way that has some differences from that which has just been related. Then, after Ibn Ishaq explained that the people of Najran began following the religion of the boy after his murder, which was the religion of Christianity, he said, "Then (the king) Dhu Nuwas came to them with his army and called them to Judaism. He gave them a choice to either accept Judaism or be killed, so they chose death. Thus, he had a ditch dug and burned (some of them) in the fire (in the ditch), while others he killed with the sword. He made an example of them (by slaughtering them) until he had killed almost twenty thousand of them. It was about Dhu Nuwas and his army that Allah revealed to His Messenger :

(قَتِلَ أَصْحَابُ الْأَخْدُودِ - النَّارِ ذَاتِ الْوَقُودِ - إِذْ
هُمْ عَلَيْهَا قُعُودٌ - وَهُمْ عَلَى مَا يَفْعَلُونَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ
شُهُودٌ - وَمَا نَقَمُوا مِنْهُمْ إِلَّا أَنْ يُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ
الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ - الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضِ وَاللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ)

(Cursed were the People of the Ditch. Of fire fed with fuel. When they sat by it. And they witnessed what they were doing against the believers. And they had no fault except that they believed in Allah, the Almighty, Worthy of all praise! To Whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth! And Allah is Witness over everything.) (85:4-9)" This is what Muhammad bin Ishaq said in his book of Srah -- that the one who killed the People of the Ditch was Dhu Nuwas, and his name was Zur`ah. In the time of his kingdom he was called Yusuf. He was the son of Tuban As`ad Abi Karib, who was the Tubba` who invaded Al-Madinah and put the

covering over the Ka`bah. He kept two rabbis with him from the Jews of Al-Madinah. After this some of the people of Yemen accepted Judaism at the hands of these two rabbis, as Ibn Ishaq mentions at length. So Dhu Nuwas killed twenty thousand people in one morning in the Ditch. Only one man among them escaped. He was known as Daws Dhu Tha`laban. He escaped on a horse and they set out after him, but they were unable to catch him. He went to Caesar, the emperor of Ash-Sham. So, Caesar wrote to An-Najashi, the King of Abyssinia. So, he sent with him an army of Abyssinian Christians, who were lead by Aryat and Abrahah. They rescued Yemen from the hands of the Jews. Dhu Nuwas tried to flee but eventually fell into the sea and drowned. After this, the kingdom of Abyssinia remained under Christian power for seventy years. Then the power was divested from the Christians by Sayf bin Dhi Yazin Al-Himyari when Kisra, the king of Persia sent an army there (to Yemen). He (the king) sent with him (Sayf Al-Himyari) those people who were in the prisons, and they were close to seven hundred in number. So, he (Sayf Al-Himyari) conquered Yemen with them and returned the kingdom back to the people of Himyar (Yemenis). We will mention a portion of this -- if Allah wills -- when we discuss the Tafsir of the Surah:

(أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِأَصْحَابِ الْفِيلِ)

(Have you not seen how your Lord dealt with the Owners of the Elephant) (105:1)

The Punishment of the People of the Ditch

Allah said,

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَتَلُوا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ)

(Verily, those who put into trial the believing men and believing women,) meaning, they burned (them). This was said by Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, Qatadah, Ad-Dahhak, and Ibn Abza.

(ثُمَّ لَمْ يُتُوبُوا)

(and then do not turn in repentance,) meaning, `they do not cease from what they are doing, and do not regret what they had done before.'

(فَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ جَهَنَّمَ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابُ الْحَرِيقِ)

(then they will have the torment of Hell, and they will have the punishment of the burning Fire.) This is because the recompense is based upon the type of deed performed. Al-Hasan Al-Basri said, "Look at this generosity and kindness. These people killed Allah's Awliya' and He still invites them to make repentance and seek forgiveness."

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرَى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ ذَلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْكَبِيرُ - إِنَّ

بَطْشَ رَبِّكَ لَشَدِيدٌ - إِنَّهُ هُوَ يُبْدِيءُ وَيُعِيدُ - وَهُوَ
 الْغَفُورُ الْوَدُودُ - ذُو الْعَرْشِ الْمَجِيدُ - فَعَّالٌ لِّمَا
 يُرِيدُ - هَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ الْجُنُودِ - فِرْعَوْنَ وَثَمُودَ
 - بَلِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فِي تَكْذِيبٍ - وَاللَّهُ مِنْ وَرَائِهِمْ
 مُحِيطٌ - بَلْ هُوَ قَرِءٌ أَنْ مَّجِيدٌ - فِي لَوْحٍ مَّحْفُوظٍ
 (

(11. Verily, those who believe and do righteous good deeds, for them will be Gardens under which rivers flow. That is the supreme success.) (12. Verily, the punishment of your Lord is severe and painful.) (13. Verily, He it is Who begins and repeats.) (14. And He is Oft-Forgiving, Al-Wadud.) (15. Owner of the Throne, Al-Majid (the Glorious).) (16. Doer of what He intends.) (17. Has the story reached you of the hosts.) (18. Of Fir`awn and Thamud) (19. Nay! The disbelievers (persisted) in denying.) (20. And Allah encompasses them from behind!) (21. Nay! This is a Glorious Qur'an,) (22. In Al-Lawh Al-Mahfuz!)

The Reward of the Righteous, and the Harsh Seizing of the Disbelieving Enemies of Allah

Allah informs about His believing servants that

(لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ)

(for them will be Gardens under which rivers flow.) This is the opposite of what he has prepared for His enemies of Fire and Hell. Thus, He says,

(ذَلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْكَبِيرُ)

(That is the supreme success.) Then Allah says,

(إِنَّ بَطْشَ رَبِّكَ لَشَدِيدٌ)

(Verily, the punishment of your Lord is severe and painful.) meaning, indeed His punishment and His vengeance upon His enemies, who have rejected His Messengers, and opposed His command, is severe, great and strong. For verily, He is the Owner of power, Most Strong. He is the One that whatever He wants, then it will be however He wants it to be, in the matter of a blinking of an eye, or even swifter. Thus, Allah says,

(إِنَّهُ هُوَ يُبْدِيءُ وَيُعِيدُ)

(Verily, He it is Who begins and repeats.) meaning, from His perfect strength and power is that He begins the creation, and He repeats it just as He began it, without opposition or resistance.

(وَهُوَ الْغَفُورُ الْوَدُودُ)

(And He is Oft-Forgiving, Al-Wadud.) meaning, He forgives the sin of whoever repents to Him and humbles himself before Him, no matter what the sin may be. Ibn `Abbas and others have said about the name Al-Wadud, "It means Al-Habib (the Loving)."

(ذُو الْعَرْشِ)

(Owner of the Throne,) meaning, the Owner of the Mighty Throne that is above all of the creation. Then He says,

(الْمَجِيدِ)

(Al-Majid (the Glorious).) This word has been recited in two different ways: either with a Dhammah over its last letter (Al-Majidu), which is an attribute of the Lord, or with a Kasrah under its last letter (Al-Majid), which is a description of the Throne. Nevertheless, both meanings are correct.

(فَعَّالٌ لِّمَا يُرِيدُ)

(Doer of what He intends.) meaning, whatever He wants He does it, and there is no one who can counter His ruling. He is not asked about what He does due to His greatness, His power, His wisdom and His justice. This is as we have related previously from Abu Bakr As-Sddiq, that it was said to him during the illness of (his) death, "Has a doctor seen you" He replied, "Yes." They said, "What did he say to you" He replied, "He said, `I am the Doer of whatever I intend.'" Concerning Allah's statement,

(هَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ الْجُنُودِ - فِرْعَوْنَ وَثَمُودَ)

(Has the story reached you of the hosts. Of Fir`awn and Thamud) meaning, has the news reached you of what Allah caused to befall them of torment, and that He sent down upon them the punishment that no one was able to ward off from them This is the affirmation of His statement,

(إِنَّ بَطْشَ رَبِّكَ لَشَدِيدٌ)

(Verily, the punishment of your Lord is severe and painful.) meaning, when He seizes the wrongdoer, He seizes him with a severe and painful punishment. It is the seizing punishment of One Most Mighty, and Most Powerful. Then Allah says,

(بَلِّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فِي تَكْذِيبِ)

(Nay! The disbelievers (persisted) in denying.) meaning, they are in doubt, suspicion, disbelief and rebellion.

(وَاللَّهُ مِنْ وَرَائِهِمْ مُحِيطٌ)

(And Allah encompasses them from behind!) meaning, He has power over them, and is able to compel them. They cannot escape Him or evade Him.

(بَلِّ هُوَ قُرْءَانٌ مَجِيدٌ)

(Nay! This is a Glorious Qur'an.) meaning, magnificent and noble.

(فِي لَوْحٍ مَحْفُوظٍ)

(In Al-Lawh Al-Mahfuz!) meaning, among the most high gathering, guarded from any increase, decrease, distortion, or change. This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat Al-Buruj, and all praise and blessings are due to Allah.

The Tafsir of Surat At-Tariq

(Chapter - 86)

Which was revealed in Makkah

The Virtues of Surat At-Tariq

An-Nasa'i recorded that Jabir said, "Mu`adh lead the Maghrib prayer and he recited Al-Baqarah and An-Nisa'. So the Prophet said,

«أَفْتَانُ أَنْتَ يَا مُعَاذُ، مَا كَانَ يَكْفِيكَ أَنْ تَقْرَأَ
بِالسَّمَاءِ وَالطَّارِقِ وَالشَّمْسِ وَضُحَاهَا
وَنَحْوَهَا؟»

(Are you putting the people to trial O Mu`adh! Was it not sufficient for you to recite As-Sama'wat-Tariq, and Ash-Shamsi wa Duhaha, and something like them)

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(وَالسَّمَاءِ وَالطَّارِقِ- وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الطَّارِقُ-
النَّجْمُ الثَّاقِبُ- إِنْ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ لَمَّا عَلَيْهَا حَافِظٌ-
فَلْيَنْظُرِ الْإِنْسَانُ مِمَّ خُلِقَ- خُلِقَ مِنْ مَّاءٍ دَافِقٍ-
يَخْرُجُ مِنْ بَيْنِ الصُّلْبِ وَالتَّرَائِبِ- إِنَّهُ عَلَى
رَجْعِهِ لَقَادِرٌ- يَوْمَ تُبْلَى السَّرَائِرُ- فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ قُوَّةٍ
وَلَا نَاصِرٍ-)

(1. By the heaven, and At-Tariq;) (2. And what will make you to know what At-Tariq is) (3. The star, Ath-Thaqib.) (4. There is no human being but has a protector over him.) (5. So, let man see from what he is created!) (6. He is created from a water gushing forth,) (7. Proceeding from between the backbone and the ribs.) (8. Verily, He is Able to bring him back!) (9. The Day when all the secrets will be examined.) (10. Then he will have no power, nor any helper.)

Swearing by the Existence of Humanity surrounded by the Organized System of Allah

Allah swears by the heaven and what He has placed in it of radiant stars. Thus, He says,

(وَالسَّمَاءِ وَالطَّارِقِ)

(By the heaven, and At-Tariq;) Then He says,

(وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الطَّارِقُ)

(And what will make you to know what At-Tariq is) Then He explains it by His saying,

(النَّجْمُ الثَّاقِبُ)

(The star of Ath-Thaqib.) Qatadah and others have said, "The star has been named Tariq because it is only seen at night and it is hidden during the day." His view is supported by what

has been mentioned in the authentic Hadith that prohibits a man to come to his family Taruq. This means that he comes to them unexpectedly at nighttime. Concerning Allah's statement,

(النَّاقِبُ)

(Ath-Thaqib.) Ibn ` Abbas said, "The illuminating." ` Ikrimah said, "It is illuminating and it burns the Shaytan" Then Allah says,

(إِنْ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ لَّمَّا عَلَيْهَا حَافِظٌ)

(There is no human being but has a protector over him.) meaning, every soul has a guardian over it from Allah that protects it from the calamities. This is as Allah says,

(لَهُ مُعَقِّبَاتٌ مِّنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ يَحْفَظُونَهُ
مِنَ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ)

(For Him, there are angels in succession, before and behind him. They guard him by the command of Allah.) (13:11)

How Man is created is a Proof of Allah's Ability to Return Him to Him

Allah says,

(فَلْيَنْظُرِ الْإِنْسَانُ مِمَّ خُلِقَ)

(So, let man see from what he is created!) This is alerting man to the weakness of his origin from which he was created. The intent of it is to guide man to accept (the reality of) the Hereafter, because whoever is able to begin the creation then he is also able to repeat it in the same way. This is as Allah says,

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي يَبْدَأُ الْخَلْقَ ثُمَّ يُعِيدُهُ وَهُوَ أَهْوَنُ
عَلَيْهِ)

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

(خُلِقَ مِنْ مَّاءٍ دَافِقٍ)

(He is created from a water gushing forth.) meaning, the sexual fluid that comes out bursting forth from the man and the woman. Thus, the child is produced from both of them by the permission of Allah. Due to this Allah says,

(يَخْرُجُ مِنْ بَيْنِ الصُّلْبِ وَالتَّرَائِبِ)

(Proceeding from between the backbone and the ribs.) meaning, the backbone (or loins) of the man and the ribs of the woman, which is referring to her chest. Shabib bin Bishr reported from `Ikrimah who narrated from Ibn `Abbas that he said,

(يَخْرُجُ مِنْ بَيْنِ الصُّلْبِ وَالتَّرَائِبِ)

(Proceeding from between the backbone and the ribs.) "The backbone of the man and the ribs of the woman. It (the fluid) is yellow and fine in texture. The child will not be born except from both of them (i.e., their sexual fluids)." Concerning Allah's statement,

(إِنَّهُ عَلَى رَجْعِهِ لَقَادِرٌ)

(Verily, He is Able to bring him back (to life)!) This means that He is able to return this man that is created from fluid gushed forth. In other words, He is able to repeat his creation and resurrect him to the final abode. This is clearly possible, because whoever is able to begin the creation then he surely is able to repeat it. Indeed Allah has mentioned this proof in more than one place in the Qur'an.

On the Day of Judgement, Man will have no Power or Assistance

In this regard Allah says,

(يَوْمَ تُبْلَى السَّرَائِرُ)

(The Day when all the secrets will be examined.) meaning, on the Day of Judgement the secrets will be tested. This means that they will be exposed and made manifest. Thus, the secret will be made open and that which is concealed will be well known. It is confirmed in the Two Sahihis on the authority of Ibn `Umar that the Messenger of Allah said,

«يُرْفَعُ لِكُلِّ غَادِرٍ لَوَاءٌ عِنْدَ اسْتِهِ يُقَالُ: هَذِهِ
غَدْرَةُ فُلَانِ بْنِ فُلَانٍ»

(Every betrayer will have a flag raised for him behind his back, and it will be said, `This is the betrayal of so-and-so, the son of so-and-so.) Concerning Allah's statement,

(فَمَا لَهُ)

(Then he will have no) meaning, man on the Day of Judgement.

(مِنْ قُوَّةٍ)

(any power) meaning, within himself.

(وَلَا نَاصِرٍ)

(nor any helper.) meaning, from other than himself. This statement means that he will not be able to save himself from the torment of Allah, and nor will anyone else be able to save him.

(وَالسَّمَاءِ ذَاتِ الرَّجْعِ - وَالْأَرْضِ ذَاتِ الصَّدْعِ
- إِنَّهُ لَقَوْلٌ فَصْلٌ - وَمَا هُوَ بِالْهَزْلُ - إِنَّهُمْ
يَكِيدُونَ كَيْدًا - وَأَكِيدُ كَيْدًا - فَمَهْلُ الْكَافِرِينَ
أُمَهُمْ رُؤْيَاً)

(11. By the sky which gives rain, again and again.) (12. And the earth which splits.) (13. Verily, this is the Word that separates.) (14. And it is not a thing for amusement.) (15. Verily, they are but plotting a plot.) (16. And I am planning a plan.) (17. So, give a respite to the disbelievers; deal gently with them for a while.)

Swearing to the Truthfulness of the Qur'an and the Failure of Those Who oppose it

Ibn `Abbas said, "Ar-raj` means rain." It has also been narrated from him that he said, "It means the clouds that contain rain." He also said,

(وَالسَّمَاءِ ذَاتِ الرَّجْعِ)

(By the sky (having rain clouds) which gives rain, again and again.) "This means that it rains and then it rains (again)." Qatadah said, "It returns the sustenance of the servants (creatures) every year. Were it not for this, they would all be destroyed and so would their cattle."

(وَالْأَرْضِ ذَاتِ الصَّدْعِ)

(And the earth which splits.) Ibn ` Abbas said, "Splitting to bring forth plant growths." This was also said by Sa`id bin Jubayr, `Ikrimah, Abu Malik, Ad-Dahhak, Al-Hasan, Qatadah, As-Suddi and others. Concerning Allah's statement,

(إِنَّهُ لَقَوْلٌ فَصْلٌ)

(Verily, this is the Word that separates.) Ibn ` Abbas said (Fasl is), "True." Qatadah also said the same. Someone else said, "A just ruling."

(وَمَا هُوَ بِالْهَزْلِ)

(And it is not a thing for amusement.) meaning, rather it is serious and true. Then Allah informs about the disbelievers saying that they reject Him and hinder others from His path. Allah says,

(إِنَّهُمْ يَكِيدُونَ كَيْدًا)

(Verily, they are but plotting a plot.) meaning, they plot against the people in their calling them to oppose the Qur'an. Then Allah says,

(فَمَهْلَ الْكَافِرِينَ)

(So, give a respite to the disbelievers;) meaning, wait for them and do not be in haste concerning them.

(أَمْهَلُهُمْ رُؤْيَاً)

(deal gently with them for a while.) meaning, a little while. This means that you will see what befalls them of torment, punishment and destruction. This is as Allah says,

(نُمَتِّعُهُمْ قَلِيلًا ثُمَّ نَضْطَرُّهُمْ إِلَىٰ عَذَابٍ غَلِيظٍ)

(We let them enjoy for a little while, then in the end We shall oblige them to (enter) a great torment.) (31:24) This is the end of the Tafsir Surat At-Tariq, and unto Allah is all praise and thanks.

The Tafsir of Surah Sabbih

(Chapter - 87)

Which was revealed in Makkah

The Virtues of Surat Al-A` la

This Surah was revealed in Makkah before the migration to Al-Madinah. The proof of this is what Al-Bukhari recorded from Al-Bara' bin `Azib, that he said, "The first people to come to us (in Al-Madinah) from the Companions of the Prophet were Mus`ab bin `Umayr and Ibn Umm Maktum, who taught us the Qur'an; then `Ammar, Bilal and Sa`d came. Then `Umar bin Al-Khattab came with a group of twenty people, after which the Prophet came. I have not seen the people of Al-Madinah happier with anything more than their happiness with his coming (to Al-Madinah). This was reached to such an extent that I saw the children and little ones saying, `This is the Messenger of Allah who has come.' Thus, he came, but he did not come until after I had already recited (i.e., learned how to recite)

(سَبِّحْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى)

(Glorify the Name of your Lord, the Most High.) (87:1) as well as other Surahs similar to it." It has been confirmed in the Two Sahih's that the Messenger of Allah said to Mu`adh,

«هَلَّا صَلَّيْتَ بِـ

(سَبِّحْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى)

(وَالشَّمْسِ وَضُحَاهَا)

(وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَى)»

(Why didn't you recite "Glorify the Name of your Lord, the Most High,," "By the sun and its brightness," and "By the night when it envelopes.") Imam Ahmad recorded from An-Nu`man bin Bashir that the Messenger of Allah recited

(سَبِّحْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى)

و

(هَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ الْغَاشِيَةِ)

Surat Al-A`la (chapter 87) and Surat Al-Ghashiyah (chapter 88) in the two `Id prayers. If the `Id prayer fell on Friday, he would recite them in both prayers (`Id and Salat Al-Jumu`ah). Muslim also recorded this in his Sahih, as well as Abu Dawud, At-Tirmidhi, An-Nasa'i and Ibn Majah. The wording of Muslim and the Sunan compilers says, "He used to recite

(سَبِّحْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى)

و

(هَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ الْغَشِيَةِ)

Surat Al-A` la (chapter 87) and Surat Al-Ghashiyh (chapter 88) for the two ` lds and Jumu` ah. If they occurred on the same day, he would recite them in both of them." In his Musnad, Imam Ahmad recorded on the authority of Ubayy bin Ka` b, Abdullah bin ` Abbas, ` Abdur-Rahman bin Abza, and the Mother of the believers, ` A`ishah, that the Messenger of Allah used to recite

(سَبِّحْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى)

و

(قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْكَافِرُونَ)

و

(قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ)

(Glorify the Name of your Lord, the Most High.) and (Say: `O you who disbelieve.') and (Say: `He is Allah, the One.') `A`ishah added in her version that he would also recite the Mu`awwidhatayn (Al-Falaq and An-Nas).

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(سَبِّحْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى- الَّذِي خَلَقَ فَسَوَّى-
وَالَّذِي قَدَّرَ فَهَدَى- وَالَّذِي أَخْرَجَ الْمَرْعَى-
فَجَعَلَهُ غُثَاءً أَحْوَى- سَنُقَرِّبُكَ فَلَا تَنْسَى- إِلَّا مَا
شَاءَ اللَّهُ إِنَّهُ يَعْلَمُ الْجَهْرَ وَمَا يَخْفَى- وَنُيَسِّرُكَ
لِلْيُسْرَى- فَذَكَرْ إِن تَفَعْتَ الذِّكْرَى- سَيَذَكِّرُ مَنْ
يَخْشَى- وَيَتَجَنَّبُهَا الْأَشْقَى- الَّذِي يَصْلَى النَّارَ
الْكُبْرَى- ثُمَّ لَا يَمُوتُ فِيهَا وَلَا يَحْيَا-)

(1. Glorify the Name of your Lord, the Most High.) (2. Who has created, and then proportioned it.) (3. And Who has measured; and then guided.) (4. And Who brings out the pasturage,) (5. And then makes it dark stubble.) (6. We shall make you recite, so you shall not forget,) (7. Except what Allah may will He knows what is apparent and what is hidden.) (8. And We shall make easy for you the easy.) (9. Therefore remind in case the reminder profits.) (10. The reminder will be received by him who fears,) (11. But it will be avoided by the wretched,) (12. Who will enter the great Fire.) (13. There he will neither die nor live.)

The Command to pronounce Tasbih and its Response

Imam Ahmad recorded from Ibn `Abbas that whenever the Messenger of Allah would recite

(سَبِّحْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى)

(Glorify the Name of your Lord, the Most High.) he would say,

«سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ الْأَعْلَى»

(Glory to my Lord, the Most High.) Ibn Jarir recorded from Ibn Ishaq Al-Hamdani that whenever Ibn `Abbas would recite

(سَبِّحْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى)

(Glorify the Name of your Lord, the Most High.) he would say, "Glory to my Lord, the Most High," and whenever he would recite

(لَا أَقْسِمُ بِيَوْمِ الْقِيَمَةِ)

(I swear by the Day of Resurrection.) (75:1) and then reach the end of it

(أَلَيْسَ ذَلِكَ بِقَدْرِ عَلَى أَنْ يُحْيِيَ الْمَوْتَى)

(Is not He able to give life to the dead) (75:40) he would say, "Glory to You, of course." Qatadah said,

(سَبِّحْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى)

(Glorify the Name of your Lord, the Most High.) "It has been mentioned to us that whenever the Prophet of Allah used to recite it he would say,

«سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ الْأَعْلَى»

(Glory to my Lord, the Most High.)"

The Creation, the Decree, and the bringing forth of Vegetation

Allah says,

(الَّذِي خَلَقَ فَسَوَّى)

(Who has created, and then proportioned it.) meaning, He created that which has been created, and He fashioned every creation in the best of forms. Then Allah says,

(وَالَّذِي قَدَّرَ فَهَدَى)

(And Who has measured; and then guided.) Mujahid said, "He guided man to distress and happiness, and he guided the cattle to their pastures." This Ayah is similar to what Allah has said about Musa's statement to Fir`awn,

(رَبُّنَا الَّذِي أَعْطَى كُلَّ شَيْءٍ خَلْقَهُ ثُمَّ هَدَى)

(Our Lord is He Who gave to each thing its form and nature, then guided it aright.) (20:50) meaning, He decreed a set measure and guided the creation to it. This is just as is confirmed in Sahih Muslim on the authority of `Abdullah bin `Amr that the Messenger of Allah said,

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَدَّرَ مَقَادِيرَ الْخَلَائِقِ قَبْلَ أَنْ يَخْلُقَ
السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِخَمْسِينَ أَلْفَ سَنَةٍ وَكَانَ
عَرْشُهُ عَلَى الْمَاءِ»

(Verily, Allah ordained the measure of all creation fifty thousand years before He created the heavens and the earth, and His Throne was over the water.) Concerning Allah's statement,

(وَالَّذِي أَخْرَجَ الْمَرْعَى)

(And Who brings out the pasturage,) meaning, all types of vegetation and crops.

(فَجَعَلَهُ غُتَاءً أَحْوَى)

(And then makes it dark stubble.) Ibn `Abbas said, "Dried up and altered." It has been narrated that Mujahid, Qatadah and Ibn Zayd, all made similar statements.

The Prophet does not forget the Revelation

Allah says,

(سَنُقْرُكَ)

(We shall make you to recite,) meaning, `O Muhammad.'

(فَلَا تَنْسَى)

(so you shall not forget (it),) This is Allah informing and promising him (the Prophet) that He will teach him a recitation that he will not forget.

(إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ)

(Except what Allah may will.) Qatadah said, "The Prophet did not forget anything except what Allah willed." It has been said that the meaning of Allah's statement,

(فَلَا تَنْسَى)

(so you shall not forget,) is, "do not forget" and that which would be abrogated, is merely an exception to this. Meaning, `do not forget what We teach you to recite, except what Allah wills, which He removes and there is no sin on your leaving it off (not retaining it).' Concerning Allah's statement,

(إِنَّهُ يَعْلَمُ الْجَهْرَ وَمَا يَخْفَى)

(He knows what is apparent and what is hidden.) meaning, He knows what the creatures do openly and what they hide, whether it be statements or deeds. None of that is hidden from Him. Then Allah says,

(وَنُيَسِّرُكَ لِلْيُسْرَى)

(And We shall make easy for you the easy.) meaning, `We will make good deeds and statements easy for you, and We will legislate such Law for you that is easy, tolerant, straight and just, with no crookedness, difficulty or hardship in it.'

v Allah then says,

(فَذَكِّرْ إِنْ نَفَعَتِ الذُّكْرَى)

(Therefore remind in case the reminder profits.) meaning, remind where reminding is beneficial. From here we get the etiquette of spreading knowledge, that it should not be wasted upon those who are not suitable or worthy of it. The Commander of the believers, `Ali said, "You do not tell people any statement that their intellects do not grasp except that it will be a Fitnah (trial) for some of them." He also said, "Tell people that which they know. Would you like for Allah and His Messenger to be rejected" Allah said:

(سَيَذَكَّرُ مَنْ يَخْشَى)

(The reminder will be received by him who fears,) meaning, `he whose heart fears Allah and who knows that he is going to meet Him, will receive admonition from what you convey to him, O Muhammad.'

(وَيَتَجَنَّبُهَا الْأَشْقَى - الَّذِي يَصْلَى 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 nor live.) meaning, he will not die and thus be allowed to rest, nor will he live a life that is beneficial to him. Instead, his life will be harmful to him, because it will be the cause of his feeling of the pain of torment and various types of punishments what he is being punished with. Imam Ahmad recorded from Abu Sa`id that the Messenger of Allah said,

«أَمَّا أَهْلُ النَّارِ الَّذِينَ هُمْ أَهْلُهَا لَا يَمُوتُونَ وَلَا يَحْيَوْنَ، وَأَمَّا أَنَا أَنَا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِهِمُ الرَّحْمَةَ فَيَمِيتُهُمْ فِي النَّارِ فَيَدْخُلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الشُّفَعَاءُ فَيَأْخُذُ الرَّجُلُ الضَّبَّارَةَ فَيُنْبِئُهُمْ أَوْ قَالَ: يَنْبِئُونَ فِي نَهْرِ الْحَيَاةِ، أَوْ قَالَ: الْحَيَاةِ، أَوْ قَالَ: الْحَيَوَانَ أَوْ قَالَ: نَهْرُ الْجَنَّةِ فَيَنْبِئُونَ نَبَاتَ الْحَبَّةِ فِي حَمِيلِ السَّيْلِ»

(Concerning the people of the Fire who are deserving of it, they will not die nor will they live. Regarding the people that Allah wants mercy for, He will cause them to die in the Fire. Then He will allow the intercessors to come to them, and a man will take his groups of supporters and plant them (or he said (they will be planted) in the River of Al-Haya (or he said (Al-Hayah, or Al-Hayawan, or Nahr Al-Jannah). Then they will sprout up like the sprouting of the seed on the moist bank of a flowing stream.) Then the Prophet said,

«أَمَا تَرَوْنَ الشَّجَرَةَ تَكُونُ خَضْرَاءَ، ثُمَّ تَكُونُ
صَفْرَاءَ، ثُمَّ تَكُونُ خَضْرَاءَ؟»

(Haven't you all seen the tree that is green, then it turns yellow, then it turns green (again))
Abu Sa`id then said that some of those present said, "It is as if the Prophet used to live in the
desert wilderness (i.e., due to his parables of nature)." Ahmad also recorded from Abu Sa`id
that the Messenger of Allah said,

«أَمَا أَهْلُ النَّارِ الَّذِينَ هُمْ أَهْلُهَا فَإِنَّهُمْ لَا يَمُوتُونَ
فِيهَا وَلَا يَحْيَوْنَ، وَلَكِنْ أَنَاسٌ أَوْ كَمَا قَالَ
نُصِيبُهُمُ النَّارُ بِذُنُوبِهِمْ أَوْ قَالَ: بِخَطَايَاهُمْ فَيَمِيتُهُمْ
إِمَاتَةً حَتَّى إِذَا صَارُوا فَحْمًا أُذِنَ فِي الشَّقَاعَةِ،
فَجِيءَ بِهِمْ ضَبَائِرَ ضَبَائِرَ فَبُتُّوا عَلَى أَنْهَارِ
الْحَبَّةِ فَيُقَالُ: يَا أَهْلَ الْحَبَّةِ أَفِيضُوا عَلَيْهِمْ،
فَيَبُتُّونَ نَبَاتَ الْحَبَّةِ تَكُونُ فِي حَمِيلِ السَّيْلِ»

(Concerning the people of the Fire who will be dwellers of it, they will not die in it nor will
they live. However, there will be a group of people - or as he said - (whom the Fire will burn
due to their sins - or he said - (their wrongdoings. So, He will cause them to die until they
become burnt coal. Then the intercession will be allowed and they will be brought group after
group, and they will be scattered over the rivers of Paradise. Then it will be said: "O people of
Paradise! Pour down upon them." Then they will sprout like the growing of the seed that is
upon the moist bank of the flowing stream." Then, a man from among the people present said,
"It is as if the Messenger of Allah used to live in the desert wilderness." Muslim also recorded
this Hadith.

(قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ تَزَكَّى - وَذَكَرَ اسْمَ رَبِّهِ فَصَلَّى -
بَلْ تُؤْثِرُونَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا - وَالْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَى
- إِنَّ هَذَا لَفِي الصُّحُفِ الْأُولَى - صُحُفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ
وَمُوسَى)

(14. Indeed whosoever purifies himself shall achieve success.) (15. And remembers the Name of his Lord, and performs Salah.) (16. Rather you prefer the life of this world.) (17. Although the Hereafter is better and more lasting.) (18. Verily, this is in the former Scriptures) (19. The Scriptures of Ibrahim and Musa.)

A Statement concerning the People of Success

Allah says,

(قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ تَزَكَّى)

(Indeed whosoever purifies himself shall achieve success.) meaning, he purifies himself from despised characteristics and he follows what Allah has revealed to the Messenger .

(وَذَكَرَ اسْمَ رَبِّهِ فَصَلَّى)

(And remembers the Name of his Lord, and performs Salah.) meaning, he establishes the prayer in its appointed time, seeking the pleasure of Allah, obedience to His command, and implementation of His Law. We have already reported from the Commander of the believers, `Umar bin `Abdul-`Aziz, that he used to command the people to give the Sadaqat Al-Fitr, and he would recite this Ayah:

(قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ تَزَكَّى - وَذَكَرَ اسْمَ رَبِّهِ فَصَلَّى)

(Indeed whosoever purifies himself shall achieve success. And remembers the Name of his Lord, and performs Salah.) Abu Al-Ahwas said, "If someone comes to any of you begging, and he wants to pray, then he should give charity (Zakah) before he prays. For verily, Allah the Exalted says,

(قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ تَزَكَّى - وَذَكَرَ اسْمَ رَبِّهِ فَصَلَّى)

(Indeed whosoever purifies himself shall achieve success. And remembers the Name of his Lord, and performs Salah.)" Qatadah said concerning this Ayah,

(قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ تَزَكَّى - وَذَكَرَ اسْمَ رَبِّهِ فَصَلَّى)

(Indeed whosoever purifies himself shall achieve success. And remembers the Name of his Lord, and performs Salah (Fasalla).) "He purifies his wealth and pleases his Creator."

This World is Worthless in Comparison to the Hereafter

Then Allah says,

(بَلْ تُؤْتِرُونَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا)

(Rather you prefer the life of this world.) meaning, `you give it precedence over the matter of the Hereafter, and you prefer it because of what it contains of usefulness and benefit for you in livelihood, and your returns (i.e., income, profitable gain).'

(وَالْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَى)

(Although the Hereafter is better and more lasting.) meaning, the reward of the final abode is better than the worldly life, and it is more lasting. For indeed, this worldly life is lowly and temporal, whereas the Hereafter is noble and eternal. Thus, how can an intelligent person prefer that which is short-lived over that which is eternal. How can he give importance to that which will soon pass away from him, while ignoring the importance of the abode of eternity and infinity. Imam Ahmad recorded from Abu Musa Al-Ash`ari that the Messenger of Allah said,

«مَنْ أَحَبَّ دُنْيَاهُ أَضَرَ دُنْيَاهُ بِآخِرَتِهِ، وَمَنْ أَحَبَّ
آخِرَتَهُ أَضَرَ دُنْيَاهُ، فَأَثِرُوا مَا يَبْقَى عَلَى مَا
يَقْنَى»

(Whoever loves his worldly life, will suffer in his Hereafter, and whoever loves his Hereafter, will suffer in his worldly life. Therefore, chose that which is everlasting over that which is temporal.) Ahmad was alone in recording this Hadith.

The Scriptures of Ibrahim and Musa

Allah then says,

(إِنَّ هَذَا لَفِي الصُّحُفِ الْأُولَى - صُحُفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ
وَمُوسَى)

(Verily, this is in the former Scriptures -- the Scriptures of Ibrahim and Musa.) This Ayah is similar to Allah's statement in Surat An-Najm,

(أَمْ لَمْ يُنَبِّأْ بِمَا فِي صُحُفِ مُوسَى - وَإِبْرَاهِيمَ
الَّذِي وَقَى - الْأَثَرُ وَزُرَّةَ وَزَرَ أَخْرَى - وَأَنْ

لَيْسَ لِلإِنْسَانِ إِلاَّ مَا سَعَى - وَأَنَّ سَعْيَهُ سَوْفَ
يُرَى - ثُمَّ يُجْزَاهُ الْجَزَاءَ الأَوْفَى - وَأَنَّ إِلَى رَبِّكَ
الْمُنْتَهَى)

(Or is he not informed with what is in the Scriptures of Musa. And of Ibrahim who fulfilled (or conveyed) all that (Allah ordered him to do or convey): that no burdened person (with sins) shall bear the burden (sins) of another. And that man can have nothing but what he does. And that his deeds will be seen. Then he will be recompensed with a full and the best recompense. And that to your Lord is the End (Return of everything.) (53:36-42) And so forth, until the end of these Ayat. Abu `Aliyah said, "The story of this Surah is in the earlier Scriptures." Ibn Jarir preferred the view that the meaning of Allah's statement,

(إِنَّ هَذَا)

(Verily, this) is referring to His previous statement,

(قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ تَزَكَّى - وَذَكَرَ اسْمَ رَبِّهِ فَصَلَّى -
بَلْ تُؤْتِرُونَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا - وَالْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَى
(

(Indeed whosoever purifies himself shall achieve success. And remembers the Name of his Lord, and offers Salah. Rather you prefer the life of this world. Although the Hereafter is better and more lasting.) Then Allah says,

(إِنَّ هَذَا)

(Verily, this) meaning, the content of this discussion,

(إِنَّ هَذَا لَفِي الصُّحُفِ الأُولَى - صُحُفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ
وَمُوسَى)

(in the former Scriptures, the Scriptures of Ibrahim and Musa.) This view that he (At-Tabari) has chosen is good and strong. Similar to it has been reported from Qatadah and Ibn Zayd. And Allah knows best. This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat Al-A` la (Sabbih). All praise and blessings are due to Allah, and He is the Giver of success and protection from error.

The Tafsir of Surat Al-Ghashiyah

(Chapter - 88)

Which was revealed in Makkah

Reciting Surat Al-A` la and Al-Ghashiyah in the Friday Prayer

has already been mentioned on the authority of An-Nu`man bin Bashir that the Messenger of Allah used to recite Surat Al-A` la (87) and Al-Ghashiyah in the `Id and Friday prayers. Imam Malik recorded that Ad-Dahhak bin Qays asked An-Nu`man bin Bashir, "What else did the Messenger of Allah recite on Friday along with Surat Al-Jumu`ah" An-Nu`man replied, "Al-Ghashiyah (88)." This narration has been recorded by Abu Dawud, An-Nasa'i, Muslim and Ibn Majah.

(بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ)

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

(هَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ الْغَاشِيَةِ - وَجُوهُ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَشِيعَةٌ
- عَامِلَةٌ نَّاصِبَةٌ - تَصَلَّى نَارًا حَامِيَةً - تُسْقَى مِنْ
عَيْنٍ آءَانِيَةٍ - لَيْسَ لَهُمْ طَعَامٌ إِلَّا مِنْ ضَرِيعٍ - لَا
يُسْمِنُ وَلَا يُغْنِي مِنْ جُوعٍ)

(1. Has there come to you the narration of Al-Ghashiyah (the overwhelming)) (2. Some faces that Day will be Khashi`ah.) (3. Laboring, weary.) (4. They will enter into Fire, Hamiyah.) (5. They will be given to drink from a boiling (Aniyah) spring,) (6. No food will there be for them but from Dari` ,) (7. Which will neither nourish nor avail against hunger.)

The Day of Judgement and what will happen to the People of the Fire during it Al-Ghashiyah is one of the names of the Day of Judgement.

This was said by Ibn `Abbas, Qatadah and Ibn Zayd. It has been called this because it will overwhelm the people and overcome them. Allah then says,

(وَجُوهُ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَشِيعَةٌ)

(Some faces that Day will be Khashi`ah.) meaning, humiliated. This was said by Qatadah. Ibn `Abbas said, "They will be humble but this action will be of no benefit to them." Then Allah says,

(عَامِلَةٌ تَأْصِبَةٌ)

(Laboring, weary.) meaning, they did many deeds and became weary in their performance, yet they will be cast into a blazing Fire on the Day of Judgement. Al-Hafiz Abu Bakr Al-Burqani narrated from Abu `Imran Al-Jawni that he said, " `Umar bin Al-Khattab passed by the monastery of a monk and he said: `O monk!' Then the monk came out, and `Umar looked at him and began to weep. Then it was said to him: `O Commander of the faithful! Why are you weeping' He replied: `I remembered the statement of Allah, the Mighty and Majestic, in His Book,

(عَامِلَةٌ تَأْصِبَةٌ - تَصَلِّي نَارًا حَامِيَةً)

(Laboring, weary. They will enter into Fire, Hamiyah.) So that is what has made me cry. " Al-Bukhari recorded that Ibn `Abbas said,

(عَامِلَةٌ تَأْصِبَةٌ)

(Laboring, weary.) "The Christians." It is narrated that `Ikrimah and As-Suddi both said, "Laboring in the worldly life with disobedience, and weariness in the Fire from torment and perdition." Ibn `Abbas, Al-Hasan, and Qatadah all said,

(تَصَلِّي نَارًا حَامِيَةً)

(They will enter into Fire, Hamiyah) meaning, hot with intense heat.

(تُسْقَى مِنْ عَيْنٍ آَنِيةٍ)

(They will be given to drink from a boiling (Aniyah) spring.) meaning, its heat has reached its maximum limit and boiling point. This was said by Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, Al-Hasan and As-Suddi. Concerning Allah's statement,

(لَيْسَ لَهُمْ طَعَامٌ إِلَّا مِنْ ضَرِيحٍ)

(No food will there be for them but from Dari` ,) `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported from Ibn `Abbas that he said, "A tree from the Hellfire." Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Abu Al-Jawza' and Qatadah, all said, "It is Ash-Shibriq (a type of plant)." Qatadah said, "The Quraysh called it Ash-Shabraq in the spring and Ad-Dari` in the summer." `Ikrimah said, "It is a thorny tree which reaches down to the ground." Al-Bukhari related that Mujahid said, "Ad-Dari` is a plant that is called Ash-Shibriq. The people of the Hijaz call it Ad-Dari` when it dries, and it is poisonous." Ma` mar narrated that Qatadah said,

(لَيْسَ لَهُمْ طَعَامٌ إِلَّا مِنْ ضَرِيحٍ)

(No food will there be for them but from Dari` ,) "This is Ash-Shibriq. When it dries it is called Ad-Dari` ." Sa` id narrated from Qatadah that he said,

(لَيْسَ لَهُمْ طَعَامٌ إِلَّا مِنْ ضَرِيحٍ)

(No food will there be for them but Dari` ,) "This is of the worst, most disgusting and loathsome of foods." Concerning Allah's statement,

(لَا يُسْمِنُ وَلَا يُغْنِي مِنْ جُوعٍ)

(Which will neither nourish nor avail against hunger.) This means that the intent in eating it will not be achieved, and nothing harmful will be repelled by it.

(وَجُوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ نَّاعِمَةٌ - لَسَعِيهَا رَاضِيَةٌ فِي جَنَّةٍ
عَالِيَةٍ لَّا تَسْمَعُ فِيهَا لَغِيَةً فِيهَا عَيْنٌ جَارِيَةٌ فِيهَا
سُرُرٌ مَّرْفُوعَةٌ وَأَكْوَابٌ مَوْضُوعَةٌ وَنَمَارِقُ
مَصْفُوفَةٌ وَزَرَابِيٌّ مَبْثُوثَةٌ)

(8. Faces that Day will be joyful,) (9. Glad with their endeavor.) (10. In a lofty Paradise.) (11. Where they shall neither hear harmful speech nor falsehood.) (12. Therein will be a running spring.) (13. Therein will be thrones raised high.) (14. And cups set at hand.) (15. And Namariq, set in rows.) (16. And Zarabi, spread out (Mabthuthah).)

The Condition of the People of Paradise on the Day of Judgement

After mentioning the situation of the wretched people, Allah changes the discussion to mention those who will be happy. He says,

(وَجُوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ)

(Faces that Day.) meaning, on the Day of Judgement .

(نَّاعِمَةٌ)

(will be joyful,) meaning, pleasure will be noticeable in them (those faces). This will only occur due to their striving. Sufyan said,

(لَسَعِيهَا رَاضِيَةٌ)

(Glad with their endeavor.) "They will be pleased with their deeds." Then Allah says,

(فِي جَنَّةٍ عَالِيَةٍ)

(In a lofty Paradise.) meaning, elevated and brilliant, secure in their dwellings.

(لَا تَسْمَعُ فِيهَا لَغِيَةً)

(Where they shall neither hear harmful speech nor falsehood.) meaning, they will not hear in the Paradise that they will be in, any foolish word. This is as Allah says,

(لَا يَسْمَعُونَ فِيهَا لَغْوًا إِلَّا سَلَامًا)

(They shall not hear therein any Laghw, but only Salam.) (19:62) Allah also says,

(لَا لَغْوٌ فِيهَا وَلَا تَأْتِيمٌ)

(Free from any Laghw, and free from sin.) (52:23) and He says,

(لَا يَسْمَعُونَ فِيهَا لَغْوًا وَلَا تَأْتِيمًا - إِلَّا قِيلًا سَلَامًا
سَلَامًا)

(No Laghw will they hear therein, nor any sinful speech. But only the saying of: "Salam! Salam!") (56:25-26) Then Allah continues,

(فِيهَا عَيْنٌ جَارِيَةٌ)

(Therein will be a running spring.) meaning, flowing freely. This is mentioned with the intent of emphasizing affirmation. It is not intended to mean that there is only one spring. So here it refers to springs collectively. Thus, the meaning is that in it (Paradise) are flowing springs. Ibn Abi Hatim recorded from Abu Hurayrah that the Messenger of Allah said,

«أَنْهَارُ الْجَنَّةِ تَفْجَرُ مِنْ تَحْتِ تِلَالٍ أَوْ مِنْ تَحْتِ
جِبَالِ الْمِسْكِ»

(The rivers of Paradise spring forth from beneath hills -- or mountains -- of musk.)

(فِيهَا سُرُرٌ مَّرْفُوعَةٌ)

(Therein will be thrones raised high.) meaning, lofty, delightful, numerous couches, with elevated ceilings. Upon which will be seated wide-eyed, beautiful maidens. They have mentioned that whenever the friend of Allah wishes to sit on these lofty thrones, they (the thrones) will lower themselves for him.

(وَأَكْوَابُ مَوْضُوعَةٌ)

(And cups set at hand.) meaning, drinking containers that are prepared and presented for whoever among their masters (i.e., the people of Paradise) wants them.

(وَنَمَارِقُ مَصْفُوفَةٌ)

(And Namariq set in rows.) Ibn `Abbas said, "An-Namariq are pillows." This was also said by `Ikrimah, Qatadah, Ad-Dahhak, As-Suddi, Ath-Thawri and others. Concerning Allah's statement,

(وَزَرَائِبُ مَبْثُوثَةٌ)

(And Zarabi, spread out (Mabthuthah).) Ibn `Abbas said, "Az-Zarabi are carpets." This was also said by Ad-Dahhak and others. Here the word Mabthuthah means placed here and there for whoever would like to sit upon them.

(أَفَلَا يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَى الْإِبِلِ كَيْفَ خُلِقَتْ - وَإِلَى
السَّمَاءِ كَيْفَ رُفِعَتْ - وَإِلَى الْجِبَالِ كَيْفَ نُصِبَتْ
- وَإِلَى الْأَرْضِ كَيْفَ سُطِحَتْ - فَذَكِّرْ إِنَّمَا أَنْتَ
مُذَكِّرٌ - لَسْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِمُصَيِّرٍ - إِلَّا مَنْ تَوَلَّى
وَكَفَرَ - فَيُعَذِّبُهُ اللَّهُ الْعَذَابَ الْأَكْبَرَ - إِنَّ إِلَيْنَا
إِيَابَهُمْ - ثُمَّ إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا حِسَابَهُمْ)

(17. Do they not look at the camels, how they are created) (18. And at the heaven, how it is raised) (19. And at the mountains, how they are rooted) (20. And at the earth, how it is outspread) (21. So remind them -- you are only one who reminds.) (22. You are not a Musaytir over them.) (23. Save the one who turns away and disbelieves.) (24. Then Allah will punish him with the greatest punishment.) (25. Verily, to Us will be their return;) (26. Then verily, for Us will be their reckoning.)

The Exhortation to look at the Creation of the Camel, the Heaven, the Mountains and the Earth

Allah commands His servants to look at His creations that prove His power and greatness. He says,

(أَفَلَا يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَى الْإِبِلِ كَيْفَ خُلِقَتْ)

(Do they not look at the camels, how they are created) Indeed it is an amazing creation, and the way it has been fashioned is strange. For it is extremely powerful and strong, yet gentle, carrying heavy loads. It allows itself to be guided by a weak rider. It is eaten, benefit is derived from its hair, and its milk is drunk. They are reminded of this because the most common domestic animal of the Arabs was the camel. Shurayh Al-Qadi used to say, "Come out with us so that we may look at the camels and how they were created, and at the sky and how it has been raised." Meaning, how Allah raised it in such magnificence above the ground. This is as Allah says,

(أَفَلَمْ يَنْظُرُوا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ فَوْقَهُمْ كَيْفَ بَنَيْنَاهَا
وَزَيَّنَّاهَا وَمَا لَهَا مِنْ فُرُوجٍ)

(Have they not looked at the heaven above them, how we have made it and adorned it and there are no rifts on it) (50:6) Then Allah says,

(وَإِلَى الْجِبَالِ كَيْفَ نُصِبَتْ)

(And at the mountains, how they are rooted) meaning, how they have been erected. For indeed they are firmly affixed so that the earth does not sway with its dwellers. And He made them with the benefits and minerals they contain.

(وَإِلَى الْأَرْضِ كَيْفَ سُطِحَتْ)

(And at the earth, how it is outspread) meaning, how it has been spread out, extended and made smooth. Thus, He directs the bedouin to consider what he himself witnesses. His camel that he rides upon, the sky that is above his head, the mountain that faces him, and the earth that is under him, all of this is proof of the power of the Creator and Maker of these things. These things should lead him to see that He is the Lord, the Most Great, the Creator, the Owner, and the Controller of everything. Therefore, He is the God other than Whom none deserves to be worshipped.

The Story of Dimam bin Tha` labah

These are the things Dimam swore by after questioning the Messenger of Allah . This can be seen in what Imam Ahmad recorded from Thabit, who reported that Anas said, "We were prohibited from asking the Messenger of Allah anything. Thus, it used to amaze us when an intelligent man from the people of the desert (bedouin Arabs) would come and ask him about something while we were listening. So a man from the people of the desert came and said, `O Muhammad! Verily, your messenger has come to us and he claims that you claim that Allah sent you.' He (the Prophet) said,

«صَدَقَ»

(He told the truth.) The man said, Who created the heaven? He (the Prophet) replied,

«اللَّهُ»

,(Allah.) The man said, Who created the earth? He (the Prophet) replied,

«اللَّهُ»

,(Allah). The man said, `Who erected these mountains and placed in them whatever is in them' He (the Prophet) replied, `Allah). Then the man said, `By the One Who created the heaven, the earth, and erected these mountains, did Allah send you' He (the Prophet) said,

«نَعَمْ»

(Yes.) The man then said, `Your messenger claims that we are obligated to pray five prayers during our day and night.' He (the Prophet) said,

«صَدَقَ»

(He told the truth.) The man then said, `By He Who has sent you, did Allah command you with this' He (the Prophet) replied,

«نَعَمْ»

(Yes.) The man then said, `Your messenger also claims that we are obligated to give charity from our wealth.' He (the Prophet) said,

«صَدَقَ»

(He told the truth.) Then the man said, `By He Who has sent you, did Allah command you with this' He (the Prophet) replied,

«نَعَمْ»

(Yes.) The man then said, `Your messenger claims that we are obligated to perform pilgrimage (Hajj) to the House (the Ka`bah), for whoever is able to find a way there.' He (the Prophet) said,

«صَدَقَ»

(He told the truth.) Then the man turned away to leave while saying, `By He Who has sent you with the truth, I will not add anything to these things and I will not decrease anything from them.' The Prophet then said,

«إِنْ صَدَقَ لَيَدْخُلَنَّ الْجَنَّةَ»

(If he has spoken truthfully, he will certainly enter Paradise.) This Hadith was recorded by Al-Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawud, At-Tirmidhi, An-Nasa'i and Ibn Majah.

The Messenger is only charged with delivering the Message

Allah says,

(فَذَكِّرْ إِنَّمَا أَنْتَ مُذَكِّرٌ - لَسْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِمُصَيِّرٍ)

(So remind them -- you are only one who reminds. You are not a Musaytir over them) meaning, "O Muhammad! Remind the people with what you have been sent with to them."

(فَإِنَّمَا عَلَيْكَ الْبَلْغُ وَعَلَيْنَا الْحِسَابُ)

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

(لَسْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِمُصَيِّرٍ)

(You are not a Musaytir over them.) Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid and others said, "You are not a dictator over them." This means that you cannot create faith in their hearts. Ibn Zayd said, "You are not the one who can force them to have faith." Imam Ahmad recorded from Jabir that the Messenger of Allah said,

«أَمِرْتُ أَنْ أُقَاتِلَ النَّاسَ حَتَّى يَقُولُوا: لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، فَإِذَا قَالُوهَا عَصَمُوا مِنِّي دِمَاءَهُمْ وَأَمْوَالَهُمْ إِلَّا بِحَقِّهَا، وَحِسَابُهُمْ عَلَى اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ»

(I have been commanded to fight the people until they say La ilaha illallah (none has the right to be worshipped except Allah). So if they say that, they have safeguarded their blood and wealth from me - except for what is rightfully due from it - and their reckoning is with Allah, the Mighty and Majestic.)" Then he recited,

(فَذَكِّرْ إِنَّمَا أَنْتَ مُذَكِّرٌ - لَسْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِمُصَيِّرٍ)

(So remind them - you are only one who reminds. You are not a dictator over them -) This is how Muslim recorded this Hadith in his Book of Faith, and At-Tirmidhi and An-Nasa'i also recorded it in their Sunans in the Books of Tafsir. This Hadith can be found in both of the Two Sahihs.

The Threat for Whoever turns away from the Truth

Concerning Allah's statement,

(إِلَّا مَنْ تَوَلَّى وَكَفَرَ)

(Save the one who turns away and disbelieves.) meaning, he turns away from acting upon its pillars, and he disbelieves in the truth with his heart and his tongue. This is similar to Allah's statement,

(فَلَا صَدَّقَ وَلَا صَلَّى - وَلَكِنْ كَذَّبَ وَتَوَلَّى)

(So he neither believed nor prayed! But on the contrary, he belied and turn away!) (75:31-32) Thus, Allah says,

(فَيُعَذِّبُهُ اللَّهُ الْعَذَابَ الْأَكْبَرَ)

(Then Allah will punish him with the greatest punishment.) Allah then says,

(إِنَّ إِلَيْنَا إِيَابَهُمْ)

(Verily, to Us will be their return;) meaning, their place of return and their resort.

(ثُمَّ إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا حِسَابَهُمْ)

(Then verily, for Us will be their reckoning.) meaning, 'We will reckon their deeds for them and requite them for those deeds.' If they did good, they will receive good, and if they did evil, they will receive evil. This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat Al-Ghashiyah.

The Tafsir of Surat Al-Fajr

(Chapter - 89)

Which was revealed in Makkah

Recitation of Surat Al-Fajr in the Prayer

An-Nasa'i recorded a narration from Jabir that Mu`adh prayed a prayer and a man came and joined him in the prayer. Mu`adh made the prayer long, so the man went and prayed (alone) at the side of the Masjid, and then left. When Mu`adh was informed of this he said, "(He is) a hypocrite." He (Mu`adh) then informed the Messenger of Allah of what happened. The Prophet then asked the young man (about it) and he replied, "O Messenger of Allah! I came to pray with him, but he made the prayer too long for me. So I left him and prayed at the side of the Masjid. Then I went to feed my she-camel." The Messenger of Allah then said,

«أَفْتَانُ يَا مُعَاذُ! أَيْنَ أَنْتَ مِنْ

(سَبَّحَ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى)

(وَالشَّمْسُ وَضُحَاهَا)

(وَالْفَجْرُ)

(وَاللَّيْلُ إِذَا يَغْشَى)»

(Are you causing trouble Mu`adh Why don't you recite ('Glorify the Name of your Lord the Most High'), ('By the sun and its brightness'), ('By the dawn'), (and ('By the night as it envelops'))

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(وَالْفَجْرِ- وَلَيَالٍ عَشْرٍ- وَالشَّقَعِ وَالْوَاثِرِ- وَاللَّيْلِ
 إِذَا يَسِرُّ- هَلْ فِي ذَلِكَ قَسَمٌ لِذِي حِجْرِ- أَلَمْ تَرَ
 كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِعَادٍ- إِرَمَ ذَاتِ الْعِمَادِ- الَّتِي لَمْ
 يُخْلَقْ مِثْلُهَا فِي الْبِلَادِ- وَتَمُودَ الَّذِينَ جَابُوا
 الصَّخْرَ بِالْوَادِ- وَفِرْعَوْنَ ذِي الْأَوْتَادِ- الَّذِينَ
 طَغَوْا فِي الْبِلَادِ- فَأَكْثَرُوا فِيهَا الْفَسَادَ- فَصَبَّ
 عَلَيْهِمْ رَبُّكَ سَوْطَ عَذَابٍ- إِنَّ رَبَّكَ لِبَالِمٍ رَصَادٍ-)

(1. By the dawn;) (2. And by the ten nights,) (3. And by the even and the odd.) (4. And by the night when it departs.) (5. Is there (not) in them sufficient proofs for men of understanding!) (6. Saw you not how your Lord dealt with `Ad) (7. Iram of the pillars,) (8. The like of which were not created in the land) (9. And Thamud, who hewed out rocks in the valley) (10. And Fir`awn with Al-Awtad) (11. Who did transgress beyond bounds in the lands.) (12. And made therein much mischief.) (13. So, your Lord poured on them different kinds of severe torment.) (14. Verily, your Lord is Ever Watchful.)

The Explanation of Al-Fajr and what comes after it

Concerning Al-Fajr, it is well known that it is the morning. This was said by `Ali, Ibn `Abbas, `Ikrimah, Mujahid and As-Suddi. It has been reported from Masruq and Muhammad bin Ka`b that Al-Fajr refers to the day of Sacrifice (An-Nahr) in particular, and it is the last of the ten nights. `The ten nights' refers to the (first) ten days of Dhul-Hijjah. This was said by Ibn `Abbas, Ibn Zubayr, Mujahid and others among the Salaf and the latter generations. It has been confirmed in Sahih Al-Bukhari from Ibn `Abbas that the Prophet said,

«مَا مِنْ أَيَّامٍ الْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ أَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ فِيهِنَّ
 مِنْ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ»

(There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these days.) meaning the ten days of Dhul-Hijjah. They said, "Not even fighting Jihad in the way of Allah" He replied,

«وَلَا الْجِهَادُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ، إِلَّا رَجُلًا خَرَجَ بِنَفْسِهِ
وَمَالِهِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَرْجِعْ مِنْ ذَلِكَ بِشَيْءٍ»

(Not even Jihad in the way of Allah; except for a man who goes out (for Jihad) with his self and his wealth, and he does not return with any of that.)

Explanation of Night

Concerning Allah's statement,

(وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَسْرُ)

(And by the night when it departs.) Al-`Awfi reported from Ibn `Abbas that he said, "When it goes away." `Abdullah bin Zubayr said,

(وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَسْرُ)

(And by the night when it departs.) "As some parts of it remove other parts of it." Mujahid, Abu Al-`Aliyah, Qatadah, and Malik who reported it from Zayd bin Aslam and Ibn Zayd, they all said;

(وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَسْرُ)

(And by the night when it departs.) "When it moves along." Concerning Allah's statement,

(هَلْ فِي ذَلِكَ قَسَمٌ لِذِي حِجْرٍ)

(There is indeed in them sufficient proofs for men with Hijr!) meaning, for he who possesses intellect, sound reasoning, understanding and religious discernment. The intellect has only been called Hijr because it prevents the person from doing that which is not befitting of him of actions and statement. From this we see the meaning of Hijr Al-Bayt because it prevents the person performing Tawaf from clinging the wall facing Ash-Sham. Also the term Hijr Al-Yamamah (the cage of the pigeon) is derived from this meaning (i.e., prevention). It is said, "Hajara Al-Hakim so-and-so (The judge passed a judgement preventing so-and-so)," when his judgement prevents the person from his liberty (i.e., of freely utilizing his wealth). Allah says,

(وَيَقُولُونَ حِجْرًا مَّحْجُورًا)

(And they will say: "Hijr Mahjur.") (25:22) All of these examples are different cases but their meanings are quite similar. The oath that is referred to here is about the times of worship and the acts of worship themselves, such as Hajj, Salah and other acts of worship that Allah's pious,

obedient, servants who fear Him and are humble before Him, seeking His Noble Face, perform in order to draw nearer to Him.

Mentioning the Destruction of `Ad

After mentioning these people, and their worship and obedience, Allah says,

(أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِعَادٍ)

(Saw you not how your Lord dealt with `Ad) These were people who were rebellious, disobedient, arrogant, outside of His obedience, deniers of His Messengers and rejectors of His Scriptures. Thus, Allah mentions how He destroyed them, annihilated them and made them legends to be spoken of and an exemplary lesson of warning. He says,

(أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِعَادٍ - إِرَمَ ذَاتِ الْعِمَادِ)

(Saw you not how your Lord dealt with `Ad Iram of the pillars,) These were the first people of `Ad. They were the descendants of `Ad bin Iram bin `Aws bin Sam bin Nuh. This was said by Ibn Ishaq. They are those to whom Allah sent His Messenger Hud. However, they rejected and opposed him. Therefore, Allah saved him and those who believed with him from among them, and He destroyed others with a furious, violent wind.

(سَخَّرَهَا عَلَيْهِمْ سَبْعَ لَيَالٍ وَتَمَنِيَةً أَيَّامٍ حُسُومًا
فَتَرَى الْقَوْمَ فِيهَا صَرْعَى كَأَنَّهُمْ أُعْجَازُ نَخْلٍ
خَاوِيَةٍ - فَهَلْ تَرَى لَهُم مِّن بَاقِيَةٍ)

(Which Allah imposed on them for seven nights and eight days in succession, so that you could see men lying overthrown, as if they were hollow trunks of date palms! Do you see any remnants of them) (69: 7-8) Allah mentioned their story in the Qur'an in more than one place, so that the believers may learn a lesson from their demise. Allah then says,

(إِرَمَ ذَاتِ الْعِمَادِ)

(Iram of the pillars.) This is an additional explanation that adds clarification who they actually were. Concerning His saying,

(ذَاتِ الْعِمَادِ)

(of the pillars.) is because they used to live in trellised houses that were raised with firm pillars. They were the strongest people of their time in their physical stature, and they were

the mightiest people in power. Thus, Hud reminded them of this blessing, and he directed them to use this power in the obedience of their Lord Who had created them. He said,

(وَاذْكُرُوا إِذْ جَعَلَكُمْ خُلَفَاءَ مِنْ بَعْدِ قَوْمِ نُوحٍ
وَزَادَكُمْ فِي الْخَلْقِ بَسْطَةً فَاذْكُرُوا ءَالَآءَ اللَّهِ
لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ)

(And remember that He made you successors after the people of Nuh and increased you amply in stature. So remember the graces from Allah so that you may be successful.)(7:69) Allah also said,

(فَأَمَّا عَادٌ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ
وَقَالُوا مَنْ أَشَدُّ مِنَّا قُوَّةً أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي
خَلَقَهُمْ هُوَ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُمْ قُوَّةً)

(As for 'Ad, they were arrogant in the land without right, and they said: "Who is mightier than us in strength" See they not that Allah Who created them was mightier in strength than them.) (41:15) And Allah says here,

(الَّتِي لَمْ يُخْلَقْ مِثْلَهَا فِي الْبَلَدِ)

(The like of which were not created in the land) meaning, there had been none created like them in their land, due to their strength, power and their great physical stature. Mujahid said, "Iram was an ancient nation who were the first people of `Ad." Qatadah bin Di`amah and As-Suddi both said, "Verily, Iram refers to the House of the kingdom of `Ad." This latter statement is good and strong. Concerning Allah's statement,

(الَّتِي لَمْ يُخْلَقْ مِثْلَهَا فِي الْبَلَدِ)

(The like of which were not created in the land) Ibn Zayd considered the pronoun of discussion here to refer to the pillars, due to their loftiness. He said, "They built pillars among the hills, the likes of which had not been constructed in their land before." However, Qatadah and Ibn Jarir considered the pronoun of discussion to refer to the tribe (of `Ad), meaning that there was no tribe that had been created like this tribe in the land - meaning during their time. And this latter view is the correct position. The saying of Ibn Zayd and those who follow his view is a weak one, because if He intended that, He would have said "The like of which were not produced in the land." But He said:

(لَمْ يُخْلَقْ مِثْلَهَا فِي الْبَلَدِ)

(The like of which were not created in the land.) Then Allah says,

(وَتَمُودَ الَّذِينَ جَابُوا الصَّخْرَ بِالْوَادِ)

(And Thamud, who hewed (Jabu) rocks in the valley) meaning, they cut the rocks in the valley. Ibn `Abbas said, "They carved them and they hewed them." This was also said by Mujahid, Qatadah, Ad-Dahhak and Ibn Zayd. From this terminology it is said (in the Arabic language), "the hewing of leopard skin" when it is torn, and "The hewing of a garment" when it is opened. The word `Jayb' (pocket or opening in a garment) also comes from Jabu. Allah says,

(وَتَنْحِتُونَ مِنَ الْجِبَالِ بُيُوتًا فَرَاهِينَ)

(And you hew in the mountains, houses with great skill..) (26:149)

A Mention of Fir`awn

Allah then says,

(وَفِرْعَوْنَ ذِي الْأَوْتَادِ)

(And Fir`awn with Al-Awtad) Al-`Awfi reported from Ibn `Abbas that he said, "Al-Awtad are the armies who enforced his commands for him." It has also been said that Fir`awn used to nail their hands and their feet into pegs (Awtad) of iron that he would hang them from. A similar statement was made by Mujahid when he said, "He used to nail the people (up) on pegs." Sa`id bin Jubayr, Al-Hasan and As-Suddi all said the same thing. Allah said,

(الَّذِينَ طَغَوْا فِي الْبِلَادِ - فَأَكْثَرُوا فِيهَا الْفَسَادَ)

(Who did transgress beyond bounds in the lands. And made therein much mischief.) meaning, they rebelled, were arrogant, and went about making corruption in the land, and harming the people.

(فَصَبَّ عَلَيْهِمْ رَبُّكَ سَوْطَ عَذَابٍ)

(So, your Lord poured on them different kinds of severe torment.) meaning, He sent down a torment upon them from the sky and caused them to be overcome by a punishment that could not be repelled from the people who were criminals.

The Lord is Ever Watchful

Concerning Allah's statement,

(إِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَبِالْمِرْصَادِ)

(Verily, your Lord is Ever Watchful.) Ibn `Abbas said, "He hears and He sees." This means that He watches over His creation in that which they do, and He will reward them in this life and in the Hereafter based upon what each of them strove for. He will bring all of the creation before Him and He will judge them with justice. He will requit each of them with that which he deserves, for He is far removed from injustice and tyranny.

(فَأَمَّا الْإِنْسَانُ إِذَا مَا ابْتَلَاهُ رَبُّهُ فَأَكْرَمَهُ وَنَعَّمَهُ
فَيَقُولُ رَبِّي أَكْرَمَنِي - وَأَمَّا إِذَا مَا ابْتَلَاهُ فَقَدَرَ
عَلَيْهِ رِزْقَهُ فَيَقُولُ رَبِّي أَهَانَنِ - كَلَّا بَلْ لَأَنْكُرُمُونَ الْيَتِيمَ - وَلَا تَحَاضُّونَ عَلَى طَعَامِ
الْمِسْكِينِ - وَتَأْكُلُونَ الثَّرَاثَ أَكْلًا لَمًّا - وَتُحِبُّونَ
الْمَالَ حُبًّا جَمًّا)

(15. As for man, when his Lord tries him by giving him honor and bounties, then he says: "My Lord has honored me.") (16. But when He tries him by straitening his means of life, he says: "My Lord has humiliated me!") (17. But no! But you treat not the orphans with kindness and generosity!) (18. And urge not one another on the feeding of the Miskin!) (19. And you devour the Turath -- devouring with greed.) (20. And you love wealth with love Jamma.)

Wealth and Poverty are both a Test and Honor or Disgrace for the Servant

Allah refutes man in his belief that if Allah gives Him abundant provisions to test him with it, it is out of His honor for him. But this is not the case, rather it is a trial and a test, as Allah says,

(أَيَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّمَا نُضَاعُهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ مَّالٍ وَبَنِينَ -
نُسَارِعُ لَهُمْ فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ بَلْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ)

(Do they think that in wealth and children with which We enlarge them. We hasten unto them with good things. Nay, but they perceive not.) (23:55-56) Likewise, from another angle, if Allah tests him and tries him by curtailing his sustenance, he believes that is because Allah is humiliating him. As Allah says,

(كَلَّا)

(But no!) meaning, the matter is not as he claims, neither in this nor in that. For indeed Allah gives wealth to those whom He loves as well as those whom He does not love. Likewise, He withholds sustenance from those whom He loves and those whom He does not love. The point is that Allah should be obeyed in either circumstance. If one is wealthy, he should thank Allah for that, and if he is poor, he should exercise patience.

From the Evil that the Servant does regarding Wealth

Allah said,

﴿بَلْ لَا تُكْرِمُونَ الْيَتِيمَ﴾

(But you treat not the orphans with kindness and generosity!) This contains the command to honor him (the orphan). Abu Dawud recorded from Sahl bin Sa`id that the Messenger of Allah said,

﴿أَنَا وَكَافِلُ الْيَتِيمِ كَهَاتَيْنِ فِي الْجَنَّةِ﴾

(The guardian of the orphan and I will be like these two in Paradise.) And he put his two fingers together - the middle finger and the index finger.

﴿وَلَا تَحَاضُّونَ عَلَى طَعَامِ الْمِسْكِينِ﴾

(And urge not one another on the feeding of the Mskin!) meaning, they do not command that the poor and the needy be treated with kindness, nor do they encourage each other to do so.

﴿وَتَأْكُلُونَ التُّرَاثَ﴾

(And you devour the Turath) meaning, the inheritance.

﴿أَكْلًا لَمًّا﴾

(devouring with greed.) meaning, however they can get it, whether lawful or forbidden.

﴿وَتُحِبُّونَ الْمَالَ حُبًّا جَمًّا﴾

(And you love wealth with love Jamma.) meaning, in abundance. This increases some of them in their wickedness.

(كَلَّا إِذَا دُكَّتِ الْأَرْضُ دَكًّا دَكًّا - وَجَاءَ رَبُّكَ
وَالْمَلَكُ صَقًّا صَقًّا - وَجِيءَ يَوْمَئِذٍ بِجَهَنَّمَ يَوْمَئِذٍ
يَتَذَكَّرُ الْإِنْسَانُ وَأَنَّى لَهُ الذُّكْرَى - يَقُولُ يَلَيْتَنِي
قَدَّمْتُ لِحَيَاتِي - فَيَوْمَئِذٍ لَا يُعَذِّبُ عَذَابُهُ أَحَدًا -
وَلَا يُوثِقُ وَتَاقَهُ أَحَدٌ - يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ -
ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً - فَادْخُلِي فِي
عِبَادِي - وَادْخُلِي جَنَّتِي)

(21. Nay! When the earth is flatened, Dakkan Dakka.) (22. And your Lord comes with the angels in rows.) (23. And Hell will be brought near that Day. On that Day will man remember, but how will that remembrance avail him) (24. He will say: "Alas! Would that I had sent forth for my life!") (25. So on that Day none will punish as He will punish.) (26. And none will bind as He will bind.) (27. "O tranquil soul!") (28. "Come back to your Lord, -- well-pleased and well-pleasing!") (29. "Enter then among My servants,") (30. "And enter My Paradise!")

On the Day of Judgement Everyone will be recompensed according to what He did of Good or Evil

Allah informs of what will happen on the Day of Judgement of the great horrors. He says,

(كَلَّا)

(Nay!) meaning, truly.

(إِذَا دُكَّتِ الْأَرْضُ دَكًّا دَكًّا)

(When the earth is flatened, Dakkan Dakka.) meaning, the earth and the mountains will be flattened, leveled and made even, and the creatures will rise from their graves for their Lord.

(وَجَاءَ رَبُّكَ)

(And your Lord comes) meaning, for the session of Judgement between His creatures. This is after they requested the best of the Sons of Adam -- Muhammad -- to intercede with Allah. This will occur only after they have requested the other great Messengers, one after another. Yet,

all of them will say, "I cannot do that for you." This will continue until the beseeching of the men reaches Muhammad, and he will say, "I will do it, I will do it." So he will go and seek to intercede with Allah as the session of Judgement will have come, and Allah will allow him to intercede for that (the Judgement). This will be the first of the intercessions, and it is the praiseworthy station that has already been discussed in Surat Subhan (Al-Isra'). So Allah will come for the session of Judgement as He wills, and the angels will also come, lined up in rows upon rows before Him. Then Allah says,

(وَجِيءَ يَوْمَئِذٍ بِجَهَنَّمَ)

(And Hell will be brought near that Day.) In his Sahih, Imam Muslim bin Al-Hajjaj recorded that `Abdullah bin Mas`ud said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«يُؤْتَى بِجَهَنَّمَ يَوْمَئِذٍ لَهَا سَبْعُونَ أَلْفَ زِمَامٍ مَعَ كُلِّ زِمَامٍ سَبْعُونَ أَلْفَ مَلَكٍ يَجُرُّونَهَا»

(Hell will be brought on near that Day and it will have seventy thousand leashes, and each leash will have seventy thousand angels pulling it.) At-Tirmidhi also recorded the same narration. Allah said:

(يَوْمَئِذٍ يَتَذَكَّرُ الْإِنْسَانُ)

(On that Day will man remember,) meaning, his deeds, and what he did before in his past and recent times.

(وَأَنَّى لَهُ الذُّكْرَى)

(but how will that remembrance avail him) meaning, how can remembrance then benefit him

(يَقُولُ يَلَيْتَنِي قَدَّمْتُ لِحَيَاتِي)

(He will say: "Alas! Would that I had sent forth for my life!") meaning, if he was a disobedient person, he will be sorry for the acts of disobedience he committed. If he was an obedient person, he will wish that he performed more acts of obedience. This is similar to what Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal recorded from Muhammad bin Abi `Amirah, who was one of the Companions of the Messenger of Allah. He said, "If a servant fell down on his face (in prostration) from the day that he was born until the day he died as an old man, in obedience to Allah, he would scorn this act on the Day of Judgement. He would wish to be returned to this life so that he could earn more reward and compensation." Allah then says,

(فَيَوْمَئِذٍ لَا يُعَذِّبُ عَذَابَهُ أَحَدٌ)

(So on that Day none will punish as He will punish.) meaning, there is no one more severely punished than those whom Allah punishes for disobeying Him.

(وَلَا يُوثِقُ وَتَاقَهُ أَحَدٌ)

(And none will bind as He will bind.) meaning, there is no one who is more severely punished and bound than those the Az-Zabaniyah punish the disbelievers in their Lord. This is for the criminals and the wrongdoers among the creatures. In reference to the pure and tranquil soul - which is always at rest and abiding by the truth it will be said to it,

(يَأْتِيهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَى رَبِّكِ)

(O tranquil soul! Come back to your Lord.) meaning, to His company, His reward and what He has prepared for His servants in His Paradise.

(رَاضِيَةً)

(well-pleased) meaning, within itself.

(مَرْضِيَّةً)

(well-pleasing.) meaning, pleased with Allah, and He will be pleased with it and gratify it.

(فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي)

(Enter then among My servants,) meaning, among their ranks.

(وَادْخُلِي جَنَّتِي)

(And enter My Paradise!) This will be said to it at the time of death and on the Day of Judgement. This is like the angels giving glad tiding to the believer at his time of death and when he rises from his grave. Likewise is this statement here. Ibn Abi Hatim recorded from Ibn `Abbas concerning Allah's statement,

(يَأْتِيهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ - ارْجِعِي إِلَى رَبِّكِ
رَاضِيَةً مَرْضِيَّةً)

(O tranquil soul! Come back to your Lord, well-pleased and well-pleasing!) He said, "This Ayah was revealed while Abu Bakr was sitting (with the Prophet). So he said, `O Messenger of Allah! There is nothing better than this!' The Prophet then replied,

«أَمَا إِنَّهُ سَيُقَالُ لَكَ هَذَا»

(This will indeed be said to you.)" This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat Al-Fajr, and all praise and blessings are due to Allah.

The Tafsir of Surat Al-Balad

(Chapter - 90)

Which was revealed in Makkah

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(لَا أَقْسِمُ بِهَذَا الْبَلَدِ - وَأَنْتَ حِلٌّ بِهَذَا الْبَلَدِ -
وَوَالِدٍ وَمَا وَلَدَ - لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي كَبَدٍ -
أَيَحْسَبُ أَنْ لَنْ يَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ أَحَدٌ - يَقُولُ أَهْلَكْتُ
مَالًا لُبَدًا - أَيَحْسَبُ أَنْ لَمْ يَرَهُ أَحَدٌ - أَلَمْ نَجْعَلْ لَهُ
عَيْنَيْنِ - وَلِسَانًا وَشَفَتَيْنِ - وَهَدَيْنَاهُ النَّجْدَيْنِ)

(1. Nay! I swear by this city;) (2. And you are free in this city.) (3. And by the begetter and that which he begot.) (4. Verily, We have created man in Kabad.) (5. Does he think that none can overcome him) (6. He says: "I have wasted wealth in abundance!") (7. Does he think that none sees him) (8. Have We not made for him two eyes) (9. And a tongue and two lips) (10. And shown him the two ways)

Swearing by the Sanctity of Makkah and Other Things that Man was created in Hardship

Here Allah has sworn by Makkah, the Mother of the Towns, addressing its resident (during the non-sacred months,) free in this city in order to draw his attention to the significance of its sanctity when its people are in the state of sanctity. Khusayf reported from Mujahid;

(لَا أَقْسِمُ بِهَذَا الْبَلَدِ)

(Nay! I swear by this city;) "The word "La" (Nay) refers to the refutation against them (Quraish). I swear by this city." Shabib bin Bishr narrated from `Ikrimah, from Ibn `Abbas that he said,

(لَا أَقْسِمُ بِهَذَا الْبَلَدِ)

(Nay! I swear by this city;) "This means Makkah." Concerning the Ayah:

(وَأَنْتَ حِلٌّ بِهَذَا الْبَلَدِ)

(And you are free in this city.) he (Ibn `Abbas) said, "O Muhammad! It is permissible for you to fight in it." Similar was reported from Sa`id bin Jubayr, Abu Salih, `Atiyah, Ad-Dahhak, Qatadah, As-Suddi and Ibn Zayd. Al-Hasan Al-Basri said, "Allah made it lawful (to fight in) for him (the Prophet) for one hour of a day." The meaning of what they have said was mentioned in a Hadith that is agreed- upon as being authentic. In it the Prophet said,

«إِنَّ هَذَا الْبَلَدَ حَرَّمَهُ اللَّهُ يَوْمَ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضَ، فَهُوَ حَرَامٌ بِحُرْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ
لَا يُعْضَدُ شَجَرُهُ وَلَا يُخْتَلَى خَلَاهُ، وَإِنَّمَا أُحِلَّتْ لِي
سَاعَةٌ مِنْ نَهَارٍ، وَقَدْ عَادَتْ حُرْمَتُهَا الْيَوْمَ
كَحُرْمَتِهَا بِالْأَمْسِ، أَلَا فَلْيُبَلِّغِ الشَّاهِدُ الْغَائِبَ»

(Verily, Allah made this city sacred on the Day that He created the heavens and the earth. Therefore, it is sacred by the sanctity of Allah until the Day of Judgement. Its trees should not be uprooted, and its bushes and grasses should not be removed. And it was only made lawful for me (to fight in) for one hour of a day. Today its sanctity has been restored just as it was sacred yesterday. So, let the one who is present inform those who are absent.) In another wording of this Hadith, he said,

«فَإِنْ أَحَدٌ تَرَخَّصَ بِقِتَالِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ فَقُولُوا: إِنَّ
اللَّهَ أَذِنَ لِرَسُولِهِ وَلَمْ يَأْذِنْ لَكُمْ»

(So, if anyone tries to use the fighting of the Messenger (to conquer Makkah) as an excuse (to fight there), then tell him that Allah permitted it for His Messenger and He has not permitted it for you.) Concerning Allah's statement,

(وَوَالِدٍ وَمَا وَلَدَ)

(And by the begetter and that which he begot.) Mujahid, Abu Salih, Qatadah, Ad-Dahhak, Sufyan Ath-Thawri, Sa`id bin Jubayr, As-Suddi, Al-Hasan Al-Basri, Khusayf, Shurahbil bin Sa`d and others have said, "Meaning, by the begetter, Adam, and that which he begot is his

children." This view that Mujahid and his companions have chosen is good and strong. This is supported by the fact that Allah swears by the Mother of the Towns, which are dwellings. Then after it He swears by the dwellers therein, who is Adam, the father of mankind, and his children. Abu `Imran Al-Jawni said, "It refers to Ibrahim and his progeny." Ibn Jarir recorded this statement as did Ibn Abi Hatim. Ibn Jarir preferred the view that it is general and it refers to every father and his children. This meaning is also acceptable. Allah then says,

(لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي كَبَدٍ)

(Verily, We have created man in Kabad.) Ibn Abi Najih and Jurayj reported from `Ata, from Ibn `Abbas concerning the phrase `in Kabad', "He was created while in hardship. Don't you see him" Then he mentioned his birth and the sprouting of his teeth. Mujahid said,

(فِي كَبَدٍ)

(in Kabad.) "A drop of sperm, then a clot, then a lump of flesh, enduring in his creation." Mujahid then said, "This is similar to Allah's statement,

(حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُ كُرْهًا وَوَضَعَتْهُ كُرْهًا)

(His mother bears him with hardship. And she brings him forth with hardship.) (46:15) and she breast-feeds him with hardship, and his livelihood is a hardship. So he endures all of this." Sa`id bin Jubayr said,

(لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي كَبَدٍ)

(Verily, We have created man in Kabad.) "In hardship and seeking livelihood." `Ikrimah said, "In hardship and long-suffering." Qatadah said, "In difficulty." It is reported from Al-Hasan that he said, "Enduring the hardships of the world by life and the severity of the Hereafter."

Man is encompassed by Allah and His Bounties

Allah says,

(أَيَحْسَبُ أَنْ لَنْ يَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ أَحَدٌ)

(Does he think that none can overcome him) Al-Hasan Al-Basri said,

(أَيَحْسَبُ أَنْ لَنْ يَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ أَحَدٌ)

(Does he think that none can overcome him) "Meaning no one is able to take his wealth." Qatadah said,

(أَيْحَسَبُ أَنْ لَنْ يَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ أَحَدٌ)

(Does he think that none can overcome him) "The Son of Adam thinks that he will not be asked about this wealth of his -- how he earned and how he spent it." Allah said:

(يَقُولُ أَهْلَكْتُ مَالًا لُبَدًا)

(He says: "I have wasted wealth in abundance!") This means, the Son of Adam says, "I spent an abundance of wealth." Mujahid, Al-Hasan, Qatadah, As-Suddi and others have said this.

(أَيْحَسَبُ أَنْ لَمْ يَرَهُ أَحَدٌ)

(Does he think that none sees him) Mujahid said, "Does he think that Allah, the Mighty and Majestic, does not see him." Others among the Salaf have said similar to this. Allah said;

(أَلَمْ نَجْعَلْ لَهُ عَيْنَيْنِ)

(Have We not made for him two eyes) meaning, for him to see with them.

(وَلِسَانًا)

(And a tongue) meaning, for him to speak with, and so that he can express that which is inside of him.

(وَشَفَتَيْنِ)

(and two lips) In order to help him with speaking, eating food, and beautifying his face and his mouth.

The Ability to distinguish between Good and Evil is also a Blessing

(وَهَدَيْنَاهُ النَّجْدَيْنِ)

(And shown him the two ways) This refers to the two paths. Sufyan Ath-Thawri narrated from `Asim, from Zirr, from `Abdullah bin Mas`ud that he said,

(وَهَدَيْنَاهُ النَّجْدَيْنِ)

(And shown him the two ways) "The good and the evil." Similar to this has been reported from `Ali, Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Abu Wa'il, Abu Salih, Muhammad bin Ka`b, Ad-Dahhak, and `Ata' Al-Khurasani among others. Similar to this Ayah is Allah's statement,

(إِنَّا خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ أَمْشَاجٍ نَبْتَلِيهِ
فَجَعَلْنَاهُ سَمِيعًا بَصِيرًا - إِنَّا هَدَيْنَاهُ السَّبِيلَ إِمَّا
شَاكِرًا وَإِمَّا كَفُورًا)

(Verily, We have created man from Nutfah Amshaj, in order to try him: so We made him hearer and seer. Verily, We showed him the way, whether he be grateful or ungrateful.) (76:2-3)

(فَلَا اقْتَحَمَ الْعَقَبَةَ - وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْعَقَبَةُ - فَكُّ
رَقَبَةٍ - أَوْ إِطْعَامٌ فِي يَوْمٍ ذِي مَسْغَبَةٍ - يَتِيمًا ذَا
مَقْرَبَةٍ - أَوْ مِسْكِينًا ذَا مَتْرَبَةٍ - ثُمَّ كَانَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ
ءَامَنُوا وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْمَرْحَمَةِ -
أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْمَيْمَنَةِ - وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بآيَاتِنَا
هُمُ أَصْحَابُ الْمَشْأَمَةِ - عَلَيْهِمْ نَارٌ مُؤَصَّدَةٌ)

(11. But he has not attempted to pass on the path that is steep.) (12. And what will make you know the path that is steep) (13. Freeing a neck) (14. Or giving food in a day full of Masghabah,) (15. To an orphan near of kin.) (16. Or to a Miskin cleaving to dust.) (17. Then he became one of those who believed and recommended one another to patience, and recommended one another to compassion.) (18. They are those on the Right,) (19. But those who disbelieved in Our Ayat, they are those on the Left.) (20. Upon them Fire will Mu'sadah.)

The Encouragement to traverse upon the Path of Goodness

Ibn Zayd said,

(فَلَا اقْتَحَمَ الْعَقَبَةَ)

(But he has not attempted to pass on the path that is steep.) "This means, will he not traverse upon the path which contains salvation and good Then He explains this path by his saying,

﴿وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْعَقَبَةُ - فَكُّ رَقَبَةٍ أَوْ إِطْعَامٌ﴾

(And what will make you know the path that is steep Freeing a neck, or giving food.)" Imam Ahmad recorded from Sa`id bin Marjanah that he heard Abu Hurayrah saying that the Messenger of Allah said,

﴿مَنْ أَعْتَقَ رَقَبَةً مُؤْمِنَةً أَعْتَقَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ إِرْبٍ أَيْ
عُضْوٍ مِنْهَا إِرْبًا مِنْهُ مِنَ النَّارِ حَتَّى إِنَّهُ لِيُعْتِقُ
بِالْيَدِ الْيَدَ، وَبِالرِّجْلِ الرَّجْلَ، وَبِالْفَرْجِ الْفَرْجَ﴾

(Whoever frees a believing slave, Allah will free for every limb (of the slave) one of his limbs from the Fire. This is to such an extent that He (Allah) will free a hand for a hand, a leg for a leg, and a private part for a private part.) `Ali bin Al-Husayn then said (to Sa`id), "Did you hear this from Abu Hurayrah" Sa`id replied, "Yes." Then `Ali bin Al-Husayn said to a slave boy that he owned who was the swiftest of his servants, "Call Mutarrif!" So when the slave was brought before him he said, "Go, for you are free for the Face of Allah." Al-Bukhari, Muslim, At-Tirmidhi, An-Nasa'i, all recorded this Hadith from Sa`id bin Marjanah. Imam Ahmad recorded from `Amr bin `Abasah that the Prophet said,

﴿مَنْ بَنَى مَسْجِدًا لِيُذْكَرَ اللَّهُ فِيهِ بَنَى اللَّهُ لَهُ بَيْتًا
فِي الْجَنَّةِ وَمَنْ أَعْتَقَ نَفْسًا مُسْلِمَةً كَانَتْ فِدْيَتَهُ
مِنْ جَهَنَّمَ وَمَنْ شَابَ شَيْبَةً فِي الْإِسْلَامِ كَانَتْ لَهُ
نُورًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ﴾

(Whoever builds a Masjid so that Allah may be remembered in it, Allah will build a house for him in Paradise; and whoever frees a Muslim person, then it will be his ransom from Hell; and whoever grows grey in Islam, then it will be a light for him on the Day of Judgement.) According to another route of transmission, Ahmad recorded from Abu Umamah, who reported from `Amr bin `Abasah that As-Sulami said to him, "Narrate a Hadith to us that you heard from the Messenger of Allah , without any deficiency or mistakes." He (`Amr) said, "I heard him saying,

﴿مَنْ وُلِدَ لَهُ ثَلَاثَةٌ أَوْلَادٍ فِي الْإِسْلَامِ فَمَاتُوا قَبْلَ أَنْ
يَبْلُغُوا الْحِنْثَ أَدْخَلَهُ اللَّهُ الْجَنَّةَ بِفَضْلِ رَحْمَتِهِ﴾

إِيَّاهُمْ، وَمَنْ شَابَ شَيْبَةً فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ كَانَتْ لَهُ نُورًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ، وَمَنْ رَمَى بِسَهْمٍ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بَلَغَ بِهِ الْعَدُوَّ أَصَابَ أَوْ أَخْطَأَ كَانَ لَهُ عِتْقُ رَقَبَةٍ، وَمَنْ أَعْتَقَ رَقَبَةً مُؤْمِنَةً أَعْتَقَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ عَضْوٍ مِنْهُ عَضْوًا مِنْهُ مِنَ النَّارِ، وَمَنْ أَنْفَقَ زَوْجَيْنِ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ لِلْجَنَّةِ ثَمَانِيَةَ أَبْوَابٍ يُدْخِلُهُ اللَّهُ مِنْ أَيِّ بَابٍ شَاءَ مِنْهَا»

(Whoever has three children born to him in Islam, and they die before reaching the age of puberty, Allah will enter him into Paradise by virtue of His mercy to them. And whoever grows gray in the way of Allah (fighting Jihad), then it will be a light for him on the Day of Judgement. And whoever shoots an arrow in the way of Allah (fighting Jihad) that reaches the enemy, whether it hits or misses, he will get the reward of freeing a slave. And whoever frees a believing slave, then Allah will free each of his limbs from the Fire for every limb that the slave has. And whoever equipped two riding animals in the way of Allah (for fighting Jihad), then indeed Paradise has eight gates, and Allah will allow him to enter any of them he chooses.)" Ahmad recorded this Hadith from different routes of transmission that are good and strong, and all praise is due to Allah. Allah said,

(أَوْ إِطْعَامٌ فِي يَوْمٍ ذِي مَسْغَبَةٍ)

(Or giving food in a day full of Masghabah,) Ibn `Abbas said, "Of hunger." `Ikrimah, Mujahid, Ad-Dahhak, Qatadah and others all said the same. The word `Saghb' means hunger. Then Allah says,

(يَتِيمًا)

(To an orphan) meaning, he gives food on a day like this to an orphan.

(ذَا مَقْرَبَةٍ)

(near of kin.) meaning, who is related to him. Ibn `Abbas, `Ikrimah, Al-Hasan, Ad-Dahhak and As-Suddi all said this. This is similar to what was related in a Hadith that was collected by Imam Ahmad on the authority of Salman bin `Amir who said that he heard the Messenger of Allah say,

«الصَّدَقَةُ عَلَى الْمِسْكِينِ صَدَقَةٌ وَعَلَى ذِي الرَّحِمِ
اِثْنَتَانِ: صَدَقَةٌ وَصِلَةٌ»

(Charity given to the poor person is counted as one charity, while if it is given to a relative it is counted as two: charity and connecting the ties (of kinship).) At-Tirmidhi and An-Nasa'i both recorded this Hadith and its chain of narration is authentic. Then Allah says,

(أَوْ مِسْكِينًا ذَا مَتْرَبَةٍ)

(Or to a Miskin cleaving to dust (Dha Matrabah).) meaning, poor, miserable, and clinging to the dirt. It means those who are in a state of destitution. Ibn `Abbas said, "Dha Matrabah is that who is dejected in the street and who has no house or anything else to protect him against the dirt." Allah said;

(ثُمَّ كَانَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا)

(Then he became one of those who believed) meaning, then, along with these beautiful and pure characteristics, he was a believer in his heart, seeking the reward of that from Allah. This is as Allah says,

(وَمَنْ أَرَادَ الْآخِرَةَ وَسَعَىٰ لَهَا سَعْيَهَا وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ
فَأُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ سَعْيُهُمْ مَشْكُورًا)

(And whoever desires the Hereafter and strives for it, with the necessary effort due for it while he is believer, then such are the ones whose striving shall be appreciated.) (17:19) Allah also says,

(مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ)

(Whoever works righteousness -- whether male or female -- while being a true believer....) (16:97) Allah says,

(وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْمَرْحَمَةِ)

(and recommended one another to patience, and recommended one another to compassion.) meaning, he was from the believers who worked righteous deeds, and advised each other to be patient with the harms of the people, and to be merciful with them. This is similar to what has been related in the noble Hadith,

«الرَّاحِمُونَ يَرْحَمُهُمُ الرَّحْمَنُ، ارْحَمُوا مَنْ فِي
الْأَرْضِ يَرْحَمَكُم مِّنْ فِي السَّمَاءِ»

(The merciful people will be treated with mercy by the Most Merciful (Allah). Be merciful to those who are on the earth and He Who is above the heavens will be merciful to you.) In another Hadith he said,

«لَا يَرْحَمُ اللَّهُ مَنْ لَا يَرْحَمُ النَّاسَ»

(Allah will not be merciful with whoever is not merciful with the people.) Abu Dawud recorded from `Abdullah bin `Amr that he narrated (from the Prophet),

«مَنْ لَمْ يَرْحَمْ صَغِيرَنَا وَيَعْرِفْ حَقَّ كَبِيرِنَا
فَلَيْسَ مِنَّا»

(Whoever does not show mercy to our children, nor does he recognize the right of our elders, then he is not of us.) Then Allah says,

(أَوْلِيَاكَ أَصْحَابُ الْمَيْمَنَةِ)

(They are those on the Right,) meaning, those who have these characteristics are the companions of the Right Hand.

The Companions of the Left Hand and Their Recompense

Then Allah says,

(وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِنَا هُمْ أَصْحَابُ الْمَشْأَمَةِ)

(But those who disbelieved in Our Ayat, they are those on the Left.) meaning, the companions of the Left Hand.

(عَلَيْهِمْ نَارٌ مُّؤَصَّدَةٌ)

(Upon them Fire will Mu'sadah.) meaning, it will be sealed over them and there will be no way for them to avoid it, nor will they have any way out. Abu Hurayrah, Ibn `Abbas, `Ikrimah, Sa`id bin Jubayr, Mujahid, Muhammad bin Ka`b Al-Qurazi, `Atiyah Al-`Awfi, Al-Hasan, Qatadah and As-Suddi, all said,

(مُؤَصَّدَةٌ)

(Mu'sadah.) "This means shut." Ibn ` Abbas said, "Its doors will be closed." Ad-Dahhak said,

(مُؤَصَّدَةٌ)

(Mu'sadah.) "It will be sealed over them and it will have no door." Qatadah said,

(مُؤَصَّدَةٌ)

(Mu'sadah.) "It will be shut and there will be no light in it, no crevice (escape), and no way out of it forever." This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat Al-Balad, and all praise and blessings are due to Allah.

The Tafsir of Surah Wash-Shams wa Duhah

(Chapter - 91)

Which was revealed in Makkah

Recitation of Surah Ash-Shams wa Duhaha in the `Isha' Prayer The Hadith of Jabir which was recorded in the Two Sahihs has already been mentioned. In it the Messenger of Allah said to Mu` adh,

«هَلَّا صَلَّيْتَ بِـ

(سَبِّحْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى)

(وَالشَّمْسِ وَضُحَاهَا)

(وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَى)»

(Why didn't you pray with (the recitation of) (Glorify the Name of your Lord the Most High) (87), (By the sun and Duhaha) (91), and (By the night as it envelops) (92))

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

وَالشَّمْسِ وَضُحَاهَا- وَالْقَمَرِ إِذَا تَلَّهَا- وَالنَّهَارِ
إِذَا جَلَّهَا- وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَاهَا- وَالسَّمَاءِ وَمَا بَنَاهَا-
وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا طَحَاهَا- وَنَفْسٍ وَمَا سَوَّاهَا-
فَأَلْهَمَهَا فُجُورَهَا وَتَقْوَاهَا- قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا-
وَقَدْ خَابَ مَنْ دَسَّاهَا-

(1. By the sun and Duhaha.) (2. By the moon as it Talaha.) (3. By the day as it Jallaha.) (4. By the night as it Yaghshaha.) (5. By the heaven and Ma Banaha.) (6. By the earth and Ma Tahhaha.) (7. By Nafs, and Ma Sawwaha (Who apportioned it).) (8. Then He showed it its Fujur and its Taqwa.) (9. Indeed he succeeds who purifies it.) (10. And indeed he fails who Dassaha.)

**Allah swears by His Creation that the Person Who purifies Himself
will be Successful and the Person Who corrupts Himself will fail**

Mujahid said,

(وَالشَّمْسِ وَضُحَاهَا)

(By the sun and Duhaha.) "This means, by its light." Qatadah said,

(وَضُحَاهَا)

(wa Duhaha.) "The whole day." Ibn Jarir said, "The correct view is what has been said, `Allah swears by the sun and its daytime, because the clear light of the sun is daytime."

(وَالْقَمَرِ إِذَا تَلَّهَا)

(By the moon as it Talaha.) Mujahid said, "It follows it (the sun)." Al-`Awfi reported from Ibn `Abbas that he said,

(وَالْقَمَرِ إِذَا تَلَّهَا)

(By the moon as it Talaha.) "It follows the day." Qatadah said, " as it Talaha (follows it)' is referring to the night of the Hilal (the new crescent moon). When the sun goes down, the Hilal is visible." Concerning Allah's statement,

(وَالنَّهَارَ إِذَا جَلَّهَا)

(By the day as it Jallaha.) Mujahid said, "When it illuminates." Thus, Mujahid said,

(وَالنَّهَارَ إِذَا جَلَّهَا)

(By the day as it Jallaha.) "This is similar to Allah's statement ,

(وَالنَّهَارَ إِذَا تَجَلَّى)

(By the day as it Tajalla.) (92:2)" And they have said concerning Allah's statement ,

(وَاللَّيْلَ إِذَا يَعْشَهَا)

(By the night as it Yaghshaha.) meaning, when it covers the sun, which takes place when sun disappears and the horizons become dark. Concerning Allah's statement ,

(وَالسَّمَاءِ وَمَا بَنَاهَا)

(By the heaven and Ma Banaha.) The meaning here could be for descriptive purposes, meaning "By the heaven and its construction." This was said by Qatadah. It could also mean "By the heaven and its Constructor." This was stated by Mujahid. Both views are interrelated, and construction means raising. This is as Allah says,

(وَالسَّمَاءَ بَنَيْنَاهَا بِأَيْدٍ)

(With Hands did We construct the heaven.) (51:47) meaning, with strength.

(وَالسَّمَاءَ بَنَيْنَاهَا بِأَيْدٍ وَإِنَّا لَمُوسِعُونَ - وَالْأَرْضَ
فَرَشْنَاهَا فَنِعْمَ الْمَاهِدُونَ)

(Verily, We are able to extend the vastness of space thereof. And We have spread out the earth: how excellent a spreader are We!) (51:47-48) This is also similar to Allah's statement ,

(وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا طَحَاهَا)

(By the earth and Ma Tahaha.) Mujahid said, "Tahaha means He spread it out." Al-`Awfi reported from Ibn `Abbas that he said,

(وَمَا طَحَّهَا)

(and Ma Tahaha.) "This means what He created in it." `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported from Ibn `Abbas that he said, "Tahaha means that He proportioned it." Mujahid, Qatadah, Ad-Dahhak, As-Suddi, Ath-Thawri, Abu Salih and Ibn Zayd all said that

(طَحَّهَا)

(Tahaha) means, He spread it out. Allah then says,

(وَنَفْسٍ وَمَا سَوَّاهَا)

(By Nafs, and Ma Sawwaha (Who apportioned it).) meaning, He created it sound and well-proportioned upon the correct nature (Al-Fitrah). This is as Allah says,

(فَأَقِمْ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ حَنِيفًا فِطْرَةَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي فَطَرَ
النَّاسَ عَلَيْهَا لَا تَبْدِيلَ لِخَلْقِ اللَّهِ)

(So set you your face towards the religion, Hanif. Allah's Fitrah with which He has created mankind. No change let there be in the Khalqillah.) (30:30) The Messenger of Allah said,

«كُلُّ مَوْلُودٍ يُوَلَّدُ عَلَى الْفِطْرَةِ فَأَبَوَاهُ يُهَوِّدَانِهِ أَوْ
يُنَصِّرَانِهِ أَوْ يُمَجِّسَانِهِ، كَمَا تُوَلَّدُ الْبَهِيمَةُ بِبَهِيمَةٍ
جَمْعَاءَ، هَلْ تُحِسُّونَ فِيهَا مِنْ جَذْعَاءٍ؟»

(Every child that is born, is born upon the Fitrah, but his parents make him a Jew, a Christian, or a Zoroastrian. This is just as the animal is born, complete with all of its parts. Do you notice any mutilation in it) Both Al-Bukhari and Muslim recorded this Hadith from Abu Hurayrah. In Sahih Muslim, it has been narrated from `Iyad bin Himar Al-Mujashi`i that the Messenger of Allah said,

«يَقُولُ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ: إِنِّي خَلَقْتُ عِبَادِي حُنَفَاءَ
فَجَاءَتْهُمْ الشَّيَاطِينُ فَاجْتَالَتْهُمْ عَنْ دِينِهِمْ»

(Allah the Mighty and Majestic says, "Verily I created My servants Hunafa' (as monotheists), but then the devils came to them and distracted them from their religion.") Then Allah says,

(فَأَلْهَمَهَا فُجُورَهَا وَتَقْوَاهَا)

(Then He showed it its Fujur and its Taqwa.) meaning, He showed him to his transgression and his Taqwa. This means that He clarified that for it and He guided it to what has been ordained for him. Ibn `Abbas said,

(فَأَلْهَمَهَا فُجُورَهَا وَتَقْوَاهَا)

(Then He showed it its Fujur and its Taqwa.) "He explained the good and the evil to it (the soul)." Mujahid, Qatadah, Ad-Dahhak and Ath-Thawri all said the same. Sa`id bin Jubayr said, "He gave him inspiration (to see what was) good and evil." Ibn Zayd said, "He made its Fujur and its Taqwa inside of it." Ibn Jarir recorded from Abul-Aswad Ad-Dili that he said, "Imran bin Husayn said to me, `Do you think that what the people do, and what they strive for is a thing that is pre-ordained and predestined for them, or is it a thing which is only written after the Message comes to them from the Prophet, when there will be an evidence against them' I said, `Rather it is something preordained upon them.' Then he said, `Is that an injustice' Then I became extremely frightened of him (due to what he was saying), and I said to him, `There is nothing except that He (Allah) created it and possesses it in His Hand. He is not asked about what He does, while they (His creation) will be asked.' He (Imran) then said, `May Allah guide you! I only asked you about that in order to inform you that a man from Muzaynah or Juhaynah tribe came to the Allah's Messenger and asked him: "O Messenger of Allah! Do you consider the actions of mankind and their struggles to be preordained for them and written for them from Qadr, or something written for them only after the Message came to them from their Prophet, when there will be an evidence against them" He (the Prophet) replied:

«بَلْ شَيْءٌ قَدْ قُضِيَ عَلَيْهِمْ»

(Rather it is something preordained for them.) So the man said, "Then what is the point of our actions" The Prophet replied,

«مَنْ كَانَ اللَّهُ خَلَقَهُ لِإِحْدَى الْمَنْزِلَتَيْنِ يَهَيِّئُهُ لَهَا،
وَتَصْدِيقُ ذَلِكَ فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى:

(وَنَفْسٍ وَمَا سَوَّاهَا - فَأَلْهَمَهَا فُجُورَهَا وَتَقْوَاهَا)
«(

(Whoever Allah created for one of the two positions (Paradise or Hell), He makes it easy for him (to attain). The proof of that is in the Book of Allah (By Nafs, and Ma Sawwaha (Who apportioned it). Then He showed it its Fujur and its Taqwa.)" Ahmad and Muslim both recorded this Hadith. Allah then says,

(قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا - وَقَدْ خَابَ مَنْ دَسَّاهَا)

(Indeed he succeeds who purifies it. And indeed he fails who Dassaha.) This could mean that whoever purifies himself by obedience to Allah, then he will be successful. This is as Qatadah said, "He cleanses it from the lowly and despicable characteristics." Similar to this has been reported from Mujahid, `Ikrimah and Sa`id bin Jubayr.

(وَقَدْ خَابَ مَنْ دَسَّاهَا)

(And indeed he fails who Dassaha.) meaning, to conceal it. This means that he makes it dull, and he disregards it by neglecting to allow it to receive guidance. He treats it in this manner until he performs acts of disobedience and he abandons obedience of Allah. It also could mean that he is indeed successful whose soul Allah purifies, and he has failed whose soul Allah corrupts. This is like what was reported by Al-`Awfi and `Ali bin Abi Talhah from Ibn `Abbas. At-Tabarani recorded that Ibn `Abbas said, "The Messenger of Allah used to stop whenever he recited this Ayah,

(وَنَفْسٍ وَمَا سَوَّاهَا - فَأَلْهَمَهَا فُجُورَهَا وَتَقْوَاهَا)

(By Nafs, and Ma Sawwaha (Who apportioned it). Then He showed it its Fujur and its Taqwa.) Then he would say,

«اللَّهُمَّ آتِ نَفْسِي تَقْوَاهَا، أَنْتَ وَلِيِّهَا وَمَوْلَاهَا،
وَخَيْرُ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا»

(O Allah! Give my soul its good. You are its Guardian and Master, and the best to purify it.)" Another Hadith Imam Ahmad recorded that Zayd bin Arqam said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْعَجْزِ وَالْكَسَلِ، وَالْهَرَمِ
وَالْجُبْنِ وَالْبُخْلِ وَعَذَابِ الْقَبْرِ. اللَّهُمَّ آتِ نَفْسِي
تَقْوَاهَا، وَزَكَّاهَا أَنْتَ خَيْرُ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا، أَنْتَ وَلِيِّهَا
وَمَوْلَاهَا. اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ قَلْبٍ لَا يَخْشَعُ،
وَمِنْ نَفْسٍ لَا تَشْبَعُ، وَعِلْمٍ لَا يَنْفَعُ، وَدَعْوَةٍ لَا
يُسْتَجَابُ لَهَا»

(O Allah! Verily, I seek refuge with You from weakness, laziness, senility (of old age), cowardliness, stinginess and the torment of the grave. O Allah! Give my soul its good and purify it, for You are the best to purify it. You are its Guardian and Master. O Allah! Verily, I seek refuge with You from a heart that is not humble, a soul that is not satisfied, knowledge that does not benefit and a supplication that is not answered.) Zayd then said, "The Messenger of Allah used to teach us these (words) and we now teach them to you." Muslim also recorded this Hadith.

(كَذَّبَتْ ثَمُودُ بِطَغْوَاهَا - إِذِ انبَعَثَ أَشْقَاهَا - فَقَالَ لَهُمْ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ نَاقَةَ اللَّهِ وَسُقْيَاهَا - فَكَذَّبُوهُ فَعَقَرُوهَا فَدمدمَ عَلَيْهِم رَّبُّهُم بِذَنبِهِمْ فَسَوَّاهَا - وَلَا يَخَافُ عُقْبَاهَا)

(11. Thamud denied through their transgression.) (12. When their most wicked went forth.) (13. But the Messenger of Allah said to them: "Be cautious! That is the she-camel of Allah! (Do not harm it) and (bar it not from having) its drink!") (14. Then they denied him and they killed it. So their Lord destroyed them because of their sin, Fasawwaha!) (15. And He feared not the consequences thereof.)

The Rejection of Thamud and Allah's Destruction of Them

Allah informs that Thamud rejected their Messenger because of the injustice and transgression they practiced. This was said by Mujahid, Qatadah and others. Therefore, this resulted in a rejection in their hearts for the guidance and conviction their Messenger came to them with.

(إِذِ انبَعَثَ أَشْقَاهَا)

(When their most wicked went forth.) meaning, the most wicked person of the tribe, and he was Qudar bin Salif, the one who killed the she-camel. He was leader of the tribe of Thamud, and he is the one whom Allah refers to in His saying,

(فَنَادَوْا صَاحِبَهُمْ فَتَعَاطَى فَعَقَرَ)

(But they called their comrade and he took (a sword) and killed (her).) (54:29) This man was mighty and respected among his people. He was of noble lineage and a leader who was obeyed. This is just as Imam Ahmad recorded from `Abdullah bin Zam`ah. He said that the Messenger of Allah gave a sermon in which he mentioned the she-camel and he mentioned the man who killed her. Then he said,

«(إِذِ انبَعَثَ أَشْقَاهَا)»

اٰتَبَعَتْ لَهَا رَجُلٌ عَارِمٌ عَزِيْزٌ مَنِيعٌ فِى رَهْطِهِ
مِثْلُ اَبِي زَمْعَةَ»

((When their most wicked went forth.)(A strong and mighty man who was invincible among his tribe, like Abu Zam` ah, went forth to her.) This Hadith was recorded by Al-Bukhari in his Book of Tafsir, and Muslim in his Book of the Description of the Hellfire. At-Tirmidhi and An-Nasa'i both recorded it in their Sunans in their Books of Tafsir.

The Story of Salih's She-Camel

Allah then says,

(فَقَالَ لَهُمْ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ)

(But the Messenger of Allah said to them) referring to Salih.

(نَاقَةُ اللَّهِ)

(That is the she-camel of Allah!) meaning, `beware of touching the she-camel of Allah with any harm.'

(وَسُقْيَاهَا)

(and its drink!) meaning, `do not transgress against her in her drinking, for she has been allocated a day to drink and you have been allocated a day to drink, as is known to you.' Then Allah says,

(فَكَذَّبُوهُ فَعَقَرُوْهَا)

(Then they denied him and they killed it.) which means they rejected what he came with. This resulted in them killing the she-camel that Allah had brought out of the rock as a sign for them and a proof against them.

(فَدَمَدَمَ عَلَيْهِمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِذَنْبِهِمْ)

(So their Lord destroyed them because of their sin,) meaning, He became angry with them and He annihilated them.

(فَسَوَّاهَا)

(Fasawwaha!) meaning, He made the punishment descend upon them all equally. Qatadah said, "It has reached us that the leader of tribe of Thamud did not kill the she-camel until their youth, their elderly, their males and their females all pledged allegiance to him. So when the people cooperated in killing her, Allah destroyed them all with the same punishment due to their sin." Allah said,

(وَلَا يَخَافُ)

(And He feared not) it has also been recited as (يَخَافُ قَلًا) (So He feared not)

(عُقْبَاهَا)

(the consequences thereof.) Ibn `Abbas said, "Allah does not fear any consequences from anyone else." Mujahid, Al-Hasan, Bakr bin `Abdullah Al-Muzani and others all said the same. This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat Ash-Shams, and all praise and thanks are due to Allah.

The Tafsir of Surat Al-Layl

(Chapter - 92)

Which was revealed in Makkah

The Recitation of Surat Al-Layl in the `Isha' Prayer

The statement of the Prophet to Mu`adh has already preceded, where he said,

«فَهَلَّا صَلَّيْتَ ب

(سَبِّحْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى)

(وَالشَّمْسِ وَضُحَاهَا)

(وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَى)»

(Why did you not pray with (the recitation of) (Glorify the Name of your Lord the Most High) (87), and (By the sun and Duhaha) (91), and (By the night as it envelops) (92))

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَى - وَالنَّهَارِ إِذَا تَجَلَّى - وَمَا خَلَقَ
الدَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَى - إِنَّ سَعْيَكُمْ لَشَتَّى - فَأَمَّا مَنْ
أَعْطَى وَاتَّقَى - وَصَدَّقَ بِالْحُسْنَى - فَسَنُيَسِّرُهُ
لِلْيُسْرَى - وَأَمَّا مَنْ بَخِلَ وَاسْتَغْنَى - وَكَذَّبَ
بِالْحُسْنَى - فَسَنُيَسِّرُهُ لِلْعُسْرَى - وَمَا يُغْنِي عَنْهُ
مَالُهُ إِذَا تَرَدَّى)

(1. By the night as it envelops.) (2. By the day as it appears.) (3. By Him Who created male and female.) (4. Certainly, your efforts and deeds are diverse.) (5. As for him who gives and has Taqwa,) (6. And believes in Al-Husna.) (7. We will make smooth for him the path of ease.) (8. But he who is greedy and thinks himself self-sufficient,) (9. And denies Al-Husna.) (10. We will make smooth for him the path to evil.) (11. And what will his wealth avail him when he goes down (in destruction))

Swearing by the Diversity of Mankind in Their Efforts and informing of the Different Results of that

Allah swears by saying:

(اللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَى)

(By the night as it envelops.) meaning, when it covers the creation with its darkness.

(وَالنَّهَارِ إِذَا تَجَلَّى)

(By the day as it appears.) meaning, with its light and its radiance.

(وَمَا خَلَقَ الدَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَى)

(By Him Who created male and female.) This is similar to Allah's saying,

(وَخَلَقْنَاكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا)

(And We have created you in pairs.) (78:8) It is also similar to saying,

(وَمِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقْنَا زَوْجَيْنِ)

(And of everything We have created pairs.) (51:49) And just as these things that are being sworn by are opposites, likewise that which this swearing is about are opposing things. This is why Allah says,

(إِنَّ سَعْيَكُمْ لَشَتَّى)

(Certainly, your efforts and deeds are diverse.) meaning, the actions of the servants that they have performed are also opposites and diverse. Therefore, there are those who do good and there are those who do evil. Allah then says,

(فَأَمَّا مَنْ أَعْطَى وَاتَّقَى)

(As for him who gives and has Taqwa.) meaning, he gives what he has been commanded to give and he fears Allah in his affairs.

(وَصَدَّقَ بِالْحُسْنَى)

(And believes in Al-Husna.) meaning, in the compensation for that. This was said by Qatadah. Khusayf said, "In the reward." Then Allah says,

(فَسَيُسِّرُهُ لِيُسْرَى)

(We will make smooth for him the path of ease.) Ibn `Abbas said, "Meaning for goodness." Thus, Allah says,

(وَأَمَّا مَنْ بَخِلَ)

(But he who is greedy) meaning, with that which he has.

(وَاسْتَعْنَى)

(and thinks himself self-sufficient,) `Ikrimah reported that Ibn `Abbas said, "This means he is stingy with his wealth and considers himself to be in no need of his Lord, the Mighty and Majestic." This was recorded by Ibn Abi Hatim.

(وَكَذَّبَ بِالْحُسْنَى)

(And denies Al-Husna.) meaning, the recompense in the abode of the Hereafter.

(فَسَيَسِّرُهُ لِّلْعُسْرَى)

(We will make smooth for him the path to evil.) meaning, the path of evil. This is as Allah says,

(وَنُقَلِّبُ أَقْبِدَّتَهُمْ وَأَبْصَرَهُمْ كَمَا لَمْ يُؤْمِنُوا بِهِ
أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَنَذَرُهُمْ فِي طُغْيَانِهِمْ يَعْمَهُونَ)

(And We shall turn their hearts and their eyes away, as they refused to believe therein for the first time, and We shall leave them in their trespass to wander blindly.) (6:110) And there are many Ayat with this meaning, proving that Allah rewards those who intend good with success, while whoever intends evil is abandoned, and all of this is in accordance with a preordained decree. There are also many Hadiths that prove this.

The Narration of Abu Bakr As-Siddiq

Imam Ahmad recorded from Abu Bakr that he said to the Messenger of Allah , "O Messenger of Allah! Do we act according to what has already been decided, or is the matter just beginning (i.e., still undecided)" He replied,

«بَلْ عَلَى أَمْرٍ قَدْ فُرِعَ مِنْهُ»

(Indeed it is according to what has already been decided.) Then Abu Bakr said, "Then what (good) are deeds, O Messenger of Allah" He replied,

«كُلُّ مَيْسَرٍ لِمَا خُلِقَ لَهُ»

(Everyone will find it easy to do such deeds that will lead him to what he was created for.)

The Narration of ` Ali

Al-Bukhari recorded from `Ali bin Abi Talib that they (the Companions) were with the Messenger of Allah at the cemetery of Baqi` Al-Gharqad for a funeral, when the Prophet said,

«مَا مِنْكُمْ مِنْ أَحَدٍ إِلَّا وَقَدْ كُتِبَ مَقْعَدُهُ مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ
وَمَقْعَدُهُ مِنَ النَّارِ»

(There is none among you except that his place has already been written, a seat in Paradise and a seat in the Hellfire.) They said, "O Messenger of Allah! Should we depend on this" He replied,

«اعْمَلُوا ، فَكُلُّ مُيسِّرٍ لِمَا خُلِقَ لَهُ»

(Perform deeds for everyone will have the deeds of what he was created for (Paradise or Hell) made easy for him.) Then he recited the Ayah

(فَأَمَّا مَنْ أُعْطِيَ وَاتَّقَى - وَصَدَّقَ بِالْحُسْنَى -
فَسُيِّرَهُ لِلْيُسْرَى)

(As for him who gives and has Taqwa, and believes in Al-Husna. We will make smooth for him the path of ease.)" until the Ayah:

(لِلْعُسْرَى)

(the path to evil) He (Imam Al-Bukhari) also recorded another similar narration from `Ali bin Abi Talib in which he said, "We were at a funeral in the cemetery of Baqi` Al-Gharqad when the Messenger of Allah came and sat down. So we came and sat around him and he had a stick with him. Then he bowed his head and he began to scratch the ground with his stick. He then said,

«مَا مِنْكُمْ مِنْ أَحَدٍ أَوْ مَا مِنْ نَفْسٍ مَنْفُوسَةٍ إِلَّا
كُتِبَ مَكَانُهَا مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ وَالنَّارِ، وَإِلَّا قَدْ كُتِبَتْ شَقِيَّةٌ
أَوْ سَعِيدَةٌ»

(There is not anyone among you -- or is not a single soul (that has been created) -- except that his place has been written in Paradise or in the Fire, and it has been written that he will be miserable or happy.) A man said, "O Messenger of Allah! Should we just depend on what has been written for us and give up performing deeds For whoever of us is of the people of happiness then he will be of the people of happiness, and whoever among us is of the people of misery then he will be of the people of misery." The Prophet replied,

«أَمَّا أَهْلُ السَّعَادَةِ فَيُيسَّرُونَ لِعَمَلِ أَهْلِ السَّعَادَةِ،
وَأَمَّا أَهْلُ الشَّقَاءِ فَيُيسَّرُونَ إِلَى عَمَلِ أَهْلِ
الشَّقَاءِ، ثُمَّ قَرَأَ:

(Those people who are the people of happiness, they will have the deeds of the people of happiness made easy for them. And those people who are the people of misery, they will have the deeds of the people of misery made easy for them.) Then he recited the Ayah:

(فَأَمَّا مَنْ أُعْطِيَ وَاتَّقَى - وَصَدَّقَ بِالْحُسْنَى -
 فَسَنِّيَسِّرُهُ لِلْيُسْرَى - وَأَمَّا مَنْ بَخِلَ وَاسْتَغْنَى)
 وَكَذَّبَ بِالْحُسْنَى - فَسَنِّيَسِّرُهُ لِلْعُسْرَى -))

(As for him who gives and has Taqwa, and believes in Al-Husna. We will make smooth for him the path of ease (goodness). But he who is greedy and thinks himself self-sufficient, and belies Al-Husna. We will make smooth for him the path to evil.) The other compilers of the Group have also recorded this Hadith.

The Narration of ` Abdullah bin ` Umar

Imam Ahmad recorded from Ibn ` Umar that ` Umar said, "O Messenger of Allah! Do you think that the deeds that we do are a matter that is already predetermined or are they something just beginning or new" The Prophet replied,

«فِيمَا قَدْ فُرِعَ مِنْهُ، فَاعْمَلْ يَا ابْنَ الْخَطَّابِ، فَإِنَّ
 كُلَّ مُيسَّرٍ، أَمَّا مَنْ كَانَ مِنْ أَهْلِ السَّعَادَةِ فَإِنَّهُ
 يَعْمَلُ لِلْسَّعَادَةِ، وَأَمَّا مَنْ كَانَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الشَّقَاءِ
 فَإِنَّهُ يَعْمَلُ لِلشَّقَاءِ»

(It is something that has already been predetermined. Therefore, work deeds, O son of Al-Khattab! For verily, each person will have things made easy for him. So whoever is from the people of happiness, then he will work deeds for happiness, and whoever is from the people of misery, then he will work deeds for misery.)" This Hadith has been recorded by At-Tirmidhi in the Book of Al-Qadar and he said "Hasan Sahih." Another Hadith Narrated by Jabir Ibn Jarir recorded from Jabir bin ` Abdullah that he said, "O Messenger of Allah! Are we performing deeds for something that has already been predetermined or is the matter based upon what we are just doing (now)" The Prophet replied,

«لِأَمْرٍ قَدْ فُرِعَ مِنْهُ»

(It is a matter that has been predetermined.) Then Suraqah said, "Then what is the purpose of deeds" The Messenger of Allah then said,

«كُلُّ عَامِلٍ مُيسَّرٌ لِعَمَلِهِ»

(Everyone who does deeds will have his deeds made easy for him.) Muslim also recorded this Hadith. Ibn Jarir recorded from `Amir bin `Abdullah bin Az-Zubayr that he said, "Abu Bakr used to free servants upon their acceptance of Islam in Makkah. He used to free the elderly and the women when they accepted Islam. So his father said to him, `O my son! I see that you are freeing people who are weak. But if you freed strong men they could stand with you, defend you and protect you.' Abu Bakr replied, `O my father! I only want -- and I think he said -- what is with Allah.' Some people of my family have told me this Ayah was revealed about him:

(فَأَمَّا مَنْ أَعْطَى وَاتَّقَى - وَصَدَّقَ بِالْحُسْنَى -
فَسُيِّرَهُ لِلْيُسْرَى)

(As for him who gives and has Taqwa, and believes in Al-Husna. We will make smooth for him the path of ease.)" Then Allah says,

(وَمَا يُغْنِي عَنْهُ مَالُهُ إِذَا تَرَدَّى)

(And what will his wealth avail him when he goes down) Mujahid said, "This means when he dies." Abu Salih and Malik said -- narrating from Zayd bin Aslam, "When he goes down into the Fire."

(إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا لَلْهُدَى - وَإِنَّ لَنَا لَلْآخِرَةَ وَالْأُولَى -
فَأَنْذَرْتُكُمْ نَارًا تَلَظَّى - لَا يَصْلَاهَا إِلَّا الْأَشْقَى -
الَّذِي كَذَّبَ وَتَوَلَّى - وَسَيُجَنَّبُهَا الْأَتْقَى - الَّذِي
يُؤْتِي مَالَهُ يَتَزَكَّى - وَمَا لِأَحَدٍ عِنْدَهُ مِنْ نِعْمَةٍ
تُجْزَى - إِلَّا ابْتِغَاءَ وَجْهِ رَبِّهِ الْأَعْلَى - وَلَسَوْفَ
يَرْضَى)

(12. Truly, on Us is (to give) guidance.) (13. And truly, unto Us (belong) the last (Hereafter) and the first (this world).) (14. Therefore I have warned you of a Fire Talazza.) (15. None shall enter it save the most wretched.) (16. Who denies and turns away.) (17. And those with Taqwa will be far removed from it.) (18. He who gives of his wealth for self-purification.) (19. And who has (in mind) no favor from anyone to be paid back.) (20. Except to seek the Face of his Lord, the Most High.) (21. He, surely, will be pleased.)

**The Matter of Guidance and other than it is in the Hand of Allah,
and Allah's Warning about the Hellfire**

Qatadah said,

(إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا لِلْهُدَىٰ)

(Truly, on Us is (to give) guidance.) "This means, We will explain what is lawful and what is prohibited." Others have said that it means, "Whoever traverses upon the path of guidance, then he will reach Allah (i.e., in the Hereafter)." They consider this Ayah like Allah's saying,

(وَعَلَى اللَّهِ قَصْدُ السَّبِيلِ)

(And upon Allah is the responsibility to explain the Straight path.) (16:9) This has been mentioned by Ibn Jarir. Allah said;

(وَإِنَّ لَنَا لِلْآخِرَةِ وَالْأُولَىٰ)

(And truly, unto Us (belong) the last (Hereafter) and the first (this world).) This means, 'they both belong to Us and I (Allah) am in complete control of them.' Then Allah says,

(فَأَنْذَرْتُكُمْ نَارًا تَلَظَّىٰ)

(Therefore I have warned you of a Fire Talazza.) Mujahid said, "Blazing." Imam Ahmad recorded from Smak bin Harb that he heard An-Nu`man bin Bashir giving a sermon, in which he said, "I heard the Messenger of Allah giving a sermon, in which he said:

«أَنْذَرْتُكُمْ النَّارَ»

(I have warned you of the Fire.) And he said it in such a voice that if a man was in the marketplace he could hear it from where I am standing now. And he said it (with such force) that the garment that was on his shoulder fell down to his feet." Imam Ahmad recorded from Abu Ishaq that he heard An-Nu`man bin Bashir giving a sermon, in which he said, "I heard the Messenger of Allah saying,

«إِنَّ أَهْوَنَ أَهْلِ النَّارِ عَذَابًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ رَجُلٌ
تُوضَعُ فِي أَحْمَصِ قَدَمَيْهِ جَمْرَتَانِ يَغْلِي مِنْهُمَا
دِمَاغُهُ»

(Verily, the person to be punished lightest of the people of the Fire on the Day of Judgement will be a man who will have placed on the soles of his feet two coals that will cause his brain to boil.)" Imam Al-Bukhari also recorded this narration. Muslim recorded that Abu Ishaq narrated from An-Nu`man bin Bashir that the Messenger of Allah said,

«إِنَّ أَهْوَنَ أَهْلِ النَّارِ عَذَابًا مَنْ لَهُ نَعْلَانِ
وَشِرَاكَانِ مِنْ نَارٍ يَغْلِي مِنْهُمَا دِمَاغُهُ كَمَا يَغْلِي
الْمِرْجَلُ، مَا يَرَى أَنَّ أَحَدًا أَشَدُّ مِنْهُ عَذَابًا، وَإِنَّهُ
لَأَهْوَنُهُمْ عَذَابًا»

(Verily, the lightest punishment received by the people of the Hellfire will be a man who will have two sandals whose straps will be made of fire that will cause his brain to boil just as a cauldron boils. Yet he will not think that anyone is receiving a torment more severe than him, even though he will be receiving the lightest punishment of them.) Allah says,

(لَا يَصِلُهَا إِلَّا الْأَشَقَى)

(None shall enter it save the most wretched.) meaning, none will enter surrounded by it on all sides except the most wretched. Then Allah explains who this (the most wretched) is by His saying,

(الَّذِي كَذَّبَ)

(Who denies) meaning, in his heart.

(وَتَوَلَّى)

(and turns away.) meaning, from acting with his limbs and performing deeds according to their pillars. Imam Ahmad recorded from Abu Hurayrah that the Messenger of Allah said,

«كُلُّ أُمَّتِي يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ إِلَّا مَنْ أَبَى»

(All of my followers will enter Paradise on the Day of Judgement except for whoever refuses.) They (the Companions) said, "Who would refuse, O Messenger of Allah" He replied,

«مَنْ أَطَاعَنِي دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ، وَمَنْ عَصَانِي فَقَدْ
أَبَى»

(Whoever obeys me, he will enter Paradise, and whoever disobeys me, then he has refused.) Al-Bukhari also recorded this Hadith. Allah then says,

(وَسَيُجَنَّبُهَا الْأَتْقَى)

(And those with Taqwa will be far removed from it.) meaning, the righteous, pure, most pious person will be saved from the Fire. Then He explains who he is by His saying,

(الَّذِي يُؤْتِي مَالَهُ يَتَزَكَّى)

(He who gives of his wealth for self-purification.) meaning, he spends his wealth in obedience of his Lord in order to purify himself, his wealth and whatever Allah has bestowed upon him of religion and worldly things.

(وَمَا لِأَحَدٍ عِنْدَهُ مِنْ نِعْمَةٍ تُجْزَى)

(And who has (in mind) no favor from anyone to be paid back.) meaning, giving his wealth is not done so that he may gain some favor from someone wherein they return some good to him, and therefore he gives to get something in return. He only spends his wealth

(ابْتِغَاءَ وَجْهِ رَبِّهِ الْأَعْلَى)

(to seek the Face of his Lord, the Most High) meaning, hoping to attain the blessing of seeing Him in the final abode in the Gardens of Paradise. Allah then says,

(وَلَسَوْفَ يَرْضَى)

(He, surely, will be pleased.) meaning, indeed those with these characteristics will be pleased.

The Cause of this Revelation and the Virtue of Abu Bakr

Many of the scholars of Tafsir have mentioned that these Ayat were revealed about Abu Bakr As-Sddiq. Some of them even mentioned that there is a consensus among the Qur'anic commentators concerning this. There is no doubt that he is included in the meaning of these Ayat, and that he is the most deserving of the Ummah to be described with these characteristics in general, for indeed, the wording of these Ayat is general. As in Allah's saying,

(وَسَيُجَنَّبُهَا الْأَتْقَى - الَّذِي يُؤْتِي مَالَهُ يَتَزَكَّى -
وَمَا لِأَحَدٍ عِنْدَهُ مِنْ نِعْمَةٍ تُجْزَى)

(And those with Taqwa will be far removed from it. He who gives of his wealth for self-purification. And who has (in mind) no favor from anyone to be paid back.) However, he (Abu Bakr) was the first and foremost of this Ummah to have all of these characteristics and other praiseworthy characteristics as well. For verily, he was truthful, pious, generous, charitable,

and he always spent his wealth in obedience of His Master (Allah) and in aiding the Messenger of Allah . How many Dirhams and Dinars did he spend seeking the Face of His Most Noble Lord. And did not consider any of the people as owning him some favor that he needed to get compensation for. Rather, his virtue and kindness was even shown towards leaders and chiefs from all the other tribes as well. This is why `Urwah bin Mas`ud, who was the chief of the Thaqif tribe, said to him on the day of the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, "By Allah, if I did not owe you a debt, which I have not paid you back for, I would have responded to you (i.e., your call to Islam)." Abu Bakr As-Siddiq became angry with him for saying such a thing (i.e., I owe you something). So if this was his position with the chiefs of the Arabs and the heads of the tribes, then what about those other than them. Thus, Allah says,

(وَمَا لِأَحَدٍ عِنْدَهُ مِنْ نِعْمَةٍ تُجْزَى - إِلَّا ابْتِغَاءً
وَجْهِ رَبِّهِ الْأَعْلَى - وَلَسَوْفَ يَرْضَى)

(And who has (in mind) no favor from anyone to be paid back. Except to seek the Face of his Lord, the Most High. He, surely, will be pleased.) And in the Two Sahihis it is recorded that the Messenger of Allah said,

«مَنْ أَنْفَقَ زَوْجَيْنِ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ دَعَتْهُ خَزَنَةُ
الْجَنَّةِ يَا عَبْدَ اللَّهِ، هَذَا خَيْرٌ»

(Whoever equipped two riding animals in the way of Allah, the Gatekeepers of Paradise will call to him saying, "O servant of Allah! This is good.") So Abu Bakr said, "O Messenger of Allah! The one who is called from them will not have any need. Will there be anyone who will be called from all of them" The Prophet replied,

«نَعَمْ ، وَأَرْجُو أَنْ تَكُونَ مِنْهُمْ»

(Yes, and I hope that you will be one of them.) This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat Al-Layl, and all praise and thanks are due to Allah.

The Tafsir of Surat Ad-Duha

(Chapter - 93)

Which was revealed in Makkah

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(وَالضُّحَى - وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا سَجَى - مَا وَدَّعَكَ رَبُّكَ
وَمَا قَلَى - وَالْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ لَّكَ مِنَ الْأُولَى -
وَلَسَوْفَ يُعْطِيكَ رَبُّكَ فَتَرْضَى - أَلَمْ يَجِدَكَ يَتِيمًا
فَأَوْى - وَوَجَدَكَ ضَالًّا فَهَدَى - وَوَجَدَكَ عَائِلًا
فَأَغْنَى - فَأَمَّا الْيَتِيمَ فَلَا تَقْهَرْ - وَأَمَّا السَّائِلَ فَلَا
تَنْهَرْ - وَأَمَّا بِنِعْمَةِ رَبِّكَ فَحَدِّثْ)

(1. By the forenoon.) (2. By the night when it darkens.) (3. Your Lord has neither forsaken you nor hates you.) (4. And indeed the Hereafter is better for you than the present.) (5. And verily, your Lord will give you so that you shall be well-pleased.) (6. Did He not find you an orphan and gave you a refuge) (7. And He found you unaware and guided you) (8. And He found you poor and made you rich) (9. Therefore, treat not the orphan with oppression.) (10. And repulse not the one who asks.) (11. And proclaim the grace of your Lord.)

The Reason for the Revelation of Surat Ad-Duha

Imam Ahmad recorded from Jundub that he said, "The Prophet became ill, so he did not stand for prayer for a night or two. Then a woman came and said, `O Muhammad! I think that your devil has finally left you.' So Allah revealed,

(وَالضُّحَى - وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا سَجَى - مَا وَدَّعَكَ رَبُّكَ
وَمَا قَلَى)

(By the forenoon. By the night when it darkens. Your Lord has neither forsaken you nor hates you.)" Al-Bukhari, Muslim, At-Tirmidhi, An-Nasa'i, Ibn Abi Hatim and Ibn Jarir, all recorded this Hadith. This Jundub (who narrated it) is Ibn `Abdullah Al-Bajali Al-`Alaqi. In a narration from Al-Aswad bin Qays, he said that he heard Jundub say that Jibril was slow in coming to the Messenger of Allah . So the idolators said, "Muhammad's Lord has abandoned him." So Allah revealed,

(وَالضُّحَى - وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا سَجَى - مَا وَدَّعَكَ رَبُّكَ
وَمَا قَلَى)

(By the forenoon. By the night when it darkens. Your Lord has neither forsaken you nor hates you.)